

[WRIGHT TO BER. ^a]

MEXICO August 18. 1840.

DEAR SIR,

When I last wrote you, the revolution had just ceased, with the exception of the Soldiers who had left the palace. They finally surrendered. Genl. Urea and Gomas Farcas it is believed are still in this city. They presented [their petition] by Attorney for a pardon. I must inform you that the whole affair is now known to have been a speculation, and several have no doubt enriched themselves in the Capitulations of the Revolution. I am hardly ^b sorry to say that the Mexican people in general have an inkling after wealth and aggrandizement, however low, mean or ungentlemanly may be the road they may have to pursue. Treachery is as common as morning succeeds morning. Brother will betray brother, Father his son; and the pretended patriot for a thousand doubloons, will sell the country. The Country is at present like a hive of bees; no one now likes to travel; thieves are as numerous as the stars—the City is in an unsettled state; skirmishes of small importance are an almost daily occurrence, between federal and the central troops; and lives are too fequently wantonly destroyed.

The Centrals are again established in power; are making rapid strides to obtain absolute power; they have received from Guana-juata last week 800 men of different arms in order I suppose to be more safe.

I wrote you that it was very probable that the revolt would render this people so feeble as never to think more of Texas; but you will hardly believe me that the question relative to subduing Texas was the order of the day in the palace last week. There is no understanding this people. I see that the Secretary of War of Texas has called that people to arms, ^c supposing General Arista east of the Rio Grande, and that Indians were gathered in a body to march upon the settlements. The first is not true; however anxious Arista may have been to march into that country. That the intention of this Government has been to invade that Country there is no doubt, but their internal broils has prevented the invasion. The Cumanches etc. I informed you some time since ^d were moving on towards San Antonio, but was not certain as to their views—but must again say, Beware of the Savage, you are never Safe within reach of him. My advice is as yet to make no peace with them; Suffer no missionaries

^a See note c, p. 461.

^b Probably the copyist's error for "heartily."

^c See reference to order brought by General Morehouse to Houston in *Telegraph and Texas Register*, April 22, 1840.

^d In his letter of July 1.

to go among them until they committing further hostilities succeeded? or the Vice and shew no mercy, what ability return with tenfold

Santa Aña is expected a rumor. I have just learned chased into Vera Cruz by also, that on the 10th. fir and that a Mexican vessel prey. Please be so good lars so as to Know what but know not the intention invading power can at p case ^a be informed. Mr. T negotiation; he might as stars.

Two Americans are yet part with the Federals or been taken; poor strangers for themselves; this will part with the Mexican. their friends, the strangers their treaty. May he wh

MEMORANDUM EXPLAINING

SIR.

I have the honor to w of 11th. inst, to which at hand.

I further beg leave to herewith, addressed to

^a There is probably some om had some such words as "in

^b August 19, 1840. See Tr

^c A. L. S.

to go among them until they are reduced beyond the probability of committing further hostilities. Have the priests of Mexico ever succeeded? or the Vice Kings from Spain? Let Texas be wise, and shew no mercy, when that mercy will or would in all probability return with tenfold vengeance upon her devoted citizens.

Santa Aña is expected by some to come to rule, it is however only a rumor. I have just learned that two Mexican Schooners have been chased into Vera Cruz by a black Brig of War, said to be a Texian; also, that on the 10th. firing of Cannon was heard out in the Gulph; and that a Mexican vessel not having come in in time is probably a prey. Please be so good as to write me and inform me of particulars so as to Know what to do. I know that the Texan fleet is out but know not the intention. I believe Texas may be quiet as no invading power can at present invade her territory. you will if in case^a be informed. Mr. Treat is still hammering away to make his negociation; he might as well talk to the moon and preach to the stars.

Two Americans are yet in prison, being suspected of having taken part with the Federals on the 18th. July. Many French have also been taken; poor strangers have been left out of the Treaty to shift for themselves; this will be a good lesson for strangers, not to take part with the Mexican. It was abominable in the Federals to leave their friends, the strangers, who assisted them beyond the reach of their treaty. May he who again assists them share a better fate.

