

KENYA

44176

44176

REC. 4 SEP 20

POSITION OF INDIANS

1920

1 SEPTEMBER

Sends copy of cable containing terms of resolution passed at meeting at Nairobi on the 9th August. Policy outlined and announced by Governor cannot be accepted as settlement. Contends that the policy is based on principle of racial differentiation. Indians will not rest until policy is reversed and the administration of the Colony transferred to the India Office.

-3036

ack off promising
in letter communication -
re: etc.

ack. off
store

logically

I think it better not of a off
ack. as off all with to
consider this before replying to
it.

There is little in it with concern,
as it is just to acknowledge the
fact that decisions are decisions.
we are now led to understand
that the Indians in Kenya will
never get the Kenya in mind

in India (to carry under
the

A. J. J. J. J. J.
REPUTATION

previous Page.

previous Page.

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East African Indian Deputation.

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Gannon Street Hotel,

London E.C.

2nd Sep:

1920

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The Rt Hon Viceunt Milner,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Lord,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th August ²⁶⁹ ₄₁₄₀ enclosing copy of your dispatch to the acting Administrator of the East African Protectorate embodying your decisions on the matter concerning the Indian Community in East Africa.

I send you herewith a copy of the cablegram I have received from the President of the East African Indian National Congress containing the text of the Resolution passed at the meeting of the Indian Community held on the 25th August 1920. I consider the decisions embodied in your dispatch, as announced by the Governor at Nairobi on August 9th. The Resolution expresses the grave disappointment and dissatisfaction of the Community with the decisions given by your Lordship in these matters. I feel, however, after the repeated warnings I have considered it my duty to give as to the strength of feeling naturally existing among my fellow countrymen in East Africa and to the disabilities and wrongs from which they have suffered so long. It is to your Lordship can hardly be surprised that their disappointment at a decision which fails lamentably to remove these disabilities and redress their wrongs is profound. The policy out lined in your dispatch to the Administrator cannot be accepted as a settlement of the grave problem

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Canon Street Hotel,

London E.C.

3rd Sept

1920

confronts the Indian Community, who will have to consider what
they should take in order to secure from His Majesty's Govern-
ment proper recognition of their claims.

I do not think any useful purpose would be served by entertaining
present on any detailed argument regarding the merits of the Indian
case and the failure to meet it by the decisions taken by your
ship. I wish only to emphasize once more that what the Indians of
Africa claim is equality of treatment with their Indian fellow-
subjects. Your Lordship proposes that they should remain in an inferior
status in every department of life, political and economic.

Indian representation on the Legislative and the Municipality is to
be a grossly inferior proportion to that enjoyed by the European
community, who are inferior to the Indians in numbers and wealth, whose
period of settlement in the country has been infinitely shorter,
whose contributions present and past to the economic fabric and pros-
perity of the Colony does not for a moment bear comparison with that of the
Indians, who founded the prosperity of the country, brought it to
its present pitch and have played the largest part in its military
glories and defence. By what principle or argument can such differ-
ence of treatment of civic life be defended or excused except that of
racial discrimination and assumption of racial superiority and preference.
Your Lordship is so anxious to repudiate.

East African Indian Deputation.

Cannon Street, E.C. 4.

London, E.C. 4.

1920

That such is the basis of the policy as long pursued and now to be continued is admitted when your Lordship declares that Indians are not fitted to enjoy the franchise on the same basis as the European community, a statement which on behalf of my fellow countrymen I desire to repudiate, though I prefer to refrain from a discussion of the questionable claims of a considerable proportion of the European community in East Africa to be superior to anybody in this respect. Your Lordship's decision to enforce strict segregation of the different races and to maintain and even to enlarge the present restrictions on Indians in regard to the ownership, acquisition and transfer of lands is a clear demonstration of the spirit of racial discrimination by which the policy laid down is inspired, in spite of specious representations to the contrary. The whole principle is involved in the attempt to confine the ownership and ownership of land in the more desirable parts of the country to Europeans rests on this basis of racial discrimination, which your Lordship repudiates. The test of social convenience and the other grounds on which your defence of this policy is based have no application in any part of the world where freedom and equality is the principle to be applied. The suggestion that one race or section of the community is entitled to monopolize the most desirable part of the country as a matter of social convenience, or on the plea, which could not be sustained as a matter of actual fact, that they are not fitted to live in these parts

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Cannon Street Hotel,
London, E.C.

1920

the climate is less desirable, while others are, is preposterous. Nowhere in the civilised world, could such a system be maintained on the basis of racial discrimination.

The question now comes to you mean that a policy openly based on principle of racial differentiation is accepted by His Majesty's Government and is to be applied in a colony of the British Empire which is directly under Crown rule and the Administration of the Colonial Office.

This is not merely contrary to all the principles laid down and accepted by the British Government and the boasted traditions of British rule. It is a direct break of the pledges more than once given to the Indian subjects of the King-Emperor. The effect of this betrayal of Indian rights and interests will be far reaching and will be felt throughout India as well as East Africa. Indians who are equal subjects of the Crown find that in the self-governing colonies there is a determination to exclude them as far as possible and even when admitted to deprive them of their natural rights.

But it has always been the plea of His Majesty's Government that they must not interfere with the policies and legislation of the autonomous states. It has always been advanced that there are countries colonised by white men, who are entitled in their own economic interests to exclude or restrict the immigration of Indians. But now we find that in an Indian colony founded by Indians, whose prosperity depends on Indian trade and industry, Indians are expected to accept an inferior status and to be made

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East African Indian Deputation.

Cannon Street Hotel,
London, E.

