

1933

3238

KENYA

C0533/437

1933

3238

Earl Kitchener.

Previous

Room 309	21/7
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Mr J.B.W. Williams	21/9
Mr Davies	21/9

Subsequent

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Key 297 28/6

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Mr Finlayson 29

Dr. Wood 30

Sir C. B. Williams 4/7

Sir S. Wilson 4/7

S. G. Duff 17/7

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Dr. Wood 27/7

Key 297 27/7

Room 309 27/7

Mr Finlayson 27/7

Dr. Wood 27/7

Key 297 27/7

1. Governor Byene 41 Conf. _____ 8th June 33

Encls. copies of police reports regarding the circumstances in which Earl Hitchener is now living, gives details of police protection which is being afforded & requests that influence may be exercised in any possible way.

In view of para 4 there seems little else that can be done.

It may be thought desirable that the P.S. should communicate with Viscountess Brome (Earl Hitchener's daughter-in-law) at 15, May taken Denton Canterbury Kent.

C. J. Groom, Esq.
28/6/33

Clearly a case for "personal influence" rather than an official letter

B. Smith
29

This is very distressing. The old gentleman is clearly incapable of looking after himself properly, but, if he was induced to return to England he would probably die very soon

? as proposed

J. W. Kent
20.6.

Sir S. Wilson

That is all we can do. Lord Hitchener has had his old side ever since we have (very occasionally) had to do with him and I am afraid Lord Brome's death left him completely adrift.

W. G. 11/7/33

I showed these papers to the S. J. and he discussed with her I thought. E.H.

Address in Handbook
Kelly's 1932

As proposed.
Let me see draft
J.H.K.
above
4.7.33.

2 To Viscountess Broome - cons - 6 July '33

3 Viscountess Broome - cons - 7 July '33

States will call on Tuesday & encls. a copy of a letter to Mr. Stratton regarding the return of Lord Kitchener to England.

I have spoken today to Sir J. Payne about this & told him the result of interview between Lord Plymouth & Lady Broome.

The former agrees that there is nothing more that we can do.

B.H.G.
at end

18.7.33

91
29.7.33

60/17/33

60/17/33
21

[Handwritten signature]

Lady Broome 15th Sept 1933
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE
Lord Kitchener has decided to remain in Kenya.

To Lady Broome - 21st September, 1933.
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE
Kenya Dept -

Please see the attached further correspondence which Lord Plymouth has had with Lady Broome.

I. B. Williams

21.9.33

? Par 5
Two we

No 1 has had no reply, for obvious reasons. But I think we might give Mr. Dore, quite briefly, the upshot of Nos 2-5, s-o for Mr. Flood by next Air mail.

Pl. dft. comm.

[Handwritten signature]
21/9/33

By air mail 6 To H.M. Moore

[Handwritten signature]

o/o 27/9/33

C. O.

3238/33. *ku*

C. D.
R 23 SEP
D 26

Mr. Davies. 22/9

Mr. *Fresh 22*

Flood. 23/9

Mr. Parkinson.

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bolamley.

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

TO GO BY AIR MAIL.

s.o. for Mr. Flood's sig.

DOWNING STREET.

27 September, 1933.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear, none

~~I think you ought to know~~
s.s.s.)

that on the receipt of ~~Byrne's~~ Conf.

despatch of the 6th of June, regarding
the circumstances in which Lord Kitchener
is now living on his estate at Soy,

Lord Plymouth got into touch with
Lady Broome *no mind as if anything
could be done.*

It appears that neither
Lady Broome nor any *other member of* of the rest of
the family has any influence with
Lord Kitchener, and that none of his
relatives *has* the means or the time
to go out to Kenya to visit him.
Several of them have recently written
to him offering him a home in England,
but apparently he refuses to leave the
Colony. His family therefore feel
that they must rely on the Government

to

DRAFT.

H.M.M. MOORS, ESQ., C.M.G.

to give the same protection to Lord Kitchener as it would to anyone else in similar circumstances, and that this is all that can be done.

In her last letter to Lord Plymouth dated the 19th of (u) September, Lady Broome wrote "I am seeing our lawyer, who is a mutual friend and returns to Nairobi next week and will do anything he can to help us"; but from what we have heard ^{I am afraid it is} ~~it seems so~~ unlikely that Lord Kitchener ^{will} ~~can~~ be induced to give up his present way of living.

