

CATLETT TO HENDERSON.<sup>a</sup>

Despatch No. 17.

TEXIAN LEGATION,  
WASHINGTON CITY,  
*May 25th, 1837.*

SIR,

I had the honor to address you last on the 7th. instant. The latest dates, received under your hand, are the 14th. March and the 2nd. and 7th. of April; <sup>b</sup>—the second enclosing Mr. Townsend's commission, the last Genl. Hunt's letter of credence. As more than six weeks have elapsed since the date of your last communication, I fear that some of your despatches have fallen into the hands of the enemy. I have been looking with great anxiety for information from Texas. Not even a paper has arrived for the last three weeks. Permit me to allude to the expediency of your keeping us regularly informed of the progress of events in Texas, and indeed you will easily appreciate the necessity of our having the earliest information of all important measures, when you reflect that daily inquiries are made by persons interested in our concerns, and almost every mail brings letters to this Legation from individuals wishing to know something or other connected with the affairs of the Republic. It is also of great importance that we should have the names of all accredited agents, who may be sent to this country.

President Van Buren has called an early session of Congress, which will meet on the first Monday in September next. As well as I can learn, his primary motive for convening that body at so early a period was to provide a remedy for the present unexampled derangement of trade and truly most lamentable condition of things in the United States. At the same time, however, the late events on the coast of Mexico and the numerous forbodings, contained in the papers, of a rupture with that power, the peculiar relations of the United States to Texas, and the complicated tissue of impending probabilities growing out of those relations and involving the interests of European powers, the circumstance of the Mexican Government having probably made overtures to Great Britain for the sale of Texas, in a word, the threatening aspect of the times, arising in so great a degree out of our revolutionary struggles, suffer no doubt to exist that he was partly impelled to the measure by considerations, closely connected with the affairs of Texas.

May 27th. The melancholy news of the capture of the Independence with Col. Wharton on board reached here last night and produced a general feeling of unaffected concern. Most deeply do I regret the untoward event, not only from common feelings of sym-

<sup>a</sup>A. I. S., endorsed "Recd. June 26th, 1837.

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

pathy, but because Col. Wharton had so well informed himself upon the views, embarrassments, and probable policy of the present administration with respect to Texas, the state of parties, the relative positions of the United States, England and France, the names of our real friends and secret enemies in Congress, the division of the States on the question of annexation, and every subject of peculiar moment to our interests, that his capture at such a time is most truly to be deplored by all such as are willing to sacrifice personal feeling at the shrine of their country's prosperity. Indeed, I have not thought it worth while to trouble you with any communications of my own upon these or similar subjects, because I expected that he would be with you, and I knew he had the ability to supply you with the requisite information. When Genl. Hunt returns, and I am daily expecting him, he will doubtless communicate his views to you in full. Although I am persuaded that the present administration will use every exertion to keep down the question of annexation, still as a violent effort will be made on the part of the South to have it decided by the ensuing Congress, and it is important that your Minister should distinctly understand the present as well as former views of the Government of Texas in relation to that subject, I would take the liberty of suggesting in Genl. Hunt's name (for I am sure he would sanction the suggestion were he here) that the instructions prepared by Genl. Austin be carefully examined, and if any modification should be deemed advisable that they be communicated to him at your earliest convenience. At the same time, I would beg leave to remind you that those instructions were submitted to the Secretary of State some time last December agreeably to Genl. Austin's express directions, but whether a copy was taken is more than I am able to inform you.

May 29th. In a conversation which I had with Mr. Forsyth yesterday, he informed me that the Postmaster General had extended the post routes of the United States to Gaines and Ballou's ferries agreeably to the wishes of the Texian Government, but that he had not as yet succeeded in finding mail-contractors;—that so soon as contractors could be obtained, he would notify me of it, and an intercourse with Texas by land would be established without unnecessary delay. He promised to let me hear from him on the subject in a few days, by which time he thought a definitive arrangement might be made for a regular conveyance of the mail to the points of meeting on the Sabine.

