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SOURCE EIGHT

[Transcript](#) | [Useful notes](#)Correspondence in 1902 on the recruitment of Africans to work in mines
(PRO ref: DO 119/718)

8a

[8b](#)

From the Acting General Manager, De Beers Consolidated
Mines, Limited.
To the Resident Commissioner.

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE,
Kimberley, 2nd January, 1902.

Dear Sir,

Mr. F. A. Muhlenbeck writes us that he has had an interview with you in reference to his being granted a licence to collect native labourers in the Protectorate for work in our mines.

I beg to say that we shall be pleased if you issue such a licence for one year to him. We are prepared to stand security for his good behaviour to the extent of one hundred pounds as provided for by law.

I may say that Mr. Muhlenbeck has been collecting boys at Mafeking for us for about one year, and has always given us satisfaction in his dealings with the natives, as well as with us.

In the event of his being granted a licence, we shall be pleased if every facility is given to him to travel in the Protectorate to collect natives.

Yours faithfully,
Alpheus T. Williams,
Acting General Manager.

How to use this source

Study this source carefully. Different parts of the source will contain clues about why the British became empire builders in Africa. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- What does the De Beers official want to do?
- What is the attitude of De Beers to Mr Muhlenbeck?
- What is the attitude of the British official to Mr Muhlenbeck?
- Does this source suggest he is concerned for the welfare of the Africans?
- What clues does this source provide about why the British became involved in Africa?

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Source 8a

Extract from a complaint in 1899 by white South African settlers against British businessman Cecil Rhodes
(PRO ref: DO 119/552)

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Source 8b

Correspondence in 1902 on the recruitment of Africans to work in mines
(PRO ref: DO 119/718)

