

(Copy)

Ashbel Smith to Monsieur Bourgeois.

PARIS, LEGATION OF TEXAS

October 3, 1843.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday covering a copy of a letter addressed to yourself on the subject of a Loan, etc., by the German Association.

The propositions made by the association are compatible with the general tenor of the information and instructions I have from my Government on this subject. They may however require some modifications in order to conform to the laws and constitution of Texas.

An additional grant or "concession" for settling 6000 families *might*, in my opinion, be obtained in connection with the proposed Loan, and with *due* security for fulfilling the terms of the grant.

I believe the principle of admitting a limited amount of goods free of duty or at less duties than are paid by others would be entertained by my Government; the amount and terms being subjects of arrangement with the parties.

The right also of the association to receive from the customs of Texas, on the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury, the sums necessary for the payment of the interest on the Loan as the same shall accrue may be admitted—it being done conformably to the laws of the country.

You have then it appears to me kept within the views and instructions of the Government in admitting as a basis of arrangements the propositions made to you by the "association"; and I would say that an agent fully empowered on the part of the association to *conclude* the business would find the Government of Texas prepared to make stipulations conformable to the general tenor of the terms stated in the letter of the association addressed to you.

I think it proper however to observe that in my opinion it would not be worth while for an agent to proceed to Texas for this purpose unless fully empowered to conclude definitively the terms of a Loan, and on its due ratification by the Government of Texas, authorised to draw for a portion of the amount thereof

I have the honor to be with the highest respect

Your most obed. servant

ASHBEL SMITH

Monsieur BOURGEOIS.

*etc. etc.*

## JONES TO CRAMAYEL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Galveston Oct. 20th 1843*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 30th Septr. Ulto in relation to a line of Steam Packets which the French Government proposes to establish for the transportation, direct, of correspondence and passengers between France and the Continent of America, the arrangements to be made for the regulation of the intercourse of the packetships with Texas, and requesting to know what may be the disposition of this Government in regard to them in the event of this project of establishing a communication between the two countries should be put in execution

I have lost no time in asking the attention of his Excellency the President to this interesting subject, and am instructed by him to assure you of his earnest desire to promote this intercourse and the commercial relations between France and Texas by every possible means. In the proposal to establish a line of Royal Steam Packets, he recognizes another proof of the liberal and enlarged policy of the government of His Majesty the King of the French and of the very friendly dispositions manifested thereby by His Majesty towards Texas. I have also considered the terms and conditions of the arrangements you have proposed for the regulation of the packet Ships, to which I now believe there can be no serious objections; and whenever the Government of the King may determine upon putting these arrangements into execution, this government will at once enter into a special convention with you in relation to the same

I embrace this present occasion to renew the assurances of the distinguished consideration and regard with which I have the honor to remain

Your Obedient  
and faithful Servant

Signed ANSON JONES

To  
His Excellency  
M le Vte DE CRAMAYEL  
*Charge d' Affaires of France*  
*etc. etc. etc.*

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

<sup>a</sup> October 25, 1843. See Daingerfield to Jones, November 12, 1843, in Correspondence with the Netherlands.

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

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LEGATION OF TEXAS, PARIS  
*Rue Castiglione no 20, Oct 30, 1843.*HON. ANSON JONES,  
*Secretary of State,*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of despatches from your Department of the 20th August consisting of copies of documents relating to the armistice with Mexico. A letter from Mr Samuel Maas who has just reached England, informs me that he has letters etc., for me from the Government of Texas. I hope to receive them in a few days.

You have doubtless received through the newspapers, accounts of the late revolution in Spain which deprived Gen Espartero of the Regency, and of the generally unsettled state of affairs in that country. I have had some conversations with Mr Washington Irving the American Minister at Madrid who is now in Paris. He is of opinion that the present is not an auspicious moment for attempting to open negotiations for a treaty between Texas and Spain; that it is advisable to wait for a more settled condition of the Spanish Government. The Chevalier Hernandez, the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, stated to me that all parties in Spain are determined to maintain slavery in Cuba as it now exists in that Island. In view of this matter and for commercial objects, by reason of the proximity of Cuba to Texas, Spain will probably be disposed to establish friendly relations with our country, and in my opinion a treaty may be negotiated so soon as their affairs shall have assumed some stability.

As connected with the subject of slavery, I will state that I have just received a note from Mr Everett the American Minister at London asking for information relative to any efforts which may be making in England to procure the abolition of slavery in Texas.<sup>b</sup> It is for the purpose of communicating the same to the Government of the U States; whose attention it would hence appear has been directed to this subject.

Mr de Saligny who was empowered on the part of France to conduct the negotiations for a commercial treaty with Texas has been most of the time for some months past absent from Paris in the country. The fact is that the French commercial system is so compli-

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

<sup>b</sup> See Everett to Smith, October 24, in Smith to Jones, November 29, in Correspondence with the United States.

cated that it can scarcely be touched without either damaging the public revenues or interfering with some established industry.

Mr Bourgeois's Loan remains as at the date of my last despatches. Monsieur Brunet, our Consul General, himself a banker, observed to me last night, that peace being settled a Loan could be readily concluded on advantageous terms; but that he should scarcely think it advisable to accept a Loan on such terms as could in the mean time be obtained. You are aware that since my arrival in Europe I have not been sanguine of the practicability of a Loan on favorable terms: and I suspect that the negotiations now in progress for taking that of Mons. Bourgeois will be found to be contingent on a definitive peace.

Since the armistice Texas has attracted much larger and more favorable notice especially as connected with emigration.

