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I shall not fail to keep your Lordship informed by telegram of such occurrences as may serve to discover the present tendencies of Afghan policy on the north-west frontier of India.

13. A copy of this despatch is being sent to the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India.

I have, &c.
F. H. HUMPHRYS.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Translation of a letter dated January 28, 1923 (corresponding to Dalv 8, 1301), from the Afghan Foreign Minister to His Majesty's Minister, Kabul.

(After compliments.)

HAVING regard to the fact that your Government have undertaken military operations against the people of Waziristan, and that bombardments by aeroplanes and artillery have subjected those people to hardship and misery, I write to say that the action of your Government would appear to be in contravention of article 11 of the treaty signed at Kabul, and also of the official letter dated the 22nd November, 1921, written by Mr. Dobbs, chief British delegate, in that the British Government have given no information to my Government with regard to their military aims and intentions prior to the advance of the troops and have pressed on their military operations despite the fact that the Governments of Afghanistan and Great Britain, as a proof of their benevolent intentions towards the tribes residing close to their borders, have agreed, in the event of such action (being contemplated), each to inform the other in order to avoid misunderstandings. You are also aware that the question of the welfare of the frontier tribesmen is one which affects both parties.

For many years past the British Government have seen that, owing to the proximity of their country and to ties both racial and religious, the Afghan Government regard the question of the frontier tribesmen as one of their most important problems, a fact which was fully realised by Mr. Dobbs. It was for this reason that Mr. Dobbs, regarding the state of tribes on the frontiers of the two Governments as a source of anxiety to Afghanistan, gave the assurance in his official letter.

Since, however, without any intimation to me, British troops have commenced operations on the southern frontier of Afghanistan which have reduced the people of Waziristan to a serious state of alarm, I express to you officially the grief and regret of my Government, and I desire you to write a reply to our Foreign Office, which will satisfy us and will give us reason to anticipate an amelioration of the lot of the Wazirs and Mahsuds, in order that this frontier disturbance, which can be settled without use of arms, the frontier tribesmen being given a guarantee of equitable (good) treatment, may be removed, and the friendly relations existing between the Governments of Afghanistan and Great Britain become strengthened day by day.

Regarding this matter as a source of grief to my Government, I have addressed you officially on the subject, and I expect that you will take immediate steps to settle the question.

(Usual ending.)

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Translation of a letter No. 34, dated March 9, 1923 (corresponding to Hoot 16, 1301), from His Majesty's Minister, Kabul, to the Afghan Foreign Minister.

(After compliments.)

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received instructions from His Britannic Majesty's Government to reply to your letter dated the 28th January, 1923 (corresponding to the 8th Dalv, 1301), in the following terms:—

The recent operations in Waziristan, to which the Afghan Government have taken exception, are merely a continuance of operations which began before the Anglo-Afghan Treaty was signed, and which have been in progress for more than three years. They cannot, therefore, be regarded as new operations, concerning which under article 11 of the treaty it would have been necessary to give formal intimation to the Afghan Government.

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers
Memoranda & Notes

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