

1936

38262

CO 533/475  
KENYA

38262

CLOSED  
UNTIL

Mr. Richard Pares.

Request for access to Kenya Records at C.O. Form 1890

Previous

Subsequent

Room 297	15/x
Sr C. Bottomley	16/x
R. 297	16/x
R. 80	16/11
R. 297	25/11
298	9/12
R. 297	

FILE A.

16 Prof. Coupland. Enquires whether we can have access to Kenya records back to 1890 for historical survey 7.10.36. 2

c.i. Title.  
Nominal.

1826

*M. Davies*

SIR CECIL BOTTOMLEY

MR. VERNON

You will see that in the attached letter, Professor Coupland asks whether Mr. Richard Pares, who is a son of Sir Bernard Pares, and a Fellow of All Souls, may be given access to all Colonial Office records concerning Kenya from 1890 to the present time. Professor Coupland himself will accept full responsibility and will submit to the Colonial Office the proofs of the work which will be compiled as a result of the study of the Kenya documents.

The Secretary of State wishes, so far as may be possible, to comply with Professor Coupland's request. In particular, he would like Mr. Pares to be given access to the papers dealing with Sir Charles Eliot's regime and the encouragement of white settlement.

Will you please advise how far we can go in this matter and up to what year we can allow Mr. Pares access to Colonial records with regard to Kenya?

*Mr Vernon*

*M. Davies*

9.10.36:

*Will you please deal with the journal about 1st part? (It has decided not to give financial facilities to Lord Hailey, research people?)*

of 1885 is open to the public - unless  
to later correspondence is a matter  
of public discussion of the State. There  
will probably not be any discussion  
of the inspection was being a definite  
public object. (See my minutes of 14/19/33.

May X

on 70004/1857 had. Unfortunately X 2609 3/31/34.  
cannot be found. Should be permission  
before to inspect the class. Since the  
fact it seems to be a condition that the  
copy of any writings taken or read documents  
should be seen by someone in the Co. before  
they are published - if public is interested.

The app. about Karl Philips research  
people are attached to the relevant  
main lines. app. to be for C. B. M. M. M. M.  
min. of 11/9/33 on 4 204/33 app. in  
In this case it was decided to  
let of doc. It is not deemed to be  
the to publish & not can be considered  
a matter. ~~document~~ to be published for  
advice might be followed in the  
case.

May Y

(These mins. are to be left to  
reg. Kenya & any person  
interested by the Research Dept.  
10/19

Mr. Vernon.

Records prior to 1885 are in the custody  
of the Public Record Office and are open to  
public inspection. The question of examination  
by member of the public of unpublished records  
subsequent to that date is a matter for the  
discretion of the Secretary of State, and the  
guiding principle appears to be that such  
permission should be given only if it would serve  
a definite public object. Where permission is  
given it is clear that any writings consequent  
on the examination should be submitted in proof  
to this Office and any directions we may give  
complied with. Professor Coupland is prepared  
to do this. I think also, however, that not only  
should proofs be submitted but any extracts of  
examined correspondence should also be submitted  
before they are taken away from the Office.

Wicks  
Wolfe

The question <sup>whether</sup> whether the historical  
section of the Kenya Survey which is being  
conducted under the auspices of the Oxford  
University Social Studies Research Committee  
is a public object which would justify permission  
to examine records here seems to be a matter on  
which the Kenya Department rather than the  
General Department should advise. In the case  
of the African Research Survey conducted by  
Sir Malcolm Hailey under the auspices of the  
Institute of International Affairs and with the  
aid of a grant by the Carnegie Corporation, the  
Secretary of the Survey, Miss Matheson,  
apparently

Yes  
11/11/34  
11/11/34

apparently conducted certain researches in the Library here, and the question arose in 1933 of what facilities she should be granted. It was ruled then (Sir Cecil Bottomley's minute of the 16th September, 1933, on 4204/33) that "As regards unpublished matter, Departments should point out that communication is against the rules and should say that the only course would be to make a list of the documents she wants to see and to submit it for consideration". Whether in fact she pursued the matter does not appear to be recorded, but it seems to me that the African Research Survey was at least as much in the public interest as the object of the present application.

