



19.6.30

COLONIAL OFFICE,

DOWNING STREET, S.W.1.

My dear Buxton

It was good of you to write to me — and I have ever since been trying to reply. I am very sorry that I shall necessarily see less of you during the (probably brief) time that I am in office.

But I am sure you are right to follow the doctor's advice. In

increase, relief has
come by the burden
being halved. I, too,
am sorry to lose the
Dominions. (As to the
point we had to talk
about, I gather that
it is now agreed that
the matter stands over
until the Imp. Conference)

It is tremendously
brave of Mrs Buxton
to fight the election,
in which she has everyone's
good wishes

Yours

Passfield

STATION: LIPHOOK 2 MILES.
TELEGRAMS: PASSFIELD.
TELEPHONE No: PASSFIELD 6.

Cabinet

6.4.35
PASSFIELD CORNER,
LIPHOOK,
HANTS.

Dear Noel Buxton

I am sorry to have
delayed my answer to your
Enquiry as to Cabinet Vaker.

In my case the command
arrived in September when
I was in Moscow. When I
returned, I let it lie,
intending to ask colleague
what was to be done. Possibly
not being in the Cabinet,
knew nothing about it. He
understood that Lansbury
had refused. We are so
continuously at work here
in our retirement from
London that I saw no one to
ask. A month or so ago I
received a reminder from

Haukey. I thereupon wrote
to Henderson asking for
instructions or advice.
He replied that he had given
way, and returned the
papers. Thereupon I did
the same. (I understand
now that Lord George refused)

I am half inclined to
agree with the order. It must
be remembered that prior to the
war there were no minutes,
and only occasional papers.
We have few of us suitable
accommodation for the great
mass (I lodged mine, in 1924 &
1931, in sealed bundles, at the
London School of Economics, under
conditions of non-access). With
the miscellaneous social papers
of present-day Cabinet ministers,
there is something to be said for
calling in the papers ^{in Sidney Webb}

STATION: LIPHOOK 2 MILES.
TELEGRAMS: PASSFIELD.
TELEPHONE No: PASSFIELD 6.

Webb

29.1.37
PASSFIELD CORNER,
LIPHOOK,
HANTS.

Dear Noel Buxton

In answer to your enquiry why cannot the British Tropical Colonies become actual Mandated Territories, instead of (as I suggested) being voluntarily placed by the Gov^t under the surveillance of the L. of N. Mandates Commission as if they were Mandated Territories?

I can only reply that this is technically impossible. The Mandated Territories were made such by the "allied & associated Powers" (i.e. the victors in the war) in 1919. These "Powers" could not be resurrected now in order to allow them to give away British Colonies. The League of Nations ^{in 1919 or 1920} then appointed its Mandates Commission to deal with these Mandated Territories as directed by the Versailles Treaty. The nearest

That it is possible now to get to the same position for the British Tropical Colonies as for the British Govt voluntarily to ask the League and its Mandates Commission to deal with these Colonies in exactly the same way as it does with the actually mandated territories. (I should myself go further, and ask at the same time that its dealings with both sets should be reinforced by actual inspections by League observers, who should make independent reports)

(Note that the League, and the Mandates Commission, have, and make no claim to have, sovereignty over the mandated territories. British legal opinion seems to advise that the sovereignty is in the Ruler to whom each the mandate was given)

Thank we are both well, and we should much like to see you, and Lady Housbuxton if you ever feel like driving down here for lunch when the weather improves. Sidney Webb