

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

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LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

August 15. 1843

Hon. ANSON JONES,  
Secretary of State,

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, at the same moment a few days since, of despatches from your department of the 10th and 15th<sup>b</sup> June; those of the latter date covering copies of documents relative to the armistice.

Some days previous to the receipt of these despatches, I saw the Proclamation of His Excellency the President in an American Newspaper brought by the Boston Steamer. I sent a copy of it to Monsieur Guizot. In acknowledging its receipt he expressed the high satisfaction which the intelligence of the armistice had caused the King's Government.

The news of this armistice has noticeably produced a very favorable effect upon the public estimate of Texas in Europe; and if permanent peace result, a *greatly augmented* immigration and the extension of commercial operations with our country must speedily follow.

My attention has been given to the despatch of the 10th June. There is however at the present time a sort of official vacation; the King, Monsieur Guizot and the other ministers being absent from Paris. I have therefore concluded it best not to transmit my communication on this subject forthwith to the Foreign officer, during M. Guizot's absence; inasmuch as it would probably fall into the hands of the person charged with business *ad interim*, and thus might not come under Mr Guizot's personal notice at all. I shall therefore wait a few days for his return. A copy of my communication heretofore to the Earl of Aberdeen will be transmitted to your department by next mail.

Further inquiry and observations confirm me in the favorable opinion expressed of Mr Pierre Brunet as a suitable person for Consul General at Paris.

Monsieur de Saligny informed me last evening that it is probable he will leave Europe to resume his post in Texas, by the steamer from Liverpool the 19th Oct or 4th Novr. next.

I revert again to the subject of your despatch of June 10th, for the purpose of assuring your department, that I shall learn the disposition of the two Courts to which I am accredited, relative to the affairs of Texas and Mexico, at as early a period and in as full a manner as possible, and that I shall lose no time in communicating

<sup>a</sup> A. L. S.<sup>b</sup> In Correspondence with Great Britain.

them to you. I think I am fully justified in stating now that the dispositions of both Courts are quite favorable to the establishment of permanent peace, but that in the event of the present negotiations with Mexico failing to obtain peace, we are not authorized nor allowed to expect that the Governments of France and Great Britain will take any further steps under present circumstances in relation to this subject; unless Great Britain in pursuance of our favorite policy of abolishing slavery in America should again resume a "mediation" based on the abolition of slavery in Texas.

I have the honor to remain

Most respectfully

Your very obed: servt.

ASHBEL SMITH.

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SMITH TO GUIZOT.

(Copy \*)

Ashbel Smith to Monsieur Guizot.

LEGATION OF TEXAS

August 23, 1843

SIR,

I have received despatches from my Government dated June 10th, written in view of a continuance of hostilities between Texas and Mexico. By the same mail which brought these despatches, I received others of a later date informing me of the suspension of hostilities.

Since the armistice opens a way to the establishment of peace it might seem less necessary to make to foreign Governments the representations contained in my despatches of June 10th: I have however deemed it proper to communicate to Your Excellency the accompanying letter addressed to me by the Hon. Secretary of State of Texas previously to the receipt of pacific overtures from General Santa Anna; in order that His Majesty's Government may be acquainted with the course Texas will be compelled to pursue in case the pending negotiations for peace with Mexico should prove unsuccessful.

I trust that in communicating to Your Excellency this letter of the Secretary of State, it will not be deemed as a menace made by Texas against Mexico nor as evincing any indisposition on the part of Texas to enter into a firm and cordial peace and oblivion of all past misunderstanding with that country.

In connection with that portion of the accompanying letter where the Hon Secretary of State alludes to the prosecution of hostilities,

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\* Inclosed with Smith to Jones, September 20, 1843. See Correspondence with Great Britain.

and in order to obviate any misapprehension that may exist in regard to the ability of Texas to carry on a war efficiently; I may be permitted to state what is I believe already known to Your Excellency, that should Texas be forced to resort to retaliatory measures, it could by a simple invitation procure from a neighboring country an unlimited number of volunteers and such other aid as would enable it to *invade* and desolate the territory of its former enemy. I beg your Excellency will not misunderstand the purpose of these remarks. I wish merely to intimate that while pursuing a conciliatory course towards Mexico, Texas has been aware of the means at its disposition, and that notwithstanding any seeming financial difficulties it has possessed not only for purposes of defence but also of aggression, resources to which happily there is now a prospect it will not be obliged to have recourse. Texas desires to vie with Mexico only in offices of friendly intercourse.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's  
most obedient servant

signed ASHBEL SMITH.

