**TNA FO 2/491/147**

**Casement to Tyrrell**

Boma

16 June 1901

My dear Tyrrell,

I did not think when writing you by last mail I should again so soon have recourse to your kindness as an intermediary. Then it was "Gyppie" I wanted to reach; now it is the bald headed Pincus, whom you met at lunch with me I think, I want to serve.

The enclosed copy of his letter to me by last mail will show his plight – and how much he needs my friendship. For it is no trivial thing, I am sure, to be "suspect" at Lorenco Marques. All his future – his livelihood – depends on his freedom from the embarrassing restraints such a situation must entail. He is only a simple German – Jew – merchant – quite capable I dare say of doing as English non Jew merchants do – in commercial matters, and getting the best of the bargain. But this absurd shadowing and suspecting by the military men at L.M. is – well on a par with much of their behaviour throughout the war.

I am writing to Lord Lansdowne on the subject – as officially as I can upon a matter that is not within my present official purview, but I have a locus standi in that I not only was once consul at L.M. but that I was there last year during the height of the war as Special Commissioner – and that during this period I had, I hope, the trust of my Chief and my superiors I lived with accused man Pincus. Therefore if anyone can claim to know him well I can. He is I fear the victim of some trading competitor at L.M. who has the ear of the military – or else of the stupidity of these latter – who many of them are incapable of distinguishing friend from foe – honest man from rogue. But I am aware of the enormous areas of littleness in some military minds; I had occasion more than once during my stay in South Africa to rub against the barbed wire fencings of these tenantless wastes; and I have no intention, if any act of mine can save him to let a friend I have trusted be first ruined by their owners and be then buried in these outskirts of the human understanding.

Please don’t think I'm "down" on all our military – I am not – my father was a soldier and many of my people – and I sincerely admire very many of them – but on the other hand we have some very poor representatives among our officers – and I expect the poor baldheaded ??? loving, fiddle playing Pincus who could much sooner "do" a Boer than a Briton, has fallen among these. I can't understand Crowe (R.N.); he must know quite well Pincus is as well-disposed to British interests as I am – and yet he seemingly leaves the poor old chap to be hustled about in this unseemly fashion. It is not creditable to our national character that these silly things should happen. I have written a long letter to Milner about it and I think that is the limit of my action so far, for I hope through him and H.L. Pincus may obtain a full and impartial enquiry into the (doubtless) spiteful absurdities being alleged against him. Carnegie – Ross knows Pincus well – and I am sure were he not in Buenos Aires (happy & canny Scot!) he would at my request at once join me in protesting against this treatment.

If there is anything you can do my dear Tyrell to help Pincus, you will be serving me and doing me a real kindness.

If there is not and Pincus must suffer because our Army has fools as well as fighting men – well then my indignation will surpass all precedent of Hans Coudenhove's creation, and I shall – resign; write to the Times – or direst of all – turn Irish Home Rule Member of Parliament!

For heaven's sake intervene to save me = & Parliament – if not my Pincus.

Yours always

Roger Casement