MEMORANDUM EXPLAINING ATTITUDE OF TEXAS TOWARDS MEXICO.^b

TREAT TO LAMAR.^c

[Confidential.]

MEXICO *August 21st. 1840.*

SIR.

I have the honor to wait on you, with Duplicate of my last respects of 11th. inst, to which I beg reference, in case the original is not at hand.

I further beg leave to refer you, most Respectfully, to my despatches herewith, addressed to the Hon. the Secretary of State, which will

^a There is probably some omission or error by the copyist here. The original must have had some such words as "in this case."

^b August 19, 1840. See Treat to Lipscomb, August 21, 1840.

^c A. L. S.

inform you, of the present state of my negotiation, the actual position of the Government, and also of my own.

I hope, Sir, your recent excursion to the Island will have restored you to your accustomed health.

I have the honor to be,

Most Respectfully, and with the
the highest consideration

Your most obt Servant

JAMES TREAT

To

Gen. M. B. LAMAR

City of Austin

Texas.

TREAT TO MOORE.^a

TREAT TO LIPSCOMB.^b

[Confidential.]

MEXICO August 21st. 1840.

SIR.

I have the honor to wait on You herewith, with duplicate of my last respects of 11th. inst., which was accompanied by a despatch to Gen: Lamar of same date, and to which, with the *duplicates therein enclosed*, I beg leave, most respectfully, to refer the President, and also the Department I have the honor to address, for the particulars of Events here, *up to my latest date*.

I have now the honor to acknowledge the reception of your highly valued despatch dated at Galveston City 13th. June, which I have carefully examined, and shall be governed by its contents, so far as circumstances and sound policy will permit, in bringing to a close the objects involved in my Mission.

I submitted your communication to the perusal of Mr. Pakenham, who was evidently much gratified with its contents, and with whom I have, thus far, had the good fortune to concur in every thing of any moment, touching the course I have pursued in the execution of my Mission.

Your despatch, altho' sent into Vera Cruz by Commodore Moore on the 5th. inst., did not reach me until the 13th, having been *inad-*

^aAugust 21, 1840 (confidential). See Treat to Lipscomb, August 21, 1840.

^bL. S.

vertently delayed four days of Post, brought it to hand the possibility of transmitting days, which you name as would await my despatches advices to the Fleet, (supp name) through neutral V necessarily very precarious luctantly undertaken by C responsibility of *vitiating* and *legitimate voyage*, to can authorities, should the

It has, however, so happened to communicate, either to the moment, as I am still awaiting *ordinary Powers*, on which the

In case I had anything to Send out, the Gvmt. would if I wished to advise an to be *expected* that they *oppose it*.

Under date of 19th. inst. of a Memorandum, and transmitted through Mr. the subject to the consideration, as I was satisfied it would be more acceptable to the

I hand you a copy enclosed the President and the D had the following objects your letter, and so far furnished apprise the Gvmt. of the wishes, and *present policy* less, the *whole ground* of bringing the whole subject shew the *necessity of some*

I made it *not so strong* despatch, but as *energetic* the present position of to promote *our ultimate*

How far I have succeeded and how far it may be S I must wait to know, but consideration.

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vertently delayed *four days*, and *four days more*, which in the *course of Post*, brought it to hand *only on the 13th.*, which deprived me of the possibility of transmitting a letter to Com: Moore within the 13 days, which you name as the period, which *one of the Squadron* would await my despatch. The method pointed out, to Send my advices to the Fleet, (supposing one of them to be in the position you name) through neutral Vessels, outward bound from Vera Cruz, is necessarily *very precarious*, as such a Service is always very *reluctantly* undertaken by Captains, in consequence of the *very possible* responsibility of *vitiating Insurance*, by a *deviation* from the direct and *legitimate voyage*, to say nothing of the annoyance of the Mexican authorities, should they be discovered.

It has, however, so happened, that I had nothing of much interest to communicate, either to the Gvmt. or the Commodore, at the present moment, as I am still awaiting the result of the question of *Extraordinary Powers*, on which the present Ministry will *Stand or fall*.

