

This PDF was generated on 30/01/2022 from online resources of  
the **Qatar Digital Library**

The online record can be viewed at:

[http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc\\_100107796280.0x000001](http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100107796280.0x000001)

It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

## **Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Holding Institution</b>    | British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers |
| <b>Reference</b>              | IOR/L/PS/6/119, ff 216-220                               |
| <b>Date(s)</b>                | 21 Jul 1874 (CE, Gregorian)                              |
| <b>Written in</b>             | English in Latin   |
| <b>Extent and Format</b>      | 1 item (5 folios)  |
| <b>Copyright for document</b> | <a href="#">Open Government Licence</a>                  |



### **About this record**

This item consists of copies of a Political Despatch from the Government of India Foreign Department to the Secretary of State for India, dated 21 July 1874, regarding the murder of Mr Arthur Heale by a couple of Somalians at Brava [Baraawe] in April 1874, and stating that the Political Agent at Zanzibar has been requested to urge upon the Sultan the necessity of the arrest and punishment of the assassins.

Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [216R] (1/12)

Enclosure No. 1.

No. 68, dated Zanzibar, 3rd June 1874.

From—Her Majesty's Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to report that on the 19th May Her Majesty's Ship *Briton* arrived here after cruising to the northward, and brought the sad intelligence that Mr. Arthur Heale, an Englishman by birth, and the resident Agent at Brava of the Hamburg House of Messrs. Hamsing & Co., had been murdered by a couple of Somalis about the 10th of April last. I enclose a copy of Captain Brine's letter to my address, which contains all the details that, up to the present, I have been able to learn concerning this occurrence.

2. I lost no time in writing to His Highness the Sultan pointing out that this was the third Englishman who had been killed within the last few months, and plainly stating that if he were unable to protect Englishmen residing in his territories, Her Majesty's Government might have to employ force in doing so. Stringent orders have been sent to the Governor of Brava to use his best endeavours to secure and punish the murderers, but, so far as I can learn, the force at his disposal is scarcely sufficient to guard the town, and could not be employed in any distant operations. Until however the Sultan receives a report from the Governor, he will feel somewhat at a loss how to act, as it is possible that troops will have to be sent from Zanzibar to assist in punishing the murderers' village, which I understand is at a considerable distance outside Brava.

3. I am persuaded that no blame attaches to the Governor and people of Brava, where Mr. Heale, from a residence of several years, was well known and generally respected.

The character of the Somalis is notorious; they are a vindictive and treacherous race, and no European has yet been able to travel safely in their country. Whether Mr. Heale was murdered simply to gratify their innate bloodthirstiness or whether to revenge a fancied slight which they had received at the hands of the people of Brava, is unknown, but there can be no doubt that the opportunity of killing an European with apparent impunity must have presented irresistible temptations to them. There are no grounds for supposing that the murder was connected in the slightest degree with our measures for the suppression of the slave trade.

4. Should a favorable opportunity present itself for personally visiting Brava, I shall avail myself of it, but, with only two vessels of war upon the station, I fear there is little chance of one offering. The northern slave trade appears to be temporarily at an end, and the Mozambique Channel is looked upon as better cruising ground.

5. I shall not fail to impress upon His Highness the Sultan the necessity for striking such a blow at these Somalis as they will not easily forget, but he possesses no authority whatever outside the walls of Brava, and I doubt if the largest force he could collect would be able to move far beyond them. Until further advices reach me therefore, I regret that I am able to do little more than record the bare fact of the assassination which, I feel assured, is destitute of any political significance.

6. It is unfortunate that at this time of year Brava is almost inaccessible to boats, and hence the greatest difficulty exists in maintaining any communication with the place.

Dated H. M.'s S. *Briton*, Zanzibar, 20th May 1874.

From—Captain and Senior Officer, East Coast, Africa,  
To—Her Majesty's Acting Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar.

UPON my arrival at Brava on the 23rd April an Arab, named Ahmed bin Abdoollah, came on board and informed me that Mr. Arthur Heale, an

Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [216V] (2/12)

Englishman residing at Brava, acting as Agent for Mr. Carl Schriever of Zanzibar, had been murdered by two Somalis at 11 A.M. on or about the 10th of April. Ahmed bin Abdoollah then showed me a Power of Attorney given him by Mr. Carl Schriever, and signed by yourself, which gave him full powers to act for Mr. Schriever in the event of Mr. Heale's death. I immediately landed to investigate the affair. I found the Governor most anxious to explain to me what had occurred, and he was evidently seriously alarmed. He accompanied me to Mr. Heale's house, where, assisted by the First Lieutenant of this ship, Mr. Arthur Phillpotts, I made a careful examination of Mr. Heale's papers and effects. I then requested the Governor to accompany me to the grave, which was about a quarter of a mile outside the walls of the town. On the road there he pointed out the spot where Mr. Heale had been stabbed, and the direction in which the murderers had escaped. After examining the grave, I returned on board. On the following afternoon I sent to inform the Governor that a burial service would be performed at the grave, and that I wished him and his troops to be present. Accordingly, shortly before sunset, a funeral party was landed, and service was performed with due ceremony by the Chaplain of this ship. The Governor fell in his troops round the grave, and standing at their head preserved the utmost order and silence. He was, however, very anxious lest any attack should be made by the Somalis, and asked my permission to station some of his men to guard our boats.

