

1937

38343

C0533/486
KENYA

38343

TREATMENT OF AFRIKANER COMMUNITY IN KENYA

Previous

Subsequent

297	10/1/37
307	11/11
M: Parkin	21/11
M: Elov.	11-11
Sir C. Bottomley	12-11
Sir C. Parkin	12/11
Sq. D.	12-
Sir C. Parkin	15/11
R. 297	31/12
309	31/12
M: Parkin	1/1
M: Dams	3-1
Sir C. Bottomley	3-1
Sir C. Parkin	31/12/38

Registers

FILE A.

C.I.
DUXH
MANTON
Nominal (D)

7. DOMINIONS OFFICE (F.106/2) 12.11.37
The Express No 4774 and received from South Africa regarding an
article published by the Malanite "Volksblad" on 5th Oct,
alleging oppression of the Afrikaners in Kenya.

Natives like this tells against its
utterers more than against its ostensible
victims. Kenya will no doubt take
any action in the Kenya Courts which is
either possible or desirable.

cc. none.
J.P.

? Put by
Clooney White
11/11

J.P. Cassini
21/11

!!
This is rather a gem and it is to be hoped that it gets
publicity in Kenya, for if it does, it will set the English
against the S. Africans. Why should they expect their
bastard dialect to be current in Kenya?

The demand for S. African native policy to be
applied in Kenya will cause trouble here if it gets out.

? Put by
J.S.G. Hood

Sri Richardson

11-11
Jose. It is a pity that S.
De laan had to make his final
admission.

W.B. 12.11.37

Sec. of State

This is an astonishing production -
indeed 'astounding' is a mild

adjective to use. But
there is little value in
commenting upon such an
article.

? Put by

reed

12.11.37

WJG 15.11.37

D. O (F 106/4)

29.12.37

The of deep. No 542 from South Africa enclosing
copy of despatches to & from Kenya on subject of
Afrikaans Community in Kenya.

Kenya's comments on ~~the~~ Dr. Dodman's statements
leave little more to be said.

? Put by

Colley White.
31.12.

J. J. Basson

1/1

H. J. Mawe
3.1

W.C.S. 3.1.38

reed

5.1.38

atome

D.O. 3.

Co. 2

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,
DOMINIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1.
and the following number quoted:—

F. 106/4

Subject: *Africans Communities*

in Kenya

RECEIVED
30 DEC 1937
C. O. RÉGY

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter from the Dominions Office of the *12/11/37*

F. 106/2

No 542 - 15.12.37

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for
Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

29 DEC 1937

193

4
DUPLICATE.

AIR MAIL.

SOUTH AFRICA.

DOMINIONS.

No. 522

The High Commissioner in the Union of South Africa for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the undermentioned document.

High Commissioner's Office.

Pretoria.

15 December, 1937.

Reference to previous correspondence

High Commissioner's despatch No.477 of 19 October, 1937.

Description and Date	Subject.
Copy of despatch of 15 December, 1937 to the Governor, Kenya.	AFRIKAANS COMMUNITY IN
Copy of despatch of 8 December, 1937, from the Governor, Kenya.	KENYA.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
PRETORIA.

15 December, 1957.

Confidential.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 8th December regarding the Rev. J.W. Dednam. I have read your comments on the reverend gentleman's statements on the position of the Afrikaners speaking community in Kenya with great interest and am not surprised to find that they are largely, if not entirely, without foundation.

2. I am forwarding a copy of your despatch and of this reply to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

W. H. CLARK,

High Commissioner.

HIS EXCELLENCY

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ROBERT BROOKE POPHAM, G.C.V.O.,

etc., etc., etc.,

GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF KENYA.

(2)

3. I do not think it worth while going into the Reverend Dednam's statements in any detail, but I might remark that I have stayed at Tororo in Uganda. There are English officials there with their wives and amongst other amenities is a hotel that is commonly reputed to be the best in that part of the world.

4. With regard to Colonel Turner, I can only remark that I have a letter in front of me from the Secretary to the Dutch Reformed Church Council in which he refers to "our representative Colonel Turner" approaching the Director of Education in Kenya recently and discussing the education of Dutch South Africans.

5. Although Afrikaans is not taught to any great extent, the sub-standard education in the Government school at Eldoret is largely given in Afrikaans, and on Friday afternoons a special class is held in Afrikaans, the object being to ensure that Dutch children have sufficient knowledge of the language to be able to read their Bibles and to follow religious services conducted in the Afrikaans language. This instruction is done not only with the recognition but by the direction of the Education Department.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd) R. BROOKE POPHAM

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL.
GOVERNOR.

D.O. 3.

