

1949

RETURN TO ROOM

1949

H. 453.

94005/2

GENERAL

94005/2

SECRET

C.O.R. 7

Sarawak
Local Defence Committee.
Constitution of —

13

Previous

13034/42
(Sarawak Defence Series)

Subsequent

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SPECIAL CARE SHOULD BE
TAKEN TO MAINTAIN THE
SECURITY OF THE DOCUMENTS
ON THIS FILE. THEY SHOULD
BE LOCKED IN A STEEL PRESS
OVERNIGHT AND CIRCULATED
BY HAND AT ALL STAGES.~~

CO 537/5029

T. H. HIRAISSON D.S.O.

1. Departmental minutes 9th - 16th June 49

In accordance with Mr. Rees-Williams' final suggestion dated 16/6/49 at the foot of No. 1, I submit a draft (The C.O.S. list states that the Curator of the Sarawak Museum and Government Ethnologist is Mr. T.H. Harisson, D.S.O.)

J.C. Morgan
(J. C. MORGAN)
23rd June, 1949.

M. Parker

I mentioned this to Sir C. Anderson Clarke yesterday. While still of his opinion regarding my appointment he did not object to his making a suggestion in the draft which can be done when he assumed office.

J.C. Morgan
17/6/49

2 To Sarawak - Sec of Revenue to Governor - 5/7/49.

J.C.

3 Sarawak - 85/75/1-K - 26/8/49.

Mr. Trappes Smith

Mr. Rees Williams will wish to see this!

J.H. Harison
10/9

J.C. Morgan
14/9

J.C. Morgan

Mr. J.C. Morgan to see.

Thank you,
J.H. Harison
15/9

J.C. Morgan
14/9

J.H. Harison
15/9

4 Copy of Note on 9402211 — 1/4/50
"For the Record"

l.s.



COMPOSITION OF LOCAL DEFENCE COMMITTEES IN COLONIES
IN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF BRITISH DEFENCE
CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE, MIDDLE EAST.

GIBRALTAR

Chairman - Governor

Members - Flag Officer and Admiral
Superintendent, H.M. Dockyard,
Gibraltar.

Officer Commanding Troops.

Air Officer Commanding, Gibraltar.

Colonial Secretary.

Attorney-General.

Senior General Staff Officer,
Fortress H.Q. (Secretary)

MALTA

Chairman - Governor

Members - Lieutenant Governor.

Legal Secretary

Flag Officer, R.M. Malta

G.O.C., Troops, Malta Garrison.

A.O.C., R.A.F., Malta.

CYPRUS

Chairman - Governor

Members - Colonial Secretary

District Commander

Air Commodore Commanding

A representative of the C-in-C.,
Mediterranean

Attorney General

Chief Commissioner

Commissioner of Police

A G.S.O.II, H.Q., Cyprus)
District) Joint
A Senior Assistant) Secre-
Secretary in the Colonial) taries
Secretary's Office.)

TANGANYIKA

Chairman - Chief Secretary

Members - Member for Law and Order

Commissioner of police

O.C. K.A.R. Battalion

Principal Assistant Secretary
(Law and Order)

Additional members may be co-opted as required.

UGANDA

Chairman - Chief Secretary, or representative

Members - Attorney General

Secretary for African Affairs

Administrative Secretary

O.C. Troops, Uganda.

A Secretarial Section Officer as
Secretary

ZANZIBAR

Chairman - The British Resident

Members - Chief Secretary

Attorney General

Senior Commissioner

Financial Secretary

Comptroller of Customs

Commissioner of Police

An Assistant Secretary of the
Secretariat as Secretary.

KENYA

Chairman - a Member for Defence (Deputy Chief
Secretary)

Members - a Member for Law and Order

Director of Manpower (Labour
Commissioner in peacetime)

Kenya Member of East African Defence
Co-ordination Committee.

Representatives of Navy, Army and
Air Force.

NYASALAND

Chairman - Governor

Members - Chief Secretary

Attorney General

Commissioner of Police

O.C. Troops

Secretariat Officer responsible for
Defence and Internal Security.

NORTHERN RHODESIA Chairman - Chief Secretary

Members - Attorney General

Secretary for Native Affairs

Commissioner of Police.

O.C. Troops

Mr. R. Welensky (Senior
Unofficial Member of Executive
Council).

Ref: 85/TS/I-K.



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SECRET.

Office of His Excellency the
Governor and Commander-in-Chief
of the Colony of Sarawak.

26th August, 1949.

R. Hartley
Dear Higham,

(2) Arden Clarke has passed to me your letter dated the 5th July in which you suggest that the Defence Committee seek the advice of people still in the Colony who have had experience of guerilla warfare in the area.

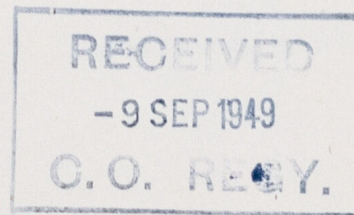
Preliminary arrangements have already been made through War Office agency with a view to building up anti-sabotage units, which, in the event of invasion, will turn into guerilla bodies.

When the Defence Committee embarks upon the planning stage of such operations they certainly will consult the experienced people, of whom there are several still in the Colony. Steps have already been taken to establish a link with Dayaks who served as guerillas in the last war.

