

1925

<sup>EA</sup>  
E. AFRICA  
NOR. RHODESIA

49309

DATE

REC<sup>d</sup>  
REL 2 NOV 25  
33

GOV'S DEP. CLOUGH.

430

2nd October 1925.

REGULATION

CENTRALISATION OF RESEARCH.

Governor concurs in views expressed in memoranda by P.M.O., and Acting Secretary for Agriculture, now forwarded.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

See also 49152

You asked me to make a short summary of the replies from Nyasaland & N. Rhodesia & to attach this to the file so that a summary of the reports from the other Dependencies when can be added when they are received.

I have made a short summary & placed it in this docket.

? wait for other replies  
(Re-circulate to G.A. Dept for 52213/25)

RWB.  
15.12.25

Subsequent Paper

Gov. 52213  
RWB

As to Amami, it has now been decided (with Treas<sup>r</sup> approval) that  
Nyasaland

will contribute £200.

wait as proposed

WSD

16.12.25

at once

M.S.

16.12.25

16.12.25

NORTHERN RHODESIA.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,  
LIVINGSTONE,

329

NORTHERN RHODESIA,

2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER, 1925.

RECEIVED  
31 OCT 1925  
COL. OFFICE

49309  
REC'D  
2 NOV 25

Sir,

In the temporary absence of the Governor I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 192 of the 18th August inviting Sir Herbert Stanley's observations on page 85 of the Report of the East African Commission dealing with the question of the centralisation of research.

Am 33917/24  
Hay

2. The attached copies of Minutes from the Principal Medical Officer and the Acting Secretary for Agriculture were forwarded to Sir Herbert Stanley on tour, and he desires me to transmit them to you with an intimation of his general concurrence with the views expressed therein.

P. M. O.

25

Acting Secy. for  
Agr.

25. 9. 25.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

G. S. Claph

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

Lieutenant Colonel

The Right Honourable

L. S. AMERY, M. P.,

etc., etc., etc.,

COLONIAL OFFICE.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

LIVINGSTONE,

NORTHERN RHODESIA,

12th SEPTEMBER, 1925.

33)

The Assistant Secretary,  
Livingstone,  
Northern Rhodesia.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DESPATCH NO. 192 (18.8.1925).

CENTRALISATION OF RESEARCH.

This matter was referred to in my Report of August 31st last, as follows. "Medical Research. It is not at present recommended that funds should be diverted for this purpose, this is again I think a matter for combined rather than individual effort and the provision of an adequate Medical Service is a more pressing necessity".

The problems requiring solution in every department of Research whether it be Medical, Veterinary, Agricultural, Forestry or any other are probably very similar for all East African Territories. There can be no doubt that the quality of the work done and the reliability of results, will be directly dependent on the quality of the personnel employed and the conditions under which they work, it does not seem that this Territory, (and possibly some of the others) is at present in a position to provide either the conditions or the prospects which would attract a suitable personnel, or to provide by means of a sufficiently adequate staff in any department for continuity of effort, or work on a scale sufficiently large to give reasonable expectation of adequate results, there is little use in such work done on a small scale and hampered by petty economies, by inadequate facilities, equipment and material.

The.....

The Secretary of State's despatch refers apparently to the question raised by the East African Commission as to the desirability of centralised as opposed to Departmental Research, the arguments advanced by the Commission in favour of the former concur I feel sure with the experience of everyone who has practical knowledge of research, and should the different East African Territories decide on individual effort it seems unquestionable that a very great advantage will be gained by the maintenance of Central Laboratories.

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The East African Commission however seems to go further and advocate not only centralised rather than Departmental Research for each Territory, but for East Africa as a whole, and I beg to submit for His Excellency's consideration that in replying to this despatch at least in so far as it concerns medical research emphasis might be laid on the obvious advantages to be gained in the quality of the workers, and of the work done, in continuity of effort, and financially by the co-operation of the various East African States.

The ideal would seem to be a Department of Research, or failing that a Department of Medical Research the Headquarters of either being an Institute such as the Amani Institute appears to have been, where work would be continuously in progress on the more general problems met with in the various Territories and by which trained Investigators could be provided for the local investigation of local problems.

Such a scheme as this, supported by the various Territories, by the various commercial interests involved, and perhaps by the Imperial Government could be made to provide every requisite for successful investigation.

The.....

The following example may be considered relevant to this question.

Since 1919 a disease, which for the want of a better name has been called Influenza has been Endemic in this Territory; conditions <sup>intimately</sup> associated with this disease are Splenic Abscess, Cerebral and other Thromboses, Phlebitis. The former of these, which at times is almost epidemic in its incidence is unknown to Medical Science. The causative agent for all is unknown.

The investigation of this problem will require the services of the most highly trained research workers, a bacteriologist, a Protozoologist, and possibly a chemist, it is unlikely that this Government, and perhaps also other East African Governments will for many years be in a position to provide such as a permanent establishment, nor does it seem necessary that they should attempt to do so, the position could be more adequately met by the establishment of one Department of Research for all.

A. MAY,

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,

LIVINGSTONE,

Northern Rhodesia,

15th September, 1925.

The Assistant Secretary,  
Livingstone,  
NORTHERN RHODESIA.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S DESPATCH NO. 192

DATED 18TH AUGUST.

Research, to be carried out in a proper manner, requires the services of a considerable number of highly trained experts, each devoting himself to that part of the subject for which he is fitted. The elucidation of one problem may require the services of several experts.

If, therefore, proper research were to be carried out by each of the Colonies in the East African Group, it is very questionable if sufficient men, qualified to undertake it, could be engaged, even if funds were available to meet the very great expense.

Many of the problems, requiring investigation, are common to all the Colonies, and, if independent research is maintained in each, the amount of duplication of work, no matter how close the liaison, would be great.

In my opinion, the most advantageous, as well as most economical, way of carrying out research is by the establishment of :-

- (a) A central research station.
- (b) Local experimental stations.

(a). CENTRAL STATION .-

Established in one Colony for the investigation of problems common to all. Such a place as the Amani Institute could be utilised for this purpose. The equipment should be the most modern and the salaries sufficient

to.....

to attract investigators of eminence. The staff would have to be sufficient to ensure continuity of effort and allow of men being seconded for a purpose which will be explained later.

There would be provision for medical, veterinary and agricultural research.

It is not proposed that there should be separate divisions for the work of each department. Many of the problems of the three branches are closely allied.

The separate portions of each problem would be investigated by the expert who is specially qualified for the work. Information and material would be supplied by the individual Colonies.

(b). LOCAL CENTRAL STATIONS .-

In all Colonies there is a certain amount of routine work and local investigation which could not be carried out at the Central Station.

In connection with Veterinary work there is the preparation of Sera from organisms which may vary in virulence in different Colonies, diagnoses, &c.

In Agricultural matters there is the acclimatisation and breeding of seed, experimental work in new crops, and those from other Colonies, under local conditions.

The local station would be so equipped that a certain amount of research work could be undertaken on a problem which was purely local. Whenever it was discovered that such a problem was beyond the scope of the local staff, experts would be seconded from the central station who would bring with them all equipment other than that available at the local station.

Thus.....

Thus each Colony would get advice upon its local problems for more expert than it could hope to obtain under any other system and the investigations into the common problems would still be maintained.

The Agricultural Station which has been asked for in this Colony is one which would fulfill the conditions of the local stations described.

J. SMITH,

ACTING SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE  
AND  
CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER.