

TERRELL TO SMITH.<sup>a</sup>DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
HOUSTON August 20th 1842TO HON ASHBEL SMITH  
*Chargé d'Affaires of Texas etc.*

SIR.

Your despatches for this Government, dated June 8th. July 3rd and July 4th were received some days since.

The absence of the Hon Secretary of State, (occasioned by severe illness) will account for the delay in answering your communications.

In his continued absence, owing to protracted indisposition, I am directed, by His Excellency the President, to communicate with you; in which he desires me to assure you that it has been a source of sincere satisfaction to learn that you have at length succeeded in negotiating an exchange of the ratifications, of the several treaties heretofore concluded between Great Britain and Texas—notwithstanding the many and serious difficulties which have been interposed. It can not but be regarded as an auspicious event; and authorises the expression of the hope entertained by this Government that the amicable and intimate relations thus established between the two countries, will not only remain undisturbed, but that they may be improved and strengthened, and ultimately become permanent. We are a branch of the same great national family—speaking the same language—governed in a great measure by the same laws—possessing kindred feelings and congenial sentiments—therefore that all causes of hostility towards this country, on the part of the Government of Great Britain, should be removed as far as practicable—that sentiments of an unfriendly character should give place to more favourable opinions and better feelings, is greatly to be desired; and for the accomplishment of this important object, the President relies much upon your prudence and abilities.

The interests of this country are most deeply involved in the mediation proposed by Great Britain, and you will continue to press this subject upon the attention of Her Majesty's Ministers. The United States have also made a tender of the mediation of that Government to effect the same desirable end which will of course be accepted by us. Should Mexico, after all these friendly offices on the part of neutral powers, persist in declining the proposed mediation, and active and efficient blockade will most certainly be enforced. Nor will this Government fail to prosecute hostilities vigorously by land. That this course on our part will be attended with

success, and eventually bring about the desired result—not a doubt is entertained.

The condition of our vessels requiring it, we were compelled to raise the blockade for a short period, for the purpose of refitting them. The Ship Austin and the Brig Whorton have been for some time in the port of New Orleans for this purpose—but are now daily expected at Galveston, and will be prepared, together with the schooners San Antonio and San Bernard (now there and ready for service) to proceed to the actual enforcement of the blockade. It is confidently believed also that we shall be able to get the Steam Ship Zavalla and perhaps the Brig Jim Bowie to sea shortly, as soon as the appropriations which the Congress at its late extra Session made for that purpose can be made available. A new Proclamation will of course be necessary.

Your conduct in regard to the War Steamers which, at the date of your last despatches were being fitted out in England for the use of the Mexican Government, meets the entire approbation of the President. This Government had entertained, nor has it yet relinquished, the hope that no considerations of interest or advantage could induce her Majesty's Government, by consenting to a manifest violation of the principles of international law, or the rules which govern the intercourse of friendly powers, to forget the magnanimity becoming a great and powerful Nation. Her Majesty's Government, it is believed, could not fail to perceive the injustice involved in, and the injurious consequences which must necessarily result from, a *permission* either express or tacit, on the part of that Government, and more especially under its auspices, to arm and equip vessels of War within her harbours, destined to act against a friendly Nation at war with a third power. These vessels have not as yet, as far as we have any intelligence, reached the port of Vera Cruz—nor will they be permitted to do so without a strong effort to prevent it.

You have doubtless, before this will have reached you, seen the bill passed by the Congress, at its late Extra Session, for the purpose of prosecuting offensive war against Mexico, and the message of the President vetoing the bill. The reasons which induced the President to withhold his sanction from that measure are found stated at length in the message itself. This document, it is true, will present you rather a melancholy picture of our present condition and circumstances—yet we do not despond. We have extensive resources and believe we will be able to make them available so as to carry out the war against our uncompromising, heartless and faithless enemy to a successful termination. That we will be able almost immediately to establish our blockade in accordance with the settled usages of

Nations, and rigidly to enforce it as long as may be necessary, there can be no doubt. Nor is it for a moment contemplated to abandon all offensive operations by land. On the contrary it is intended immediately to send out to the enemy's frontier a force sufficiently strong to produce to the enemy the most serious annoyance. But for this purpose it has been thought advisable to rely exclusively upon volunteer service. The precise time at which this expedition will march can not yet be determined. The orders have been issued, and the troops are now being raised, and will be in the field in a very short time. You will be regularly advised of all operations both by sea and land.

Your suggestions upon the propriety of investing the Charge d'Affaires of Texas in Europe with authority to issue letters of marque etc. against Mexico are deemed important and will receive the early attention of the Government. Should the recommendation be acquiesced in, the requisite blank commissions will be forwarded to you at Paris.

