**TNA FO 337/107/17**

**26 November 1914**

**Findlay to Arthur Nicolson at Foreign Office**

**Irish Conspiracy with Germany**

**Summary of three early November fake letters from Casement seen at 26 November 1914 meeting between Findlay and Adler Christensen.**

Dft

Sir A. Nicolson

Most Private & Secret

Tel: cypher

Christiania

Nov 26. 1914

Private & Secret

Your tel Private & Secret of today & my letter most Private & Secret & sent to Sir E. Grey of Oct 31.

Informer arrived from Berlin today with letters from Casement to be posted here. I have obtained copies. Letter No. 1 is addressed to Father Gerald Coghlan

Roman Catholic Church

Broad Street

Philadelphia Pa.

It asks him to forward enclosed letter (No. 2) “to our good friend Pat” who is, I am informed, P. Devlin.

Letter (No 3) is addressed to

“Joe” MacGarrity

5412 Springfield Avenue

Philadelphia

under cover to

Hotel Venedig

Philadelphia

Pa. U.S.A.

Following is substance of letter No 2. dated Berlin, Hotel Continental Nov ??

Casement has seen friends in Berlin. They will co–operate in plan with all their resources. The campaign on your side should be ready for the New Year. In Germany all is expected to be ready by end of December. Great Britain has no idea of extent of resources and heartiness of German cooperation. Have all our men ready for early in January before ?? 'Joe' will hear from Casement, who will go across (to Ireland) by end of December or early in January. Has a safe plan. Two can play at laying mines. C. has got 60,000 (rifles?) at Berlin, ample stocks for them & picked band of trained men. All our men are now advised. Prosecution of papers will help. J. Redmond said to him May 12 last “get an Irish Republic if you can”. You should have advance party ready by time this letter reaches. Send me 500 copies of G.A. weekly by the sure route.

They are appreciated.

Message to John D.

??? shd be kept well posted. Father John to bless flag on Patrick's day. Abuse of Prime Minister and Great Britain. “The three professors are with us & Joe D. (and J.R. too at heart) in spite of recruiting tours. I go to Denmark on 25th to arrange with shippers (possibly two ships mentioned in my tel No 12) ??

We may succeed best from there” Be ready to sail at the word – Joe will tell the rest – Charts are excellent, localities clearly marked/ clearing out can be quickly done with right men on spot.”

They think C. (unknown to informer) came over too. End of letter No. 2

Summary of letter No. 3

Dated Berlin Nov 1, 1914

Begin.

**Account of journey from America to Berlin via Christiania. Absolute confidence in his companion (the informer whom he is sending with letters to post, & will do so again.)** **[Original Casement text - “The man I brought was very useful and absolutely faithful to me – I had intended leaving him with his parents in Norway, but on further reflection I brought him on here, where he is with me now.”]**

The sanitary pipes (guns?) will be furnished & plenty of disinfectant (ammunition) enough for 50,000. Great difficulty in shipment. Nothing possible till next month. Meanwhile 'the other effort (India?) can be considered and pushed forward. They agree on both points. When No. 1 (plan?) is ready “I shall wire by arranged firms” “You must be ready to leave by end of this month or early in December with the 4 friends selected already.” (probably this refers to “the advance party”) “At home Pat & the Galway man & our head agent in the south have been advised.

Message has got through.

German preparations will be ready by Christmas if not before.

Have Michael and C. & the Boston man ready. Fifty men will be enough. Praise of Germany. signed Rory.

postscript to letter No. 3 dated Nov 2.

Confirms excellent prospects of conspiracy in Germany. No need to give particulars of shipment. Germans will make arrangements. Irish must prepare reception. Casement staying on at Berlin but hopes to get off from Schleswig coast or one of the small islands in a boat which his Norwegian (informer) is arranging for him. Can get across (to Ireland) without suspicion or danger except from mines. Will send more by Norwegian in a week. end of postscript.

Stop here.

Informer tells me Casement has been received by Emperor & high civil, military and naval officials. He is now about to join Emperor at front (Belgium or France). The informer is

commissioned to find a good crew & shipper to take Casement across North Sea in a “Jagt” which is a large cutter-rigged Norwegian sailing craft of about 60 or 70 tons. He is to buy such a vessel which is to become property of Captain & crew if voyage carried out safely besides high pay. Vessel is to put Casement on board American missionaries Yacht coming from America with body of conspirators, at a fixed rendez-vous off Irish coast. He says that Casement has charts of mine fields British & German showing passages. Casement has been seeing Indians at Berlin & is trying to organise rebellion in India. He has much money from Irish American secret society. Casement will be accompanied to Ireland by a picked band of German officers.

I asked him to let me know without fail before Dec 15

1. The place and date & manner of Casement's departure.

2. The name of yacht coming from America – port & date of sailing & names of chief conspirators.

3. The names of leading conspirators in Ireland such as the principal agent in the South and the “Galway man”.

4. The locality (latitude and longitude) of rendez-vous with American yacht when fixed.

5. A photograph of principal charts in Casement's possession.

6. Names of leaders in America.

I told him that if he gave information leading to the capture of Casement & his accomplices & of shipments of arms he would be well paid. He asked for £5000 – I suggested £1000 if information proved genuine. He stuck out for his own price. He said he would get me information required if possible before Dec 15 & I gave him 500 kroner as retaining fee.

He further told me that 600 men are working night & day at Krupp on a secret job & are not allowed communication with anyone.

I am informing Sir J.H. Lowther that Casement is possibly now in Denmark.

I venture to request authority to promise informer his price. I believe the information he has given to be genuine. He is not clever enough to invent it. Please inform by telegraph as he may call again before returning to Berlin. Also please inform me of any points on which he might be able to give or obtain information.