

1929

Kenya

No. 15530

SUBJECT

CO 533/384

James Scott

Kenya

Previous

15149/28

Subsequent

16151/30

1. Copy Col. Scott's letter to Prime Minister 7 Jan. (sent to G.O. for advice as to reply).  
Memorandum

2. To Martin 16th January 1929  
(with conf. letter and copy No.2 in 15149/26).

Mr. Allen

Early on January 16th, before No.1 could be dealt with, Sir S. Chapman, M.P. (copy attached) left here a letter ~~to me~~ from Colonel Scott identical with No.1, and later in the day he called and saw you. No.2 shows the result of your interview. I had ~~also~~ <sup>however</sup>, meanwhile, with Mr. Jeffries' assistance, prepared the attached memorandum.

Colonel Scott's farm ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> No.8:2B (or No.26) and is shown on the "key plan" and on the map from 4174/26 which I attach. I have marked his farm in pencil.

Two points arise :-

- (1) The alleged burning of Colonel Scott's buildings by Government servants.

We know nothing of this. It may perhaps be wise to ask Kenya whether there is any ground for the allegations.

- (2) The claim for rent.

The claim now made by the Kenya Government is apparently for eight years' arrears of ground rent at Sh41/60 per annum. Successful applicants for extensions under the Laikipia Land Extension Scheme were allowed reduced rents for their whole holdings as from the date of the extension. Colonel Scott, however, was not a successful applicant and this reduction therefore does not affect him. In No.2 of 10898/24 the Governor explained that he was not prepared to consider a further reduction of rent in Laikipia generally, but in reply the Secretary

*I think not JWH*

See the end. to No.3 on 15149/26

5/10/29

1/10/29

We do not know whether he applied at all

of State asked for observations as to the possibility of enquiring into the... granting some remission to them...

In view of the... letter to the... 18/10/48

Handwritten note...

Colonel Scott's case... Mr. Edgcombe... the Prime Minister's Private Secretary...

Colonel

In the... I think... 5/11/48

any of the... Chapman's talk with the...

15/11/48

I have this through... details of the settlement...

Robert... to the P.M.'s... with a copy of the memorandum... about Sir S. Cheyenne's visit...

All...

I have suggested in several... small amendments to the...

Handwritten signature...

action as proposed by the...

I agree to the proposed  
alterations in the memo, which  
are as follows:

Wed. 21. 1. 29

Suffice  
at once  
43149

To H. G. Vincent (S. office) 26 Jan 1929  
The following is an extract from a letter  
to Mr. Parkinson from Mr. Martin dated the 20th  
of January:

"I told Sir Samuel Chapman what I thought  
about his proposed Col. James Scott, H.C., and  
he appeared fully to concur. I doubt if he  
will bother me again on the subject."

at once  
4/2/29

H. G. MARTIN. 19 JANUARY, 1929.  
Acknowledges No. 2. and will write to Sir  
Samuel Chapman in terms suggested.

RESTRICTED UNDER STATUTE

Mr. Ashworth

at once by  
at once  
4.2.29  
H. G. Ashworth  
11/2/29  
at once

RESTRICTED UNDER STATUTE

Mr. Peakin,

The representations made to Mr. Baldwin  
were returned to Mr. Vincent in Mr. Edgcombe's  
letter of the 26th of January (see No. 2 to this  
file). That letter enclosed a note on the case,  
and the result of the interview between Mr. Martin  
and Sir Samuel Chapman is recorded in ~~minutes~~ in  
my minute on No. 3. A great deal of the wording  
of this seems familiar, particularly the abuse of  
poor Civil Servants like ourselves, and it closely  
follows, or may even be a copy of the previous  
letter to Mr. Baldwin, although I cannot say that  
I have any recollection of a claim for £10,000 which  
he makes in the penultimate paragraph. Apparently  
the letter to Mr. Baldwin was merely acknowledged  
from the Prime Minister's office, and they may re-  
gard it as sufficient to take similar action in  
the present case if you send Mr. Vincent a copy of  
Mr. Edgcombe's letter of the 26th of January last,  
together with a copy of the memorandum of which  
there is a spare in the file, and also inform him  
of Mr. Martin's report on the result of his inter-  
view with Sir Samuel Chapman as recorded on the  
previous page.

at once  
4/2/29

6  
To H. G. Vincent (S. office) 26 August 1929  
(No. 5 enclosed)

A. G. Vincent (20) 30 August 1929

Enclosed further letter from Mrs. Holt and enquire as to reply.

