

1924

E. AFRICA

312  
C. O.  
41985  
SEP 24

From  
India  
office

Date  
3rd September 1924

CIRCULATION :-  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.  
Inst. U.S. of S.  
Perm. U.S. of S.  
Part U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State

East Africa Commission

Desires to support Govt of India in their request for reconsideration of the question of the deprivation of a vote to British Indians in preparing information for -

Previous Paper  
9.6.  
39153

MINUTES

Mr. Borthwick

Mr. Walter of I.O. called on Monday & left the two annexed telegrams from the Govt of India to which his official letter refers.

He urged reconsideration of the decision on 29.5.24 not on its merits, but on the fact that they might keep the Govt. of India quiet.

The object of his visit was that I had been after speaking to Sir H. Kennet that we should only be adamant about the Govt of India sending a representative to England to see the Commission, but that there was no objection so far as we were concerned to their sending a representative here to answer questions before the Commission. Chairman was in question falling within the Com's terms of reference.

at that time we had not received

Amends 5. Sept. 24  
to Mr. A. V. ...

SECRET

Subsequent Paper  
Govt Secy  
43781  
24 Done  
12817 18024/27 66,000 11/25-McC-E 208

accompanying letter of 9<sup>th</sup> July  
from the B. to Lord Southborough  
in which he asks that  
that a G. of I. representative  
shd give evidence before the  
Committee.

You spoke to me about this,  
& I submit draft on the lines  
which you indicated. It is also  
necessary to refer to Sir A. Hingwood's  
letter to Sir H. Lambert. The  
reply shd refer to our official  
policy & advise that we are  
satisfied that if a representative  
of the Govt of India were sent to East  
Africa as suggested it wd lead  
to a boycott of the Commission  
& make the position of the Commission  
an impossible one.

En 4/9/24

I should agree, subject only  
to the reply to Sir A.  
Hingwood. The Committee  
have been by his means  
specimens as to the

We two should  
go off ~~to the same line~~  
of course.

I did this  
on 5.9.

to Commissioner's report in 313  
Henry, and if the Indian  
can in his own best  
position will be favourable

As regards the <sup>the</sup> Lord  
Southborough has reserved the  
question for action by the  
Committee itself, & we cannot go  
further.

W. C. S. 4.9.24

G. B. W. S. 24

W. C. S. 4/9/24

W. C. S.

As regards the request of the Govt. of  
India to be allowed to give evidence before  
the Committee, this was considered at  
the 3rd meeting on the 2nd Oct and a  
reply was sent on the 10th. On the 7th Oct  
the reply was altered. This reply was approved  
by the Committee on the 5th of the 5th  
and the 10th of the 5th.

W. C. S. 4.10.24

Downing Street,

October, 1924.

Sir,

With reference to your letter (No. S & O. 2013) of the 27th July, I am directed by Lord Southborough to request you to inform the Secretary of State for India that the East Africa Committee have not considered the request of the Government of India to be allowed to send a representative to give evidence before the Committee in the event of any question arising in which Indians are interested.

2. As Lord Olivier will be aware, two special questions regarding Indians in Kenya, which were dealt with in the Secretary's Paper (CWA-1922) issued by His Majesty's Government in 1923, were not included in the terms of reference of the Committee.

3. The Committee realize, however, that there are other matters falling within their terms of reference, which Indians are interested and on which it may be desirable to receive evidence from a representative of the Government of India. I am to suggest, therefore, that the Government of India should be requested to formulate the

points

to on which they wish evidence to be given  
their behalf, and should be informed that the  
Committee will be prepared to receive their  
representative or representatives.

4. I am directed to say that the Commission  
is visiting East Africa, will not return to  
country much before the end of the year, and  
Southborough feels that it is highly important  
that the members of that Commission should be  
sent when the Indian evidence is placed before  
Committee.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. Curran*  
Acting Secretary,  
East Africa Committee.

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Committee will be prepared to receive their  
representative or representatives.

