

HENDERSON TO WHARTON AND HUNT.<sup>a</sup>

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Columbia 11 Feb 1837

To The Honbl,  
WM H WHARTON AND  
MEMUCAN HUNT

Sirs

I am instructed by the President to direct you to enter into such negotiations with General Santa Anna or any of the authorized agents of Mexico as may in your opinion and judgment advance the interest of Texas and bring about a termination of the present war between the two Countries, as regards the terms of said intended treaty you are to be the sole judges

In great haste

Very respectfully

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON  
*Secy of State*

WHARTON TO RUSK.<sup>b</sup>

[No. 8.]

WASHINGTON CITY 12th Feb'y 1837.

Sir,

From your position in the Cabinet, I was aware of your free access to my Despatches and have not therefore written to you but once, (Jan. 12<sup>c</sup>) since leaving Texas. I trust my despatches have arrived safely, for they are very explicit and although the intelligence, they contain, is disagreeable and unexpected, yet it is such as will regulate in a degree our future action, and ought therefore to be known. To what they contain, I can add nothing now, except that we are still unrecognized. The subject is before both Houses, but from the mass of business necessary to be acted on, before this short session closes, from the failure of the Committees on foreign affairs to report on our case, and from the evident desire of many to prevent our recognition at this session, we still remain in "statu quo", I might say "ante bellum", for so far as an official notice of our separate existence is concerned, we have not at all progressed, since the commencement of

<sup>a</sup>A. L. S.

<sup>b</sup>L. S.; though not so marked, this is No. 8 of the series from the Texan agents. Rusk was a native of South Carolina, who moved in his youth to Georgia and thence to Texas in 1835; member of Convention of 1836; secretary of war under President Burnet, 1836, and later in the same year commander-in-chief of the Texan army; secretary of war again under President Houston, 1836; member Second Congress of Texas, 1837-1838; chief justice, 1838-1840; president Annexation Convention, 1845; United States senator, 1846-1857; committed suicide at his home in Nacogdoches, 1857. After the death of Austin, Rusk was appointed secretary of state, but declined.

<sup>c</sup>This letter has not been found.

hostilities with Mexico. There are three chances of reaching the consideration of our Independence at present—1st. A report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which is very slow in coming and rather doubtful if it ever will come. 2dly. Resolutions to recognize, which have been introduced by our friends in both Houses, and the mass of business has heretofore kept off these resolutions:—3d. Our friends will endeavor to discuss the merits of our question, when the appropriation bill comes up, by inserting an appropriation to defray the expenses of a diplomatic intercourse with Texas. In addition to these, I am now endeavoring to add another string to our bow, by getting up a memorial to Congress from the inhabitants of this District. This is now in successful progress, and will be presented tomorrow, which is memorial day. In this way our case may be reached, and I am satisfied that it will pass, if ever discussed; for no prominent politicians of the dominant party will dare oppose [it]. Mr. Van Buren has been told, in as many words, that it is in his power to procure or defeat our recognition at this session, and that the blame of a defeat will be charged to him, and will lose him the support of the whole South, where our friends are ardent and in the proportion of one hundred to one. This has alarmed him, and will doubtless quicken his movements. The Virginia Legislature has taken up the subject and will no doubt, in a day or two, instruct her Senators to recognize our Independence. We have, in obedience to instructions, put the British and French Ministers in possession of certain papers and documents, explanatory of the origin and object of our contest, and of our present position and prospects, and have requested them to ascertain, if a diplomatic agent from Texas would be received by their Governments, for the purpose of entering into a treaty of Commerce. I am in hopes that answers will be received by the meeting of our Congress in May so that, if treated unjustly here, we may act advisedly in turning our attention to some more friendly Court. Genl. Hunt joined me about a week ago, and has been very ardent and energetic in promoting the success of our cause. We concur in our views and act in the most perfect harmony.

It is my wish to return to Texas after the rising of Congress. Nothing can be done here in the recess. Genl. Hunt, or, if convenient to him, our Secretary of Legation, F. Catlett Esqr. will be fully competent to all of the duties of the mission in the recess of Congress. My preference is to resign entirely, but if the President prefers my returning, I will do so. If left to my choice, I will not. Be so good as to lay this despatch before him, and to request him to inform me immediately, if my resignation here, officially tendered, will be accepted. In addition to the letters to the British and French Ministers Genl. Hunt and myself joined in a strong but of course highly respectful letter to the President in which we invoked his justice and

depicted to him the great injury, which this delay to recognize our Independence, inflicted upon the credit of Texas and upon the feelings of her citizens. Genl. Hunt and myself will unite in a despatch in a few days, in which, copies of all these letters will be sent to you. I am proud to repeat again, that the most perfect concurrence of views and harmony of action exists, between Genl. Hunt and myself, and that our Secretary F. Catlett Esqr. is every way competent to his duties and wholly devoted to them.

I have the honor to be  
Yours etc.

WM. H. WHARTON

To

The Honb<sup>le</sup>

THOS. J. RUSK,

*Secretary of State of  
the Republic of Texas.*

P. S. 13th Feb. I have kept this despatch open to inform you of the doings in Congress to day, a privileged question, (the arraignment of Reuben M. Whitney at the bar of the House for a contempt,) took precedence of memorials and every thing else, and will continue to occupy the House I fear for several days. In the Senate, Mr. Walker of Mississippi, who deserves the everlasting gratitude of Texas for his highminded and disinterested exertions in her behalf both last session and this, made an ineffectual attempt to call up the consideration of his resolution to recognize the Independence of Texas. Mr. Benton opposed him on the ground that his army bill was vastly important and was the unfinished business of the House, and he disliked the precedent of passing over the unfinished business. The army bill was taken up by a vote of 32 to 12, many of our warmest friends voting with the majority. I still hope that Mr. Walker's resolutions will be considered and decided favourably tomorrow, perhaps today. I will not despair of our recognition until the last moment of the session is past.

