

1923

KENYA

171

C O  
13143  
RET<sup>d</sup>  
RE- 14 MAR 23

MISSIONS SECRETARY  
METHODIST CHURCH

DATE  
10TH MARCH 1923

REGULATION

SUBJECT

GOLBANTI ESTATE

Mr.  
U.S. of S.  
U.S. of S.  
U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

Complains of action of Govt in including in Native Reserve and requests enquiry.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

v. aft

Col. 21.3.23 *atue*

*And 10. 13 March 23  
copy sent by post conf 22 minutes  
to Rev. Stedford (186) - 19 April 1923*

Mr. Stedford and two colleagues called on the 26th. They showed me the original deed of 1864 by which an imposing number of native chiefs, or ~~leaders~~ <sup>elders</sup> assigned the land in question to the Mission. I was told that this deed was registered at the time in Zanzibar, and it bore the stamp of the ~~Land~~ <sup>Land</sup> Registry, dated the 8th June, 1907 and signed by Mr. H. Hastings Horne. The registry number was 78 of A/1907.

Mr. Stedford pointed out that the Government had recognised their title to the extent of compensating the Mission for land included in the original area which they had handed over to the neighbouring German Mission.

It appeared (a) that the "confiscation" had

Subsequent Paper

302  
36370

had been carried in Executive Council by one vote only and (b) that subsequently to the confiscation the District Commissioner, Mr. Fazan, in discussion with the local representative of the Mission had allowed them up to 100 acres for the purposes of the Mission. The original grant was for 6,830 acres.

It appeared that the Mission had made no use of the land for purposes of agricultural instruction etc., which they say the natives do not need, and that they attach importance to it mainly because of the added prestige which it gives them in the eyes of the natives. However, when I suggested that since it is something which the Government might say, a possible way out might be to let them have the land on condition that it was used only for religious purposes and was not to be alienable, they ~~insisted~~ <sup>demand</sup> ~~insisted~~ <sup>demand</sup> retainer strongly, and said that some other person had already thought of purchasing the land from them. They hastened to add that the money so obtained would of course be used solely for mission purposes. I said that I would make a note of what passed and probably find an opportunity of mentioning the matter to Sir Robert Coryndon, but that we must wait for a reply to our

despatch of March 22nd. If nothing was received within six weeks we would remind

On the question of the Mission taking over the work of the former German Mission, I said that while the control of the entry of ex-enemy persons was a matter of temporary legislation which required renewing from time to time, I was not myself aware of any possibility of allowing German Missions, as such, to begin work again. I suggested that nothing of the kind might be allowed until Germany is admitted into the League of Nations, but made it clear that I could not speak definitely.

I was told that, in their mandate area, the Belgians had allowed German Catholic missions to resume work, and that it was strange that if they could allow a German Catholic mission to operate, Britain could not allow German Protestant missions to operate. I pointed out that the two matters were quite independent and that, apart from other considerations, it might be held that Catholic missions were more international in character than Protestant missions, and their operations being mainly directed from the Vatican, a Catholic Government might find it difficult to keep out any mission of which the Vatican approved.

It seemed that the German Mission was extensive and that its buildings are in need of repair. Mr. Stedeford said that they must represent to the Committee the burden

burden which would fall upon them for  
an indefinite time, and that they would  
then write officially.

We can only wait.

*Wells*  
*98/40/93*  
*at once*

burden which would fall upon them for  
an indefinite time, and that they would  
then write officially.

We can only wait.

*wed*  
*28/10/23*  
*at one*

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Telegram: "STEEDEFORD ERDINGTON."

13. SILVERBIRCH ROAD.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

APR. 20th. 19. 23.

TREASURER  
JOSEPH WARD, Esq.  
KNOXCLIFFE BRIDGE,  
SHEFFIELD.  
SECRETARY  
W. G. STEDEFORD

*recd 26. 4. 1930*

*W. G. Stedeford*

*recd  
M/L*

W. G. Bottomley, Esq.,  
East African Department, Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
London.

Dear Sir,

In reply to mine of April 18th.,

I am informed by Mr. A.C.C. Parkinson that you are away from the Colonial Office until April 23rd.. As I am leaving home for London to-morrow, I am now writing to ask you to address your reply to me at Rev. J.E. Swallow, 8, Cranley Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.

I remain Sir,

Your humble and obedient servant,

*W. G. Stedeford*

*P.*

*If the time suggested for the interview is not convenient to you will you please state the earliest time after that time which will suit you. C.S.*

# THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

174

Telegrams "STEDFORD ERDINGTON." (U.M. Code).

JOSEPH WARD, Esq.

LADYCLIFFE GRANGE

SHEFFIELD

SECRETARY

C. STEDFORD

13. SILVERBIRCH ROAD.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

March 10th. 1923.

