

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Basutoland (Lesotho)

FCO 141/293 to 141/1021

Most of these files date from the late 1940s to the early 1960s, as the British government considered the future constitution of Basutoland, although there is also some earlier material. Many of them concern constitutional developments during the 1950s, including the establishment of a legislative assembly in the late 1950s and the legislative election in 1960. Many of the files concern constitutional development. There is also substantial material on the Chief designate Constantine Bereng Seeiso and the role of the British authorities in his education and their promotion of him as Chief designate.

At the same time, the British government considered the incorporation of Basutoland into South Africa, a position which became increasingly less tenable as the Nationalist Party consolidated its power after the 1948 election and eventually declared a republic. The files hold evidence of the attitude of the British government and political parties in Basutoland to this question. The files include a substantial body of reports on political activity and parties, as well as reports on individual chiefs and headmen, including some material on crime. There is also material relating to the

participation of Basotho soldiers in the Second World War. There is included a large group of files concerning the medicine murders/liretlo which occurred in Basutoland during the late 1940s and 1950s, and their relation to political and administrative change. For research already undertaken on this area see: Colin Murray and Peter Sanders, *Medicine Murder in Colonial Lesotho* (Edinburgh UP 2005).

<http://www.history.ukzn.ac.za/files/sempapers/Murray2004.pdf>

The Resident Commissioners of Basutoland from 1945 to 1966 were: Charles Arden-Clarke (1942-46), Aubrey Thompson (1947-51), Edwin Arrowsmith (1951-55), Alan Chaplin (1955-61) and Alexander Giles (1961-66).

This guide combines new material released in July 2012 with that released in March.

Constitutional development and politics

FCO 141/294-295: Constitutional reform in Basutoland (1953-59) – concerns the development of representative government through the establishment of a legislative assembly.

FCO 141/318: Basutoland Constitutional Commission; attitude of Basutoland Congress Party (1962); concerns relations with South Africa.

FCO 141/320: Constitutional Review Commission (1961-1962); discussion of form of constitution leading up to independence (2cm).

FCO 335-335, 339: constitution (1958-1961); implementation of constitution of 1959 includes notes on political opposition (6cm).

- FCO 141/337: draft standing orders for the Basutoland Council (1959); (1cm). reactions, note of chiefly meeting, intelligence report (3cm).
- FCO 141/338: constitutional development in Basutoland (1958-1959); discusses the report of the commission on the constitution (1cm). FCO 141/386: Basutoland Council, 33rd session, 1938 (1938); includes transcript, list of chiefs (2cm).
- FCO 141/340: draft Basutoland (Constitution) Order in Council (1959); including copy of draft (2cm). FCO 141/395-396: relationship between Resident Commissioners, High Commissioner's Office and Commonwealth Relations Office (1958-1960); revision of relationships in relation to constitutional reform and responsible government (2.5cm).
- FCO 141/342-343: Administrative Reforms Committee and Moore Report (1952-1955); includes responses to the Moore Report, which failed to recommend the establishment of a legislative council (6cm). FCO 141/405-406: Constitutional discussions, 1958 (1958); includes report on constitutional reform and chieftainship affairs (7cm).
- FCO 141/351: revision of the Constitution; Basutoland National Council Standing Orders (1959-1962); draft of constitution (3cm). FCO 141/561-562, 568: Constitutional Commission 1962-65; reports, correspondence, notes in run up to independence (6cm).
- FCO 141/356-358: Administrative Reforms Committee; Basuto objections to the Moore Report (1955-1956); notes of meetings and policy documents; hostility to the recommendations and demands for legislative assembly (8cm). FCO 141/564, 905-906, 922: Implementation of Constitutional proposals 1964-66; (3cm).
- FCO 141/366: Executive Council; development of Ministerial system and departmental reorganisation (1969-1962); documents on 'Africanisation' before independence (1cm). FCO 141/566-567, 569: Constitutional Conference in London, April 1964 1964-65; drafts, minutes of Negotiation Committee, correspondence; (10cm).
- FCO 141/368: administrative reforms; Constitutional and Chieftainships Committees (1960-1962); concerns Basutoland Council and Executive Committee (1.5cm). FCO 141/570-573, 921: general election and administrative reorganisation 1963-64; files on effect on finance, information services, judiciary; (10cm).
- FCO 141/369: district council meetings to consider the Report of the Administrative Reforms Committee; Youth League; Basutoland Congress Party (BCP) (1953-1961); includes official report and FCO 141/574: Constitutional expenditure 1964-65.
- FCO 141/839: Financial implications 1964-1965.

Related material in DO 35/7222-7236.

Government

Cabinet/Executive Council/Administrative Reforms Committee

FCO 141/896-904: Cabinet agenda, papers, minutes and memoranda 1965-66; (26cm).

FCO 141/1019: Correspondence transmitted by Secretary of State for the Colonies and Secretary to the Cabinet, Maseru 1966.

FCO 141/514-538: Executive Council minutes memoranda, papers 1960-65; (40cm).

FCO 141/539-47: Permanent Secretaries Committee agenda, minutes and papers, 1961-65; (20cm).

FCO 141/734-736: Administrative Reforms Committee 1953-55.

FCO 141/822: Administrative Reforms Committee and District Commissioners' Conference, November 1954-55; (1.5cm).

Resident District Commissioners

FCO 141/843-849: Resident Commissioners' Conference 1962 1963-65; minutes, notes, correspondence (8cm).

FCO 141/854-858: District Commissioners' Newsletters, 1962-65; detailed notes on local political conditions (10cm).

FCO 141/859-860: Basutoland: Queen's Commission to Resident

Commissioners of Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Swaziland; proposed creation of Governorships 1962-65.

FCO 141/817: Resident Commissioner's half yearly despatch to High Commissioner 1959-62.

FCO 141/834: District Commissioner's Conferences 1962-65.

FCO 141/877-878: Resident Commissioner; secret/personal correspondence, extract from Major Wall's notes 1959-62.

Paramount chieftancy, regency and accession

FCO 141/401: meetings between the Resident Commissioner and the Paramount Chief and his advisers 1953-57; (0.5cm).

FCO 141/402: honorific title of the Paramount Chief; correspondence (1960-62); (0.5cm).

FCO 141/403: Paramount Chief's estate; legal action by Chieftainess Mantsebo, former Regent (1960); concerns dispute over certain property (0.5cm).

FCO 141/404: visit of Chief Moshoeshe II, Paramount Chief of Basutoland, to Germany, July 1962 (1962); correspondence and draft of speech (1cm).

FCO 141/407-410, 412, 417-427: Paramount Chief designate, Constantine Bereng Seeiso Griffith (1942-61); education of the designate, relations with family members and the public, etc (approximately 20cm).

FCO 141/416: succession to paramount chieftaincy (1926-38); concerns politics of succession (2.5cm).

FCO 141/428-429: recognition of Constantine Bereng Seeiso Griffith as Paramount Chief of Basutoland (1960-+62); (4cm).

FCO 141/430: Paramount Chief Moshoeshoe II's wedding, 23 August 1962 (1962) (1cm).

FCO 141/498: Chief Constantine Bereng Seeiso Lerotholi versus the Paramount Chief 1941-58.

FCO 141/503, 716-719, 720, 858, 873: Constantine Bereng Seeiso, as succession Moshoeshoe II, etc, paramountcy and Resident Commissioner 1953-66; (4cm).

FCO 141/495,504-509, 723, 730-731, 775: matters relating to paramountcy, complaints, Resident Commissioner/Regent Mantsebo Seeiso, retirement, etc. 1948-62; correspondence; (15cm).

Related material in DO 35/4081 and DO 35/4362-66.

Chiefs and reserves

FCO 141/773: Gazettement of Chiefs and Headmen; Quthing 1955.

FCO 141/774: Chief Letsie K Motsoene 1955-62; (1cm).

FCO 141/779: Chief Jacottet Theko 1956.

FCO 141/879: sites on Reserves; policy 1958-61.

FCO 141/886: confidential reports on Chiefs, Butha Buthe District 1936-53.

FCO 141/686-688: Basutoland: Constantine Makotoko Theko (Chief Theko Makhaola's son) 1953-63; correspondence on his behaviour and career (2cm).

FCO 141/708-709: Chieftainship/resignation of Chief Makhaola Sempe (Dr K J S Nkuebe) of Moyeni (Quthing) 1952-1960.

Political parties

FCO 141/458, 565, 647: Basutoland Congress Political Party/press cuttings 1960-62; correspondence; (8cm).

FCO 141/463: Basutoland: political situation with special reference to joint action by Basutoland Congress Party and Basutoland National Party 1955-60; (2.5cm).

FCO 141/467: Basutoland National Party 1958-62 (1.5cm).

FCO 141/468: New political organisation in Maseru; Marema-Tlou (United Front Party) 1957-61; (1cm).

FCO 141/480: Disturbances and arrest in Maseru in respect of M Mokitimi, Basutoland Congress Party Youth League 1961.

FCO 141/462: African Congress and Co-Operative Societies 1953-54 (2cm).

FCO 141/559-561, 1017: Pan-Africanist Congress 1962-66.

FCO 141/500-502: Activities of Lekhotla la Bafo Association 1947-55; correspondence and reports (10cm).

FCO 141/464: Biographical sketches on personalities and political parties in Basutoland 1960-62.

FCO 141/466: Progressive Association and the Legislative and Executive Councils 1953-1960.

Medicine murders

These files concern the ritual murders in Basutoland during the late 1940s and 1950s. Apart from accounts of the murders, there is also material relating the murders to the political and administrative context. The files included substantial minutes, reports and memoranda of the Anti-Liretlo Committee, as well as accounts of murders in individual districts. (Approximately 1m of files)

FCO 141/482: Regina versus Chief Matlere Lerotholi and others 1953; (2.5cm).

FCO 141/483 political significance 1952-53; (3cm).

FCO 141/487 Regina versus Lepekola and others 1959-60 (2cm).

FCO 141/488-492, 725-729, 737-740: Round Table Conference/ Anti-Liretlo Committee 1956-61; minutes of meetings,

correspondence, memoranda, reports of public meetings (30cm).

FCO 141/494: Analysis of ritual murders and their relation to various administrative events 1948-49; (1.5cm).

FCO 141/587-602, 604-616, 619-646: medicine murder, by individual districts 1949-57; reports and correspondence (25cm).

FCO 141/496-467: Report by Mr G I Jones, of University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge on ritual murders in Basutoland 1950-59; notes and copy of report (3cm).

FCO 141/484, 493, 578-586, 617-618, 874: general 1945-61.

FCO 141/650-651: circumcision rites 1954-55.

FCO 141/782: execution; notification to the Paramount Chief 1953-54.

FCO 141/850: cases 1962-63.

FCO 141/756: anti-witchcraft legislation 1954-59.

Condemned prisoners

Individually named files of considerations of sentences for murder. They include judgements, in some cases verbatim transcripts of High Court proceedings; petitions, reports of crimes and related material. A number of the files concern "medicine murders". The files vary from a few pages to 2 cm. Approximately 30 cm in total.

FCO 141/652-675, 676-680: condemned prisoners, individuals 1951-63.

FCO 141/682-685, 692-695: condemned prisoners; individuals 1960-64.

Security/Communism

FCO 141/459, 649: Communist activities 1950-62.

FCO 141/929: Countering communist propaganda and Information Research Department material 1963-65.

FCO 141/460: A study of external threats bearing on the international security of Commonwealth Territories in Africa; Anti-Colonial Nationalist Movement 1960-62.

FCO 141/770-772: security arrangements in Government Offices 1955-64.

FCO 141/923-924: Protective Security Sub-Committee and policy 1964-66.

FCO 141/930: Security Legislation 1965.

FCO 141/931: Security Liaison officer's movements 1963-65.

FCO 141/938: Seditious, subversive and undesirable publications 1966.

FCO 141/942: Defence schemes; internal security plan 1962-65.

FCO 141/1006-1007: Internal security plan/codes and cyphers 1965-66.

FCO 141/461: All-African Peoples Conference, Accra, December 1958, and

external subversive influences in Africa 1955-60.