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

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LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS, *September 19, 1843*

Hon ANSON JONES,  
*Secretary of State,*

SIR,

The affairs of Texas have attracted a much greater and still increasing notice since the intelligence of the armistice with Mexico; and especially as subsequent arrivals have appeared to confirm strongly the probability that the armistice will result in permanent peace. Our affairs now form a prominent topic of the public journals, and there exists manifestly a higher appreciation of our national character. The policy pursued by the President towards Mexico is highly approved, and its success hitherto is very satisfactory not only to the two Governments to which I am accredited but also to nearly all the leading men of the two countries whose observation has been directed to Texas. For the decided policy of nearly all the statesmen of France and Great Britain as you are well aware is for peace. It inspires them with confidence in the capacity of the Texians for self government and in the future prosperity of our country, to perceive that our Government estimate correctly the use and abuse of war and that we expect to become a great people not by aggressions on others but by industry and the arts of peace—the only means that

can succeed in this age of the world. In a conversation I had the honor to hold with the King of the French, Louis Philippe commended highly the pacific policy of our Government and congratulated the country with much apparent sincerity on its success. The news of some recent successes of our soldiers in the neighborhood of Santa Fe, as it reached here after the armistice, was on that account to be regretted, as it seemed like a renewal of hostilities on our part. It had however the good effect, after dates were properly explained, to show that the arms of Texas directed by its Government were successful.

I trust the preceding remarks will not be deemed misplaced, as I wish to acquaint your Department with public opinion here and to intimate that a *peaceful* as well as a stable government is the *only* means to attract a valuable European emigration to our shores. Other matters such as slavery are very secondary considerations.

My letters from England inform me that emigration to Texas has received a new impulse since the armistice. The Hon Joseph Hume, M. P. who has always manifested much interest in our affairs, who procured the parliamentary documents for our Library, and who kindly proffered to present any subject connected with Texas to the consideration of Parliament wishes a Texian Newspaper to be sent him so as to be kept informed of our affairs. May I ask an extra number for Mr Hume to be placed in the envelope to me; as only those newspapers whose envelopes bear the indorsement of the Secy of State are forwarded through the Post office of the United States so as to reach Europe.

The Mexican Bonds held in London which on the news of armistice between Mexico and Yucatan and Texas, rose from 28 to 38, have again declined to 33. in consequence of alleged fraudulent conduct on the part of the Mexican Agents Messrs Lizardi acting under instructions from the Mexican Government. I do not deem the misfortune or misconduct of Mexico a proper subject of felicitation, but you will perceive the importance of the above fact in its tendency to correct public sentiment in England which hitherto has leaned in favor of Mexico and against Texas.

The recent revolution in Spain whereby Espartero has been deprived of the Regency, has rendered it unadvisable to make any overtures to that country to negotiate a treaty with Texas. So soon as Government shall be fully recognized there, I shall endeavor to accomplish my instructions on this subject. The influence of France now preponderates decidedly in Spain over that of England. Perhaps therefore it would be better for me to remain at Paris in view of this matter, than to go to London in the event of dividing the two representations; besides London appears to me more properly associated with Holland and the northern courts.

Mr Castro is raising in Germany a large number of emigrants for Texas to embark next month at Antwerp. I strongly urge on him the necessity of adequately providing for them on their arrival in Texas, which he appears determined to do.

Mr Bourgeois is still endeavoring to negotiate the Loan and he thinks with the probability of success since the armistice. I am not more sanguine than formerly until peace shall be definitively established. We may then, I think, get a loan on favorable terms.

Some Poles of respectability have called on me about emigrating to Texas. They say they can muster several hundred families. I told them that arriving in Texas in a number of not less than 100 families, the Government would very probably grant them lands, but no other aid, and I enjoined on them the importance of carrying out means for their subsistence for a twelvemonth. They appear disposed to go.

