

E. AFRICA
GENERAL
18016

18016
REC'D
REC'D 16 MAY 14

Foreign Office

Ivory Legislation - Conference

1914
16 May

at previous Paper.
17867

Sends copy despatch from Berlin enclosing communication from German Govt. suggesting limitation of import of arms and (2) draft of Protocol proposed by German Govt.

Dr. Stanley
L. J. Fisher

See Mr. Harcourt's minutes on

7.0
17837

H. J. R.
18/5/14

Go to arms - which means light guns - i.e. flat light
single loaders - they are of course 15 metres in
calibre detectors, impact of the bullet the latter the
hand-operated family can be used at 4000 + there is a
diversity of procedure. In the first instance (Common) the Germans
have applied total prohibition - of course for political reasons the

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at subsequent Paper.
19044

French (in French Congo), and ourselves in a part of Nigeria
bordering on the Cameroons, also adopted prohibition for a few years,
then rescinding the Cameroons with French English prohibition
and helping the Germans in their policy of keeping it
allegiance. The French, however, came to the conclusion that it was a
mistake, & denounced the agreement, which consequently came to
an end, and all parties resumed their local practices. The Germans
retained prohibition, the French allowed importation into their colonies,
and we - against the wish of Sir F. Lugard but under a sort of protest
to Germany - kept our prohibition good for one year, now expired. The
Germans tried to get us to continue it, ~~but Sir F. Lugard's~~ but Sir F.
Lugard's arguments prevailed.

The Germans do not prohibit importation in their other colony
(Togoland). The French have, I understand, prohibition in some of
their west African colonies, but not in French Congo.

The policy (in Nigeria or any part) is to suppress the traffic very completely
by levying a duty of 10% per gun. Sir F. Lugard is very strongly of
opinion that guns are really required by the natives, & as a means
of defence to much purpose than to personal arms. The idea of
prohibiting them in order to preserve elephants is fantastic, because
these areas would be useless unless elephants are preserved (by
means of a small tax on the ivory at all). And questions really come
to be asked, how can we do so without putting back guns.

The question of a general prohibition of arms is much

too big to be raised by a bill which is to be passed
in the manner proposed, & it is rather absurd of the
Germans to try to secure its adoption (which they want on
political grounds) as part of a means of game preservation.

C.S.
May 11

On another paper Sir
H. Clifford is asking for a relaxation
of our practice as regards arms
on the G. Coast - so that cap guns
as well as ~~magazine~~ shotlocks
shall be allowed.
I certainly see no ground for
taking the opposite line &
excluding arms altogether.
Magazine loaders are in any case
a poor defence against magazine
rifles & Mausers, but they are
some defence: and I think we
cannot, if the French & Germans
ought to make their rule sufficiently
flexible to the natives & to consider
that it is to have such arms in
their hands in other words

I regard the years as a slight
safeguard against tyrannical
administration, as well as a convenient
means of defence against hostile
writings. In the G. East

Colony at any rate, such years
have been in use from time immemorial,
not only for purposes of
defence but also for personal
customs & the like.

In the presence of such grave
considerations I cannot attach
much weight to the elephant
quitting -

1702 18/5

I agree with W. Strachey. If the
S. V. Council were to be better put
his concern to the P. O.

1702 18/5
10.5.14

For further communication
on this subject, please quote
21560
14
Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

13016
REC'D Very Urgent
REG'D 16 MAY 14

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 16, 1914.

Reference to previous letter:

Descripti of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Hill Representative at Berlin No. 2020 May 15/1914	The Protection of Elephants

No. 202.

18016
REC'D Berlin
REC'D 16 MAY 14
MAY 15, 1914.

251

21861
MAY 10 1914

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 128 of the 6th instant and to my telegram No. 59 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith translation of a communication from the Imperial Foreign Office containing the views of the German Government in regard to the draft proposals for the protection of elephants and rhinoceros in Africa prepared by His Majesty's Government.

It will be observed that the Imperial Government are of opinion that as so many elephants are slaughtered by the natives for food, the prohibition of the importation of arms would prove a more effectual measure for the protection of the animals in question than the proposed regulations in regard to the weight of tusks. They accordingly intend to submit to the Conference proposals for the prohibition of the importation of arms and ammunition into certain African Colonies.

Drafts

The Right Hon.

Sir Edward Grey, Bart., K.G.,

etc. etc. etc.

Drafts of the protocol prepared by the German Government are enclosed in the Note verbale from the Imperial Foreign Office for communication to the Powers taking part in the Conference.

Translation of the Notes Verbales referred to in this communication were enclosed in my despatches Nos. 49 Africa of October 10th 1911 and 18 Africa of April 30, 1912 respectively.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

(sa) W. J. G. ...

Translation of Note Verbale from the Imperial Foreign Office to His Majesty's Embassy.

The Imperial Foreign Office have the honour, to inform His Majesty's Embassy, with reference to their Note Verbale of the 8th instant, that the Imperial Government have no objections to raise against the draft, As communicated to them, of a treaty for the protection of elephants and rhinoceros in Africa being used as a basis for the negotiations of the Conference, which is shortly to meet in London. They must however reserve their attitude in regard to the various provisions of the draft.

