

1935

Kenya

No. 38107

SUBJECT

C0533/458

Consulate at Moga.

Previous

23165/34.

Subsequent

1936.
See 46691/1/42.

30 Mar 35.

A/Governor Wade H.H. Low

C.S.
Consulate

Considers that Kenya Govt. should no longer accept the cost of the Mega Consulate & requests that F.O. may be approached on the matter.

This recommendation emanates from the "Ereasure Hunt" Committee which has been given the task of finding economies to the extent of £100,000 on the Colony's annual expenditure.

It is agreed that the retention of a Consular Officer ^{at Mega} in Southern Ethiopia is essential. There was a difference of opinion on this point in 1929, but the Colonial Office view, in which the Foreign Office concurred, was that the Mega Consulate should be retained. Undoubtedly its retention is in the direct interest of Kenya in view of frontier difficulties, but the colony does not want to pay. I do not think that it could be argued conclusively that the present Italian-Abyssinian situation renders the Mega Consulate of more value to the Foreign Office than to Kenya; and because the F.O. assumed financial responsibility for the Harar Consulate in 1931 is ^{hardly} ~~reasonable~~ an argument that they should take over Mega.

(See 1571/29
15744/28.
Kenya)

In 1929 Harar and Jigjiga Consulates were paid for by British Somaliland. In April of that year the Governor of Somaliland suggested that those two Consulates should be closed down and that, as an alternative, the District Commissioners at Hargeisa and Zeilah should be allowed to cross the frontier, as occasion demanded, to try cases, etc., ~~but~~ the F.O. strongly deprecated this view, with the result that the Governor abandoned his original proposal, but maintained the view that,

(See 38236/30
Somaliland)

C.S.
Consulate

1. A/Governor Wade H.H. Long 30 Mar 35. 2
Considers that Kenya Govt. should not have accepted the
cost of the Mega Consulate & requests that F.O. may be approached
on the matter.

This recommendation emanates from the
"Treasure Hunt" Committee which has been given the
task of finding economies to the extent of £100,000
on the Colony's annual expenditure.

It is agreed that the retention of a
Consular Officer ^{at Mega} in Southern Ethiopia is essential.
There was a difference of opinion on this point
in 1929, but the Colonial Office view, in which
the Foreign Office concurred, was that the Mega
Consulate should be retained. Undoubtedly its
retention is in the direct interest of Kenya in
view of frontier difficulties, but the colony does
not want to pay. I do not think that it could be
argued conclusively that the present Italian-
Abyssinian situation renders the Mega Consulate
of more value to the Foreign Office than to Kenya;
and because the F.O. assumed financial responsibility
for the Harar Consulate in 1931 is ^{hardly} ~~necessary~~ an
argument that they should take over Mega.

(See 1571/29
1574/28.)
Kamp

OB

(See 38236/30
Somaliland)

In 1929 Harar and Jigjiga Consulates were
paid for by British Somaliland. In April of that
year the Governor of Somaliland suggested that
those two Consulates should be closed down and
that, as an alternative, the District Commissioners
at Hargeisa and Zeilâh should be allowed to cross
the frontier, as occasion demanded, to try cases,
etc., ~~but~~ the F.O. strongly deprecated this view,
with the result that the Governor abandoned his
original proposal, but maintained the view that,

as

the Consulate at Harar was no longer primarily concerned with British Somaliland cases, it was ^{inevitable} that the total cost should be borne by Somaliland funds.

Sir H. Kittermaster and Sir S. Barton subsequently recommended that 2/3rds of the cost of the Harar post and 1/3rd of the Jigjiga post would be a fair proportion to be borne by H.M.G., leaving 1/3rd of the cost of the Harar post and 2/3rds of the cost of the Jigjiga post to be borne by ~~the~~ British Somaliland. The F.O. considered the proposal and it seems that it was the practical difficulty of dividing the cost of these two posts between Imperial and Somaliland funds that caused the F.O. to propose that Harar should be paid for from Imperial funds and Jigjiga from British Somaliland funds. I cannot trace a copy of the F.O. ^{submission} ~~document~~ to the Treasury proposing the assumption by F.O. of Harar from the 1st of April, 1931. It would have been of interest to see what argument was advanced. Treasury approved the proposal, however.

The status of the Jigjiga post was subsequently raised from a Vice-Consulate to a Consulate.

At the end of 1931, the financial position in British Somaliland necessitated drastic economies being made and it was agreed, with F.O. concurrence, that the Jigjiga Consulate should be closed down.

