

1937

Kenya

No. 38281

SUBJECT

CO 533/484

Appointment of Private
Secretary to Governor

(Sir Robert Brooke-Popham)

Previous

see 38264/36

Subsequent

6. A. de V. WAIN (S/O TO SIR G. TOMLINSON).....13.1.37.
Comments on suitability of certain Administrative Officers for the post of Private Secretary to Sir R. Brooke-Popham and states that, should it be decided not to retain the services of Major Clinton Wells, he recommends R.J.C. Hones for the appointment.

This has crossed the letter on 31.1.37 saying that Major Clinton Wells was not going to be kept on.

Mr Hones is also under conser for Somaliland is recommended. He has asked for it but might prefer a P.S. job.

He certainly looks a good candidate.

As to Mr Gurney if he was made P.S. then so long as his place in the Administration wasn't filled (which it wouldn't be) Kenya would be saving the salary of a captain. So that net income - expenses - doesn't really work.

Mr O'Hagan is the son of a Kenya settler & must be ruled clean out on that score.

The others all look fairly all right but I doubt whether Mr Windley would do. A man of some experience is desirable.

The wives & children complicate it further. I don't suppose Sir Robert would mind a married P.S. but children would be awkward. Mr Platt & Mr Beaton have no children. Mr Potter has one which must be a baby. Mr Gregory-Smith has two. Mr Gurney's are in England.

I would advocate Mr Gurney or Mr Hones in that order. Then Mr Baker-Beall & Mr Norman.

S. de V. Wain
26.1.

Yes. I'm surprised he was mentioned.
E.J. 3.2

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

To Sir R. Brooke-Popham 27.1.37

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

Sir R. Brooke-Popham 28.1.37

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

To Sir R. Brooke-Popham 30.1.37

Mr. Flood.

You and I saw Sir Robert Brooke-Popham yesterday and with him went through the papers of the

men mentioned in No. 6. We boiled them down to a short list consisting of Norman, Howes, Gregory-Smith and Platt, and I am having summaries of their careers, reports etc. prepared in order to send them to Sir Robert.

Last night at the African Society's dinner, I was sitting next to Colonel Walker and told him whom we had been considering. He does not know Norman and Platt. He knows enough of Gregory-Smith to be sure that he would be very suitable. At the same time, he was uncertain whether at his age Gregory-Smith would care to take on another job in a Government House. He also said that he thought that Howes was in many respects extremely suitable. He remembered him as Private Secretary to Sir Henry Moore when the latter was Acting Governor. He added, however, that he had a recollection of something that Sir Henry Moore had said to him suggesting that Howes was rather lazy, and suggested that we should get Sir Henry Moore's views about him. I repeated this conversation after the dinner to Sir Robert Brooke-Popham who cordially agreed that we should telegraph to Sir Henry Moore. I therefore enclose a draft telegram.

You will remember that at our conversation in the afternoon Sir Robert Brooke-Popham said that after further consideration it might be on the whole less embarrassing

embarrassing if Major Clinton Wells was not at Government House when he arrived. There is after all a housekeeper and the Governor's Clerk (Mr. Bird) and the new Private Secretary will of course not be wholly ignorant of previous arrangements. This suggestion rather cuts across what Sir C. Bottomley said to Mr. Wade in No. 6 on 38264/36. I therefore enclose a draft letter to Mr. Wade, which I hope will make matters clear. Sir C. Bottomley may wish to see.

S.P.P.

4/2/37.

Yes. My view is that the new one - whom he is - should take over from Major Wells as he on the job by 1 April. Then he will have had five or six days with the O.A.S. before Sir Robert descends on his Government and will just carry on with the new man. Sir Robert is disposed to agree.

J.S.P. 4.2.

Wade 4.2.37

S. Lane

10 To Gen. H. P. P. - cons - 14 Feb. 1937
11 To A. de V. Wade - (6 Annex) (S/P) - 14 Feb. 1937

AIR MAIL 11 2/1/37

10 to be copied
required
left to last part
of the u.

14 Brooke Popham 10.2.37
261-4
15 J. Brooke-Popham 11.2.37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Reply required to last para of No. 4
CO to copy 10-12
R 298. 11.15.17.
R 30. 14. 6. 8. 9a. 14. 16
Miss 2.3.5.7.9 - Domestic
Mant

As I do
Reply has been received this because the last paragraph of No. 4 does not appear to have been answered.
I have disposed of it in conversation with Sir R. Brooke-Popham

I understand from the fact that the O.T.F. Corps has recommended the Platt (see No. 4) for attachment to the Co. The fact would therefore like to know when Sir Brooke-Popham has selected his British country.

