

for similar privileges in the case of an important
scientific mission (70/10/04 Genl.) In view of the
third para of this letter, I think we ought
to do what is possible in this matter for any foreign
official scientific missions on whose behalf application
is made through the diplomatic channel.

19/11/04

W. Read

In the past, each case has
been dealt with as it arose and I am
doubtful whether it is desirable to lay down a
hard and fast rule.

Would it not be as well to
settle the particular case and then to consider
the general question at leisure.

A good deal of trouble was
gone to (at the instance of the then
Prince of Wales) on behalf of Prince Roland
Bonaparte's scientific collections. Apparently
the Count is a member of a royal, but not
royal, family, occupies a position somewhat
similar to that of the Bonapartes.

The immediate question to
be decided is whether scientific objects
are

are to be exempted from the payment of
customs duties, 4/6 per cent on value as
S. African Provinces are concerned (what on
account of the big game and the furs
which will be mainly affected), I
think of the opinion expressed at my
last meeting.

The case of the scientific mission
quoted above seems to me to be
quite exceptional. I think it is a
physicist of the first order
who has carried out some classic
experiments on the movement of
the earth's crust, & his case is altogether
different from that of people who
go to S. Africa to shoot big game
for ~~the purpose~~ ^{all kinds of scientific purposes}. In the former case there
could be no doubt of the genuineness
of the ~~same~~ objects of the mission, & in
latter case we have no guarantee that
some of the trophies will not
find their way into private
collections. I think that we had
some time ago a case in which
two Surinamese for Baster applied for
privileges

25419



FOREIGN OFFICE

AUGUST 15 1910

25419

RECEIVED
AUG 16 1910

Sir:

I am directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 21506 of the 25th. ultimo respecting Count Salm-Helferscheidt's proposed journey through Egypt and British East Africa and the general question of granting exemption from Customs duties to persons visiting British colonies.

As regards the latter question I am directed by Sir Grey to point out to you that the Earl of Cromer's information that Foreign Ambassadors, Ministers and other heads of missions accredited to His Majesty's Court, and, in the case of certain foreign countries which grant reciprocal treatment to Great Britain, the members of their staffs, receive special privileges as regards Customs duties in the United Kingdom. In Sir Grey's opinion these persons would be entitled to expect similar privileges in any part of the British Empire.

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office



Empire, and though he recognizes that difficulties may conceivably arise in the matter owing to the nature of the municipal legislation of some of His Majesty's self-governing Dominions, he nevertheless considers that this principle should be applied in the Crown Colonies and that in the case of the Dominions endeavours should be made to secure its acceptance in any particular cases which may arise in practice.

I am further to point out that this Department frequently requests foreign Governments to grant exemptions from customs duties and interference in favour of scientific missions, and it is a principle which should be observed in this matter, and that foreign scientific missions visiting any part of His Majesty's Dominions should be treated with the same consideration as Lord Curzon proposes to accord to members of a Royal Family.

As regards the particular case of Rudolf Virchow's mission, I am to state that a possible recommendation of the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador's application



In his favour is the fact that Count Salm Reifferscheidt is a member of one of those families known as "mediatized" which rank in many respects as a Royal family, though they no longer reign. Sir R. Grey does not however wish at present to press this fact on Lord Crewe as a necessary reason for granting to Count Salm the customs facilities asked for by Count Reifferscheidt. From the wording of the latter's note it might, however, appear that Count Salm's journey is in fact undertaken for scientific purposes. If therefore Lord Crewe concurs in the view stated above that Customs facilities might be granted to scientific missions, Sir E. Grey will address a note to the Austro-Hungarian Embassy with a view to ascertain whether Count Salm's proposed journey could be included in that category.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Law. Walter

From the enclosed, it follows,
in the context of T. L. 203

Concerning in the
opinion expressed
in the second para-
graph of this letter, they
are of opinion that
further info should
be obtained
to the scientific
character of these
repetition.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS

British Colonies

2. And we
feel that expeditions,
of which the main
object is scientific
research, whether
geographical,
zoological, or
botanical, have a
claim to be considered
for facilities, strictly
on the merits of
each case, care
of course being taken
to prevent any
abuse of the privileges
accorded.

3. With regard to
the case of Count
John Ruffenicht,

I am to enquire whether,
in the event of J. R. 203
concurring in the
opinion expressed
in the second para-
graph of this letter, they
are of opinion that
further steps should
be obtained
to the scientific
character of these
expeditions.

(Signed) C. P. LUCAS