

EAST AFR. PROT.
ZANZIBAR

33742

C. O.
33742
Recd.
Recd. 29 Oct 12

CHOLERA AT ZANZIBAR

Trs copies of telegrams received from Zanzibar respecting difficulties with the Medical Staff. Asks that P.M.O. of the E.A.P. or some other Medical Officer of high authority may be instructed to pay a short visit and report as to whether proper measures are being taken and as to the dispute between the doctors.

Dr. G. Fiddes :
I don't much like bringing
our officer into this squabble, but
telegraph to the Gov^{mt} of the E.A.P. asking
explaining the position briefly & asking
whether he can spare the P.M.O. for a
few days, & saying that all expenses
will be defrayed by the Gov^{mt}.
- & copy of our tel. to the Gov^{mt} for
info. 29.7.?

H. J. R.

26/8

Atome P.M. 26

257/10

340

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 44798/12.

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

FOREIGN OFFICE

October 25th, 1912.

33742
Recd
Recd 26 OCT 12

gent and Confidential.

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith for the information of Mr. Secretary Harcourt copy of telegrams which have been received from His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar respecting the situation which has arisen in the Protectorate in connexion with the outbreak of cholera there.

It would appear from this correspondence either that Captain Skelton, the head of the Public Health Department is not competent to deal with the outbreak, or that Dr. MacDonald and Dr. Charlesworth, the Principal Medical Officer and the Agency Doctor respectively, are making use of the situation to render Captain Skelton's position in Zanzibar impossible. Sir E. Grey is in communication with Dr. Spurrier, the recently retired Health Officer, with a view to obtain-

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Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Blake
No. 175

do
No. 179

do
No. 181

(44798/12)

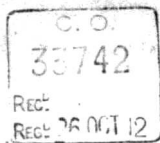
obtaining his assistance in dealing with the present outbreak, but he considers that it will also be necessary to obtain an authoritative opinion as to the dispute between the Doctors, as it is most important to know whether or not proper measures are being taken for stamping out cholera, and as severe measures will be necessary in dealing with whichever of the Zanzibar Medical Officers may prove to be in the wrong.

In these circumstances the Secretary of State would be greatly obliged if the Principal Medical Officer of the East Africa Protectorate, or some other Medical Officer of high authority, could be instructed to pay a short visit to Zanzibar and to report on the matter. A visit of a few days duration would probably be sufficient, and there appears to be no other means of obtaining an unbiassed opinion on the situation. All expenses in connexion with the visit would of course be defrayed by the Zanzibar Government.

I am, Sir, ~

Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

W. Langley



Decode of Telegram from Mr. Clarke, Zanzibar.

October 18th, 1912.

No.175.

I should be very glad to have someone here to help Skelton to deal with Cholera which we cannot get rid of. Will you ask Spurrier, now in England, if he would come to assist? Should propose to offer difference between pension and pay, quarters, passage out and back. Nicol knows address. If he has already left we could catch at Aden.

Decypher.

Mr. Clarke , Zanzibar.

D. 11.45.am. Oct. 23.

R. 12. 45.pm.

Recd 26 OCT 12

No 179. (R).

Your tel: No. 148.

I have spoken to McDonald & Charlesworth : they say they have ^{been} always ready to assist, but in face of the extraordinary personal & professional animus with which they have pursued Skelton almost from the beginning, there is certainly nothing to be hoped from them. They accuse him of incompetency and other professional crimes, & are simply burning to see him superseded by transfer of the executive powers to themselves so as to be able to carry out any measures they might want to over his head ; so far there ^{has been} only consultation with board. (*? Consultative Board*). Davis & I, as far as we can

judge, think that he is doing very well. I would urge you to secure Spurrier's services which would be especially valuable, as it is not so much actual assistance we require as the advice of someone well acquainted with local conditions ~~of this~~ *This adv*
~~(your undecyphered)~~ ... *f* for reasons given above Skelton cannot now be obtained. Spurrier should of course be under Skelton.

If anything further is required , propose to attach Souza to Health Office.

Copy East
7.0 / 53742 } Zanzibar

DRAFT.

Telegram (Keyless)

Substance cyphered & sent
3.40 PM.
26/10/12
OSRD

Governor
Nairobi

26th October

MINUTE.

- Mr. A.C.P. 26/10
- Mr. Read 26
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

Jones Secret

Foreign Office state that all the
 diffculties have arisen
 in Zanzibar ~~and~~ in
 connexion with outbreak of
 cholera stop. Apparently
 there are serious differences
 between Skelton head
 of Public Health Dept.
 and Dr. Macdonald
 and Charlesworth as
 to measures for repression

Copy to 7.0. for
inf. Lt.

Copy to 31 Oct 12 for
31 Oct 12