

EAST AFR. PROT
UGANDA

C.C.
7008

Rec
Regt 14 FEB 16

7008

65

Foreign Office

1916

12 Feb.

Trading with enemy
via Switzerland

Last previous Paper.

See For Gov
58695/15
(Basel)

Leads like from Mr. E. H. C. C. calling attention
to possibility of German coloured cotton goods
called Kikoyo being imported into E. Africa
via Switzerland, & mentioning firm of Basel
Trachole of Bern as suspect in this connection

Query of Capt. MacDair

Presumably so we looking into the
matter & send this merely for info.

? It will be sufficient to send them
copy of 58695/15 & reply, before that
the Gov's attention has already been
drawn to these traders.

Went 15/2/16

T.C.H. 17/2/16

at me
Went 17/2/16

Miss 21 Feb 16

Room 3

Next subsequent Paper.

502/10985

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

146/1916



66

The Under-Secretary of State
Foreign Office

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for
Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary
of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned
paper

Foreign Office

Feb. 12 1916

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to Foreign Office

Description of Inclosure:

| Name and Date. | Subject. |
|---|--|
| British East Africa Corporation, Ltd. to Lord Esmott Feb. 1. | Coloured cottons ("Kilzoy") from Switzerland to British East Africa |

Similar folders

Copy
(24246)

BRITISH EAST AFRICA CORPORATION
96, GRESHAM HOUSE,
LONDON,



67
February 1st, 1916.

Dear Lord Emmott,

I am not sure if the War Trade Committee, over which you preside, is the department immediately concerned in cases that come to light indicating possible leakage of German made goods via neutral countries into British Colonies. Perhaps, however, you may be interested, and would care to pass this letter and enclosures to the proper quarter by which, if thought desirable, enquiry would be pursued.

The correspondence consists of a report to us by our Mombasa (British East Africa) House, that the firm of Childs Parr and Joseph there, are importing a certain line of coloured cotton goods, called Kikoys, into British East Africa, from a Swiss supplier. Messrs. C.P. and J. are an American firm, and are probably the largest importers of cotton goods into British East Africa and Uganda, where they have selling branches throughout the two Protectorates.

The name of the Swiss firm who supply Messrs. C.P. and J. has a very German name, but that as of course we know, is not in itself a ground of suspicion. But our own knowledge and experience in the cotton goods trade indicates that Kikoys were not made in Switzerland before the war, and we

are

Right Honourable
The Lord Emmott,
War Trade Committee,
Westminster.

are very doubtful if they are made there now. On the other hand, the trade in Kikoyo before the war was largely a German speciality.

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For what information we could elicit, we wrote the Swiss firm, Messrs. J. R. Trachslor, Berne, as per copy herewith, and the copy of their reply shows that they do not respond to our invitation to open business relations, safeguarded as we require, in the matter of proof of the non-enemy origin of the goods.

We have noticed that the Consular Certificates of Origin of the Berne Office, accompanying undeniably neutral products such as Swiss Milk (which our Corporation exports from Switzerland to Africa) are signed by a name of very un-English sound. In mentioning this, we should be careful to guard ourselves against supposition that we impugn the bona fides of that Consul, who grants the certificates of neutral origin to Messrs. Trachslor's Kikoyo or anything else. But we do suggest that the Consul, whoever he is, may possibly not be well-informed on the technicalities of the trade, and that he may have been misled as to the true country in which the Kikoyo are perhaps made.

Nor do we make the smallest accusation against the firm of Childs, Parr and Joseph. Being non-British themselves, it would be not unnatural if they were satisfied to accept a Consular Certificate of neutral origin without bothering to see if such certificate had been granted by the Consul in error and under any misapprehension.

In common no doubt, with other British Export houses, our Corporation is inundated with offers of coloured cotton goods of all kinds from Switzerland and Holland, to be

supported.

supported by certificates of neutral origin, and we would be glad, if of any use, to pass these offers on to your Committee or to any other Government Department for their information.

I am, &c,

(Signed) E. H. M. Leggett,

Managing Director.

British East Africa Corporation, Ltd.

supported by certificates of neutral origin, and we would be glad, if of any use, to pass these offers on to your Committee or to any other Government Department for their information.

I am, &c,

(Signed) E. H. M. Leggett,

Managing Director.

British East Africa Corporation, Ltd.

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Recd
14 FEB 16

J.M. TRACHSLER,
BERN,

22nd January, 1916.

70

Dear Sirs,

Kikoyo for East Africa.

