

1931

Kenya

(Temporary file)

No. 17225/A

SUBJECT

C0533/413

Condition of Hospitals and Prisons
in Nairobi and Mombasa

Previous

16269/30 (Hospitals at
Nairobi)

16145/30 (Prison Report)

Subsequent

17227/31 (Condition of
Prisons at Nairobi)

17176/32

Comments on position regarding provision of hospitals and prisons in Nairobi and Mombasa & on the condition of the existing buildings; request possibility of grant from C.D.F. for provision of hospital and prison accommodation.

- H. OF C. QUESTION. (Mr Omsby-Gore). See Official Report Page 1733 17th June. (Hospital Accommodation, Nairobi.)
- H. OF C. QUESTION. (Sir Basil-Peto). See Official Report Page 1733 17th June. (Hospital Accommodation, Nairobi.)
- H. OF C. QUESTION (Mr. Omsby-Gore) See Official Report Page 1733 17th June. (Central Gaol, Nairobi).

Regd. on 17227/1931

2 To Gov. Kenya, Conf. W/copies of Qs & As. 29.6.31.

3. To B.M.A. W/Copies of Qs & As. 7.7.1931 (1 Ansd).

To Gov. Kenya No.478 W/copies of 1 & 3 8.7.1931.
~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

5 B.M.A. 11.7.1931
Ack. receipt of No.3. Will be glad to learn Sir J.Byrne's attitude in matter.

H. OF C. QUESTION (Sir P.Richardson) See Official Report Page 2272 29th July

To Gov. W/ Q & A 6th August.

6 Extract from s.o. letter from Sir J.Byrne to Sir C.Bottomley, dated 15th June.

7 Memorandum.

8 To Sir J.Byrne (extract) s/o (6 Ansd). 10th July.

9 Gov.Byrne Conf. 106 4th August.

Trs. copy of Sir E.Thornton's report on hospital accommodation at Nairobi; states is convinced that system of grouped hospitals is correct and anticipates no opposition to adoption. Govt.agrees with Sir E.Thornton's view that money should not be spent on present Nairobi Hospital but is at present unable to take action until loan position settled.

10 A/Col.Sec. 3.p.m. 10th August.
Trs. corrected duplicate of No.9.

11. Gov. Kenya Tel.225 Conf. (copy.) 23rd July.
Enquires if any objection on financial grounds to resolution for works to be fitted, which include hospital and prison at Nairobi.

12 To Gov.Kenya Tel. 242 Conf. (11 Ansd) 8th Aug.
on 17279/31 Loan pp.

13. Re. Medical Assoc.

6/10/31

Ask if any information now available, further to that in No. 3.

Expenses as to the proposal to devote a considerable sum to the extension etc of the Asiatic Hospital at Mathari.

See sub file 8 17/2/31

I am by no means clear that the position is as regards hospital & general accommodation. The Gov. can give the necessary permission to ~~intend~~ proceed with ^{limited} measures in anticipation of a loan & these measures included fresh hospital & general accommodation. But that was in August & so far as Kenya at present from incurring any fresh loan commitments for which the loan money is not to be raised that they are even stopping cash services covered by loans already floated in order that they may use loan money to provide them with working cash. It seems pretty clear therefore that the ^{substantial} ~~no~~ expenditure can be in hand at present, but the Gov. may be bringing forward plans & designs etc.

As regards Mathari, see a. sub file B - we have no info.

? reply as in Jfr. ltr. 2/11/31 to go on 17/2/31

C. J. ... 10-11-31

14

Please see now further letter from British Medical Association attached. I submit revised drafts for conso. In view of No. 9 on 17/2/31 below we can be definite that no expenditure on general or hospital is being incurred, or is contemplated, at present.