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Southborough feels that it is highly important  
that the members of that Commission should be  
sent when the Indian evidence is placed before  
Committee.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*J. Curry*  
Acting Secretary,  
East Africa Committee.

INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

3rd September 1924.

My dear Lambert,

We are asking you officially to reconsider your decision on the proposal that the Government of India should be allowed to send a representative to East Africa in connection with Ormsby-Gore's Commission. It may help you in reaching a decision to know that we have just received a private telegram from Lord Reading in which he says that if the proposal be accepted he would ask the Secretary of State to allow Sir B. Robertson (a member of the Secretary of State's Council) to act for the Government of India. Robertson would be accompanied by someone from India, probably an official, whose name would be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval and we would be quite willing to consult you, if you desired, before giving approval.

Robertson's discretion can be completely

relied

INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

3rd September 1924.

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Robertson's discretion can be completely

relied

relied upon and he can be trusted to cause no embarrassment either to the Commission or the local authorities. I should indeed have thought that there was more danger of a revival of political agitation if the local Indians were left to themselves than if they had the guidance of a man like Robertson.

Sincerely yours,

*A. Hutzel*



Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—  
The Under Secretary of State for India  
**Economic & Overseas**  
Department  
India Office  
London, W. 1.  
and the following reference quoted—  
**I & O. 3517.**

Telephone—  
Victoria 8020. L.O. Ext. No.  
Telegrams—  
Retavindram London



INDIA OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

C. O.  
41985  
4 SEP 24

313  
3 September 1924.

Urgent.

517

*File*  
With reference to your letter of 26th August 1924 I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to state that the Government of India were informed by telegraph of 27th August of the substance of your letter and also of Major Cressy Gove's letter of 13th August in regard to their proposal to depute a representative to assist the local Indians in supplying information to the East Africa Commission. The Government of India were asked to telegraph whether in the circumstances explained in your letter they preferred to relinquish their proposal.

2. Two telegrams, copies of which have been communicated to the Colonial Office, have since been received from the Government of India. The first is dated 27th August and crossed with the Secretary of State's telegram of that date, the second dated 28th August is in reply to the Secretary of State's telegram of 27th August.

3. It will be observed that the Government of India if their proposal were accepted, would select as their representative a high official of the Government whose instructions designed to prevent embarrassment have been given by an erroneous impression as to the object of the Commission. They also lay stress on the importance of the question of the general economic development of East Africa to which prominence is given in the terms of reference to Lord Southborough's Committee. The first and greatest importance

The Under Secretary of State  
Colonial Office.

importance of the trade between East Africa and India is illustrative of the part taken by the East African Indian Communities in the economic life of these countries and these communities (and with them the Government of India) are, therefore, from every point of view closely interested in an enquiry into the economic development of these territories.

4. Lord Olivier desires to support the Government of India in asking that the question of the deputation of an officer from India for the purpose contemplated may be reconsidered and feels bound to remark that it would be most unusual to refuse to allow the official representative of a Government to have access to a Commission in whose work that Government is so closely interested.

5 His Lordship presumes that in the case of Lord Southborough's Committee no objection will be taken to the deputation of an official representative of the Government of India to assist the local Indians.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*E. J. Turner*

No 3258  
24

Paraphrase telegram from Viceroy, Department of  
Education, Health & Lands, to Secretary of State 359  
for India dated 27th August 1924.