This Government will accede to the request of Lord Aberdeen that the Royal West India Mail Steamers, touching at the ports of Mexico will be exempted from the operation of the blockade—an order to which effect will be issued to our blockading squadron—with a copy of which you will be furnished to be communicated to her Majesty's Government. If an arrangement can be effected by which these vessels would regularly touch at Galveston, it would be highly gratifying to the President—and would doubtless be productive of decided advantage both to this Country and Great Britain.

Accompanying this despatch will be forwarded a commission for Mr. Lachlan Macintosh Rate as Consul General of Texas for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland—which you will please forward by the first safe conveyance that may offer.\*

It may be a matter of no small importance to the interests of this Government that you acquire full and accurate information as to the amount and character of Texas liabilities existing in Europe. You are therefore desired to give this subject your earnest attention, and transmit the result of your enquiries to the State Department.

The books and papers which have been so politely presented by the Hon Mr. Hume—and others which you have procured for the use of the Republic will be a most valuable accession to our public library. You will please present to Hon Mr. Hume the acknowledgements of the Secretary of State for this unequivocal testimony of his regard for the interests and prosperity of our young Republic—and in return assure him that Copies of our Constitution, laws and Con-

\* No copy of this commission is on file with the correspondence.

gressional documents will be forwarded to you to be presented to the library of the House of Commons, as soon as practicable.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the suggestions contained in the despatch from the Department of State of 7th June.

Your despatch relating to the Mexican War Steamers building in England have not been received at the proper Department—nor have your letters to Col. Hockley and Mr. Miller, (as those gentlemen inform me) come to hand.

It is the first wish of the President's heart to bring about an amicable adjustment of the long continued and profitless difficulties between this Government and that of Mexico. It is believed by his excellency that if France would unite her efforts with those of Great Britain and the United States, already tendered, it would furnish ground for the indulgence of a rational hope that this result, so desirable on every account, may be brought about.

You are well aware that there is no apprehension felt, on the part either of the Government or population of Texas, as to the ultimate issue of the impending contest between this Country and Mexico. It is therefore not on that account but alone for the sake of our citizens—to avert the evils ever attendant upon a state of actual war, and which, result as it may to governments, never fails to prove a serious calamity to individual members of the community—that the President feels so much anxiety to bring about this adjustment.

You will therefore, at your earliest leisure, lay this matter before the French Ministry, and press it with an earnestness proportioned to the corresponding sentiments with which you may discover His Majesty's Ministers to be animated.

That it will afford His Majesty's Government sincere pleasure, by the intervention of their friendly offices, to aid in adjusting existing differences between two neutral powers, the President does not entertain a doubt. The character of the French people as well as the uniform course of their Government—evinced of the most enlightened and liberal councils—furnish the most unequivocal guaranty that she is governed by such sentiment. It would be doing injustice [to] the national character of France—the earliest ally of our mother country—the first European power to acknowledge the Independence of Texas—and at all times the friend of Republics, to indulge the supposition that she can view with cold indifference a struggle between two neighbouring Republics, marked too by so rancorous and revengeful a spirit as that now going on between this Country and Mexico.

The high appreciation in which the President holds the character of His Majesty the King of the French, both as a man and a Prince,

and the many substantial evidences which France has given through her late talented and accomplished Chargé d'Affaires to this Government, M. D. Saligny, of her friendly feelings towards our young Republic, conspire to point out France, above all other European powers, as the Nation which should be selected by Texas as an u[m]pire, in the event of the proposed mediation being successful.

These friendly feelings, you are authorised to assure His Majesty's Ministers, are fully reciprocated by the present Administration of this Government. So far as the President himself is concerned he has given the most unequivocal evidences of his friendship for the French Nation, in the several contracts for colonization which he has Granted to French citizens—and in conferring offices of high responsibility upon them—which, although unfortunate in one instance, nevertheless evinced his friendship. And more especially has he shown the most decided preference for Frenchmen in the vigorous and efficient support which as a member of Congress, he gave to the bill usually denominated the "Franc Texienne bill," in which it was proposed to introduce, with peculiar privileges, a large number of French emmigrants into this Country.<sup>a</sup>

The President desires that you will present his kindest personal regards to his excellent friend M. D' Saligny, and to assure that gentleman that he regrets much the causes (although he acquiesces in the necessity) which rendered it necessary for a gentleman of his character and abilities to withdraw from the Country—and hopes that he will find it convenient to return—with renewed health—or that his place will be supplied by a gentleman of the same enlightened views—liberal sentiments—urbanity of manners and amenity of temper.

The President desires to be remembered to you in the most affectionate terms—and to assure you that your conduct as a public functionary, so far as it has come to his knowledge, meets his entire approbation.

