

1936

1937

38281

CO 533/475
KENYA

38281

APPOINTMENT OF PRIVATE SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR
(SIR ROBERT BROOKE-POPHAM)

Previous		R 297	5/2
Dec 26/36		Sir G Tomlinson	✓
		Mr. [unclear]	17/6
		194	2/2
		Mr. [unclear]	16/11
On being made		R 297	
1937		Mr. [unclear]	
		Mr. [unclear]	16
		Sir G Tomlinson	17/11/37
R 297	18/1	Mr. [unclear]	1/1/38
R 300	19/1	298	3/3
R 297	22/1/37	Miss French	4/3
Mr. [unclear]	26/1	R 295 R 311	7/3
Sir G Tomlinson	24/1/37	R 297	9/3
Mr. [unclear]	4/2/37	CO [unclear]	1/3/38
Sir C Bitterley	4/2	R 298	10/3
297	8/2	297	11/3
Sir G Tomlinson	✓	R 300	16/3
297	10/2	R 297	
Mr. [unclear]	✓		
297	12/2		
300	15/2		
Mr [unclear]	✓		
18788			

FILE A

C.I.

GOVERNOR

R.S. 6

Admiral Brouley

Yesterday Sir R. Brooke
Popham asked me if I
could help him to find a
Private Secretary. I said
I would see if Apple. Dyer
had any likely people in
their books. He also said
that you had mentioned to
him as a possible man
an ex-R.N. officer called
Robinson who has been M.O.
to an Australian Governor.
Would you be so good
as to let me have some
particulars of Robinson -
initials, rank, age, address
if anything else that might
be useful? He could then
be put on any list of
possibles that might be
sent to Sir R. B. P.

S. J. J.

4.12.16.

Sir G. Robinson

I understand that Captain Robinson is due back

in England on December 31st. He was Private Secretary to Admiral Sir Murray Anderson both in Newfoundland and New South Wales.

I have known Captain Robinson for a good many years now and I know Sir Murray Anderson thought a good deal of him. He is about 50 years of age, and unmarried.

I know that Captain Robinson is looking out for another job as Private Secretary, and I think he would suit Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, provided he would go to Kenya.

Major Jurse
7. 18.36.

Have you any names suggested on the books of App't. S't. or can you suggest any other way of helping Sir R. Brooke Popham?

Sir George Tomlinson.

Reference to the letter was found in the file of Sir R. Brooke Popham.

26128
26119

Letter from P.S. to R.C.S. Bureau
J.R.H. Brooke Popham he has been 2
times since Nov. 1934 when they were considered
for the post of P.S. to Sir A. Tomlinson, so as to be
the one suitable. Bureau c. 232, Brooke Popham 248.
Request a reference to my former P.S. to Tomlinson
has been made to Sir A. Tomlinson.

3

I did not see Brooke Popham
He was in the office of Sir R. Brooke Popham
and the letter was sent to him
I have been to the office of
Brooke Popham and he has
been on the books of the
office to be referred to
him and Brooke Popham
and Brooke Popham.

J. H. K. R.
1871456

Mr. Flood

Sir O. Bottomley

You will see from my minute of the 4th December that Sir R. Brooke Popham asked me if we could do anything to find him a Private Secretary. (He was making his own arrangements about an A.D.C.) He said he had decided not to keep on Major Clinton Wells. I had not then seen the correspondence and minutes on 38264/36. Sir R. Brooke Popham did, however, refer to the conversations that had taken place, and said that he thought that more work in connection with the defence questions ought to be devolved on the O.C. Northern Brigade, K.A.R.

He also told me that Admiral Bromley had mentioned to him a retired Naval Officer - Captain Robinson; who had been P.S. to Sir Murray Anderson both in Newfoundland and New South Wales. The D.O. files, 10474B/36 about Captain Robinson are attached.

I said that I would see whether Appointments Dept. had on their books any applicants for P.S. posts so that a list of names might be drawn up with whom Captain Robinson might be compared. It will be seen from Major Hutchinson's minute of yesterday that we only know of two inexperienced candidates.

