

Copy Annexed.

LONDON 21st July 1842

ASHBEL SMITH Esquire  
*Chargé d'Affaires, Texas.*

SIR,

Since we had the pleasure of seeing you, General Hamilton has arrived here from New York, and we are enabled to inform you, that of the 257 Texian Bonds in our possession, 156—value £20250, belong to our Mr Jas Holford and the remaining 101, value £10100—are the property of other parties.

We remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servants

signed HOLFORD & Co

JONES TO SMITH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Washington August 1st. 1844*

HON. ASHBEL SMITH  
*Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Texas.*  
*etc. etc. etc.*

SIR,

My last despatch was addressed you on the 14th. Ulto. and forwarded by Mr. J. H. Greise<sup>a</sup> of London, since which time I have had the pleasure of receiving your communication of the 16th.<sup>b</sup> June last.

Your brother Mr. George A. Smith left this place the day before yesterday for Galveston and informed me he should sail by the first opportunity which offered from that place for New Orleans, from whence he expected to proceed to Paris. I forward this despatch, to his care and expect he will be the Bearer of it to you. I also avail myself of his going over to forward for the use of our Legations copies of the Laws and Journals of the last Congress.<sup>c</sup> \* \* \*

The President has directed me to grant your request for leave of absence and for permission to return home, and I enclose you herewith your letters of leave to be presented to the respective ministers of foreign Affaires of England and France whenever you are ready to depart for Texas. They have been made out in the form of leave of absence for six months, as it has been thought for certain reasons more expedient than letters of recal. If there should be a fair prospect of effecting a treaty with the government of Spain, within any brief period after the receipt of this despatch, and it will suit your convenience to remain a short time for that purpose you can so

<sup>a</sup> This name is uncertain.

<sup>b</sup> Of the 18th, in fact.

<sup>c</sup> The matter omitted here relates to Jones's salary.

remain, and conclude the treaty otherwise you are at liberty to return home at your own earliest convenience. Gen. George W. Terrill, Attorney General of the Republic will probably be appointed as Chargé d'Affaires to reside in Europe and discharge the duties of that office during your absence. Should he not arrive before you are ready to depart for Texas you can leave the Archives of the Legations under your charge with the respective Consuls General for England and France or with either of them as you may deem most adviseable.

In relation to the subjects of annexation to the U. States and the Mediation of friendly powers between Texas and Mexico, I have only to repeat what I in substance communicated to you in a former despatch, that should either England or France separately or both powers conjointly be disposed to make any offers to guarantee to Texas a truce of convenient form and duration, or freedom from further molestation by Mexico, or an acknowledge[ment] of our separate independence by that power, based upon assurances from this government of maintaining that separate independence, and upon reciprocal commercial privileges and advantages, it is the wish of this government that their representatives here should be instructed at the earliest day possible on this subject and fully empowered to conclude the necessary arrangements for carrying these purposes into immediate effect. It is the desire of the President that all future negotiations connected with the subjects above referred to should be conducted at the seat of Government of Texas.

Enclosed herewith I transmit copies of the replies of the President and Secretary of War to the communication from Gen Woll of the 19th June last.<sup>a</sup>

I have the honor to be  
very respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

(Signed) ANSON JONES.

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DECLARATION OF HIBBERT.<sup>b</sup>

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

[Incloses the warrants requested in Elliot's letter of July 31.]

<sup>a</sup> Both replies were dated July 29, 1844. For both, see the Correspondence with Mexico, that of Houston being calendared.

<sup>b</sup> September 16, 1844. See Journals of extra session of 9th Cong., pp. 63-64 in *Senate Journals* of 7th to 9th Tex. Cong. inclosed with Elliot to Allen, January 8, 1845.

<sup>c</sup> September 21, 1844.

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

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS.

*September 27, 1844*HON ANSON JONES  
*Secretary of State*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches dated July 14th, which came to hand three days since. I have lost no time in attending to the matters embraced in them. Monsieur Guizot left Paris for the Chateau d' Eu the day on which they were received; he will not return here until after his visit to England whither he accompanies the King of the French. It is probable I shall leave for London in a very few days; the reasons connected with the present business which require me to remain a short time at Paris will be mentioned further on.

