

1924

E. AFRICA

C. O.
39153

333

DATE

15th August 1924

18 AUG 24

INDIA OFFICE.

CIRCULATION :-

E.A. COMMISSION.

Fwds copy corres relating to Govt of India's desire to send a representative to assist local Indians in preparing information for Commission.

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U.S. of S.

U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

6. 39093

MINUTES

Li H. Read

Please re 39093

I have spoken with you. P
submit draft for concur.

Eqm 23/8 24.

Subsequent Paper

6. 39093

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India,
Economic Department,
& Overseas India Office,
London, S.W. 1.

the following reference quoted:
E. & O. 3054/24.



INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

LONDON, S.W. 1.

331

August, 1924.



URGENT

Sir,

I am directed by Lord Olivier to refer to the letter from this Office dated 9th July 1924, No.E. & O.2013, regarding the Committee appointed, under the Chairmanship of Lord Southborough, to enquire into various matters connected with East Africa.

2. Copy is enclosed of a telegram dated 6th August received from the Government of India regarding their desire to be given facilities for the deputation of a representative to East Africa to assist the local Indians in giving information to the Commission which is to enquire on the spot into the matters referred to Lord Southborough's Committee. Such a deputation was strongly recommended to the Government of India by their Colonies Committee.

3. Copy is also enclosed of the correspondence noted in the margin with Major Ormsby Gore, who was addressed, as Chairman of the Commission, in order to ascertain, before he left this country, how he personally would regard the proposal in the event of the Colonial Office being able to accept it.

To Major Ormsby Gore,
dated 11th August.
From -do-
dated 13th August.

The Government of India have been informed of the terms of reference to Lord Southborough's Committee and to Major Ormsby Gore's Commission and their attention will

be

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

be drawn to the fact that the scope of the contemplated enquiry, so far as Indians are interested in it, is purely economic and non-political. It may be anticipated, however, that this will not affect their desire to depute a representative for the purpose of assisting the local Indians of Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya in supplying information to the Commission on the matters referred to it, so far as they may be concerned with such matters.

4. Lord Olivier would accordingly be glad to learn whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies would have any objection to the deputation of an officer or other representative for the purpose contemplated provided that the person selected is not unacceptable to the Governments of the territories concerned.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. ...

for Secretary,

Economic & Overseas Department.

E. & O.
2879
1924

335

PJM/PL

(46 words)

3765

C O P Y O F T E L E G R A M

From Viceroy, Department of Education, Health and Lands,
to Secretary of State for India.

Dated Simla, 6th August, 1924

Received 6th August, 1924.

7.0 p.m.

Reference our telegram dated 6th May 1924,
No. 379. Will you please let us know whether you have taken
any action to press for the presentation of the Indian
case by our representative(s) before the Commission.
Nothing is yet known about the terms of reference, but if
as stated by Thomas in reply to Henne's motion, these are
at all comprehensive we are almost certain that Indian
interests will be affected, and the need for early decision
as to the steps to be taken to secure adequate presentation
of their case will be vital. We shall therefore be
grateful if the precise terms of reference and, if possible,
also the preliminary recommendations of the Southborough
Committee, on which Thomas stated the terms will mainly be
based, are communicated to us as soon as possible.



335

PJM/EL

(46 words)

3755

C O P Y O F T E L E G R A M

From Viceroy, Department of Education, Health and Lands,
to Secretary of State for India.

Dated Simla, 6th August, 1924

as
dated:

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F. & O. 2579/24.

311
11 August 1924.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to inform you that the Colonies Committee which was appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Mr. Hope Simpson in connexion with the position of Indians in the Crown Colonies, Protectorates, etc., has suggested that the Government of India should seek facilities for the deputation of an officer to East Africa to assist the local Indians in the preparation of evidence or information for presentation to the Parliamentary Commission under your chairmanship, in the event of any question in which Indians are interested arising in the course of its enquiries. The Government of India have telegraphed to the Secretary of State strongly supporting this suggestion.

2. A similar suggestion was made in regard to the presentation of evidence on behalf of the Indian communities if occasion for it should arise, before Lord Southborough's committee. His Lordship has been asked whether he would have any objection to the nomination of a representative of the Government of India for the purpose, and it is presumed that that question can be decided separately at a later stage.

3. In the meantime, as it is understood that your Commission is starting for East Africa forthwith, Lord Olivier desires to enquire whether you see any objection to the deputation of an officer to proceed to the three territories of Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya for the purpose contemplated, on the understanding that the Colonial Office, who will be consulted, agree.

