

1937

38176

38176

CO 533/422
KENYA

TELEGRAPH + TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

- RECONSTRUCTION + DEVELOPMENT

(C. D. F. GRANT)

Previous

h. Parker	21
303	26/10
h. D.	1/11
299	2/11
297/98	

1936

Subsequent

R 297	11/11
309	
297	20/11
309	20/11
297	6/11
R 309	6/11
R 297	20/11
Mr. Fisher's copy	
297	17/10/37
309	8/10
298	11/10
297	12/10
309	18/10
h. Parker	19/10
2	21/

C.I.
TELEPHONE
TELEGRAPH
C.D.F.

1. GOV'S DEPUTY..... 439..... 5.8.37:
Submits revised proposals for allocation of expenditure
and comments thereon requesting C.D.A. to be approached.
19. 7. Hebble. Co. 7/6
20. C.D.A. (sub. 12) 8/6
2. G.B. HEBDEN (S/O TO MR. FLOOD)..... 13.8.37
Indicates position with regard to the linking of the
telephone trunk system of Kenya with that of Uganda.

I have passed on No.2 to Sir P.Mitchell
and acknowledged it. As regards No.1 the proposal
is to drop the provision of telephone lines between
Kakamega and Eldoret and to apply the £2,000 which
would thereby be saved to extra cost on the lines
between Nairobi and Nanyuki, and Kakamega and Kisumu.
The proposal seems reasonable and all we need do is to
put it to the C.D.A.C. The explanation of the
excess due to the increase in the cost of material
is well known to the Committee.

J.L.D. Flood

23.8.1937

3. To E.B. Hebble - 2 ackd - 23.8.37

4. To Sir P. Mitchell - 23.8.37

30
5. C.W.A.C. 2219 - 31.8.37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

(Not) least

Ch. Brown
6/9/37

7

Telephone No.: WHITEHALL 1234.

Any reply to this letter should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,

TREASURY,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

and the following number quoted:

S.34609/0382



RL
18 OCT 1937
C. O. REGY

TREASURY CHAMBERS.

16 October, 1937.

Sir,

I have laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Mr. Flood's letter of the 11th instant, (38176/37), regarding the revised proposals for the allocation of expenditure from the loan of £15,000, which was approved by the Treasury Letter of the 18th March, 1936 (S.34609/0382), from the Colonial Development Fund to the Government of Kenya for the development of trunk telephone facilities in the Colony.

In reply I am to request you to inform Mr. Secretary Omsby Goss that My Lords sanction the re-allocation proposed by the Governor's Deputy, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee.

Copies of this letter have been sent to the Colonial Development Advisory Committee and to the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

R. V. N. H. P. H.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

COPY SENT TO ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Copy to Kenya

8

C. D.

Mr. Clerkley-White

R. 10. 37.

38196/37.

Mr. *Parsons* *SAC*

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Perms. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street.

11 October, 1937.

O. D.
R 9-OCT
D 9-

Sir,

DRAFT.

THE SECRETARY,

TREASURY.

I am etc. to refer to the letter ^{addressed by me to the} to you from the Colonial Development Advisory Committee of the 22th of September regarding the revised proposals for the allocation of the expenditure of the loan of £13,930 sanctioned for the development of telephone facilities in Kenya.

2. I am to request that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury may be moved to signify their approval of the revised ^{allocation of} expenditure as recommended by the C.D.A.C. in the letter under reference.

I am, etc.

(Sgd) J. W. Flood

Copy to Kenya

FURTHER ACTION.

Communications on this subject
should be addressed to—

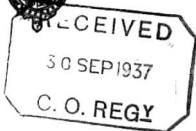
THE SECRETARY.

Telephone: WHITEHALL 9191.

C.D.A.C. 2238.



COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET,
S.W.1.



29th September, 1937.

Sir,

I am directed by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee to request you to inform Mr. Secretary Omsby Gore that, at their 101st meeting on the 28th of September, they had before them a despatch from the Governor of Kenya (C.D.A.C. 2219) containing revised proposals for the allocation of the expenditure of the loan of £15,950 sanctioned for the development of trunk telephone facilities in Kenya.

2. The original allocation included a sum of £2,000 for the provision of certain telephone facilities in the gold mining area between Kakamega and Eldoret. The necessity for the provision of these facilities is no longer urgent, and it is desired that the sum of £2,000 allotted to this work may be diverted to provide for excess expenditure occasioned by the unforeseen and very considerable rise in the cost of materials in

respect

Copy to Kenya

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

respect of the work to be done on the trunk telephone route between Nairobi and Nanyuki.

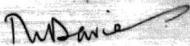
3. The Committee recommend that approval should be given to the revised allocation of expenditure as proposed.

