

No. 5.

The FOREIGN OFFICE to the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,—

Foreign Office, July 11, 1883.

I have laid before Earl Granville your letter of the 2nd instant, communicating the Earl of Derby's observations in regard to a remark made by Count d'Aunay in the course of conversation with Lord Granville, in regard to a supposed understanding between England and France on the question of annexations in New Guinea, and I am now to enclose, for Lord Derby's information, a copy of an instruction which Lord Granville has in consequence addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris.

I have, &c.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

J. PAUNCEFOTE.

Enclosure.

MY LORD,—

Foreign Office, July 7, 1883.

I have to inform your Excellency that I communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department a copy of my despatch to you, of the 20th ultimo, recording a conversation which I had had with Count d'Aunay on the question, among other matters, of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in regard to annexation in New Guinea, in the course of which the French Chargé d'Affaires adverted to a supposed understanding between the Governments of England and France that neither country should adopt a policy of annexation in that quarter without previous notice and agreement.

The Earl of Derby has in reply called attention to the fact that Her Majesty's Government are not aware of the existence of any such agreement or understanding with the French Government in the case of New Guinea, and suggests that it may not be unlikely that the mutual assurances given by both Governments in 1878 in respect of the independence of the New Hebrides, may have been in Count d'Aunay's mind when referring to New Guinea.

Although the matter has no practical bearing after the assurances given by M. d'Aunay, and afterwards by the President of the Council, that the French Government had no intention of interfering with the Island of New Guinea, I have to request that your Excellency will take an early opportunity of putting this matter right with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Viscount Lyons, G.C.B.

GRANVILLE.

No. 6.

Lord LYONS to the Right Hon. the Earl GRANVILLE.

MY LORD,—

Paris, July 17, 1883.

With reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note verbale which was sent to me last evening by M. Ch. Lacour in answer to that which, in execution of instructions from your Lordship, I addressed to him on the subject of New Guinea. The note states that the French Government, like that of Her Majesty, is unaware of any exchange of views having taken place between the two countries with regard to New Guinea. It appears from it, however, that the French Government desire to receive a written answer to the note verbale respecting the New Hebrides, which was given to your Lordship by the French Chargé d'Affaires, on the 10th instant.

I have, &c.

The Earl Granville, K.G.

LYONS.

Enclosure.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur de transmettre à Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre la note verbale ci-jointe.

Paris, le 16 Juillet, 1883.

M. CH. LACOUR,

Saisit etc.

Sub-Enclosure.

Paris, le 16 Juillet, 1883.

La note verbale que Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Paris a bien voulu faire parvenir de 14 de ce mois au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de référer à une conversation que le Chargé d'Affaires de France à Londres a eu le 20 Juin dernier avec Son Excellence le Comte Granville, et dans laquelle il aurait fait allusion à une entente supposée entre les Gouvernements Français et Britanniques touchant la Nouvelle Guinée.

Pas plus que le Cabinet de Londres, celui de Paris n'a connaissance que la Nouvelle Guinée ait jamais fait entre les deux pays l'objet d'un échange de vues, et l'on s'expliquait d'autant moins le mal-entendu qui paraît s'être produit dans l'entretien sus-mentionné, que le Comte d'Aunay était uniquement chargé de rappeler les déclarations faites en 1878 par les deux Gouvernements au sujet de l'Archipel des Nouvelles Hébrides.

Si quelque doute à cet égard avait pu rester dans l'esprit des Ministres de la Reine, il n'aurait pas manqué d'être entièrement dissipé par les termes de la note que le Chargé d'Affaires de France a remise, le 10 de ce mois, à Son Excellence le Comte Granville, et qui était destiné à établir que les déclarations de 1878 conservaient toute leur valeur à nos yeux.

Les explications fournies depuis lors au Parlement Anglais nous donnent la confiance que la réponse du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à notre dernière communication ne