

TREAT TO LAMAR.^a

[Private.]

MEXICO, February 8th. 1840.

SIR.

I beg leave to refer you to my short and very hasty letter of the 1st. instant, covering a *manuscript* copy of the contract between the English holders of Mexican Bonds, and *this* Government, and also, a copy of the *Decree of Congress*, confirming the said contract, to which I then called your attention, and suggested *that* the document was well worth a *translation* and an examination.

According to my promise, I now enclose you, the *instructions* given by the President in *council* to the *Agents* in London for *their Government* in carrying out the provisions of the *contract* and the *decree* of Congress which you will find comprises 24 articles, which complete *the document*. On a hasty perusal of the *whole paper*, the impression was clear on my mind *that* By the *Contract*, the Bondholders of the converted Stock had the *General Guarantee* of 100,000,000 of acres of Lands, in the Departments, cited in the 7th. article of the Contract, *first clause*, and *this* Guarantee was to *Secure* the final *total* payment of the principal and interest of *both classes* of *new stock*; and in *case of sale*, to be at \$1.25 *the acre*, the proceeds to be paid to the Bondholders *in Europe*. *This*, I thought *then* was the obvious reading of the *one Hundred Million clause*. A more close examination, however, leads to a different conclusion or Interpretation. The 100 millions, in *some one* or *more* of the departments named, *are undoubtedly hypothecated*, but *any part*, or the *whole*, in *any one* of these Departments may be disposed of *ceded* or *sold*, and the proceeds appropriated, *as this Govmt pleases*. So long as they *have 100 Millions* of acres remaining, in *any of the said Departments*, the *hypothecation* is complete. *Here, or there*, are *your*, 100 Millions. *This*, interpretation *can* be given, whether *intended originally* or not, because no *one department* is named but *five*, in either of *any of which* the 100 Millions can be considered as located, for the *Security* of the Bondholders, and the *benefit* of same, in *case the last 100 Millions* should be *encroached upon*. Again, in the Same Article 7th of the Contract, in the *Second clause*; the 25,000,000 of acres are Expressly reserved, or *Specially* hypothecated, and *to be fixed* in a *future decree* of Congress, or Govmt. "in the Departments, of easiest communication with the *Atlantic* and best adapted to foreign Colonization. These said lands are especially and exclusively appropriated to the Deferred or Passive bonds (*being one half* of the whole debt, and which bear no interest for 10 years) in case the

^a A. L. S.

"holders wish to Exchange the bonds for Lands, and if the Govmt. should *Sell them* (the 25 Millions) the proceeds should be appropriated to the redemption of *these* bonds." You will perceive that these 25,000,000, are to be located by a *special and public decree*. This is not yet given, and probably will not be, but should it, the Government have the *option* to fix the 25 millions, where they please in any of the Departments—it does not say any of the above named Departments, but in any of the Departments, viz. of the whole Republic. It therefore appears, that no part of Texas proper nor any portion of Land East or North of the Rio Grande is absolutely hypothecated to the bondholders, and of course they are not entitled to any proceeds arising from sale cession or transfer. This may, or can be, the interpretation of this Govmt. if they please to do so.

When persons present themselves here, with the deferrd. bonds and demand a location, under the contract and Law Referd. to, then the Govmt must say where they are to go, or pass this Special order or decree. None have appeared yet that I know of, and it remains to be seen when they will. My impression is that the Govmt. had in view the Lands between the Nueces and Rio Grande, to locate the 25,000,000 or to place the settlers; how they will proceed now, or when the time arrives for them to act, I cannot say. Thus you have my views of the important claims of said documents, but if you have a careful and intelligent translator in the State Department, you will find the whole perhaps worth translating. All which is respectfully submitted.

I remain with great respect and consideration,
Your most obt and Hble St,

To Genl. M. B. LAMAR.
Texas.

JAMES TREAT.

TREAT TO LAMAR.^a

[Confidential.]

MEXICO February 8th. 1840. P. M.

