

E. AFRICA

23657

No.

23657

REC'D

4 JUL 07

Name of Individual

(Subject)

Region

Conf

1907

Prints of Confidential Correspondence

Date

to be taken up for transmission from  
Zanzibar

of previous Paper.

23544

(Minutes)

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H. J. R.

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1845 (9-10) 1900-114

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*Confidential.*

The *Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs*  
presents his compliments to the *Under-Secretary of State for*  
*the Colonies*  
*India* and is directed by the *Secretary of State for Foreign*  
*Affairs* to transmit the accompanying sections of printed *confi-*  
*dential correspondence.*

*Foreign Office,*

*July 3, 1907.*



C. O.

23657

EAST AFRICA.

[June 21] 1907

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1 JUL 07

269

[20559]

No. 1.

*Crown Agents for the Colonies to Foreign Office.—(Received June 21.)*

Sir, *Whitehall Gardens, London, June 20, 1907.*  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, requesting our observations upon the terms of the reply which the Secretary of State proposes to send to Mr. W. P. James Fawcus' representation as to the manner in which his applications for certain Concessions in Zanzibar have been dealt with.

We have read the papers which you have sent us, and we think that Mr. Fawcus' letter may be regarded as being of the nature of "bluff" and that it has been written in the hope that it may lead the Secretary of State to reconsider his decision. We think, therefore, that the reply which it is proposed to send to Mr. Fawcus & all that the circumstances of the case appear to require. In view, however, of the possibility of the reply being published, it might, perhaps, be desirable to modify the first paragraph somewhat by substituting for the expression "complaining," &c. that of "asking to be informed of the reasons which have led to the termination of the negotiations in connection with your proposition."

The letter from Mr. Fawcus, which was sent to us in original, is returned herewith.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. E. BLAKE.

[2543 a-1]

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C. 5.  
23657REC:  
[June 21] 4 JUL 07

EAST AFRICA:

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

[20559]

No. 1

*Foreign Office to Mr. Fawcus.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 21, 1907.*

I AM directed by Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, asking to be informed of the reasons which have led to the termination of the negotiations in connection with your proposals respecting the suggested Zanzibar Corporation.

Sir Edward Grey much regrets that, owing to the rejection of those proposals, you should now find yourself in what you state to be a disagreeable position in relation to the friend whom you applied for financial support, but at the same time he cannot admit that you are in any way responsible for this result.

I am in the first place to remind you that the original proposals of the Corporation were only initiated by the Zanzibar Government as a basis for negotiation between the Foreign Office and the Syndicate, and in the second that it was expressly pointed out to you, in the letter which Mr. Clarke wrote to you on the 16th April, that the Zanzibar Government must not be considered as being in any way bound to accept all or any of the schemes which you have put forward, or even to have admitted in principle the desirability of delegating to a Company or Companies the various services contemplated, and the point was verbally insisted upon on the occasions when you were good enough to visit this Department, with a view to clearing up doubtful statements.

I am further to remark that it does not appear that your visit to Zanzibar was the consequence of anything that could properly be considered an invitation on the part of Mr. Akers, but that, even if it had been, such invitation cannot possibly be considered to have implied an obligation to accept all or any of the proposals in which it might result, or to indemnify you for any expenses which it might involve. It was obviously impossible either for you to make or for the Foreign Office to consider any proposals until their subject matter had been thoroughly investigated on the spot, and it is equally obvious that it was only after these proposals had been made and considered that Sir Edward Grey found himself in a position to decide that the various works contemplated could most advantageously be carried out by the Zanzibar Government itself.

In these circumstances it does not appear to him that there is anything further to add to these explanations, or that any good purpose would be served by an interview with Mr. Clarke, but at the same time should you still desire to see that gentleman, he will be happy to give you an interview at 3 o'clock any afternoon which you may like to name.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ERIC BARRINGTON.

[2543 x-2]