

1937

38308

C0533/485
KENYA

38308

IMMIGRATION OF NURSERY GOVERNESSES, CHILDREN'S NURSES, ETC.

Previous SEE D.O. 2455/19			
Subsequent 1938			
R. 297 R. 309 Sir C. Bottomley 297	2/4/37 6/4		

IMMIGRATION.

Nominal.

1. A/GOV'S DEPUTY, KENYA.....134.....27.2.37. States that he is unable to accept proposal of Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women that a grant should be made to assist prospective nursery governesses, children's nurses & "home helps" to reach Kenya.

Action taken on D.O. papers below.

Sir C. B. ...

I thought as! D.O. went a copy sent officially

as Dept. handled.

J.L.G. ... 5/4

Governess is the only possible answer, I think.

G.C.S.

6/4/37 done

2 So D.O. (1/3) - 12.4.37

Handwritten initials

3. N.M. LOGAN (5/6 TO MR. FLOOD) - 2.4.37

Mr. Flood has seen.

? P.H.

Handwritten signature

R. 297

13.4.37

Handwritten signature

abance 13/4/37

4. Copies of correspondence between the S.O.S.B.W. and the Government of Kenya.

(P.H. see note on slip attached)

Handwritten initials

To The Hon'ble The Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of assisted passages for British Nursery Nurses. I have the honour to inform you that at the Annual General Meeting of this Society, held on March 16th., at which representatives from all parts of the Colony were present, the following Resolution was passed:

"THAT this Committee wish to ask the Kenya Government to review its decision in regard to a scheme for assisted passages, to enable employers to get British hospital and children's nurses, governesses, home or domestic helps from England. These women to have some definite training or approved qualifications, and not to be under 25 years of age. This scheme to be terminated at any time when it was felt that there were sufficient numbers of Kenya trained girls to take their places.

The scheme suggested to be on the same lines as the one operating so successfully in Southern Rhodesia."

The following points are put forward for your consideration:

1. The scheme suggested is that in operation in Southern Rhodesia Employees to be sent out only to definite jobs. Full particulars to be given both to employers and employees. Employees to be interviewed in England prior to engagement by the S.O.S.B.W. to see if they are suitable.
2. For every accepted candidate the Home Government to put up £20 towards passages; and the Kenya Government to put up a similar amount. The Kenya Immigration Deposit of £50 to be waived. The employer to be responsible for the rail fare from Mombasa and a contract for 3 years to be entered into, except in special cases.
3. The scheme to be stopped at any moment when it is found that there are sufficient Kenya girls to fill the posts offering.
4. There are at present 4 girls training in the Lady Northey Home. These cannot be available for 12 months from now at the earliest, and it is hoped they will do an 18 months course.

5. Even when the Lady Northey Home Trainees have obtained their Certificates, these Trainees will not be able to satisfy the requirements of all Mothers, a number of whom require girls old enough to place in sole charge of their children, which the majority of Kenya-trained girls will not be.
6. Numbers of German girls are at present in the employment of English families, due to the lack of English Nurses, and many of these are imbued with Nazi principles. It is considered most undesirable that such principles should be passed on to young English-bred children before they reach an age of discretion. This subtle form of Nazi propaganda is undoubtedly in progress at the present time.

The case of one German girl who is taking six-monthly jobs with a view to getting to know all parts of Kenya has been brought to our notice. Many of these German girls are said to be subsidised, and in any case they make so much on the exchange by sending our currency back to Germany (thus fulfilling one of Germany's greater needs) that they are able to undercut British girls. In this connection I have the honour to enclose a letter recently received which describes the present position very vividly.

After due consideration of these points, it is hoped that the Kenya Government will reconsider its decision not to co-operate with the Home Government in assisting suitable British women to come to Kenya as children's nurses and domestic helps.

I have, etc.,

Chairman of the Kenya Committee
of the S.O.S.B.W.

THE SECRETARIAT,

NAIROBI.

23rd July, 1938.

Madam,

With reference to your letter of the 27th May on the subject of assisted passages to Kenya from Great Britain for nursery governesses under the auspices of the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women, I have the honour to inform you that with a view to arrangements being made on the lines of a scheme operative in Southern Rhodesia, the Government is prepared to include in the Colony's Draft Estimates for 1939 the sum of £100 on this account for consideration, subject to the following conditions:-

- (a) that the Imperial Government or other organisation in the United Kingdom will pay £ for £ towards the passage money required;
- (b) that the Kenya Branch of the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women will make itself entirely responsible for the women so sent including their return to the United Kingdom for any reason whatever, e.g. health, death of employer, with a view to enabling the £50 immigration deposit to be waived;
- (c) that the women assisted shall be governesses or nursery governesses, such as will not be supplied by the Lady Northey Home Training Scheme, at any rate for some years;
- (d) that the grant shall not be regarded as a permanency but shall be subject to consideration each year.

2. I am to enquire, with particular reference to condition

- (b) whether your Society would be prepared to co-operate on these lines.

If so, the Kenya Branch will no doubt suggest to the Parent Society in London that the latter should approach His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom on the matter.