In case I had anything favourable to a friendly issue of my mission to Send out, the Gvmt. would, I think, permit me to do it *openly*; but, if I wished to advise an *unfavourable* close of my mission, it is not to be *expected* that they would *facilitate* my object, but rather *oppose it*.

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Under date of 19th. inst. I prepared a communication in the form of a Memorandum, and Yesterday sent it to the Secretary of State, transmitted through Mr. Pakenham, who took occasion to recommend the subject to the consideration of this Gvmt. I adopted *this Channel*, as I was satisfied it would *gain strength*, and, at the same time, be more acceptable to the Gvmt.

I hand you a copy enclosed of said paper, for the information of the President and the Department. In framing this document, I had the following objects in view. To give course to the contents of your letter, and so far fulfil the instructions of the Department as to apprise the Gvmt. of the *complaints* of Texas, as well as her *Views, wishes*, and *present pacific and neutral attitude*. To cover, more or less, the *whole ground* of the *present* position of your Gvmt., and by bringing the whole subject anew, as it were, before the Gvmt., to shew the *necessity of some immediate action on their part*.

I made it *not so strong* as I might have done, in view of your late despatch, but as *energetic* and *pointed* as I thought good policy and the present position of things rendered expedient, and with a View to promote *our ultimate* objects.

How far I have succeeded in combining the various objects in View, and how far it may be Satisfactory to the President and Department, I must wait to know, but I crave, in its behalf, your indulgent consideration.

I have shewed the *rough draft* to Mr. Pakenham, who assured me there was not a sentence in it he would wish to amend. At his request, I furnished him my draft to make a Copy, which, I doubt not, will be forwarded to Lord Palmerston by the proximate packet, to Sail from Vera Cruz 24th. inst.

I anticipate, that this *Memorandum*, together with the verbal conversations previously had on the same topics with the Secretary, in which I expressed myself plainly and Explicitely, will produce Some Action on the part of Gvmt., which, if not exactly *conclusive*, will enable me to judge, with more certainty than I can at this moment, what their present *intentions really are*. What I regret is that the result of its effects will not be in time for this communication. The Gvmt. may take it in *dudgeon*, as a document too *plain and categorical* for *Rebels* to present to their Legitimate Govmnt when suing for *Peace and Recognition*, but, Should they *do so*, it will be a *mere pretext to dodge the question*.

I beg leave further to remark, in reference to my *Memorandum*, that it was necessary to take into consideration that it would be laid before the Cabinet and President, and perhaps the Council and Congress, and hence, the necessity, or Expediency of couching it in respectful and moderate terms, to avoid exciting the *false pride* of Some, and the hereditary notions of *national honor* of others. Hence also I thought it good policy to exonerate the Gvmt., *indirectly*, from having authorized or directed the petty hostilities complained of, in *your letter and my memorandum*.

As regards the interrogatories contained in your Communication, it is difficult to reply to them *categorically* or *Satisfactorily* at the present moment, and, as I am situated; but a *general answer* may be *inferred*, by the tenor of my present and late advices. I will, however remark that the vicinity of the Squadron has produced no palpable, or visible effects, *thus far*, either favourable or otherwise, on the part of the Gvmt. or in the public mind. This may be attributed to the agitated State of public affairs, and the *fact* that *only one* of the *Schooners* has been yet seen or reported.

Two Mexican Coasters which sailed from Vera Cruz on the 8th. inst. returned next day, and *reported* that they had been chased by a suspicious two-Topsail schooner, and were informed by *another* coasting Craft, which had been *boarded* by said *Schooner*, that she was a Texian. This is the report of the Va. Cruz papers. The authorities of Va. Cz. took the declarations of the Captains of the two Mexican Crafts, and forwarded them to Gvmt. These declarations, the Secretary of State informed me, *Stated* "that the Texian Schooner had *captured one* of the *coasters*, but gave me no con-

firmary details. *as having been made indeed, in Violation presumed. Private from the Vessel board no doubt the fact*

