

1934
23294

KENYA

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23294

C0533/451

Protection of European Women in Kenya.

Previous

See XF 4634/26

Subsequent

P.B. file

Ky 294 19/10

Spurthorn 24/10

Dr. Horn 25/10

Sic. Chittenden 25/10

Sir J. Mackay 26

298 27/10

297 29/10

Room 34 30/10

298 31/10

299 24/10

297

6.5.
Women, Fudan
Institution of.

Native
Native offences
against European
women.

Dr. Wood S. R.
Sir C. Bottomley
Sir Joseph P. D.

Mr Buxton 10/10
In Reception 10

Mr. Clarence Buxton enquired some days ago whether any objection would be entertained to his accepting an invitation to take part in a discussion organised by Lady Eleanor Cole under the auspices of the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women on the present position of English women in Kenya, in the light of the recent Selwyn and Semini cases. I gathered that there was some intention of trying to arrange for a deputation to the Secretary of State.

After speaking to Sir Cecil Bottomley, I explained to Mr. Buxton, when he called yesterday, that the normal practice was to discourage serving officers from participating in public discussions without the consent of the Governor; but that, as in the circumstances it was impossible to refer to Sir Joseph Byrne, the Colonial Office would not object to his addressing the S.O.S.B.W., on the understanding that he would confine himself so far as possible to statements of fact and corrections of falsehood, and would not be dragged into controversy in such a way as to cause any embarrassment to Government. He fully recognised the reasonableness of this. His letter, now attached, gives his account of the meeting (the reference to the "East African Standard" relates to a long account sent to that paper by its London correspondent of a recent murder in London which bore a certain superficial resemblance to the Semini case in Kenya).

I have written to thank Mr. Buxton. Perhaps the Private Secretary should see in case the proposal to send a deputation materialises.

C. Buxton
4/10.

We shall no doubt get a copy of the resolution in due course. I am not sure on general grounds what the exact position is. If people will go to unsettled areas they must be taken to go at their own risk and it is not reasonable to expect the general taxpayer in ~~that~~ ^{the} Colony to make everything and everywhere as safe for the casual white settler as Pimlico or Upper Tooting. In any case, it is not possible for any Government to ensure the safety of anybody at all times and in all places and that fact must be faced. No Government can let itself get into a situation where it is compelled to enforce panic measures every time there is trouble or risk of trouble. Quite apart from the Semini case, which provoked this effusion, relations between white and black in Kenya may leave something to be desired, as is abundantly shown by the result of the Selwyn case to which no reference appears to have been made in the proceedings. Yet it would be easy to argue that such conduct as that admitted by the accused in the Selwyn case does more to create trouble between black and white than even occasional murders committed by wild tribesmen.

Wes.

I am rather glad that Mr. Buxton went to the meeting and spoke.

Wes

J. F. W. Hood

5.10

Semini case could be avoided by having a form of police on every farm and Selwyn case (bullocks) by having a magistrate every five miles. The question for the committee is whether this is justified (both in time & space) circumstances justify them in advising women to go to any part of Kenya. That is done the source of proposal comes in.

Hood 8.15.5.10

Mr. Weston did well.

Mr. Boyd did well.

Edith 8/10

John 8/10

Jan

Mr. Burton was excellent.
of weight to resolution (I
did answer on lines that
get over all possible 11
provision law in order,
give fact's all reasonable
of harbours & add that
help of British Col Empire
to regularly free from
1.6.62

2.5.0.5.B. 15.

26 October 1954

Submits resolution passed by the British that recent reports
of crimes by natives are viewed with apprehension & requesting
assurance may be given that all necessary measures are being
taken for the safety of women settlers & their property. Requests
assurance asked for in the resolution may be given.

(Delayed for recovery of Rainbow Ht.)

Draft submitted - LFF action.

Sturton

The real answer is "If you feel that way about it
why encourage people to go to Kenya?"

J.E.U. Wood
25

L.C.S. 25.10.54

Draft to issue AT au
then
(20/10

- 3 To S.C.S.B.C. (2 and.) 27/10/54
- 4 To C.F.D. (etc 20/1) 31/10/54
- 5 To Kenya 406 (w/10 2+3) A/1 31 1954

Parliamentary Question by Miss S. A. Knox —
Nomin People

C. O.

Mr. Freeston. 26/10

Mr. Hand 25

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

X Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

X Permt. U.S. of S. 26/10 fs

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



Downing Street,

27 October, 1934.

Madam,

I am etc. to inform you

that he has taken note of the resolution communicated in your letter of the 16th October regarding the position of women settlers in Kenya.

DRAFT.

THE SECRETARY,

THE SOCIETY FOR THE OVERSEA SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH WOMEN.

2. The Society for the

Oversea Settlement of British Women

will recognise that it is no more

possible in Kenya than in Great

Britain for Govt. to guarantee the

absolute security of individuals from

violence at the hands of ill-disposed

persons. In either country, the

functions of Govt. are necessarily

limited to taking all reasonable

measures for the preservation of law

and order, and to bringing offenders

speedily to justice; and in the

discharge

Handwritten mark resembling a signature or initials.

