

## IRION TO HUNT.

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

To the Hon.

MEMUCAN HUNT,

Sir,

I am instructed by the President to call yr. attention to the various subjects embraced in his communication.

At the late session of Congress a resolution was passed authorising the President to appoint a Commissioner to act with a corresponding one on the part of the U. States to define and mark the boundary line between the two Governments. It is desired that you will bring this subject before the authorities at Washington, and urge the appointment of a commissioner for this purpose; and fix the time for their meeting on the Sabine.

In negotiating on this subject you will be governed by the stipulations of the Treaty of limits entered into by Spain and the U. States of North America in the year 1819; and the subsequent ones between the latter Power and Mexico, ratifying the same. This treaty enjoins that the line shall commence at the mouth of the Sabine, run up that stream to the 32nd. degree of North Latitude; thence due north to Red River, according to *Malisha's*<sup>a</sup> *Map*, on which conditions you will insist.

It is not, at the present time, intended to run this line farther than Red River. Owing to the provision that the General Land Office shall open on the 1st. of October next, agreeably to existing laws, it becomes very important that this line should be defined previously to that time if practicable, for it should be the base of the surveys in that quarter. In a very short time after notification this Government can have a commissioner on the spot.

Another subject connected with this, is Coffee's Trading House on Red River. He is, doubtless, within the limits of this Republic, being West of the 100th. degree of W. Longitude from London. This trade tends to keep up and encourage the depredations of the hostile Indians on our North Western Border, by affording them, relatively, a good market for horses and other property forced from the frontier inhabitants; thus presenting to the cupidity of those wily savages, at all times, strong temptations to murder, robbery and theft; which they are now perpetrating to an extent that renders it necessary to send an expensive expedition against them. You will remonstrate with that Government and endeavor to effect his removal by the authorities thereof.

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

The Cadoes, a daring and enterprising North American Tribe, who have obtruded themselves into our Territory in flagrant violation of treaty stipulations between Mexico and the U. States, seem to be the leaders of those hostile Bands. You will again earnestly solicit the early attention of that Government to this subject; and offer as a theatre for Military operations, should they attempt their removal from Texas, a free passage for troops as far as the Trinity; and the privilege of establishing depots, Garrisons etc. any where east of that River; in which event provisions may be transported in keel, or small Steam Boats up the Naches and Trinity for their supply.

Another subject and by far the most important of all on which I have been instructed to communicate is that of *Annexation*. You will renew the application for this purpose, and urge as speedy action thereon as possible.

On the success of this measure our permanent prosperity, and, perhaps, existence as an organised Government, mainly depends.

The longer it is delayed the more we will be trammelled by foreign obligations and treaties, which will obviously tend to increase the difficulties to be encountered in the consummation of that desirable end; and finally place us beyond the reach of that remedy (which we hope is now in our power) which will heal our numerous political afflictions, create stability, confidence and harmony among the people, thereby leading directly to the most happy results. It is useless for us to deceive ourselves on this subject, and it becomes my duty to inform you that the situation of the country is deplorable. We are without credit abroad and our resources are exhausted at home; and things generally are veering towards anarchy, violence and insubordination. Annexation is the remedy, and it is expected that you will exert yourself to effect it.

In discussing this subject you will refer, for information, to the instructions to the Hon. Wm. H. Wharton, by the late Secretary of State, S. F. Austin, bearing date 18th. Nov. 1836. It is ample in its details, presents a clear view of the situation of the Republic and the wishes of the people.

Your communication to the President, dated Vicksburg, June, 1st. inst. together with other letters therein named have been received, and referred to the proper Departments.

It is supposed that the Hon. William H. Wharton was the bearer of important Despatches to this Government—they may be lost. If so you will forward copies of the same as early as possible.

Rumor says a Charge d' Affaires and Commissioner to run the boundary line have been appointed of which we have had no official information. Is it true? Since writing the above Despatch No 17

from Mr. Catlett, Secretary of Legation, dated Washington City, May the 25th. 1837, was received, with regard to which I have to observe that the President left yesterday for Nacogdoches, on business connected with the indian expedition, and I do not feell competent to authorise the modification of the instructions alluded to; but I am confident, should there be any objection to our admission as a State that it will be satisfactory to go in as a Territory; and that this modification will be authorised when the President returns. I am clearly of opinion that the true interests of Texas would be promoted to a greater extent by being annexed to the U. States as a Territory than as a sovereign State. Independently of treaty stipulations the liberality, wisdom and justice of the Judiciary of that country will afford a strong guarantee for the protection of all rights acquired under laws existing anteriorly to such admission.