As I wish to find this out  
was in answer to the receipt of this  
letter from the Vincent in note

W.H. Allen  
1919

To Mr. Duff (sign) 2 Sept. 1929  
(with enclosure to Duff)

Enclosed file of letters. I did like permission  
to take a copy and the representations have  
been made to the notice of Lord Mansfield.

We can't object to this -  
but I hope if it can return the  
original to the letter of the  
D.M. may I have the book

W.H. Allen  
1919

The new version of Sept. 1929

W.H. Allen  
1919  
at ease

MISS E.M. WATSON, 10 SEPTEMBER, 1929.  
Returns letters addressed to Prime Minister,  
with copy reply sent to Dr. Scott's last letter. 5

Enclosed under Duff's  
with copy to a fortnight

1919  
at ease

Caught up as above

W.H. Allen

As we have heard nothing from  
Dr. Scott the way to put it

W.H. Allen

1919  
at ease

12. D/O letters.

13. Dr. Scott. (to P.M.) 19th. Nov. 29.

Enquires what action has been taken -

The Co. comes has already reached  
the first stage - & apparently nothing  
but an act was sent to the  
representative to the Boardman  
in fact

Check the case 1. Secretly  
eff. that the letter to the request  
was brought to the Boardman  
but that as there is nothing to

all the other papers to be  
permanently retained Lot P  
and a list of the papers  
was to be made & returned to  
you

W.M.K.  
26/1/31  
Mr. Edgecombe  
see Park Lane  
25.11.31

Letter  
Lot 25/11/31  
W.M.K. to Miss Watson  
re. 25/11/31

15. P.S. to P.M. .... 27th Nov. 29.  
Tns a copy of a letter sent to Scott -  
returns encls fwd. in No 14.

Pat  
W.M.K.  
25/11/31  
at the

A telephone message was  
received from Miss Chouin  
of 10 Downing St this evening  
asking what the copies in  
this file (subsequent to No. 4  
(original inward copies &  
copies of outward copies) should  
be sent over to No. 10  
urgently. There was no  
time

Miss Chouin

time to have copies of any  
of the cases made & after  
speaking to you I sent  
over everything subsequent to  
No. 4 in original  
form by  
A. G. Dhillon  
12/1/31

to - in view of the recent demands  
from the P.M.'s office that we  
should do so  
W.M.K.  
in return

most of the  
forwarded to us  
& to be  
at the  
at the

Mr. Allen  
in view of  
P.L. all cases handled  
will have been sent from  
the P.M.'s office (presumably  
sent No. 4 on 16/11/30) to 12  
as missing & some of the encls  
sent - we might now feel by  
after it - attaching the cases  
A. G. Dhillon  
4/3/31

take a brief note  
of the papers sent last  
1931

to - to be returned  
W.M.K.  
D. P. ...

at 5.15  
to be  
at 12 (11.15.31)

With the compliments of the Under-  
Secretary of State for the Colonies

as requested by  
telephone this afternoon

(N.B. This is record  
correspondence from the  
Colonial Office files & no  
copies have been kept.)

Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.1.

12 / 2 1931

B  
12A

7

With the compliments of the Under-  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

As requested by  
telephone this afternoon

(N.B. This is record  
correspondence from the  
Colonial Office files & no  
copies have been kept)

Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W. 1.

12 / 2 1931



**"STARVING" SETTLERS IN  
AUSTRALIA 8  
RESPONSIBILITY NOT WITH HOME  
GOVERNMENT.**

Major GLYN (L., Abingdon) asked the Dominion Secretary for particulars regarding the settlers under the Victoria land scheme approved by the Overseas Settlement Committee.

The DOMINIONS SECRETARY (Mr Thomas)—The number of settlers who proceeded to Victoria under the land settlement agreement of November 1922 was 848, accompanied in the majority of cases by their wives and families. Only 345 of the settlers took up land on arrival, and of these approximately 240 are now upon their holdings. The payment of £43,510 was made from the United Kingdom Fund towards the cost.

Major GLYN asked if anything was being done to maintain the 240 families on the land.

The DOMINIONS SECRETARY—No. That is not the business of this Government. I spoke to Mr. Scullin to expedite inquiry, and I believe that is taking place now. The responsibility for the people there rests with the Dominion Government.

Major GLYN—Is there no responsibility on the Home Government in sending out these people who are now in a state of destitution and starving?

The DOMINIONS SECRETARY—That statement must not be accepted, because if it is assumed that the millions of migrants to the Dominions are merely sent there from this country and we are to take responsibility, a serious situation would arise. I deplore the circumstances, but I cannot accept the view that the British Government must accept responsibility.

Major GLYN—Was it an approved scheme by that Government?

The DOMINIONS SECRETARY—Certainly, but I have already shown that the British Government have made their contribution. There is equal responsibility on the Dominions.

