

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 412

RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RELATING TO POLITICAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
ETHIOPIA (ABYSSINIA), 1910-29



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RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RELATING TO
POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND ETHIOPIA (ABYSSINIA), 1910-29

On the single roll of this microfilm publication are reproduced unbound records from the decimal file of the Department of State, 1910-29, that concern political relations between the United States and Ethiopia (Abyssinia). They are mostly instructions to and despatches, with a few enclosures, from diplomatic and consular officials. Also included in these records are memoranda prepared by officials of the Department of State and correspondence with private individuals. The Lists of Documents or "purport sheets" reproduced at the beginning of the roll give brief abstracts of the documents reproduced in this microcopy and serve as a finding aid to the documents themselves. The arrangement of the entries on these lists corresponds to the arrangement of the documents in the file.

Since 1910 the central files of the Department of State have been grouped and arranged by a decimal system of subject classification. The decimal file initially consisted of nine primary classes numbered 0 through 8, each covering a broad subject area. Under Class 7, Political Relations of States, the documents are arranged according to the countries concerned. Each country has been assigned a 2-digit number and the numbers for the United States and for Ethiopia (Abyssinia) are 11 and 84, respectively. Thus the documents reproduced in this microcopy bear the file number 711.84 and concern political relations between the United States and Ethiopia (Abyssinia). The digits that follow the second country number represent a specific subject. The number, in turn, may be followed by a slant mark (/). The numbers that follow the slant mark are assigned to individual documents as they are accumulated on a specific subject. For example, a decimal file number taken from a document reproduced in this microcopy is 711.842/13. The digit 2 following the country number for Ethiopia (84) signifies that the subject is the negotiation of a treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and Ethiopia, and the number following the slant mark indicates that this is the 13th paper received on this subtopic.

The documents under one subject classification are generally in chronological order, coinciding with the document number assigned (which follows the slant mark). There are instances, however, when a document file number was not assigned until a date considerably later than the one on which the document was received.

Cross-reference sheets that refer to related records under other subject classifications in the decimal file have been reproduced

as they occur and appropriate cross-reference notations appear in the Lists of Documents. Other cross-reference notations are to documents in the "numerical file," a system used for the central files of the Department of State for the period 1906-10. The numerical system of assigning consecutive numbers to subject case files was replaced by the decimal system of subject classification in 1910.

Before the records were filmed a search was made by the National Archives and the Department of State for missing documents. The checkmarks that appear by most entries in the left-hand column of the Lists of Documents indicate that the papers are in the file. The absence of checkmarks denotes that the documents were not found; it is believed that they were not among the records when they were received from the Department.

Some of the documents that have been checked in the Lists of Documents do not appear in this microcopy. The decimal file contains security-classified documents and communications received from and classified by foreign governments and Federal agencies as well as those classified by the Department of State. The documents that have not been declassified are not available as part of this microcopy. The National Archives and Records Service does not have authority to make reproductions of such documents available to searchers.

Most of the records reproduced in this microcopy relate to the negotiation and ratification of treaties of arbitration and conciliation, a treaty for the renunciation of war, and a treaty of commerce and navigation. There are also records concerning general relations between the United States and Ethiopia.

The contents of this microfilm publication, indicating the document number range and the subjects covered by the documents, is filmed after the information on related records given below.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

Additional records concerning treaties and conventions are in other classes of the Department of State decimal file, 1910-29, as follows: Class 2, extradition treaties; Class 4, claims treaties, conventions, and agreements; Class 5, international congresses and conferences, multilateral treaties; Class 6, commercial treaties, conventions, and trade agreements; Class 8, postal conventions.

Complementary to the records in Class 7 reproduced in this microcopy are two other series, also in Record Group 59, regarding

Ethiopian affairs; one is another series in Class 7, consisting of two documents, which concerns political relations between Ethiopia (Abyssinia) and other states, and the other a series in Class 8, which relates to internal affairs of Ethiopia (Abyssinia) (Microcopy 411).

In the same record group in the National Archives are additional records on relations between Ethiopia and the United States, 1903-4. There are consular instructions, credences, documents relating to a treaty of amity, reciprocity, and commerce, and despatches from special agents to the Department of State that are in volume 19 of Consular Despatches, Marseille.

In Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, are records originally kept at U. S. diplomatic and consular posts. Among these are records of the U. S. Legation in Ethiopia (Abyssinia), 1908-36 and of the consular post in Addis Ababa, 1890-1936.

CONTENTS OF MICROCOPY 412

The decimal file number span of the documents and the subjects covered by those documents are reproduced in this microcopy as follows:

LISTS OF DOCUMENTS

711.84/- - 711.842/18a

Brief abstracts that serve as a finding aid to the documents.

DOCUMENTS

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ETHIOPIA (ABYSSINIA)

General Relations

711.84/--8

May 14, 1923 - August 1, 1928.

Political Relations

711.8412A - 711.8412 Anti-war

Treaties of arbitration and conciliation, 1928-29;
treaty for renunciation of war, 1928-29.

Commerce and Navigation

711.842/--18a

Treaty of commerce and navigation, 1914.

The price of the 1 roll of film comprising Microcopy 412 is \$2.