

X-050201

Notes on Situation in Kenya.

As a result of the outbreaks of violence engineered by the Mau Mau, a secret society formed among the Kikuyu tribe with the purpose of driving the African Europeans from African soil, a state of emergency has been proclaimed in Kenya.

Government spokesmen maintain that this situation will continue until law and order has been restored in the Colony, and every person who has taken an illegal Mau Mau oath brought to justice.

European Police Reservists have been called up to assist in this task, working either half time or full time; also loyal Africans of all tribes other than the Kikuyu. Extra troops have been called from the Canal Zone as reinforcements.

For the first time in Kenya an emergency telephone service has been installed by which people dialling 999 are contacted directly with police H.Q. These appeals for help are answered by fast, light vans, with armed crews, radio-controlled from H.Q., which patrol the streets day and night and can be rushed to any danger zone within a few minutes.

A curfew is imposed on the whole African population from dusk until dawn, and any African found wandering on the streets at night is interrogated. If his replies are unsatisfactory or he cannot produce his identity card or poll tax receipt he is taken into custody for further questioning. These checks are also carried out in daytime at various checkpoints on the roads around Nairobi and in the Kikuyu reserves.

Police armoured cars are manned by regular police and also reservists: their job is to comb the Kikuyu reserves for people suspected of Mau Mau activities. In this connection some of the chiefs and elders help by supplying lists of trouble makers. The Kikuyu reserves extend to the outskirts of Nairobi, but one of the worst trouble areas at present is in the Mart district 95 miles away, where Senior Chief Nderi was murdered on 22nd October. He is the second Senior Chief of the Kikuyu tribe who has been murdered by the Mau Mau. Now there is only one left - the Chief of the Fort Hall district!

At the funeral of Chief Nderi the Provincial Commissioner of the Central Provinces made a speech on behalf of the Governor of Kenya, (text enclosed).

The situation at present is under control but the forces are

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struggling against invisible enemies. In the Nyeri district there is a great exodus of Kikuyu from the reserves to the Aberdare Mountains, and in the villages of other reserves the young men are silently disappearing.

A Home Guard has been organised among the local population to guard private property from dusk to dawn. Police spotting planes are constantly on duty over restless areas, keeping in touch by radio with ground forces.

The number of forces available is being withheld for security reasons. At present it is difficult to make a complete photographic coverage of the subject, partly for these security reasons - partly because of the vastness of the countryside and the bad terrain - especially roads.

Attached is an information sheet on the murdered Chief, the P.C.'s funeral oration, newspaper cutting re opening of Legislative Council, and a copy of the Chief Native Commissioner's broadcast to Africans in Swahili.

PRESS HANDOUT AS AT 11 a.m. 23rd October 1952

It was reported late last night from Nyeri that CHIEF NDERI was hacked to pieces in a banana shamba by a crowd of about 500 Kikuyu at 4 p.m. yesterday, October 22nd.

At 3.30 p.m. someone told the Chief that he had been approached by four people to take the Mau Mau oath. The Chief contacted a European Agricultural Officer at his camp near the GURA river who went to Nyeri to collect reinforcements. They agreed to rendez-vous at the Gura Fishing Camp.

In the meantime the Chief and two men set out towards the meeting with a Kenya Police constable who was his personal guard, a Tribal Policeman and a Headman, all of whom were armed with rifles. There was also a retainer with the party. The two Police and the Headman were leading.

They came upon the guards to the Mau Mau meeting who were armed with spears and pangas. The attitude of the meeting was most hostile and the Policemen fired two shots over the heads of the 500 Africans, estimated to be present. The crowd then attacked the Chief who had already observed the danger and tried to get away.

The crowd soon caught him, however, and slashed him to death.

They caught the Kenya Police Constable at the river where they killed him. By this time the main police party had arrived and were hot in pursuit of the crowd which seeing their arrival were in flight. A Kikuyu was shot in the knee when it was seen he had picked up the constable's rifle.

