

1923

KENYA

29634

C-0
36307

REC
RE: 2 JUL 23

FROM
GOV'S DEPUTY
NORTHCOLE

CGNF
376

DATE
25TH JUNE 1923

FOR CIRCULATION :-
Mr. *K. S. Cole*
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.
S. H. ...
97/10/73
Perm' U.S. of S.
Part U.S. *...*
Secretary of State.

SUBJECT
POSITION OF INDIANS
DELEGATION FROM KIKUYU ELDERS

Reports fully as to meeting with Kikuyu Association. Points out growing interest of Headmen and Elders in political issues of all kinds. States they desire message to be sent to H.M. expressing their loyalty and gratitude for the care bestowed on their welfare.

Previous Paper

...
36306

MINUTES *2 papers*

Very interesting.
Kingani is an old & trusted Kikuyu chief.
As to para 6 - we have not taken up in the memorandum the question of the appt. of Indians to higher branches of the service. The Indians have urged this, but it was not regarded as one of the "practical points at issue" for decision by H.M. It is only fair to say that if we had in Kenya really good class Indians filling some of the higher appts., the natives might thus come in contact with Indians.

Subsequent Paper

...

MINUTES

who might command respect. And as things are in which view is quite intelligible.

On 10/10/7 - This assurance of loyalty to the King must be taken into account. It will be a great day for E. of. when the Prince of Wales can visit the dependencies on the East Coast.

On 16/10/7 - We can express appreciation of the offer, but we are not likely to want the Kikuyu to come.

? all: receipt & thank for full statement & express appreciation of the way in which the offer has dealt with the application from the Kikuyu elders - say that

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

[We must trust the local authorities to put this into appropriate Swahili or Kikuyu.]

635
The Elders should be informed that Sgt. has conveyed to them the message of assurance of their loyalty registered for the care invariably bestowed upon their welfare & that the King was pleased to receive the assurance most graciously -

(2) that the Elders will have understood from the recent pronouncement of Govt. that the interests of all the African tribes in Kenya will be most fully safeguarded -

& (3) that Sgt. appreciates their readiness to proceed to this country if at any time their presence for discussion of matters affecting their interests is considered desirable - but that they may rest assured that the Sgt. will be kept fully

fully up. through the
Gov. of Kenya of any
views wh. they may
wish to express.

Kindly, see the Dep.
has gone. P.S. might
send to Lt. Stamford
a copy of the call's
msg. for the King to
see may that a
suitable reply has
been sent through
the ady. to the assurance
of equality

Yr. Contents.
A.S. 317

all
11.7.13

As proposed?

The jealousy of the white
of any encroachment upon their
land is very proper & has
every support here. Post, at all
events, of the white man's
a "Noblesse" away and to many of
the Europeans ("they should never
have been better railway?") but
there has been no overt demand
for several years.

It is all to be found that the
headman should take an
interest in political matters.

The main danger is that they
may be left behind by the
Yes - that is a
real & serious
danger
K.Y.A.
organization break down
altogether.

Oct. 27.7.23

28
27/VII/23

S.P.

You should be as near the depot.
? No papers
A.S. 317.

Interesting - I agree to
course proposed.

D.31.7

Whitcomb

In see Col. Wigram's
letter annexed.

SECRET ? Publy. all

If you can get by Jan 11/19/23
does not know of the history -
or possibly - all are taken
the best houses & a certain
number of the houses.

Publy. Oct. 138.23



H. M. YACHT VICTORIA & ALBERT.

10th. August, 1923.

Dear Marsh,

The King desires me to thank you for sending the despatch from the Governor's Deputy in Kenya regarding the views of certain Kikuyu elders in connection with the current Indian question.

They certainly do not wish to be dominated by the Indians, and it is a pity that you did not show this to Mr. Sastri before he left for India.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Wigram

E. H. Marsh Esq.,
C.B., C.M.G., C.V.O.,
Colonial Office.

KENYA.

NO. 375.

CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

NAIROBI,

KENYA.

36307

25th June, 1923.

REC.
REV. 2: JUL '23

My Lord Duke,

Soo
29802

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No.169 of June 11th concerning the desire of certain Kikuyu Elders to send a delegation to England in connection with current Indian question.

2. The meeting to which reference is made was held as a result of a written application signed by the President, Assistant President and Secretary of the Kikuyu Association who are all Government headmen, and was also attended by Kinyanjui, the Paramount Chief and other leading headmen.

Soo
36306

3. I think it the probable case that the request of the Elders was actuated partly by their cognizance of the telegram sent by the East African Association to Your Grace to which reference is made in my Confidential despatch No.374 of even date. The Elders and, I believe, the great majority of the Kikuyu are opposed to Thuku's methods and an alliance, such as appears to exist between his adherents and the protagonists of Local Indian claims would tend to place them in opposition to those claims.

