

1923

KENYA

C O
14223
RE-
19 MAR 23

FROM
MOSLIM ASSOCIATION
NAIROBI.

DATE
26th FEBRUARY 1923.

FOR CIRCULATION :-

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.

SUBJECT
1. POSITION OF INDIANS.
2. REV'D. SHAW'S ATTACK ON PROPHECY ISLAM.

Fwds Petition and requests it may be
laid before H.M. The King.

+ *L. H. King*
20 Feb 23

* Form U.S. of S. 21.
+ Part U.S. of S. 21
Secretary of State.

Previous Paper
13/12 Secret

MINUTES

This petition has not come through
the Governor and the enclosure
have not been received. Therefore
all the action we can possibly
take is to tell the Gov that
we have received it, that it should
be explained to the members that it
cannot be submitted to H.M.
because of A, but that their
attention should be drawn to
the fact that the S. of S. has
already condemned embellishing
the publication of the attack on
the Mohammedan religion
of which they complain.

By you.
1463. 27 branches

Subsequent Paper
14308

As I have said on 14391, we know
too little of the behavior case to
take

MINUTES

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

take up that part of
the petition.

In justice to the
"Standard" it is fair to
say that they were let
down by an acting
Senator (the Senator was
here on Jan. 30 & they
should be here).

to C.S.
20323

J. J. R.
25 Jan 73

? As proposed.

K.S. 243.

yes with a line
210 * 23

take up that part of
the petition.

In justice to the
"Standard" it is fair to
say that they have let
down by an acting
editor (the editor was
here on Jan. 30 & may
still be here).

to C.S.
20 3 23

J. J. R.
25 Jan 23

? to prof. w.

J. S. 24.5.

yes copy at once
21 2 23

11 C/O
14223
REC
19 MAR 23

R 18

MOSLIM ASSOCIATION,
KENYA COLONY,
Nairobi, 26th Feb., 1923.

3c

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MR. GRMSBY COPE,
UNDER SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES,
LONDON.

Sir,

We the Moslim Association of the Mohamedans of the Colony of Kenya East Africa most humbly and respectfully beg leave to place this Petition before you with the prayer that you will graciously lay it before His Majesty The King and His Grace The Duke of Devonshire the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

1. That as far as our information extends the European population, including all European nationalities is about 9000 units in the four territories of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

2. That a section of the Kenya European Settlers who for reasons of their having, for some time, come in contact with the South African Boers and having unwittingly absorbed the complexion prejudice which was invented by the Boers many years back have set on foot an anti-Indian agitation since the Colonial Office proposed to grant the British Indians the right that selected 10% of them against 100% of the Europeans should have the right to commonly vote for seats in the Legislative Council.

3. That the agitation is originated and chiefly led by European persons who from their treatment of Indians fear that they would not obtain Indian vote for their election with a common role.

4. That during the course of this agitation they have frequently threatened to become lawless and resort to armed force for frustrating the adminis-

trative

-2-

administrative steps of the Imperial Government.

5. That a local newspaper the East African Standard, in the interests of its own trade and for that purpose to imperceptibly draw the European public from their peaceful and lawful pursuits and to engage them in the sensation of its own manufacture, has been educating their opinions that ten per cent votes give the Indians an equality of status with the Europeans and that fact is a calamity which they should avoid by the good offices of the East African Standard and of other persons who for personal reasons dread the Indians becoming voters for or against the selection of a certain class of Europeans.

6. That it is also rumoured that the agitation is led by some Germans who wish to bring about complications in British East Africa.

7. That this Moslim Association is a religious body and is therefore not concerned with politics, except in so far as they reflect upon Mohamedan religion and the friendly relations of His Majesty King George V's Empire with the Mohamedan Powers of the world.

8. That during this baseless political agitation against the Indians ten per cent franchise the agitating section of the Europeans have made repeated attempts to incite the Indians, here as well as overseas, by calling them incapable of governing themselves and cowards etc. It needs no argument to support the conjecture that such literature could only be written and published under enemy advice.

