

1923

KENYA

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36306

REC.
RE. 21 JUL '23

From
GOV'S DEPUTY
NORTHCOTE

CONF.
374

DATE

25TH JUNE 1923

FOR CIRCULATION :-

Mr. *Bottomley*

Mr.

Mr.

Asst. U.S. of S.

27/7/23

SUBJECT

POSITION OF INDIANS

DELEGATION FROM E.A. ASSOCIATION

Reports as to the history of the Association and connection with the Indian Assoc. Has no hesitation in giving assurance that telegram requesting permission to send delegation is in no way representative of any large section of public opinion.

Permit U.S. of S.

Part U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

H. G. B.

38502

MINUTES

This is an interesting dispatch. The connection between the Thacker organization & local Indians, is not definitely proved perhaps, but the presumption is strong.

I doubt whether we need send this to I.O., but we can keep it in mind for use in case of need.

? ack: receipt.

*ack
16.7.23*

*H. J. R.
27/7/23*

Uncl. Conf. 7 Aug 23

Subsequent Paper

36306

36307

KENYA.

NO. 374.


 GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
 NAIROBI,
 KENYA.
CONFIDENTIAL.

25th June, 1923.

36306

 REC^d
 RE. 21 JUL '23

 S.O. 29489
 My Lord Duke,

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No.168 of June 11th which dealt with a request by the East African Association for permission to send a delegation to England in connection with local Indian questions.

2. The history of the East African Association is, so far as can be ascertained, as follows:-

On July 10th, 1921, a communication was addressed to the Chief Native Commissioner by the Kikuyu Political Association notifying him that Harry Thuku, who had been designated as Secretary of that Association on June 25th, was no longer Secretary, because he was in Government employ. The reasons communicated verbally and confidentially were that he was too impatient of control by the Association and was apt to take independent action. Harry Thuku immediately formed another Association styled the East African Association, claiming that it represented all the natives in the Colony. Names of officials and members were never submitted to Government but the only members known are junior clerks and domestic servants in the employ of Europeans and Indians in Nairobi, and the Association, throughout its career, appears to have been nothing but a cloak for Harry Thuku and a few Indian and Native

Native.

GRACE
 THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,
 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
 DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Native supporters.

411
26/88

3. The connection between this Association and the Indian Association is illustrated by the tenor of its telegram, which Your Grace communicated to this Government in Colonial Office telegram of June 2nd, the signatory is a Kikuyu native who is more commonly known by the name of Abdullah Tareira, under which name he was recently sentenced to 12 months imprisonment for his share in the Thuku riot. The sentence was reduced on appeal to a fine of Shillings 200/- or in default to 5 weeks Rigorous Imprisonment, which is alleged to have been paid for him by the Indian Association though it has not been possible to get confirmation of this. Since his release he has been under Police observation, and is known to have been holding meetings of an inflammatory tendency at the house of an Indian resident in Nairobi with the alleged object of raising funds to work for the return of Harry Thuku. It is therefore probable that he sees in the discussion of the Indian question an opportunity to get to England at the expense of his supporters to further his own aims. The telegram is alleged to have been inspired and drafted by one Mangal Das, a Sikh agitator and a leading member of the Indian Association.

4. No account of revenue or expenditure is ever given by the collectors of the Thuku collections, but there can be no question that no inconsiderable portion goes to support his leading adherents, such as Abdullah Tareira, in idleness.

5. I have no hesitation in assuring Your Grace that the telegram is in no way representative of any large

section

section of public opinion and is unworthy of serious attention.

6.A.S.
29/4/89

6. The tenor of Your Grace's telegram of the 19th instant has been conveyed to the so-called Association, whose address is now c/o Messrs. Khambatta & Sons, an Indian firm in Nairobi.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most devoted
and most obedient servant,

J. K. S. Khambatta

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

633
OAG 36306/23 Kenya

633

Lead

~~83~~ 7 August 1923
Sir

DRAFT.

confidential
OAG.

MINUTE.

Mr. Seel ^{1/8 73}
Mr. Parkin
Mr.
Mr. Davis.
Sir G. Grindle.
Sir H. Read.
Sir J. Masterton Smith.
Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
Duke of Devonshire.

Mr. also m
36307/23

I have the honour to ack.
the receipt of your Conf^d

dent. No 374. of the 25th of
June, ~~and to inform you~~

regarding the request of

the East African Association

to send a for permission

to send a delegation to

this country in connection
with local Indian

over

questions.