

29.1.7

TELEGRAM FROM SIR JOHN HARRIS:

"REGRET SUGGESTED BLOEMFONTEIN DATES IMPOSSIBLE  
HARRIS FREE JUNE 29th 30th OR JULY 5th 6th  
FORMER PREFERRED. FRIENDS DEPUTATION PLANNED  
VISIT BLOEMFONTEIN JULY 17th 18th

HARRIS"

(Serowe)

*See John Harris & Quaker delegation details  
now members have  
met representatives of the organization Council  
Executive Committee & various members  
also party rep. on previous June 29  
& think better to stay both and visit  
him one which ~~convenient~~ for your Executive  
can manage or also whether to accept  
or if they preferred stop Brookes meeting  
I will then be engaged July 17th and  
18th*

14/6/38

A. 54.

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Koste Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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<i>(Skrif duidelik asseblief—Please write distinctly.)</i>						Om—At _____
<b>AAN TO</b> Sir John Harris C/o Magistrate Perouse.						Na—To _____
						Deur—By _____

Propose arrange conference  
 delegates with representative  
 African organisations members  
 Natal Rep. Council past. Rep.  
 Bloemfontein Nat. June 25th possible  
 also 26th Please  
 give confirmation

Ukhenti

**VAN FROM**

§ G.P.-S.2962—1936—2,000-200. 8.

MOET NIE OORGESEIN WORD NIE.—NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED.

Handtekening van afsender  
Signature of Sender

*E. J. B.*

Adres  
Address

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SENATOR JONES:

PLEASE RING MR. TANDY IN CONNECTION WITH  
THE VISIT OF SIR JOHN HARRIS AND PARTY

Telegraph:  
50 CITIZENRY, SOWEST, LONDON

Telephone:  
VICTORIA 6065

# The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society

(in which are incorporated the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines Protection Society)

## Joint Presidents :

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON,  
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Senator Rheinallt Jones,  
Box 97,  
Johannesburg,  
South Africa.

DENISON HOUSE,  
296 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD,  
LONDON, S.W.1.  
(CLOSE TO VICTORIA STATION.)

29th July, 1939.

My dear Rheinallt Jones,

I am very much indebted to you for your letter dated July 19th and I need hardly say how warmly I reciprocate your wish for closer co-operation; but first with regard to the ~~similar~~ point of Pirow's remarks in London. We have never yet got to the point of thinking about the vote. What I objected to so strongly, was that Pirow knowing that this would create offence, directed it to us in England, whereas we have never said any such thing and I am sure he cannot find that any responsible person has ever said so. That was the point and nothing else.

Now for the remark you make. I will write you more fully after I have discussed the situation with one or two of our knowledgeable friends and all those who have strong views upon the matter. I wonder if we should agree upon the initial point in policy with regard to the Protectorates, ~~but~~ I rather fear from what I heard that you would be unable to accept the view of most of our people in England, namely, that the moment has not come to talk about terms of settlement. They argue that it would be an extremely dangerous thing to do and that nothing but a non possumus answer must be given to any claims for the transfer of the territories, ~~only~~ a change has come over South Africa which would permit ~~of~~ the natives being willing to come under Union control.

until?

Senator Rheinallt Jones.

29th July, 1939.

I think I would quite understand your taking a somewhat different view, but for British people <sup>to who</sup> have to consider far-reaching responsibility in other territories, to be the consenting party to handing over one million British subjects to a Government which would deny to them any rights of manhood would be regarded as a blow to the whole Empire. - "We simply dare not do it," is a comment one most frequently hears made. If South Africa could accept, as Huggins' has accepted and re-emphasised only the other day to us Cecil Rhodes' doctrine of equal rights for all civilised men, the whole situation would be changed, and we should then begin to talk about the best way of giving effect to that principle, but I am afraid that so long as the Union refuse to contemplate citizenship with full civic rights for civilised natives, so long will our leading people here be compelled to say that transfer is quite impossible, particularly if it means, as we are convinced it would, the exercise of force to drive territories under the Union flag.

I have only written you my own personal views upon this point. I will let you know as soon as I can what others think. I hope you will talk the matter over very fully with Molteno. We have been delighted to have him with us to give us the advantage of his experience and knowledge and to add to our store of information about South Africa. I have been able to put him in touch with a number of our best friends and advisers, such as the Earl of Selborne, Mr. Rothschild, the Pims, Lady Milner, Sir Thomas Inskip and several others. He will go back to you well able to interpret opinion in England far better than I can do in a letter.

After you have had a talk with Molteno, do write again and tell me what you feel, even though at that time, I may not have been able to consult others. You will be glad to learn that at last I begin to see daylight on the question of an industry for Bechuanaland, but I am writing to Douglas Buchanan.

I am,  
Yours sincerely,

*John Harris*

CONFIDENTIAL

P.O. Box 97,  
JOHANNESBURG.

8th August, 1939.

Sir John Harris,  
The Anti-Slavery and  
Aborigines Protection Society,  
Denison House,  
296 Vauxhall Bridge Road,  
LONDON S.W.1,  
England.

Dear Sir John Harris,

PROTECTORATES QUESTION

I have just received your letter of the 29th ultimo and I thank you for it. I am replying at once to remove any possibility of misunderstanding between us. My colleagues and I (except possibly one of us) have declined to discuss terms in any public reference we have made to the Protectorates question and we stand with you that we cannot discuss terms as long as the people of the Protectorates are not agreeable to transfer.

I have had confidential messengers from the Protectorates asking if I have any indication of the contents of the Union Government's memorandum and complaining bitterly that matters are being discussed between the Union Government in some definite form whilst the Paramount Chiefs are generally ignorant. Can you possibly pass on this information without creating difficulty between Chiefs and the Administrations. It is important that the Dominions office should know the Chiefs are very resentful.

In great haste,

Yours sincerely,

JDRJ/MM

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