

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FRANCE.

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HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.<sup>a</sup>

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HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.<sup>b</sup>

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MOLÉ TO HENDERSON.<sup>c</sup>

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HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.<sup>d</sup>

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HENDERSON TO IRION.<sup>e</sup>

Legation of Texas

Despatch No 1.

PARIS *June 2d. 1838*

To the Honorable R. A. IRION

*Secretary of State*

SIR

I have the honor to inform you that I arrived in Paris from London about the 23d of April last, and on the 28th. addressed Count Molé the following note

MEURICES HOTEL *April 28, 1838*

Genl. J. Pinckney Henderson has the honor to inform Count Molé that he is arrived in Paris with credentials from the Government of Texas to solicit the recognition of the Independence of that Republic; and will be glad to be informed at what time he can have the honor of paying his respects to His Excellency. He has also the honor of transmitting to Count Molé a copy of the declaration of the Independence of Texas, together with her Constitution

To Count MOLE *etc. etc. etc.*

I concluded from all that I was able to learn from Gentlemen who I supposed knew pretty well the disposition of the French Government in regard to the affairs of Texas, that there was but little pros-

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<sup>a</sup> April 28, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, June 2, 1838.

<sup>b</sup> May 26, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, June 2, 1838.

<sup>c</sup> May 29, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, June 2, 1838.

<sup>d</sup> June 1, 1838. See Henderson to Irion, June 2, 1838.

<sup>e</sup> L. S.

pect of procuring her recognition at their hands unless their difficulties with Mexico should result so as to dispose her to that very desirable measure, and I concluded not to urge Count Molé to answer my note until I learned the result of that affair. Accordingly I waited until the 26th. ultimo, and having heard through correspondents in the United States and the public newspapers that the French fleet were blockading the Ports of Mexico, I determined to embrace that occasion as most favorable to the attainment of the object of my mission. I then addressed to Count Molé the following Note

“The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas begs leave to call the attention of His Excellency Count Molé, Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Royal Council to the communication which he had the honor to address to His Excellency on the 28th. April, notifying him of the arrival of the Undersigned as the Diplomatic Agent of the Republic of Texas to solicit the recognition of the Independence of that Republic by the Government of France; and again most respectfully begs Count Molé to inform him at what time it will be his pleasure to grant him an interview. The Undersigned is aware that it would be improper at this time in his communications to Count Molé, to make a statement of facts to prove the justness of the claim of Texas to a separate National Existence, or to prove her ability to maintain her Independence. He will therefore delay such communication until he is informed by Count Molé that he is willing to hear such reasons as he may have to urge in that behalf. The Undersigned cannot however close this communication without calling the attention of Count Molé to the fact, that the Government of the United States have for more than twelve months acknowledged Texas as an Independent Nation and treated with her as such, and of observing at the same time, that respect to the opinions of that Government alone will he trusts induce Count Molé at least to return an answer to the communication of the Undersigned. He begs leave to inform Count Molé that he has taken apartments at No. 51. Rue Neuve St. Augustin where any communications he may be honored with will reach him. The Undersigned avails himself of the occasion to assure His Excellency Count Molé of his very high regard and consideration”

(Signed) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

May 26, 1838

To His Excellency Count MOLE *etc. etc.*

To which I received a reply of which the following is a translation:

“The President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs begs leave to inform Genl. Henderson that he will have the honor to receive him on thursday the 31st. May at 9 o'clock in the morning

should that hour suit his convenience. He takes this occasion to offer the assurance of his most distinguished consideration. 29th. May."