C. O.

13143

REC<sup>d</sup>  
RE 14 MAR 23

The undersigned, WILLIAM R. GIBSON, Esq.,  
Secretary of the United Methodist Church,  
Er.,

of the District of the Foreign Missions Committee of the  
United Methodist Church, do hereby appeal to you concerning  
the following state, situated on the Victoria River in Kenya  
Colony, the property of the United Methodist Church Foreign  
Missions. It was procured by the Mission prior to the  
British occupation of East Africa. Under the Government  
Ordinance the deeds were presented for registration at Lamu  
and were duly stamped, the date being June 6th. 1907. The  
land was surveyed under the direction of the Government and  
the Survey Map was conveyed to the Mission. Both the deeds  
and the map are now in my custody.

Without any intimation of what was taking place, without  
any opportunity for stating our claim, without any reason  
being assigned, we are informed by the Kenya Colony Land  
Office that this land has been included in the native reserve  
and thereby alienated from the United Methodist Mission.

The protest addressed to the Governor of Kenya Colony has  
brought no reply excepting that the Land Office has sanctioned  
our having ten acres around our mission station subject to the

consent of the tribal elders.

We beg you, Sir, to institute an enquiry into these proceedings and to investigate the validity of our claim to the Polbanti Estate.

If you deem it expedient to receive a deputation for interview in connection with this matter we shall be ready to obey your call.

I am, Sir,

Your humble and obedient servant,

*C. Sedgford*

Foreign Missions Secretary of the  
United Methodist Church.

consent of the tribal elders.

We beg you, Sir, to institute an enquiry into these proceedings and to investigate the validity of our claim to the Albanti Estate.

If you deem it expedient to receive a deputation for interview in connection with this matter we shall be ready to obey your call.

I am, Sir,

Your humble and obedient servant,

*C. Sedgford*

Foreign Missions Secretary of the  
United Methodist Church.



Colonial Office

Downing Street, S.W.1.

13th March 1923

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 10th March, in which, on the instruction of the Foreign Missions Committee of the United Methodist Church you make representations regarding the Kolbanti Estate, situated on the Tana River in Kenya, the property of the United Methodist Church Foreign Missions.

There is no information in the Colonial Office about the matter which you brought to my notice. Your letter, however, will be sufficient to enable us to take up the question with the Government of Kenya, and a formal deputation is, I think, not necessary at the present stage. Should there be any further point which the Foreign Missions Committee may wish to mention, I have arranged for Mr. W.C. Bettomey, Head of the East African Department, to hold himself in readiness to receive a representative of your Committee.

If

REVEREND C. STEDEFORD.

Copy to you copy R.H. March 1923

If the Committee should think that such an interview is desirable, perhaps they would communicate with Mr. Bottomley and suggest a day and hour for an appointment.

gas very truly

(sgd)

W. B. Bottomley Gore

If the Committee should think that such an interview is desirable, perhaps they would communicate with Mr. Bottomley and suggest a day and hour for an appointment.

gas way truck

(sgd)

W. H. Jones

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

173

TREASURER:

JOSEPH WARD, Esq.

Telegrams: "STEDFORD ERDINGTON."

WOLFFIE BRIDGE,

13. SILVERBIRCH ROAD.

LIEFFIELD.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

SECRETARY

Rev. D. STEDFORD.

April 18th. 1923

W.C. Battemley, Esq.

Head of the East African Department,  
The Colonial Office.

Sir,

On March 13th. I received a letter from the Honourable William Ormesby Gore in reply to mine relating to the Golbanti Estate, situated on the Tana River in Kenya, the property of the United Methodist Church Foreign Missions. In this letter I am informed that if my Committee desired an interview it had been arranged for you to receive its representatives, and I am asked also to suggest the day and hour for the appointment. I beg to say that my Committee desires such an interview and has appointed a deputation to meet you. It will be convenient to the deputation if you can afford the interview on Thursday, April 26th. in the morning, say between 10 and 11 o'clock. Will you please inform me whether such an appointment is acceptable to you.

At the same time my Committee desires the deputation to seek information relating to the late German Mission on the Tana River, the oversight of which my Committee has undertaken.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

173

TREASURER:

JOSEPH WARD, Esq.

KNOLLIFF BRIDGE,

NOTTINGHAM.

SECRETARY

Rev. C. STEDEFORD.

Telegrams: "STDEFORD ERDINGTON."

13, SILVERBIRCH ROAD,

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

April 18th. 1923

W.C. Bettemley, Esq.

Head of the East African Department,  
The Colonial Office.