I fear it is not very satisfactory, but it is difficult to see what we can do further. The Government is aware of the situation.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) J. E. W FLOOD

TELEGRAM
STATION
TELEPHONE

BARKAN
10.

5
3

MAYDEKEN,
DENTON,
NE CANTERBURY.

RECEIVED
10 JUL 1933
C. O. REGY

July 7th, 1933.

Dear Lord Plymouth,

No. 2 Thank you for your letter regarding my
father-in-law, Lord Kitchener. I had a letter
a short while ago, on which I held a 'family
council' in London and sent a reply. Lord K.
is an exceptionally difficult character to deal
with!

I will call on Tuesday, July 11th, at
3 p.m., and tell you the position.

I am enclosing my reply to Mr. Stratton's
letter.

Yours sincerely,

Idela Broome

COPY.

Mayden,
Denton,
Nr. Canterbury.

June 24th, 1901.

Dear Mr. Stratton,

In answer to your letter of June 2nd, we have had a meeting in London on the subject of Lord Kitchener.

For years his relations have wished him to come home, and three have written recently offering him a home with them in England. None of his relations are well off, but some, if necessary, would be willing to find a moderate sum, though they do not consider that should occur, as they have every reason to believe that Lord Kitchener has ample funds, and could if necessary always borrow against his securities. The relations feel that they must rely on the Government to give the same necessary protection to Lord Kitchener, as they would to anyone else in similar circumstances, and that that would be sufficient to guard against any dangerous possibilities. They feel that his own head boy might have his salary increased for this purpose.

No one here is able to leave, and it is impossible to estimate of the voyage etc., and the unlimited time required for their consideration. Besides to be of any real assistance they require a thorough knowledge of Kenya property and affairs, which no relations have.

Lord Kitchener will not correspond with me, and I do not acknowledge any letter, and send me a substantial amount of money. If you will see, or write Mr. Bruce, explain the position, and impress on him the reliance that the relations have in the Government giving protection. The family have little or no influence over Lord Kitchener, and the Government have powers, which no one else has, to insure that the safe and proper state of affairs is maintained.

Mrs. Watkins, who, as you know is a friend of his in Kenya, and whose opinion I wrote for, considers he is perfectly well right living on his farm alone in his own way, and that he will never come home, and does not share the anxiety we feel about the situation. She says she will do her best to persuade him to come to her farm at the end of 1901.

Lord Kitchener wrote to his son-in-law, Major A. Beckett, offering him the Kapakabit farm, if he would come out. Major

a Beckett sold his business in England, and by the next mail received a letter to say the Kapsabit farm was let for 10 years! I think you know the hopelessness of trying to deal sanely with Lord Kitchener.

Would you write to him, persuading him to put his affairs in the hands of some responsible firm, and then come home. That letter would arrive about the same time as two others from England suggesting the same course, and might make him consider the proposition.

I confidentially enclose a copy of Mrs. Watkins' letter, for your use only.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) ADELA BRIDGEMAN.

Answered by No 3

7
2

6th July, 1933.

Dear Lady Broome,

Sir Philip Cunliffe Lister has received from the Governor of Kenya a distressing report about Lord Kitchener's health and the conditions under which he is living, which are giving rise to great anxiety.

I understand that Lord Kitchener's solicitors have already informed you of the circumstances, and I would be glad to consult with you in order to devise the best method of helping Lord Kitchener in his present situation. I wonder whether, in the circumstances, you would come here to discuss the matter with me. If you would do this could you come either on Monday next, July 10th, between 4.0. and 6.0.p.m., or on Tuesday next, July 11th, between 3.0. and 5.0.p.m.? If neither of these times are convenient to you, I would, although I have a very full week, endeavour to arrange some other time.

Yours sincerely,
sd. Plymouth.

The Viscountess Broome.

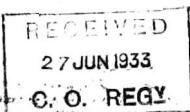
KENYA.

No. 7/.

CONFIDENTIAL.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI,
KENYA.



8th June, 1933.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have received reports from the Administrative and Police Authorities regarding the circumstances in which Earl Kitchener is now living on his estate at Soy in this Colony.

2. Copies of reports by the Inspector of Police at Soy and the Superintendent of Police at Eldoret are enclosed.

3. The Provincial Commissioner has satisfied himself that the Police reports are in no way exaggerated and that Earl Kitchener is in grave danger of assault and robbery as there are numerous unemployed natives in the neighbourhood and burglary is of not infrequent occurrence.

