



EAST AFR. PROT
18204

C. O.
18204
30 MAY 1913

Foreign Office

1913

29 May

Last previous Paper

30
21000

Ivory Legislation

Sends copy note addressed by Hon. Amherst at Paris to French F.O. enquiring whether French Govt are now prepared to express an opinion on proposals of Foreign Govts concerning regarding limit of weight at which elephant tusks might be traded with exportation Africa.

Sir John Lubbock

Put by at once
30/5/13

Ask F.O. 3pm, 29/5, to this, whether any reply has yet been received from the French Govt to Sir J. Lubbock's note of May 25

Got to Sir J. Lubbock's note of May 25

(Lub) 12/9/13 at once

40. reminds D. Sep. 3/13

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. 2450 and address to The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London.



C.O. 18204
30 MAY 3

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of ~~the under-mentioned paper.~~

Foreign Office,
May 29, 1915.

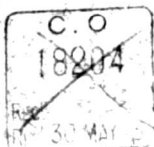
Reference to previous letter:

Foreign Office May 19 *

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note addressed by His Ambassador at Paris to French Minister Foreign Affairs dated May 25 respecting the	Preservation of elephants in Africa

* No. 17069



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188

British Embassy, / 188
May 20th, 1911

Monsieur le Ministre,

Monsieur le Ministre, j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser
une communication datée octobre 1910 et dans laquelle le Gouvernement
français a exprimé son opinion sur la proposition de
fixer la limite de poids au-dessous de laquelle les éléphants ne
peuvent être importés ou exportés des possessions africaines tant que
le "Comité de la Chasse Coloniale" n'aura pas considéré la question.

Comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous l'indiquer dans une
précédente communication, les propositions de votre Gouvernement
en ce qui concerne cette question ont été favorablement accueillies
par les Gouvernements de l'Allemagne, de l'Italie, de l'Espagne et du Portugal,
bien que leur adoption ait dans certains cas été rendue conditionnelle
par l'acceptation de tous les pays intéressés.

Le Gouvernement belge, en réponse aux observations de votre
Gouvernement, a expliqué que le Congo belge n'est pas

avec

Veuillez agréer

Monsieur le Ministre,

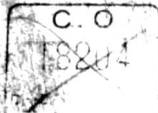
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

C.O.
18204
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REC 30 MAY 5

the idea of preserving elephants, and forbidden any being
whose tusks weighed under ten kilograms. The Belgian
Colonial Administration had at first maintained this prohibi-

It was found, however, that this measure was not effec-
tive, on the existence of a different law in the neighbour-
ing French Colony of Ruatoria Africa encouraged the illegal
hunting of elephants ("braconnage") in the Belgian territory.
Persons in possession of elephants' tusks weighing less than
ten kilograms were enabled to dispose of them by sending
them into the French Colony. In view of these circum-
stances, which entailed a loss to the Belgian Colonial Treas-
ure, and the abandonment of a source of trade into the hands
of persons on the Belgian frontier engaged in fraudulent prac-
tices to the detriment of honest traders, a new decree was
issued by the Belgian Administration permitting the hunting
of elephants whose tusks did not weigh less than two kilo-
grams.

The Belgian Government has, nevertheless, informed His
Majesty's Government that they are prepared to join with
other



other Governments in taking measures to prevent undue destruction of elephants, and would not hesitate in particular to rescind the recent decree if the circumstances which induced them to issue it ceased to exist.

The Belgian Government specifically state that if His Majesty's Government could persuade the French Government to take measures for the preservation of elephants in accordance with the proposals submitted to the various Governments concerned, the Belgian Government would be disposed to adopt similar steps to those adopted with this end in view in French Equatorial Africa.

I should be greatly obliged if Your Excellency would be good enough to inform me whether the French Government are now in a position to express an opinion on the proposals for preserving elephants which have been submitted to them by His Majesty's Government.

etc
I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration,

Monsieur le Ministre,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed)

Francis Bertie.