I beg to thank you for your favour of the 17th instant E. A. 1783, and regret to say that my engagements do not allow to make you any offers for the present. However, I will keep your request before me and should be glad if circumstances would permit me to come back on it later on.

I am, &c,

p.p. J. M. TRACHSLER,

(Signed) D. Lombard

The British East Africa Corporation Limited,
96, Gresham House,
London, E.C.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA CORPORATION LIMITED.

January 17th, 1916.

71

Dear Sirs,

KIKOYS FOR EAST AFRICA.

Having received enquiries for the above from our Mombasa House, we shall be obliged if you will let us have quotations and samples of the goods supplied by your firm which are suitable for the East Africa and Uganda markets. It would be useful to us if you would send us these, both samples and price lists, in triplicate and we should also require your assurance that the goods are of Swiss manufacture, and that you would be able to supply consular certificates to that effect in respect to any goods which we may place on order with you.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) F. T. Pressland,

Secretary.

Messrs. Trachslar,

Berne,

Switzerland.

FO 7008/1916

E.A.P.

72

18 FEB.
21

JS

21 February 1916

Sir,

I am so to ack.

the receipt of your
letter of the 12th of Febry,

C. 24 246/1916, on the
subject of the ^{alleged} importation

of German goods into

East Africa via Switzerland

and to transmit to you
to be laid before

for the info of Secy. Sir

Edward Grey, the acc.

copy of German relating to
from which it will be observed that

the firm name of

J. S. Trachler, of Berne

has already come under the
notice of the Secy. of the E.A.P.

DRAFT
The U.S. of S.
Foreign Office

MINUTE

- Mr. Harbo 18/2/1916
- Mr. Bottomley 18/2/16
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

rel. 21 Dec 1915 (58895/15)

23

EAST AFR. PROT
General
9486

C. O.
7786
REC
FRAT. REF. 16

73

Notes

Foreign Office

Certificates of origin

1916

17 Feb

Last previous Paper.

CA166

issued by unpaid Pro Consular Officers in
Holland - Sends copies with Hon Consul Rotterdam
and considers that such Certs. sh. be accepted,
unless there is reason to suspect inaccuracy
or reason to doubt bona fides of Mr. Brasselet,
the officer concerned in the present instance.

Mr Davis
Mr Read

Sgt. Col. Kerwin

The F.O. view should be noted?

W.L.S. 15. 2. 16

J.A. 15. 2. 16

Jones
X-2
21/2/16

Circulated to Dept.

See over.

Next subsequent Paper.

11962/16

Del to Gen 24 Feb 16
Ans. - Copy above sent - 22 Feb 16

CIRCULATED TO DEPARTMENTS

to see this to letter

2 m 1916

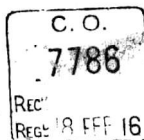
- ~~Mr. J. Anderson~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. H. Just~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. G. Fiddes~~ 3
- ~~Mr. Harris~~ 11/3/16
- ~~Mr. Riley~~ 11/3/16
- ~~Mr. Johnson~~ 11/3/16
- ~~Mr. Head~~
- ~~Mr. Stacey~~ 3
- ~~Mr. Lambert~~ 3
- ~~Mr. Collins~~ 3
- ~~Mr. Green~~ 16
- ~~Mr. Green~~ 19 3 16
- ~~Mr. Mansfield~~
- ~~Mr. Dyer~~
- ~~Mr. Dutton~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Dutton~~ 9/3
- ~~Mr. Dutton~~ 13/3
- ~~Mr. Dutton~~ 9/3
- ~~Mr. A. J. Harding~~ 9/3
- ~~Mr. Cowell~~ 14/3/16
- ~~Mr. Griffin~~
- ~~Mr. E. J. Harding~~
- ~~Mr. Dutton~~ 3
- ~~Mr. Robinson~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Haynes~~
- ~~Mr. Parkinson~~
- ~~Mr. Flood~~ 10 3
- ~~Mr. Wilson~~ 15 3
- ~~Mr. Wilson~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Dixon~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Tait~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Maobing~~ 9/3/16
- ~~Mr. Calder~~ 10 3 16
- ~~Mr. Downie~~
- ~~Mr. Cooke~~
- ~~Mr. Gibson~~
- ~~Mr. Bock~~ 16/3/16
- ~~Mr. Bock~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Coghlan~~ 15 3 16
- ~~Mr. Coghlan~~ 9 3
- ~~Mr. Coghlan~~ 9 3
- ~~Mr. Coghlan~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Finlay~~ 15/3/16
- ~~Mr. Westbrook~~ 11/3/16

X

In any further communication
on the subject, please quote

No. 27412/C

and address—
The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
London.



