

1923

KENYA

C O
26736
REC'D
RE 29 MAY 23

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL
INDIA, BURMA AND
CEYLON.

DATE
3rd MAY 1923.

LOCATION :-
Stanley

SUBJECT

POSITION OF INDIANS.

S. of S.
H. Radd
30/5/23
S. of S. ✓
S. of S. ✓
State. 2.6

Printed statement prepared by Executive of Council, expressing views on controversy.

Previous Paper

M. 9
6728
7

MINUTES

As far as the C. C. is concerned
we can subscribe to
practically all this.
We have never reported
the religious question & we
usually took a strong
line over the various
attacks on Mohammedanism
by the well known
Kenya named Shaw;
L. Wilson definitely
disassociated ~~himself~~ ^{himself} from
from the attack by the
Kenya Economic Commission
on the Hindus from
the moral side; &
we accept as fundamental
the necessity of putting
the national interests

Subsequent Paper

M. 9
26736

Just.

But I do not think
this calls for
a considered
reply.

Send copy to J.O.
Initially I shall
trust J.O. will
arrange through
Govt. of India for
the Secy of the
N.C.C. to be
rpt. that the
Supt. has received
the letter & the
enclosed statement.

All

R.S. 23

Yes - the position is that

Some Europeans have
dropped their red-banners
across the trail:

- (a) They are fighting the
battle of Christ against
Mahomet & Vishnu
- (b) Indians on the ground
- (c) They have celebrated
Whitney in regard to
which is entirely due to
R.C.O.

R.S. 23

Just.

But I do not think
this calls for
a considered
reply.

Send copy to S.O.
Officially - I will
trust S.O. will
run through
Govt. of India for
the Secy of the
N.C.C. to be
rpt. that the
Supt. has received
the letter & the
enclosed statement.

Act

2-5-13

Yes - the position is that

Some Europeans have
dropped their red-bearings
across the trail:

- (a) They are fighting the
battle of Christ against
Khalonut Nohau
- (b) Indians are in a moral
- (c) The Army has illiberal
policy in regard to
water is mostly for

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL
of India, Burma and Ceylon.

263

R

Executive Committee

The Rev. J. C. Chatterjee, M.A.
The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Dornakal.
The Rev. J. E. Hodge.
Mrs. Holland, B.Sc.
The Rev. G. Howells, M.A., Ph.D.
The Rev. J. H. Maclean, M.A., B.D.

Miss Mohini Maya Das, B.A.
Rai Bahadur A. C. Mukerji.
Prof. S. C. Mukerji, I.A., B.L.
P. O. Philip, Esq., B.A.
Bishop J. W. Robinson.
The Rev. F. H. Russell, D.D.

C O
26736
REC'D
RE. 29 MAY 23

5, Russell Street, CALCUTTA.

May 3rd.

1923
[Signature]

Chairman
The Lord Bishop of India,
Calcutta.
President
The Bishop of Calcutta.
Secretary
The Rev. J. C. Chatterjee, M.A.,
College, Lucknow.
Treasurer
The Rev. J. H. Maclean, M.A., B.D.,
Ranchi.
Secretary
The Rev. J. C. Chatterjee, M.A.,
Russell Street, Calcutta.

Grace,

I have the honour to forward to you a statement on the question of rights in Kenya Colony, prepared by the Executive of the National Council of India, Burma and Ceylon, and signed on its behalf by the Metropolitan of India and Bishop of Calcutta, and myself. I state while this body represents the entire organised Christian in India, missionary and India, with the exception of the Roman Church, I have also shown this statement to the officers of the Christian Conference, which represents independent Christian among the Indians, and it has the hearty support of that body also. We feel ourselves competent to offer opinions on the detailed proposals by both sides, but we feel it our duty, in view of the appeals being made to Christian sentiment, to make it clear where Christian in this country stands.

I have the honour to be,

Your Grace's obedient servant,

William Paton
Secretary.

The Duke of Devonshire, K.G.

Secretary of State for
the Colonies.

