

Ecclesiastical (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 13

Dated 7th March 1896

INDEXED.

8-9

[Despatch Abstract.]

COLONEL STEPHEN'S MONUMENT.

Requesting the Governor of the French Settlements in India to grant permission for a fence being constructed round -- within the French territory of Pondicherry and to allow the servants of the British Government free access to the tomb for the purpose of keeping it in repair.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Pondicherry 19th Novr 1895

No 295

From

The French Government
Pondicherry

To

The Collector
Santhoost

Mons. le Collecteur,

In reply to your letters of 22nd Decem-
ber 1894, no. 5096 and 26th October 1895,
I have the honor to inform you that my
acting predecessor wrongly intimated
to you in his communication of 19th Febz
1894, no 45, that your request relative to
the tomb of Colonel Stevens was to be
submitted to the Conseil Général
(General Council) of the Colony. This
meeting in fact, is not competent to
occupy itself with cessions of territory.
The authority to settle these questions is
vested only in the Supreme Government.
And the matter certainly relates to
a cession of territory, for the allegation
of the Tahsilbur of Villupuram as regards
the

the mistake that had been committed
in consequence of encroachments on the
part of the French agents and the careles-
ness of the officers in charge of demarcating
the frontier, rest on no bases whatever,
they are not supported by any evidence,
on the other hand it appears from all
the documents that it was possible
to consult from the Peimash account,
especially, that the land on which
Colonel Stevens' tomb lies is certainly
our property. The demarcation plans
prepared in 1878 and 1879 by messrs —
C. A. Liardet, British Commissioner, and
F. A. Llofield, French Commissioner —
moreover, establishes our rights in the matter
in a definite manner.

In these circumstances, you will
see, mons. le Collecteur, that there is
no correction to be made, and consequently
no reason to now displace the frontier
limits.

Your application has therefore been
transmitted

transmitted to Paris.

But before deciding, the Minister for
Foreign Affairs who was called upon
for information in the matter by the
Colonial Ministry would like to know
exactly what extent of land you wish
to have and, at the same time what
advantages you offer as compensation.
The Department points out, moreover, that
the intervention of your Government
appeared necessary, at least to autho-
rize you to act on its behalf in this
matter, if you have power to negotiate
in respect of the cession of territory.

I request, therefore, mons. le Collecteur,
that you will be good enough to enable me
to furnish to the Cabinet at Paris, the
information referred to above, which is
necessary for it, to dispose of the matter
treated in your letter of 11th December 1893
on $\frac{385}{9}$.

Please to accept etc.
(Signed) Clément Thomas
(True Translation)
Governor.

(True copy)

Mons. le Collecteur

Refon C. NO. 5096 of 1894
Eng9. 2. 1896.

FROM

A. E. Castle Stuart Stuart Esquire J. C. S.

Ag COLLECTOR OF SOUTH ARCOT.

TO

THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

TO GOVERNMENT

Ecclesiastical DEPARTMENT.

MADRAS.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No 25 Ecclesias-
-tical dated 10.3.94 and in continuation
of my ref. dated 22.12.94 on 5096 of 94,
Eng
I have the honor to forward herewith for the
information and orders of Government, Law-
-Station of a Communication dated 19.11.95
No 295. received from His Excellency the Gover-
-nor of the French Settlements in India
regarding Colonel Stevens' tomb.

2. It will be observed that His Excellency
desires to have information on the 3 following
points;

(1) the extent of land required to be surren-
-dered to Government;

(2) the advantages which Government is prepared to offer as compensation for the small plot of land, and;

(3) Whether I am authorised by Government to negotiate in the matter.

3. As regards the first point, I would state that the exact extent can only be ascertained by actual measurement, but as the land is now included within the limits of French territory the measurement would presumably be made by the French authorities. The site of the tomb with right of way thereto would be all that would be required.

4. As regards the second point it will be observed that His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements regard the site of the tomb as French Territory and the compliance of the British request as a "Cession of territory" whereas our case is that which is stated in G. O. dated 27th November 1903 No 97 Ecclesiastical Department.

5. This G. O. practically answers the third

third point. At page 377 of his "Manual of the South Arcot District" compiled in 1878 by Mr. J. H. Garston then Collecting the District, the following remarks occur:

"On the Red Hills to the west of Pondicherry;
"by the side of the high road and close to the
"French frontier is a monument with an
"inscription recording that it was erected
"to the memory of Mr. Skelens, the Eastern
"India Company's Chief Engineer who was
"killed in the trenches during the siege of
"Pondicherry by Sir Hector Munro." The
expression "Close to the French frontier"
indicates that in 1878 the tomb was
regarded as being in British Territory - No
records are, however, forthcoming to
clearly establish the fact & the French
authorities rely partly on the boundary
settled by Col. (then Major) Liardet on
behalf of the British authorities and
Mr. Fallowfield on behalf of the
French Government. Major Liardet's report
was

was submitted with Board Proceedings
No. 1732 dated 15th November 1880 and the
boundary as settled by the Commissioners
was approved in G. O. dated 1st February
1881 No. 220 Rev. &

b. If that settlement is there-
-garded as final; I would suggest that
His Excellency the Governor of the French
Settlements might be informed that no
question of Cession of territory need
be raised nor any rectification of
boundary made, if the French autho-
-rities will allow the British autho-
-rities the privilege of free access to the
tomb at all times for the purpose of
keeping it in good order. The tomb of
Napoleon in St Helena has been
~~returned~~ entrusted to the keeping of the
French by England without I believe
any claim to the proprietary rights
in

in the soil having been raised

I am the honourable,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Munimund

For a collector

CURRENT 1896. 34

Ecclesiastical Department.