FCO 141/481: Activities of Elias Monare alias Korea Monare during his sojourn in the Union 1956-62.

FCO 141/925: P B Duncan suspected gun running on the border 1963.

FCO 141/926: Directory of African Freedom Fighters 1966.

FCO 141/927: refusal of entry to Ntsu Mokhehle of a banned organisation to Ladybrand 1963-65.

FCO 141/954: compulsion of witnesses legislation 1965-66.

Intelligence

FCO 141/296-299, FCO 141/352-354, 141/363-365 and FCO 141/370-375: monthly news reports of the High Commission Territories (Tergos reports) (1950-60); these reports contain observations on activities by the various political parties and some individuals in the lead up to the first general election, as well as more general material on economic and social conditions (30cm).

FCO 141/359-362: monthly intelligence reports (1947-1959); compiled by Resident Commissioners on political activity, organisations and more general news (8cm).

FCO 141/400: handing over reports and notes for districts in Basutoland (1954-61); includes reports on political activity and identification of specific problems of administration (4cm).

FCO 141/431-433, 435-439, 443-444 and 446: Chieftainship, Berea District; Leribe District; Butha Buthe District; Mokhotlong District; Maseru District; Mafeteng District; Quthing District; Qacha's Nek District; Quthing and Qacha's Nek Districts (Chief Theko Makaola); confidential reports on Chiefs and Headmen (various dates by district, 1941-61); contains pro forma reports on individuals, policy documents, reports on particular topic, crime, some material on ritual murder, ('medicine murder'), for example Qacha's Nek.

Related material in CO 1048/260, DO 35/7332, DO 119/1406, PREM 8/1309, DO 35/4154-4158.

FCO 141/442: complaints against Chief Theko Makhaola of Qacha's Nek (1956-60); 0.5cm).

FCO 14/445: complaints against Chief Theko Makhaola of Qacha's Nek (1954-55); fraudulent collection of fines, etc.

FCO 141/551-553, 558, 914, 933, 916: Central Intelligence Committee monthly reports, minutes 1962-66; reports on political activity (10cm).

FCO 141/554, 932: Joint Intelligence Committee papers and conferences 1962-65; (3cm).

FCO 141/915: Local intelligence and security reports 1965.

FCO 141/934: Postal and telegraphic interception 1965.

FCO 141/936: Special Branch and Intelligence training courses 1965-66.

FCO 141/944: Joint Intelligence Bureau; British intelligence survey of High Commission Territories 1963-66.

Related material in DO 35/4544-4545 and DO 157/10-11.

Anderson Ganyile

FCO 141/327-329, 332-334: South Africa and Anderson Ganyile case (1961-62); Anderson Ganyile was a Pondo (Transkeian leader) wanted in South Africa and in hiding in Basutoland. He was kidnapped by the South African Police and returned to South Africa. Includes a statement by Ganyile concerning his arrest (6cm).

Related material in CO 1098/332

Judicial, courts and prisons

FCO 141/689: Reorganisation of prisons 1948-64.

FCO 141/691: Consideration of death sentences 1950-55.

FCO 141/712: Execution apparatus and procedure 1936-62.

FCO 141/724: Paramount Chief's Central Appeal Courts 1950-59.

FCO 141/776: admission of lawyers to Basutoland courts 1955-63.

FCO 141/789: reports on court cases with reference to medical officers' evidence 1964.

FCO 141/868: Appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; miscellaneous appeals 1947-49.

FCO 141/866: Basuto courts 1954-61.

FCO 141/967-971: prerogative of mercy; commutation of death sentences/ policy 1965-66.

FCO 141/968: remission of sentences 1965-66.

FCO 141/969: prisoners detained at Her Majesty's pleasure 1966.

FCO 141/970: High Court sessions 1966.

FCO 141/993: Professor Cowen appointment as special adviser to the Basutoland Government on constitutional, legal and governmental matters 1966.

FCO 141/995: senior judicial appointments 1966.

FCO 141/876: correspondence with Chief Justice 1954-60.

FCO 141/885: capital punishment 1948-60.

Policing and crime

FCO 141/355: reports by Deputy Inspector General of Colonial Police (1954-62); primarily establishment issues.

FCO 141/389: control and removal of natives between the High Commission

Territories and South Africa (1954-61); (1cm).

FCO 141/411: conduct and behaviour of certain Chiefs and officials of the Native Administration (1947-50); illegal activities of chiefs, confiscation of cattle, etc. (brief file).

FCO 141/414: unrest in Leribe District; conduct of Chief Motsoene (1936-37); activity against the paramount chief (0.25 cm).

FCO 141/415: appeal to HM The King by the Paramount Chief (1959); concerns ritual murders ('medicine murders') in late 1940s (0.25 cm).

FCO 141/434: proposed dismissal of Chiefs and Headmen convicted of serious crimes(1954-56); notes on some individual crimes, lists of accused and deposition of chiefs.

FCO 141/330: subversive activity (1956-62); (2cm).

FCO 141/713-715: Police conferences 1944-61.

FCO 141/741-742: Police posts at Mapoteng 1948-54.

FCO 141/893-894, 963: Basutoland Mounted Police Force Orders, staff 1964-66.

FCO 141/763-765: Seditious and undesirable publications; legislation and general 1938-57.

FCO 141/510-513: Basutoland: charge against Josiel Lefela (plea, petition, internment), Hlakane Mokhitli and Rapoho Nthanyane internees at Leribe Gaol; contravening sedition

proclamation 1941-44.

FCO 141/499: native agitators; League against Imperialism 1930-47.

FCO 141/563: Proclamation to prohibit conspiracy or incitement to commit offences in other territories 1963.

FCO 141/707: Prohibited Immigrants and undesirables 1951-60.

FCO 141/750: criminal cases in Basuto courts 1954-59.

FCO 141/751: criminal defamation 1964.

FCO 141/761: arms and ammunition; confiscation and destruction policy 1947-59.

FCO 141/777: Contraventions of the diamond laws in Basutoland 1955-60.

FCO 141/783: Individual cases of stock theft; prosecutions 1949-56.

FCO 141/792: thefts at Maseru Railway station 1964.

FCO 141/801: civil disturbances 1956.

FCO 141/802: annual return to the High Commissioner of persons detained without trial 1956-60.

FCO 141/887: subversive organisations 1939-62.

FCO 141/888: secret circulars 1948-49.

FCO 141/889: case history; Mr Ntloelibe, Maseru 1963.

FCO 141/895: Commission of enquiry on Mohau Mokitimi, August 1962-1962-63.

FCO 141/998: Emergency Powers Bill 1966.

FCO 141/1011: periodical despatches on the situation and events in Basutoland 1962-66.

Military and defence

FCO 141/300: complaints from African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (AAPC) (1943-44); concerns the treatment of wives of absent soldiers.

FCO 141/301: compilation of war diaries of colonial units (1942-48); administrative file, rather than war diaries themselves.

FCO 141/302: Maseru Centre, progress report (1941-49); contains reports on recruiting, brief file.

FCO 141/303: affairs of the High Commission Territories groups of the African Pioneer Corps (1944-45); includes reports on the activities of individual companies, particularly in Italy and the Middle East (1cm).

FCO 141/304: grant of commissions to certain African troops (1942-46); mentions and reports on individuals.

FCO 141/305: summary of Captain Vollet's tour of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, August-September 1942 (1942); brief file.

FCO 141/306: issue of rifles to the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (AAPC) (1943-46).

FCO 141/307: purchase of leopard skins for the Basuto Regimental Band (1943-44).

FCO 141/308: command and welfare of African Pioneer Corps troops (1943-46); details of some troops who were lost at sea.

FCO 141/309: general tour reports of the Basuto Corps (1945-46); reports on individual companies and some details of casualties (1cm).

FCO 141/310: report by Major Germond on matters relating to the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (AAPC) in the Middle East (1943); brief file.

FCO 141/311: report on the sinking of SS Erinpura on 1 May 1943 and Basuto casualties (1943); includes statements by survivors (0.5cm).

FCO 141/312: medical standard of recruits for the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (AAPC) (1944); brief file).

FCO 141/313: victory parade celebrations in London, 1946 (1946); includes press cuttings on individuals who attended (0.5cm).

FCO 141/314: statistics of African Pioneer Corps (High Commission Territories) (1944-46).

FCO 141/315: discharge of Private A Bohloko from African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (AAPC) (1944); brief file.

FCO 141/316: units of the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (AAPC); administrative matters (1944-45); brief file.

FCO 141/317: African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps (AAPC); native labour units (1941-43); concerns recruitment and associated problems (2cm).

FCO 141/387: memorandum on special measures taken during the Great War (1914-24); brief file.

FCO 141/548-550: defence schemes 1934-65.

FCO 141/555: Visits of military aid to the civil power 1963-64.

FCO 141/556: Force requirements in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland 1965.

FCO 141/557: Military aid to the civil power 1965.

FCO 141/744: Army and Air Force Acts; revision 1953-54.

FCO 141/778: defence 1949-56.

FCO 141/821: Secret and very secret papers on defence 1909-36.

FCO 141/861: Military Intelligence Officer 1962-63.

FCO 141/939: control of strategic materials 1963-64.

FCO 141/940: threats to peace 1965-66.

FCO 141/941: District Defence Schemes 1963.

FCO 141/943: reinforcement of Basutoland or Bechuanaland by British forces; operations Harlech and Bootleg 1966.

FCO 141/945: UK policy on defence 1966.

Honours

FCO 141/341: honours awarded to Africans; honours index (1934-63); name index – many pages are retained (1cm).

Labour

FCO 141/799: Recruitment of farm labour from Basutoland 1957-60.

FCO 141/469-470: Maseru General Strike, March 1961 and undesirable persons in Basutoland/Trade Unions 1958-61.

FCO 141/840: Trade unions; Basutoland Workers Union (BWU) 1962-63.

FCO 141/791: ILO Manpower Survey report by Dr Elkan 1963-65.

Social conditions and economic conditions/race relations

FCO 141/293: Co-operatives (1946-62); concerns the development of co-operative movement and involvement of the Roman Catholic Church (2.5cm).

FCO 141/323-325: trade unions (1954-62); covers Trade Disputes Bill, strike in 1961, etc (3cm).

FCO 141/378: St Charles Mission, Ngoajane; Father Bechard's complaints 1946-49; complaints about initiation ceremonies (0.5cm).

FCO 141/380: Sir P Ashley-Cooper's criticisms and suggestions (1954); comments on co-operative movement.

FCO 141/381: co-operative stores in Mokhotlong District (1951-52).

FCO 141/382: Maseru strike, 1961; press coverage (1961) (0.5cm).

FCO 141/384: Congress of Trade Unions (0.5cm).

FCO 141/390: minutes on conferences on Basutoland 1942-44 and confidential reports by High Commissioner on Territories (1942-45); development of agriculture, etc (1cm).

FCO 141/393: disturbances at the Leloaleng Technical School near Quthing (1958); brief file.

FCO 141/397: commentary on memorandum presented by the Basutoland Chamber of Commerce (1956-57); interests of traders in context of a possible Act of Union with South Africa (0.5cm).

FCO 141/367: Chamber of Commerce; future of European trading (1960-62); attitudes of European businesses and traders (1cm).

FCO 141/575-577, 981: refugees in Basutoland 1962-66.

FCO 141/471: legislation of a general character affecting race relations in Basutoland 1957-62.

FCO 141/472: transfer of trading licences between different communities in Basutoland; Indian Trading Licences 1949-59.

FCO 141/473: legislation relating to aliens and Indian Passive Resistance Movement 01/01/1946 31/12/1955.

FCO 141/784-785: stock theft; patrols and stock theft drives 1954-60.

FCO 141/745-747: racial discrimination in Basutoland 1947-61.

FCO 141/780: Indians; permits for permanent residence in Basutoland 1947-56.

FCO 141/788: drought and famine situations in all districts of Basutoland 1965.

FCO 141/798: Indian community in Bechuanaland; petition 1959-61.

FCO 141/820: policy and legislation of sale of liquor in Basutoland 1960-62.