Under every aspect of the case it is necessary that a speedy decision of the U. S's Government on this subject should be known.

One of the most striking reasons, is, that our *condition* imperiously demands that we must be intimately associated with some strong power, to whom in forming an advantageous treaty, important concessions of privileges will have to be granted. Our Agent, Gen. Henderson has gone to Europe whose instructions will depend much upon the course adopted by the U. States. The solicitude thus expressed does not originate from any particular apprehension of the Enemy's efforts against us; but is owing to the difficulties consequent upon a small population scattered over an immense territory, sustaining a separate Government without means, credit, or even harmony among themselves.

Such candor and my duty, as the official organ of the Government, require me to inform you is our situation. Visionary schemes of a glorious Republic are less calculated to advance the true interests of our Country than the practical common sense proposition to become a part of a great nation firmly established; and participate in common with their security, prosperity and happiness.

I forward you herewith a copy of the instructions mentioned as having been misplaced at Washington.\*

Respectfully Yr.

Obt. Servant.

R. A. IRION  
*Sec'y of State*

Hon. M. HUNT  
*Minister Plenipotentiary of  
R. Texas, Washington City D. C.*

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\*This must refer to what was said in Catlett to Henderson, May 25, 1837, in that part of the letter under the date May 27.

HUNT TO FORSYTH.<sup>a</sup>DAYTON TO HUNT.<sup>b</sup>HUNT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS  
[IRION].<sup>c</sup>Despatch No. 23.<sup>d</sup>TEXIAN LEGATION,  
WASHINGTON CITY,  
*July 11th. 1837.*

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that I reached this city on the 26th. ultimo, after a fatiguing journey from Vicksburg. I found Mr. Secretary Catlett absent on a visit to his parents, but I have the pleasure of stating that he is now with me and in excellent health.

On the 1st. instant, I addressed a note to the Secretary of State, of which the following is a copy.

TEXIAN LEGATION,  
WASHINGTON CITY,  
*July 1st. 1837.*

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that, in compliance with the desire of His Excellency the President of the United States communicated in your note of the 13th. of March, I made immediate application to my Government for letters credential in the proper form, the receipt of which I have the pleasure to communicate, and herewith transmit a copy of, and request that you will do me the honor to take the orders of his Excellency the President as to the delivery of the original and communicate the same as early as may be convenient.

I have the honor to renew the expressions of my most distinguished consideration and esteem.

MEMUCAN HUNT.

Honorable  
JOHN FORSYTH  
*Secretary of State of the United States.*

<sup>a</sup> July 1, 1837. See Hunt to Secretary of State, Republic of Texas, July 11, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> July 3, 1837. See Hunt to Secretary of State, Republic of Texas, July 11, 1837.

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

<sup>d</sup> Hunt's three despatches from Vicksburg were numbered at Washington, respectively, 21, 22, and 23.

Reply.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Washington [City,] 3d. July '37.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 1st. instant, enclosing a copy of your letter of credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Texas to the United States, and requesting the appointment of a time for the delivery of the original. In reply, I have the honor, by the President's direction to state, that he will be happy to receive you for that purpose at 12 o'clock on thursday next, the 6th. instant. If, therefore, you will call at this Department at a quarter before 12 on that day, I will do myself the honor to accompany you to the President's.

I have the honor to be

Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,

H. O. DAYTON,  
*Acting Sec. of State.*

To His Excellency  
 General MEMUCAN HUNT.  
 etc etc etc.

At the appointed time, I was introduced as the accredited Minister of the Republic of Texas, and I will now proceed to lay before you a statement of what transpired between the President, the acting Secretary of State, and myself, during the interesting ceremony of my presentation.

Mr. Forsyth, the Secretary of State, being absent, the courtesies of the Department devolved upon his Chief Clerk, who, according to previous arrangements, accompanied me to the house of the President at twelve o'clock on thursday the 6th. We found his Excellency alone, and I was immediately presented. He received me with the usual salutation of shaking hands, and after a momentary pause, I addressed him as follows.