All these are *various* upon, and are *calculated* *positive declaration* *pending my Mission* my *Memorandum*, *of the coast as regards Moore, under the gun* should grant it, *which to the Commodore, of course, leave him would be interfered sending in a Schooner my despatches, and whenever they were of further advantage of taining some arrangements good terms with us.*

I am indebted for *think, as well as Mr. obtain a Truce. How ought to get all I shall perhaps, more, if we which will require in all their movements*

I shall, therefore, *proper to confide to instances, and endeavor is closed against me prospect of some success*

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Mr. Pakenham *to his business, as regards Yuc*

I hand you a *C Copy* doubtful if it reaches if possible; if not, it

firmatory details. This Matter of Capture, I *denied most positively*, as having been made by *Com. Moore* or any part of his Vessels, *unless indeed*, in Violation of orders, which was not, for *a moment*, to be presumed. Private letters say, that the Schooner took some brandy from the Vessel boarded, and do not *add* that they paid for it as is no doubt the fact *if the Story* be true.

All these are vague rumours, but Enough for the Gvmt. to harp upon, and are calculated to produce *delay* and suspicion. Hence my *positive declaration* that the object of the Squadron was pacific, *pending my Mission*. Hence also the Suggestions, at the close of my Memorandum, of removing the apprehensions of the *Mexicans* on the coast as regards capture, and the use of Sacrificios by *Com: Moore*, under the guarantee of hospitality and protection. If they should grant it, *which I must doubt*, I would, if I can get a letter to the Commodore, suggest the use of the offer of this Gvmt., and, *of course*, leave him to decide whether his instructions or his duty would be interfered with, by such a course. The only benefit, by sending in a Schooner, for instance, would be that He could receive my despatches, and convey them to the Gvmt. of the Commodore, whenever they were of importance or *decisive* of my Mission, and the further advantage of Shewing to the public that the Gvmt. are entertaining some arrangement with me, and willing *pro tem* to be on *good terms with us*.

I am indebted for your instructions as regards a Truce, and I think, as well as Mr. Pakenham, that if I fail in the *Treaty*, I may obtain a Truce. How long it will require is very uncertain, but I ought to get all I shall ever get in a month; *less*, if unsuccessful; and, perhaps, *more*, if we have to adjust a Treaty or Truce, either of which will require *some details*, and they are so *everlastingly slow* in all their movements.

I shall, therefore, under the discretion the President has thought proper to confide to me, wait a reasonable time, according to circumstances, and endeavour to carry out my instructions, (unless the door is closed against me) *but no longer than I can entertain a reasonable prospect of some success*.

The foregoing is all I can now state for the information of the President and the Department I have the honor to address.

Mr. Pakenham expressed himself *entirely* Satisfied with your reply to his business, as regards the Vessels in question. I note what You Say as regards *Yucatan*, and Shall bear the Subject in mind.

I hand you a Copy of my letter to Com. Moore; but it is very doubtful if it reaches him, tho' I shall endeavour to effect the object, if possible; if not, it will reach the Department.

I trust the President's health, will have been fully restored by his Escursion to the Island.^a Herewith is a few lines to him, yet I refer him to this Communication for information of my position.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,

Your Most obedient
and Verry Humble Servt.

JAMES TREAT.

To ABNER S. LIPSCOMB
Secretary of State
Texas

MEMORANDUM.

The Confidential Agent of the Govt. of Texas, having received recent official advices from that Govt. deems it his duty to submit to the consideration of the Govt. of Mexico the following facts and observations.

The Govt. of Texas assures the said agent of its continued and earnest desire for peace, which has been so long and fully evinced, not only by an entire suspension of hostilities, for a long period, but also, and more especially, by its strict and rigid perseverance in the neutral, and friendly course it adopted more than a year since. The said Govt. also assures its Agent, in the *most positive and unqualified terms*, that it has, during the above period, constantly and unhesitatingly refused all manner of aid, countenance, or co-operation either direct or indirect, with the forces which in opposition to the Mexican Govt. have at different times and under different Chiefs assembled on the Northern frontiers of Mexico, and have furthermore taken the most active measures to prevent the enlistment of Texian Volunteers under said chiefs, as is already known to the Govt. of Mexico. If it has not been entirely able to prevent this evil, it has to a great extent lessened it, and, at least, manifested, by its efforts, its disposition to avoid any just cause of offence to Mexico.

