

EAST AFR. PROT
UGANDA
21904

21909
REC'D
REF 28 APR 17

R. F. Africa Cont.
L.S.

Shipment of Beans to U.K.

1917

27 Apr.

Hopes that local auths. be induced to remove prohibition of export in favour of quantity of 300 to 500 tons collected for shipment. Fears not that there can be no shortage of foodstuff in Port.

Last previous Paper

4/27/17
1146

See to Gov encl 1 May 17
Copy of above to Sir G. Allen & Co
Copy above to G. Ford & Co, 100 of Africa Cont.
-27 April 1917

W. G. Ziller
Steel - Nutland

Please see the O.A.C.'s telegram (2117)

It is essential, as far as possible, to appreciate the necessity of carrying food about the Empire. If the military authorities do not use the foodstuffs from East Africa, they will have to import all the more from without.

Major Leggett now urges, with all the force of his familiar importunity, that the export of beans should be permitted. A few days ago he wrote to Capt. Bathurst urging that certain

See subsequent Paper

4/27/17
23094

and foodstuffs which the Govt. has
asked for should not be allowed to
go from the U.K. to the E.A.P., on
the ground that the population of
the E.A.P. had locally grown beans
to live on. He is an amazing
creature.

It is evident that his one need
is to get top price for the beans which
the Corporation have bought, & equally
evident, in my opinion, that we must
decline to interfere with the action of
the O.A.C.

H.A.S.

28 4 47

decline accordingly?

H.S.R.

28/4/47

Mr 20/4

Oh, another paper just come through
(10034/17). The Ministry of Food say
they don't want to buy beans, (they
don't say why), and that's rather the
matter to be considered.
H.S.M. 20 47

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asked for should not be allowed to
go from the U.K. to the E.A.P., on
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WAB

28 4 17

decline accordingly?

J.S.R.

28/4/17

WAB

On another paper just come through
(10034/17) the Ministry of Food say
they don't want to buy beans, (they
don't say why), and they settle the
matter at 10/- per cwt.
MS. 12. 30. 4

Mr. Read.
Sir George Fiddes.
Mr. Steel-Maitland.

Since this paper was sent on Mr. Steel-Maitland has received the attached letter from Sir Henry Rew. After speaking to Mr. Steel-Maitland I submit a telegram to the Governor and a draft reply to Sir Henry Rew.

HAB

30 4 17

H. J. d.

30/4/17

Telephone—MAYFAIR 6660.

Telegrams—"FOODMINDEX, AUBLEY, LONDON."

MINISTRY OF FOOD,
GROSVENOR HOUSE,

W. 1.

78

30th April ... 1917.

Any reply should be addressed to—

The Secretary,

MINISTRY OF FOOD,

and refer to No. 17130.

Dear Mr. Steel Maitland,

You have, I think, received a letter from Major E.H.M. Leggett, Managing Director of the British East Africa Corporation, with reference to the export from the Protectorate of 400 tons of beans. Major Leggett also, I understand, saw Mr. Reed at the Colonial Office on the matter and he has been in communication with the Department.

From copies of cables transmitted by the Under Secretary of State (20190/17) it appears that the officer administering the government of the East Africa Protectorate prohibited export not so much on the ground that there was a shortage of supply, as in an endeavour to lower prices to the Military Authorities. Beans are however very urgently required in this country, supplies being short ^{and} demand greatly in excess of the normal. In the circumstances it is hoped that the Secretary of State will press for the issue of a licence to export this particular parcel at least. The

general question might be considered afterwards and this Department will be glad to render any assistance possible.

Yours very truly,

W. Henry Hall

The Right Hon. A. D. Steel-Maitland, M.P.,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W. 1.

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Yours very truly,

R. M. S. H. H. H.

The Right Hon. A. D. Steel-Maitland, M.P.,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Boxing Street, S.W. 1.

British East Africa Corporation, Limited

21909

REC^d
REG^d 28 APR 17

Secretary

F. T. FRISLAND

TELEPHONE LONDON WALL 8176
12 LINES

TELEGRAMS TAAL AVE LONDON

CABLES INCREASE LONDON

CODE
STERN UNDER AND BROOMH
COMBINATION

AND AT

MOMBASA, NAIROBI, KISUMU, &

AND EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

AND

LUPALA, UNAL, MABINDI &
UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

90, GRESHAM HOUSE,

LONDON, 27th April, 1917.

In your reply please refer

to No.

Handwritten signature

Dear Mr. Steel-Hatfield,

When we met at dinner at Sir William Leyer's house some time ago, you were good enough to say that I might see you on any urgent or important points re East Africa. I have been glad not to have occasion until now to avail myself of your kindness. But now such a question has arisen, on which I venture to ask your help, in what I believe to be the public interest.

