

no
part
ent
Jan
20
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

My brother...
...of...
...after first...

nos ant...
...son...

this direction would
tions and with the

modo implent...

gypt, the question
uously. His re
me, he forwarded
Rough Notes to
System of L
rough not

granot...
...p...

already a
of...
...and were...

...at...
...of...
...the...

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

...to deal
...at...
...of...
...to you in...
...the direction of...

As app...
...and...
...the...

...and...
...and...
...and...

...him
...at...
...the...

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS FILM

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

C0533/368

ORDER NO. ⇨ FN/E207
CAMERA NO. ⇨ 19
OPERATOR. ⇨
REDUCTION. ⇨ 12
EMULSION NO. ⇨ 32102
DATE. ⇨ 21/2/7

CROWN COPYRIGHT

THESE COPIES ARE SUPPLIED FOR INFORMATION
AND RESEARCH ONLY-NO REPRODUCTION MAY BE

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

C0533/368

ORDER NO. ⇨ FN/E207
CAMERA NO. ⇨ 19
OPERATOR. ⇨
REDUCTION. ⇨ 12
EMULSION NO. ⇨ 32102
DATE. ⇨ 21/2/7

CROWN COPYRIGHT

THESE COPIES ARE SUPPLIED FOR INFORMATION
AND RESEARCH ONLY-NO REPRODUCTION MAY BE

24th May, 1927. 18

Sir,

With reference to a letter from your Commercial Secretary No. 22745/1927 of January 31st, 1927 addressed to His Majesty's Trade Commissioner, Nairobi, regarding the possible importation of Japanese labour into Kenya Colony, I transmit to Your Excellency the accompanying copy of a letter from the Colonial Office enclosing the draft of a despatch which it is proposed to address to the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya on the subject of the importation of foreign labour into that Colony.

E. I have concurred in the terms of this despatch.

I am, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) GEORGE ...

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir John Tilley, K.C.M.G., C.B.,

etc., etc., etc.

Tokyo.

No. 26.

(N 4820/1880/61)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

24th May, 1927. 19

Sir,

With reference to certain enquiries which it is understood have been addressed to you regarding the possible importation of labour from Batavia into Kenya Colony, I am directed by Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Colonial Office enclosing the draft of a despatch which it is proposed to address to the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya on the subject of the importation of foreign labour into that Colony.

2. The Secretary of State has concurred in the terms of this despatch.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(SG. GEORGE TOWNSEY,

J. Crosby, Esq., C.I.E., O.B.E.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Batavia.

Mr. Allen 27. 4.27.

* Mr. Bostanley 27.4.27

Mr. E. J. Harding.

* Mr. C. Strachey. 5/5

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir S. Wilson

Mr. Crossby Giese

Mr. of Cawendon

Mr. Amery

BAG
9.5.17

Amson
no 11
[Signature]

Downing Street.

14 April 1927.

Sir.

I am etc., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th April (J.775/626/16) relative to the question of the importation of foreign labour into Kenya under contract, and to enclose a draft of a

despatch on the subject, which, subject to Secretary Sir Austen

Chamberlain's concurrence, it is proposed to address to the C.A.G. of the

Colony. ^{N.P.} 2. If Sir Austen Chamberlain concurs in the terms of the proposed

despatch, it is not proposed to forward ~~to the C.A.G.~~ the original letter from

H.M. Commercial Counsellor at Peking which accompanied your letter of the

DRAFT.

The U.S. of S.,
Foreign Office.

Dft. despatch to O.A.G. Kenya
(without Encl)

D.O.T. 5 April
(no 7)

Copy (with 1st enclosure) to D.O.T. 17 MAY 1927 B.G.

1st Encl only
Copy this and encl.
to D.O.T., inf., ref. No. 7.

7th March (F.1798/1680/61), and

Mr. Amery presumes that Sir A. Chamberlain

will make such further

communication as may be necessary

to H.M. Representatives in China,

Japan and Batavia, and also to the

Government of Egypt.

2. I am to add with

reference to para. 2 of your letter

under acknowledgment that the

Convention of Associations is an

unofficial body of settlers to

which is affiliated almost all

the District Farmers' Associations

in Kenya.

~~1. Amery...~~
3. A copy of the letter

from the D.O.T. of the 5th Apr

is also enclosed.

