

EAST AFR. PROT
45043 AME

C.O
45043
REG. 30 SEP 15

Last copy

1915
Sept. 15

Last previous Paper.
#45042

Form an East Africa
Proposal to make use of Sir
A. Skaps' services in connection
with operations

C.O

(minutes etc in)
Registered for record

Next subsequent Paper
#51257

135

1, Carlton House Terrace,

S.W.

Dep. 15th

Dear Mr. [unclear]

I have received

the [unclear] very

kindly [unclear]

of [unclear]

from [unclear]

have formed

myself [unclear]

of [unclear]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Mr. Brown had ^{been} ~~been~~

I should like to get
 the views of Mr. G.
 Fiddles ^{or} Mr. Anderson
 on this & possibly those
 of the Govt. of Nyasaland.
 It is rather a tall order
 to allow a former Governor
 of the Protectorate to
 start a sort of guerilla
 warfare there. Apart from
 the question of military
 expediency, he naturally
 would be horribly puzzled
 to know who really

Recd. 16
G. A. H. 18

137

Anderson /
Steel Mainland

Will you please let the S of B
have your observations on this
proposal?

of A. B.

16. 9. 15

Too many cooks in

We ~~already~~ have forces in the north under the
L. O. - forces in the South under the S of B
N. head & the Rhodanese authorities - the Belgians
in two sections (North & South) on the West +
the Naval contingent for Lake Tanganyika
under the adm. of the blockading squadron
on the East. It is ^{too} difficult enough, as it is,
to co-ordinate; & if S of B & shape cuts in
as a sort of pre-lease, we shall have done.

C.O. 533 101

Think this is the drawing at once
W. S. R.

10/10/15

Certainly I like the idea of it being
imposed on the two sides of the drawing
at right. P.S. 10/10/15

I agree. We are reconstructing in Pyramland
for the K.R. and to let Lord Shaple
cut in would Shaple kill our chance
of getting the men needed to fill the
Reactor. W. S. R. 10/10/15

I agree. By itself the proposal is to see
whether Lord Shaple would be of use if he
put himself under the authority of the
or another man. It depends on what his
knowledge or influence really is. He is so far
too admittedly too late in contact with
Africa. It might be worth while talking
up of recommending him to see, as Robin
from his particular scheme. A.S. 19.9

Royal Geographical Society,
Kensington Gore,
London, S.W.

Sept. 15th, 1915.

Dear Lord Curzon,

I know that you are interested in the question of how we are to deal with the Germans in German East Africa, and I should like to make a proposition.

I have several times asked both the War Office, the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office if they would make use of my services in any manner in connection with the war; but, very naturally I daresay, they have apparently not seen any opportunity of doing so - up to the present time.

It is, I think, clear that we have to take some steps of one kind or another soon with a view to not only defending British East Africa, Nyasaland, and Northern Rhodesia, but to carrying out some plan of effective aggression. If a big move is made from Mombasa, the sea coast, and the Victoria Lake, it would greatly assist this if a simultaneous attack in force were made from Nyasaland and the Tanganyika plateau. Fighting has been going on for some time as you know in this direction, commencing with the success we had at Karonga nearly a year ago, and since then desultory attacks on both sides in the vicinity of the Tanganyika-Nyasaland frontier line. The Germans have two central positions

positions in that part of Africa, Neu Langenburg near the north end of Lake Nyasa, and Bismarckburg near the south end of Lake Tanganyika. The Rhodesian Government have a force at and about Abercorn (South end of Lake Tanganyika) and the Nyasaland Government have a force at Karonga.

I know Africa well: I know almost every yard of this particular part of Africa. I know every native chief and headman in it. Many operations carried on from Rhodesia and Nyasaland, an irregular native force under the command of some one who has the necessary knowledge of the natives and of the country would be invaluable for irregular work. A white force is necessary for the main work: - but with its commissariat, its guns, its camp loads, its tinned food, its illness, and numerous requirements, there is a large amount of necessary and valuable work which it is quite unfitted to carry out.

I do not like to speak too much about my own capacity for such work - but Lugard and Johnston know what I was able to do in the same locality during the wars we had, first with the Arabs, and later with the different big native chiefs whom we had to fight from 1890 to 1897. I should like nothing better than to take this matter in hand. I am not young as you know, but am very strong, fit, and well, and seasoned by many years in Africa. I am known by every native from the Zambezi coast to Tanganyika, and from all that has happened in the

past

Copy.

PRIVATE.

Downing Street,

139

20th September, 1918.

My dear Curzon,

I am obliged to you for sending me Sir Alfred Sharpe's letter which I have read with much interest and now return.

I do not think his proposal is practicable. We have already, including the Belgians, four or five different forces and it is difficult enough to co-ordinate them already. The position there is unsatisfactory and for the moment defensive measures have been arranged which will, I think, at least prevent misfortune but in my opinion something ought to be done if it can possibly be managed to end the dangerous situation there.

The War Office have agreed to try to get the force necessary to conquer German East Africa from the Union Government and we have a practical promise that if Botha wins the election such a force will be raised thereafter. Something of this kind is
necessary

necessary and I feel sure that such action as proposed by Sir Alfred Sharpe would just complicate the situation without really getting rid of the difficulty.

These operations, as you know, are under the control of the War Office though I have naturally tried to influence them and if you like I will send on the letter to Kitchener, but I do not myself think it is a good proposal.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sd) A. BONAR LAW.

necessary and I feel sure that such action as proposed by Sir Alfred Sharpe would just complicate the situation without really getting rid of the difficulty.

These operations, as you know, are under the control of the War Office though I have naturally tried to influence them and if you like I will send on the letter to Kitchener, but I do not myself think it is a good proposal.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sd) A. BONAR LAW.