WM. H. WHARTON

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GRAYSON TO WHARTON AND HUNT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Columbia Feby 13th 1837.*

To The Honbl

WM H WHARTON and

MEMUCAN HUNT

SIRS

The Secretary of State being confined today from indisposition, I am instructed by the President to inform you, that since the date of

the last communications made to you on the subject of Indian aggressions on the Brasos, fresh intelligence has been received by him of further outrages having been committed in the Eastern part of Texas in the neighbourhood of the Neches, within a few days past; two men of a small party having been killed there by the Caddoes and their associates as it is supposed. The President instructs me to say that he entertains no doubt, the Indians have been emboldened to the perpetration of these aggressions, by the withdrawal of the U States troops from this side of the Sabine, and he consequently thinks their immediate return is urgently demanded, to prevent the further occurrence of similar enormities. He has undoubted information of the course now being constantly practised by the Indians, bordering on Red River, which is to make incursions upon those districts of Texas which are most defenceless, for the purpose of stealing horses and other property and bearing them off to places of security near, and it may be too within the territory of the United States. A large number of fine American horses have lately been seen tied out, near to Red River, which there is no doubt had been stolen by the Indians from Citizens of Texas.

These incursions besides being attended with robberies, of every kind are but too often signalized by the more deplorable consequences of murder and bloodshed.

It is hoped that the Government of the United States, moved by the present undoubted signs of disaffection and disorder on the part of their Indians and of those bordering on their territory will feel the propriety, at the earliest moment of interposing within the confines of Texas, a military force of sufficient respectability, to restrain the excesses complained of, as it is certain that they can in no other manner effectually enforce the peaceful behaviour of their Indians and thus discharge the treaty obligation they are under in this respect.

I have the honor to be

Yr obt. Servt.

P W GRAYSON *Atty Genl*

To Honbles  
Wm. H. Wharton  
and  
Genl M. Hunt

WHARTON TO RUSK.<sup>a</sup>

No. 9  
SIR,

WASHINGTON CITY.

As I stated in my former despatches, President Jackson and Santa Anna had a free conversation (not in my presence, but I was after-

wards informed of it by both of them) in relation to the extension of the United States boundary, so as to include Texas, by treaty with Mexico. Genl. Santa Anna informed me, a few days before he left this place, that he had requested the Secretary of State to furnish him, with the amount of claims held against Mexico by citizens of this Government, and that after ascertaining the amount, he would promptly state to this Government the additional sum of money, which Mexico would ask for a quit claim to Texas. He said he was not empowered to make a treaty here, but by having an understanding with this Government, he would at [the] proper time on reaching Mexico propose and carry into effect a treaty in regard to the cession of Texas. I asked him to state to me the highest offer ever made by this Government to Mexico for Texas, if it was no secret. He answered that it was no secret, and that the United States had once offered thirteen millions for Texas. He said that he could not think of asking now anything like that amount, and the main reason why he would ask any thing after the people of Texas had declared their independence, and deprived the Mexicans of the possession of that country was not so much on account of the money that Mexico was to receive for Texas, but it was to satisfy his people with the treaty, and make them consent to cease a further prosecution of the war against Texas. He said he was satisfied, that it was for the interest of Mexico and Texas, that there should be an immediate peace between them;—that he knew from his own observation, that Mexico never could conquer Texas, and that if she succeeded in temporarily overrunning the country, she could not hold it without standing garrisons of 20,000 soldiers, which Mexico could not raise, nor support, if raised;—that this threatened invasion was all a *humbug* and would end in smoke, and that he would immediately on reaching Mexico, issue his orders and put a stop to it;—that he would show the world that what he promised in his captivity in Texas, he would religiously fulfil in the Capitol of his Nation. He further said, that granting, he was the perfidious and ungrateful monster, he was so often represented, granting he would do nothing on account of gratitude or love for the Texians, yet that his own and his country's interest palpably dictated his intended course of future action, as already understood between him and us, which was the strongest guarantee for the faithful performance that could be given us. He concluded, by jocularly saying, that the United States had an overflowing treasury, about which, there was much debate and squabbling, and he hoped that I as the Minister of Texas would not oppose any obstacles to his obtaining a few millions from this Govt for a quit claim to Texas, which would be the means of enabling him to make a treaty, satisfactory to his nation, and at the same time, securing at

once and forever, the independence of Texas, or her annexation to these United States. He spoke with a great deal of feeling and apparent candour throughout. When he had finished, I replied that he was well aware, that our declaration of independence was a denial in toto of the right of Mexico to sell Texas or to make any Treaty or arrangement, that could, in any manner, or in the slightest degree, bind Texas, without her assent. He said, that he was well aware of this. I continued, that I could not for a moment believe, that this Government was ignorant of the correctness of this position on the part of the people of Texas, and that I knew that it would not be guilty of the injustice, the folly, the madness of attempting to bind Texas by any treaty with Mexico, without the free and full assent of Texas. I further continued that although the people of Texas denied the right of Mexico to dispose of any portion of their territory and claimed their existence as an Independent Nation, yet that it was too well known to be attempted to be disguised, that they desired to be annexed to the United States and that provided the terms and conditions, on which they were willing to be annexed, were previously secured and guaranteed beyond the power of doubt or cavil, they cared not if the United States gave to Mexico, for a quit claim, one million or a hundred millions, but that it was necessary to have the independence of Texas recognized by the United States, before any treaty was made by Mexico and the United States in relation to Texas. The reason of this I stated was obvious, for by the recognition, Texas would be made a competent contracting party and could in such case, stipulate for and secure the terms and conditions on which she was willing to be annexed, which she could not do if unrecognized. In short, I told him that the previous recognition of the Independence of Texas, would be demanded by me as an indispensable prerequisite, before I would give a shadow of assent to any treaty between Mexico and the United States in any way binding Texas. He admitted the force of this and said that no one desired the immediate recognition of Texas more than he did, that he had hoped it would have taken place, before he reached Washington. His reasons he said were these. The recognition of our Independence would greatly disembarass him and enable him to make a much more favourable treaty for the United States;—that it would enable him to take a much smaller sum for a quit claim to Texas and the smaller the sum, the more certain the ratification of the treaty by this Government. After recognition, he could take a smaller sum, for he could say to his people, that Texas had been recognized by the United States; that by that recognition, she was virtually lost to Mexico, for it would give her what men and money she wanted, and that he, seeing this, had made the best of a bad bargain and had got

