

1925

E. AFRICA

393

C.O.
1925
4 MAY 25

FROM

DATE

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

1st May 1925.

FOR CIRCULATION—

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Green

Asst. U.S. of S.

Mr. Strachey

X Perm U.S. of S.

X Perm U.S. of S. 7.5.25

Secretary of State.

JOINT E.A. COMMITTEE OF LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

State, with reference to their proposal for periodical meetings with the C.O., that they cannot delegate to the Joint E.A. Board the right to speak for the commercial community. They however welcome suggestion that they should attend Joint E.A. Board meetings arranged by C.O.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

I don't know what the C.O. of
Committee also say. having had
the right of appeal with S. off
(except in the sense that if
any important body, had an
important matter to raise it
would certainly be in - but
that is not a "right"), but
~~the principle of~~
actually the principle of periodical
meetings was accepted in 1914.

There was however the Joint
East African Board, and the question

Subsequent Paper

M 1 22816

think it will be too severely as
a regular institution. If Mr. [Name] [Name]
could discuss the [Name] with Dr. S. [Name]
or Sir J. [Name] (who is just back from
E.A.) a solution might be found.

We need not I think convene the
Joint meeting except in the instance of
the J.E.A. Board, and the papers being
sent?

W.A.S. 27/5/25
J. My [Name]

I agree, as to the Joint E.A. Board being a
"broadly representative character" I think it is
silly that their pretensions in this direction are
constantly had to be suppressed. I have not had time
to give a lecture to Sir S. [Name] on the subject but it
done privately & there is no official report about it. I
in their official report they take credit, and then in
relation of the [Name] (the [Name]) which they did bring up
meeting, but which was decided quite independently of
their representations.

W.A.S.
27/5/25

I have drafted a suitable reply.
There is a row on between Sir [Name]
Loyd & the J.E.A. Sir S. [Name] is
more in touch with the [Name] & his
& my letter will bring matters to a
head. at once W.A.S. 27.5.25



TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
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TELEPHONE NO:
1949 TO 52 CITY.



1, 2 & 3, OXFORD COURT,
& 97, CANNON STREET,
LONDON, E. C. 4.

1st May 1925.

The Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.,
Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
LONDON, S.W.

C.O.
1925
4 MAY 25

Dear Sir,

I have now had an opportunity of submitting to the Joint East African Committee of the London, Liverpool and Manchester Chambers of Commerce your letter of the 21st March regarding the proposal for periodical meetings between yourself and officers of the East African Department of the Colonial Office on the one hand, and representatives of the three Chambers on the other, for the purpose of discussing East African commercial questions.

The Committee direct me to thank you for the observations you have been good enough to make regarding the subjects mentioned in my letter of the 14th ult. and to say that they are of course quite prepared to await the issue of the Report of the East African Commission, which they understand will deal with some of those subjects.

With regard to the suggestion contained in the penultimate paragraph of your letter, I am to state that the Joint East African Committee of the Chambers attach the greatest importance to the right of direct access to the Colonial Office on all commercial matters upon which they are competent to speak, as distinct from matters of a more or less political character which are dealt with by the Joint East African Board. It was clearly understood by the East African Sections of the Chambers when the Joint East African Board was being formed, that the Joint Board would limit its activities to those broad questions of political character, on which the opinions of the members of the Board, in their individual capacities might prove of value. Perhaps I may refer you to the last annual report of the Joint East African Board, in which it was clearly stated that that body is anxious not to intervene in commercial subjects that are already under the purview of existing organisations, such as the Chambers of Commerce. On the other hand, the Joint Committee of the East African Sections of the Chambers, being elected by, and representative of, a very substantial body of firms trading with East Africa, and who have always been granted the privilege of access to the Secretary of State, cannot very well, as I am sure you will agree,

The Hon. W. G. A. Gurnsey-Gore, M.P., ... cont.

delegate to the Joint East African Board, or to any other body, the right to speak for the commercial community.

My Committee, however, quite appreciate how narrow is the line which sometimes lies between political and commercial questions in East Africa, and in order to obviate the possibility of overlapping, welcome the suggestion, contained in your letter under reply, that they should arrange to attend at the same time as the representatives of the Joint East African Board, any meetings which you may be good enough to arrange.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten Signature]
Secretary

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Some ...
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favou ...
et inf ...
sir ...

For my signature M.I. 8th May 1925
WVY 1925
15/5/25

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Recd
Ansd
22/5/25

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated May 1st in reply to mine of March 21st.

With regard to the third paragraph of your letter I would point out that when the Joint East African Board was formed it was hoped that that Board should include representatives of all the principal Commercial Associations in England bearing interests in the Trade & Commerce of the various British Territories along with East African ports as well as shippers, insurers & firms concerned in England bearing interests in property in British Territories in East Africa.

It was never intended at the Colonial Office that the Joint East African Board would limit its activities to questions of political character. In fact it was not contemplated by me that they would discuss political questions with representatives of the Colonial Office, but should be in communication with the Colonial Office from time to time on economic questions & more particularly questions of Trade & Commerce.

I understand that the Chairman of the East African section of the London Chamber of Commerce has already a member of the Joint East African Board & that it is contemplated that the corresponding sections of the Liverpool & Manchester Chambers should also be represented there.

I had no intention of suggesting that the Chamber of Commerce should

copy to Mr. E. A. ... 27 MAY 1925