With the repeated threats of the Mexican Officers on the frontiers of a proximate invasion of Texas, confirmed in some degree by apparent preparatory measures of Govt. and the long delay of the Agent of Texas in Mexico, without having been able thus far to give any positive or satisfactory assurance of a friendly arrangement of existing difficulties between the two Countries, it is not strange that Texas should be preparing itself for Events.

Hence the assembling of a respectable force on the frontier of the country but to act, *for the present, merely on the defensive*, to preserve its long professed neutrality, and stationed within its own borders. *Hence* also the present cruise in the Gulf of a portion of its

^a Galveston.

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Navy (after having remained in port, armed and equipped for Service, nearly a year) but with instructions to the Commander to act *on the defensive* only, and to commit no act of hostility against Mexico, *So long as negotiations are open and pending* between the Govt. of Mexico and the Agent of Texas.

It affords the Agent of Texas the utmost satisfaction, thus to be enabled to assure the Govt. of Mexico in the most positive and Solemn manner of the entire good faith of the Govt. of Texas, in all the foregoing facts and declarations, but at the same time, the said Agent would not fulfil his obligations to the Govt. of Texas, nor his duty to himself, if he omitted to State the Evils of which the Govt. of Texas complains.

Altho the Govt. of Mexico has not recently invaded Texas by any regular armed force, yet Texas has long been, and still is, suffering from the frequent incursions of small predatory and marauding parties, who traverse the frontier of the country, and commit depredations on the defenceless frontier population. This is an evil which the Govt. of Texas feels they cannot any longer submit to; and this, probably, is another reason for sending an armed force to the lines, to protect the inhabitants of the borders from these vexatious incursions which can have no national object, and the result of which is usually plunder, on the one hand, and exasperated and vindictive feelings, on the other.

The Govt. of Texas *also complain* that Mexican Officers or Agents have been and still are engaged in Exciting the Indians, both within and without the limits of Texas, to commit hostilities and depredations against the people of Texas. This is calculated to keep the frontiers of the country in a constant state of alarm, and Compels that Govt. to keep a respectable force of mounted Rangers traversing the frontier Indian Settlements. This is a serious annoyance, attended with much expense to the Govt. and, as in the former case (as the inducements of the Indians is plunder) productive of no possible national good, but much evil. The Govt. of Texas does not assent that these acts emanate from, or are sanctioned by the Govt. of Mexico, but they are nevertheless evils of a serious nature, and from which they think they ought to be exempt; *at least* during the pendency of amicable negotiations, and while that Govt. sustains the neutral and friendly attitude, she has heretofore, and up to the present time, continued to observe.

The Agent dismisses this topic, which he has referred to reluctantly, and only from a sense of duty, in the fulfillment of instructions, and to avert the continuance of the evils adverted to.

The Agent concludes by observing that he hopes what is herein stated, together with what was previously known to the Govt of Mexico, will show conclusively and satisfactorily:

That the Govt. of Texas ever has been and still is sincere in its pacific declarations: *That* it prefers *Peace to War*: *That* it desires still a friendly arrangement of existing difficulties with Mexico: *That* the measures she has adopted during the past year, and the continuance of the Agent here during the period of more than eight months, awaiting the action and decision of the Govt. of Mexico, will amply prove the constancy and perseverance, with which she has sustained an absolutely neutral attitude, and prosecuted her proposed plan of obtaining a peace, through friendly negotiations, rather than a resort to further hostilities: *That* the sacrifices she has already made to secure the blessing of peace cannot be continued indefinitely: and finally that it is for the Govt. of Mexico now to decide what shall be the future relation between the people of the two Countries: whether friends or enemies.