[“] Mr. President,

I have the honor to present to your Excellency a letter from the President of the Republic of Texas, appointing me Minister near this Government. I am particularly instructed by President Houston to express the high personal regard he entertains for you, and the deep solicitude, which he feels for your health and happiness, and to assure you of the warm and devoted attachment of the President and the people of Texas for the Government and citizens of the United States. Speaking, Sir, the same language, with the same peculiar domestic relations, being the same in blood, and indeed in

every thing calculated to unite two people—I am instructed to express an ardent hope, that nearer relations than those of harmonious diplomatic intercourse will ere long exist. I embrace this occasion to express to your Excellency my profound thanks for the kindness and consideration, with which you have been pleased to honor me, since my arrival here last winter.”

The President replied to me with great dignity, and much at length, warmly reciprocating the feelings I had expressed, and concluded by inviting me to an interchange with the Secretary of State upon the business of my mission, assuring me, in the last few words, “that such negotiations as might be entered into by Texas and the United States, he had no doubt would be accompanied with the highest satisfaction to both countries, so long as one like myself represented the Government of Texas.”

I was exceedingly gratified with the ceremony, and really more embarrassed by the plain republican simplicity of the President of the United States, than, I could possibly have been by all the pomp and pride of the oldest monarchy in the world. We enjoyed some moments of conversation as to the affairs of Texas; after which I arose and departed, feeling, I trust, justly proud of having been the humble instrument of this, the formal recognition of the sovereignty of my country.

I wrote you from Vicksburg three despatches, numbered 1. 2. 3., which, in the archives of this office, will be numbered 20, 21, 22;—which I forwarded by Mr. Rudder. The zeal of that gentleman for whatever is of interest to Texas, added to his industry and energy, I have no doubt caused their delivery at as early a period as was practicable. Mr. Secretary Catlett, in the mean time, has communicated to you every thing of importance in relation to the transactions with this Government. In compliance with your instructions of the 12th of May, I will defer making any committal to this Government upon the subject of Treaty stipulations, until I shall receive farther instructions thereupon from you.

I found Genl. Arbuckle here on my arrival, and as he is commander of the forces of the United States, stationed on our North-Eastern frontier, I sought to converse with him upon the subject of the Indians and their depredations. He computes the whole number of warriors in the following tribes on the Red River at no more than five or six hundred—The Caddoes, Runaway, Cherokees, Kickapoos, Shawnees and Delawares. He assured me that the strictest watch should be kept over them and every thing within his power done to prevent their depredations. He says that the Caddoes do not count more than from 130 to 150 warriors. The Cherokee Chiefs of the main Tribe have very friendly feelings, but the Creeks, he thinks,

are disposed to be turbulent and to effect a settlement between the Brasos and Red River. He states that when the latter Tribe left the East side of the Mississippi, some of the Chiefs were heard to say, that they would go for the present to Arkansas, but that their arms should, at an early day, procure for them a home in Texas. Owing however to a want of concert among themselves and the strict watch, which is and will continue to be kept over them, General Arbuckle thinks, that no apprehensions of injury need be entertained by the people of Texas.

I now beg leave to call your attention to a somewhat extended view of the question of our annexation. The causes likely to operate both for and against us, I will endeavor to state frankly to you, and trust that the great importance of the matters in issue will be an ample excuse for any prolixity I may commit.

Although in my dispatch (No 1. Vicksburg, No 20. here) I urged a secret mission to Great Britain, I am now convinced that the appointment on our part of a minister to England is the most fortunate movement we could possibly have made: The mere announcement of the fact in the papers of this country has already produced a most favorable effect, especially in the Southern States, where the people are and ever have been unanimously in favour of a speedy annexation of Texas. In that section of the Union, indeed, so strong is the feeling in our favour, that I venture to predict an open rupture against the Government, if the Northern enemies of Texas should gain the ascendancy in Congress. This appointment of a minister to England on our part is a plain intimation, that we do not look upon annexation as a matter of course, and the South, thus perceiving that there is some danger of our loss, will, I confidently believe, present an unbroken line of resistance against any administration which may be anti-Texian in its policy. From every thing I have seen and heard, I believe that were the alternatives presented of the dissolution of the Union or the loss of Texas, the people, south of the Potomac, would be nearly unanimous for the first. They are united to us by the strongest ties of a common interest, a common origin, and a common history, and in this age of fanaticism on the subject of slavery, they will force their Government to adopt us, or they will create a new order of things. I am sanguine in the opinion, that the administration will be compelled to make the annexation of Texas a leading measure.

