

EAST AFRICA PROT

44392
REC'D
REG 12 NOV 14

Foreign Office
1914
Nov. 11.
Last previous Paper.
44289/Secret

Belgian Operations against German East Africa.

Forward copies of telegraphic correspondence with H. M. Linnits at Havre as to the attitude of the Belgian authorities in the Congo towards German East Africa.

to Bokantey Fr J. Fides
to Read

No. 121 | I understand that all the
- 92 | previous papers about the
| ^{action} attitude of the Belgians
(including a fresh S. African paper) are with Sir G. Fides, and that the question of the Belgian attitude in connection with recent developments

No. 121 | is before the C. S. etc

W.C.S. 13/11/14 Esq 12/11/14

depression H. J. R. 12/11/14

This tel. of 6 Nov must be taken into

To Foreign Office 16 Nov 1914

Next subsequent Paper.
44283 S

Careful consideration as an element in the
question of your future disposition

Dec. 12. 11. 14

Yes but we cannot invite the Belgians
to take ~~part~~ ^{contingents} ~~part~~ ^{part} as we are not in
a position to support them.

Dec. 17. 11. 14

12 11 14

It is not right
now to be informed that we
do not find ourselves able
at present to take the offensive
against German East Africa.
We have no right to business
there.

Dec 14 14

530

In any further communication on the subject, please quote

No. 68949/14.

FOREIGN OFFICE

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

November 11th, 1914.

Secret and Immediate.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter 42289/14, of the 3rd instant regarding operations in East Africa, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of Mr. Secretary Harcourt, a copy of a telegram sent to His Majesty's Minister at Havre on the 6th instant, and a copy of a despatch from Sir F. Williers dated the 7th instant.

I am to enquire what reply Mr. Harcourt would suggest should be returned to the Belgian Government, especially in view of the telegrams from the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate enclosed in your letter of the 8th instant, No.43240/14 Secret.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

E. Grey

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

*Recd 11/11/14
11/11/14
11/11/14*

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Villiers (Havre).

No. 198. Secret.)

Foreign Office, November 6, 1914, 6:20 P.M.

YOU may inform Belgian Government very confidentially that present dispositions of British forces in British East Africa make any serious attack by Germans on Congo very improbable, and that Belgian Government may therefore be without serious anxiety on this score.

1914

Le Havre

638

Very Confidential.

68249
9 NOV 1914

November 7, 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your secret telegram No. 199, of yesterday's date. In accordance with your request I have told the Minister for Foreign Affairs that I was authorized to state for the very confidential information of the Belgian Government that the British forces are at present so disposed in British West Africa as to render it very unlikely that the Germans will make any attack of a serious character upon the Belgian Congo. On this account therefore the Belgian Government need not be seriously anxious.

Directly after my communication was made I received from M. Devignon the Note of which I enclose a copy. The Minister for the Colonies, as you will perceive, points out the danger which would arise for the Belgian Congo should the

et. hon.

Germans

Mr. Grey B.C., M.P.

etc. etc.

Germany be relieved of all apprehension of pressure on the part of the British Colonial forces, and he asks that a military demonstration at least should be made on the German West African frontier.

If your telegram refers to all the British Colonies adjacent to the Belgian Congo a reply is furnished to M. De Vignon's note, but no doubt the Belgian Government would be glad to have precise information on this point.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant

(sd) F H Villiers

copie.

7 Novembre 1914

6266

6949)

Monsieur le Ministre:-

Par Sa note verbale du 3 octobre dernie, Votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire savoir qu'il n'entraît pas dans les intentions du Gouvernement anglais de prendre l'offensive contre l'Afrique Occidentale allemande soit du Nyassaland, soit de l'Ugande, soit de la Rhodésie.

De son coté le Gouvernement du Roi avait prescrit au Gouverneur du Congo Belge de garder la défensive mais, comme le ^{est} soit Votre Excellence, les Allemands ayant attaqué les forces belges sur la frontière orientale de la colonie le commandant Henry a été amené, après avoir repoussé les attaques allemandes, à pénétrer en territoire ennemi au nord du lac Kivu.

Le Ministre des Colonies attire mon attention sur la situation dangereuse dans laquelle ne manqueraient pas de se trouver les troupes belges si les Allemands dégagés

Son Excellence

Sir Francis Hyde Villiers,

Ac., &c., &c.

Le Havre.

dégagés de toute préoccupation du coté des colonies britanniques réussissaient contre elles toutes leurs forces.

Ruis-je prier Votre Excellence de bien vouloir faire part à Son Gouvernement de cette préoccupation et lui demander de prescrire aux troupes coloniales britanniques d'effectuer tout au moins des démonstrations militaires sur les confins de l'Est africain allemand dans le but d'occuper une partie des forces ennemies?

Veillez agréer, &c.,

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Villiers (Havre).

Foreign Office, November 6, 1914, 6:20 P.M.

(No. 198. Secret.)

YOU may inform Belgian Government very confidentially that present dispositions of British forces in British East Africa make any serious attack by Germans on Congo very improbable, and that Belgian Government may therefore be without serious anxiety on this score.

Secret & Immediate

16 Nov. 1914

DRAFT.

The U.S. of S.
7.0

MINUTE.

- Mr. Eglin, 13/11/14
- Mr. O'Sullivan, 12/11/14
- Mr. Read, 13
- Mr.
- Sir G. Fiddes, 14
- Sir H. Just,
- Sir J. Anderson, 14
- Lord Emmott, Islington.
- Mr. Harcourt, 14

... I think it
... letters (to ...) to
... suggest ...
...
... to J.O. & ...

I am etc to act. vol.
of p. 4. (No 68949/x)
of November 11th with
regard to the
attitude of the
Belgian Govt. towards
German East Africa.

In view of
recent events in
~~German East Africa~~
...
...
...
Belgian Govt should
be informed that
H.M.G. does not
find itself able to

present to take
the offensive ^{measures} against
the interests of
German East Africa, as the result of recent

~~law
and if Sir~~

Grey sees no
objection, I am

to request that

~~this may be done.~~

operations has been taken
that the country is held by
forces of greater strength than
had been anticipated and
our military preparations &
dispositions will have to be
revised accordingly.

Yours

<

H. J. R.