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1929

Kenya

No. 15541

CLOSED
UNTIL ~~1930~~

COS 33/385/15541/29

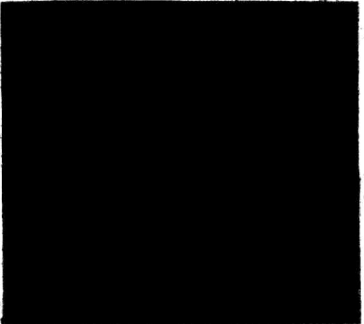
SUBJECT

*Alleged allotment of Land
(Freedlanders)*

Previous

Subsequent

Requests information regarding a statement made in a letter received from a friend in Kenya, as to a body of people being made during Queen Victoria's reign a huge grant of land between Mount Kenya and the Tana River and as to becoming a Freelanders.



- 1. Information
- 2. Information

An examination of the list of Land Grants in the Blue Books gave me clue, so the help of our Guild of the F.O. was invoked, and the attached memo by Mr. Jones in the result. I might come to them in thanks for the trouble they have taken?

Wigglesworth
13.2.29

need inform by Cornhardt that what made business but that the 9/10/1928 is the report that the F.O. made any such grant (land).

J.A.W.
J.W.W.

A very interesting memorandum in which which case, I have sent to Mr. Longmore. He has seen with suggestions that he also send the F.O. Library and I certainly (to make as before)

14.2.29

X If F.O. have no objection, I can if so it should not think to send as a F.O. memo

W. Allen
16/2/29

P.T.O.

Wigglesworth: very interesting.
 Will you please convey my
 thanks to Lord Field & his family
 & enquire whether there is any
 objection to our sending a copy
 to Mr Wigglesworth personally in
 his own name. It is also possible
 to suggest that he is the
 his correspondent. It is possible
 made enquiries of friends that
 there is no foundation for the
 report that the Govt. made any
 suggestion of land.

And as the story is an
 interesting one, I would like
 to send (S.O.) copy of the
 letter from Mr W. & prepared
 reply to Mr Wigglesworth. The
 Hon. Comm. of Lords who
 know the case here.

all Barrow
 19.2.27

Mr Wigglesworth
 I was to Mr Field yesterday and
 have received a telephone message from
 him to the effect that there is no objection
 on the part of F.O. to Mr Wigglesworth having
 a copy of the memo as proposed on the
 understanding that he replies to his
 case grounds on the lines you ^{indicate} without
 sending the memo. truly
 Yours
 There is also some account of
 the British Excelsior case on
 pages 36-3 of "British Case
 Agnes & Lee" (9163/81) Ed

you will be interested in the
 he ed mark the letter to Mr
 Wigglesworth & also the F.O.
 memorandum "confidential" but
 if you think that Mr Wigglesworth
 wd. pass on the memorandum
 we wd. easily compare the reply
 to X.

all Barrow
 19.2.27

Salisbury
 I am at ease that Mr G. is in
 England at present.

Write as at X, saying that I
 have left 5 shillings for his
 personal information, with a
 history of the ~~case~~ ^{matter} ~~concerning~~
 it. It is not necessary to state
 do not send it unless I am in
 touch with him in London.

G.C.S.
 20.2.27

2 Mr Wigglesworth (Harmond) 2

Mr. Conson S.O. conf. letter
 to Mr Wigglesworth on evening
 copies of (1) (1a) & (2)
 all
 27.2.27

HA 3

To Martin (w. copies 1, 1A & 2) p.c. 5/3/29

A. Wigglesworth. s/o. Int. March. 29.

Will be glad to have the nets for personal and return.

RESTRICTED UNDER STATUTE

Please have a copy of the material made & put up S.O. note for my copy. enclosing it for personal & return.

W.S. 5.3.29

To Wigglesworth (4 and 1) }
* (w. copy 1A) }

5/3/29

RESTRICTED UNDER STATUTE

6. A. Wigglesworth. s/o. 11th March. 29.

Returns nets forwarded in No. 5.

Putby
W.S.
13.3.29
at once

TELEGRAMS - PETTINATO, PHONE, LONDON.
CABLEGRAMS - PETTINATO, LONDON.
TELEPHONES - ROWAL 3282 (4 Lines)

PORT OF LONDON BUILDING
TRINITY SQUARE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

11th March, 1938

RECEIVED
13 MAR 1938
COL. OFFICE

Dear Mr. Bottomley,

(No 5)

I am obliged to you for
having sent me the note on the Freeland Association,
which I have read with interest, and now have pleasure
in returning with thanks.

