

1935

1935

38079

KENYA

38079'

CO 533/457

Arab Grievances.

Previous

25045/34

Subsequent

Reg 297 20/3

Room 309 27/3

Mr. Treiston 27

On Road 27

Sir C. Bottomley 27

Sir J. Madden 27

298 20/3

297

C.S.
Arab grievances

Sir R. Hamilton (s.d) _____ 15th March 35 2

Encls. extract from a letter from Hamed bin Mohamed regarding Arab grievances in connection with educational matters & conditions of service of teachers, Kathis, Judges & Clerks, & enquire whether the Arab wishes can be met.

Not
23045734

The two matters raised in the Encls. ~~are~~ ^{were} dealt with in the S.G.'s desp. No 275 of the 17th April 1934, a copy of which was, I understand, sent to Sir R. Hamilton. I don't think we can add to the information in that despatch. As regards the position of Lisalis, Kathis etc, I think we must assume that the matter is still under consideration locally. See pages flagged on 23045734 in this connection.

I submit drafts
C. Ross Smith
277335

R. Austin
27

I must send this on for directions as I am not sure how far it is proper for me to correspond with Sir Robert Hamilton. If he were only an ex-Chief Justice of Kenya, invoked by the Arabs because of his long connection with them, I should have

have no hesitation, but he is an ex-Parliamentary Under Secretary in the Colonial Office, and he is a Member of Parliament. It may, therefore, be considered wrong for me to write to him and I think that it is very wrong of him to write to any permanent official in the Colonial Office.

There has been a good deal of trouble about the Arab School and some time ago there was a particularly mean and disgraceful intrigue conducted against Captain Hodkin. The fact that he has the full support of the Director of Education should show just how much value there is in the opposition to him.

With regard to the "Arab" officials in the Coast Province the fact is that they are rather awkward survivals from a state of affairs which existed many years ago and they are bound to disappear or at any rate have their numbers largely reduced in time. Anyhow, there is no reason for giving them better conditions and more salary than they are worth simply because they are Arabs. The Kenya Govt. is prepared to consider each case of these Arabs on its merits and further than that we cannot very well go.

Sir Robert Hamilton would really be doing a better service to his friends if he could persuade them to accept decisions as final and impress upon them that petitioning the Secretary of State behind the back of the Governor is not the way to get anything.

If it be decided that I may answer

Sir Robert

3
Sir Robert Hamilton, then I think the draft will do quite nicely.

J. R. W. Howard
27/3

These things are always difficult, and I once had to remind a M.P. that he could ask a Question in the House, but our associations with Sir R. Hamilton are too long and close for anything of that kind except as a last resource.

The definite way issue?

Wed. 27.3.35

At 12.0.

*from
27/3/35*

2 To Sir R. Hamilton (1st) of 10/3/35

27/3

C. O.

Mr. Grossmith. 27/3/35

38079/35

Mr. ~~Green~~ ²⁷

Mr. Flood 27 see minute

Mr. Parkinson.

S/O for Mr. Flood's Signature.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley. 27

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

+ Permt. U.S. of S & P.

Partly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| C. D. | |
| R | 28MAF |
| D | 30 |

DOWNING STREET.

30 March, 1935.

DRAFT.

Dear Sir Robert,

SIR ROBERT HAMILTON, M.P.

Calder has passed on to me

your letter of the 15th of March as Kenya is not among the East African territories with which he deals.

I have read through the excerpts from the letter from Hamid bin Mohammed, and I see that both of the points to which he refers viz. Arab education and conditions of service for Liwalis, Kathis, Mudiris and clerks, were, in fact, discussed in the petition submitted to the S. of S. by the Arabs of Kenya. In the circumstances, I do not think that I could add anything to the

FURTHER ACTION.

and Hamid's letter adds nothing to the case

105-
23045/34

despatch No. 275 of the 17th
of April last, a copy of which
was sent to you. So far as I
am aware, the position of the Liwalis,
Kathis, etc, is still being

considered locally; and if the
Arabs have any new arguments
to bring forward, they will, no
doubt, address them to the
Kenya Government

YOURS SI CERELY

(Signed) J. E. W. FLOOD

57
RECEIVED

15th March, 1935.

18 MAR 1935

C. O. REGY

Dear Calder,

As I believe you now have particular charge of matters relating to East Africa, I am venturing to ask if you would be good enough to look at the enclosed excerpts from a letter which I have recently received from Hamed bin Mohamed, on behalf of the Arabs at Mombassa and the coast of Kenya generally.

Calder (2)
You may remember that some little time ago there was an unfortunate delay with regard to sending an answer to a petition from the Mombassa Arabs which hung up a reply for an unconscionable period, but on certain matters they are not yet satisfied and have again asked me to see if they could be further considered.

I have omitted from their present communication references to land and certain other matters, as regards which I do not propose to bother you, but it does seem that they have certain grounds for complaint on the two subjects of education and condition of service.

It may, perhaps, be owing to my connection with the Protectorate in the early days, when we had to rely largely on the services of such Arabs as were available, which

services were on the whole very well performed, that I have since felt that their special claims for consideration have rather been pushed aside owing to the pressing nature of the major problems of administration, but I do think that it might be in the interests of the administration as a whole, no less than of the Arabs themselves, if their wishes could be met with some greater practical sympathy than has been the case in the past. There is undoubtedly a feeling amongst them that they have not been treated with that consideration which they had the right to expect.

I should be much obliged if you would be kind enough to look into the matter and let me know if there is any possibility in going, if not the whole way, at least part of the way to meet their wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Albhamilton

P.S. When Hamed bin Mohamed was over in this country for the Joint Select Committee on Closer Union in East Africa, I arranged for a special interview for him and the Arab with him to see Drummond Shiels, who was at that time Parliamentary Under Secretary, and they were certainly then led to believe that such matters as they had to bring forward would be sympathetically considered and, as a consequence, they now have a special feeling of disappointment.

J.A.Calder, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.

7
em

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS: I had written you fully on the subject. Our Memorandum to the Joint Parliamentary Committee as well as our Petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies contain full information on this subject and I need not repeat here all the arguments. A few months ago, at a meeting of the Advisory Council on Arab Education, the question was again raised and because of the attitude of the then Director of Education, Mr. H.S. Scott, who has since retired, all the Arab members resigned in a body - there were Sir Ali bin Salim, Mbarak, Shariff Abdulla Salim and myself. The Principal of the Arab Secondary School, Mr. T.W. Hodkin, who is now on leave in England, has been the principal obstruction to advancement on the right lines of the Arab Education and he had been greatly supported by Mr. H.S. Scott, the then Director of Education. The Arabs saw no good purpose of their remaining in the Council if every recommendation of theirs was turned down simply because of the enmity of the Director of the Education and the Principal of the School.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR LIWALIS, KATHIS, MUDIRS & CLERKS:
This is another subject which has not been dealt with by Kenya Government and it is very disturbing to my Community to see their positions in Government Service so lower than the lowest grade of either Indian or Goan clerk. Full information on this subject is also contained in our Petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and I must not make this letter unnecessarily long.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

END

TOTAL EXPOSURES →