

Miss J. P. Co
EAST AFR. PROT
 GERMAN CA
 54280 *MA*

54280
 REC'D
 FEB 24 1915

Foreign Office
 1915
 23hr
 Last previous Paper.
 To *Stanger*
 5/2/15

Anglo-Belgian Cooperation in Africa

Send copy def to Home ref.

Copy sent H.C. 57/Jan 3 19-10/Nov 1915
 Copy sent A.I. sent to Gen. Reynolds 3 Dec. 1915
 for. CAD 1915

~~Mr. [unclear]~~ *Miss J. P. Co*
 2 of the H.C. of Surge A.P.
 My [unclear] 1/15

24/1/15
J. M. G.
Mr. [unclear] 11/15
H. J. G.
24/2/15
to go 20/1/15
Nov 1915

Sir H. Smith-Dorrien is in the [unclear] and
 any other [unclear] [unclear] asked for
 [unclear] [unclear] of the [unclear] he [unclear]
 will [unclear] again before leaving.

11/25/15 *Pr. 24/1/15*
As. A. 26/1/15
Am. 22/11

Next subsequent Paper.
 To *5494*
 2/1/15
 (1301-1) Wt. 10/11-12 1900 305 D.A.S.

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. 163318/1915

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State
Foreign Office,
London.

Rosen

Rever

545

54280
REC'D
NOV 24 1915

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the
Colonies, and, by direction of the Secretary
of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned
paper.

Foreign Office,

November 23, 1915.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ^{to} ~~from~~ Foreign Office: November 3 (49415/1915)

Description of Inclosure.

proposed conference between
to us etc

Name and Date.	Subject
<p>Lo Hon. Minister at Nassau, No 146, November 22</p>	<p>Anglo Belgian Co-operation in S Africa</p>

(Similar letter sent to War Office)

146.
SS18/15)

4e

54250

546

FOREIGN OFFICE,

November 22nd, 1915.

Sir:-

With reference to my telegram, No. 83, of the 16th instant, regarding operations against German East Africa, you should be guided by the following considerations in any future discussion which the Belgian Government may raise in regard to this question.

A plan for an offensive against German East Africa is now before His Majesty's Government but for any such offensive considerable reinforcements for the forces now in British East Africa will be required. Efforts are being made to supply reinforcements from South Africa and the whole scale of possible operations is now being considered by His Majesty's Government. When a decision is reached on these points it will be possible to propose to the Belgian Government a scheme of co-operation.

Pending the working out of a considered scheme it would, however, serve no useful purpose to initiate spasmodic and partial joint operations such as the demonstration against Dar-es-Salaam suggested by Colonel Tombeur. As the Belgian Government seem

now

Honourable

Sir F. Villiers, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G.

cc. cc. cc.

512

FORN OFFICE

Government

54

(163318/15)

547

The Government of the United Kingdom
 is pleased to receive your letter of the 14th
 inst. in relation to the proposed
 operations in the Congo and is
 glad to hear that you are
 in favour of a joint offensive
 against the Belgian Government
 in the Congo. The Government
 are fully aware of the
 necessity for an early decision
 and of the advantages of a
 close co-operation with the
 Belgian forces, but it is
 useless to undertake any
 operations until the arrival
 of sufficient reinforcements
 to enable an offensive to be
 pressed home with decisive
 results.

now to have definitely decided to withdraw all
 their troops from the Belgian frontier the
 problem of joint operations on that front may for
 the moment be regarded as having lapsed, especially
 in view of the approach of the rainy season there.
 Everything must therefore depend on the decision as
 to an offensive to be undertaken from British East
 Africa and the Northern Congo and, if you are again
 approached by the Belgian Government on this point
 your efforts should be directed to impress on them
 that His Majesty's Government are fully aware of
 the necessity for an early decision and of the
 advantages of a close co-operation with the Belgian
 forces, but that it is useless to undertake any
 operations until the arrival of sufficient
 reinforcements to enable an offensive to be pressed
 home with decisive results.

These general considerations are all that it
 seems possible to discuss through the diplomatic
 channel, and His Majesty's Government will not
 fail to provide for adequate discussion between
 the two Staffs when the moment arrives.

I am, with great truth and regard,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

Enclosure

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR

1915