

Eb3.2 Kenya Committee
(6.)

KENYA

INFORMATION NOTES

INTRODUCTION:

Kenya, situated on the Equator, is nearly four times the combined area of England and Wales.

The population, as estimated late in 1951, is:-

African	- 5,500,000
Asian	- 158,000
European	- 42,000
Arab	- 24,000

TOTAL
5,724,000

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE:

Kenya occupies a key position in Africa on the East-West and North-South routes across the continent. It is conveniently placed for military operations in Easterly and North-Easterly directions.

Mombasa is a large, modern port and has a deep water harbour suitable for large ships.

Recent extensions of the harbour works and a £70 million oil refinery are now in hand for "Commonwealth Defence".

CAPITAL INVESTMENT:

Total foreign investments, which have risen greatly since the war, amount to £200 million in industry, commerce and agriculture.

While only 52 new companies were registered in 1938 with a capital of £763,000, 221 new companies with a capital of £8,749,000 were registered in 1950, and 248 in 1951 with a total capital of £12,526,000.

The largest combine interests in Kenya are:-

- East African Portland Cement, a subsidiary of Tunnel Portland Cement, is to construct works to the value of £1½ million.
- I.C.I. operates Magadi Soda Co. and a new insecticide and disinfectant factory.
- United Africa Co., a subsidiary of Unilever, has taken over a number of concerns.
- Brooke Bonds own tea estates.
- Bata, Schweppes and others have opened factories.

"A detailed sociological survey is to be carried out in the Mombasa area on behalf of Royal Dutch Shell Group as a preliminary to the proposed establishment of a new oil refinery in Mombasa, which has been described as a "vital factor in the Commonwealth Defence System, safeguarding petroleum production in the event of wartime severance of supplies from the Middle East Oilfields".

U.S. Mutual Security Agency has loaned the United Kingdom over £1,000,000 for port development.

American oil, motor and clothing firms have been investigating the possibilities of establishing plants in Kenya.

NA-82
-2-
AGRICULTURE: (7)

Sisal, coffee, tea, wattle and cereals are among the main products.

While white settlers are assisted and encouraged to develop their products, severe restrictions are placed on farming and marketing operations by Africans who are also, in many cases, paid lower prices than European farmers for their products.

THE BACKGROUND TO THE WAR:

Land: In the 50 years from 1892 to 1942 of British occupation of Kenya, the Land Board had dispossessed the Africans of 1,583,502 acres of the best and most fertile land. The Kikuyu people alone lost 500,000 acres without compensation.

Only about 3,000 of the white settlers own, with secure tenure, 10,700 square miles of the best land. 5½ million Africans have 22,000 acres of the remainder, without security of tenure.

The Europeans cultivate less than one-tenth of the land they hold:

The East African Land and Development Company acquired 310,000 acres in 1920 and had sold all but 300 acres by 1951. From 1947 to 1950 this Company paid 100% dividends.

East Africa Estates, a joint stock company, owns over 350,000 acres.

On September 17th 1953 the London Times reported: "In spite of the admitted gross overcrowding of the (Kikuyu) reserves, no less than 100,000 Africans have been sent back to the reserves since the beginning of the "emergency".

Discriminatory Legislation: (excluding Emergency Laws): the movement of Africans is subject to special control (African Passes Ordinance).

So is the carrying and ownership of arms by Africans (African Arms Ordinance).

Only a "British subject of European extraction" may be appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Europeans are not subject to the jurisdiction of the lowest Courts, and no Magistrate can try a European if the sentences of such a trial would be more than 6 months.

Wages & Working Conditions: "The minimum wage in Kenya is based on the requirements of a single man.... This is the official statistical basis on which minimum wages awards have hitherto been made...." (Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to Kenya, Jan. 1954).

African wages in Government Service:

Skilled workers	£2.10. - - £15.0.0 per month
Unskilled workers	£1. 0. 0 - £ 3.10.0 " "

Report of the Committee of all races investigating African wages and conditions estimated that the total emoluments of nearly ¼ of urban workers in private industry, ¼ of those in public services and nearly ½ of the monthly contract and "ticket" workers in non-plantation agriculture are insufficient to provide for the basic needs of health, decency and working efficiency.

There are no old age, sickness, or unemployment benefit schemes which are applied generally.

Sir Leslie Plummer/....Page 3

Sir Leslie Plummer, M.P., said in the House of Commons:

"IT IS NOT MAU MAU THAT IS STALKING KENYA, BUT POVERTY".

Education: Education is compulsory for European children. Only 1 out of 3 Africans goes to school and most of these for 2 years only.

Expenditure in Government Schools 1949:

European children	-	£100	per pupil per year
Asian	-	£ 18	" " " "
Arab	-	£ 3	" " " "
African	-	£ 2	" " " "

Following the declaration of the "emergency" the 200 independent African schools catering for 62,000 children were closed.

