

[cross]

No. 88

The governor of the province of Texas, in reply to Your Lordship's official letter of the 25th of the past April, discloses to you all that he has done in order to effect the expedition against the Carancahuaz Indians. But the completion thereof has not been possible due to the reasons he makes known.

My dear sir: I have explored all the means necessary to effect the planned expedition against the Carancahuas Indians pursuant to that which I disclosed to Your Lordship in my letters numbered 787, 799, 840, and 858. It is a matter comprised of so many parts that it has not been feasible to put them together. ~~the-first~~ In the construction of canoes, without which it is impossible to

put [the project] into operation, Monsieur Guadalupe and // ^{lv}
Monsieur Boutan have defaulted. They were to have assisted Monsieur LaForé in the work on them, as I informed Your Lordship in my letter number 799, ~~which~~ since it was necessary to permit ~~to-the~~
~~town-of-Nageedoches-and-Camargo~~ the first to travel to the town of Camargo and the 2nd to that of Nagcodoches, whence some others of their trade were called to work. And since only LaForé remained, it has not been possible for him to undertake [the construction], and for that reason the ~~conclusion~~ implementation of this part [of the plan] has been delayed until his two colleagues return.

Although I had wished to hurry on to the conclusion of this work,

one of the principal groups, namely, the paddlers to steer [the canoes], was missing, and since there were none in this province and those of the settlements of Camargo and the other sites at the mouth of the Río Grande in the province of // ² La Colonia de Santander were insufficient, the expedition has consequently been delayed [MS: one-half line struck through] with respect to this area. And it will be [delayed] until--as a consequence of that which Your Lordship wrote under date of the 27th of the past April, and I [under] that of the 14th of the present [month] to the cav[aller]o governor of the province of Louisiana ~~on this matter~~--[the latter] discloses the provisions he will make to assist me in this matter. On this I have made known to him everything imaginable, so that he would have no doubts about supplying me with the means necessary.

Even if the two afore-going items are facilitated and supplied, the most important [problem] remaining is that of personnel, since the 50 men that may come from Cohahuila and the remaining 80 ^{2v} ~~who~~ // that may be assembled at this presidio and that of La Bahía are not sufficient for the action. For not even with 60 more--which is the greatest number that could be added from the citizenry there--would it be possible to complete the number of 200 needed to make the attack on the islands. And assuming that the total of 150 that could be assembled would be sufficient, there is [still] a lack of those who should be on the coast to [MS: one-half line struck through] kill or capture those that flee the islands. For this ~~the~~ action at least 150 would be needed, and there is no hope of being able to procure them anywhere. For though Your Lordship, in your official letter of the

25th of the past April, advises me to ask the governor of La Colonia for the assistance that I may need, ~~I-doubt-that-he-will-de-se~~ I have much doubt as to whether it will come about ³ // unless he receives from the viceroyalty, to which he is subject, express orders to do so.

Don Nicolás de la Mathé, when he planned this enterprise, in the statement he made on the 1st of March, 1783, to the Most Excellent Señor Cav[aller]o de Croix, might well have specified the number of persons with which he planned to make this expedition, instead of leaving in an embryonic [state] the principal [point] in this matter, which leaves problematic [MS: 2 words struck through] the most essential [condition] therefor, so that the successful outcome thereof remains questionable. In not one of the letters Your Lordship mentions to me in your official letter of the 25th of April of this year can I consider this enterprise feasible or workable. For I know the difficulties that arise [to prevent] success therein of the steps which I find appropriate and indispensable ^{3v} // with respect to the perfidy of these Indians and the damages and injuries they have caused. These can be curtailed if the news is true which I related to Your Lordship in my letter number 79, concerning the new settlement on the mouth of the Colorado River, whereby [personnel] will be made available close at hand to pursue [the Karankawas] especially ~~since~~ at the time of the north winds, when they find it necessary to desert the islands where they live. For they are [then] flooded and [MS: 2 words struck through] [the Karankawas] travel to the coast between the mouth of the Colorado River and that of the Los Brazos de Dios, and in that place the new settlers can take some favorable action.

On all these matters // ⁴ I have written extensively and specifically to the cav[aller]o governor of the province of Louisiana, and his reply will serve as a guide for any maneuver to be made in this matter.

In the meantime I have advised the captain of the presidio of La Bahía not to cease pursuing these Indians, so that from the month of May until the end of September, during the time they are on the islands between the mouths of the Las Nuezes River [MS: one line struck through] and the S[a]n Ant[oni]o, when they come to retreat behind said presidio, he is not to permit them to wander to the coast, and he will see if by this means he can make sure they do not cause the slightest hostility. And since this is all I can [say in] reply to Your Lordship's official letter dated the 25th of the past April, I continue to pray // ^{4v} God may protect ~~Your-Lordship's~~ your life--as I desire--many years. Béxar, June 19, 1785.

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

Dom[ing]o Cabello

Señor Don José
Ant[oni]o Rengel }

[A.Df.S., 1-4v pp., 6/19/1785]