

EAST AFR. PROT

42727

REC'D.

REG'D. 7 SEP 16

42727

VAN

in office

1916

Sept.

previous Paper

German East Africa

States views of any Council as  
to proposals for defining Belgian  
sphere of administration made in Col. 62.  
g 5 September

Sir Butler

This letter is somewhat obscure, but  
Col. Olivant of the General Staff has  
called and made no new clause  
in conversation.

They are simply as follows:

No Belgians shall remain under  
their administration from whom  
it is until their military operations  
round Tabora have been completed.

Moreover we should not ask  
them to withdraw it while  
their military operations are  
still going on, as they might  
in that case take no further

To General Officer Commanding 1st Army Sector  
13 Sept. 1916 (42727)

Copy to General Officer Commanding 1st Army Sector  
13 Sept. 1916 (42727)

Subsequent Paper

VAN

replies in one month, with  
less willing results. Then this  
question will be decided (i.e., in  
effect, when Tafra is occupied)  
by the time it has been  
so difficult for administration  
to go back. No one will prefer  
to go back to the C of  
the last Co & Co to  
any of the alternatives. They  
will agree to the B or  
Tafra Co if you take up  
the matter with Co & Co

The morning we are  
Bukar, another draft is  
to have been prepared so as  
to meet the views it has  
been over the Mediterranean road,  
with a rest from the  
entire movement in 3  
or 4 days.

I am anxious to draft  
for the handing of the  
affairs. All was arranged

beyond the proposals mentioned  
in the Bonn paper on the 19th, in  
that it suggests that said C 360  
should be first presented to Belgian  
Govt.; but it will be seen  
that we have discretion to do  
to raise objections if they think  
we are making too great demands  
on the Belgians. This after all  
is mainly a diplomatic question.

On 29/8/16, it appears, we  
do to the Govt.

897 8/9/16

Plat 3

8/9/16

Plat 3  
8/9/16

AM 11/9

Number 8<sup>b</sup> 1916

370

Dear Colonel Mowatt

With reference to War Office Official  
Letter (0165/7874 No 26) of September  
6<sup>th</sup> and your cable late yesterday  
in amplification of it I enclose  
a draft letter to the Foreign Office  
about the Belgian sphere of administration  
in German East Africa which we propose  
to put forward for the Secretary of  
State's approval if we may take  
it that it correctly represents No.  
views as given in your official  
letter and as stated by you verbally.

Would you very kindly let me

PTO

London Oct 1916

370

Dear Colonel Miersant,

With reference to War Office opinion  
letter (0165/7874 7026) of September  
6<sup>th</sup> and your cable late yesterday  
in amplification of it I enclose  
a draft letter to the Foreign Office  
about the Belgian sphere of administration  
in German East Africa which we propose  
to put forward for the Secretary of  
State's approval if we may take  
it that it correctly represents our  
views as given in your opinion  
letter and as stated by you verbally.  
Would you very kindly let me

PTO

any further communication on this subject should be addressed to  
The Secretary  
War Office  
London S.W.  
and the following number quoted.

65/7874. (M.O.B.b.)

Secret

4277  
371  
War Office,  
London, S.W.

6th September, 1916.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of Colonial Office letter No. 41574/16 of September 5th, on the subject of the definition of the Belgian provisional Administrative Zone in German East Africa.

(2) In reply, I am to state for the information of Mr Secretary Bonar Law that until the German forces in the vicinity of Tabora have been disposed of, it appears to the Council that the movements of the Belgian columns must be dependent on those of the enemy. The Council are further of opinion that on Military grounds those districts traversed by the Belgian Lines of Communication should, while military operations are in progress, be administered by the Belgian authorities. This view as represented by the Belgian Government in Baron Beyens' Note of May 3rd 1916, (Foreign Office letter No. 85501/16 of May 6th 1916), was accepted by the Army Council and appears from Foreign Office letter No. 93374/W. of May 20th to have been officially communicated to the Belgian Government.

(3) The Council agree with Mr Secretary Bonar Law's views as expressed in paragraph 4 of the letter under reply as to the territory to be occupied provisionally by the Belgians after the cessation of military operations.

Questions as to the final partition of territory appear to the Council to be a matter for the consideration of the Territorial Changes Committee, to which the Council's views can be submitted in due course, through its representative.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. Blaize

Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
S.W.

R.F.S.  
11

37

W.O. 42727/E.A.P.

83

DOWNING STREET.

11 September, 1916.

~~SECRET AND VERY PRESSING.~~

Sir,

DRAFT

In continuation of the letters from

MINISTER SECRETARY OF STATE,

FRENCH OFFICE.

this Department 39741 of August 29th and

41574 of September 5th regarding the

definition of the Belgian provisional sphere  
of administration in German East Africa, I am  
directed by Mr. Secretary Bonar Law to trans-  
mit to you, to be laid before Viscount Grey,  
of Fallodon, the accompanying copy of a  
further letter from the War Office on the  
question.

2. It will be seen from this letter  
that the Army Council are of opinion that,  
until the Belgian forces have disposed of the  
German forces in and near Tabora, and have  
thereby completed the full extent of their  
military operations, it would not be  
possible for them to withdraw their administra-

administration from the districts traversed by their military lines of communication, but that as soon as their military operations are concluded, they should be invited to confine their administration to the areas to be proposed to them for that purpose. It is understood that the Army Council ~~will~~ consider that in these circumstances it will be best to defer consultation with the Belgian Government regarding the proposed definition of the sphere of their administration until their military operations have been completed by the conclusion of Tabora, as the operations in question might be adversely affected by the initiation of such negotiations.

that  
Belgians might  
further

3. Mr. Bonar Law is prepared to accept the view of the Army Council on ~~the position~~ and ~~in~~ ~~these~~ circumstances it only remains to reach a final decision upon the definition of the proposed spheres of administration. In so far as proposed in the Belgian suggestion, namely the

DRAFT  
occupation of Tabora, an event which may now be expected shortly.

4. The original proposal put forward by Mr. Bowes Lasane was that the Belgians should temporarily administer the Rwanda and Urundi provinces, but it will be seen that the Army Council consider that the military should be sent further west, so that the line would run from Cape Matembe on Lake Tanganyika inland to the valley of the Ruzizi, and then southwest towards the Belgian Congo. This plan has agreed with the Army Council, in preferring this western type as the standard of the proposed African system and in trusts that Lord Grey will see his way, if need be, to get the Belgian Government to accept it. In the event, however, of ~~that suggestion~~ failing to find acceptance, or of its being considered that there are insuperable objections to proposing it in the near future, the Belgian Government should, in Mr. Grey's opinion,

opinion be asked to confine their temporary administration to the Ruanda and Urundi provinces.

6. Mr. Bonar Law will be glad to be informed at an early date whether Lord Grey will be prepared to authorise representations on these lines being made to the Belgian Government as soon as the Belgian military operations in East Africa are concluded.

I am, etc.

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