When the funeral service was over I requested the Governor and the Arab Agent to build a suitable stone monument over the grave, and also erected a temporary wooden head-board, on which was written—

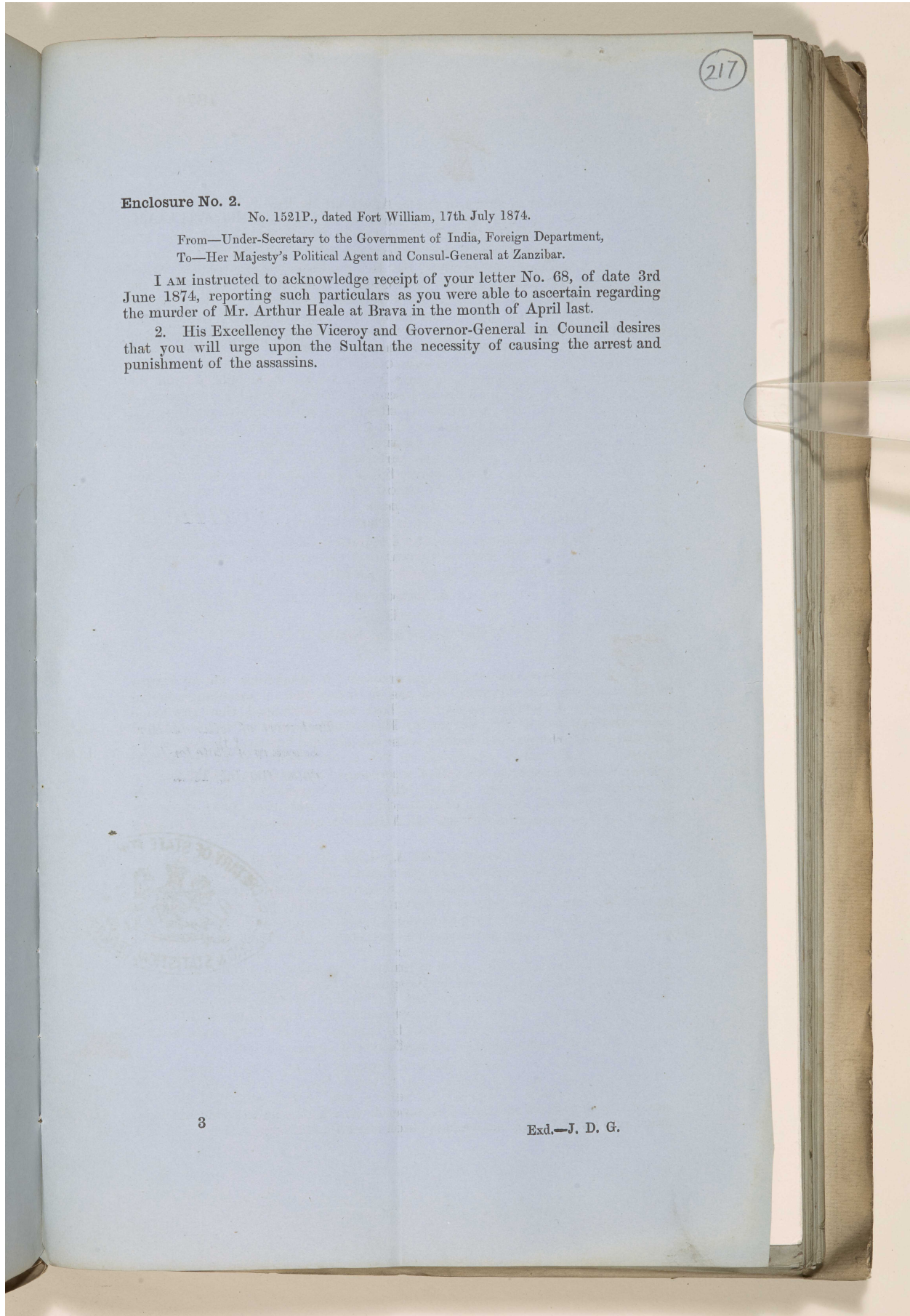
In memory of  
Arthur Heale,  
who was killed at Brava,  
10th April 1874.

I left Brava the same evening and proceeded to Magadoxa. On my return to Brava on the 5th May the surf was so heavy that it was dangerous to communicate. I however sent in a boat and ascertained that the stone monument had been built, and that Mr. Heale's effects were safe under Ahmed bin Abdoollah's charge, and that the house was guarded by two of the Governor's soldiers. The Governor wished me to take a letter from him to the Sultan, but the weather became so bad that I proceeded to sea without having further communication. It is very difficult with bad interpreters to get Arab days and hours translated into their English equivalents, but after many conversations with the Governor, Ahmed bin Abdoollah, and others I ascertained the following facts:—

