**TNA FO 2/491/152-157**

**20 July 1901**

**Casement to Henry Foley**

Matadi

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My dear Foley,

I am sending a letter marked “private and confidential” herewith for Lord Lansdowne which I beg you will give H.L. as soon as may be.

It refers to a friend of mine at Lorenco Marques, a German who is in trouble with our military there – and I am seeking his Lordship's intervention on his behalf – since I think this German's entitled to our protection, and since I feel sure Lord Lansdowne will not be charry in helping one who seemingly needs help. Our military are not always perspicacious.

I am sorry to bother you (and H.L.) on the matter, but this German has always treated me very well – and has been a true friend – and I am not going to leave him now without trying my

utmost to help him.

I need not point out to you how foolish these petty persecutions now are of foreigners in South Africa – they do not serve any useful purpose, even if the men were the villains they

are painted; for such men now can only do us infinitesimal harm in S.A., while in Europe our action against them is sure to be magnified into the proportions of an international outrage.

Surely it is time to concentrate all our energies on the men still in the field against us – and not to waste good temper and good intentions in the purlieus of our field of action, catching possible would be contraband – and possibly only catching a rap over the knuckles for arresting the wrong man!

In any case my poor German Jew friend is a most harmless Lorenco Marques merchant, and this persecution of him would be absurd, were it not that its results may be ruinous to him.

I have lived through a spell of really fearful heat and trying weather since January last and now we are daily praising God for cloudy skies and lower temperatures.

The Congo is a very shady spot in some ways – and I fear I am not of much account as a source of enlightenment.

One generally hears news of one's neighbourhood here through the European papers – we live so scattered – and the local Government keep all upper Congo news so much to themselves that it is very hard to be at all au courante of one's surroundings.

Taking it for all in all I trust we shall not see another Congo State in the World – one such is enough for the stomach of most men.

I was sincerely sorry to read of the death of Admiral Wodehouse in a recent “Times”. To his kindness – as to yours my dear Foley, I think I owed much when, thanks to you both I was chosen for Lorenco Marques; and I had looked forward to seeing him do something distinguished in Parliament.

Believe me my dear Foley

Yours very sincerely

Roger Casement

P.S.

I hope to do one or two longish journeys up the Congo, and its tributaries before coming home for a spell next year. I intend avoiding the fearful heat from January to May next – another season of that would finish me I think.

P.S.

I have written to Sir Alfred Milner privately – about Mr. Pincus' complaint – as the matter is one more or less for his department.

I have also written Tyrell privately – not only because I seek his good offices in the matter but because he met the unfortunate Pincus with me in town last summer. Had I then foreseen I was inviting Tyrell to luncheon with one already under the shadow of an affaire Pincus, I might have hesitated to give that compromising luncheon.

Possibly the whole matter may be happily settled out at L.M. before this – I hope so – but I really cannot leave any stone unturned in my effort on Pincus' behalf.

R.C.