**TNA FO 337/107**

**(Typed version is in KV 2/6/5 as referred to by Paul Hyde in his March 2017 IPR article; also copy (typed) of cover note from Findlay.)**

**Francis Lindley to Sir Edward Grey**

**29 October 1914**

**Cover note:**

My dear Sir Edward Grey,

I enclose a memorandum of a conversation which Frank Lindley had this afternoon with an unknown American Norwegian. I should think that Scotland Yard might be in a position to make a shrewd guess at the identity of the “nobleman” if he really exists. There cannot be many such blackguards in any class. We will endeavour to find out all we can here.

Frank Lindley thinks his informant’s story was true.

I am sending this by Gurney who passes through Christiania tonight.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

M. W. Finlay **(sic)**

Back of letter:-

Casement.

Mr Findlay, Christiania, 29th October 1914.

Alleged proposal to arrange a rising in Ireland.

Sends Memo, by Mr Lindley giving information as to this

Prime Minister, Mr McKenna, Lord Kitchener, Mr Churchill and Mr Birrell

(Int) E.G

After circulation as above please return the papers to me for enquiry.

(Int) R. McK.

**Lindley letter to Grey:**

Renegade Englishman from U.S. ??? going ??? Berlin

Sent to ~~F.O.~~ Sir E. Grey

??? ??? letter

Oct 29 1914

Secret

A young man called at the Legation this afternoon. He spoke with a strong American accent & said he was a Norwegian. He asked for the Minister but finally consented to see me instead, as the Minister was out on business.

He stated he had come over from the U.S. on the S.S. “Oscar II” in the company of a highly placed Englishman, a nobleman who had been decorated by King Edward. I understood that his relations with this Englishman were of an improper character; ~~it is quite possible I may have been wrong in this but I don't think so.~~

The visitor stated that the Englishman was the bearer of letters from the German Embassy in Washington to Berlin & that these letters had been entrusted to his care for a time as the Englishman was afraid of being searched.

There were four letters & my informant steamed them open before returning them and made pencil copies of two which he showed me.

One was addressed to the Reichskanzler outside and was in cypher. ~~Another was addressed to~~ The other began “Dear Mr. Harden and was addressed presumably to the well known German writer, it was in English. It said that the bearer would be able to give Mr. Harden some very useful information which would enable him to enlighten the German public as to the true state of affairs. This letter was signed as near as possible like this “Gentz”, that is the pencil copy was; & at the top of the paper was Geo von Skal, 5 Bushman St., New York & cable address Lakenov New York a.e.c. code 5 edition.

The other two letters were, I was informed, for the German Legation here & at Copenhagen & about passports.

~~My informant first~~ The pencil copies of the letters shown to me seemed genuine; the German Chancellor’s address was correctly given & this in German & the English in the letter to Harden was natural & apparently genuine. The letter addressed to the G. Minister here which I also saw in copy gave the Minister his proper title etc in German official style.

The man further stated that the Englishman was really going to Germany about trouble in Ireland & that he was now in Xiania, he wd not give his name.

Incidentally he stated that there were 8 German officers on board the Oscar II who escaped being taken off, when the ship was stopped by a British cruiser, owing to their having false passports; some harmless bandsmen were removed.

The man did not state why he gave me this information & did not ask for money. He was very nervous & it struck me his story was true.

**[FL initials]**

Oct 29 1914

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