

EAST AFR. ~~POST~~
51462 *JKS*

C O
51462
REC'D
REG 8 15

Adm 7 Conf.
1915
5 Nov.
Last previous Paper
F.O.
51247/15

Anglo-Belgian Co-operation;

suggested naval demonstration on coast of G. E. A. Transmits copy of a letter G.F.O. regarding proposed conference.

C.A.

Put by
at once
to J.O.L.
8/21/15

in Bk by
Read

Dr. G. Fiddes.

Put by ✓

Please see how minutes of meeting of conference on Nov. 8th attached.

(1) Action will presumably be taken by F.O. & it is not necessary for us to move in the matter?

(2) Re 50473 / U.S. Afr. below. We told Lord Buxton that we were consulting the Army Council as to the proposal to

Next subsequent Paper:

send the first S. African brigade
 (now in England) to East Africa,
 and then sent a copy of our telegram
 to War Office "for information". I
 presume that we are convincing
 the matter?

We can ask
 Hoffmeyer
 When I was at
 the D. O. in London
 I asked them
 deal with
 point.
 H.Y.

(3) It is impossible to over-emphasize
 the importance of co-ordinating
 the action of the various forces
 stationed round the German
 Protectorate; what has always
 been lacking hitherto most of all
 is the absence of a central
 controlling power

But it would be
 hard to find
 of men?

Gen 9/10/15
 W.W.G.
 H. J. R.
 9/27/15

M + Stiel Meadland
 W. B. Jones here

Here is the genuine result of
 our Conference. - I told them that they need not
 worry about (2) as assuredly the S. A. G. had over
 Gen Northey the forces to W.O. on credit as soon
 as the general offensive was in train.

I understand that the matter will be brought
 before the War C. C. tomorrow afternoon. - I
 impressed on the military members very strongly
 that as the S. A. G. had accepted the U.S. Afr. offer
 of troops we must get prompt on with our delay.

It was most unfortunate that Gen. Callwell,

being otherwise engaged, could not attend
the meeting

Dec. 9. 11. 15 87^A

I hope it will be passed at the
next meeting as strongly as possible. I want
to see the whole done that if that
was offered the whole command he would
take it and he would then get more men
again from J. A.

The danger of delay also is great. If
we get more men at once we shall not get
a more in the way. The result of further
delay will be that $\frac{1}{2}$ the time the more
could begin the bad weather will begin also.

As. 12. 9.

Am 11. 11

W. A. T.

Handwritten notes in the top left corner, including "Fiddes" and "at the end of the paper".

COMMITTEE OF IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

2 WHITEHALL GARDENS

LONDON, S.W.

9. Nov. 1915.

Dear Sir George Fiddes,

You may like to have a copy of yesterday's conclusions for record.

Yrs. sincerely
Cybil Longhurst.

SECRET.

At an Interdepartmental Conference held at 2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W., November 8, 1915, at the request of the Foreign Office, on the subject of the Belgian proposal for a Naval Demonstration off the coast of German East Africa.

Present.

Vice-Admiral Sir D.A. Gamble, K.C.V.O., in the Chair.

Lord Eustace Percy, Foreign Office.

Sir G.V. Fiddes, K.C.M.G., C.P., Colonial Office.

Major C.H. Leveson, D.S.O., War Office.

Captain Earl Percy, War Office.

Mr. Cyril Longhurst, Assistant Secretary,
Committee of Imperial Defence.

The following Conclusions were reached.-

(1).- The Committee are of opinion that a demonstration without an effective landing would be useless, and that the Foreign Office should inform the Belgian Government accordingly.

(2).- Assuming any such demonstration, accompanied by a landing in force, were decided upon, they are of opinion that it, or any other operation of an offensive character, should not be undertaken unless the troops now on the spot - even if strengthened by the force promised in the Union Government's telegram of November 1st. - were further reinforced, either by transferring the first Union brigade from Europe

(to)

to East Africa (as recommended by the Union Government) or by substituting another brigade.

(3).- The Committee submit that the question of entire control of operations in Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and German East Africa, should receive the consideration of the War Council.

(sd) Douglas Gamble

November 8th. 1915.

It is requested that in any further communication on this subject, the above letters and numbers may be quoted, and the Letter addressed as follows:—

"The Secretary of the Admiralty,
"Whitehall,
"London."

Admiralty, S. W.

5th November 1915

* Form A.

Confidential

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, ~~for your information~~ a copy of a letter of even date and number, addressed to the Foreign Office, relative to a proposed Conference at the Foreign Office on the subject of a naval demonstration off the coast of German East Africa.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

91A
5th November 5

-: Confidential and Pressing :-

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 5th instant No. 163318, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that they will be ready to send a representative to listen to any suggestions which may be made in regard to affairs in German East Africa which can subsequently be considered by the Staffs of the Admiralty and War Office in conjunction with representatives from the Colonial Office and the Belgian Military Authorities.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the War Office and the Colonial Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(SD.) W. GRAHAM GREENE.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.