

EAST AFR. PROT

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Governor
Field 223

PLAGUE AT MOMBASA

1913

April

Reverend South Africa was not informed of the existence of plague at Mombasa. Requests instructions as to obligations in this respect. States present practice.

Last previous Paper.

Dr
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re B up

Mr Bolton Cey

The Govt admits that S.A. should have been informed, and regrets the omission. But he would be glad to know the exact obligations of the Prot^{ts} in the matter. The Circular of 1899 requires him to notify such distant colonies as the Levant Islands, and he cannot suppose that this is really intended.

But the Circular of 24.8.12 modifies Mr Chamberlain's 1899 Circular, and allows the Govt to exercise his discretion as to notifying ^{distant} countries with no consular representation in the Prot^{ts}, and between which and the Prot^{ts} there is no direct communication. (see para 4 of 1912 Circular).

? reply that the 1899 Circular has been modified, and the 1912 Circular leaves room for the Govt's discretion in the case of distant countries.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

SOUTH AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 223.

April 3rd, 1913.

Sir,

*in file
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S. af*

In reply to your despatch No. 180 of the 8th ultimo I must express my great regret that the Governor General of the Union of South Africa was not duly notified of the existence of plague at Mombasa.

*for
3/24/13
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2. I should be very grateful for instructions as to our actual obligations in this respect. It would appear from Mr. Chamberlain's Circular of June 26th 1899 enclosed in Mr. Lyttelton's despatch No. 398 of September 1st, 1905, to which you refer, that a notification should, strictly speaking, be sent to various European Governments not represented by Consular Officers in the Protectorate, and also to certain British Colonies

as

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

as remote as Jamaica and the Leeward Islands. I can scarcely suppose that this is really intended, as it would be of no practical utility.

3. Our custom in the past has been to notify the various Consular representatives at Mombasa, the neighbouring Protectorates of Uganda and Zanzibar and the Government of German East Africa, and to assume that as far as Europe is concerned the information sent to the Colonial Office is sufficient. I quite admit that South Africa should have been included amongst those Governments which ought to have been advised and I can only reiterate my regret that it was inadvertently omitted.

4. I am sorry, however, that the Governor General did not himself raise the matter with this Administration direct. I should have been entirely prepared to meet his wishes without the necessity of a reference to yourself.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant;

H. Conway Bejield

GOVERNOR.

C.D.
R. 7 MAY
D. 7

8 May 1913

Sir,

I have etc to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 223 of the 3rd of April, explaining your omission to notify the South African Government of an outbreak of plague at Mombasa.

(14320)

2. With regard to the request in para. 2 of your despatch under acknowledgment for instructions as to the actual obligations of the Govt of the E.A.P. in this respect, I would remind you that my Circular despatch of the 24th

DRAFT

P.A.P. No 3148

C. Bedford Esq. C.S.C.

MINUTE

Mr. Downie 6/5/13

Mr. Robertson 6.5.13

Mr. Macnaughten 6/5/13

Sir G. Fiddes

Sir H. Just

Sir J. Anderson

Lord Emmott

Mr. Harcourt

For answer

notes of D
for

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