**NLI 13081/2**

**Casement to Sir Edward Grey**

**1 May 1911**

Right Honourable

Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P.

etc etc

Foreign Office

London

London

1 May 1911

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt today of Mr. Mallet's letter No. 10218/11 of 28 April conveying to me the expression of your thanks for my recent reports respecting the treatment of the Indian natives in the Putumayo region, and would beg to express my very grateful acknowledgment of the terms in which you have referred to my services.

I refrain, for the moment, from expressing an opinion upon your suggestion that I might be instructed to attend any meetings of the Peruvian Amazon Company called to discuss measures of reform.

While I personally might welcome that suggestion it is one that I feel should be very carefully considered before a definite offer of the kind indicated is made to the Company.

The position of Senor Julio C. Arana upon the Board of Directors must be kept in view, and before answering definitely I would beg for a very few days delay to consider the proposal in all its bearings. I would equally refrain, for a few days, from expressing an opinion as to the advisability of suggesting to the Peruvian Government the prosecution of the Arana Brothers.

It would undoubtedly facilitate matters for the Peruvian Government if my reports could be translated into Spanish. While the responsible Peruvian Minister of State may possibly be acquainted with English there is no doubt that to have a report of this kind already translated would strengthen the hands of the Peruvian Government in dealing promptly with the question.

They would, for instance, be in a position to communicate quickly the substance of these charges to the Iquitos authorities, so that an enquiry there need not be delayed on the ground that evidence is not to hand.

With regard to the flight of the worst criminals as reported in the Prefect's telegrams to Lima of 13 April, there is a seeming discrepancy as to the destination of Fonseca who is referred to in one dispatch as having fled to Manaos and in the second as having made for the forest regions of the river Napo.

Assuming, from a private letter of Mr. Cazes to myself, in which he speaks of Fonseca and Montt as having been reported at Nanai, quite close to Iquitos, that the destination of these

fugitives is the Napo I feel no doubt that if the Prefect is in earnest, these two men at any rate, can be captured if they are in so settled a region as that of the Napo, where the Peruvian military forces are alert and fairly numerous.

As to the others, Augerro and Miguel Flores, and doubtless some more, who are reported to have gone down the Caqueta or Japura river on rafts, I would suggest that the Peruvian

Government might be urged to telegraph to the Brazilian Government its plea for their arrest and extradition at Manaos or

in the Acre territory. I think it is highly probable that the fugitives from the Putumayo will seek to hide themselves in the Acre territory. The Federal Government of Brazil would not willingly harbour these fugitives from Peruvian justice; and if it were at the same time known in Rio de Janeira that His Majesty's Government were interested in having these criminals caught and handed back to Peru, some added zeal might be put into the search for them on Brazilian territory.

The Brazilian Government during the course of my journey to the Putumayo actually appointed a Colonel Rondon as proctor of the native Indians in Matto Grosso and the interior regions, and this with the warm approval of the Rio de Janeiro press. It might be that the representations of the Peruvian Government would therefore meet with some active cooperation from the Brazilian Federal Authorities.

The British Vice Consul at Manaos might be asked to report if anything is known of the arrival of Aguerro, Miguel Flores or other fugitives from the Putumayo in that city.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

Roger Casement.