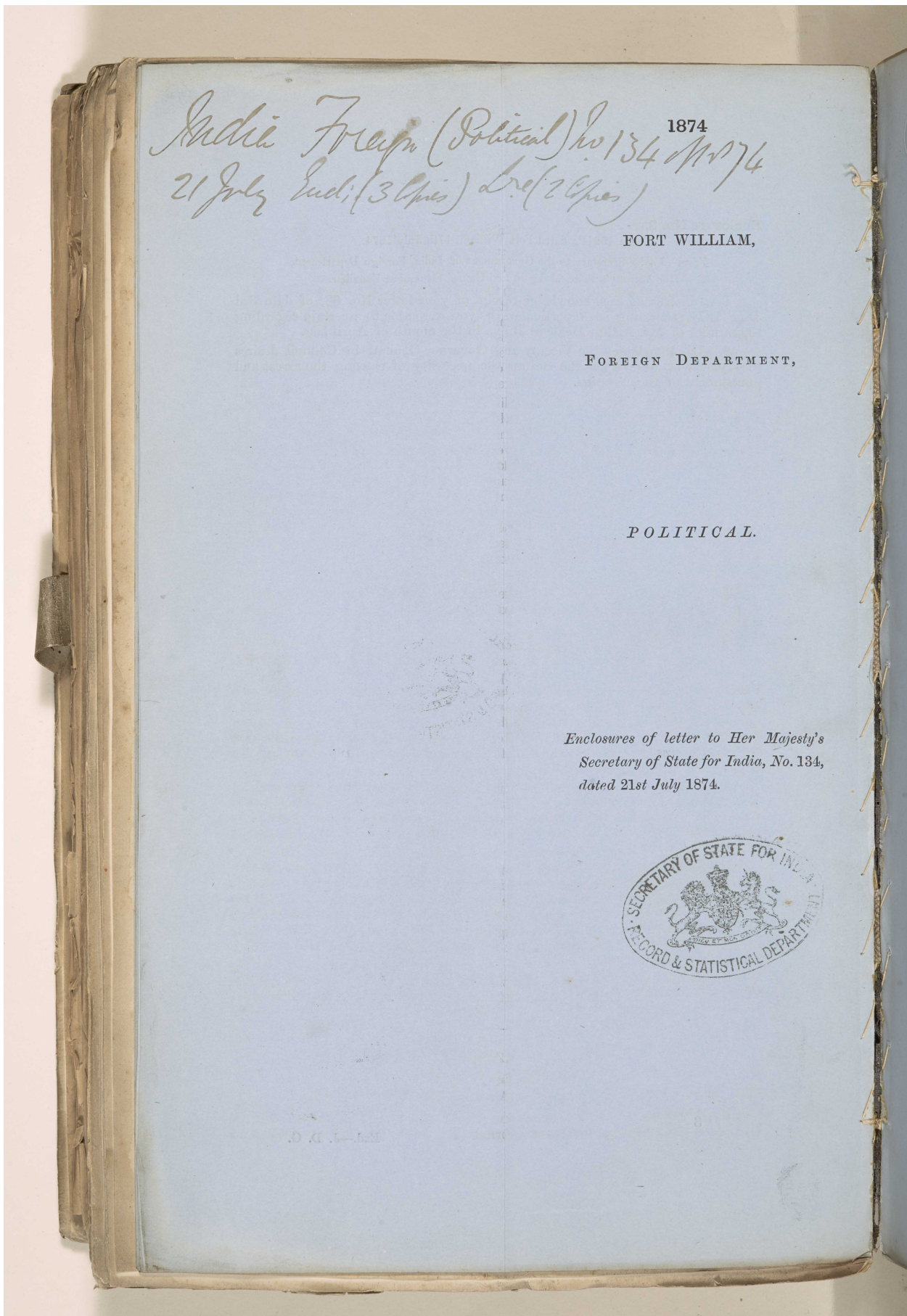
In the forenoon of about the 10th April Mr. Heale went a few yards outside the walls of the town to look at a small plot of ground which he was having enclosed, and whilst there two Somalis came down from the hill and accompanied him to the gates of the town, and to a little open space within the walls. Here one of the Somalis drove a spear through his back, and then both ran out of the town and escaped to the bush. Mr. Heale was carried to Ahmed bin Abdoollah's house, where he lingered for seven days and then died. I asked the Agent if he wished me to embark the chest of money or any of Mr. Heale's effects, but he said he thought that they were quite safe, although he was prepared to give them up to me if I wished to take them, provided I gave him a receipt. However, I thought that it was better to leave the things as they were. A letter had been written to Zanzibar for Mr. Schriever's instructions, and the house appeared to be carefully and safely guarded.

I do not think that the Governor of Brava is in any way to blame. He informed me that he was taking steps to obtain the murderers from the Chief of the Somali village to which they belong; and that in case of refusal he intended to attack the village. I however doubt whether he has sufficient force at his disposal to enable him to adopt such a hostile measure.