Yours sincerely,

W. C. Bottomley

Encl:

W. C. Bottomley Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

and Brussels Acts should be applied in regard to arms, etc., imported by its members, and that in view of the doubts as to its real objects and intentions care should be taken to do nothing which might involve Her Majesty's Government.

The suggestion that a grant of land was made to the Association under Royal Charter is clearly ridiculous since one of the tenets of the Association was that no nation or individual had any right to land or to the fruits of the soil. There is no doubt that a strong rumour was current at the time of the formation of the Association that the British Government had granted land in its African territories for the 'Frislanders' experiment and a denial in strong terms was contained in the Berlin papers in March 1894. The prime reason for proceeding to Central Africa was the fact that the territory they had in mind was in their opinion 'no-man's' land.

The "Standard" of March 9, 1894, contained the following article (extract) from its Berlin Correspondent:-

"The assertion that no land has been set aside as necessary land is erroneous, for it does not belong to England, but only to the British sphere of interest. According to the Berlin Act, the European powers can exercise the rights of sovereignty in Africa only where they actually govern, ^{and} where the population expressly recognises their right to do so. This is not the case with the Senia territory, nor has the British Government the slightest intention of regarding it as under its protection. Our agreement with the British Government simply stipulates that it shall allow us free passage through its territory, which extends

7.

for a few miles inland.

The advance expedition which consisted of 25 individuals under the leadership of a Dr. Wilhelm, was doomed to failure from the start. Its cosmopolitan composition and its lack of funds soon caused disruption in the party. Moreover there seems to be no doubt an assurance from the Austrian Government that they were not interested in the Association certain members of the party had the intention of making it a means of politically interesting Austria in the acquisition of undeveloped territory in Central Africa. After one or two half-hearted attempts to proceed inland the expedition was dissolved on June 19, 1894 and most of its members were repatriated.

Dr. Wilhelm and one or two members remained in East Africa and may have obtained land later through the East Africa Company but it is clear that anything they may have done was in a purely private capacity and not as agents of the Freeland Association. An application was in fact made by Wilhelm in July 1894 for permission to proceed along the Tana as far as Xenia, and this was granted conditionally upon his having no longer any connexion with the Association.

Correspondence published in the "Times" in the early part of 1895 indicates that Dr. Wilhelm, presumably to save his face with his compatriots, blamed the British Government for the failure of the expedition, that they caused every obstacle to be put in the way of progress inland even to the extent of inciting the native population to boycott them. This view was however not supported by German members of the expedition who admitted that their non success was due to lack of funds and faulty organisation to which perhaps might be added the somewhat unpractical and Utopian conception of the scheme in the first place.

X 15541/29 Kenya 8 3

- Mr. Whitehead 2/12
- Mr. Allen 28/12
- Mr. Johnson
- Mr. Bottomley
- Sir E. Harding
- Mr. J. Strachan
- Sir G. Gurnell
- Sir C. Danks
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Lord Epsom
- Mr. Amery

5 March
February 1929

G.D.

Confidential

DRAFT

S/o for Mr. Pakenham's sig.

H. T. Martin

by H. T. Martin

Esq. C.B.E.

37 St James Place
S.W. 1.

I enclose for

your ~~Confidential~~ ^{Confidential} information a copy of a letter ^{comes with} from Mr. A. Wigglesworth. Together with a copy of the ~~letter sent to him~~, on the subject of the

Mr Wigglesworth of 18.1.29 ✓
(No 1)

Note - Freeland Association (Pakenham's copy) ✓
(No 1a)

Mr Wigglesworth of 25.2.29 ✓
(No 2)

Freeland Association,
together with a ~~copy of the note~~
a copy of the note

8
X issued 29 Kenya 3

- Mr. Montagu 27/2
- Mr. Allen 28/2
- Mr. Hanson
- Mr. Bostmley
- Sir E. Harding
- Mr. J. Shackburgh
- Sir G. Gurne
- Sir C. Dukes
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Lord Lloyd
- Mr. Amery

5 March
February 1929

Confidential

DRAFT.

S/o for Mr. Parkin's Reg.

H. T. Martin

My Dear Martin,

Esq. C.R.E.
37 St James Place
S.W. 1.

I enclose for

your confidence ^{and official} information a copy of a letter ^{comes with} from Mr. H.

