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Office  
1916  
Sept.  
Previous Paper

German East Africa

States issues of Army Council as to proposals for definition of Belgian sphere of administration made in Co. & Co. of 5 September

Mr Butler

This letter is somewhat obscure, but Col. Oliviant of the General Staff has called and made two news releases in conversation.

They are simply as follows:

The Belgians must demand withdrawal of their administration from where it is until their military operations round Tabora have been completed.

Moreover we should not ask them to withdraw it while their military operations are still going on, as they might in that case take no further

To Bureau Africa with copy 11 September  
copy - two also to Co. & Co. 13 Sept. 43231

Subsequent Paper

43231



September 8<sup>th</sup> 1916

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Dear Colonel Olivant,

With reference to War Office Official  
Letter (0165/7874 7026) of September  
6<sup>th</sup> and your call here yesterday  
in amplification of it I enclose  
a draft letter to the Foreign Office  
about the Belgian sphere of administration  
in German East Africa which we propose  
to put forward for the Secretary of  
State's approval if we may take  
it that it correctly represents Gov.  
views as given in your Official  
Letter and as stated by you verbally.

Would you very kindly let me

PTO

September 8<sup>th</sup> 1916

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Dear Colonel Stewart,

With reference to War Office Official  
Letter (0165/7874 7026) of September  
6<sup>th</sup> and your call here yesterday  
in amplification of it I enclose  
a draft letter to the Foreign Office  
about the Belgian sphere of administration  
in German East Africa which we propose  
to put forward for the Secretary of  
State's approval if we may take  
it that it correctly represents G.O.  
views as given in your Official  
Letter and as stated by you verbally.

Would you very kindly let me

P.T.O.

42727

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to

The Secretary,  
War Office,  
London S.W.

Secret

War Office,  
London, S.W.

6th September, 1916.

at the following number quoted

55/7974. (M.O.2.b.)

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of Colonial Office letter No.41574/16 of September 5th, on the subject of the definition of the Belgian provisional Administrative Zone in German East Africa.

(2) In reply, I am to state for the information of Mr Secretary Bonar Law that until the German forces in the vicinity of Tabora have been disposed of, it appears to the Council that the movements of the Belgian columns must be dependent on those of the enemy. The Council are further of opinion that on military grounds these districts traversed by the Belgian Lines of Communication should, while military operations are in progress, be administered by the Belgian authorities. This view as represented by the Belgian Government in Baron Beyens' Note of May 3rd 1916, (Foreign Office letter No.85501/16 of May 6th 1916), was accepted by the Army Council and appears from Foreign Office letter No.92374/W. of May 20th to have been officially communicated to the Belgian Government.

(3) The Council agree with Mr Secretary Bonar Law's views as expressed in paragraph 4 of the letter under reply as to the territory to be occupied provisionally by the Belgians after the cessation of military operations.

Questions as to the final partition of territory appear to the Council to be a matter for the consideration of the Territorial Changes Committee, to which the Council's views can be submitted in due course, through its representative.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D B White

Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
S.W.

When I told you that we are anxious that the letter if approved should go to the Foreign Office in the way I ask you to let us have the draft back to-day if possible.

Yours sincerely

E. G. Lushington

Dear Mackay

I think the draft needs one more

consideration than before

for comment

at present

12th Office

1916



administration from the districts traversed by  
their military lines of communication, but  
that as soon as their military operations are  
concluded, they should be invited to confine  
their administration to the area to be proposed  
to them for that purpose. It is understood  
that the Army Council would prefer that in these  
circumstances it would be best to refer com-  
munications with the Belgian Government regard-  
ing the proposed definition of the sphere of  
their administration with their military opera-  
tions to the case of the occupation of Tabora,  
as the operations in question might be adversely  
affected by the initiation of such negotiations  
now.

(i.e. that  
Belgians might  
further break

3. Mr. Bonar has prepared to accept  
the view of the Army Council on this point, and  
in these circumstances it only remains to reach  
a final decision upon the definition of the  
proposed sphere of administration to be  
proposed to the Belgian Government with the

proposals



opinion be asked to confine their temporary administration to the Ruanda and Urundi provinces.

6. Mr. Bonar Law will be glad to be informed at an early date whether Lord Grey will be prepared to authorise representations on these lines being made to the Belgian Government as soon as the Belgian military operations in East Africa are concluded.

I am, etc.

L. R.