

Telephone : VICTORIA 4066.

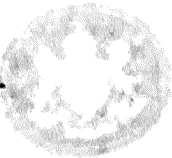
Mesopotamia Commission,
28, Abingdon Street,
Westminster.

CORRESPONDENCE

with

RT HON. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN. M.P.

H/11



5.1.1917.

My dear Lucas,

Handwritten notes:
2-4
Mr. Chamberlain
you
sent
will
the

In reply to your letter I am, with the Chairman's permission, giving instructions that the documents mentioned over-leaf shall be sent to Mr. Chamberlain, in order that they may be forwarded privately to the Viceroy for his confidential information.

With reference to the passage in your letter referring to suggestions by Mr. Chamberlain for alterations in procedure as regards private telegrams, the Chairman asks me to say, that, in the course of the next month, the Commission will be considering, inter alia, the evidence under this head, and what recommendation they shall make.

Pending their arriving at a decision on these recommendations, Lord George would rather deprecate any alterations being made, as it might, for example, be found that such alterations were not in consonance with the recommendations which the Commission might ultimately make. Lord George feels that it would be unfortunate if such a state of affairs should arise in consequence of a confidential communication by the Commission of part of their evidence to Mr. Chamberlain.

Frank Lucas Esqre.

India Office

ehall, S.W.
rd January 1917.



5.1.17

My dear Duff,

I should be glad to know
whether you would be glad to let him know
whether the Commission

will allow him to
send me privately to
the Viceroy

(1) Lord Crews' note for
the Commission

(2) That portion of Lord
Crews' evidence which
deals with the same

idence correct
of the alterat
grammatical e

raph 22 of
rised this.

He ventures
ideration o
ers are no
nted as a
y into the
printed
riginal a

substitution of the revised version

7

for his confidential
information.

In this case
also may I have
a copy if permission
is accorded by
the Commission?

Yours sincerely

Frank Lucas

W.L.F.



Whitehall, S.W.
3rd January 1917.

My dear Duff,

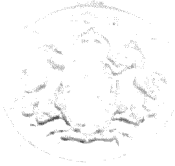
In returning the proof of his Evidence corrected, Mr. Chamberlain wishes me to say that all the alterations made or suggested are typographical or grammatical except in the following cases:-

- (1) Insertion of quotation in paragraph 22 of Statement. You have already authorised this.
- (2) Answers to Questions 16984-5. He ventures to submit revised answers for the consideration of the Commission. As they stand his answers are not quite exact and would be misleading if printed as a permanent record. He has since been carefully into the matter. Perhaps the revised answers might be printed as a footnote, if it is decided that the original answers must stand, *though he would prefer the substitution of the revised version.*

(3)

R.G. Duff, Esq.

9



(3) He suggests the addition of a footnote to 17027.

(4) Ditto to 17090.

(5) The Printer has attributed part of his answer to 17131 to the Chairman (vide Question 17132 as printed). His answer to 17131 ran straight on including the words in Question 17132 and was continuous from, "That is an opinion", down to, "I sent the actual orders".

this I suppose involves renumbering all questions after 17131, as 17132 checks out.

I attach the quotations from his private letters duly numbered for insertion. They are pinned to the front of the Evidence in a file.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Lucas



10

My dear Duff
Mr Chamberlain
asks the permission of
the Commission to
insert the words
quoted by him in
full from the Report
of the Combined General
Staffs in answer
No. 17012 in the
body of his statement

17.1

er considera
dated 29th
ten under a
art of the
ls or autho
es and sho
em in their
a written
impugned.
t the Gov
ecutive C
ses of th

F/7

17.11.1916.

Dear Mr. Chamberlain,

We have had under consideration a Despatch from the Government of India, dated 29th September 1916. The Despatch, however, is written under a misconception. There is no intention on the part of the Commission to criticise or censure individuals or authorities in connection with the recent failures and shortcomings in Mesopotamia without hearing them in their defence, or giving them an opportunity for a written explanation on points where their conduct is impugned. All the evidence we have so far taken shows that the Government of India - that is, the late Viceroy's Executive Council - were not consulted upon the various phases of the Mesopotamian Campaign, and that practically the control of the enterprise was kept in the hands of the late Viceroy and the late Commander-in-Chief. Both will give evidence before the Commission, and the late and the present Secretary of State for India are also available for that purpose. It may be safely assumed that they are competent to deal with, and are fully informed upon, the subjects alluded to in paragraph 7 of the Government of India's Despatch. If there be any points upon which the Commission.

