

X 1931

17361

KENYA

CO 533/417

X 1931

17361

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMEND.) ORDCE, 1931

Previous

15821/29

Subsequent

3831/11

29)	13/10
Mr. Eastwood	14x
Mr. Roberts	3.11
Mr. Eastwood	5/11
Mr. Preston	8
Mr. Allen	23/11
Mr. Roberts	24/11
Mr. Allen	27/11
Rev. 311	25/11
Rev. 295	24/11
- 297	3/12
Libary	5/12
597.	

# PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

C0533/417

ORDER NO.       ⇒ FN/E474  
CAMERA NO.     ⇒ 19  
OPERATOR.       ⇒ EM  
REDUCTION.     ⇒ 12  
EMULSION NO.  ⇒ 321061  
DATE.           ⇒ 4/5/72

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

END

TOTAL EXPOSURES →

COPY.

F.J. POLEDNA-VLKOVSKY, ESQ.,  
Manager General,  
of the Japan & China Trading Cie, Ltd.,  
Tokyo, Yokohama, Peking, Shanghai,  
Tientsin & Canton.

Praha/Prague 26/VI.1931.

PRAHA II  
Rašínovo nábřeží 56/1.  
Czechoslovakian Republic.

To the Government of Kenya Colony.

To His Excellency the Chairman,

I the undersigned are willingly from the Government of Kenya Colony take on 99 years in lease 250,000 acres of good land for the Colonization of my native countrymen, the Czechoslovak-Citizen in one piece, and on this land we will establish Farms of modern style.

Or we are willingly, if price moderate buy 250,000 acres for the same purpose.

Excellency, - Czechoslovak-Citizen are very laborious, honesty, industrious and NOT POLITIC, but only Polite.

If the Government of Kenya Colony lease or sell to my with my countrymen the desired 250,000 acres of land, so boot part in near future make very good profit.

Awaiting the favour of your Excellency reply, directly on my above address, I am,

Yours obedient servant,

(Signed) F.J. Poledna-Vlkovsky.

Directeur General of the Africa  
Colonization Company for the Terratory  
of Kenya Colony.

PS/PRESENT, through Miss Anna Panková.

17  
50

KENYA.

No. 539



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI  
KENYA

RECEIVED  
12 OCT 1931  
COL. OFFICE 12/4

September, 1931.

Sir,

I have the honour to state that an application has been received from a Mr. F. J. Poledna-Vlkovskv, who describes himself as the Director General of the Africa Colonization Company for the Territory of Kenya Colony with Headquarters at Prague, Czechoslovakia, for a grant to be made to his Company of approximately 250,000 acres of land for the purpose of settling on it a number of his fellow countrymen as farmers. I enclose a copy of the application.

I shall be grateful if enquiries may be instituted with a view to ascertaining the status of the Company, its financial ability to carry out such a scheme of colonization and any other facts which may assist in determining whether it would be desirable to grant to it land for the purpose specified.

*enclosed (6)*

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant

*H. J. Martin*

BRIGADIER-GENERAL  
GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE J. H. THOMAS, P. C., M. P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON. S. W. 1.

*copy to file 21*

17/64/31

Further, existing economic conditions are not favourable to settlement, and in this connection I may quote from a letter from Sir Joseph Byrne to Sir Percy Loraine relating to Nabil Ismail Daoud, a member of the Egyptian Royal Family, who was considering the possibility of settling in Kenya. In the course of that letter, Sir J. Byrne included the following reasons among those for which he advised Sir Percy Loraine to do all in his power to dissuade the Prince from coming to Kenya.

"..... There is a strong possibility, having regard to the present conditions obtaining here, that Nabil Ismail Daoud would lose his money. Maize and wheat have to be subsidised by Government and coffee is at the moment confined to Europeans. Of course if he desired to acquire land in the Coastal area there would not be the same difficulties".

Sir Edward Grigg's idea of settling 100,000 Italians in Kenya aroused considerable feeling when publicity was given to it, and the idea of setting aside an extensive area of land for an influx of Czechoslovakians, quite apart from other considerations, might arouse similar feelings. On the other hand, when in 1927 the question of the settlement of a number of emigrant Russians came up, the reply was made (and the Governor of Kenya and the other East African dependencies were so informed by despatch) that "Russians of good character possessing capital could rely upon being treated in the territories concerned in the same way as Englishmen with the same qualifications".