FCO 141/851: Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) 01/01/1962 31/12/1965.

FCO 141/862: Maseru Reserve 1955.

FCO 141/863: Economic development and social services in High Commissioner Territories; White Paper 1955-58.

FCO 141/975: development of water resources in Basutoland 1965-66.

FCO 141/976: famine relief 1966.

FCO 141/977: Basutoland Socio-Medical Services Limited (BASOMED) 1963-66.

Missionaries and education

FCO 141/394: missionary activities in Basutoland (1940-61); activities of Roman Catholic and Dutch Reformed Church (2cm).

FCO 141/454: Pius XII Catholic University College (3cm).

External Affairs: Commonwealth/High Commission territories

FCO 141/389: future of the High Commission Territories (1938-61); includes details of a tour by Joint Advisory Committee (2cm).

FCO 141/809-810: Visit of Chief L Jonathan, Prime Minister of Basutoland, to London, August 1965, 1965-66.

FCO 141/979-980: Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan (SCAAP) officers in Basutoland 1966.

FCO 141/982: Membership of Commonwealth and other international associations 1965.

FCO 141/748-749: Visit of Mr A Symon, Assistant Under Secretary of State, Commonwealth Relations Office, to Basutoland, April 1954 and report on financial and economic position 1954.

FCO 141/818: Commonwealth Youth Trust; establishment 1958-62.

FCO 141/949, 1014: Guidance telegrams from Foreign Office and Commonwealth Relations Office to certain missions, January-September 1966 1965-66.

FCO 141/960: Basutoland: Commonwealth Foundation 01/01/1966 31/12/1966.

FCO 141/486: Basutoland: Amendments to Criminal Procedure and Evidence Proclamations of the High Commission Territories 01/01/1943 31/12/1962.

FCO 141/767-768: Visit of Sir Percivale Liesching, High Commissioner, to Basutoland, September 1955.

FCO 141/907-908: HMG's attitude to the future of High Commission territories 1963-65.

FCO 141/787: High Commission Territories representative in London 1962.

FCO 141/1002-1005, 1008-1009: Office of the High Commissioner for Basutoland, Bechuanaland. Protectorate and Swaziland; personal series; correspondence 1962-66.

FCO 141/681, 683: Basutoland: Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland Court of Appeal 1960-63.

FCO 141/956: foreign excursions by Ministers and officials 1962-66.

FCO 141/961, 972: exercise of British Government Representative's

responsibilities regarding establishment matters/finances 1965-66.

FCO 141/983: relations with Rhodesia 1965-66.

FCO 141/987, 989, 1010: office of the British Government Representative private series; correspondence/financial responsibilities 1966.

FCO 141/988: visit of Ministry of Overseas Development Economic Mission to Basutoland, October 1965 01/01/1965 31/12/1966.

FCO 141/997: British Government Representative office security 1965-66.

FCO 141/999: consular representation in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland 1963-66.

FCO 141/1021: British Government Representative/British High Commissioner; offices and residential accommodation 1964-65.

External affairs: Relations with South Africa

FCO 141/319: report by Owen Lewis on his visit to the Middle East and the discussions at the African Manpower Conference, August 1942 (1942).

FCO 141/321: South Africa becoming a Republic outside the Commonwealth; position of the Protectorates (1961-62); perceptions of likely effects for Basutoland of South Africa secession from the Commonwealth (2cm).

- FCO 141/322: relations with South Africa (1961-1962); (2cm).
- FCO 141/323: future relations with Republic of South Africa (1962); (2cm).
- FCO 141/331: opposition to the appointment of South African Mr A G T Chaplin as Resident Commissioner (1956); (1.5cm).
- FCO 141/344: future of the High Commission Territories (1958-63); discusses the possibility of incorporation into South Africa (2cm).
- FCO 141/345: proposed transfer of the government of the High Commission Territories to the Union of South Africa (1934-38) (2cm).
- FCO 141/346: proposed transfer of the government of High Commission Territories to the Union of South Africa (1938-42); (1cm).
- FCO 141/347: notes on various aspects of the administration of the High Commission Territories likely to arise in connection with transfer (1949-54); reports on likely problems of incorporation into South African in the light of the election of the Nationalist Party in 1948 (1.5 cm).
- FCO 141/348-350: proposed transfer of the government of the High Commission Territories to the Union of South Africa (1949-54); includes details of opposition from Basuto African Congress, etc (4cm).
- FCO 141/383: visit by the Secretary of State to Basutoland, 3-5 February 1951 (1951); on claims by Union of South Africa to the High Commission Territories (0.5cm).
- FCO 141/385: movement of persons between South African and the High Commission Territories (1962); (0.5cm).
- FCO 141/440: United Nations Human Rights Commission (1947-60); implications of United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.
- FCO 141/441: position of Basutoland in relation to Union of South Africa (1909-10); (1cm).
- FCO 141/455: High Commission Territories relations with Ghana (1961) (0.25 cm).
- FCO 141/456: delegation to the USA (1961-62).
- FCO 141/477-478: Fugitive Offenders procedure between the High Commission Territories and the Republic of South Africa 01/01/1960 1961-62.
- FCO 141/479: Basutoland: banishment of Mrs E Mafekeng, president of the African Food and Canning Workers 1959-62 31/12/1962.
- FCO 141/485: Hot pursuit by Basutoland Mounted Police Force orders and South African Police 1942-62.
- FCO 141/755: Repatriation of undesirable Basuto from the Union of South Africa 1954.
- FCO 141/757: Incorporation of the High Commission Territories into the Union of South Africa 1949-56.

FCO 141/786: Economic, financial and political situation in the Republic of South Africa 1963-65.

FCO 141/800: Complaints against South African Police 1958-59.

FCO 141/803-805: Movement of persons between Republic of South Africa and High Commission Territories 1962-63.

FCO 141/806-807: South African Police 1963-65.

FCO 141/808 :Transit through Republic of South Africa 1965.

FCO 141/827: Basuto labour in Union of South Africa 1960-61.

FCO 141/871-872: Proposed grant by South African Government of assistance towards anti-soil erosion measures in Basutoland 1935-36.

FCO 141/935: Visits of VIPs to South Africa; security protection 1965-66.

FCO 141/946: Relations between Basutoland and Republic of South Africa 1964-66.

FCO 141/947: British Embassy despatches on situation in Republic of South Africa 1965-66.

FCO 141/937: South Africa police activity and liaison in Basutoland 1962-65.

FCO 141/950: Joint Boundary Commission 1964-65.

FCO 141/953: Fugitive Offenders legislation; and Extradition Treaty with Republic of South Africa 1965-66.

FCO 141/474-476: Fugitive Offenders and Fugitive Offenders Act, 1881 1956-57.

FCO 141/955: Rand Agency; Labour Section of Consulate-General in Johannesburg 1965-66.

FCO 141/964: Treaties and conventions; excluding arrangements with South Africa 1966.

FCO 141/965: Employment of South Africans in High Commission Territories 1962-66.

FCO 141/1000: British Council in Basutoland 1962-66.

FCO 141/1001: Customs Agreement 1965-66.

FCO 141/1012: Alleged assault on Dr S P Makotoko by the South African police 1963-66.

External affairs: United Nations

FCO 141/697-704: United Nations Organisation; Reports on proceedings resulting from transmissions under Article 73(E) of United Nations Charter/ annual transmissions of information on conditions in non self-governing territories 1952-63.

FCO 141/781: United Nations General Assembly; Tenth Session, New York 19 September-20 December 1955 1956-58.

FCO 141/790: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO); Educational Survey Mission report 1964-65.

FCO 141/811: Visit of United Nations experts to High Commission Territories Committee of 24 (Committee on Decolonisation) 1964-65.

FCO 141/812-815, 984: United Nations Committee of 24 and 17 (Committee on Decolonisation) and Fourth Committee 1962-66.

FCO 141/824: United Nations Conferences 1962-66.

FCO 141/832: Political information for the United Nations 1962.

FCO 141/869: Statistics for United Nations Organisation 1948.

FCO 141/957: General Assembly 1962-66.

FCO 141/958: United Nations personnel in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland 1965-66.

FCO 141/959: United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa 1966.

External affairs: miscellaneous and general

FCO 141/465: Mr D Sandy's forged letter on British policy in Central Africa 1961-62.

FCO 141/733: developments in International Organisations 1958-64.

FCO 141/766: visits of research workers to Basutoland 1950-61.

FCO 141/793: International Red Locust Control Service (IRLCS) 1964.

FCO 141/823: association of European Common Market; negotiations 1962.

FCO 141/830: Report on service with overseas governments 1961.

FCO 141/831: British Council in Basutoland 1961-62.

FCO 141/841-842: goodwill visits; Gordon Band and football team, other official visits 1963-65.

FCO 141/852: British Nationality; regulations; cases 1962-65.

FCO 141/910: non diplomatic official visits 1965-66.

FCO 141/912: Diplomatic Wireless Service 1962-67.

FCO 141/948: diplomatic representation in London and elsewhere abroad 1965-66.

FCO 141/951: guidance memoranda for transmission to Basutoland Government 1966.

FCO 141/952: diplomatic visits to Basutoland 1965-66.

FCO 141/928, 1013: Basuto students abroad under Government auspices/non-official in communist countries 1962-66.

FCO 141/1015: voluntary and graduate service overseas 1965-66.

FCO 141/1016: external aid and assistance 1965-66.

Africanisation of the Government Service

FCO 141/447-448: selection and training of Basuto for the Civil Service (1955-61); includes name lists of graduates working on Basutoland (1.5cm).

FCO 141/449-450: Africanisation of the Government Service (1955-61); (1.5cm).

FCO 141/451-453: Africanisation of the Government Service; junior service staffing (1955); (1.5cm).

FCO 141/457: Africanisation Public Service Conference, London, 1-10 March 1959-61.

Administration

FCO 141/377: Expatriate Civil Service Association, Maseru (1961-62); concerns the command paper 'Service with Overseas Governments' (1cm).

FCO 141/391: articles in 'native' newspapers (1944-61); (0.5cm).

FCO 141/392: subversive publications (1961-62); on communist literature, includes lists of banned books.

FCO 141/398: organisation, procedure and staff of the Executive Council (0.5cm); subsequent to establishment of Executive Council.

FCO 141/399: Basutoland: Order of Precedence (1960-62).

FCO 141/413: communications between District Commissioners and the Paramount Chief (1947-58); on the nature of this correspondence (brief file).

FCO 141/648: Political activities of Civil Servants 1953-61.

FCO 141/690: Relations between administrative and departmental officers 1950-63.

FCO 141/696: Issue of testimonials to officials 1948-55.

FCO 141/705: Transmission of mail overseas 1953-61.

FCO 141/706 : Mental Asylum for High Commission Territories 1953-54.

FCO 141/710-711: Basutoland: establishment of administrative centre in the mountains 1950-60.

FCO 141/721: Ownership of land and property by Government Servants 1954-59.

FCO 141/722: Cooperative Society staffing 1953-57.

FCO 141/732: Basutoland Council 01/01/1952-56.

FCO 141/752-753, 825: Rand Agencies, staff and consular work 1940-62.

FCO 141/758-759: Secretariat re-organisation and staffing 1947-58.

FCO 141/762: Approval of manuscripts 1955-63.

FCO 141/794: relative seniority of officers (order of precedence) 1956-60.

FCO 141/795: Mafeteng District Council; tractor scheme 1964.

FCO 141/796: development of local councils; Bechuanaland Protectorate 1960.

FCO 141/797: general complaints; Africans 1957-61.

FCO 141/816: Entry and Residence Proclamation, 1958 1959-62.

FCO 141/819: District Administration Organisation 1953-62.

FCO 141/826: The College of Chiefs Bill (Power and Privileges) Bill 1960-61.

FCO 141/829, 833: Legislative Council; general 1961-64.

FCO 141/835: Public Service Commission Regulation and Instructions 1962.

FCO 141/836: President of the Legislative Council 1962-64.

FCO 141/837: Corporal punishment 1965.

FCO 141/838: Training Committee 1963-64.

