

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	240	Press
		~~M.S.~~
Dated	8/4	1888

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 9th April 1858.

No. 21. From H. D. PHILLIPS, Esq., Commissioner of Tanjore ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd March 1858, No. 282.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of an Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated the 11th Instant, No. 182, requiring a report whether the Arms, Ordnance and Ammunition of the late Raj can be securely kept at Tanjore and their removal to any other Station dispensed with ; I have the honor to state that I feel somewhat embarrassed by the resolution of the Government and find difficulty in shaping my reply.

2. The Government will recollect that my original communication on the subject of the large quantity of Arms stored in the Tanjore Fort, had reference to what appeared to be intended by them in respect of applying to this Presidency generally, the provisions of the Arms* Act. In my capacity of Magistrate, I had separately submitted† the information called for in regard to giving effect to the first six Sections of that Act within the limits of my Magisterial charge, and I brought specially to notice the supplies of offensive Weapons in the area not liable to the ordinary jurisdiction of the Established Courts, because any disarming process of a comprehensive character would have been incomplete and futile unless it had embraced in its operation the Town and Suburbs of Tanjore itself.

3. On this the Government were pleased to direct the Inspector General of Ordnance to adopt certain professional measures and thereupon to arrange for the transport of the Arms in question to a place of deposit other than Tanjore.

4. The Ordnance Authorities have now come to the conclusion that, judged by the standard which prevails in their Department, the Arms and Ordnance of the late Raj are unserviceable ;— and if they belonged to the Government, the Officer who personally inspected them would have them broken up on the spot.

5. If the Government should be pleased to resolve that their destruction is not justifiable and that they must be preserved and held available for any legal representative of the late Rajah who may hereafter claim the restoration of these Arms, I beg to explain that in the Tanjore Fort there is no better place of security than the vaulted hall in which they are now lying.

6. There they might be permitted to rest as they now are. Since the issue of the Supreme Court's injunction, no attempt has been made to clean or prevent injury to them and it would be out of place now to commence a different system. But the hall to which I refer is inside the straggling buildings called the Tanjore Palace, and if perchance a band of Armed men organized an attack on the few Sepoys who now form a guard close to its entrance, the localities are so peculiar that aid from without could not be brought to bear against such attack and the guard would infallibly and easily be overpowered.

7. I do not refer to an event of the kind as a probable contingency but solely to explain that against bad men requiring offensive Weapons, the *security* of the Arms cannot be provided for in the Tanjore Palace or Fort.

8. The jewels and other valuable property of the Raj affected by the Supreme Court's injunction is not more favorably placed. Twenty resolute men spreading themselves in the 3 proper directions could at once cut up the Sepoy Sentries, close the very narrow passages leading to the halls of deposit, force their ancient and shaking doors and remove the costly ornaments which are inside.

9. The safe deposit of these articles and of the Arms, too, is however sufficiently provided for, I consider, by the jealousy of the several parties in Tanjore which would at once impel them to oppose any open or secret attempt made by either of the opposite factions to interfere with the custody either of valuable or worthless property of which the late Rajah died possessed.

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10. It would be death to the European Soldiers now doing duty at Tanjore to place them on day sentry duty at the doors of the Halls where the Arms, Ordnance and Jewels are so carefully secured, and in their case, also, the objections above stated would equally apply.

11. It is much to be regretted, I consider, that no justifiable opening seems to be afforded for rendering utterly useless, except as old Iron, so many hundreds of Muskets, Rifles, Pistols, Bayonets and Swords. They cannot be required by the representatives of the late Rajah and if a fair estimate were now placed on the whole, it might, I submit, justly, be pleaded that State exigencies demanded the adoption of measures of destruction and that property partially unserviceable and of objectionable character, had, under that view, been rendered utterly useless.

12. This done, at the very worst the Government, I apprehend, could be held responsible for only the *value* of the Articles which a Committee of Officers might formally have adjusted; but whatever the legal difficulties of the step, I respectfully submit either that the Arms should be removed or that they be broken up; and I do not hesitate to recommend that a preference be given to the latter course.

