

EAST AFR. PROT

252

C. O.
18437

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REC'D
REG'D

Foreign Office

German land claims in Kamerun

1914

19 May

Suggest, in preference to course proposed by
for that Govt. should commence proceedings against
claimants, in the Court at Mombasa, praying
a declaration that the lands in question are,
in the event which has happened, the property of the
Govt.

Dr. G. Fieldes

Copy of 5/11/14 on 14271 with copy
of them to the Govt + ask him to
let us know by tel. whether or not he
consents to the Govt suggestion + copy of
our reply to Govt for info D.F.?

H. L. R.

21/5/14

CG 21/5/14

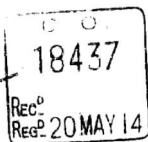
22/5/14

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Attachment Paper.

23198

In any further communication
on the subject, please quote
No. 18610/14.
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.



FOREIGN OFFICE

19th. May, 1914.

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter ^{for} No. 14271 of the 27th. ultimo, proposing that the German claimants to lands in the Protectorate of Witu should be informed that, in default of their commencing action to substantiate their claims within six months from the receipt of such notice, all rights, if any, which they may hold by virtue of previous arrangement will be deemed to have lapsed.

I am to state in reply that having regard more particularly to the fact that the German Government have been informed on two separate occasions that His Majesty's Government considered that the questions at issue could only be settled by a court of law (see Foreign Office letters of September 26th. 1905 and July 12th. 1911), Sir Edward

Grey

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

and would suggest for Mr. Secretary Harcourt's consideration that it might be preferable that the Government of the East Africa Protectorate should cause proceedings against the claimants in the Court of Orders, as it is supposed they could do, praying a declaration that the lands in question are, in the events which have happened, the property of His Majesty's Government. This course would enable the question of title to be raised and judicially determined, and the Government would then be on a firmer ground in dealing with the claimants.

In the event of this course commencing itself to Mr. Harcourt, and should the advisers of the Government of the East Africa Protectorate see no legal or other obstacle to it, Sir G. Gray would inform the German Government that unless the claimants initiate legal proceedings within a definite period the local Government will do so.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

W. Stanley

F.O. 18237/1914
~~18237~~ E.A.P.

25.

NO
JTC 26 May 1914.

Ans N 23198

Sir,

Drafts
E.A.P.
Compl
Ch. H. Selfield

[For 18271]

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch Compl, No. 63, of the 26 of March, and to inform you that I transmit to you the accompanying copy of correspondence with the F.O. on the subject of German claimants to lands in the Protectorate of Witul.

23/5/14
25/5/14

27 Apr (18271)
19 May (18437)

Ans 26 May 14 by JTC

I should be glad if I have to request that you will inform me by telegram whether you concur in the suggestion contained in the letter from the F.O.
I

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