The Agent would most respectfully suggest that the evils which must result from an apprehension on the Coast that Mexican Vessels are exposed to be captured by the Texian Squadron, now in the Gulf, might be remedied by the Govt. making officially that the subject of the Squadron is of a Specific character and that they can therefore proceed to sea as heretofore without any risk of Capture, as already before stated. And the Agent further remarks that, if the Govt. of Mexico, will proffer the hospitality and protection of its waters *Say the Roadstead of sacrificios* to the Texian Vessels of War, the Agent will invite Com. Moore who commands the Texian Squadron to avail of this offer, and thus allay all apprehension of any immediate hostilities.

The Agent Most Respectfully submits the preceding facts and observations to the consideration of the President of Mexico, with an Earnest desire that they may receive that consideration which the Agent believes their intrinsic importance will justly entitle them to.

MEXICO August 19th. 1840.

TREAT TO MOORE.

[Copy *]

[Confidential.]

MEXICO August 21st 1840.

SIR

On the 13th. inst. I had the honor to receive a despatch from the Hon. the Secretary of State dated at Galveston 13 June, which came to hand through H. B. M's. Minister, Richard Pakenham, Esquire.

* This is a copy made by Moore himself, which is filed with the correspondence. There is on file also part of the copy actually inclosed by Treat to Lipscomb.

By this communication, I have been informed with some three or four Vessels, that you was in the vicinity of the Coast, inst. as my despatch was unfortunately was inadvertently which, with *four days post* 13th. inst.

This I very much regretted of placing a letter in your hands, my despatch as the period of delay in reply, after the delivery.

Beside the method of communication, my letter from the Department, as no Master of a Merchant Vessel, to incur the possible expense of a private voiage, by taking despatch, *the further risk* of trouble, and the fact be known. I am persuaded, would, in most cases, undoubtedly consult them, in difficulties to contend with, in the British Minister.

The only way I could resort to you, or to the Govt. was from Vera Cruz a small Commission of the Govt. which would result to a *continuance of peace*. I inform you that my negotiations, if an able result, the Govt. would be in communication with you.

In the latter case, I should should manage to find you in the vicinity, when the transmission.

As it is, however, I am informed, a lapse of *thirteen days*, and will leave the vicinity with them remain to receive any news left to *conjecture*.

My instructions require the Event of failing in my negotiations, soon as possible, either by your Vessels would be in communication when I shall obtain a final answer.

My Negotiations have been being suspended, owing to the fact as it depends upon the result.

By this communication, I am apprized of your being in the Gulf with some three or four Vessels of War under your orders, and infer that you was in the vicinity of the port of Vera Cruz about the 4th inst. as my despatch was received in Vera Cruz on the 5th. but unfortunately was inadvertently delayed there three or four days, which, with *four days post route*, delayed its reception here until the 13th. inst.

This I very much regretted, as it deprived me of the possibility of placing a letter in your hands within the *thirteen days* named in my despatch as the period which you would await my communication in reply, after the delivery of my despatch in Vera Cruz.

Beside the method of conveying my advices to you pointed out in my letter from the Department of State is necessarily *very precarious*, as no Master of a Merchant Vessel, (or very few) would be willing to incur the possible responsibility of a deviation from their legitimate voyage, by taking despatches to be delivered *at Sea*, and perhaps *the further risk* of trouble from the Govt. should they return here, and the fact be known. Consignees of Vessels in Vera Cruz, I am persuaded, would, in most instances, object to it, and Capts would undoubtedly consult them. You, of course, have not the same difficulties to contend with, in sending *in* letters to me under cover to the British Minister.

The only way I could remedy this difficulty, in case my despatches to you, or to the Gvmt. *were highly important*, would be to send out from Vera Cruz a small Craft *expressly*, and, of course, by permission of the Gvmt. which would *only grant it*, if my advices were favourable to a *continuance of peaceable relations*. If for instance, I wished to inform you that my negotiations were broken off without any favourable result, the Gvmt. would not of course, facilitate my communication with you.

In the latter case, I should leave immediately for Vera-Cruz and should manage to find you, or one of your Squadron, if then in the vicinity, when the transmission of a despatch would be very doubtful.

As it is, however, I am in doubt what will be your course after the lapse of *thirteen days*, and you receive nothing from me: whether you will leave the vicinity with the whole of the squadron, or let one of them remain to receive any thing that I may be able to send you, I am left to *conjecture*.