F. B. Jones  
10/10/36

Sir C. Bottomley

The above minute set out the General practice. I should not have thought this was a case for allowing any extra facilities. The files which started from Sir C. Eliot's candida are not yet finished.

V. Verma  
12/x

Sir Jeffrey

As regards King's records generally, I cannot agree that the rule as to records since 1885 should be relaxed. The most inconceivable survey of King's story cannot fail to produce controversy, and is bound to have a great demand for access to the records, at least demands for copies, publications.

Ch. 2099

As regards Sir C. Eliot, the copies of White's settlement appear fairly clearly from the correspondence published after his resignation, filed that would also be in Paris, London.

The circumstances are different from those in which (I believe) Mr. Greenwood was given access to certain records for use in his life of Joseph Chamberlain, but that is the nearest precedent. (I refused - I was upheld - to let Mrs. Huxley have access to conf. material for her book "White Man's Country")

Finally - the records of Sir C. Eliot's time are a matter for F.O.  
W.S. 12.10.36.

P.T.O.



Since I wrote the foregoing, I  
have asked Sir G. Tomlinson about  
the relative importance of the  
revenue & Sir Hailey's. He  
says that the latter is undoubtedly  
the more important. This one is  
a purely University enterprise  
(funded from Rockefeller money).  
Miss Parkman's visit to Europe  
is part of the same scheme.

W.L.S.

17.10.26.

The ruling is very restrictive, but  
it will be desirable to relax it.

J.P.

J.P.  
13/X

W. L. S.  
Sir C. Boltwell, 15/10

I am well & happy about the  
Sir H. Hailey's survey is of much  
current political and administrative  
importance, and Professor  
Cayland's survey is of more  
historical and academic  
interest. Rules must be  
interpreted very much in  
the light of each knowledge  
of the individuals concerned.  
I admit that I do not  
know beyond Professor Cayland's  
circumstances - how far Sir  
R. Pears is to be trusted to  
be both intelligent and  
discreet.

The course I suggested is  
that Sir C. Boltwell should  
see Sir R. Pears personally, tell  
him of the rules & customs  
verbally and ascertain more  
in detail what he wants  
to see and how he wishes  
to use anything he has seen.  
I quite agree that we must  
control not only the publication  
of extracts from Secret papers & other  
documents but also the taking  
away of any extracts from them.

but it can always be put  
 to Mr Pears that we are anxious  
 to help the Oxford Chair of Colonial  
 History and realize its value  
 importance & that all we are anxious  
 is that history should be published  
 under its auspices which will get  
 it to us under public criticism.

If I were Mr Pears I would  
 not seek to quote or document  
 the work he is engaged upon from  
 other than published sources but  
 use any facts of significance apparent  
 in the relevant confidential documents  
 as his own "susmises" with the  
 necessary qualifying adverbs.

I think we may well put a date  
 limit - say August 4th 1914 as the  
 first confidential documents he  
 may see here. Post-war letters and  
 are all of a date is inevitably  
 Pre-war history in East Africa is  
 not susceptible of academic treatment  
 if intelligently handled.

I would also put the Foreign  
 Office part to Mr Pears verbally.  
 In effect I would give him a  
 lay provisionally, and any disputes  
 can be submitted to me personally.

6/14/15-38

Mr Pears

You have agreed to write  
 to Professor Coupland about  
 to writing that Mr Pears will  
 write to me & say that he can  
 handle it. He will then refer the file to me.

2 2 Coupland - (and also 15.X.36)

X. [N.B. This has been reported because  
 got to the Secretary - with my direction for  
 resolution]

3 3 Professor Coupland 50-16.X-206  
 H. 16. 20  
 8 5. 21

Professor Coupland was unable to ring me up  
 before 4 on Wednesday and I had then been called away  
 to an office meeting. He rang me up at home in the  
 evening as he was going to Palestine next day.

I explained the difficulties and he had not  
 realised that the rules were what they are. I said  
 that the Secretary of State was anxious to help  
 wherever possible but eventually we left it that we  
 should hold up this question of the closed records  
 until he returned to England, and in the meantime Mr.  
 Pears should consider what help he really needed and we  
 should go into the question with him of how much we  
 could do by putting him on to published matter which

is not commonly known to the public.

I forgot about the point of the early Kenya records being in the Foreign Office, but that can obviously wait for the present.