9. That the said section of the European agitators did not stop at their attempts to incite the Indians in all parts of the world but finding that the Indians were too loyal adherents of the Empire one of them Rev. Shaw of Nyeri sent you a cable on the 25th of January 1923 in which he used the following sentence "And what concord hath Christ with Belial (Mohamet) or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel". The publicity of this cablegram was undertaken by the East African Standard (copy marked Exhibit "A" attached herewith).

10. That His Majesty the King Emperor and his well read statesmen and administrators, who govern over sixty million Mohamedans in India alone, doubtlessly are aware of the fact that according to the Mohamedan religion nobody can be a Mussalman unless he be a true Christian. Any abuse upon Mohamed or Christ is abuse upon both.

11. That Mr. Shaw who is presumably a clergyman could not be ignorant of the Mohamedan religion which is so closely connected with the religion of which he is minister nor of the effect of his words upon the minds of the Mohamedans throughout the world nor of its effect upon the British Empire.

12. That the Editor of the East African Standard who gave publicity to this ⁰gentleman's abuse upon the prophet who upheld Christ as the Spirit of God could not have been ignorant of the fact that he was legally forbidden to sell the world-shocking blasphamy in the benefit of his trade.

Nor could the Editor of the East African Standard be unaware of the fact that the British Empire

has political relations with all the Mohamedan Powers of the world such as Persia, Afghanistan, China, Arabia etc. etc. And that just at the moment when the Editor was giving publicity to the abuse upon the prophet of the Arabians, Persians, Egyptians etc. etc. the British Government was engaged in important political negotiations with some of them for assuring the peace of the world.

The learned Editor could not have been ignorant of the consequences of his acts.

14. That on the 13th of February 1923 the same Editor of the "East African Standard" gave publication to another scurrilous letter of one Mr. H. Ryle Shaw in which letter this Mr. Shaw had, approved and justified for, the publication of a copy of a letter which was written by some persons who trusted their own thinking into Mr. Shaw's hands, had cast gross libels on the people of India (copy marked "B" attached herewith).

14. That on the 16th of February 1923 Mr. J. B. P. ... published a reply in the Weekly Democrat of which he was the Editor (copy marked "C" attached herewith).

15. That on the 18th February 1923 the Zanzibar Samachar published a protest against Rev. Shaw's blasphemous cablegram which he sent to you (copy marked "D" attached herewith).

16. That on the 21st February 1923 Mr. Itarar Acharian of the Democrat was ordered by the 2nd the Supreme Court at Bombay to be deported to His Excellency the Governor for deportation for

has political relations with all the Mohamedan Powers of the world such as Persia, Afghanistan, China, Arabia etc. etc. And that just at the moment when the Editor was giving publicity to the abuse upon the person of the Emperor, and his appointed Ministers, the Emperor was engaged in important political negotiations with some of them for assuring the peace of the world.

The learned Editor could not have been ignorant of the consequences of his acts.

11. That on the 19th of February 1917 the said Editor of the said Weekly Democrat gave publicity to another scurrilous letter of one Mr. H. Hyle Shaw in which letter this Rev. Shaw had, amongst other things, said that the Editor of the said Weekly Democrat was a man who trusted their own thinking into Mr. Shaw's hands; had cast gross libels on the people of India (copy marked "B" attached herewith).

12. That on the 20th of February 1917 the said Editor of the said Weekly Democrat, in order to discourage these dangerous publications, published a reply in the Weekly Democrat of which he was the Editor (copy marked "C" attached herewith).

15. That on the 18th February 1923 the Zanzibar Samachar published a protest against Rev. Shaw's blasphemous cablegram which he sent to you (copy marked "D" attached herewith).

16. That on the 21st February 1917 the Editor of the said Weekly Democrat was arrested by the 2nd the Supreme Court at Bombay and taken to His Excellency the Governor for deportation for

this reply and ordered his detention in custody till the decision of His Excellency the Governor.

17. That on the 23rd February the East African Standard published a letter from Mr. K. S. Chawdhury Bar-at-Law (marked Exhibit "E" attached herewith) which is omitted from the overseas Weekly issue of the Standard) and it is rumoured that Mr. Chawdhury is in danger because the East African Standard published the letter.

