**NLI 13087/34**

**RICUDO’S WIFE**

**[“Casement scribbled the following note on 27 November after debriefing Ricudo following his return from the Putumayo’ - from p. 651 Angus Mitchell’s ‘Heart of Darkness”:]**

Carlos Miranda

Sinietti has come to Iquitos in *Beatriz*

Donald Francis

Daniel Alban

Alcorra is coming in *Liberal*

Remigio Vega – son of old Juan Vega – is also coming to Iquitos

Saraté at the Maimenes House is reported to still beat the Indians at Sur station.

He says many Indians have run away lately because they are again being beaten. Plaza also beats them at Sur itself.

Carlos Miranda was at Chorrera when Ricudo arrived, but when the soldiers were seen coming he was sent away – and all the chiefs of section who had brought rubber down also went off at once with their Indians.

The soldiers were under a white Captain

Tizon went to El Encanto in *Huitoto*.

Beatriz brought back 41 tons of rubber – no freight charged on it, Cazes says.

There has been an arrangement for years that that the PA Co steamers carried all govt. cargo and men etc free, and the govt. vessels, if they went to Putumayo did same. Here is *Beatriz* chartered by govt. at a cost of say £1500 bringing 41 tons and passengers free.

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**15 November letter from Tizon and 28 November 1911 note**

**[‘Transcribed Tizon letter and fragmentary diary entry’ – pp. 651-2 Angus Mitchell ‘Heart of Darkness’]**

November 28th 1911

The *Beatriz* returned on 25th bringing Ricudo & his wife. She also brought 41 tons of rubber & it is reported one criminal, Santiago Portocarrero sent by Amadeo Burgo charged with complicity in the crimes in the Putumayo. She brings me also a letter from Tizon dated 15th Nov. from La Chorrera. Here it is.

La Chorrera

15 de Nov.

Dear Mr Casement

I duly received your letter dated 12th and 19th Oct. and I am very glad to hear you are again in Iquitos, and hope you will find your way to come up here and pay a visit to this Chorrera, where so many things have passed since you came here first. I have certainly done my best to change this as I promised you and I have suffered a great deal.

 Your boy Ricudo came, but unfortunately his wife is now the wife of another Indian, the boy Nicholas, who you perhaps remember. A boy in this house who used to clean our rooms. The woman will not follow Ricudo, she says that he left her alone and that he has no right to claim her now, & as I don’t think I can oblige her to go, he is returning alone. The boy Ricudo said that he should like to remain here with me, as my boy. I am sending him back now, but if there is no objection on your part, he might come back, and I would be glad to keep him as he is a good boy.

 I hope you are coming by the *Liberal* I have much to tell you too, but it is impossible by letter, & my English is so poor that I do not know, whether you will understand this or not.

Yours sincerely

Juan Tizon

PS In the last moment I arranged the matter of the boy satisfactorily and Ricudo is leaving with his woman and Nicholas is perfectly satisfied.

Ricudo reports that soldiers came from El Encanto and Carlos Miranda, Donald Francis, Daniel Alban and others fled to the bush – also that the chiefs of section who came down with the *fabrico* of rubber, seeing the soldiers and the Captain returned at once with all their Indians.

Cazes says (doubtless informed by Zubiarr) that several of the incriminated men have recently bolted and taken with them fully 500 Indians. He (also Ricudo) tells me that the Indians are expecting me round on the Putumayo and will crowd into Chorrera to see me if I go.

Ricudo says things are much better – little floggings now, and that Tizon does his best for the Indians – but then Ricudo never left La Chorrera! He never went near Naimenes or to see any of his people. What a race!

Today the Liberal returns at 7am and brings 25 tons of rubber & Greenidge & many agents of the Company. I met Greenidge in the street. He goes to Barbados with his wife – the young Huitto girl. He has got £280. He tells me that Donald Francis came down by the *Liberal* & stayed in Brazil – helped by the Captain Ubaldo Lores who “likes him”, to get off and away. Miranda and others have also gone.

**Black Diary entry for 25 November 1911 confirms the above:**

25 SATURDAY Lovely morning. Busy with mails of “Manco”. Wrote F.O. and at 8.30 José came with primer and sat beside me. His was swollen and fine all time and I felt his thighs close to it. He proposed to come in evening and I said at 8. Out to Booths’ and hair cut – “Adolfo” arr. Also at 4 “Beatriz”, with I presume Ricudo and Humme **[Omarino]** and letter from Tizon. Saw Antonio Cruz and he said “*Mañana*” with bright smile. Ignacio Torres, José says is at a rubber place on Tapiche River named Nueva York. After dinner at Bella Vista back at 7.50 for José. He came at 8.10 – sat down beside me with coat off and we started Spanish exercises – my hand on “muscles” and felt it often. Then got him to stand against wall and to measure and it was up and I put my hand on it often and felt it swelling and stiff. He wanted awfully – blushing and loving and gleaming eyes. Sitting again – it up huge and I played with it. Ricudo and wife returned by “Beatriz” at 4 p.m.