21 prisoners were taken, mostly old men and women.

the Tribal Policeman had not been found and he is thought to have been killed. His rifle has been recovered.

The Chief's revolver and the rifle of the Headman who escaped were stolen.

Police, troops and K.P.R. in many hundreds were engaged in following up this case throughout the night and this morning.

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AN APPRECIATION OF SENIOR CHIEF NDERI WANGOMBE BY
COL. S. H. LA FONTAINE.

Senior Chief Nderi Wangombe, an outstanding Chief of the Nyeri District is the latest victim of Mau Mau atrocity. In courage, loyalty and progressiveness, he was the counterpart in the Nyeri District of the late Chief Waruhiu in Kiambu.

Appointed Chief in ¹⁹¹⁸ ~~1915~~ of the Thegenge location he served with distinction until the date of his death. He was awarded the Certificate of Honour in 1930, the King's Medal for Chiefs in 1938 and the Coronation Medal in commemoration of the late King's accession. Like Chief Waruhiu he was made an Honorary Senior Chief in 1951 and at the time of his death was a nominated member of the African District Council. Like Chief Waruhiu the promotion of friendship between the races was part of his creed. Loyalty to Government was the other part. In agriculture he set an example to his people of up-to-date methods of farming. Thehenge was one of the areas most disturbed by Mau Mau activities and from the start he set his face firmly against them, thereby no doubt incurring the hostility of that body. His courage was shown in no uncertain manner on the 26th of July last at Nyeri before an enormous gathering of Kikuyu when he spoke fearlessly in support of law and order and hard work and was howled down by a hostile mob.

Chief Nderi is one of the growing list of outstanding African Government servants who have become the victims of Mau Mau atrocity. We pay tribute to a fine man and a loyal Chief, who faced and met death bravely in the service of his people.

NAIROBI.
23rd October, 1952.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR READ AT
CHIEF NDERI'S FUNERAL BY MR. E.H. WINDLEY,
PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

"I have been instructed by His Excellency the Governor,
Sir Evelyn Baring, to convey a personal message from him. The
Governor says:-

'Please express my deep sympathy to the relations of
the late Senior Chief Nderi and to all those Kikuyu
who will be as deeply shocked as I am at this further
manifestation of the brutal savagery of the "Mau Mau".
Chief Nderi in 50 years of loyal service to Government
and his people earned widespread admiration for his
resolute courage and honesty of purpose. He died in the
service of his people, fighting the forces of evil, and
the memory of his fearless character will be honoured."

The Provincial Commissioner then said:-

"On behalf of myself and a long line of Government
servants of all races who knew Nderi during his life
of service I must pay tribute to the undefeated
courage and resolute leadership of this great Kikuyu.
By his death in action fighting against overwhelming
numbers, who were goaded to savagery by the evil
influence of the vile enemies of his people, we have
lost a fearless champion of good Government. The
fight he fought against this dangerous evil will be
carried on by all of us with greater strength because
of Nderi's example. His memory will live in the history
of the Kikuyu as a great-hearted man who gave his life
for his people."

October 24th, 1952.

PRESS OFFICE HANDOUT Number 240.

Broadcast by the Chief Native Commissioner (in Swahili):

Good-day to you listeners: I want to talk to all of you Africans who are listening to this broadcast, to the men, to the women and to the children of all tribes, but particularly I want to talk to the Kikuyu.

I know that some of you are bewildered and some of you are frightened. I know that some of you don't understand what is happening in your country; I know that evil people are still telling you lies about what is happening; I know that because of this many of you are frightened on the one hand of these evil people, and on the other hand of the Government.

