

*W. G.*

10 Lowndes Square

London S.W.1

10th October 1944

Dear De la Warr,

I was hoping to have seen you before you left London on your important mission. I write this as representing the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society and on account of my own special interest in Ethiopia, to which I went in 1932 as a member of a mission to the Emperor from the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society.

The Committee of the Society had hoped to have approached you before you left England for Ethiopia. After learning of your departure they asked me to ask the Foreign Office if they would forward a letter from them to you and they have kindly consented to do so. The Committee was disappointed that no provision was made in the Agreement between the British and Ethiopian Governments of 31st January 1942 for suppressing slavery and they hope that it will be made in the Agreement which you are negotiating. They feel that if Great Britain is going to assist Ethiopia with financial and other help, British people would wish adequate assurances from the Ethiopian Government that the suppression of slavery will be actively pursued and that emancipated slaves will be helped to establish themselves as free wage-earners.

You may not know how little was done by the Ethiopian Government before the Italo-Ethiopian war to implement the pledges given by them when Ethiopia was admitted to the League of Nations, so the Society is sending you a memorandum setting out the facts, which I hope that you will take into consideration when you are negotiating the new Agreement.

yours sincerely

(Sgd) Noel-Buxton

I was hoping to have seen you before your departure for your important mission. I write this as representing the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society and on account of my own special interest in Ethiopia, to which I went in 1932 as a member of a mission to the Emperor from the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society. The Committee of the Society had hoped to have approached you before you left England for Ethiopia. After learning of your departure they asked me to ask the Foreign Office if they would forward a letter from them to you and they have kindly consented to do so. The Committee was disappointed that no provision was made in the Agreement between the British and Ethiopian Governments of 21st January 1942 for suppressing slavery and they hope that it will be made in the agreement which you are negotiating. They feel that if Great Britain is going to assist Ethiopia with financial and other help, British people would wish adequate assurance from the Ethiopian Government that the suppression of slavery will be actively pursued and that emancipated slaves will be helped to establish themselves as free wage-earners.

HMB.

*DeLawar*



BRITISH LEGATION,  
ADDIS ABABA.

1st November, 1944.

*My dear Buxton*

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th October, with which you forwarded a letter from the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, and also a memorandum on slavery in Ethiopia, and asked me to take into consideration the question of slavery in the negotiations now being carried out with the Ethiopians for a new agreement.

I am, of course, entirely in accord with your views as to the need for taking any steps which can be taken to suppress slavery where it is existing, but I am not able to include any clauses at this stage in the agreement now being negotiated, since it has reached much too advanced a state. Before my departure the Foreign Office gave me a clear outline of the scope of the new agreement which included no reference to slavery, and now the negotiations have progressed so far that all the clauses are in an advanced stage of agreement; should I now try to insert some fresh clause it might well upset the whole course of the negotiations, and in any case I could not do so without instructions from the Foreign Office.

*Sic* From information which I have been able to obtain here, it does appear to me that the Emperor has now taken such steps as he reasonably can to abolish slavery, but in a country such as this, where there is not much control over the more remote provinces, it must naturally take a considerable period before, even with the best will, domestic slavery is completely eliminated.

The Right Honourable  
Noel Buxton, P.C.,  
10, Lowndes Square,  
London, S.W.1.

*Yours ever  
DeLawar*