

Acting Governor Year 504 19 Aug 33
Submits proposals for the closing down of the Kerugoya
Sub-station with the view to reduction of Administrative Staff
of the Ukereya Province.

on 15/9/22/29 ke

The proposal was made to alter the status of Kerugoya from a sub-station to a permanent camp, on the ground that it would effect economies in staff and correspondence. The proposals were not followed up, however, because it was considered desirable to maintain as close administration as possible of the district in view of the fact that a native hospital had just been established there.

The possibility of the closing down of the station had been the cause of great concern to Mr. Rampley, a Kenya Missionary, and through him to Mr. Renner Brockway; there is much correspondence and minutes about this aspect of the matter on 15922/29.

The reasons now given for closing down Kerugoya station seem good ones; the need for economy is, of course, much greater now than in 1929, and the improvement in the communications of the district will make close administration possible even though the station is shut.

The Expenditure Advisory Committee said in paragraph 165 of their report "We understand that it is possible to close the present Sub-station at Kerugoya and to station the officer who is at present there at Nyeri, thereby effecting no reduction in administrative staff, but a saving in regard to the subordinate staff at present employed at Kerugoya". It is, as a matter of fact, proposed that Kerugoya should be included in a reconstituted Embu district, and there will be a consequent economy of one district officer in the South Nyeri district.

? approve. *[Signature]* 2/79

In the absence of an adequate map, the details are not too clear. But it appears

that: - (a) two areas in the northern part of Embu (Mwimbi and Chuka) are to be added to Meru

(b) two areas in the north-eastern part of S. Nyeri (Ndon + Kichuga) are to be added to Embu.

(c) Embu Station will thus be in the middle, instead of on the edge, of the district which is administered from it; and Kerugoya, hitherto the headquarters of the Ndon + Kichuga areas, can be closed down.

(It may be noted from para. b. that the matter concerned was not asked whether they would like Kerugoya to be shut, but only, on the assumption that it would be shut, whether they would prefer to come under Embu rather than under Nyeri.)

The scheme differs markedly from that which caused trouble in 1929, and seems well thought out. It is proposed to adopt it for a year

on trial (the necessary gazetting being, presumably, deferred); and I think S.G.S. can unhesitatingly approve.

2. Council approval, saying that before steps are taken to make the change of boundaries permanent, S.G.S. will be glad to receive a report on the working of the experimental rearrangement.

27.9

Sir C. Bottomley

You should see reference of the previous trouble. It is really a matter for local decision. Of course it is possible that the scheme given may cause more trouble, but if the Govt. is satisfied that satisfactory arrangements can be made all should be well.

I would not ask for a report but would say that the case S.G.S. assumes that it will be reviewed again before the final decision is taken.

J.S.W.H.D. 27.9

Had seems quite sound except that

- (a) the local action, will not take the loss of the station &
- (b) I would much rather live at Kerugoya than at Embu.

I do not think that I said said on. It must have been Rumpney as per record

W.S.

27.9.33

To Kenya Govt (1 annexed)

2 OCT 1933

3 Govt. Notice No 729 of 1933

Pub by J. Macdonald
12/12 at 10/11

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GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 729

NOTICE

REORGANIZATION OF THE SOUTH Nyeri, EMBU, AND
MERU DISTRICTS OF THE KIRURU PROVINCE

It is notified for information that the following reorganization of the South Nyeri, Embu, and Meru Districts has taken place:

- (i) The Mwimbi and Chuka areas of the Embu District have been transferred to the Meru District and will be administered from Meru.
- (ii) The Ndu and Kichugi areas which form the Kerugoya Section of the South Nyeri District have been transferred to the Embu District and will be administered from Embu.
- (iii) Kerugoya has been abandoned as an Administrative Station.

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O.O.

Mr. Davies, 21/a

Mr. ~~Freeman~~ 20/b

Sir C. Bottomley.

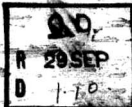
Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Party: U.S. of S.

Secretary of State



20
2
September, 1933.

Sir,

DRAFT.

KENYA.

NO. 764

O.A.C.

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 504 of the 29th of August, and to inform you that I have approved of your proposals for the re-organisation of the South Nyeri, Embu and Meru Districts of the Kikuyu Province, involving the abandonment of Kerugoya as a permanent station.

I observe that the re-organisation will be subject to a year's

trial

trial before it is definitely adopted, and
I assume that the position will be further
reviewed before it is finally decided that
the new boundaries should be made permanent.

I have, etc.

(Sgd.) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

KENYA.

No. 504



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

AUGUST, 1933.