Scantle

Action might now be taken as follows:-

(1) Despatch to O.A.G. (for F.O. concurrence).

Say that it has been brought to the notice of H.M.G. ^{instance of the} that at the Convention of Associations enquiries have been instituted as to the possibility of importing foreign labour into Kenya under contract; enclose a copy of the letter and questionnaire from the Committee (flagged) together with copies of No.5, 6 and 7 from which it appears that the Deputy Trade Commissioner in Nairobi was approached with a view to obtaining information as to the possibility of securing such labour from China, Japan and Batavia, adding that the Secretary of State ^{to} ~~was~~ also informed by the ~~fact~~ that the Egyptian Government was similarly approached direct by the Secretary of the Committee. Point out that it will be seen from the correspondence that the ^{the} Trade Commissioner has already informed the Convention as stated ^{N^o} in para.7, and that he has been instructed to suspend action in the matter in order that any further communication may be made through the O.A.G., and request that the Convention may now be informed that the introduction of foreign labour into Kenya under contract is contrary to the policy declared by the Governor in the Legislative Council on the 10th August last; that H.M.G. is not prepared to countenance any enquiries of foreign Governments with that purpose in view, and that H.M.Representatives at Peking, ⁹ Tokio and Batavia and the Government of ^{Egypt} ~~London~~ have been so informed. You should also

remind

kind the Convention that a matter of this kind involves political and diplomatic considerations which may have failed to realise but which H.M.G. cannot ignore.

Add that the fact that the appointment of the Committee formed the subject of a general notice in Government Gazette does not in the Secretary of State's opinion justify the form of reference adopted at the head of their letter, the wording of which is calculated, if not deliberately, to give the impression that the enquiries are not wholly unofficial in character, and ask the C.A.S. to consider some alternative form of the general notice in order that it may be possible clearly to distinguish those which are official and unofficial. There is the further question of legislation referred to in paragraph 2 of the enclosed file and it is a question whether it would be desirable to send a separate unofficial report with reference to the previous paragraph, so that the Secretary of State is aware there is at present no statute book of Kenya which regulates the importation of labour under contract, but that for present purposes the Secretary of State would prefer to leave matters as they are, in the hope the question will not arise, since the introduction of such legislation might be represented as indicating an intention on the part of the Government to adopt a policy, but in view of the action taken by this official Committee the C.A.S. should consider whether it would not be preferable to face the risk of representation and introduce legislation enabling the Government

22

Government not only to regulate but also to prohibit the importation of contract labour. On the whole, however, I am inclined to think that it will be better to leave this point alone.)

(2) Letter to F.O.

enclose for concurrence draft of despatch proposed under (1) and say that if the F.O. concur the Secretary of State does not propose to forward the original letter enclosed in No.2 in the file, and presumes that the F.O. will make such further communication as may be necessary to H.M. Representatives in China, Japan and Batavia, and also the Government of Egypt, and as regards the last mentioned, that say with reference to para.3 of No.8 that the Convention of Associations is an unofficial body of settlers to which is affiliated almost all the District Farmers' Associations.

(3) Letter to D.F.T.

It is not really necessary to say anything more to the D.F.T. at the moment, but I think they might have had a copy of the letter to the F.O. proposed above with the enclosure. (If, as Mr. Kemp states in the telegram embodied in No.7, he was fully conversant with the political implication of the subject, I think it is a pity that when he was first approached he did not inform the Convention or the Committee that the matter was a political one and outside his purview, and that if they wished to raise the matter they should do so through the Colonial Government. I doubt, however, whether it is necessary or desirable to send any definite

definite expression of regret that Mr. Kemp did not
at it his course, since in other respects his action
in the matter seems to have been quite circumspect.)

W. Miller

2/10/3

My dear Sir,

I am glad to hear that you have had the opportunity

to see Mr. Kemp and that you have had a very interesting

and profitable conversation with him.

Yours faithfully,

W. Miller

W. Miller

7/23

All communications to be addressed to the Comptroller General.



3-1

City Office:
25, Basinghall St., E.C.2.
Telephone: London Wall,
4711

DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

Telephone: Victoria
Programs: Advantage, Pacific
Codes: Letters, A.B.C. Code &



33, OLD QUEEN STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Ref. No. 22745/1927.

