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EAST AFR. PROT.
GERMAN EAST AFRICA

W 289

Foreign Office

German East Africa

1916

to Lunc

Send despatch from H. H. Minister
at Harar as to administration of
territory occupied by the Belgians.

Last previous Paper.

785

Mr Bostwick
Mr Read

As I understand it, the Belgians
have established at Kigali the
capital of Ruanda, an administrative
centre for the territory occupied by
the forces Major Stevens is the
officer who is responsible for the
administration, and he derives his
authority from Mr. Tombs, the
military commander-in-chief, whose
headquarters are also at Kigali. The
military columns advancing into the
territory have nothing to do with
administrative arrangements and as
they rule the country which they occupy

16 June
30 13/2 c 16 June
copy a time 4/4 to 30 13/2 c 16 June

at subsequent Paper.

comes under the control of Major
Stevens for administrative purposes.

If this is the arrangement, it
is evident that nothing would be
gained by having subordinate British
officers to accompany the various
Belgian columns and that the
establishment of a British adviser at
the Belgian administrative headquarters
would suffice for our purposes. I
think, however, that we should have
General Smith's views upon the
question, and I should be inclined
to write to W.P., pointing out as
above and suggesting that General
Smith should be asked by telegraph
① who is the senior British
political officer attached to the
Belgian administrative headquarters
at Kigali ② whether his presence
in the capacity of adviser is considered
sufficient to ensure uniformity of
administration in the occupied parts of
German East Africa & to uphold British
prestige in the eyes of the natives
③ whether such office is
sufficient or whether it is considered

that more than one should be attached
to Major Stevens at Kigali. 290

292 13/6/16
W.L.S. 14/6/16

H. J. S.

14/6/16

above P.M. 7/5/16

For further communication
on this subject, please

Confidential.

W. 110567-1916

Foreign Office,
London.

Reference to previous correspondence:—

Letter to Foreign Office: *May 16 (22707 (1916))*

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for the
Colonies and is directed by the Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs to transmit the accompanying copy of
a despatch which has been received from *Herr Bismarck*
at *Hannover*, regarding the administration
of the occupied territory in German
East Africa

The Secretary of State would be glad to be advised
what answer should be returned to *Sir J. Villiers*.

Foreign Office,

June 10, 1916.

(Similar letter sent to *War Office*)

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Confidential.

June 7, 1916.

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Sir,

I have the honour to report that, upon receipt of your letter LCH No. 40, Confidential, (93374/16) of the 14th ultimo, I informed the Belgian Government that in view of the considerations advanced His Majesty's Government would not further press the proposal that the whole of the occupied territory in German West Africa should be placed under British administration. They accepted instead the suggestion put forward by us, namely that a British senior Political Officer should be attached to the Headquarters of the Belgian Congo forces operating in West Africa for the purpose of advising upon administrative matters in occupied territory.

In order, however, to ensure uniformity, the principle of which has been accepted, His Majesty's Government consider it essential that such British Officers, acting also in advisory capacity,

should

Be Lieut. Hon.

Genl. Grey Bart. K.G. &c.

& & &

should be permitted to accompany any important Belgian detachments in East Africa. 242

According to the information at the disposal of the Army Council the Headquarters of the Belgian forces remained at Kufunene in Belgian territory, whereas two important columns, commanded respectively by Colonels Molitor and Olsen, had penetrated considerable distances into Ruanda, north and east of Lake Kivu. The Council deemed that British Political Officers should be present with both these columns and with any similar force that might be detached, and I therefore expressed a hope that on all such occasions the Belgian Government would grant the necessary permission in order to attain the object which His Majesty's Government attached much importance to.

I enclose copy of the reply which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency states that the Belgian Headquarters are now at Kigali, the capital of Ruanda, and that they will follow the line of advance so as to keep in touch with the invading

30.1.1918.

columns. In these circumstances the Belgian Government consider that the presence of a single British Superior Officer will be sufficient for all administrative orders will be issued from Headquarters and their execution superintended by the Officer in chief command of the Belgian expedition. The appointment of subordinate Officers to accompany each column would, it is maintained serve no useful purpose and would indeed lead to inconvenience, the Commanders not having to concern themselves with matters of administration.

Baron Beyens trusts that His Majesty's Government will agree in this view of the question.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant.

(Sd) F.H.Villiers.

Le Havre, le 7 JUIN 1918

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Direction F n° 4206 .

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser la réception de la dépêche que
Votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 23 mai au sujet de l'ad-
ministration des territoires occupés par les forces belges dans la
Colonie allemande de l'Est Africain.

J'ai appris avec une vive satisfaction que le Gouvernement
de Sa Majesté britannique n'insistait plus pour que tous les terri-
toires fussent placés sous l'administration anglaise, et acceptait
la proposition d'attacher au Quartier Général belge un fonctionnaire
civil supérieur qui agirait à titre de conseil.