At the time appointed in the above note, I attended at the Foreign Office and was politely received by the Count; when I tendered<sup>a</sup> him the letter which I bear, accrediting me as the Agent of Texas he informed me that he could not formally receive me as the Accredited Agent of Texas—that such an act *might* be regarded as a partial recognition of her Independence. I replied that I would not so regard it, but that if he had any scruples upon that point, it would answer my purpose equally well if he would read the letter to satisfy himself officially, that what I requested was done by the authority of my Government, and then consent to hear what I had to say in favor of the claims of Texas to recognition by France. To which he gave his ready assent, read the letter, returned it to me and said he would very willingly hear all that I might have to say in that regard. I then observed that inasmuch as he did not speak English, nor myself French, it would be more convenient for him and myself if I submitted the statement in writing—to which he agreed. The interpreter who accompanied me did not speak French well enough to enable me to confer with the Count to my satisfaction, and therefore I deemed it best not to enter into a detail of the merits of the case.

I then took leave of him and on the next day made him this communication

PARIS June 1st. 1838

To His Excellency Count MOLÉ<sup>b</sup>

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas, in conformity with his intention expressed to His Excellency Count Molé President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 31st ulto. when he was honored by him with a personal conference, begs leave now to submit to him the reasons upon which Texas founds her claim to recognition by France as an Independent Nation; and in order to prove that Texas is an Independent Nation 'de jure' as well as 'de facto', it will be necessary for the Undersigned to go somewhat into a detail of the history of the settlement of that country by the present Inhabitants, and the causes which compelled them to declare their Independence of the Mexican Government; in doing which he will be as brief as possible. The Undersigned is aware that the motives of the people of Texas in commencing their opposition to the Government of Mexico in the year 1835, have been much misrepresented abroad, which circumstance he hopes will be a sufficient excuse for the length of this communication.

<sup>a</sup> Tendered.

<sup>b</sup> With the letter that follows, cf. Henderson to Palmerston, October 26, 1837, in Henderson to Irlon, November 5, 1837, in Correspondence with Great Britain.

The first settlement of Texas by the present Inhabitants was commenced by Stephen F. Austin in the year 1821 under a grant from the Crown of Spain to his Father Moses Austin. At this time Texas was a wilderness inhabited only by Savage Indians, whose ferocity and warlike disposition had prevented the Spaniards from settling that country. Owing to the great difficulties which the settlers were compelled to encounter on their first arrival, they made but little progress until Mexico revolted from the Crown of Spain. In the years 1823, 1824 and 1825, Special Colonization laws were passed inviting Foreigners to emigrate to Texas.<sup>a</sup> In the mean time the people of Mexico had declared themselves independent of the Govt. of Spain and established for themselves in 1824 a Republican form of Government. The Constitution which they adopted at that time was the result of the deliberations of a convention in which all of the provinces of the Republic of Mexico were represented, each as a separate independent Sovereignty; the State of Coahuila and Texas, being among the number. That Constitution guaranteed to each Province a Republican form of Government according to the Specifications therein contained; Each Province reserving to itself the right of a separate State Government, and of legislating upon all affairs of a local nature.<sup>b</sup>

That Compact gave to the Provinces of Coahuila and Texas (which was then formed into one State) a specific political existence, and guaranteed to her people the well defined rights of Self Government. By that compact it was agreed that Texas should be separated from Coahuila and form a distinct State with all the priviledges that were guaranteed to each of the other States, as soon as she was possessed of the requisite number of Inhabitants. Texas consented to that conditional union with Coahuila upon the faith of this Guarantee. It was therefore a solemn Compact which neither the State of Coahuila and Texas, nor the Federal Govt. of Mexico could justly change without the consent of the people of Texas. The Undersigned deems it important also to remind his Excellency Count Molé that the compact so formed, guaranteed that the constitution should not be altered, nor the rights of any of the contracting parties thereto abridged, except by the consent of 3/4ths of the States, and in the manner therein prescribed. That provision of the Constitution was repeatedly violated by the several political parties, after they had succeeded in elevating their leader to the Presidency of the General Government; but the usurpers were on each occasion deposed, and the constitution of 1824 restored to the States. On each of these occasions above alluded to, the people of Texas were arrayed on the side of the constitutional party.

<sup>a</sup> They should rather be called general laws. They will be found in Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 27-30, 38-40, 40-46.