With

3
is away
With respect, I suggest that Mr. Wade should know that the arguments advanced in his despatch will not move the F.O. But we should send a copy of the despatch to the F.O. explaining that the recommendation is made by the Economic Committee which has been charged with the task of recommending economies, etc. etc. Say that the S. of S. is most anxious that the Government of Kenya should reduce expenditure where possible - that he appreciates, however, and the S. of S. for F.O. will no doubt agree, that the retention of the Consulate at Mega is essential, particularly in view of the situation which has arisen between the Italian and Ethiopian Governments. [ask whether] in these circumstances the S. of S. or F.O. will [consider] approaching [] the Lords-Commissioners of the Treasury with a view to the cost of the Mega Consulate being borne by H.M.G.

Express the hope that

C.A. Crosswith
20/5/31
The F.O. will not be slow to point out that their interest in the Mega Consulate is trivial compared with Kenya; (Mr. Rees' presence at Mega is probably worth a battalion of KAR on the border).

? As proposed

B. Brewster
20

I do not think that the analogy between the Mega and the Harar

See No 1
38236/30
S'land

20, this was
do.
Whee
20/5.

See 40
38567/31
S'land

1925 is complete - since there
 are, I think, few more British
 subjects or British interested persons
 (Mission houses: Arabs: Somalis) permanently
 resident in or near Harar than there
 are in or near Meqa - see e.g. the
 reports enclosed with 1 or 38236/30. On
 the other hand, it cannot be denied
 that the presence of a Consul there
 there is almost as necessary to the
 Gov. of British Somaliland as the
 presence of one at Meqa.

20/5

The Consulate at Meqa is maintained purely
 in the interests of Kenya. If Kenya were not there
 there would be no need for a Consulate. So the F.O.
 will almost certainly reply as they did in 1920
 that the Consul is really a frontier agent & that
 H.M.C. get no good out of it. The Somaliland ones
 are rather different and H.M.C. has to pay for them
 in any event either on F.O. votes or in the grant to
 Somaliland.

But of course the Consulate is not a better interest
 as the unopponents will naturally prefer on it. Still
 the post is indispensable as Mr Wade says.

We can't refuse to try to help Kenya - though
 it is only a try (and very nearly a "try-on") so

? As proposed
 1-2-2-7-1-1

Let us see the draft. 20-5.
 We have got to plead the case, though

Sir J. Maaffy.

I send on the draft for your
 consideration. I very much dislike
 making applications which are
 almost certain to be turned down (the
 Treasury might reasonably regard it
 as a wild request for a grant in aid);
 but our position in relation to the
 Kenya ^{un}officials will be much
 weakened if we turn down suggestions
 in matters in which the expense does
 not necessarily rest with the S of S.

W.C.S.
 23.5.35

This seems a waste of time but I am
 not a judge of the "tactics". In
 any case it is a dilemma, since we
 weaken our position with the F.O.
 & Treasury by putting up weak
 cases.

Am
 23/5/35
 G.I. at mel
 6/6/35

2 To F.O. (with 1) Cons. 7/6/35

Copy to No 2 has yet been received.

? Wait - say 3 months.

C. J. Grossmith
18/7/35

J. P. Hunter
19/7/35

BM

Still no reply to No 2.

D. Malone
19/10

I can't trace the recommendation
in No 1 in the final report
of the Select Committee on
Economy. In any case
there is no need to remind
F.O. ?

Continue to wait
C. J. Grossmith
22/10/35

Yes. This need not be
brought up again unless Kenny reminds.

J. P. Hunter
23/10/35

Ed.

3 Gov. Payne - No. 129 Gov. - 14.10.35
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE
Enquiries if circumstances permit of a reply
to (i) being sent.

Dupl. to F.O. LF com'n ref. 2

J. P. Hunter
9/11/35

4 To F.O. (Ltr 3) 13/11/35
Govs.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Rowe 209

Nothing further has yet been
received from F.O. regarding (2) ? wait

W. Payne
13.1.36

The Foreman has made the usual
provision for the Tulga Canal
in the 1936 Estimates, & there
is no query. But ? remind F.O. of.

C. J. Grossmith
16/1/36

J. P. Hunter
17/1/36

5 To F.O. - 18/6 - Govs. - 20/1/36

Room 309

Nothing further has yet been received from P.O. ? Wait

W. J. Parnell
21/2/36

W. J. Parnell
24/2

C. J. Parnell
24/2/36

W. J. Parnell
27/2

at ...

W. J. Parnell

Still nothing from P.O. - G. S. Parnell 21/3/36

? Remains 3/4

C. J. Parnell
21.3.36

W. J. Parnell
27/3
at ...

4/5

6 G. S. P. O. - cons - 3/4 -- 4 APR 1936

W. J. Parnell

Nothing further appears to have been received from P.O. G. S. Parnell 28/3/36

Wait
C. J. Parnell
29.4.36

W. J. Parnell

C. O.

2

Mr. Grossmith. 22.5.
Mr. Freeston. 22.5.
Mr. Flood. 22.5.
Sir C. Parkinson.
Sir G. Tomlinson.

38107/35.