For some months past I have been instructing our General Manager at Mombasa, by letter & cable, that the utmost energy of this Company's trading branches throughout British East Africa and Uganda must be applied to buying, grading, sorting, bagging etc. all possible beans, of the kinds suitable to human consumption, for export to the U.K. and to have the beans at Mombasa ready for shipment by mid April at latest. These orders of ours were induced by the reiterated publications of the Ministry of Food asking the U.K. public to eat beans in preference to potatoes etc. The reason for readiness at Mombasa by mid April at latest, was that there were to be two steamers loading there for home between April 20th and 30th, there having been no boats for the past two months, nor are there further boats in sight to lead home from there, after these two, until June or July. These two April boats would get the foodstuffs to U.K. in time to be of use in the National food crisis. If the beans miss these boats, they would fail of their chief public utility.

Acting on these orders, our General Manager cabled us about ten days ago that he had 300 to 500 tons of beans (Haricot, Canadian Wonder, & Rose Cecos, all highly suitable for human food)

in sight for immediate shipment. The two steamers, s.s. "Gaika" and s.s. "Worsley Hall", were arriving at Mombasa April 19th., to load and sail at once. There was no other feedstuff cargo for them, so that space for the homeward shipment of the beans would be assured, on the principle that feedstuff cargo takes priority of all other.

On April 18th. our General Manager cabled us that the export of beans had suddenly been prohibited by the local Government.

I reported the facts to the Director of Feed Imports at the Ministry of Feed, and to Mr. Read at the Colonial Office. The former expressed his strong anxiety that the shipment to U.K. should if possible be made. The latter was good enough to cable at once to the Governor of East Africa for the facts.

I understand that the Governor's reply is to the effect that the Military Authorities in East Africa require about 500 tons of beans monthly for the troops, that they recently called for local tenders for this supply, that the price at which tenders were put in were regarded as high, being evidently based upon Home value of the article, and that large quantities of beans are said to be held up in East Africa owing to the high prices ruling in Europe, and that in these circumstances the Protectorate Govt. have thought it essential to prohibit the export of beans for the present.

It would thus appear that the main purpose of the prohibition is to reduce the price at which the East African authorities can obtain their local requirements, rather than for any fear of quantitative inadequacy of the local stocks.

I venture to suggest that the local Government may somewhat imperfectly appreciate the need for this feedstuff at home and especially the urgency of shipment if to be of full use to the U.K. If they are thinking of raising the embargo on export after the two present ships have sailed, export by the next opportunity two months hence would only reach U.K. by August or September. In any case, an opportunity of ship space for a much wanted feedstuff would be lost.

British East Africa Corporation, Limited.

90, GRESHAM HOUSE,

LONDON.

Apr 27 1917

Solely
 F. T. PRESSLER,
 15, ABINGDON WALL STREET,
 TRADING TRADING AGENCY, LONDON.
 CABLES: INCREASE, LONDON.
 CODES:
 EASTERN UNION AND GRESHAM HOUSE
 COMBINATION.
 AND AT
 BOMBAY, NAIROBI, KISUMU, &c.,
 EAST AFRICA PROTECTORY,
 AND
 KAMPALA, JINJA, MESSINA, &c.
 U.S.A. - PROTECTORY.

If your reply please refer
 to No

Dear Recd.

I have your official letter today, the two
 reports of beans from East Africa. I thank you
 Mr. Yale, Director of Food Imports, Ministry of
 Food, as he had asked me to do, and he said
 at once that he would be putting the matter
 up to the Minister of Food.

To help matters, I have written to
 Mr. Steel-Maitland, and enclosed you a copy.
 The whole matter is ^{most} so urgent by the fact
 that the ships are loading now.

I am well that for the moment there
 are no foodstuffs for loading, ex South African
 ports, so if these ports do not load East African
 beans they will be bringing no food at all.
 Yours sincerely
 E. H. Bennett.

The Right Hon. A. D. Steel-Maitland, M.P.
 Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, for the Colonies,
 Colonial Office,
 Downing Street, S.W.

British East Africa Corporation, Limited.

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F. T. PRESSLAND.

PHONE LONDON WALL 8178
(8 LINES)

TELEGRAMS TAAL AVE LONDON

CABLES INCREASE, LONDON
CODE
WESTERN UNION AND BROOMHALL'S
COMBINATION

AND AT
MOMBASA, NAIROBI, KISUMU &
SOUTH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE
AND
KAMPALA, Jinja, Mbarindi, &c.
UGANDA PROTECTORATE

96, GRESHAM HOUSE,

LONDON, 27th April, 1917

In your reply please refer to No.