My despatches and private letters subsequent to the 2d June, and particularly my despatches of the 24th June with the explanatory private letters, have put you ere this time, in possession of the views of these Governments and have anticipated your instructions "to ascertain the substance of the correspondence which has taken place between France and England on the subject of Texas."

I imagine that my Lord Aberdeen will adhere to the project of a "Diplomatic Act," as communicated in my despatches to your Department of the 24th June. I have written to London requesting Mr. Rate our Consul General who is fully and minutely acquainted with this subject, to bring it forthwith before the notice of the British Government and urge them to send to their Minister in Texas powers and instructions to conclude a Diplomatic Act *there*, and to incorporate in the same, commercial regulations between the two countries. While in London, I discussed this subject so fully with Lord Aberdeen and Mr Addington, at the same time I conversed so much at length with our Consul, that, with my private letters to the latter gentleman (Mr Rate) the British Government are now in possession of all the considerations which should lead them to send forthwith the powers and instructions, as suggested in your despatch, to their Minister in Texas; and I believe they fully appreciate the force of these considerations. As Lord Aberdeen informed me that the French Gov. would be guided in this matter by the counsels of the British Gov, as stated in my despatch of 24th June, it may be expected that the Count de Saligny will receive powers and instructions conform-

<sup>a</sup> A. L. S. : indorsed " par le bateau à vapeur de Liverpool à Boston le 4 octobre."

able to those that may be sent to the British Chargé d' Affaires in Texas.

It has appeared to me advisable not to make at this moment a formal, written communication to the British Gov. on the present matter; but my private letters to Mr Rate for his guidance herein are full and explicit. I make the following extracts from one of day before yesterday:

“I will state distinctly the course which is deemed advisable in the present circumstances. It is that the English and French Govts should forthwith transmit to their respective Ministers in Texas full powers and instructions to conclude a treaty or diplomatic Act with Texas based on the condition that it remain a separate and independent State. These Governments may require this condition to form an essential part of any treaty or diplomatic act to be hereafter passed between them and the Texian Government. This was not, as you are aware, contemplated by Mr Jones when writing his despatch of July 14th, as he had not at that date received my despatch communicating Lord Aberdeen's proposition of the Diplomatic Act.” I afterwards intimated that the Ministers in Texas should be empowered to conclude a diplomatic act to remain in force for a limited period, say ten years, with the risk of ‘annexation’ afterwards.

I have requested Mr Rate to communicate to me promptly the result of his interview with the British Gov. I shall hear from him in two or three days. I am waiting in Paris to communicate if necessary with this Government, and with some hopes of receiving despatches from your Dep[artment] in answer to mine of June 24th. Unless I am informed that ‘powers and instruction’ are sent out by this vessel to the Ministers of France and England in Texas, I shall go at once to England so as to be enabled to transmit to you by next steamer definitive information.

I have deemed it not wholly improbable that Lord Aberdeen may before taking any new step, determine to wait for your answer to the proposed Diplomatic Act as presented to me in our interview of the 24th June and set forth in my despatch of the same date:—Captain Elliott is, I understand, absent from Texas:—these causes of delay may prove prejudicial to our interests; a course has nevertheless suggested itself to me which I shall explain in a private letter to His Excellency General Houston, to be sent by this mail. I need not add, that I shall keep strictly within the limits of the instructions already received from your Department.

I have directed Mr Rate to urge on Her Majesty's Ministers the importance of establishing *without delay* such political and commer-

cial relations with Texas as the British Government may be willing to enter into, on condition that Texas maintain its separate and independent existence.

I have the honor to be  
very respectfully  
your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

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

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

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

October 4, 1844

HON ANSON JONES,  
*Secretary of State*

SIR,

Since the date of my last despatch I have heard from London in relation to the matters contained in your despatch of July 14th. Lord Aberdeen being absent in Scotland in attendance on the Queen, Mr Rate called on Mr Addington Under Secretary of State.

