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EUROPEAN COLONIALISM IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSOLIDATION OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN AFRICA, 1910-1929



This collection comprises correspondence, studies and reports, cables, maps, and other kinds of documents related to U.S. consular activities. U.S. Consulates were listening posts reporting on the activities of the Portuguese colonial government and the activities of the native peoples. Highlights include the beginning of an anti-colonial movement and the industrialization and economic exploitation of Portugal's African colonies.

Date Range: 1910-1929

Content: 8,814 images

Source Library: National Archives (U.S.)

Detailed Description:

Source Note: Record Group 59, Records of the U.S. State Department, Central Classified Files, Class 800, Portugal, 1910-1929. Includes content only for Portuguese colonial possessions in Africa, including country codes: 53h, 53i, 53k, 53m, 53n, 53p, 53q.

N.B. Formerly part of National Archives microfilm publication M705, reels 25-34.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

853h.OO - 853h.801

Political affairs, appointment of the Governor General, naval salutes, famine relief, taxes on cablegrams, cable rights, the wireless station at St. Vincent, and port regulations.

PORTUGUESE GUINEA (Guinea Coast)

8531-453/1

Response to salutes of foreign vessels.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

853k.453 - 853k.6363

Salutes of war vessels, labor recruitment for plantation work, and petroleum.

ANGOLA (Portuguese West Africa)

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

853m.00 - 853m.0443

Uprisings of natives, 1914; appointment of High Commissioners; political conditions; appointment of Governors General and High Commissioners; 1924-28; executive and legislative operations; nationality laws; change of districts and plans to transfer the capital from Luanda to Huambo; the "Carta Organic" or basic law of Angola, 1926; powers of attorney, 1922.

PUBLIC ORDER, SAFETY, AND WORKS

853m.1 - 853m.156

Regulations governing residence, trade, and travel, liquor and narcotics; building program; railway construction; harbor and port facilities.

SOCIAL MATTERS

853m.402 - 853m.453

Law requiring Portuguese to be taught in mission schools and decrees governing missionary activities; response to salutes of foreign war vessels.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

853m. 50 - 853m. 55/5

Economic conditions; developments in transportation, agriculture; exports and imports; mining; cost of food; corporations, corporation laws and taxes; native labor; forced labor; laws regulating operation of foreign insurance companies; the Angola budget for years 1921-25; negotiations for foreign loans; proposed profit tax and real estate tax; income tax; the monetary system; foreign exchange; banks and banking; land concessions; emigration of Portuguese in Brazil to Angola; German infiltration, 1923.

INDUSTRIAL MATTERS

853m. 602 - 853m. 6586/2

Mining and railway concessions; lack of permanent industrial expositions; agricultural development; rubber production; sheep and goats; game laws; mineral deposits and industries; diamond mining; diamond smuggling; copper mining; petroleum producing coal; petroleum deposits and concessions; electric power production, and construction of a street railway system in Luanda; negotiations for a vegetable oil concession by Spencer, Kellogg, and Sons, 1912; proposed establishment of a brewery, 1929.

COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION

853m. 70 - 853m. 797

Proposed tourist route from West Coast to East Coast of Africa, 1924; postal rates; cable landings in Angola; wireless stations; railroads; railroad taxation; railroad construction and financing; proposed construction and operation of an electric power plant and street railway system in Luanda; construction of airfield at Huambo; motor vehicle requirements.

NAVIGATION

853m. 84 - 853m. 843/1

Tonnage taxes; harbor and port dues.

OTHER INTERNAL AFFAIRS

853m.911/0

Establishment of a monarchist newspaper in Luanda, 1926.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFICA

POLITICAL AFFAIRS

853n.OO - 853n.0443

Reports on political situation, 1922-29; appointment of High Commissioners, 1923; appointment of Governor, 1926; relations between the Portuguese Government and the Portuguese East African colony; nationality and naturalization laws; mapping of Portuguese East Africa; codes of law; powers of attorney.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKS

853n.III - 853n. 156/2

Regulations affecting departure of U.S. citizens from Portuguese East Africa; regulations governing importation of arms and ammunition; prohibition of alcohol; the temperance movement; proposed employment of U.S. expert in sanitary matters, 1923; development policy and construction work in East Africa as a field for U.S. investment and enterprise; road construction, 1927; bridge construction; projected development of the port of Beira.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

853n.20/0

Military defense of Portuguese East Africa.

SOCIAL MATTERS

853n.4016 - 853n.453

Treatment of natives in Mozambique; penetration of people from India into Portuguese East African life; motion pictures; education; salutes of foreign vessels at fortress of S. Sebastian.

ECONOMIC MATTERS

853n.504 - 853n.55

"Report on Employment of Native Labor in Portuguese Africa" by Prof. Edward A. Ross; slavery question; strikes; U.S. insurance companies; life insurance; revenues, budgets, and loans; taxation; currency law of 1922; foreign exchange, 1926; banking and foreign payments; violation of trademark "Listerine" of the Lambert Pharmacal Co.; trademarks of J. L. Stipel and Sons; objection to the new immigration law, 1923.

INDUSTRIAL MATTERS

853n.602 - 853n.6581

Concessions for mineral and railway development; agricultural credits law, 1922; irrigation of the Limpopo Valley; cotton production, 1921-2?; copra production, 1922; mineral deposits and industries; lead mining, 1924; discovery and development of coal deposits; petroleum resources and development by U.S. oil companies, 1921-26; sugar plantations and processing plants.

COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION

853n.70 - 853n.797

Lack of communications responsible for backward state of development, 1927; post; changes in postage rates, 1925; construction of radio stations, 1923-26; contract between the Portuguese Government and the British Marconi Co. for the establishment of radio stations; railway construction; coal concessions, purchase of locomotives, and railway materials; railways connecting Portuguese East Africa with British Nyasaland; aerial navigation regulations, 1929; legislation relating to the automobile.

NAVIGATION

853n.801 - 853n.825

Regulation of coastwise shipping; list of lighthouses, 1924; pilotage regulations for the port of Beira, 1922.

OTHER INTERNAL AFFAIRS

853n.91211

Portuguese-language newspapers in the United States, 1927.

LOURENCO MARQUES

853P-00 - 853P.8593

Political affairs; regulations governing residence, trade, and travel; control of firearms; harbors, docks, and port facilities; sports; commemorative celebrations; audience with the Governor; labor and strikes; financial matters; currency law; banking; expositions; agriculture;

animal husbandry; coal mining; sugar refining; wireless telegraph; railways; marine navigation and aids to navigation; purchase of a merchant vessel; fueling.

MOZAMBIQUE

853q.00 - 853q.404

Political affairs; chief executive; government; constitution; citizenship; decrees of Portuguese Ministry of Colonies; traffic in liquor; public works; roads, streets, and highways; harbors and drydocks; religion.

853q.50 - 853q.8503

Economic matters; statistics; the census; corporations; labor; strikes and lockouts; forced labor; financial affairs; taxation; monetary system; banks and banking; Portuguese colonization; immigration; monopolies and concessions; agriculture; mining and mining regulations; petroleum; sugar refining; telegraph rates; wireless telegraph; railways; navigation regulations, freight rates.