Copy a.s.O. (4) - Nairobi (5)

FURTHER ACTION.

*Copy sent to
Ghana
P.S.D. LFF.*

discharge of these functions the Govt. of Kenya has, in the Secretary of State's opinion, left nothing to be desired.

3. As your Society are no doubt aware, the seven Lumbwa tribesmen concerned in the recent attack upon Mr. and Mrs. Semini were promptly apprehended, and ~~was~~ ^{sentenced to death} ~~sentenced to death~~ within 15 weeks from the date of the crime; and the Colonial Govt. is dealing with the ~~recent growth~~ ~~of lawlessness among the Lumbwa tribe~~ by the drastic expedient of deporting the Laibons (or medicine men), together with their families, to an area remote from that occupied by the tribe.

4. The Colony of Kenya, in common with the rest of the British Colonial Empire, is singularly ~~marked~~ ^{free} from native disturbances and inter-racial hatred, and Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister trusts that the Society will agree with him in thinking this a matter for profound satisfaction.

I am, etc.

(Signed) L. E. FREESTON

[22 on 27016]

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(Signed) L. B. FREESTON

[22 on 23026]

6

2

SOCIETY FOR THE OVERSEA SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH WOMEN (INCORPORATED)

(ACTING AS THE WOMEN'S BRANCH OF THE OVERSEA SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, DOMINIONS OFFICE)

Telegrams
MITIGATOR, PARL: LONDON.

Cables
MITIGATOR LONDON
(A.B.C. CODE 6TH EDITION)

Telephones
WHITEHALL 9060, EXTENSION

Interviews
11 A.M. TO 4 P.M. DAILY
SATURDAYS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Chairman
THE DOWAGER VISCONTRESS HARCOURT, G.B.E.

Vice-Chairman
THE HON. LADY GILES, C.B.E.
THE HON. MRS. WILSON FOX, C.B.E.

Chairman of Executive Committee
MISS GLADYS S. POTT, O.B.E.
Hon. Organiser **Secretary**
MISS A. C. FRANKLIN, O.B.E. MISS E. S. NICHOLAS.

Reply to
S.O.S.B.W.
CAXTON HOUSE (West Block)
TOTHILL STREET,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.1.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE S/4633.

16th October, 1934.

Amend (3)
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

R
Dear Sir,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the following resolution recently passed by the Committee of this Society especially concerned with the settlement of women in Kenya and later endorsed by my Council:-

"The Council of the S.O.S.B.W. being
"responsible for the encouragement of
"young women to settle in Kenya views
"with much apprehension recent reports
"of crimes by natives and the feeling
"of insecurity which has resulted. The
"Committee will be glad of some assurance
"from the Authorities that all necessary
"measures are being taken to ensure the
"safety of women settlers and their
"property in Kenya."

I am asked to say that my Council will be grateful if, in due course, they may receive from the Colonial Office the assurance asked for in the resolution.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

E. S. Nicholas

Secretary.

Copy to Kenya (S)
Copy to O.S.D. (R)

He
PC
ACRD. BY P.C.

6
2

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Copy to Kenya (3)
Copy to S.O.S. (4)

He
pe
ACKD. BY P.O.

7

The Bath Club,
34, Dover Street,
W. 1.

3/10.

Dear Freeston,

Herewith the resolution as amended after the discussion. Lady Eleanor spoke first emphasising the dangers which white women experienced as indicated by the Semini case. Her speech was tame. Lord Francis Scott was called on to speak next. His speech was tamer still except for some reference to the Samburu disorders. I was then called on to address the meeting but explained that I had only come in case I could give any facts which might assist them in coming to a decision. Actually I commented on the danger of generalisation from single cases, drew attention to the sentences in the Semini case and the decision to remove the Laibons from Lumbwa and left Francis Scott to explain why the police had been reduced in settled areas - a recommendation of his committee at the instigation of official members. I pointed out that European police were never posted to native areas except where particular non native interests demanded it. Then I asked Lady Eleanor whether many people in Kenya shared her anxiety and she replied that many had written to her. At that point I produced the E.A. Standard and quoted from the column I showed you. It got a good laugh when it transpired that I was reading about England, and I urged a sense of proportion. Ld. F.S. then implied in a remark that he agreed with what I had said about the danger of generalisation and that conditions had improved as a result of official action during recent months.

That was all though it took $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. to say it!

I do not think you will find that I have increased your
work

8

work except to the extent of trying to read this illegible
scrawl if you do.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) C.E.W. Buxton.

RESOLUTION.

This Committee being responsible for the encouragement of young women to settle in Kenya views with much apprehension recent reports of ~~outrage~~ ^{outrage} by natives and the feeling of insecurity

which has resulted. The Committee trusts that the ~~authorities~~ ^{authorities} will ~~without delay take~~ ^{be glad of an assurance that the necessary} measures ~~and~~ ^{being taken}

to ensure the safety of women settlers and their property in Kenya.

REGENT 7200.
"60 PELLIOLA LONDON."

No

110
THE BATH CLUB,
34, DOVER STREET, W.I.

Dear Freester

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find that I have increased
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the extent of trying to
read his illegible sheet
if you do

Yrs sincerely
C. M. Smith