**TNA FO 2/491/107-109**

**24 July 1901**

**FO note re Pincus’s letter to Casement**

MR PINCUS TO MR CASEMENT

6 April 1901

in Mr. Casement's despatch of June 14

We have heard of Mr. Pincus as a Lorenco Marques merchant whose clients were mainly in the Transvaal. I think that Mr. Consul General Crowe’s diaries have mentioned him as mixed up with the transactions with the Transvaal Government.

During the war, the loyal British firms at Lorenco Marques refused to trade with the enemy and had difficulty in keeping their heads above water.

As soon as we were in possession of the railway, stores were required for the British troops and Consul General Crowe has constantly urged with the military that orders should be placed with the British firms, whose loyalty had cost them so much, rather than with neutral firms who had done a thriving business from the time the Cape and Natal lines were no longer available for importation into the Republics.

If Mr. Pincus is considered a “suspect” by our military authorities, it may mean no more than that no British orders are placed with him.

I do not think that Mr. Pincus can complain of his treatment at Durban – a man who comes from Lorenco Marques and has failed to get a permit from the British Consul General is, for that reason only, properly considered a “suspect” at Durban.

? Ask the Intelligence Division if they know anything against Pincus. If they do not, we might telegraph to Consul General Crowe, tell him that Casement stayed with him and evidently believes him to be pro-British and ask why the permit was refused.

H.F. July 24

I think that the whole correspondence might be privately shown to the Intelligence Division.

F.B.

See their answer of August 12.