17/83/27

J. H. D. C.

17/11/31

1a

NOTE

14  
16333/30

In April last Lord Passfield sent a confidential despatch to the Governor in which he suggested the appointment of a Commission to go comprehensively into the question of land in Kenya. In the course of that despatch Lord Passfield said "I do not wish it to be supposed that pending such an enquiry, which would take a considerable time, no further land should in any circumstances be alienated in Kenya to non-natives if occasion for such alienation arises in the meantime, provided -

- (1) that it is indutiably clear that no possible native land rights or claims are involved, and
- (2) that you are satisfied (i.e. the Governor) that the land in question can be alienated without prejudice to possible requirements for native purposes when the proposed enquiry has been held .....

So far, however, as I can judge, there is not likely to be any demand from non-natives in the immediate future for land which cannot well be met by the sale of areas already alienated, and I believe therefore that no inconvenience would, in point of fact, be occasioned ..... I think it desirable that a halt should be called to further alienation of Crown land by the methods hitherto adopted .....

In paragraph 105 of their Report the Joint Select Committee recommend a full enquiry into the land question, and say that in the meantime no further alienation of Crown land to non-natives should take place except in exceptional cases with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Further,

1a

NOTE

14  
6333/30

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Further,



take any action in regard to the present enquiry  
which might result in an impression that the  
Government of Kenya is seriously considering the  
possibility of alienating Crown land for the  
purposes of the Co., but if enquiries regarding  
the Co., including its status and financial  
position could be made confidentially and  
without coming to the knowledge of the Co.,  
Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister would be glad to receive,  
for communication to the Governor any information  
that could be so obtained.

I am, etc.

(Signed) H. T. ALLEN

X.17359/31. K.

C.D.  
R 18 NOV  
D 19

9/19 13  
2

C. O.

Mr. Eastwood. 23.10.

Mr. Freeston. 24/10

Mr. Allen. 18/11

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley. 18/11

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street.

21 November, 1931.

(See No 3)

Sir,

**DRAFT.**

Conson.  
v. minutes

U. S. OF S.,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

I am etc. to transmit to you to be laid before the Marquess of Reading a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Kenya, regarding an enquiry from Mr. F.J. Poledna Vlkovsky, Director General of the Africa Colonization Company for the Territory of Kenya, as to the possibility of leasing or purchasing land in the Colony.

2. In their recent report the Joint Select Committee on Closer Union in East Africa recommend that a full enquiry should be undertaken into the land question in Kenya and that in the meantime no further alienation of Crown Land to non-natives should take place except in exceptional cases with the sanction of the Secretary of State. In these circumstances it would be undesirable to

From Gov. 539. 12.9.31  
No. 1 & encls.

(Dupl. available)

Amey

copy to Gov. (6)

take

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. C 8761/8761/12.  
and address,

not to any person by name,

but to—

"The Under-Secretary of State,"  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W. 1.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

S.W.1.

30th November, 1931.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from the Colonial Office No. 17359/31 of November 21st, I am directed by Secretary Sir John Simon to inform you that His Majesty's Minister at Prague has been instructed to make confidential enquiries regarding the status of the Japan and China Trading Company Limited, Prague, the general manager of which has applied for a grant of land in Kenya.

2. I am to add that it is not possible to guarantee that any enquiries that His Majesty's Minister may make will not come to the knowledge of the Company.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*James Sargent*

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

*102*

*copy to Mr (6)*

RE  
-11110131

*3C*

12

2.

own account. His means are estimated in one quarter at K£ 180,000 (nearly £1000 at par) and in another at K£ 800,000 (about 25,000 at par). He is married and in the early fifties. He is described as energetic and capable, and recommended for business connections. On the other hand, the Prague Chamber of Commerce has stated confidentially that, although his business ability is beyond question, caution is needed in dealings with him, and I understand that this criticism is founded on the fact that his conduct in the course of certain business transactions some time ago was not considered to be irreproachable.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

(for the Minister)

(Sd) K. T. Gurney.

BRITISH LEGATION,

PRAGUE.

22nd December, 1931.

No. 295.

(238/2/31).

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

In reply to your despatch No. 385 of the 30th November (C 8761/8761/12), I have the honour to transmit the following confidential information which I have obtained concerning Mr. F. J. Poledna-Vlkovsky, of the Japan and China Trading Company of Prague, who desires to acquire land in Kenya.

