

EAST AFR. PROT

21125

Rec'd  
Per. 4 MAR 18

21125

Inf. Bureau

1918

27 Feb.

See previous paper.

29 15-6

20  
1918  
27 MAR 18

Postal Clerks

Submitting report on complaints received  
made by these clerks

W. B. ...

The following report was received  
from the ...  
...  
...

...

...

...

are fully aware  
of the nature of the  
business and the  
risks involved  
and have  
voluntarily  
agreed to  
be bound by  
the terms and  
conditions  
herein set forth.

of the  
I do  
J. E. [unclear]

21425

REC 4 MAY 16

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
EAST AFRICA

March 26th, 1916.

SIR,

In answer to your Confidential despatch of January 26th, enclosing copies of correspondence with Miss A.O. Bennett, late Supervisor of Female Postal Clerks and Telegraphists, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the Postmaster General's comments on the case which appear to be to furnish a complete answer to the complaints and to disclose the fact that Miss Francis' indiscretion was caused by the existence of personal relationships which gave rise to her behaviour. You will have seen that the Postmaster General has, I know, taken the necessary steps to ensure the comfort and convenience of his female staff. Yet it is clear that the success of his efforts must always be largely dependent on the attitude and demeanour of the staff themselves.

I have the honour to be,  
Your humble servant,  
[Signature]

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
SIR B. ASHLEY, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS,  
10, WHITE HALL STREET,  
LONDON, E.C. 4.

21125

REC'D  
4 MAY 1953  
Substantive Services Office

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Nairobi.

10th March, 1953.

The Honourable  
The Chief Secretary  
to the Government,  
Nairobi.

MISS M. M. FRANCIS.

Reference your No. 4904/53, and Colonial  
Office Inspector (Confidential)  
of 12/12/52.

The following information is being furnished to you for your information and guidance. It is based on a report received from the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Nairobi, dated 12/12/52, in which it is stated that the above-named Miss Francis is a Superintendent of Prisons. It is further stated that she is a woman of high character and is well qualified for her duties. It is also stated that she is a member of the Kenya Women's Club and is active in its work. It is suggested that you should be kept advised of any further information received regarding her.

Very truly yours,  
[Signature]

The Secretary

The Chief Secretary

to the Government

FRANK

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR

OF THE

GOVERNMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC

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UNITED STATES

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... the entertainment and as far from being  
as a ... into her room when  
visitors were being entertained.

6. This did not make for the happiness of either  
Miss Franklin or her staff, and I was not surprised when,  
after about 3 months after her arrival, they requested to  
be allowed to make their own lodgings arrangements in  
free allowances in lieu of quarters. The application  
was approved and they were given the necessary financial  
allowances to enable them to do so. The approval  
was given on the condition that they should be prepared  
to pay for their own quarters if they were to be  
reinstated in the service at any time.

7. The staff were given the necessary financial  
allowances to enable them to do so. The approval  
was given on the condition that they should be prepared  
to pay for their own quarters if they were to be  
reinstated in the service at any time.

8. The staff were given the necessary financial  
allowances to enable them to do so. The approval  
was given on the condition that they should be prepared  
to pay for their own quarters if they were to be  
reinstated in the service at any time.

9. The staff were given the necessary financial  
allowances to enable them to do so. The approval  
was given on the condition that they should be prepared  
to pay for their own quarters if they were to be  
reinstated in the service at any time.









received that I could recommend that female stenographers  
 should be imported to this country and allowed to reside  
 here without being under the supervision of domestic supervisors. This  
 would be particularly important under the present war  
 conditions. Any and restricted entrance by female clerks  
 residing in boarding houses would be just as injurious  
 to the female staff as a whole as in the case of clerks  
 residing in Government quarters. In the second  
 place the reason for a female staff is wholly financial.  
 Their mere presence means an added responsibility for  
 myself and for my senior officers, which in a country  
 of this sort, is much greater than in England. They  
 are not so efficient as male clerks although cheaper. But  
 the margin of saving, having regard to their efficiency  
 as compared with men, is not great and, if it were  
 further reduced by the adoption of the expensive house  
 allowance system, would disappear and with it the reasons  
 for their employment.

11. ~~...~~ and ~~...~~ counts of ~~...~~  
 the visiting and residence of individuals. No simple  
 two telephone clerks have been appointed from England  
 and one of them, who holds an assistant supervisor's certificate,  
 has already arrived and is residing in the quarters.  
 I am told that she is not welcomed by the other tele-  
 phone clerks who regard themselves as superior people to  
 telephone operators. Personally I can see no difference  
 between them and Miss Johnson (the lady referred to),  
 except that she has the responsibilities of Johnson and ~~...~~  
 commonly met with in ~~...~~ ~~...~~  
 This ~~...~~ ~~...~~ could possibly be better dealt with ~~...~~  
~~...~~ ~~...~~ ~~...~~ ~~...~~ ~~...~~ ~~...~~

But we could provide several alternatives, and one of the reasons for doing this is that they might not be the best idea of any kind.

13. Having regard to all the circumstances I am of opinion that the existing system of housing female telegraphists is a reasonable one. I doubt if any female domestic establishment ever existed without a certain amount of friction between its occupants. I also doubt whether, at least now-a-days, any staff of employees being, or thinking they are, an opportunity of financial betterment would refrain from corresponding agitation — in this I refer to the housewife's domestic. But provided there is no attempt to unduly restrict their social lives by the imposition of narrow ideas, and provided also that the system is not fostered by the government so that it is not allowed to degenerate into license, I see no objection to the present system, in which the interests of female telegraphists in their own homes should not be considered.

When the issue of housing female telegraphists is considered, it is necessary to take into account the fact that the existing system is not perfect, and that there are many who are in favour of a change. It is, however, difficult to see how a better system could be arranged, and it is probable that the present system is the best that can be devised.

It is, therefore, recommended that the present system should be continued, with such modifications as may be necessary to improve it. It is also recommended that the government should not foster the system, so that it does not degenerate into license.

TO THE HON. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

14 May

DEPT.

The Secretary  
G. P. O.

A.C. 5/5/16

Mr. Secretary 5.5.16

With reference to  
the letter of 2.11.16 of A.C. 5/5/16  
concerning paragraph of the  
Annual Report of the  
Committee on the  
subject of the  
1915-16 financial year  
and by  
letter of 2.11.16 by Miss M. E. I.

It is noted that the  
former Superior  
Commissioner of the Female  
Prison and Telegraphists in the  
Department of  
Prison and  
Telegraphists

Mr. Capt. J. J.

By the Commission of  
Prison and  
Telegraphists

It is proposed to  
transfer to you  
the Commission of  
Prison and  
Telegraphists

and to  
transfer to you  
the Commission of  
Prison and  
Telegraphists

and to  
transfer to you  
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and to  
transfer to you  
the Commission of  
Prison and  
Telegraphists

the report shows that  
the local Gov<sup>t</sup> are  
fully alive to the  
importance of securing  
proper conditions of social  
life for the poorer class,  
and that Miss Francis'  
criticisms were ~~not~~ not  
well founded.