Mr Rate writes me that Mr Addington expressed in relation to the affairs of Texas opinions entirely in accordance with Ld Aberdeen's previous communications with me;—that he left on Mr Rate's mind the impression that the "British Government would act promptly and decisively;" and Mr Addington promised to write to Lord Aberdeen by that night's post on this subject. It is unfortunate that the decision of the Ministers for For. Aff. of these Governments has been delayed for a few days by their absence from their posts. Mr Rate intimates that the British Government will probably prefer to negotiate at London. I shall write him by today's mail, that the time requisite for receiving powers and instructions from Texas, presents of itself alone an insuperable obstacle, and that the Government of Texas have expressed a clear request that the negotiations should be conducted in their country. The British Gov. are well aware of the necessity of promptly deciding this matter. The sole question in my opinion is, whether the British Government will agree to conduct the negotiation through their Minister in Texas, or persist in their proposition to negotiate in London. I think a *definitive* answer may be counted on in season for the steamer of the 19th Instant, and in case of the adoption of the former course, the requisite powers will probably be transmitted by that opportunity if not by an earlier one.

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<sup>a</sup> September 30, 1844. See Calendar.

<sup>b</sup> A. L. S.; indorsed "*per Great Western.*"

In reference to the recent threats of Mexico,<sup>a</sup> Mr Addington said he did not believe General Santa Anna had the remotest idea of invading Texas.

My last dates from your department are of the 14th July.

I have the honor to be  
very respectfully  
your obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

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ELLIOT TO JONES.<sup>b</sup>

[Requests warrants for the commanders of two British vessels, the names of which are given, to act under the treaty of November 16, 1840, for the suppression of the slave trade.]

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KENNEDY TO JONES.<sup>c</sup>

HER MAJESTY'S CONSULATE;  
*Galveston, October 21st. 1844.*

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that I am instructed by the Earl of Aberdeen, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to request the Government of Texas to issue a warrant to enable Captain William Kelly, of Her Majesty's Ship "Conway", about to be employed on the Cape of Good Hope station, to act under The Treaty of November 16th. 1840, between Great Britain and this Republic—for the suppression of Slave Trade.

In accordance with his Lordship's instruction, I beg to request the Government of the Republic to issue the requisite warrant. and to forward it to me, for transmission to the proper quarter.

I Have the Honor to Remain,  
With the Highest Respect,  
Sir,

Your most obedient,  
Faithful Servant.

WILLIAM KENNEDY

The Honble ANSON JONES  
*Secretary of State*  
*etc. etc. etc.*

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<sup>a</sup> In Woll to Houston, June 19, 1844. See Calendar of Correspondence with the United States.

<sup>b</sup> A. L. S., October 18, 1844.

<sup>c</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas). Book 42, pp. 543-544.

HOUSTON TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS [ABERDEEN].<sup>a</sup>

[Letter of credence for George W. Terrell as chargé d'affaires from Texas to Great Britain and Ireland.]

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JONES TO TERRELL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Washington Oct. 29th, 1844*

SIR,

The President having been pleased to appoint you Chargé d' affaires of this Republic to the courts of England France and Spain you will receive herewith your commission as such <sup>b</sup> and your letters of credence to these respective governments to be presented severally to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of those Nations, with copies of the same, and also full powers to negotiate treaties with those several governments

It is the wish of the President that you would proceed on your mission immediately and assume the duties of it without any delay. It is supposed that Mr. Smith will have left Europe before you arrive there, if so you will probably find the Archives of the English and French Legations in the charge of our Consuls General Mr. Rate in London and Mr Brunet at Paris. Among these Archives you will find sufficient instructions for your immediate governance, by which you will in the first instance be governed. Others will be sent you from time to time from this Department.

On your arrival in England you will direct your attention to ascertain as far as practicable what is the substance of the correspondence which has taken place between England and France, within the last few months on the subject of a settlement of our difficulties with Mexico and the affairs of Texas generally. You will also ascertain what those two governments propose to do in the matter and refer the same to this government for its consideration and action. Texas has already made so many overtures to foreign friendly powers that it is deemed most desirable under existing circumstances to wait until those powers who feel sufficient interest in the future state and condition of our country to make any propositions shall have submitted those propositions and in a definite and tangible form

Now appears to be the most favorable time to enter into negotiations with France and England for the admission of our products into

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<sup>a</sup> Undated; probably written October 29, 1844. See Jones to Terrell, of this date, with which it was sent.

