

Apr 1964 - Border Incidents. - State of Emergency in Kenya North-Eastern Region. - Regional Elections.

The continued unrest in the North-Eastern Region of Kenya and the activities of nomadic Somali bands of armed *shiftras* caused Mr. Kenyatta to call an urgent Cabinet meeting, also attended by Major-General Ian Freeland (G.O.C., British Land Forces, Kenya) and Mr. Richard Catling (Inspector-General of Police), at Gatundu on Dec. 25, 1963. After the meeting the Government proclaimed a state of emergency throughout the Region and set up a five-mile-deep prohibited zone along the Kenya-Somalia border, excluding the settlements of Mandera and El Wak.

Although this was not known at the time of the Cabinet meeting, 50 armed Somali tribesmen had on that date raided the police post at Msabubu, near Galole on the River Tuna, one policeman, a policeman's wife, and a Pokomo tribesman helping the police being killed and four other policemen wounded: a number of Somalis were killed and injured. After this raid a delegation of anti-secessionists asked Mr. Kenyatta to be allowed to take the law into their own hands to deal with the raiding *shiftra* gangs. Mr. T. P. Randle, the Region's Civil Secretary, reported that resentment against the raiders' terrorism was growing, and that the chairman of the Northern Province People's Progressive Party—the main secessionist party—had withdrawn all support for the *shiftras* (whose leader was Ma'alim Mohamed Stamboul) and had promised to work for the party's objectives by constitutional means.

The declaration of the state of emergency was approved by the House of Representatives on Dec. 31. Mr. Kenyatta stated during the debate that since Nov. 13 there had been 33 attacks by Somali raiders involving the use of fire-arms and resulting in three civilians and two members of the security forces being killed and 18 civilians and 14 security force members injured; he also said that there were about 2,000 bandits, most of them based in Somalia, with about 700 operating in the North-Eastern Region.

In the Senate the KADU Opposition at first voted against the state of emergency, thereby preventing its approval by the constitutionally required two-thirds majority; after the intervention of Mr. Mboya (the Minister of Justice), however, a second vote was taken on which the Opposition abstained, the measure thus being approved.

Attacks by *shiftras* nevertheless continued in the North-Eastern Region during the next three months.

The police post at El Roba near Mandera was raided on Dec. 26 by 20 men armed with rifles and two Sten guns, and a police patrol was ambushed about 20 miles east of Buna on Jan. 7, 1964, the British officer leading it being wounded. Mr. Herbert Judge, a Kenya Regional Government Agent at Wajir, was killed by Somali bandits on Feb. 4, and Mr. David John Hurd, a British businessman, was abducted by Somali raiders the next day, being rescued five days later by

Somali police who took him to Mogadishu. About 100 *shiftas* armed with automatic weapons ambushed two lorryloads of soldiers in the Buna area (about 100 miles from the Somali border) on Feb. 24, an African lieutenant being killed. After Somali raiders had looted shops and abducted other Somalis in the same area, detachments of the Kenya Rifles began a massive offensive against them early in March, by which time more than half of Kenya's army was engaged in action in the North-Eastern Region. In a raid by a gang of 40 Somalis on the town of Marsabit (about 200 miles from the border) at the end of March five persons were killed, including the brother of the local member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Galgallo Godana, an anti-secessionist. Mr. Harry Kenneth Arnold, an Assistant Regional Government Agent, and an African police corporal were killed when a convoy of three lorries was ambushed by Somali bandits between Wajir and Mandera on April 8. To relieve the Kenyan forces, British troops carried out escort and guard duties for supply convoys, enabling British sappers to build a direct strategic road from Garissa to Wajir.

Mr. Kenyatta announced on Feb. 25 that it was intended to extend the state of emergency in the North-Eastern Region for another two months.

Following the effective boycott of the elections of May 1963 [see [19487](#) A] new elections were held in the Region on March 3 both for the seats allotted to the Region in the House of Representatives and the Regional Assembly. As regards the former, three Somalis were nominated and returned unopposed; on Feb. 25 all three unexpectedly joined the Government benches, one of them (Mr. Surfied Mohamed Amin) declaring that, while he thought that 80 per cent of the Somalis in the Region supported secession, he had always been against it. The election for the Regional Assembly resulted in sufficient members being returned to enable it to be convened at Garissa on March 20.—(Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian) (*Prev. rep.* [19739](#) A)