The impression with which I was left after my talk with Sir R. Brooke Popham was that he wanted a Private Secretary of the non-Civil Service type. A day or two ago I met Lord Swinton in Downing Street. In the course of conversation he mentioned Sir R. Brooke Popham and said that he hoped we should be able to supply him with a really first rate Private Secretary. I told him we were making enquiries but he replied with the kind of man that he thought ~~was necessary~~ and as I gathered the kind of man that he had advised Sir R. Brooke Popham to look for was a really good Administrative Officer from the Kenya Service. I do not know whether Sir R. Brooke Popham had misunderstood Lord Swinton or had deliberately decided to bring in an outsider as a Private Secretary. The position is also complicated by the fact that no decision will be come to on the questions raised in 38264/36 until the new Governor reaches Kenya.

It seems to me that there would be advantages in borrowing a man from the local Civil Service as so many Governors do. As the A.D.C. will presumably be a stranger to Kenya it will be important to have someone in Government House who knows the local ropes and people. Such a man as Mr. Gurney would, of course, be first

first rate though he could ill be spared from the Nairobi Secretariat.

I should like to know what you think about this question and I attach a draft which is very much for conson.

EJ:77
16.12.36

I could quite well be busy here if you had seen the Secretariat. It is now the best man in the place to bring out the fact that he is the right man for a P.S. - has very good references, a good idea of things and they think so. This is a pure Secretarial man.

I would rather give some one like Major Austin or Major Sutcliffe (the 2nd Nairobi) a first class Administrative Officer who would know the people all over the place & would have experience of running districts as well as a district.

But the suggestion is a good one & if you can get the agreement of the local people, it is to Kenya. The only thing against it is that ~~the local people~~ ^{the local people} may see a need for an expert in the office of the official & the District Officer. It may be the case that the idea of having a man in the office in any way is of course about the only one open to us. I don't think this is much to be longed for but I ought to mention it.

2.2.37

(The P.S.'s are in 1 for too young) 7.11
I'd like to A. but Major Austin is on the subject & that is a bit of a problem and there are people who would want to see a paper from the Governor's mouth.

W.S. 27.12.36

I have of course an entirely open mind as to the individual.

his Gurney occurred to me because he was extremely useful to Lord Swinton here when we were in Kenya in 1934

S.J.P.
22.12.36

- 1. Sir R. Brooke-Popham (4/6 to Mr. Popham) 18.12.36
- 2. To Sir Robert Brooke-Popham (5/6) (Recd) 21.12.36
- 3. Mr. Popham (4/6) (Recd) 21.12.36

Sir Robert Brooke Popham rang me up today with reference to my letter of yesterday saying that he had just dictated a reply to the effect that he fully agreed with the suggestion that he should borrow a man from the Kenya Administrative Service to act as his Private Secretary. The reason why he rang up was that he was very anxious to get this matter settled and asked me if we would write by air mail to Kenya and ask them to submit a suitable name or names. He also asked whether we could send a cable in advance of the letter so that they could begin looking into the matter at once. It is a matter for decision how precisely we should express the new Governor's requirements. Perhaps you would like to draft.

S.J.P.

22/12/36

Sir R. Tomlinson
 A cable would be possible I think. If an air mail letter is sent it will get there before 31 Dec. and you can get flat they want do anything between now & then even on a cable. Draft finished.
 J.S.A. 29

5
 22.12.36
 14. Sir Robert Brooke-Popham (5/6)
 Besides Russell and Cunningham-Burke too young and state that he would be grateful if C.O. could get possible name from Kenya.

25/11/37
 5 To Wade (5/6) — 24.12.36

Reference to last para. (10.11.36) (11.11.36) (12.11.36) (13.11.36) (14.11.36) (15.11.36) (16.11.36) (17.11.36) (18.11.36) (19.11.36) (20.11.36) (21.11.36) (22.11.36) (23.11.36) (24.11.36) (25.11.36) (26.11.36) (27.11.36) (28.11.36) (29.11.36) (30.11.36) (31.11.36)

R208-235

C. O.

AIR MAIL 24/12

5

Mr. Flood. 23.12
 Mr.
 Mr.
 Sir C. Parkinson
 Sir C. Tomlinson
 Sir C. Bottomley
 Sir J. Shuckburgh
 Perm. U.S. of S.
 Parly U.S. of S.
 Secretary of State

Handwritten initials and scribbles

24 December, 1936.
In S. G. Tomlinson

Dear Wade,

Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has been rather anxious about his Private Secretary. He does not want to take on Clinton Wells, and I gather that Clinton Wells probably would not particularly want to stay on. We have no suitable candidates on the books here, and accordingly it has been suggested that Sir Robert

thought that the best thing to do would be to get somebody seconded from the Administrative Service. The possibility of getting a man from the Secretariat was discussed and we thought here that Gurney would be the best one but you probably would not want to lose Gurney from the Secretariat and I

