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India  
Office

German East Africa. 149

1914

9 Nov.

Last previous Paper.

+3856  
Serial

Forward copy of a telegram to  
General Aitken agrees to his reinforcing  
the Nairobi Mombasa line on the assumption  
that attack by sea cannot be renewed. Ask for  
further details of Tanga Engagement

See Director's Report Sir G. Fildes.  
This is, I suppose, a  
result of the D.S.C.'s  
X recommendations

Putty?

Equi Op/ix

10/11/14

H. J. R.

Superintendent  
Mombasa

X. No it is not. We were not  
Controlled. My personal opinion  
that no good results can be looked  
for until Gen Aitken is removed.

10.11.14

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SECRET.

INDIA OFFICE,

LONDON, S. W.

9 Nov 1914

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The Military Secretary, India Office, presents his compliments and begs to forward a copy of the under-mentioned telegram for the information of Mr. Secretary Harcourt

To General Aitken, dated 8 Nov. 1914

Under Secretary of State  
Colonial Office

Dated 8 Nov 1914

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COPY TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY OF STATE TO GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING  
S. FORCE, reported to VICEROY, ARMY DEPARTMENT

Your S. 24 of 6th November suggests that Germans will now be strong  
in Mochi area and possibly at Tanga. In that case they will have weakened  
themselves at Tanga. I presume you have fully considered whether you could  
not renew the attack by sea. If both you and naval officer have rejected  
the idea, there seems no alternative and you will have to reinforce  
Nairobi-Mombassa line, as indicated in your S. 25. I therefore approve  
your sending troops to Nairobi, Voi etc. as also to Mombassa, but if you  
are sending Tighe to Tanga to report, vide my S. 26, you should retain  
half a battalion North Lancs, at Mombassa, if possible, you hear from him  
whether they will be wanted there. You can of course temporarily disembark  
them at Mombassa, if you can find suitable quarters for them on land. The  
other half battalion may be sailed to Nairobi. Report fully by wire  
why Tanga was not attacked by sea and sequence of events, with number and  
place of landing and subsequent operations.

I am not inclined disposed to apportion blame to either General or  
troops till I know what actually occurred, and I trust you will be able  
to restore confidence among all ranks and retrieve this unfortunate failure.