C. Popham
157-137

16. SIR R. BROOKE-POPHAM (S/O TO SIR G. TOMLINSON) 12.2.37
Hopes to meet Pilling next week but if he cannot meet him by the 20th Feb., would like Wade to be notified of his (Sir R. Brooke-Popham's) choice.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

17 Telegram to Brooke-Popham Sir J Pilling's address. 15.2.37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To Sir R. Brooke-Popham (16 ans) - 15/2/37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

As I had been given 1/15/37 (of last para of No. 4)
Miss. Brooke-Popham when 1/15 aff. in line
Miss 1/15/37

R 297
I have marked this to wait as we have called to see R. B. P.

261/4 19

Mr. S. G. Tomlinson
Sir R. Brooke-Popham has done 17 hours & I have written to say so.

J. J. O. Platt
18.2.

Thank you. I will note this in connexion with the proposal on the secondment of Mr. Platt.

S. Platt
18/2

When I saw Sir R. Brooke-Popham yesterday he told me that he put Platt as his second string for P.S. I have spoken to Mr. Flood. I had better write to Mr. Flood by the next air mail referring to No. 18 & to the Comd. about the secondment of Mr. Platt to Mr. Fitcher (Cork) - explain that as at A & say that if, as we hope there is no hitch about Mr. Hines, he can go ahead with the secondment of Mr. Platt. Mr. Flood will see the draft.

A

S. J. P. Popham
19.2.37

1295th note when Hines was occupied
CO to copy 10-12 V
R 298. 11.15.17.18.19
R 30. 14. 6. 8. 9a. 14. 16
Miss 2.3.5.7.9 - Domestic

Off. on 11/1/37 & lat.

S. Platt
18/2

261/4

To Wade (Co) (Draft on 11/1/37) 22 Feb. 37.

14 Brooke Popham 10.2.37
26/2
15 J. Brooke-Popham 11.2.37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Reply required to last para of No. 4

CO to copy 100-2

R 298. 11.15.17.

R 80. 14.6.8. 9a. 14. 11/2

Letter 2.3.5. 7.9.2 Domestic War

As 26/2

Reply has been received this because the last paragraph of No. 4 does not appear to have been answered.

I have discussed it in conversation with Sir R. Brooke-Popham.

I understand from the fact that the C.O. Keira has recommended Mr Platt (see No. 14) for attachment to the C.O. As he has been recommended like to know when Sir Brooke-Popham has selected his British Secretary.

C. J. Goswami
15/2/37

16. SIR R. BROOKE-POPHAM (S/O. TO SIR G. TOMLINSON) 12.2.37
Hopes to meet Pilling next week but if he cannot meet him by the 20th Feb., would like Wade to be notified of his (Sir R. Brooke-Popham's) choice.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

17 Telegram to Brooke-Popham saying Pilling's address. 15.2.37

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

18 Sir R. Brooke-Popham (16 ans) - 15/2/37

note I have told Mr Pilling. Will.

1207. 16.2. 1937

R 297

I have marked this to wait we have called to see R. C. ...

h. Hood to see me 4/15/27. (last para of No. 4)
Note: Under Popham when 115 after via min. 11/15/30

7/14 19

Mr. Spink
Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir R. Brooke-Popham has done Mr. House's letter written to say so.

120. 18.2.

Thank you. I will note this in connection with the proposal on the secondment of Mr Platt.

S. J. P. 19/2

When I saw Sir R. Brooke-Popham yesterday he told me that he put Platt as his second string for P.S. I have spoken to Mr. Flood. I had better write to Mr. House by the next air mail referring to No. 18 & to the Comd. about the secondment of Mr Platt & Mr. Fletcher (Cork - explain that as at A & say that if, as we hope there is no hitch about Mr. House, he can go ahead with the secondment of Mr Platt. Mr. Flood will see the draft.

A

S. J. P. 19.2.37

J.P. on 11/1/37 & lat.

S. J. P. 15/2

1207th note when House was accepted
CO to copy 100-2 ✓
R 298. 11.15.17. ✓
R 80. 14.6.8. 9a. 14. 11/2 ✓
Letter 2.3.5. 7.9.2 ✓

To Wade (Co) (draft on 11/1/37) 22 Feb. 37.

Copy on 1161/36 Exchd.

Copy

20
6

Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.
22nd February, 1937.

Dear Wade,

I am glad to learn from your letter of the 1st February that you think it will be possible to arrange for Fletcher-Cooke to be seconded to you as proposed in my letter of the 2nd December.

