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S E C R E T.

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C.P. 190 (27).

C A B I N E T.

COMMITTEE ON POLICY IN EAST AFRICA.

REPORT.

1. At their Meeting held on Wednesday, June 29th, 1927, (Cabinet 37 (27) Conclusion 5) the Cabinet had before them a Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the future policy in regard to East Africa (C.P.179(27)) and in view of the importance of this question they agreed:-

That a Cabinet Committee, composed as follows:-

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
(In the Chair),
The Lord Privy Seal,
The Home Secretary,
The Secretary of State for Air,
The First Commissioner of Works,
The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies, (added to the Committee
by direction of the Prime Minister);

should meet as soon as possible to consider the proposals contained in C.P. 179(27), and should, if possible, advise the Cabinet at their next weekly meeting.

2. The proposals of the Secretary of State for the Colonies raise constitutional questions of far-reaching importance. We are in general agreement that the time has come to make a preliminary step towards closer co-operation between the different Governments in Central and Eastern Africa; we consider that it would be of advantage for the proposed Commission to be given as much freedom as possible in framing their recommendations, provided that their terms of Reference indicate sufficiently clearly that His Majesty's Government as at present advised look for a solution of the problem on the lines of federation or other

form of closer union. We recommend, therefore, that the terms of the Draft Announcement proposed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in C.P. 179 (27) should be approved subject to certain slight modifications as shown in the Appendix to this Report.

3. As regards the composition of the Commission we agree that it is desirable that it should contain a member to watch the interests of Indians in East Africa; and we hope that it will be possible to select for this purpose someone who has also had personal experience in India of the practical working of a Federal system.

Signed on behalf of the
Committee.

L. S. AMERY.

CHAIRMAN.

2 Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.
4th July 1927.

A P P E N D I X.Draft Announcement as amended by Committee.

His Majesty's Government consider (have-decided) as a result of discussions between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Representatives of the territories in British Central and East Africa who attended the recent Colonial Conference, that some form of closer union between the territories of Central and Eastern Africa appears (is-now) desirable, more particularly in regard to the development of transport and communications, customs tariffs and customs administration, scientific research and defence. They have therefore authorized the Secretary of State to send to Africa a special commission with the following terms of reference :-

1. To make recommendations as to (now) whether, either by federation ^{or} other form of closer union, more effective co-operation between the different Governments in Central and Eastern Africa may be secured, more particularly in regard to the development of transport and communications, customs tariffs and customs administration, scientific research and defence.
2. To consider which territories could either now or at some future time be brought within any such closer union, and, in particular, how best to give effect to Article 10 of the mandate for Tanganyika Territory, which provides that the mandatory may constitute the territory into a customs, fiscal and administrative union or federation with the adjacent territories under its own sovereignty or control, provided always that the measures adopted to that end do not infringe the provisions of the mandate.
3. To make recommendations in regard to possible changes in the powers and composition of the various Legislative Councils of the several territories (a) as the result of the establishment of any Federal Council or other common authority; (b) so as to associate more closely in the responsibilities and trusteeship of Government the immigrant communities domiciled in the country; and (c) so as ultimately to secure more direct representation of native interests in accordance with (4) below.
4. To suggest how the Dual Policy recommended by the Conference of East African Governors (i.e., the complementary development of native and non-native communities) can best be progressively applied in the political as well as the economic sphere.
5. To make recommendations as to what improvements may be required in internal communications between the various territories so as to facilitate the working of federation or closer union.
6. To report more particularly on the financial aspects of any proposals which they may make under any of the above headings.

In making the declaration of policy involved in setting up a Commission with these terms of reference, His Majesty's Government wish to make it clear that they adhere to the underlying principles of the White Paper of 1923 entitled "Indians in Kenya" (Cmd. Paper, 1922), both in regard to the political status and other rights of British Indians resident in East Africa, and also as regards the Imperial duty of safeguarding the interests and progress of the native population as trustees for their welfare until such time as they can take part more fully in their own Government and in the common affairs of all races inhabiting the territories. At the same time they wish to place on record their view that, while these responsibilities of trusteeship must for some considerable time rest mainly on the agents of the Imperial Government, they desire to associate more closely in this high and honourable task those who, as colonists or residents, have identified their interests with the prosperity of the country.