Dans la pensée que le Quartier Général belge restera à
Rutshuru, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique demande cependant
que des fonctionnaires politiques anglais de moindre rang soient as-
signés à accompagner chacune des colonnes belges principales qui péné-
treront dans l'Afrique Orientale.

J'ai l'honneur de faire connaître à Votre Excellence que
cette nouvelle proposition est basée sur une erreur de fait. Le
Quartier Général belge n'est pas à Rutshuru. Installé à Kibati, puis
qu'au 20 mai, il a été transféré à cette date à Kisesa, puis à
Lubengera le 30 mai. Il est maintenant à Kigali, la Capitale
du Ruanda. Le Sultan et la population, heureux d'être

libérés

Son Excellence

Honorable Sir Francis Hyde Villiers.

Le Havre

libérés du joug allemand, ont fait le meilleur accueil à nos troupes. Le Sultan a fait arborer le pavillon belge.

Jamais il n'a été question de rompre le contact entre l'armée et le Quartier Général Belge ou laissent celui-ci en territoire belge. Tout au contraire, le Quartier Général s'efforcera toujours à proximité de la ligne de front afin de maintenir le contact avec toutes les colonnes d'invasion.

Si le Quartier Général était resté sur le territoire belge, la proposition de lui attacher un haut fonctionnaire civil anglais qui agirait à titre de conseil en matière d'administration n'eût pu produire aucun effet utile; elle n'aurait pas été formulée par le Gouvernement du Roi.

Sans doute lorsque le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique sera en possession des informations ci-dessus, reconnaîtra-t-il que la mesure sur laquelle les deux Gouvernements sont d'accord est suffisante pour l'obtention des fins qu'il a en vue et qu'il n'y a aucun motif pour maintenir la proposition d'attacher un fonctionnaire anglais à chaque unité belge pénétrant en territoire allemand.

Les questions relatives à l'occupation du pays conquis, c'est-à-dire du pays compris entre la frontière et notre front définitivement occupés, se traiteront entre le haut fonctionnaire anglais agissant à titre de conseil et le général Tombeau agissant à titre d'autorité suivant les instructions du Gouvernement.

M. Tombeau donnera les ordres relatifs à l'occupation

comme les autres et en surveille à l'exécution de la manière la plus effective puisqu'il se trouvera dans le haut fonctionnaire auquel on plain-pays accusé et que ses ordres s'exécutent en arrière du front.

Si les colonnes d'assent leurs chefs auront les instructions venues pour régler l'occupation des nouveaux territoires.

L'intervention de fonctionnaires anglais de rang mineurs, agissant à titre de conseil auprès de chaque colonne, ne présenterait aucune utilité mais seulement des inconvénients. Nos chefs de colonne n'ont pas à s'occuper d'administration, une administration provisoire a été organisée dans la Ruanda, en arrière de ces colonnes, ainsi qu'il résulte d'un télégramme du Général Tembeur reçu le 3 juin. Elle a été confiée au Major Stevens.

Il me serait agréable d'apprendre que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté britannique est d'accord avec le Gouvernement du Roi sur la solution à donner aux problèmes soulevés par la question de l'administration des territoires allemands occupés par les forces belges.

Je saisis cette occasion, Monsieur le Ministre, de renouveler à Votre Excellence les assurances de ma haute considération.

(s) **BYRNE**

Secret Immediate

DRAFT.

Re Sec.
War Office

MINUTE.

- Mr. Egger 15/6/46
- Mr. Deakin 15.6.16
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Read
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Mr. Steel-Maitland.
- Mr. Bonar Law.

to advise to
 Letter No 4/200567/1946
 of same date regarding the
 administration of the
 part of German S. Africa
 occupied by the Belgian forces.
 2 As Mr B.L. understands
 the position the Belgians
 have established at Katanga
 an administrative centre
 for the territory occupied by
 their forces. Major Stevens
 is the officer responsible
 for the administration &
 he derives his authority from
 the Belgian military
 Commander in chief. The
 Belgian military columns
 advancing into Katanga
 territory have no concern
 with administrative
 arrangements and as
 they advance the country

which they accept, come
under the control of
Major Stevens for
administrative purposes.
The arrangements
are as described above
and British considered that
nothing will be gained
by having individual British
officials to accompany the
various Belgian columns
to take the establishment
of a British adviser at
the Belgian administrative
headquarters should refer
to us. It is proper however to
leave with the French
until before coming to a
definite decision and
I am to suggest that
the above points should be
put to General [?]
by telegraph & that he

should be asked if also
in the Senior British
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political officer attached
to the Belgian administration
at [?]
(2) whether the presence
of this officer in the
capacity of adviser is
considered sufficient to
ensure uniformity of
administration in the
occupied parts of German
East Africa & to uphold
British prestige in the
eyes of the natives. (3)
whether one such officer
is sufficient or whether
it is considered that more
than one should be
attached to Major Stevens
at [?]

J
K.R.