**NYPL Maloney IHP 14**

**Casement to Konsul Ernst Vohsen, Editor Koloniale Rundschau**

**25 February 1915**

**Two versions – one with bottom address in Casement’s hand**

Hamburg, 25th February, on.

Dear Sir:

I received some days ago when on the point of leaving Berlin for Hamburg, the inclosed letter from Mr. Ludwig Deuse of this city, which explains both itself and the purpose in view of this letter.

Your name is known to me for many years through conversations with our mutual friend Morel, the champion of the Congo natives.

The passages in the Koloniale Rundschau dealing with the closing days of the Congo Reform Association were translated for me by a friend; as I do not, unfortunately, understand German.

The role therein attributed to the Congo Reform Association is an entirely wrong one, and is founded on a complete misapprehension of the facts and is, moreover, based on more than one mis–statement.

To represent Mr. Morel, as acquiescing in the intrigues of the British Govt. against Germany and becoming, all at once, a silent abettor, of that Government's anti-German Policy is to completely misrepresent and traduce a singularly honest, fearless and upright man.

I know Mr. Morel and his work for the Congo far better than anyone else outside his own family; and I know that he only decided to dissolve the Congo Reform Association when convinced that its utility for the Congo people had come to an end.

No opposition on his part, or that of his supporters in Great Britain, could have stood in the way of official recognition by the British Government of the Congo State, or rather of its conversion into a Belgian Colony; and under all the circumstances of the time I advised and counselled Morel to dissolve the Association on the grounds that its public work had been accomplished.

It was not without long and anxious deliberation that Mr. Morel acted on this advice; and the final public meeting of the Congo Reform Association to announce the conclusion, so far as it was possible for a body of public-spirited men to see, of its work was a meeting summoned in all sincerity and with only an honest end in view.

To associate this act of my friend and aider in a wholly humanitarian fight for a defenceless people with the political designs of the British Government against Germany is ungenerous, and without a particle of justification.

On the contrary, in all his political actions and personal sympathies in the field of foreign affairs, Mr. Morel has been a sincere friend and well–wisher of the German people and an open opponent of the secret, back–door policy of the British Foreign Office. From the latest advises I have been able to get from England I understand that his attitude, in this respect, is unchanged. Had it lain with him and his followers you may rest assured war between Great Britain and Germany would never have come about. That war I regard as a crime against humanity, and I have no doubt that more than one of those who took up the cause of the Congo people, at my instance, would share my view, and do share that view to the fullest extent compatible with the obligations of their allegiance to their Sovereign.

Whoever is responsible for this world calamity, rest assured of this – Morel and the Congo Reform Association share none of that responsibility.

Their action on behalf of the Congo natives was sincere, open and honest from the first day the Association was founded, and so continued, undiminished and untarnished, until the last day they ever met. The British Foreign Office are responsible for their own actions; the Congo Reform Association had to oppose and openly fight, at times, that Foreign Office, and to now confound the honest activities of the one body of men with the secret and dishonest activities of the other is a departure from the rules of fair play I find it my duty to protest against.

On my return to Berlin I shall be very happy to meet you, and if you so wish, to discuss this matter further with you and, I hope, be able to convince you of the injustice done my friend and fellow worker in one of the most unselfish acts poor men ever took up against the rich and powerful.

Believe me, my dear Sir, very faithfully

Yours,

(sign.) Roger Casement.

To Konsul Ernst Vohsen

Editor – Koloniale Rundschau,

29 Wilhelmstrasse 29

Berlin.

Envelope –

Dear Joe,

Please send the inclosed to E.D. Morel – Cherry Croft, King's Langly, England.

I enclose with them a copy of my letter to Sir Grey of Feb. 1 and a facsimile of Findlay's. Morel is a real man and will leave no stone unturned to get Grey kicked out.

**[Verso:]**

L. Aldon & H. Klicks

Berlin

sent by Kelly via Dublin