5th April, 1927.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Arthur Michael Samuel to acknowledge receipt of Colonial Office letter No.10202/27, of the 29th March, regarding certain enquiries addressed to various foreign Governments on behalf of the Convention of Associations of Kenya on the subject of the importation of contract labour into that Colony. I am to state that in pursuance of the request of Mr. Secretary Amery a telegram in the following terms was despatched to the Deputy Trade Commissioner at Nairobi:-

"Your enquiry on behalf of Convention of Associations re importation of indentured labour. Stop. To what countries besides China and Japan have you addressed enquiry. Stop. Have you received any replies and if so have you communicated them to the Convention. Stop. Please suspend all action in the matter as Foreign Office and Colonial Office are considering it in consultation".

2. I am also to state that today a reply has been received from the Deputy Trade Commissioner in the following terms:-

Your

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

1076
copy to Sir 4/17 - 3.
14 MAY 1927
H
K
S

"Your telegram No.7 Batavia also replies from Batavia and Japan. Being fully conversant with political implication of subject I merely informed convention firstly by letter indenture recruiting prohibited by law in Batavia secondly verbally I understood that indenture recruiting unlikely to have successful results Japan. Suspending action as instructed."

Jan

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

M. A. Donald

X.10202/1927 Kenya

B

Mr. Seel 24/3/27

Mr. Allen 23/3/27

Mr

Mr E J Harding

Sir C. Strachey 24 j?

Sir J Shuckburgh

Sir G Grindle

Sir C Davis

Sir S Wilson

Mr Ormsby Gore

Earl of Clarendon

Mr. Amery

Downing Street,

29 March, 1927.

Sir,

Recd 20/3

I am etc. to acknowledge

the receipt of your letters No.22745/

27 of the 28th of February and the

10th of March, regarding certain en-

quiries addressed to various Foreign

Govts. on behalf of the Convention of

Associations of Kenya on the subject of

the importation of contract labour in-

to that Colony.

copy to Sir 4/6/27
No. 1000/27

DRAFT.

The Comptroller General
of the Dept. of Overseas
Trade.

2. I am to enclose, for Mr.

Samuel's information, a copy of a

letter which has been addressed to

the F.O. and to say that if Mr. Samuel

To F.O. 29 Mch.
draft h'th.

(2 drafts)

sees no objection, Mr. Amery would be glad if a telegram might be sent to the Deputy Trade Commissioner in Nairobi in the sense indicated in the last para. of the enclosed letter, with a view to the matter being further considered on the receipt of Mr. Kemp's reply.

I am, etc.,

Mr. Seel 22/3/27

Mr. Allen 23/3/27

Mr. [unclear]

Mr. E. J. Harding

X Sir C. Sturges 2/4

Sir J. Shackleton

Sir G. [unclear]

Sir C. [unclear]

+ Sir S. [unclear] 25.3.27

Mr. [unclear]

Earl of [unclear]

X Mr. Amery [unclear]

DRAFT.

The U. S. of State,
Foreign Office.

(encl. to X.F.6922/26)

(2 drafts)

Downing Street,

29 March, 1927.

Sir,

I am etc. to acknowledge

the receipt of your letters No.

F.1798/1680/61 of the 7th of March

and No.J.626/626/16 of the 16th of

March, 1927, on the subject of en-

quiries made on behalf of the Con-

vention of Associations of Kenya re-

garding the conditions under which

indentured labour would be permitted

to emigrate from ^{Certain foreign countries} China and Egypt

respectively.

2. I am to enclose, for

Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain's

information, a copy of a statement

on the subject of the importation of

contract labour into Kenya made by

the Governor of the Colony to the

Legislative Council on the 16th of

Copy to D.O.T. 29 MAR 1927 - 23 MAR 1927

Sir Edward Grieg stated that the Govt.

of Kenya was unfavourable to the importation of contract labour into the Colony, and I am to say that this statement of policy is in accordance with Mr. Amery's views on this question.

3. Mr. Amery has received no previous information regarding the ~~action~~ enquiries addressed to various Govts on his subject on behalf of taken by the Convention of Associations of

Kenya, in ~~addressing enquiries on this~~ subject to various Governments, and he is

not aware what enquiries, if any, have been made other than those addressed to

the Commercial Counsellor at Peking,

the Commercial Secretary at Tokio and the

Egyptian Govt. I am to say that if the

^{request} enquiries of the Convention of Associations

had been ^{made} addressed through the Govt. of Kenya

and ^{had} been referred ^{to him} ~~made~~ by that Govt., ^{Mr. Amery}

would not have been prepared to approach

Sir Austen Chamberlain with a request for ^{for the consideration of any}

X.10202/1927 Kenya

3-6-27

Mr. Seel 24/3/27

Mr. Allen 23/3/27

Mr.

