

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. 163318 1915

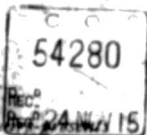
and address—

The Under-Secretary of State
Foreign Office,
London.

Secret

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Secret



The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

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
paper.

Foreign Office,

November 23, 1915.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter to ~~from~~ Foreign Office: November 3 (49915/1915)

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Am. Minister at Havre, No. 146, November 22	Anglo Belgian operations in E. Africa

(Similar letter sent to War Office)

FOREIGN OFFICE,

November 2nd, 1915.

Sir:-

with reference to my telegram, No. 83, of the 16th instant, regarding operations against German East Africa, you should be guided by the following considerations in any future discussion which the Belgian Government may raise in regard to this question.

A plan for an offensive against German East Africa is now before His Majesty's Government but for any such offensive considerable reinforcements for the forces now in British East Africa will be required. Efforts are being made to supply reinforcements from South Africa and the whole scale of possible operations is now being considered by His Majesty's Government. When a decision is reached on these points it will be possible to propose to the Belgian Government a scheme of co-operation.

Pending the working out of a considered scheme it would, however, serve no useful purpose to initiate spasmodic and partial joint operations such as the demonstration against Bar-es-Salawa suggested by Colonel Tombeur. As the Belgian Government seem

now

Honourable

Sir F. Villiers, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

now to have definitely decided to withdraw all their troops from the Rhodesian frontier the problem of joint operations on that front may from the moment be regarded as having lapsed, especially in view of the approach of the rainy season there. Everything must therefore depend on the decision as to an offensive to be undertaken from British East Africa and the Northern Congo and, if you are again approached by the Belgian Government on this point your efforts should be directed to impress on them that His Majesty's Government are fully aware of the necessity for an early decision and of the advantages of a close co-operation with the Belgian forces, but that it is useless to undertake any operations until the arrival of sufficient reinforcements to enable an offensive to be pressed home with decisive results.

These general considerations are all that it seems possible to discuss through the diplomatic channel, and His Majesty's Government will not fail to provide for adequate discussion between the two Staffs when the moment arrives.

I am, with great truth and regard,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,