something for nothing. I thought he took a sound view of the matter, at least, it corresponded with my own. How far, he was candid and sincere, you are as well able to judge as myself.

On the same day Genl. Jackson sent for me and told me, that he wished to speak to me in the strictest confidence! That no one should know of what passed between us. He then proceeded to state that a conversation had taken place between Santa Anna and himself in regard to a treaty for the cession of Texas to the United States by Mexico. That it was necessary for him to read again the terms and conditions on which Texas was willing to be annexed to the United States, for, upon the practicability of granting those terms, and the amount of the public debt of Texas, which the United States would have to pay, would depend the treaty with Mexico. His idea was, that the amount of the debts of Texas would regulate the amount, which this Government could in reason pay to Mexico for a quit claim. I replied that I surely need not remind him, that we protested against and totally denied the right of Mexico to dispose of or in any way bind Texas, since alike in the field and the cabinet, we had vindicated and established a paramount and exclusive claim to all the territory of Texas. He replied that he admitted this and would *perish* before he would be guilty of any injustice to Texas, or attempt to bind her against her consent. I replied that it was truly humiliating to us to consent to be even nominally sold, after we had won the country by privations, sufferings, dangers and triumphs, unexampled, or at least unsurpassed in the history of man. He replied that this was true, but that the wound to our pride was only in name, in sound, not in substance, and that this Govt would not treat with Mexico for Texas, until after it had fully inspected the terms and conditions on which Texas was willing to be annexed, and determined to grant them. I replied to this, that we ardently desired to be annexed, and provided our own terms were secured to us, we would not, through false pride object to any sum, which this Govt for National character' sake might be disposed to give Mexico as *hush money* for a quit claim to Texas, it being perfectly understood that, by such purchase or treaty, they obtained no claim or shadow of jurisdiction over Texas without her full and free assent. I continued, that the sum, in this case, paid Mexico by this Government was a matter for its consideration not ours, that for our part, so confident were we of the justice of our claim to the exclusive sovereignty of Texas and our physical ability to maintain it, that we would give Mexico nothing but *lead*. But I continued, that the recognition of our Independence by this Govt must be a condition precedent and take place, prior to any treaty in relation to Texas between this Govt and Mexico. For by being recognized, we would be made competent contracting parties and could secure, beyond doubt or cavil, the terms on which we were willing to be an-

nexed. But that if a treaty for Texas was made by Mexico and this Government, before we were recognized and before we had secured our terms of annexation, then, and in that case, we would have to depend wholly on the justice and the will of this Govt to grant us our terms of annexation, which we were not at all disposed to do, and against which I solemnly protested. Moreover, I continued, that this treaty between Mexico and the United States might be rejected by the Senate of one or both countries and then Texas would be both unrecognized and unannexed, and that, therefore, I claimed as a matter of right, that the question of Independence should be acted on immediately, unconnected and unembarrassed with any other, and that it be decided on the broad and naked grounds of our being an organized de facto Government, with ample physical ability to maintain our national existence. I contended, that in accordance with former usage, these were the only facts necessary to be enquired into by this Govt in order to determine whether it would recognize our Independence or not. I further told him, that it mortified me to the soul to find that this Govt admitted the truth of these facts and yet forbore to extend to us the sheer justice of a recognition. I told him moreover, that if we were not recognized during this session, the people of Texas would view it as evidencing a coldness and illiberality, not to say injustice, on the part of this Govt which would excite one universal feeling of horror and amazement. In answer to this, Genl. Jackson hinted rather than asserted, that a recognition of the Independence of Texas by this Govt would prevent any treaty with Mexico by this Govt in regard to Texas, for it would be an open declaration that Mexico had no longer any jurisdiction over Texas or right to sell or bind her. I replied, that I did not conceive that such recognition could embarrass the contemplated treaty with Mexico at all. The recognition of the Independence of Texas by this Govt did not vary the relations between Texas and Mexico, did not in any way impair or diminish the right of Mexico to prosecute a war ad infinitum against Texas. The recognition of the independence of Texas then by this Govt did not furnish to Mexico any rational cause of complaint or war, but the annexation of Texas to these United States would be a just and serious cause of complaint or war on the part of Mexico, for it would transfer the war from between Mexico and Texas to Mexico and the United States, and would consequently render the resubjugation of Texas by Mexico totally hopeless and impracticable. The treaty, therefore, between Mexico and this Govt might recite, that the United States, being desirous to annex Texas and to restore the blessings of peace, gave to Mexico a specified sum for her consent and her relinquishment of her right to promote further the war against Texas. This would be a valid consideration. I concluded by reiterating, that the recognition of the Independence of Texas must



be a condition precedent, and that then the treaty should be tripartite between Texas, Mexico and the United States. With this, we parted.