J. ...

I have reviewed the draft to the B.M.A. Dr Stanton tells me that the B.M.A. have heard further from Kenya regarding Mathari & are sending another letter to be discussed next week.

d. H. Allen

W. ...

30/11/31

Further letter from B.M.A. received, relative to Mathari Hospital, filed on 17/2/31. (No 6)

C. J. ... 2/1/31

Dr Stanton

See memo on 17/2/31. be discussed. Do the conso or drafts herewith.

d. H. Allen

2/12/31

C. J. ... 3.12.31

Dr Stanton

d. H. Allen 2/12/31

15 J. B.M.A. 13, 14 and 6 on 17225/8/31 ^{1/3/31} advised
DEC 1931

My last mail
8/12/31

16 To Gov 809 (w/ces 13, 14 & 18 on file) ^{1/3/31}
and 6, on 17225/8/31 ^{7 DEC 1931}

~~Law~~

17 for Kenya — 2 — ^{5/1/31} ~~17225/8/31~~ ^{Con}

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

18 for Kenya — 31 — ^{18/1/31}

Original
filed
on
17225/8/31

Repeals the special features for the case
of expenditure on the Malabar ~~reservations~~
& trusts that it will be agreed that the balance
which are cut off by the Kenya Branch
of the B.M.A. are necessary & are the best
possible in the present circumstances

action on Sub file B

~~Law~~

K. B. N. A.

NO. 79

19th February, 1932.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 2 of the 5th January, 1932, regarding the proposed improvement and extension of the Mental Hospital at Nathari.

2. Although the position was generally described in the Governor's despatch No. 31 of the 18th January, 1932, it seems desirable to take this opportunity of correcting an impression, which may have been given by the wording of paragraph 4 of that despatch, that the present site is definitely unsuitable. The existing hospital reservation is small and contains only a small acreage suitable for agricultural development, but it is surrounded by a very much larger area of unalienated Crown Land of which a considerable portion is capable of cultivation and which is provisionally reserved for the use of the Medical Department.

It has also been suggested that the present site is in too close proximity to a growing residential area. I am, however, satisfied that the configuration of the ground is such that the reserved area is practically isolated and that this objection is not of a serious character.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,
MAJOR SIR PHILIP GUNLIFFE-LISTER, F.C., O.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

3. As has been indicated, the prospect of any building on an extensive scale is remote and although, should it become possible, it will clearly be desirable to give careful consideration to alternative sites, the opinion of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in which I concur, is that it is neither certain that a better site could be found near Nairobi nor is it correct, in the meantime, to characterize the present site as definitely unsuitable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

H. M. M. MOORE

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

6
3 March 1932

17225/31.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this Office of the 4th December, 1931 (No. 17225/A/31), in reply to your enquiry regarding the expenditure proposed on the extension and improvement of the Mathari Mental Hospital in Kenya, I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to inform you that it has now been ascertained from the Governor of Kenya that the case of the Mathari Mental Hospital presents special features. As long ago as 1927 it became apparent that the accommodation was seriously defective. In the following year the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services reported that both male and female African quarters were overcrowded, that no separate accommodation existed for Asiatics, that there was no sick bay and that the European female quarters were not only too close to the African female quarters but that they were unsuitable

THE MEDICAL SECRETARY,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

7

unsuitable for violent patients. As a result of this report the sum of £3,502 was provided in Supplementary Estimates for the construction of a sick bay and additional accommodation for Africans. In 1927 further representations were made for the construction of Asiatic male and female blocks and for additional accommodation for European female patients, but until recently the general financial situation has precluded the allocation of further funds.

In April last the Board of Visitors drew attention to the lack of proper quarters for Asiatics, which had resulted in Asiatics being accommodated in the African quarters. As, however, the possibility of construction from revenue funds appeared remote it was necessary to consider other sources, and the Loan Works (Buildings) Committee resolved to allocate £3,350 for this purpose from unallocated funds under the existing provision for "Medical Buildings" in the loan issue of 1930. The necessary drawings are being prepared and tenders will shortly be invited.

2. Sir J. Byrne also reports that he has inspected the Mental Hospital and has given the matter

his

his personal attention and, while agreeing that, were ample funds available, the proper course would be to build a completely new and up-to-date institution on a more suitable site, he is persuaded that the treatment of mental patients should not have priority over other more important medical necessities, that the prospect of providing the necessary funds is ~~very~~ remote and that something must be done to meet the exigencies of the present situation.