You will readily perceive that the increasing difficulties between this country and Mexico will continue to produce the most favorable results. The United States and Texas, already united by a thousand sympathies, now find themselves still more closely bound together by the conviction, that they are the common objects of the bitter hatred and threatened revenge of the people and government of Mexico,

and although all hope to recognize us is here looked upon as vain and as nugatory as would be a war against this country, still these constant threats of vengeance directed alike against them both, are not without a most powerful and to us favorable effect with the people and the Government of the United States.

The disbanding of our army has shown to the world, that we are well aware not only of our own strength but of the weakness of the enemy. The distracted and factious condition of Mexico, the poverty of her treasury and the mercenary character of her soldiery are matters of signal notoriety here, as well as in Texas, and I believe I may confidently assert, that the people and government of this country are as confident of our security from a reconquest by Mexico, as we ourselves can be. The ministers of foreign powers resident here, communicating to their respective courts the confidence, which this Government and this people have in our stability and security, will thus prepare the way for any foreign negotiation, which may be ultimately necessary by producing favourable impressions, respecting us abroad.

I had the pleasure to forward to you by Mr. Rudder in a newspaper the report of the select committee of the Legislature of Mississippi on the subject of the immediate annexation of Texas, to which newspaper and to which report I refer you for the feelings and views of the people of that patriotic State. I was requested by the distinguished chairman of that Committee to prepare the report, which, with the aid of one other gentleman I did, and I am happy to inform you, that it has already had its effect here. The official paper viz. the *Globe*, to the columns of which we are deeply indebted for the most able and constant support in noticing the report and resolutions stated, they were unanimously adopted; underscoring the word *unanimously*.

In the report above alluded to, you will perceive, due notice is taken of the course pursued by Mr. Webster, who it would seem, has already taken the field for the Presidency of this Union. I regret exceedingly to state that the proposed course of this gentleman and his friends, it is understood, will be decidedly hostile to the cause of Texas. He has already made up the issue upon the question of slavery and raised the cry of southern preponderance in the councils of the Union. His influence lies in the northern and middle States, and is dominant nowhere except in Massachusetts and Vermont. What he may be able to do with the existing subject of slavery among the members of Congress, representing non-slave-holding states, I cannot say, but we derive from his violent opposition our most important benefit—the *warm and unanimous support of the whole south*.

It seems to be generally understood that the cabinet of the President is sectionally divided as to the annexation of Texas, but I have from



good authority, that the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Woodbury, has declared his willingness to sustain the views of the President, and, in this event, we shall have a majority of one in a council vote. The present condition of this country, distracted in its finances by the universal stoppage of specie payments, is well calculated to gain for us the favorable consideration of the President. The party opposed to his administration ascribe to him and his predecessor all the pecuniary disasters of the times, and there can be no doubt but that the clamor on this subject has within the last few months seriously weakened the Jackson party of the Union. In New York and Pennsylvania, where the President was considered invincible, recent events seem to be ominous of a final defeat. In the South too, every thing depends upon the course of the President as to the subject of Slavery, and it seems to be generally conceded that nothing would so much strengthen his party in that quarter of the Union, as decided and hearty support of the annexation of Texas. I have thought it not an unwise plan to encourage the impression, that, in the event of our annexation, our people would give their support to that administration, under whose zeal and auspices they were brought into the Union, and I am convinced of the favorable results of such intimations. Indeed I have been informally assured by a distinguished friend of the President, that he stood ready as soon as the friends of Texas were well organized to come out decidedly in favour of annexation, and to throw the whole weight of his influence into Congress to achieve this grand result. I think too, I can plainly perceive, that he is ambitious to distinguish his administration by such an accession of territory and power to the Union, and I think I may safely say, that the people of Texas will not be ungrateful for the distinguished honor of his hearty support. You will perceive from these remarks, that our annexation will be supported by the whole south, (without I confidently believe a division) and by the party influence of the President in the Northern and middle States, and that it will be opposed by those people of the latter named States, who are opposed to the President, to the peculiar institutions of the South, and to the further advance of the great principles of American Government. Notwithstanding the boasted ability of Mr. Webster, I am assured of success, and shall feel myself called upon for higher exertions to ensure the defeat of so powerful an adversary.