Annex

X Sir C. Bottomley. 23. (*see further minutes*)

C.D.
R 6 JUN
D

DOWNING STREET,

~~May, 1935~~
7 JUN 1935

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

+ Permt. U.S. of S. 23/5
Partly U.S. of S. 3 6/6/35/47.

+ Secretary of State.

S3

Sir,

DRAFT.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

30th March 1935.
(No. 1)

long. Hays. S.

I am etc. to transmit to you
to be laid before Secretary Sir John
Simon, a copy of a despatch from the
Acting Governor of Kenya regarding
a recommendation of the Kenya
Economy Committee that ^{H.M.G.} ~~the question~~
should again be ^{asked to consider} ~~raised~~ of the
acceptance by His Majesty's Govern-
~~ment~~ of the cost of the British
Consulate at Mega in Southern
Ethiopia.

FURTHER ACTION.

2. The Economy Committee was
appointed by the Governor in the
early part of this year to examine the
expenditure of the Colony and to make
recommendations to the Legislature

for

with a view to securing a
r measures of economy which, if adopted, would
total of expenditure of
result in a net reduction amounting to, not less
a year.
than £100,000 in the net annual expenditure of
the Colony.

3. For convenience of reference, I am
to mention that a copy of the late Viscount
Milner's Confidential despatch, to which Mr.
de refers in the first paragraph of his des-
patch, accompanied the letter from this Office
of the 11th of August 1930, (Reference 37154/20), 37154/20.
and that the question of the retention of the
Consulate at Mega was raised in the correspondence
terminating with the letter from this Office of
the 23rd of May 1930, (Reference 16163/30). No. 3
16163/30.

4. Sir Hill, Gualifre-Hirst is most
anxious that the Government of Kenya should be
able to reduce expenditure wherever possible
his reason he would desire to support
the proposal that the consulate at Mega should
be paid out of Imperial funds. He recognises,
however, that the maintenance of the Consulate
is necessary in the interests of Kenya and
particularly in view of the present situation

G. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir J. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

in regard to the ^{Italian} ~~Abyssinian~~ and Italian
Governments, so that there can be no
question of the abolition of this post,
at any rate in present circumstances
and until the political situation in
regard to ^{Italian} ~~Abyssinia~~ has become clarified.
At the same time, there can be no
doubt that the maintenance of the post
at the sole charge of the Government of
Kenya, imposes ^{a not inconsiderable} ~~an~~ financial
liability on that Territory, and I
accordingly to express the hope that
Sir John Simon will feel able to
approach the Lords Commissioners of the
Treasury with a view to the whole cost
of the Consulate being borne by His
Majesty's Government in the United
Kingdom.

I am, etc.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI.
KENYA.

KENYA.

No. 114.

CONFIDENTIAL.

RECEIVED
23 APR 1935
C. O. REGY

30th March, 1935.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to correspondence terminating with the late Viscount Milner's Confidential despatch of the 6th August, 1920, regarding the maintenance of Consular Officers in Southern Ethiopia.

40.37154.

*The High Commissioner
recommends after a day
that the cost of the Consulate
at Mega should be borne by the
Government.*
22/4/35

2. An interim recommendation has been made by the Economy Committee that the question should again be raised of the acceptance by His Majesty's Government of the cost of the British Consulate at Mega.

3. The annual cost of this Consulate to this Government, exclusive of pension commitments and passages, is approximately £2,090, and, more especially because it has always been considered that its maintenance cannot properly be regarded as a responsibility of this Government, the question of the abolition of the Consulate or the holding in abeyance of the post of Consul has from time to time come under consideration.

Copy to F.O. (R)

Conditions on the Kenya-Ethiopian frontier are, however, as you are aware, for reasons beyond the control of this Government such that a Consular Officer in Southern Ethiopia remains indispensable. The situation which has recently arisen

MAJOR THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

arisen between the Italian and Ethiopian Governments has served to emphasise the necessity for maintaining existing arrangements.

4. It will be readily appreciated that a very considerable proportion of the annual military expenditure of this Colony is attributable to this Government's responsibility for maintaining an imperial frontier with Ethiopia and Italy, and that it is also from these circumstances that the necessity for a consular representative in the former territory arises.

5. It has recently been brought to the notice of this Government that full responsibility for His Majesty's Consulate at Harar in British Somaliland has now been resumed by the Foreign Office; and it is in fact understood that the British Somaliland Government was relieved of financial responsibility for this appointment in 1931.

38.236/50
5.1

As far as is known to this Government the duties of the Consular Officers at Harar and Mega are analogous, and it is difficult, therefore, to appreciate why the one should be accepted as a responsibility of the Foreign Office, while the other continues to be regarded as a proper charge against this Government.

6. Should you agree, I shall be grateful if, in the circumstances given, you will approach the Foreign Office with a view to relieving this Government of the expense of this Consular appointment.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant

C. M. Wade
ACTING GOVERNOR.