Speaking of the capture of the Genl. Urrea by the Natchez, and the illegal seizure by the Mexicans of several American vessels, he remarked that if Congress had not tied up the hands of the Executive, a lesson would have been given them before this, which would have

taught them that the rights of American commerce must be better respected in future. I draw two conclusions from this remark, not only from its literal meaning, but from the manner and tone of voice in which it was made;—1st. that the President is *disposed* to pursue a peremptory course with Mexico. 2nd. that he will draw the attention of Congress to the subject at an early period and suggest the expediency of their authorising reprisals—at any rate allowing more discretionary power to the Executive to enable him to act with the requisite decision and energy in case of any further mal-conduct on the part of Mexico. One thing is certain, that matters have come to such a pass between the United States and Mexico that the former can no longer submit with honour. The United States must demand redress for the injuries already inflicted. Her flag has been insulted, her citizens robbed, imprisoned and otherwise maltreated, her vessels seized, condemned sold, and in some instances without a shadow of law or reason to palliate such enormous conduct. I can hardly suppose that this Government will be so deficient in ordinary self respect and so regardless of its own true interest and the rights of its citizens as to suffer these atrocities to be perpetrated under its very eye and make no attempt to punish them. Through the prudence of Bustamente a war may be and, I think, will be avoided, but the United States will continue henceforth to stand in *terrorem* over the prostrate energies of unhappy Mexico, while Texas moves surely on in the even tenor of her way, collecting her strength, developing her resources, maturing her youthful prowess, and rapidly unfolding to the gaze of many an astounded civilian the anomalous spectacle of a wilderness converted as by the stroke of some magic wand into a glorious little Republic, already renowned for her heroism and magnanimity, whose heroes have already been enrolled upon the lists of chivalry, and whose statesmen are gaining an enviable reputation for moderation and wisdom, for sagacity, patriotism and liberal and enlightened views of the true objects of government. God grant that it may be all deserved.

Yet there are many persons in the United States who still regard the issue as one enshrouded in doubt and mystery. Such, however, I am persuaded is not the opinion of this Government. To the sagacious and intelligent it is clear that the United States has so far committed herself by the act of recognition, that it is now common cause with Texas, and they must stand or fall together. All considerations of interest and policy aside, the ties between them are of such a nature, that nothing but the imprudence of Texas herself can prevent the bond of amity from increasing in strength and holiness, and therefore permit me to say that it is impossible that her deportment should be regulated by too scrupulous an adherence to the established principles of international law.

The President's message has already been published in several papers and appears to have met with the unqualified approbation of all but such as are blindly inimical to our cause.

May 30th. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Grayson's letter of the 4th. instant enclosing a new letter of credence for Genl. Hunt.

Great interest continues to be manifested here in our affairs. Occasional altercations between the Globe and the Intelligencer bearing upon the relative positions of Texas, Mexico and the United States, tend to keep alive the solicitude of the people to know every thing connected with the question of Texian Independence. Opinions are gradually settling down in a well assured belief, that it no longer admits of a question whether Texas will be bond or free. This growing confidence in the successful issue of our struggle will greatly facilitate the efforts of the Government in relieving the financial distresses of the Republic.

I have the honor to remain  
Your obedient Servant—

FAIRFAX CATLETT  
*Sec'y Texian Legation.*

Hon'ble J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON  
*Secretary of State*

HUNT TO PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA  
RAILROAD BANKING COMPANY.<sup>a</sup>

SHELTON TO HUNT.<sup>a</sup>

HUNT TO HENDERSON.<sup>b</sup>

No. 2.<sup>c</sup>

U. S.

*Vicksburg, Mi, May 30th 1837*

DEAR SIR,

I wrote to you on the 15th ult. from this place, but failed to forward the communication at the moment for want of a conveyance; and subsequently thinking that my stay would be but short at the Seat of Government of this State, and that I should be enabled to add something, have deferred it even up to this time. My stay, however, has been a protracted one, and much more interesting from the identity of the interests of my country in connexion with it, than I had anticipated.

<sup>a</sup> May 25, 1837. See Hunt to Henderson, May 30, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> L. S.

<sup>c</sup> No. 21 in the books of the legation at Washington. On the back in the customary place is written the name of the bearer, Mr. S. B. W. Rudder. See Hunt to Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, July 11, 1837.

I herewith forward the report and resolutions of the committee appointed to consider the subject of speedily annexing Texas to the United States, both of which were unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives but for want of time was not taken up in the Senate.

I herewith send you a copy of my correspondence with the President and Directors of the Mississippi and Alabama Rail Road Banking Company, upon the subject of a loan to the government of Texas, which please hand to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury.