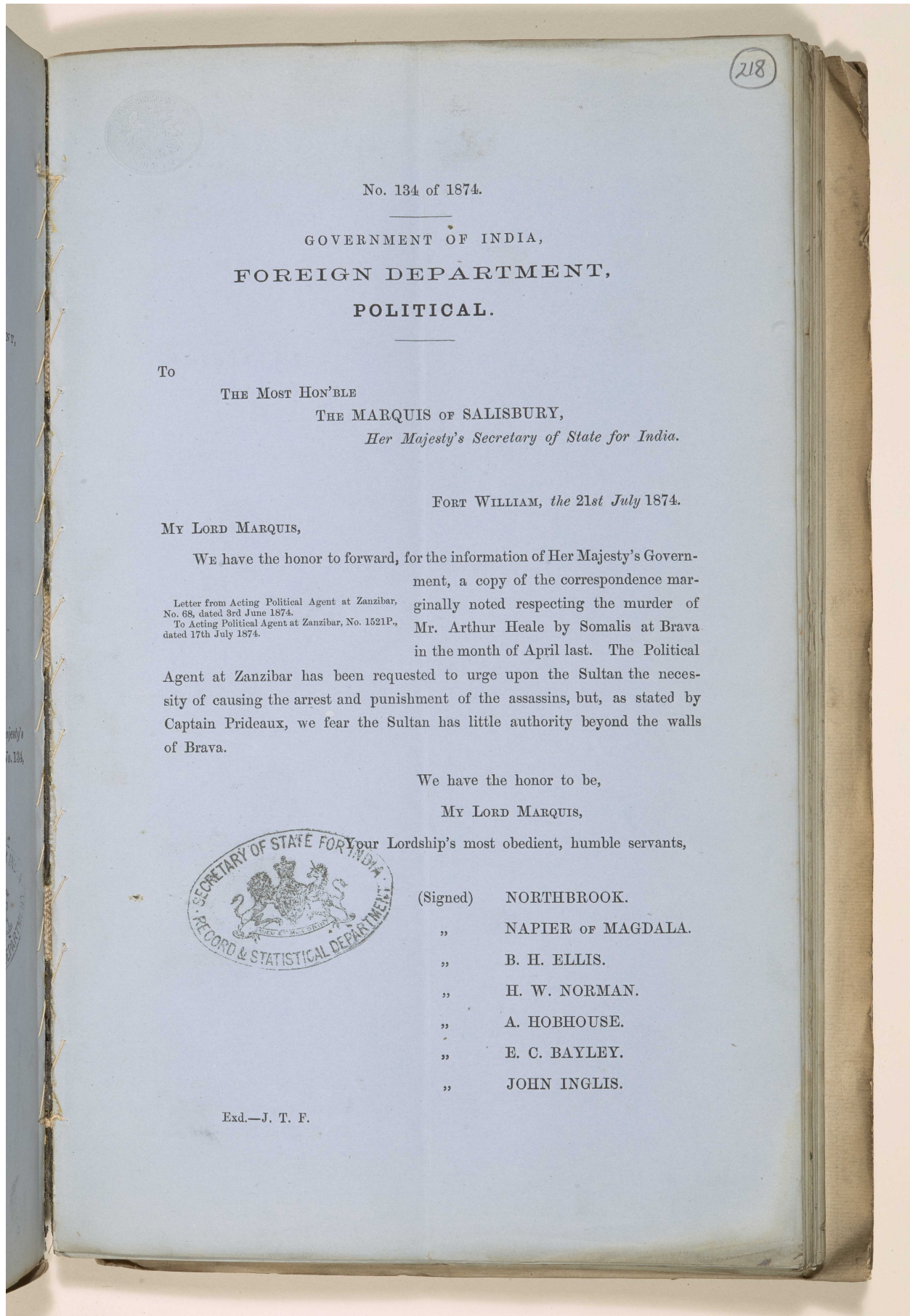
Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [217R] (3/12)