From
The Collector of
South Arcot.
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras.

Dated 9 }
Despatched 2 } 1896
Received 15 }

Refm e. No. 5096 of 94
Enc.

ENCLOSURE.

Subject.

Forwarding for information
under translation of a
Communication received
from His Excellency the
Governor of the French settle-
ments in India regarding
Col. Stevens' tomb.

15 FEB 1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Recd fr. No. 4210-1-95 Am
25 0716-3-94 Am
97 0724-11-93
70 0716-8-93 St.
64 0729-11-93 St.
Recd fr. 976 0718-8-90 St.
220 071-2-81 St.

[G.]
25

1,000-5-11-95

Ecclesiastical DEPARTMENT

C. No. 34.

FOR ORDERS.

In para: 4 of G.O. d/ 16-8-93,
No. 70 Eccles:, the Govt. remarked that
from the return of isolated tombs in
the S. Arcot Dt. it appeared that the
monument erected to Colonel Stevens
had been
in Pattanur included in French limits
and directed the Collector to report
the circumstances under which this was
permitted. In his letter recorded in
G.O. No. 97 Eccles:, d/ 24-11-93, the
Collector reported that the tomb stands
a few feet south of the boundary line
which was accepted in G.O. No. 220, d/
1st February 1881, but that previously
the tomb did stand inside the village
of Pattanur. ~~but~~ The French ~~authorities~~ ^{have} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~had~~ ^{not} ~~encroached~~ ^{not} ~~on~~ ^{not} ~~English~~ ^{not} ~~terri-~~ ^{not} ~~tory~~ ^{not} and the matter was not properly
represented at the time of ^{the} demarcation.
The Collector was thereupon directed
to put himself in communication with
the French authorities and ask them to
allow the boundary to be altered so as
to include the monument in English
territory on which it always used to

stand.

2. The Collector now submits for orders a letter from the French Govt: d/ 19-11-95, No. 295, pointing out that the question is really one of cession of territory, as the plans in their possession establish their rights to the ground. The question had therefore been transmitted to Paris and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had enquired (a) the exact extent of land required (b) the advantages of offering ^{ad as} compensation and (c) whether the Collector was authorized to act in the matter.

3. The Collector does not state the cause of the delay in the submission of this letter. If the question of the boundary being correct or not is to be gone into, the matter should be dealt with in the Rev: dept, but otherwise it will perhaps be sufficient to address the French authorities in view to the privilege being granted of free access to the tomb at all times for the purpose of keeping it in good order as suggested by the Collector.

Orders are solicited.

Re: Colonel Stevens' monument in S. Arcot

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR. (2)

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE. (1)

5513
18.2.96

H.M. It is not worth while raising the question of rectification of frontier which would involve a reference to the G. & S. & the Secy of State. It seems sufficient if the French will do us the courtesy of allowing free access to the tomb for the purpose of keeping it in repair. If so the Govt of the French Settlements be addressed by the Govt of the British Settlements.

What about a fence round the tomb? If there is none, I think we might also ask to be allowed to construct one to prevent damage to the tomb. Wh. W. otherwise be constantly being on the French Settlements. The Governor be addressed by the Govt of the British Settlements. 21/2/96

Ecol: Dept:

Current N^o. 34

Order N^o. 13 d/ 7 March 96
Ordered that the following letter be ~~addressed to~~ ^{added to} that H.E. the Governor of the French Settlements in India be addressed as suggested by the Collector in para 6 of his letter. (from orders)

W
Shur

To the Collector of South Arcot d/ 11/3/96
W
9/3

Political
N^o. 16 d/ 7 March 96
Letter - to H.E. the Governor of the Fr. Settlements in India
W
9/3
Your Excellency

With reference to the correspondence ending with your Excellency's letter to the Collector of South Arcot N^o. 295 d/ 19th Nov 95 regarding the tomb of Colonel Stevens, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that there will be no need to raise either the question of cession of territory or rectification of boundary, if your Excellency will be so good as to allow the servants of the British

Govt free access to the
for the purpose of keeping it in repair Col. Stevens's Monument
tomb ~~at all times~~, and
will also grant permission
for a fence to be ^{constructed} ~~built~~
round it. ~~for purposes~~
of preservation.

Be pleased to accept
the assurance of the
high consideration etc.

from orders

H.B.

7013
3/3/96

8/24/3/6

done
11/5/0/6

Given for copying _____
Copied _____
Examined _____
Signed _____

189

AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
F = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.