Mr MACPHERSON (L., Ross and Cromarty) asked whether it was not a fact that when the 700 families went out they were told that they would be settled on the land.

The DOMINIONS SECRETARY replied that it was true that in all its migration schemes, and especially in this one, there was a joint agreement between the Dominions and ourselves, based upon what was then accepted as certain prospects being open. He had already shown that so far as the British Government were concerned, they had discharged their responsibility. The question put to him now was—Were the British Government prepared to take over a responsibility that nominally rested with the Dominion? He had answered "No."

10, DOWNING STREET,

WHITEHALL, S.W. 1.

27.11.29.

*With the Private Secretary's*

*Compliments.*

RECEIVED

27/11/29

GOVT OFFICE

COPY

15 10

27th November 1939.

Dear Sir,

The Prime Minister has asked me to refer to your letter of the 19th November, and to say that your previous letter of August 14th was brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Prime Minister understands, however, that, as there is nothing to add to the replies returned to your previous representations, Lord Passfield considers that no useful purpose would be served by continuing the correspondence.

Yours truly,

G.P. DUFF (Signed)

James Scott Esq., M.D.

12  
X 34 " 11  
14  
25th November, 1929

Dear Miss Watson,

I send you the accompanying papers, hoping that you will be good enough to let us have them back. My object in enclosing them is to satisfy you of previous correspondence which you have had with Dr. James Scott.

On the whole we are of opinion that it would be preferable if a reply could be sent to his note of the 19th November, in order if possible to bring this correspondence to a close.

Could you write to Dr. Scott somewhat on the following lines:-

"In reply to your letter of the 19th November, I am glad to say that your letter of the 14th August was brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but that, as there is nothing to add to the replies returned to your previous representations, the Prime Minister understands that Lord Passfield considers

that no useful purpose would be served by continuing the  
correspondence." 1

Yours sincerely,

S. A. Roberts

STRATHALLAN HOUSE,

44 MINTO STREET,

EDINBURGH.

25<sup>th</sup> November 1929

Mr H. G. Vincent,

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1929,

Your letter does not contain a reply to my enquiries. Will you kindly bring my letter to the notice of the Prime Minister and inform me as to the action taken in connection with my farms in Kenya Colony.

I am,

Yours faithfully  
James Scott

13

13

1553/14  
4739



STRATHALLAN HOUSE,  
44 MINTO STREET,  
EDINBURGH.

19<sup>th</sup> November 1929.

Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, I.L.D. & Co.

Prime Minister



Dear Sir,

(No. 5) I had the honour of writing you on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1929 regarding my brief in Kenya Colony. Your Secretary replied that you had brought my representation to the notice of Lord Passfield. As I have not yet heard from him, will you kindly inform me what action has been taken in the matter.

I have the honour to be  
Sir

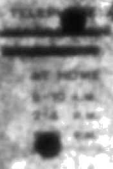
Your Obedient Servant  
James Scott.

13

13

15530/29  
4758

~~Mr. Scott~~

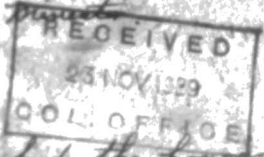


STRATHALLAN HOUSE  
64 MINTO STREET  
EDINBURGH

19<sup>th</sup> November 1929

Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, I.L.D. & Co.

Prime Minister



Dear Sir,

(No 5) I had the honour of writing you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1929, regarding my lease in Kenya Colony. Your Secretary replied that you had brought my representation to the notice of Lord Passfield. As I have not yet heard from him, will you kindly inform me what action has been taken in the matter.

I have the honour to be  
Sir

Your Obedient Servant  
James Scott.



14 XEA

6

30th August, 1949

Dear Vincent,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd August, enclosing the accompanying letter from Dr. James Scott, I do not think I can do better than send you a copy of Edgcombe's letter to you of the 16th January last.

Shortly after that date Mr. Martin, the Commissioner of Local Government Lands and Settlements in Kenya wrote as follows:-

"I told Sir Samuel Chapman what I thought about his protege Colonel James Scott, M.D., and he appeared fully to concur. I doubt if he will bother you again on the subject."

Apparently the letter to Mr. Baldwin was merely acknowledged from No. 10 and you may perhaps regard it as sufficient to take similar action in regard to the present letter.

Yours sincerely,

H.S. Vincent, Esq.

14 XEA

6

30th August, 1929

Dear Vincent,

With reference to your letter of the 7th August, enclosing the accompanying letter from Dr. James Scott, I do not think I can do better than send you a copy of Edgcombe's letter to you of the 16th January last.