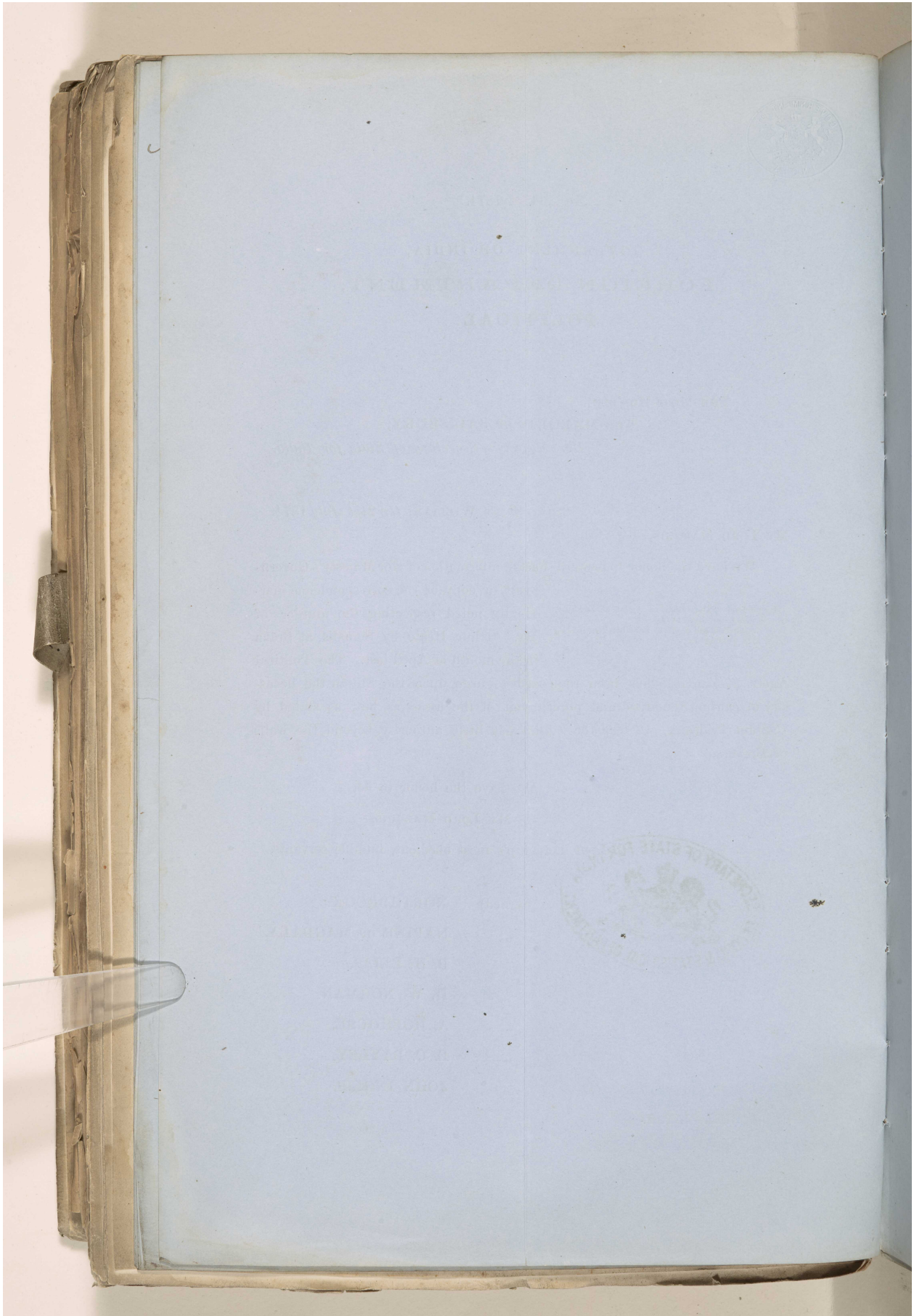


Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [217V] (4/12)

