

1923

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REC'D
JUN 20 1923

FROM
(Rev.) W. Arthur

DATE
June 19th 1923

FOR CIRCULATION:—

Mr. *Stromberg*
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.

SUBJECT

Indian Question
Encloses short Memorandum
setting forth his position.

Perm^t U.S. of S.

Part^r U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

10730555

MINUTES

Cond 1922 Disposes of this,
I think - no further
action on the paper is
needed.

? Pub by.

*Rec'd
11.7.23*

Cost 307.25

Subsequent Paper

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File by



Sir Maarten Smit,
Permanent Secretary,
The Colonial Office.

Mr. Holtby
R. let me have your views
Edinburgh House, 100 of Park Road in den
2 Eaton Gate. come.
Sloane Square.
London S.W. 1. *Handwritten initials*
19th June 1923. *Handwritten initials*

Sir,

As the European delegation are sending to you in writing their proposals on the Kenya question, and as my views may not be in entire agreement with theirs, I thought it right for me to send to you the enclosed short Memorandum, setting forth my position. This was written before today's meeting.

You will note that, after dealing with the question of trusteeship, I bring in the matter of "land". It is properly speaking of no concern in the present settlement, but as it is the most vital subject of all to the natives, I felt something should be stated with regard to it.

Sir Robert Coryndon will have told you of the feeling of insecurity which the natives of Kenya have with regard to their land. In a letter to him, before expressing their views on the Indian question, the Kikuyu natives referred to their uneasiness of mind on this subject and definitely requested that His Excellency should bring this matter to your attention. If anything can be done to give them some form of communal title deed to be held for the tribe, while at the same time allowing their own tribal custom to regulate the land within the Reserve, much would be done to ease their minds. What is true of the Kikuyu, is true of also of the other tribes.

The other points in my memorandum deal specifically with the points at issue in the present question, for which a settlement is being sought.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

John W. Arthur

Proposals for a Kenya Settlement.

June 1923.

British Trusteeship.

British Trusteeship, which means the protection and development of the native peoples of Kenya, should be looked upon as the factor upon which a fundamental settlement depends.

In view of this trusteeship, Crown Colony Government would seem for the present at least to be the best form of Government for Kenya. This will enable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to keep control of the incidence of native taxation, of labour policy, and of native affairs generally.

With this basic factor, certain things naturally follow:--

1. Land.

The position in Kenya today is that non-Africans have security of tenure; the Africans are mere "tenants at will of the Crown".

Two things are required to safeguard the native position: first that the lands at present in occupation of the tribes are made secure against alienation and second that the present and future requirements of the Africans tribally and individually are considered as having first claim in the apportionment of unalienated territories.

2. Immigration.

Immigration of non-Africans should be strictly regulated, none being admitted but such as can be usefully absorbed into the country.

This will permit of the entrance of immigrants, suitable and necessary for the development of the country, while at the same time preventing an influx of non-Africans which would be detrimental to the progress of its native inhabitants.

3. Separation of Races.

In keeping with the policy of separation of races in force throughout the country, which was originally

(2)

initiated to protect the native areas from peaceful penetration by non-Africans, it is advisable that this policy hold good.

This is necessitated by the great divergence in the habits and ideals between Africans, Europeans, and Indians.

4. General.

The time seems fitting for the Colonial Office to lay down a definite policy for the Native Territories, whereby British influence and teaching are encouraged in every way, and under which the free development of the native peoples to manage their own affairs is allowed to take place.

It is suggested that, in any change of the Constitution, provision should be made now for African representation on the Legislative and Executive Councils, and that, until such time as the natives have proved themselves fitted to take their place, missionaries might be nominated on both Councils to represent their interests from a non-official point of view.