2. The Japan and China Trading Company is not registered in this country, but Mr. F. J. Poledna-Vlkovsky carries on business in an office bearing this title in the Palais Fenix, <sup>Prague,</sup> Vaclavske Nemesti. The business was established in 1926 for the purpose of trade with the Far East, where Mr. Poledna-Vlkovsky appears to have resided several years. He represents the firm of Siriano and Company of Kobe, Japan. He is said to be a partner in the "Japan and China Trading Company" and to have one assistant. Practically all his business is transacted on a commission basis, and very little on his

The Right Honourable

Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.,

&c., &c., &c.,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

S.W.

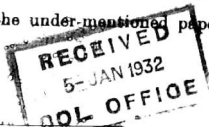
/own

In any further communication on this subject, please quote  
No. *C 9777/10763/12*  
and address—not to any person by name, but to  
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his  
compliments to *the Under Secretary of State*  
*for the Colonies,* and, by direction of the Secretary of State,  
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

*14<sup>th</sup> January, 1932*



Reference to previous correspondence:

*No 7* Colonial Office letter No 17359/31 of 25<sup>th</sup> November,  
1931.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

*H.M. Representative  
Prague*

*Application by Czechoslovak  
Company for grant of land  
in Kenya.*

*No 29507 22<sup>nd</sup> December,  
1931.*

Similar letter sent to \_\_\_\_\_

*copy incl to Box (6)*

*9*

8.5

PAYMENT THROUGH THE FOLLOWING BANKS:

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CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA

ANGLO-CZECHOSLOVAKIAN BANK PRAHA or HIS LONDON BRANCH, LONDON E. C. 2, 118, OLD-BROAD STREET



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ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO HEAD OFFICE, PRAHA-PRAGUE 2 RAŠINOVO NABŘEŽÍ 56-406 CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, EUROPE

OUR REF. African Colonisation. YOUR REF. ...

THE JAPAN & CHINA TRADING COMPANY LTD.

(REGISTERED IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT PRAHA UNDER No 7358.)

(TOKYO-YOKOHAMA (JAPAN) - SHANGHAI (CHINA) - HARBIN (MANDCHURIA) and PRAHA 2, CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC) MANUFACTURERS, WHOLESALE EXPORTERS-IMPORTERS, SOLE EXPORT SELLER AND REPRESENTATIVE OF 72 BIG MANUFACTORIES.

WE EXPORT

NAVY & LAND ARTILLERY CANNONS, MOTOR CARS, WIRES, CABLES, BOILERS, GAS MASKS, GALVANIZED-CORRUGATED SHEETS, ARMS, GUNS, CARTRIDGES, AMMUNITION, MACHINERY FOR CLEANING OF SALT, BRASS FURNITURE, TOYS, EVERY KIND OF MACHINERY, MOTORS, ENGINES, ALUMINUM GOODS, ICE MAKING MACHINES, CHEMICALS, DRUGS, MEDICINES, GLASS, PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATE AND PAPER, SMOKERS REQUISITES, CHOCOLATE, COP, MALT, BEER, WINE, LIQUORS, ALCOHOLS, FOODS, TUFTS, PRESERVED CUCUMBERS, MILK AND OTHER DRAPE, TEXTILES, GLOVES OF ALL KINDS, WOOL, COTTON & SILK HOSIERY, UNDERWEAR, PAINTS, CEMENTS, ENAMEL AND ENAMEL GOODS, CUT-PRESSED & ENGRAVED GLASS, ART EMBROIDERIES, VELOURS, HATS, GLUE, PAPERS, PRECIOUS AND OTHER STONES, HALF PRECIOUS STONES, PENCILS, MATCHES, CHAMOTTE, SILICA AND MAGNESITE FIRE BRICKS, WALL TILES, CLINKER BRICKS, CHINA & PORCELAIN, IRON STOVES, LAMPS, SHOES, BUTTONS, BRUSHES, UMBRELLAS, HOSIERY, ARTIFICIAL SILK FLOWERS, PIANOS, RADIO SETS, LAMPS, BROCADE SHOES, CARPETS, FURNITURE & BENTWOOD CHAIRS, KNITTED GOODS, LEATHERS, GOODS, BOTTLES & DISCS, CONFECTIONERY, FRUITS AND VEGETABLE PRESERVES, ALIMENTARY PRODUCTS, PERFUME AND PERFUME VAPORISERS, SOAPS, CANDLES, etc. etc.