<sup>b</sup> No copy of this document is on file.

their ports upon more favorable terms than present treaties permit in consequence of the absence of the obstacles which a commercial treaty with the U. States might interpose. You will therefore ascertain what the dispositions of those governments may be in reference to this subject, and refer such propositions as they shall make in this regard to this government for its consideration and action also. It is very desirable however that all negotiations on the subjects above referred to should be conducted in Texas and that the ministers of those governments resident here should be fully empowered to enter at once upon those negotiations

The absence of despatches from Mr Smith for some time past, renders it inexpedient to extend further or more definite instructions to you at the present moment. So soon however as I receive his expected communications or he shall return home and give me the benefit of a personal interview I will forward you more ample ones

I have the honor to be,

with great respect

Your Obt Servant

(Signed)

ANSON JONES

HON G W TERRELL

*Chargé d Affaires of Texas  
etc. etc. etc.*

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, Oct 30th. 1844.*

WILLIAM KENNEDY, Esquire,

*Consul of H. B. Majesty, etc. etc. etc.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Note, addressed to this Dept., under date of 21st. inst., communicating the request of the Government of H. B. Majesty, that a warrant, under the provisions of the Slave Trade Treaty between the Republic of Texas and Great Britain, be issued to Captain William Kelly, of Her Majesty's Ship "Conway", about to be employed on the Cape of Good Hope Station—and to forward herewith, the warrant as requested.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Yr. Obt. Servant

ANSON JONES

<sup>a</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 44, p. 228.

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

HER MAJESTY'S CONSULATE;  
Galveston, November 8th 1844.

SIR

By direction of the Earl of Aberdeen, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Government of Texas, one Copy of the Instructions recently issued for the guidance of Her Majesty's Naval Officers employed in the suppression of the Slave Trade.<sup>b</sup>

I have the Honor to Remain,  
with the Highest Respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
Faithful Servant

WILLIAM KENNEDY

The Honorable ANSON JONES  
*Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas*

HALL TO KENNEDY.<sup>c</sup>

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, Nov. 13th. 1844.

WM. KENNEDY, Esquire,  
*Consul of H. B. Majesty  
etc. etc. etc.—Galveston.*

SIR,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Note, addressed to this Dept. under date of the 8th. inst., and also the copy, therewith transmitted, of instructions, recently issued for the guidance of H. B. Majesty's Naval Officers, employed in the suppression of the African Slave Trade.

Very respectfully,  
Yr. Obt. Servant.

JOHN HALL  
*Chief Clerk.*

JONES TO ELLIOT.<sup>d</sup>

[Incloses the warrants requested in Elliot's letter of October 18.]

<sup>a</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 42, p. 547.  
These instructions have not been found.

<sup>c</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 44, p. 229.

<sup>d</sup> November 15, 1844.

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

[Announcing the *personnel* of the new administration. Allen himself is attorney general and charged with the duties of secretary of state *ad interim*.]

## ALLEN TO KENNEDY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, 23d. Decr. 1844

The undersigned, Attorney General of the Republic of Texas, charged, ad interim, with the direction of the Department of State, takes great pleasure, in acknowledging the receipt of the two several notes, addressed by Mr. Kennedy, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, at Galveston, to this Department, the former, under date of the 23d ultimo, and the latter, of the 9th inst., together with the Chart of the Coast of Texas, therewith transmitted.<sup>b</sup> Mr. K., will observe, that the information, communicated in the former, relative to the necessity of a light-house, or some other conspicuous beacon, at Galveston, for the benefit of navigators, entering that port, has formed a distinct subject of remark, in the late Message of the President to Congress; in which the construction of proper land marks and beacons was recommended.<sup>c</sup>

In acknowledging the receipt of the Chart, referred to, the undersigned assures Mr. Kennedy, that he doubts not its adaptation and sufficiency for the purposes intended to be accomplished by it, and considers it as another link in the chain of those meritorious labors, whereby Mr. K. has secured the esteem and gratitude of the people of Texas, as well as the high regard with which the undersigned has the honor to be

Very Respectfully His obt. Servt.

(signed) E. ALLEN

To WM KENNEDY, Esq.

*H. B. Majestys Consul etc. etc. etc.*

SMITH TO JONES.<sup>d</sup>ELLIOT TO ALLEN.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> December 9, 1844.

