

Encl/In.

21st January, 1940.

The Secretary for the Interior,
Government Buildings,
CAPE TOWN.

Sir,

Asiatic Penetration II.

I beg to refer to previous correspondence on this subject and to the interview which the Hon. the Minister of the Interior was pleased to accord to a deputation from this Council at Cape Town on Thursday, 18th January.

The deputation duly reported back to the City Council the proposal of the Hon. the Minister to set up a Judicial Commission of Enquiry to determine whether, and if so to what extent, Asiatic penetration of predominantly European areas (both in regard to property and trading rights) exists in Natal. The deputation also reported to the Council the suggestion of the Hon. the Minister that the Council appoint representatives to a Joint Committee with the Natal Indian Association. In the latter connection, His Worship the Mayor brought to the notice of the Council the terms of the telegram from the Hon. the Minister dated 20th January, which set out the terms of reference to the proposed Joint Committee with the Natal Indian Association.

I have pleasure in informing you that the City Council at a meeting held on 26th inst. accepted the proposal of the Hon. the Minister of the Interior to set up a Judicial Commission of

Enquiry/

Enquiry and steps are now being taken for the arrangement and presentation of the City Council's case to the Judicial Commission. By direction of the Council I have the pleasure to convey to the Hon. the Minister the Council's thanks for the active interest which the Minister has displayed in this matter.

The City Council at the same meeting agreed to the Minister's proposal for the appointment of a Joint Committee composed of an equal number of representatives of the City Council and the Natal Indian Association for the purposes and with the terms of reference suggested by the Hon. the Minister. The Council's representatives on the Joint Committee will be six in number, and will be His Worship the Mayor (Councillor R. Ellis Brown), Councillors H. G. Copell, J. M. Harris, Wilfred Knight, Thomas Kinloch and R. G. Mapstone. The Council also accepts with thanks the offer of the Hon. the Minister to be present and to preside at the inaugural meeting of the Joint Committee.

I take it that you will communicate with the Natal Indian Association hereon, and my Council will be glad to learn as early as possible the date upon which it will be convenient for the Hon. the Minister to inaugurate the Joint Committee.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant.

TOWN CLERK.