DEAR SIR:

I beg leave to refer you to my several late advices, 22d. Jany, 31st Jany—closed 1st. Feby, and 1st. 4th. 6th, 7th. and 8th. instant; all which are yet without duplicates, which however Shall very soon be on their way.

Referring you more especially to my Respects of 6th. inst, written Very hastily as you will perceive, I will now inform you of the result of Mr. Cañedo's final determination of the point at issue, with some

^aA. L. S.

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^a Given under date of Jan

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other, not *unimportant* matters, hoping it *may* overtake my *last* of 6th. inst. Should it *not*, it will not probably be *far* behind *those* of my Letters *which* have gone to Pensacola, pr. U. S. Ship *Erie*, nor *those* pr. O. C Raymond, for *N. Orleans*, as the *Frances Amy* is to sail for the *latter Port* on the 12th inst. I have already informed you that the simple *official* Note of the British Minister, assuring the Secretary of State that he was abundantly satisfied of the sufficiency of my powers and the validity of my instructions, would be sufficient to enable me to proceed, *but* a positive, and more *formal Guarantee*, was required, than Mr Pakenham could give. But as Mr. Pakenham received by way of Tampico on the 6th. inst a long letter from Gen Hamilton dated at N. Orleans, 1st. 2d. and 3d.^a inst. (rather *January*) in which I was referd. to, and in which Gen. Hamilton, goes into some details, of the *present* views of your Govmt. it was agreed *that* with this *additional* evidence Mr P should *again* call on Mr. Cañedo, and make one more effort *on this point*. This interview was not effected until Yesterday, when a long conference took place and Mr. P. urged the consideration of the Matter *strongly* upon the Secretary: Stating that *now* was emphatically the time to listen to me, *that* there was no doubt but my powers and instructions were *ample* to discuss and treat, and that there could be no *reasonable doubt* but *that* my *formal powers* and *credentials* would be forthcoming, when I could sign any *preliminary* arrangement, or even a *definitive* one, Should we agree on anything in the *meantime*. The Secretary however, was *firm* in his purpose, and required that the *Guarantee*, full and *formal*, as required, should be given, or the Subject Suspended *until* my credentials reached Mexico. This Mr P. on *his part declined*, and gave his reasons to the Secretary, as he had previously done to *me*.

It was, however, agreed upon between us before the *final call* that, Should *this* be the result, Mr. P. Should Say, *then* let Mr Treats communications and final propositions be received through me and I will assume the responsibility of the correctness, of any proposals that he may make, Satisfied as I am or *shall be*, when the *case arrives*, that Mr. T. will not propose anything in which he is not justified by his instructions, and *thus* the *Matter* has *been arranged*, and I proposed passing him a Note recognizing *this* arrangement, *so that* he shall not *fly from it*. This shall be done on Monday, and on Tuesday I will present him the *exposition of your views*, as I have drawn it up from the general tenor of your instructions, and what I know to be your wishes, and those of your Cabinet, on the *General Subject*. After this paper (*which will purposely abstain* from stating anything from which your, or *my, propositions* can be inferred)

^a Given under date of January 2, 1840, in Correspondence with Great Britain.

Shall have been disposed of by the Secretary and the Cabinet, and produced its effect, (whatever that may be), I shall *then* be prepared to submit my *first propositions*, in view of which I shall probably receive an *answer of some Sort*. If it be a *decided and unequivocal* refusal, which will not admit of any discussion of the different points involved, I *can then* ask if the Govmt. have any *counter propositions* to make, to see as *fully* as possible, *what their views are in reality*. That is, So far as *this* may serve to show them. In the meantime, I shall endeavour to learn through my *private* channels, if *practicable, their real and secret views, and intentions*.