As you are no doubt aware the high level strategic appreciation of Sarawak's probable destiny in the next war does not at present include invasion.

Your reference is 94005/2/49.

Yours sincerely



W. Dawson

X
J. D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

34005/2/49

5 July, 1949.

SECRET

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Sir Arden Clarke

A suggestion has been made here that in framing the defence scheme for Sarawak your local Defence Committee might benefit from the advice of people still in the Colony who had experience of guerilla warfare in the area during the recent war. No doubt such people have already been consulted on appropriate points, and I hope you will not take it amiss for me to pass on this suggestion. Harrisson was mentioned as likely to be useful in this connection.

(J.D. Higham)

SIR CHARLES ARDEN CLARKE, K.C.M.G.,
GOVERNOR,
SARAWAK.

AD 957 5/7/49

[456B] Wt. 32483/800 100m. 11/48 C.N.I.d. 748

C. O.

Mr. MORGAN. 23/6

Mr. TRAFFORD SMITH

Mr. [Signature] 11/7/49

Mr.

Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. S.

Minister of State

Secretary of State

Your Reference

DRAFT.

S/O LETTER FOR ²MR. PASKIN'S
₂MR. HIGHAM'S SIGNATURE.

~~TOP SECRET~~

June, 1949.

SIR C. ARDEN CLARKE, K.C.M.G.,
GOVERNOR, SARAWAK.

.....

A suggestion has been made here that in framing the defence scheme for Sarawak your local Defence Committee might benefit from the advice of people still in the Colony who had experience of guerilla warfare in the area during the recent war. No doubt such people have already been consulted on appropriate points, and I hope you will not take it amiss for me to pass on this suggestion. Harrison was mentioned as likely to be useful in this connection.

.....

FURTHER ACTION.

Mr. Rees-Williams.

I mentioned to Sir Charles Arden Clarke when he called on me to-day the matter raised in the attached minutes. It is true that the local Defence Committee over which he presides does not contain anybody who was dropped behind the lines in Malaya during the war, but he was quite certain that the Committee (which has full powers to co-opt) would bring in anyone of that sort who might be available whenever a matter comes up for discussion on which that person's advice would be valuable. That, in his opinion, has not so far happened; in fact, so far as he could recall, there are only two or three people in Sarawak with experience of guerilla warfare. Also, as Sir Charles pointed out, the plans of his local Defence Committee are prepared under general directions from the BDCC in Singapore, and they should at least be knowledgeable about the type of guerilla warfare which is now going on in Malaya.

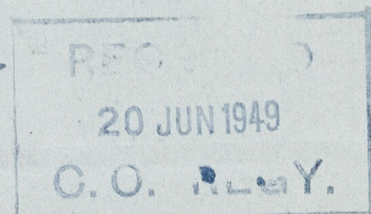
Correct
13034/42?
(Sarawak before)

T. K. Lord

15.6.49.

There would be no harm possibly in writing to his O.A. by asking him to obtain the views of certain people who have great knowledge of his tribes & guerilla warfare in Sarawak e.g. of his Curator of the Museum.

AKS 16/6



SECRET.

Mr. Seel.

Defence : Sarawak.

Information has come to me that there is some concern in Sarawak on the part of certain people who have had experience of guerilla warfare in South-East Asia during the war with the present state of progress on the Sarawak Defence Plan.

2. It is felt, rightly or wrongly, that the people on the Defence Committee are all without a knowledge of the fighting after the capitulation, since they were all prisoners of war or interned. I think it would be as well if a ^{factious} suggestion could be made to the Defence Committee that the views of people in Sarawak who were in Force 136 or with the guerilla forces should be considered.

DRW,

9th June, 1949.

Copy sent to:-

Mr. Paskin.

Mr. Paskin.

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END

I find that Defence Department has no information as to the individuals who serve on the Sarawak Defence Committee. We have, however, been assured that the Sarawak Government will do everything possible to let us have the first draft of its defence plan by the time requested, viz. the end of this month.

In the circumstances I would suggest that if Mr. Rees-Williams sees no objection we might await the receipt of the defence plan before taking up this point with the Governor. No doubt that will afford a convenient opportunity of checking up; and it would appear that not much time would be lost, as the draft plan must be on the point of despatch home and the Governor will presumably be awaiting our comments before taking further action on it in any case.

Of course if the Eastern Department should be writing a "chatty" letter to the Governor or the Chief Secretary in the meantime, there would be no objection (always provided that the letter was secret) in including an incidental enquiry as to the composition of the Defence Committee and the means whereby, if it does not include any persons with experience of actual fighting in Sarawak during the last war, the Committee has the benefit of their experience.

If this could be returned to me in due course, I will see that it is put with the papers about the Sarawak defence scheme for further consideration when the scheme is received.

S.P.

10. 6. 49.

Sir T. Lloyd

As Sir C. Anderson-Clawson will be coming to see you on Wednesday, this will be a convenient opportunity for mentioning the point raised by Mr. Rees-Williams in his minute overleaf. J.P.P. 11.6.

1944

44005/2

General. Sarawak: Constitution of Local Defence Committee. 1949. MS Records of the British Colonial Office CO 537/5029. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). State Papers Online Colonial, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CCPOGI805093105/SPOC?u=pustaka_sarawak&sid=bookmark-SPOC&pg=7. Accessed 2 Apr. 2025.