It is with feelings of the deepest regret, Sir, that I learn of the capture of my colleague, Col. Wharton, by the Mexicans. In the loss of his services at this particular juncture of our affairs, we lose an able and zealous advocate of our rights, and whilst I regret most deeply the loss of the *Schr Independence*, it is mitigated to some extent, by the belief, and almost certain confidence, I have, that Col. W. the officers and crew will be properly treated. *Had* Col. Wharton have procured the necessary passports from this Government upon his leaving Washington, there is no doubt but that the United States could and would have demanded his release; and I shall not be satisfied until I have examined the laws of nations upon this subject, but that our Government has the right to insist upon the interference of the U. States in procuring his liberation. If there is any hope of such a result, I shall insist with untiring zeal for its accomplishment.

The Mexican Ministers, in protesting against the recognition of the Independence of Texas by the United States, evince a determination on the part of that government to persist in attempting the subjugation of Texas, which I fear will prevent any action by this government upon the subject of annexation unless England or France should recognize our independence, the Secretary of State of the United States having distinctly declared, that unless Mexico recognizes our independence or ceased all hostile movements against us, he would not listen to any propositions upon the subject. Our position is consequently this: We must either whip Mexico into an acknowledgment of our independence, or procure its recognition by one of the powers to which I have alluded, before we can hope for any definite action upon the subject by the United States. The former I conceive to be the true policy of Texas, and if it is so concluded by the Executive, I should prefer to mingle with my fellow citizens in the camp than to hold the very honorable and distinguished place which his Excellency, the President, has been pleased to confer upon me; and should the loan be effected upon the subject of which I forward through you to the Secretary of Treasury a correspondence, I could with the use of it raise a force of several thousand men, which added to the present army, would enable us to maintain a position on the Rio Grande, until an ample force could be procured to march against

and take the City of Mexico itself. The deranged state of the finances in this country at this particular time would have the effect of producing the most flattering results in an effort for an expedition, provided the expences of those disposed to join the army were defrayed. I do believe if we had Matamoras, and a free communication by sea, than<sup>a</sup> an army of twenty five thousand choice troops could be procured within six months thereafter, provided it was understood that a march for the City of Mexico would be undertaken; and I should not be surprized if the number were double. Every voice is now sounding for an attack on Mexico herself and numbers of gentlemen of the highest respectability, with every possible social and domestic tie, to their homes, have said to me that they would join the Texian cause provided the war was made an offensive one. This step would be extremely popular in the United States, and a judicious negotiation could procure a loan of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars certain, and very probable<sup>b</sup> half a million, and the terms will be as good or better than we could procure any where else. Eight per cent interest and a guarantee to the Bank that it shall be received for public dues, as long as the loan continues, is what the Bank will require, and I believe it to be the interest of our government to accept it. The length of the loan could be made for as long a time as the Bank Charter exists, or for as short a time over two years as the government desire; moreover it will be an immense benefit in furnishing a circulating medium for the Republic until our banks can get into operation—and indeed, it would give a basis satisfactory in payment for their stocks. Again, it would have the effect of giving us credit abroad. The commissioners now employed by the government would be enabled to quote this loan as one accomplished on as good terms as the U. States itself could have procured at a time when the derangement of the finances in this country were so lamentable.

The Missi. and Ala. R Road Bank, like all others in this State, and I might almost add, United States, has stopped specie payment; but to my knowledge, it is in a better condition than any Bank in the State, and I believe in the Southern country. It has recently gone into operation, and the failure of the Josephs at New York, caused some of its notes payable at that place, which they were to take up, to be protested, which caused a check to her issues, and has proven beneficial, as at this moment the Bank has fewer suspended debts for its capital, and a larger amount of specie in proportion to the paper of itself and branches in circulation than any bank in the state, and Col. Wilkins, President of the Planters Bank has been heard to say publicly, "that the Missi. and Ala R Road Bank at Brandon was in a better condition than any other bank in the State." In consequence

<sup>a</sup> That.

<sup>b</sup> Probably.

of the change in our affairs, I shall not visit Col. Benton at St. Louis as I anticipated, but proceed to Washington with as little delay as practicable, to attend to the subject of Col. Wharton's detention, and any other duties which may have accumulated in my absence.

Gen. Richd G Dunlap will bear you this or a duplicate of it, who has stated to me that he will cheerfully join our service, and there is no gentleman in these States who I would sooner see in the service of the Government of Texas, and none with whom I should be more delighted to be associated. Gen Dunlap, in joining our cause, will give up as flattering political prospects as any gentleman, not in office, who has left this Republic; but comments in relation to him are unnecessary; as his Excellency, the President, and yourself are acquainted with his character and know him personally.