No. 22.

ORDER THEREON, No. 240; dated 8th April 1858.

In this letter, Mr. Phillips replies to the Resolution of *No. 182, dated 11th March, 1858. Government,* calling on him to report whether the Arms, Ordnance and Ammunition of the late Raj "can be securely kept at Tanjore and their removal to any other Station be dispensed with."

2. His statement is that, were it to become an object with any illdisposed persons to gain possession of the Arsenal and its contents, the purpose might easily be effected; and he recommends that the collection should either be removed or broken up, giving the preference to the latter course.

3. It is observed that the Advocate General has already given it as his opinion that the removal of the contents of the "Arsenal" for greater security and with a view to the public peace (the Arms, &c. being kept as they were when removed) would be allowable on the part of the Commissioner. He will now be requested to state whether the destruction of the Arms or any portion of them would be objectionable, should the Government deem such a measure prudent on the score of public policy.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

From Camp of Tanjore

22 March 58.

No. 282

The Rajah's arsenal contained a large, curious and beautiful valuable collection of arms, which, now in Camp, I proposed to retain for Government. They were all cleaned, greased, and packed in boxes. Each article separately numbered, & accompanied with a list which was printed at the Collector's Press.

Residee Rese, Rese are a large collection of muskets, (about 2000 I think) & bagged &

Cavalry sword, & pistols, giving
common bamboo cutting
spears etc, and all accoutrements
to be disposed of as Government
might order -

The Supreme Council in
-junction interrupted all
proceedings - every thing
on left as it was, a seal
placed on the door, and
double sentries posted.

I confess that the idea was
suggested by Mr. Phillip, of
an attack of resolute men,
with the view of seizing the
army, which occurred to me

and even now, before the landing
but has occurred in India, I
do not believe that there is any
probability of such an attempt
being made in Fuzhou. The
defence posted at the Palace is
about 25 men, and no
sentry is 50 yards from the
main body.

Supposing that all the
arms which have been left
for essential destruction, the
unimmediately destroyed, as
is suggested, that is to be
done with all the which have
been packed, ready for

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst. in relation to the arms and ammunition deposited at Tanjore. I have the honor to inform you that the same have been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours, Sir, very respectfully,
 J. H. P.

27. 3. 58. Let the Adv. Gen. opinion for the Govt. be made the basis of the decision.

Political Dept
 No. 240
 C. Secy. to Govt. April 1858.

Read the following letter } here entered No. 202
 from the Commsⁿ of Tanjore } D/22nd March/58.

No. 182
 D/11th March/58.

In his letter Mr Phillips replies to the Resolution of Govt, calling on him to report whether the Arms, Ordnance & Ammunition of the late Rajah can be "securely kept at Tanjore, & their removal to any other station be dispensed with?"
 2. His statement is that, were it to become an object with any ill disposed persons to gain possession of the Arsenal & its contents, the purpose might easily be effected; and he recommends that the collection of the arms be removed or broken up, giving the preference to the latter course.

3. It is observed that the Advocate Genl has already given it as his opinion that the removal of the contents of the Arsenal for greater security & with a view to the public peace (the arms &c being kept as they were when removed) is to be allowable on the part of the Commsⁿ. He is requested to will now state whether the destruction of the arms or any portion of them will be objectionable, & if so Govt deem such a measure prudent in the case of public policy.

From H. C. Director
 D/19th Feb/58
 No. 182.

To the Secy to Govt
 C. Secy to Govt
 30. 3. 58

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. in relation to the arms and ammunition deposited at Tanjore. I have the honor to inform you that the same have been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours, Sir, very respectfully,
 J. H. P.

D/31-3-58

Dr. J. H. Long, 9 W. 4th St.

Attest: L. 1858, Sept. 24

Wm. A.

Attest: J. H. Long, 9 W. 4th St.

Dec. 23

Attest: L. 1858, Sept. 24

Wm. A.

J. C. 20th Sept. 1858, 1/2 22423