**Casement handwritten extract of David Cazes 17 March 1911 letter to Casement**

**TNA FO 371/1201-47209 also in** **NLI 13,087/18i/6 6p.**

Copy¸ Cazes Received 14 April 1911

Extract from Letter of Mr. David Cazes, British Consul at Iquitos to Mr. Casement.

Iquitos 17 March 1911

"The Putumayo Commission returned from the Putumayo on the evening of the 5th and landed on Monday 6th - Barnes and Gielgud looking rather seedy especially the former who seems to have been rather ill during the time they were waiting for the "Liberal". Fox and Bell seem to have worn well. From the conversation I have had with them their impression of the mode of working on the Putumayo is of the very worst and confirms in all particulars your own, in fact I believe the Boras country was found to be rather worse than the country you visited.

In view of the fact that no movement was being made to send up a Government Commission of Enquiry I thought it advisable to see the Prefect and ask what he intended doing. I spoke rather plainly about the absolute necessity of the government making some radical reforms in the government of the Putumayo regions and stopping the brutal cruelties which had been perpetrated in the past. He replied that he had been so harassed by the political trouble between Columbia and Peru and the mobilization

[bad copy] had allowed the matter

I proposed that they should commence the investigation in Iquitos, mentioning the name of Rodriguez, Victor Macedo, Augerro and others, further that he should notify by letter that the Commission was starting.

He mentioned that he had received a list of names from his government of people he was to arrest. A few days later he informed me that the only man named on the list present in Iquitos was Aurelio Rodriguez, and that he had threatened him with imprisonment pending enquiries.

He, however, eventually accepted sureties of £2000 for his appearance when required, the guarantor being Pablo Zumaeta. I mentioned that Augerro was in Iquitos, I believe he has been put under police surveillance. I today informed him that Fonseca and Montt were near Iquitos, I believe below Nanai: he has promised to have them taken prisoners.

Both the prefect and Barnes have informed me that nearly all the Chiefs of Section have left the Putumayo and gone down river to Manaos.

The Expedition (Government) left for Putumayo on the 15th and I hope will do good work. Romulo Paredes is the judge appointed; I haven't personally much confidence in him, but I think he has been put on his metal. Pablo Zumaeta is, I believe, in a mortal funk. I heard today that he is making efforts to have his private savings sent to Europe, this, however, may be only gossip. Anyhow your efforts are having good effects and I think we are now on the way to see reforms for the better.

I think if the Company can be induced to carry on the business and put in competent and honourable employers a radical stop to these crimes would take place.

I am unable to write you anything more tonight as I have a lot of correspondence to get through, but shall let you know anything of importance by next mail.

etc etc

sgd D. Cazes.