<sup>b</sup> With these general statements, of. Constitution Acts of the Mexican Federation, articles 3, 5, 6, in Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 61.

In the year 1833 the people of Texas finding that she was possessed of the requisite number of Inhabitants and the resources required by the compact, to entitle them to be admitted as a State separate from Coahuila to which she had been conditionally united as above stated, called a Convention which declared, that the time at which they were entitled to be organized as a separate state, had arrived. Accordingly a respectful petition addressed to the General Congress of Mexico was adopted, stating the facts and requesting the consent of the General Government to the Constitution for their State Government which they had agreed upon in Convention.<sup>a</sup> This petition was not only neglected, but the Agent entrusted to advocate it, was imprisoned for no other reason than his insisting upon its ratification. This gross violation of the rights of the people of Texas was only met by mild and respectful remonstrances on their part, still hoping that their rights would be secured to them after some delay. But in that flattering hope they were destined to be disappointed, for in the year 1834, Genl. Santa Anna the President of Mexico, who had deposed Genl. Bustamante<sup>b</sup> for overthrowing the Constitution of 1824 and establishing a Central Government, joined his former enemies, and in his turn became the Enemy of the liberties of Mexico, destroyed the Constitution of 1824, and established once more a Central Military Government without the consent of the States as required by the compact of 1824. By that act of usurpation, the Legislatures guarantied to the different States were destroyed. Against these revolutionary measures of Santa Anna who had usurped the Govt. of Mexico, the States of Puebla, Oaxaca, Mexico, Jalisco and other parts of the Nation resisted. The State of Zacatecas<sup>c</sup> took up arms, but was soon conquered by the standing army of the Usurper. The State of Coahuila and Texas through their legislature remonstrated against the change of the form of Govt. and insisted on their right to a State Legislature. For that assertion of their priviledges Genl. Santa Anna caused Genl. Coss to arrest with a military force, the Governor of Coahuila and Texas Don Augustin Visca,<sup>d</sup> the Secretary of State and several of the leading members of the Legislature of that State; and the rest of the Legislature were compelled by the military orders of Genl. Coss to abandon their deliberations. In the summer of that year (1835) the President of Mexico despatched Genl. Coss to enforce his unconstitutional decrees. This violent abuse of their rights, together with the other causes herein before enumerated, roused the people of Texas, and they took up arms in defence of their constitution. A consultation of the people of Texas was held in November of that

<sup>a</sup> See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 491-492.

<sup>b</sup> Bustamante.

<sup>c</sup> Zacatecas.

<sup>d</sup> Viesca.

year, in which they declared their intention of restoring and adhering to the Constitution of 1824, and called upon the rest of the people of Mexico to assist them in the struggle. This resistance had been anticipated by the Usurper, and he was prepared with a strong army to defeat it. The great mass of the common people of the different states being ignorant, illiterate and degraded scattered over a large territory, without organization and without weapons of defence, fell an easy prey to the ambition of the new Govt, Texas alone presenting a firm and well organized defence. Genl. Coss who commanded the forces of Mexico sent to subdue Texas and Zacatecas, after conquering the latter, marched his army into Texas, and took possession of the strong fortress of the Alamo, near the town of San Antonio de Bexar with 1300 Mexican Soldiers; but the people of Texas nothing daunted by that bold act of coercion, attacked that officer in his fortification<sup>a</sup> with only 300 men, and after a severe struggle, Genl. Coss surrendered his whole force to the commander of the 300 Texians. The only object of the people of Texas at that time, being a restoration of their constitution, Genl. Coss and his army were released upon the condition that they should not again oppose Texas in her efforts to accomplish that object. Immediately after the intelligence of the surrender of Genl. Coss reached the City of Mexico, the President Genl. Santa Anna marched against Texas with 8000 of his best troops, Genl. Coss and his army being amongst the number. The first point which they attacked was the Alamo, which Genl. Coss had surrendered and which was now garrisoned by 186 Texians. This small number held out against the whole Mexican force of 8000 men for 13 days and the post was finally carried with a loss on the part of the Mexicans of 1500 Men. The Texian Garrison *all* fell under the sword of the Mexicans. Whether or not any part of them demanded quarter not one survived to tell. From there the Mexicans marched to Goliad, which place was abandoned on their approach by 300 Texians under the Command of Col. Fannin, who were overtaken a few leagues from the Town and after a severe and bloody battle fought in the open prairie without artillery and without cavalry on the part of the Texians against more than ten times their own number, who were supplied with every destructive means of war, they surrendered upon the condition that they should be discharged upon their parole of honor not to take up arms again during the war. That treaty of Surrender was cruelly violated by the order of Genl. Santa Anna, who caused the whole force so surrendered to be marched out and shot, five days after they fell into his power. The people of Texas now discovered that it was the determination of the destroyer of their liberties to

