

Number 194

The governor of the province of Los Texas is informed by Your Lordship's official letter of February 1 last that you have heard-- from the governor of the province of Coahuila-- that the Lipanes Indians related in the presidio of Monclova that they had acquired in barter many rifles and much powder from the Cocos and Mayeyes. In consequence thereof the governor relates to Your Lordship the reasons that make him doubt said bartering having taken place; rather, [he submits] that it is a shift which said Lipanes, with their natural cunning, have used to attain their particular ends, as he most extensively makes evident.

My dear Sir:

Your Lordship's official letter of last February first leaves me informed that you have heard--from the governor of the province of Coahuila-- that the Lipanes Indians, having returned to the presidio of Monclova from their last carneada, related that they had acquired in barter many rifles and much powder from the Cocos and Mayelles during the carneada. Since you are well aware how detrimental and harmful such trade and communication could be to us, you are hopeful that with this news I will take whatever measures I believe will conduce to cut short the one and the other. In consequence, I advise ^{lv} // Your Lordship of measures taken and expedited

with the intent that not only should the two last-mentioned nations never join forces with the Lipanes, but also that the Vidais and Orcoquizaes should never unite with them either.

I naturally believe that the Lipanes fabricated the news that was related. But I cannot help but to make known to you [the following]: When the Lipanes come here on their carneadas they do not cross the Guadalupe River, on account of their fear of the Comanches and Tancagues, who are apt to be found between that river and the Colorado. As soon as they have made their carneada of buffalo and cattle, the Lipanes take a northerly route, under the cerros of El Espinazo de Judas and Los Almagres, stopping at the canyon of San Saba; from there they proceed to the province of Coahuila, on those occasions when they are not returning by the most direct route from the Colorado River to this province.

The Cocos, Mayeyes, Vidais, and Orcoquizaes have their settlements at the disemboguements of the Colorado and Brazos-de-Dios Rivers. They never come to this side of the Guadalupe; this is ²// confirmed by their not coming to the presidio of S[a]n Ant[oni]o, unless in proceeding along the coast they should happen to turn towards this presidio from La Bahía del [E]sp[í]ritu S[an]to--in which case some of them do come here. Thus it is evident ~~een~~confirmed that

the news related by the Lipanes in Monclova is not true. Rather, these Indians, who are more cunning than us, turn these bits of news to the attainment of their particular ends, for not everyone knows them well, however much he may consider himself to be well informed.

This ratiocination is substantiated by their having told me themselves that in the presidios [sic] of Río Grande they are given powder and shot by the plateful. And I am well aware that with the same deceit they presume this audacity they would contrive rumors around said presidios to the effect that I was giving them the same items. It was for this reason that I have written to the aforementioned governor of Coahuila and to the captain of Río Grande [Presidio], informing them of what I have said above, in order that they might do me the same justice as I do them in not believing that they would ever be a party to such an absurdity.

At the beginning of this past year of // ^{2v} 1779 there was a group of Lipanes at Béjar that traded at barter some bridles, belt knives, and cigars, as well as a coraza and four rifles of the type of armament used at the presidios in Coahuila. I allowed three of the said rifles to be bought by as many soldiers in my company--namely, by Fran[cis]co de Orendain, Jossé Farias, and another, whose name I do not recall. But when the new armament was dis-

tributed to my company at the end of last year, the aforementioned rifles which the said soldiers had purchased were in such good condition that these three men were not given any of the rifles brought from S[a]n Luis. Since this state of affairs had never occurred previously, I have been of the belief that these arms could not have fallen into the hands of the Lipanes unless by reason of one of the many losses [of weapons] that occur--which [losses] are unavoidable.

In this supposition may Your Lordship know that I remain and will remain attentive to a matter // ³ that is so critical; but [may you know] that the news given to the governor of Coahuila is spawn of the shrewdness and audacity of said Indians. Withal, Your Lordship will believe what may be to your greater pleasure.

Our Lord protect Your Lordship's life many years.

Bahía del [E]sp[í]ritu S[an]to, March 14, 1780.

Your Lordship's most devoted
and faithful servant kisses
your hand.

Lord Commandant General }

Cavallero de Croix }

Dom[ing]o Cabello [Signature is not
Cabello's]

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[L.S., 1-3 pp., 3/14/1780]