

1938

38388

38388

KENYA

Anguman Humayat Islam

Protest against statements made by Mr. H. G. Wells.

Previous		298.	10/10		
See 305		297.	18/10		
		300.	19		
		Mr Parkin.	19		
Subsequent		303	20/10		
See 40332/38		308	25		
Uganda.		R 298	26/10		
		297.	28/10		
		309	1/11		
297	19/9	Mr Parkin	"		
309	19/9	Mr. Bennett	1/11		
Library	20	Mr. Blaxter	2/11		
Mr Kelgwas	/	297	10/11		
297	24/9	309	4/11		
Mr Ridgway	22/c	Mr Parkin	"		
Mr Hunter	24	297	2/11		
Mr Cooley Akale	24/9	309	2/11		
Mr Parkin	28/9	Mr Parkin	1/12		
Mr Blaxter	29/9	297	4/12		
Mr Andrews	20/9	309	4/12		
Mr Bennett	20/9	Mr Macdonald	4		
Mr T. Colville	30	Mr Parkin	22		
303	3/10	R. 299	4/1		
308	8/10	9/8			

FILE A.

L. J.
Resolution
Nominal
Muslim

Govt. Dep. 5th. _____ 12/9/38 2
first copy of communication from President of
Anjuman Himayat Islam on subject of certain
references to Mohammed in Mr. H. G. Wells's book
"A Short History of the World."

2 Governor (11th numbered) _____ 14/9/38
Two copies of Resolutions passed at mass meeting
of Anjuman Himayat Islam in Rawalpindi 14/9/38

Library

At leisure could you please
send along a copy of the Wells
book, and of the extract referred
to; and, if you have anything
~~relevant~~, something about the
press controversy referred to?

Clarks White

Note made J. Hunter 19/9
Sep 20, 1938

to P. H. J.

Can you help as regards the reference in the
press reports of what took place in London?
We don't get the "Mombasa Times"

J. Hunter
Sep 20, 1938

Any paper of this date (Aug 19)
probably has reports. I was in
at the time, but Cuttings were sent
up to the Department

M. J. P.
22

3. Cuttings from The Times 19/1/38

If the statements in the enclosures to these despatches, to the effect that Mr Wells' book is causing serious stir among the Moslems all over the world, (the I.O. and F.O. (qua Near East), and also the Mt. Dept, will no doubt have received similar representations.

? Co. Mt. Dept for obvious and in general for reason of sending the copies to F.O. & I.O.

Clarke White
28/9

? Send copies of 1 & 2 with encls.
to F.O. & I.O. (calling encls)
for any obs. Yff

(Re "as was"
of W. opus)

J.J. Passon
28/1x

RW Blackler
29/9

I have seen nothing about this from Pat. or T.J. I imagine Middle-Eastern Moslems have no difficulty in finding more serious objects for their moral indignation.

W.S.P. [unclear]
30/9

I have not seen anything
from [unclear]
- RWB

I do not think there have been any reactions so far as we are concerned in the Middle East.

J.S. Bennett
30/9/38

As proposed (Mr. Paktin)
[unclear]

30/9/38

4 To: F.O. (472 copies 1 & 2 encls.) } 10/11
5 To: I.O. (472 copies 1 & 2 encls.) } Bira 10/10/38

6. Governor 577.

Ref: 1. two copies of further communications from Hussein and Abdol Karim of Baghdad Hamayat Islam.

? To: F.O. & I.O. with encls for any obs. - in [unclear] (1 & 2)

M. [unclear]
19x

J.J. Passon
19/x

7 To: F.O. (472 copies 76 encls.) } 10/11
8 To: I.O. (472 copies 76 encls.) } Bira 28 OCT 1938

India Office 257 (S) 251/38 257/38

Demonstration of protest organised by portion of East London Muslim community and conveyed to S of S for India. Government has no power to secure modification of passage.

We had better await F.O. reply

? Meanwhile M.F. Dept. still see.

Sec. K.W. Blaxter 7/11
O.S. Remind 1/11/38
Omnibus 1.11
A.R. Remind 1/11/38
at once

But no reply received to nos 4.

J. Jackson 297
12/11

? wait a month

Clothes white 11/11

J.J. Pascoe 11/11
at once

But no reply to nos 7 + 8

J. Jackson 297
29/11

I do not think I.O. should be bothered for a reply to (8) in view of the second para of (9). As F.O. have been reminded

about (9) in another file (see margin)

? wait a month - & then ~~write~~ ^{write} with that file.

Clothes white 29/11

To S.O. - 26/11/38
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE
26/11/38 Uganda

11 F.O. 6/12/38

Ref 8; states protests have not arisen in the Middle East. Has no objection to it.

