

P S In case of the necessity of referring to any friend of Texas in Mexico I beg leave confidentially to inform you that Mr Jas <sup>a</sup> (the Gentlemen to whom I alluded in my former Letter) who has the confidence of the President of Texas as well as my own with whom you may communicate with entire freedom and unreserve for any thing he will do Texas will confirm. Be so kind as to forward your Letters to me through Mr. Crawford the consul here

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BUCHANAN TO MOORE.<sup>b</sup>

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTYS  
CONSULATE [*New York City,*] *7th January 1840*

SIR

I have the honor to state that I have received information that there is detained on Board the Texian Brig of War under your command a subject of her Majesty named Edward Watkins that he is not permitted to address a letter to me for redress as also that a friend of his upon applying to go on board to see Watkins was threatened that he would be thrown overboard. In justice to your standing as an officer of the Texian Navy I state these Matters and I have requested the Bearer Thomas J Watkins to be permitted to see the man Watkins as he is a distant relation who will deliver this letter to you as the officer in Command

I have the honor to be Sir  
your humble Servant

J<sup>s</sup> BUCHANAN

To Commodore MOORE  
*as officer in Command of the  
Texian Brig of War Colorado  
at Staten Island*

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MOORE TO BUCHANAN.<sup>c</sup>

TEXAS BRIG OF WAR COLORADO  
*Off Staten Island, 8th. Jany. 1840.*

SIR,

Your letter of yesterday in relation to Edward Watkins, who claims to be a subject of Her Brittanic Majesty, came to hand this afternoon, and in reply I have the honor to state that a man named Edward Watkins is a Quarter Gunner on board of this Vessel, and that he shipped for the Naval Service of Texas on the 17th. of October last at the Town of Galveston, Texas, and he has ever since

<sup>a</sup> In the original was doubtless given here the name of James Treat.

<sup>b</sup> A. L. S. This and the copy of the reply which follows were doubtless sent by Moore to the Texan government, but no letter of transmittal has been found.

<sup>c</sup> See note to title of Buchanan to Moore, January 7.

been doing duty on board of this Vessel. I will also State for your information that in shipping men for the service of Texas none are shipped who do not claim to be citizens of the Republic.

As to the threat which you were "informed" was made to a friend of Watkins, I have the assurance of the Executive Officer of the Vessel that none of the kind has ever been made to any one wishing to visit this vessel at any time or under any circumstances; and I assure you that no such restriction as the one you mention has ever been wished to be enforced on board of this Vessel, at the same time that I make you this assurance, I deem it my duty to say to you that I hold myself responsible to my Government, and my Government only, for keeping any person from visiting a Vessel under my Command whenever I deem it necessary.

Watkins was taken sick on Saturday night last and is now ill.

I have the honor to be Sir

Your humble servant

(sigd.) E. W. MOORE  
*Commdr. in Chief*  
*Texas Navy*

To, Mr. JAMES BUCHANAN  
*H. B. M. Consul New York*

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AUSTIN TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE [BURNET, ACTING].<sup>a</sup>

[Explains that Austin is forwarding by a special courier a communication for President Lamar which has been brought by the English brig Pilot.<sup>b</sup>]

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BURNET TO HAMILTON.<sup>c</sup>

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HAMILTON TO PALMERSTON.<sup>d</sup>

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LIPSCOMB TO HAMILTON.<sup>e</sup>

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HAMILTON TO LIPSCOMB.<sup>f</sup>

CHARLESTON *Feby 25th 1840*

DEAR SIR—

I have learnt by the public papers with sincere satisfaction of your appointment as Secretary of State, in the Cabinet of President

<sup>a</sup> January 20, 1840. Austin (Wm. T.) was Texas collector of customs at the port of Velasco.

<sup>b</sup> MacGregor to the President of Texas [Lamar], December 26, 1839.

<sup>c</sup> January 29, 1840. See Calendar.

<sup>d</sup> February 10, 1840. See Hamilton to Lipscomb, February 25, 1840.

<sup>e</sup> February 14, 1840. See Calendar.

<sup>f</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 411.

Lamar. You have doubtless read the proceedings of the Congress of Texas in secret session, connected with my Mission to England. I beg leave to enclose you a copy of the letter I have addressed to Lord Palmerston on my arrival at this place. The letters which I received from Mr Pakenham, I enclosed to your predecessor previous to my leaving New Orleans: That my negotiation will be ultimately successful and the mediation of Great Britain be accepted, I entertain very confident hopes, even if Mr. Treat should not succeed, as through the Bondholders, the British Government will bring a very powerful influence to bear on Mexico. I presume you subscribe to the wisdom of the pacific policy recommended by the Executive and adopted by the congress of Texas, in the proceedings in secret session on the 19th December last. I therefore cannot too strongly, solicit the exercise of your influence in the cabinet, to prevent all hostile demonstration against Mexico either by land or by sea, until the result of my mission shall be known—or until the loan shall have been negotiated—a false step would be *fatal* to this latter measure and be equally destructive of all hope of the acceptance by Mexico of the proffered interposition of England.<sup>a</sup>

(Copy)

HAMILTON TO PALMERSTON.