Mr Castro dispatched on the 26th Instant from Antwerp a ship carrying out colonists for his "concession." He has also chartered two other vessels for the same purpose, to sail from the same port on the 15th and 30th respectively of the coming month. I continue to impress on him the liability of entire failure in his enterprise unless he shall make adequate preparation for the comfortable reception etc. of his colonists on their arrival. In other respects his activity and energy appear deserving of commendation, and I am informed his colonists are persons of good character.

The English Concession situated on Red River will, I fear, prove a failure. The parties are persons of respectability and possessed of adequate means; but some misunderstanding has arisen between them as well as some dissatisfaction with their agent which threaten to arrest their enterprise.

Since the armistice Mr William Pringle and others have undertaken to execute the terms of Mr Kennedy's "concession"; and should the concession in question be prolonged or renewed I feel great confidence they will do so faithfully and efficiently.

Mr Thomas Snowe of Dublin and Mr William Henry Brockett at Newcastle have been recommended by Mr Rate of London for the appointment of Consuls of Texas at those ports respectively. From the highly respectable testimonials in their favor, I cheerfully add my recommendation to that of Mr Rate. It does not seem improper here to state that Mr Rate himself in his capacity of Consul General at London is a very efficient and watchful officer of the interests of Texas as well as a man of very high respectability.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Your most obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

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

49

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I have the honor to be with great respect,  
Your most obedient servant

ASHBEL SMITH.

DAINGERFIELD TO SMITH.<sup>a</sup>LEGATION OF TEXAS. AT THE  
*Hague November 8th. 1843*HON. A SMITH  
*Chargé d'Affairs of,  
Texas at Paris.*

SIR

I should have written to you long ago but that I every day expected to have something to communicate which might at least be worth the pains of perusal if not the expence of Postage; Since my arrival here in fact since my landing on the Shores of Europe I have not had a line from the Secretary of State nor indeed from any one connected with the Government at home; True it is my instructions are of such a nature, so comprehensive in their character, and requiring such a length of time for their fullfillmt that, the Hon Secretary may be of opinion that for all *practical purposes* further communication with me is unnescessary; But the interesting position which our affairs with Mexico have assumed since my departure, the opening of negotiations with that Govt if the news-paper statements are correct, render me exceedingly anxious to have something like an official statement of the true position of our affairs not only for the purpose of satisfying my own very natural interest on the subject, but to the end that I may be enabled to answer with *reasonable certainty* the many enquiries which are made by the authorities of the country to which I am accredited. Since I despair of hearing from the Government of Texas will you do me the favour at yr earliest leisure and convenience to give me *all the news*.

I wrote to the Secretary of State on the 23rd. September, and since then I have been endeavouring to lay the foundation with the Belgian Minister at this Court Genl Prisse, to whom I had letters from the Belgian Minister at Washington. U S for an advance towards the negotiation of a treaty with his Government. The affair goes on well enough, but there are certain difficulties, which, a reasonable delay and, the absence of any manifestation of undue anxiety on our part, will I think effectually remove. I found Texas, but little known here, on my arrival and in the minds of those to whom its history and position were not entirely unknown, there existed a prejudice against it arising from our supposed connexion with the U States, a country, disliked for its republicanism envied for its immense prosperity and hated for the defalcations on the part of the States, in the Stocks of which the Dutch had largely dealt; Whilst I allude to this unfounded prejudice, justice compells me to say that I cannot find terms too strong for the expression of the gratitude I

<sup>a</sup> See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 55, pp. 47-52.

feel towards, the able accomplished and most Popular representative of the Government of the U States at this court, Mr C Hughes for the kind and loyall manner in which I have been treated by him. Texas owes him, a debt of gratitude for the efficient part he has always taken in her behalf especially in her early negotiations in Europe, and I find him still expressing the utmost interest in her welfare and prosperity.

I to day received a letter from Mr Castro at Paris, and I put this under cover to him with my answer thereto. Sometime last month I received a letter from him at Anvers in which he stated, that he was about to send the Jean key from that Port to Galveston with a Cargo of emigrants. As this embarkation was about to take place from a port, (Antwerp,) within the limits of a country to which I was accredited, I deemed it *my duty* in answer to his notification to express in *strong terms* my hope that the emigrants in a state of *destitution* to Texas and I *protested* against their being *so* sent for the triple motive, that it would be injurious to the Country, to cast upon its shores a band of paupers, consumers, incapable of adding to the productions of its soil or the devellopement of its resources, whose inevitable sufferings would cause them to render disastrous accounts to their friends in Europe, and thereby check further emigration, that as these emigrants landed under circumstances of destitution could never reach their destination, they would not aid him in the performance of his contract of Colonisation, that humanity and justice towards the emigrants themselves forbade a course fraught with so much evil to them. I am sorry to say that Mr. Castro in his reply manifested a good deal of anger, and instead of taking my letter in the friendly way in which it was intended, he volunteered the absurd intimation that I was inimical to him and his enterprise; How this absurd notion could have entered his brains since I have at all times treated him with Courtesy I am at a loss to imagine unless, as I am inclined to suspect from the tone of his letter of to day it has its origin in a feeling of jealousy towards Mr Bourgeois d'Orvanne. By mere accident I met this last named Gent. at Mayence in September last. I had gone to that City for the purpose of obtaining precise information as to the "Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas" of which I had heard much, and with the very laudable objects of which Mr Bourgeois d'Orvanne, has no doubt made you acquainted. Whilst in communication on this subject with the Counts of Castell, and Leiningen, members of the Society, I learnt from them that Mr Bourgeois was in treaty for the sale of his contract with the Texan Govt, to this association—which sale as he Mr B afterwards informed me by a letter from Paris he effected but at what price and on what terms I am as yet utterly ignorant. My movements in the affairs were