I shall send by the sailing packet from Havre of the 24th Instant copies of several notes most of which were addressed by me to Lord Aberdeen or Monsieur Guizot. Many of them possess no importance, but I have deemed it proper to send your Department a copy of every communication made by me to the Departments for Foreign Affairs of the two Courts, however unimportant the communication may be. Among these communications are my notes to Lord Aberdeen and Monsieur Guizot placing under their eyes your letter to me of June 10th, as instructed, concerning the contingent waging of hostilities by Texas against Mexico. From Mr Guizot I have received a very courteous acknowledgment. Lord Aberdeen's answer has not yet been received. I also send copies of a short note etc., from Baron de Cetto to which I beg your attention.

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

Your most obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

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CASTELL TO BOURGEOIS.<sup>a</sup>

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

Légation de France  
au Texas

GALVESTON, le 30 septembre 1843

Monsieur le SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT,

Vous aurez peut-être eu connaissance par les correspondances de la Nouvelle-Orléans, de l'arrivée à Pensacola de la frégate à vapeur Française le *Gomer*, chargée d'une mission spéciale du Gouverne-

<sup>a</sup> September 26, 1843. See Bourgeois to Smith, October 2, 1843, inclosed in Smith to Jones, October 14, 1843.

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

ment français. Cette mission avait pour objet de recueillir toutes les informations et de faire tous les préparatifs nécessaires pour l'établissement d'un service de bateaux à vapeur que le Gouvernement français se propose d'établir incessamment pour le transport direct de correspondances et des voyageurs entre la France et les deux continents de l'Amérique.

Le Texas se trouve sur l'itinéraire qu'une des lignes de ce service doit parcourir, le *Gomer* avait ordre de se rendre à Galveston et les membres de la commission qu'il avait à bord devaient s'entendre avec le Gouvernement Texien sur les arrangemens à faire pour régler les rapports de nos paquebots avec le Texas, dans le cas où ils en feraient un point de correspondance régulier. Des circonstances accidentelles ayant empêché ce navire de venir jusqu'à Galveston je viens de recevoir l'ordre d'adresser directement au Ministre Texien les diverses demandes que la commission du *Gomer* devait lui présenter et je m'empresse, Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, de vous en donner communication. Je suis persuadé d'avance que tout ce qui doit tendre à augmenter les rapports directs du Texas avec l'ancien continent et à faciliter ses communications avec tous les pays situés tant dans le Golfe du Mexique que dans le mer des Antilles ou au-delà, ne peut qu'entrer complètement dans les intérêts du Texas comme dans les vues libérales et éclairées de l'administration qui le régit en ce moment et que la France y trouvera tout l'appui que méritent les intentions libérales et désintéressées qui l'animent elle-même en songeant à un pareil établissement.

Le service proposé devant être exécuté par des navires à vapeur appartenant à la Marine Royale de France, le Gouvernement du Roi désirerait que ces mêmes navires fussent reçus dans tous les Ports Texiens ou rades où ils aborderaient, soit régulièrement soit accidentellement comme tous les autres bâtimens de l'Etat et y jouissent des mêmes honneurs, droits, privilèges et exemptions.

Les charbons destinés à la consommation des dits navires seraient admis en toute franchise de droit et pourraient être librement entreposés, soit dans un local qui serait fourni par la République soit dans un local particulier loué pour le compte du Gouvernement Français et dont la Douane pourrait vérifier le contenu, soit à bord de navires servant de magasins.

Dans le cas où les magasins ou arsenaux de la Marine de la République en auraient la possibilité, ils fourniraient aux paquebots français et au même prix qu'aux navires de la Marine Texienne, les objets de rechange ou matériaux nécessaires pour leur réparation.

Les paquebots français pourraient embarquer et débarquer librement dans les ports de la République les passagers ainsi que leurs bagages, en accomplissant les formalités voulues dans le pays.

Les voyageurs une fois admis à bord ou ceux qui étant à bord ne voudraient point débarquer ne pourraient en aucun cas être distraits

du bord et même ces derniers ne pourraient être tenus à faire viser leurs passeports.