Rt. Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M. P.
 Secretary of State for India.
 India Office
 Whitehall.

(2)

Dear Sir

Commission require further information and which can only be obtained from India, the Commission will not hesitate to apply for such information.

*inquire in all
in words
to end
W. B.*

The principle upon which the Commission are proceeding is to take the evidence of all those who are primarily responsible for what occurred in Mesopotamia, but not to connect individually with that responsibility those who were not then in office, or who when in office had no responsible hand in the Campaign.

position of his own examination errors Would you kindly take an opportunity of pointing out *matter privately to his judge*

G. Duff, Esq
Mesopotamia Commission
25 Abchurch St

(Copy)

India Office

15

16

Whitehall, S.W.

25th Aug. 1916.

Dear Duff,

Mr. Chamberlain has asked me to enquire informally whether Lord George Hamilton would allow him to see a printed copy of the evidence that is taken from time to time. Mr. Chamberlain feels that if he could be allowed this privilege he would be in a better position to supply information when the time of his own examination arrives. Would you kindly take an opportunity of putting the matter privately to Lord George?

Yours sincerely
Tisch

R. G. Duff, Esq.
Mesopotamia Commission
28 Abchurch St.

they could...
Mesopotamia.
In the case...
of the...
the subject...

INDIA OFFICE

16

G/49

WHITEHALL

London W.C.

15.12.1916

*Dear Sir
Please
send Chamberlain
copies of
Statement
for
Commission*

Dear Sir:-

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 20 copies of a Statement for the information of the Commission.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Assistant Secretary

Rt.Hon.Austen Chamberlain

India Office.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. Hutzfeld

Free

My dear Duff
 Please telephone to
 me tomorrow your bank
 Copies of statements (there are two)
 you will want.
 I can get you have
 them by Saturday
 yours truly

Frank Lucas

H. K. U.

Adm 20

INDIA OFF

WH

7th Decem

of State fo

Commission,

the North

tier from

these paper

aracter, c

Royal Comm

he judgme

It is requested that in any further communication on this subject the under-mentioned letter and number may be quoted, and the reply addressed to—

The Under Secretary of State for India.
Political Department.
India Office,
London, S.W.

P3666.

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.

7th December, 1916.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward for the information of the Commission, copies of reports by the Chief Commissioner of the North West Frontier Province on the course of affairs on the frontier from the outbreak of war up to the end of March, 1916.

Mr. Chamberlain recognises that these papers, which are necessarily of a very confidential character, deal with matters outside the reference of the Royal Commission, but he thinks that it may be material to the judgment of the Commission on points directly referred to them, to have present in their minds the anxieties and difficulties simultaneously confronting the Government of India in other directions and necessarily affecting the extent to which they could denude India in order to supply the operations in Mesopotamia.

If the Commission desire similar information in regard to the internal condition of India during the war period, the Secretary of State will cause a brief memorandum on the subject to be laid before them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Secretary,
 Mesopotamia Commission.

20.XI.16



My dear Duff,
 Looking through
 Mr Chamberlain's private
 file of evidence which
 you have been good
 enough to send
 from time to time
 I see that we
 have never had
 the Eight day.
 The day numbered
 eighth in print was
 Genl Lloyd, but
 it was corrected
 into seventh in



ink. The next
 day we got was
 Ninth to Col Giffard.
 On the other hand
 we got 2 copies
 of the Fourth Day
 Sir W. Ganshin, so
 that is perhaps
 how the mistake
 arose.
 Anyhow my J

have the Eighth
 Day in the volume
 intervening between G.
 Lloyd and Col
 Giffard if there is
 one.
 yours sincerely
 Frank Lucas
 Many thanks for
 your timely hint
 of today.

File

22



4th Oct 1916

Dear Duff,
14th Chamberlain
will be glad if you
will bring the enclosed
to the notice of
the Chairman. It
shows that the Viceroy
on further consideration
would be quite glad
if Captain Lumsden
were called to give

END

Evidence of the Admiralty
also agree.

Our official letter
to you two days ago
based on an earlier
telegram from the Viceroy
said it would be
inconvenient to let him
go.

Yours sincerely
Frank Lucas