



Colonial Office

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

ABBEY 1266

TANGANYIKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

AGREEMENT ON DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE

The final session of the Tanganyika Constitutional Conference was held this morning (Wednesday, March 29, 1961) in Dar es Salaam, with the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr Iain Macleod) presiding. The following official communiqué was issued in Dar es Salaam:-

"The Tanganyika Constitutional Conference, which began on Monday, March 27, concluded its deliberations this morning with agreement on all points." It proposed that details of the conference proceedings should be incorporated in a White Paper to be published in the United Kingdom and in a Government Paper to be presented to Tanganyika Legislative Council at the next meeting, beginning May 16.

It agreed that at this stage the Governor, Deputy Governor and two official Ministers should no longer be members of the Council of Ministers, which should be renamed the Cabinet; the Conference further decided that the title "Chief Minister" should be changed to that of "Prime Minister" and that the Prime Minister should preside over the Cabinet.

With the introduction of self-government, many of the powers now exercised by the Governor will disappear and, in general, the Governor will act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet. The Conference agreed that defence during this period should continue to be a reserved subject and that the Governor, while continuing to be responsible for external affairs, should arrange for Ministers to be increasingly associated with the exercise of responsibilities in these fields with a view to their transfer to ministerial hands on independence.

It was decided that the Legislative Council should be renamed the National Assembly.

The Conference agreed that the Public Service Commission should become executive two months after the introduction of internal self-government and that from that date the post of Deputy Governor, which was largely concerned with civil service matters, would be abolished. A post of Civil Secretary should be created. At the same time, the Public Service Commission would be reconstituted, appointments to it being made by the Governor in his discretion, but after consultation with the Prime Minister. It was also decided to create an executive Police-Service Commission. It was agreed that a Judicial Service Commission should be established which would consist of the Chief Justice as Chairman, a serving judge of the High Court of Tanganyika, designated by the Governor and the chairman of the Public Service Commission.

"The principle of a compensation scheme for officers designated under the Overseas Service Aid Scheme was endorsed by the Conference. It was agreed that the main features of such a scheme must be decided and published before full internal self-government for Tanganyika is introduced. The Conference also recognised that there were other officers serving on overseas terms for whose interests appropriate provision would have to be made before independence, and took note that discussions about the form of such provision were being separately pursued.

The Government of Tanganyika expressed its desire to continue participation in the common services provided by the East Africa High Commission and is considering ways in which this can be done in a manner compatible with the country's sovereignty. The opportunity taken to review a number of other matters which would have to be covered in the independence Constitution as well as financial matters and defence forces. It was agreed that further discussions on these topics would take place in London in the second half of June. High Commission matters would be discussed at the same time, if this was acceptable to the other Governments concerned.

The Conference agreed that the date for the introduction of full internal self-government should be May 1, 1961. It further agreed that the date of independence should be December 28, 1961, and that Her Majesty's Government should introduce a resolution at the United Nations proposing the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement at this date.

The Tanganyika Government reaffirmed its intention to apply for membership of the Commonwealth. The Secretary of State welcomed this and said, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government would be very glad to sponsor its application.

The Conference declared their faith that the close and friendly ties between the two countries, which were ensuring smooth and rapid progress to independence, would be continued in the future between an independent Tanganyika and the United Kingdom.

March 29, 1961



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TANGANYIKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
CLOSING SPEECH BY MR IAIN MACLEOD

Addressing the closing session of the Tanganyika Constitutional Conference in Dar es Salaam today (Wednesday, March 29, 1961), the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr Iain Macleod) said:-

As Chairman of the Conference I now report to the gathering and to the people of Tanganyika our conclusions.

I am very glad to say that as you will see from the communique the Conference has ended with agreement on all points: there are no notes of reservation, and no minority reports. It may be thought that the progress we have made has been rapid beyond reasonable expectations but I think we can attribute this to two things: first, throughout our discussions the two sides have been thinking along roughly the same lines, and, secondly, a considerable amount of detailed preparatory work has been carried out before the Conference met.

Of course, sometimes we differed but when we did we argued out our differences with a determination to reach agreement and with an understanding of the other's point of view. So it was that we came to agreement as men of goodwill can always do. At this stage I should pay a warm tribute to the splendid work which has been carried out behind the scenes by the Secretariat.

The first of our principal decisions has been that full internal self-government in Tanganyika should be introduced in the very near future: this means in a few weeks' time. The Governor, Deputy-Governor and two official Ministers will withdraw from the Council of Ministers. This body will then be re-named the Cabinet, and will be presided over by a Prime Minister instead of a Chief Minister. At this point most of the powers now exercised by the Governor will disappear. In general, and except for matters of external affairs and defence, during this period alone he will act in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet.

We have, in our deliberations, devoted a great deal of thought to the vitally important matter of the Public Service Commission. It has been agreed that this body should become executive two months after the introduction of internal self-government, when it will be reconstituted. An executive Police Service Commission and an executive Judicial Service Commission will be created at the same time.

The principle of a compensation scheme for officers designated under the Overseas Service Aid Scheme has been endorsed by the Conference which

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has also agreed that the main features of such a scheme must be decided and published before the date when full internal self-government is introduced.

Having thus successfully disposed of the matters which had to be decided in connection with internal self-government we then turned our thoughts to those which had to be settled before Independence. On the very important and very complex question of Tanganyika's future association with the East Africa High Commission, the Tanganyika Government has expressed their desire to continue participation in the common services provided by the Commission and the ways in which this can be done, in a manner compatible with its status as an independent country, are being considered by the Ministers of the Tanganyika Government. We agreed that further discussions on these and other topics should take place in London in the second half of June. We hope representatives of other East African Governments will also find it convenient to attend these discussions.

I now come to what is obviously the feature of our discussions awaited with most attention and interest. We have agreed that the date of internal self-government should be May 1, 1961. We have agreed further that the date of the full independence of Tanganyika should be December 28, 1961.

It is, I think, an open secret that when Tanganyika becomes independent it will also wish to become a member of the Commonwealth; and I am very glad to be able to say that Her Majesty's Government will warmly support the application when it is made.

Chief Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, there is one tribute in which I am sure you will all join me. On this unique occasion, which is not only the first constitutional conference on Tanganyika to be attended by a United Kingdom Minister but which sets the date for Tanganyika's entry into the comity of nations, Her Majesty's Government and I am sure Mr Nyerere and his colleagues will agree that the Government of Tanganyika has been deeply indebted to Sir Richard Turnbull your Governor who has guided the affairs of this country with such patience, wisdom and charm through its final stages as a dependent territory. From the moment of his assumption of the post of Governor he has identified himself with the aspirations of the people of Tanganyika in a manner which has I am sure won widespread admiration throughout the country.

We look now to the future.

You will see that the communique today declares the faith of all of us who have taken part in this Conference, that the close and friendly ties between our two countries which in the past have ensured a smooth and rapid progress towards independence, will be continued in the future between independent Tanganyika and the United Kingdom. I am sure that the years to come will justify this faith in full measure. You Mr Chief Minister, and people of Tanganyika now turn to the exciting vistas of the years ahead. The work has not finished: indeed, it has just begun. And may I as a friend of Tanganyika - wish you God-speed, success and happiness on your journey."

March 29, 1961