FCO 141/853: passports, visas and immigration matters 1962-64.

FCO 141/864-865: public relations; Information Service 1955-62.

FCO 141/867: Basutoland National Council 1956-60.

FCO 141/875, 880-883: Entry and Residence Proclamation 1958 secret letter to

Mr Scrivenor/draft/administration 1958-62.

FCO 141/884: Maseru Subordinate Council 1960-62.

FCO 141/909: correspondence transmitted by Ministry of Local Government 1966.

FCO 141/911: destruction, transfer and archiving of files 1965-66.

FCO 141/913, 198: Privy Council minutes/correspondence 1965-66.

FCO 141/919-920: Independence arrangements 1965-66.

FCO 141/962: Public Service Commission 1963-66.

FCO 141/966: Hutton Report on Teachers Salaries 1965-66.

FCO 141/973: report of Mr V F Ireland, adviser of financial orders and stores regulations 1965.

FCO 141/974: establishment of broadcasting system 1965-66.

FCO 141/978: publicity and press interviews 1962-66.

FCO 141/985: Independence celebrations 1966.

FCO 141/986: review of safe keys and combinations 1965-66.

FCO 141/990: University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland 1965-66.

FCO 141/991: Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund 1966.

FCO 141/992: General Compensation Schemes for designated and non-designated officers 1965-66.

FCO 141/994: Public Officers Agreement 1966.

FCO 141/996: currency; commemorative coins 1966.

FCO 141/1020: annual return of all accountable documents 1963-65.

Other

FCO 141/743: Control of uranium 1945-60.

FCO 141/754: Associations of native herbalists 1954-56.

FCO 141/769: The Co-operative for American Remittances to Everywhere Inc (CARE) 1954-63.

FCO 141/828: Basutoland National Stadium; boxing 1960-62.

FCO 141/870: Caledon river; general 1959-62.

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Cameroon

FCO 141/1595 to 141/1694

In 1916, Britain and France conquered Cameroons, which was at that time a German colony. After the First World War, Cameroons was divided and assigned to Britain and France under League of Nations mandates. French Cameroons became independent in 1960. British Cameroons was administered through Nigeria, which became independent in October 1960. French Cameroons also gained independence as the Republic of Cameroun during 1960.

In February 1961, a plebiscite was held in British Cameroons to decide if it should become part of Nigeria or the new Republic of Cameroun. As a result, Northern Cameroon became part of the Federation of Nigeria on 1 June 1961. Southern Cameroon joined the Republic of Cameroun on 1 October 1961.

Most of the files in the collection date from 1959-61 and concern

the plebiscite and subsequent arrangements.

These records complement a large number of files already held by The National Archives in CO 554, CO 656, CO 852, CO 936, FO 371, DO 35 and DO 117

Plebiscite in Southern and Northern Cameroons

These records relate to the period between the general election in January 1959 and the plebiscite of February 1961 to decide on the future of the territory. They include discussion of political developments and possible alternatives and outcomes for the plebiscite.

Related material is in CO 554/1746-1757, 2340-2352, etc and FO 371/154687-154700, 160891

FCO 141/1595, 1597-1598: future administration of the Northern Cameroons and proposed timetable for Plebiscites in Northern and Southern Cameroons 1959: notes and memoranda on political and constitutional development, correspondence with UK Mission, New York, (8cm).

FCO 141/1605: Northern Cameroons Trust Territory Plebiscite 1959; (1.5cm).

FCO 141/1621: the future and separation of Southern Cameroons 1959; correspondence and reports following 1959 election (2cm).

FCO 141/1624: The Mamfe conference, 10-11 August, 1959; South Cameroons plebiscite 1959; report and correspondence (2cm).

FCO 141/1643: administration of the Plebiscite in Northern and Southern Cameroons 1958-59; correspondence on arrangements, notes of meetings (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1654: forthcoming Plebiscites in Northern and Southern Cameroons 1961; notes and correspondence on significance of possible outcome (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1662-1663: constitutional position of Southern Cameroons after Plebiscite 1960-61; correspondence, reports, memoranda (5cm).

FCO 141/1674: Southern Cameroons Plebiscite 1959-60; correspondence relating to arrangements, possible alternative offered, etc (2cm).

FCO 141/1675: representations regarding the result of the Southern Cameroons Plebiscite 1961; representations of those opposed to unification with Republic of Cameroun (1cm).

Southern Cameroons

These records concern the administration of the outcome of the plebiscite and the decision to join the Republic of Cameroun

FCO 141/1601: financial arrangements on separation of Southern Cameroons 1960-61; correspondence and reports (1.5cm).

FCO 141/1609: income tax and emoluments of the Commissioner of the Southern Cameroons 1959-61 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1613, 1613, 1622: South Cameroons public service 1960-61 (3.5cm).

FCO 141/1625: immigration and emigration of aliens in Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1635: repatriation of Southern Cameroonians 1960 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1641: transitional arrangements to facilitate assimilation into trade relations of United Cameroons after 1 October 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1645: personal security measures of expatriates and commercial community in Southern Cameroons 1961 (1cm).

FCO 141/1656: separation of Southern Cameroon from the Federation of Nigeria; arrangements concerning Nigeria police 1960-61 (1cm).

FCO 141/1664, 1665, 1667-1673: Southern Cameroons Plebiscite: implementation post-plebiscite, security arrangements, currency problems, political parties 1960-61 (14cm).

FCO 141/1678: French consular activities in Southern Cameroons after 30 September 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1679: establishment of Nigerian Commission in Southern Cameroon 1960-61 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1692: arrangements for civilians to leave Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1693: press reports on Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1640: transmission of British Information Services material after the accession of Southern Cameroon to Republic of Cameroun by British Embassy at Yaoundé, Cameroun 1961 (few pages only).

Constitutional development in Southern Cameroons

FCO 141/1600, 1604, 1617: Constitutional Conferences 1955-56 (6cm).

FCO 141/1642: Constitutional proposals for unification and transfer of sovereignty 1961 (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1646: draft Instruments regarding The Southern Cameroons (Constitution) Order in Council 1960 1960-61 (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1657-1659: constitutional position of the Southern Cameroons if electing to become a part of the Federation of Nigeria 1955-61; correspondence and reports in period before to 1961 plebiscite (7cm).

Northern Cameroons

FCO 141/1610: future of Northern Cameroons under British Trusteeship 1958-59; considerations leading to plebiscite and possible incorporation into Nigeria (2cm).

Intelligence, security and defence

FCO 141/1608: Tombel massacre; killing of 12 Cameroons Development Corporation labourers 1961; reports of incident (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1619: defence of Southern Cameroons 1960-61; correspondence and reports on security; (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1633: fugitive offenders; Anglo-Israeli and Anglo-German extradition agreements 1960 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/1683: Southern Cameroons Joint Intelligence Committee reports 1959-61; political reports on subversion, communism, labour, security (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1686: diplomatic representative in Buea, Southern Cameroons 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1687: annual report to the United Nations, 1960 1960 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1638: apprenticeships and applications to join Royal Air Force 1958-61 (few pages only).

Government/administration

FCO 141/1606: suzerainty of clan chiefs; Bamenda Province 1944-54 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1612: administration of the Cameroons Province 1940-49; includes intelligence reports of West Africa Political Intelligence Centre (1.5cm).

FCO 141/1615: the Commission of Inquiry into the conduct of some members of the House of Assembly 1960; case of bribery for political allegiance (2cm).

FCO 141/1626: under UK administration and after separation from Nigeria 1959-60 (2cm).

FCO 141/1627: correspondence concerning individuals; deaths, estate claims, property, consular assistance, marriage claims 1954-61 (2cm).

FCO 141/1628: Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service appointments competition 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1636: inauguration of Dr N Azikiwe as Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria 1960 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/1637: Pensions Bill; draft 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1651: correspondence with Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Yaoundé 1960-61 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/1660: personal correspondence between Governor General of the Federation of Nigeria, Sir James Robertson and Commissioner of the Cameroons, Mr J O Field 1955-60; includes series of 'secret and personal' reports by Field (2.5cm).

FCO 141/1676: development of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service 1956-60 (2cm).

FCO 141/1682: biographical notes on Ministers for the Colonial Office 1958-60; by individual, John Foncha, etc (1cm).

External/Foreign Relations

FCO 141/1599: annual review of the Republic of Cameroon, 1960 and summaries of Yaoundé despatches 1961; political intelligence reports (2cm).

FCO 141/1602: Nigeria fortnightly summaries and a report on the celebration of Nigerian Independence and the visit of Her Highness Princess Alexandra 1960-61; intelligence reports on political and economic developments (2cm).

FCO 141/1614: visit of Mr Macmillan, Prime Minister of the UK, to Nigeria, 11-18 January 1960 1959 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1618: United Nations General Assembly; resumed Thirteenth Session report on the Fourth Committee, 20 February-13 March 1959 1959; concerns proposed plebiscite in Southern Cameroons (1cm).

FCO 141/1620: report on the UK Aid Mission to the Somali Republic 1961; report on independence (1cm).

FCO 141/1681: establishment of American Consulate General in Southern Cameroons 1960-61 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1685: external affairs of the Republic of Cameroons 1960-61; reports of incidents on border with Cameroun Republic (2cm).

FCO 141/1632: plight of overseas distressed Cameroonians 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1652: congratulatory message to Sierra Leone on its independence 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1653: disallowing French ships from using Nigerian ports and transit rights 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1655: petitions to the United Nations against the continued predominance of Nigerians in public service in Northern Cameroon 1960-61 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1666: annual report to the United Nations 1959 1959-61; correspondence (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1671: British Consulate, Duala and British Ambassador Yaoundé despatches to High Commissioner 1955-60 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1677: Cameroonian representation in London 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1680: Nigeria fortnightly summary and reports from UK High Commissioner at Lagos 1961; political reports (1cm).

Economic development/statistics

FCO 141/1661, 1694: participation of Colonial Development Corporation in Cameroons Development Corporation 1957-60 (3cm).

FCO 141/1688-1689: statistical appendices for the annual report to the United Nations, 1959 and 1960 1960-61; correspondence and draft tables (1cm).

FCO 141/1690-1691: departmental report of statistical returns for Cameroons to Trusteeship Council, 1955, 1956-59; draft tables reply to Trusteeship questionnaire (4cm).

Nationality/passports/immigration

FCO 141/1607: passport and citizenship questions about Cameroons separation 1960 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1623: British passport application by Mr R Dibonge 1961 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1629, 1684: application for naturalisation as a citizen of the UK by Mr J van Biesen 1958-61 (1cm).

FCO 141/1630: enquiry about visas by Dr E M Endeley 1960.

FCO 141/1634: repatriation of non Cameroonians 1960-61 (few pages only).

FCO 141/1648-1650: issue and renewals of passports 1956-61; correspondence on individual cases (8cm).

FCO 141/1639: nationality and immigration matters 1960-61; individual visa applications (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1644: immigration formalities for travel between South Cameroons and the Cameroun Republic 1961 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/1647: British Nationality Act, 1948 and 1958 1948-58 (1cm).

Other

FCO 141/1603: plantations manuscripts management; arrangements for German nationals 1939-40; correspondence of Plantations Department (4cm).

FCO 141/1611: correspondence regarding Basel Mission Trading Company at Rio Del Rey 1922-24; correspondence relating to sequestration (1cm).

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Ceylon

FCO 141/1695 to 141/2011

Dutch possessions in Ceylon were occupied by the army of the British East India Company from 1796. In 1802 Ceylon became a crown colony and the interior had been conquered by 1815. In 1948 Ceylon gained its independence. The British governors of Ceylon from 1918 to 1948 were: Sir William Manning (1918-25), Sir Hugh Clifford (1925-27), Sir Herbert Stanley (1927-31), Sir Graeme Thomson (1931-33), Sir Reginald Stubbs (1933-37), Sir Andrew Caldecott (1937-44) and Sir Henry Moore (1944-48).

Note that the records released here do not have file subject descriptions, but are arranged broadly chronologically.

Incoming confidential despatches 1835-1861, 1870-1937

FCO 141/1695-1702, 1706, 1708-1865, 1867-2011: (treasury-tagged files).