<sup>b</sup> None of these inclosures has been found.

<sup>c</sup> See *House Journal*, 9th Tex. Cong., 70.

<sup>d</sup> December 24, 1844. See Calendar.

<sup>e</sup> January 8, 1845. See Calendar.

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

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TERRELL TO JONES.<sup>b</sup>

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

(Despatch  
No. 1)

LEGATION OF TEXAS  
*London Jan'y 21st 1845*

To the Honble ASHBEL SMITH  
*Secy of State Rep of Texas.*

SIR,

After a tedious voyage of more than forty days from New Orleans to Liverpool, I arrived in this City on Sunday evening the 12th Inst. Her Majesty, the Queen being in the country—making a round of royal visits amongst the nobility—and the Cabinet ministers generally (the Earl of Aberdeen of the number) being with her—I did not obtain an interview with his Lordship until yesterday afternoon. I had addressed him a note on my arrival, which he did not receive until his return to the City on the afternoon of Saturday, the 18th. He immediately sent me a note, appointing 4 O'clock on Monday to receive me at the Foreign Office.

On my arriving at the office and sending in my card, his Lordship immediately directed that I should be shown into his Office, although the Austrian Ambassador was in the ante-room awaiting an audience. I was received by his Lordship, very kindly and without any ceremony. Nor did I make to him any formal address—and this because I had understood the Earl to be a very plain, matter of fact man, entirely free from ostentation, and almost free from Court etiquette, which I found to be very much the case. I simply remarked to his Lordship, as I presented him my letter of credence, that there was a document accrediting me, as the representative of the Republic of Texas near the Government of Her British Majesty etc.—that I was instructed by my Government to use my best endeavours to preserve, and if possible to strengthen and extend the bonds of friendship and the intercourse between the two nations—and to express to the Court of Her Majesty the sense of obligation entertained by the Govt. and people of Texas for the exertions they had made to settle the difficulties existing between Texas and Mexico. His Lordship entered, without preface and with evident concern, upon the affairs of Texas.

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<sup>a</sup> January 14, 1845. See Calendar.

<sup>b</sup> January 21, 1845. See Calendar.

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

He asked me if I had seen the letters of Mr. King and Mr. Calhoun on the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States? <sup>a</sup> Upon my replying in the affirmative, he asked me what impressions I had derived from them? To which I answered they had given me much concern—for they naturally led to the impression that the Government of France felt quite indifferent to the fate of Texas, which was so entirely different from what my Govt had been induced to believe to be the feeling of the French Cabinet, that I was altogether unprepared for the development of such a course of policy.

His lordship then gave me to understand that I might dismiss all my apprehensions on that account. He said he had at first taken up somewhat the same impression, but that he had lost no time in communicating with the French Cabinet, through the English minister at Paris on the subject—that he had directed Lord Cowley to put the question categorically to the French Minister, whether Mr. King's letter represented the views and policy of the French Cabinet correctly? The Earl read to me Lord Cowley's despatch containing an account of his action upon these instructions; in it is contained the most *explicit avowal* of Mr. Guizot that the Govt of France is ready to unite with that of Great Britain, and to go *the whole length* which the latter proposes to go for the establishment of the independence of Texas—which whole length is the guarantying the recognition of the independence of Texas by Mexico, and that without further molestation. And the two Cabinets are ready, *at any moment*, to sign with Texas a Diplomatic Act making this guaranty. Lord Aberdeen further informed me that he had lately received a despatch from the British Minister at Mexico, embracing an avowal *in writing* from Santa Anna, of his willingness to recognise the Independence of Texas, if Texas would consent to the Colorado as the boundary—which, his lordship added, Texas of course would not do—but continued he, Santa Anna has thus admitted the *principle* which we have so long been contending for, and it will not be difficult to manage the balance. His Lordship then remarked to me, *with some emphasis*, it now rests with Texas herself to determine whether she will remain an independent nation, or merge her existence in that of another.