In order to make myself perfectly understood, I addressed to Mr. Forsyth Sec'y of State the following protest. He seemed unwilling to receive it in writing, but I stated to him the contents and he replied that I might rest satisfied that this Govt would not be guilty of the injustice of attempting in any way to bind Texas or to compromit her honour or interests against her assent by treaty with Mexico.

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Protest

WASHINGTON [CITY,]  
24th. Jan'y 1837.

To

The Hon'ble JOHN FORSYTH  
*Secretary of State.*

SIR,

Although my unbounded confidence in the justice of this Govt will not permit me to indulge the belief for a moment, that it would intentionally injure or compromit the honour or interests of Texas, yet I should fail in discharging my duty, were I not to protest formally and solemnly, as I now do, against any sale or disposition of all or any portion of Texas by Mexico to this Govt or against any attempt to bind Texas, in any way, by treaty or otherwise between Mexico and this Govt, without the full and free assent of the Govt of the Republic of Texas.

It may be proper to add that this assent I am empowered to give on the part of my Govt provided the terms and conditions, on which the people of Texas are willing to be annexed as laid down in my instructions, are definitely arranged and guaranteed by this Govt beyond the power of doubt and cavil. Being fully persuaded, moreover, that the people of Texas cannot be considered a competent contracting party to secure these terms and conditions, until after their Independence is formally recognized, I hereby claim that *recognition* as a condition precedent and prior to any treaty between Mexico and this Government, intended in any way to bind or compromit the Republic of Texas.

I have the honor to be with high consideration  
Yours etc.

WM. H. WHARTON.

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Want of time to [have<sup>a</sup>] the above copied has prevented my sending it on sooner. It will be recollected that no instructions have been

<sup>a</sup> Torn out.

given me in regard to any treaty, which was expected to take place between Genl. Santa Anna and myself, on his arrival in this City. (The only instructions I have ever received on this subject, are those relating to an Exchange of Prisoners, which reached me near a fortnight after his departure for Mexico). While he was here and after the refusal of his Chargé d'affaires at Philadelphia to obey his orders, I advised with my friends in regard to the course that I ought to pursue. I asked them, if it would be best for me to undertake to bring Santa Anna under the obligation of a written treaty. All said no. President Jackson was quite explicit in giving his opinion. He said that Genl. Santa Anna had no power, without the concurrence of his Chargé d'affaires to make a treaty that would be binding on Mexico. That his honor was all, at last, that we had to rely upon, and that he, Santa Anna, would feel himself more bound in honor without, than with a written treaty. He said moreover, that what Santa Anna had promised us was contained in his (Santa Anna's) letter to him, (President Jackson), and also in his public and secret treaties with our Govt ad Interim, during the last summer. President Jackson added, that Santa Anna's open assertions in presence of him and his Cabinet, that Mexico could not reconquer Texas and that he was determined to bring about peace on the basis of the Independence or Annexation of Texas to these United States, was all sufficient.

We are unfortunately still unrecognized. The disposition of some of Mr. Van Buren's friends to postpone the matters, combined with a multiplicity of unfinished business before both Houses produces the delay. I am now satisfied that the Committee on foreign affairs of the lower House will make a favourable report for us in a few days and that recognition will follow. Nothing but want of time can possibly prevent it. For fear that my Despatches in which I tendered my resignation of my present appointment may not reach you, I here repeat it, I wish to resign and return home after the rising of Congress. Genl. Hunt is willing to remain in discharge of his duties, and one Minister will in God's name be all sufficient especially in the recess of Congress. By my resignation, the Govt of Texas will be freed from the expense of a Minister's salary during the Summer, and, if deemed necessary, which I much doubt, another can be sent on next winter. When I return home, I will leave it with the Govt. to determine the amount to be paid me, and rest perfectly satisfied with its decision.

I have the honor to be with great regard

Yours etc.

Wm. H. WILARTON

P. S. Genl. Jackson says that Texas must claim the Californias on the Pacific in order to paralyze the opposition of the North and

East to Annexation. That the fishing interest of the North and East wish a harbour on the Pacific; that this claim of the Californias will give it to them and will diminish their opposition to annexation. He is very earnest and anxious on this point of claiming the Californias and says we must not consent to less. This in strict confidence.

Glory to God in the highest.

P. S. While I was writing the above the Committe[e] on Foreign affairs of the lower House, reported a resolution recommending the immediate recognition of the Independence of Texas, also an appropriation for a Minister to Texas. The report will certainly be concurred in, if there is time to act upon it, and if not, it is almost tantamount in the character and credit it will give to a complete and formal recognition.

It being important to know who are friends and for us, I communicate for your information that Mr Forsyth was opposed to the report of the Committee.

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HENDERSON TO WHARTON AND HUNT.