I have the honor to be  
with high consideration  
Your obdt Servt

G. W. TERRELL

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HAMILTON TO THE SENIOR OFFICER OF HER MAJESTY'S NAVY AT THE  
HAVANNAH.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The bill passed the House, of which Houston was a member, of the 5th Texas Congress, but was killed in the Senate. See *Telegraph and Texas Register*, February 10 and 17, 1841; *Austin City Gazette*, July 21, 1841.

<sup>b</sup> August 23, 1842. See Hamilton to Jones, November 25, 1842.

ELLIOT TO SECRETARY OF STATE OF TEXAS [JONES].<sup>a</sup>

GALVESTON August 23rd. 1842.

SIR,

Having been appointed by Her Britannic Majesty to be Her Majesty's Consul General in the Republic of Texas, I beg to announce to Your Excellency that I have to day arrived at this place.

I propose to repair to Houston as soon as an occasion presents itself; but in the mean time, give me leave to ask You to convey to the President the expression of my highest respect, and to signify my great desire to wait upon His Excellency in person, whenever it may be convenient to receive me.

I should add that I am the bearer of a dispatch to Your address from the Earl of Aberdeen which it will be my duty to deliver to you, when I have the satisfaction of seeing you.

Accept, Sir, the sentiments of High consideration with which I have the honor to remain

Your Excellency's  
Most obedient  
Humble Servant

CHARLES ELLIOT.

His Excellency  
The SECRETARY OF STATE  
*etc. etc. etc.*  
*Houston*

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 TERRELL TO ELLIOT.<sup>a</sup>

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
HOUSTON August 29th 1842

SIR,

The undersigned, in discharge of the duties of Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, has the pleasure to announce the receipt of your note of 24th<sup>b</sup> Inst from Galveston—notifying this Department of your appointment as Her Britanic Majesty's Consul General for this Republic.

In reply I beg leave to state that it affords me very since[re] pleasure to be the instrument of welcoming the arrival of a gentleman so distinguished, as the representative of the Government of Her Britanic Majesty in this Republic.

<sup>a</sup> A. L. S.<sup>b</sup> Should be 23d.

The undersigned will be happy to receive Captain Elliot, at this Office, tomorrow at 10 o'clock A. M., or at any hour thereafter that may suit his convenience.

Accept Sir assurances of the high consideration

With which I am

Your most obedient  
humble servant

G. W. TERRELL,  
*Attorney Genl. and*  
*(Acting) Secretary of State.*

To Honble

CHARLES ELLIOT

*Consul Genl.*

*etc. etc.*

*Houston.*

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TERRELL TO ABERDEEN.<sup>a</sup>

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HOUSTON August 30th 1842

MY LORD.

The undersigned, in discharge of the duties of Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note addressed to this Department by the Earl of Aberdeen of date 31st May last, announcing the appointment of Charles Elliot Esqr, as Consul General of Her Britanic Majesty for this Republic.

It affords the undersigned great pleasure to state in reply (although not strictly in accordance with diplomatic usage) that Captain Elliot has been received by the Executive Chief Magistrate of this Government with that consideration which is due to the representative of a Government so pre-eminently distinguished amongst the Nations of the civilized world.

The undersigned avails himself of the opportunity to assure the Earl of Aberdeen that this manifestation of a desire on the part of Her Britanic Majesty to cultivate more friendly relations between the two countries, will be met by a corresponding spirit from the Authorities of this Government. The citizens of this Republic are proud to claim descent from the same great ancestry with the people of Great Britain. Availing herself of the wisdom and experience of that mighty people, Texas is, in a great measure, governed by the same laws—actuated by the same principles—and controuled by kindred feelings and congenial sentiments. Between Nations thus relatively situated the most intimate relations both social and commercial should ever subsist. And Her Britanic Majesty's Ministers may be assured

that no efforts will be wanting on the part of this Government to extend, to strengthen and render permanent these relations between the two countries.

I beg leave to tender assurances  
of the high consideration with  
which I am your Lordship's  
most obedient humble servant.

G. W. TERRELL

To

The EARL OF ABERDEEN  
*London.*

SMITH TO JONES.<sup>a</sup>

Copy—The Chargé d Affaires of Texas to the Earl of Aberdeen.

PARIS, *August [15?], 1842.*

The Undersigned, Chargé d'Affaires of Texas, has received Dispatches from his Government, in which it is stated that 'a triple interposition by France, England and the United States in the difficulties existing between Texas and Mexico, would appear to be proper, as it is consistent with the enlightened character of the age as well as the interest of those countries severally'. The Undersigned is instructed to suggest the propriety of such a course to the ministers for Foreign Affairs respectively of Great Britain and France. Accordingly the Undersigned addressed a note on the subject to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of France. As her Majesty's Government has already undertaken to interpose its friendly offices to effect a peace between Texas and Mexico, agreeably to the Convention of Mediation concluded between Texas and Great Britain, it has seemed proper to the Undersigned, to communicate to Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the note addressed to the Government of the King of the French. A copy of the note is accordingly herewith enclosed.

