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RE: H. 56-13

Foreign

1913

September

Last previous Paper

2-6-11

FLAGS FOR DIOWS

Forwards documents received from I.O. regarding the right of subjects of the Sultan of Muscat to fly the British and German flags.

F. A. B. Stanley

I presume we shall receive a further letter from the F.O. when I.O. communicates to F.O. the views of the Indian Govt

? what

O.P.D. 13-9-13

Partly

LWS. 15-9-13. above

PLEASE WRITE OFFICER ALONG EDGE AGAIN

Next subsequent Paper

30445

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. 41385
13
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

C O
31743
SEP 11 1913

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the
Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of
State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

September 11, 1913.

Reference to previous letter:

Colonial Office, ⁷⁵19737/1913, June 14, 1913.

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Enclosures in India office, Sept 5, 1913	Use of British and German flags by subjects of Maurit.

C.O.
31743
REC. 11 SEP 13

India Office, London,
5th September 1913.

Secret,
No. 24.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor
General of India in Council.

My Lord,

With reference to your telegram of 18th January last and previous correspondence regarding the right of subjects of the Sultan of Muscat to fly the British and German flags, I forward for the consideration of Your Excellency's Government copies of the marginally

Muscat. Use of British and German flags by subjects of Muscat on the East Coast of Africa.

- Foreign Office to India Office, dated 28th January 1913
- Foreign Office to India Office, dated 23rd May 1913 (and enclosures).
- India Office to Foreign Office, dated 2nd June 1913
- Foreign Office to Colonial Office, dated 10th June 1913
- Sir E. Grey to Sir E. Goschen, dated 10th June 1913
- Foreign Office to India Office, dated 21st August 1913 (and enclosures)

noted correspondence on this subject, and request that I may be furnished with your observations thereon, and in particular on the letter of 15th August from the Colonial Office.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) CREWE.

ENCLOSURES.

ENCLOSURE No. 1. *Foreign Office to India Office*

No. 3157.

Foreign Office.

28th January 1913.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your covering letter of the 20th inst., enclosing telegram from Viceroy of India 18th January, respecting the ~~proposal~~ ^{proposal} of dhows flying British and German flags.

With regard to the proposal made by the Government of India in their telegram of 18th January that the case of Syed Mahomed should be brought to the notice of the German Government, I am to state, for the information of the Marquess of Crewe, that Sir E. Grey proposes to ascertain in the first place what is the practice of the British Protectorate Authorities on the East Coast of Africa in regard to these matters. On the receipt of this information the question of what representations can be made to the German Government will be further considered.

I am, &c.

W. LANGLEY.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.ENCLOSURE No. 2. *Foreign Office to India Office*

No. 22402

Foreign Office.

23rd May 1913.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 20th January last, respecting the grant of British and German flags to dhows in the Persian Gulf, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Crewe, copy of a letter on the subject from the Colonial Office, dated 16th May.

From the Dispatch from the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate it would appear that the procedure followed by the British authorities in East Africa is correct, and that the Protectorate flag was properly granted to Khamis bin Juma.

As regards the case of Syed Mahomed, Sir E. Grey would propose, as a next step, to communicate the facts of the case to the German Government and to enquire whether this man is really entitled to the flag, as he does not appear, as far as can be ascertained, to be genuinely settled at Tanga. This communication could be made to the German Government as a matter of general interest, on the ground that careful verification in cases of the grant of flags is necessary in order to secure the proper working of the Brussels Act.

I am to enquire whether Lord Crewe agrees to approaching the German Government in this sense.

I am, &c.

W. LANGLEY.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.ANNEX 1: *Colonial Office to Foreign Office*

No. 16,066.

Downing Street, W.A.
15th May 1913.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of Secretary Sir E. Grey, a copy of the paper noted below* on the subject of the grant of flags to dhows on the East Coast of Africa.

I am, &c.

JOHN ANDERSON.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

* No. 280. From the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate, dated 17th April 1913.
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ANNEX 2.—*Mr. Monson to Colonial Office.*

No. 280.

East Africa Protectorate.

Sir,

In reply to your Despatch No. 107 of 7th February relating to the grant of flags to dhows, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. In the case of Khamis bin Juma the facts are as follows:—
- (a) Khamis bin Juma's father immigrated to Lamu from Suri in Arabia some 40 years ago and married a Swahili woman.
- (b) He himself was born at Lamu, soon after the marriage and lived there until he was about 12 years of age.
- (c) He then for 15 years accompanied his father, who traded in a dhow between the East Coast of Africa, Arabia, and the Persian Gulf.
- (d) Eventually his father died and left him some money with which he bought a dhow, two houses, and a piece of land at Lamu, and married a Lamu woman.
- (e) From that time up to the present he has been trading between this land and Arabia, his home being at Lamu.
- (f) For the above reasons Khamis bin Juma claimed that he was a British protected person and the port officer at Lamu licensed his dhow under the protectorate flag.

