

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

TO GENERAL ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

Hermitage, September 4, 1836.

Sir, I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 4th of July last, forwarded by Genl Samuel Houston commander in chief of the army of the republic of Texas, under cover of one from him, and Transmitted by Genl. Gains by express. The great object of these communications, on both sides, appears to be, to put an end to the dissasterous cruelties of the civil war now raging between Mexico and Texas, and asking the interference of the united states, to aid in the accomplishment of so humane and desirable an object.

I sincerely regret to find from your letter that you have been prevented from carrying into effect the agreement with Texas by the indiscretion you have alluded to, when you had in view so desirable, humane, and beneficial results to both Governments as the blessings of peace and a friendly intercourse between them based upon the principles of a just reciprocity, so beneficial to both countries.

The Government of the United States are anxious to cultivate peace and friendship with all nations, and having adopted the principle, that all nations have the right to alter, amend, and change their own Government as the sovereign power, the people, chose we never interfere with the policy of other nations nor permit them to interfere with our internal policy, but upon all occasions where our friendly interposition is asked to aid in restoring peace and tranquility to others, freely yield it—but in the present case, we have been

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notified thro the minister of Mexico, that since your misfortune of being made prisoner, that none of your agreements as President and commander of the Mexican [Government] with the authorities of Texas would be recognised by the *de facto* Government of Mexico it being [obvious?] your powers ceased with your capture. therefore until the existing Government of Mexico ask our friendly offices between the Contending parties, Mexico and Texas, we cannot interfere, but should Mexico ask it, our friendly offices will, with pleasure, be afforded to restore peace and put an end to this inhuman warfare at whose acts of barbarity and massacre has occasioned every christian people and humanity to shudder and condemn.

Your letter and that of Genl Houston commander in chief of the Texian Army, will be made the basis, of an early interview with the Minister of Mexico at Washington. These communications will hasten my return to Washington, to which place I will set out in a few days and reach there by the first of October next. in the mean time I hope Mexico and Texas will both find that war is one of the greatest evils, and will pause before another campaign can increase the evils which you were so anxious [to] avert.

I am respectfully yr. mo. obdt. servt.