4. A similar letter is being sent to the Treasury.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Secretary to the Committee.

Draft

Mr Flood 27/8
above

Memorandum.

5

(C.D.A.C. 1937)

(No 4
38176/36)

See Report 1937 (No 1)

The Secretary of State desires to refer to the recommendations of the Committee regarding the loans to the Government of Kenya, totalling £17,980, for the improvement and extension of the telegraph and trunk telephone system of the Colony, and to submit, for the favourable consideration of the Committee, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Kenya containing revised proposals for the allocation of the expenditure of the loan of £13,930 sanctioned for the development of the trunk telephone facilities.

In the original allocation a sum of £2,000 was included for the provision of telephone facilities of such a character as ^{to} link the gold mining area between Kakamega and Eldoret with the Colony's main trunk system. It is now explained that, in view of the fact that both Kakamega and Eldoret are ^{now} connected ^{to} the main trunk system, the necessity of providing further trunk telephone connections in that particular area is no longer ~~urgent~~, and that the sum of £2,000 is not ^{immediately} ~~essentially~~ required for the purpose. On the other hand, it is pointed out that owing to an unforeseen and very considerable rise in the cost of materials, excess expenditure amounting to £1,100 must be expected in respect of the work to be done on the ^{trunk telephone route} ~~lines~~ between Nairobi and Manyuki, and that the estimate of the cost of completing the trunk telephone service between Kakamega and Kisumu will also be exceeded. It is desired, therefore, that the £2,000 allotted to the work in the Kakamega - Eldoret area may be diverted to provide for this excess expenditure.

The increase in the cost of material will be

well known

well known to the Committee, and the
Secretary of State has therefore no hesitation
in recommending that the diversion proposed
by the Governor be approved.

66
31st August 97

23rd August, 1937.

Dear Mitchell,

You remember speaking to us about the question of linking up Kampala and Nairobi by telephone. I wrote to Hedden to ask him how the question was getting on, and I have now received a reply, in which he says that he hopes, during the year 1938, to complete the reconstruction of the telegraph poles along the railway between Eldoret and the Uganda border, and he says that until this work is completed, it would be waste of time to attempt a through telephone service. He says that he intends, in 1939, to ask for funds to build a trunk telephone through to the Uganda border, which he says will cost about £1,600. Uganda's share, he thinks, will be about £7,000, and he proposes to invite both Governments to include the necessary provision in the Estimates for 1939.

In view of what he says about the reconstruction of the telegraph poles, with which one cannot but agree,

it

SIR PHILIP MITCHELL, K.C.M.G., M.C.

it seems that the installation of the through telephone service will have to wait, but may be expected in 1939, bar accidents.

Yours sincerely,

DOWNING STREET.

23rd August, 1937.

Dear Hebden,

Many thanks for your letter of the 12th of August No.1401/35 about the trunk telephone proposals. I have passed the substance of it on to Sir P. Mitchell and told him that it looks as if 1939 is the earliest date at which a trunk telephone can be got working. He will, of course, ^{see} ~~see~~ the point that until the telegraph line is reconstructed you cannot very well try for telephone wires along the same route.

I am glad that you like your job and I hope you will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,

E.B. HEBDEN, ESQ.

REGISTERED NO.

2221/33.

In any further correspondence
the above signature
should be used.



OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

P. O. Box 317

NAIROBI

KENYA COLONY

12th August, 1937

Telegraphic Address:
"Postage, Nairobi"

Telephone No. 2249.

RECEIVED
17 AUG 1937
C. O. REGY

Dear Flood,

(9) on 28/7/36
IA
I thank you for your letter No. 38176/36 of the 6th of August which I have just received on the eve of my departure for Uganda to discuss 1938 Estimates. That the "job" is complicated cannot be denied, and although I have striven for a year to overcome the many difficulties which face a Head of an amalgamated Department, I am convinced that the major difficulties cannot be surmounted so long as I am serving under three separate Administrative and Financial Heads. I, however, have never regretted for one moment that I accepted the appointment and my task has been greatly facilitated by sympathetic consideration I have received from all three Governments.

With regard to the question of linking the telephone trunk system of Kenya with that of Uganda, I can assure you that this has received the fullest consideration in conjunction with other works of an equally important nature and the position is as follows:-

Provision of £3,600 is made in 1938 Estimates to complete the reconstruction of the wooden telegraph poles between Eldoret and the Uganda border along the Railway, and until this work is completed it would be a waste of money to attempt to provide an inter-State telephone service. It is not expected that this work will be completed until the end of 1938 and I propose, therefore, to ask for a sum of £1,600 in 1939 to build the trunk telephone to the Uganda border. This will be Kenya's share of the expenditure and I do not think it will be necessary to make application to the Colonial Development Fund.

