

KENYA

14924

116924

127

120
1921
22 Feb
Previous Paper.
4366/20

Re: Hawkins

Conduct of native policeman. Resentment

Submits report. States that case is absolutely isolated, & in no way to be taken as typical of the conduct of native police. Further warning orders, however, have been issued.

~~Mr. ...~~ ~~Mr. ...~~ ~~Mr. ...~~

He is glad to receive the fact
assurance that the case is absolutely
isolated and in no way to be taken
as typical of the conduct of the native police.
It would appear, however, that it had been
for the illness of the ...
the ... of the native policeman
... has occurred at all.

... and ...
has been glad ...

Uncl 507
6/2/21

Subsequent Paper

22 February, 1921.

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Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the remarks contained in Lord Milner's despatch No. 1873 of 29th December on the subject of the behaviour of the native policeman Kisamba in the course of the criminal investigation which gave rise to the case of Rex versus Longey Hawkins.

1. While fully agreeing with Lord Milner that the action of the askari was in every way regrettable and reprehensible, I would emphasize the fact that the case in point is absolutely isolated and in no way to be taken as typical of the conduct of the native police.

2. The fact that during the investigation of the case the askari in charge of the Ruiru Police Station was suffering from malaria, being subsequently removed to hospital in Nairobi in a semi-conscious condition, and that on his return to Ruiru he was unable to get and incapable of performing his duties, is a considerable factor on the whole in the case. It seems probable that if the case had been investigated at an earlier date it would have been different.

3. The fact, however, that Kisamba took his own defence and proved that at the time in point he was fully aware of the responsibility of the acts which he had committed,

Yours faithfully,
WINSTON CHURCHILL, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

committed, with the connivance of and probably on the instructions of Hawkins, and of the fact that he had been acting contrary to all orders and would in consequence be punished.

5. From the earliest days of their training the native police are taught that on no account, except in self-defence, may they use violence to any person. They are frequently called upon to act under very trying circumstances, particularly when brought into contact with Europeans, and taking everything into account, I am satisfied that their conduct is generally extremely good.

6. With due respect therefore I venture to give it as my opinion that the statement contained in paragraph 4 of the despatch under reference, to the effect that the case of Victoria is indicative of a general state of laxity of discipline in the Police is incorrect. I consider that in the training of the police every effort is made to teach them to abstain from undue acts of violence and from abuse of their powers.

7. Further instructions have however been issued and all officers in charge of units have been told constantly to impress upon the men under their command the necessity of strict obedience to orders on this subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant

Edward Ashley

Downing Street,

6 April 1901.

DRAFT

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Sir,

I have etc. to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 200 of the 2nd Feb., on the subject of the behaviour of the native policeman Klanda in the course of the criminal investigation which has risen in the case of Rex versus Langley Hawkins.

I have been glad to receive your assurance as to the general good conduct of native police, and I have issued further instructions to be issued with a view to preventing the possibility of a similar occurrence in future.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Balfour
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. H. Lamb
- Sr. H. Ross
- Mr. G. Fisher
- Col. Amery
- Mr. Churchill

[Handwritten signature]

1870/200