He explains that the urgency of providing this additional accommodation arises not only from the congestion which exists within the hospital. This congestion is, and has been for some years, the normal state of affairs, but there has been an increasing number of cases in which it has been necessary to refuse admission both to certified lunatics who had been confined under observation in the goals at Mombasa, Nairobi and Kisumu (which are established as Lunatic Asylums for the purpose of the Indian Lunatic Asylum Act, 1858, as applied

to

to the Colony) and to remand prisoners and convicted criminal lunatics. Their retention in prisons under such circumstances, which is clearly undesirable in itself, has from time to time necessitated the adoption within the prisons of emergency arrangements which are equally undesirable and which have been the subject of repeated representations by the Commissioner of Prisons.

3. In view of the foregoing reasons, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister sees no reason to dissent from the views expressed by the Governor that the measures which have been criticised are necessary and are the best possible in present circumstances.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. H. H. H.

Original registered
on 17/25/31

9
18

11
KENYA.
HC. 31

18th January, 1932.

Sir,

15/16

I have the honour to refer to your dispatch No. 809 of the 7th December, 1931, transmitting a copy of correspondence with the British Medical Association on the subject of gaol accommodation in Nairobi and Mombasa, and of proposed expenditure on the Mathari Mental Hospital.

2. It is the fact that no expenditure is being incurred, or is at present contemplated, on account of the approved loan services of the Colony, which is not already covered by the issued loans and that it has been necessary to defer for the present certain loan projects for new hospitals and gaols as well as other loan works.

3. The case of the Mathari Mental Hospital, however, presents special features. As long ago as 1927 it became apparent that the accommodation was seriously defective and in the following year the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services reported that both male and female African quarters were overcrowded, that no separate accommodation existed for Asiatics, that there was no sick bay and that the European female quarters were not only too close to the African female quarters but that they were unwholesome for violent patients. As a result of this report the sum of £3,502 was provided in

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

Supplementary

MAJOR GEN PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTON, F.C., C.B.E., M.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

Supplementary Estimates for the construction of a sick bay and additional accommodation for Africans. In 1927 further representations were made for the construction of Asiatic male and female blocks and for additional accommodation for European female patients, but until recently the general financial situation has precluded the allocation of further funds.

In April last the Board of Visitors drew attention to the lack of proper quarters for Asiatics, which had resulted in Asiatics being accommodated in the African quarters. The Director of Medical and Sanitary Services advised that, having regard to the probable provisions of the Mental Disorders Bill (which was then under consideration), the provision of Asiatic quarters appeared to be of greater urgency than additional accommodation for Europeans. In this connection I would refer to my despatch No. 298 of 28th May, 1931, and add that the Special Committee is engaged upon its enquiries and I hope to be in a position to introduce legislation at the next Session of Legislative Council. As, however, the possibility of construction from revenue funds appeared remote it was necessary to consider other sources, and the Loan Works (Buildings) Committee, having unallocated funds amounting to some 211,000 under the existing provision for "Medical Buildings" in the loan issue of 1930, resolved to allocate 23,550 for this purpose. The necessary drawings are being prepared and tenders will shortly be invited.

4. I have inspected the Mental Hospital and have given the matter my personal attention and, while agreeing that, were ample funds available, the proper course would be to build a completely new and up-to-date institution on a more suitable site, I am persuaded that the treatment of mental patients should not have priority over other more important medical necessities, that the prospect of providing the necessary funds is very remote and that something must be done to meet the exigencies of the present situation.

