

Appendix 'A'

~~Army was closely involved in the operation of the detention camps. Soldiers routinely arrested and screened detainees and transferred them to detention camps. The British Army operated in most detention camps assisting the camp authorities by guarding detainees. Further, British Army officers were deployed to supervise and assist the work of the Kenyan intelligence services, including gang infiltration, interrogation and the development of "screening" techniques. Some MIOs were directly attached to the detention camps. MIOs travelled to the detention camps, Home Guard posts, police stations and interrogation centres in order throughout Kenya together with Kenyan intelligence services in order to conduct interrogations of detainees. Army and civilian units coordinated their interrogations both within and outside of the detention camps and screening centres and conducted the screening of detainees both together and separately. It was during screening operations that significant abuses took place, including castrations, whipping and sexual abuses including sodomies.~~

The Dilution Technique

15. By early 1957 a specific system had been developed in one of the camps on the Mwea plains, the object of which was to break the will of the most hardened Mau Mau adherents newly arrived in the camp from Manyani camp. On arrival these detainees were placed in small numbers in compounds where cooperative detainees were being held. Systematic brute force was then deployed until detainees cooperated with orders and ultimately confessed and repented of their alleged Mau Mau allegiance. This method was known as the "dilution technique".

16. On a date unknown one detainee was severely beaten and died. Jasiel Njau (an African rehabilitation assistant) and five local detainees were charged with murder. The death of the detainee together with a number of other developments caused a temporary cessation of the processing of detainees at the camp concerned. Despite the obvious dangers which the killing made manifest, the Governor sought to

maintain the dilution technique by introducing a number of measures to safeguard against future abuse.

17. However, by June 1957 the dilution technique had recommenced and been extended to all five camps at Mwea under the charge of Administrative Officer Terence Gavaghan. This followed a recommendation from Jake Cusack, the Minister for Defence of the Colonial Administration, who witnessed the use of the dilution technique and recommended that it should be extended to other detention camps. Under Gavaghan, the assaults were perpetrated by European staff in response to a detainee who refused to obey an order. Upon refusal force would be applied not only as was necessary for the officers to ensure compliance with the order, but by way of beating and other assaults to break his resistance. The assaults ranged from beatings to putting the detainee on the ground, placing a foot on his throat and stuffing mud in his mouth, to knocking a detainee unconscious.

18. On 25 June 1957 the Governor of Kenya, Sir Evelyn Baring, wrote a letter to the British Secretary of State for the Colonies, Alan Lennox-Boyd, in which he explained the importance of the dilution technique and the need to amend legislation to permit the use of "a phase of violent shock" on detainees. Enclosed with the letter was a secret memorandum from the Minister for Legal Affairs of Kenya entitled "*Dilution Detention Camps – Use of Force in Enforcing Discipline*", in which he described the guards' actions to ensure detainee compliance with orders in the following terms:

"In some cases, however, defiance was more obstinate, and on the first indication of such obstinacy three or four European officers immediately converged on the man and "rough-housed" him, stripping his clothes off him, hitting him, on occasion kicking him, and, if necessary, putting him on the ground. Blows struck were solidly, hard ones, mostly with closed fists and about the head, stomach, sides and back...a resistor who started ["the Mau Mau moan"] was promptly put to the ground, a foot

placed on his throat and mud stuffed in his mouth; and that a man whose resistance could not be broken down was in the last resort knocked unconscious.”³

19. The memorandum goes on to state that: “With possibly a few exceptions they [the Z intakes] are of the type which understands and reacts to violence and offers no appreciable prospect of responding to gentler treatment.” On 16 July 1957, as a result of his decision to allow the systematic implementation of the dilution technique, the Secretary of State approved an amendment to Prison Regulations proposed by the Minister of Legal Affairs of Kenya, and permitted the use of overpowering force by beating to compel a detainee who refused to obey an order.

~~The Hola Incident~~

20. Determined Mau Mau adherents whose resistance did not break on being assaulted in the dilution process were sent back up the Pipeline to detention camps such as the Hola Camp in the Tana River District of Coast Province, where they were subjected to a method for breaking their resistance known as the Cowan Plan. This was a refined version of the dilution technique used in the Mwca Camps which was developed by Senior Prisons Officer John Cowan in consultation with Terrence Gavaghan (“the Cowan Plan”). A group of 20 such detainees would be taken to an irrigation project and ordered to work. If they refused overwhelming force would be used to compel them to do so. On 4 March 1959 eleven detainees were beaten to death by camp guards when they refused to obey orders to work. Many more were severely injured. In the inquest report in 1959 by the Senior Resident Magistrate of Kenya, W.H.Goudie, the finding was that each death was caused by shock and internal haemorrhage as a result of multiple bruising caused by violence at the hands of camp officials. In addition, a government appointed committee reported on the Emergency Detention Camps in July 1959 (“the Fairn Committee”) and recommended the ending of “shock” treatment of detainees forthwith and recorded ~~longstanding allegations that violence had been used by “screening teams” to compel~~

³ Measures for rehabilitation of intractable Mau Mau adherents in Kenya. [Appendix 2].