PRAHA - 2, RAŠINOVO NABŘEŽÍ 56-406

To His Excellency, The Secretary of State for the Colonies, British Government, London, England.

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to personally inform you that the British Government, in order to assist the African Colonisation Society, has decided to purchase a quantity of goods from your company in Africa. The goods to be purchased are: ...

I will in the future, without further notice, order goods of the first quality, even if they will have to be ordered from other sources, and I will not all this order will be placed in Africa, except in the most exceptional cases.

I remain, Sir, in the favor of your company, very respectfully, F. J. Poledna-Vlkovsky

Managing Director of the African Colonisation Society

After the receipt of this letter, the new company will ask our British Government for official assistance.

WE IMPORT

COFFEE, TEA, BUTTER, MARGARINE, EDIBLE OILS, COCOA, COCOA BUTTER, COCOA BEANS, COFFEE, MAIZE, FISH, PRESERVED, HONEY, WAX, JAMAICA RUM, OLD WINES, SMOKE-FISH, SOY, SESAM GROUND NUT & LINSSE CAKES, PERFUMERY OILS, DRUGS, CHEMICALS & PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, GAS, EIN, POPPY CARAWAY MUSTARD & OTHER SEEDS, SPICES, IVORY, FURS, WOOL, HAIRS, COTTON, BRISTLES, LION, TIGER, LEOPARD & OTHER SKINS, PURE OLIVE OILS, EMMENTAL CHEESE, FRESH FRUITS, PURE SILK, CURIOSITY, BRONZE, IVORY, ANTIMONY, PORCELAIN & BAMBOO ARTICLES, BEAD & CULTURED PEARLS, JAPANESE & CHINESE HOOBS AND ART GOODS, etc. etc.

ONLY,

at COMPETITIVE PRICES at HAMBURG or TRIESTE

REGISTERED



your Government is not seriously considering  
the possibility of alienating Crown land for the  
purposes of the Company of which Mr. Polgona-  
Vlkovsky describes himself as Director General.

~~I have, etc.,~~

2. I did not receive a copy of a  
letter which has since been received  
from Mr. Polgona-Vlkovsky, together  
with a copy of the original which I  
will be glad to return to him.

~~.....~~  
3. In dealing with your despatch, it has been  
assumed that your inquiry was based on  
the desirability of obtaining information about  
this<sup>o</sup> for guidance at a later date should  
attainment of a large scale become practicable.  
As a measure, it would at any rate  
have been possible to give immediate  
consideration to the application.

2

(Sd.) T. DONLITTE LISTER.



17359/31/Kenya.

C. O.

Mr. Eastwood 7.1.

Mr. Freeston 7.1.

Mr. Allen. 12/1

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley. 13/1 f

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



Downing Street.

18 January, 1932.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 539 of the 12th of September regarding an application received from a Mr. F.J. Poledna-Vlkovsky for a grant of 250,000 acres of land to be made to the Africa Colonization Company; and to transmit to you a copy of correspondence on the subject with the Foreign Office together with a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Representative at Prague reporting the result of confidential enquiries made by him.

2. You will observe from the letter to the Foreign Office of the 21st November that I assume, in view of the recommendation in paragraph 105 of the Report of the Joint Select Committee, that

**DRAFT.** for conson.

*v. minutes*

KENYA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Gov.

~~To F.O. 21st November '31. (2)~~

~~Fr.-do- 30th November '31. (3)~~

~~From Prague 22.12.31. (enclosure to No.4.)~~

~~Fr. Mr. Poledna-Vlkovsky 5.1.32 (5)~~

To do. Comp. dit.

*3afis*

Copy to F.O. (8)

*yofr*

*Handwritten initials and scribbles*

C. O.

Mr. Allen. *12/1*

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Mr. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley. *131 f*

Sir J. Stuchburgh.

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DOWNING STREET,

16 January, 1932.

Sir,

I am etc., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th January with regard to the enquiries which you addressed to the Government of Kenya as to the possibility of the purchase or lease of <sup>250,000</sup>~~2,500~~ acres of land in the Colony for settlement purposes. <sup>n.l.</sup> A copy of your letter ~~has~~ been forwarded to the Governor of Kenya from whom you will no doubt receive a reply in due course, but the Secretary of State can hold out no prospect of your obtaining any such area of land from the Colonial Government <sup>on</sup> either by purchase or lease.

