

EAST AFR. PROT  
10859

10859  
REC.  
MAR 16

Was Office

1916

Le. Mob.

Last previous Paper.  
Sunt  
6/80M

Indian Sedition in P.A.P.

Sends precis of cover ref. to the case of  
L. to Rebel. and asks for full report on the  
Indian Sedition in Prot. to which constant  
reference is made herein.

Mr. Beekley's Record

Mr. Road spoke to me about this. In  
point of fact ~~was~~ everything we  
receive on this subject which is of  
any importance goes to the automatic  
Lt. Col. Kelly's Dept. has had the  
letter from Sir H. Beekley on 24/5/16  
and I take it that they do not want  
to have inflated cases of sedition such  
as 10915 and 10920. What they are  
after is evidence as to the  
history and origin of sedition. How far  
it is traceable to German influence etc.

Cons. 2. Pines & Kelly 20. 2. 1916

Next subsequent Paper.  
Mud  
32131

I don't see Enclosure, that we  
can do ~~the~~ more than say that  
everything important that we have  
has been sent to you, referring  
in particular to 44505 Sen.

(3 spec sent) ditto in in an  
mail bag a la ...

So replied 2/3/68  
[97]

~~SRU~~

10859

REC

War Office Regt 6 MAR 16

Whitehall,

W.

4th March, 1916.

187

DEPT

*The Secretary*

the

MINUTE

Mr. *W. ...*

in *...*

S. ...  
Colonel

28499  
MS 592

NOTE

Mr L. W. RITCH was deported from Mombasa in November 1914 but the reasons for his deportation were not known to us at the time and have only recently been made clear by despatches from Nairobi on the 28nd December, 1915. After a great deal of correspondence, interviews and so forth, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has, on the strength of this report, informed Mr Ritch that he considers the Protectorate authorities were amply justified in the action they took.

The papers show that Mr Ritch was in close touch with the leading Indians in Mombasa and Nairobi. He is a barrister and apparently interested himself very considerably in the Indian agitation and was mixed up with a railway strike at Nairobi which occurred in July 1914. At the beginning of the war Mr Ritch interested himself in forming a town guard of Indians which was armed but this was very unsatisfactory and had shortly afterwards to be disbanded and the authorities apparently suspected that it was really a political move. In the reports on the case there is a good deal regarding the existence of Indian sedition in British East Africa. General Malleson says:-

"It was soon apparent that espionage was rampant in British East Africa and suspicion pointed to many Indians being involved. In addition there was a great deal of sedition of a very advanced kind amongst local Indians and there were many indications that Mr Ritch, though possibly not fully understanding the gravity of what he was doing, was on very close terms with some of those Indians, especially the less reputable classes, who looked to him to protect and advise them as to how far they could safely go."

Again:-

"I have no hesitation in saying that this deportation of Mr Ritch had for a time a very welcome quieting effect on the disloyal Indian community of Mombasa, then greatly exasperated by our rebuff at Tanga. Circumstances which have since come to light tend to confirm Mr Ritch's close association with Indian extremists of the worst type. In this connection I attach a copy of a letter recently found in the house of a prominent Indian in Mombasa, in which

2.

"Mr Ritch's name is mentioned. In that letter, it will be seen, reference is made to seducing the loyalty of Indian soldiers and recent events have shown that this was no idle boast. There have been other similar letters discovered in the possession of, or written by, Mr Ritch's friends".

The letter in question is a very seditious letter signed by "Sita Ram", dated July 1915.

Again, the Provincial Commissioner, Mombasa, writes on November 8th, 1915:-

"It is worthy of note that several of the Indians with whom Mr Ritch was known to be intimate have been since arrested and are being tried for sedition".

Again:-

"Considering the amount of sedition which we are now assured is to be found among the Asiatics in Mombasa and the intimate relations which existed between Mr Ritch and these people the role in which he came to this country, viz: agitation on behalf of the Asiatic community, I am more convinced than ever that his removal by the military authorities was wise."

Again, in forwarding the papers, the Governor says:-

"I am, however, convinced that the Protectorate has been a hotbed of Indian sedition and it has now been proved that some of the principal and most dangerous agitators were amongst those who ranked as Mr Ritch's personal friends".

Lastly, there is an extract from the proceedings of a court martial held at Voi on December 3rd, 1915, in which one witness states that he left the Arya Samaj on account of its seditious character. It is stated that the two persons accused in the court martial referred to were sentenced to death but this punishment was commuted to one of imprisonment for fourteen years. There was recently in the papers a short note that two Indians had been condemned to death for blowing up a railway in British East Africa. Presumably the court martial refers to the same facts.

3.

It is extremely desirable that we should obtain a full report regarding this Indian sedition in British East Africa with the names of the prominent leaders proceeding on similar lines under German auspices from Africa.

Approved

sent on 60/12071



192

War Office,  
Whitehall,

S.W.

17-3-16

Dear Mr. [Name]

Re: 11451 of 14/3

about [Topic]

I don't quite see what

the fact that the [Topic]

"nominal military" is for  
has to do with the accounts

possibly you have something else  
in your mind as well?

Yours faithfully,  
[Signature]



C.O.  
11451  
REC  
MAR 16

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:  
The Secretary,  
War Office,  
London, S.W.,  
and the following number quoted.

War Office, 193  
London, S.W.

0185/7344 (F.I.)

8 March, 1916.

*W.D.*

Sir,

With reference to Colonial Office letter 7766 of 25th February, relative to the expenses of the administration of Mafia Island, and to the telegram of 29th idem from the Colonial Office to the High Commissioner for Zanzibar (copy enclosed with Colonial Office letter 2530 of 1st instant) approving the transfer of the administration of the Island from the military to the civil authorities, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you <sup>that</sup> they assume that, from the date of transfer, the common charges account will cease to be concerned in any way with the expenses of administration. I am to suggest that, if Mr. Bonar Law concurs, instructions should be issued to this effect.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*H. D. Curtis*

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.



WO. 11457/1916

C. D.  
R. 13 MAR.  
D. M



194

Cap.  
13<sup>th</sup> Mar.  
9<sup>th</sup>

14 March 1916

6546-12

...and the attempt to  
is one of the most noticeable and dangerous  
we have in common. It is possible that  
through some light on the subject this can be  
when we know the facts and the consequences, but in

SECRET

...institutions in or we  
...in schools in the  
...of Africa  
...of Africa  
...of Africa

to request you to  
inform the Army  
Council that as  
the administration  
must, pending the

Cap. 19 16 March 1916

1916

M

(P.T.O.)