This under all the circumstances I have considered as my *best* course. It will Save Some time, if *the Govmt. act promptly*, and with the aid of Mr P I *think* the matter *will* come to *some issue ere many weeks*. Meanwhile, I take it for granted that you will send forward the credentials I have asked for in full and due form and without delay, as I have pledged myself to the Secretary as well as Mr Pakenham, they would be sent, and this would give *confidence* to your views and wishes, for Peace and a *final arrangement*. Even *though* I should reach a *negative* more promptly than I desire or anticipate, and there should hence be a suspension of the Negotiation, I should make known the *fact* to the Govmt. that I had received my *credentials*, and was ready to receive the *final wishes* of this Govmt. *before my departure, for Texas*, which would be equivalent to reopening the subject for *further* discussion or any change in *their previous determinations*. *These however, are merely my present views, without any other instructions than those originally received*. Mr. Pakenham has been very much occupied. ever since my first interview, and especially for several days *past*, so that my interviews have been Short, and our conversation confined to the *immediate* point at issue, or the *subject very generally*; but next week, I shall have a long and full conversation with him on all the points involved, and *act then* as may be deemed most advisable, in view of Mr. P's. opinions. I also remark as *Very obvious* that I hope to receive your further advices and commands, *if any*, soon, indeed daily,—and *at all events, before* the question comes to a *preliminary issue* with the Secretary, under the course. I have herein conditionally marked out as my probable course, subject to such modifications as may grow out of a *further and full conference* with Mr. Pakenham and *also* subject to any variations that may arise from your further advices, which I await with great anxiety and almost impatience.

I shall examine more closely both the letters from Gen. Hamilton to Mr. Pakenham *particularly* the *last letter*,^a which, being written

^a The first, which was dated November 18, 1839, has not been found; for the second, dated January 2, 1840, see Hamilton to Burnet, January 5, 1840, in Correspondence with Great Britain.

on his return from Texas with the views of Govmt. at the Same time I think conformity with those of Govt. entertained by yourself and your despatches, for my best interest of Texas, as regards the joint action of Govt. enable me to receive his opinion counter to the wish making the Most of our Mr. Pakenham considered that Mr. P. is satisfied that they do not authorize Mr. say, if he desires it, or if anything, as regards Mr. generally opened. I am authorized by Gen. The question may be put nothing of him; and that virtually say who is Mr. with powers to treat. The only difference is that Guarantee this—So and case. I make these remarks would be gratifying to Mr. address him direct and would relieve the difficulties, would have their are two courses which the instructions (in confidence or otherwise, as Your Hon. (should they not already receive a copy of them State Department request out views and wishes, the requested, that if he Govmt. than I can, in subsequent influence, then to him and he may act should not probably disagree as I take it for granted way refuse to confer should always have the

on his return from Texas Should be considered as in conformity with the views of Govmt. so recently ascertained by the General—but at the Same time I think I ought to anticipate your advices in conformity with those of Gen. H.—if his views to Mr. P. *are* those entertained by yourself and Government. I shall *await* them, *that is*, your despatches, for my better Govmt. in the prosecution of the interest of Texas, as regards my correspondence with Mr. Cañedo, and as regards the joint action of Mr. Pakenham and myself; or at least, to enable me to receive his advice and opinions. without the risk of running counter to the wishes of Your Excellency, or the advantages of making the Most of our negotiations, at this *interesting period*. Mr. Pakenham considered the letters from Gen H. satisfactory—*that is*, Mr. P. is satisfied that the views given him by Gen H are authorized, and in conformity with his *powers* or authority, but at the same time, they do not authorize Mr. P.— *to act* authoritatively, for he can only say, if he desires it, or if we think it good policy for him to assume anything, as regards Mr. Cañedo, and the negotiation which is now *generally opened*. I *remark* that in this case Mr P. can only say I am authorized by Gen. Hamilton to say, or do or pledge *thus and so*. The question may be put to Mr P.— and who is Gen H? We *know* nothing of him; and *that* would be a *case paralel* to my own, for they virtually say who is Mr. Treat? The answer is a confidential agent with powers to treat. They reply where are his credentials? The only difference is *that should they say this* to Mr P, he might say I *Guarantee* this—*So and So*. This however he has declined, in my case. I make these remarks for the *purpose* of adding, *what I know* would be *gratifying* to Mr. P and that is that the DEPARTMENT should address him *direct* and say to him what they desire him to do. This would relieve the difficulty entirely. Then his assertions and statements, would have their full and due weight with the Govmt. There are two courses which suggest themselves to my mind: *one is that* the instructions (in conformity with Gen. Hamilton's letters to Mr P. or otherwise, as Your Excellency may determine) shall come to me (should they not already be near at hand) and Mr Pakenham receive a copy of them at the same time with your request thro' the State Department requesting his good offices in my behalf to carry out views and wishes, through to an issue and that Mr. P. be *further* requested, that if he *can act* in the premises more efficiently with *this* Govmt. than I can, in consequence of his official character and consequent influence, *then* he may consider the instructions given me as to him and he may act with my knowledge and concurrence, (as we should not probably disagree). In this cases, if my credentials came, as I take it for granted they will, I do not see *that they can* in any way refuse to confer and treat with me *directly*, and in this case I should always have the counsel and advice, opinion and co-operation

