

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna to Andrew Jackson, July 4, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

GENERAL ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA TO JACKSON.

Columbia, Texas, July 4, 1836.

Regarded Sir, In fulfilment of the duties which a public man owes to his native country and to honor, I came to this soil at the head of six thousand mexicans. The disasters of war which circumstances rendered inevitable have reduced me to the situation of a prisoner, in which I still remain, as you will no doubt have been informed.

The good disposition manifested by Don Samuel Houston, Commander-in-chief of the Texian Army, for terminating the war, and by his successor, Don Thomas J. Rusk; the determination of the President and cabinet to make an honorable arrangement, between the contending parties, and my conviction; have given rise to the agreements, of which, I annex copies, as also of the orders issued by me to General Filisola,¹ my second in command for him to retire with the remainder of the Mexican Army, from this river Brazos, where he then was, to the other side of the river Bravo del Norte.

1 Gen. Vicente Filisola.

As there was no doubt that General Filisola would scrupulously fulfil all that part, which related to him, the President and cabinet had taken measures for my return to mexico, to enable me to complete the other stipulations, and I had, in consequence embarked on board the Schooner *Invincible* , which was to convey me to the Port of Vera Cruz, but it

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unfortunately happened that some indiscreet persons raised a tumult, which obliged the authorities forcibly to land me and again to place me in close confinement.

That incident prevented my arrival at Mexico, since the beginning of last month, which has induced that government, ignorant, no doubt of what had occurred, to take the command of the Army from General Filisola, ordering General Urrea,² to whom the command has been given, to go on with his operations, in virtue of which, the latter General is now at the river Nueces, according to last accounts. In vain have some men of foresight and well-disposed, endeavoured to show the necessity of repressing the passions and of my return to Mexico, as it was agreed upon.

2 Gen. José Urrea.

The excitement has gathered strength with the return of the Mexican Army to Texas. Such is the present state of affairs. The duration of the war and its disasters are therefore necessarily inevitable, unless a powerful hand interpose to cause the voice of reason to be opportunely listened to. It appears to me, then, that it is you who can render so great a service to humanity, by using your high influence to have the aforesaid agreements carried into effect; which, on my part, shall be punctually fulfilled.

When I agreed to treat with this government, it was under the conviction, that for Mexico to continue the war was unnecessary. I have acquired correct information of this country, of which, I was ignorant four months back. I am sufficiently zealous of the interests of my country, not to wish for her, that which is most suitable. Always ready to sacrifice myself for her glory and welfare, I would not have hesitated to prefer suffering torments or death, rather than consent to any arrangement whatever, if by such conduct an advantage had accrued to Mexico. My full conviction that it is more expedient to settle the present question by political negotiations, is, finally, the sole motive, which induces me to agree sincerely to what has been stipulated. In the same manner, do I make to you this frank declaration.

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Be pleased then to favor me with like confidence, afford me the satisfaction of preventing evils near at hand, and of contributing to do the good, which my heart dictated. Let us establish mutual relations, to the end that your nation and the Mexican, may strengthen their friendly ties, and both engage amicably in giving existence and stability to a people that wish to figure in the political world, in which they will succeed, within a few years, with the protection of the two nations.

The Mexicans are magnanimous when treated with consideration. I will make known to them, with purity of intentions, the reasons of conveniency and humanity, which require a frank and noble conduct, and I do not doubt they will adopt it, when conviction has worked upon their minds. This manifestation will convince you of the sentiments, which animate me, and of those with which I have the honor to be

Your very devoted, obt. servt. A true translation, Velasco, 8th July 1836 (signed) Edward Gritten.