Mr E J Harding

Sir C. Strachey 24/3/27

Sir J Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindie

Sir C Davis

Sir S Wilson

Mr Ormsby Gore

Earl of Clarendon

Mr. Amery

Downing Street,

29 March, 1927.

Sir,

Recd 20/3

I am etc. to acknowledge

the receipt of your letters No.22745/

27 of the 28th of February and the

10th of March, regarding certain en-

quiries addressed to various Foreign

Govts. on behalf of the Convention of

Associations of Kenya on the subject of

the importation of contract labour in-

to that Colony.

2. I am to enclose, for Mr.

Samuel's information, a copy of a

letter which has been addressed to

the F.O. and to say that if Mr.Samuel

sees

No. 10202/1927

Copy to Sir Amery

DRAFT.

The Comptroller General
of the Dept. of Overseas
Trade.

To F.O. 29 Mch.
draft h'th.

(2 drafts)

sees no objection, Mr. Amery would be glad if a telegram might be sent to the Deputy Trade Commissioner in Nairobi in the sense indicated in the last para. of the enclosed letter, with a view to the matter being further considered on the receipt of Mr. Kemp's reply.

I am, etc.,

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Seel 22. 3/27

Mr. Allen 23/ 3/27

Mr. E. J. Harding

X Sir C. Strachey 2/27

Sir J. Shackleton

Sir G. ...

Sir C. ...

+ Sir S. ... 25. 3/27
away

Mr. Ormsby ...

Earl of ...

X Mr. Amery 22. 3/27

DRAFT.

The U. S. of State,
Foreign Office.

(encl. to X.F.6922/26)

(2 drafts)

Downing Street,

29 March, 1927.

Sir,

I am etc. to acknowledge

the receipt of your letters No.

F.1798/1680/61 of the 7th of March

and No.J.626/626/16 of the 16th of

March, 1927, on the subject of en-

quiries made on behalf of the Con-

vention of Associations of Kenya re-

garding the conditions under which

indentured labour would be permitted

to emigrate from ~~China and Egypt~~

respectively.

2. I am to enclose, for

Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain's

information, a copy of a statement

on the subject of the importation of

contract labour into Kenya made by

the Governor of the Colony to the

Legislative Council on the 10th of

August, 1926. It will be seen that

copy to D.O.T. 29 MAR 1927
for file

cert. and foreign countries

Sir Edward Grigg stated that the Govt.

of Kenya was unfavourable to the importation of contract labour into the Colony, and I am to say that this statement of policy is in accordance with Mr. Amery's views on this question.

3. Mr. Amery has received no pre-

vious information regarding the ~~action~~ ^{enquiries addressed to various Govts} ~~enquiries~~ taken by the Convention of Associations of

Kenya, in addressing enquiries on this ~~subject to various Governments~~, and he is not aware what enquiries, if any, have been made other than those addressed to the Commercial Counsellor at Peking,

the Commercial Secretary at Tokio and the

Egyptian Govt. I am to say that if the

^{request} ~~enquiries~~ of the Convention of Associations

had been ^{made} ~~addressed~~ through the Govt. of Kenya

and ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{referred to him} by that Govt., ^{Mr Amery}

would not have been prepared to approach

Sir Austen Chamberlain with a request ~~for~~ ^{for the institution of any} ~~the institution of any enquiries of this~~ ^{enquiries of this} ~~connected to the various foreign~~ ^{enquiries of this}

nature. 77

4. Subject to Sir Austen Chamberlain's concurrence, Mr. Amery would prefer that any replies to the Convention of Associations should be made, if possible, only through the Acting Governor of Kenya, and the Comptroller General of the Department of Overseas Trade has accordingly been requested to ascertain from the Deputy Trade Commissioner in Nairobi, by telegraph, to what countries the enquiries have been addressed, and whether any replies have yet been received and communicated to the Convention of Associations; and to instruct the Deputy Trade Commissioner to suspend all action in the matter, as the question is under consideration in consultation with the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and for the Colonies.

