**TNA FO 337/107/7**

**31 October 1914**

**Findlay letter to Sir Edward Grey**

**This details the largely copy but genuine documentary material Adler Christensen displayed to him on 30 October 1914 in his first, and second, visits of that day.**

**None of this material is mentioned by Adler in his statement under oath (Curry pp. 55-64).**

**See Curry p. 45 et seq. for Casement’s account, at length, of the Findlay affair.**

Irish conspiracy with Germany

Reports details

**[Margin notes:]**

Copy of cypher message to Herr v. Bethmann Hollweg.

Copy of letter to Maximillian Harden;

Copy of tel. to James Landy in writing, it is said, of Sir R. Casement.

Dft.

Sir E. Grey

Most Private & Secret

Christiania

Oct. 31. 1914

My dear Sir Edward Grey,

With reference to a memo by Mr. F.O. Lindley of a conversation he had held on Oct 29 with a young Norwegian–American who gave certain information implicating a well known Englishman in an Irish–American–German conspiracy, I have the honour to submit the following account of two conversations I had with the same informant yesterday & the results.

The man called at the Legation at about ~~12~~ 11 a.m. & asked to see me alone. He went over much the same ground as he had covered with Mr. Lindley on Thursday evening. He then showed me a typewritten article said to be written by the Irishman with whom he was travelling and a pamphlet entitled “The Elsewhere Empire” with marginal notes. He said it was written by his friend & that the notes were in his friend's handwriting. The writing was the same as that of the tel. written in pencil on a card which I afterwards obtained.

The typewritten treatise or article dealt with the question of invasion of England by Germany which was described as an impracticable or at any rate almost desperate enterprise. It pointed out that even if the German troops evaded the British fleet, & effected a landing, they would meet with a country prepared for defence and a most hostile & united population. An invasion of Ireland offered much better chances of success.

The fact that the German S.S. “Brandenburg” had succeeded in reaching Frondhjam from America showed that it was possible to evade the British cruisers. If several “Brandenburgs” could be secretly filled with arms & ammunition they could convey these & a force of Irish Americans (the informant said there would be probably a number of trained officers possibly German to command nationalist volunteers) & land them at one or several points where they would find everything ready for a rising. Any German troops which might reach Ireland would therefore find enthusiastic assistance ready for them.

The pamphlet appeared to be a violent tirade against everything British destined for circulation among Irish Americans. I had only time to read these papers hurriedly. The informer added that there were many highly placed persons in America who would support this movement, including judges and one or two prominent state officials. His friend was going to Germany to make arrangements with the German Govt. He had a cypher message to the German Chancellor from the German Ambassador in Washington & a letter to Herr Maximillian Harden. The informer had been given these papers for safe keeping when the Oscar II on which he & his friend had travelled was stopped by H.M.S. Hibernia. He had taken pencil copies. I afterwards copied these papers (copies enclosed). If his friend was arrested he had instructions to communicate at once (I afterwards obtained the name) with Francis Joseph Bigger, Solicitor, Ardmore, Belfast.

The informer believed Bigger to be in the plot, as his friend had assured him that Bigger would be able to obtain his release by bribery or otherwise. The only other person in the plot in Ireland who he had heard mentioned was a priest in Tyrone referred to as “Hugo” – he did not know whether this was a surname or Christian name.

I then settled down to discovering the name of his friend. He implied that their relations were of an unnatural nature & that consequently he had great power over this man who trusted him absolutely.

After much pressure and an assurance that I would not endeavour to trace his own identity or otherwise get him into trouble he told me his friend was Sir Roger Casement C.M.G.

I then pressed him to give me the alias under which Casement was travelling – He had up to that moment professed to be giving information because he did not wish Germany to succeed. He now asked what he would get for the alias. I said he would be paid, & he at last told me Casement was travelling as James Landy. I gave him 25 Kr., about 30/- the traditional price in such transactions.

The informer further told me that the German Minister here had received instructions from Berlin at 6 p.m. to give him & Casement passports, & if necessary to have them accompanied as far as Sassnitz, in fact to do everything to ensure their safe arrival in Germany. The German Minister was to bring the passports the Grand Hotel at noon. I took steps to ascertain whether he did so, & he had not called at 12.30. The informer told me afterwards the German Minister had had come with two other gentlemen at about 1 o'clock.

The informer then asked if he would be well paid if he kept me informed as to what passed in Germany.

I said that if his information was worth anything he would certainly be paid. I suggested that he might leave me the pamphlet with marginal notes. He said he could not as he would at once be suspected. He promised, however, to call again at 3 p.m. for instructions as to how he could send letters for me, & to bring, if possible, a specimen of Casement's handwriting. He arrived punctually & I gave him an address. I pressed him to give me a specimen of handwriting. He gave me pencil copies of the cypher message to the German Chancellor & a letter to Maximillian Harden which I at once copied. After further pressure and the offer of 100 Kr. (he asked for 100$) for any scrap of Casement's handwriting he at last produced a card with the printed name, address etc of James Landy Estate Agent etc on one side & on the other a pencil message addressed to James Landy in pencil & signed “Cousin Jimmie”– He said that Casement had written this message & had told telegraph it. Casement, as already observed, would appear to be at present passing under the name of the owner of this card.

The informant described Casement as tall, dark, clean shaved adding that he had formerly worn a beard.

Captain Consett R.N. Naval Attaché to this Legation, went to the station to see whether the alleged Casement & his companion left. He saw them get into the sleeping carriage in which the Kings Messenger W. Park Goff was proceeding to Copenhagen. Captain Consett warned Mr. Goff that these two men were dangerous rascals. Mr. Goff at once recognised them as having been at the Grand Hotel where he was staying. The two men were joined at the last minute by a third whom Captain Consett at first took for the German Minister. In this he was mistaken but he believes the man to have been a German, possibly a member of the Legation. The men may have changed carriages later if going to Sassnitz. There was no other sleeping carriage on the train.

Captain Consett for fear of attracting notice did not wait till the train left & did not therefore see if the third man left with the others. Captain watched the alleged Casement for about 15 minutes & would easily recognise him again. He describes him as tall, spare, very dark, clean shaved with heavy jaw, rather distinguished looking, but does not hold himself well & has a somewhat flat footed gait.

I have no clue to who signed the letter to Harden. The informer thought the signature was Geo. E. Ortz but it might have been Geo von Stal (see address on stationery) **[Skal actually]** very badly written, or Geo v.s.

I intend to have this specimen of handwriting photographed & to send you a copy.

As this letter could not be finished before the departure of the bag I have sent you the enclosures in a short private letter.

This letter will follow by the first safe opportunity.