Shortly after that date Mr. Martin, the Commissioner of Local Government Lands and Settlements in Kenya wrote as follows:-

"I told Sir Samuel Chapman what I thought about his protege Colonel James Scott, M.D., and he appeared fully to concur. I doubt if he will bother you again on the subject."

Apparently the letter to Mr. Baldwin was merely acknowledged from No. 10 and you may perhaps regard it as sufficient to take similar action in regard to the present letter.

Yours sincerely,

H. G. Vincent, Esq.

- Mr. Eastwood 28/
- Mr. Allen 26/
- Mr. ~~Edwards~~
- Mr. Bannister
- Mr. E. Harding
- Mr. J. Shackleton
- Mr. ~~Cornhill~~
- Mr. G. Jones
- Mr. S. Wilson
- Mr. ~~Crosby-Gore~~
- Mr. ~~East~~
- Mr. Amery

15530/1929 Kenya

Downing Street,

26 January, 1929.

For Mr. Edgcombe's signature.

DRAFT.

Copy to Mr. Bennett 30 August 1929

(No. 1 on file) ✓

enclosure to Mr. Allen & Mr. Bell

I return herewith the letter which you sent to us <sup>in the 8 Jan</sup> some time ago from ~~one~~ <sup>Leahy</sup> Colonel Scott, who has a <sup>complaint</sup> ~~complaint~~ against the Kenya Government <sup>concerning</sup> ~~concerning~~ in respect of his soldier settlement farm. I am sorry that there has been some delay, but <sup>Leahy</sup> Colonel Scott had also written to his Member of Parliament, Sir Samuel Chapman, and the papers were required in this connection. Sir Samuel Chapman called here and ~~was referred~~ <sup>referred</sup> to Mr. H. T. Martin, the Commissioner for Local Government Lands and Settlements in Kenya, who is at present in this country and it was suggested that they might ~~arrange to meet and discuss the matter.~~

I enclose a note <sup>prepared</sup> ~~prepared~~ <sup>by</sup> the Department

Department have prepared which summarises

this case. Reference to Colonel Scott's

letter has already been acknowledged from

your Office, and will suffice at

any rate unless there are further develop-

ments.

A 2

X. 5330. 29  
16  
2

- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. Bottomley.
- Mr. E. Harding.
- Mr. J. [unclear]
- Mr. G. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. S. [unclear]
- Mr. O'Connell.
- Lord [unclear]
- Mr. Amery.

Dear Madam,  
I enclose under  
separate [unclear] as it  
is [unclear], a letter  
[unclear] to [unclear]

DRAFT [unclear]

St. T. [unclear]  
by [unclear]  
37.5 [unclear]  
S.W. 1.

Confidential in envelope  
has it [unclear] to be put  
in another sealed  
envelope

20 [unclear]  
(20)

[unclear]

to be [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
Scott [unclear] [unclear]  
with regard to the  
[unclear] that he  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]

has been warned that if he  
Shilling) 5/32. 90  
has not sent ~~any~~ ~~any~~

to the other [unclear] & the  
I wish your [unclear] statement  
will be cancelled.

It is both has  
(under) fluently to

to [unclear], sometimes in a  
which interpret say  
I had to [unclear] in his  
a copy of the last letter  
sent to him in the  
to [unclear] [unclear]. It has  
[unclear] [unclear]  
has recently [unclear] the  
Prime Minister in  
terms similar to his  
letter to the General  
Chapman.

to Samuel Chapman  
with his letter when he  
called [unclear] of the [unclear]  
has explained to him

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Biddley.
- Mr. E. [unclear]
- Mr. J. Sackburg.
- Mr. G. [unclear]
- Mr. G. [unclear]
- Mr. S. Wilson.
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
- Lord [unclear]
- Mr. Amory.

DRAFT.

to whom the  
letter [unclear]  
Scott to the  
[unclear] 28  
was read

usually in the lines that  
cases has frequent  
opportunities from [unclear]  
Scott; that the matter  
was really in [unclear]  
has the fact [unclear];  
that with whom it was  
understood he had  
been in conversation; that  
the fact [unclear] of  
cause do nothing  
without hearing what  
the fact [unclear] had  
to say.

So small  
Chapman [unclear]  
recently took his  
view that the  
matter was new to  
him; that was  
naturally [unclear]  
for him to [unclear]

In letter from the  
Mammone papers  
of Holcott  
seems to think that  
should like to get at  
the facts before  
concluding whether to  
take up the matter publicly

In the letter was  
from Robert C. Susschroy  
to S: Samuel Chapman  
that the best course was  
to go him to have a  
short talk to the  
address 5 King James  
Place, Perth the said  
to which was to go to  
one place in at the  
Place of Informa Office  
if the case arising it  
all or have a preliminary  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan or a little

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Bonomey
- Sir E. Baring
- Sir J. G. ...
- Sir G. Grenville
- Sir C. Duns
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Lord Lamb
- Mr. Anson

DRAFT.