I am, etc.;

(Signed) C. STRACHEY

The appointment of this Committee was notified in the Government Gazette flagged in XP.6186/46. ^{It} will also ^{be} seeⁿ from the immediately preceding notice that the names of the office bearers were similarly notified.

It is possible that there has been an unfair advantage has been taken of publication in the Gazette in wording the reference at the hands of the Government which led up to the appointment of a

Committee to take enquiries as to the possibility of importing various types of goods are shown to be also in force in more than 600 areas. It will be seen from the minutes 503 that Lord Delandere in supporting the motion for the appointment of a Committee said that the reason for his support was that he was quite certain that if a Committee investigated the matter properly that it will see how impossible it was to get inventories taken from India, even supposing that the Indian Government and the local Government at home would agree to it. He said that Government at home under any circumstances would allow inventories to be taken in India or China or elsewhere. If the Committee supported the proposition that India or Chinese inventories would advise Government not to agree to it, and if the Committee is not like that, it will be a full session.

In the course of the 15th March 1946, the Committee was expressed to be a strong support to the proposition that should be taken into the matter of which is stated in the case referred he said that it was started

views of the Convention of Associations expressed in February, was unfavourable to the importation of contract labour, partly because it was convinced that the importation would not serve the true interests of the Colony, and partly because it knows of no suitable sorts. *Source -*

It may be added that following on the Convention's discussions on labour problems last year, the Chief Native Commissioner was instructed to hold informal enquiries in regard to certain labour matters, and it appears from a recent telegram that investigation has not yet been completed. Also a further Commission was appointed on the 12th January to examine and report upon the needs of the Colony in respect of African labour outside the native reserves.

It is also clear that there is some opinion locally that the shortage of labour is exaggerated and that good employers have not much difficulty in getting men, and this view is expressed as a private opinion by the Deputy Trade Commissioner in his letter of the 15th December in this file.

W. H. Allen
(0/3/2)

to be informed by his legal advisers that, subject to the mild provisions of the Immigration Restrictions Ordinance, Government had no power either to prohibit the importation of labour from outside the Colony or to make regulations governing such importation.

In a later telegram of the 20th July (5943/26) the Governor said that there was no serious pressure behind the demand for imported labour which was only supported by a small minority of the (most) members of the Convention of Associations. It was thought that legislation would be drafted as a measure of precaution, the only condition being that if such legislation were introduced it should give the impression that importation was actually intended. In his reply on the subject to the Secretary of State agreed to the drafting of a bill which was understood that it would not be introduced until a more definite proposal had been made and said that the draft bill would be submitted to the Council when prepared.

** Feb 26 - the
4 previous
presented to the
from a late meeting.*

In his resolution of the 17th August 1926 (IF.6922) the Governor recalled the history of the particular matter when and recommended a motion which concerned the question of the importation of labour from East Africa, and enclosed a statement which he made to the Legislative Council on the 17th August. In that statement he said he hoped that a serious supply of labour would press for contract labour. He said that labour was coming from China, but that it was very cheap and dangerous.

The statement concluded by the Governor that he thought it just to say that Government, in accordance with the views

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No.

9626/626/16

and address—~~not to any person by name~~, but to—

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

RECEIVED

17 MAR 1927

COL. OFFICE

10202

4
30

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to *the Under Secretary of State for the colonies* and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper for such observations as *Mr Secretary Amery* may desire to offer.

Foreign Office,
16th March, 1927.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

From

*high commissioner
at Cairo*

No. 17 of 2nd Mch.

*Recruiting of Egyptian labour
for Kenya*

Similar letter sent to

And 29 MAR 1927

End March, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Egyptian Government have received from the Secretary of the Convention of Associations, Nairobi, a letter, of which a copy is enclosed, on the subject of recruiting Egyptian labour for Kenya. The Public Security Department wish to make sure that the Convention of Associations is a body with which the Egyptian Government can with confidence deal and whether it is in fact controlled by His Majesty's Government.

2. I would be grateful for any information regarding this Convention and whether it is, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, advisable that Egyptian labour be sent to Kenya.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The Right Honourable

Sir Auston Chamberlain, K.G.,

etc. etc. etc.

In reply please quote
M. 70/1/1911
and date.

32
THE CONVENTION OF ASSOCIATIONS,
Office: The Memorial Hall,
Sixth Avenue,
Nairobi.

P.O. Box 361,
NAIROBI,
KENYA COLONY,
EAST AFRICA.