These files consist of correspondence from the Colonial Office arranged in broadly chronological order. All the material for 1835-61 will be found in one file: FCO 141/1702. From 1879 onwards each file generally contains a few months worth of correspondence. The earliest correspondence is largely handwritten, from the Secretary of State to the Governor on a range of subjects including appointments, forwarded correspondence and other matters classified confidential at the time, although some printed circulars are included. From the 1880s the proportion of confidential prints and printed circulars increases, as does the enclosure of correspondence within dockets with handwritten comments. From the early twentieth century typed copies of correspondence to the Colonial Office are occasionally included. By the early 1930s the handwritten comments have largely disappeared and the correspondence is increasingly printed and routine, but varied in its subject matter for example covering appointments, Colonial Office circulars and general economic and financial issues. Note that the files are not in a strict chronological run, there are overlaps amongst files, and chronological gaps within them, particularly during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The front of each file gives, in pencil, more detail of the particular months covered within that particular file.

Much of this material will be duplicated or partly duplicated in CO 48 (Original correspondence from or about Ceylon), CO 55 (Entry books of correspondence to Ceylon - up to 1872 only), CO 854 (Colonial Office circulars), CO 882 (Colonial Office confidential print, Eastern series).

Register of confidential despatches 1896-1897

FCO 141/1866: (1/2cm, board bound exercise book).

The book consists of four pages of a hand-written register of incoming confidential despatches from the Colonial Office for the year 1896 with one entry for 1897. Thereafter the register is empty. The register includes date of sending, date of receipt, and a short (c.5-15 word) summary of contents. Loose within this volume is a torn page from some form of index (perhaps to a letter book of correspondence), covering the letter K. This index fragment gives names of people and places beginning with that letter and a page number. The location or survival of the rest of this index or the records to which it refers is not known.

Colonial Office circulars 1886-1887

FCO 141/1703-1705, 1707: (5cm in total, treasury tagged files)

These overlapping files consist of Colonial Office circulars from an 18 month period. After this point circulars can be found in the main run of incoming confidential despatches.

Probably duplicates material in CO 854 (Colonial Office circulars).

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Cyprus

FCO 141/2484-2493, 2502-2508, 2548-2553, 2560-2572, 2586-2590, 2607-2627, 2639-2676, 2686-2709, 2716-2729, 2740-2749, 4255-4437, 4547-4620, 4633-4775

Formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, Cyprus was handed over to Britain by Turkey for administrative purposes in 1878 though not formally ceded. Responsibility for Cyprus affairs was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office on 6 December 1880. Following the outbreak of the First World War, and the decision of the Ottoman Empire to join the war on the side of the Central Powers, Cyprus was annexed to the British crown. The annexation was recognised by both Turkey and Greece under the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and in 1925 Cyprus became a British Crown Colony. Cyprus became an independent republic on 16 August 1960 and a member of the Commonwealth on 13 March 1961.

The second tranche of records relating to the administration of Cyprus covers the years 1936 – 1960. The records are arranged below within subject areas based on the non-standard registration system used within the Commissioner's and Governor's private office. There are also records created by the Attorney General, the Commissioner Nicosia, the Financial Secretary, the Director of Medical Services, the Director of Civil Aviation and the Department of Water Development. The records complement material in record series CO 67.

The files below have been selected from the full run of releases for July 2012.

Personalities: Archbishop Makarios and Colonel Georgios Grivas.

- FCO 141/4313: intelligence organisation and operations, including a biographical note on Colonel Georgios Grivas, 1955-57.
- FCO 141/4352: reports on security operations in Troodos area in June 1956 leading to capture of some members of Colonel Georgios Grivas headquarters staff and some personal belongings of Colonel Georgios Grivas including diaries, 1956.
- FCO 141/4353: telegrams and correspondence about captured Colonel Georgios Grivas diaries, 1956.
- FCO 141/4355: translation of Archbishop Makarios Black Book on AKEL (Anorthotiko Komma Ergazomenou Laou), 1959.
- FCO 141/4385: deportation of Archbishop Makarios, Bishop Kyprianos of Kyrenia, Mr Polycarpos Stylianos Ioannides and Mr Papastarvos Papa-Agathangelou, including signed deportation orders dated 9 March 1956 and correspondence on their release in March 1957.

FCO 141/4386: security arrangements for detention of Archbishop Makarios and his colleagues, 1956–57.

FCO 141/4387: correspondence about and interviews with Archbishop Makarios, 1956–58.

FCO 141/4421: proposals for mounting political counter offensive against Archbishop Makarios, 1957.

Sovereign Base Areas

FCO 141/4364-4384: A series of 20 files (0.5 metres) relating to the administration, jurisdiction and boundaries of the Sovereign Base Areas. These files also discuss the potential use of Nicosia airport, development of training facilities, infrastructure requirements (roads, water etc) and include maps, telegrams and papers produced by the British Defence Coordinating Committee (Middle East), the Cabinet Cyprus (Official) Committee and the Cyprus Working Party. Note: pieces 4376 and 4378 are retained.

Detainees and detention camps, including allegations against treatment of detainees

FCO 141/4310: allegations of ill treatment of prisoners and detainees, 1956–57.

FCO 141/4321: directions and instructions regarding detainees, 1955–57.

FCO 141/4322: treatment of detainees and welfare of detainees' families, 1956.

FCO 141/4336: proposals for removal of some detainees to Kenya and for exile to Greece of some student detainees, 1955–58.

FCO 141/4339: arrangements for visits to detention camps, including visits of Governor, UK Members of Parliament and representatives of International Red Cross, 1957–58.

FCO 141/4340-4341: detainees and prisoners; consideration of individual cases especially of female detainees, 1957–59.

FCO 141/4342: minutes and memoranda on detention policy including proscription of TMT, Turkish resistance organisation, and detention of Turkish Cypriots, 1957–59.

FCO 141/4556: guidance to District Committees on the treatment of detainees and instructions on discipline in detention camps, 1958.

FCO 141/4559-4562: construction, staffing and security arrangements of detention camps, 1958–59.

FCO 141/4564, 4565, 4567: policy on detention and release of detainees, 1958–59.

General files: allegations of ill-treatment by security forces

FCO 141/4361: consideration of complaints made by members of Bar Council of ill treatment by members of Security Forces, 1957.

FCO 141/4390: complaints against Security Forces, 1956-59.

FCO 141/4429: allegations made by a Greek Cypriot, Miss Vasso Nicola Loizidou of ill treatment by police, 1957.

Special Investigations Group: allegations of ill-treatment by security forces

FCO 141/4633-4655: 23 case files (20 cm thick in total) of investigations by the SIG into complaints against Security Forces, 1958-59. Almost all relate to allegations of injury, beatings or theft made by Greek Cypriots. Generally include interviews with witnesses and complainants, accounts of visits to the place of complaint, newspapers cuttings, submissions by nationalist groups, reports by the SIG and occasionally photographs. FCO 141/4641 covers the inquest into the deaths of two Greek Cypriots, shot by security forces in Acheritou, Famagusta; includes coroner's report. FCO 141/4653 relates to allegations against the security forces following disturbances after an attack on two wives of British army soldiers (one of whom died).

Special reports and background notes

FCO 141/4768-4769: Sir John Harding's memorandum on Cyprus Policy (10 cm thick in total); in 11 parts plus appendices.

FCO 141/4770, 4771: two typed memoranda in dockets. FCO 141/4771 is 'the Cyprus Problem: basic facts and background notes with a selection of recommended reading' consisting of 13 parts and followed by various printed pamphlets. FCO 141/4770 is similar but focussing on the politics of Archbishop Makarios.

Government House Files

Religious Affairs

FCO, 141/ 2484–2491: appointments to the post of Archbishop of Cyprus, 1937–1940.

FCO, 141/2587: memorandum on the political aspects of the Archiepiscopal vacancy in Cyprus, 1938-39.

FCO, 141/2589–2590: court proceedings against Archiepiscopal Locum Tenens, 1938–40.

FCO, 141/ 2617: Bishop of Kyrenia (later Archbishop of Cyprus), 1938–1950.

FCO, 141/ 2618: activities of Jews in Cyprus, 1938–52.

FCO, 141/ 2639-2642: Church affairs –files covering attitude of the Church towards the war, petition for the repeal of 1937 Church Laws, Archiepiscopal elections, attitude of Archiepiscopal Locum Tenens to the war respectively 1939–47.

FCO 141/2701: the election of an Archbishop to Cyprus, 1940–41.

FCO 141/4261, 4265, 4349: correspondence with Archbishop of Canterbury about Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus, the question of election of Archbishops and Greek Orthodox Church members 1937-56.

FCO 141/4262, 4263: conversation between British representatives at Athens and Cairo and Bishop of Trebizond about Archiepiscopal vacancies, 1937–40.

FCO 141/4264: correspondence with Permanent Under Secretary, Colonial Office, about Cyprus Greek Orthodox Church affairs, 1938.

Administration

FCO 141/2549: reconstitution of the Advisory Council, 1943–48.

FCO 141/2550: reconstitution of District Councils (Mejlis Idare), 1936–44.

FCO 141/2620-2625: monthly reports from Commissioners, 1939.

FCO 141/4331: administration of ports and Port Development Schemes, 1956–57.

Labour Relations

FCO 141/2607–2612: labour unrest; Strike of 1944 and commission of enquiry into wages, 1938–44.

FCO 141/2613, 2702, 2724: files on trade unions, 1938–46.

Defence

FCO 141/4266-4267: defence policy, 1940–41.

FCO 141/4268: minutes of Cyprus Defence Committee, 1940–41.

FCO 141/4269: plans for evacuation of Government, 1941.

FCO 141/4270: Letters Patent of 1925 and 1931, Royal Instructions of 1925 and Dormant Commissions of 1930 and 1949.

FCO 141/4271: question of introducing Conscription, 1941–42.

FCO 141/4272: Cyprus Defence, Order in Council of 12 June 1941.

FCO 141/4273: plans for Government action in event of invasion, 1941–43.

FCO 141/4274: plans for setting up a Government Operational Headquarters, 1942.

FCO 141/4275: appointment of Lieutenant Colonel S Foster-Sutton, former Attorney General, to command Cyprus Volunteer Force, 1942–43.

FCO 141/4276: proposal for Constitutional changes, 1942–43.

FCO 141/4277: position of Civil Government of Cyprus in the event of invasion, 1943.

FCO 141/4284: future of Cyprus Regiment, 1949–50.

FCO 141/4285: intelligence reports from Defence Security Officer, 1949–52.

FCO 141/4286: question of inclusion of Cyprus within NATO area and of facilities for USA, 1951.

Political Affairs

FCO 141/4278-4280: Enosis issue; general papers, 1947–55.

FCO 141/4281: memorandum on the origin and activities of KEK (Kypriakon Ethnikon Komma – Cyprus National Party), 1949.

FCO 141/4282: measures taken against AKEL (Anorthotiko Komma

Ergazomenou Laou), 1955–59.

FCO 141/4283: proscription of PEKA (Politiki Epitrope Kypriakou Agonos), 1956.

FCO 141/4299-4303, 4356-4358: Constitutional proposals/Lord Radcliffe's report and proposals, 1955–59.

FCO 141/4363: minutes and correspondence on proposals for partition, 1957-58.

FCO 141/4369: future of Wolseley Barracks, 1959.

FCO 141/4370: policy and tactics to be followed in London Committee on British Defence requirements, 1959.

FCO 141/4371: proposals regarding administration of Nicosia airport, 1959–60.

FCO 141/4377: constitutional arrangements for bringing Republic of Cyprus into being, 1959–60.

FCO 141/4378: papers on British Defence requirements prepared for discussions in London Committee, 1959–60.

FCO 141/4413-4419: question of future policy arising out of United Nations resolution calling for solution of Cyprus problem, 1957.

Internal Security

FCO 141/4304: legal proceedings; reduction of sentences for persons disclosing information after arrest, 1955–56.

FCO 141/4305: political repercussions on execution of Michael Savva Karaolides, 1956.