*(5)*

3 DRAFTS *cases: v. minutes*

Mr. F.J. Poledna-Vlkovsky.

*Copy to Mr. Tolson (6) F.O. (8)*

I am, etc.

(Signed) H. T. ALLEN

2/1/19  
J 5

G. O.

- Mr. Allen.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Parkinson.
- Mr. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Perm. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

12/1

5-3

DOWNING STREET,

18 January, 1923.

Sir,

I am etc., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th January 1923, and to express his thanks for the trouble which has been taken in making confidential enquiries with regard to Mr. F.W. Poledna-Vikovsky of the Japan and China Trading Company at Prague, who desires to acquire land in Kenya.

I am to enclose a copy of a despatch on the subject which has been addressed to the Governor of Kenya, together with a copy of correspondence with Mr. F.W. Poledna-Vikovsky, who has now communicated direct with the

(4)

3 DRAFT Cars: v. minutes

THE UNDER S. OF STATE,  
FOREIGN OFFICE.

To Gov. Genl. 18 Jan.  
Comp. dit.

Fr. Mr. Poledna-Vikovsky 5th Jan.  
(5)

To do. 16 Jan.  
Comp dit.

Secretary of State  
~~Colonial Office~~

I am, etc.,



without reference to the wider issues.

If enquiries are instituted, and they come to the ears of the Director General of the Company, he may assume that there is some definite prospect of land being granted, a prospect for which in present circumstances I can see no justification. Whether and to what extent they might buy land already alienated is another matter. It would, of course,

be possible to ask the Foreign Office confidentially to make such enquiries as they can without it coming to the knowledge of the Director-General that they are being made.

An alternative would be to reply in a confidential despatch referring to the passages <sup>in the note</sup> ~~in the note~~ from Lord Passfield's despatch regarding the land question, and from the Joint Select Committee's report, saying that in the circumstances, the Secretary of State cannot at present regard it as justifiable to contemplate such an alienation of land as that suggested, and that it would therefore seem to serve no useful purpose to make the proposed enquiries as to the standing of the Company; adding that unless the Governor has any adequate reasons for suggesting reconsideration, the Secretary of State would prefer to take no steps in the matter.

On the other hand I do not like to say in effect that the Governor has overlooked the obvious, that his despatch is ill considered and that he had better think again.

On

On the whole therefore I would suggest action on the lines of the alternative at A. above and put up redraft accordingly.

J. W. Allen  
18/11/31

I agree with the draft. I hope the result will include some enquiry as to the cost of new holdings contemplated. It is not possible to emphasize too strongly, by contemplating small European holdings, the possibility of alienating the position which would be assumed that "Romania with limited" would not be excluded.

As there can be no alienation yet I do not know where the 150,000 acres would be found) I do not

18.11.31

To J. O. w/c to cons. 21/12/31

Foreign Office

The making the enquiries requested in No. 2. States that it is not possible to guarantee that any enquiries that His Minister at Legation may make will not come to the knowledge of the Company.

Partly J. G. Adams  
3/12/31

W. B. ...  
... ..

1. Gov's Dep. Martin No.539. 12.9.31

States that application has been received from Mr. F.J.Poledna-Vlkovsky on behalf of the Africa Colonization Company with Headquarters at Prague, Checho Slovakia, for grant of 250,000 acres of land for settlement of a number of his countrymen as farmers and requests enquiries be made as to status of the Company.

Quite a good effort !

D.h'w.

C.G.Eastwood  
16.10.

Mr. Allen has directed attention to 17183/27 of which I was not previously aware.

There would appear to be no objection of principle to the immigration of Poles.

I have added a para: to the aft. on the lines of 3-7 on 17183/27.

C.G.Eastwood  
23.10.31.

L.B.Fresston.

Recirculate to me in ten days.

H.T.A.  
24.10.

Mr. Allen

Pp. recirculated as directed.

R.297.  
3.11.31.

I kept this for the publication of the Report of the Joint Select Committee. I attach a Note.

Having regard to all the circumstances, it is a little surprising if the Government of Kenya regard the alienation of 250,000 acres of Crown land as sufficiently within the bounds of possibility to make it worth while to make enquiry as to the standing of this Company, but it may be that the Company's letter has been dealt with on routine lines "First find out what we can about this Company" and

without