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Your telegram of 9th August, No. 2271, on the subject of proposal to depute an officer to accompany the East African Commission to assist in presenting the Indian case. We have discussed matter with Roy and Rengachariar who strongly emphasise the importance of an officer being present with the Commission in order to watch Indian interests, particularly in Kenya, where they are afraid that the immigration question may be revived in an acute form in the event of adverse report by the Commission; it is evident, judging by the notices received of questions on this subject for the coming session of the Legislature, that informed opinion in India appears to take the same view. We are, for our part, convinced that it is essential for our representative to be present with the Commission, at any rate in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, where Indians have considerable economic interests, not only to provide the Indian Communities with advice and assistance in explaining their case but also to assess the situation in these territories as preliminary to presenting the Indian case in London before the Southborough Committee and in order to assist Ormsby Gore's Commission correctly to appraise the Indian share in the economic progress of these countries. Further our representative may be useful in securing a reception of Commission by the local Indians in a friendly atmosphere since it is our intention to help the Commission and the local authorities in a spirit of co-operation in their effort to reach a satisfactory

solution

which is dealing with questions almost entirely independent of those dealt with by the Colonies Committee, has a deep interest for us. We therefore trust you will succeed in inducing the Colonial Office to reconsider their attitude. If there is any lack of effort on our part to ensure that Indian interests are carefully watched, public opinion which judging by the number of questions received for the fortnight has so far fully appreciated the significance of the issues involved, will accuse us of failing to attach due importance to the situation and of an indifferent attitude to Indian interests. If the Colonial Office do not accede to our request faith in His Majesty's present Government towards the just aspirations of the Indians will suffer severe impairment. We therefore again venture respectfully to press our appeal.

10/41985/24 E.A.

353

9/24

5 September 1924

DRAFT.

The Govt of India  
Economic & Commerce Dept

MINUTE.

Mr. Macdougall 24/9/24

Mr. Bostwick 4-8-24

Mr.

Sir O. Davis.

+ Sir G. Grindle. U

Sir H. Read.

+ Sir H. Lambert 4/9/24  
Sir J. Macdonald-Smith

Lord Arnold.

Mr. Thomas.

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten text]*

Sir,

I am etc to ack. the rec.

of your letter No ETO 337

of 3<sup>rd</sup> September <sup>relating</sup> ~~forward~~

to further telegrams received

from the Govt of India

regarding their proposal

that a representative

Sh<sup>d</sup>. be sent from India to  
East Africa in order to  
assist the local Indians

~~in~~ ~~to~~ ~~supply~~

information to the East Africa

Commission

10/4/95/24 E.A.

353

5 September 1924

9/24

DRAFT.

C. S. of S. for India  
Economic & Finance Dept

MINUTE.

Mr. Macdougall 2/9/24

Mr. Bostwick 4-8-24

Mr.

Sir O. Davis.

+ Sir G. Grindle. U

Sir H. Read

+ Sir H. Lambert 4/9/24

Sir J. Macdougall Smith

Lord Arnold.

Mr. Thomas.

for am  
W. H. L. L. L.

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of your letter No E TO 337  
of 3<sup>rd</sup> September ~~forward~~ relating  
to further telegrams received  
from the Govt of India  
regarding their proposal  
that a representative  
Sh<sup>d</sup>. be sent from India to  
East Africa in order to  
assist the local Indians

~~in East Africa~~ here to supply  
information to the East Africa  
Commission

~~2 Lord Arnold's views have~~

The fact of India now  
being the principal  
the importance which they  
attach to the development  
of trade between India

It is  
and East Africa, ~~and this~~

~~desire to~~, however, of  
best possible  
opinion that the Commission

in  
at the short time at their

disposal while they are in

India can  
East Africa ~~will not~~ be

in a position to investigate

the trade relations between

the East African territories

~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Commission~~ <sup>Commission</sup>

except in the most  
general way, <sup>and</sup> the <sup>interests</sup> ~~interests~~  
already

that their disposal of the  
Commission is adequate

to ensure that the

importance of the trade

between East Africa and

India will not be

overlooked. So far as

concerns the interests

of individuals in E. Africa

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir G. Arnold.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Lord Arnold.

Mr. Thomas.

~~and should not be~~

The fact of India now  
base their proposal on  
the importance which they  
attach to the development  
of trade between India  
and East Africa. ~~It is~~

~~It is~~ however, of  
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~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Commission~~ <sup>Commission</sup>

Except in the most  
general way, <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~inf~~ <sup>inf</sup>  
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and ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> countries

Except in the most  
and ~~most~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup>  
general way, <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>inf</sup> ~~inf~~  
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MINUTE.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir G. Grindley.