I have the honor, to be,  
with the highest consideration  
your obedient servant

MEMUCAN HUNT

To

HONBL. J. P. HENDERSON  
*Secretary of the State of the Republic of Texas*

Copy.

U. STATES BRANDON, MI,  
*May 25th 1837*

To

THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA RAIL ROAD  
BANKING COMPANY AT BRANDON:

GENTLEMEN:—

It having been suggested to me that you would probably be induced to make a loan of several Hundred Thousand Dollars to the government of Texas, if it be desired, and the Notes of the Institution over which you preside should be received by the officers of that Government for public dues, I take the liberty, as a citizen of Texas, of suggesting to your honorable body, that such a proposition, even if it is not acceded to, would be a most welcom[e] evidence of the kind disposition and confidence you repose in the stability of the Government, and will doubtless have, as it should, the effect of producing a preference there for the circulation of your issues over those of similar standing and situation in this republic. I therefore recommend most respectfully, as an individual, your deliberation and action upon this subject, as one from which my government and your institution may derive reciprocal advantages.

I have the honor to be etc. etc  
(Signed)

MEMUCAN HUNT

Copy.

## BANK MISSISSIPPI AND ALA R ROAD COMPANY

*Brandon May 25/37*

HON. MEMUCAN HUNT

DR SIR,

Your highly esteemed favor of this date to the President and Directors of this Company advising us that you had heard suggestions that this company would probably be willing to loan a portion of her issues to the Republic of Texas, has been received and I have lost no time in submitting your communication to the Board of Directors, who have had the same under consideration, and have instructed me to reply, that we have watched with great anxiety the heroic struggle of Texas for liberty and independence, and that we rejoice in believing that she has attained that great object: and that her independence, as well as her future prosperity and happiness, which must inevitably follow is now placed on permanent and invulnerable grounds—and that nothing would afford us more pleasure than to have it in our power to comply with your suggestion in relation to the loan; or to do any thing which might tend to the advancement of so heroic a people. But, my dear Sir, you are aware of the unexampled pecuniary embarrassments which now hang over our country, and the great derangement every where felt in the fiscal concerns of the United States. This, in connexion with the infancy of our institution and the caution enforced upon us by the times, in the extension of our issues, alone prevents us at this time in entering upon the proposed negotiation.

Allow us to remark that we have the utmost confidence in the credit and ability of your Government; and that in case we should experience a favourable change, which we fondly anticipate at a day not far distant, in the fiscal affairs of our beloved State, and your Government should then wish to enter into an arrangement with this institution for a portion of our issues, and make the same current in Texas by receiving and paying it out for public dues, and will make to us a proposition predicated on a payment to us in specie funds; or upon some other basis, by which each party may be mutually benefited, we will take great pride in serving to the extent of our ability so patriotic, meritorious and chivalrous a people—believing that in so doing we are sustaining the cause of liberty and independence; and the interest of this institution.

Allow me, Sir, to add the assurance of our best wishes for your own health and prosperity.

Very Respectfully  
Yr Ob Servt

Signed S W SHELTON *Prest.*



HUNT TO HENDERSON.<sup>a</sup>No. 3.<sup>b</sup>

U. S.

*Vicksburg Mi June 1st 1837*

DEAR SIR,

I am indebted to my friend, Mr W F Ritchie for the perusal of the message of his Excellency the President. The subject of the removal of the Caddo Indians upon our Territory to which he alludes; and the failure on the part of this government to allot and enforce a specific settlement within its jurisdiction, after procuring their removal from where they are, will receive my immediate attention after reaching Washington.

Our demands upon the subject of the station of an adequate force upon the frontier to keep in check these Indians has been complied with by the U. States.

The temporary treaty proposed to be adopted by the U. States I hope most sincerely has been agreed to, as should we not be annexed it would be best to be untrammled in our connexions with this nation and the relations which are proposed to be entered into by this Government can be maintained until the question of annexation is settled with advantage to our government.

I have the honor to remain  
with the most distinguished  
consideration and esteem

Your obedient sv't

MEMUCAN HUNT

To

Honbl. J. P. HENDERSON  
*Secretary of State of  
the Republic of Texas*

CATLETT TO HENDERSON.<sup>c</sup>

Despatch No. 18.