CO

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

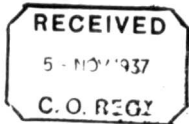
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,
DOMINIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1.

and the following number quoted:—

F.106/2.

Subject:

Kenya Affairs.



Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to the Dominions Office of the

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for
Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

- 1 NOV 1937 193

No. 477-17 (103)

DUPLICATE

SOUTH AFRICA
DOMINIONS
NO. 477

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
PRETORIA.

19 October, 1957

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, a summary of a particularly evil article published by the Malenite "Volksblad" on the 5th October. I do not know whether Dr. Dednam proposes to return to Kenya in due course, but it would appear from this article that his influence upon the Afrikaners in that colony in the past can hardly have been salutary.

2. I showed the article today to Major Cavendish-Bentick, a member of the Kenya Executive Council and of the Legislative Council, who is visiting the Union as a guest of South African Railways at the instance of Mr Pirow and was lunching at High Commission House. He remarked that Dr. Dednam is not the chief Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in Kenya. He told me that the Colonial Government have done their best to help the Afrikaner community and that Colonel Reitz, during his recent visit to Kenya, talked very straight to his

compatriots

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MALCOLM MACDONALD, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,
DOMINIONS OFFICE.

compatriots about their ingratitude, which no doubt accounts for the comment in the article on Union Ministers who visit the Colony.

8. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Governor of Kenya.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. H. CLARK.
High Commissioner.

Summary of Extract from "Die Volksblad" of 5th October, 1957

NATIVE COMES FIRST, AFRIKANER NOWHERE

OPPRESSION OF OUR FLESH AND BLOOD IN KENYA

A HANDFUL PRESERVES THE PURITY OF LANGUAGE AND RELIGION

(From Our Own Correspondent).

JOHANNESBURG, Tuesday, 5th October. "The attitude of the British Government in Kenya is that all whites should be placed in white reserves, for the native comes first, the Coolie second, and the Afrikaner nowhere".

This important statement was made by the Reverend J.W. Dednam, since July 1955 Chief Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in Kenya, in an interview with me, in which he sketched the hard fight of the 5,000 Afrikaners in Kenya.

The hatred and contempt with which Afrikaners in Kenya were regarded was only one part of the hard fight being fought by the Afrikaner in Kenya, said Dr. Dednam. Their language was not recognised officially and every effort was made to destroy their race-consciousness.

The view of the British Government was that Kenya must be one land with one tongue. For this reason Afrikaans must be suppressed and the Afrikaners absorbed by the population. The Afrikaner in Kenya had, however, preserved the purity of his religion and culture, and there was no danger of his race-consciousness being destroyed.

According

According to Dr. Dednam, the Afrikaans population of Kenya numbered 3,000 out of a total white population of 18,000. Their settlements at Eldoret and Broederstroem were the two biggest white settlements in Kenya. Though their presence had contributed considerably to the stability of the country, they were unsympathetically treated. During the years of depression the Afrikaners proved their mettle by staying on their farms when many of the English farmers deserted theirs. In agriculture and education the Afrikaners were pioneers; even the Department of Education in Kenya recognised that Dr. Louber was a pioneer in that field.

Dr. Dednam stated further that the land was being developed solely in the interests of the 3 million natives in Kenya. The coolie had taken possession of trade and occupied the best positions in the Civil Service and the Railways. Representations that some posts in the Civil Service should be thrown open to Afrikaners were turned down. The Civil Service was controlled entirely by coolies, natives and English from England.

The colour question was even more urgent than that of language. An example was quoted of an Afrikaans farmer who gave a young native a good thrashing because he had stolen £25 from him, and for this transgression was given a sentence of a year's hard labour!

On the railways, Afrikaners were sent preferably to Tororo in Uganda, a fever hell where no other whites were found. They returned wrecks both in body and soul.

Dr. Dednam touched on two other reasons for the contempt in which the Afrikaner was held. One was the fact

fact that the Union Trade Commissioner, Colonel Turner, took little interest in the Afrikaans community, who were urging that his successor should be Afrikaans-speaking.

The community was also neglected by important visitors, such as Ministers, from the Union. Their neglect gave the English the unfair impression that they were of such little worth that even their own flesh and blood in the Union would not take the trouble to make contact with them.

But the Afrikaners were making headway. Afrikaans was taught in their schools, though not with the recognition of the Department.

Questioned as to the solution of Kenya's problems, Dr. Dednam replied that the country should be administered as a Protectorate or Mandatory of the Union, and that the language and colour policy of the Union should be put into force in all its ramifications. Secondly, the Afrikaans community should be strengthened by immigration from the Union. He would like to see decent, but needy, farmers from the Union helped to establish themselves in Kenya, where they would be assured of an existence. At least there was no poverty there such as was known in the Union.
