

1923

KENYA

C O
35527

FROM
Lord Delamere

DATE
16th July
~~Secret~~

REC'D
REV 17 JUL 23

FOR CIRCULATION :-
Mr. *B. D. ...*
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.
L. H. ...
21/7/23
Form U.S. of S. ✓
Dist. U.S. of S. *217-12*
Secretary of State *J. L. ...*

SUBJECT
Ind. 187
Indian Question - representation
with regard to declaration of policy.

Previous Paper

S. 6.
35500

MINUTES

- (a) had Delamere and, has have some further answers - with in writing or orally?
- (b) as to interview with the Prime Minister - This should be definitely repeated?
- (c) as to giving the European delegation in advance the substance of the decisions, before they are announced, with in the days. are required. This was referred to the Indians.
- (d) as to the risk of a so-called Vienna meeting Kenya,

Put by

Subsequent Paper

S. 6.
35593

it is hoped to deal
in a fairly full
local publication
on 25 July
practically on the
verbatim text
of part of the
memo.

(c) I gather also that it is
proposed by Dept. to
give to DeLancey a
Tuesday afternoon
a copy of the
memo, which
should then be ready
to available to the
public

also
10/7/23

At this stage, ?

- (a) send a short kind letter
refusing (with explanation) to
(b) - Say to (c) that the
intended before a final decision
of the C.D. vote will not
admit of his suggestion
being adopted as it stands,
but that the Dept. hopes

the decision
shall be info before publication.
As to (a) say that it is hoped to
be able to type off the actual text
of the decision there for publication
in advance of any other information.

As to (c) I think that we must
leave it till Tuesday to make
any arrangements with Lord DeLancey.
If it is not possible I think to deal
with any other of the deputation
besides himself, so that short
notice will be the best.

W.L.S. 20.7.23

H. J. R.
21/7/23

Thomson

Jones

As proposed.

28.7.23

W.L.S.
23.7.23

L.H. Head

W.L.S.

W.L.S. has just brought
me this. He tells me that
this box was reached
in D.S. after W.L.S. had gone out

minutes until 4:30
on 25 July it had been
replied, apparently, in
one of the women's rooms,
where it was mistaken for
an empty box!

~~It is not~~ left unopened,
unopened reply. The only
one is whether having received
a return reply, anything
to be said now.

all
26.7.23
We have now the letter from L^d
re: Lawrence which Dr. Archer left

with us yesterday. That will have
to be answered, & this can be ignored?

W.S.S. 26.7.23
Yes?

H. J. R.

26/7/23

7th
H. J. R.

26.7.

mounted until 4.30
on 25 July: it had been
replied, apparently, in
one of the envelopes now,
when it was mistaken for
an empty box!

~~It is not~~ let's not regard
it as a reply. The only
reply is whether having received
a letter reply, anything
to be said now.

acc'd
26.7.23
We have now the letter from L^o
re: Lawrence which Dr. Butler left
with me yesterday. That will have
to be answered, this can be ignored?

(L^o L^o)
yes 26.7.23
H. J. R.
26/7/23

To Ham
26.7.

London 1st October.

I of S & Sir J Mantua Hunt
 have seen them - & they think no
 further answer can be sent before
 we hear from both Sir R Coryndon &
 the Govt of India - will you keep
 it - draft a reply then?

As for the P.M. receiving the Dep^y,
 will have seen that he has been
 desired not to see the Viceroy's Indian,
 he can hardly see the Europeans.

Ever
 16/7

*ackd primary**W.B. E.M.**16.7**Len
28 16/7*

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23, GROSVENOR PLACE,
LONDON, S.W. 1

16th July, 1923.

To

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G.,
G.C.V.O., P.C.,
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
Downing Street, S.W. 1.

Your Grace,

I have the honour to lay before Your Grace certain matters for your consideration. My reason for doing so is that any misunderstanding may be avoided.

I will first of all remind Your Grace of our position.

As a Deputation we were asked by Your Grace, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, to accompany His Excellency the Governor to England.

Before the Deputation left Kenya, the British Colonists there were asked to give an undertaking on certain points, which they did.

We are responsible to our fellow Colonists, who elected us, that every effort should be made to avoid

any declaration of policy which may keep alive the friction which has been retarding the advancement of the Colony.

Nobody, as Your Grace is aware, is more anxious than the Deputation to fall into line with any settlement which will irritate Indian moderate opinion as little as possible, provided it does not "Sell the pass" as regards the future of our Colony, or as regards the principles held as their birthright by British Colonists elsewhere.

It is only fair to inform Your Grace that if we are asked to do either of these things, or if such a policy is announced, we have no choice but to say that we cannot agree and to make an appeal to such quarters as can lay the matter before the Imperial Conference.