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<sup>a</sup> Cf. note a, p. 825.

carry his threat to exterminate them into execution; and being now satisfied that they could no longer hope for assistance from the other States of the Republic, determined to separate themselves from all political connexion with their faithless and inefficient allies. They accordingly elected representatives in each district of their State, who assembled in the town of Washington in Texas, and on the 2d March 1836 declared that inasmuch as the compact entered into between themselves and the General Government of Mexico had been destroyed without their consent and without any other authority than the will of a military despot, the people of Texas were and of right ought to be free and independent of Mexico. A Copy of this declaration, together with the constitution adopted by Texas,<sup>a</sup> the Undersigned has heretofore had the honor to transmit to Count Molé. The above stated facts are now most respectfully submitted to His Majesty's Government for their candid consideration; and the Undersigned flatters himself they are sufficient to justify the people of Texas in taking the position which they now occupy.

The Undersigned is aware that by the wise policy of the best regulated Governments of the present enlightened age, when a people for any cause whatever revolutionize their form of Govt. and apply to another Government to be recognized under their new organization, the only matter necessary to be considered is whether or not the Government so re-organized is the Government 'de facto' and capable of maintaining itself as such. He might therefore have dispensed in a great measure with the foregoing statement; but he prefers to submit the true history of the circumstances under which the Government of Texas now claim to be recognized.

In order to prove to His Majesty's Government that the people of Texas are capable of maintaining their present position against the efforts of Mexico to force them into submission, and to show the ability of the Government of Texas to discharge all the obligations of an Independent Nation, the Undersigned begs leave to submit the following statement of facts. He begs His Excellency Count Molé to observe, that in all the above mentioned battles between the Texian and Mexican forces, the former proved themselves greatly superior in skill, Courage, humanity and a rigid adherence to the established rules of civilized warfare. He will now return to the history of the invasion of Texas by Genl. Santa Anna as it transpired *after* the convention of the people of Texas declared their Independence of Mexico. After the cruel murder of the party who surrendered under Col. Fannin as above related, the Mexican Army under the immediate command of Genl. Santa Anna marched on through the centre of Texas, laying waste the whole country and putting to death every

<sup>a</sup> See Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 834-837.