FCO 141/4306: extension of death penalty under emergency regulations to cover certain terrorist activities, and returns of capital cases, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4307: burning down of British Institute, 17 September 1955.

FCO 141/4308: internal security measures, 1955–57.

FCO 141/4309: precautions against disturbances at anniversary celebrations, 1955–58.

FCO 141/4314: recruitment of interrogators for Security Forces, 1956–57.

FCO 141/4315: activities of Greek Consulate General, 1955–57.

FCO 141/4316-17: measures to control arms smuggling, 1955–59.

FCO 141/4318: port and travel control security measures, 1958–60.

FCO 141/4319: report of the port control committee, 1959.

FCO 141/4320: Emergency Regulations, 1955–57.

FCO 141/4323: legislation to outlaw terrorists, 1956.

FCO 141/4324: relaxation of Emergency Measures, 1956.

FCO 141/4325: repercussions from detention of Mr Michael Pissas, Secretary General of Cyprus Workers Confederation, 1956–57.

FCO 141/4326: removal of certain prisoners from Cyprus to UK under Colonial Prisoners Removal Act, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4327: Registration of the Population (Law Number 31 of 1957) and Issue of Identity Cards, 1955–57.

FCO 141/4337-4338: 01/01/1956, 31/12/1957 proposals for release and rehabilitation of some detainees, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4343: arrangements for Television Service and inauguration of service on 15 October 1957.

FCO 141/4344: question of improving relations between security service and civil population including personal message from Governor, Sir J Harding, to Security Forces, 1956.

FCO 141/4345-4346: inter communal disturbances and arrangements to counter them, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4347: report on the communal disturbances in Nicosia, 19-23 January 1957.

FCO 141/4348: bomb incident at Government House, 21 March 1956.

FCO 141/4354: correspondence about the activities of Dr Themistocles Dervis, Mayor of Nicosia, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4359: memorandum to Secretary of State for the Colonies setting out Sir John Harding's views on the resources required for the conduct of anti terrorist campaign, 1956.

FCO 141/4360: representations by Cyprus Bar Council against Emergency Regulations and their application, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4412: correspondence between the Governor and the Secretary of State on royal prerogative of mercy; Governor's views on death sentences and especially that on Nicos Sampson Georghiades, 1957.

FCO 141/4422: directive on role of Security Forces April 1957, preparations against resumption of EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston) violence and communal relations, 1957.

FCO 141/4423: rebuttal of allegations of provocation of EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston) by Cyprus Government and Security Forces, 1957.

FCO 141/4424-25: measures against possible resumption of violence by EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston), 1957–59.

FCO 141/4426: reports of incidents, 1957–58.

FCO 141/4427: reports of incidents including Turkish demonstrations, 1958.

FCO 141/4428: measures against passive resistance and EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston) intimidation, 1958–59.

FCO 141/4430-4434: death sentences Christos Constandinou, Andreas Yiacomis, Djemal Hussein, Georghios Constantinou, Costas Constantinides and Yiannakis Athanasiou, 1958–59.

FCO 141/4557: application for curfew policy including allegations of discrimination in favour of Turkish Cypriots, 1958.

FCO 141/4558: arrangements for burial of terrorists executed in the central prison Nicosia, 1958.

FCO 141/4563: measures to control import of chemicals for manufacture of explosives, 1958–59.

FCO 141/4566: arrangements for return of confiscated shot guns and reintroduction of game shooting, 1959.

Attorney General's files

FCO 141/4577: procedure on death sentences and executions, 1940–56.

FCO 141/4578: trial of service personnel for civil offences, 1948–60.

FCO 141/4579: prosecutions for sedition in connection with Enosis.

FCO 141/4580-4586: seditious sermons and speeches; various senior Greek Orthodox churchmen, 1954-55.

FCO 141/4585: seditious publications in the press, 1955–58.

FCO 141/4586: legislation to deal with proceedings against members of HM Forces and Police Forces, 1955–56.

FCO 141/4587: setting up of Special Courts to deal with security offences (Special Courts Law 1955).

FCO 141/4588: procedure to be followed by Special Courts, 1955–58.

FCO 141/4589: appointment of Judges and other staff to Special Courts, 1957–59.

FCO 141/4598-4600: surrender and amnesty terms; question of release of

terrorists imprisoned in Cyprus and UK, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4603: trial and sentence to death; Nicos Sampson Georghiades for carrying and discharging arms, 1957.

FCO 141/4604: appeal to Privy Council by Nicos Georghiades, 1957.

FCO 141/4610-4611, 01/01/1957, 31/12/1959: question of Coroners inquests into casualties under emergency regulations, 1957–60.

FCO 141/4667, 01/01/1955, 31/12/1957: removal to UK of certain prisoners convicted of offences under the emergency regulations, 1959–60.

FCO 141/4668: removal to UK of certain prisoners convicted of offences under the emergency regulations, 1957–58.

FCO 141/4669: removal to UK of certain prisoners convicted of offences under the emergency regulations, 1958.

FCO 141/4670: arrangements for security of prisons and detention camps including list of prisoners held under emergency regulations in January 1957, 1955–58.

FCO 141/4671: laws, regulations and instructions relating to detention of persons under Emergency Regulations, 1955–58.

FCO 141/4672: reports on conditions and incidents in Nicosia Central Prison, 1956–59.

FCO 141/4673: visit by representatives of International Red Cross to prisons and Detention Camps, 1957.

FCO 141/4674: reports of alleged ill treatment of prisoners and detainees, 1957–58.

FCO 141/4675: transfer to UK of Cypriot prison staff, 1957–59.

FCO 141/4676: release arrangements for Cypriot prisoners serving sentences in UK prisons, 1958–59.

FCO 141/4677: amnesty for political prisoners including warrants for release signed by the Governor in Cyprus and the Home Secretary in UK, 1959–60.

Commissioner Nicosia papers

FCO 141/4678: reports on activities of AKEL (Anorthotiko Komma Ergazomenou Laou) in Nicosia district, 1948–58.

FCO 141/4679: Communist Party activities, 1948–59.

FCO 141/4680: political affairs in Nicosia district, 1949–58.

FCO 141/4686: complaints against the Security Forces, 1956–59.

Financial Secretary's Papers

FCO 141/4704–4705: financial aspects of security measures, 1955–59.

FCO 141/4706–4707: financial arrangements with UK to meet expenditure arising out of the emergency, 1955–58.

FCO 141/4707: financial arrangements with UK to meet expenditure arising out of the emergency, 1958.

FCO 141/4715: policy relating to claims for compensation by EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston) victims, 1956–60.

FCO 141/4751: intimidation of Greek Cypriots by EOKA (Ethniki Organosis Kypriou Agoniston), 1958–59.

Director of Medical Service's Papers

FCO 141/4755: plans for reception of refugees from Egypt and arrangements for possible reception of evacuees from other areas, 1953–58.

FCO 141/4756: medical arrangements at detention camps and for detainees at Nicosia General Hospital, 1956–59.

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Fiji

FCO 141/4781-141/4803

Fiji is an island group in the South Pacific Ocean, of which the main islands are Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Fiji became a British colony on 10 October 1874, remaining so for nearly 100 years. In 1879 Indian indentured labourers were brought over, principally to work on the sugar plantations, and would go on to form more than a third of the population. Fiji became an independent state within the Commonwealth on 10 October 1970. Following internal conflict Fiji was declared a republic in 1987.

The colonial governors of Fiji from 1948 were: Sir Leslie Freeston (1948-52), Sir Ronald Garvey (1952-58), Sir Kenneth Maddocks (1958-63), Sir Francis Jakeway (1963-68), and Sir Robert Parker (1968-70).

The records of the Fiji administration are arranged below within subject areas. The material largely dates from 1950-70.

Constitutional development and citizenship

FCO 141/4793: Great Council of Chiefs 1968 – 1969 (1cm). Contains papers on September 1968 meeting of Constitutional Conference covering citizenship, the common roll and independence and November 1968 meeting covering the composition of the Native Land Trust Board, self-government, repeal of the Agricultural Landlords Tenant Ordinance, development funds and the effect of the tourist industry on Fijians.

FCO 141/4798: Citizenship 1968 – 1970 (4mm). Contains reports on possible introduction of citizenship in Fiji and probable effect upon the Banaban islanders.

FCO 141/4800: South Pacific Commission (SPC) meetings in Noumea, October 1967 (4mm). Includes background brief by A J Fairclough, Pacific and Indian Ocean department, to Sir Derek Jakeway, Governor of Fiji and reports on 3 meetings between 1967 and 1968.

FCO 141/4801: Policy towards South Pacific Commission (SPC) 1965 – 1968 (3mm). Report by Reid Cowell, Commissioner for the South Pacific, on 6th South Pacific Conference and on 27th session of South Pacific Commission and FCO memos on the future of South Pacific Conference.

FCO 141/4803: Future of Fiji: policy 1968 – 1969 (2cm). Documents regarding visit by Professor S. A. de Smith to study and advise on possible electoral systems, including notes on his arrival, meetings with prominent Fijian politicians Ratu Mara and A. D. Patel and Professor de Smith's report.

Related material is in FCO 32/219-232, FCO 24/145, 2436, CO 1036/1016-1034, 1693

Defence and Intelligence

FCO 141/4794: Defence agreement between Fiji and New Zealand 1967-70 (3cm). Reports and exchanges of correspondence regarding cuts in New Zealand's defence aid to Fiji.

FCO 141/4795: Organisation of Special Branch 1954-65 (1cm). Documents regarding the expansion of Special Branch in Fiji. Folios 57, 58 and 59 are closed and have been extracted.

FCO 141/4796: Mr and Mrs R A Hamilton cancellation of visitors' permits 1966 (1cm). Reports from Special Branch regarding the possibility of expulsion from Fiji of Mr and Mrs R A Hamilton as 'undesirable immigrants' and accounts of subversive activity.

Related material is in FCO 24/794-795, 1138-1139, FCO 32/617

Natural resources

FCO 141/4792: Banaban phosphate royalties 1968-70 (1cm). Reports on discussions regarding Ocean Island phosphates, price negotiations and the status of Banaban islanders upon the independence of Fiji.

FCO 141/4797: Proposals for phosphate conference; Banaban phosphate payments 1970 (1cm). Document contains reports on Rambi [Rabi] island, the relationship between Banabans and Gilbertese, discussions in Suva and memoranda on Banaban phosphate payments.

Related material is in FCO 32/82-89, 449-462, 464, 664, 668-678, 818-821, 882-884, 968-981, 1059-1080, 1182-1214, 1309-1311, 1323-1324, 1327-1330, 1404-1406, 1464-1465

Staff and labour

FCO 141/4781-4791: Selected personal files of a few individuals within the Fijian Civil Service, including some Secretariat staff, assessors, administrative officers, clerks, telephonists, typists, secretaries, a district officer and an assistant registrar 1931-69 (15cm)

Various forms, letters, reports and petitions concerning vacancies, appointments, probationship, promotions, transfers, dismissals, retirements and salaries.

Related material in FCO 32/22-23

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Gambia

FCO 141/4801 to 141/4891

Present-day Gambia is an enclave, distributed along the River Gambia, within Senegal, in northern West Africa. Although Britain had held a colony on at St Andrew's Island (now Kunta Kinteh Island) near the mouth of the River Gambia since the mid-seventeenth century, Gambia became a separate colony with executive and legislative councils in 1843. Only Bathurst (now Banjul) and its immediate environs were governed as a crown colony, with the wider Gambia Protectorate area coming under British administration in 1894. A system of indirect rule through African chiefs was used in the Protectorate.

A process of constitutional reform, which moved the colony towards independence, began after the Second World War. General elections were held in 1962 and Gambia became an independent constitutional monarchy within the British Commonwealth in February 1965, with Queen Elizabeth

II as head of state. A referendum in 1965 confirmed this constitutional arrangement, but after a further referendum Gambia became a republic within the Commonwealth in 1970. The governors of Gambia from 1945 to 1965 were: Sir Hilary Blood (1942-47), Sir Andrew Wright (1947-49), Sir Percy Wyn-Harris (1949-58), Sir Edward Windley (1959-62) and Sir John Paul (1962-65). The Governors General of independent Gambia were Sir John Paul (1965-66), and Sir Farimang Singhateh (1966-70)

A substantial proportion of the files relate to constitutional developments during the decade before independence in 1965.

