**TNA FO 2/491/87**

**Casement to Lansdowne**

**12 June 1901**

Africa Matadi

No. 14¸

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Confidential

My Lord,

I have the honour to state that Colonel Wahis the returning Governor General of the Congo State, who left for Europe in the “Albertville “ on the first of May last, conveyed to me the impression that he would not return to his post on the Congo.

It has for some time been reported that he would probably, on his arrival in Belgium be made Secretary of State in place of Monsieur Van Estvelde.

This appointment, if made, would probably be a valuable one for the Congo State under present conditions, for Colonel Wahis' acquaintance with this country is no recent one.

I may be permitted perhaps to point out that Colonel Wahis, who I believe prides himself more on having been a soldier in the Mexican war of Maximillian than on his civil dignities of today, is not so far as my observations go, a friend to or admirer of those principles of free dealing and equal opportunity identified with our treatment of Colonial affairs. The limitations hitherto imposed on the very restricted form of competition permitted to traders not affiliated with the Congo Government trade ring, are not likely, under Colonel Wahis' auspices, to be modified in any way favourable to independent competition.

I have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

Roger Casement

The Right Honourable

His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs etc etc

Foreign Office