of Mr. Pakenham, whom I should of course consult. Or, if the Government or your Excellency desire or prefer to authorize Mr P. to act directly and independently then instructions can go direct to him, and you will then please in-[form] me, how far my instructions are cancelled, or superceded by those of Y. E. to Mr. P. or if I shall act jointly with him in the business.

I have only a moment to Subscribe myself, in *Haste* and with great Consideration, your Most
Obedient and Humble Servant

JAMES TREAT

To

M. B. LAMAR
Austin
Texas.

TREAT TO CAÑEDO.^a

TREAT TO CAÑEDO.^b

TREAT TO LAMAR.^c

[Confidential.]

MEXICO February 15th. 1840.

MY DEAR SIR.

I have the pleasure to wait on you with the enclosed *duplicates* seven in number, being (with those *already* transmitted) copies of all my letters to you, except one of the 7th. inst, accompanying and Explaining three copies of Letters, written to the Secy. of State, Mr Cañedo, one of which only had been sent him up to the above date. Duplicate of this letter and the accompanying papers No 1 and 3, I shall have the honor to transmit to you in a few days, together with other copies of same character, all which Shall then be explained at More length, as by this days post I have only time to prepare this despatch. Hereafter, my duplicates shall follow their originals more promptly and regularly than heretofore. As the season is advancing, and the weather becomes milder, my health is better, and I shall not have, I hope and trust, this difficulty to contend with. The copies, I send you herewith were taken by a foreign Gentleman, a friend, who is entitled to my entire confidence. The originals were all written in great haste and confusion, when my health was quite indifferent, and I therefore claim your indulgence

^a February 10, 1849 (No. 7). See Treat to Lamar, February 21, 1840.

^b February 12, 1840 (No. 8). See Treat to Lamar, February 21, 1840.

^c A. L. S.

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for the *matter*, as well as *manner*, of their contents and execution. With the *copies*, I trust, they will be *found intelligible*. By my late advices, up to 8th inst it will be Seen *how I then* Stood with the Govmt. or the *Secretary of State*. It is *now* pretty *obvious* that the vacillating course of the Secretary, and his determinations of one day, varied or changed the next, all have had their origin in the desire of this Gentleman to avoid any *official* contact with *me*, as your recognized *Agent*, hence, the notice taken of the omission of my *credentials* (altho' this was *rather* to have been anticipated under all the circumstances of the case) and hence, after *assenting* to the plan suggested of considering Mr. Pakenham's Letter, which as *proposed* would have been an official communication to the Secretary of State, assuring him that *he* Mr P. was *entirely satisfied* with the validity of my appointment, and *that* any thing I might *propose* within the limits of my instructions would, in *his opinion*, be ratified by your Govmt., if adopted and *ratified here*. Whilst I was led to suppose *that* this assurance from Mr P. would be *amply* sufficient to relieve me from the want of my *credentials*, until *they* should arrive, It resulted, at the *next* interview that the Secretary Seemed to expect that Mr. P. was prepared to *bind* his *Govmt.* to the *ratification* of any arrangement, *all no doubt* to avoid the responsibility of meeting me. A sort of arrangement was then proposed by Mr P. *that my* communications. to the *Secretary* Should go through Mr. P. who would be responsible, or vouch for them, as we progressed. in the business. This *latter* arrangement had been previously arranged between Mr P. and myself, in case of necessity.

