

1934

KENYA

1934

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Gold fields in the Kavirondo Districts

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Previous

Main file

3006/50/33.

Subsequent

Reg 147 20/6
Mr. Lenton 28
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Secretary of State

Could we have your instructions on this please? The letter in the cutting is clearly full of mis-statements, but I presume that we cannot send Mr. Williams a statement for publication. Do you wish us to brief him with regard to the lines of a reply which he himself might send?

For Luke

18.8.34

This is so full of obvious lies it ought to be answered. I shd. wish Williams to say to obvious lies. We must see ~~public reaction~~ & send him the top of Lloyd's letter. Use facts of public esp. Carter report & my statements.

P2-L
19/8

~~Dr. Hood~~

2

I attach a note (seen & approved by Dr. Hood) to be sent to Dr. H.C. Williams. It comments on a few of the more tangible misstatements in Dr. Fleming's letter; but the whole letter is a mass of false statements. No doubt Dr. Williams will be wamed against declaring the source of his info.

W. H. R. 21/8

Do they in pt. have the corresp. back for record?

M. Ferguson

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3. To I.S. to H. B. Williams M.P. (s.o) — 22 August 34
(1. around), (2/c 2).

PS. to H. B. Williams M.P. (s.o) — 23 August 34
Ack. No 8 which is being sent to Dr. Williams.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Put by
W. H. R.
2/8/34

HR

34
22nd August 1934.

Dear Private Secretary,

I have your letter of the 17th of August enclosing a cutting from "The Croydon Advertiser", with a letter from Mr. R.J. Freeman entitled "Gold Digging in Kenya".

Mr. Freeman's letter contains a considerable number of mis-statements, and I am sending you a note on a more important of these which has been prepared by the Department for Mr. Williams' information. I should make it clear that this note should not be regarded as an official document for publication, and that it is not desirable that in his reply Mr. Williams should disclose the source of his information.

Yours very truly,

The Private Secretary to
Mr. Herbert Williams, MP.



1. Johnstone Kenyatta came to England of his own accord in February, 1929, and has not been near Kenya since; (though he is, of course, completely at liberty to return if he wishes) The Kikuyu Central ^{Association} ~~Committee~~, of which he is "General Secretary", is a small unrepresentative body of malcontents whose claim to speak for the tribe as a whole cannot be admitted.

(Cmd 1922)

2. The ^{the} quotation in paragraph 3 is not from the Native Lands Trust Ordinance of 1930, but from a White Paper published by His Majesty's Government in 1929. It was indeed a solemn pledge, but not "the law of Kenya"; and the amendment of that law in December, 1932, in no way infringed the pledge. The amendment, moreover, has remained a dead letter, no ^{one} ~~action~~ having arisen to make use of the powers which it confers.

3. The entry of European prospectors into the native reserves had nothing whatever to do with the amendment of the Native Lands Trust Ordinance. Government's action in permitting such entry, and in regulating the activities of the gold miners, has been based throughout on the Kenya Mining Ordinance of 1931, the main lines of which were approved by the Labour Government before it left office in August of that year.

4. Conditions in the goldfields are described by two eye witnesses - the Secretary of State himself in several speeches, from which extracts are annexed; and the Bishop of Croydon in a letter published in the "Times" of the 19th of May, 1934.

5. Mr. Freeman writes "In 1930/31 the Kikuyu lost hundreds of acres of valuable land for a power station". The facts are these:-

The Electric Light and Power Company, which supplies Nairobi, applied for permission to flood 1,430 acres of native reserve in connexion with a new generating plant. In the interests of the native occupiers, Government refused permission; and after further negotiation, a revised scheme was approved, and has since been carried out, involving the grant of only 3.8 acres of native land (in addition to 17.25 acres of adjacent Crown land). As compensation for the loss of these 3.8 acres, 20 acres were added to the reserve; and the scheme was agreed to by the Local Native Council of the district concerned.



TELEPHONE
VICTORIA 3714.

FROM

HERBERT G. WILLIAMS, M.P.

56 ABBEY HOUSE.

VICTORIA STREET S.W. 1

17th August 1934

The Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for the Colonies
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
London S.W. 1.

Sir

Mr. Herbert Williams who is away on holiday asks me to send you the enclosed cutting from the Croydon Advertiser of the 18th inst. with a letter from Mr. R. J. Freeman headed "Gold Digging in Kenya".

There are a great variety of obvious untruths in this letter but Mr. Williams does not possess the necessary records for a detailed answer and would be grateful, therefore, if you could furnish him with a Memorandum on which he could either base a letter to the Croydon Advertiser or which he could send to the Croydon Advertiser with a covering letter stating that the Memorandum had been prepared in the Colonial Office.

Mr. Williams' holiday address is as under:-

Fincon Manor Hotel
Fincon, Sussex.

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant

H. G. Williams

for H. G. Williams.

