

COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

INTERIM REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT

The Government has given preliminary consideration to the recommendations contained in the Interim Report on Development which was published recently and was laid on the table of the Legislative Council on the 1st of May.

The Government has the following observations to make on the recommendations, subject to the reservation that in some cases expenditure is involved for which the concurrence of the Legislative Council will be necessary before action can be taken :-

Recommendation I. — That statistics of the national income should be compiled regularly and that such compilation should be regarded as a basic statistical service.

This recommendation has been referred to the Director of Statistics who has been requested to submit detailed proposals as soon as he is in a position to do so.

Recommendation II. — That the Director of Statistics should visit India as early as possible to study the statistical methods adopted in that country.

The Government accepts this recommendation and the concurrence of the other Governments concerned is being sought.

Recommendation III. — That a general census should be held as soon as possible after the war.

The Government accepts this recommendation, but, in common with the Governments of Uganda and Tanganyika, considers it desirable that the census should be conducted on an East African basis as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities. Detailed proposals have been submitted to the East African Governments by the Director of Statistics and a conference is to be called later in the year to discuss Group Captain Walter's proposals.

Recommendation IV. — That constant propaganda should be undertaken in native areas to spread the doctrine that African landowners are tenants of the tribe.

The Government accepts this recommendation. It regards its responsibility for land administration as an overriding one to which indigenous systems of land tenure must conform. That responsibility implies that, as agent and trustee for the people in the various land units, the Government has an obligation to ensure that the land is used in a manner which will preserve its fertility. The Government considers that each Native Land Unit and, in certain cases, each division of a Native Land Unit must be regarded as an estate, the property of the native community to which it is assigned. In most cases the native community is at present neither sufficiently organized nor sufficiently well instructed to be either willing or able to maintain its estate in accordance with the principles of prudent agriculture in the widest sense. The Government, having in mind that willing collaboration is nearly always more effective than compulsion, regards



it as one of its main tasks to assist and instruct each African community in the proper use of its land until it understands the vital importance of its responsibilities in this respect and is equipped to discharge them. The Government recognizes that the conditions of occupation of land must include a condition that the land is not destroyed and that in extreme cases compulsion may have to be used as a temporary expedient.

Recommendation V. -- That an investigating team be appointed to investigate the suitability of various areas for African resettlement.

The Government accepts this recommendation and steps are being taken to form the suggested team as soon as possible. A senior Administrative Officer has already been selected for the Chairmanship.

Recommendation VI. -- That the Government should take steps to secure an experienced Water Engineer from the United States of America.

The Government has not yet reached a decision on this recommendation, and is in any case unwilling to commit itself to any particular source of recruitment in a matter in which professional qualifications and experience must be the decisive criteria. The Government does, however, agree that the best staff available must be engaged for the vital work of water conservation. The East African Governors' Conference has agreed to engage a high grade team of experts to investigate the possibilities of electric power development in East Africa, and the Government has already secured the services of a prominent consulting engineer from the Union of South Africa to investigate the possibilities of developing greatly increased water supplies from the rivers rising on the eastern slopes of the Aberdares and Mount Kenya. These investigations will be co-ordinated.

Recommendation VII. -- That constant propaganda should be undertaken to emphasize the necessity of each individual by his work contributing to the development of the State.

The Government accepts this recommendation. In so far as paid Government labour is concerned, steps are being taken to improve output by providing closer supervision and better living conditions. Methods of propaganda among native communities will be examined by the Chief Native Commissioner and Provincial Commissioners.

Recommendation VIII. -- That every opportunity should be taken to emphasize to the Secretary of State the fundamental importance of maintaining the prices of primary products at a reasonable level.

The Government accepts this recommendation.

Recommendation IX. -- That bulk selling organizations should be maintained after the war in connexion with various types of Colonial produce.

The Government is arranging for a special study to be made of this matter and of the organization necessary to deal with each type of product. An endeavour is being made at the present time to obtain an Economic and Commercial Adviser from London, and this question will be among the first referred to him upon arrival in the Colony.