

Andrew Jackson to Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, February 27, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>TO ANTONIO LÓPEZ DE SANTA ANNA. 1

1 This copy is in the handwriting of James A. McLaughlin. A draft exists in Jackson's handwriting. Santa Anna readily complied with this request. He also released, at Jackson's request, two other men—Brown and John Bradley.

Hermitage, February 27, 1843.

To His Excellency, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna President of the Republic of Mexico.

I have just received a letter from my friends in Washington City informing me that George Crittenden son of the Honorable John Crittenden of the United States Senate has been captured by your army at the battle of Mier. It appears that young Crittenden was in the Texian army under Col. Fisher that he had been several years a citizen of Texas and had been chosen an officer of the militia. When that country was invaded and St. Antonio plundered the Texians were ordered to pursue retake the prisoners and the plunder. At Mier Fisher was met and after a severe engagement capitulated to General Ampudia, and articles of capitulation were signed by both parties. The friends and connections of Mr. Crittenden express a fear that the terms of capitulation will not be adhered to by the government of the Republic of Mexico and have written to me requesting me to address you on the subject. It is with a sense of great delicacy I have agreed to their request. But, having an exalted opinion of the high and honorable bearing of General Santa Anna and of his enlightened mind I have ventured to say to my friends and those of Mr. Crittenden

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that although you have not acknowledged the Independence of Texas still as it has been acknowledged by the United States, France and Great Britain in this enlightened age General Santa Anna will not deviate from or permit his officers under him to violate solemn written capitulations and the pledge of honor of military men as such a course would at once arouse all the civilized world against this violated faith and would lead to indiscriminate butchery between the Mexicans and Texians.

In saying this much to the friends of Mr. Crittenden I rest satisfied that I have not mistaken your wisdom or your high military character in supposing you would view Col. Fisher's men agreeably to the written capitulation as prisoners of war and treat them accordingly. If I have taken a view of this matter such as meets yours and you will release Mr. George Crittenden on his parole of honor not to take up arms against the Republic of Mexico until he is legally exchanged you will confer an obligation on one who has a high regard for your character and with exalted consideration and respect has the honor to be your most obedient servant,