I beg leave respectfully to suggest the propriety of authorizing me in the event of the subject of annexation being brought immediately before the approaching Congress, to employ some efficient and able person, *having influence* with the members of the non-slave-holding states, to counteract the intrigues of Mr. Webster and the enemies of Texas. I will of course exert every means and power I possess, but it is notorious, that we Texians are watched with suspicion by many

of the people of the Eastern and Middle States, and that we are openly and shamefully abused by the press and the party of Mr. Webster. I accordingly repeat that a well paid, efficient, and if you please, secret agent, acting under my directions and having influence with the members of the non slave holding States, would be a most important enablement unto the success of our cause.

I beg leave, likewise, most respectfully to suggest, that as the party, known in this country as the Northern fanatics, are open and constant in their violent denunciation of Texas, it is not only impracticable, but absolutely inexpedient to attempt any thing like conciliation. We may endanger, by any such course, that firm, devoted and enthusiastic unanimity of the South, which is, indeed, our main support. I, of course, have no reference, in these remarks, to the well timed message of His Excellency Genl. Houston, upon the subject of the slave trade from other places than the United States, which, I am happy to say, meets my most cordial approbation.

I shall not fail to avail myself of every circumstance, calculated to aid the cause of our annexation, and I assure you, I shall exert myself, both officially and privately, to produce the most favorable impressions respecting us, not only with the people and Government of this country, but the Diplomatic Representatives of Foreign powers near this Government. In conclusion, I have the honor to state officially, that Mr. La Branche will be despatched as *Chargé d'Affaires* from this Govt. to Texas as soon as Mr. Forsyth shall have returned.

With every sentiment of regard and consideration. I have the honor to be

Your most obedient servant—

MEMUCAN HUNT

To the

Honorable SECRETARY OF STATE  
of the Republic of Texas

IRION TO HUNT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*City of Houston, 14th. July 1837.*

To the Hon.

MEMUCAN HUNT,

*Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Texas,  
Washington City.*

SIR,

I have the honor hereby to acknowledge the receipt of a communication, dated Washington, 17th. June, ultimo, (being dispatch No 19)

from Fairfax Catlett, Esqr. Secretary of legation, with a copy of a letter from Mr. Forsyth, Secretary of State of the U States, addressed to said legation, on the subject of the land District on Red River, recently established by an Act of the Congress of this Republic, in the Territory under the jurisdiction of the State of Arkansas. It is true that the citizens of Miller County of that State have elected and sent members to the Congress of this Republic, who have been permitted to participate in the legislation thereof; and a land District [has been] established by said act for the purpose of extending to them titles by this Government to lands of that County. In regard to this subject I have to inform you that the President is still absent at Nacogdoches, and I do not feel authorized to give any positive instructions thereon; but will submit the same promptly to his consideration when he shall return. It is certainly a matter of much importance to both governments; and this despatch is the first official information that has been received of the appointment of a commissioner on the part of the U. States to run the boundary line. The President has not made the appointments necessary to carry said land law into operation; and since this remonstrance is made by the U. States I am confident he will not make them, so far as said district is concerned, until the question of boundary shall be definitively settled. I would, moreover, remark that this Government has no disposition to adopt any measures calculated to disturb the friendly relations that now exist between the two countries, nor persevere in a course tending in the remotest degree to lay the foundation for such a result; which assurances you will respectfully make to that Government. If they claim as citizens the inhabitants occupying that territory, and deem it improper for them to legislate in this Republic *they* certainly have it in their power to restrain them, until it shall be determined whether they owe allegiance to the U. States or to Texas. The constitution of this Republic, which is the paramount law where its provisions are specific, guarantees to the people of Miller, or Red River County, where said land district is situated, the right of representation in the Congress thereof; of which privilege they cannot be deprived unless by an order of that Government. Despatch No. 18 has not been received.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir, Your Obt. Servant

R. A. IRION  
*Sec'y of State*

P. S. I addressed you on the 26th. ultimo, at which period no official information had been received relative to the Chargé d'Affaires, or Commissioner to run the boundary line; and the only official intelligence on the subject of those appointments is the incidental reference to it in the communication of the 17th. June.