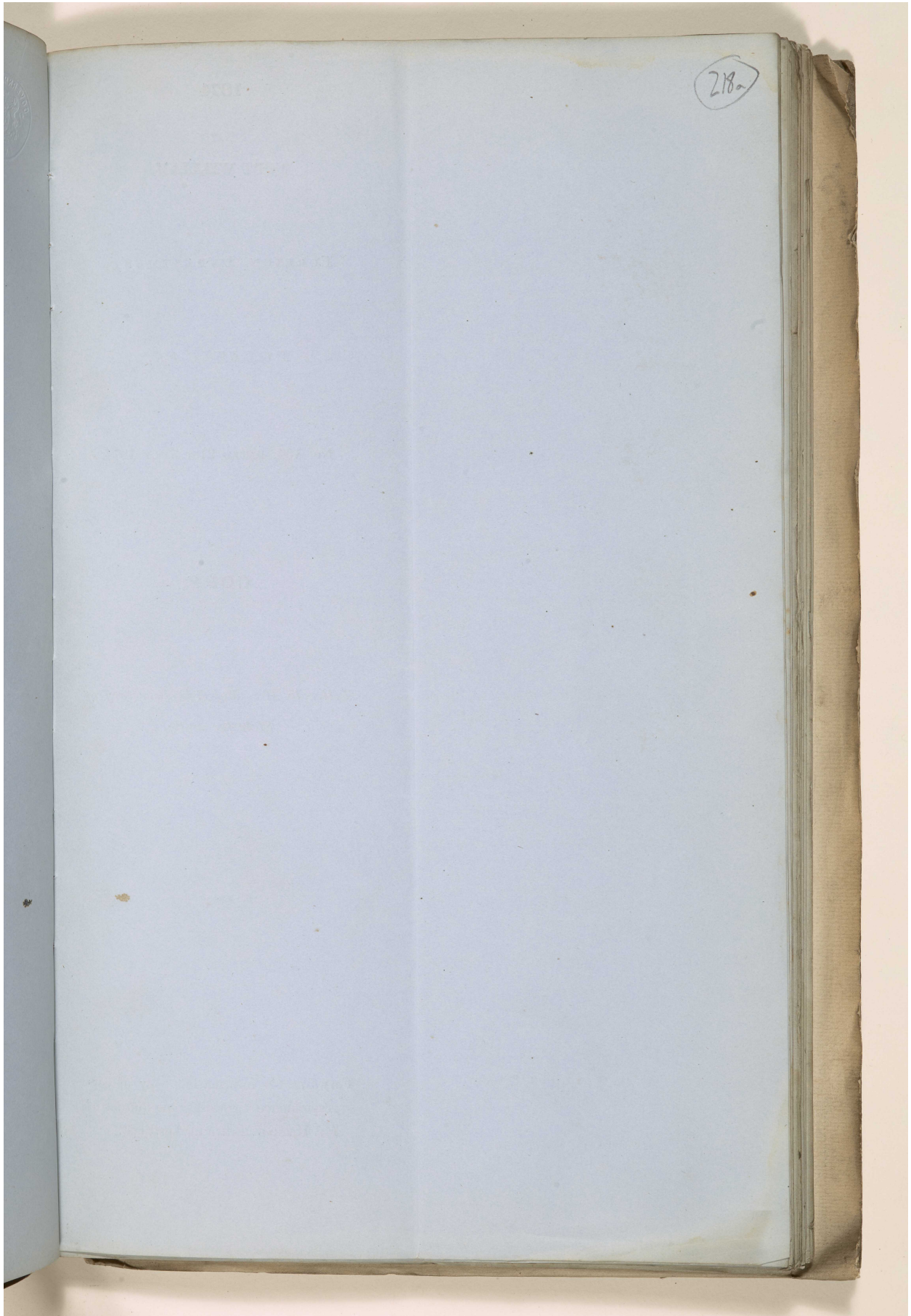


Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [218R] (5/12)



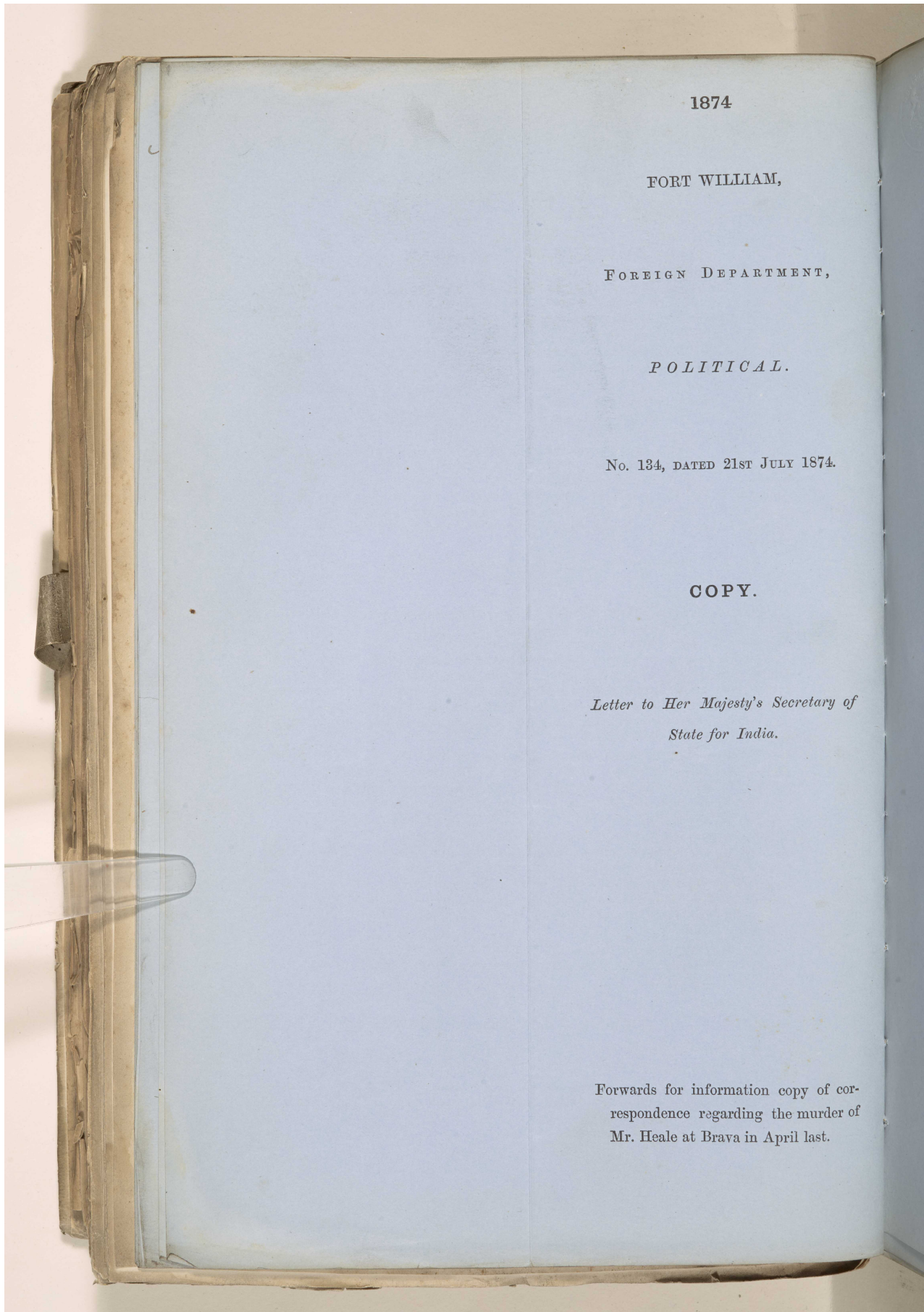


Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [218aR] (7/12)





Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [218aV] (8/12)



Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [219R] (9/12)

219

Enclosure No. 1.

No. 68, dated Zanzibar, 3rd June 1874.

From—Her Majesty's Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar,  
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

I HAVE the honor to report that on the 19th May Her Majesty's Ship *Briton* arrived here after cruising to the northward, and brought the sad intelligence that Mr. Arthur Heale, an Englishman by birth, and the resident Agent at Brava of the Hamburg House of Messrs. Hamsing & Co., had been murdered by a couple of Somalis about the 10th of April last. I enclose a copy of Captain Brine's letter to my address, which contains all the details that, up to the present, I have been able to learn concerning this occurrence.