In reply to a question as to my authority upon this subject, I made known to his lordship the wish of my Govt that the seat of these negotiations should be transferred to Texas; to which he assented without hesitation, and stated that he would lose no time in communicating with the French Cabinet on the subject, and would immediately forward instructions to Capt Elliot. This I was induced to believe, from a remark of his lordship (though he did not say so directly) has already been done, at least to some extent. All things

<sup>a</sup> For Calhoun to King, August 12, 1844, see Calendar of Correspondence with United States.

considered, therefore, Texas certainly has cause of gratulation in the position she at present occupies in the family of Nations.

There is great solicitude manifested here, and a good deal of difficulty, to understand the course of the French Ministry on this subject. The public can not reconcile Mr. Guizot's declaration to Mr. King—that in no event would the question of annexation be regarded by France of sufficient importance to interrupt the relations of friendship between the U. States and France—with his declaration to Lord Aberdeen that France is ready to go with England *the whole length* which she proposes to go, which is even to the hazard of war. And with a portion of the press both of Paris and London the conduct of the French minister is the subject of severe animadversion—he is charged with inconsistency—with playing a double game etc. For my part I feel no difficulty in reconciling the conduct of Mr. Guizot throughout the transaction. In the first place it was quite natural that Mr. King should put the strongest construction upon the declarations of the French king and Mr. Guizot of which they were susceptible—but taking them in the fullest latitude and they amount to this, that the question of annexation is one between the U. States and Texas; if they think proper to consummate the measure France will not make it a cause of war nor even suffer it to interrupt the friendly relations existing between the two nations. To Lord Aberdeen Mr. Guizot says France is ready to unite with England in this matter of securing the independence of Texas, and to go the whole length that England proposes to go to effect this object so desirable to both Nations. In doing this—which we have the indefeasable right, by the laws of nations to do, and in doing which we infringe the rights of no other nation; and if for this the U. States chuse to make it the cause of quarrel with us, then we are ready to abide the consequences.<sup>a</sup> This I take to be the natural solution of this great apparent contradiction in the conduct of Mr. Guizot, and which is seized upon with much avidity by the opposition press both in France and England. I have no doubt it was the object of Mr. Calhoun, in the publication of both Mr King's letter and his own, to create the impression, (particularly in Texas) that the French and English Cabinets were divided in sentiment, and would not act in concert, on this subject; and perhaps one object was to produce this very division, of which he wished to avail himself. In this however he will be entirely disappointed—for on no subject are the two Cabinets more perfectly agreed than on the policy of maintaining the separate independence of Texas. Indeed there has been no period, perhaps, in the history of these nations, as you have doubtless observed, when there was a better understanding between the governments, (whatever may be

<sup>a</sup> It should be noted that this is part of what Terrell represents Guizot as saying to Aberdeen.

the hereditary antipathies of the people) than exists at the present time.

The Earl of Aberdeen said to me that he expected a despatch on the subject of Texas from Lord Cowley in a few days, and would let me see it. I shall therefore await its arrival when I shall again address your deparmt—and immediately depart for Paris.

I have the honor to be

With great respect  
your obdt servt

G. W. TERRELL.

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TERRELL TO DAINGERFIELD.\*

LONDON *January 21st. 1845*

FROM GENL. GEO. W. TERRELL,  
*Chargé d' Affaires of Texas*  
*at London*

MY DEAR DAINGERFIELD

Yours from Hamburg of the 14th instant reached me last night about 10 o'clock and I embrace the earliest hour to reply to you. It gave me great pleasure I assure you to hear from you but I am pained to learn that you are under apprehension of things going wrong with you at home. I think your apprehensions are entirely groundless. I know nothing of what has taken place since the last of October the time at which I left but I assure you that up to that time there was nothing wrong with regard to yourself so far as the Executive and Cabinet were concerned; on the contrary there was the utmost good feeling towards you personally and the most unlimited confidence in you as a public functionary entertained by the President and members of the Cabinet. You know that I am not given to flattery and smooth speech and therefore when I say this I mean it and I say it because I know it to be true; You were frequently the subject of conversation between the Executive and Cabinet and these were the sentiments *uniformly* expressed by all; Therefore if any adverse current has set in agst you it has been entirely since I left; There was an effort making to defeat the confirmation of your nomination by the Senate last winter; Not from any objections however urged against yourself but solely on account of Salary etc. As soon as I learned this and in accordance with your request I went to Greer and assured him that no appropriation would be asked by the President to sustain you during your absence abroad, upon this assurance the nomination was confirmed without hesitation and almost unanimously; I will lose no time however in complying with your request to *the fullest extent* and my services in any way that they can benefit you are always at your command; So much for your matters; Now to Texas; I left

\* See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 122-126.