COLUMBIA TEXAS  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Feb 19th 1837

To the Honbl  
Wm H WHARTON

SIR

Your despatches Nos 1 2 3 and 4 have been received also your despatch of the 15 of January not numbered but which I take to be the next in No and I am instructed by His Excellency the President to inform you that he is well pleased with the prospect of your success in your mission and the ability which you display in conducting the Negotiation

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To The Hon  
Wm H Wharton and  
Memucan Hunt

From recent information received by the Executive in relation to hostilities committed on the frontier settlements of Texas by the Caddoe and Kickapoo Indians it again becomes my duty to instruct you Gentlemen to loose no time and spare no labour in again representing to the Government of the United States the necessity of its again occupying the station it formerly held near Nacogdoches in Texas with a sufficient number of soldiers to keep those Indians from committing such outrages in future

The information above alluded to as recently given to his Excellency the President of this Republic is that a party of Kickapooes in conjunction with some of the Caddo tribe amounting in all to between eighty and one hundred warriors made an attack a few weeks since upon our upper settlements on the Eastern waters of the Brazos River and murdered several families; that the attack was made without any thing to provoke it on the part of the Citizens of this Republic and threatens to extend through the settlements in that region as far as the line between this Republic and that of the United States without this Government being able to check it owing to the necessity of its holding all the soldiers of the Government in readiness to meet the Mexicans in the west in event of another invasion from that quarter. These Indians now occupy that region of Country East of the Naches and bordering on the line of the U. S. and have emigrated from the limits of the U. S. to that region without the consent of this Government or the Government of Mexico and taken possession of the grounds they now occupy. It is rumoured and accredited here that a genl combination of the different tribes of Indians in the North and East has been formed and encouraged by the Mexican authorities to commence a genl war in that region upon the whites and as those savages have no idea of the boundary between Texas and the U. S. or their separate political existence they will not confine their aggressions to our citizens alone, 500 soldiers stationed near Nacogdoches alone can prevent the continuation of such depredations

You mention in your despatch No 4 that complaint had been made to the Government of the United States by some officers of the Brigg Pocket. You can assure that Government that this Government will at any time cheerfully hear the claimants, and give all such as are entitled to it speedy justice as soon as their claims are properly laid before it.

I have the Honor to  
be Gentlemen Yours  
etc etc

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON  
*Secy of State*

WHARTON AND HUNT TO RUSK.<sup>a</sup>

No. 10

WASHINGTON CITY  
Feb 20th 1837.

SIR,

We have the honour to transmit to you a copy of a private letter addressed by us to President Jackson, appealing to his sense of justice and praying that he would no longer delay the recognition of our Independence; also a copy of a letter to the British and French Ministers, with the reply of the latter.

WASHINGTON CITY

Feb'y 8th 1837.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR:

The impossibility of holding any intercourse with the Department of State, in consequence of the refusal of the honorable Secretary to receive our communications, and the fear of interrupting you by a visit when you might be engaged, has induced us to address you this communication, which you can read at your leisure. Our zeal for the honour and the welfare of our adopted country is our only apology. We trust it will be a sufficient one. Permit us to say that we *know* that one, who has always been so prompt and conscientious as yourself in discharging all your public duties, will not blame us for endeavouring to fulfil the important trust, confided to us, by all honourable means in our power. If we appear to speak too freely, attribute it not to intentional disrespect, of which to you we are wholly incapable, but to the intensity of our feelings, excited by the delay on the part of Congress to extend to us the naked justice of a recognition of our Independence. By this delay Texas is suffering at every pore. Public confidence in our Government is to a great extent destroyed. Immigration is partially suspended. Our financial resources cannot be properly developed, and our credit is immensely injured. Had our independence been recognized at the first of this session, fifty families would have gone into Texas, this winter, where one has gone. Instead of begging off our lands with difficulty at 50 cents the acre, they would readily command one dollar, and our Govt would have been in possession of means to discharge all its pecuniary obligations and to establish its credit for the future on a firm foundation. We feel, that in asking a recognition of the Independence of Texas, we are not supplicating a favour, but are respectfully imploring the extension to us of that act of justice which this Government has properly and nobly extended to other rising Republics under far worse circumstances. We know that the claims of Texas to an immediate recognition are a hundred fold stronger than were those of Mexico or of the South American States at the period of their recognition. We present a perfectly organized Government in all its departments, in undisturbed possession of all the country we claim or contend for, and with ample physical ability to repel any invasion of our imbecile and bankrupt enemies. Indeed, what mortifies and astonishes us most is, that those, who refuse to recognize our Independence, at the same time, admit the truth of the only facts necessary to be enquired into before recognition;—that we are a *de facto* government, with ability to maintain our national existence. From sad experience we perceive that Congress will not act without you give another impulse to the matter. To you then we appeal most confidently, not to your sympathies but to your stern sense of justice. The eyes, the hearts and the hopes of our whole country are directed

to you more than to all the people of the United States, put together. We have sincerely thought that we could not be treated with coolness, illiberality and injustice, while you were at the head of the Government. We implore that we may not be disappointed in those hopes and calculations, which we confidently predicated upon the upright tenor of your whole character.

As ardent friends to annexation, which we profess ourselves to be, we tremble, when we anticipate the effect, which a refusal to recognize our independence at this session will have upon the people of Texas. It will certainly alienate their affections, embitter their feelings and cause them to view this Government as a cruel step mother. Treated with coldness by their native land, they will be reluctantly compelled to knock at some more friendly door, and it is not difficult to perceive that Texas, once independent by the recognition of England or France, with the superaddition of a favourable commercial treaty, is forever lost to the United States, so far as annexation is concerned. Considering the shortness of the present session, there is certainly not a moment for delay. For in such case, the Senate will not have time to act upon a treaty of amity, commerce etc. at this session. We feel that the prospect of a war with Mexico will do us no service, but on the contrary an injury, for it will lead off the attention of Congress from a consideration of our Independence; which we wish decided promptly on the broad and naked ground of our being a de facto Government, with ability to maintain our national existence. We do not wish the question of Independence to be connected with or embarrassed with annexation, nor with Mexico or any thing else. We write this letter for your own eye alone. We pray that our objects and motives may be correctly appreciated, that any warmth of expression may be attributed to our zeal for our country, and that we may be believed when we assure you of the profound respect, with which we are most truly yours etc.