I would explain that the urgency of providing this additional accommodation arises not only from the congestion which exists within the hospital. This congestion is, and has been for some years, the normal state of affairs, but there has been an increasing number of cases in which it has been necessary to refuse admission both to certified lunatics who had been confined under observation in the gaols at Mombasa, Nairobi and Kisumu, (which are established as Lunatic Asylums for the purposes of the Indian Lunatic Asylum Act, 1858, as applied to the Colony) and to remand prisoners and convicted criminal lunatics. Their retention in prisons under such circumstances, which is clearly undesirable in itself, has from time to time necessitated the adoption within the prisons of emergency arrangements which are equally undesirable and which have been the subject of repeated representations by the Commissioner of Prisons.

12

- 4 -

6. In view of the foregoing explanations, I trust you will agree that the measures which are criticized by the Kenya Branch of the British Medical Association are necessary and are the best possible in present circumstances.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. BYRNE.

ERICADIER GENERAL.
GOVERNOR.

13/16

Airmail

16

C. O.

Mr. Eastwood. 25

17225/A/12 Kenya.

Mr. ~~...~~

Mr. ~~...~~

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir O. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Orindle.

Perml. U.S. of S.

Party. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing St.

7 Dec 1931

C.D.
R 3-DEC
D X

Sir,

With reference to

DRAFT

for Governor's minutes

(4)

Lord Pasfield's despatch No. 478 of 6th July, I have etc. to transmit to you, for your information, copy of correspondence with the British Medical Association on the subject of hospital and gaol accommodation in Nairobi and Mombasa, and proposed expenditure on the Mental Hospital at Mathari.

KENYA.

GOVERNOR.

NO. 809

Fr. B.M.A. 6 Nov. (No. 13)
Fr. B.M.A. 28 Nov. (No. 14)
To B.M.A. (dft. Harrow) 13.

*From B.M.A. 10cc
(No. 1735 B)*

2 dfts.

Amud 18

*(See no. 92
1729/131.
as this is diff
L.O. not refer to
it specially)*

2. In view of the fact that no expenditure is being incurred or is at present contemplated on account of the approved loan service of the Colony, which is not already covered by issued loans, I assume that the

It has been necessary to defer for the ^{present} moment
the projects for the new hospitals and
goals ~~have been deferred for the~~
~~moment~~

3. I should be glad to be
consulted before any project for
expenditure on the Asiatic Mental
Hospital is proceeded with.

3. I shall be glad to
know any other points
to have to make up the
representations of the
Board in regard to the
Asiatic (Mental Hospital
at Mathari)

I have

(Sgd.) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

17225/A/31 Kenya.

15 14

O. O.

- Mr. Eastwood 28.
- Mr. Freeston 28.
- Mr. Allen *3 p. 31*
- Mr. Tomlinson.
- Sir O. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Sir G. Grindle.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

Downing Street,
- 4 Dec 1931
November, 1931

Sir:

I am etc. to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter RF/JW
of the 6th November, and your letter
of 13/11/31 of the 1st Dec
RF/MA of the 26th November, regarding
hospital and gaol accommodation in
Nairobi and Mombasa, *a report that*
the Govt propose to extend & improve
expenditure on the Asiatic Mental
Hospital) at Mathari MENTAL HOSPITAL.

DRAFT for conson.
v. minutes
THE ASST. MEDICAL SECRETARY,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

2 dfts.

Copy to Secy 809 7 DEC 1931

2. In your earlier letter you
enquire whether any information can
be given further to that contained
in the letter from this Department
of the 7th July last regarding the
proposal to provide new hospitals
and gaols at Nairobi and Mombasa.
You will be aware from the enclosures
to that letter that provision had

*Copy to both these
offices & to be filed
with 17225/11/31*

been

been made for these purposes ^{the} in schedule
of further loan requirements: but the
Governor has reported that, owing to
the serious financial position arising
out of the present economic depression
no expenditure on account of these
further loan services is now being
incurred or contemplated. The
Secretary of State fears that in
present circumstances it has been
found necessary to defer proceeding
with the proposals in question
but he is satisfied that the Governor,
who is fully alive to their
importance, will be anxious to
proceed with them as soon as
conditions improve.