We shall be quite glad to effect an exchange between him and Platt, as we only had Troughton for a short time and, apart from him and Gurney, we have not had any Kenya men recently. The only thing is that the Governor has fixed on Platt as his second choice for Private Secretary if for any reason his selection of Howes, as reported to you in Flood's letter of the 18th February, should come to nothing.

If, as we hope, there is no hitch about Howes, you may assume that Platt's secondment is agreed; but if Platt is required for the Private Secretary job, you may have some other man whom you could recommend for secondment.

AS

A. de V. WADE, ESQ., C.M.G., O.B.E.

As regards dates, it would suit us very well if Fletcher-Cooke could come out to you about October, and Platt (or his substitute) joined up with us on or about the 20th January next year, when one of our present seconded Colonial Service men will finish his two years. On the assumption that these dates will suit you, we will work out, and let you know, the details as regards salary etc. in both cases.

Yours sincerely

W. J. T. Lonsdale

19 14
DOWNING STREET.

18 February, 1937.

Dear Wade,

Tomlinson is very busy and has asked me to catch to-day's air mail on his behalf with this.

Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has now gone through the various candidates for Private Secretary whom you put up to him and has come to the conclusion that the best on the list is Howes. It was a very near thing between the lot of them as they are all pretty good, but after consulting Pilling and everyone else, he has finally concluded that Howes is the best man.

Will you take steps accordingly to arrange for Howes to be Private Secretary by the time Sir Robert arrives? Of course, if Howes does not want it other arrangements will have to be made, but I expect he will.

As regards the expense, I don't think that one need bother very much about what salary is actually being drawn by an officer seconded to act Private Secretary. The fellow seconded will, of course,

de V. WADE, ESQ., C.M.J., O.B.E.

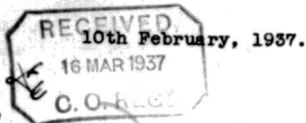
continue

continue to draw his substantive pay and his place will not be filled. The net result then is a saving to Kenya of the amount provided for the Governor's Private Secretary whatever be the salary actually drawn by the seconded officer who is doing the work.

We are all very much obliged to you for the great trouble you have taken and we hope that Howes will prove a success.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J.E.W.FLOOD.



Dear Tomlinson,

Thank you for your letter of yesterday about a private secretary for me. It is not easy to pick out a private secretary from paper reports but my first choice is Howes and my second choice is Platt.

With regard to Howes, I understand that at present he is on the Northern Frontier and if there is any difficulty in withdrawing him from there at this stage, I will be quite content to try Platt, and as far as I can see the fact of Platt being a married man is not a very serious drawback.

Yours sincerely
J. B. Brooker Popkum

Sir George J. F. Tomlinson, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.,
Colonial Office,
S.W.1.

38281/34(2)

13

90

C. O.

Mr. Lloyd. 7/2/37

Mr. Jeffries 6/2

Mr. Flood 8.2

Sir C. Parkinson.

* Sir G. Tomlinson. 8/2/37 f/s.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

~~SECRET~~
For Sir G. Tomlinson's signature.

Downing Street,

- 9 February, 1937.

.....

AS I promised during our

talk on the 3rd of this month I am sending you with this letter particulars compiled from our records here of the four men who, as we agreed, are the most likely members of the Administrative Staff in Kenya for appointment as your Private Secretary. These particulars will supplement the notes which you made during our conversation, and

~~I hope that they will be of assistance to you in reaching a decision. I also enclose copies of Lord's letter & of my reply.~~

~~I have not had a reply yet from Moore about Gregory Smith.~~

Moore has now telegraphed as follows

DRAFT.

CHIEF

AIR MARSHAL SIR ROBERT BROOKE-POPHAM, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C.

(6.C.V.O.)

Air Ministry
Admiral Amuse

(Particulars herewith).

me set out to be such

FURTHER ACTION.

Nos. 6 & 11

Received by [Signature]

about Hawes: -

" [] in No. 12 "

One obvious comment on this is that Hawes has had some time ^{in which} to acquire further experience & sense of responsibility since he was with Moore. In our talk last week we were all felt that to ~~E~~ make use of Gurney as Private Secretary would ~~not~~ do serious damage to the Secretariat.

13

HOWES, R.J.C. Born 1906; single.

His father was of independent means and he was educated at King Edward VII School, Lytham (1917-28), and Jesus College, Cambridge (1925-29).

He was appointed an Administrative Cadet in Kenya in 1929 after completing the usual course of instruction at Cambridge. Up to 1933 he was employed on district work, and was then appointed an Acting Assistant Secretary in the Native Affairs Department for a period of two months. He subsequently did six months as Private Secretary to the Acting Governor and then reverted to district work.

