



## 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.