3. The Secretary of State has
no information regarding the proposal
to devote a considerable sum of money
to the extension and improvement of
the Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathari;

been made for these purposes ^{the} in schedule
of further loan requirements: but the
Governor has reported that, owing to
the serious financial position arising
out of the present economic depression,
no expenditure on account of these
further loan services is now being
incurred or contemplated. The
Secretary of State fears that in
present circumstances it has been
found necessary to defer proceeding
with the proposals in question
but he is satisfied that the Governor,
who is fully alive to their
importance, will be anxious to
proceed with them as soon as
conditions improve.

3. The Secretary of State has
no information regarding the proposal
to devote a considerable sum of money
to the extension and improvement of
the Asiatic Venta Hospital at Mathari;

He notes, however, that the Committee
for the Colonies of your Association
wish to be afforded an opportunity
of submitting recommendations on
the subject before any final decision
is taken regarding it. And a copy

but inquiry is being made of the Gov. whether
is taken regarding it. And a copy

*(Dr. Stawlin
Agrees this
atralian)*

of this correspondence is being
by the next air mail
sent to the Governor

I am, etc.

(Signed) H. T. ALLEN

16/14
British Medical Association.

—(FOUNDED 1832.)

Scottish Office:
7, Drumhugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

Irish Office:
16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

Australian Federal Committee:
Navy's Bank Building, 21, Elizabeth Street,
Sydney.

Federal Council of the Medical Association of
South Africa (British Medical Association):
Box 64, Cape Town.

New Zealand Branch:
Box 156, Wellington.

AFFILIATED TO B.M.A.
Canadian Medical Association:
184, College Street, Toronto

*Rec'd
P.C. 27/11/31
C.K.*

Medical Secretary:
ALFRED COX, O.B.E., Hon. M.A.(Durh), LL.D., M.B.

Deputy Medical Secretary:
G. C. ANDERSON, M.D.

Assistant Medical Secretaries:
R. FORBES, M.B., Ch.B.
A. D. MACPHERSON, M.A., M.B., C.M.

Telegrams: Medicera Westcent, London.
Telephone: Museum 9861.

HEAD OFFICE:

British Medical Association House,
Tavistock Square,
LONDON, W.C.1.

RECEIVED
27 NOV 1931
COL OFFICE

communications to be addressed to
"THE MEDICAL SECRETARY."
In any reply please quote—
RF/MA.

26th November 1931.

P.C.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Committee for the Colonies of the British Medical Association to advert to Mr. Parkinson's letter (17225/31 of July 7th last) on the subject of the provision for hospitals and gaols in Kenya, and to say that the Committee has been informed by the Kenya Branch of the Association of a proposal to expend a considerable amount upon the extension and improvement of the Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathari.

I am to say that the Branch is greatly concerned at this proposal as in its opinion the present site is entirely unsuited to a modern institution, and consequently any money so applied must be wasted and tend to delay rather than promote necessary reforms in mental treatment.

In existing circumstances it seems likely that this proposal will in fact not be proceeded with; but I am to request that, if any scheme for such extension of the existing institution is actually submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Committee may be afforded an opportunity of submitting recommendations on the subject before any final decision is taken.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Forbes

Assistant Medical Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.

copy to Home 808 7 DEC 1931

and

Scottish Office:
7, Drumbooth Gardens, Edinburgh

Irish Office:
16, South Frederick Street, Dublin

Australian Federal Committee:
Savigne Bank Building, 21, Elizabeth Street,
Sydney

Federal Council of the Medical Association of
South Africa (British Medical Association):
Box 643, Cape Town

New Zealand Branch:
Box 156, Wellington

AFFILIATED TO B.M.A.:
Canadian Medical Association:
124, College Street, Toronto

British Medical Association.

(FOUNDED 1832.)

Medical Secretaries:

ALFRED COX, O.B.E., Hon. M.A. Durh., LL.D., M.B.

Assistant Medical Secretaries:

R. FORBES, M.B. (Ch.),
A. D. MACPHERSON, M.C., M.B., C.M.

Telegrams: Medicares, Westcott, London

Telephone: Museum 8561.