My instructions require that I shall *immediately* apprise you in the event of failing in my Mission, and this I should assuredly do, as soon as possible, either by letter, or in person, if I knew that one of your Vessels would be in the position named in my despatches, but when I shall obtain a *final decision* from this Gvmt. is yet *doubtful*.

My Negotiations have been retarded, and are now, for the time being suspended, owing to the uncertain position of the Ministry, as it depends upon the results of legislative measures now in progress

whether they will resign or continue in office. This unsettled State of things arises from an attempt at Revolution, which took place in this Capital on the 15th. July, and continued undecided until the 27th. of the Month, when it was quelled by the Govmt. which up to the present time has not become so far settled and tranquilized as to be able to proceed with my business. Hence I cannot at this moment, say anything decisive, but must await Events, as they transpire which *here* are always *slow*.

I hope however in the course of about a week I shall be able to judge (at least much better than I can at present) about *how long* it may be before I reach a final decision, and whether *that decision* will be *favourable* to the continuance of peaceful Relations between the two Countries, or *otherwise*.

Under these circumstances of doubt and uncertainty, and as my despatch from the Department says nothing of your movements after the *thirteen days* during which you would await my despatches, I very much regret that you did not honor me with a letter informing me of your general movements, and particularly how long you, or any of your Squadron would probably remain in the neighborhood of Vera Cruz. This information would have aided me very much to keep up a communication with you during your stay in this quarter of the Gulf.

I still however anticipate the pleasure of hearing from you soon, and hope you will have embraced the first opportunity of giving me such further information as will better enable me to execute my instructions in keeping you (and perhaps through you, the Gvmt.) advised of my progress, up to the *final issue* of my mission.

I send you this by the English Packet, to sail from Vera-Cruz 24th. inst. for the Havana. If she *falls in* with you, *you will receive it*, and with it a despatch for the Secretary of State, which please send forward, by the *first* of your *Vessels* that may be going to Galveston or New Orleans, or by any Vessels you may meet with bound to the latter Port.

If it *misses you*, all will go to the *Department of State*. If you send my despatch to N. Orleans Please place it under cover to *your Consul* to be forwarded immediately. This, my dear Sir, is the best course I can adopt to endeavour to reach you.

The report of your being in the vicinity has reached here, by the return to Vera-Cruz of two Mexican Vessels on the 9th. inst which had sailed the day previous. They report that a suspicious *Schooner* had chased *them*, and that they learned by another Mexican craft, that had been *boarded* that the Schooner was a Texian. They furthermore state that the Schooner had captured a Mexican Vessel.

This however must be a mistake *without doubt*. In view of my advices from Gvmt. I have not hesitated to assure *this Government* in the most *positive manner* that your instructions were certainly of

a pacific character so long as they were open and pending. The excitement produced by the Mexican Vessel. Another Mexican Vessel to which taken it was undoubtedly probably taken a receipt that if they would offer you waters, I would invite you efficacious. This might be attended I get a favourable reply, (and a letter to you) when, in view can exercise your own discretion.

I am in daily expectation shall be the better able to do to do, at all Events, so soon to advise you.

I Remain dear Sir Your
Obedient and

To

Com. E. W. MOORE
Commanding

The above is a true Copy

[Inclosing duplicate of contents of letter of August

[Transmitting an inquiry to William Harpur, of New Orleans, killed in the service of Texas, who had been last heard of

SIR

Your letter of the 21st
English Packet Brig Pen

^aAugust 21, 1840.

^bCopy made by Moore himself.

a pacific character *so long* as my negotiations with the Government were *open* and *pending*. This was necessary or expedient to allay the excitement produced by the report of Your having captured a Mexican Vessel. *Another Story* is that some Brandy was taken from the Mexican Vessel to which I have replied that if any thing *had been taken* it was undoubtedly *paid for*, and that the Commander had probably taken a *receipt therefor*. I have informed this Govmt. that if they would offer you the protection and hospitality of their waters, I would *invite* you to send in one of your Vessels to Sacrificious. This might be attended with some advantages. I will, *if I get a favourable reply*, further advise you (if I can manage to get a letter to you) *when*, in view of what I shall then inform you, you can exercise your own discretion.