They complement files already held at The National Archives, including CO 554/800-801, CO 554/1513-1515, 2210-2212, 2147-2153

Political and Constitutional development

FCO 141/4804-4814: Gambia: political and constitutional development in Gambia 1944-62; includes notes of meetings of Constitutional Conference, memoranda, correspondence with political parties, drafts of legal documents, statutory instruments, etc, up to general election (14cm).

FCO 141/4815-4818: future political and constitutional development in Gambia 1962-63; memoranda, correspondence, extracts from Executive Council conclusions, draft legal documents (4cm).

FCO 141/4817: constitution 1962-63; notes and correspondence relating to Gambia Independence Bill (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4818: constitutional development; Gambia Consultative Committee 1953; reports of the Committee, correspondence (2cm).

FCO 141/4821: political and constitutional development in Gambia; Constitutional Conference 1959, notes of meetings, correspondence (1.5cm).

Related material is in CO 554/2268-2279

FCO 141/4822-4823: ministerial arrangements under 1960/1962 constitutions 1960-61 (3cm).

FCO 141/4824-4825: constitutional development: interpretation and legal aspects 1962; legal opinions and drafts of constitutional and related legal documents (4cm).

FCO 141/4842: constitutional development in smaller Colonial territories 1952-63; report of Commission of Enquiry and correspondence (1cm).

FCO 141/4848: constitutional position of Speaker and Deputy Speaker 1954-63 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/4849: constitution of Executive Council 1951-54; correspondence and reports (2cm).

FCO 141/4854: future constitutional development in the Colonies 1958-1964; correspondence, notes of Anglo-French/Anglo-American talks, background paper (1cm).

FCO 141/4882: election petitions 1962; petition of make void outcome of election in Illiassa (0.2cm).

FCO 141/4891: Advisory Committee on New Constitution 1953; correspondence, notes of committee meetings and report (1.5cm).

Political parties

FCO 141/4834, 4837, 4840, 4857, 4871: constitutions, manifestos, correspondence etc. with Gambia Democratic Party, Gambia Muslim Congress, Gambia United Party, Peoples Progressive Party, Democratic Congress Alliance Party respectively 1957-64 (2cm).

External relations, including with Senegal

FCO 141/4826: United Nations discussions on Gambia (committee of 24) 1963; committee on granting of independence, notes of discussion (1.5cm).

FCO 141/4827: British Council 1956; possible British Council developments in French West Africa, establishment of language-teaching centre (1cm).

FCO 141/4838, 4841: Senegal political reports 1959-63; reports from chargé d'affaires, Dakar (2cm).

FCO 141/4844: World Federation of United Nations Associations 1952-63 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4853: World Federation of Democratic Youth 1959-62 (a few pages only).

FCO 141/4863: Ghanaian interests in Gambian affairs 1961-63 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4873: liaison with United States agencies in Africa 1962 (a few pages only).

FCO 141/4874: foreign visits by Gambian Prime Minister and Ministers 1962-64 (1cm).

FCO 141/4875: boundary between Gambia/Senegal 1962 (a few pages only).

FCO 141/4876: United Nations report on 'Senegambia' 1964; correspondence and comment (0.5cm).

Security, intelligence and policing

FCO 141/4832-4833: Security Liaison Officer (SLO) miscellaneous reports 1961-62.

FCO 141/4851: security intelligence reports 1960-63; reports on individuals and organisations (1.5cm).

FCO 141/4836: interception of communications 1962-63 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/4839: correspondence on Special Branch training courses 1959-64 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4843: enquiry into actions by police during affray in Hogan Street, Bathurst, 16 October 1955 (1cm).

Related material is in FCO 141/4877, 4879-4880

FCO 141/4846: use of grenades and tear gas by police; memorandum on dye spraying, correspondence 1955-61 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4877, 4879-4880: Commission of Inquiry by Francis Horace Baker into conduct of the Gambia Police Force; applications to give evidence, exhibits, notes of evidence 1955; includes magistrate's court transcript (3cm).

Related material is in FCO 141/4843

FCO 141/4888: police liaison outside Gambia 1963 (a few pages only).

Related material is in CO 554/382

Judicial and crime

FCO 141/4852: trial of prisoners by jury 1932-64 (0.75cm).

FCO 141/4847: UK Homicide Act 1957 1957-65; circulars, copy of United Kingdom act (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4878, 4855-4856: Hon Pierre Sarr N'jie – police reports, court records, reports, correspondence with or concerning, includes enquiry into alleged malpractices as a barrister 1951-62 (5.5cm).

Labour

FCO 141/4845, 4864: correspondence, reports on activities of Gambia Workers' Union and Gambia National Union respectively 1957-63 (2cm).

FCO 141/4859, 4868: All African Peoples Conference/All African Trade Union Federation 1959-64.

FCO 141/4860: report of demonstration during Secretary of State's visit, 4 June 1959 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/4861-4862, 4865: reports and correspondence on labour unrest in Bathurst, February-August 1960 and 24-28 January 1961 (5cm).

Financial/economic/development

FCO 141/4870: financial position 1961-65 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/4887: Economic Commission for Africa 1962-63; correspondence and notes of meetings (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4869, 4886, 4866: groundnuts – boycotts, African Groundnut Council and marketing respectively 1961-64 (0.75cm).

FCO 141/4885: future of Yundum Airport 1962-63 (0.5cm).

Administration

FCO 141/4819-4820: Ministers' salaries and allowances 1953-60 correspondence.

FCO 141/4828: miscellaneous matters 1955-63 (2.5cm).

FCO 141/4829: senior staff, Ministries 1962-64; matters relating to individual posts.

FCO 141/4830: administrative staff 1958-64; correspondence relating to individual staff (1.5cm).

FCO 141/4831: Public Service Commission: general 1963-64 (0.25cm).

FCO 141/4835: Governor's salary and allowances 1956-62 (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4867: abolition of post of Deputy Governor 1964 (a few pages only).

FCO 141/4872: record of monthly meetings of Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Department, Attorney General and Commissioner of Police 1961-62; notes on purpose of meetings (0.5cm).

FCO 141/4883: Medical Research Council project at Keneba 1962 (a few pages only).

FCO 141/4889: recruitment of staff from India, Pakistan and Ceylon 1963 (a few pages only).

FCO 141/4890: reorganisation of the Civil Service on attainment of full self-government 1963-64; correspondence (0.5cm).

Passports

FCO 141/4850: passport facilities to Gambians in United Kingdom (Commonwealth Immigrants Act) 1961-64; correspondence relating to the Act (1.5cm).

Honours

FCO 141/4881: honours: Coronation Medals 1952-53; lists of recipients, photograph of medal, (0.5cm).

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Gold Coast (Ghana) FCO 141/4912 to 141/5176

The Gold Coast was occupied at various points from 1600 by the English, Danes, Dutch, Germans and Portuguese, until 1872 when the last settlements were ceded to Britain. In 1874, the Gold Coast and Lagos became the Gold Coast Colony, but Lagos was separated in 1886. In 1896, treaties of trade and protection were concluded with several tribes north of Ashanti and a protectorate over the area known as the Northern Territories was established in 1898. In 1901, Ashanti was annexed to the Gold Coast. In 1922 part of the adjoining German Togoland was placed under British control by the League of Nations and administered by the Gold Coast. This was integrated with the colony in 1956 following a referendum.

The Gold Coast became an independent state within the Commonwealth as Ghana on 6th March 1957, and a republic on 19th

June 1960 under Kwame Nkrumah, the leader of the Gold Coast and Ghana, 1951-66. The governors of Gold Coast from 1945 to 1957 were Sir Alan Burns (1941-48), Sir Gerald Creasy (1948-49), and Sir Charles Arden-Clarke (1949-57). The Earl of Listowel was Governor-General of Ghana until it became a republic (1957-60).

The files largely cover the post-war years preceding independence in 1957 and have been divided as much as possible in to relevant subject categories.

Kwame Nkrumah and leading Gold Coast personalities

Related material in DO 35, DO 153, PREM 11 and FO 371

FCO 141/4932: release from prison of Mr Kwame Nkrumah; Chairman of the Convention Peoples Party and others 1950 -1951: discussions surrounding the potential early release prior to the general election of Kwame Nkrumah, Dzenkle Dzewu, Paul Tagoe, Blankson Lartery, Jerron Quarshie, Dr Bankole Awoonor Renner and Kofi Baako among others. Includes discussions of potential repercussions of early releases following appeals from various groups in the Gold Coast and UK. Includes detailed list of offences committed, dates and places of imprisonment. Copies of remission warrants enclosed where granted and lists of other prisoners held and reasons why remissions were or were not granted. Also includes detailed description of the releases (2.5cm).

FCO 141/4933: notes on leading personalities associated with formation of the Gold Coast Convention, including Mr Kwame Nkrumah 1947 -1951: relates almost exclusively to Nkrumah as he was observed travelling back to the Gold Coast in 1947. Also includes observations of the UGCC (United Gold Coast Convention) and its members (1.5cm).

FCO 141/4934-4935

Visits of Mr Kwame Nkrumah, Leader of Government Business and Minister of Education 1951 -1955; details of visits to Ashanti, UK and USA (1.5cm total).

FCO 141/4934: includes observations of celebrations held in his honour in Ashanti, lists of items presented to him, details of his bank accounts and queries his academic qualifications.

FCO 141/4935: includes a copy of the speech given by Nkrumah in May 1951 on Gold Coast radio and his address to Lincoln University in June 1951. Also includes an invite to stay from the Attache for Colonial Affairs in Washington to avoid Nkrumah "suffer[ing] the indignities which any African is liable to incur in Washington."

Related material in CO 967/175

FCO 141/5090: removal orders made against Dr J B Danquah and five others; the Emergency (General) Regulations, 1948; the Removal Orders (Revocation) Order, 1948: 2cm thick, instructions for the speedy evacuation of "microbes", J. B. Danquah, Akufo Addo, E Obetsebi Lamptey, Kwame Nkrumah, W. Ofori Atta and Ako Adjei. Includes protests and letters of support against the removal orders and subsequent copies of revocations of orders.

Political parties and organisations

FCO 141/4936-4943 (20cm total), 4945 (2.5cm), 4948-4971 (47cm total), 4978-4982 (16cm total)

Contain details of activities, observations and literature of communist activities in the Gold Coast, African and abroad, including measures to combat communism in the Gold Coast and more widely in Africa. 1944-57

FCO 141/4925-4931: Convention Peoples Party, Ashanti; reports of meetings, 1950-1956 (14.5cm total).

Related material in CO 554/253, CO 554/592, DO 35/4551, DO 166/91, DO 195/47-48, INF 10/129/5

FCO 141/4944 (2.5cm), 4946-4947 (2.5cm total) Congress of Peoples against Imperialism (COPAI) 1950-1956:

FCO 141/4944 and 4947: contain plans for a Pan-African conference to be held in the Gold Coast in December 1953 including discussions, concerns and delegate lists.

FCO 141/4944 also contains plans for anti-imperialist day and a copy of 'Freedom of Africa' pamphlet.

FCO 141/4946 contains a report on Guinea Press Ltd.

FCO 141/4972: Union of Democratic Control, (UDC); propaganda directed to trade Unions 1952 -1954: includes observations of meetings, events and members with particular focus on Basil Davidson and Thomas Lionel Hodgkin (2cm).

FCO 141/4973: World Federation of the United Nations Associations activities 1951 -1954: includes observations of meetings, events and members with particular focus on John Arthur Ford Ennals (1cm).

FCO 141/4974-4977: World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) 1952-1956: FCO 141/4975 includes photographs of key members at a conference. FCO 141/4976 includes examples of adhesive stamps advertising the Union that "may appeal to children and semi-educated Africans." Also contains large poster advertising a WFTU conference in Berlin 1955 (8cm total).