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The Earl of Aberdeen said to me that he expected a despatch on the subject of Texas from Lord Cowley in a few days, and would let me see it. I shall therefore await its arrival when I shall again address your deparmt—and immediately depart for Paris.

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G. W. TERRELL

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

LONDON *January 21st, 1845*

FROM. GENL. GEO. W. TERRELL  
*Chargé d' Affaires of Texas*  
*at London*

MY DEAR DAINGERFIELD

Yours from Hamburgh of the 14th instant reached me last night about 10 oclock and I embrace the earliest hour to reply to you. It gave me great pleasure I assure you to hear from you but I am pained to learn that you are under apprehension of things going wrong with you at home. I think your apprehensions are entirely groundless. I know nothing of what has taken place since the last of October the time at which I left but I assure you that up to that time there was nothing wrong with regard to yrself so far as the Executive and Cabinet were concerned; on the contrary there was the utmost good feeling towards you personally and the most unlimited confidence in you as a public functionary entertained by the President and members of the Cabinet. You know that I am not given to flattery and smooth speech and therefore when I say this I mean it and I say it because I know it to be true; You were frequently the subject of conversation between the Executive and Cabinet and these were the sentiments *uniformly* expressed by all; Therefore if any adverse current has set in agst you it has been entirely since I left; There was an effort making to defeat the confirmation of your nomination by the Senate last winter; Not from any objections however urged against yourself but solely on account of Salary etc. As soon as I learned this and in accordance with your request I went to Greer and assured him that no appropriation would be asked by the President to sustain you during your absence abroad, upon this assurance the nomination was confirmed without hesitation and almost unanimously; I will lose no time however in complying with your request to *the fullest extent* and my services in any way that they can benefit you are always at your command; So much for your matters; Now to Texas; I left

<sup>a</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 122-126.

the Country in a more plentiful and prosperous condition than you or I had ever seen it before; and if our ever restless population would only be content to let well enough alone we would really be getting along very well, better than any nation ever has done at the same age of which the annals of the world give us any account; But our impatient speculators who imagine that their lands would all be changed from Earth into Gold by the transition are run mad after annexation which in my opinion is after all a mere chimera of the wild brain; a mere ignis fatuus of the disordered imaginations of these wild enthusiasts. I cannot say however that it will not take place. I can only hope that a better fate awaits her, and pray to that God who controls the destinies of Nations in his infinite mercy to avert such a calamity, for I should look upon its consummation as the death knell of the prosperity of Texas. I[t] would prove a very poor encouragement to you and myself and the few others who with us have borne the burthen and heat of the day, who have laboured and toiled for Texas, without any prospect or hope of reward other than the good of the country, to know that this beautiful country now of such high promise was shortly to be merged within the national limits of another—and that all the sacrifices of her Patriotic Sons, all the glories of her revolution, all the achievements of her gallant Sons on the battle field yea the splendid halo which encircles the heights of San Jacinto itself were doomed so soon to droop and wither and fade and that Texas itself was destined to fill about half a Page in the work of some future Gibbon of America, and in a few more ages to be entirely lost in the mouldering ruins of extinguished nations and swept from the recollections of mankind forever. I find in giving vent to my feelings I have wandered from the Text; I left old Sam Sound and hearty and as much your friend as ever. I did not see Dr Smith; He went by New York, I sailed direct from New Orleans to Liverpool; I suppose you are aware that he fills the State Department under Dr Jones. I find things here in a better condition than I had supposed; Mr Kings letter and Mr Calhouns on the back of it had led me to fear that the French Cabinet were rather indifferent to our fate; But the Earl of Aberdeen on yesterday afternoon read to me a despatch just received from Lord Cowley in which is embraced an extract from the written declaration of Mr. Guizot, that France is ready to act in concert with England to the full extent the English Ministry propose to go on the Subject; Lord Aberdeen now proposes that France and England will with Texas sign a diplomatic Act in which the two former nations will guarantee the independence of Texas without further molestation from Mexico upon the sole condition that Texas will pledge herself against annexation, and his Lordship remarked to me with some emphasis “it now depends upon