I am in daily expectation of hearing from you, in which case I shall be the better able to send *you my advices, which I will* Endeavor to do, *at all Events*, so soon as I have anything of importance further to advise you.

I Remain dear Sir Your Most
Obedient and Very Hble Servt

Signed JAMES TREAT

To

Com. E. W. MOORE
*Commanding Texian Squadron
in the Gulf of Mexico*

The above is a true Copy. E. W. MOORE

TREAT TO LAMAR.^a

[Inclosing duplicate of letter of August 11, and referring Lamar to contents of letter of August 21 to Lipscomb.]

TREAT TO LIPSCOMB.^a

[Transmitting an inquiry, made through Mr. Pakenham, relative to William Harpur, of New Orleans, who was reported to have been killed in the service of Texas, and James Lewis, a native of Wales, who had been last heard from at Matagorda.]

MOORE TO TREAT.^b

TEXAS SLOOP WAR AUSTIN
OFF POINT MARIANDRIA

25th August 1840.

SIR

Your letter of the 21st. inst. came to hand this morning by the English Packet Brig Penguin, which Vessel left Vera-Cruz yesterday

^a August 21, 1840.

^b Copy made by Moore himself. How it came into the archives does not appear.

afternoon; I will despatch the Schr. San Jacinto tomorrow to Galveston with your accompanying *three* despatches, and a copy of yours to me agreeably to your request.

The Schr San Jacinto has been off this place since the 30th. July *but has not captured* any Vessel nor attempted to do so; she chased *two* Schooners two days since, and on one of them standing in for the Land, with the view, as was supposed, of running her on shore, the chase was instantly abandoned to prevent injury to the Mexican property. I arrived off here with the Schr San Bernard in company, on the 18th. inst. and have had, since I left Galveston, favourable opportunities of capturing *seven or eight* Mexican Vessels (*three* I have actually boarded) not one of which has been molested in any manner! You were, therefore perfectly safe in giving the Mexican Government the assurance that you did, and you may still rest perfectly assured, that so long as your negotiations are "*open,*" and "*pending,*" no Mexican Vessel will be molested by any Vessel of the Texas Navy until I receive additional instructions from my Government.

I would have written to you myself sooner but supposed that the letter from the Honble the Secretary of State had given you all the information, respecting my movements, that was necessary.

In order that you may without fail communicate with me, or with my government through one of the Vessels under my command you may be certain of either finding this Ship or one of the other Vessels of the Squadron off Point Mariandrea within twenty miles of the Land.

I cannot see any benefit that could possibly accrue from having one of the Vessels of our Navy at anchor at Sacraficious and if it be necessary I can anchor this Ship within *four miles* of Vera Cruz without the "protection" or "hospitality" of the Mexican Government but *in defiance* of their whole force!! My instructions prevent my appearing off any of the Mexican Ports at present.

I am in anxious expectation of hearing *definitely*, from you at an early date and hope most sincerely that the Mexican Government will acknowledge us at once, which it is certainly her interest to do.

I Remain Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient
and Very Hble Servt.

E W MOORE

To

MR. JAMES TREAT
City of Mexico.

The above is a true copy
E. W. MOORE

CORRECTION

Moore

[Inclosing Moore to Treat

Moore

His Excellency

M. B. LAMAR

President of
of Texas

DEAR SIR

I send by the same Vessel you and two to the Honble Agent in Mexico; also a copy of the Navy of my movements I wrote, with copies of a letter

By reference to my reports the Centralists of Yucatan towards you anxiety for the cooperation of throwing at this time on the of establishing the Federal we would be acknowledged

The Centralists are all means already at your Country least prospect of being to, and no longer ask at soon made to feel is our them; and in my humble they are made to feel it.

With the Navy manned vessel can be captured that be kept in a perfect state temporize any longer with would annihilate every nation and ruin throughout

*August 28