Wishing to *bind* him to this arrangement *before* he should *again* change his mind, I addressed him a *short* note (copy of which with *others* I will transmit in a few days) in which I expressd. my regret that the *Guarantee* required of Mr P. was not such as he thought he could with any propriety give, and assenting to his plan of receiving my written communications, promising him *that* I would in a few days *address* him *at length*, conveying the views and feelings of the Govmt. of Texas, as regards the matter under discussion, as we had verbally agreed upon etc. etc.

On Mr. Pakenham's delivering the Secretary this letter, he again, became *unquiet*, and *Said* that Mr P. had misunderstood him, *that* communications *signed* by me (tho' simply with my name, and *without* any title of *Agent*, etc.) was what he *wished to avoid*, as *this* would be to *treat* with me *as agent*, and altho' he was personally and individually satisfied of my appointment and powers, yet I had presented no *credentials* which would justify him, as the organ of Govmt. to open a discussion *with me*, on the apparent objects of my mission. But that he had intended to say, that Mr P. might hand him any paper or communication he pleased touching the matter at

issue, that he would receive it, and place it before the Governmt. for their knowledge. The Secretary *adding* [that] these communications of course will be without Mr. Treats signature, and I^e shall receive them as from Mr. Pakenham etc. etc. Notwithstanding. *all this*, the Secretary retained my letter duly signed by me, and officially addressed to him as Secy of State; and on *yesterday* I handed Mr Pakenham my Exposition (essentially a copy of that sent you under date of 7th. *inst.* an exact copy of which I will send you, in a few days.) but, that the Secretary should have no *pretext* for returning it, either *before* or *after personal perusal*, it was thought *best* that it should *not* be addressed *officially* to him, nor should it bear any signature *at all*.

Mr. P. [said that he] would present it *yesterday* or *today*, and we agreed *that* he should (the Secretary) be allowed *Some days*, for its examination and translation, before we again approached him on the subject, as it was desirable that it should [be] laid before the President and Cabinet, and have their *consideration* and *deliberation*.

Mr P. thought best to shew this *Exposé* to the Secretary for the *Home department*, a man of intelligence and influence with the President, before, handing it to the Secretary of State. I, shall not see Mr P. until *tomorrow*, to know *what*, if any thing, the Secretary may have said on its delivery. I take it for granted it will be received, but what effect it may produce, *time* must shew.

Thus, Sir, I have given you the *facts* of the *case*, and how this very simple matter of *approaching* the Mexican Secretary has been prolonged and twisted about, by the fears and apprehensions of a *timid* and *vascillating*; (tho' Very gentlemanly) personage, at the head of foreign Affairs in Mexico. You can, Sir, draw your own inferences from the statement already given, but should perchance my *opinion* and *version* of the whole matter be esteemed of any value, I will give it to you.

1st. The present Govmt. or Cabinet *could not* refuse to hear me in *some way* or other, for they had authorized Mr. P. before my arrival to say that if commissioners from Texas appeared, they should be heard. This, however, I *only knew very recently*. and besides *this*, they *were* no doubt apprehensive of the consequences of any *direct* refusal to listen to me, coming to them *Secretly*.

2d. They are *nevertheless*, afraid to have it known by the Public *that* they are entertaining the Subject of *any arrangement* with Texas, while they are *endeavouring* to raise money thro' *Congress*, as *they say*, to *reduce Texas to order*; and the opposition and Santana's^b party would make a *great hue and cry*, and the members of the Cabinet *might* lose their places in consequence. In *other words*,

^a Cañedo.

