

[cross]

No. 263

The governor of the Province of Texas informs Your Lordship of the arrival at this Presidio of La Bahía del [E]sp[í]ritu S[an]to of three Texas Indians and an Indian woman, as first mentioned in his official letter no. 257. He notes in great detail the important matters which preceded, and he includes a list of items which he gave them, in view of the cogent reasons prompting this action.

My dear sir:

In my official letter no. 257 ~~in which~~ I informed Your Lordship of the hostilities being committed in this province by a number of Comanche Indians who had entered it. I made known to Your Lordship that three Texas Indians had come to the Presidio of Béxar, saying that they had much to talk of with me. I made provisions for them to come with ~~an-escort~~ a party of troops escorting a drove of 40 //<sup>lv</sup> mules loaded with corn, which I was having brought from that presidio to

this. They arrived here on the ninth day of the present month.

At their arrival I noticed that there were three Indian men and an Indian woman, the wife of the one who came as their leader. I gave them lodging in the quarters of one of the soldiers in this company, which by chance was not occupied.

There they were entertained until the 16th, when they departed, having eaten and [been provided] with some food, their tortillas, and a box of tobacco for each one, in addition to the things which they had been given immediately before their departure, as shown on the enclosed report. The principal items were sold to me at the Mission of El [E]sp[í]ritu S[an]to, and I shall charge them //<sup>2</sup> to the account of the gratificas[ió]n branch of the cavalry company of Béxar.

On the day following their arrival at this presidio and during the rest of the time they were here, it was determined--as had been said by the eldest one, who acted as leader of the rest--that the people of his nation had no chief, and they wished me to name one for them. At this I told them to tell all [their people] to come, and ~~to name~~ in my presence to name him who was best able to govern them and who is most friendly towards the Spaniards, and that I would confirm him as chief, give him his baton, and procure gifts for him and for the rest who were in agreement and were satisfied.

They told me that they, the Taboayazes, the Guages, and the Guachitas were very disappointed, because the Painted Chief //<sup>2v</sup> (the deceased Lieutenant Colonel d[o]n Atanas[i]o de Messieres), when he came to S[a]n Ant[oni]o last year, gave them no gifts, but gave gifts only to the Tancabos, the Taguacanes, and the Cudeflechas (a party of the same

Taguacanes, but more numerous and more valiant). And [they said] that, since they were all friends of the Spaniards, they were not pleased with such an occurrence. I was also assured of the same facts by Fran[cis]co Hugues, the interpreter whom I caused to come ~~from-Béxar~~ with the said Texas from S[a]n Ant[oni]o. He told me that it was he whom the said lieutenant colonel had employed to apportion the gifts to the Tancabos, Taguacanes, and Cuddeflechas. He told the Texas, Taboayazes, Guages, and Guachitas that, since they were closer to S[a]n An[toni]o than the others, they could come //<sup>3</sup> there to receive [gifts] and at the same time to meet me. Also [I was told] that those items which the said lieutenant colonel delivered to me, as I have informed Your Lordship in my official letter number 139, are those which were destined as gifts to these nations of the Texas, Taboayazes, Guages, and Guachitas. Thus I had good reason to have them understand this very fact. The interpreter explained to them all the foregoing and [told them] that their gift was at S[a]n An[toni]o, and they were quite content and satisfied. I urged them to go and tell this to the said Taboayazes, Guages, and Guachitas, and [to tell them] to come as soon as possible, because I wanted to meet them and wanted them to meet me, so that we could be good friends. [MS--one line blotted out] //<sup>3v</sup> [MS--one line blotted out]

They told me also that the Indians who are making war are only some Comanches seeking to avenge the killings committed against them at Los Fríos (during the encounter which my troops had with them, as I informed Your Lordship in my official letter no. 182). [The Texas also said] that it was true that they had gone to invite the Taboayazes, and Taguacanes, and other nations from the interior. None of those, [however], had wished to come. Thus two villages of Comanches, called Namborica (some of whom were killed in the said engagement) and Pihya, joined together, so that there are many of them, and they will not leave until they avenge themselves sufficiently by taking many horses. And so I leave to Your Lordship's consideration the <sup>4</sup>// concern that such news necessarily causes me, especially since it is true.

