

E. AFRICA
GENERAL

19044

Recd
25 MAY 14

19044

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Foreign Office

1914

22 May

See previous Paper.

6/10/16

Ivory legislation Conference

Report progress. Agreement has been arrived at on basis of 10 kilo weight limit & special treatment for districts where elephants are a nuisance. Sends memo by Mr. Woodson of German proposals re restrictions on ivory traffic.

~~Mr. D.~~
Mr. D. Hilder

See also W
1905 B.

The German proposals with regard to animal skins stand over at any rate for the present.

With regard to the position - the E.A.P. to which Mr. D. refers in the letter part of his memo: we ought to receive before long a reply from the Govt. dealing with the local C. & T. reports. Mr. W. is returning to the E.A.P. on the 11th of June & will see his things are progressing.

Put by
26/5/14

Subsequent Paper.

19056

As Workman appears to be lacking in regard of
the historical objections imposed by the Bureau Act.
at any rate, he put forward suggestions for dealing with
cases which are clearly (to a great extent) provided for.

C.P.

May 17/14

Pr 29 5 14

630.5.14

2.6.14

18 44

May 20 1844

Dear Mr. [unclear]

I have not worried you
 with the [unclear] of how
 and [unclear] as I
 understand that you are
 [unclear] it altogether in
 [unclear] hands. I thought
 [unclear] you would like
 to know that we come to
 [unclear]

on the basis of a 10 min
weight unit and severe
treatment for dissects
where elephants are a
nuisance

The Germans have
not heard whether
view of the ~~new~~ ^{delegation} of the
Conference that it was
competent ^{to deal} with their

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posal they will be
thoused to sign the
Protocol of the
of authorization, we
will probably sign on
idea.

I enclose ^{some of} a ^{document}
Mrs. Wosner wrote at
a request in Berlin.
It is 202 of the

Yours sincerely,
R. B. C. C.

C. O. P.
19044

REC'D
REC'D 25 MAY 14

With reference to the proposals of the Imperial German Government for the prohibition of the sale of arms ammunition or gunpowder to Natives, as an additional measure for the protection of Elephants and Rhinoceroses.

There is of course no doubt that these restrictions would be of material assistance in certain districts in Africa in reducing the numbers of these animals killed by native hunters. But it is of course for other and obvious reasons that it is most necessary to prevent arms and ammunition getting into the hands of natives.

This is particularly the case in the Northern Provinces of the East Africa and Uganda Protectorates where there is no doubt that a certain amount of arms and ammunition is being obtained by natives from Abyssinia via Jibuti, and perhaps other ports in Somaliland. If any concerted International action can be taken to prevent this traffic in arms nothing but good can come of it in every way and the introduction of the subject at the present conference

should therefore be welcomed, but it may perhaps be beyond the authority of some of the delegates to deal with it.

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The statement of the Imperial German Government that Elephants are killed by natives for food is of course perfectly true in some instances and is probably the case more frequently in West Africa than in any other part of the Continent. But with all due deference I maintain that even in such cases the ivory is by no means wasted and its value certainly adds much encouragement to the killing of the Elephants. And further I feel sure that it will be unanimously admitted by all those who have the practical experience of Africa, that out of the total number of Elephants annually killed by natives, by far the greater majority are killed in order to obtain the ivory than to obtain the flesh as food.

As a proof that the suppression of the free trade in ivory and rhinoceros horns will give the desired protection at any rate in a great many cases and even in some parts of German territory, I may refer again

to the two articles by Professors Schilling and Bein in the Berlin newspaper Naturwissenschaftliche Wochenschrift, where the slaughter of big game and particularly Elephants and Rhinoceroses is described as appalling. And it is pointed out that the culprits are the professional hunters who sell their trophies.

Attention has been drawn to this subject also by other writers; the Duke of Ratibor, Prince Solms-Barnuth, Paul Niederek, Professors Sarasin, Matschie, and Geheimrat Waldeger.

With regard to the Protocol embodying the suggested regulations for the prohibition of the importation and sale of arms and ammunition to natives submitted by the Imperial German Government it appears substantially the same as the Protocol of the International agreement signed at Brussels on 22nd July, 1908 (Treaty series No. 23) but since lapsed.

Briefly the proposals amount to the prohibition of the importation and sale of arms, ammunition and gun powder to natives with special reservations allowing local authorities to issue arms and ammunition to natives in exceptional cases if necessary.

As far as I am aware the unrestricted sale of arms and ammunition, and gunpowder to natives is already not allowed in any British possession or Protectorate in Africa, and there would consequently appear to be no serious difficulty in the way of adopting the proposed regulations on this subject, as far as the British Government is concerned.

There is however another aspect of the question which has not been touched by the German proposals, but which is of considerable importance, namely the leakage or gradual transference of arms and ammunition, particularly the latter, which undoubtedly takes place from the stock of these articles authorized and known to be in the possession of Europeans resident in, or visiting, the country. I have had some practical experience of this subject and was recently a member of a committee which sat in the East Africa Protectorate to consider and report on this question. Certain points stand out conspicuously as calling for special supervision, for it is difficult to make laws and regulations and at the same time leaving open an easy

means of evading them.

(1) Visitors coming into Africa should only be allowed to import a reasonable amount of ammunition, and arms, but particularly ammunition.

(2) And when leaving the country again should be compelled either to export the arms they brought in with them or to produce a certificate from some duly authorized person stating that any missing arms have been satisfactorily disposed of.

(3) The annual registration of all arms in the possession of resident Europeans and of ammunition in the hands of dealers is I believe in force in all British possessions in Africa. But unfortunately it is too often the case that it is to some extent left to the inclination of the individual as to when and ever whether he comes in to the nearest Government post or District office to register his arms. For the proper enforcement of this regulation it is essential that some Department or branch of a Department should be specially charged with the annual registration of arms; and by reference to the previous years returns the owners of arms should be sought out and compelled to produce

produce, or account for, the arms known to have been in their possession.

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(4) The sale of arms and ammunition by dealers to any person should only be allowed when the purchaser produces a permit to purchase arms or ammunition signed by some duly authorized person. This permit, again being produced at the annual registration by the dealer to account for the reduction in his registered stock of arms and ammunition.

(5) A central office of registration for arms and ammunition would probably be found necessary and would add to the efficiency of the regulations; while other minor details of administration would suggest themselves in carrying out the laws.

The acquisition of arms and ammunition by natives in Africa is a subject of such vital importance to the European powers concerned that no trouble should be too great to prevent the native races from obtaining arms. And it seems almost incredible that any one Nation should have the audacity to stand aloof from and perhaps overthrow negotiations, which are for the mutual benefit

of all the white races concerned, or indeed that they should be allowed to do so by the other powers.

If the powers represented at the present conference will undertake not only to adopt universal laws to prevent natives in Africa obtaining arms and ammunition, but also to administer these laws in some practical and effective manner as suggested above much good will come of it.

(Signed)

F. H. Woosnam.

May 16 1904