

EAST AFR. PROT.
GERMAN E. AFRICA

22708

NO. 13 MAY 1916

22707

W

Office

German East Africa

1916

May 12

Subsequent Paper.

Sends copy of corresp. with Foreign Office and with General Smith as to administration of territory occupied by Belgian forces.

for Belknapley.
for Reed.

The Co. accept the Belgian offer that British officers acting in an advisory capacity only, should accompany the Belgian forces, and they propose to contact themselves with ^{principle} the Co. of course regard the matter from the military point of view only; i.e. they wish the new regime in Ruanda to be one which will be acceptable to the natives, so that both British and Belgian operations may be facilitated.

The Co. is rather concerned with the ultimate fate of the territory occupied by the Belgians. From this point of view the proposed arrangements are not much good, as they will enable the Belgians to administer the territory they occupy ^{temporarily} until the end of the war. When

Subsequent Paper.

to cut a line across it with probably
be a case of back formation even if
the attachment in force until then have
been treated as 'temporary' & provisional.
But I view of the attitude taken up by
the and General Smith, as it hardly
seems possible for Co. to strike out
for a different arrangement now. And
on the whole, it may be as well to
accept the proposal in which Lt. Col. have
conceded. We are not likely to get
much more out of the Belgian Govt.
now, and if, as I expect, the
presence of ^{millions} British troops, with advisory
powers and duties, ~~may~~ gives rise to
friction and trouble in the occupied
territory, we shall have good grounds
for pressing the Belgian Govt. to give
us a greater share in the administration
as to this, we must be guided by
Smith.

So I would inform you that in view
of the opinion expressed by the Lt. Col. & by
General Smith he is not prepared to
dissent from the action which Lt. Col.
proposes should be taken or to press the
Belgian Govt. in time, at present, to accept
the original proposals made.

W. J. R. W.C.B. 15.5.16 297 15/5/16
15/5/16 1915

WAR OFFICE

LONDON, S.W.

12th May, 1916

7481 (M.O.2.b.)

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office

The Secretary of State for the Colonies

arrangements for the attachment of British Political Officers to the Belgian Congo forces in East Africa, with reference to W. . letter No.0165/7481 (M.O.2.b.) of 27th April.

Date	From	Description
12th May 1916.	War Office.	Letter No. 0165/7481 (M.O.2.b). to Foreign Office
12th May 1916.	C.I.G.S.	Telegram No. 10239. to G.O.C-in-C. East Africa.
12th May 1916.	General Smuts.	Telegram No. F.5097. to C.I.G.S.
12th May 1916.	War Office	Letter No. 0165/7481 (M.O.2.b.) to Foreign Office.

COPY.

8th May, 1916.

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Office letter No. 5541/16 W. of May 6th, on the subject of arrangements for the administration of portions of German East Africa which may be occupied by the allied forces, and in reply to state for information of the Secretary of State that the Council sign

that the Council recognise the force of the proposals advanced by Monsieur Renkin in his note of the 2nd inst. from Beyers dated May 3rd. The Council are, therefore, disposed to accept the principle that the units of administration should be secured by the attachment to the Belgian Forces of a sufficient number of experienced British Political Officers acting in an advisory capacity.

Without definitely committing themselves, however, to suggestions on these lines, the Council propose to await the reply of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, East Africa to the telegram of which a copy is appended.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) B. B. Cubitt.

SECRET

From Chief of the Imperial General Staff

To General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Africa.

No. 16239 cipher.

8th April, 1916.

8.50 p.m.

Your No.F. 5028 of 28th April. The Belgian Government insists on necessity of its retaining control of administration in areas traversed by the lines of communication of its forces. Reasons advanced are military requirements and the deleterious moral effects upon the troops and the Belgian were definitely subordinated to the British administration. This attitude appears reasonable in itself, and accordingly we do not feel justified in persisting in a demand for exclusive British administration. We therefore propose to accept Belgian suggestion that a Senior British Political Officer should be attached to Belgian Headquarters. If this is arranged we then propose to press for attachment to important Belgian detachments, &c., of subordinate British Political Officers, all of whom would be present in advisory capacities and the majority would be Belgian. Would your requirements be met by this arrangement?

OPERATIONS.

From General Smuts to C.I.C.S.

May 11th. 1918.

11.5 a.m.

F. 5097.

With reference to your 10239 of the 8th May. I shall not press any objection to the scheme which you propose, in view of the Belgian attitude. Please advise me if and as soon as the Belgian authorities agree to your proposal to accept subordinate officers to accompany their various columns.

(M.O.S.B.)

12th May, 1916.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to refer to War Office letter numbered as above of May 8th, and to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a copy of a telegram received from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, East Africa, concurring in the proposal that a senior British Political Officer should be attached to the Headquarters of the Belgian Congo forces operating in East Africa, with the object of advising upon administrative methods in the occupied territory.

The Council will be glad if, by conveying to the Belgian Government the assent of His Majesty's Government to this suggestion of Monsieur Henkin's (as advanced in the first paragraph of his Note, transmitted by Baron Beyens under date 2nd Jrd.) Sir Francis Villiers may be requested to emphasise the necessity of permitting subordinate British Political Officers, acting also in an advisory capacity, to accompany any important Belgian detachments in German East Africa.

According to the information at the disposal of the Council the Headquarters of the Belgian Congo forces remain at Hutshurn in Belgian territory, whereas two important Belgian columns, commanded respectively by Colonels Molitor and Olsen, have penetrated considerable distances into Ruanda, north and south of Lake Kivu.

In

The Under Secretary of State
Foreign Office, S.W.

In the opinion of the Council the presence of British Political officers with both these columns, and with any similar force that may be detached in future, is necessary to ensure the uniformity of administrative procedure accepted in principle by Monsieur Maslin in the penultimate paragraph of his Note above-mentioned.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) B. H. Cabott

16

16 Mar 1916

Sir

your letter No W/5550/1916 of May 12th and No W/2121/1916 of May 11th regarding the

(2736)
(22520)

administration of the parts of German East Africa occupied by the Belgian forces. We request you to inform Sir E. Grey that we have

received from the latter copies of telegraphic correspondence between that Office and with General Smuts and of the letter sent on May 12th to the F.O. on this matter.

In view of the opinions expressed by the Army Council and by General Smuts to, the B.C. is not prepared to dissent from the action which the A.C. (in its letter No 0165/7481 P.O. 2. 6 of 12th May) propose

Secret Memorandum

DRAFT

Rev. 5. 9. 16
20.

MINUTE.

- Mr. E. G. 16/5/16
- Mr. B. 16.5.16
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sr. G. Fiddes
- Sr. H. Just
- Sr. J. Anderson
- Mr. J. M. M. M. M.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

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