

ANNEX 3

LETTER FROM HIS IMPERIAL AND ROYAL HIGHNESS TAFARI MAKONNEN, HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ABYSSINIA, IN REPLY TO THE LETTER FROM THE BRITISH MINISTER AT ADDIS ABABA DATED JUNE 9TH, 1926.

Peace be with you.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note dated the 2nd day of Senié, 1918 (June 9th, 1926).

This communication, which is identical with the note I have received from his Excellency Count Colli, the Italian Minister (Annex 4), informs me of the agreement concluded between your respective Governments with a view to obtaining from the Abyssinian Government a concession for the conservancy of the waters of our Lake Tsana for England and a concession for the construction of a railway through Abyssinia for Italy.

The fact that you have come to an agreement, and the fact that you have thought it necessary to give us a joint notification of that agreement, make it clear that your intention is to exert pressure, and this, in our view, at once raises a previous question.

The British Government had already entered into negotiations with the Abyssinian Government in regard to its proposal, and we had imagined that, whether that proposal was carried into effect or not, the negotiations would have been concluded with us; we should never have suspected that the British Government would come to an agreement with another Government regarding the lake.

This question, which calls for preliminary examination, must therefore be laid before the League of Nations.

Given on the 8th day of Senié, in the year of Grace 1918 (June 15th, 1926).

(Sealed) TAFARI MAKONNEN,
Heir to the Throne of Abyssinia.

ANNEX 4

LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN MINISTER AT ADDIS ABABA TO HIS HIGHNESS TAFARI MAKONNEN, HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ABYSSINIA.

[*Translation from the Italian*]

ADDIS ABABA, June 9th, 1926.

I have the honour to send you an exact copy of the note (Appendix) addressed by His Excellency B. Mussolini, Prime Minister of Italy, to Sir R. Graham, His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador in Rome, on December 20th, 1925, in reply to a note addressed by the British Ambassador to M. Mussolini on December 14th, 1925.

As your Highness will observe, the two notes in question constitute an agreement between the Italian and British Governments defining the respective aspirations and the mutual obligations of the two Governments in Abyssinia, and establishing friendly co-operation between them with a view to the attainment of their aims.