

EAST AFR PROT  
15026

15026  
REC.  
REG: 30 MAR 16

Foreign Trade  
Sept.  
1916  
29 Feb.  
Last previous Paper.  
10085

Trading with enemy  
via Switzerland

Reports as to firm of J.H. Trachaler of Bern  
and activities of Maximilian Thoma & Joseph.  
Inquiries are being made as to Killogg reported  
by Lake firm.

Copy sent Carl to April 26 1916  
see 300 / 105655  
Next subsequent Paper.  
70 / 16140

George Debb McDermis  
We have had Major Leggett's  
letter in 7008. Even if Switzerland  
does not make Killogg it does not  
follow that those reported by Ch. P.  
Joseph came from Germany (see end  
of here: 1 of this letter).

? Copy of ltr. on 101857  
This incl. to you for info. Lt  
L.C.P. 3072/16

W.B. Killogg  
T.O.K.  
31.3.16  
Lapa W 31.3.16

W.B. Killogg  
some  
3

C. O.

15026

REC  
MAR 30 1916



FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT

LANCASTER HOUSE,  
ST. JAMES'S

S.W.

128

29 March, 1916.

Any communication  
in the subject, please quote  
No. 26395/43.  
and address  
The Controller,  
Foreign Trade Department,  
London, E.C. 4.

Sir,

With reference to your letter (10985) of the 13th instant, respecting the firm of J. H. Trachaler of Berne, I am directed by Secretary Sir R. Gray to inform you that he understands that this is a Swiss firm of Agents. His business appears to be the purchase of goods in this country and elsewhere for shipment largely to firms in Africa, and permission has been granted to firms in this country to continue to supply him, provided there is no objection to the ultimate consignee, the goods being shipped in most cases direct to Africa from this country.

It is, of course, possible that he also purchases goods from German manufacturers, and no British firm should enter into contracts with him without obtaining a Certificate of Origin and guarantee that there is no enemy connection with the goods supplied.

The Messrs. of Messrs. Childs Parr and

Joseph

Secretary of State,  
OFFICIAL OFFICE.

Joseph has already been raised in this Department, as will be seen by the copy of the enclosed letter from the British East African Corporation Limited to Lord Emmott of the War Trade Department, and enquiries are being made at Berne as to whether Kikoye are manufactured in Switzerland.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

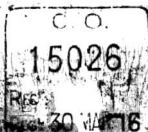
humble Servant,

*Walter Townley*

for the CONTROLLER.

COPIES 10788

V.T.D. 1548/16.



9A, Gresham House,

London, E.C.

1st February, 1916.

130

Dear Lord Emmott,

I am not sure if the War Trade Committee, over which you preside, is the Department immediately concerned in cases that come to light indicating possible leakage of German made goods via neutral countries into British Colonies. Perhaps, however, you may be interested, and would care to pass letter and enclosures to the proper quarter, by which, if thought desirable, enquiry would be pursued.

The correspondence consists of a report to us by our Mombasa (British East Africa) House, that the firm of Childs, Parr and Joseph there, are importing a certain line of coloured cotten goods, called Kikoyis, into British East Africa, from a Swiss supplier. Messrs. C.P. and J. are an American firm, and are probably the largest importers of cotten goods into British East Africa and Uganda, where they have selling branches throughout the two Protectorates.

The name of the Swiss firm who supply Messrs. Childs Parr and Joseph has a very German name, but that, as of course we know, is not in itself a ground of suspicion. But our own knowledge and experience in the cotten goods trade indicates that Kikoyis were not made in Switzerland before the war, and we are very doubtful if they are made there now. On the other hand, the trade in Kikoyis before the war was largely a German speciality.

For what information we should elicit, we wrote the Swiss firm, Messrs. J.H. Trachsler, Berne, as per copy herewith, and the copy of their reply shows that they do not respond to our invitation to open business relations, safeguarded as we require in the matter of proof of the non-enemy origin of the goods.

We have noticed that the Consular Certificates of Origin of the Berne Office, accompanying undeniably neutral products such as Swiss Milk (which our Corporation exports from Switzerland to Africa) are signed by a name <sup>of</sup> very un-English sound. In mentioning this, we should be careful to guard ourselves against supposition that we impugn the bona fides of that Consul, who grants the certificates of neutral origin to Messrs. Trachsler's Kikeys or anything else. But we do suggest that the Consul, whoever he is, may possibly not be well informed on the technicalities of the trade, and that he may have been misled as to the true country in which the Kikeys are perhaps made.

Nor do we make the smallest accusations against the firm of Childs, Par & Joseph: Being non-British themselves, it would not be unnatural if they were satisfied to accept a Consular Certificate of neutral origin without bothering to see if such certificate had been granted by the Consul in error and under any misapprehension.

In common, no doubt, with other British Export houses, our Corporation is inundated with offers of coloured cotton goods of all kinds from Switzerland



and Holland, to be supported by certificates of neutral origin, and we would be glad, if of any use to pass these certificates to your Committee or to any other Government Department for their information,

I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) F.H. LEGGETT

Managing Director,

BRITISH EAST AFRICAN CORPORATION LIMITED.

The Rt. Hon.

The Lord Emmott,

War Trade Committee,

Westminster.