

1925
1924

51

KENYA

C.O.
935

6 JAN 25

Date

6th January 1924.

GOVERNOR CORYNDON TEL

CIRCULATION

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK.

Explains measures taken to ensure that sensational reports of events during tour are suppressed, but Gov's powers are limited. Raises certain queries and requests immediate reply by tel.

Asst. U.S. of S.

Asst. U.S. of S.

Asst. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

B.O 523

I understand that this tel. was being copied as usual, but it is too late in the afternoon to make one.

The repeated references to Mr. ... copy of ... I simply don't understand the message I have received here.

The tel. is a report of the ... interpreter that it has ... reaches the ... if so, it is a ... matter to refer ... information ...

Discharge Paper

90/1002/25

Local Govt. demand letters, it is unbecomingly to resist the conclusion that they are using I.R.H. to cover the big game attractions of Kenya.

As regards the Local Press, the editors are no doubt interested in I.R.H. things, but after all most of them are well known in their own farms.

It must seem that it is necessary to take a strong line in this - we cannot allow that I.R.H. must take itself as a matter of course by counting the self-interest of the Government as being more so by inferring it than the desirability of proceeding in the best of information which has yet

get otherwise, but that the same is observed that in 52 papers, actually should be given to the manager of the district education.

(That will be as well as will copy the original of)

Oct 6/15
C.S. 7/15

It is quite clear that the Govt must not hold up press telegrams illegally (or doubtfully legally). It is a case of holding back such info as it is in the power of the Govt not to communicate and using such influence as the Govt possesses with the pressmen to restrain their ~~operations~~ indiscretions.

to had been reply on them but at present and had the Government had the same?

12/7/15

I think the Government must not do with the pressmen as they are not all on the same side. Some are in the Government and some are not. It is not so simple as it seems.

A legal action under
this act as a lecture
in good sense & dignity
There is no lesson in
the publication of a telegram
that says that a witness
has been shot without
knowing or wishing
to do so in the Duke
of Devon's case. It is to
be made very long
and full and important
to the cause of liberty
in this country.

Draft telegram in these
lines is enclosed at once

1887 8-1-28

note

Draft telegram enclosed at me
copies of 1887 8-1-28 together with
my reply to 1887 8-1-28 sent Southampton
to the outside evening letter.

1887 8-1-28

Telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 6th January, 1925.

529

(Received Colonial Office 2.40 p.m. 6th January, 1925).

6th January confidential.

523
Your telegram 3rd January I am deeply concerned that the Press cables should have caused annoyance to His Majesty. The position is a difficult one. Any form of censorship is obviously undesirable and would be resented not only by local correspondents which does not matter much but by powerful papers in England which employ them. There are fifteen correspondents registered by the Post Office for recognised newspapers and evasion of local censorship is always easy through Agents in places like Zanzibar and Bombay. As you are aware as Governor in Council I am only empowered under Indian Telegraph Act Appendix 1 Part 2 paragraph 5 to intercept or detain messages in the event of Public emergency or for Public Safety. As neither state has arisen it has been difficult to take any action short of passing Emergency Censorship legislation, but information supplied to local Press has been as carefully checked as possible and in the instance referred to in your telegram under reply was only permitted on the understanding that an oblique reference should be made to Rhinoceros Inc. etc. This understanding was not observed. Incidentally such occurrences are seldom as dangerous as they sound and are common to practically all hunting safaris. I may say that the Government has already delayed certain non-European telegrams in places outside England so that possible undesirable reactions would be nullified, this is only mentioned to show that the Government has had the whole question of publicity in mind

throughout

throughout. Even in this action I was not sure that I was within the powers permitted under the Act.

A case in point has now arisen. His Royal Highness shot on New Year's Day a lioness and two buffaloes in circumstances which reflect great credit on his ^{integrity} integrity and good shooting. I have just returned from a two days private visit to his Camp and can vouch for accuracy of account which appeared in local Press. Is this incident to be suppressed in cabled reports. No reporters or photographers have been allowed near the camp but I think it right to add that in any case it would be almost impossible to prevent messages reaching England by roundabout routes and in more garbled form.

I shall be glad to be informed if there is any objection to the Press reports of safari going home subject to supervision as to brevity and to absence of sensational detail as to the Duke's safety. Government will use every effort to secure cooperation and goodwill of correspondents concerned upon whom in my opinion we are almost entirely dependent. In this view my Attorney General and Postmaster General concur.

Copies of your telegram and this reply are being sent at once to His Royal Highness's staff at their camp who will make every effort to see that news does not leak out through the camp attendants who are essential to all large safaris. I must add that I have again reassured myself that every possible precaution is being taken to ensure His Royal Highness's personal safety. I am glad to receive reply at the earliest possible moment as the Press cables are being held up in the meantime.

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