(Signed)

WM. H. WHARTON  
MEMUCAN HUNT

To,

His Excellency,  
Andrew Jackson  
President of the United States  
of America

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We called the next morning upon the President and he told us, that he had looked over the letter and that he desired the immediate recognition of the Independence of Texas, but that he could not appropriately send in another message to Congress on the subject, and had determined to leave the question with them, to decide as they should think fit.

WASHINGTON CITY  
Feb'y 8th 1837.

DEAR SIR,

We have taken the liberty of addressing you this communication, through the hands of Mr. Fairfax Catlett, our Secretary of Legation and of transmitting certain papers and public documents, explanatory of the origin and objects of the contest, in which Texas is engaged and also of her present position and prospects. It will be seen, by reference to the report of the Committee on foreign affairs, contained in the 38th number of the Texas Telegraph, herewith sent, to which we respectfully refer you, that Texas has the territorial capacity of exporting annually more than two hundred millions of dolls. worth of cotton and sugar. From the cheapness of her lands and the facility, with which citizenship is obtained, and the torrent of immigration at this moment, we may confidently anticipate that the natural resources of Texas will be developed by cultivation and settlement, in a manner and with a rapidity hitherto unexampled. This population will be mainly if not wholly agricultural and will therefore require no protective tariff to cherish domestic manufactures at the expense of the planting interest, all or nearly all being planters. It is easy to perceive then that our policy and interest will lead to the establishment of a system of low duties, thereby obtaining the manufactured articles of France nearly as cheap as the duty imposed upon the raw material in the United States, and giving in exchange what France chiefly desires, viz., our cotton and sugar.

Under these circumstances, we have taken the liberty of addressing you, for the purpose of requesting that you will ascertain from your Government as promptly as practicable, whether a diplomatic agent from the Republic of Texas would be received by the Government of France for the purpose of negotiating a treaty of Amity and Commerce. Your attention to this matter will greatly oblige us.

With the highest consideration

Yours' etc.

(Signed)

WM H. WHARTON  
MEMUCAN HUNT.  
*Ministers Plenipotentiary of  
the Republic of Texas.*

To the Honble

M. ALPHONSE PAGEOT

Chargé d' Affaires

of His most Christian

Majesty.

WASHINGTON [CITY,]  
Feb'y 11th 1837.

GENTLEMEN,

I have received the letter you did me the honor to address to me on the 8th inst. with several Documents in relation to Texas, accompanied with the request that "I should ascertain from my Government, whether a Diplomatic agent from Texas would be received by my Government for the purpose of negotiating a Treaty of Amity and Commerce."

The functions I have the honor to fill near this Government do not permit me to entertain officially any communication, that does not emanate from its constituted authorities, or to interfere in any question, which is not connected with the interests that arise from the existing relations between France and the United States. I am therefore compelled by a sense of duty to abstain from transmitting to my Government the request expressed in your letter of the 8th instant.

I am, gentlemen, with great consideration

Yours'

A. PAGEOT.

To MESSRS

HUNT and WHARTON.

A copy of the letter to Mr. Pageot was addressed at the same time to the British Minister, Mr. Fox. No reply has as yet been received.

With great consideration

We have the honour to be

Yours' etc.

WM. H. WHARTON  
MEMUCAN HUNT.

HENDERSON TO HUNT,<sup>a</sup>

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Columbia Texas Feb 28th 1837

To The Honbl

MEMUCAN HUNT

Sir

The Honbl Wm H Wharton having asked and obtained leave to return home after the Congress of the United States shall have adjourned, I am directed by his Excellency the President to instruct you to remain at the City of Washington as resident Minister after

<sup>a</sup> A. L. S.



his departure. You will receive from that Honbl Gentleman all of the official documents in his hands in any way connected with his and your Mission which he has been instructed to deliver to you

It is desirable that frequent and easy communication should be established between the Citizens of the United States and those of Texas by means of regular mails in the Territory of the two Governments, which shall regularly meet at proper points on the dividing line and this Government having established regular weekly mail lines to Gaines Ferry on the Sabine River and also to Ballous<sup>a</sup> Ferry on the same river, You are therefore instructed to use all necessary exertions to induce the Government of the United States to extend their mail route to each of those points so as to accomplish this desirable object

You will from time to time and frequently communicate to this Department the progress of your mission  
I am with highest consideration Yours etc.

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

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HENDERSON TO WHARTON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Columbia Texas February 28th 1837*

To the Honbl  
WM H WHARTON  
Sir

Your communication No. 6 February 2d has been received by his Excellency the President but the other you refer to as having been sent by Mjr Patton has not yet reached him

You request permission to return home as soon as the Congress of the United States adjourns. I am instructed by his Excellency to say to you that he regrets that such is your request and desire, but that you may have leave to return after the period referred to, and further I am directed by his Excellency to instruct you to hand over to the Honbl Memucan Hunt before you take your departure all official papers in your hands connected with your Mission as he will be instructed at the same time to remain as resident Minister in your stead

I am With High consideration  
Your Humble Servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

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WHARTON AND HUNT TO JACKSON.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Balley's.

<sup>b</sup> March 3, 1837. See Wharton and Hunt to Henderson, March 5, 1837.

WHARTON AND HUNT TO HENDERSON.<sup>a</sup>

No. 11.

WASHINGTON CITY

*March 5th 1837.*

SIR

I have at length the happiness to inform you that President Jackson has closed his political career by admitting our country into the great family of nations. On Friday night last, at near 12 o'clock, he consummated the recognition of the Senate and the diplomatic appropriation bill of the lower House, by nominating a Mr. Labranche<sup>b</sup> of Louisiana, chargé d'affaires near the Republic of Texas. He also sent for Genl Hunt and myself and requested the pleasure of a glass of wine, and stated that Mr. Forsyth would see us officially on Monday. I close this brief communication on account of my intention to write at large after this interview with Mr. Forsyth. I repeat my desire to return home.

