**TNA FO 371/968**

**NLI 13081/2/2**

**Casement to Sir Edward Grey**

**16 August 1910**

On board S.S. “Hilary”¸

At Manaos¸

16 August 1910

Sir,

 I have the honour to state that Colonel the Honourable R. Bertie, CB the chief of the Commission appointed by the Peruvian Amazon Company informed me that he is returning to Europe from this port by the S.S. “Hilary” and will hand over the leadership of the Commission to Mr. Barnes.

 Colonel Bertie's decision is due to the representations of Dr. J.V. Watson, the surgeon of this vessel who considers that his state of health does not justify him in proceeding further into the interior and incurring the exposure and hardship inevitable to a journey of the kind in this part of the world.

 Colonel Bertie's return and the cause of it are viewed with great regret by those who have been associated with him on the present journey.

 I am proceeding to Iquitos by the Booth Steamship “Huayana” tomorrow afternoon due to arrive there about 29th or 30th instant.

 The members of the Peruvian Amazon Company's Commission will proceed, I understand, in a river launch placed at their disposal by the members of the firm at Manaos, and I expect to join them at Iquitos and thenceforward to share the hospitality of their vessel up to the Putumayo and doubtless for sometime after we have reached that region.

 Shall independent means of progression be at all available I shall not fail to secure them, but I gather it will be very hard to obtain separate means of transport at Iquitos and in that event I propose entering into an arrangement with the representatives of the Company to pay all travelling and victualling expenses that may arise.

 I shall endeavour to keep the British Consul at Iquitos advised of my movements from time to time, and if it becomes necessary to telegraph to you I gather this can be done via Lima (partly by Marconigram on the upper Ucayali) at the cost of about a day and a half from Iquitos to London.

 I am told that telegraphic messages between Iquitos and Para by this route have been exchanged within three days.

I have the honour to be

Sir

with the highest respect

Your most obedient

humble servant

Roger Casement