My Dear Sir,

The idea of an intermediary is entirely agreeable to me. In that case I prefer the mortgage. If Mr. Swarr will consent to act for you, please let me know, and the papers shall at once be prepared.

As a sort of compromise I propose to make the interest payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and July – or December and June. Those periods will be rather more convenient to me- but I wish you to say what suits you best.

I am not sure that I have not mentioned to you, and it has luckily been kept out of the newspapers – that I have been asked and have consented to unite with Mr. O'Conor in the defence [sic] of Mr. Davis\_ The suggestion came from Mr. Davis directly to me in a letter [franked?] by the Atty Genl. of course I mean defence [sic] in a civil court. The preparation involves a good deal of study in out of way directions, and I am busy on it.

We are to see our client when he ceases to be a prisoner of war.

Truly yr friend William B Reed

Mr. Buchanan

[On back of letter] 7 Feb:66 Wm. B . Reed 11 Feb answd by H. B. Swarr, Esq.