FOREIGN OFFICE

February 17 1916.

74

Sir:-

With reference to your letter No. 4166/1916 of the 28th ultimo, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith a copy of correspondence with His Majesty's Consul General at Rotterdam relative to the certificate of origin issued by the British Vice Consul at Tiel in respect of some goods shipped by him to British East Africa.

Sir E. Grey considers that the case can seldom arise and that such certificates should be accepted unless there is any reason to suspect that the facts stated therein are not correct. There is no reason to suppose that Mr. Desselhuys, the Consular Officer concerned in the present instance, is not thoroughly reliable.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,

A. J. W.

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

384.

7996/C).

7786
REC
FEB 16

FOREIGN OFFICE

February 3rd, 1916.

73

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to state that a question has arisen as to whether certificates of origin issued by unpaid British Consular officers, who are members of the firm exporting the goods covered by the certificates, should be accepted on the arrival of the goods at the port of destination, or whether they should be refused unless they are signed by a salaried Consular officer. The case which has drawn attention to this question is that of a certificate issued by the British Vice Consul at Tiel for some goods shipped to British East Africa.

I am to request that you will furnish your observations in the matter and I am to state that Sir E. Grey does not see how the acceptance of such certificates can be avoided so long as the system of employing traders as unpaid Vice Consuls continues.

I am, &c.

(Signed).

A. Law.

Tom Esq.,

Acting British Consul General,
Rotterdam.

(copy)

British Consulate General
Rotterdam

No. 364.

8th February, 1916.

Sir,

Referring to Mr. Law's despatch No. 364 (17995/3) of the 3rd instant, regarding certificates of origin issued by unpaid British Consular officers, I have the honour to report that in my opinion it would, of course, be infinitely preferable that unsalaried officers should not have the power to issue documents of this nature.

It is easy to understand that even the most loyal trading Consular Officer must, in the nature of things, look first to his commercial interests, and that it is quite possible that a certain slackness occurs in the issue of these documents, which would not be the case if they were confined to salaried posts. The objection to limiting their issue to salaried posts is that at the present minute, at all events as far as this country is concerned, the salaried Officers under my superintendence are working about as hard as it is possible to make men work, and that any additional stress thrown on them, without a corresponding increase in their numbers, or at all events clerical assistance of a high grade, would be practically impossible.

In this connection I would point out that the strict application of the Dutch Custom House Certificate regulations, on which I have again lately issued a circular to the Consular Officers in the Netherlands, which I beg to enclose copies, would substantially solve

The Right Honourable

Sir Edward Grey, Bart., K.C.

Esq., Esq., Esq.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

this effect, in view of the fact that only the Dutch
 Consuls at Amsterdam and Rotterdam are allowed to sign
 the certificates. Consequently, if a firm in the
 neighbourhood of Riga wishes to take their certificates
 of origin for signature to the Vice Consul there the
 certificate of the local Custom House Officer must
 come to Rotterdam for signature and then be returned
 to the King for the certificate of origin to be issued
 on it. I think for the most part firms in this
 country will not take this trouble, but will transfer
 the whole business to Amsterdam or Rotterdam through
 their forwarding agents. I am confirmed in this
 belief by certain complaints which have reached me
 from Consular Officers as to the effect which the
 new regulation will have on the grant of certificates
 of origin. I have, however, subject to any
 instructions I may receive to the contrary, maintained
 my attitude, that except in very rare cases the Dutch
 Custom House Officers certificate is the evidence on
 which the issue of certificates of origin by British
 Consular Officers should be based.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) Ernest G. B. Maxse.

70 EAP
7786/16 General
H

78

1916 FEB 21

Ant 3-40 p.m.

[2 February]
Fallopia

[You tel of 13 Jan]
unartful

[You tel of 26 Jan]
unaudited

[70] of opinion that
fluidity orismology

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[of rare occurrence] =
octenoid

[in present case]
Caparossa think that

[honorary membership]
[revelation] rannocosa

[Amable office] [not reliable]
Coppice redmouth

Amantul

DRAFT

Tel

Governor

Nairobi

MINUTE

Mr. Bottomley 19/4/16

Mr. Davis 19.2.16

Mr. Paul 21

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes

Sir H. Just

Sir J. Anderson

Mr. Steel-Maitland

Mr. Bonar Law

Faint handwritten notes

(by H. L.)

Cop 30 22 7786