With sentiments of high esteem and consideration,

I have the honor to be

Yours' etc

WM. H. WHARTON

To The Hon'ble

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON,

*Secretary of State,**Republic of Texas.*

P. S. Genl Hunt and myself addressed the following communication to President Jackson on the morning of the 3d inst.

WASHINGTON [CITY,]

*March 3d 1837.*

HONOURED SIR,

Believing that the late votes in Congress have sufficiently indicated that, in the opinion of that body, the time has now arrived, when the Independence of Texas should be formally recognized, we again take the liberty of appearing before you, to implore you, in the name of our country and by the friendship of our President and our whole population for you, to close your brilliant career by admitting Texas, at once, by some executive act, into the family of nations. The people of Texas feel that they have claims of the strongest nature upon you, individually. Many of them are from your own State and were induced to emigrate to Texas by the confidence they entertained, that they would be again received under the flag of their native land by the acquisition of Texas during your administration. Moreover, a large number of those, who won the

<sup>a</sup> L. S.<sup>b</sup> La Branche.

battle of [San] Jacinto, sprang from the same noble State, and were taught the way to victory and to fame by your own practice and precepts. In addition to this, we feel assured, that in making the recognition which we here so ardently implore you will only be fulfilling what has been long expected from you by the whole people of the United States, and that you will also embalm your name forever in the gratitude of a rising Republic, which has proved herself so worthy to be free, alike by her wisdom and moderation in the Cabinet and by her valour and success on the field.

With the highest consideration

We have the honor to be

Yours' etc.

(Signed)

WM H. WHARTON  
MEMUCAN HUNT

To

His Excellency  
Andrew Jackson,  
President of the  
United States of  
America.

HENDERSON TO HUNT.

COLUMBIA TEXAS  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
March 14th 1837

To the Honbl

MEMUCAN HUNT

SIR

There is nothing connected with your duty as the Representative of this Government at the Court at Washington which requires more constant attention than the subject of Indian hostilities in Texas to which you have been so frequently instructed to call the attention of the Government of the United States. News of new depredations and murders by the Indians reach His Excellency every week. This day news has reached him that The Honbl Mr Robison a member of Congress and five of another family have within the last ten days been murdered by the Caddo Indians. Those Indians have come over from the Territory of the United States and settled or rather are now wandering over that of Texas without any permission from this Government or that of Mexico before our separation by the declaration of our Independence. And by the treaty with Mexico that [government] (the Government of the U. S.) is bound to keep

those Indians and all others within its territory, from committing depredations on the Territory of this Republic. These facts you will not delay in laying before the proper authorities at Washington and urge the necessity of that Government's immediately mounting at least 500 men to range on the frontier between red river and the Brazos River to prevent depredations in future of a like character

I am with Great Respect etc.

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

JONES TO FORSYTH.<sup>a</sup>

HENDERSON TO HUNT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Columbia Texas April 2nd 1837*

The Hon

MEMUCAN HUNT

Accompanying this you will receive a copy of the commission of Nathaniel Townsend Esqr. as consul for the Port of New Orleans, which you are hereby instructed to give full faith and credit to. It will be necessary for you immediately to apply to the Government of the U. S. and produce the Commission in order to obtain his exequatur as consul in the accustomed manner, which you will forward to him immediately

Yours Respectfully

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

*Secy of State*

CATLETT TO FORSYTH.<sup>b</sup>

HENDERSON TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES [VAN BUREN].<sup>c</sup>

[Asks credence for Wharton.]

FORSYTH TO CATLETT.<sup>d</sup>

POINSETT TO FORSYTH.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> March 28, 1837. See Catlett to Henderson, May 7, 1837.  
<sup>b</sup> April 8, 1837. See Catlett to Henderson, April 15, 1837.  
<sup>c</sup> The day of the month is not given in the draft of the letter, but the date April 10 is endorsed on the back of it.  
<sup>d</sup> April 14, 1837. See Catlett to Henderson, April 15, 1837.

CATLETT TO HENDERSON.<sup>a</sup>Despatch No. 14.<sup>b</sup>

TEXIAN LEGATION,  
WASHINGTON CITY  
*April 15th, 1837.*

SIR,

Your letters of the 13th<sup>c</sup> 19th and 28th February with one from Mr. Grayson of the 13th of the same month and another from the Secretary of the Navy of the 7th March<sup>c</sup> have been received.

I have now the honor to transmit to you a copy of my letter to Mr. Forsyth in relation to Indian aggressions upon our eastern frontier, urging also the expediency of establishing post routes between the United States and Texas;—together with his reply and that of the Secretary at [sic] War, Mr. Poinsett.

TEXIAN LEGATION, *Washington*  
*April 8th 1837.*

HON'BLE JOHN FORSYTH—

*Secretary of State of  
the United States*

SIR,

Communications have just been received from the Government of Texas, which it becomes my duty in the absence of Messrs. Wharton and Hunt, to lay before you and invite your favourable consideration of the wishes therein expressed.

It is desired by my Government "That a frequent and easy communication may be established between the citizens of the United States and those of Texas by means of regular mails in the territories of the two Governments, which shall regularly meet at proper points on the Sabine river."

"Regular weekly mail lines having already been established by this Government to Gaines' and Ballou's ferries on the Sabine river, it is desired therefore, that the mail routes of the United States may be extended to each of these points, so as to accomplish the important object of securing a safe and expeditious intercourse between the citizens of two countries, so closely connected by ties of blood and contiguity of territory."

