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REC'D 23.11.14

India
Office

1914

21 Nov.

as previous paper

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S.

German East Africa

253

Teleggram from General Botha with
regard to the "Königsberg"
operations.

Mr. Botha by

Mr. Read

Sir R. Hodges.

This only concerns us
indirectly.

P.M.,?

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Next subsequent Paper.

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259

With Sir E. Barrow.

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Nov 10 14

COPY OF TELEGRAM.

General Aitken +

260

FROM

20th November 1914

DATED

4:28 p.m.

RECEIVED AT LONDON OFFICE

J. 56. Your telegram N° 1382 of 19th: General Aitken's original report to me on proposed "Konigsberg" [operations] was following:— *(signs)*

Mombasa 13th November. [Re the General's directions] yesterday re "Konigsberg" operations I went on board H.M.S. "Chatham" this morning with a [? view] to sending Major Clive to Zanzibar to collect information re delta [of] Rufiji River. On Chatham met captains of "Chatham" "Goliath" "Weymouth" and was informed that "Chatham" and "Weymouth" ordered away and "Konigsberg" operation not to be covered by the "Goliath" and Fox. I. Captain informed the latter war-ships owing to extremely unattractive approach shore close enough to cover a fairly landing. As I consider it of first importance that our men keep which are protected by Q.F. guns, maxims and rifle fire, to shelter first; and this cannot be done, I feel unable reluctantly to do carrying out instruction which seeing how unsupported infantry would [be] would not

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FROM

261

DATED

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not only be most disastrous, but might be
a disaster.

Ends

His reply to Lord Kitchener's telegram of 19
following:— begin

Montsasa, 20th November.
Four Companies N. Lance Regiment occupying Mombasa
outpost Longido covering advanced water supply
and line to Arusha. Remainder of Battalion form
only reliable reserve at Nairobi. In my view
N. Lance cannot be spared at present.
Sir Rufiji delta which consists of thick
jungle and swamps very difficult to cross
about strong but his dispositions and
resistance.

End

From this it will be seen that General Gough's
report confirms my opinion.

The half battalion at Nairobi and 181st only
520 strong at Mombasa are the only reliable reserves
I have, in case of German's advancing further
to reinforce Longido or Tavoy. To do so
Bara has or Gagi would be
partly indicated. ^{in case of}
in fact I have heard ^{no report}

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FROM

262

DATED

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support). General type and I am consider
that operation will be by negotiations, as easy or
quick as interpellation to local authorities.
Therefore if any of my views as above is taken
I cannot say who I should get them back
in case of need. If necessary of the kind of
desired by various authorities for attacking
purposes and I wish to have that kind of the
oldest and best. That is
officially yours
John C. G. S. 48 - 8

Addressed - Secretary of State for War - enclosed
to C. G. S. 48 - 8