

their Representatives to act in such a way that concessions which may be accorded in the interest of one of the three States may not be injurious to the interests of the two others.

ARTICLE 3. In the event of rivalries or internal changes in Ethiopia, the Representatives of France, Great Britain, and Italy shall observe a neutral attitude, abstaining from all intervention in the internal affairs of the country, and confining themselves to such action as may be, by common consent, considered necessary for the protection of the Legations, of the lives and property of foreigners, and of the common interests of the three Powers. In no case shall one of the three Governments interfere in any manner whatsoever, except in agreement with the other two.

ARTICLE 4. In the event of the *status quo* laid down in Article 1 being disturbed, France, Great Britain, and Italy shall make every effort to preserve the integrity of Ethiopia. In any case, they shall concert together, on the basis of the Agreements enumerated in the above-mentioned Article, in order to safeguard:—

- (a) The interests of Great Britain and Egypt in the Nile Basin, more especially as regards the regulation of the waters of that river and its tributaries (due consideration being paid to local interests), without prejudice to Italian interests mentioned in paragraph (b);
- (b) the interests of Italy in Ethiopia as regards Erythræa and Somaliland (including the Benadir) more especially with reference to the hinterland of her possessions and the territorial connection between them to the west of Adis Abeba;
- (c) The interests of France in Ethiopia as regards the French Protectorate on the Somali Coast, the hinterland of this Protectorate and the zone necessary for the construction and working of the railway from Jibuti to Adis Abeba.

ARTICLE 5. The French Government communicates to the British and Italian Governments:—

(1) The Concession of the Franco-Ethiopian Railway of 9th March, 1894;

(2) A communication from the Emperor Menelek dated 8th August, 1904, the translation of which is annexed to the present Agreement, inviting the Company to whom the above Concession was granted to construct the second section of the line from Diré Dawa to Adis Abeba;

ARTICLE 6. The three Governments agree that the Jibuti Railway shall be prolonged from Diré Dawa to Adis Abeba, with a branch line to Harrar eventually, either by the Ethiopian Railway Company in virtue of the deeds enumerated in the preceding Article, or by any other private French Company which may be substituted therefor, with the consent of the French Government, on condition that the nationals of the three countries shall enjoy in all matters of trade and transit absolute equality