RECEIVED
7-NOV-1931
POST OFFICE
ALL communications to be addressed to
"THE GENERAL SECRETARY"
To any office, please quote
RF/JW.

HEAD OFFICE:

British Medical Association House,

Tavistock Square,

LONDON, W.C.1

6th November, 1931.

Sir,

Hospital and Gaol Accommodation in Nairobi and Mombasa.

I am instructed by the Dominions, India, Colonies and Dependencies Committee of the Association to enquire if you have any information which you could afford to the Association, further to that contained in your letter of 7th July last (your ref. 17225/31), with regard to the Hospital and Gaol accommodation in Nairobi and Mombasa.

Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathari.

In connection with this matter, we were recently informed that our local Branch in Kenya is seriously concerned at the proposal to devote a considerable sum of money (believed to be between £3,000 and £4,000) to the extension and improvement of the Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathari, the Branch being of opinion that the present site of that hospital is not suitable for a modern institution, and that accordingly money spent in its extension and improvement will be wasted and will tend to delay, rather than promote, those reforms in the treatment of mental illness which are so urgently needed.

We should be glad to know if the Colonial Office has any information in respect of this matter, and, in the event of it not having this information, whether it would feel disposed to obtain full details in relation thereto from the appropriate authority in Kenya, as the Dominions, India, Colonies and Dependencies Committee of the Association feels that this, being a matter of extreme importance to the Asiatic Population, needs very serious consideration from all points of view before taking any action.

I am, Sir,...

Your obedient servant,

Robert Forbes

Assistant Medical Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.

103

7/21/31
See Sub File (D)

4-11-1931
7 DEC 1931

copy to - for 809

Copy for 17225/19/31

12¹⁸

17279/31.

TELEGRAM from the Secretary of State for the Colonies
to the Governor of Kenya.

(Sent 5.35 p.m. 8th August 1931).

Immediate.

No.242. Confidential.

Your Confidential telegram No.225 loan
Matter has been discussed with Treasury and if you
desire to proceed to limited amount mentioned no
objection will be raised by Lords Commissioner
or myself.

11 19

Original
17-79/31

TELEGRAM from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated the 23rd July, 1921. Received at 5.1 p.m. on the 23rd July.

No. 225 CONFIDENTIAL. Your despatch of 9th March Confidential (3) approving further loan requirements. My attention has been drawn to recent answer in House of Commons regarding approval given by you to use of loan funds for hospital and prison accommodation. I observe that no mention was made in answers given of restrictive condition set out in paragraph 4 of despatch under reference. In view of the terms of correspondence ending with my telegram No. 215 Confidential I should be glad to know whether there would be any objection on financial grounds to necessary resolution being moved in August session for all or any of the following works which I consider most urgent 1 new European Asiatic and African grouped Hospital Nairobi including staff quarters £59,200. 2 new Prisons Nairobi £74,325. 3 Roads £12,000 4 Advances to local Authorities £10,000 5 Reconstruction of Nakuru and Eldoret telegraph poles route and erection of trunk telephone circuit Colony's share £10,250 total £155,775 inclusive of establishment charges.

I expect opposition to any further loan expenditure at the present time from unofficial members but should be glad to know there will be no Treasury embargo should I desire to proceed to limited amount suggested.

P.H.4/2/1/2/80. Vol.II.

10
10 August, 1931.

AIR MAIL.

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Acting Colonial Secretary of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and begs to enclose the correct duplicate copy of the Governor's despatch No.106 (Confidential) of August 4th which was sent off from Mombasa, in cancellation of the copy forwarded with mail bag No.56.

4th August, 1951.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My Lord,

I have the honour to refer to Your Lordship's Confidential despatch of the 29th June, 1951, on the subject of hospital accommodation in Nairobi, and to transmit a copy of Sir Edward Thornton's report which I regret was not forwarded at the time.

2. The question of the Nairobi European Hospital, and the larger question of hospitalization generally in Nairobi has been engaging my close attention during the past few months, during which I have received deputations from the Kenya Branch of the British Medical Association and communications from other bodies interested in the question.