Draft submitted

Clothes white 4/12

Omnibus 14/12

1. To K... (7/11/38) 1 + 2 Approved
2. To K... (7/11/38) 1 + 2 Approved

F.O. memo 257

at 12/11/38

4037 J.E.

22/11/38
at once

38388/28⁵
12-13

C. O.

- Mr. Collyer White 14²
- Mr. MacDungall 14
- Mr. Parkin 22 fs.
- 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.

RECEIVED
31-
4 JAN 1939

Sir,

I have etc to ack the

receipt of your
despatches of the 15th & 14th of September
and of the 11th of October 1938

despatch No 324 of the 2nd of
November 1938

forwarding representations by
the Moslem Community in

Kampala against certain
Kenya
Matters

parages in Mr H.G. Wells'

book "A Short History of
the World", and to

transmit for you in
copies of letters on the

subject which have
been received from the

DRAFT.

[to 1]

① ② ③

1 Kenya
No of ~~SS~~
Gov

[to 2]

①
40282/38
attached

2 Uganda
No of ~~SS~~
Gov

[to both]

[to 2]

[to 1]

b.o. 9
f.o. 11

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy on
Uganda file.

India & Foreign Offices
respectively.

- 2. [To 1] I would suggest
that if you consider it
necessary or desirable to
make any further communication
to the Anjuman Himayat Islam,
it should be in ~~the~~ a sense
similar to that of the second
para of the India Office
letter.

[To 2] I am in agreement
with your view that no
action ~~on your part~~ is called
for beyond simple acknowledgement
of the letter ^{to me} from the Modern Community.
Should it become necessary or desirable
in the future to ^{communicate} ~~make~~ any further
communication with the ~~Modern Association~~
Anjuman Himayat Islam ^{on this subject} I suggest
that it should be in a sense (as to 1)

If any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. E 7116/5920/65.

and address—

not to any person by name

but to—

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

4
FOREIGN OFFICE. S. W. 1.

6th December, 1938.

7 DEC 1938

Sir,

10
With reference to Colonial Office letter No. 40232/38 of the 26th November, I am directed by Viscount Halifax to express regret for the delay in replying to Colonial Office letter No. 38388/38 of the 26th October regarding the protest addressed to His Majesty's Government by Moslem communities in Kenya and Uganda against certain passages in "A Short History of the World" by Mr. H. G. Wells.

2. The passages in question have not, so far as Lord Halifax is aware, raised any protest of a similar nature in Moslem countries of the Middle East. In the circumstances, His Lordship has no observations to offer on the nature of the reply to be returned to the Moslem communities in Kenya and Uganda.

3. A copy of this letter is being sent to the India Office.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C W Buxton

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Copy to Kenya (11)
Uganda (12)

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Under Secretary of State for India,
Public & Judicial Department,
India Office, London, S.W. 1,
and the following reference quoted:
P. & J. (S) 881/38



INDIA OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON, S.W. 1

Telephone:—
Whitehall 8140 (10 Ex. No.)
Telegrams:—
Retaxandum, London.

95 4th October, 1938

CONFIDENTIAL.

6

Sir,

With reference to your memorandum of the 10th October, No. 38388/38 regarding a protest by Moslems in Kenya against certain references to the Prophet Mohammed contained in Mr. H.G. Wells' book "A short History of the World", I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to inform you that a demonstration of protest on the same subject was organised by a portion of the Moslem community in East London and was received by the High Commissioner for India on 18th August last and that the representations made by this deputation were subsequently conveyed orally by the High Commissioner to the Secretary of State for India.

The matter has been brought to the notice of the publishers of the book and Lord Zetland, in reply to the High Commissioner for India on the 24th August, 1938, informed him that it is a matter of deep regret to H.M.G. that offence should have been given to members of the complainant Association on a matter concerning their Faith but that, having regard to the freedom permitted to the expression of views in this country, His Majesty's Government have no power to secure a modification of the passage to which exception has been taken.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Foreign Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. D. D. D.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.

*Copy to Kenya (11)
" Uganda (12)*

KENYA
No. 577



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI
KENYA

// October, 1938.

Sir,

With reference to Sir Armigel Wade's despatch No. 514 of the 10th September, 1938, I have the honour to transmit, for your information, copies of further communications, dated the 11th and 15th September, respectively, received from the Kisumu and Eldoret branches of the Anjuman Himayat Islam (East Africa), incorporating resolutions on the subject of certain references to the Prophet Mohamed contained in Mr. H.G. Wells's book "A Short History of the World".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

A. Brooke Popham

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL
GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MALCOLM MACDONALD, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

*Copy sent to F.O. 7
I.O. G*

C O P Y.

ANJUMAN HIMAYAT ISLAM (EAST AFRICA).

A Purely Muslim (REGISTERED) Religious Association.

