

CAB/37/152/18

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CONFIDENTIAL.

MISCELLANEOUS  
257  
RECORDS

THE CASE OF ROGER CASEMENT.

I CIRCULATE for the information of my colleagues the following Home Office Memorandum with regard to the letter addressed to Sir E. Grey by Mr. Doyle.

H. S.

July 25, 1916.

A LETTER in similar terms as regard the first part was addressed to the Home Secretary. The statement that application was made by Casement for Doyle to go to Germany to have witnesses brought over and obtain documents to establish his defence is a pure invention upon Mr. Doyle's part. The Home Secretary at once caused the following letter to be sent to Mr. Doyle at his address in Philadelphia:—

"Sir,  
Home Office, Whitehall, July 24, 1916.  
I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that he has had before him your letter of the 20th July, in which you state that before your arrival in this country on the 12th June, Casement made application to the Home Office for permission for you to go to Germany to have certain witnesses brought over and obtain documents to establish his defence and that this permission was refused, and that you were notified of that fact by the Home Office, and I am to say in reply that no such application was ever made to the Home Office by Casement or by anyone on his behalf, nor were you informed by the Home Office that such an application had been made and had been refused.

"I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) E. BLACKWELL.

"Michael Francis Doyle, Esq.,  
Attorney,  
Land Title Building,  
Philadelphia."

A copy of the above letter has been sent to Mr. Gavan Duffy, Casement's solicitor. A copy was also sent to the Foreign Office with a suggestion that His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington might be instructed to publish the Home Office reply in the event of Doyle publishing his "private and confidential" letter.

It is contrary to the well-established practice of the Home Office to send detailed replies to representations made in criminal cases. The reasons for this are obvious, and no better justification could be afforded than these loosely-worded assertions by Mr. Doyle, founded as they are upon a deliberate misstatement of fact. I submit that it is most undesirable that His Majesty's Government should be drawn into any discussion of this case with Mr. Doyle.

The following letter addressed to ~~Messrs.~~ J. R. Green and its enclosure addressed to Professor John MacNeill are of interest and afford an instructive commentary upon many of the representations made upon Casement's behalf. This letter was intercepted in the post. Both documents were written in printing characters and could not strictly be proved to have been sent by Casement so as to be used in evidence in chief at the trial. They were, however, read to Casement at New Scotland Yard as having been sent by him and he did not make any attempt to deny that they were written by him. Had he gone into the witness box they would have been put to him in cross-examination. We have good reason to believe that the name "Hammond" was used by Casement for purposes of correspondence while in Germany.

E. R.

July 25, 1916.

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[Copy.]

Covering Envelope :-

Mrs. A. S. Green.  
36, Grosvenor Road,  
Westminster,  
London, S.W.

Postmark :-

Rotterdam 42, 7-XII-14.

Letter :-

Send this on by hand. Read it if you like; it is a sacred confidence. But send it on by sure means.

With much love and affection from the man of Three Cows. He is well, and has convincing assurance of help, recognition, friends, and comfort for the poor old woman. All that he asks for will be given her and the stranger put out of her house for ever. He has seen the big men and they are one with his views, and if successful they will aid to the uttermost to redeem the four green fields.

Second Envelope :-

Not to go through the post on any account.  
Professor Eoin MacNeill,  
19, Herbert Park,  
Ball's Bridge,  
Dublin.

[Copy.]

Addressed to Professor Eoin MacNeill,  
19, Herbert Park, Ball's Bridge, Dublin.

*Berlin, November 28, 1914.*

Please have this official declaration of the German Government, stating its intentions, and declaring the good-will of the German people towards Ireland, and the desire of both Government and people for Irish national freedom published throughout Ireland by every possible means.

You know who writes this. I am in Berlin, and if Ireland will do her duty, rest assured Germany will do hers towards us, our cause, and our whole future.

The enemy are doing everything to keep the truth out of Ireland, and are even going to try to get the Vatican on their side, as in the time of Parnell. Once our people, clergy, and volunteers know that Germany, if victorious, will do her best to aid us in our efforts to achieve an independent Ireland, every man at home must stand for Germany and Irish freedom.

I am entirely assured of the good-will of this Government towards our country, and beg you to proclaim it far and wide. They will do all in their power to help us win national freedom, and it lies with Ireland and Irishmen themselves to prove that they are worthy to be free.

Send to me here in Berlin, by way of Christiania, if possible, one or two thoroughly patriotic Irish priests—young men best. Men like Father Murphy, of Vinegar Hill—and for the same purpose.

Rifles and ammunition can be found, and good officers too. First send the priest or priests, as I need them for a special purpose here you can guess—for

If the priest or priests can get to Christiania (Norway), they can get here through the German Legation at Christiania. Our friends in America will pay all expenses. Warn all our people, too, of the present intrigue at Rome to bring the pressure of religion to bear on a question wholly political and national. Our enemy will stick at no crime to-day against Ireland, as you will soon know. This official declaration of the German Government has been sent out to all the German representatives abroad for world-wide publication. It may be followed by another still more to the point, but much depends on your staunchness and courage at home.

Tell all to trust the Germans, and to trust me. We shall win everything if you are brave and faithful to the old cause. Try and send me word here to Berlin by the

same channel as this. Tell me all your needs at home, viz., rifles, officers, men. Send priest or priests at all costs—one not afraid to *fight* and die for Ireland. The enemy are hiding the truth. The Germans will surely, under God, defeat both Russia and France and compel a peace that will leave Germany stronger than before. They already have 550,000 prisoners of war in Germany, and Austria 150,000, and Russia has been severely defeated in Poland.

India and Egypt will probably both be in arms. Even if Germany cannot reach England to-day, we can only gain by helping Germany now, as with the understanding come to, Ireland will have a strong and enlightened friend to help to ultimate independence.

We may win everything by this war if we are true to Germany; and if we do not win to-day, we ensure international recognition of Irish nationality and hand on an uplifted cause for our sons.

Reply by this route:—

A letter for me, addressed to—

Mr. Hammond, 76, Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin.

to be enclosed in one addressed to—

M.M. Wambersin & Son, Rotterdam.