3. To take the larger issue first, I am convinced that the system of grouped hospitals on one site comprising a central administration block, separate buildings for the accommodation of European, Indian and African patients, and adequate nursing sisters' quarters, is the correct system, and I am glad to be able to inform Your Lordship that the political difficulties which led Sir Edward Grigg, in the hope of making some progress in the erection of the much needed new hospital accommodation, to favour separate hospitals for the separate Communities, have now disappeared, and that I anticipate no opposition from any responsible quarter to the adoption of the system which, from the medical standpoint and from the point of view of economy, is unquestionably the correct one.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PASSFIELD, P.C.
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

4. As regards the present Nairobi European hospital, representations have been made from time to time that the fees charged to non-official patients were too high and that the hospital should be placed under the control of a Board of Management. Your Lordship will have observed a paragraph on this subject in the Report of the Select Committee on the Estimates for 1951.

The question was referred to a Sub-Committee of Executive Council whose report was forwarded to Your Lordship under cover of a third personal Note dated January 30th last, and Government's attitude in the matter is expressed in a reply sent recently to a question asked by the Acting Member for Nairobi North, a copy of which is enclosed. The difficulty is to find members of the public who are prepared to accept nomination to a Board which is given definite financial responsibility, and without this it is, in my opinion, a waste of time to proceed any further in the matter.

5. As to the main recommendation made by Sir Edward Thornton that money should not be spent on the improvement of the present building, but rather that a new hospital on modern lines should be built as early as possible, Government agrees with this view, but is unable at present to take any further action in the matter until the Loan position is clearer, and until the order of priority in which the hospitals for the three Communities should be constructed is settled.

With regard to my telegram No. 285 of the 23rd July and Your Lordship's telegram No. 252 of the 31st July in regard to the Loan position, should the further reply be favourable, it will be possible for an appropriate resolution to be moved in Legislative Council at its next session.

17279/31
6305730
Estimates
copy sent with 212 on this file

8. I take this opportunity of acknowledging Your Lordship's despatch No. 478 of the 8th July.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,
Your Lordship's,
Most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd.) J. A. BYRNE.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL,
G-O-V-E-R-N-O-R.

7 July 1951

17225/51

Kwanya

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Passfield to refer to your letter of the 12th June on the subject of provision for hospitals and gaols in Kenya, and to inform you that the Governor has been giving special attention to these matters.

2. In opening the Legislative Council on the 2nd June, Sir Joseph Byrne said that he regarded the present Nairobi goal as a disgrace to the Colony, and that, as soon as details were ready, proposals would be submitted to the Council relating to the provision of proper and sanitary prison accommodation; while as to hospitals, proposals would be submitted for the provision of adequate accommodation for Europeans, Asiatics and Africans in Nairobi, and possibly later in Mombasa where the situation is

not

THE DEPUTY MEDICAL SECRETARY,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

not quite so urgent.

3. In this connexion I am to invite attention to recent Questions in Parliament, copies of which are enclosed.

Question & Answer
17.6.51.

4. A copy of your letter is being forwarded to the Governor of Kenya with a copy of this reply.

Question & Answer
17.6.51.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. O. C. PARKINSON.

Question & Answer
17.6.51.

26
END

17225/31 Kemp

Downing Street,
29 June, 1931.

KENYA.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of Question and Answer in the House of Commons regarding hospital accommodation at Nairobi.

2. My attention has been drawn to the report of the Sub-Committee of the Executive Council which accompanied the note from the Acting Colonial Secretary of the 30th January last, and includes references to a report made by Sir Edward Thornton. I shall be glad to receive a copy of the report at an early date and I assume that you will inform me in due course what action is proposed on that report and on the report of the Sub-Committee of the Executive Council.

3. I desire to take this opportunity to observe that it is very desirable that I should be furnished with copies of all reports when issued, which may give rise to questions in Parliament.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

GOVERNOR
BRITISH GENERAL

SIR JOSEPH A. BYLES, K.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.B.