HEAD OFFICE:-

P.O.Box. No. 65, Nairobi.
(Kenya Colony).

P.O.Box No. 52,

KISUMU, Kenya.

13th September, 1938.

A mass meeting of the Muslim Community of Kisumu held under the auspices of the Anjuman Himayat Islam (East Africa), in the Muslim School, on Sunday the 11th September, 1938, unanimously resolved:-

(1) That this mass meeting of the Muslims of Kisumu associates itself generally with the resentment expressed by Muslims all over the world against the most unfair and objectionably blasphemous attacks of H. G. Wells on the character of the Prophet (Peace be upon Him) in his book entitled "Short History of the World".

It also demands that the author shall withdraw all copies of the present edition which may be on sale and shall delete from all future editions of the book the passage which has seriously hurt the religious feelings of Muslims throughout the world. Failing this, the meeting urges upon the British Government to take steps to proscribe the book.

(2) This meeting also demands that it should be impressed upon the British Government that in addition to proscribing the book, necessary steps be taken against the author for having most gravely hurt the religious feelings of Muslims throughout the world by attacking the character of the Great Legislator of Arabia (peace be upon Him) and the Holy Quran. The author has created the likelihood of spreading unpleasantness and hatred between two important communities of the British Empire, and, therefore deserves punishment of a serious nature in order to discourage such deliberate attempts at breaking the tranquility of mind of an otherwise peaceful people.

(3) Resolved that His Excellency the Governor of Kenya be requested to transmit both the resolutions passed in this meeting to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom through the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

It is further resolved that these resolutions may also be sent to papers for publication in the local and India Press.

Sgd/- Nawab Bin.

HONORARY SECRETARY,
ANJUMAN HIMAYAT ISLAM (EAST AFRICA).
KISUMU.

ANJUMAN HIMAYAT ISLAM (EAST AFRICA).

A Purely Muslim (EGISTED) Religious Association.

HEAD OFFICE:-

P.O. BOX. No. 65, NAIROBI,
(Kenya Colony).

RESOLUTIONS.

A mass meeting of the Muslims comprising all races of Eldoret held under the auspicious (sic) of the Anjuman Himayat Islaam in Jamia Mosque, Eldoret, on Tuesday the 13th September, 1938, unanimously resolved:-

1. That the Muslims of Eldoret Associate in this meeting with the resentment expressed by Muslims all over the world against blasphemous and scurrilous attacks of H.C. Wells, on the character of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him) and the Holy Quaraan in his book entitled "Short history of the World",

It demands that the author shall withdraw all the copies of his publication which may be on sale and shall delete from all future editions that passage which has seriously hurt the Muslims all over the world; otherwise this meeting urges the British Government to proscribe the book.

2. This meeting also demands that the British Government should be impressed to take necessary steps against the Author for having so gravely hurt the religious feelings of Muslims not only of Eldoret but throughout the World, by attacking on the character of the Grand Legislator of Arabia (Peace be upon Him) and the Holy Quaraan; thus the Author has created the likelihood of spreading unpleasantness and hatred between the two important communities of the British Empire; and, therefore, deserves a serious punishment in order to discourage the deliberate attempts in breaking the tranquility of mind of the peaceful people.

3. Resolved that His Excellency the Governor of Kenya be requested to transmit both the above resolutions passed in this meeting to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom through the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Times

19 August 1938

MOSLEMS' MARCH THROUGH THE CITY

PROTEST AT BOOK BY MR. H. G. WELLS

Between 300 and 400 Moslems, including a woman and a young boy, marched through the City yesterday as a protest against Mr. H. G. Wells' book, "A Short History of the World." Moslems say the book faults the memory of the prophet Mahomet and the Koran.

The procession started at the Mansion House tube station and made its way along Queen Victoria Street to the Embankment and Temple, where it halted outside Elestra House.

A deputation of six of the leaders then went to the office in Aldwych of the High Commissioner for India, Sir Feroz Khan Noon. The deputation was with the High Commissioner for three-quarters of an hour.

One of the leaders said afterwards: "We handed him a written representation which he said he would pass on to his Majesty's Government. Now we are satisfied." The leaders returned to the procession, which then dispersed.

KENYA
No.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI
KENYA

14th September, 1938.

Sir,

In reply to your letter with their request, I have the
honour to forward copies of resolutions passed at a
mass meeting of the Majlisul Ulama in
Nairobi on 4th September, 1938.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. R. P. P. P.

W. R. P. P. P.
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI.

② copy to F.O.
③
④
⑤
H. M. S. (11)

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR JAMES H. DUFF, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE DOMINIONS,
10, WHITE HALL, LONDON, W.1.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Anjuman Himayat Islam (East Africa).