He is said to be of pleasant personality and address and good at games. He has had a variety of experience in agricultural and pastoral native areas, and showed ability and discretion when employed on Secretariat duties.

14
NORMAN, C.P.B. Born 1904; single.

He is the son of a clergyman and was educated at the Wick, Hove (1911-17), Harrow (1917-22), and Magdalen College, Oxford (1922-25).

He was appointed an Administrative Cadet in Kenya in January, 1926. He has had experience in both Secretariat and District work, and like Platt, is said to be of unexceptionable conduct, sociable and popular. In the latest report he is described as a very able and promising young officer who made a name for himself at Mombasa early in his career and has fulfilled this promise. Also to have done quite well in the Secretariat. He was seconded to Zanzibar as a District Officer in August last ~~month~~ *the end of 1936.*

PLATT, R.P. Born 1905; married; no children.

He is the son of a retired Bank Manager and was educated at Malvern Link (1917-19), Shrewsbury (1919-23), and Queen's College, Cambridge (1923-27).

He was selected for appointment as an Administrative Cadet in Kenya in 1926 and took up his appointment there in the following year after completing the usual course of instruction at Cambridge. He was employed on District work until March, 1935, when he was seconded to the Secretariat as an Acting Assistant Secretary. He is said to be of unexceptionable character, sociable and popular, and to have proved himself an excellent Administrative Officer in the Field and to be doing well in the Secretariat.

16

GREGORY-SMITH, CAPT.H.G. Born 1899; married, two children.

He is the son of a Professor of English Literature at an Irish University and was educated ^{at} Springfield Park, Horsham (dates not known) and Rugby (1912-15).

He entered Sandhurst in 1916 and served with the 1st Battalion, Black Watch, in France (being wounded there) and after the War until his retirement from the Army in 1925. From 1921 to 1924 he was one of the A. de C's. to the Viceroy of India, and served Sir John Chancellor, then Governor of Southern Rhodesia, in a similar capacity from 1925 until his selection for appointment to the Colonial Service in 1928. He then attended the usual course of instruction at Oxford and took up his Colonial appointment in 1929. We have no reports on his work and do not know exactly how he has been employed.

● X Norman, G.P.B.	33	Stavros. Masdalen.	S.
Baker Bell.	34	Sherrin. Lancesli	W.I.C
X Haves.	30	King Ed. School by them. Trans. Camb.	S
Gurney	39.	Winchester. Univ.	M.2.C.
X Gregory. Smith	38	Rugby. Sandhurst. Blackwater ABC. Eving 21-24 Cherwell 25	M.2.C.
O'Hagan	28.	Wellington. Clare.	S. M.C.
Windley	27	Repton. St. Collin. Camb.	
Potter H.S.	33	Phensley. Queens. Camb.	M.I.C.
X Platt	32	dillo	M
Beetham	32	Charterhouse. Univ. Oxf.	M
Davies	32	Felsted. C.C.C. Camb.	M.I.C
Armitage	31	Winchester. New Coll.	
Darrell.			

ORIGINAL decode

of a telegram from the Governor of Sierra Leone

Dated 8th. Feb. 1937.

Colonial
Received in the _____ Office at 11.59 a.m. on 8.2.37.

~~Private~~

Decoded

by _____
Decyphered

No.15. Private and Personal.

Following for Tomlinson begins.

Reference to your private and personal telegram of 4th. February

[Person named has pleasant personality good ability and is generally popular, but I doubt whether he has necessary experience or sense of responsibility. Gurney if available and considered not too senior would be excellent.]

BY AIR MAIL

19

C. O.

308

Mr.

S.O. for Sir G. Tomlinson's signature.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

X Sir G. Tomlinson
Sir C. Bottomley.

4/12/37.
4.2.
4.2. fo.

C.D
R 5-FEB
D 5.

Downing Street,

- 8 February, 1937.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

fr.

A. de V. Wade, Esq., C.M.G., (6)
O.B.E.

Dear Wade,

Many thanks for your letter

of the 13th January on the subject of
a Private Secretary for Sir Robert
Brooke-Popham. As regards Clinton Wells

I am afraid that we cannot proceed on
the assumption that either (a) or (b)
on the first page of your letter can
be adopted. As regards the appointment

of a "Governor's Secretary" you have
now had Bottomley's letter of the 13th
January, from which you have seen that

the question of the ^{handling} ~~management~~ of
defence questions is to await the
arrival of the new Governor. You will

also

(6 on
38264/36)

FURTHER ACTION.

have
try to
Subj. *Parliament*

also have gathered that whatever arrangements
are ^{is not contemplated that} made, it would not be possible to return
^{should be kept on} Clinton Wells in connection with that work.