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1920

subject of racial discrimination in every respect in favour of the British Community, who are now coming and a small minority of the population. If this is the way in which the interests and rights of Indians are preserved and protected, not by a self-governing dominion with whose policy His Majesty's Government cannot interfere, but by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for above policy the Imperial Government is directly responsible, it seems that there is little to choose between the two, and Indians fare no better at the hands of the Imperial Government than at those of a self-governing British Colony. And it is clear that their only safety lies in the transfer of this Indian Colony from the jurisdiction of the Colonial Office to that of the Indian Government who are the natural Guardians of the interests of the Indians and the Indians in territories which have been colonised by Indians and where Indian interests overwhelmingly predominate.

In conclusion I can only repeat how profoundly disappointed I and my countrymen must feel at the failure of His Majesty's Government to deal with them with even handed justice. They cannot accept the conditions stated as a settlement of their rightful claims or rest under the stigma of inferiority and deprivation of rights, to which they have a natural as well as an acquired claim, and they will not rest until this wrong is reversed, their rights and interests duly recognised, and the control of the administration of the Colony transferred to the Government

East African Indian Deputation.

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Cannon Street Hotel,

London, E.C.

1920

India.

I am,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Amjwani', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

NAIROBI

100 Jeevanjee Care Convenient London.

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Following resolutions passed unanimously at the mass meeting held on 22nd August 1948, the meeting emphatically shared Indian nominated Legislative Council members that this mass meeting of Indian citizens of Nairobi held under the auspices of Eastern Africa Indian National Congress puts on records the feelings of keen disappointment at the announcement made by His Excellency the Governor of Imperial policy affecting Indians in Eastern Africa and most importantly protests against assigning inferior status to British Indians in East Africa territories first by not granting the due and effective representation on executive Legislative and Municipal Councils secondly by insisting upon the application of the principle of segregation of races and thirdly by putting restrictions on ownership of land by them and prays the Imperial Government that disabilities Legislative or Administrative imposed upon them be removed immediately. The meeting appreciates sincerely the work done by East African Deputation in London lead by Jeevanjee strongly repudiates the charge of exaggeration laid against the secretary of State for colonies and approves policy pursued by the above letters containing full details follow.

Husseinbhai Suloman virji chairman
Mass meeting and President Congress

Standing Committee.

East African Indian Deputation.

Cannon Street Hotel,

London, E.C.

24th September

1920

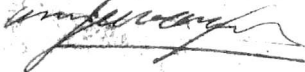
3c
The Rt Hon Viscount Milner,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Lord,

In reference to your acknowledgement dated Sept: 8th of my letter of the 2nd Sept: in which you state that a further communication will be addressed to me as soon as possible. I beg to inform you that I am leaving this country for India and East Africa on October 1st, and should feel greatly obliged if you could let me have an answer to my communication before I sail.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,



30th September, 1920

Dear Davies,

With reference to the enclosed letter of September 24th and telegram of September 29th from Mr. Jeevanjee, I now enclose, on loan, a copy of our despatch to the East African Government of May 21st last. I also enclose a copy of our own reply to Mr. Jeevanjee of September 25th. I should be glad if you would return the latter and the copy of the despatch.

You will note from the telegram that Mr. Jeevanjee leaves for India tomorrow morning. As far as Lord Milner is concerned any further discussion must be on the points of detail, which are still left open. Lord Milner can hardly be expected to admit to discussion the demand that this Colony, where natives form 99 per cent of the population and in which the former European population has since been augmented

by

M. Davies, Esq., C.E.

Dr H. C. C. D.
Mr. Thornton

This letter of Mr. Jennings
to the P. M. reaches us the day
before Mr. J. is due to return to
India.

6. setting below
from

Mr. Kerr might be sent a copy of
the despatches of May 20th, with his own
copy of Mr. Jennings's letter of Sept. 2 and
the flying of an copy of Sept. 3, and
be told that so far as Lord Dalhousie
is concerned any further discussion
must be on the points of detail still
left open, and that Lord Dalhousie
can hardly be expected to admit
to discuss the demand
that the colony, i.e. the natives
form 99 percent of the population
and in which the ^{force} ~~high~~ ^{high} ~~employment~~
population (which saved the
country during the war) has been
been suffering a large volume
of their ~~work~~ ^{work}, that he
handed over to the Govt of India
the administration necessary for

ideas of the use very enlightened
Indian population.

Cal. 30. 9. 20

1615

We understand that we learn that
the Government has recently been in
Germany to arrange for direct
commercial & shipping relations
with India (both extension of
British Trade) & that the P.O.
man who was rather perturbed about
it.

paper
in your

A. R.
30/9/20

To Postmaster

His letter answered to Mr. Davis

Next
26/9/20

It seems clear that the Director of the
letter of 2 Sept. also went to Mr. Davis.

This post was with the papers.
attach & send

Cal.
30/9/20

30/9/20

30/9/20

44176 pro

255

copy

Ed

25

DRAFT.

July 25 1920

A. M. Jennings copy

MINUTE.

Mr. C. G. ... 20

Mr. ... 20

Mr.

Mr. Grindle.

Sir H. Lambert.

Sir H. Keat.

Sir C. ...

Col. Amery

Lord Milner

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The position of ... in ...

... of the ... of Sept. ... also ...

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You ... of ... of ...

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that ... the ... of election

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Copy 20. ... of ...

2 LFB

His Lordship

concerns that no report

will be sent by discussion

which has
further the general decisions taken, but

that is stated in the letter from this report

the 6th of August to the Hon. Sec. Bureau

and the 10th, ~~which~~ ^{he} will be

to receive a statement of views on

the matter which will be sent to

the Secretary

(Ed) Walter D. Elliot

London N.W. 1