Health Services: Number of beds in Government & Mission hospitals:

For Europeans	-	1 bed for every 102 of population
" Asians	-	1 " " " 483 " "
" Africans	-	1 " " " 758 " "

Representation in the Legislative Council:

For 42,000 Europeans	-	14 elected members and 29 official and nominated.
For 158,000 Asians	-	4 elected by non-Muslims, 2 elected by Muslims.
For 24,000 Arabs	-	1 elected and 1 nominated.
For 5,500,000 Africans	-	6 nominated and 2 official (none elected).

Trade Unions: Since 1943 when trade unions were first recognised amending legislation has whittled down the rights of Unions.

In 1950, the East African Trade Union Congress was banned and its leaders arrested and exiled.

Since the "emergency" began, trade union meetings have been banned.

African Organisations: Prior to the formation of the Kenya African Union two earlier organisations were banned. In 1952 the K.A.U. had 100,000 paid-up members.

EVENTS LEADING TO THE "EMERGENCY":

The African members of the Legislative Council issued a warning weeks before the "emergency" was declared:-

"the objects of the campaign against Mau Mau were really to destroy the Kenya African Union...."

The "Electors' Union Newsletter", organ of the white settlers in Kenya, published as an appendix to its November 1952 issue a letter signed by Mr. Kendall Ward, Executive Officer of the Electors' Union and dated August 1952, which contained the following passage:

"In general the Executive Committee were of the opinion that unless immediate and drastic steps were taken by Government effectively to combat the present wave of crime and subversive activity, it was very probable that the European communities in the area most affected would themselves feel that the time had come for them

VR 820
(9.5)
to act in default of Government intervention.... The Executive Committee were very strongly of the opinion that the first task of Government should be the neutralisation of all known leaders of subversive organisations or any African leaders who are suspected of being leaders of subversive organisations.... This action should be given first priority."

leaders of the Kenya African Union had repeatedly condemned all terrorism. At the time of the emergency they were demanding a conference, with all races represented, to discuss outstanding issues. This was refused.

The demands of the Kenya African Union are:

- 1) Release of all African political, trade union and educational leaders, as well as those against whom no specific charge has been brought.
- 2) Restoration of freedom of assembly and the press.
- 3) Reopening of African schools.
- 4) The establishment of a minimum wage.
- 5) Abolition by law of all racial discrimination.
- 6) Immediate introduction of an election system.
- 7) Universal compulsory education for all races.
- 8) Repeal of the Crown Land & Native Trust Ordinance of 1938.

During the time leading up to the declaration of the state of emergency, the amount of violent crime in Kenya was no more than that in Uganda.

The Chief Native Commissioner of Kenya said in London in September 1952 that reports about a secret terrorist society, Mau Mau, had been greatly exaggerated. When asked about terrorism, he replied: "What terrorism? I don't know of any terrorism."

SOME POINTS REGARDING "MAU MAU":

- (a) It is the custom of aggressors in modern times (as it was of course in the past) to try to justify aggression by calling those who defend their independence such names as 'bandits', 'terrorists' etc. This seeks to cover up aggression by pretending that it is merely a 'police action'.

When the Kenya Government declared a state of emergency in October 1952 they alleged that it was to suppress a "Mau Mau conspiracy" but all the evidence (see page 5) points to the fact that what really motivated this action was the growing strength and support being won for the Kenya African Union, particularly on the land question.

- (b) If a white man is murdered in Kenya, it is described in the press as a 'terrorist outrage'; but the keeping of competitive scoreboards of Africans killed by British troops is treated as 'natural rivalry'. When Kikuyus mutilate European farmers' cattle in desperate protest against their intolerable conditions, it is described as 'barbaric'; when the RAF drops bombs on tribesmen who have taken refuge in the forest, it is described as 'a satisfactory mopping-up operation'.
- (c) A people who are living in intolerable conditions and are denied any means of bettering them, or any democratic rights, MUST form/....Page 5

NA 82
(10)

form secret organisations to carry on their struggle. The early trade unions and friendly societies in Britain took oaths, signed in blood, and performed various rites, sometimes with a skeleton or other symbol of death at the meeting, to protect their organisation from betrayal, because betrayal meant death, as it does in Kenya today.

- (d) Every crime is now laid at the door of 'Mau Mau'; for example the murder of a European woman near Nairobi, whose own husband was later found to have been responsible for it.
- (e) The total casualties arising from the emergency in Kenya as given by the Rt. Hon. Oliver Lyttleton on the 21st October 1953 were:

Killed and wounded:	Europeans	57
	Asians	24
	Kikuyu	3,743
	other Africans	281

- (f) The Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to Kenya (January 1954) stated that some 'Mau Mau practices' were 'unfit for publication'. Can they be more horrible and revolting (even if there are such practices) than those revealed at the Griffiths and other trials ---- cutting off ears, threaten castration, beating with rhinoceros hide whips, burning of eardrums with cigarettes, setting dogs to maul people, etc.

