

in sent

24th. February 1937.

Dear Miss Wingate,

I replied to your letter that I should be glad to hear from you on any matter that you chose to raise. That was all I said, and I treated it as a purely personal matter between you and me.

The plan you tell me of is somewhat different. I rely on you not to ask me to take action which I should regard as an attempt to defeat the Law. I know your view of my opinion, but I rely on your wish to respect my personal wishes.

1. Is it legal for the police to open letters? If not, you have a right to attempt to defeat an illegality.

2. Is the I.L.P. doing anything illegal e.g. breaking the Foreign Enlistment Act?

If not, you are all right.

3. If the I.L.P. is breaking the Law, you would be aiding and abetting them, and might have to prove you didn't suspect they were doing it when you offered to post their letters.

4. Morally, do you want to help the lawful Spanish Government, and to defeat the wrongful ban against it which is maintained by our Government?

5. Or do you think that our Government has got to be backed up in its non-intervention policy; either because such policy is right, or because it is the policy of our democratically elected Government?

On these questions may depend your view of giving aid to a clandestine correspondence. You have to consider

(a) your legal position

(b) your moral position

(c) your interests and reputation.

Wrote Spain w/ asking me?

*Wingate
ans
my wish*

Wingate
return

Major OADE, WINGATE,
49 Hill St. W.I.
KINGRO 3895.

Consular report - Barton sent
of course, see Caravans

Dear Lord Noel Buxton,

may I introduce myself as the brother of Sybil Wingate, sometime your secretary? I am, consequently, not uninformed about your work and standpoint. I am also the officer who was, throughout the Ethiopian campaign, the Commander of the British and Ethiopian Forces, acting under the command of the Emperor Haille Selasie, and it is in this capacity that I now address you. I planned, carried into execution, and controlled in the field, the entire campaign in which Haille Selasie, with less than two thousand regular troops, without artillery and aircraft, destroyed an enemy force, some forty thousand strong, which was well supported by both these weapons, and fought his way through to the gates of his capital without any support from other forces whatsoever. This is not said to blow my trumpet, who was merely an instrument whose success was due in no small part to his tools. But it is said to persuade you that what I say below I do not say from ignorance but from knowledge.

In addition to this occasion in 1940/41, I used for five years to patrol the Sudan-Ethiopian frontier. During those five years I took an interest in slavery in no way inferior to your own. I took also an interest in the human problems of both the Sudanese and the Ethiopians and rarely lost an opportunity of getting to know the people intimately. I have mingled with them on as equal terms as a European can with Africans, and, as my approach to them was direct and sincere, my contacts were real.

The essential point, of course, is how does a community live and have its being? Is it in any way enlightened - is there oppression of a class or classes - is there hope of better things or is there no hope? Now this is the result of my observations from 1929-1933. The average Ethiopian community was at this time notably in advance of the average Sudani community in the following respects; self respect, general intelligence and receptivity to new ideas, (both these traits may be called the fruits of self-government); an incomparably higher ~~standard~~ attitude towards, and treatment of, women, with its consequent good effect on the children of those women; and a rather higher standard of living both in respect of food, clothing, and arts and crafts. As regards slavery I must disappoint you by saying that I certainly saw no more than existed in the Sudan and that during my recent prolonged visit I saw none whatever. *I do admit that some might well have escaped my notice, but this applies elsewhere as well.* Against these advantages it must be admitted that the Sudanese were better governed by us, were more complacent and easy going, and somewhat less

warlike and addicted to disturbances. As you are interested in abuses I would like to draw your attention to the abominable practice of Pharonic circumcision of young girls, ~~in~~ everywhere practised in the Sudan and not practised in Ethiopia. This cruel and depraved operation leads every year to premature death and, wherever it is used, to the disgraceful infliction of pain and misery.

As for the slave trade: out of all comparison the worst form of slavery, it was carried on where it existed for the profit, ^{in certain cases} of French and Italian officials, with quite a bit finding its way to the Sudan. Note this was not Ethiopian slaving, but French, Italian, and Sudani slaving of the unspecified ethnic groups

occupying the no mans land between Ethiopia and contiguous territories. I speak ^{come G.} with knowledge as one concerned. You mentioned the Abyssinian raids into the Sudan. You made no mention of the Sudani raids into Abyssinia which were little if at all less frequent.

What I have said above is, as far as it goes, a fair comparison of the black people under our rule and the black people under Ethiopian rule.

To proceed, you are evidently misinformed both as to the extent and ~~nature~~ nature of domestic slavery in Ethiopia and adjacent countries; you also, which is the more surprising, as you must have access to the truth, shewed (in your speech in the House of Lords to-day) a faulty grasp of Ethiopian history, and what, in another man, I would describe as ~~in~~ ignorance about the part Ethiopia has played in African history, and the part she has yet to play in the history of Africa and of the world.

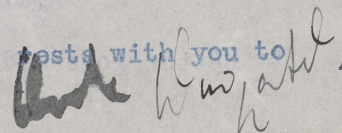
Speaking for the British officers and men who fought under my command for Ethiopian liberty, humbly and devotedly hoping that our efforts might avail and the treacherous desertion of 1935 be atoned for, I was deeply astonished and bitterly disappointed that a man with your history should range himself on the side of the Kenya settlers, the anti-blacks, wherever they are found, the Imperialists, the oppressors, of those who have no more faith in humanity than they have in God.

It is due, in your case one knows it must be so, to ignorance. But what right have you to be ignorant?

I am but half recovered from a streptococcal infection, or I would have sought an interview rather than have written. You have however deeply shocked me—God knows one doesn't find much ~~in~~ ^{righteous judgment} nowadays but in some places one does expect to find it.

I have written to you from a full heart and it rests with you to decide whether you are to hear more.

Yours sincerely,



"NOT YET ALARMED"

"I am not yet alarmed about the immediate future, but what the Spring will bring forth is in the lap of the gods".

(W. Gillies, 28th January 1938).

ask him when the Spain Committee was going to meet. It had not met for 7 weeks. He replied as above S.D.W.]

To be sung to the tune of "Bonnie Dundee".

The Capronis and Heinkels rain death from the sky,

The hospitals burn and the babies they die;

The Hospitals burn and the babies they die;

But Gillies is not yet alarmed.

Short of tanks, short of 'planes, with our food running low,

Our wounded are buried alive in the snow,

But lift up your hearts and rejoice, for you know

That Gillies is not yet alarmed.

Where the future of Liberty hangs by a hair,

For reflection if they have a moment to spare,

They may feel a little uneasy. But there!

Mr. Gillies is not yet alarmed.

Behold how serenely he sits in Smith Square,

While the thunder of Teruel splinters the air,

Dictating his letters, the devil-may-care,

And not in the least bit alarmed.

It's true that our best and our bravest are dead

In doing our duty for us; but it's said

That they were a little inclined to be "red",

So Gillies is not yet alarmed.

For want of our help they were slaughtered in Spain,

For arms to their comrades appealing in vain,

But the milk that we've sent them will wash out the stain,

And Gillies is not yet alarmed.

S.D. Wingate