

ICS 112

Colonial Office Petitions

SUMMARY GUIDE

Repository	GB 101 Institute of Commonwealth Studies
Reference code	ICS 112
Dates of creation of material	1933-1950
Level of description	Collection
Extent	9 volumes [3 boxes, 1 large box]
Name of creator	Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Administrative history

Proposals to introduce income tax to Kenya Colony and to the Straits Settlements were made in 1933 and 1940 respectively. In the case of Kenya there was strong opposition from colonists working in trade and commerce, who viewed the proposed legislation as detrimental to their economic viability and a removal of one of the material benefits of living and working in the colony. The petition was spearheaded by Lord Francis Scott, the . In the Straits Settlements, while an increase in taxation was accepted in principle because of the outbreak of war, the petitioners viewed income tax as a method impossible to implement effectively and fairly, because of widespread corruption in the colony. They suggested (but did not specify) an alternative method of taxation which would be self-assessing.

In Fiji, schools for the large Indian community provided (in accordance with legislation) teaching of and in the Indian language of Hindustani only, despite there being significant numbers speaking the languages of South India, namely Tamil, Telegu and Malayalam. There had been moves to widen the teaching to include these languages in the 1930s, instigated by the then Governor, Sir Arthur Richards. Following Sir Arthur's transfer from the Colony, the matter remained in abeyance, and the petitioners sought to reactify this by appealing directly to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Archival history

Presented to ICS by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Scope and content

Petitions submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. They contain the text of the petition, and the names and other details of signatories.

System of arrangement	Chronological
Access	Open
Copyright/copying conditions	Usual conditions
Language	English; one item contains sections in South Indian languages [Tamil, Telegu and Malayalam]
Finding aids	A descriptive list is available in ICS Library
Associated material elsewhere	Colonial Office material at the Public Record Office includes correspondence files relating to the Kenya Income Tax petition [CO 822/51/5-6].
Date of description	21 Nov 2000

Colonial Office Petitions

DESCRIPTIVE LIST

ICS 112/1	Petition re Income Tax in Kenya Colony	1933
	Petition by members of the Legislative Council in Kenya Colony, and colonists of Kenya representing trade, commerce and agriculture, objecting to a Bill to impose Income Tax in the Colony	
	4 volumes	
ICS 112/1/1	Petition	1933
ICS 112/1/2	Petition	1933
ICS 112/1/3	Petition	1933
ICS 112/1/4	Petition	1933
ICS 112/2	Petition re Income Tax in the Straits Settlements	1940
	Petition of persons, companies and associations of the Straits Settlements, against proposals to introduce Income Tax in the Colony	
	4 volumes	
ICS 112/2/1	Petition	1940
ICS 112/2/2	Petition	1940
ICS 112/2/3	Petition	1940
ICS 112/2/4	Petition	1940
ICS 112/3	Petition re the teaching of South Indian languages in schools for Indian children in Fiji	1950
	Petition by members of the South Indian Community in Fiji for the freedom of teaching their languages (Tamil, Telegu and Malayalam) in schools, instead of Hindustani only; and for the provision of training in the teaching of those languages. The signatories (who number over 5000) give name, language, occupation, village, district, and signature or thumb mark	
	1 volume	