MASON TO IRION.<sup>a</sup>NACOGDOCHES, *July 15, 1837*

To The Hon. R. A. IRION  
*Secretary of State*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 25th ult, communicating the request of the President that I would associate myself, *privately*, with the Texan Minister at Washington, during the approaching session of Congress, in the furtherance of negotiations which may exist between the two governments, and especially that I use every exertion to effect the annexation of Texas to the United States.

You justly estimate the deep interest I take in the prosperity of Texas; and as a sure guarantee of that prosperity, I have always ardently desired this annexation. It will therefore be highly gratifying to me to aid in accomplishing this object, and I shall repair to Washington as early as practicable (consistent with engagements already made) and give to the resident minister my hearty cooperation.

But as this service will be voluntary, embracing no official station, I must be left to judge when my efforts shall cease to be useful, and when to retire from it.

I have the honor to be  
 very respectfully  
 your obt. St

JOHN T. MASON

HUNT TO FORSYTH.<sup>b</sup>HENDERSON TO HOUSTON.<sup>c</sup>

N. ORLEANS

*July 20th 1837*

DR GENL

After a long and tedious passage we arrived in this city on the 16th and will leave on tomorrow for Mobile We find Texas rather in better credit here than we expected to find it

Major Allen has been busily engaged in settling with Mr. Toby with whom he gets along admirably well. That Mr Toby has done some things wrong I have no doubt but truly I believe he has done as well as any other person could have done under the circumstances and

<sup>a</sup>A. L. S.<sup>b</sup> July 18, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

certainly better than any other agent has which has come within my knowledge. Therefore allow me to request you *not to curse him any more until you hear all*, however a *dam* occasionally may do no harm.

Since I arrived here I have discovered secretly that it is the design of Mr Plummer to make use of the letters of Marque and Reprisal which you have promised him to cause a Lawless invasion of Mexico commencing at Matamoros and extending to Tampico etc and that Genl. Felix<sup>a</sup> is to head the band. Now I would not have you to refuse the letters etc but I do believe that bad consequences would result to the character of Texas if the letters of Marque are not accompanied with such instructions and Limitations as will prevent the proceedings which are intended by land.

A fine steam ship has been purchased for the above purpose which would be a great protection to our commerce if properly conducted under Letters etc.

There has been no late arrival here from Mexico which brings news of importance.

I fear from what I can learn here that we may prepare for a separate existence as a Republic, if so I expect that several years will elapse before our country will be as prospering as its friends desire.

Your brother left here on yesterday: I have met many of your friends who enquire anxiously concerning your health etc etc. Genl Dunlap is here and will leave for Texas in a few days. Remember me to Richardson. I have been very unwell ever since I left Houston.

Your Friend

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

P. S.

Pardon me for neglecting to mention, *Mrs. Houstons* name, please give to her my compliments as I hope she accompanied you down to the Capital.

J P H

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FORSYTH TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF TEXAS [Irion].<sup>b</sup>

[Asks credence for Chargé d'Affaires Alcée La Branche.]

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FORSYTH TO HUNT.<sup>c</sup>

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

<sup>a</sup> General Felix Huston, who was in command of the Texan army in the latter part of 1836 and early in 1837.

<sup>b</sup> L. S., July 21, 1837. Endorsed "rec'd 26 Octr 1837."

<sup>c</sup> Two letters, both dated July 24, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> July 26, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

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

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

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FORSYTH TO HUNT.<sup>c</sup>

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KENDALL TO STAYNER.<sup>d</sup>

[Giving a detailed plan for the government of postal intercourse between the United States and the Canadas, which was doubtless intended for use in devising a similar plan for that between the United States and Texas.]

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

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HUNT TO FORSYTH.<sup>f</sup>

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

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HUNT TO IRION.<sup>h</sup>

Despatch No. 24.

TEXIAN LEGATION  
WASHINGTON CITY

4th. August 1837.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 26th. June ultimo, containing a copy of the general instructions. The particular instructions contained in your despatch shall receive my special attention. For my views at some length upon the subject of annexation I refer you to my last official letter, dated July 11th. number 23. Herewith, I enclose you a copy of my correspondence with this government since I wrote to you last, and hope it may be satisfactory to his Excellency, the President.

I have this day presented to the Honorable John Forsyth, Secretary of State of the United States, a communication of twenty odd

<sup>a</sup> July 28, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

<sup>b</sup> July 29, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

<sup>c</sup> July 31, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

<sup>d</sup> August 1, 1837; probably inclosed with Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837. The writer was Amos Kendall, Postmaster-General of the United States, and the person addressed was T. A. Stayner, deputy postmaster-general of British North America.