Put by.

*WCH*

6.11.36.

*880-11033*  
*2298-211*

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

*W.*  
*Precedents to note*  
*division.*

20th October, 1936.

My dear Coupland,

I am sorry that I have not answered your letter of the 16th before this - the previous correspondence had gone adrift.

It is clear that Pears will not be able for some time to say definitely what he wants of us, and until then I do not think that he need come up specially to see me. But if he is in London and has time to spare perhaps he will ring me up so that we can fix up a meeting.

That applies rather strongly to you also. I should welcome a chance of talking the matter over with you.

Yours sincerely,

PROFESSOR H. COUPLAND, M.A.



WOOTTON HILL

OXFORD

October 15th. 1936

RECEIVED

17 NOV 1936

O. REG

Dear Bottomley,

I travelled to Oxford with Ormsby Gore the other day, and, among other things, we happened to discuss my Kenya Research Scheme. On the historical side I told him that I had approached Richard Pares (whose monumental work on the West Indies in the 18th. Century has just been published) to undertake the section dealing with the Political history of Kenya since 1890, and that Pares had said that it would be impossible to do it in a scholarly manner unless he were permitted to see something of the unpublished material at the Colonial Office. Ormsby Gore told me to write formally to him on this question, and I have now heard from Mr. Davies saying that "Mr. Ormsby Gore thinks that it would be a good thing if Mr. Pares would come up to London and state verbally exactly what his requirements would be", and that he has asked you to see him.

Pares has not yet begun to study the published material, and will be unable to do so before Christmas. He knows, therefore, practically nothing about Kenya at present, and would be unable to specify the material which he would want to see. But would you care, if you could spare the time, to have a preliminary talk with him? You would be able to

tell him what sort of material there is, and perhaps to give him some general assurance as to his being able, in due course, to see things. The difficulty on my side is that, unless he can get some such assurance, he feels unwilling to commit himself to the work, and on this point I sympathise with him, because a really scholarly history would, (I feel you will agree) be impossible on the basis of the published materials alone.

I do hope this Kenya Scheme is not going to prove more troublesome to you than you expected. I cling to my two main arguments: (1) that anything we print will be submitted to you in proof beforehand, and is under my complete editorial control, and (2) a true account of Kenya under academic auspices must prove more useful in the end than the writings of publicists and partisans.

If you think a preliminary talk will be useful, I will ask Pares to communicate with you.

Yours sincerely,

*R. Compland*

Sir Cecil Bottomley, K.C.B.  
Colonial Office  
Downing Street  
LONDON. S.W.1.

15th October, 1936.

Dear Professor Coupland,

Mr. Ormsby Gore has asked me to write to you to say that he has been considering your letter of the 7th of October in which you ask whether Mr. Richard Pares, on behalf of the Historical Section of the Kenya Survey, which is being conducted under the auspices of the Oxford University Social Studies Research Committee, might be given access to records available in the Colonial Office regarding Kenya from 1890 to the present day.

Before coming to any decision in the matter, Mr. Ormsby Gore thinks that it would be a good thing if Mr. Pares would come up to London and state verbally exactly what his requirements would be.

In this connection, he has asked Sir Cecil Bottomley to give an interview to Mr. Pares. Sir Cecil would be glad to do this, and perhaps Mr. Pares will communicate with him direct in order to fix up a time upon which it would be convenient for him to call on Sir Cecil in the Colonial Office.

Yours sincerely,

Professor R. Coupland, C.I.E.

DAVIES

11  
END

WOOTTON HILL,  
OXFORD.

7. x. 36

RECEIVED  
16 NOV 1938  
REGY

Dear Armstrongs,

In the course of our talk on  
the train yesterday, you asked me  
to write to you about some plans  
for the study of the C. O. Records  
on Kenya from 1890 to the  
present day.

This is for the historical section  
of the Kenya Survey which is being  
conducted under the auspices of the

Oxford University Society of Studies  
Research Committee

The person I propose to write to  
with the historical data in Richard  
Parks - son of Sir Benjamin Parks.

He is a Fellow of the Society - has  
just produced a manuscript with the  
the West-India.

The Society will be under my  
complete personal control & I am  
prepared to submit the profits to  
the Colonial Office & accept all  
the usual responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

R. Campbell