

(7) (no 2) X

CENTRAL PROVINCE LOYALISTS HEAR GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

About 1,500 African loyalists from all parts of the Central Province, were drawn up in ranks on the Nyeri show-ground today (January 18) to hear the speech of the Governor of Kenya, Sir Evelyn Baring (see Press Office handout No.39)

Watching the parade were nearly 10,000 Kikuyu tribesmen, women and children who gathered on the show-ground early this morning and waited patiently in hot sunshine for the arrival of the Governor.

With the Governor were the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir George Erskine, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Robert C. Catling, the Minister for African Affairs, Mr. R.G. Turnbull, the P.C. Central Province, Mr. C.M. Johnston, the Chief Native Commissioner Mr. E.H. Windley and the Nyeri District Commissioner, Mr. J.M. Butler.

The Governor delivered his address, translated into Kikuyu by African District Officer Ephraim Mithamo, on the dais facing the parade.

Drawn up in front of him was a Guard of Honour of tribal police and flanking the policemen were detachments of Kikuyu Guard from the four divisions of Nyeri: North Tetu, South Tetu, Othaya and Mathira. Each district could be distinguished by its head scarves; blue for North Tetu, orange for Mathira and behind them stood guards from Fort Hall, Embu, Meru and Kiambu.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour, Sir Evelyn decorated three loyalists for their gallantry and courageous service in the struggle against Mau Mau. To Chief Charles Munene of Embu went the B.E.M. for his great record of stout-hearted resistance to terrorism and his courage in rallying the people of his district to the side of the Government. Tribal Policeman Matura Githaiga received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct for his cool courage in standing by District Officer E.C. Brooks when they were ambushed by a gang of 50 terrorists and fought their way out in July last year. The same decoration was awarded to tribal policeman Gichuri Kanyora, who on two occasions repelled gang attacks almost single-handed.

After his speech, Sir Evelyn chatted with many of the soldiers, police officers and members of the Provincial Administration present. Among them were Major-General W.R.H. Hinde, Deputy Director of Operations, Brigadier J.H. Orr, commanding 70th Infantry Brigade, Mr. K.P. Haddingham, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, and Colonel P.A. Morcombe, Director of the Kikuyu Guard.

The Governor was introduced to most of the 60 Kikuyu, Meru and Embu chiefs who travelled from all parts of the Province to hear him speak. Conspicuous among the were Ex-Senior Chief Wambugu of Nyeri, deputy-president of the Nyeri African District Council, and Ex-Senior Chief Njiri of Fort Hall. Both these veteran administrators were in tribal dress, Wambugu wearing the traditional fur headdress of a Kikuyu ruler, and Njiri in the warrior's headdress of black ostrich feathers.

Senior Chief Wambugu of Nyeri, one of the Province's most decorated loyalists, summed up the opinion of his people on the Governor's speech when he said: "My Kikuyu Guards are often told by surrendered terrorists that there are many other gangsters who want to give themselves up but are frightened of Government punishment. We welcome this new offer of surrender to the terrorists, for we are sure that it will hasten the day when we can return to work in our fields without fear."

As the Governor left the showgrounds the Guard saluted him with the Kikuyus' traditional obeisance to important people - a mixture of clapping and cheering in the tribal fashion, which is akin to yodelling. Simultaneously a battery of rockets shot over the showground, bringing the crowd to its feet with shrill cheers and making a fit end to a colourful day of great importance for Kikuyu loyalists.

COPY.

Leaflet for the forests dropped by planes, etc.

Front of leaflet.

To all MAU MAU leaders and their followers.

NEW SURRENDER TERMS.

A chance to save your life.

As you know, Government is intensifying its operations against Mau Mau and will continue these until every terrorist has been captured or killed, or has given himself up.

Now is your last chance to save your life.

The Government makes the following new offer to all Mau Mau leaders and their followers.

If you surrender now with your arms your life will be spared.

You will NOT be prosecuted for any offence connected with the Emergency which you have committed prior to the date of this promise. That is JANUARY 18th, 1955. This means you will not be hanged, whatever you have done, if you commit no further acts of violence.

On surrender you will be fairly treated and properly fed. And afterwards you will be detained. How long you will be detained will depend on Government's examination of your case.

You can surrender to any of the Security Forces, including any member of the Military, Police, Kikuyu, Embu and Meru Guard or any Administrative Officer, or at any of their posts.

This offer will not remain open indefinitely.

Surrender NOW wherever you are - in the forests - in the reserve - in the settled areas or in the towns.

When you surrender you must bring in your arms or weapons.

Your chance to save your life is to surrender NOW.

SURRENDER BY GIVING YOURSELF UP CARRYING A GREEN BRANCH.

General Sir George Erskine,
Commander-in-Chief.

Sir Evelyn Baring
Governor.

18th January, 1955.

Back of Leaflet.

SAFE CONDUCT PASS.

(In Kikuyu only)

If you show this Pass to any Member of the Security Forces, he will know that you want to surrender and will treat you in accordance with this new promise.

(English)

The Bearer of this Pass wishes to surrender. He is to be given fair treatment, food and medical attention if required. He will be detained but is NOT to be prosecuted for any offence connected with the Emergency which he may have committed prior to January 18th, 1955.

(Kikuyu)
(Swahili)

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General Sir George Erskine,
Commander-in-Chief.

Sir Evelyn Baring,
Governor.

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EAST AFRICAN STANDARD, Nairobi, Wednesday,
Jan. 19, 1955.

11 SURRENDER DURING PAST 24 HOURS.

Last night's official communique (18th January) revealed that nine terrorists had been killed during the preceding 24 hours. Three of them, members of a gang of four, were killed by Embu Guards in the Kiine Location. The patrol captured a home-made gun and one round of ammunition.

Eleven more surrenders to security forces were reported, eight of them in the Meru District.

Two terrorists were killed when No. 9 General Service Unit made contact with a gang of four in the Nanyuki District. Another was wounded, but escaped. Three more terrorists were killed north-west of Nanyuki.

On the forest edge, in Muthami Location, one terrorist was killed by a combined patrol of tribal police and Kikuyu Guards, and a second gangster was captured. The patrol seized three home-made guns and a few rounds of ammunition.



Very full reports will be found in THE TIMES, DAILY TELEGRAPH, etc. of the 19th January, 1955, and onwards.



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