

DESPATCH.

EAST AFR. PROT.

36549

 C. O.  
 36549  
 Recd  
 6 NOV 09
No  
Conf

1909

11 Dec

Paper

- 1 Late Mr Monier Williams
- 2 Illness of Officers - Commn with relatives

- 1 Submit this - everything possible was done for deceased officer.
- 2 Sends copy notes by P.M. Submit suggestions regarding procedure directed in Co. Cir. 30 June.

Mr Head.

This is an extraordinarily unhelpful despatch for the purpose of communication with Mr Monier-Williams. The Governor does not take up any one of the points made by Mr. Monier-Williams in his letter of the 12th August (27133). (I have made certain pencil notes on that letter which tend to show that Mr Williams has only one substantial grievance, namely, that no communication was made to him as to his son's last moments and the arrangements for his burial).

In the paragraphs of this despatch in which Sir Percy Girouard does deal with this particular case he makes statements, e.g., in the marked passages in paragraphs 2 and 3, which are no doubt justified but which could not be communicated to Mr Monier-Williams ~~without~~ without causing him great pain and probably inspiring him to rake up further points in this very profitless correspondence.

It is not only on this ground that it is impossible to communicate to him the whole of Sir Percy's despatch.

The

the ground that it deals not only with the case of his son, but with certain general questions with which Mr. Mohler-Williams is not concerned.

As for the latter half of the despatch, in which Sir Percy Girouard makes remarks on our Circular of the 30th June (copy attached) I see no objection to the adoption in the East Africa Protectorate of the procedure he proposes including that of the three telegrams to meet different stages of a case as suggested in paragraph 5.

Yours  
Nov. 12

Mr. Fisher.

Mr. Fisher's solution seems to be the best in the circumstances. I am sure that the main object will be to secure the best possible solution of the problem.

H. J. R.

Col. Seely

13/11

I am inclined to wait till Mr. Mohler-Williams writes again. If he does, but is willing for it to be subject to your proposal, if you are not, the question can rest.

The reply will not satisfy him unless it is followed by a response that will continue the conversation as to what course will continue.

Yours truly  
H. J. R.  
17/11

W. Read.

Mr. Wm. Williams has not  
in a few, perhaps we can now  
dispose of this paper by acknowledging  
receipt, saying that the S. & B.  
covers in the suggestions made in  
this despatch as to the anticipation of  
dangerous illness or death.

W. R. B.

March 9.

W. Read.

49?

W. R. B.

W. R. B.

W. R. B.  
11.3  
along

General Pitt

Write you to good through

to suggest to be made to be done 5

MS 12/3

MS 12/3

I suggest "Plomful" "Plomful"  
"Storthing" which are taken from the paper  
the Official Vocabulary passed for C. use. I have  
not been appropriated. (Have we already  
words "Storthing" & "Storthing" as I only appeared  
in the Official Vocabulary?)  
W. R. B.

W. R. B.  
11.3  
along

W. Butler

I am sorry that the job mixed  
with some paper about code words and so  
was unlooked. I think Mr Smith's letter  
is good.

J. M. G.

W. Read.

W. R. B. accordingly

W. R. B.

W. R. B.

stone

W. R. B.

31/5

W. R. B.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Nairobi,

October 11th 1909.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

CONFIDENTIAL (85)

(Incl.1)

C. O.

30549

REC<sup>d</sup>REC<sup>d</sup> 6 NOV 09

My Lord,

With reference to Your Lordship's Confidential despatch of August 19th and previous correspondence respecting the decease of the late Mr. E. G. Monier-Williams, I have perused the whole history of the illness and subsequent death of this promising young officer and can only state as my opinion that apparently everything possible was done to avert a fatal termination and, when it was recognized to be inevitable, to convey the sad intelligence to his relatives.

2. This is a case where an officer touring in his district contracts malaria complicated by typhoid as a direct consequence of drinking water which might have been rendered perfectly innocuous had he adopted the ordinary precautions laid down in a course of tropical hygiene. The house he occupied is of a very fair type and cannot reasonably be held to be in any way responsible for his illness.

3. While still suffering from malaria Mr. Monier-Williams went to Mombasa for Christmas and bathed in the sea, after which he was removed to the hospital

H. E. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR THE COLONIES.

ROBERTS AGENT,

LONDON, S. W.

(2)

and carefully looked after. I may mention that bathing in cold water is deprecated and bathing in streams, lakes or the sea strongly discouraged by local medical opinions; I cannot express any views as to the treatment and diagnosis of the case but the usual routine appears to have been followed. At the outset the patient communicated with his relatives himself; subsequently when the illness seemed likely to prove fatal both his father and the Colonial Office were advised and on death ensuing the fact was promptly notified. It appears that no departure was made from the usual procedure in Crown Colonies except that the serious illness of the officer concerned was communicated to his relatives at home. As far as I know this is never done in self-governing Colonies and, as Your Lordship is aware, in West Africa, where disease is more prevalent than here, Your Lordship's instructions were that death only should be notified by cable, any previous communication being at the expense of the patient. The future practice both there and elsewhere will, however, be governed by Your Lordship's Circular despatch of June 30th last, in accordance with which I should like to make the following observations:

1. I would propose primarily to consider written communications with relatives. These would naturally come from the patient himself unless his condition is such as to preclude him from making them. In that case the Medical Officer in charge or in the absence of

of a Medical man the officer, who is looking after the patient, should write to the relatives. In order to enable this to be done patients whether treated in hospital or elsewhere should be asked to furnish an address to which communications may be sent. If they desire that information of their illness should be withheld from their relatives their wishes should be respected, but a signed statement to that effect should be taken in all such cases.