15th December 1906.

To the Colonial Secretary,
Egyptian Government.

Sir,

Subject:- Overseas Labour.

Reference: The Official Gazette of the Colony
and Protectorate of Kenya 1.12.06
General Notice No. 1205. Convention
of Associations Notice No. 5.

This notice gives particulars of a Committee
appointed by the Convention of Associations. "To make
full enquiries as to the possibility of importing
overseas labour to this country".

2. I enclose a copy of a Questionnaire on this
subject which is being addressed to various Governments.

3. I am further instructed to ask under what cir-
cumstances, if any, your Government would allow labour to
go from your country to Kenya C.S.

(a) Would you allow it to be collected and for-
warded by accredited agents?

(b) Would your Government be willing to give any
practical assistance in recruiting and forwarding?

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) Charles Gitchell.

Secretary.

LQ/Q1/1/1.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. LENGTH OF SERVICE.

What would be the maximum period for which indenture would be permitted?

2. WAGES.

What would be the average wage required by

(a) Overseers or head-men?

(b) Unskilled Labourers ?

3. TERMS OF PAYMENT.

(a) Would any advance of wages be required?

(b) Would any deduction be required to be made and deposited for payment at expiration of contract?

4. RATIONS.

What scale of rations would be required?

5. HOUSING.

Would any special type of housing be necessary?

If so, what?

6. MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Any special medical requirements over and above those at present in force in this Colony on employers?

Note. The employer is responsible for all necessary medical and surgical treatment and for hospital fees up to the balance of a 50 working day ticket.

7. REPATRIATION.

What regulations for repatriation would be required?

8. NUMBERS AVAILABLE.

What would be the probable limitation as to the numbers recruited?

9. REMARKS.

Wirohi,
11.2.55.

Charles Catchell.
Secretary.

22745/1927

3
34

THE Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade
presents his compliments to *The Under Secretary of
State for the Colonies*
and transmits herewith copy of the undermentioned paper for information and retention.

RECEIVED
11 MAR 1927
COL. OFFICE

Department of Overseas Trade
35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.
1931, 1927

Reference to previous letter. No. 1

Letter from D.O.T. dated 28/2/27 reference 20 above

Cut before receipt in (Ea)

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

Despatch from
The Commercial Commission
Tokyo
to the Trade Commission
Nairobi

Importation of Labour
from outside sources
into Kenya Colony.

21/1/27

Copy also sent to:— Foreign Office,
Ministry of Labour.

Cwd. 29 MAR 1927

Confidential.

British Embassy

Tokyo.

21st January, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch 1960/26 of the 15th December last, on the subject of the importation of labour from outside sources into Kenya Colony.

As it appears improbable that the Japanese Government would welcome enquiry as to the prospect of obtaining indentured labour from this country, in view of the implication of a low type of labour attaching to that term, I have, with the approval of His Majesty's Ambassador, refrained from submitting to the Japanese Authorities the questionnaire enclosed with your despatch. While agreeing with the opinion which you express, namely that the political disabilities of an importation of Asiatic - or at any rate Japanese - labour would more than negative any possible advantage of such importation, I may state for your information that the policy of the Japanese Government is directed towards encouraging the emigration

His Majesty's Trade Commissioner,

of/

P.O.Box No. 220,

Nairobi.

of families and their settlement as peasant proprietors. At the present time plans are being prepared to send whole families to Brazil, where extensive tracts of land have been offered to, or acquired by, Japanese interests. The object in view is, by this means, to assist in relieving the pressure felt in Japan from the increase in population. The proposals made by the Convention of Associations would, however, not be in accordance with this policy, since they contemplate engaging labourers for a term of years only, on the expiration of which repatriation would presumably be effected.

From what is known of the activities of Japanese emigrants to America, for instance, they appear usually to work as labourers only long enough to acquire sufficient means to embark upon a business of their own, as market gardeners, shop keepers, etc., and they show a tendency to gravitate from the country to the cities.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd. F. S. J. B. T. R)

Commercial Secretary.

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. F 1798/1680/61

and address—

not to any person by name,

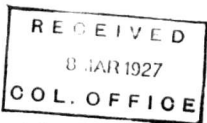
but to—

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

2
37
FOREIGN OFFICE.

S.W.1.

7th March, 1927.



Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain to refer to a memorandum (No. 22745/1927 dated February 23rd) addressed to the Foreign Office by the Department of Overseas Trade concerning a request made by the Secretary of the Convention of Associations of Kenya Colony for information regarding the conditions under which the Chinese Government would permit Chinese labourers to emigrate to East Africa; it is understood that a copy of this memorandum has been forwarded to your department.

2. The Secretary of State concurs in the terms of the reply addressed to the Deputy Trade Commissioner at Nairobi by His Majesty's Commercial Counsellor at Peking and the original of this letter is forwarded herewith for transmission to Mr. Kemp, provided, of course, that Mr. Secretary Amery sees no objection to this course.

3. It is clear that the employment of Chinese labour in Kenya Colony raises questions of very considerable political importance, and Sir Austen Chamberlain would be glad to be furnished with any observations which Mr. Secretary Amery may care to offer on the subject in general.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

George Mounsey

Ans. 29 MAR 1927

The Under Secretary of State,

Foreign Office.

22745/27

1/28

THE Comptroller-General of the Department of Overseas Trade
presents his compliments to *The Under Secretary of
State for the Colonies*
and transmits herewith copy of the undermentioned paper for infor-
mation and retention.

RECEIVED
2 MAR 1927
COL. OFFICE

Department of Overseas Trade

35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

28. 2. 1927

Reference to previous letter :

Letter from D.O.T. dated _____ reference
to _____

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date. Subject.

Memo to the
Foreign Office

Emigration of Chinese
labourers to East Africa

23/2/27

Copy also sent to :—

3 JUN 1927

Copy sent advo. to Gen. Secy.

29 MAR 1927

HRB.

22745/1927.

MEMORANDUM.

The Department of Overseas Trade transmit herewith to the Foreign Office copy of a despatch and of its enclosures from the Commercial Counsellor at Peking, relative to a request from the Secretary of The Convention of Associations of Kenya Colony for information regarding the conditions under which the Chinese Government would permit Chinese labourers to emigrate to East Africa.

2. The employment of Asiatic labour in Kenya Colony involves important political considerations and the enquiry would appear to concern the Foreign Office and Colonial Office, rather than the Department of Overseas Trade.

3. The original of Mr. Fox's reply to the Deputy Trade Commissioner, Nairobi, is also enclosed herewith. If the Foreign Office agree to its tenor it is requested that they will forward it to the Colonial Office for transmission to Mr. Kemp by that Department, should the Colonial Office see no objection.

4. A copy of this memorandum and of its enclosures has been sent to the Colonial Office and Ministry of Labour for information.

Department of Overseas Trade,
35, Old Queen Street,
London, S.W.1.

23rd February, 1927.

Encl. Copy.

Overseas Trade (B)

No. 2.

OFFICE OF H.M. COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR,

BRITISH LEGATION, 40

PEKING.

January 26th., 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, under flying
----- seal, a letter which I have addressed to the Deputy
Trade Commissioner at Nairobi in reply to a communication
from the Secretary of The Convention of Associations of
----- Kenya Colony, copy of which I have the honour to enclose,
regarding the terms on which the Chinese Government would
allow Chinese labourers to emigrate to East Africa.

2. I trust the non-committal reply I have made
to the Deputy Trade Commissioner may meet with your
approval. In view of present disturbed conditions
in China and the delicate negotiations which His Majesty's
Government are now conducting with the Southern
Government the moment is, I venture to think, hardly
an opportune one for approaching that government -
who would be the authority principally interested -
on a matter of this kind. You may, however, deem
it advisable to authorize the Deputy Trade Commissioner
to inform the Secretary of the Convention that when
normal conditions are restored in this country an
endeavour will be made to obtain the information which
he has asked for.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

With the highest respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd) Harry H. Fox.

H.M. Principal Secretary of State H.M. Commercial Counsellor.

that one may be obtained on application to the Government of the Union of South Africa.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

(Sgd) H.H. Fox.

H.M. Commercial Counsellor.

BRITISH LEGATION,
PEKING.

January 26th., 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 1959/26 of December 15th last on the subject of the labour supply in Kenya Colony.

The question asked by the Secretary of The Convention of Associations in paragraph 3 of his letter would necessitate a reference to the Chinese Government which I am not in a position to make unless especially authorized to do so by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs to whom I am forwarding a copy of this correspondence.