2. I lost no time in writing to His Highness the Sultan pointing out that this was the third Englishman who had been killed within the last few months, and plainly stating that if he were unable to protect Englishmen residing in his territories, Her Majesty's Government might have to employ force in doing so. Stringent orders have been sent to the Governor of Brava to use his best endeavours to secure and punish the murderers, but, so far as I can learn, the force at his disposal is scarcely sufficient to guard the town, and could not be employed in any distant operations. Until however the Sultan receives a report from the Governor, he will feel somewhat at a loss how to act, as it is possible that troops will have to be sent from Zanzibar to assist in punishing the murderers' village, which I understand is at a considerable distance outside Brava.

3. I am persuaded that no blame attaches to the Governor and people of Brava, where Mr. Heale, from a residence of several years, was well known and generally respected.

The character of the Somalis is notorious; they are a vindictive and treacherous race, and no European has yet been able to travel safely in their country. Whether Mr. Heale was murdered simply to gratify their innate bloodthirstiness or whether to revenge a fancied slight which they had received at the hands of the people of Brava, is unknown, but there can be no doubt that the opportunity of killing an European with apparent impunity must have presented irresistible temptations to them. There are no grounds for supposing that the murder was connected in the slightest degree with our measures for the suppression of the slave trade.

4. Should a favorable opportunity present itself for personally visiting Brava, I shall avail myself of it, but, with only two vessels of war upon the station, I fear there is little chance of one offering. The northern slave trade appears to be temporarily at an end, and the Mozambique Channel is looked upon as better cruising ground.

5. I shall not fail to impress upon His Highness the Sultan the necessity for striking such a blow at these Somalis as they will not easily forget, but he possesses no authority whatever outside the walls of Brava, and I doubt if the largest force he could collect would be able to move far beyond them. Until further advices reach me therefore, I regret that I am able to do little more than record the bare fact of the assassination which, I feel assured, is destitute of any political significance.

6. It is unfortunate that at this time of year Brava is almost inaccessible to boats, and hence the greatest difficulty exists in maintaining any communication with the place.

Dated H. M.'s S. *Briton*, Zanzibar, 20th May 1874.

From—Captain and Senior Officer, East Coast, Africa,  
To—Her Majesty's Acting Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar.

UPON my arrival at Brava on the 23rd April an Arab, named Ahmed bin Abdoollah, came on board and informed me that Mr. Arthur Heale, an

Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [219V] (10/12)

Englishman residing at Brava, acting as Agent for Mr. Carl Schriever of Zanzibar, had been murdered by two Somalis at 11 A.M. on or about the 10th of April. Ahmed bin Abdoolah then showed me a Power of Attorney given him by Mr. Carl Schriever, and signed by yourself, which gave him full powers to act for Mr. Schriever in the event of Mr. Heale's death. I immediately landed to investigate the affair. I found the Governor most anxious to explain to me what had occurred, and he was evidently seriously alarmed. He accompanied me to Mr. Heale's house, where, assisted by the First Lieutenant of this ship, Mr. Arthur Phillpotts, I made a careful examination of Mr. Heale's papers and effects. I then requested the Governor to accompany me to the grave, which was about a quarter of a mile outside the walls of the town. On the road there he pointed out the spot where Mr. Heale had been stabbed, and the direction in which the murderers had escaped. After examining the grave, I returned on board. On the following afternoon I sent to inform the Governor that a burial service would be performed at the grave, and that I wished him and his troops to be present. Accordingly, shortly before sunset, a funeral party was landed, and service was performed with due ceremony by the Chaplain of this ship. The Governor fell in his troops round the grave, and standing at their head preserved the utmost order and silence. He was, however, very anxious lest any attack should be made by the Somalis, and asked my permission to station some of his men to guard our boats.

When the funeral service was over I requested the Governor and the Arab Agent to build a suitable stone monument over the grave, and also erected a temporary wooden head-board, on which was written—