Sir H. Reade.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Lord Arnold.

Mr. Thomas.

concerned with his trade  
~~had Arnold in confidence~~  
most the Dept. of a special  
representative from India  
to advise the Commission  
~~2nd~~  
~~the~~ necessary.

3 Having regard to  
the delicate political  
situation now existing  
in East Africa, ~~and of~~

which, as the first of India  
must be regarded as  
we agree, ~~that~~ ~~to~~

in the best position to  
judge, ~~and Arnold adheres~~  
to his previous experience

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Davis.

Sir G. Grenville.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Lord Arnold.

Mr. Thomas.

of the  
disregards its being

formed for me.

As regards me and

photograph of your letter

I am to say that it

is understood that a

document will be sent

to you

The India Office to send

Mr. Southborough regarding

the Administration of the

Part of India to be

to be sent to the evidence

before Lord Southborough,

East African Committee in

the event of any suggestion

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of the Committee.

C. T. Davis

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are interested and that

Mr. Southborough has made

a careful note of the

request for the consideration

of the Committee.

C. T. Davis

In reply by

Mrs H. Lambert

My dear Hitzel,

DRAFT.

Arthur Hitzel  
U.C.A.

I have your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> about the East African Commission. I need not in my reply go over the ground covered by the official letter which you to you write this, but I want to assure you that we are satisfied that if a representative of the Govt of India were sent over to East Africa as suggested, in whatever terms his status and purpose were defined, the result would be that the Commission

MINUTE.

- Mr. *Newton*
- Mr. *4/9/24*
- Mr. *H. Lambert*
- Sir C. Davis
- Sir G. Grindle
- Sir H. Read
- Sir J. Masterton Smith
- Lord Arnold
- Mr. Thomas

corner him, boy cotted by all  
European interests and its  
position rendered impossible.  
We cannot see that with  
have not, I think decided,  
we ~~should not have~~ the

slightest misgiving about  
Robinson's discretion, but  
that is not the point.

Yours sincerely

W. M. Lawrence

cannot be <sup>in</sup> boy cotted by all  
European interests, and its  
position rendered impossible.  
We cannot take ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~with~~  
have not, I need hardly say,  
we ~~should not have~~ the

slightest misgiving about  
Robinson's discretion, but  
that is not the point.

Yours sincerely

W. H. Lawrence

Downing Street

419 5/24

5th September 1924.

SR

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd September and in reply to inform you that the proposals received from the Government of India regarding the proposed trade routes should be considered by the Government prior to any final decision being taken as to the formation of a trade route between East Africa and India.

The Government of India have now sent their proposal on the subject to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Secretary of State for India. However, it is possible that the Government of India will in the short time of their disposal will be unable to furnish the information to investigate the trade relations between the Indian territories and other countries except in the most general way, and the information already at their disposal is adequate to ensure that the importance of the trade between East Africa and India will not be

overlooked.

The Under Secretary of State for India  
Economic and Overseas Department.



overlooked. So far as concerns the interests of individuals in East Africa concerned with this trade, the despatch of a special representative from India to advise the Commission seems unnecessary.

3. Having regard to the delicate political situation now existing in East Africa which, as the Government of India will agree, the Secretary of State for the Colonies must be regarded as in the best position to judge, he must adhere to his previously expressed opinion as to the undesirability of the proposal made by the Government of India and deprecates its being pressed further.

4. As regards the last paragraph of your letter I am to say that it is understood that a communication has been addressed direct from the India Office to Lord Southborough regarding the nomination by the Government of India of a representative to give evidence before Lord Southborough's East African Committee in the event of any question arising in which Indians are interested, and that Lord Southborough has made a careful note of the request for the consideration of the Committee.

I am,

Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) C. F. Davis.

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