**TNA FO 128/324**

**Casement to Cheetham**

**4 June 1908**

British Consulate

Para

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Dear Mr. Cheetham.

I send you a fresh cutting of horrors in the interior - this time between Peruvians and Colombians.

The place referred to is, I think, in the disputed territory between Peru and Columbia, but my office map is a poor, and old one. These telegrams in the local press are greatly exaggerated I fancy - and altho’ this one gives names and some circumstantial details much of it may not be true.

I fancy there is a certain amount of wish among local Brazilians to find fault with Peru - Quite recently an English resident in Iquitos who passed through Para homeward told me there was much suppressed anxiety in eastern Peru as to the attitude of Brazil towards that country. They felt ??, my informant said, practically defenceless and at the mercy of this country if ever a dispute arose. Such is not likely to occur - but it may be that the filibustering element in Amazonas life would like a chance of carving a fresh “Acre territory” out of Peruvian soil.

No further details have appeared of the alleged Bolivian violation of Brazilian soil up the Madeira river.

A party of Colombians described quaintly enough as “missionaries desirous of converting the Indians” were recently reported in the Para papers to have been all massacred (save one wounded man) by a surprise party of the very Indians they set out to “convert”.

As the telegram states they were armed with guns as well as Bibles, I fancy the repugnance of the Indians to such attempt at conversion was not illegitimate.

The Julio Arana referred to in the present telegram is a big merchant at Manaos where I think he is Peruvian Vice Consul. He travelled out from Europe on the steamer by which I came to Para in February. The “terrivel syndicate” Peruvian which has reduced the Indians to slavery is doubtless modelled on extinct example of the same kind of Brazilian “trust”.

Yours sincerely

Roger Casement.