

4332

4332
REC. REG. 23 Jan 17

War Office
1917
22 Jan.
Last previous Paper
No. 3212 16

Road from Kisumu to Serenli.
Re occupation of Serenli.

Considers that any military operations involving call on force now employed in F.S.A. must be deferred until cessation of hostilities in that theatre, but that it would be desirable that work on the road should be pushed forward without military assistance other than that available in the spot.

Mr. B. Bailey
Mr. Byker

In view of this, action approved as (on 34)8 will have to be varied somewhat, please see two drafts herewith for comment.

[I understand from Capt. Russell that Mr. Little has proposed military assistance from the military authorities for the road, I had assumed it to be constructional assistance]

and
sent
to
Mr. B.

Wes 26.1.17 Gen 26/1/17

Anderson's diary
Tel. to Gen. 6.2.17
subsequent Paper
no. 6624

When it must be expressly recognised that we are committing ourselves to expenditure on the making of the road & on the provision of river-craft. Up to this point we have ostensibly been making preliminary enquiries, but anything further becomes an authority to the Govt to proceed.

The road is estimated to cost £1500^x or £2250^x, according to the time (3 months or 6 months) taken in constructing it. We had better put it at the higher figure. We know that labour is scarce. The launch & lighters for the tuba were estimated to cost £700 in 1914 ($\frac{90}{20664 \cdot 14}$). We had better double that for present prices. Even so, the launch may be unobtainable. So we come to £30,000 or £40,000 for the preliminary cost, apart from that of the actual operations.

I do not mention this by way

See 1st vol. 3212 10-11

182
suggesting that the cost of expenditure
should not be undertaken. I think
it should. It should be met from
balances, & should be treated as
Protectorate war expenditure. Goodness
knows when we shall have as good a
chance again of clearing up this
troublesome corner of the Pt. Even
if no military expedition ensued
the expenditure on the road & river
works would greatly simplify the
task of future administration.

But it is just as well to point
out that this is the moment of decision
as to incurring the expenditure or not.

H. J. R.

26. 1. 17.

H. J. R.
26/1/17

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—

The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.

and the following number quoted.

SECRET

4332

111

REC
REG 23 Jan 17

War Office,
London, S.W.

0165/7898 (M.O.2.B.).

22nd January, 1917.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of Colonial Office letter No. 2344/17 of January 17th, on the subject of the construction of a road from Kismayu to Serenli in Jubaland, and the projects for re-occupying Serenli and our posts in that Province.

In reply I am to state that in the opinion of the Council any military operations involving a call upon the force now employed in German East Africa must, in existing circumstances, be deferred until the conclusion of hostilities in that theatre, but it would appear desirable that work on the road should be pushed forward as far as is possible without military assistance other than that available on the spot.

From a report recently rendered by Major Forcelli, 5th Regiment, K.A. rifles, it appears that it should be feasible to construct the track as far as Segari (75 m. from Serenli) without calling on any troops other than those already in Jubaland.

The Council assume that Mr. Secretary Long is in possession of copies of Major Forcelli's report, and of the report dated 16th November, 1916, (based upon Major Forcelli's), compiled by the Public Works Department, Nairobi.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

B. H. Curtis

Wd. 432 2a7

29

30 Jan 1917

Li

Prennis

Ans'd 6624

DRAFT.

re Soc
Wardhire

MINUTE.

Mr. Esp. 26/1/17
Mr. B. 26/1/17
Mr. 26

Mr.

Mr. Read. 26/1/17

Mr. H. 26/1/17

A. G. Piddals. 29

Mr. Steel. 26/1/17
Mr. 26/1/17
Mr. 26/1/17

for consideration. 26/1/17

re 2a7 Draft re
Wardhire 4322

18 Dec

3412

re 2a7 tel. 16 Dec.
3478

I am etc to act, whing
you to the 0165/7898 202 B
of January 22nd regarding
the proposed construction
of a motor-road from
Kilmagee to Scranti in
Dubland, & to transmit
to you, to be laid before
the ac. the accompanying
copy of a draft telegram
which is proposed, with
the concurrence of the
County Council, to be sent
to the Gov. of the 2a7.

2. I am also to enclose

copies of the further
communications from the
Gov. which are referred
to in the draft telegram,
namely :-
T. Despatch dated

18 Dec. containing the
report by Major Porcelli
& his Rem mentioned in
your letter under reference

ii Telegram dated 16 January

I am to explain that the
river craft ^{referred to} mentioned in
this telegram ^{is} ~~are~~ ^{consist of} one
steam launch, two lighters
and four rafts for the
Juba River. Shortly before
the outbreak of war Colonel
(now Temp Lt Col. Gen. Hoskins)
put forward a scheme for
the closer administration of
the Island which included
a recommendation for the
provision of two vessels
mentioned @ Quimp, however,
to the outbreak of war
it was found impossible
to proceed with the scheme
and the vessels were
never obtained.

1
(Signed) J. DEAD