

CONFIDENTIAL
CABINET
NATIONAL FLAG

(Memorandum by the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs)

It is necessary to give consideration straight away to the design of a National Flag in order to enable ample supplies to be delivered in advance of Independence Day. An early decision in this respect is also necessary to facilitate planning for the Independence Celebrations which will feature the Flag itself in a Flag-raising ceremony, and its colours in street decorations, bunting, ribbons, etc.

2. Whilst there is some justification in simply adopting the Party flag for this purpose, such a course would undoubtedly give rise to considerable bitterness and resentment in certain quarters, and this could well lead to unpleasant incidents. This danger would be particularly marked at the Independence flag-raising ceremony which is a strongly emotional event and any commotion here would be most unfortunate as this ceremony will receive the widest international publicity.

3. The National Flag must be a symbol of unity and of freedom. It should stir in the breast of each citizen, regardless of Party, race or tribe, strong feelings of patriotism, of pride and of joy. An unmodified Party flag could hardly be expected to achieve this end, and it is not without significance that our neighbours, Tanganyika and Uganda, both saw fit to use the ruling Party flag simply as a basis for the National Flag.

4. In Kenya the flags of the two major Parties are fortunately similar in design; both have three horizontal bands, the colours of two of which are common - black and green. The difference lies only in the third colour - red for KANU and white for KADU.

5. It would be a wise and unifying act of grace to include all these colours, black, red, green and white, in the new National Flag. We could include also the KANU shield in Gold at the centre. This could of course be done in many ways, and for the purposes of discussion, I have had several tentative designs prepared which will be tabled.

6. I recommend

- (a) that the colours black, red, green and white be incorporated in the National Flag with the shield in gold; and
- (b) that the details of design be considered by the Ministerial Consultative Committee the formation of which I have recommended in my CAB(63)3, and referred back to the Cabinet for decision.

The Cabinet is invited to direct accordingly.

File ICD/A/5
7th June 1963
Nairobi.

T.J.M.