As regards the questionnaire, I have not the information in my possession which would enable me to make an adequate reply. I should have to refer the questionnaire to His Majesty's Consuls at ports in China, such as Amoy and Swatow, where there is emigration to the Straits Settlements and other British colonies, and here again I am unable to make a request which would probably involve consultation with the local Chinese authorities without instructions from H.M. Government.

The employment of Chinese labour in British colonies is regulated by the Convention between Great Britain and China signed at London on May 13th 1904 and a perusal of the terms of this agreement would, I think, give the Convention a good idea of the conditions under which Chinese labour is employed in certain

/British

The Deputy Trade Commissioner,

Office of H.M. Trade Commissioner,

N A I R O B I,

British Colonies. I regret that I am unable to send you a copy of this document but I have no doubt that one may be obtained on application to the Government of the Union of South Africa.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry T. Fox". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

H. M. COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR.

J.F.

OFFICE OF H.M. TRADE COMMISSIONER,

P.O. Box 220,

Nairobi,

Kenya Colony.

15th December, 1926.

1959/26.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the question of importing labour from outside sources into Kenya Colony has been raised in The Convention of Associations, which is a body to which are affiliated almost all the District Farmers' Associations. The Convention has appointed a Committee to examine the question and that Committee is anxious to obtain information from various sources of labour supply.

--- The Secretary of The Convention has now asked me if I would pass on to you the enclosed papers with the request that you would be so good as to complete the questionnaire as far as is possible in relation to your area.

It may be of assistance to you if I state my private opinion that allegations of a labour shortage in this Colony have been considerably overstated and that the political disabilities of an importation of Asiatic labour would more than negative any possible advantage of such importation.

At the same time, I should be grateful if you would kindly let me have as complete a reply as you consider necessary for the purposes of the Convention, together, if you consider it advisable, with a confidential note for my own guidance in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

(Sgd) C.Kemp.

Deputy Trade Commissioner.

The Commercial Counsellor,
His Britannic Majesty's Legation,
Pekin, China.

3
45
THE CONVENTION OF ASSOCIATIONS.

Office: The Memorial Hall, 6th Avenue,
Nairobi.

Chairman:
I. F. H. Harper.
Secretary:
C. Gaitskell.

P.O. Box 391,
NAIROBI,
KENYA COLONY,
East Africa.

In reply please quote:
OL/JN/1/1/555 and Date.

Sir,

Subject:- Overseas Labour

Reference:- The Official Gazette of the Colony
and Protectorate of Kenya 1-12-26
General Notice No. 1243. Convention
of Association Notice No. 2.

This notices/give particulars of a Committee appointed
by the Convention of Associations "To make full enquiries
as to the possibility of importing overseas labour to this
country".

2. I enclose a copy of a Questionnaire on this subject
which is being addressed to various Governments.
3. I am further instructed to ask under what circumstances,
if any, your Government would allow labour to go from your
Country to Kenya, e.g.

- (a) Would you allow it to be collected and forwarded
by accredited agents.
- (b) Would your Government be willing to give any
practical assistance in recruiting and forwarding.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd) Charles Gaitskell.

Secretary.

46
END.

CONVENTION OF ASSOCIATIONS

Labour Supply Committee.

LD/QI/1/1.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

1. LENGTH OF SERVICE.

What would be the maximum period for which Indenture would be permitted?

2. WAGES.

What would be the average wage required by

(a) Overseers or head-men?

(b) Unskilled Labourers?

3. TERMS OF PAYMENTS.

(a) Would any advance of wages be required?

(b) Would any deduction be required to be made and deposited for payment at expiration of contract?

4. RATIONS.

What scale of rations would be required?

5. HOUSING

Would any special type of housing be necessary?

If so, what?

6. MEDICAL TREATMENT

Any special medical requirements over and above those at present in force in this Colony on employers?

Note. The employer is responsible for all necessary medical and surgical treatment and for hospital fees up to the balance of a 30 working day ticket.

7. REPATRIATION.

What regulations for repatriation would be required?

8. NUMBERS AVAILABLE.

What would be the probable limitation as to the number recruited?

9. REMARKS.

1927

Kenya

No. 10203

SUBJECT

C0533/368

Kilindini Harbour

Construction of Deep Water Berths.

Previous

C.A. 6445/26

Subsequent

10427/27

15268/28