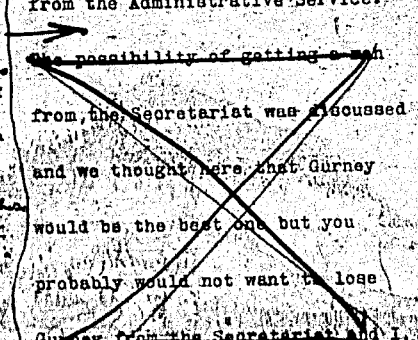
DRAFT. AIR MAIL

A. de V. WADE, ESQ., Q.M.G., O.B.E.

To this he has agreed & has asked us to ask you to suggest some names. We thought that in case of need he might discuss them further with Pilling when the latter comes here on leave. One or two names have suggested themselves

FURTHER ACTION.

to me e.g. Gurney (who are very useful to him) & Smith (who was in the War in 1914) & Gregory Smith who has experience as a P.S. to the Viceroys of India & is a member of the Indian Council. But I only mention them as types and I leave it to you to consider what amount of seconding is needed



for

for me, am not altogether convinced that
(as P.S.)
he would be the right man. In the circumstances,
what is probably wanted is a fairly senior
Administrative Officer, who would know the
people all over the place and would have had
experience in District work as well as in offices.

We should therefore be much obliged
if you would look into this question and let me
know whether you could put up two or three

names from whom Sir Robert might be invited
to make his choice. *(the sort of bird I was
thinking of was somebody like Buxton or Sutcliffe,*

but perhaps they would both be a bit on the
senior side.)

Of course, whoever got the job would
be seconded from the Administration but would
go on drawing his salary, whatever it was, while
acting as Private Secretary.

The matter is really one of considerable
importance, since Sir Robert will have had
no experience of Colonial administration (beyond
what he got in Baghdad, which *was not at all typical*
as I have said,
and it is therefore all the
more necessary that his personal staff should

*in the man
who would fill
the bill. It
is evident I understand
that he should be
a man free from
any other obligations
& that he should
have a fairly wide
knowledge of the
people & places.*

G. O.

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Sir C. Parkinson.
Sir G. Tomlinson.
Sir C. Balfour.
Sir J. Shackleton.
Perms. U.S. of S.
Privy. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

DRAFT

FURTHER ACTION.

*Good man with plenty of Civil
Service of a high order and able to put
knowledge
things broadly to him. Sir Robert
making an appointment about the
4.20. This will not conflict
with the proposal in the Governor's
Confidential despatch of the 14th of
October, which, as we have already
said, will be considered by
Sir Robert on his arrival.*

Yours sincerely,

*Hamilton to Sir Robert
as to what he is to do
Sir Robert is anxious to get
them staffs in the field
in good time*

Signature J. P. TOMLINSON.



28nd December, 1936.

Dear Tomlinson,

Many thanks for your letter of yesterday about a private secretary.

I am afraid neither Russell nor Cumming-Bruce would fill the bill - they are too young, actually younger than the man I have got as A.D.C., so they had better be washed out.

With regard to Robinson, he might fill the bill but I am much more attracted by your proposal, viz. that I should try and borrow a man from the local Administrative Service. It would be a great advantage to me to have somebody who knows the country and individuals, and further I think it is a step in what I feel is the right direction, namely, making the private secretary less of a personal appointment so that he does not necessarily change when the Governor does.

Sir J. Tomlinson, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

/1

I should be most grateful if you would
now get possible names from Kenya. I don't want
to panic about it, but as I leave on the 6th March
time is getting on and if there is nobody in Kenya
we have got no time to spare. So I would suggest
that a signal be sent to Kenya on the subject.

Whilst on the subject of personnel,
could you let me know whether Walsh, the Treasurer,
is changing soon. Somebody mentioned the other day
that they thought his time was nearly up.

Yours sincerely
D Brooks-Popham

39

C. O.

105W
P.P. 16/12/36

For Sir George Tomlinson's signature

x Mr. Flood 17.12

Mr.

Sir O. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

x Sir C. Bolloway 17.12

Sir J. Shackleton

Permt. U.S. of S.