Les paquebots seraient autorisés à transporter les matières d'or et d'argent et autres objets précieux dont le transport est ordinairement confié aux navires de guerre.

Ils pourraient également transporter toute espèce de marchandises. Dans ce dernier cas, un agent désigné à cet effet par le Gouvernement Français, fournirait à la Douane Texienne une note des marchandises à débarquer qui tiendrait lieu de manifeste et il indiquerait le nom des consignataires qui devront en payer les droits.

Les formalités relatives aux marchandises à embarquer seraient remplies par les expéditeurs et les marchandises ne seraient reçues à bord que sur la preuve que ces formalités ont été remplies.

Il serait d'ailleurs payé à la Douane un droit de tonnage calculé sur la quantité des marchandises débarquées ou embarquées.

Toutes les contestations auxquelles pourrait donner lieu le transport des marchandises seraient réglées par deux arbitres choisis l'un par le réclamant, l'autre par l'un des agens du Roi désigné à cet effet. Ces arbitres auraient la faculté, en cas de partage, de nommer un surarbitre.

Les paquebots transporteraient les correspondances de France ou des pays qui empruntent son intermédiaire ou des ports de relâche pour le Texas et réciproquement. Les correspondances officielles seraient remises directement entre les mains des Agents du Roi et reçues directement d'eux; celles concernant les particuliers seraient remises aux employés des Postes du Texas et portées par eux à bord. La remise des lettres, ainsi que des journaux et autres articles de correspondance devant fournir matière à divers arrangemens particuliers, tels que ceux qui regardent les prix de port, les affranchissemens etc etc; je n'entrerai point à ce sujet dans de plus amples développemens. Je me bornerai pour le moment, Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, à vous prier de vouloir bien porter votre attention sur les points principaux que je viens de vous exposer et de me faire connaître quelles seraient les dispositions du Gouvernement Texien à leur égard, dans le cas où les projets de communications à établir ainsi entre la France et le Texas viendraient plus tard à être mis à exécution. Dans ce dernier cas, les arrangemens à intervenir pourraient, être faits soit simplement à l'aide de l'échange de quelques notes officielles soit par une convention spéciale.

Recevez, Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, la nouvelle assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Vte. J. DE CRAMAYEL

A l'Honorable Monsieur ANSON JONES, *Secrétaire d'Etat*

*etc etc etc*

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Washington, [Texas] October 6th., 1843.

To the Honorable ANSON JONES,

*Secretary of State, etc.*

SIR—The government of His Majesty the King of the French, having proposed the establishment of a line of Royal steam packets for the transportation of correspondence and passengers between Texas and France, you will proceed to Galveston immediately, for the purpose of making a conventional arrangement with the Viscount J. de Cramayel, Chargé d' Affaires of His Majesty, in reference to the proposed object; and also for the further purpose of having interviews with the English and American Ministers now at that place.

I have the honor to be your obt. servt.,

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

LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS

October 14, 1843

Hon ANSON JONES

*Secretary of State*

SIR,

I have the honor to send herewith copies of a communication of Monsieur Bourgeois on the subject of the Million Loan and of my answer thereto.

The news of the armistice with Mexico having had a very favorable influence on public opinion in Europe in relation to Texas and especially in Germany as connected with emigration, Mr Bourgeois proceeded to that country for the purpose of making arrangements to execute the terms of his 'concession.' While there, he agreed on a preliminary basis for the negotiation of the million Loan with Mr Charles de Castell acting in behalf of an "association." Mons Bourgeois has submitted to me a copy of the letter of the association making propositions relative to the Loan. Copies of Mr Bourgeois' communication covering the letter in question and of my answer thereto are the documents herewith transmitted.

<sup>a</sup> October 2, 1843. See Smith to Jones, October 14, 1843.

<sup>b</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 40, p. 261.

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



I have had a long conference with Mons Bourgeois on this subject and have explained to him the necessity of some modifications, first in regard to the amount and perhaps form of the *second* condition proposed, and especially in regard to the manner of payment as proposed in the *third* condition.