Texas alone whether she will remain an independent nation or not” Now my dear friend if our own headlong hot spirits in Congress should not do something at the present session to prevent it Texas is a free independent State and peace reigning throughout her borders; Another piece of very important news from his Lordship, he has just received from their Minister in Mexico a despatch containing an avowal of Santa Anna himself that he is willing to recognize the Independence of Texas if we will yield a little of the territory we claim. This is enough he has admitted the principle and must go the ballance before Long if he is not overthrown which I think probable. I write you these things of course in ministerial confidence—I know not your sentiments on the subject of Annexation, but I know Wm Henry Daingerfield and that is sufficient for me to know that any deposit with him is safe. I will be glad to hear from you constantly

Your freind sincerely

(Signed) G W TERRELL

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

(Despatch No. 2)

LEGATION OF TEXAS  
London Janry 27th 1845

Hon. ASHBEL SMITH  
*Secry of State etc.*

SIR,

At his lordship's request, I had a second interview with the Earl of Aberdeen in the afternoon of yesterday. He submitted to my perusal the despatches which he has prepared to forward to Capt Elliot, and which will go out by the Steamer that will carry this. As Capt Elliot is instructed to make known to your departmt the substance of those documents, it is unnecessary for me to give you a detail of their contents. His lordship also submitted to my inspection a despatch just received (and left with him for that purpose) by the French Minister here, from his Govtmt on the subject of the affairs of Texas; also the copy of a despatch just sent forward to Count Saligny, the contents of which will also of course be communicated to your deptmt. You will discover from that despatch that the French Govtmt had but just then learned the willingness expressed by Santa Anna to the British minister at Mexico to recognise the Independence of Texas; hence Mr. Guizot supposes it not necessary *at present* to frame the diplomatic act, as mentioned in my despatch No 1 of the 21st inst. Why the French minister has come to this conclusion—after saying as he did to Lord Cowley (mentioned

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

in my last) that the French Govtmt were ready to go *the whole length* proposed by the British—I am at a loss to conjecture, unless, as intimated, upon the supposition that the consent of Santa Anna to recognise the independence of Texas will supersede the necessity of that measure. It will be seen however from the despatch, that Mr. Guizot declares it to be the settled policy of the King's Govtmt to unite with that of Her Britanic Majesty in the accomplishment of the great measure of the *separate independence* of Texas—which the two Govtmts look upon as a matter of great interest, both to the commercial and political relations of all the parties concerned. And Mr. Guizot adds that it is the more necessary that the sentiments of the King's Govtmt should be made known since the publication of *certain documents* on the other side of the Atlantic, calculated to *mislead* the public on this subject. Mr. Guizot also speaks of a *moral guaranty* which the two Govtmts will have given to Texas, if at their instance she shall withhold her assent to annexation to the U States; the force or obligation of which I did not clearly comprehend; and I asked his lordship to explain to me what he understood by it, and I think he was about as much at a loss as myself to understand it. One of his solutions however, I am inclined to think, gives the true spirit in which it was intended to be interpreted, viz, that the two Govts, having induced Texas to withdraw her proposition for annexation, would rest under a strong moral obligation to persevere in their efforts until her independence shall be permanently secured. I mention this to show the construction given to this remark by the Earl of Aberdeen—you will of course give it your own interpretation.

The Earl remarked to me that Her Majestys Govtmt were willing to go much further, but at present they did not think it best to act alone in the premises, because of the clamour raised in the U States about the ambitious designs of England with regard to Texas—that as long as France and England acted conjointly in the matter, selfish motives could not, with any plausibility, be attributed to either. I remarked to his lordship that there were several paragraphs in his despatch to Capt Elliot, the publication of which (if not incompatible with his views of propriety) would do much good in Texas as they would go far to convince the people that it was not the design of England either to colonize the country or to abolish slavery within it; that it would do much to correct public sentiment there, which was very sensitive, on this subject. He replied that Capt Elliot was at liberty to use any part or the whole of the despatch in any way he thought proper.

I have the honor to be

With Great respect

Your obdt servt

G. W. TERRELL