

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. W. 75009/1916
and address
The Under-Secretary of State
Foreign Office,
London, E.C. 1.

1948

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General

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for
Colonies and by direction of the Secretary
of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned
paper.

Foreign Office,

April 24th, 1916.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter ^{to} from Foreign Office: April 23, W. 76116/1916

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p><i>Minister at Lisbon, no 29, April 3rd. (Contract)</i></p>	<p><i>Operations in East Africa</i></p>

(Similar letter sent to the War Office)

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EXTRACT.

His Excellency told me further that the Government were making preparations to send some five thousand men to Portuguese East Africa, partly to complete the forces now there, partly to replace troops that were coming home. The intention of the Government was that as soon as possible after the arrival of these reinforcements an expedition would be sent to occupy a piece of territory to the South of the River Rovuma which forms the frontier line between Portuguese and German East Africa. The Germans had cheated Portugal out of this territory when the frontier was demarcated and Portugal now intended to seize it and keep it. He went on to say that he presumed the Portuguese troops after consolidating their position on the Rovuma, would advance into the German Colony but the Government were leaving all military matters to the decision of the Governor General who was acting in full agreement with General Smuts.