The draft is based on the belief that the strict supervision and limitation of the ownership of tusks and horns of the animals in question constitute the best means for the prevention of their extermination, as they are exclusively or for the most part killed on account of these tusks and horns. According, however, to the experience of the German Government especially in West Africa, many elephants are killed by the natives solely for food. Against destruction of this nature legislation aimed at the establishment of a minimum weight of Ivory and the regulation of trade in it, is of little avail. It appears, therefore, necessary to complete the proposed protective measures by the addition of others of a different nature. For, now that the hunting of large animals has been rendered ^{possible or at least} much easier for the natives through the possession of European firearms, it cannot be doubted that the total suppression of the import of such weapons and their ammunition would at once greatly diminish hunting by the natives and thus have far-reaching effects in preserving elephants and rhinoceros, which is the object of

of the Conference. The Imperial Government propose, therefore, to submit to the London Conference for its decision the draft of an agreement in regard to the prevention of the import of firearms and ammunition for natives. They maintain the point of view which they felt themselves obliged to adopt in regard to former proposals for the protection of elephants of a similar nature. Reference is made to the Notes from the Imperial Foreign Office of the 31st October 1911 and 27th April 1913. The suggestion at that time was that the British Government might become a party to the Brussels Agreement of the 22nd July 1908 on behalf of the whole Colonies of Southern and Northern Nigeria. Meanwhile this agreement lapsed in consequence of the withdrawal of the French Government. By special arrangements between the Imperial Government and the British Government and the Spanish Government, the agreement was continued in force for the Cameroons Protectorate, the part of Nigeria lying to the east of the Cross River, and the Spanish possessions in the Gulf of Guinea. The proposal of the Imperial Government is that the agreement in question should again be put in force by a new agreement between all the Powers concerned, and that the zone to which the agreement should apply, should include, besides the regions of West Africa specified above, the rest of British Nigeria, Dahomey, Togoland, Gold Coast, Ivory Coast, and the French Colony of Upper Senegal and Niger. Suggestions made last year by the French Government to the Imperial Government justify the belief that the former would be inclined to accept a limitation of the import of arms in their West African possessions. No objection would be raised on the part of the Imperial Government to the inclusion in the treaty

zone of Angola, Belgian Congo, French Equatoria and French West Africa, in their whole extent, as also of Gambia, Sierra Leone and Portuguese Guinea, and that the Republic of Liberia should be afforded the opportunity of adhering.

The draft of the proposed agreement is annexed, with the request that it may be forwarded as soon as possible to the various Powers which are taking part in the Conference.

Berlin,

May 14, 1914.

Protocoles.

Se référant aux articles I, III, VIII et IX de l'acte général de la Conférence de Bruxelles signé à la date du 3 juillet 1890, les soussignés dûment autorisés par leurs gouvernements respectifs, sont tombés d'accord sur les dispositions suivantes :

§ 1.

L'importation de toute espèce d'armes à feu, de munitions et de poudre destinées à des indigènes ainsi que la vente et la délivrance de toute espèce d'armes à feu, de munitions et de poudre à des indigènes seront interdites dans la zone désignée au § 2, ces dispositions n'étant pas applicables aux armes, munitions et poudres importées en transit et destinées à des régions en dehors de la dite zone. Il est entendu que les autorités locales pourront dans des cas tout à fait exceptionnels délivrer aux indigènes des armes à feu, des munitions et de la poudre.

§ 2.

La zone mentionnée au paragraphe précédent aura pour limites :

d'une part la mer,

d'autre part la frontière occidentale de la Côte d'Ivoire et du Haut-Sénégal et Niger, la frontière nord de la dernière colonie et de la Nigérie jusqu'au lac Tchad; la limite de la Nigérie et du Cameroun sur le lac Tchad; la frontière entre les territoires allemands et français, à partir du lac Tchad jusqu'à la rencontre de la limite du bassin conventionnel du Congo;

la limite du bassin conventionnel du Congo jusqu'à la rencontre de la crête orientale du bassin de la rivière

Avant le prochain, chacune des puissances participantes confirmera le présent Protocole en remettant au Gouvernement Impérial d'Allemagne une note dans laquelle sera inséré intégralement le texte du dit Protocole. De son côté le Gouvernement Impérial d'Allemagne au fur et à mesure de la réception de ces notes en avisera les puissances participantes.

F.O/18016/ P. Africa
General

urgent
214

20. May 1914

~~See~~

Sr.

I am etc to ackn the recd
of your letter 2186/14 of the
(18016) 16th of May, ~~1914~~ with its
enclosures, on the subject
of the views of the German
Govt with regard to the
proposals ^{put forward} prepared by H.M.
Govt for the protection of
elephants and rhinoceros
in Africa.

Unsd. 204.17.

DRAFT.

U. S. of S.

F. O.

MINUTE

- Mr. Downes 19.5.14
- Mr. Bolton 19.5.14
- Mr. S. Strachey 20/5
- Sir G. Fiddes 20/5
- Sir H. J. 20/5
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

JG

In answer to your letter of 2. ~~1914~~ I am to
request you to inform Sec.
Sir P. Grey that Mr. A.
has given careful consideration
to the ^{opinion} proposals of the German
Govt for the prohibition of the
exportation of arms and
ammunition into certain
African

have not asked chief to
write, which I did not
want to see him - to diff.

C.P.

African

The same does not occur in West
Africa, and that the areas where
such prohibition is contemplated
include large districts where such
elephants are not found or are
extremely rare. The prohibition of picnics
within such districts could therefore
hardly be justified on the ground that
it was necessary for the preservation
of elephants.

4. It is of course open to the Conference
to recommend for consideration such
measures suggested by the Governments
to further restriction or even the prohibition
of the importation of picnics, but Mr.
Harcourt considers that this should be
dealt with, if necessary, separately, and
that the detailed draft prepared by the
Government should be submitted to the
Conference.

For
H. J. R.