

Laluan

N^o.

866

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RECD

16 JAN 66

Office or Individual.	(Subject.)
Foreign Of.	Murder of Mr J.W. Allen in Palawan.
Date. 1886	Looting of Cheng Aee's Store
Jan 14	Copy despatch from Cons Gen Treachert Copy two desps from Consul Ballan rapps - Pro poses to instruct Mr Ballan to desire Gov Gen Palawan to obtain immediate reparation for looting of Aee's Store.
Last previous Paper. Gov 14 th Jan - 6	(Minutes.)
Ans: 23 Jan: 1	Mr Meade
Next subsequent Paper. 7 2162	Consul b
	Recd Jan 16
	Rm 187
	Jm 24/1.

Foreign Office

January 14 1886



Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 19th of December last I am directed by The Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies for his information copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin, relative to the following cases.

70
21946
65

Teacher
22 Nov 11
General Gollan
1 Nov 23
20 Nov 27

1 The murder of Mr Allan
in Palawan in the month of
under Secretary of State August
Colonial Office.

August last; 2. The burning
and looting in the same month
and at the same place of the
store of Cheng Hse, a British subject.

It will be seen that upon the
occasion of his Teacher's visit to
the spot in Her Majesty's ship

"Merlin" two Sulus implicated in
the former crime were arrested and
tried, with the result that one
of them was acquitted, and the
other sentenced to ten years
imprisonment, the latter being

Subsequently

Subsequently handed over to the Spanish Authorities.

Mr. Treacher was, however, unable to obtain any evidence respecting the burning and looting of Ching Hee's shop.

I am to request that you will state to Colonel Stanley that Lord Salisbury proposes, if the Colonial Office concurs, to instruct Her Majesty's Consul at Manila by telegraph to press the Governor General to obtain immediate reparation for the looting etc of Ching Hee's store.

I am Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant.

J Pouncefote

GROSVENOR
ISLAND MAINE

S. c.



54

No. 83.

Acting Consul-General Treacher to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 22. Consular.)

My Lord,

Labuan, November 11, 1885.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 19 of the 9th October, reporting the murder of Mr. Allen and the burning of the shop of a British subject in Palawan, I have the honour to report that on the 29th ultimo I left Sandakan in Her Majesty's ship "Merlin," Captain Maturin, R.N., to make inquiries on the spot.

Palawan being under Spanish rule, I decided to touch first at Balabac, to inform the Spanish Governor there of my intentions.

He informed me that he had heard of the murder, but that Palawan was not under his jurisdiction, but under that of the Governor of Puerto Princessa.

Calling at Kulassan, we took on board Dato Tambooto, the son of Dato Haroun-al-Rashid, of Sulu, with thirty followers.

This Dato expressed his readiness to assist the English in this matter, but refused to acknowledge the supremacy of Spain, and stated that no Spanish war-vessel had visited his country.

Proceeding to Grave Island, after considerable difficulty two men implicated in the murder of Mr. Allen were captured by the Sulu authorities. A public inquiry was held on the deck of the "Merlin," presided over by the Dato and a Panglima, and I have the honour to inclose copy of a summary of the evidence taken.

I have little doubt that Mr. Allen fired the first shot, killing a native, whose relative avenged his death, as is customary in these countries, and the result of the trial was that Latib, the uncle of the man shot, and who actually cut Mr. Allen down, was acquitted, but that Idik, a noted thief, whose actions had originated the disturbances, and with whom Mr. Allen was struggling when cut down by Latib, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. The man was taken to Balabac, and handed over to the Spanish authorities.

It should be noted that though Mr. Allen was killed in the early part of August, and that the fact was known to the Spanish, no action had been taken by the latter up to the date of the "Merlin's" visit.

In the matter of the burning and the looting of Ching Hee's shop, I was unable to find any witnesses.

I would wish to place on record my appreciation of the assistance afforded me in a somewhat difficult undertaking by Captain Maturin, of Her Majesty's ship "Merlin."

A present of 100 dollars was given to the Dato and his followers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. TREACHER.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Memorandum.

1. MR. J. W. ALLEN killed at Grave Island (Sinano), Nacodah Cove, west coast of Palawan, about the 13th August, 1885, by Sulus.