citizen whom the fate of war placed in his power, until his advanced division 1700 in number was met on the plains of San Jacinto by the army of Texas then under the command of Genl. Houston to the number of 700. The Mexican Army was attacked in their temporary fortifications, between 8 and 900 were killed on the field of battle, the Balance together with the President and Commander in Chief fell into the hands of the Texians, with a loss on the part of the latter of only 7 killed and 22 wounded, which again proved their great superiority over their enemy. The rear division of the Mexican Army was then permitted to retreat without the limits of Texas under an express agreement on the part of the President Genl. Santa Anna (then a prisoner in Texas) that Mexico would terminate the war and immediately recognize the Independence of Texas.<sup>a</sup> Since that period Mexico has not dared to invade the Territory of Texas. They have not complied with the conditions of that agreement by recognizing Texas, as an Independent nation, but from that time may be dated the termination of the struggle for Independence in Texas. When the character of the people of Mexico is so well known—when it is remembered that her half civilized population are thinly scattered over an immense territory—that her history presents but one scene of revolution from the time she separated from the Crown of Spain to the present day—that their Govt. has at all times been alike faithless to their own Citizens and to their engagements with foreign Nations—their revenue exhausted and their credit abroad and at home destroyed—that the people of Texas have in every engagement proved their vast superiority in every particular which constitutes true soldiers—when it is seen that Texas has been and is still rapidly increasing in population and wealth, and that more than two years have expired since the last attempt was made by Mexico to invade Texas which is separated from her only by an imaginary line, the Undersigned flatters himself that His Majesty's Government will not hesitate to conclude that Texas is able to maintain her independence against every effort of Mexico. And to prove to His Majesty's Govt. that Texas is capable of discharging every obligation of an Independent Govt., the undersigned begs leave to call their attention to the history of that Republic from the first commencement of her opposition to the usurpations of Genl. Santa Anna in 1835 to the present day. Immediately after the dissolution of the legislature of the State of Coahuila and Texas in 1835 and in the imprisonment of the Governor etc. by the order of Genl. Santa Anna as here before stated, Representatives of the people of Texas met together in consultation and established a provisional Government which was designed to exist until they could reestablish the constitution of 1824.

<sup>a</sup> The treaties of May 14, 1836. See *House Journal*, 1st Tex. Cong., 1st sess., 24-26.



Previous to that time the Government had been but imperfectly organized and still more imperfectly administered in Texas, owing to the continual internal dissensions which constantly agitated every part of the republic of Mexico, together with the ignorance and want of common honesty in the Mexican Officers who were appointed to preside over their Courts of Justice. Notwithstanding this distracted state of affairs in Texas, as soon as the people of that country took the Govt. into their own hands wise laws were provided and administered with the strictest justice and firmness and all things assumed a new and pleasing aspect. When the people found it necessary to separate from Mexico in 1836, the same convention which made that declaration, agreed upon a constitution for the newly established Govt. and submitted it to the people for their ratification in September following. That convention also established a Govt. *ad interim* and elected a President and other necessary officers to administer the affairs until the next ensuing December, when the Constitution if ratified by the People was to go into effect.

In September the proposed Constitution was unanimously adopted, under which a President, Vice President and Members of Congress were elected, and the Govt. went into operation under the present Constitution in December of that year. The first Congress under the Constitution passed all necessary laws for the Govt. of the Country, re-organized the Courts of Justice according to the requisitions of the constitution, levied the proper and necessary taxes, and provided for the defence of the country. Since that time the Congress of the Republic have held three sessions, constantly guarding the Interests of the Country by additional laws and remedying such as were found by experience to be defective. Every department of the Govt. being completely organized, the whole country presents a scene of prosperity and harmony unparalleled in any other Country under similar circumstances. Population and wealth are flowing into the Country from all parts of the U. States, invited by the richest lands and most delightful climate in the world. Texas possesses a Territory of 230 millions of acres of Land, only 30 millions of which have been disposed of to individuals previous and since the commencement of the revolution. The Balance belongs to the Govt. and will yield a large and certain revenue to her treasury. Moderate duties have been imposed upon goods imported from foreign Countries, and a levy of a direct tax made upon real estate which affords the most abundant revenue which will be sufficient during the present year (according to the report of the Secty. of the treasury, estimating it only at the same as last year<sup>a</sup>) to pay the whole of the public debt contracted during the war together with the sum necessary for the civil government of

<sup>a</sup> Only fragments of this report have been found. These are in the Financial Papers in the State Library.

the Country. After the present year Texas will have a large surplus revenue to apply to the internal improvement of the Country.