Partly U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

O.D.
R 17 DEC
D 14

Downing Street,

21st December, 1936

DRAFT.

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR
ROBERT BROOKE POPHAM
G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G.,
D.S.O.

You asked me the other day to see what steps could be taken to find you a good private Secretary.

I have been looking into this, and find that apart from Captain ~~Whom Brantley mentioned to you~~ Robinson, R.N. (retired), we have only two applicants for posts of this kind. They ~~only two men on our books~~ were considered for the post of Private

Secretary to Wauchope in 1934. (Alan (Cambridge)) Their names are Russell and Brown (Sturminster (Cambridge)) Cussling, and their ages are 23 and 24, respectively. Neither

FURTHER ACTION.

These are the first lines

See Mr. J. R. Canning-Bruce

of

of them, as far as I know, has had any
experience as a Private Secretary, unless
they have acquired it in the two years that
have passed since we last heard of them.

Wauchope saw Russell and evidently liked
him, but thought he was too young for the
job in Jerusalem.

We could, if you liked, get in touch
with those two men and see what they are doing
now, and whether they still wish to be
considered, but I rather fancy that you
may feel that you want someone rather older
and more experienced.

Then there is Robinson whom Bromley
mentioned to you. He is a retired R.N.
Officer aged about 50, and unmarried. He was

Private

C. O.

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Sir O. Parkinson
Sir G. Tomkinson
Sir C. Bottomley
Sir J. Shackburgh
Perm. U.S. of S.
Part. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

Private Secretary to Admiral Sir
Murray Anderson both in Newfoundland
and New South Wales. Bromley has
known him for a good many years and
has a high opinion of him. The
Dominions Office have also had letters
about him from our High Commissioner
in Australia where he appears to have
done very well. He is due to arrive
in England at the end of this year,
and he has said that he would like to
remain free for a few months but would
be glad to get another job if anything
turned up sooner.

We could, of course, make further
enquiries, for example, from the Oxford

and

and Cambridge Appointments Boards, and if you like we will do so, but it is only fair to say that Private Secretaries of the non-Government type are rather hard to come by. The reason is that the job as a rule leads to nothing and is, therefore, not usually attractive to men with any ambition.

I have, however, been considering whether it does, however, occur to me to ask whether

the best course might not be for you to do what many Governors do, namely to borrow a man from the local Administrative Service and use him as Private Secretary. You would then, at any rate from the start have a man at your side who knew the local ropes and people.

Would you like us to follow up that idea and to write to Kenya and ask them whether they

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir O. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Balmley.

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Perm. U.S. of S.

Party U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

have anybody that they could suggest?

If they can suggest some suitable

names you will be able to discuss

them with Pilling, the Deputy Colonial

Secretary, who is due to arrive in

England early next year.

DRAFT.

Edged G. F. Tomlinson

FURTHER ACTION.

2, Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

21st December, 1936.

Dear Sir Robert,

On getting your letter of the 18th of December, I
sent it on to Malcolm as I knew that he was writing to
you on the subject. I have today that a full letter from
him has reached you, and I hope this has given
you the information you want for the moment.

Please let me know if there is anything more we
can do to help you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) R. D. FURSE

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL

SIR ROBERT BROOK-FITZPATRICK, G. O. V. C., K. C. B., O. M. C., D. S. O.

TELEPHONE: FINNERS 257
STATION: SECRETARY 242

COTTISFORD HALL
BRACKLEY,
NORTHANTS.

Dec 18

13
END

and (2)

RECEIVED
16 MAR 1937
C. O. REG

Dear Fance

I'm still *excavating* waiting for a
bit of possible private secretaries for
the Colonial Office.

Do you know what is happening about

to ?
I shall be in Landa next week
at 28 Eaton Place as will probably

bring you up for the Air Ministry

Yours sincerely

R. Brerke-Popham

TELEPHONE FRAMES DAY
STATION, BRACKLEY G.W.A.

COTTISFORD HALL
BRACKLEY,
NORTHANTS.

Dec 18

3
END

and (2)

Dear Furse

RECEIVED
16 MAR 1937
C.O. REG
waiting

I'm still anxiously waiting for a
list of possible private secretaries for
the Colonial Office.

Do you know what is happening about
it?

I shall be in London next week
at 28 Eaton Place & will probably

ring you up for the first time.

Yours sincerely

R Brecken-Poplam