4.
Major the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, M.P.,
5, Mansfield Street,
W. 1.

4. In the event of your seeing no objection, His Lordship would also enquire whether it is expected that the taking of evidence will be included in the procedure of the Commission, and if so whether you will permit the officer deputed from India to give evidence on behalf of the local Indians, or to assist them in giving evidence, in regard to questions of interest to them that may arise. If on the other hand the formal taking of evidence is not contemplated, Lord Olivier and the Government of India would be greatly obliged if their representative could have informal access to the Commission in order to furnish information on any such questions and could be given any necessary facilities to assist the Indian communities in presenting similar information.

5. I am also to enquire whether you will be so good as to state the approximate dates on which it is anticipated that the Commission will arrive in Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya respectively.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. G. T. J. M. H.

Bromynlyn,

331

Oswestry,

13th August, 1934.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your E. & C. 2879/34 dated 11th August, the question of detailing an officer of the Government of India to meet the Commission of which I am chairman in East Africa, is one on which I can express no opinion. It is essentially a matter for His Majesty's Government and for the Secretary of State for the Colonies in particular.

My Commission does not intend to take formal evidence.

With regard to paragraph (4) I do not see how an officer from India could possibly give evidence on behalf of local Indians in East Africa.

Undoubtedly we shall be enquiring into the "Economic relation of natives and non-natives, with special reference to labour contracts, care of native

H.G. Turner, Esq.

native labourers and employment of women and children" have to consider the treatment of African labour by Indian capitalists in East Africa, and the conditions of employment of natives in Indian owned cotton ginneries, etc., but the sort of questions examined by Mr. Hope Simpson's committee are altogether outside the terms of reference of my Commission.

We leave the day after tomorrow and shall be at Lar-es-Salaam on September 23rd, at Entebbe, Uganda, October 7th and Nairobi, Kenya, on November 1st.

Yours sincerely,

W. Ormsby Gore.

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We leave the day after tomorrow and shall be at Dar-es-Salaam on September 23rd, at Entebbe, Uganda, October 7th and Nairobi, Kenya, on November 1st.

Yours sincerely,

W. Ormsby Gore.

10. / 39/53 / 24 E.A.

311

O. D.
R 28 AUG
D 40

26th Aug. 1924

Sir,
I am etc to ack. the
rec. of your letter No
E and O 3054/22 of
16th August regarding a
suggestion by the Govt
of India that a
representative sh^d. proceed
to East Africa to assist
the local Indians in
giving information to the
East African Commission,
which recently left this
Country for East Africa.
It is evident that

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4/9/24
Sc

DRAFT.

The U.S.G. for India
Economic & Overseas
Dept

MINUTE.

- Mr. Macarty 27/8/24
 - Mr.
 - Mr.
 - Sir G. Davis.
 - Sir G. Grindle
 - X Sir H. Read
 - Sir J. Master
 - X Lord Arnold
 - Mr. Thomas.
- 23/8 - 26/8/24

two copies

at the time when his
 proposal was put forward
 the terms of reference
 of the Commission were
 not known to the Govt
 of India. It is noted from
 your letter that these
 have since been communicated
 to him. Having regard
 to the facts that the
 Indian Question in Kenya
~~is definitely excluded from~~
 the purview of the Commission,
 that in the very brief
 time at their disposal while
 in Africa the Commissioners
 will not be able to do more

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Davis
- Sir G. Grindle
- Sir H. Read
- Sir J. Masterton Smith
- Lord Arnold.
- Mr. Thomas.

than consider local
 conditions in the most
 general way & that
 they are not taking
 formal evidence at all,
 Lord Arnold is convinced
 that it would serve
 no useful purpose to
 send a special representative
 from India to interview
 the Commission as proposed
 moreover his Lordship
 deprecates the proposal
 as he thought that if
 carried out it would not

fail to create an
unfavorable impression
locally in East Africa.
No other community in
E. Africa has raised the
question of appointing
special representatives to
visit the Committee and of
conducting new talks in a
special spirit in this respect.
It would surely fail to give
rise to a feeling that an
attempt was being made to
reopen the political question.
Lord Oswald must, therefore
make Lord Olivier well see his
way to represent the facts of
the matter to the first of
India & to urge them not to
open the proposal. Jan (Sgt) of Road

fail to create an
unfavourable impression
locally in East Africa.

No other community in
E. Africa has raised the

question of appointing

special representatives to

meet the Commission and if

no Indians were placed in a

special position in this respect

it could hardly fail to give

rise to a feeling that an

attempt was being made to

reopen the political question.

had raised must, therefore

that Lord Olivier will see his

way to represent the facts of

the matter to the Govt. of

India & to urge them not to

press the proposal. Jan (Sgt) H. J. Read