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IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference: ICS92
Title: Nigeria: Mid-West Affairs: Oba of Benin
Dates: 1926-1946
Level: fonds
Extent and Medium: 1 file
Name of Creator: Government of Nigeria

CONTENT

Scope and Content:

Documents from the Nigerian Government, concerning Oba of Benin, including correspondence with the Governor on the revision of the Benin-Warri boundary, 1926; correspondence and papers on links between Eweka II, Oba of Benin and Fio Agbano II, King of Glidji, Togo, 1934; correspondence on request from the Oba for the use of armed Nigerian police during burial ceremony for his mother, 1935; correspondence and papers on alleged libel of Akenzua II, Oba of Benin by H O Davies in article 'My Impressions on Nigeria' in the 'Daily Service', 1940; correspondence on award of CMG to Akenzua II, 1946.

Notes:

The former Kingdom of Benin is situated in south western Nigeria. Ruled by the Oba and by a sophisticated bureaucracy, the African state flourished (14th-17th cent.). Benin sold slaves as well as ivory, pepper, and cloth to Europeans. After a period of decline, it revived in the 19th century with a trade in palm products. The modern Nigerian city of Benin City (1987 estimated population 183,000) served as the capital and was conquered and burned by the British in 1898. Iron work, carved ivory, and bronze busts made in Benin rank with the finest art of Africa. The Kingdom should not be confused with the present-day Republic of Benin (formerly known as Dahomey).

ACCESS AND USE

Language of Scripts: English
System of Arrangement: Chronological

Conditions of Access:

Open for research although at least 24 hours' notice should be given before a research visit. Access to some files may be restricted by data protection legislation.

ICS92/1	Page 2 of a letter from Oba of Benin trying to extend his jurisdiction	1926 July 2
ICS92/2	Petition from Oba to The Governor re lost territories.	1926 June 6
ICS92/3	Note by Secretary Southern Provinces, that could not be considered.	1926 July 2
ICS92/4	Ms notes by officials that nothing to be done.	1926 July
ICS92/5	To Residents Benin and Warri Provinces from Sec. Southern Provinces re transfer of Ugharife Town to Oba of Benin.	1926 July 24
ICS92/6	To Sec. Southern Provinces, from Resident Benin re request of Oba for revision of Benin-Warri boundary.	1926 August 10
ICS92/7	To Resident Benin from Oba re history of his forefathers. [Damaged.]	1926 July 12
ICS92/8	Typed remarks by Secretariat that cannot recommend boundary change.	1926 August
ICS92/9	To Resident Benin, from Secretary Southern Provinces unable to change boundary	1926 August 25
ICS92/10	To Secretary, Southern Provinces from Resident Warri that local people do not want to be transferred to Oba	1926 October 1
ICS92/11	To District Officer, Sapele, from several natives of Warrifi that they not want to be transferred to Oba. 4p	1926 September 16-20
ICS92/12	To Resident Warri and Benin from Sec. Southern Provinces that Oba's request not granted.	1926 October 14
ICS92/13	Covering note to following documents	1928 May 1
ICS92/14	From Oba re Agenda for Lt-Governor's visit - list of requests and petitions. 3p.	Undated [c. 1928]
ICS92/15	To Lt. Gov. from Resident Benin commenting on paras in above documents	1928 April 18
ICS92/16	Benin taxation	1927-28

ICS92/17	Ms note	Undated [c. 1928]
ICS92/18	Extract from no. 14 sent to Sec. Southern Provinces.	1928 June 6
ICS92/19	Memo to Sec. Southern Provinces from Resident Benin re increase in salary for Oba and ms notes by Secretariat. 3p.	1928 August 18
ICS92/20	Extract from tour of Southern Provinces by Acting Lt-Gov., Southern Provinces 13-25 March 1929 re visit to Oba.	1929 March 25
ICS92/21	Memo to Sec. Southern Provinces from Resident Benin re petition of Oba claiming jurisdiction over several towns.	1931 April 13
ICS92/22	Precis of the petition	1931
ICS92/23	Petition from Oba re towns in Sobo he lays claim to. 2p.	1931 April 1
ICS92/24	Copies of no. 21-23.	1931
ICS92/25	Ms notes by Secretariat.	1931
ICS92/26	To Resident Benin from Sec. Southern Provinces that villages to remain under current jurisdiction.	1931 May 4
ICS92/27	To Sec. Southern Provinces from Resident Benin that Oba like to attend opening of Higher College Yaba.	1933 September 18
ICS92/28	To Resident Benin from Director of Education, Nigeria re attendance of Oba at opening of Higher College Yaba	1933 September 9
ICS92/29	Ms notes by Secretariat	1933
ICS92/30	To Chief Sec. to Government from Act. Sec. Southern Provinces re accommodation for Oba.	1933 October 7
ICS92/31	To Sec. Southern Provinces from Act. Chief Sec. to Govt that arrangements being made	1933 October 17
ICS92/32	To Resident Benin from Sec. Southern Provinces that arrangements being made	1933 October 27
ICS92/33	To Commissioner of Colony from Sec. Southern Provinces asking him to make arrangements.	1933 October 27

