Prince Lichnowsky - German Ambassador:
But let's just speculate for a moment if you don't mind … what do you think would happen if Austria decided to punish Serbia?

Sir Edward Grey - British Foreign Secretary:
To punish her?

Lichnowsky:
To teach her a lesson. Do you believe that Russia would come to the aid of the Serbs?

Grey:
Well, she might

Lichnowsky:
And if that happened would France have to follow Russia and …?

Grey:
And would Britain be bound to follow France?

Lichnowsky:
Yes – would Britain be found to follow France?
Grey:
Yes and you’re trying to get me so say that if Russia cries help a French Gendarme
and a British bobby will turn up on the doorstep

Lichnowsky:
You’re teasing me Edward

Grey:
I feel you’re almost trying to tell me something Max

Lichnowsky:
But you do have an understanding with France?

Grey:
You know we do just as we have one with Russia

Lichnowsky:
But nothing that binds you in a crisis? We’re still speculating

Grey:
I have nothing to hide. His Majesty’s Government has an obligation to Parliament
not to incur secret liabilities abroad. You know that. I often think that we’re a little
more open on that score than you are. I sometimes wonder what your Reichstag
doesn’t know. But I tell you this no speculation now – what happened last week –
much depends on Austria maintaining its sense of proportion. It’s important that
Serb sentiment isn’t raised to a point where Russia finds it impossible to stand aside.