

SPEECHES AT SIGNING OF ANGLO-ETHIOPIAN TREATY

In connection with the signing of the Anglo-Ethiopian Treaty, the following speeches were made by Sir Philip Mitchell, formerly Governor of Uganda and recently Political Adviser to the G.O.C. in C. East Africa, and by Haile Selassie, Emperor of Abyssinia.

Sir Philip Mitchell said:

"Your Majesty. On this happy and auspicious day there falls to me the great honour and privilege of congratulating Your Majesty and your people upon the final realisation of the hopes which have sustained you in the years of oppression that are now past. It marks the end of bondage and the completion of the liberation of your country from the yoke of the invader. The rule of the oppressor was short lived, and for all his loud, immoderate boasting, he did not prove capable of enduring the ordeal of battle, although his forces were great, his equipment lavish and the mountains and gorges of Ethiopia offered him every advantage in resisting attack launched against him. This liberation is a great and glorious feat of arms fit to rank with the most celebrated achievements in history.

It is fitting on this great day that we should have foremost in our thoughts the brave men in Ethiopian and British forces who judged happiness as freedom, and for freedom valorously went forward to encounter dangers, and laid down their lives. They have not fought for their own freedom alone, but for all men who have been assailed by the wicked violence of Hitler and Japan, and by the contemptible scavenging of Mussolini.

Now the battle in Ethiopia is over there remains the ~~task~~ task of reconstruction and reform which the country so urgently needs. They are formidable tasks which face your Majesty, your Ministers and military leaders, for if laws are silent in clashes of arms, when the fighting is done the men of arms have to learn to obey laws that are written for protection against injury, so that every man of every race and creed may till his field and enjoy his own security and peace. If that is not achieved there is no liberty and the fighting has been in vain. For that great task His Majesty's Government has been happy to offer Your Majesty the help which is expressed in this agreement and the conventions we have just signed, and I can assure Your Majesty that that help comes from generous hearts."

The Emperor in reply, said:

"I am grateful to Sir Philip Mitchell for his words. I take this opportunity of expressing once again the deep gratitude of myself and my people to those brave soldiers of the British Empire who came from all parts of the world to help us win our freedom and independence.

The agreement which we have signed today is the seal to a task generously undertaken and nobly carried out by the great British people; it is a witness to the sympathetic understanding of the needs and aspirations of my people by the British Government; it is a firm foundation upon which the reconstruction of my administration and the revivifying of the social life of my people can be based.

It will help to cement a friendship which in my belief will lead to lasting co-operation both in war and in peace.

We are proud to be the Allies of the British people in their crusade of liberation.

The responsibilities which we assume in the instruments we have signed today are gladly undertaken to further our mutual interests and to sharpen our swords in the struggle against the common enemy. Let it be clearly understood that I and my people will not sheath our weapons until the common enemy is overthrown.

It is my intention to offer the services of one of my sons and a brigade of my troops to fight in the field alongside the armies of the British Empire.

I look with confidence to the future of my country. The British Government is giving us the help and guidance which we need. On our part the spirit of service and the will to work will not be found wanting. May God prosper us in our endeavours."

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