2. Shop of British subject, Ching Hee, under the management of one Kop Tang Swee, burnt and looted at the same place by Sulus about the 4th August, 1885. Ching Hee has submitted to the British Government his claim for 2,391 dol. 71 c. as compensation for losses incurred.

In the first case the evidence of the following persons has been taken:—

1. Chin Ah Wang, carpenter to Mr. Allen, *eye-witness*.
2. Kop Tong Swee, trader, residing at Sinano at the time of the murder.
3. Ah Chow, coolie to Mr. Allen, *eye-witness*.
4. Chook Ching, coolie to Mr. Allen, *eye-witness*.
5. Popit, Sulu woman kept by Mr. Allen, *eye-witness*.
6. Panglima Rustam, the Chief of the district, who was in the village at the time.

7. Captain Armstrong, master of the British steam-ship "Royalist," trading to Palawan.

8. Neo Ching Ting, part owner of the said vessel.

The principal witnesses were Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5, who state they were present at the occurrence.

It appears that recently there had been a considerable influx of Sulus into the district, and in the absence of Dato Haroun-al-Rashid, the Panglima Rustam has been powerless to keep them in order. There had been much open stealing by these Sulus of the goods belonging to the traders, and Mr. Allen himself had suffered severely from them. Furthermore, a Chinaman's shop had been burnt and looted.

Mr. Allen and the Chinese requested the Panglima to hold an inquiry, which he did. The proceedings were disorderly, the Sulus firing guns in the air and drawing their "barangs."

The prisoner Idik was, however, proved to be one of the principal thieves, but the Panglima did not arrest him nor punish him, alleging that he would do so when his accomplices were also caught.

Mr. Allen appears to have left the meeting in a state of great anger at the result, and proceeded to his own house about 5 P.M. on the 13th August, and found Idik and other Sulus standing about. The evidence agrees up to this point, but there are considerable discrepancies as regards the actual origin of the conflict.

Propit, the woman, maintains that Idik and Usman were passing by the house when Mr. Allen caught sight of them, and fired at the former with his revolver, but hit Usman, who died four days subsequently. Idik rushed into the house, and a struggle

ensued between him and Mr. Allen, the former having his "barang" drawn, while the latter's pistol was unloaded, having had but one cartridge in it.

The woman states that she then ran off to the Panglima's, and saw nothing more, but heard that, while the two men were struggling, Latib, the uncle of the wounded Usman, hearing of what had befallen his nephew, rushed into the house and cut Mr. Allen down.

Chin Ah Wang, the carpenter, in his evidence, states that two or three Sulus came to the house; he does not know for what purpose, but wearing their "barangs."

Mr. Allen told them not to come in, and pointed his revolver at them, when they drew their weapons, and thereon Mr. Allen fired one shot, which took no effect on them, and a rush was then made upon him by about a dozen Sulus, who cut him down.

Ah Chow, and a cook, Ching, the two coolies, state that Idik and Latib entered the house with drawn "barangs," with the apparent intention of killing Mr. Allen, who fired one shot in self-defence, killing a man named Usman, who was outside the house, and that the Sulus then cut him down.

On the 3rd November Datu Tambutu, or Alaudin, son of the absent Dato Haroun, and Panglima Rustam, having with much difficulty procured the attendance of Idik, Latib, and Murad, held an inquiry into the matter. Latib at once confessed that he was in the village when he heard that his nephew, Usman, had been killed by Mr. Allen, without cause, and that, carried away by his excitement, he rushed into the house and cut down Mr. Allen; and he maintained that, according to Sulu custom, he was justified in so doing.

The Chiefs took his view of the case entirely, and Latib was accordingly acquitted. Against Murad no evidence was produced, and he was also acquitted. Idik's defence was to the effect that Mr. Allen fired without provocation and hit Usman, whereupon he, Idik, rushed off into the jungle forthwith.

The Chiefs sentenced Idik to ten years' imprisonment, and there being no gaol in the country, handed him over to me, with the request that the sentence might be carried out in some place where there exist facilities for so doing.

With reference to the case of the burning and looting of Ching Hee's shop, no evidence beyond the statement of his manager has been procurable hitherto.

(Signed)

W. H. TREACHER,

Acting Consul-General.

