**NYPL Maloney IHP 22**

**Casement to McGarrity**

**3 May 1915**

3 May 1915

My dear Joe:

I wrote this letter of 29th April “in a heat” and send it now more to show you the thoughts in my mind than for anything else. It is a thought aloud rather than a letter – and you are the only one I would send it to. Lay it to your heart – as the sound of a far off friend’s voice.

The Brigade I think can now be formed. Active steps are being taken. A number have expressed their willingness – and the work of recruiting begins on Friday or Saturday next. I expect ??? of only one company at first – but if the proper steps follow by the authorities many more will join later and other companies would be formed.

The trouble does not lie there. It lies with me to some extent (and with you all over the water) and with the G. Government.

I am still in doubt how far justified I am in calling out the willing ones to stand beside me; – when I stand so desperately alone. There is a price on my head; and I have no means of helping the men once they have followed my awful example. I don’t yet know how far you people can or will support them and stand by the agreement of 28 Decr.

I am in grave doubt as to how far my letters to you all reach you. For instance, in beginning of Febry I wrote the Old Man a long letter, telling him much and explaining financial needs and asking him to cable reply and advice. That letter was handed our friends on 6 Febry. to go by first sure hand. They told me it had gone – they told me it was “delivered”. Yet on 10 April I can see from Gaelic American it could not have reached the Old Man. What became of it? I said then I was using, or would have to use, money of friends here. I am living on borrowed money & in a hopelessly false position.

I need funds for my own use – and I need a fund, & a big one for the Brigade.

One company, of say 100 men will need pocket money at not less than 3/6 per week per man. Prices of everything are up 100% or 150% – say 70 pounds per month at least. That is a minimum. Then officers. These are essential. The Germans will not really officer the Corps at all. So I need money and men from you at all costs.

But my chief trouble is the ever growing and deepening doubt of the wish & will of the G’s Govt. to help really. Their object in the Brigade is not yours & mine. They want it for their own ends – “moral ends” on the enemy. I don’t object to that at all – but for our cause that is purely a negative end. We want the Brigade for military use for Ireland & on the lines of the Agreement. There is really a conflict of aims between us – not avowed of course, because they are openly pledged to the Agreement & it is on it, and it alone, I agreed to found the Brigade. The best way to render the Agreement stronger and surer is for you all to back up the Brigade by effective support – public & widespread in U.S.A. Make it your own. Make it the most popular thing in Irish records for last 100 years. It is a real effort, based on a Treaty whose final clause guarantees us public recognition & support as an independent state if we succeed.

As an “envoy” I have done my work – I can’t do more – but as a “general” the work is all before me – & I am not able to face that situation single– handed. I must have behind me your strong, consistent support, open, avowed moral and material. Otherwise the Brigade will fail of its “moral” effect even – while the hope of its physical use will vanish completely , even if, under any circumstances, those signing the Agreement even meant faithfully to try and carry it out.

In many things they are children – at least their minds are those of boys in handling human problems. This question of gaining moral support is essentially one of human interests – of knowing how to capture man’s minds and imaginations. The English can walk round these people. They have more “world mind” and comprehension of the springs of human action, in an English schoolboy than in all the Department of State here put together.

If I could communicate easily & quickly with you many of the troubles I see would go. But I am cut off from all. Here I have no friends or people who “understand”. I long, with a longing too deep to tell, to be again with you & my own countrymen – to be with friends.

One has recently come from home. You know who – P. **[Joseph Plunkett]** He arrived safe after a month on the way, but his presence here is only temporary and beyond bringing me a message of what I knew, or guessed already, he can tell me nothing new. He is staying on to see the actual start of the Brigade & then he will return with the news of it & tell the others & if there is any possible combination that this Govt. will agree to or scheme of active operations he can be the messenger. I do not think there will be. Unless the field of war greatly changes to the advantage of Germany, there is no hope of carrying out the clauses of the agreement that relate to our land.

P. and I are laying a plan of campaign before them here – but it is a wholly hypothetical affair – They (the G. Govt.) are hopelessly “at sea” on all that relates to our country, & never had any policy or thought or aim about until I put the seeds of one in their minds. So far the seeds have borne very little ??blade but more may come. It is spring time. If I were sure my letters reached you all – & can reach you, I would write more fully & oftener.

If I had the means I should have gone to Vienna. The old Emperor, I think, would have received me. This one has funked it! Just as he funked Krueger. The other is a finer type, and in Austria–H. there would be far more understanding of the Irish character & cause, & sympathy for both than here. These people here are not idealists – least of all the governing caste. It is their chief defect. Had they that quality they would be indeed a great people – but they are wholly without it, & in a hundred things their efforts are barren and sterilised for want of that quality of sympathy and chivalry that is begotten of idealism.

But I must stop. I don’t know when, or if ever this will reach you.

Can you send a copy of my letter to Sir E. Grey, and a copy of Findlay’s letter to A. Christensen with it to:

E.D. Morel Esq.,

Cherry Croft,

King’s Langly,

England.

If Morel gets it & knows the truth of that vile conspiracy of Grey & Findlay nothing will stop him, I am convinced, from making the whole story public. Once it were public in England, it would be known all over Ireland – and the effect there would be strong. I have tried to get copies to Morel – Also to G.B. Shaw, the dramatist, & to Mrs. Green – But I don’t know what happened to them.

If I could possibly get over to you I would go over. A week with you and the rest would clear up much and I might get back the way I came. If I only knew what you all think; what you can do; and how far I can count on you. Here I count on no one. They are working for their own end, I see that plainly, & using me – and the “poor brothers” for their own end. That is natural enough & I don’t blame them. I too, would use them if I could for ours – but alone & single handed I am powerless – and with no money at all (dependent on them for my daily existence) I am worse than powerless. If money does not come soon I shall be driven to clean despair.

P. will return in about 2 weeks I expect. He arrived here about 2 weeks ago.

Christensen, when on the point of sailing for you was detained on higher advice.

I hope you got my letter asking you to pay his wife the equivalent of 1,000 marks (50 pounds) in U.S.A. money. He often asks if I have heard from you. Goodbye, dear Joe, & God bless you and yours, the wee children and your wife – and love to Patricia.

Yours ever,

(sgn) Rory.

Fr. N. is going strong. I’ll see him soon I hope down at the camp, I go there again this week. One thing I mean to do. I’ll have the Brigade kinematographed marching down. Unter den Linden with an Irish flag! and send the films to U.S.A. It ought to go well there.

I was “kined” lately at the request of one of the U.S.A. war correspondents – a good fellow who wrote me up in an interview for Washington Herald and McClure’s Syndicate, etc. etc.

I expect the film is across now**.**

R.

**[This moving film footage of Casement was used in Channel 4’s First World War series.]**