TEXIAN LEGATION  
WASHINGTON CITY  
*June 10th, 1837*

SIR,

Having nothing better to communicate at present, it has occurred to me that some account of this Legation would not be unacceptable

<sup>a</sup>L. S.<sup>b</sup>No. 22 on the books of the legation at Washington. On the back is written the name of the bearer, Mr. S. B. W. Rudder. See Hunt to Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, July 11, 1837.<sup>c</sup>A. L. S., endorsed "Reed. Aug. 8th, 1837."

to you. Indeed, I have thought it would be proper to make a brief report of the contingent expenses of the legation, in order that you may be apprised of the amount already incurred, and at the same time have some data to go upon in forming an estimate of what would be a proper annual allowance for such expenses. I have moreover deemed it advisable to render you some account of myself not from any selfish considerations, but as the best mode of making you acquainted with the nature of our footing at this Court, and that you may likewise form an opinion as to how far the interests of Texas have been promoted or injured by my department, since the departure of Messrs Wharton and Hunt.

Although I was anxious to return to Texas immediately after the recognition of our independence, yet, as our Ministers were not formally received as such, and they could not continue here waiting upon the pleasure of this Government, without injury to Texas and some sacrifice of dignity on their own part, but as letters were daily arriving and it was indispensable that some one should remain to attend to the business of the Legation and keep the door open between the two Governments, I therefore consented to continue here in my humble capacity, unrecognized as it was, and patiently await Genl. Hunt's return and the arrival of the new credentials.

Having no power to open negotiations with any of the foreign Ministers, I have carefully avoided creating any prejudice against such as might hereafter be started; and not being formally recognised as Secretary of Legation or Chargé, personal pride has prevented me from seeking an intercourse with them, or intruding myself upon them as a member of the Diplomatic Corps. While therefore I have not enjoyed the honor of an intercourse with them, I flatter myself that I have done nothing to militate in any manner against the good feeling which should be encouraged between this and other Legations near the Government of the United States.

As the feeling on the part of the people of this country in behalf of Texas was confessedly very strong, and the Government had already compromitted itself by the act of recognition; sound policy, I thought dictated a perfectly modest and unobtrusive line of deportment, not only as the best way of preserving that good feeling unimpaired, but also of securing the rights of this Legation, when the proper time should arrive for asserting them. It was a delicate and unpleasant situation to be placed in. I was not willing to commit any of the rights of the office, which I had the honor of holding, and yet it was necessary to act in such manner, as to afford no room for impertinence or ground of offence by appearing too sensitive about them. I thought it best, therefore, as no good could be done

by pushing myself forward among the Magnates of Washington, but much injury might result in case of impertinence on their part, (and nothing invites impertinence sooner than unacknowledged pretensions) to seclude myself from general society as far as possible. Whenever I have had business with the Secretary of State, I have transacted it with a proper regard to what was due to him as an honorable functionary of the United States, and to my humble self as your virtual representative here. I have given no dinners, not only because I had not the means, but because I conceive it to be good policy, for the time being, to avoid every thing like diplomatic parade. I have been an observer of the measures of this administration and a looker on upon the struggles of contending parties, frequently a listener to the political opinions of American Statesmen, but have always declined interfering in their political discussions, or expressing my own convictions except on topics connected with Texian interests.

You will perceive then that if I have not materially aided the good disposition of this Government towards us, although unpleasantly situated, I have done nothing either to lessen that good disposition, or to derogate from the proper standing of this Legation, and if you agree with me in thinking that, by pursuing a negative and retiring course of conduct, I have better subserved the true interests of Texas, than I could possibly have done by blazoning myself abroad as the Texian Secretary of Legation, I shall not regret any little vexation of spirit I may have endured at the thought of having been only tolerated here in an honorable but still an unacknowledged capacity. At the same time to prevent misapprehension, perhaps it would be well for me to mention that I have had no cause for complaint on the score of coolness or inattention.

I have been induced to give you this brief account of myself by a belief that it was proper that I should do so, and that the President would like to be informed as to the present relative standing of this Legation.

Copies have been kept of all despatches transmitted to you and of all correspondence with this Government as well as with the Texian Consuls and Agents and other individuals, where it was of any importance that copies should be preserved.

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I have the honor to subjoin for your information a copy of the contingent expenses of this Legation up to the 8th. June. A similar copy up to the 13th. March, was made out and transmitted to Col.

\* The matter omitted here relates to Catlett's salary and allowances.

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Wharton at New Orleans, which he received but in consequence of his capture I presume has never reached you.

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I have the honor to be,  
with great consideration,  
Your Obedient Servant,

FAIRFAX CATLETT  
*Secretary of Legation.*

Honorable J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON  
*Secretary of State.*

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

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CATLETT TO HENDERSON.<sup>c</sup>

Despatch No. 19.