London 7 January 18  
24<sup>th</sup>  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. We  
are sorry to bother you  
with this but it shall  
be greatly obliged to you  
if you will write  
direct to S. Samuel  
Chapman at the  
address mentioned  
for a time. He  
takes a strong  
Holcott down  
with him, but  
accepted a suggestion  
that I was to  
write not to do  
this until he  
had seen you  
I have one  
of the things  
in our hands very  
but not to be sent

before that I would be  
 interested to you to  
 see before the interview  
 perhaps you will let me  
 know, & I can send  
 you either the original  
 or if we have copies made.



(Signed) C. D. PARRINSON

before that I want to see  
 document of you &  
 see before the interview  
 perhaps you will let me  
 know, & I can send  
 you either the original  
 or if need have copies made.

*[Handwritten signature]*

W. PARKINSON



MEMORANDUM

*John 1913*  
*to visit*  
*see 1913*  
*19*

Colonel Scott acquired a farm under the Kenya Land Settlement Scheme of 1913. <sup>Applicant</sup> ~~settlers~~ under the Scheme were required to prove that they possessed at least £1,000 capital which was stated to be the absolute minimum required. Naturally, however, the amount of capital actually required in any individual case depended upon the farm and the farmer himself. There was no question of the Kenya Government holding out a guarantee of success to <sup>applicants</sup> ~~settlers~~ possessing either £1,000 or any other amount.

*Copy made of this by [unclear]*

*44720/12*

<sup>Outstanding information a local market can be brought to the notice of</sup>  
Various pamphlets were given to intending applicants, and in addition, Colonel Scott according to his own admission, himself visited Kenya before agreeing to take up his farm. He cannot, therefore, have been ignorant of the existence of cattle disease and of the necessity for sheep dips.

There can be little doubt that having regard to subsequent economic events the minimum of £1,000 capital was on the low side, and in fact the Kenya Government considered it desirable after the close of this Scheme to ward off any intending settlers who <sup>might</sup> ~~may~~ be going out independently of the Scheme, that it was desirable to have at least £2,000. Subsequent economic events could not, however, be ~~foreseen~~ <sup>predicted</sup>, and the allegation that the Government deliberately misled applicants is, of course, unfounded. The Kenya Government has on the contrary done <sup>a good deal</sup> ~~everything possible~~ to help the persons concerned. It has provided railway communications, it has made a free gift of the 999 year lease of the farms (which had, under the original Scheme, to be purchased

~~The land called 'Sukuta' is 2000 acres~~  
~~of which 3271 acres have been allocated to the original allottees~~  
~~at a rate of 20/- per acre~~

The allottees  
have

by instalments at a fair market price, applicants of approximately 5000 have therefore only a small ground rent to pay.

While it is not denied that many of the original allottees failed to make good, the Governor reported in 1925 that the initial difficulties which they had experienced had been largely overcome and that many of the farms were then being developed by the original allottees. He expressed the opinion that on the whole the Scheme was to be regarded as a distinct success both from the point of view of the Colony and from that of the settlers themselves.

11/11/18  
S. J. ...

Colonel Scott apparently visited Kenya for a short period in 1920 and appointed a Mr. Campbell as Manager to look after his farm. In 1922 Colonel Scott brought various complaints against Mr. Campbell and the latter was tried in the Supreme Court of the Colony on a charge of criminal breach of trust, the prosecution being conducted by the Government who, according to Colonel Scott's own agents, conducted it very ably. Mr. Campbell was acquitted.

Nothing is known in <sup>the Colonial</sup> Office regarding the allegation that while some Government officials and their native followers were passing through Colonel Scott's farm they set fire to his buildings. He has never given any details of this occurrence.

The amount of £3,612/60 which is now claimed by the Kenya Government by way of ground rent is a sum of £32,000 of the annual rent £361/60 for each of the eight years since 1921. The sum of which the Kenya Government is entitled to be repaid if the Settlement (which will be reviewed if the Settlement Commission) was £1835-10-00.

See Memorandum  
No 31 (1949/50)

Col. Scott has only one other thing to say and that is that he is applying for a further step to be taken in the matter.

1929

Kenya

No. 13538

SUBJECT

CO 533/384

Appropriation of the Uganda and  
Kenya pensions of certain retired  
Customs & Postal Officials.

Previous

Subsequent