In the present controversy with regard to the rights of Indians in Kenya, we observe that attempts are being made to represent the cause of Christianity as being bound up with the maintenance of Indian immunities and the removal of Indian residents of citizen rights. We desire therefore to state clearly what we believe to be the opinion of the overwhelming majority both of Indian Christians and of missionaries in India with regard to this subject.

In the first place, we hold that it is a gross disservice to Christianity to suggest that it can be defended, maintained or preserved by the doing of an injustice to anyone. If the claims of the European settlers in Kenya are just they can be defended on their merits, but they can not be defended on the ground that it is desirable to secure Christianity in Kenya against the competition of other influences. Such an argument not only assumes that the influence of the European in Kenya is uniformly helpful to Christianity (a view which the discussions on forced labour, not long ago, would lead us to doubt), but rests on a fundamental misconception of the real nature of Christianity.

Secondly, we share the deep resentment created among Indians of all classes by the statements made in Kenya by Europeans - some of them influential - regarding the general character and influence of Indians. No doubt in so large a community as the Indians in Kenya there are undesirable characters. Moreover, we deplore the custom which enforces perpetual widowhood upon young women and inflicts the hardships upon them. But we utterly repudiate the charges of promiscuous immorality brought against Indians in this connection, as we believe they will be repudiated by all those who, not themselves Indians, have experienced Indian social life at first hand.

Thirdly, we think it necessary to say that the Indian problem in Kenya has a close bearing on the reality and workableness of the Empire, and that not in a political sense merely but in a moral sense. On every hand it is plain that the settlement of this problem is being regarded in India as a test of the ideal aims for which the Empire exists. We believe there is a large public in India which desires to see a just settlement of the problem and would be prepared to see Indian claims abated if that can be shown to be just. We hold that the interest of the African must be the main consideration of Government in arriving at a decision. Subject to that consideration the very principles on which the Empire is built demand that the claims of the Indian should be treated as fairly as the claims of the European and that no prejudice stem from racial distinction nor unworthy attempts to introduce religious bigotry should be allowed a hearing.

Signer. F. Calcutta.

Chairman

W. Paton.

Secretary

for the Executive of the National Christian Council of India
Bombay, 1952

111. 26736/23 Keraga

O. D.
R 26 JUN.
D Y.

Ind.

DRAFT.

~~Se~~ Sin

8 June 1923

MINUTE.

- Mr. Peel ^{5/6/23}
- Mr. Parkinson
- Mr. Davis.
- Mr. G. Grindle.
- Mr. H. Read.
- Mr. J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
- Mr. Duke of Devonshire.

Council. 3 May
26736/23

Statement (enclos
nature)

I am etc to his Honor,
for the infⁿ of Viscount Peel.
the acc^y copy of a letter
which has been received
from the Secretary of the
National Christian Council
of India, Burma, and
Ceylon, together with a
Statement on the question of
Indian rights in the
Keraga
which has been

11. 26736/23 Kerua



Ind

DRAFT.

Sir

8 June 1923

85.

MINUTE.

Seel 5/6/23

Parkinson

Mr.

Mr. Davis.

Mr. G. Grindle.

Mr. H. Read.

Mr. J. Masterton Smith.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Viscount of Devonshire.

Council. 3 May
26736/23

Statement (enclos
na (one))

I am etc to Mr. Ormsby-Gore,
for the infⁿ of Viscount Peel.
The acc^y copy of a letter
which has been received
from the Secretary of the
National Christian Council
of India, Burma, and
Ceylon, together with a
Statement on the question of
Indian rights in the
Kerua
which has been

prepared by the Executive
of that Council.

2. His Grace would

be glad if Lord Peel
would be so good as to
arrange for the Secretary
of the Council to be informed,
through the Gov^t of India,
that he has received the
letter and the statement.

(Signed) H. J. READ

prepared by the Executive
of that Council.

2. His grace would
be glad if Lord Peel
would be so good as to
arrange for the Secretary
of the Council to be informed,
through the Gov^t of India,
that he has received the
letter and the statement.

(Signed) H. J. READ