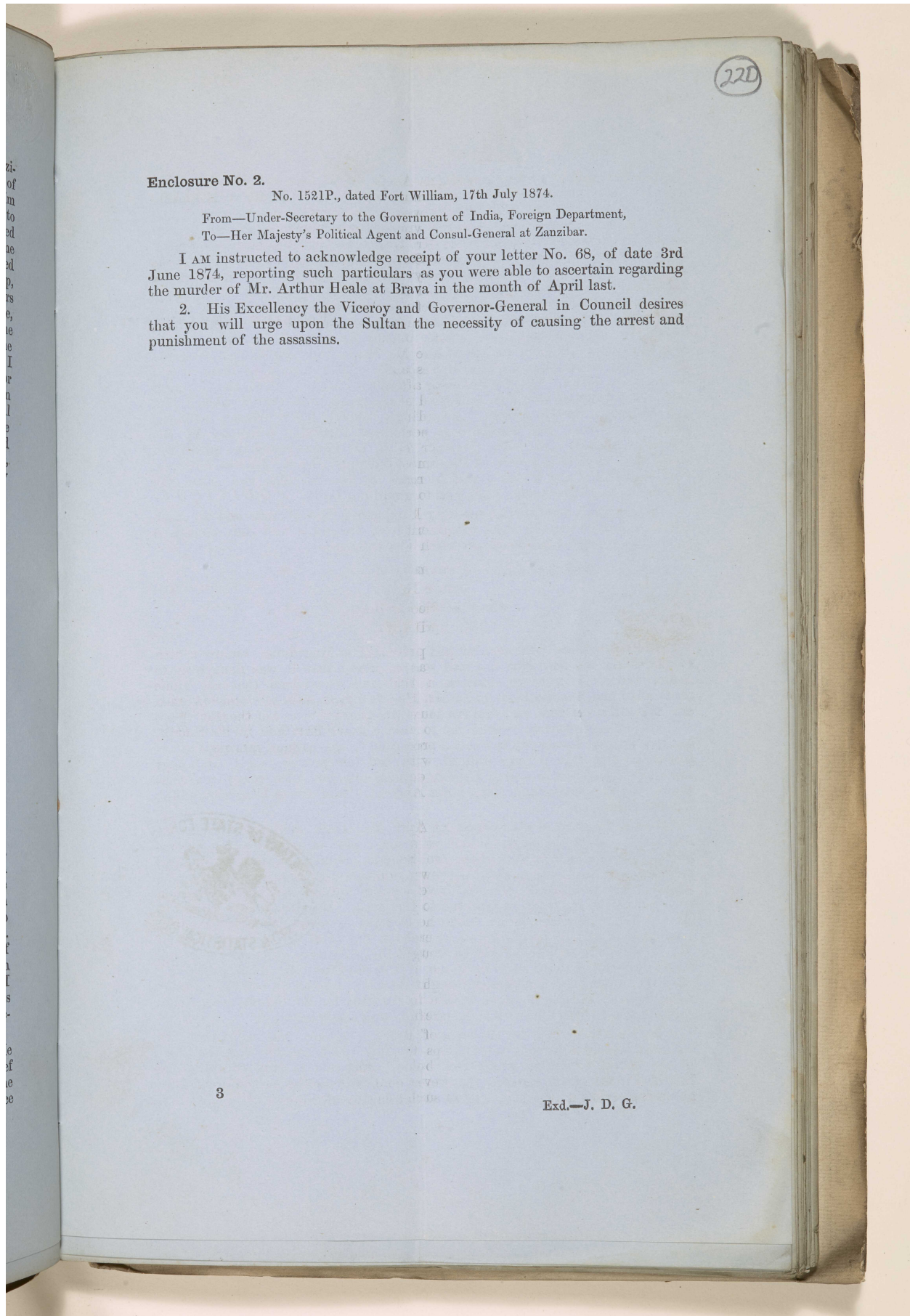
In memory of  
Arthur Heale,  
who was killed at Brava,  
10th April 1874.

I left Brava the same evening and proceeded to Magadoxa. On my return to Brava on the 5th May the surf was so heavy that it was dangerous to communicate. I however sent in a boat and ascertained that the stone monument had been built, and that Mr. Heale's effects were safe under Ahmed bin Abdoolah's charge, and that the house was guarded by two of the Governor's soldiers. The Governor wished me to take a letter from him to the Sultan, but the weather became so bad that I proceeded to sea without having further communication. It is very difficult with bad interpreters to get Arab days and hours translated into their English equivalents, but after many conversations with the Governor, Ahmed bin Abdoolah, and others I ascertained the following facts:—

In the forenoon of about the 10th April Mr. Heale went a few yards outside the walls of the town to look at a small plot of ground which he was having enclosed, and whilst there two Somalis came down from the hill and accompanied him to the gates of the town, and to a little open space within the walls. Here one of the Somalis drove a spear through his back, and then both ran out of the town and escaped to the bush. Mr. Heale was carried to Ahmed bin Abdoolah's house, where he lingered for seven days and then died. I asked the Agent if he wished me to embark the chest of money or any of Mr. Heale's effects, but he said he thought that they were quite safe, although he was prepared to give them up to me if I wished to take them, provided I gave him a receipt. However, I thought that it was better to leave the things as they were. A letter had been written to Zanzibar for Mr. Schriever's instructions, and the house appeared to be carefully and safely guarded.

I do not think that the Governor of Brava is in any way to blame. He informed me that he was taking steps to obtain the murderers from the Chief of the Somali village to which they belong, and that in case of refusal he intended to attack the village. I however doubt whether he has sufficient force at his disposal to enable him to adopt such a hostile measure.

Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [220R] (11/12)



Enclosure No. 2.

No. 1521P., dated Fort William, 17th July 1874.

From—Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department,  
To—Her Majesty's Political Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar.

I AM instructed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 68, of date 3rd June 1874, reporting such particulars as you were able to ascertain regarding the murder of Mr. Arthur Heale at Brava in the month of April last.

2. His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council desires that you will urge upon the Sultan the necessity of causing the arrest and punishment of the assassins.

Political No. 134 of 1874, Forwarding for Information a Copy of Correspondence  
Regarding the Murder of Mr Heale at Brava in April 1874 [220V] (12/12)

