**TNA FO 317/1201**

**Casement to Louis Mallet**

**17 April 1911**

Ardrigh-

Antrim Road

Belfast

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Dear Mr. Mallet

I send you abstracts from my Iquitos private correspondence that may be of interest to supplement what you have doubtless received officially from Mr. Cazes.

My own feeling is that no results of value to the Indians will come from the visit by Dr. Paredes to the Putumayo – apart from his personality as a former paid defender of Arana in his disgraceful little paper the “Oriente”, he goes too late. I suppose this is done on purpose.

The other man went to Lima to give Tizon to clear out the worst of the criminals so that when the judge actually reached the scene of his investigation he could report “all fled”!

It is a monstrous thing to think of Aguero being allowed to go off like that – in open arson and armed raid with all the demoralized and murderous muchachos he has been training for years as murderers – some as cannibals –

The guns and cartridges in their hands, in the wild regions of the Caqueta, directed by that ruffian with Normand close at hand will be a constant threat to the Indians and to the peaceful and sane development of the Company's interests. If he has not gone down on the Caqueta and so out on the Amazon & to Brazil he ought to be cleared out by the Peruvian troops now at mouth of the Cahumari. I wonder if it would be of any help to write this as friendly advice at Lima? You could say that the presence of Aguero, Normand and the other criminals with armed bands of Indians completely under their orders is a threat to the peaceful development of the whole region and highly injurious to the interests of all concerned. Peru would be performing a far wiser task by getting rid once and for all of these atrocious criminals than in shooting down Colombians. The frontier question between the two govts can easily be settled in “friendly conversation” if these murderers of the Arana syndicate of crime were dealt with. It was those individuals made the trouble and committed the crimes that brought about the intervention of the Peruvian govt – deceived from the first by Loayza and Macedo – and of course Julio Arana who bribed the former Prefect.

We have got some satisfaction it is true – the dismissal of the worst of the ruffians from the Company's service & the pledging of Tizon to sweeping changes – but these are changes I may claim with all modesty to have got off my own bat – we are entitled to suggest that the Lima govt should honestly and efficiently do some part of its share. If they leave those criminals at large, with armed bands of Indians, there will be dreadful things done between the Caqueta and Cahumari among those find Boras Indians – so worthy of a better fate. The Company at home too, must be urged to take proper steps without delay by sending out a thoroughly reliable man to take charge at La Chorrera. When I say without delay I mean as soon as you write them – and this I presume you will do when the Commission arrives. I think it well you should have a copy of my report ready to fire into them when their Commission returns.

Yours sincerely

Roger Casement