**Probably from TNA HO 144/1636/311643/38 ‘TREASON: Sir Roger Casement: Casement degraded from knighthood and removed from Order of St Michael and St George’. June 1916**

Confidential

COLONIAL OFFICE

25. 4. 16

Dear Sir Edward

The King approved the degradation of Casement from the C.M.G. and I have had the necessary document prepared. But that was before we caught him, and I am not clear that we should not wait till his conviction. Can you very kindly let me know whether he is to be tried by a Civil or a Military Court? I have to write to Lord Stamfordham and I want to be sure of my facts.

I have your note about the press & am giving effect to it, though I think that this Drft. already appreciated the situation.

Yours sincerely

G. V. Fiddes

Copy

Confidential

HOME OFFICE

WHITEHALL

S.W.

28 April 1916

Dear Sir,

Sir Edward Troop is engaged at an important conference this afternoon & at its conclusion is going to the country for a day or two. He therefore wishes me to reply to your letter of this morning & to say that the Cabinet have decided that Casement is to be tried by a Civil Court for High Treason unless it is found that the delay involved would be so much greater than in bringing him before a military court as to make a civil trial inadvisable.

Ever faithfully,

H. A. ??Doral

{to} Sir George Fiddes, K.C.

WINDSON CASTLE

April 22nd. 1916

[Stamped Home Office 26 April 1916]

Dear Harris.

The King has approved a submission from the Foreign Office degrading Sir Roger Casement from the Order of St. Michael & George of which he was a companion.

His Majesty asks whether there is any authority by which Sir Roger can be deprived of his knighthood.

Yours very truly,

Stamfordham

WINDSON CASTLE

27th. April 1916.

Dear Harris.

Thank you for your letter about Casement. Mine to you was written before we had heard of his arrest.

There will be no need now to trouble about his degradation from Knighthood.

Yours very truly,

Stamfordham

S.W. Harris, Esq. C.B.

The Home Office

HOME OFFICE

WHITEHALL

S.W.

Mr. Eagleson

S of S asks whether we are laying down the principle that all Knights etc who are conv. of serious offences should be degraded before sentence or only those conv. of High Treason or H. T. of the worst kind.

He is quite in favour of degrading Casement but he would be glad to know what precedents there are e.g. in Napoleonic Times & whether it is not the case that such persons have often been convicted and sentenced for serious offences & even for H.T. without being degraded.

I think Peers have always been attainted when convicted of H.T. but Baronets, Knights etc have certainly not always been degraded when convicted on indictment.

Possibly the C of Arms may be able to answer these queries.

?? B 1.5.19 [sic]