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D.A.G. DENHAM.

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DATE  
27th June 1925

5 AUG 25

CIRCULATION :-

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Asst U.S. of S.

*W. S. St. John*

Term U.S. of S.

U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

REMOVAL OF AKAMBA TRIBE FROM YATTA PLAINS.

Encloses copy of letter from Senior Commr. Ukamba Province, taking exception to Mr. Linfield's Memo stating that from 20,000 to 40,000 head of cattle died from starvation.

Previous Paper

D.A.G./ 23685

MINUTES

I have borrowed from Mr. Calder the Commission's records on this point, viz: Notes of Meeting with Akamba at Machakos, and Memorandum by the Kenya Missionary Council.

Mr. Calder's notes of the meeting say that one man said that he had paid 2625 rent for grazing on the Yatta Plains, and that the loss owing to the removal of the cattle was 40,000. The Missionary Memorandum puts the loss at about 30,000. I do not know where the figure 20,000 to 40,000 came from, but Mr. Buxton's pamphlet recently circulated shows that this matter received publicity quite apart from the Commission, and he refers to "The Times" as mentioning this 20,000 to 40,000 ~~range~~. Of course, so wide a range deprives the statement of all claim to confidence as a statistical record.

*Was sent to ... 21 AUG 1925  
To for 1231, 11 Dec 1925 only 23685/25*

*HA*

Subsequent Paper

*Robb 53080*

*Doc D.A.C. 33686*

I

*It was with  
in the grip*

I annex a flimsy of Gov/23685/25 (I do not know where the original is). There it is claimed that the mortality is not due to <sup>the</sup> move, but to disease; but the defence is just a little thin, especially in the last paragraph of paragraph 8, where the argument is, in effect, that the stock which was brought back to the reserves and died was lucky to have lived so long.

I see that any good is going to come of pursuing ~~the~~ matter.

? Acknowledge receipt, and say that as it seems clear that there was heavy mortality among the Akamba cattle, and that it is not possible to say how much of that mortality was due to the move, the Secretary of State does not propose to pursue the matter. As regards rent say that the Commission were informed by one Akamba headman that he paid £625 to the Government for the grazing privilege, and ask over what period rent was charged to the Akamba for grazing on the Yatta Plains, and how much in all was collected for this service.

*22/12/25*  
*0.8.25*

*Draft on 23685/25 includes amendments to  
Let's do in the trap.*

*10/12/25*

H. W. S.

I annex a flimsy of Gov/23685/25 (I do not know where the original is). There it is claimed that the mortality is not due to move, but to disease; but the defence is just a little thin, especially in the last paragraph of paragraph 8, where the argument is, in effect, that the stock which was brought back to the reserves and died was lucky to have lived so long.

I do not think that any good is going to come of pursuing this matter.

? Acknowledge receipt, and say that as it seems clear that there was heavy mortality among the Akamba cattle, and that it is not possible to say how much of that mortality was due to the move, the Secretary of State does not propose to pursue the matter. As regards rent say that the Commission were informed by one Akamba headman, that he paid £625 to the Government for the grazing privilege, and ask over what period rent was charged to the Akamba for grazing on the Yatta Plains, and how much in all was collected for this service.

W. S. H. S.

10.8.25

Draft on 23685/25 includes amendments to

Let's do up in the hope.

J. W. Allen

10/12/25

KENYA.

No 805



C. O.  
35664  
5 AUG 25

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA

27th June, 1923.

Sir,

from OAC  
23/8/23  
Commissioner,  
U. of

With reference to my despatch No.481 of 23rd April last on the subject of removal of certain natives of the Akamba tribe and their stock from the Yatta Plains, in May and July of last year, I have the honour to enclose for your information and for such action as you may consider necessary a copy of a letter by the Senior Commissioner, Uamba Province.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ACTING GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LT. COL. L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, W.

Ref: No.902/21/1

Nairobi, 9th June, 1925.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
U.F.S.  
The Hon. Chief Native Commissioner,  
Nairobi.

The E.A. Parliamentary Commissioner.  
The Yatta Plains.

The following is an extract from Mr. Linfield's Memorandum as published in the East African Standard of the 8th instant:-

"For a short period the Wakamba were allowed to graze their cattle on the Yatta Plains on payment of rent. Recently the privilege of leasing the area was denied to them, their stock was driven back into their reserve, and from 20,000 to 40,000 head died of starvation."

2. I beg to state that I take the strongest exception to the statement that "from 20,000 to 40,000 head died from starvation."

To the best of my knowledge and belief, it is not in accordance with the truth.

3. It is also untrue to say that the Akamba were recently paying rent. Their occupation of the Yatta since 1921 was free of charge.

4. As I am responsible for the administration of this Province, I attach considerable importance to the matter.

(Sd.) F.S. Trail

Chief Commissioner.

C. D.  
R 20 AUG  
D 21

Mr. Seel 19/ 8/25

Mr. Allen 19

Mr.

Mr. Strachey.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Mr C. Davis.

Mr G. Grindle.

Mr J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Mr. Amery.

*Had  
Answer  
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Downing Street,

21 August, 1925.

DRAFT.

KENYA  
804

SIR,

O.A.G.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No.605 of the 27th June, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Senior Commissioner <sup>natives of the</sup> Ukamba Province, regarding the removal of certain <sup>tribe other stocks</sup> Wakamba from the Yatta Plains.

2. It seems clear that at the time referred to by Mr. Linfield in his supplementary memorandum to the East African Commissioner's Report, there was heavy mortality among the Akamba cattle, and that it is not possible to say how much of this mortality was due to the removal of the natives, and, in the circumstances, I do not propose to pursue this matter further.

3. With regard to the statement that the Wakamba were recently paying rent, I have to observe

that

that the Commission were informed by one headman  
of the tribe that he paid the sum of £625 to the  
Government for the privilege of grazing. I  
should be glad to be informed over what period  
rent was charged to the Wakamba for grazing on  
the Yatta Plains, and what sum, in all, was  
collected for this service,  
have, etc.,

(Signed) L. S. AMERY