3. On receipt of a reply to this letter the Colonial Office will be notified of the proposal.

4. It will, of course, be appreciated that participation in the scheme is contingent upon the approval of the Legislature and the Secretary of State being accorded to the proposed provision in the Colony's Estimates.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) (?)

for Chief Secretary.

The Chairman of the Kenya Committee of the S.O.S.B.W.

Ref.C.TRD.7/14/25.

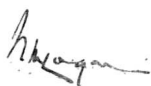
AIRMAIL.

Dear Flood,

Many thanks for your letter of the 23rd March about the proposals made by the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women for the assisted settlement of nursery governesses, etc., in Kenya.

You will no doubt have had by now our despatch No.134 of the 27th February, in which we turned these proposals down. The delay in answering the Secretary of State's despatch of the 25th August was due in part to consultation with the Standing Finance Committee, and I am afraid we did not appreciate that the people concerned wanted an early answer.

Yours sincerely,



J.E.W. Flood, Esq., C.B.E.,
Colonial Office,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

The Secretariat,

NAIROBI,

3rd April 1937.

RECEIVED

13 APR 1937

REGY

3

C. O.

Mr. Flood. 5-4

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley 6.4. f.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

C. O.
R. F. - APR
7 10

12 April, 1937.

Sir,

I am etc. to refer to the

suggestion put forward that Government assistance might be provided towards the cost of passages to Kenya of nursery governesses, children's nurses and 'home helps' and to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary MacDonald, the enclosed copy of a despatch from the Acting Governor of Kenya. A copy of Mr. Ormsby Gore's despatch of the 25th August is enclosed for convenience of reference.

DRAFT.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
DOMINIONS OFFICE.

As. Gov No 134

No 661 25 Aug 1936

Handwritten notes:
As. Gov
No 134
No 661
25 Aug 1936

FURTHER ACTION.

2. Mr. MacDonald will observe that the Government of Kenya is of opinion that employment of the nature contemplated should preferably be given to

to local girls, especially in view
of the fact that there are at present
in Kenya a considerable number of unmarried
European women partly in employment and
partly not, and Mr. Ormsby Gore desires to
express his own entire agreement with the
Acting Governor's view. In the nature
of things, there ^{can} ~~could~~ not be many
opportunities for such employment in Kenya
~~and these European settlers who were in a~~
~~position to offer such employment would~~
~~almost certainly be sufficiently wealthy~~
~~to be able to afford to pay passages without~~
~~Government assistance, while those who are~~
~~not able to provide passages could ^{possibly} ~~almost~~~~
~~certainly supply their needs without going~~
outside Kenya.

*and as these are women available in the
Colony it would be inadvisable to
encourage the entry of women for
temporary employment.*

I am, etc.

(Sd) J. G. W. F. Wood.

Despatch No. 2455/19 D.O.

RE VED
KENYA. 27 MAR 1937
NO. 34.3 REGY



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

27 February, 1937.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 661 of the 25th August 1936, transmitting a copy of a memorandum submitted to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs by the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women, in which it was suggested that Government assistance should be provided towards the cost of passages to the Colony of Kenya of nursery governesses, children's nurses and 'home helps', I have the honour to inform you that this matter has received my careful consideration and that of my advisers.

2. Certain points invite attention in this Colony which perhaps do not arise in the case of other territories. At the time of the 1931 Census, there were in the Colony more than one thousand European spinsters over the age of nineteen, and the proportion of females to males, which has been steadily rising, had then reached 79% and is now probably in the region of 85%. For such a young European settlement this percentage is remarkably high. It therefore appears, prima facie, that the normal channels of immigration are functioning satisfactorily. From this it may be argued that any attempt to hasten the process by subsidising female immigration may well have the undesirable ...

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
W. GEMMY CORRIE, F.O., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
BOWLING STREET,
LONDON, S. W. 1.

2455/19 D.O.
Copy below

undesirable result of creating in the near future an unwanted surplus of European spinsters.

3. I am of the opinion that in principle children's nurses and 'home helps' should be found locally, if employment is to be provided for the children for whom Kenya supplies education. Those who require governesses of higher scholastic attainments than are available here should be able to impart them at their own expense.

Whilst there is undoubtedly a demand of this nature I consider that it should be capable of satisfaction by the employment of local girls. If one of the obstacles in the way of the employment of local girls lies in the lack of facilities for vocational training, any expenditure of Government money might be better applied towards the provision of such facilities rather than to the importation of more young women from the United Kingdom. Proposals for the provision of vocational training of local girls as children's nurses are in fact now contemplated by the Lady Northey Home.

Moreover there is the danger that a would-be employer who is unable to provide the passage money would also be unable to offer a sufficiently attractive salary, with the result that a number at any rate of the immigrants would probably be employed by residents who were themselves in a position to provide the passage money.

4. In view of the presence in the Colony of a considerable number of unmarried European women, either in employment or seeking employment, and in view of the adverse effect which further immigration would have on the prospects of women employees, I regret that I am unable to accept the proposal of the Society...

W
END

Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women
that a grant should be made to selected persons to
assist them to reach Kenya.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

M. J. Gagan

ACTING GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.