^b Santa Anna's.

they are *too weak* as they might fall upon them if

3d. Consequently, *with* but are *obliged* to hear *self* and the *President* so that If the *Secret* make proposals Should say *what*, if *any thing* they had nothing to do *complete*, but *that* Some *own* whom they were *obliged* Palmerston to make *inquiries* etc, etc. and *thus* cover *the* tion would endeavor *to* Knowing *this* to be the *case* to assent to *every thing* main object, that of plac *ing* them *thus* to give ear to *me* not, under Such circum *stances* which would stand in the *way* I have *succeeded*, in my *party*, that is, the *Leaders* administration in any *case* stand me to say they *oppose* its merits; *but* they *stand* Govmt do, to render it *useless* reaction, and they would *not* they could, to excite the *President*, and if possible *at* the moment *they* the *Government* doubt *treat* in *earnest* with *me* thoroughly satisfied that *they* net are entirely convinc *ed* and *that*, so far as the *policy* would be to *reconcile* and secure the indemnity *they* are acting for *themselves* party views and dictation *is* the *Secondary* consideration present administration *is* now six months, and, in *fact* did not complete this year *in* in advance on *any thing* much open corruption *is*

they are *too weak* as a government, to Stand any *new shock*, which might fall upon them if they were *openly* to favour an arrangement.

3d. Consequently, while they are compelled, *as it were*, to hear, but are *obliged* to hear Secretly, the Secy. is obliged to Shield *himself* and the *President* and *Cabinet* under Mr. Pakenham's wings—so that If the Secret (at present) of my being here with powers to make proposals Should leak out, *and* the Govmt. be called upon to say *what*, if *any* thing, they have done in the Matter, *they can* Say they had nothing to do with the Agent, whose powers were *not* complete, but *that* Some overtures had been made by Mr. Pakenham, to whom they were obliged to listen, as he had been directed by Lord Palmerston to make *inquiry* as to *what* this Govmt. intended to do, etc, etc. and *thus* cover themselves from the effect which the opposition would endeavor to produce against the present Ministry. Knowing *this* to be the *dilemma* of the Govmt. I have been disposed to assent to *every thing* that has been required, and go for my *first* main object, that of placing before them Your Views, and *compelling* them *thus* to give ear to your views and wishes. Of course, I would not, under Such circumstances, stand upon any matter of form, which would stand in the way of a hearing of my case. So far, then, I have *succeeded*, in my *first objects*. In speaking of the *Opposition party*, that is, the Leaders of the Federal party *here*, opposing this administration in any amicable arrangement, You must *not* understand me to say they *oppose* the Texas question, or any part of it, on its merits; *but* they stand ready to *pounce* upon every thing the Govmt do, to render it *unpopular*, and endeavour to bring about a *reaction*, and they would of course, avail of this *Texas question*, if they could, to excite the *popular feeling* against the Ministry and President, and if possible, would *hurl* them from their places, *while* the moment *they* the *liberals* get Snugly *in place*, they would no doubt *treat* in earnest with Texas for *Some arrangement*. I am most *thoroughly* satisfied that Gen. Bustamante and the *whole* of his Cabinet are entirely convinced *that* they can *never* re-conquer Texas—and *that*, so far as the good of the country is concerned their best policy would be to *recognize* at once, Settle *all* pending questions, and secure the indemnity *now proposed*. But, as the men in *power* are acting for *themselves*, and their continuance in office, and under party views and dictation, the present or future *good* of the Country, is the *Secondary* consideration, but *not* the *first*, by any means. The present administration is not very secure. They have been in power *now* six months, and, in my opinion, it would not be strange, if they did not complete this year. Yet there is no such thing as calculating in advance on *any thing*. They are so *changeable*, and there is so much open corruption and demoralization in *all ranks* of Society,

that mens opinions are anything *but* fixed—they may be what you please *today*, and *to-morrow* converted, *alias* corrupted.

Notwithstanding this unfavourable picture which does not look like a prompt or favourable result to my mission, I still hope that the convictions of the Governmt will be so strong in favour of *some arrangement* that they may yet venture to enter upon *some stipulations very secretly*, and trust to their *future increased strength* some months *hence*, to let them come to *light*. Some favourable conjuncture may give them *courage*, and if *frightened a little* on the score of Consequences, they may consent to do something.