EVENTS SINCE THE EMERGENCY:

In February 1953 the African Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, Canon T.C.F. Bewes, protested to the Governor against communal punishments, violence towards suspected persons and third degree measures by both African and European police in attempts to gain information from the Kikuyu people. (Report in the Manchester Guardian 1st February 1953).

On February 22nd 1954, Mr. Oliver Lyttleton stated that from October 1952 to the beginning of February 1954, a total of 1,399 Africans had been killed by British troops, another 1,380 'suspects' had been captured, of whom 363 were wounded.

The figure given by Mr. Lyttleton in the House of Commons on the 21st October 1953 show the huge numbers of people wrongly arrested. Between the beginning of the emergency and that date, he said, 138,235 people had been arrested and screened; 82,063 were released at once; 55,307 tried; 865 were awaiting trial in custody.

Evidence of brutal methods: "There have been 130 prosecutions for brutality among the Police Forces ending in 73 convictions. Forty cases are pending. There have also been 29 prosecutions for corruption of which there were 12 convictions; 13 are pending. These are significant figures, representing much larger numbers of complaints received by the authorities...."

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO KENYA Jan. 1954

"We were also disturbed by the attitude of a section of European public opinion towards the sanctity of the law and the general question of police malpractices. For example, we were informed that a fund had recently been started with the object of paying the legal expenses of European members of the security forces committing offences 'in the course of their duty'. Activity of this kind.... is tantamount to giving support to breaches of the law."

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO KENYA Jan. 1954

NA 82 (1)
"Captain G.S.L. Griffiths (Durham Light Infantry), accused of murdering an African forestry worker, told a company sergeant-major that he 'could shoot anybody he liked - provided they were black'".

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN November 26th 1953

"Griffiths told the Court that the attitude of his battalion commander with regard to Mau Mau kills was the same as that of others...There was a lot of competition, and his commanding officer had told him that their battalion had to beat...the 23rd Battalion, King's African Rifles....Griffiths said that he personally had given Askaris 5s. reward for terrorists killed and some company commanders gave 10s. This practice was known to his company commander, and approved. The 23rd Battalion had a scoreboard barometer of kills."

TIMES November 27th, 1953.

"Frans Hvass, a Danish-born Kenya Police Reserve officer, was fined a total of £50 here today for whipping five Africans. He pleaded guilty.... Mr. Webber alleged that Hvass ordered the suspects to be taken out behind a charcoal store and beaten. They were then stripped and beaten with a kiboko (rhinoceros hide whip)... As a result of the beatings, Mr. Webber said, one man had 27 weals on his legs and buttocks, and another 24, and two had 18 lash marks on their backs, some of which had turned septic."

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN 22nd December 1954.

"The trial of 11 members of a Kenya screening team who came to Tanganyika in search of Mau Mau suspects among the local Kikuyu settlers has aroused local interest....Brian Hayward, the 19-year old leader of the team, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and fined £100....Hayward, who pleaded guilty, accepted full responsibility for what had happened. Medical evidence corroborated stories told of suspects being tied up with leather thongs round their necks and of some who claimed that their eardrums had been burned with cigarettes."

OBSERVER 15th November 1953.

There have been mass arrests of men, women and children, concentration camps, public gallows, communal punishments, seizing of livestock, destruction of villages, closing of schools, banning of freedom of speech, movement, press and meetings, and now the bombing of defenceless people.

War on the African People: "A spokesman for the East Africa Command H.Q. said today that a decision to use heavy Lincoln bombers against the Mau Mau terrorists had been taken at British Cabinet level."

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN 18th November 1953

In a written reply in Parliament on January 20th 1954, Mr. Horkinson, Minister of State, stated that from April 1953 to January 14th 1954, Harvard aircraft had carried out 578 attacks involving 1,708 sorties and had dropped 20-lb. bombs to a total weight of 110 tons; Lincoln aircraft had carried out 17 attacks involving 40 sorties and dropped 500-lb. and 1,000 -lb. bombs to a total weight of approx. 110 tons.

In the Kenya Legislature on February 19th 1954, Group Captain L.R. Briggs pleaded for "full recognition of a state of war" and advocated the use of parachute troops and more aircraft....

Sir Evelyn Baring, opening the East African Forces conference in Nairobi on the 1st February 1954, said that THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE EAST AFRICAN FORCES HAD INCREASED IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS BY £1,550,000 A YEAR AND WAS NOW £4,200,000 A YEAR, APART FROM SPECIAL EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE.

It was announced by Mr. Lyttleton on March 10th 1954 that a War Council would be set up "charged with the duty of supervising the conduct of the emergency and ensuring that action to secure its early end is prosecuted with the utmost vigour."

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.