I am putting this forward partly because it is more than possible that one method being considered for dealing with the Indian problem in Kenya is, that the Imperial Government should announce that the African natives are Great Britain's trust, and that the right of India, or anyone else, to demand to share that Trusteeship cannot be admitted.

Admittedly, a declaration on some such lines as these is probably the best way of turning the flank of this great Imperial difficulty.

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As Your Grace is aware, the Deputation has always contended that the future of the African Natives is a British trust.

It is evident that the substitution of the words "Great Britain" for "British" extracts the racial sting from any announcement to be made on the subject.

But it is, of course, in the minds of Your Grace and your advisers that there are dangers in such a declaration from several points of view, unless it is very carefully expressed, and that the wording of any announcement of this sort is of the utmost importance.

I suggest to Your Grace that certain methods of wording such a declaration might for instance :-

- (1) Negatively admit a position of Indians in the Government of Kenya, which it is not intended to give them by positive assurances. This might react unfavourably elsewhere in Africa as well as in Kenya.
- (2) Make it difficult for the Imperial Government, under certain conditions, to delegate its authority in the future.

- (3) Create a political position which would exclude Central African affairs from the purview of the Colonial Conference.
- Revised*
- (4) Make it impossible for the influence of the Union of South Africa to be extended Northwards, if such became desirable, or necessary, in the future.
- (5) Fix on Kenya a status which would be a reversal of policy, and prevent or retard the further advance of the country on the constitutional road it is travelling, and place the Colony permanently under some form of bureaucratic Government, out of keeping with the expectations aroused by its present status, and by the precedents of the past which point to control of its own destinies in the future; expectations which have been confirmed by the action of Government in encouraging Soldier Settlers to make their homes in Kenya, and by the statements of Secretaries of State and Governors, especially by the definite statement of Mr. Churchill, as Secretary of State, which has never been withdrawn.

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I have taken the liberty of laying before Your Grace these possible difficulties, because we are afraid that a new factor might be introduced into the discussion, which would cause as much ferment in the future as the Indian question has done in the past.

We are here in England to try and find some method of settling Indian claims in Kenya.

We could not be in agreement with a solution which would alter adversely our political status in Kenya, now or for the future.

Your Grace said at one interview that it was no good looking too far ahead. I submit with respect that the reasonable corollary of that is, that no step should be taken which may prejudice the future development of Kenya, as a British Colony, on the same lines as Southern Rhodesia, if such proves to be her destiny.

I must take this opportunity to dissent from the idea that there is any true similarity between the conditions in Kenya Colony and the Colonies of Western Africa, whereas the likeness to those in Southern Rhodesia, in many ways, is curiously exact.

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I have only put forward these instances to Your Grace to show what is running in our minds. The practical step we wish to ask Your Grace to take, is to allow Sir Robert Coryndon to disclose to the Deputation the form of the announcement to be made, before it has been finally decided, so that the Deputation can share the responsibility of accepting a decision which may, or may not, meet the views of many in Kenya; or, on the other hand, may be in a position to point out to Your Grace anything in the declaration which could not possibly be part of a settlement by consent, which is the desideratum if future friction is to be avoided.

In any case there are sure to be details in any announcement made which, if cabled by Reuter, without warning, to Nairobi, might occasion an outburst of opinion which would make a settlement by agreement more difficult. So we want to be in a position to cable beforehand to reassure our people, without making public the terms of the decision.

We are sure that Your Grace and your advisers recognise the necessity for exercising the greatest care in the wording of any Declaration, and we have the greatest faith in Sir Robert Coryndon's judgment, but

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we, as a Deputation, have to bear the responsibility in Kenya of satisfying those who sent us, and we are in a position to know what we can accept on their behalf, provided we have time to prepare them before the announcement.

There is one other point which we beg to put before Your Grace. We feel that before a final decision is taken by the Cabinet, we should ask the Prime Minister to consent to receive the Deputation, and we beg to ask if Your Grace would make arrangements for the introduction of the Deputation to the Prime Minister, or whether you would wish us to make our own arrangements, to ask for such an interview.

May I again assure Your Grace that our reason for writing this letter is the genuine one, that we wish to avoid any misunderstanding: time is getting short before the Colonial Estimates are placed before the House of Commons.

In addition to a general feeling of responsibility, we are too sensible of the help and the courtesy extended to us by Your Grace, and your advisers, to wish wantonly to complicate further this very difficult problem.

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So much is this the case that this has been a very difficult letter to write, but facts are inexorable, and I am sure that Your Grace would prefer to know our views regarding them now rather than when a decision has been reached.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Grace's humble and devoted Servant,

Pelham