As regards, the matter of the Bonds, and the real Stipulations between the holders of the *new* stock and this Government, I beg leave to refer You to my two Respects of 1st. and 8th. instant, *both* covering the *contract Law of Congress*, and the *instructions* of this *Government*, which, when you have them translated, together with my Explanatory remarks will be no doubt be well understood, by Yourself and Judge Burnet.

In relation to Mr. Pakenham, I *confirm* all I have before said in favour of his good offices and valuable Services. He continues to desire to do all in his power to *aid me* in my plans, and to urge upon the Govmt. the necessity of adopting *some course* in regard to this business. He admits *that of right* the Bondholders would have no claim to the indemnity which might be paid to Mexico for the independence of Texas, *but* at the same time, would be *most happy* if he could obtain *this amount for them*, in case any arrangement is entered into, as contemplated by Texas.

This, *alone*, would stimulate him, together with the credit he would acquire as *Mediator* or *interventor*, in the Negotiation. But independent of *these* considerations, he really seems to be devoted to bring about Some favourable result to *my mission*. Mr. Pakenham and myself *agree* that to open any negotiation in *London*, or *transfer* to *that city* for *conclusion*, *anything* that may be *commenced here* would be very bad policy, as it *might*, and probably *would*, *procrastinate* the negotiation almost *ad-infinatum*, particularly if this Govmt. desired to prolong the Question and any change in the Govmt. or even in the *Ministry* would require a renovation of powers, and, on any point, on which their *Agent* might not be fully instructed, he might, merely *to gain time*, wait for further orders, and thus the matter be kept open, until you should be tired of waiting for any result. The *Mediation* of Mr P. is very well, and *advantageous*, *here*, and it is *here*, and at N. Orleans, where the matter should be *begun* and *finished*. Commence and fix upon a basis *here*; and let their Commissioner proceed to N. O. to fix any of the details, and exchange Ratifi-

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To

Gen. M. B.

cations. *This is decidedly* the best course, in my opinion. Should I succeed in getting them to enter upon any arrangement. All this, may be *quite premature*, as we may never reach *this point*.

But *should* we, you here have *My opinion concurred in* by Mr Pakenham. I must, however, bring my present remarks to a close, at *least* for this *post*, altho' much more might be said. I trust, *nevertheless*, that I have said enough in this communication, together with my *former. advices*, to shew you that I am devotedly and faithfully engaged in bringing about your wishes and desires, for the interests of Your Country, or at least to ascertain *what, if anything*, this Government *is disposed and able to do*. Whether I have proceeded, in the course I have thus far adopted judiciously or not I submit to your *own better judgment*. You will on receipt of this know exactly how matters *now* Stand. The chances are still much against my success, and still I *have hopes* of obtaining *some thing*—getting from them *some propositions*. I think a *plan might* be devised which would *soon bring this Government to grant* a peace and recognition, in Case they should *now entirely refuse* to assent to any of *Your Propositions*. I may submit *this plan* to your consideration at a future *day, for whatever it may be worth*. It might be considered as *preferable* to a mere armistice, if *that* should be *ALL this Government is willing to propose*. I trust that ere long I shall be *further* enlightened by your additional instructions *rendered now* not only *very desirable*, but almost *absolutely* necessary, and Especially if you have adopted the views communicated by Gen H. to Mr Pakenham as regards an armistice, until *April 1841, conditioned* that this Govmt *meantime* agree to negotiate a *peace, Recognition, and boundaries*. Pray, my dear Sir, give me your *further and full* views and wishes when you send my credentials, or if not *done already*, immediately on receipt of *this*. I have not had the full conversation I promised myself with Mr. Pakenham, but *shall next* week, and will then *report* the result. I have *not* received a *Texan newspaper or letter* since my *arrival here*.

I am most anxiously awaiting some arrival from N. Orleans at Vera Cruz—which I am sure must bring me *something* from you. I hope my *request about funds* will have *met your sanction*, and that I shall *soon* be so apprised.

I remain with great Respect and consideration, Your obedient
Servant,

JAMES TREAT.

To

Gen. M. B. LAMAR
Texas.