RECEIVED
18 SEP 1933
C.O.C. 1-31

SIR,

I have the honour to refer to Lord Passfield's despatch no. 883 of 5th November 1929, and to Sir Edward Grigg's despatch No. 100 of 20th February, 1930, on the subject of the closing down of the Kerugoya Sub-station, and to inform you that owing to the need for reducing the Administrative Staff of the Kikuyu Provinces, in the interest of economy, to the minimum consistent with efficiency, I have recently had under consideration a proposed reorganisation of three districts of that Province the details of which are set out hereunder and are submitted for your approval.

This proposal arose primarily from the recommendation in paragraphs 164. and 165. of the Expenditure Committee's Report to effect economies by closing down both Embu and Kerugoya Stations. It was felt, however, that while the closing of both these Stations was too drastic and administratively undesirable, the services of one Administrative Officer could be saved without undue loss of efficiency if Embu were retained ...

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
 MAJOR SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
 DOWNING STREET,
 LONDON. S. W. I.

No 15922/29
No 5 15922/29

Approved (2)

retained and Kerugoya temporarily at least closed down.

3. The three districts referred to in paragraph 1. are the South Nyeri, Embu and Meru Districts. Under the proposals the Mwingi and Chuka areas of the former Embu district, the inhabitants of which are closely akin to the peoples of the Meru district, will be transferred to the Meru district and be administered from Meru.

Embu station, which was formerly situated in a most unsuitable position at the western extremity of the district will, under the new scheme, be the centre of a new district containing the Embu tribe proper, and the Ndia and Kichugu areas of the Kerugoya section of the South Nyeri district.

4. The reorganisation enables the staff of the Province to be reduced by one District Officer and the effecting of some economy in the number of tribal police, clerical staff and station hands.

The staff distribution will be as follows:-

<u>District.</u>	<u>Population.</u>	<u>Staff under</u>		<u>Previous staff.</u>					
		<u>Reorganisation.</u>							
S.Nyeri.	114,505.	D.C.	1.	B.O.	1.	D.C.	1.	D.Os.	2
Embu.	156,753.	"	1.	"	1.	"	1.	"	1
Meru.	197,300.	"	1.	"	2.	"	1.	"	2
			<u>3.</u>		<u>4.</u>		<u>3.</u>		<u>5</u>

5. I am not unmindful of the arguments which were set out in paragraph 3. of Sir Edward Grigg's despatch No. 100 of 20th February 1930, as to the desirability of maintaining as close as possible an administration of the Kerugoya area by the retention there of the District Officer. In view, however, of the close proximity of Embu Station and the improvement of communications in the area ...

No. 15922/R9

area I believe that such close administration can be continued unimpaired under the new proposal.

The Ndia and Kichugu divisions are homogeneous areas: the inhabitants are indeed Kikuyu but in blood, language and customs, are so closely akin to the Embu tribe as to be almost undistinguishable therefrom. From the earliest times their relations with the latter have been of the closest: and fusion with them in one administrative district is not a step which would conflict either with their traditions or their desires.

6. In regard to the latter, a representative Baraza was recently held by their Provincial Commissioner in their area, at which they were informed of the necessity, in the interest of economy, for the reduction of staff and the proposal to abandon Kerugoya as a permanent station: they were asked whether, in this event, they preferred to continue in the South Nyeri district or be included in a reconstituted Embu district.

The reply to the question was unanimous that failing the retention of Kerugoya as the permanent headquarters of a District Officer, they preferred to be included in the Embu district. One of the advantages mentioned was the fact that Embu station is much nearer to them than Nyeri.

7. The attitude of the natives concerned in the matter, taken in conjunction with the other weighty reasons in favour of the proposed change, completely outweigh the arguments for a retention of the status quo and I have now decided to approve the proposed reorganization and subject it to a year's trial as a preliminary to its final adoption, should it prove the success it is anticipated.

8. Though the decision involves the closing of Kerugoya as the headquarters of a district officer, the Provincial Commissioner concerned has undertaken that at

least ...

least 15 days per month of the time of one District Officer will be devoted to work in that area; and in addition, the presence of the District Commissioner at Embu, which is only 14 miles by road from Kerugoya, will enable that officer to pay frequent visits to the hospital, and apply to the health work which is now making excellent progress, the impetus that is required. Owing to the distance from Nyeri such visits on the part of the District Commissioner were perforce of an infrequent nature. The proposal therefore involves the conversion of the station into a permanent camp. An advantage from the medical point of view is the fact that the district of the Medical Officer, Kerugoya, which formerly comprised portions of the former South Nyeri and Embu districts will now be co-terminous with the reconstituted district.

9. In order to ensure that the health work among the native population will not suffer as a result of the change, the Provincial Commissioner and District Commissioner concerned have been instructed to ensure by constant personal visits and co-operation with the Medical Officer that the campaign is given all the support it deserves.

10. For the above reasons I am convinced that the reorganisation is justified both for economic, ethnological and administrative reasons, and trust that it will receive your approval.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

M. Wilson

ACTING GOVERNOR.