"Merlin," November 4, 1885.

Manila.

57

November 23, 1885.

My Lord Marquess.

I have the honor to report to Y. & L. that in a despatch dated the 3rd ulto the Acting Consul General in Borneo brought under the notice of this Consulate the circumstances connected with Mr Allan's murder in Palawan in the month of August last - the full particulars of which he will have reported to Y. & L. - and Mr Treacher at the same time suggested that a representation on the subject should be made to His Ex^{ty} the Captain General of the Philippines. In accordance with this suggestion Mr Acting Consul General on the 19th October, reported the facts to the Captain General and pointed out the advisability of having the case thoroughly investigated. To

The
Marquess of Salisbury &c.

this

this representation he received
a reply of which I have now
the honor to inclose a copy and
translation. Y. L. will perceive
that the Captain General promised
to send orders forthwith for a
searching enquiry, and that if
need be a ship of war would
be sent to the spot to assist in
the investigation. Presumably
His Ex^{ty} will inform me of the
result of these steps; but Spanish
action in such cases is exceedingly
dilatory and the chances of delay
in the present instance are increased
by reason of Allan's doubtful nationality.
I now await Y. L.'s instructions on the
subject in case it should be thought
desirable to press the matter further
with the auth^s here, and I have comm^d
in this sense to the Acting Consul General
in Borneo.

I have &c
(at) Alex^r Bollen

translation.



58

acquainted with all you have reported
to me in your comm^{rs} of yesterday's
date I have to inform you that
by the mail which starts tomorrow
for "Puerto Principe" I am sending
orders to the Governor of the Island of
Paragua to take steps to investigate
the assassination of Mr Allan which
took place in the middle of August
in the Island of "Sueroed" near the
Island of "Tres Picos". If ~~to~~ carry out
these steps and to exact punishment
on the authors of the murder, it
becomes necessary to send a ship
of war, this shall be done, so that the
personal security of Spanish subjects
as well as foreigners who trade with
those natives may not be infringed;
but your enlightened consideration

The
Acting British Consul
Manila.

will

will not overlook the risks run by
those who dedicate themselves to this
kind of business in places devoid
of the conditions to be open & prepared
for inland and foreign navigation
and commerce.

God be
(sd) Emilio Ferrero.

Manila.

November 23, 1883.

Copy.
Political
No 2.

My Lord Margues,

I have the honor to report that on the 9th instant I rec^d from the Acting British Consul General in Borneo a copy of the statements which he had forwarded to Y. L. relative to the burning and looting by Sukus of the store of one Chung Lee a British subject.

In forwarding these statements to me Mr. Treacher leaves it to my discretion to bring them under the notice of the Captain General, and I have now the honor to report that, as the question has been submitted for Y. L.'s consideration, I think it advisable to await such instructions

The
Margues of Saborny V. G.

as

as Y. L. may be pleased to write
before making any representation
to His Ex^{ty} on the subject.

I trust that this decision, which
I have duly comm^d to Mr. Treacher,
may meet with Y. L.'s approval.

I have

(sd) Alex. Gollan.

DRAFT.

F. C. Lahan 60
800

The Under Secretary

Foreign Office

W. H.

23 Jan 1886

MINUTE. 21 Jan

Mr. ~~of~~

Mr. Robt 22

On

Mr. Wingfield.

Mr. Bramston.

Mr. Meade. 22

Sir R. Herbert.

Lord Dunraven.

Colonel Stanley.

W. H.

In reply to your letter
of the 14th instant I am
directed to request you to
inform the Marquis of
Salisbury that Colonel
Stanley concurs in his
proposal to construct the
Imperial Canal at
Manila & prop the

Spanish Governor General
& Man immediate
reparation for the
looting and burning
in the month of August
last of the State of
Cheng Hee a
British Subject living
in the Island of
Palawan.

Laz
Zelaya

Murder of Mr. J. W. Allen in Palawan. 14 Jan. 1886. MS Records of the British Colonial Office CO 144/62/8. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). State Papers Online Colonial, link.gale.com/apps/doc/TMYFXB758001431/SPOC?u=bnubd&sid=bookmark-SPOC&pg=104. Accessed 26 Mar. 2024.