Although fully persuaded of the importance of such an arrangement to both Governments, in consequence of the peculiar relations, which now exist between them, and indeed of its necessity, as the

<sup>a</sup>A. L. S.<sup>b</sup>Neither among the originals in the State Library nor the copies in the record books of the Department of State can be found any trace of Nos. 12 and 13. See Webb to Dunlap, March 14, 1839.<sup>c</sup>No copies of the letters bearing these dates have been found in the Texan archives.

communication by sea, at all times attended with hazard, might by possibility be cut off entirely for a short time;—yet I am too well aware of your superior ability to appreciate that necessity and importance and the great convenience it would prove to your numerous citizens, who have friends and relations and important commercial connexions in Texas, either to tax your patience with any further suggestions of my own upon this subject, or to apprehend that the desire of my Government will not be promptly and favourably responded to.

Herewith, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, on the subject of Indian Aggressions upon our eastern frontier, complained of in Messrs Wharton and Hunt's letter to you of the 14th ultimo,<sup>a</sup> and also a number of the Texas Telegraph, in which I beg leave to refer you to some remarks upon the same head.

The wishes of my Government are so distinctly expressed in that despatch, that I would respectfully solicit your attentive perusal of it. Although the Government of the United States has already clearly signified its determination to hold the Indians in check in the quarter referred to, yet, as it is the decided opinion of my Government, that the object can only be effected by the United States reoccupying Nacogdoches or some contiguous point, I trust you will not deem it supererogatory in me to lay that opinion before you and to express my earnest hope that it may still meet with the concurrence of the Government of the United States.

I would also invite your attention to the latter part of the despatch, which has reference to the condemnation of the brig Pocket and cargo, by the authorities of Texas.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of distinguished consideration,

Your Obedient Servant—

FAIRFAX CATLETT.

(The despatch, referred to in the above letter, bears date 19th February, 1837;—Telegraph, 28th of the same month)

The following communications in reply were handed in this morning.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Washington [City,] 14th April, 1837.*

FAIRFAX CATLETT, Esquire,  
SIR,

An extract from that part of your letter of the 8th instant together with the enclosure, suggesting the expediency of again ad-

<sup>a</sup> See Calendar.

vancing the troops of the United States to Nacogdoches or some contiguous point having been referred to the Secretary of War, I now transmit a copy of the reply of that officer.

An extract from that part of your letter which relates to the establishment of a communication by post routes between the United States and Texas, has been referred to the Post Master General.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JOHN FORSYTH.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

*April 14th. 1837.*

SIR,

I have attentively examined the papers, referred to me by you on the 11th. containing an extract from a note addressed to the Department of State by the Secretary of Legation of Texas, together with the newspaper and a copy of the documents by which it was accompanied, complaining of murders and depredations being committed by a party of Caddoes and Kickapoos upon the inhabitants of the upper settlements of Texas on the Eastern waters of the Brassos river, and containing further suggestions as to the expediency of again advancing the troops of the United States to Nacogdoches or some other contiguous point.

Immediately on receipt of the former communication on this subject by the Hon. Mr. W. H. Wharton and the Hon Mr. Memucan Hunt, measures were taken by this Department to augment the force on the frontier, where a hostile feeling among the Indians has appeared, and orders were despatched to the officer, commanding there, to use increased vigilance to restrain all hostile manifestations on the part of the Indians, and to maintain our treaty stipulations. These orders will be reiterated, and every exertion will be made to increase our force along that frontier, where it is believed, military stations can be occupied better than Nacogdoches affords for the purpose of compelling the Indians to maintain peaceable relation with the whites by force, if it should become necessary to use force for that purpose.

I have the honor to be

Your Obt Servt

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. JOHN FORSYTH  
*Secretary of State.*

Mr. Pointsetts feelings are so strongly interested in behalf of Texas, that I can not doubt he will use every exertion to restrain the Indians from encroaching any further upon our eastern settlements. His attention too has been drawn to the importance of holding a considerable force in readiness in that quarter by sundry newspaper paragraphs, published in the Southern and western papers of the United States.

Genl Hunt is still absent. I expect him here in a fortnight from this time, and it is not unlikely he will return sooner. Shortly after his departure, I called upon the Secretary of State and showed him my authority to act in the capacity of Texian Chargé, during the absence of the Ministers. He told me that he could not formally receive me as such, inasmuch as Messrs Wharton and Hunt had not been regularly accredited, and my commission as Secretary of Legation rested upon a Texian Minister being first formally received and accredited by this Government. But that the want of a formal reception should make no difference so far as essentials were concerned.

I perceive by a newspaper that a Mr. Townsend has been appointed Texian Consul for the port of New Orleans. I presume he is aware of the necessity of his being formally recognised as such by this Government, before he can properly enter upon the discharge of his functions; but he has not yet applied for an exequatur, though the reason probably is that sufficient time has not elapsed to hear from him.

I have frequently the pleasure of seeing General Ripley and conversing freely with him upon the affairs of our Republic. He speaks of paying you a visit this summer. He possesses a large stock of information upon Texian and Mexican matters, and is as deeply interested in the successful issue of our Revolutionary struggle as any friend of Texas, that I have met with. He strongly advocates the expediency of seizing upon Matamoras, and the Brassos St. Iago,<sup>a</sup> and establishing a town upon the eastern side of the Rio Del Norte.

I shall do myself the honor to write you again in a few days, and with assurances of high respect and consideration, remain

Your Obedient Servant

FAIRFAX CATLETT  
*Sec'y Texian Legation.*

Hon'ble J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON  
*Secretary of State of the  
Republic of Texas.*

P. S. The news has just arrived here from Vera Cruz, that Santa Anna is again at the head of the Mexican invading army.

<sup>a</sup> Brazos Santiago.