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MEMORANDA ON CIVIL AFFAIRS FROM
OTHER THEATRES
AUG. 1943

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Ref. No: 11121

CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH,
G.O.Q., M.E.F.

Ext. No: _____

Date: 21st August, 1943.



H. A.M.G.O.T.

c/o 15 Army Group.

The papers noted below are transmitted for:-
information.

consideration and reply
necessary action.

C.S.O.
Major General Smith
Went to apply for d.l. Mr. Phillips
27/8. R.L.

S.A. Stewart.
For Colonel.
CHIEF SECRETARY.
CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH.

DATE AND REFERENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE(S)

EAC/1342/122/P.

Dated 12 Aug 43.

MINUTE.

From:- Civil Affairs Branch,
HQ East Africa Command - NAIROBI.
To:- G.S.O.I., Civil Affairs Branch,
GHQ MET - CAIRO

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Civil Affairs Branch,
HQ East Africa Comd.
NAIROBI.

EAC/1342/122/P.

12 Aug 43.

Dear G.S.O.L.,

The CCASO left by air for Mogadishu on the 25 Jul and is now in British Somaliland. After visiting the Reserved Areas he hopes to return here by the 19th of this month. He unfortunately sprained his ankle at Mogadishu but this accident only delayed his plans by two days.

Colonel Adshead, who saw the Italian evacuation ships off from South Africa, is now back and is shortly going off to visit the territories.

Lt.Col. Ainslie is playing golf at Breckenhurst and generally building up reserves to reinforce himself against the increased tempo of activities in Cairo. Capt. Kaufman, who will also shortly be going your way, has returned from leave and is at present assisting Sir Charles Belcher. After consultations between the CCASO and Brigadier Fisher it has been agreed to release Lt.Col. Childs for service with you in the Middle East and his place will be taken by Major Olivier, formerly of the Reserved Areas.

It is hoped to employ 4 or 5 WTS officers, mainly in Somalia, and the selection of these is at present in progress.

Another innovation which should save man-power arises from a decision of the Commander-in-Chief that children of wives of British officers working for the Administration in Mogadishu may accompany their mothers, provided suitable arrangements are made to ensure that the former's activities are not unduly curtailed. It is probable that this concession will enable several more British wives to go to Mogadishu, where their services as cipher officers will be most useful and will enable the release of B.O.N's.

2. Sir Cosmo Parkinson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., O.B.E., accompanied by Mr. Edmonds, stayed here for a few days en route southwards and found time to peruse and discuss a formidable dossier from British Somaliland containing Brigadier Fisher's proposals for the benediction of British Somaliland. While expressing himself in general agreement with these proposals Sir Cosmo was not prepared to commit himself further at this stage. The proposals have therefore been sent home for the combined consideration of the War and the Colonial Offices, and it is hoped that their preliminary views will be available by the time that Sir Cosmo Parkinson gets to British Somaliland in the autumn.

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3. The organisation of Information and Propaganda in the territories has recently been receiving considerable attention. We have hitherto tended to fall between the two stools represented by the D.D.M.I. and the Principal Information Officer. The D.D.M.I. has, generally speaking, had the staff but no money, while the P.I.O. has had no staff and a little money. It has now been agreed to propose to the War Office that Information and Propaganda to the civilian population of the territories shall be the responsibility of the administrative offices of the territories, and that Information Offices will be established and budgeted for like any other Department of Government. The general policy will be closely

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closely co-ordinated with that of the D.J.M.I. and the F.I.O. and the latter will provide the same assistance, i.e. the provision of propaganda material, bulletins, newsreels, etc. as he now does for the East African territories.

4. M.Chancel, the representative of the French National Committee, is now in Addis Ababa and is believed to be initiating negotiations between the Emperor and the Company for the resumption by the latter of its management of the Franco-Ethiopian Railway, which is at present run by a Military Administration in Ethiopian territory. It is hoped that M.Chancel will visit Nairobi when he leaves Addis.

5. It is understood that the Minister of State intends shortly to hold a Conference at which Ethiopian affairs will be discussed, and that a representative of the Foreign Office is likely to be present. It is not yet known where this Conference will take place nor what matters will be discussed.

6. Following your example, we too have recently been embroiled in a Locust Conference at which representatives of the East African territories, the Belgian Congo, and the Locust Mission from Ethiopia, as well as representatives from our territories, attended. The main result of the Conference is likely to be the establishment of an East African Anti-Locust Directorate which will co-ordinate anti-locust efforts in this part of the world. It is clear that the measure of success which future campaigns are likely to attain will depend largely on what it may be found possible to do in Ethiopia.

7. Lt.Col.Charlton, A.D.Claims from the War Office is at present here and we have had some very useful discussions with him. He is prepared to settle the majority of outstanding claims, some of which date from our occupation. If his recommendations are approved it is probable that the Military Administrations, if no Claims Commission is appointed, will be given considerable latitude to settle such claims expeditiously in future.

8. The extensive agricultural production schemes on the Lower Webi Schebelli and Juba Rivers, referred to in para.5 of my last letter, were doing exceedingly well until a few weeks ago when the extraordinary behaviour of the Webi Schebelli River seriously jeopardised the whole irrigation scheme in that area. The water in the river has been lower than for any period during the last 14 years, with the consequence that the canals leading from the river to the irrigation areas have been almost dry. Reports from up stream indicate that it has now come down in flood again, but at the time of writing it is touch and go whether the Webi Schebelli scheme can be saved or not. Fortunately the Juba River has proved very reliable, and apart from the depredations of

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9. The Kenya-Ethiopian boundary with Somalia is at present unusually quiet, but operations against Omar Lahand on the Mijertoin-Mudugh border, and minor disturbances between tribesmen in the Fardera-Brava area are keeping the Gendarmerie sufficiently occupied.

10. In British Somaliland the outstanding event has been a farewell ceremonial parade to mark the departure southwards of one of the recently formed Somali Battalions. Another important event which affects the other territories as well is the long awaited and much desired establishment of a weekly air service between Nairobi and Jiggiga.

C. M. DEVERELL.
Yours

Copy to: Chief Administrator, Somalia.

5/10/54

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