<sup>e</sup> August 3, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

<sup>f</sup> August 4, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 10, 1837.

<sup>g</sup> August 4, 1837. See Hunt to Irion, August 4, 1837.

<sup>h</sup> L. S.

pages in length, asking the consideration of this government upon the subject of annexing Texas to the United States, a copy of which will be forwarded to you in a few days. I still entertain the hope that we shall be annexed, but the course of the official paper here is in no way encouraging. In my last despatch (No. 23) I mentioned this paper in a very complimentary manner, and showed what I had written to my friend and relation, Mr. Joseph S. Jones of North Carolina, who is very intimate with Mr. Blair and who promised me that he would communicate the fact to him, which he accordingly did. This was done with a view to cause this Editor to take a position for us upon the subject of annexation, but he has failed to do so, or even to publish anything much calculated to benefit us, and the remarks made in my despatch have as yet failed to produce the effect I had hoped for. I must therefore withdraw what I said in relation to the immediate aid to be expected from that paper. It is proper however for me to remark, that the private opinions of the Editor, Mr. Blair, are decidedly in favor of annexation, but he has been instructed by the Executive to maintain a neutral position for the present. The fact is that the President as yet, has not determined what he will do, or at least he is doubtful as to what course of policy would be most popular;—for that course he will be certain to pursue so soon as it is fairly ascertained. If it should be practicable however, as instructed I will urge this government into a position upon the subject, and my present impression is, that it does not oppose the measure. Should it prove a popular measure, the administration will make it a leading one. We have good reason to believe that Mr. Van Buren will be in favour of it, for should he oppose it, he cannot be reelected, and should the measure fail, there will be no small party of men, powerful in their influence, who will openly advocate a withdrawal of the Slave States from the present confederation, and I do believe that such a proposition would be carried;—in which event, I have no doubt but that the Slave States will instantly annex themselves to Texas. The administration here is in a most unenviable situation. Rives, Talmadge and other prominent advocates of the late administration differ with this upon the subject of the currency, and, it is said, that when that subject comes up at the called session of Congress, there will be any thing but harmony in the ranks of the old Jackson party. Mr. Kendall openly advocates the measure of annexation and is our fast friend upon that question. He is undoubtedly a man of remarkable ability and unsurpassed in his skill in carrying through everything he undertakes.

In my despatch (No. 2 from Vicksburg No 21, here) I gave it as my opinion that if Col. Wharton had obtained a passport from this Government before his departure for Texas that there would have been

no difficulty in securing their interference and effecting his release. I have been since confirmed in my opinion by a passage in Martens' Manual, which is regarded as high authority in matters of diplomacy. The following is the passage referred to. "In order that a Public Minister, or other diplomatic agents may be enabled in time of war to reach their destination in security, it is necessary that he be furnished with passports or safe conducts, by means of which he is authorized to traverse the territory of the foreign State, with the government of which his own is at war." I have since ascertained, however, that it is not the practice of this government to furnish passports without the limits of its own territory. Every Effort has been used to induce them to interfere in his behalf, but without success. I have held four several conversations with Mr. Forsyth upon the subject and earnestly argued the matter over with him, and when he had given me distinctly to understand that it was impossible for this government to take any steps for Col. Wharton's liberation in consequence of the present delicate position of their relations with Mexico, I then suggested the propriety of a private interference on the part of himself and his associates in office, but this he said would be of no avail, and it would moreover be impossible to separate their private from their official capacities in such an application to the Government of Mexico.

An arrangement has been made and agreed upon for the exchange of the Texas and United States mails at Ballou's<sup>a</sup> and Gaines' ferries upon the Sabine, and so soon as Mr. Kendall, the Post Master General can dispose of the contracts for the transportation of the United States' mail to those two points, the interchanges may commence. The agreement is, that the postage upon all letters from the two countries shall be paid to the respective line of each, and there shall be an exchange of mail bags at the dividing line.

Since writing the above, I have received intimations which strongly confirm me in my belief that Mr. Van Buren will favor annexation.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant.

MEMUCAN HUNT

To, The Honorable  
R. A. IRION  
*Secretary of State  
of the Republic  
of Texas*

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