4. At the meeting, however, above mentioned both the Chief Native Commissioner and I were strongly impressed with the genuineness of the spirit in which the Elders raised their objections to an extension of Indian control over natives and it is pertinent to add that no mention was made of Harry Thuku or the East African

Association

AS 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.

Association at that meeting until their comments were sought on the concluding sentence of the East African Association's telegram. Even so they indicated no great hostility to that Association but expressed derision at the suggestion that their views on the Indian question were inspired by other than their own sentiments.

5. With regard to their four points as stated in my telegram under reference:

the first indicates how in any matter political or otherwise the prime aspect in which the Native regards it is its resultant upon their land holdings. Having before me the frequently expressed undertaking of Your Grace and previous Secretaries of State as to the Sanctity of the Reserves it was not difficult to reassure them on this point. It may be of interest however to note the acumen with which these - at the best - partially educated Natives differentiated between the claim for equal rights and the demand for an extension of political control.

6. Great emphasis was laid on the second point; it is true of course that the Indian official with whom they have come into contact holds usually a not highly responsible post; it was clear that they had particularly in mind the Stationmasters at small Railway Stations; they emphasized the difference of their experience in dealing with European officials of all grades and asked that particular reference should be made to their lack of confidence in any extension of Governmental functions among Asiatics.

7. In dealing with their third issue I spoke at some length of His Majesty the King's close interest in his Native subjects and the faithful pursuance of

His

His Majesty's devotion by successive Secretaries of State and stated that the Native factor in the decisions to be made on the matters now under consideration would be undoubtedly paramount with the Authorities in England. As Your Grace is doubtless aware the Native tribes here have a very strong veneration of the Sovereign and any expression of royal opinion leads to extreme confidence and satisfaction. On this occasion the Elders requested me to convey through Your Grace to His Majesty a strong assurance of their loyalty and gratitude for the care invariably bestowed upon their welfare.

8. It was then pointed out to the Elders how, were there any question of a Native delegation, it must be representative of all the leading tribes and not a single one and some of the difficulties were indicated, also the probability that by the time such a body could reach London discussions might be at an end and it was suggested to them that they might withdraw their request. This they consented to do, provided that some expression of their willingness to proceed at any time if called upon by Your Grace were added to the telegram which they wished sent putting forward their views.

9. I enquired of the Elders somewhat particularly as to whether the Kikuyu generally supported the opinions expressed by them and was assured that the vast majority of the Tribe was unanimously in agreement therewith.

10. The subject has been dealt with at some length here as it deemed important not only that Your Grace should be informed of the latest Native views on certain extant problems but also that the great and growing interest

interest taken by the Headmen and Elders in political issues of all kinds should be disclosed.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most devoted
and most obedient servant,

J. & S. Northcote

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

C. D.
R - 3 AUG.
D

OAG 36307/23 Kenya.

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Handwritten mark

Handwritten mark

Sir

7 August 1923

I have etc. to ack. the

receipt of your Confidential despatch

No. 375, of the 25th of June,

and to express my thanks for

the full statement contained

therein regarding your meeting

with ~~the~~ certain Kikuyu elders,

and ~~to~~ my appreciation of

the manner in which you

dealt with the application

of the Elders to be allowed to

send a delegation to this

country in connection with

the Indian question.

DRAFT.

Confidential

MINUTE.

Mr. Seel 1/8/23

Mr. Parkison 1/8/23

Mr. Nettleton 2/8/23

Mr. Davis.

Mr. G. Grindle.

Mr. H. Read.

Mr. J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Chief of Devonshire.

Large handwritten flourish

OAG 36307/23 Kenya

enc. to Sec.
by OAG (dispatch
375 Conf. 4/15/23)

Small handwritten mark

2. I have to request
that in informing the Elders
that I have carefully considered
the points which they wished
to be brought to my notice, you
will ~~state~~ make a statement with following effect
will announce that I have
conveyed to H. N. ^{the King} their message
of assurance of ~~their~~ loyalty and
gratitude for the care invariably
bestowed upon their welfare,
and that His Majesty was
pleased to receive the assurance
most graciously; ~~that they~~,
~~The Elders~~ will have
understood, from the recent
pronouncement of the policy
of H. N.'s Government, that
the interests of all the native
African tribes in Kenya will

DRAFT.

2
MINUTE.

Mr. Davis.
Mr. G. Grindle.
Mr. H. Read.
Mr. Masterton Smith.
Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
Mr. of Devonshire.

be most fully safeguarded;
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~~I shall be glad~~
~~to have will also inform them~~
~~that I~~
appreciate their readiness
to proceed to this country,
if at any time their
presence is considered
desirable for the discussion
of matters affecting their
interests, but that they
may rest assured that
I shall be kept fully
informed, through the Governor,
of any views which they
may wish to express.