The undersigned with all due deference to His Majestys Govt begs leave to call their attention to some of the many advantages which he is convinced would result both to France and Texas by a treaty of amity and commerce between them. Texas has within her limits more land well adapted to the culture of cotton than is to be found in the whole United States—this land being richer and in a better latitude will produce on an average one third more cotton than lands of the United States. The cotton being of finer quality is better suited to the French Market than any other. The country is being rapidly settled by rich planters from the U. States. Cotton must be their staple article. They cannot find a market for it in the U. States, by reason of the very high duty imposed in that country on all Foreign Cotton—they must then seek a market in Europe. The lands of Texas are also adapted to the culture of silk, sugar, rice, indigo and tobacco, for all of which they must seek a market abroad. Texas will never become a manufacturing country. The people therefore must receive from other countries in return for her raw materials, all kinds of manufactured articles. France can supply them cheaper than any other country with all kinds of silks, wines, fine cotton goods, together with many other articles of commerce, all of which she will admit into her Ports on the most favorable terms. It is important also to be observed that Texas affords a greater quantity of the best live oak than any other country known to civilized nations; and as she can never be extensively a commercial country, that valuable article for ship building, will be at the command of other nations at a cheap rate.

The people of Texas immediately after their seperation from Mexico and at a time when they feared they might be engaged in a long war, in order to secure a speedy peace and restore immediate quietness to the country, resolved to make application for admission into the Govt. of the United States. Founded upon that resolution and under the instructions of the President the Minister of Texas at Washington made application to the Govt. of the U. States for annexation, which was not consented to. Since that resolution was adopted, the people of Texas have become satisfied that the war with Mexico is virtually terminated—that they are entirely secure and rapidly prospering under their seperate Government—that they, not being a manufacturing but a planting people would be oppressed by the protective Tariff of the U. States if admitted as a State of that Republic. They have therefore determined to remain separate and to govern themselves, offering to all other countries equal advantages in her markets. The United States after a careful examination of all her claims to Independence, and with a perfect knowledge of her power, resoarces etc. in March 1837 formally acknowledged Texas as

an Independent Nation, received her Minister at Washington and appointed a Representative who now resides near the Government of Texas.

The Undersigned hopes that this frank and explicit exposition of historical facts of general notoriety will satisfy your Excellency that the new Republic of Texas has established her Independence upon a basis which cannot be shaken, and that she has the moral character, courage and force to maintain her position as an Independent Nation. It cannot be expected that other Powers whose commercial interests and political obligations may be involved will wait for the action of Mexico on this subject. That Govt. was itself a revolted colony and was not recognized by Spain as an Independent Nation until two years ago, long after all the other Powers had acted upon the question. The Undersigned takes leave to say that the course of Texas is precisely that (in a more humble, but not less decisive character) of the glorious revolution achieved by this Great Country, which elevated His Present Majesty to the throne which he now occupies and adorns. The revolution of July was one of Constitutional freedom, and the Gallant and Noble example of France has been followed by Texas in resisting oppression and consecrating the principle, that every people have a right to decide for themselves when their fundamental laws are violated and their liberties invaded. France stands in such a commanding position before the world, that no one has dared to question her right, and the undersigned hopes that the spirit which prompted her own glorious revolution will induce His Majestys Government to take the initiative in the recognition of a Republic desirous of forming political and commercial relations with this great and polished Nation. The Undersigned has the honor to assure your Excellency of his distinguished consideration.

(Signed) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

You will observe that I have made no allusion in the above communication to slavery in Texas, deeming it most prudent to leave that subject untouched until Count Mole mentions it. I shall urge a decision upon my application as strongly as the delicacy of the cases will admit. I still think much depends upon the result of the Blockade which this Govt. has proclaimed against Mexico.<sup>a</sup> If Mexico still refuses to satisfy the demands of France and an absolute war should be the consequence, then I think my chance of success is pretty good. But should the difficulty be speedily settled, I cannot hope to succeed. I in any event expect considerable delay, unless Count Molé is more prompt with me than he is with every other foreign Minister. I have learned from high authority within the last few days that there will soon be a change of Ministry here; if that takes place and the new Cabinet should be very popular they

<sup>a</sup> April 15, 1838.

may be able to take a more favorable and independent course towards Texas (if they are so disposed) than the present Ministry dare do. Should my application be rejected, I will then propose a commercial arrangement between Texas and France. I will in the mean time keep you constantly informed of my proceedings at this Court.