In cases where death supervenes, if a Minister of religion has attended the patient, he would naturally write to the relatives describing the last moments and informing them of any dying wishes or testamentary directions, other than those given to a lawyer. If no Minister of religion has been present the Medical officer or other officer in charge will be responsible for making this communication.

In the case of Roman Catholic patients their clergy will always be informed when they are in extremis, in order that they may receive the last rites of their Church.

5. Turning to communications by cablegram I am glad to observe that Your Lordship has now ruled that serious illness may be so notified. We are then confronted with a very difficult and delicate question, the decision as to the probability of a fatal termination.

The tendency to take as favourable a view as possible is natural and even the medical attendant can know but little until the case reaches the  
critical

(4)

critical stage which may end either in death or recovery. In such cases it would be cruel and inhumane to cable to relatives that there was no hope of recovery.

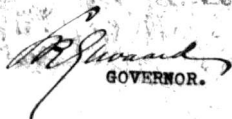
To meet the case I would suggest that three cables should be sent.

- (1) Dangerously ill
- (2) <sup>with Recovery probable.</sup> or Recovery improbable.
- (3) either Convalescence  
or Death.

By the use of code words the cost of the messages would be reduced to a minimum, and the total expense of communicating with relatives in this way would be so small that I venture to think that it need not be taken into consideration when compared with the benefits which would result from it.

6. I attach for Your Lordship's information a copy of the Notice issued by the Principal Medical officer in the Official Gazette respecting the notification of dangerous illness.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Lordship's humble  
obedient servant,

  
GOVERNOR.

INCLOSURE

*Copy*  
In Despatch No. 85 of 11-11-1907

351

C. O.  
36549  
REC'D  
6 NOV 09

NOTICE.

Regarding the notification of all cases of serious, critical or dangerous illness or accidents occurring in the Protectorate.

1. In all cases of serious illness or accident affecting Government Officials where the Medical Officer, in charge, or, in his absence, the nearest friend, has reason to think that it would be advisable to apprise the patient's relatives of the fact, a short notice stating present condition and prognosis of the case should be immediately forwarded to the Principal Medical Officer for his information and disposal.

2. When the case is urgent, or when a patient's case becomes critical, the Secretary to the Administration should be immediately notified by telegram and a copy forwarded to the Principal Medical Officer.

3. A case having once been notified, progress should be reported as often as may be advisable, either by letter or telegram according to its gravity, until the necessity for doing so ceases.

4. The foregoing instructions apply equally to Medical Officers in attendance on those Europeans not in Government Service who have no friends or relatives in the country to whom intimation can be sent concerning their condition. In notifying the authorities of such cases it is incumbent on the Medical Officer to ascertain and furnish a responsible address to which his communication may be forwarded.

Sd/- A.D. Milne.

Principal Medical Officer.

Nairobi.

Dated March 10th, 1908.



INCLOSURE

*Cmp*  
In Despatch No. 85 of 18-10-1909

352

P.M.O.'s Office,  
Nairobi,  
9th October 1909.

NO.

Medical Officer,  
.....



With reference to the notice in O.G. No. 225 1909 dated March 10th page 163 the attention of all Medical officers is directed to the following additional rules connected with the notification of serious and dangerous illness.

5. The responsibility of notifying serious illnesses only lies on Medical Officers in charge when the patient's condition precludes him from communicating himself with his relatives.

6. When a patient does not wish his condition reported to his relatives, his wishes should be respected. In such a case should it supervene, death only will be notified. It will then be necessary for the Medical Officer to be in possession of evidence showing that the notification was at the express wish of the patient.

7. As far as possible a minister of religion should be summoned in which case the duty of communicating with relatives may be delegated to him.

Sd. A. D. Milne.

Principal Medical Officer

Downing Street,

30th June, 1909.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that my attention has been called to the question of the arrangements which should be made to ensure that, when an officer serving in a Crown Colony or Protectorate is seriously ill, and the illness is likely to prove fatal, an early intimation of his condition should be conveyed to his relatives in this country.

2. There is doubtless a general understanding more definite in some Colonies than in others, that the death of an official appointed from this country shall be notified by telegraph; and in some Colonies the notification is followed by a medical report, accompanied where necessary by a report of a more general nature designed for communication to the relatives. It is possible under these arrangements for relatives to receive the announcement of death without any prior intimation of the serious condition of the officer, even when it had for some days been apparent that there was little chance of his recovery; and this has occasionally afforded ground for complaint.

3. It is hardly practicable to lay down any precise rule as to sending telegrams to relatives in advance of an officer's death, but I would suggest that, whenever a member of the Colonial Service, whose nearest relatives reside in

the Secretary

the Government of

36549  
09  
East

354

DRAI G.

E. of Prot  
Conf

Governor Sir P. Grouard

3 June 10

MINUTE

- Mr. Smith 10/10
- Mr. Green
- Mr. Reid
- Mr. Fiddes
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- Lord Crewe.

East African Dept  
 Resident Comdr  
 Private Secretary  
 S.P.E.A

note 13/10  
 to note

I find that there are already code words for "dangerously ill" - "involvement" under "both".

shall we tell any other Governors? Yes

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential

despatch (85) of the 11th of

October last, and to inform you

that I concur in your

suggestion as to the notification

of the dangerous illness or death

of a Government official

with regard to