At this point the Lipanes, following the devil's ways in such matters and wanting a part of everything, began to appear. On the 11th day about 20 of them appeared, bringing as their leader a son of Chief Casaca, whom they have already named Chief Chiquito. As soon as they learned that the Texas were here, they made great efforts to speak with them. But I, in my relentless precaution, had already given the Texas orders not to leave the room in which they were staying, and had charged the interpreter, Fran[cis]co Hugues, to stay with them and tell them to pay no attention to the "Apaches" (the name <sup>4v</sup>// given [the Lipan-Apaches] by all

the Indians of the Interior). This, [I said], was because [the Lipan-Apaches] were deceitful.

[I said] that I disliked them and would give them nothing--as they would see--and that soon I would make them leave the presidio, leaving their arms--as [the Texas] would see--in the guardhouse. I also went to tell them this myself. But in spite of these special precautions it was not possible to prevent [the Lipanes] from speaking to [the Texas] from outside the door of the room. With begging and other unspeakable acts they offered to give them horses, arms, and even women if they would go away with them.

As soon as the interpreter informed me of this occurrence, //<sup>5</sup> I went there and encountered a group of Lipanes at the door of the room, but as soon as they saw me they all retreated. I ordered them not to enter the presidio and I did not stop until I had made them leave that afternoon.

I made the Texas see that the offers of the Lipanes were for the purpose of persuading them to go with them, and that when they had them in their camp they would kill them and would dance many mitotes with their scalps. [The Texas] said that they believed this and assured me that they had not consented to the enticements of the "Apaches". Thus I had succeeded in averting such a coalition, consequent to the contents of Your Lordship's official letter dated November 24 of last year. //<sup>5v</sup> But even without such advice I never

would have permitted such an alliance, knowing what fatal consequences might result therefrom, of which I cannot fail to be wary.

On the night of the 12th, 22 [Indians] appeared, among them Mayeyes, Vidais, Cocos, and Orcoquizas. They told me that a week before, while they had all been encamped together on the Brazos de Dios River, the ~~Gemanekes~~ same Comanches who are committing hostilities in this province had attacked them and taken from them some horses. They were able to escape by means of great effort, and so I <sup>6</sup>// was most benevolent to them, having brown sugar loaves and boxes of cigars given to them, so that they were quite content. And I begged them for my sake to have no trade or friendship with the Apaches or the Carancaguazes, because I would be angry with them. They offered to fight in our company against the Carancaguazes, saying that they were ready whenever I wished, that they would all come together to fulfill their promise, and that I had only to name the time. I told them that I would advise them [of my acceptance] but that I needed time to inform Your Lordship, so that you might order me to do what seemed appropriate to you on the matter.

These 22 Indians joined the three Texas and the [Texas] woman, and they all departed <sup>6v</sup>// together yesterday, the 16th.

I gave special gifts to the Texas in view of their kindness in not assenting to the diabolical suggestions of the

Lipanes. It was necessary to give a horse to the Indian leader. He had lost two while coming from S[a]n Ant[oni]o, and no matter how diligently the soldiers in the party searched, they could not find them. It was also necessary to give one to the Indian woman, since the only one she had had become so lame that it was impossible to ride it. And so it was led away.

It is my desire that what I have //<sup>7</sup> done, as I have disclosed it, may merit Your Lordship's approval, in the belief that my will is none other than to do my duty and to deserve to fill the compass of the approbation and satisfaction of Your Lordship, whose life I continually pray God may protect many years. [La] Bahía [del Espíritu Santo], August 17, 1780.

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

The Lord Commandant General }  
Cav[aller]o de Croix }

//<sup>7v</sup> [Blank]

Dom[ing]o Cabello  
[A.L.S., 1-7 pp., 8/17/1780]