

receive any items
which may be offered for
the matter

1918 H. J. READ

EAST AFR. PROT

4166

4166

26 JAN 16

La.
Belfield & Co.

1918

26 Jan

Last previous Paper.

70
3431

Goods from Holland
Certificates of origin.

Pr. Vice-Consul's name is C. W. Drenth

Ref. H. J. V. is reply to 3431
that it has been ascertained by tel.
from the fir that the name of
the V- Consul is C. W. Drenth.

at once
H. J. R.
27/1/16

Remind F.O. 15.

C.C.S. 14.2.16 at once

Next sub. paper

70
3431

1918 H. J. READ

Gov 10985/1916 E.A.P.

28
286

Ind



Ind

D March 9/16

Ind

Ind

10985/1916

DRAFT

The Controller,
Foreign Trade Dept.

MINUTE

Mr. *Harper* 1/13/16

Mr. *Buttrick* 1/23/16

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Biddle.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Mr. Steel-Maitland.

Mr. Bonar Law.

Copy 11. 25 January

(to 7008)

With reference to the
letter from the Foreign
Office of the 12th 7

July (C. 24246/1916)

and the reply from the
Office of the 21st idem

I am re. to transmit
to you the accu-

rate of a despatch from

the Govt of the E.A.P.
with its enclosures
relating to the form

of J. Frachet

Mr. Bonar Law
will be glad to

230
and delivered to France. Immediately the Germans heard of this they boycotted the Swiss firms goods throughout Germany. Had the firm in question refused the French contract, it is probable that their goods would have been boycotted in France and elsewhere.

As we have already explained to you, before doing any business with Trachsler we insisted on certificates of origin vised by the British Consul with each shipment, which were satisfactory, so far as the goods are concerned and in addition to that we insisted on documents coming through a London Bank, which in our opinion was a very excellent guarantee of the standing of Trachsler himself, as the London Banks are fully and regularly posted by the Government regarding any undesirable Foreign firm.

We hope you will see your way to re-consider the opinion you have formed of our supplier. It is, of course, understood that the information which you gave to us was absolutely private and that so far as you are concerned officially there is no obstacle in the way of dealing with Trachsler.

We are etc.,

p.p. CHILDS PARR & JOSEPH,

Ed. C. Tutenberg

Copy.

ENCLOSURE No 2

Reference No. 11 of 25-1-1916

284

P.O. Box No. 38,

Mombasa.

14th January 1916.

Private and Confidential

The Hon. the Chief of Customs,

Mombasa.

Dear Sir,

re I.D. TRACHSLER, BERNE. Further to our various interviews, we confirm what we told you this morning, viz., that we have heard from Mr Bellart of The British American Tobacco Co., that Trachsler obtained his goods from

Messrs Birnstiel Lanz & Co.,
Wattwil,
Toggenberg. Switzerland.

Mr Bellart was for some years in the employ of the latter firm and assures us that their sympathies are entirely Swiss and that their great concern is to carry on their business. He also informed us that they were an old established firm, having been in the trade for over forty years. Trachsler was also known to Mr Bellart, who stated that he (Trachsler) had been in business in Singapore and India working for Swiss firms and had never been interested in any German concern.

We give you, for what it may be worth, Mr Bellart's opinion that Switzerland is neither pro-German or pro-Allies. To illustrate the awkward position of Switzerland he gave us an instance, the case of a certain well known Swiss firm of Boot Manufacturers, who have branches throughout England and the Continent. They were given a contract by the French Government, who supplied the leather. The goods were duly made

and

and Joseph of New York and Mombasa - a firm however which is stated to be largely British. He is also endeavouring to obtain business with other European firms and also with Indians. The Kikays are supported by Consular certificates from Berne to the effect that they are manufactured in Switzerland.

Personally I do not consider Mr Trachler at all a desirable person but as he has not been blacklisted I cannot hold up his goods. May I suggest that the Home Government be approached on the subject.

Sd. F.W. MAJOR.

Chief of Customs.

10885

REC

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 16
NAIROBI.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 11

CONFIDENTIAL

25th January 1916.

Sir,

With reference to my cypher telegram No. 267 of the 20th ultimo and to your reply of the 23rd ultimo I have the honour to enclose for your information a copy of a memorandum received from the Chief of Customs and a letter from the firm of Messrs Childs Parr & Joseph who have voluntarily approached the Chief of Customs seeking for information with regard to the firm of J.H. Trachsler with whom they are now dealing but about whom they appear to have been somewhat doubtful.

2. Other importers have made enquiries about the firm of Trachsler, being desirous of trading with them as they are offering extremely good terms but they are unwilling to do so unless they know that they are not acting in Enemy interests.

3. I should be glad to know whether the firm of J.H. Trachsler can be regarded as reliable or not, and whether it is desirable that importers in this Protectorate should trade with them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble obedient servant,

Alarney, Secy. & Co.

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ANDREW BONAR LAW, F.R.S., F.P.S.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

*Chief of Customs
11.1.16**Childs Parr &
Joseph. 14.1.16.**10885
586 95/15*