3. As regards the general question, the following precautions are taken to ensure that the provisions of the Brussels Act are not infringed by the grant of protectorate flags to unauthorised persons:—

- (a) A rigorous watch is kept over the native vessels authorised to carry the protectorate flag.
- (b) The owners must be either British subjects or British protected persons.
- (c) They must prove to the authority who issues the licence to fly this flag that they possess real estate, situated in the protectorate, as a guarantee for the payment of any fines which might be incurred.
- (d) The owners as well as the captains of the dhows must prove that their reputation is good and that they have never been condemned for acts of slave trade or illicit arms trade.
- (e) The licence to carry the protectorate flag must be renewed every year. It can at any time be suspended or withdrawn by the port authorities of this protectorate.
- (f) The licence bears the necessary indications to establish the identity of the vessel.

4. During the past 47 years no owner or captain of a native vessel, registered in this protectorate has, to the knowledge of the port officer, been found guilty of infringing the provisions of the Brussels Act.

I have, &c.,
W. J. MONSON,
In the presence of the Governor.

The Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—*India Office to Foreign Office.*

India Office,
2nd June 1913.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 22,103 of the 23rd May, respecting the grant of British and German flags to dhows in the Persian Gulf, and in reply to say that he concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to approach the German Government in the manner indicated by you.

The measures taken by the British East African authorities appear to be generally adequate, but in the case of persons who may be of German origin, I am to suggest that the procedure proposed by the Political Agent in paragraph 9 of his letter of 8th September 1912, might be adopted as an additional precaution.

I am, &c.,
T. W. HOLDERNESS.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.—*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Foreign Office,
14th June 1913.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 12th May on the subject of the grant of British and German flags to dhows on the East Coast of Africa, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you the enclosed letter from the India Office, dated 2nd June 1913, and to enquire if Mr. Secretary Harcourt sees any objection to the proposal contained in paragraph 7 of the letter from the Political Agent at Muscat, dated the 3rd September 1912, copy of which was communicated to you on the 28th January last.

Major Knox's proposal is that the authorities of the East Africa Protectorate might refer to the Political Agent at Muscat when a case where there was any ground at all for suspicion that an applicant for registration as the owner of a British ship was connected with Muscat, in order that "no objection" certificate might be obtained from His Highness the Sultan.

I am, &c.,
W. LANGLEY.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.—*Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Goschen.*

Foreign Office,
10th June 1913.

No. 37, Africa.

Sir,

Transmit to Your Excellency herewith copy of a letter with enclosures from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 14th November 1912, relative to the right of Muscat subjects to fly the British and German flags.

I should be glad if Your Excellency would communicate the facts of the case of Syed Mohammed to the German Government, and enquire whether, in their opinion, this man is really entitled to the flag; as he does not appear, as far as can be ascertained, to be permanently settled at Zanzibar. This communication might be made to the Imperial Government as a matter of general interest, on the ground that careful verification of cases of the grant of flags is necessary, in order to secure the proper working of the Brussels Act.

I am, &c.,
E. GREY.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.—*Foreign Office to India Office.*

No. 37,875.

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper for observations.

Foreign Office,
21st August 1913.

* From Colonial Office, dated 19th August 1913. Grant of flags to dhows on East Coast of Africa.

ANNEX 1.—*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*

No. 27,671.

Downing Street,
13th August 1913.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this Office of the 14th of June, on the subject of the grant of British and German flags to dhows on the East Coast of Africa, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to transmit to you the

accompanying copy of a Despatch from the Deputy Governor of the East Africa Protectorate and to request you to inform Secretary Sir Edward Grey that Mr. Harcourt shares the doubts expressed by the Deputy Governor as to the desirability of adopting the proposal of the Political Agent at Muscat.

I am, &c.
H. J. REAN

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

For the Under Secretary of State.

ANNEX 2 - Mr. Bowring to Colonial Office

No. 558.

East Africa Protectorate,
16th July 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 456 of the 13th of June on the subject of the grant of British and German flag to dhows on the East Coast of Africa.

2. If the proposal of the Political Agent at Muscat, referred to in the Foreign Office letter of the 10th of June, is enforced, an owner of a dhow desirous of registering his vessel at one of the ports of this Protectorate would be compelled to wait for a period of some two months or more for permission from Muscat before he would be able to do so.

3. It appears possible therefore that the suggestion would involve considerable hardship to the owners of dhows; and, although it would, of course, be quite feasible to give effect to it, I am doubtful whether it would be desirable to do so.

I have, &c.
C. C. BOWRING,
In the absence of the Governor.

The Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.