The remission of duties on Two hundred thousand dollars worth of merchandize (\$200,000.) say at 15 per cent ad valorem, would be tantamount to a *bonus* of thirty thousand dollars (\$30 000) per annum, which I represented to Mr B. as excessive.

I also stated that the Treasury Department must have the sole and exclusive control of the customs and that the direct intervention of a third party as proposed in the 3d condition was, in my opinion, wholly inadmissible. I intimated that the object desired might be accomplished in the customary way by an order emanating from the Treasury Department.

Monsieur Bourgeois thought the requisite modifications would be readily made by the "association" and was quite sanguine of success. I also informed him that the negotiation could be completed only by a fully empowered agent in Texas; and I impressed on him the uselessness of an Agent proceeding to Texas unless he should be authorised to draw for the Loan or a portion thereof immediately on the conclusion of the negotiation.

With the above explanations I have ventured to advise the sending of an Agent to Texas, which Mr Bourgeois says will be done.

I have not deemed it necessary to recapitulate in this despatch all the details of this subject, as they are sufficiently explained in the accompanying documents and in Mr Bourgeois' letter to your Department.

If the armistice result in the establishment of a solid peace, Texas will be able to obtain a Loan on favorable terms. Until that takes place I shall not be sanguine of the success of any negotiation.

I have the honor to be  
most respectfully

Your very obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

PARIS, le 2. 8bre. 1843

CHER MONSIEUR

Pendant mon séjour en Allemagne, je me suis occupé sérieusement des intérêts du Texas. Je suis parvenu à entamer une négociation utile à l'égard de l'emprunt d'un million de dollars: en même temps j'ai déterminé une grande émigration vers votre fertile patrie.

Quelques additions au contrat d'emprunt m'ont été demandées; par suite de nos conférences à ce sujet, j'ai cru pouvoir y accéder au nom de la république, sauf ratification. Je m'empresse de vous

transmettre copie de la lettre que l'association m'a adressée; veuillez, je vous prie, en prendre communication et me mettre à même de justifier que je suis resté dans les limites des instructions du gouvernement.

Recevez, cher Monsieur, l'assurance de ma haute considération avec mes sentimens bien affectueux

AL. BOURGEOIS D'ORVANNE

Monsieur ASHBEL SMITH, *chargé d'affaires du Texas en France.*

Copie de la lettre de l'association.

MAYENCE le 26 7bre, 1843.

MONSIEUR

Vous nous avez présenté un contrat d'Emprunt de un million de dollars, conclu entre vous et le gouvernement du Texas que l'association pour la protection des Emigrans Allemands au Texas a mûrement examiné.

Si cette association réalise sa pensée de porter une population Allemande au Texas dans les termes dont nous sommes convenus, elle sera disposée à faire cet emprunt, dans le double but de seconder les vues du gouvernement du Texas, en lui rendant service dans un objet aussi important, et dans l'intérêt même de notre entreprise et des colons allemands.

C'est pour cela qu'aux conditions arrêtées dans votre contrat elle ajouterait encore les suivantes comme absolues:

1. Une concession pour 6000 familles Allemandes, dans une situation favorable au commerce, à la salubrité et à la fertilité.
2. La franchise de tout droit d'importation pour la valeur de \$200000 par année, et pour dix ans.
3. Le consul général ou agent diplomatique à nommer aura le pouvoir de toucher directement des mains du collecteur de Galveston les sommes nécessaires pour le paiement des intérêts de l'emprunt avant toute autre dépense, et ce collecteur sera responsable de l'exécution de cette condition.

Veillez nous mettre à même de juger si vos pouvoirs vous permettront d'accéder à ces engagements: et dans ce cas nous pensons pouvoir arriver à une conclusion finale, aussitôt que les démarches que nous faisons dans ce moment, près des gouvernemens de l'Allemagne pour avoir leur concours, auront eu le succès que nous en espérons.

Recevez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma parfaite considération

Pour l'association pour la protection des  
Emigrans Allemande au Texas

Signé Le Comte CHARLES DE CASTELL.

Monsieur BOURGEOIS D'ORVANNE

*en ville*