

1937

38086

38086

C0533/480
KENYA

9

PETITIONS

MRS. EDNA WATT

Previous

1936

Subsequent

R. 297	24/5/37
R. 307	6/5
M. Paskin	6/5
M. Flood	7
Sir G. Bottomley	7
Lord de la Warr	13/5
R. 298	13/5
297	14/5
R. 309	24/5
M. Paskin	27/5
M. Flood	22
298	25/5
297	

C.I.

PETITIONS.
Nominal.

1. A/GOV'S DEPUTY.....206.....5.4.37.
Gives reasons why it is considered undesirable that
Mrs. Watt or her mother should return to Kenya.

Submit Draft for Comm.

C. J. Brown

6/5/37

J. J. Bannin
6/5

C. J. Turner MRS

This is all we can do. It is a distressing case but
Govt. can hardly accept any liability and her return to Kenya
would be folly.

v. L. W. Flood 7.5

Lord de la Bore

The memorial is in the 1936 file, and
the best history is summarized in the
minutes on that paper. Now real trouble
is that her husband has thrown her out
(not the only case in Kenya), and on that
we can do nothing.

The off. way issue!

B.C.B.

7.5.37

2 Mrs Edna Watt

13 MAY 1937

3. MRS. EDNA STUART WATT

Requests to be allowed to go to some other Colony or
Dominion if she cannot return to Kenya.

10.5.37.

I suppose that Mrs Watt's best and
only method of securing a
proper allowance from her husband
is via the medium of the
Court. The Bureau will
perhaps ^{advise} whether we can
say anything to Mrs Watt in

in this respect.

As regards the last part of Mrs Watt's letter, there are no emigration schemes ^{that stand a chance} which she & her family could be settled in any of the Dominion or Colonies. D.O. will undoubtedly advise on this point.
C. Harrison
14/5/37

Miss Edith Thompson (S. & B. W.)

Mrs Watt (see 1 on 38086/g Kenya letter) has eight children, the two eldest are employed & the six between the ages of 12 & 6, three are in the Princess Louise Home at Esbo. You will also see from the Govt of Kenya's reply in this paper that in his view, if she returns to Kenya with her family she would almost inevitably become a public charge.

In these cases, it would presumably be regarded as out of the question to consider any assistance by way of grant or loan to enable her to settle in a Dominion or S. Rhodes (she has already been told by the C.O. that no funds are available to assist her to settle in any other Colony) - do you agree?

C. Harrison 17/5

We had a letter from Mrs Watt in August 1936, stating her case, & after consideration referred it to the D.O. & we advised to leave it alone - if anything Mrs Watt's circumstances seem even more hopeless now, & we do not feel able to help in any way. Even if it is a very bad story.
C. Harrison
S. & B. W., 20.5.37

It is only possible to express regret that there are no schemes in operation under which assistance could be provided to enable Mrs Watt and her children to proceed to any of the Dominions or Colonies for purposes of settlement.

G. S. Plant

21.5.37

I have consulted Mr. Dimeson on the question whether we can properly give her any advice as to obtaining a maintenance order; & he suggests, after conf. with Mr. Home of the Home Office, that we should suggest that she should consult the Clerk to the Local Justice. The wording of the last sentence of the Op. herewith was suggested by Mr. Home.

Nothing else for it.

J. G. W. R. D.
21.5.37

J. G. W. R. D.
23/5

4 Thomas Watt. (w/c 2) (3ansd)

25. 5. 37.

G. Turpin

38086/9/37.

C. O.

Mr. Pascin 22/5

Mr. Floe 22/5

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

C.O.
R 22MAY
D 24

Handwritten initials and marks

25.5.37

Madam,

I am sorry to ask the receipt of your letter from May and to ~~transmit to you~~ ^{enclose} a copy of a letter which was addressed to you on the 13th of May to your former address, from which you will observe that ~~it is regretted that~~ ^{acting} the Gov^t of Kenya ~~has~~ ^{has} reported that he regrets that the Gov^t of Kenya ~~and~~ ^{and} will be justified in taking any steps to facilitate your return to the Colony.

As regards your enquiry whether arrangements could be made for a small room to proceed to home

DRAFT.

Mr. Edna Watt

To Mrs Watt 13/5
(No 2)

FURTHER ACTION.

Other Colony or Dominion I am
to inform you that Mr. Ormsby
Gore has learnt, on enquiry,
that there are no schemes in
operation under which assistance
could be provided for this purpose.

As regards your enquiry ~~in~~
on the subject of your husband
making you an adequate allowance,
~~I am to say that Mr. Ormsby Gore~~
regrets that he cannot undertake to
give advice.
~~address to.~~ ~~in the matter.~~ ~~He would~~
suggest however that you should
consult the Clerk to the Local
Justices, ~~whom~~ ~~you would~~
for the Adjudged Petty ^{Sessional} ~~Division~~ Division

If however you
are contemplating
any legal steps
in the matter you
are not in a
position to
consult a
Solicitor, he
can only

(Signed) J. F. W. FLOOD

and he is not able to get
the receipt

Manor Pound Bangalore
Brabourne
10th May '37

formerly of 45 St. George Street
Hydrabad

38086/1/38



The Undersecretary of State for the Colonies.
Whitehall

Dear Sir

(2) DIV 1936 FILE

I was duly in receipt of your letter of the 13th of January informing me that you had forwarded my letter to the Governor of Kenya.