I have the honor to remain your most obt

Humble St

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

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IRION TO HENDERSON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*City of Houston Augst. 7th, 1838.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No 1, dated Paris, June 2nd. The peculiar relations which now exist between France and Mexico, had induced this Government to hope, that your reception by the former would have been more favorable; without, however, regarding your interview with Count Molé as particularly unfavorable to Texas. The Blockade of the Mexican ports by France is reducing Mexico to a deplorable state. She cannot live without commerce, which is now cut off on the Atlantic coast. And the Pacific has to depend on the consequences which future operations will in due time develope.

This emergency has induced them to attempt smuggling goods into their own country through the ports of Texas. The absence of the blockading squadron from the Texian coast has produced an effort, it seems, on the part of the friends of the eastern population of Mexico to introduce merchandize through our western ports, for the purpose of supplying the Mexicans near the Rio Grande.

Measures have been taken by this Government to defeat the objects which our enemies are endeavoring to carry into effect relative to this matter. The Secretary of War has already ordered to the neighborhood of Corpus Christi Bay Artillery and other munitions of war.

This is a subject of deep solicitude to this Government, fearing that these acts may be considered by France as a partial evasion of the blockade; and although we have had neither agency nor connivance in the matter, France may deem it necessary to extend the blockade to our coast, thereby cutting off our commercial intercourse with the U. States; a result, at the present time, that would inflict great injury on the flourishing prospects of Texas.

It is a source of more anxiety to the Government at the present moment than any other contingency connected with our political condition; for the whole country is tranquil, the population, even at this

season of the year, rapidly increasing, and not the least apprehension is entertained that Mexico will again attempt to invade us.

The Commercial Arrangement which you concluded with England is satisfactory to this Government.<sup>a</sup>

I received on yesterday a Despatch from our Legation at Washington, dated July 12th. Mr. Preston's resolutions, which had a bearing on the proposition for the annexation of Texas to the Union of the North, our Diplomatic Agent accredited to that Government, informs, me were laid on the table by a vote of 24 to 14.

This circumstance is one of regret and peculiar delicacy to the Government of Texas. Our Minister at Washington is instructed positively to withdraw the proposition, which doubtless he will do. Should he not he will incur the decided censure of this Government. The amount of the matter is this—That proposition, in the equivocal attitude which it has now assumed, can no longer exist except by a total disregard of the policy of this Government.

The Diplomatic Agent of Texas near that Government, as before stated, has positive instructions, "should the present session of the Congress of the U. States adjourn without having acted definitely on the proposition to inform you of the result.

It is well known to this country that such a result has been anticipated; and unfortunately for our interests we are compelled to acquiesce in it.

You will in all respects consider the proposition for the annexation of Texas to the U. States as withdrawn; and Dr. Jones (our present Minister) will, perhaps, before you shall have received this, inform you that he has formally withdrawn it. It is expected by the President that you will notify the Governments of Europe, wherever the interests of Texas are concerned, that the said proposition has been withdrawn.

Texas has not now, and in all probability, never will have, any desire to renew it. You know well the considerations which prompted the measure. Those causes operate no longer.

You may say in truth to all, that Texas is prospering to an extent that no one could have reasonably anticipated when you left us.

I have the honor to be with  
perfect friendship and Esteem  
Yr. Obt. Svant.

R. A. IRION.

To the  
Hon.

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON,  
*Diplomatic Agent of Texas*  
*near the Governments of England*  
*and France.*

<sup>a</sup> See Henderson to Irion, April 12, 1838, in Correspondence with Great Britain.