You see now many Askaris going about the country, and some of you wonder why they are there, and want to know what they are doing. Now all of you know very well that during the last year or two many Kikuyu have taken a secret oath and have joined a secret society. Many people call this the Mau Mau, some call it Kiama cha Gikuyu na Mumbi, but whatever it is called you all know very well what it is. Some people joined the society willingly, others were forced to join, some men, women and children; many were beaten before they agreed to join it and most of those who joined had to pay money to do so whether they liked it or not. People who did not join it were punished by the evil men who were organising it and carrying out the orders of the society. Houses were burnt down; sometimes people and their stock were burnt inside their houses as well; other people were murdered and had their heads cut off, or their bodies were thrown into the rivers. Not very long ago one of the bravest of your real leaders, Chief Waruhiu, was shot during the daylight and only last week another great Kikuyu leader, Chief Ndero, was murdered by a crowd of people who had taken this horrible secret oath; again this murder was done during the daylight.

Although this evil work began more than a year ago, the Government hoped it would be able to stop it without calling in very large numbers of Askaris, but during last month there were more murders, and it became obvious that the evil men who had led the Kikuyu to do these bad things must be removed; that peace must be restored; that fear of this society must be destroyed, and that the great numbers of loyal peaceful Kikuyu citizens must be enabled to go about their business, till their shambas, attend their markets and do their work in peace of mind, and freed from the terror which had enslaved them.

So, on Monday night last week the Governor declared a State of Emergency. Those who had been connected with this wicked society, or had tried to stir up hatred between the peoples of this country were seized, and many Askaris, both Police and K.A.R., were brought into the Central Province. British Askaris were also brought in case there was big trouble.

That is why you see so many Askaris around, for the strength of the Queen and her Government is great, and the Government is going to see that peace is restored.

is amazing, for they will not escape and the evil works of this society will disappear and pass as the wind.

When the Kikuyu saw all these Askaris some of them were frightened, many of them ran away, particularly the young men, many of the people felt bitterness, some even continue to go on with this wicked secret society, and some have even taken the oath within the last few days. This

Nobody wants to have large numbers of Askaris in the country; they have other important work to do, but so long as these evil men continue to do their bad works and to spread fear in the land, so long will the Askaris have to stay, and the more you help them in their work, and the stronger you are in your action against evil people, the sooner will peaceful conditions return to us again and the Askaris will be able to go away.

For the work of this society has done terrible damage to the Kikuyu people. All over the world their name is linked with that of this evil society. This is a very sad thing, for the Government and all faithful and honest Africans hate and despise this secret Kiama of people who murder, who burn houses, who cut up cattle, who terrify people, who tell lies, and all good and faithful people want these things to stop.

You have many officers of Government in your districts who are there to help you. Your Chiefs, your Headmen, your Location Councillors, your Village Elders, your Tribunal Elders are there to lead you back to peace and order and happiness; to restore the days when men and women are no longer frightened of hearing a knock at the hut door at night - the knock of the Mau Mau men who have come to drag you away to force you to take an oath, and to force you to bring bloodshed into the country; they are there to restore the days when children can go to school, and be taught the truth, no longer to be beaten into taking oaths or to be taught to hate their fellow men. Everybody wants these happy days to return. The Askaris are there to give all good men confidence, to persuade them that they need not fear and to break this wicked society and to seize those who are responsible for it.

So when you hear that your District Commissioner is going to have a baraza, or when you see any officer from your Government moving about in your country, or coming to visit you in your village, you have nothing to fear; you should listen to his words, you should try to follow his advice. When you see Askaris in your country, you honest people have nothing to fear; don't run away if you see them, for if you do the Askaris will think you have done some wrong and follow you. These men are your protectors from the evil people who have brought terror into the land.

If the Kikuyu or other people have any grievance or difficulties they can give voice to them in the proper way; through the African District Councils or their Legislative Councillors. If they are so voiced Government will listen to them and try to help to solve their problems. But if the cry of the people takes the form of murder and arson, no-one will listen. No grievances or difficulties can be heard or solved until peace and order have been restored again.

I hope that the rains will soon be here so that new crops can be planted; I hope that the seeds that are planted will be seeds of peace and plenty and that next year you may enjoy those fruits, and that happiness will return to the Kikuyu, that evil men may be uprooted, and that the people may be seen smiling and singing once more.

27th October. 1952.