Telegram from the Governor Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies

Dated 13th December, 1937. Received at 11.34 am. 13th Decr.

No.209 confidential. Your telegram No.206 PIM's recommendations. I agree. Proposal for the reorganisation of the central Government on the general lines of PIM's recommendations but with considerable modifications of detail have been formulated and will shortly be considered by the Executive Council. In addressing you on these proposals I shall at the same time submit recommendations for filling the post of Secretary Native Affairs by Kenya Officer

SEGI E.A.

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

(Sent 4.0 p.m., 9th December, 1937.)

No. 206 Confidential.

Please refer to Northern Rhodesia telegram No. 208 of 6th December repeated to you. Only other post involved in Pim's recommendation seems to be Secretary for Native Affairs. I assume that in the circumstances you will agree that this post should be on same scale. Do you agree?

Telegram from the Governor of Morthern Rhydesia to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Dated oth December, 1937, Received 3-28pm 6th December.

No. 208, confidential,

(108)04 PF 8261/LU WEST

of the S5th Movember. Governor of Kenya has at my instance authorised me to explain to Lockhart the circumstances which led up to his being offered the post at a salary higher than was intended, and lockhart has agreed to accept lower salary. I assume that there is no quention of the other officers for whom Fim recommended a salary of £1,750 being paid full salary from the outset as this would certainly prove highly embarrassing to Lockhart. Addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, repeated to the Governor of Kenya.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, NAIROBI.

2nd November, 1937.

Dear Bottomley.

Your letter of the 20th October. Please don't do anything about appointing Montgomery's successor till you get a definite proposal from me. I am just in the throes of giving birth to a reorganisation scheme; on the lines of Pim in se far as it follows the trinitarian dostrine, but in my opinion a great deal more logical. If after consultation with Pilling and others I find this scheme to be practicable, it will have much bearing on the man selected to fill Montgomery's vacancy, and I have got the man who would be absolutely first class for the job. I won't say any more about it yet except this, that I shall have a new Colonial Secretary in fifteen months and a new Fihancial Secretary, both coming from outside the Colony. It will make things extremely difficult for me if Montgomery's replacement comes from outside also.

I agree about the language problem, but you must remember this - that everybody tries to avoid changes, and 6. If if we are going to give people leave and if they will go sick, they have got to occur. Also, there are about fourteen different languages in this Colomy. As an instance, in one day's tour in South Kavironde I had to learn three different

ways of saying "Good morning" and "Goodbye" and two days later, at a Local Native Council, I found one of the natives translating the evidence of a witness for the benefit of two of his comagistrates. I fully agree with the principle, but it is hard to carry out.

 With regard to the member representing Native interests travelling in the Reserves, I fully agree.

Yours sincerely.

a Brooke- Poplan

SIR W. C. BOTTOMLEY, K.C.M.G., C.B., O.B.E., COEONIAL OFFICE, DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

but in any case Mr. Ormaby Gore is anxious
that you should know that in default of a very
strong desire on your part for a particular
local man, he thinks that this is an opportunity
to bring in new blood.

So far as the Colonial Service is concerned, the new blood would presumably come from either Tanganyika or Nigeria, and it would be useful if you could tell us whether, in either case, there would be any risk of the man's usefulness being impaired by unofficial prejudice against either place of origin. It has been suggested unofficially to Mr.Ormsby Gore that we might get an excellent man from the Sudan. Of course we have no means of judging here, but symes knows what is wanted in East Africa, and I am sure would be glad to help.

One thing we have to bear in mind is
that we don't want a Chief Native Commissioner
simply, but a man who would take on the
Secretaryship for Native Affairs under the Pim
scheme. From that point of view the Nigerian
habit

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir H. Moore.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomlev

Sir J. Shuckburgh. 1 . Howard

Party. U.S. of S. attention of these

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

habit of giving men both Administrative and Secretariat experience might be very useful. Against a Nigerian must be set the preference expressed by the Joint Select Committee (para:108) for a man with East African experience. They said "normally" but, if there is any substance in the idea of local prejudice against a West African, their opinion might be quoted against us later.

However, all this is merely preliminary. It may help you to set the ball rolling, but no doubt you have already got the matter under consideration.

Two other points have been put to Mr. Ormsby Gore. The first is that your District Officers lose much of their usefulness in not being sufficiently in touch with their natives, relying too much on Swahili and interpreters. So far as this is justified it is, I think, due to the

frequent (***) Wt. 13052-47 20,000 6/37 T.S. 698

FURTHER ACTION.

requent changes of stations and the great variety of vernacular languages. That is an old story, and the difficulty cannot be overcome altogether, but Mr. Ormsby Gore is anxious that every effort should be made to get more officers to speak at least Kikuyu and/or one of the Kavirondo languages which are spoken by many tens of thousands.

Also, it has been urged that, owing to lack of means, the unofficial members of Legislative Council selected to represent native interests, cannot travel in the Reserves and that they do not know much of what is going on, particularly in the native mind. Montgomery has confirmed this in conversation with the Secretary of State. He says that he has done his best to get the missionary representatives to visit the Reserves, but that they feel unable to afford the time and money to do so. He admits that they get their knowledge of natives entirely secondhand from other missions or mission boys, and that this prevents them from fulfilling their purpose

completely.

C. O.

17.

Me.

Mr.

Sir H. Moore

Sie G. Tomlinson

Sa C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh Perent. U.S. of S.

Parly, U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

completely. The question which

Mr. Ormsby Gore would like you to consider

is whether it would not be possible to make

some provision for their travelling

expenses, so as to enable them to visit

the native areas. It would mean an

increase in the Vote for travelling

expenses of Legislative Councillors, and

an extension of its purpose which is now,

of course, concerned merely with their

attending meetings of Council, but there

might not be any serious objection to an

increase for such a purpose. You will

be able to judge as to that, and we leave

the suggestion in your hands.

(M. C. Attonile

FURTHER ACTION.