

EAST AFR. PROT
 S. Africa
 Rhodesia
 42289

C. O.
 42289
 REC'D
 REG'D 31 OCT 14

Foreign Office
 1914
 Oct 30th
 next previous Paper.
 42106 / S.A. O
 Uganda
 South

Belgian Operations against the
 Germans in East & South Africa.

Forward copy of telegram from Mr. J. Lilliers reporting the action taken by the Belgian Congo Govt. in Katanga. As regards East Africa, suggests informing Belgian Govt. of proposed British expedition against German East Africa so far as to allow their apprehensions of a serious German attack against the Congo.

Mr. Bostanley ^{has been} ~~at~~ Lambert ^{Mr. G. F. Fuller}
 (minutes incomplete on 3 pp. below.)

This concerns both the S. African and the E. African Depts.

As regards E. Africa a reply to Mr. Lilliers has been suggested as

42012 { East Africa below, but Uganda

I should like to see the general question of Belgian operations in Africa discussed by the sub-committee on offensive operations before a reply is sent to the Mr. Lilliers. The matter does not concern the C. O. alone, but other depts, such as the Mr. Lilliers, and probably the India Office, are implicated.
 Egan 31/10/14

To Mr. Lilliers
 Copy conveyed to Mr. Lilliers 3 Nov
 Copy conveyed to Mr. Lilliers 3 Nov

next subsequent Paper.
 44392 S

In - 505C?

31/10/14

Mr 31/10/14
Wm. J
Raffles

We cannot of course object to the
Belgians taking 'offensive' action for
the protection of Belgian Congo, but
in view of the nature of our offensive
against G. E. A. it is highly improbable
that the Germans will have anything
to spare for an attack on the Congo.

I did tell J.O. that a force of
Br. Indian Troops estimated to be fully
adequate for the red of G. E. A.
due to arrive at Mombasa today
and will immediately take the
offensive. In the circumstances it is im-
probable that any German attempt
will be made against Belgian Congo.

Wm. J. Raffles
31.10.14

In any further communication on the subject, please quote

No. 64458/14.

FOREIGN OFFICE

October 30th 1914.

and address: The Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter of September 30th 37492/1914 Secret, concurring in the draft of a despatch which it was proposed to send to His Majesty's Minister at Antwerp regarding Belgian operations in Africa, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit herewith a copy of a telegram from Sir F. Villiers reporting the action now taken by the Belgian Government.

I am to request that the information contained in the last paragraph of this telegram regarding the present attitude of the Belgian Government may be taken into consideration in connection with the views expressed in my letter of the 24th instant 61632/14, and I am to observe that this Department, as well as the Belgian Government, has as yet no information regarding the intentions of the military authorities in British East Africa or as to the prospects of an early offensive

by

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Handwritten notes:
Mans
As - 64

Handwritten note:
Africa

by British troops from the Protectorate against German territory.

I am to submit, for Mr. Secretary Harcourt's consideration that, should it be deemed inadvisable to communicate these intentions and prospects fully to the Belgian Government, enough should at any rate be communicated to them to allay their apprehensions as to the possibility of a serious German offensive against the Congo.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

Wm. A. ...

Copy.

Decypher, Sir F. Wilfiers, Le Hayre, October 28th.

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(D. 4.45.p.m. R. 6.30.p.m. October 28th.)

No. 56.

I addressed note to Belgian Government in accordance with instructions in your despatch No. 121 and your telegram No. 30 and Belgian Government accordingly sent orders for Belgian force to be withdrawn.

From a telegram just received from Governor of Katanga it seems doubtful whether this has yet been done and it appears that as recently as October 21st he had been in correspondence with High Commissioner for South Africa and had received impression that the High Commissioner desired Belgian co-operation. Belgian Government are however again telegraphing to Governor of Katanga to withdraw force at once and to warn High Commissioner that this is being done.

At the same time Belgian Government state that circumstances may make it advisable for them to modify their original policy of acting strictly on defensive and their local authorities have accordingly been instructed that they may take offensive if such a step appears to offer best hope of preventing invasion of the Colony.

P.O./42289/S.A.P.
S. Africa.
Rhodesia.

83c

0 SW.O. 1914]

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SECRET AND IMMEDIATE.

Downing Street,

3 November, 1914.

DRAFT.

The Under Secretary of State,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir,

MINUTE.

- Mr. *W. A. G. 1/11/14*
- Mr. *B. Brown 2/11/14*
- Sir G. Fiddes. *2*
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson. *2/11*
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letters No. 61632/14 of October 24th and No. 64458/14 of October 30th regarding Belgian offensive operations in Africa, particularly on the German East Africa border, and to inform you that he concurs in Secretary Sir E. Grey's opinion that it would not be possible for His Majesty's Government to make representations to the Belgian Government in this matter except on

- Gov. E.A.P. Tel. 27th Oct. 4185
- E.A.P. Tel. 29th Oct. 42012
- E.A.P. Tel. 30th Oct. 42015
- E.A.P. Tel. 30th Oct. 42106

I have drafted for you on the minutes on 41185, 42012 and 42289.

the

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the basis of an exchange of views between the two Governments as to their policy towards German East Africa.

a course wh. the House wd approve - at the present moment.

2. I am, ^{however} therefore, to state that a force of British and Indian troops estimated to be fully adequate for the reduction of German East Africa ^{has} arrived at Mombasa and will immediately take the offensive, and that in these circumstances it is improbable that any serious attempt will be made by the Germans against the Congo.

~~I am to suggest, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that this information might be communicated to the Belgian Government, and that they might be requested not to assume the offensive on the Belgian frontier of the German protectorate in view of the~~

with a suggestion that there is no necessity for them

fact

fact that the danger to the Congo will almost certainly be removed as soon as the British Expedition begins to operate.

4. Mr. Harcourt would not propose to discuss fully with the Belgian Government the details of the British Expedition at the present stage, and if the Belgian Government should be decidedly opposed to the idea of remaining on the defensive ~~in~~ in the Congo, he would prefer that the question should be allowed to drop.

I am to take this opportunity of transmitting for Sir E. Grey's consideration copies of telegraphic correspondence (as noted in the margin) with the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate as regards recent movements of the Belgians on the

North-

North-Western border of German East

Africa.

I am, etc.,

(13) H. J. Reid