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29-II-01

D. M. I. 2253

D. M. I.

A. H. Q.

From attached report received by runners here 21/II/01 from Mr Haigh it appears that Sekukuni's visit to Lydenburg has not had such a good effect upon him as Mr Haigh had first anticipated.

From Mr Haigh's report and Malekonte's letter to me (both attached) there is little doubt that Sekukuni is likely to be very troublesome in the future. So long as Mr Haigh remains at Magnet Heights there should be every chance of peace being maintained, but the longer the settlement of the disputes between Malakonte and Sekukuni are delayed the more difficult will Mr Haigh's task become, and the greater the chances of a sudden outburst of war between these Chiefs. Malakenti, who was interviewed by General W. Kitchener in April 1901, has ever since that time behaved most loyally to us and in spite of continual provocations has obeyed our instructions to keep the peace. As he remarks in his letter, he would much prefer to be allowed to fight Sekukuni, and he would probably be able to more than hold his own against him so that his refraining from doing so is entirely due to a desire to carry out the Government's orders, and not from any fear of Sekukuni. Under the circumstances perhaps it would be well for Sekukuni to be allowed to proceed to Pretoria and there to be told how he is to behave, failing that I would suggest someone being specially sent to visit him but the former course would probably have by far the greater effect.

A.M.Baird

Staff Capt. Intell.

Middelburg  
21 ) II ) 01



Magnet Heights

Sekukuniland

Nov. 12th 1901

Captain Baird

D.A.A.G. Intelligence, Middelburg

Sir,

These boys are sent off with the usual instructions.

I have just returned from below Malaku'i's where I had been to find out about a Beer Lager which I heard was just over the Olifant. My informant told me it was a big laager, that they had plenty of meat and cartridges but no meal and their horses were done. Strange to say no one else has seen anything of this camp so it was either passing quickly by or the whole story was dreamt.

Last Wednesday I went down to the head kraal and had a meeting of the indunas. It was a most unsatisfactory indaba and I had hoped for something very different. They deliberately lied to me as to what they had told the Government from Lydenburg. Two of the Head men have since called on me to let me know that they quite disagree with Sekukuni's present policy. One said plainly, Komani (the head induna) and the Chief's mother, Thorometsani, will never be satisfied if they have to obey a Government, no matter what man is here. The other, Azaf, the Secretary told me that some of them had spoken to Komani in Lydenburg telling him that he was making complaints which he knew were not true. Azaf also told me contents of the letter you wrote Sekukuni. It is plain that a rough hand will have to be used with these Sekukuni's.

Mr Trumpelmann, the missionary close to Malakuti, tells me there will be starvation in that part next month. Malakuti has not yet spoken to me about it. I shall ask



Mr Hannan's manager to send some loads of grain in to trade with them, as, while they have cattle I don't think Government should help them. Kgolani's people lost their cattle in the fighting and I shall probably have to ask the Government to allow me to get them a supply of food. I have given several boys passes to Middelburg to look for work.

Yours Obediently

R. Haigh

Acting Commissioner.

Should the Govt require boys to work - either in mines or elsewhere - I shall be glad if you will give particulars. What work? Day? For how long? Where? How to get them from here?

It will be a good thing if I can induce a lot of these boys to go away for a time.

The Steelpont is full just at present. It is an awkward stream when full and often remains impassable for six or eight days.



Mamone,

12th Nov. 1901

To

Captain Baird, Intelligence.

Dear Sir,

I am very obliged to receive your letter and to hear, that you are still in good health. Also I am glad to see, that you did not yet forget me. Concerning me, I would not have to complain about anything, if you would have finished your war and settled my affairs with Sekukuni. I am listening to your Government and wish to keep peace, but nearly every day I and my people are molested by Sekukuni and his subjects. So I am obliged to complain at the office of the Commissioner Mr Haigh. It is a hard thing to me to complain always like a child, I would rather like to revenge myself, as I have the power to do so. I am sure that Sekukuni then would not try to insult me again. But because I have to obey our Government I must keep myself quiet. Therefore I would be very glad when our affairs will be settled. I wish to get a real and trustful peace with your help in our country. That is all I have to tell you. I will be very glad to receive again a note from you.

Greetings!

Your most obedient servant

Malekut

Last not least, I thank you very much for those clothes you send me.

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