Again, as regards (b), it ^{is} would be
quite impossible to give any undertaking to
Wells that he will obtain a permanent appointment
either in a Colony or at home. I am sorry for
Wells, but it is better to be quite frank.

I ought also to add that at a recent discussion
with Sir Robert ~~Brooke-Popham~~, to whom I showed
your letter, he came to the conclusion that in

view of all the circumstances it might be rather
^{perhaps not quite fair to Wells, that they should both}
embarrassing ~~for both himself and the Wells to~~
^{Wells} be in Government House together, if ~~the letter~~

was only to be there for a short time merely,
for the purpose of bridging over the gap between

the old and new régime. This does not of course
agree with what Bottomley told you in his letter

(6 on 38264/36)

of the 13th January, but perhaps you would
explain the position as tactfully as possible
to Wells. I do not know when he will propose

finally

C. O.

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

DRAFT.

finally to leave Kenya. A passage
can of course be taken for him when
he wishes to sail, and we will arrange
to recover the cost from Byrne.

We went with Sir Robert
~~Brooke-Popham~~ through all the names
mentioned on pages 2 to 5 of your
letter. He has not yet made up his
mind whom he will select, but he is
grateful to you for the information
that you have supplied. We will
endeavour to let you know as soon as
possible ~~what he decides.~~

yours sincerely
(Sd) G. J. P. Tomlinson

FURTHER ACTION.

10²

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

X Sir G. Tomlinson. 4/2/37.

4 Sir G. Howes 4.2.

6 Sir C. Bottomley. 4.2 for [unclear]

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Cook's draft
Y. open 2h.
4/2/37

C. D.
10 MAR

Private and Personal.

[Handwritten signature]

Following from

Tomlinson. Grateful if you would telegraph your views about suitability of Howes as possible Private Secretary to Brooke-Popham who does not intend to keep on Clinton Wells.

DRAFT. TELEGRAM.

Conf. Conf.

GOVERNOR,

FREETOWN.

FURTHER ACTION.

BY AIR MAIL.

✓

RECEIVED
16 MAR 1937
Mombasa G. O. REGY
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA.

6.
22

13th January, 1937.

Dear Tomlinson,

I find your letter of the 24th December on the subject of Sir Robert Brooke-Popham's Private Secretary rather difficult to answer because among other things it crossed a letter from Sir Joseph Byrne to Bottomley of the 22nd December in which the former recommended that (a) Clinton Wells should be appointed "Governor's Secretary" if it were decided to create such a post (vide Kenya Confidential despatch No. 113 of the 14th October and the enclosed note of discussion, Sir Joseph Byrne's personal and private airmail letter to Bottomley dated the 17th November, and the Secretary of State's Confidential airmail despatch of the 30th November); and (b) that in any case Sir Robert "until he gets the hang of things" would be well advised to keep on Wells. Wells would accept (a) if it would be a permanency and would accept (b) on the understanding that it would lead at no far distant date to a permanent appointment either in this, in some other Colony, or in the Service at home. If you and Sir Robert are prepared to agree to either (a) or (b) the matter settles itself.

If, however,

5.
(c) on
38264/36

(i) on
38264/36
Hand (11)
copy to Sir R. B. Popham

Howes is a very good all round Administrative Officer. He has recently done extremely good work under difficult conditions in the Northern Frontier. He has also had the right sort of office experience as he was Private Secretary to Moore, when the latter was Acting Governor, and has also been in the Secretariat. He is a very cheerful and popular person and very good at games, particularly cricket and tennis. He is unmarried. His salary is £600 per annum.

15087 (Gurney)
(with Lady Tomlinson)
31839 E.A.) You mention in your letter Gurney and Gregory-Smith. Gurney would be admirable but his substantive salary is £840 and he is acting as Senior Assistant Secretary. The amount allowed in our Estimates for a Private Secretary is £450 per annum (he also gets £150 as Secretary to the High Commissioner). I think there would be a good deal of adverse criticism if the Governor took so senior and so highly paid an officer for his Private Secretary. Gurney is married, with two children who are at home.

Gregory-Smith....

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
KENYA,
EAST AFRICA.

24
ed

X ✓
ER.S.A. R.P.

(all with Secretariat experience), Davies, Armitage and

(?) Darrell.

no name Taking everything into consideration I would
recommend Howes.

Yours sincerely,

Adm. Wade

SIR GEORGE TOMLINSON, K.C.M.G.,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.