FCO 141/5060: West African Students Union Limited (WASU), London 1944-1950: includes photographs of members at a conference (5cm).

FCO 141/5061: International Union of Students; Bureau of Students Fighting Against Colonialism 1949 -1956: includes photographs of members at a conference (2cm).

FCO 141/5087: Ghana Youth Organisation 1948 -1949 (1.5cm).

FCO 141/5109-5110: Secessionist movement 1956-1957: discussions and calls from various groups such as the Asante Youth re. plans for their and others' positions following independence (3cm total).

Security and law enforcement

FCO 141/4915-4917: protection of manganese mines and production 1948-1954 (7cm total).

FCO 141/4999-5001: Security and Political Intelligence; policy 1951-1957 (6cm total).

FCO 141/4984: information for Joint Intelligence Bureau in London 1946-1957 (3cm).

FCO 141/4989: lists and returns of top secret documents 1950-1957: detailed vetting of all top secret documents sent to and from the Gold Coast as part of a Colonial Office-wide audit. Lists of documents included, no further information provided (2.5cm).

FCO 141/4990-4991: Memorandum of Instructions for Lt Colonel P Russell, Security Liaison Officer, West Africa 1941-1956 (2.5cm).

FCO 141/4992: Special Branch, CID; Gold Coast, security and training 1948-1957 (3cm)

FCO 141/4993-4997: The Gold Coast Police Force; Special Branch, summaries 1948 -1953 (18.5cm total)

FCO 141/4998: security measures against Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Soviet Bloc 1951-1952 (0.5cm)

FCO 141/5026-30: Relate to Anglo-French collaboration in West Africa on security matters 1948-1957 (14cm).

FCO 141/5032-5035: prohibited immigrants of security interest 1950-1955 (10cm total).

FCO 141/5046-5047: liaison with Foreign Colonial Governments; political and security intelligence 1948-1955 (5.5cm total).

Political situation, unrest and disturbances

Related material can be found CO 554, CO 964 and WO 191/67

FCO 141/4918-4919: minor disorders in Accra, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tamale, Worawora and Kumasi 1949-1956: reports detailing disturbances and planning for future security (5cm total).

FCO 141/4921-4922: disturbances at Ashanti, 1955-57 (5cm total).

FCO 141/4923-4924: claims for compensation for losses and damages caused during disturbances in the Gold Coast. Particulars and evidence in support of the claim of the Government of The Swiss Confederation against Her Majesty's Government in UK; claiming for losses sustained by the Union Trading Company Limited during the riots in the Colony of the Gold Coast in February and March 1948, 1948-56. FCO 141/4924 is a hard-backed printed book of evidence submitted. (6cm total).

Related material in LO 2/872, T 220/514

FCO 141/4985-4988: political situation 1949-1955 (9cm total).

FCO 141/5086 : United Gold Coast Convention and the civil disturbances in Accra, spring 1948 (3cm).

FCO 141/5088 : Emergency Legislation enacted during the disturbances, February and March 1948 (1cm).

FCO 141/5089: censorship of newspapers during the disturbances, February and March 1948 (1cm).

FCO 141/5091: Political Intelligence summaries 1948-1950: includes reports on trade, cocoa, groundnut, The Moffat Case, internal security, characters, labour, racial feelings, political groups, local government, constitutional reform amongst many others (4cm).

Preparations for constitutional reform

Related material in CO 111/458, CO 137/894/5, CO 267/691/3, CO 554/254-6, DEFE 7/422, DO 35/2221, FO 371/108182

FCO 141/5062, 5081, 5092-5106, 5112-5120, 5124, 5127-5128, 5145-5155

Constitutional Reform – various topics 1949-56. This range of files contain material on constitutional and independence negotiations and discussions, including: drafting of the new constitution; election of ministers, Chiefs and advisory bodies such as the Legislative Council; electoral reform; the future of the civil service; discussion with other West African governors; the future and finance of the Judiciary; copies of Orders in Council, amongst many others.

FCO 141/5112 contains a printed copy of Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

FCO 141/5115 includes discussions of the issue of Togoland.

FCO 141/5116 contains assessment and copies of various Independence Acts including Ceylon and Sudan.

FCO 141/5076-5077, 5142-5144: the position of the Northern Territories under the New Constitution 1952-55.

FCO 141/5082: publication of Watson Commission report and White Paper 1948.

FCO 141/5107-5108: consideration of the Independence Order in Council 1956-57.

FCO 141/5122-5123: negotiations between the Government and the Opposition concerning the New Constitution 1956.

FCO 141/5125-5126: examination and comments on the Bourne report 1955-56.

FCO 141/5129-5131, 5139-5141, 5161: Government's Constitutional Proposals for Independence; the White Paper 1956-57.

FCO 141/5132: Select Committee to examine and make recommendations on the question of a Federal System of Government for the Gold Coast and the question of a second chamber 1955.

FCO 141/5133: composite timetable for the Independence Bill 1955-56.

FCO 141/5137: reports, activities and duties of Sir F Bourne, Constitutional Adviser 1955-56.

FCO 141/5157: Coussey report; Committee's and Commission to investigate recommendations 1949-50.

FCO 141/5158, 5160: Conferences of West African Governors 1950 and 1952.

FCO 141/5159: future of the District Commissioner under the new Constitution 1950.

FCO 141/5170: memorandum by the Prime Minister on Standing Development Committee; Second Development Plan 1955-56.

Industry, finance and administration

FCO 141/5070: British Council, Gold Coast; budget estimates, reports, 1951-1956.

FCO 141/5073: administrative arrangements of an adviser to the Governor on External Affairs 1954-1957.

FCO 141/5074: Governor's secret and personal reports to the Colonial Office 1954 1955: regular reports from the governor covering events, personalities etc. for circulation (1.5cm).

FCO 141/5134-6: Relate to the future of the Civil Service including consideration of a Commonwealth Civil Service 1955-1957.

FCO 141/5064: Visit by Mr Detwiler of USA to Gold Coast to discuss certain projects involving the development of natural resources of the Gold Coast 1952-55.

FCO 141/5121: arrangements for Constitutional Adviser 1955-55.

FCO 141/5163, 5166-5167: Volta River Project files, 1952-56.

FCO 141/5168: Gold Coast National lotteries 1955-56.

FCO 141/5169: Annually recurrent expenditure and development and future trends of revenue and expenditure 1956-57.

FCO 141/5171: general correspondence; diamond industry; Volta River Project; disposal of government property; Salaries Commission; West Africa Committee 1956.

FCO 141/5172: proposals for operating helicopters in the Gold Coast 1955-56.

FCO 141/5174: company tax and minerals duty 1954-55.

FCO 141/5175: new currency and decimal coins 1954-55.

FCO 141/5176: additional office and residential accommodation for staff in Accra and proposal of new offices for UK Trade Commission 1955-56.

Togoland

FCO 141/5002-5013, 5021-5025: United Nations Trusteeship Council; Togoland unification affairs and the Ewe problem 1949-55.

FCO 141/5014: Gold Coast intervention in the affairs of the French on Togoland Unification 1951-57.

FCO 141/5015-5020, 5065, 5068-5069: Trust status of Togoland and future policy regarding Togoland Unification problem 1950-56.

FCO 141/5111: Royal instructions, letters patent; Northern Territories Order in Council, Togoland Order in Council 1954-54.

Immigration and citizenship

FCO 141/5036-5037: visas, immigration and passports policy; West Africa 1950-57.

FCO 141/5038: future of Gold Coast Nationality and Citizenship Legislation 1954-56.

FCO 141/5072: deportation of British subjects and British Protected Persons from Colonial Territories 1954-55: discussions of the desired deportation of certain Nigerian communists who are British subjects (1cm).

FCO 141/5075: naturalisation after independence, British Nationality Act, 1948, 1949-57: discussions of issues of British nationality granted before and after independence (2cm).

African relations

FCO 141/4912-4913: Mobilisation Schemes; West Africa Command and Gold Coast district 1950-56.

FCO 141/5039-5042 :co-operation between the Union of South Africa and other African Territories; the development of Union Native Policy since 1935, 1950-56.

FCO 141/5043-5044, 5138: constitutional review; Nigeria and future of the West African Court of Appeal 1948-55.

FCO 141/5045: periodic reports received from other Governors 1954-57.

FCO 141/5053: relations with Liberia 1955-56.

FCO 141/5054-5055: Egyptian relations 1955-56.

FCO 141/5078: West African Inter-Territorial Secretariat 1954-57.

FCO 141/5080: Committee on Constitutional Development in West Africa; appointment of a Committee to examine proposals in the report of the Commission of Enquiry 1948.

FCO 141/5156: Sudan; draft Constitution Statute 1952-53.

FCO 141/5162 :West African National Secretariat's Official Organ 'The New African' 1946-47.

International relations

FCO 141/4920: Russian Satellite defectors and refugees 1952-56.

FCO 141/5071: Commonwealth Relations Office; representation in the Gold Coast 1953-56.

FCO 141/5048: Commonwealth Conferences memoranda 1952-55.

FCO 141/5049: Anglo-Belgian Colonial Co-operation in Africa 1948-53.

FCO 141/5050-5051: Asian-African links 1954-57.

FCO 141/5052: relations with Israel 1955-56.

FCO 141/5056: relations with Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and communist China 1956.

FCO 141/5057: relations with Germany 1956.

FCO 141/5058-5059, 5164-5165: relations with India 1947-57.

Miscellaneous

FCO 141/5066-5067: British Council 1951-54.

FCO 141/5079: Ghana National College and schools 1948-49.

FCO 141/5083-5085: material for a Gold Coast history of the war 1939-45. FCO 141/5085 includes material for draft colonial history of war not included in the final official history (4cm total).

FCO 141/5173: newspapers and periodicals extracts sent to the Prime Minister 1956-56.

FCO 141/4914: Censorship Schemes 1946-57.

Closed files: entire files closed (there may be further files as yet not identified as closed)

FCO 141/4983: security of external communications 1944-56.

FCO 141/5031: exchange of security and political information with French 1956-57.

FCO 141/5163: Foreign Security Liaison officers stationed in the Gold Coast 1950-55.

FCO 141/4979, 4980: communism; University College and Kumasi College of Technology, Science and Arts, 1944-56.

Colonial administration records (migrated archives): Gilbert and Ellice Islands (Kiribati and Tuvalu)

FCO 141/4892 to 141/4911

The Gilbert and Ellice Islands was made a British protectorate in 1892 following some years of British influence. In 1916 they were annexed and became a colony, and after Japanese occupation in the Second World War they formed part of the jurisdiction of the Western Pacific High Commission. In 1975 the Gilbert and Ellice Islands separated, with the Ellice Islands becoming independent in 1978 as Tuvalu and the Gilbert Islands in 1979 as Kiribati.

Related material will be found in series FCO 32 and FCO 107

Solomon Islands registered files – constitutional development

FCO 141/4894: Solomon Islands constitutional development, 1975

FCO 141/4892-4893: Solomon Islands constitutional conference – briefs and report, 1977

Ellice Islands referendum

FCO 141/4905-4906: two files covering the referendum, 1974-77. FCO 141/4905 covers UN observers at the referendum, FCO 141/4906 the referendum itself and the separation from the Gilbert Islands.

Tuvalu constitutional development

FCO 141/4903-4904: two files covering constitutional development of Tuvalu prior to independence, 1976-78

FCO 141/4907: post-independence financial settlement, 1978

FCO 141/4909: Tuvalu constitutional conference, 1977-78

Tuvalu honours, appointments and staffing

FCO 141/4908: Tuvalu senior official appointments, 1978

FCO 141/4902: Tuvalu commissioner's office staff – primarily concerning appointment of personal assistant to HM Commissioner, 1975-77

FCO 141/4901: correspondence concerning British honours for Tuvalu inhabitants and officials, both official and educational (such as honorary degrees), 1975-77

Gilbert and Ellice Islands: personnel files

FCO 141/4895-4900: all closed

Gilbert and Ellice Islands: miscellaneous

FCO 141/4910: hurricane relief 1972-73

FCO 141/4911: fishery vessels and fishing limits 1974-77

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