

*His Excellency the Administrator* : I do not want you to go away with any confusion in your minds with regard to these points. There are the three points which I have put before you, and I consider the Minister's question does not conflict in any way with mine, because I may call fono at any time in the future. Then I wanted to know whether the chiefs would be ready to come in and meet me in fono. That does not conflict at all with the Minister's question. Perhaps, leaving the Minister's question out of consideration at the moment, you may be able to tell me whether you are able to give me an answer to my question or not.

*Faumuina* : We have not come to a decision with regard to that point yet. We are still discussing it. We did not know also when you wanted that meeting, whether at this time or in the future.

*His Excellency the Administrator* : I should just like to say something with regard to that point to make matters a little more clear. I am not looking so much to the present as I am to the future of Samoa, and the future is of the utmost importance to us all. If the affairs of Samoa are to be properly carried on, its government well conducted, and the Samoans themselves to take an interest or share in the government, it seems to me to be essential that the chiefs should meet me when called upon in order to discuss the future government of the country. There is no further meaning to the question except that one, which I consider of importance in the future. It does not necessarily mean that we should meet here; for instance we might meet in one of the other districts: but that is the point which I wish to make clear because it is of such great importance for the future of the country that the Samoans should be willing to discuss with me the affairs of the country, and so take a full share in the management of the country.

*Faumuina* : We now understand clearly your point. We did not quite understand it before. So, if you will please let us have time to consider and discuss it again, because we thought you meant a meeting to discuss matters at present. We now know you mean a meeting in the future when the country is settled down.

*His Excellency the Administrator* : I should like to give more time for this matter to be discussed, but it really loses its importance on account of the answer which you gave to me to my first question, and I am afraid that the time has come when our fono must end. There are a few words that I should like to say in conclusion.

I think that we have made a good deal of progress while we have been here, and that if we could meet more often and discuss our troubles in the friendly spirit which has been shown here during the last two or three days we need not be without hope of finding a solution of all our difficulties. I am very glad to have had the opportunity of meeting so many old friends among you and of making a number of new friends whom I have met at this meeting for the first time. I hope that I shall meet you very often in the future.

I should like to just say that my work as Administrator is simply to administer the law, to see that it is duly carried out in all its branches without favour to any person or any different class, and that is a matter which I steadily endeavour to do. If you come to me at any time I shall treat you with the utmost impartiality and justice and help you in every way that I can. I am very pleased to hear of your decision that any of those who have broken the law will be given up, because it removes one of the principal sources of trouble between us. It is not necessary, of course, that they should be arrested to-day; that is not the intention, and it might perhaps be a good opportunity when our meeting is over to-day if one of you—Faumuina possibly—would meet the Commodore or the Commander and just arrange a time and place when those who are required can be given up. I offer that as a suggestion to you. It is not intended to administer the law in any way harshly or severely. I have no hard feelings against anybody in the country. I wish to consider with the utmost kindness all those who come before me at any time or who are dealt with by the Courts. I wish you well in every respect. I should like to say that in sympathy with Faumuina in his recent bereavement and as a proof of the pledge of that sympathy and of the good feeling amongst us I propose to withdraw the charge which has been preferred against him.

There is this one point, however, on which we still continue to differ, and that is the question of the end of the Mau, and as we cannot come to an agreement on that point there is little use in our continuing in any meeting at present. I hope that if we break off this meeting to-day you will be led to other and I hope wiser counsels. This question is really the root of the whole matter, and I am not without hope that after a while you will realize that there is no necessity for the existence of the Mau, that we are really all working for the same objects (though our methods may differ), those objects being the peace, welfare, and prosperity of these islands. Now, it is just possible that you may wish to see me again. If so, you can always communicate with me, either at Mulinu'u or at the Central Office, or at Vailima, but I remind you for the present that the truce we arranged will necessarily come to an end, and I think we had better arrange that it comes to an end to-morrow morning at, say, 8 o'clock, or you may have some other suggestion to make to me in that respect. Eight o'clock may be somewhat early because you will need to disperse to your own districts, and possibly 8 o'clock would be too early. The dispersal could commence then and continue during the day, but as to that I am open to consider any suggestion you may make.

I would remind you that the wearing of the Mau uniform is illegal and will have to be given up. Now the time has come for us to part. Before we part the Minister wishes to say a few words and you may also have some points to raise.

*Faumuina* : There is nothing more except in regard to the wanted men. You said to arrange with the Commodore for a place to meet them, but they are here now if you want them.

*Hon. Mr. Cobbe* : Before leaving I should like to say a word or two to the important chiefs and the leaders of the people of Samoa who are present here this afternoon. It has been one of the great pleasures of my life to have come here to Samoa and see this beautiful country, and it has also been a very great pleasure indeed to meet so many of the people of Samoa. I want to assure you on this one