W. Steel-Maitland
W. Steel-Maitland

Dear Mr. Steel-Maitland,

When we met at dinner at Sir William Lever's house some time ago, you were good enough to say that I might see you on any urgent or important points re East Africa. I have been glad not to have occasion until now to avail myself of your kindness. But now such a question has arisen, on which I venture to ask your help, in what I believe to be the public interest.

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84

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It is a fact that in May/June the big maize harvest of the country (near Nairobi) will be in full swing, to be followed by even bigger maize and millet harvest of the Kavirondo country June/July. Thus there can be no possible shortage of native foodstuffs in East Africa. The bean stocks now at the port of Mombasa could hardly be railed again up country and re-distributed all over the territory, for military consumption, within one to two months.

There is still time if a cable can go out at once, to ensure shipment to U.K. of all the beans now ready at Mombasa, and I feel that would be the most practical thing to do. The beans are piling up country and not yet railed to the coast, cannot catch these boats in any case, and would automatically be available for the military supply.

So far as my Company is concerned, the Ministry of Food might fix any fair price at which to take the beans now at Mombasa over into its own ownership, to be shipped consigned to itself at home. I only mention this to show you that I am much more concerned with the question in the national interest than from any consideration of commercial profit and it seems to me to be a thousand pities to throw away an opportunity of getting foodstuffs into U.K. for the sake of economy in the price payable by the local government for its own needs. Surely that latter point could be overcome by some other means than depriving the U.K. of its possible supplies, when stocks exist and there are boats lying ready to load them.

Yours very truly, *Sd E. Leggett*

Major G. R. E. Mansingh Durrant

The Hon. A.D. Steel-Maitland, M.P.
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.

sent 3/4 pm
Marouam (497)
1 May.

[Handwritten signature]

Ans 23094

unfeign

Your telegram of 23rd April

2476

wetpot

annulating

cessionary

No. 204. Position as to beans not clear

DRAFT TELEGRAM *(order)*

MAJOR NAIROBI

Is supply available locally only *slopelevel* sufficient

MINUTE.

misrepute

ossify

for military requirements or is export

Mr. Baker: 30 -

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Grindle.

Mr. Lambert.

Mr. Beach: 30/12

Mr. H. Fielder: 30

Mr. Stob-Maitland: 1-50

Mr. Long.

Copy sent to Dept. of Agric. - 27/5/1917

proteris

prohibited simply on the ground that

pollard

supplies are offered at too high a price.

iconolater

cristero

if the latter could not the case be met

missionism

reservato

by military authorities requisitioning

polladyke

necessary quantities at reasonable price

alevat

exertivo

and your allowing remainder to be exported

tetracycline
to the United Kingdom. Beans are very

resacrier crochations 1/17
urgently required in this country. If

subterrene
therefore there is a surplus over local

researched examination basicator
requirements export of balance should be

permitted and in particular 400 tons held

especially any actually
ready for export by British East Africa
raiseth stood
ready for export at present
Corporation.

LONG.

I think we
put it general
and specific
mention 400
400 tons. Other
may know ship
ready

2/17/17
J.S.

Downing Street,
1 W. St. J.
April, 1917.

For Mr. Steel-Maitland's signature

DRAFT

SIR HENRY REW, K.C.B.

MINUTE

- Mr. Butler 30/4/17
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. Lambert
- Mr. Read 30/4/17
- Mr. G. Piddes 30
- Mr. Steel-Maitland 1/17
- Mr. Long (11997)

Telegram
(Draft herewith)

Dear Sir Henry Rew,

I have your letter of the 30th of April, and we have sent to East Africa the telegram of which I enclose a copy about the present stock of beans there and the possibility of allowing export to this country.

Quite apart from the question of the present supply available is the question raised by the Governor in his telegram of the 5th of March, namely, whether a minimum price for beans could be guaranteed so as to secure a large surplus in November. A copy of this telegram was sent to the Ministry of Food in our letter of the 5th of March. In your letter No. (18034) 14888 of the 5th of April, you said that beans are not purchased or dealt in by the British

air D. 21909

British Government, and that in the circum-
stances no action in the direction indicated
by the Governor ^{was} necessary. We

accordingly told the Governor, in a telegram
dated the 27th of April, that His Majesty's

(21286)

Government are not prepared to purchase

beans. Is this decision at all altered

but that the demand for beans in this country is
by the demand for beans which it would

~~now~~ appear from your letter of the 30th of

April is very great? If so, no time

should be lost in communicating with the

Governor again, as ^{the} ~~the~~ question is that of

planting for the forthcoming crop, not of

obtaining supplies already available in

the Protectorate.

Yours very truly

W. G. M. L.

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Yours very truly

J. S. M. I.