

PC 1/17/10/63

MR. DAMES

PRETORIA

5.9.52



Mr. Dames told the following anecdotes:-

- 3/6 On the trip to India there was much friction caused largely because H. was appointed head of delegation but Gen Kemp was senior to H. This led to a lot of jealousy and feelings of being slighted. Later, at end of trip H. asked Dames why the Mission had not been as successful as they had hoped it would be. D. replied that he thought it had been a mistake to take women along with them. H. said, "perhaps you're right." Dames thought Mrs. H. had made things unpleasant and difficult.
- 3/6 At Zanzibar there was a stag party on shore. H. appeared quite at home and seemed to enjoy himself (away from Ma?)
- 3/6 Once they were watching dancing in India - Indians dancing with white women. D. said to H. that it riled him to see it. H. agreed.
- 3/6 Friction had strained relations to such an extent that Hydari was asked to smooth things over. D. did not like this.
- 3/6 At Mombasa a woman came on board in slacks. D. said to H. that she had a beautiful body. H. said, "Do you think so?" and looked at her critically, but was not shocked by D's remark.
- 3/6 The delegation had been invited to visit Nairobi. H. told D. to find out who wanted to go and make necessary arrangements. D. thought Kemp knew all about it and did not approach him. Kemp was fed up.- another 'slight'
- 3/6 They met two Princesses - one fair, one dark. H. was attracted by latter but D. did not think it was more than admiration.
- ✓ Once at Aliwal H. pushed D. into the swimming bath. D. waited until H. got in and ducked him. H. was terrified and clung to him. Somebody took a snap and H. said if he ever showed the snap to anybody there would be trouble.
- ✓ Mrs. H. was very jealous of D. He and H. often played tennis together. On one occasion they had been playing all afternoon. Score was 5 all, 30 all. Mrs. H. called H. and said it was time to stop. There and then H. stopped. Next day he apologised to D. and there were tears in his eyes.
- ✓ H. could be very boyish. On one journey to Capetown D. tried to throw his hat on to a peg. This gave H. an idea and for the next hour they made a game of it. He was also very fond of children and used to invite the Dames family into his compartment and play Snakes and Ladders with the children. Mrs. H. did not like H. to invite the Dames to his compartment.

H. could be very understanding and was not a spoilsport. Once in Maritzburg D. went out racing with Miss O'B and did not return until early hours. Next day he told H. about it and said "Don't you tell my wife". H. said, "What do you take me for?" On one occasion H. got a taxi to take them to a station to catch a train so that D. could stay and dance a bit longer. On a hot day they arrived very dry and hot at the station. H. said to D. "Wouldn't you like a beer?" and then found the bar and in they went. H. had a soft drink but was not embarrassed sitting in the bar.

D. thought H. really had a love for his own people. When they were looking at the Monument at Bloemfontein H. said "These old people really had a tough time", and seemed genuinely moved.

In 1939 H. sent for Dames and asked him if he would like to come back to him as his secretary. D. replied that he thought it would be a difficult situation as he (Dames) was anti-war, and his mother's brother(?) had been interned. H. said he quite understood and then told D. that Mrs. H. had told him he was not to take Dames back.

Once when the Nats twitted H. about having a Nationalist as Secretary, H. replied, "I can trust Dames".

When H. was ill in Capetown and had been sent to hospital, Esselen and D. visited him. They went back to see Mrs. H. and E. said jokingly to Mrs. H. "Don't worry about him. He's got a pretty little nurse looking after him. He'll be quite alright." That night H. was back at home. *Yet H. spent*

*from March 2 to March 4 in hospital (1936). The story is good but I shall use it as showing Dames' view of the relationship of mother & son.*