

1923

KENYA

27303

BISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

Date

29th MAY 1923.

Re 31 MAY

*B. Cant.*

SUBJECT

POSITION OF INDIANS.

S. of S.

*H. B. 4/VI/23*

Fwd memo indicating procedure which might be acceptable to all parties, pending consideration of the whole problem by a Royal Commission.

S. of SV

S. of 2

S. of State.

Previous Paper

*2748  
2742*

MINUTES

It is of year from the Archbishop's note within that this can be put by. The idea of a Royal Commission is not new. I remember that Lord Balfour told one of the deputation that came to see him that an easy way out of this would be for him to be to set up a Royal Commission, but that we not, in any way more than the postponement of the difficulty. Think of the difficulty of composing the Commission so as to satisfy all parties, but also to

*Part by*

*for*

Subsequent Paper

*8.6  
27460 S.*

expense! and there  
 wd seem to be every  
 probability that  
 the Commission wd  
 in effect be composed  
 of two parties with  
 the result that  
 there wd be minority  
 reports - & in the  
 end no one wd be  
 advanced towards  
 a satisfactory solution.

So far as I know, no  
 practicable solution  
 of the present political  
 trouble in S. of.  
 has been suggested  
 & there is no point  
 in a Royal Commission  
 starting to go  
 through the whole  
 thing again -  
 It wd mean prolonged  
 delay - & that  
 above all is to be  
 deprecated now.  
 A decision by Parly.  
 appears to be the  
 only feasible  
 course - All

2.6.23

At the time Lord Fisher  
 entertained the idea of a

expense! and there  
 wd seem to be every  
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 in effect be composed  
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 the result that  
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 appears to be the  
 only feasible  
 course - Allt  
 2.6.23  
 At the time Lord ...

J. Card & ...

Royal Commission, but on E.A. 536  
 matters generally. This might get over  
 the difficulty of being forced to  
 appoint partisans, but it would  
 really increase the difficulty of  
 getting any good men for all  
 purposes worked.

Furthermore since it is known  
 that a R.C. would be the least  
 least resistance.

G.C.S. 4.6.23

H. J. G.  
4/6/23

Leon. I have presented her with  
 who inspired the Royal Commission  
 proposal contained in the Archbishop's  
 letter, that it wd be worse than  
 useless at the present time  
 - even if difficulties in implementation  
 a policy declared by H.M.S.

M. M. M. 1st 4  
 At ...

13.6.

Leon 12.6.23  
 M. M. M.

Lambeth Palace, S.E.

27303

REC.  
RE. 31 MAY 27

May 29th 1923.

My dear Duke of Devonshire,

I have been giving all the attention in my power to the problem which is before you and indeed before the whole Empire in regard to the difficulties in Kenya. I think I have read the arguments of the principal men on every side, and I have given much thought to the subject and had interviews with a great many people. I am quite sure that I am acting in accordance with what would be the wish of great numbers of earnest and thoughtful men in this Country, some of whom have wide experience both in India and in Africa, when I ask leave to put before you a definite suggestion as to a possible mode of dealing with the situation so tangled as this is. I believe it to be not merely tangled but fraught with far-reaching danger affecting our position in India. About this, however, there is obviously great difference of opinion and you are in a better position than I am to weigh the different utterances which are made upon the matter.

As in all such questions I believe that we are most likely to find a solution if we fall back first upon the large elementary principles which should actuate us. The first of these is,

## Lambeth Palace. S.E.

In my judgment, the principle that we are in East Africa for the sake of the Africans and that our position is that of trusteeship rather than primarily of ownership or dominion. I am not using these words in a technical sense, but as explaining what I mean about the fundamental principle.

*Were*

~~Was~~ that principle to be conceded it would seem to me that time is needed and a pause is desirable before any new action on the part of the Government takes operative effect. I have long felt that in regard to this question and others affecting native life in East Africa a Commission of Inquiry would be eminently useful, and this idea was, I believe, not unwelcome to predecessors of yours in the high and difficult office you now hold. I have ventured, presumptuous as it may seem, to put on paper my suggestion as to practical action at the present time, and I have appended it in the form of a Memorandum. I am led by quite independent channels of approach to the decided belief that what may be described as the Indian opinion of reasonable men would loyally assent to the modus operandi suggested. I presume that some of those who have prominently advocated their own way the cause of the settlers, and advocated it, I think, with an inadequate sense of proportion, would be disposed to raise protests against the procedure

Lambeth Palace S.E.

suggested. This is, I fear, inevitable, but I believe the larger view to be the true one. If it seem presumptuous on my part to put the matter before you thus I can only plead that what I say is based upon careful thought, prolonged examination of the documents on every side so far as these have been made public, and many interviews with prominent men.

I am,

Yours very truly,

*Nandall Carter*

Memorandum.

Kenya.

(1). H.M. Government to declare that it is their policy that the East African Crown Colonies and Protectorates, including Kenya, shall be administered under the direct authority of the Imperial Government acting as trustee for the native inhabitants and for civilisation as a whole, and that as between the different communities inhabiting these territories the interests of the native population are paramount.

**Lambeth Palace. S E**

(2). A royal commission to be appointed to consider and report how this principle can best be applied to conditions in Kenya, with due regard to the rights and claims of each of the alien immigrant communities.

(3). No material change to be made to the disadvantage of any of the three communities until the commission has reported and H.M. Government has acted upon the report.