4. I understand that Earl Kitchener's solicitors have informed Viscountess Broome of the circumstances and advised her to endeavour to persuade him to return to England, stating at the same time that the Police Authorities have suggested the employment of two trustworthy ex-police at a cost of £3:10/- per month with a view to ensuring his safety.

5.....

THE RT. HON.

MAJOR SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

5. In the meantime the Commissioner of Police has issued instructions that police protection is to be afforded in the manner most suitable, bearing in mind the fact that Earl Kitchener objects to such protection, but it will be appreciated that this special arrangement should not be maintained indefinitely at the public's expense.

6. In view of the possibility of an unfortunate incident which would result in much undesirable publicity I consider that you should be aware of the circumstances and I trust that you will exercise your influence in any way which you ^{may} consider possible or advisable in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,



BRIGADIER-GENERAL.

G O V E R N O R.

(Copy)

REF. No.A.12/122/33

Office of the Superintendent of Police,
P.O. Box No.2, Eldoret.

CONFIDENTIAL.

12th. May, 1933.

The Hon. the Provincial Commissioner,
Nzoia, Eldoret.

I wish to bring to your notice that Lord Kitchener, who is residing on his farm in the Soy area, is a sick man, and being well over 80 years of age, I do not think it is safe for him to live alone on the farm.

He had an operation about 8 months ago and has apparently never quite recovered from this and is continually having spells of illness, which confine him to his bed.

He is unable to look after himself properly and is in the habit of carrying money on his person by day and night.

I attach correspondence received, to show the danger this man is in, owing to his age and infirmity. According to his neighbour, Mr. Platt, he refuses to go to Hospital or to have a doctor.

There are no proper domestic servants looking after him and his living conditions are very crude.

He is not a pauper, so it is not a question of want or being unable to afford. It is an extremely difficult position. I cannot keep special men guarding him indefinitely. At present I have a plain clothes askari on the farm, as he does not like uniformed men and considers them useless.

So far as I know he has no relatives in the Colony who could take care of him. He is certainly not a fit man to run a farm in this district. I consider that if not properly protected he is likely to be murdered for his money.

I have seen the Medical Officer of Health, who states he has absolutely no power to move in the matter.

(Sgd.) F. Peacock,
Supt. of Police.

(Copy)

Soy 28/40/33

Police Station,
SOY.

CONFIDENTIAL.

13.5.33.

The Superintendent of Police,
Eldoret.

Sir,

Re Lord Kitchener, Maji Mazuri, P.O., Hoey's
Bridge.

In reply to your instructions I have to report as follows:

As far as I am aware, he is more or less bedridden, and when not in bed spends the greater part of the day seated on his verandah.

His meals consist of boiled eggs, rice, and occasionally tinned food. There is little alteration in this diet from week to week.

He has stated that he is able to live on about thirty shillings a month. He has only one personal servant, who is a raw native from the field, who is paid, I am informed, 5/- a month.

His house and the surroundings are in a very dirty and uncared for condition. Only one room in the house is occupied as a bedroom, the remainder being used as a store-room for posho, maize and beans. There is very little furniture in the house.

On the last occasion on which I visited him he was in bed, and he stated he was suffering from a cold. The bedding was extremely dirty and he was wearing his usual clothing which also appeared to be very dirty and torn. There was a particularly bad odour of stale urine in the room, which I believe was due to a dirty urinal and the fact that his bedding is very rarely washed or aired.

I also noticed phlegm and a little blood on the floor and table near his bed, where I believe he had been expectorating.

His house is situated at the top of a very steep hill, and he informed me that when he is fit, he manages to get down to the coffee land in the morning, but finds it difficult to get back again, and has to be carried by two natives.

It is his custom to carry his money, sometimes large sums, in his trousers pocket. He keeps no firearms at all in the place. He is unable to speak Swahili, and has the greatest difficulty in giving orders to his native employees, none of whom, at present, can speak English.

He is very feeble, and is really quite incapable of running the labour on the farm. There is no other European on the farm, and he very frequently has to refer natives to his neighbour, Mr. E.C. Flatt, who has done everything he can to assist.

I understand he has completely recovered from his abdominal operation and is not troubled with this now.

(Sgd.) A.L. Griffith

2/A.1

Officer in Charge.