**TNA FO 2/491/88**

**Casement to Lansdowne**

**13 June 1901**

Confidential

Africa

Matadi

No. 15

13 June 1901

My Lord,

With reference to my preceding despatch of this series, I have the honour to state that Major Wangermee, who as vice Governor General replaces Colonel Wahis at the head of the local government, has always I think, avowed himself, unlike his predecessor, more or less openly, as a sympathizer with English methods and aims in Colonial Government.

Colonel Wahis and Major Wangermee are not, I think, on the very best of terms. Upon the arrival of the latter in the Congo in March last the steamer conveying him was detained for several days below Boma. No effort was made by Colonel Wahis to relieve his successor from this enforced detention almost within sight of his destination, although more than one government steamer was available lying at the Boma quay. When, after some days, one of those was sent for the passengers on the mail steamer, no special provision was made for Major Wangermee, nor was any word of welcome sent to him.

Upon his arrival at Boma, instead of being invited to share the Governor General's house and table, he was left to take up his quarters alone in a spare building, and to take his meals at the mess of the Secretary General Monsieur Van Damme.

Major Wangermee spoke to my informant with some natural bitterness of this lack of courtesy.

When I had the pleasure to first meet Major Wangermee, in the beginning of 1899 on his return from the upper Congo, he made a favourable impression on me.

During our first interview he spoke very frankly of the then recent Fashoda affair, expressing his sincere pleasure that England had come best out of that discussion with France.

He added that this termination to the dispute between the two countries had given all the more pleasure since the French had shown themselves so determined to take advantage of their superior strength when dealing with his own little government over the conflicting claims of France and the Congo State north of the Welle-Mboma line.

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