Mr. Wigglesworth of 18.1.29
(no 1) ✓

Wigglesworth together with a copy of the reply sent to him, on the subject of these

Note - Freedom Association
(Pakenham Col)
(no 1a) ✓

Mr. Wigglesworth of 25.2.29
(no 2) ✓

Freedom Association,

together with a copy of the note

between the Foreign
Office, to which reference

is made in the reply
to the letter of
Mr. Wigglesworth

also enclosed

~~The following
information
was prepared in the
past for the
Department of
Agriculture~~

Possibly you know already
all this story, but it was new to me,
and if you do not know it already,

the whole will be interesting

to me, to the
the whole

it was prepared in the
last 5 years' history as

Confidential: that's the

reason why I am so

making this letter

Yours sincerely

W. G. WIGGLESWORTH

Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Allen
Mr. Bottomley 20/2/29
X.15541/29 Kenya

Mr. Bottomley 21.2.29
Sir E. Harding

Sir J. Churchill

Sir G. Graham

Sir C. Drake

Sir S. Wilson

Mr. Ormsby-Gore

Lord Lovat

Mr. Amery

S-9 for Mr. Bottomley's signature.

Downing Street.

25 February 1929

Dear Mr. Wigglesworth,

You will remember writing to
me some time ago about an alleged
allotment of land in Kenya to the
Free Land Association.

I have had enquiries made
into the allegation and I find that
there is no foundation at all for

the report that the Government made
any grant of land to the Free Land Association

which I shall be glad to see you for your
own personal information. A note on
the history of this abortive attempt

at settlement, but I do not send it
now as I am not sure that you are in
London.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) W. G. BOTTOMLEY.

DRAFT.

A. WIGGLESWORTH ESQ

copy to Mr. Eastwood

In all no draft
inform Mr
Constituent
accordingly

which I shall be glad to see you for your
own personal information. A note on
the history of this abortive attempt

at settlement, but I do not send it
now as I am not sure that you are in
London.

The Library, 10
Colonial Office,
Downing Street
S.W.1.

18th February, 1929

Dear Mr. Field,

I went on to Mr. Parkinson, the Head of our East African Department, your letter to me of the 12th inst. covering Mr. Jones' memorandum on the question of a grant of land to the Freeland Association, and he wishes me to convey to you both the thanks of all concerned here for this very interesting account.

Mr. Parkinson also wishes me to enquire whether there is any objection to our sending a copy to Mr. Alfred Wigglesworth, personally, for his own information, in which case we should suggest that he should inform his correspondent that he has made enquiries and finds that there is no foundation for the report that the Government made any such grant of land.

Yours sincerely

S.S.W.

J.W.Field Esq. M.B.S.

Foreign Office
February 12, 1929

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

11

I send, herewith, in response to your enquiry, a memorandum on the Freland Association's settlement in East Africa.

It has taken longer to prepare than I anticipated, but I trust it will give you the information you require.

Yours sincerely,
John H. Field

Confidential

12 / 100

Freeland Association - African Settlement.

The Freeland Association was the result of an attempt originating in Central Europe to establish a community on the basis of perfect economic freedom and justice: a community which should preserve the independence of its members and should secure to every worker the full and undiminished enjoyment of that which he might produce. The scheme was based on certain theories of Dr. Hertzka an Austrian writer who was himself the father of the Association.

A circular issued by the Association, ~~and~~ extracts from which were quoted in the "Times" of February 9, 1894, pointed out that it was impossible on economic grounds to obtain areas of land in Europe on which their socialistic theories could be put into practice, and stated that for the site of the new community a suitable area would be selected in the recently discovered and still unoccupied high lands surrounding Mt. Kenia ~~and~~ the interior of Equatorial Africa. It added that Great Britain within whose sphere of influence this district lay had promised her protection as well as complete freedom in the matter of internal economic arrangements.

The details of the expedition came to official notice ^{at the beginning of 1894} in despatches from the British East Africa Company, who had received numerous applications from the Association for facilities. The attitude of the Foreign Office throughout was that no obstacle should be placed in the way of the Association's plans, but the British East Africa Company was warned that the provisions of the Berlin and Brussels Acts should be applied in regard to arms &c. imported by its members, and that in view of the doubts as to its real objects and intentions care should be taken to do nothing which might involve Her Majesty's Government.

Copy to H. J. Martin
11/11/1924
11/11/1924

Confidential

12 / 100

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Copy to H. J. Martin
Wigg Committee
- 27 -
124

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Austrian.....

13

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FOREIGN OFFICE,

7th February 1929.