While I do not wish to impatience either yourself or the Governor of Kenya my position is no better, & I seem unable to find any way to ease the situation myself. I am in receipt still of only £5 a month from my husband paid irregularly - I moved to this cottage as the rent was less. I would, Sir, be deeply grateful should it not be possible for us to return to Kenya. i.e. myself & the children only of course if your office would see if pressure could be brought to bear on my husband to make ^{him} give us an adequate allowance. I really cannot continue -

My eldest son has enlisted in the Royal
Marines and so could not of course leave England
Should Kenya prove impossible & it is after all
my native land, could ~~we~~ not go as a strong
healthy working family to some other colony
or dominion -

I should be so grateful, if you would see
if anything can be done for us -

Yours faithfully,

Edna C. Stuart Coall

C. O.

38086/9/37

2

Mr. Grossmith.

Mr. Parkin

Mr. Flood.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

+ Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

6/5-
6/5-

F.S.

DRAFT

for work

No 2
1916
file

Copy to Mrs Watt.

MRS. EDNA WATT.

SD

DOWNING STREET.

13 MAY 1937

13 May, 1937.

Madam,

I am etc. to refer to the letter from this Department of the 13th of January and to inform you that a despatch has now been received from the Acting Governor of Kenya regarding your appeal for assistance to enable you to return to the Colony.

The Acting Governor states that as you acquired domiciliary rights in the Colony you would not be required to make the cash deposit demanded if required by immigrants under the Immigration Regulations. In regard, however, to your ^{understanding} claim that a house would be made available for

you

FURTHER ACTION.

you by Lord Kitchener, free of ^{rent} charge,

in the event of your return to the Colony,

the Acting Governor is informed that the

late Lord Kitchener had intimated that,

although he had offered to place an empty

house at your disposal, accommodation would

no longer be available as all his houses

were occupied.

3. The Acting Governor stresses the
undesirability of your returning with your
family to the Colony without capital and

sufficient means of support, and ^{states that:} ~~points out~~

~~in these circumstances that in the event of your return~~ the Government

of Kenya would not be prepared to release you

from the liability to repay the cost of the

assisted passage to the United Kingdom with

which you were provided in 1935. He presumes

that you would wish your mother, Mrs. Turner, to

return with you to Kenya, and suggests that *if that were the case,*

her return would be most undesirable having

regard to ^{the state of} her mental health when she left the

Colony. He asks that you should be warned

that

G. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

that if Mrs. Turner has not recovered
her mental health she would be refused
admission.

I am, etc.

4
He had report that
he has no funds at his
disposal ^{wh.} for assistance could
be granted to ~~the~~ enable
him to take up residence
in any ~~of~~ other Colony.

I am etc.

(Signed) J. E. W. FLOOD

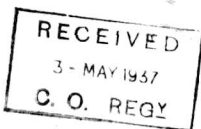
while sympathizing with
you in your unfortunate
position, the S. G. S. regrets that
he finds it necessary to say
that, in all the circumstances
he shares ^{the views of the Governor} the view
that the Gov. of Kenya ~~is~~
not be justified in taking
any steps to facilitate your
return to the Colony. He also

KENYA.

No. 206



9
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.



5 APRIL, 1937.

Sir,

(3) on 1936 file
With reference to your despatch No. 42 of the 14th January regarding an appeal by Mrs. Stuart Watt for assistance to enable her to return to this Colony, I have the honour to state that I am advised that Mrs. Stuart Watt has acquired domiciliary rights in this Colony, and that in these circumstances neither she nor her children could be prohibited from re-entering, and that Immigration deposits could not be demanded of them.

2. In regard, however, to her claim that a house would be made available for her by Lord Kitchener free of rent in the event of her return to the Colony, I am informed that the late Lord Kitchener had intimated that, although he had offered to place any empty house of his at her disposal, accommodation would no longer be available as all his houses were occupied. Mrs. Watt would therefore not be able to take advantage of his original offer.

3. Mrs. Watt has apparently no capital and no sufficient means of support, and, in the event of her returning with her family to this Colony, would almost inevitably become eventually

a

-1-

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
W. ORMSBY GORE, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,

LONDON. S.W. 1

a charge on public funds.

In these circumstances this Government would not be prepared to release her from liability to repay the cost of the assisted passage to the United Kingdom with which she was provided, and it will be appreciated if in any communication to her the undesirability of her return to this Colony can be stressed.

4. Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Watt's mother, who it is presumably intended would return with her, was a patient in the Mathari Mental Hospital, Nairobi, as a certified lunatic from 1922 to 1927 and was subsequently sent to England in 1935 in the care of friends at this Government's expense. She was at the time mentally deficient, though not certified.

I am advised by the Medical authorities that the return of this lady to the Colony would undoubtedly result in her ultimate readmission to the Mental Hospital.

It is therefore considered most undesirable that Mrs. Turner should return, and should this be the intention, it will be appreciated if her daughter can be warned that, if at the time of her arrival she was or appeared to be an idiot or insane person, she would be refused admission.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.