The Undersigned was informed that the subject of joint interposition will be presented to Her Majesty's Government by His Excellency the French Ambassador at London. Should it be deemed necessary by the Earl of Aberdeen, the Undersigned will repair to London at such time as may suit his Lordships convenience.

The Undersigned avails himself, etc.

signed ASIBEL SMITH

Legation of Texas.

[Here follows a copy of Smith to Guizot, August 15, 1842.<sup>b</sup>]

<sup>a</sup> A. I. S., dated August 31, 1842. Dispatch No. 17, dealing with both British and French relations, but classified with Correspondence with France, q. v. This dispatch contains the inclosure which follows, the logical place of which is here.

<sup>b</sup> See Correspondence with France.



SMITH TO SANCIO.<sup>a</sup>

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SMITH TO IRVING.<sup>b</sup>

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ELLIOT TO TERRELL.<sup>c</sup>

HOUSTON *September 10th. 1842.*

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to the Republic of Texas has the honor to address Mr. Terrell upon the subject of the notification of blockade of the Eastern ports of Mexico, proclaimed by the President on the 26th. March last.<sup>d</sup>

When He had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Terrell on the 28th. Ultimo, He mentioned that the despatch from which He gathered the views, and earnest desire and recommendation of Her Majesty's Government then expressed, adverted to Instructions of an earlier date not at that time received, and He abstained from making any written communication upon the subject, till He should be in possession of those Instructions; which is now the case.

The Earl of Aberdeen had already represented verbally to the Texian Chargé d'Affaires in London, the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government concerning the supposed blockade, and they have no doubt been conveyed to the President through that channel. But His Lordship has also desired the Undersigned to represent the ill will which a continuance of it would excite in Foreign Nations, and especially among the Mercantile population of the higher commercial powers, whose friendship it must be so greatly the interest of the Texian Government to conciliate in the infancy of their Country's independence.

To such considerations The Undersigned may add the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that a blockade of the Mexican Ports has become particularly inopportune, since the final completion of the Treaties between Great Britain and Texas, since it is now the duty of the British Government, conformably to the provisions of one of those Treaties, to endeavour once more to mediate a peace between the two Countries, with a view to the recognition of Texas by Mexico.

It is scarcely to be supposed, His Lordship observes, that such a mediation can be undertaken with any rational hope of success when an obstruction is opposed by Texas to the commerce of Mexico

<sup>a</sup> September 7, 1842. See Smith to Jones, September 8, 1842, in Correspondence with Spain.

<sup>b</sup> September 8, 1842. See Smith to Jones, September 10, 1842 (Dispatch 20).

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

<sup>d</sup> For the proclamation, see *Telegraph and Texas Register*, March 30, 1842.

with other Countries; which could under any circumstances contribute but little in proportion to its vexatious character to the success of the contest at present raging between the two Republics.

These, in substance, are the opinions and suggestions of Her Majesty's Government, founded upon the supposition that an actual and effective blockade, properly supported by an adequate naval force, in the manner required by the Law of Nations, might have been established and maintained, under the notification of the 26h. March last. And although that is not the situation of circumstances, still the Undersigned has considered it incumbent upon him to make a frank exposition of the feelings with which Her Majesty's Government regarded the supposed existence of the blockade. But the possibility that the proclaimed Blockade had not been duly enforced, had also been contemplated by Her Majesty's Government, and the Undersigned will now beg leave to turn to that point.

A period of nearly six months has elapsed since the notification of the 26th. March, without any practical enforcement of it, and such being the case Mr. Terrell knows that the indispensable condition of a blockade has always been wanting. The notification without the fact is insufficient, but whilst It continues unrevoked, or until the Merchants of Neutral Powers have a formal knowledge of the intentions of their own Government upon the subject, the notice necessarily entails undue and harassing consequences upon the Commerce with the proclaimed Ports.

The President will learn with concern that this has been the case on the present occasion; and upon the whole the Undersigned confidently commits it to His Excellency's Sense of justice, and friendly dispositions, to direct such an answer to be given to this Communication as may have the immediate effect of removing all further difficulty and uneasiness upon this subject.

The Undersigned avails himself with cordial satisfaction, of this first occasion of official correspondence to assure this Government of the respect of that of his own for the independence of the Republic, and of the lively interest felt in its honor, welfair, and prosperity.

He also requests Mr. Terrell to accept the assurances of esteem and high consideration with which He has the honor to remain His obedient and faithful servant

CHARLES ELLIOT

To

The Honorable

G. W. TERRELL

*Attorney General*

*charged ad interim*

*with the duties of Secretary of State  
of the Republic of Texas.*