Sir,

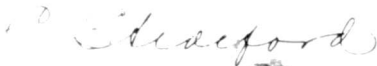
On March 13th. I received a letter from the Honourable William Ormesby Gore in reply to mine relating to the Golbanti Estate, situated on the Tana River in Kenya, the property of the United Methodist Church Foreign Missions. In this letter I am informed that if my Committee desired an interview it had been arranged for you to receive its representatives, and I am asked also to suggest the day and hour for the appointment. I beg to say that my Committee desires such an interview and has appointed a deputation to meet you. It will be convenient to the deputation if you can afford the interview on Thursday, April 26th. in the morning, say between 10 and 11 o'clock. Will you please inform me whether such an appointment is acceptable to you.

At the same time my Committee desires the deputation to seek information relating to the late German Mission on the Tana River, the oversight of which my Committee has undertaken.

We find that the requirements of this mission, both in men and money, far exceed what was anticipated and it will be necessary for my Committee to decide what course it ought to take if its resources are not equal to the demand. We considered our occupancy would be temporary and we desire to know what prospect there is of the removal of those restrictions which prevent the return of the German missionaries. We crave the opportunity to submit some of these questions to you.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Your humble and obedient servant,



Foreign Missions Secretary of  
the United Methodist Church.

We find that the requirements of this mission, both in men and money, far exceed what was anticipated and it will be necessary for my Committee to decide what course it ought to take if its resources are not equal to the demand. We considered our occupancy would be temporary and we desire to know what prospect there is of the removal of those restrictions which prevent the return of the German missionaries. We crave the opportunity to submit some of these questions to you.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Your humble and obedient servant,

*W. H. Burdett*  
Foreign Missions Secretary of  
the United Methodist Church.

27

1314B/23 Kenya.

Tomorrow's mail

G  
R 21  
D 21

DOWNING STREET,  
22 March, 1923.

Ansul  
36310

DRAFT.

43

KENYA.

*Mr. Goff*

VERNON GORYNDON

MINUTE.

Mr. Bottomley. 21. 3. 23 *f.2.*

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

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of correspondence with the Foreign Missions Branch of the United Methodist Church regarding the inclusion in the native reserve of the Golbanti Estate which the Mission holds on the Tana River.

2. No further communication has been received from the Mission in reply to the letter sent to them on the 13th of March, and I consider it desirable to communicate with you without further delay. I should be glad if you would furnish me with a report on the circumstances of the case, and, in particular, on the conditions of the original grant to the Mission, and the reasons for

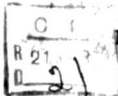
which

United Meth. Ch. 10 March.  
Stedford. 13 March.



1314B/23 Kenya.

*207*  
Donnow's mail



DOWNING STREET,

*22* March, 1923.

DRAFT.

*Annul  
36210  
43*

KENYA.

*Capt*

MINOR CORYNDON

MINUTE.

Mr. Rottomley. *21. 3. 23* *f.*

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Mr. G. Grindle.

Sir H. Head.

Mr. J. Masterton Smith

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Viscount of Devonshire

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of correspondence with the Foreign Missions Branch of the United Methodist Church regarding the inclusion in the native reserve of the Golbanti Estate which the Mission holds on the Tana River.

2. No further communication has been received from the Mission in reply to the letter sent to them on the 13th of March, and I consider it desirable to communicate with you without further delay. I should be glad if you would furnish me with a report on the circumstances of the case, and, in particular, on the conditions of the original grant to the Mission, and the reasons for

which

United Meth. Ch. 10 March.  
Stedford. 13 March.

Wm of 1882 Kenya



In my signature  
All

which the grant has apparently been  
varied, so as to deprive the Mission  
of the greater part of the land  
allotted to them.

I am etc.

**Sign DEVOBSHIRE**

DRAFT.

19 April 1923

The Rev. C. Svedeford  
The United Methodist Church  
Foreign Missions,

MINUTE.

13 Silverbirch Rd.

Edington,  
Birmingham.

Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.

*Handwritten signature*

- Mr. Davis.
- Sir G. Grindle.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
- Office of Deacons.

Dear Sir -

In W. B. Stanley's  
absence I have opened  
your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> of  
April relating to  
the Golbanti Estate  
in Kenya & ~~the~~ <sup>the late</sup>  
mission German mission  
in the Tana River.

W. B. Stanley is  
away for a few  
days, but he will

*Handwritten note:*  
pp to me  
All

he at the Col Office  
again <sup>on</sup> the 23<sup>rd</sup> during the afternoon

7 April, when

I will bring your  
letter to his notice,  
so that he can

let you know  
whether <sup>the</sup> day & time  
is when you <sup>suggest</sup> propose  
to <sup>for an interview</sup> call on him  
will be convenient.

Yours truly,  
(sd) acc. Perkins

be at the Col Office during the afternoon  
again on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

7 April, when

I will bring your  
letter to his notice,  
so that he can

let you know  
whether <sup>the</sup> day & time  
is ok. you <sup>suggest</sup> ~~propose~~  
for an interview  
~~to call on him~~  
will be convenient.

Yours truly  
(sd) A.C.C. Parkinson.