

East Africa Prot.

GERMAN - AFRICA

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1917

LEIPZIG EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MISSION

30th AUGUST

Last previous Paper.

Series for observations copy of Note from the Swiss Minister to the F.O. enclosing Note Verbale from German Legation to treatment of missionaries and threatening retaliation on British religious institutions and their property in German territory.

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See 40261

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Disposed of on 40261 ✓
to 30. 29 July 18 360118 ✓

Next subsequent Paper.

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No. 828 /32. //

Re:

Re:

(GERMAN DIVISION)
9, Carlton House Terrace,
London, S.W.

The Swiss Minister presents his compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith enclosed a copy of a Note Verbale of the German Foreign Office, No. III a 9726 dated July 5, 1917, received through the Departement Politique at Berns, concerning certain information alleged to have reached the German Government regarding the Mission Stations Ikutha, Mulango and Nyambani, East Africa, which were under the control of the German College of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission.

Monsieur Carlin ventures to call Mr. Balfour's attention to the second paragraph of the accompanying Note Verbale in which it is stated that the German Government must, in view of the alleged action of His Majesty's Government, reserve the right to determine whether or not they can longer continue the protection so far afforded British religious and educational institutions and their appurtenances on territory under German jurisdiction.

Monsieur Carlin will be happy to transmit to Berlin, through the Departement Politique, the substance

of any reply that His Majesty's Government may desire
to make.

20th July, 1917.

L. B. ...

... through the ...

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Translation.

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Note Verbale.

The German Government has received a little while ago reliable information in regard to the high-handed manner in which the British authorities in British East Africa have taken measures against the Ikuthu, Mubango and Nyambani stations carried on by the German college of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission. After the German missionaries had been put in prison with their families in December 1914 by the British and transferred to India, the American Africa Inland Mission was at first allowed to take charge of the deserted stations and look after the upkeep of the German property. In August last year, however, the British authorities got the articles in the protection of the American Missionary Society delivered over to them and then sold at public auction all the possessions, dead and alive, of the German mission stations, including the private property of the German missionaries.

The British authorities have accordingly, in taking their measures in contravention of international law against German private property, not even stopped at the property of the institution devoted to service, charity and education. In doing so they have acted without an evident reason and have thus violated international law, recognized also in Article 23 of the Hague Regulations respecting the laws of war, which guarantees in the fullest degree to the property of the institutions specified the protection of belligerents. If the German Government has hitherto avoided on principle extending to the Swiss Legation (Representation of German Interests) any