ICS92/34	To Sec. Southern Provinces from Act. Chief Sec. to Govt. re cost of Oba's visit to Lagos	1934 May 10
ICS92/35	Copy of above sent to Resident Benin.	1934
ICS92/36	To Sec. Southern Provinces from Resident Benin thanking him for voucher to defray cost.	1934 July 4
ICS92/37	Ms notes.	1934
ICS92/38	To Chief Sec. of Govt. from Sec. Southern Provinces referring thanks of Oba	1934 July 12
ICS92/39	To Sec. Southern Provinces from Resident Benin asking advice on dealing with overtures made to Oba by foreign princes	1934 August 27
ICS92/40	To Oba from Fio Agbano II, King of Glidji, Togo, seeking ties of friendship. 2p.	1934 July 30
ICS92/41	Ms notes by Secretariat 'No business of ours'.	1934
ICS92/42	To Resident Benin from Sec. Southern Provinces that "no reason two native rulers should not carry on private correspondence ... advisable Oba should show any such correspondence to the Resident".	1934 September 25
ICS92/43	To Sec. Southern Provinces from Resident Benin that Oba requests use of armed Nigerian police during ceremony to re inter his mother.	1935 March 19
ICS92/44	Ms notes by Secretariat.	1935
ICS92/45	To Inspector-General of Police, Lagos from Sec. Southern Provinces re use of armed police.	1935 March 27
ICS92/46	To Sec. Southern Provinces from Inspector-General Police that not customary for armed party to attend a native ceremonial occasion.	1935 April 6
ICS92/47	Ms notes by Secretariat.	1935

ICS92/48	To Resident Benin from Sec. Southern Provinces not granting request.	1935 April 17
ICS92/49	Ms notes	Undated [c.1935]
ICS92/50	Telegram to Sec. Southern Provinces from Resident Benin that Oba asking for advance of £250 to buy a car	1937 March 3
ICS92/51	Ms notes by Secretariat	1937
ICS92/52	Telegram to Resident from Sec. Southern Provinces that advance approved	1937 March 6
ICS92/53	Confirmation of telegram	1937 March 9
ICS92/54	To Sec. Western Provinces, Ibadan, from Resident Benin forwarding below, asking for Crown Counsel opinion	1940 December 18
ICS92/55	To Resident Benin from Oba re remarks by Mr H.O. Davies in <i>Daily Service</i> which he thinks are libellous	1940 December 12
ICS92/56	To Resident from Sec. Western Provinces that remarks not libellous	1940 December 27
ICS92/57	Notice of above documents	1940
ICS92/58	To Resident from Oba that taking this advice	1941 January 4
ICS92/59	Ms notes re correspondence in press on above.	
ICS92/60	To Oba from Sec. Western Provinces that Lt. Governor would like to see him.	1944 May 27
ICS92/61	Telegram to Sec. Western Provinces from Resident Benin that Oba wants advance of £550.	1945 November 20
ICS92/62	Ms notes on above	
ICS92/63	Telegram to Resident Benin from Sec. Western Provinces "Inform purpose of advance"; telegram to Sec. Western Provinces from Resident Benin "To buy lorry".	1945 November 22-23
ICS92/64	Ms notes from Secretariat agreeing. Telegram to Resident Benin from Sec. Western Provinces agreeing.	1945 November 26

ICS92/65	To Resident Benin from Oba re honour C.M.G. bestowed on him by King.	1946 June 14
ICS92/66	Ms notes re sending copies of above to other officials.	undated