CHARLESTON So CA *Feby 10th 1840*

MY LORD:—

When I had the honor of holding an interview with you at your residence in Great Stanhope Street in September last, on which occasion I took the liberty of urging on you, such considerations as I thought of some value to enable you to make up your opinion, on the expediency of recognizing the Independence of Texas, I informed you that I had little doubt that, for purposes of peace and a well ascertained boundary, Texas would be willing to pay an adequate indemnity to Mexico which, under her convention with the Mexican Bondholders in London in Sept 1837 would enure to the benefit of your citizens. After this interview with your Lordship I saw several of the most respectable and influential of the Bondholders in England, and in consequence of an understanding with them, I was induced, on my recent visit to Texas, to obtain from the congress, and the Executive Government of that Republic, a distinct expression of their willingness to assent to a convention providing for such a purpose. I enclose your Lordship, confidentially, a copy of a report of the committees of foreign relations of both Houses of Congress, of which I ask your most careful and attentive perusal, together with

<sup>a</sup> For the remainder of this letter see Calendar.

certain Resolutions adopted by that body and approved by the President. I moreover beg leave to advise you, in equal confidence, that I have been authorized to accept the mediation of your Government, in case Mexico concurs in such a reference, and I am likewise appointed the agent to treat with the Mexican Bondholders, in the event of the Government of Mexico consenting that the indemnity should be paid over to her creditors in England. These facts I have communicated to Mr Pakenham, and under date of the 12th of Decr. he writes me that, whilst every public man of any intelligence or consideration, in the country concurs in opinion, that immediate peace with Texas is an object greatly to be desired, yet such is the feebleness of the Government, and such the force of popular prejudice, that the executive wants the requisite firmness to bring this proposition forward. He says, however, that the Government are willing to conclude a Truce for an indefinite period with Texas, which I have declined, without Mexico should except the mediation of your Government and transfer the Negotiation at once to London.—in which case I have signified to Mr. Pakenham my willingness to consent to an Armistice until the 1st. April 1841. On the 3rd of Jany.<sup>a</sup> from New Orleans, I communicated this reply to Mr Pakenham and am yet without his answer. I now submit to your Lordship in the briefest possible terms, some facts with which it may be of importance for you to know, as the commercial connections between Great Britain and Mexico are certainly of no small moment to your people, to say nothing of the large public debt which Mexico owes and has long owed to your citizens. It becomes therefore, a question of no inconsiderable interest to determine, whether policy does not dictate that your Government should take very active and urgent means to induce Mexico to listen to the Counsels of Peace. Her folly seems really to partake of the infatuation of madness. With internal dissensions among her own people, who are nearly divided equally, that She should not seek with alacrity, to confine her young but gigantic neighbour, to a Specific boundary, by treaty and stipulations and thus remove the constant means of affording aliment to the Federalists, presents a subject of no small wonder and surprise. This party looks confidently to an alliance with Texas, for the destruction of the present Central Government, which must be attended doubtless, by the ultimate conquest of the whole country by our race. My exertions have been strenuously employed to prevent the Government of Texas from listening to the overtures of the Federals. Gen. Anaya the chief of this party in Mexico, visited Texas in November, and endeavoured to induce, by every possible temptation of Independence and further conquest, the Executive of Texas to unite with them in

<sup>a</sup> The copy on file is dated the 2d.

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an immediate invasion of the country. This overture was declined for the present, on account of the proffered mediation of your Government, as Texas is resolved not to move, until all hopes of peace has been exhausted. The moment however, she raises the Federal banner, the whole country is revolutionized, and in this event, with the Ports of Mexico blockaded by the Superior Naval force of Texas, what becomes of your commerce and the claims of your citizens? I therefore in entire candor and sincerity, inform you that I believe, if Mexico does not listen to terms by the first of June next, that a state of things will ensue in that country which may be extremely prejudicial to the interests of your own. I shall leave New York some time in April for England on my way to France, passing through London. I will do myself the honor of paying your Lordship my respects in person. In the meantime, as not a moment is to be lost, I submit whether it might not be politic, that you should forthwith communicate to Mr Pakenham, that if Mexico does not consent to your proffered mediation, the recognition of Texas can no longer be withheld. Not that I mean to press this point upon your notice until after the adjournment of Parliament, when, I feel satisfied, I shall present considerations of such manifest interest to England herself, that your Government will no longer withhold this act of Justice from a people speaking your own language and living under your laws, and who are destined to be the best customers and firmest allies you have on the continent of America, if their good will is only cultivated by the usual comity of international intercourse. One hundred thousand of the Anglo Saxon race has been added to the population of Texas during the last Six months, and the tide of emigration is still rolling on with a full and unchecked current. Her Navy consists of a Marine Steamer, 1 corvette, 2 Brigs and 3 Schooners, which will be ready to appear off Vera Cruz on the 1st of June next, which however, it is the intention of the Government of Texas to keep in Port, that no act of hostility shall be perpetuated on Mexico until her final decision shall be learnt, whether she accepts or not, your proffered mediation.

I beg you to regard the copies of the extract from the report and the resolutions as Strictly Confidential, intended only for your private use.

I have the honor to remain, with distinguished consideration and respect, your Lordship's most Obedient Servant,

(Signed) J HAMILTON  
*Commr. on the Part of the  
Republic of Texas*

Lord Viscount PALMERSTON  
*Minister for foreign affaires etc. etc.*