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Foreign Office

1916

German East Africa

30 April

Last previous Paper.

Sends copies of correspondence with H. H. Munira  
at La Hava as to administration of  
German territory to be occupied by Belgian forces

Mr. B. B. B.  
Mr. Read

No telegram which has been sent to  
Sir F. B. B. was drafted by me after  
speaking with Sir F. B. B., who having  
refused to make over the territory.  
No had consulted Mr. B. B. on receipt of Sir  
F. B. B.'s despatch & Mr. B. B. approved the  
opinion that the military objection raised  
by the Belgians was to a certain  
extent sound. No was however inclined  
to give way to the extent of agreeing  
to the Belgians taking over the country  
by in the direct line of their military  
advance. ~~Mr. B. B.~~ concession was

Next subsequent Paper.

Approved by Surg. Z. J. ... and Co  
Telegram of which copy is herewith  
(now contained in ... also) was  
sent for what ... had in  
mind to send.

P. 15

W. G. 1.5.16 297. 1/5/16

H. J. R.  
1/27/16

I am glad to hear you enjoyed the ...  
swallowing while the excellent ...  
H. H. H. prepared

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As. N. 1.5

Am. 2.5

20144

Secret & Immediate

In any further communication on this subject, please quote  
No. 20764/1916  
and address  
The Under-Secretary of State  
Foreign Office,  
London

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents  
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the  
Colonies, and, by direction of the Secretary  
of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned  
papers:

Foreign Office,

April 30 1916

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter <sup>to</sup> ~~from~~ Foreign Office: April 14 (17630/1916)

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
(1) H.M. Wilmester at House No 73, April 27	Roman E. Africa
(2) Lo - do Tel. No 24, April 29	

Similar letter sent to War Office

Encl. in ltr. F. Stellens No. 73 of April 27, 1917

Ministère  
des  
Affaires  
Étrangères

26 AVRIL 1916

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Direction n° 1000

NOTE VERBALE

Le Département des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur d'annoncer la réception de la note verbale de la Légation britannique en date du 17 avril relative à l'occupation et à l'administration provisoires des territoires conquis ou à conquérir par les forces belges et anglaises dans la colonie allemande de l'Est africain.

Le Gouvernement du Roi se rallie volontiers à la proposition de considérer l'occupation des territoires de cette colonie par les troupes britanniques ou belges comme ayant un caractère provisoire et temporaire et de réserver le sort final à assigner à ces territoires jusqu'à la fin des hostilités.

Par contre, la seconde proposition de la note tendant à remettre aux autorités britanniques l'administration et le contrôle des territoires qui seraient occupés par les troupes belges soulève des objections. Le Gouvernement du Roi, en effet, estime indispensable pour assurer la tranquillité du pays sur les derrières de ses troupes ainsi que la garde de ses lignes de communication de soumettre au contrôle exclusif du commandement belge, les zones traversées par ses lignes de communication et les régions occupées par ses troupes.

La confusion qu'apprendrait le Gouvernement britannique risquerait précisément de se produire si une autre autorité que l'autorité belge devait administrer le pays compris entre les zones d'opérations de ses troupes et les bases de celles-ci en territoire belge.

Le Gouvernement du Roi ne doute pas que le Gouvernement britannique ne reconnaisse les nécessités militaires dont s'inspirant ces considérations et il se déclare tout disposé à conclure un accord sur les bases qu'il vient d'indiquer.

Légation Britannique,

Le Havre

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BELGIUM

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MILITARY

Cypher telegram to Sir F. Williams (Havre).  
Foreign Office. April 29th 1916. 7 p.m.  
No. 24.

Your despatch No. 73 (of April 27th).

General Smuts reports that Commander of Belgian Northern Force is about to proceed to Kigali, capital of Ruanda, and has declined to allow a British political officer to accompany him. Ruanda is important populous province under Sultan with whom good relations have been carefully maintained by German Government. Thus native population will probably remain faithful to German rule and resist Allied forces and although open warfare is unlikely owing to the unwarlike nature of the tribes, our officers on the spot are convinced that embarrassment may be caused unless occupied areas are as soon as possible effectively administered by British officers.

Please inform Belgian Government and say that His Majesty's Government strongly maintain the principle that so far as possible there should be uniformity in the administration of occupied districts of German East Africa. The military reasons put forward by the Belgian Government for not accepting the suggestion relative to British control which are mentioned in your despatch No. 73 (of April 27th) are noted but His Majesty's Government do not anticipate that the

Belgian

Belgian control over their lines of military communication would, in effect, be interfered with as the British political officers administering occupied territory would be instructed to facilitate in every possible way the transit, transport, &c., of the Belgian military forces and not to interfere in any way with the actual conduct of military operations including lines of communication. The Belgian Government will no doubt realise that the reasons put forward by General Smuts for the administration of the territory by British political officers are also of a military nature and of the highest importance.

His Majesty's Government trust that in these circumstances the Belgian Government will agree to send immediate instructions to their military officers in the sense of the contents of my telegram No.22 (of April 15th).

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