**TNA FO 63/1352**

**Casement to RH Bertie**

**16 July 1898**

Wellington Club

Grosvenor Place. S.W.

July 16th 1898

Dear Mr. Bertie,

I have ?? something of a project to acquire an interest in the Mossambede Company in Portuguese South West Africa with a view to developing that district commercially which it is at present being sought to effect in London.

The matter possibly more nearly concerns the Colonial Office than the Foreign Office but I think that as my official chief it may be well to bring to you what I know of it.

Moreover as my new appointment will be taking me to that part of Portuguese Africa I feel something of a special interest in the matter. I knew Count Gebhard Blucher who is trying to work the scheme here, very well in Africa (both in Lorenco Marques and the Transvaal where his sympathies were always on the British side) and I formed there a high opinion of his abilities and integrity.

Frankly, I don't think an undertaking of the kind which, behind its manifest commercial advantages conceals a great deal of political interest for British South Africa could at its inception be in better hands than those of Count Blucher.

Not being an Englishman (and yet a foreigner of distinctly British sympathies who has resided often in England and likes us) Count Blucher seems to me an excellent man to disarm Portuguese distrust while securing with English money a practically English control of this important and as yet undeveloped part of South West Africa.

I do not know what you may perhaps already know of the project but it may add to your interest in it to know that I have already seen so much of Count Blucher in Africa and that I believe in him and his plan which I think merits the approval and support of our government.

I am your very true

Roger Casement.