

2. Dr. Brown has
 a copy of the
 Indian file committee
 proceed in the matter
 and that that view
 was to be accepted,
 and a copy of the
 copies will be sent
 to the file of the lab
 for his info. and
 guidance.

EAST AFR. PROT

29209

REC'D
 JUN 24 1915

29209

253

Foreign Office

Firm of Max Klein

1915

23 June

Last previous Paper.

£0
 24726

Leads note from P.S. Smith's Complimentary of
 treatment accorded to local branch of the firm
 by Auths at Mombasa. States position as
 regards treatment of firm at Helan - Inquires
 grounds for action against firm at Mombasa.

No. 3063

21 letter was 9 p.m. for
 ans 17 June 1915

Copy for my [unclear]

^{signature of this firm}
 The matter has been dealt with in
 2 different dep'ts of the F.O., & they
 have not been in touch with each other
 in the matter. I have pointed this
 out privately to F.O., & we shall
 probably have a further ltr. from
 them. W. Arthur

at once.
 H. J. R.
 29/6/15

(see ans 9.0.
 31163)
 H. J. R.
 27/7/15

Next subsequent Paper

£0
 31163

C. O.
29209

Recd.
No. 24 JUN 15
FOREIGN OFFICE

JUNE 23 1915.

254

In any further communication
on the subject, please quote
No. 80588/15.
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

Deal

Immediate.

Sir:-

I am directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you herewith a copy of a note from the American Ambassador complaining of the treatment accorded to the branch of the firm of Max Klein at Mombasa.

The position of the firm of Max Klein at Aden has formed the subject of a prolonged correspondence with Mr. Page which is not yet concluded. The view which His Majesty's Government take of the matter is set forth in the enclosed copy of a Note which the Secretary of State addressed to the French Ambassador in London on February 26th. last, and it seems unnecessary to trouble Mr. Secretary Bonar Law with copies of the other correspondence.

It will be observed that the Government of India base their action on the fact that at the outbreak

Under States Amb
June 17

British Amb
Feb 26

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

outbreak of war the firm had in their employment a German manager and other German officers and therefore came within the provisions of the Indian Foreigners Ordinances. The Secretary of State is unaware whether similar regulations have been made by the authorities at Mombasa and he would be glad to learn the exact grounds on which action has been taken against the firm in East Africa.

The standpoint adopted by Mr. Page in the correspondence now proceeding respecting Max Klein's Aden house is that Max Klein is a naturalized American citizen, that the firm is an American firm, and that both are therefore entitled to carry on business without let or hindrance.

The Secretary of State understands that the whole question of the treatment of enemy persons naturalized in neutral countries is now under consideration but that no decision has yet been reached. Meanwhile it is necessary to send some reply to Mr. Page and the

Secretary

(80588/15)

215

Secretary of State would therefore be glad to learn
Mr. Bonar Law's views at an early date.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

W. L. G.

Secretary of State would therefore be glad to learn
Mr. Bonar Law's views at an early date.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Alfred

29209

Recd
24 JUN 15

150503

June 17, 1915.

297

Sir,

Adverting to the Note which I addressed to you on the 11th instant in regard to the citizenship of Max Klein, and to the location of his business offices at Aden, I have the honour to acquaint you that I am instructed by my Government to request your consideration of the following facts.

The Department of State has received a report that the Government Authorities at Mombasa have prohibited further exportation of goods by the firm of Max Klein at the above mentioned place - this report has now been confirmed by the American Consul at Mombasa. The Department of State has further been informed that it would appear that Max Klein is the object of systematic persecution instituted by his competitors and other

The Right Hon.

SIR EDWARD GREY, B., K.C.,

Esq., Esq., Esq.

persons at Agen.

25/11/1917

In bringing this matter to your attention, I am further directed by my Government to request that you will be so good as to cause it to be issued by the authorities such telegraphic instructions as may be necessary in order that His Majesty's Authorities at Roubaix may receive their order for the prohibition of exports by the firm of Max ...

I have the honour to be,

with the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

WALTER HINES PROE.

Copy
No. 2606/15
Confidential

Foreign Office, No. 24 N15
February 26th, 1918.

25J

Your Excellency:-

With reference to the notes which Your Excellency was good enough to address to me on the 13rd ultimo and 5th instant and to my memorandum of the 1st instant I have the honour to state that I have now received from the India Office a letter on the subject of the firm of Max Klein at Aden.

It appears that at the outbreak of war the firm had in their employment a manager and other officers of German nationality and thus came within the provisions of the Indian Foreigners Ordinance and rules made thereunder which prohibit the employment of German Managers by all firms trading in India of whatever nationality, British or other. The Indian Government thereupon ordered the liquidation of the firm and have since issued an order for the deportation of M. Max

Schaerer, a Swiss citizen, who took over the management of the business after the outbreak of the war and whose conduct

By order of
Canton.

&c. &c.

conduct has given rise to grave suspicions.

As Your Excellency surmised in your note of the 13rd ultimo the United States Ambassador in London has approached me on the subject and requested that the liquidation of the firm might be prevented on the ground that the business at Aden is the property of Messrs Abe Stein and Company of New York and that Mr. Max Klein is a naturalized American citizen. Whether this be the case or not there seems to be no doubt that the activities and connexions of the firm both at Aden and, I learn, at Marseilles were entirely and notoriously German and their presence at a fortress such as Aden cannot be permitted. His Majesty's Government therefore do not propose to ask the Indian Government to reconsider their action and I have informed Mr. Page accordingly of the purport of the Indian Ordinances pointing out that the Indian Government had no alternative but to order the liquidation of the firm and that it is obviously impossible to relax the regulations in the case of Aden.

I beg that Your Excellency will treat the foregoing as strictly confidential.

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

(Signed) A. Law.