TEXIAN LEGATION,  
WASHINGTON CITY—  
*June 17th. 1837.*

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit to you the following copy of a communication from the Department of State of the United States, complaining of the Republic of Texas on the ground of its having established a Land Office within the limits of the State of Arkansas.

With great consideration, I remain  
Your Obedient Servant,

FAIRFAX CATLETT

Hon'ble J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

<sup>a</sup> Here follows a rather lengthy account of the contingent expenses of the legation, the notes to which contain one or two items of considerable interest. Concerning a portrait of G. W. Custis by King which was painted for the legation, Catlett says, "This portrait was ordered (as I was told by Col Wharton) by himself, Genl. Austin and Dr. Archer. It is now suspended in the office of the Legation, and will be forwarded to Texas by the first safe opportunity." In another note he adds, "At the joint solicitation of Col. Wharton and Genl. Hunt, Senators Preston and Walker consented to have their busts taken by Mr. Powers. They will be executed in marble, Col. Wharton paying for Mr. Preston's and Genl. Hunt for Mr. Walker's." It seems reasonably certain that the picture was never sent, nor is it possible here to say what has become of it. As to the busts, the uncertainty extends even to their execution; but there is now in possession of Mr. Hunt's widow a bust of himself made by Powers at about the same time.

<sup>b</sup> June 17, 1837. See Catlett to Henderson, June 17, 1837.

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington [City,] 17th. June 1837.

To FAIRFAX CATLETT, *Esquire,*  
*etc. etc. etc.*

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that a letter was received at this Department a few days since from the Executive of Arkansas, stating that the Republic of Texas had, by an Act of its Legislature, proceeded to lay off a series of land districts within its own limits, and had further provided for the establishment of a district embracing one entire county and a greater part of another belonging to Arkansas, which Act it was said was to be executed at once and a land office under the control of the Texian Republic to be forthwith established in the County of Miller in the State of Arkansas. This information has been received with great surprise, the more especially as provision was made by Congress at its last session for running the boundary line between the two countries. During the unsettled state of this line, the Government of the United States has carefully refrained from extending the limits of its occupation in that quarter, and I have now the honor to request that you will forthwith apprise the Government of Texas that while the question is pending, no encroachment can be permitted upon the territory occupied by the United States.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JOHN FORSYTH

P. S. It appears from the above letter 1st. That a considerable portion of the first land district is already actually occupied by the United States. 2nd. That until the boundary line is settled, the United States are determined to hold on to all the land at present in its occupancy. The sooner therefore the question is settled the better it will be for Texas. And would it not be as easy a way as any other in answering that letter to appoint a Commissioner to meet one on the part of the United States to run the disputed line forthwith?

IRION TO MASON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
City of Houston, June 22nd 1837.

SIR,

I am instructed by the President to address you this communication on the subject of the annexation of this Republic to that of the U. States

Your long acquaintance in the U. States with prominent and influential politicians of that country, and the interest you must feel for the success and prosperity of both, has induced the belief that your services, at Washington City, during the discussions that will shortly take place there on the subject of annexation, will be beneficial to this country. You are therefore requested, and hereby authorized and empowered to act, privately, in conjunction with our resident Minister there (Gen. Hunt) and consult him on all matters touching our relations with that Government; and especially to urge, and for that purpose employ every means in your power, to effect a speedy annexation.

I feel assured that you will perform this service with fidelity and zeal when you reflect on the importance of the measure and the immense benefits that will flow from its consummation.

This is, perhaps, the only time when so desirable an end can be accomplished, for the question will necessarily become more and more embarrassed as our engagements with that, and other powers multiply; which may in a short time increase to such an extent as to render it entirely impracticable. In order to prevent any misunderstanding, in the next despatch to Washington our Minister will be notified that you are thus empowered to consult and act with him.

I have the honor to be

Your Obt. Servant

R. A. IRION

*Sec'y of State*

Gen. JOHN T. MASON

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IRION TO HUNT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*City of Houston, June 26th, 1837.*

SIR,

Gen. John T. Mason is authorised by this Government to act in conjunction with you, privately, and consult you on all subjects touching our diplomatic relations with the U. S. Government. From his experience and long personal acquaintance with many of the politicians of the U. States it is believed that he will be enabled to render important aid in effecting the great and paramount object—Annexation.

You will confer freely with him on all such matters.

Respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

R. A. IRION

*Sec'y. of State*

HON. M. HUNT

*Washington City*