**TNA FO 371/2798**

**26 August 1916**

**Ernley Blackwell's reply to Michael Francis Doyle's new letter:**

At the first interview with you on June 14 I shewed you the petition from Casement to which you refer. It contained no request that you be allowed to go to Germany to obtain witnesses or documents for the purpose of his defence. I have recently again shewed this petition to Mr. Gavan Duffy, and he expressed himself as satisfied that it afforded no ground whatever for the statements contained in your letter of the 20th July.

Neither at our interview on the 14th June nor at any other time did you propose to me that you should go to Germany on such an errand and I gave no instructions to you or to the Governor of Brixton Prison that you should not discuss this matter with Casement. I have submitted this letter to the Secretary of State, and I am directed by him to inform you that he adheres to the terms of his letter of the 24th of July, and further that in view of the misstatements contained in your letter under reply he regrets that he must decline to continue

this correspondence.