Uganda's

J.E.W. Flood, Esq.,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Uganda's share will be considerably more, about £7,000, but it was decided not to proceed with this work until it was definitely known that Kenya was in a position, financially and otherwise, to carry out its scheme. I propose, therefore, to ask both Governments to include provision in 1939 Estimates and the question of funds being provided from Colonial Development Fund can be decided later.

I am in entire agreement with Sir Philip Mitchell that the work should be undertaken at the earliest possible date, but circumstances preclude me from including it in 1938 Estimates.

Yours sincerely,

M. Hudson.

C. O.

Mr. Flood 31/7/37

Mr.

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Perms. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street,

6 Aug 1937.

Dear Freeston,

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have sent to Hebden, which explains itself. I know that the Post Office is not a Governors' Conference matter, but as Wade has now left and I do not know who is acting, I send this to you and would ask you to pass it on to the proper quarter.

Sir Philip Mitchell is quite keen on the idea of connecting Kampala and Nairobi by telephone, and I must say that it seems to us a sound measure. The snags will be many, but it is the kind of proposal that the C.D.A.C. are liable to be fond of, and we will certainly back it.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: J. E. W. FLOOD

FURTHER ACTION.

L.B. FREESTON, ESQ., O.B.E.

To Mr. G. B. Hebden 6. 8. 37.
(Comp. draft)

C. O.

Mr. Flood 31/7/37. *js*

Mr.

Mr.

Sir H. Moots.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



Downing Street,

6 Aug. 1937.

Dear Hebden,

You will be rather surprised at getting a letter from me, no doubt, but I feel that I ought to have written to you before to ask you how you liked your new and complicated job.

Apart from that, Sir Philip

Mitchell, from Uganda, came in today and mentioned that there had been a scheme afoot for the construction of a trunk telephone system to link Kampala and Nairobi, and was very surprised to find that we had heard nothing about it. As you know, a loan was received from the C.D.F. early last year for the reconstruction and development of the telephone lines in Kenya, but extension to Uganda was not mentioned. When the proposals put forward then had been

carried

DRAFTS

G.B. HEBDEN, ESQ.,

(P. O., Nairobi)

10
Copy to Hebdens

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy to Mr. Freeston,
in comp. draft.

carried into effect, telephone communication
would be available up to Kisumu and North
Kavirondo, and an extension into Kampala
seems a logical further enterprise.

I should be very glad if you
would let me know what, if anything, has
happened. If it is a case of making an
application to the C.D.F., I suppose it
had better be done by Kenya in the name of
both Governments since the postal service is
run in Kenya, and you can be assured that any
application will be strongly supported by the
Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely,

W. FLOOD



5 August, 1937.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Thomas's despatch No.219 of the 2nd April, 1936, regarding loans sanctioned by the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the improvement and extension of the telegraph and trunk telephone system in the Colony, I have the honour to inform you that it now seems desirable to submit revised proposals for the allocation of the expenditure originally contemplated under these loans.

2. It will be recalled that a loan of £13,930 was sanctioned for the development of trunk telephone facilities and that this sum was designed to carry out works on the following routes:-

(a) Kakamega-Kisumu	£1,700
(b) Kisumu-Makuru	£4,680
(c) Kisumu-Kisumu	£2,350
(d) Kakamega-Makuru	£2,000
(e) Nairobi-Nanyuki	£3,200
	<u>£ 13,930</u>

You will be aware from the quarterly progress reports periodically submitted in respect of current schemes undertaken with assistance from the Colonial Development Fund that work under (a) is completed, and under (b) and (c) is in hand; work on items (d) and (e) has not yet started.

3. It had been proposed to start work on (e) the

Nairobi-

THE RT. HON.

W.G. OMBEY GORE, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

Nairobi-Nanyuki trunk telephone route during 1938, but I am now advised by the Postmaster General that owing to an unforeseen and very considerable rise in the cost of materials - to quote one instance, the cost of copper wire has increased by almost 100% - the original estimate of £3,200 will be exceeded by approximately £1,100. It appears similarly that a slight excess expenditure must be expected in respect of item (a) which is now completed, but that no excess is anticipated in respect of items (b) and (c) on which work is in hand.

4. After a review of the whole programme comprised in the loan from the Colonial Development Fund, however, the Postmaster General now advises that in view of the fact that both Eldoret and Nakasongola are connected to the main trunk system of the Colony, the urgent necessity for item (d) has disappeared. I should be glad, therefore, provided you see no objection, if you would place before the Colonial Development Advisory Committee, for their consideration, a proposal that the funds allotted to that item may be diverted to provide for the excess expenditure anticipated in items (a) and (c).

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Ameyan

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.