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East Africa High Commission:
(2) East African Bureau of Research
in Medicine and Hygiene

Washington, D.C.
August 21, 1954

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York 36, New York

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Following the recommendations of the report by Professor McSwiney, the Bureau was established on 1 July 1949, the date upon which the Director, Dr. K.A.T. Martin, assumed office upon retiring from the Kenya Medical Department.

The Bureau is executively under the Administrator to the High Commission. At first temporary office accommodations were provided by the Medical Department of Kenya, pending completion of a new office. Since July 1950 a small staff under the Director have operated from new offices in a separate building on the grounds of the Kenya Medical Department, with access to the most complete medical library in East Africa.

Expenditures of the Bureau in 1949 and 1950 were as follows:

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Recurrent	£1,594	£3,677
Extraordinary	221	<u>7,589</u>
Total	<u>£1,815</u>	£11,266

All expenditures of the Bureau are covered by C.D.&W. Schemes R.244 & A and R. 529. Under these schemes 100 percent of capital expenditures have been paid by C.D.&W. Half of recurrent expenditures were provided by C.D.&W. funds. The other half was provided by contributions from the East African territories, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika apparently contributing equal amounts.

The functions of the Bureau are primarily concerned with coordination of medical research throughout East Africa and communication between research agencies and workers in East Africa and in other areas with similar research problems. The Bureau serves as a link between the Colonial Medical Research Committee and East African offices and officers, does some of the administrative work in connection with research schemes, and serves as a distribution centre for research information traveling in both directions. The Director of the Bureau acts as Secretary of the Advisory Committee for Medical Research in East Africa. The new terms of reference given to the Bureau in 1952, on the recommendation of the East African Standing Advisory Committee for Medical Research, read as follows:

"(1) To keep in close touch with all authorities, institutions and individuals responsible for research in the medical field in East Africa, and to promote co-operation between them in every way possible.

(2) To perform the duties of Secretary to the East African Standing Advisory Committee for Medical Research, and in particular to discharge executive duties pertaining to that post.

(3) To serve as a channel of communication on scientific matters, if so required between medical research workers in East Africa on the one hand and the Director of Colonial Medical Research and the Colonial Medical Research Committee on the other.

(4) To arrange facilities for medical research workers who may visit the East African Territories.^{#1}

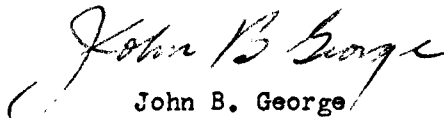
^{#1}In addition, the Director acts generally as an adviser to the Administrator on general questions of policy connected with the High Commission Medical Research Services, although the Directors of these Services remain directly responsible to the Administrator and are in full charge of their Departments.^{#2}

The Director conferred and traveled extensively within the territories in the years 1949-1952. He has visited the High Commission Medical Research Services, Makerere College, Mulago Hospital, and medical installations at Dar es Salaam. The Director has also been a participant in the Annual Conferences of Directors of Medical Services of East Africa.

Visits to some of the schemes in operation were made in 1949 in company with Dr. R. Lewthwaite, O.B.E., and with Professor MacDonald of the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. In March, 1950 the Director visited London to discuss revised schemes for the Medical Survey and Filariasis Research Unit at the Colonial Office and problems of East African research with the Secretary of the Medical Research Council and members of the Colonial Medical Research Committee. Early in 1951 the Director of the Bureau accompanied the Chairman of the Colonial Medical Research Committee on visits to some of the research units in East Africa, and in October the Director went to England for further discussions with members of the Colonial Medical Research Committee and the Research Department of the Colonial Office. In 1952 the Director attended the Conference of Heads of Colonial Medical Departments convened by the Colonial Office at Oxford. He was actively concerned with the formulation of the hyperendemic malaria project and proposals for the enlargement of the Malaria Unit into an East African Malaria Institute with assistance from W.H.O.

The maintenance of external relationships is, in the case of the Bureau, a major responsibility. Closer relations with research bodies outside East Africa and the reception and dissemination of a greater body of research information were claimed at the end of 1950. In October 1949 the Director, along with other High Commission associates, attended the African Regional Scientific Conference at Johannesburg, and in 1950 he attended the Conference on Malaria of the World Health Organization at Kampala.

Sincerely,


John B. George

P.S.

Footnotes

1. East Africa High Commission, Digest of the Annual Reports 1952 of the Medical Research Organisations, p. 2.
2. Ibid.

Sources

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