18. That since from the body and context of Deportation Ordinance of 1923 it did not appear that the Ordinance was applicable in such cases as that of the publications by the East African Standard and the reply given by Mr. Sitaram Achariar the Mohamedan public of this Colony, mostly through magnanimity and partly for this reason, did not take any action against the East African Standard ~~for~~ or other offenders. But since in the case of Mr. ^{Achariar} Sitaram the Supreme Court have made the Ordinance applicable, it is therefore the intention of this Association to make application against the Editor of East African Standard and other offenders also for action similar to the one which has been taken against Mr. Achariar for replying to the letters in the Standard.

19. That since the Editor of the East African Standard and other offenders are Europeans and the Indians have no share in the administration of the country it is therefore prayed that the Secretary of State for the Colonies be pleased to graciously give assurance that equal justice will be done on

the application of the Moslem Association

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient & humble servant,

Muhammad Hasan
Barister-at-Law
PRESIDENT

of the Moslem Association
of Kenya.

DRAFT.

24 Aug

1. Hassan, (M.A.)

2. Hassan, (M.A.)

the application of the ~~Wolfsberg~~ Act.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient & humble servant,

Muhammad Hasan
Barrister-at-Law
PRESIDENT

of the Muslim Association
of Kenya.

DRAFT.

MUSLIM

No. 9. 14223/23 Kenya

C. D.
R 22 AB
D 43

27 March 1923.

ah

Sir

DRAFT.

Kenya
No 463
Gov. Comdn

MINUTE.

- Mr. Seel ²²/₂₃
- Mr. Bottomley 22/3/23
- Mr.
- Mr. Davis.
- Sir G. Grindle.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr Ormsby-Gore.
- Duke of Devonshire.

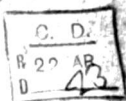
I have etc to be to you for your information, the accompanying copy of a petition which has been addressed by the President of the Muslim Association of Kenya to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of certain letters written by the Rev^d. W. H. Shaw and also by Mr Sitaram Acharian which have recently been published in local East African newspapers

Com from Mus. Assocn
(14223/23)

also on 14321/23

2. I have to request that you will cause the petitioners to be informed

M. J. 14223/125 Kenya



27 March 1923

Sir

DRAFT.

Kenya
No 463
Gov Comdn.

MINUTE.Mr. Peel $\frac{22}{5}$ 23

Mr. Bottomley 22/3/23

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Duke of Devonshire.

I have etc to be to you, for your information, the accompanying copies of a petition which has been addressed by the President of the Muslim Association of Kenya to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of certain letters written by the Rev^d. W. H. Shaw and also by Mr Pitaram Acharian which have recently been published in local East African newspapers

2. I have to request that you will cause the petitioners to be informed

1 com from Pres. Muslim Association
(14223/23)

1 com from 14321/23

that I have received his
petition, but that I regret
that I am unable to submit
it to His Majesty in view
of the fact that it has not
been submitted through you
~~to the Secretary of State~~ ^{to the Secretary of State}
and that I am ~~not~~ ^{not} therefore
~~in possession of your views~~
~~thereon~~. I should also be
pained out to him that the
petition was received in
an incomplete state, as the
enclosures to which it refers
were not ~~sent~~ transmitted
with it.

3 I shall also be glad
if you will draw the attention
of the Petitioner to the fact that
I have already emphatically
condemned the publication
of the attack on the Mohammedan
religion of which he complains.

(Signed) DEVA...

that I have received his
petition, but that I regret
that I am unable to submit
it to Her Majesty in view
of the fact that it has not
been submitted through you
~~to the Regulator~~ with the Regulator,
and that I am ~~not~~ ~~therefore~~
~~in possession of your views~~
~~upon it.~~ I should also be
pained out to him that the
petition was received in
an incomplete state, as the
enclosures to which it refers
were not ~~also~~ transmitted
with it.

3. I shall also be glad
if you will draw the attention
of the Petitioner to the fact that
I have already emphatically
condemned the publication
of the attack on the Mohammedan
religion of which he complains.

(Signed) DEVONPORT