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S E C R E T.

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C.P.119(30).

C A B I N E T.

Committee on Policy in East Africa.

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Note by the Secretary of State for India.

I do not wish to take any such formal step as to circulate a Minute of Dissent from the Report of the Committee; but there are two matters to which I should draw the Cabinet's attention.

I. Scheme for Closer Union in East Africa.

Paragraphs 2 - 7. Under these paragraphs the High Commissioner is given a Council for the administration of common services in the three territories. This Council, in dealing with matters such as railway rates, customs and others, will be touching matters directly affecting the native as against the European interest. Whereas the Hilton Young Report unanimously suggested that this Council should be advisory, under the scheme proposed it is Legislative. I greatly fear that this will be the object of criticism, particularly by Members of our own Party, for the following reasons. In the Council the settler element will be very strong; as the official members will take orders, not from the High Commissioner but from their respective Governors - and the Governor of Kenya at all events is apt to be influenced by the Europeans' views - there will be no coherent official bloc and the High Commissioner will therefore have no means of enforcing his views. It may be urged, therefore, that

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that the Council will, in effect, develop into a Parliament unduly influenced by the settlers' views.

II. Proposed Constitution of the Legislative Council of Kenya.

Franchise.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee has agreed on a common roll. This being so, I suggest the omission of paragraph 5 which describes, not a common roll, but an amalgamated roll, consisting of two communal rolls. The retention of this paragraph is not really necessary as it is only a suggestion to the High Commissioner who is directed to make enquiries with a view to carrying out the policy of the common roll.

I suggest also the following three verbal amendments, to the first of which, for reasons which I shall explain to the Cabinet, I attach considerable importance:-

Page 4, paragraph 3, lines 4 and 5. Leave out "however distant may be its attainment".

line 5, leave out "common" and insert "equal".

Paragraph 4, line 2. Leave out "can only" and insert "must be".

W.B.

7th April 1930.