A PURELY MUSLIM (REGISTERED) RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION

NONE TO BE WORSHIPPED
BU LAR & MOHAMMED
IS HIS PROPHET

HEAD OFFICE

Branch Offices at:

KENYA, UGANDA
&
TANGANYIKA

Magadi	Nanyuki	Tanga
Kajiado	Masaka	Moshi
Eldoret	Kampala	Dot
Nakuru	Mhale	Soroti
Jinja	Tororo	Natasha
Mery	Mombasa	



P.O. Box No. 100 Nairobi

Telephone:- 2687 *Branch*

OUR REF

YOUR REF

8th September, 1938

His Excellency
The Governor,
Government House,
NAIROBI.

Your Excellency,

I most humbly and respectfully beg to enclose copies of the Resolutions passed at a mass meeting of the Muslims of Nairobi for favour of forwarding the same to His Majesty's Government, through the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for kind, favourable and sympathetic consideration and necessary action.

I have been instructed to express my Community's great regret to Your Excellency for the trouble Your Excellency may take over this distasteful matter, which is of great importance to us, as it concerns our Prophet (Peace be upon Him) and our Holy Quran and has gravely hurt and injured religious feelings of the entire Muslim Community.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's
Most Humble and Obedient
Servant,

J. Rashid
Hony GENERAL SECRETARY.

4

A mass meeting of the Muslim Community of Nairobi, held under the auspices of the Anjuman Himayat Islam, in the Jamia Mosque, on Sunday the 4th September, 1938, unanimously resolved :-

1. That this mass meeting of the Muslims of Nairobi associates itself generally with the resentment expressed by Muslims all over the world against the most unfair and objectionably blasphemous attacks of H.G. Wells on the character of the Prophet (peace be upon him) in his book entitled "Short History of the World".

It also demands that the author shall withdraw all copies of the present edition which may be on sale and shall delete from all future editions of the book the passage which has been the cause of widespread resentment and which has seriously hurt the religious feelings of Muslims throughout the world. Failing this, the meeting urges upon the British Government to take steps to proscribe the book.

2. This meeting also demands that it should be impressed upon the British Government that in addition to proscribing the book, necessary steps be taken against the author for having most gravely hurt the religious feelings of Muslims throughout the world by attacking the character of the Great Legislator of Arabia (peace be upon Him) and the holy Quran. The author has created the likelihood of spreading unpleasantness and hatred between two important communities of the British Empire and, therefore, deserves punishment of a serious nature in order to discourage attempts such deliberate attempts at breaking the tranquility of mind of an otherwise peaceful people.

3. Resolved that H.E. the Governor of Kenya be requested to transmit both resolutions passed in this meeting to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom through the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

KENYA

No. 514



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI
KENYA

RECEIVED
SEP 1938
G.O. REGY

10 September, 1938.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a communication dated the 29th August, received from the President of the Anjuman Himayat Islam (East Africa), incorporating a Resolution on the subject of certain references to the prophet Mohamed, contained in Mr. H.G. Wells's book "A short History of the World".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Admiral

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

2 Copies to F.O. (4)
1.0 (5)
3
J. ... (11)

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MALCOLM MACDONALD, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

ANJUMAN HIMAYAT ISLAM (EAST AFRICA).

A PURELY MUSLIM RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION.

None to be Worshipped but Allah & Muhammad is his Prophet.

Head Office:-

NAIROBI.

Mombasa Branch,

P.O. Box 470.

29th August 1938

The Hon'ble Colonial Secretary,
Kenya Colony
Mombasa.

Sir,

It was resolved in the mass meeting held on Sunday the 28th inst in Regal Theatre that the copy of the following resolution be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor of Kenya Colony and Protectorate with a request that the same be transmitted by His Excellency to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for Colonies, London, at His Excellency's earliest convenience:-

"That this mass meeting of all Muslims held under the auspices of the Anjuman Himayat Islam, Mombasa denounces the passage written about the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by H.G. Wells in his book "Short History of the World" and agrees with the sentiments of the various weighty Muslim speakers in London on the subject and urges the British Government to put a ban, in the whole British Empire, on the sale and circulation of the said book, which has seriously wounded the religious feelings of the Muslims and is likely to cause religious disturbances throughout the Islamic world."

2. Since the reproduction of the said passage in Mombasa Times of 23rd August the feelings of all the Muslims of Mombasa were high up against the book and the author and thanks to the activities of the Anjuman that these feelings have little bit been pacified by the mass meeting. Resolution was passed unanimously amidst shouts of anger against the author. It is earnestly requested that His Excellency will be kind enough to forward the resolution with his favourable recommendations.

I am

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Sd/. YUSUFALI ESMAILJEE JIVANJEE

President.

Anjuman Himayat Islam.