

[cross]

No. 865

The governor of the province of Texas informs Your Lordship that he has acceded to the petitions of Juan Bap[tis]ta Bousquet, a resident of this presidio, well versed in the language of the Friendly Indians of the North, to go to the village of the Taboayases to procure four to six loads of metal from a mine [there]. For this reason he has given [Bousquet] instructions on everything he is to do with respect to what has occurred with [the Nations of the North], and he hopes it merits Your Lordship's approval.

My dear sir: Juan Bap[tis]ta Bousquet, [MS: one word struck through] residing in this presidio and married [to one of its residents], because he knew Tancague, Taboayas, and other languages associated with them, ~~he went with~~ was taken by Don Nicolás de la Mathé to those nations when [de la Mathé] went there in the year seventeen hundred eighty-one.

For this reason, when he was in the village of the Taboayazes, they brought word to him of a silver mine, and when on his return he brought some of the metal and made the appropriate

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assays, // it proved to have a certain fineness. Thus on returning to the said village and mine with my knowledge and permission, he brought a load of the same metal. It was taken to El Vallesillo where there are knowledgeable persons [MS: one and one-half lines struck through]. It was recognized as being possibly very productive. Thus

motivated, he has made endless requests to me to be granted permission [MS: two words struck through] to go to the said village with the intention of bringing back four to six loads of the afore-mentioned metal. I denied permission in view of what has occurred, as I informed Your Lordship in my letter number 852, so that no fatal contingency would befall him. Nevertheless, his pleas have been so numerous and often-repeated, and he has shown such confidence that ²// no risk with those Indians will be entailed, that I gave him permission to take them on his [own] account some tobacco and trinkets and to go to the town of Natchito[chels to distribute them; for which purpose I would write to Captain [Antonio] Gil Ybarbo not to place any obstacles to his going to the afore-mentioned town of Natchito[chels and also to give him any aid he might need for the realization of his intentions. Convinced that this opportunity could be favorable to us, I have acceded to his requests.

For this reason I have given him a passport and instructions to investigate the motives the afore-mentioned Taboayazes and Guachitas had in initiating the expedition they made against us, adding to it any news ^{2v}// Your Lordship may consider me capable of giving on a matter of similar nature and importance [MS: three lines struck through], especially concerning the charges he is to make in my name against the overrated Great Chief Gransot.

Likewise I have given him an assignment to travel through the villages of the Yscanis, Flechasos, and Taguacanes and make some suggestions in my name (which I shall support him in) to their chief, Ciscat Gainon, commenting on their tranquil nature and [asking] how

they feel about the action of the Taboayazes and Guachitas, demonstrating to the first that I shall soon advise them on when they are to assemble to receive their gift, and hinting to the second of what has been lost due to their perfidy and hotheadedness. // ³

[MS: one line struck through] I have advised Captain [Antonio] Gil Ybarbo as necessary on the matter and [told him] that for greater success he is to impose on Bousquet [any conditions] he considers appropriate ~~on-the-matter~~ and to assist him with whatever he needs [MS: several words struck through] to bring about a better outcome from this undertaking. By virtue of all this, the aforesaid Bousquet set out on the thirty-first day of the past month of July, and I have not wished to fail to inform Your Lordship ~~in-order-to-serve~~ [to see] whether what I have done in this matter merits your approval. I shall take care to give Your Lordship an account of its results.

May Our Lord protect Your Lordship's life many years. Béxar,
August 19, 1784.

Your Lordship's most attentive
and true servant
kisses your hand.

Lord Commandant General }
Don Pheflippe de Nebe }

Dom[ing]lo Cabello

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[A.L.S., 1-3 pp., 8/19/1784]