

[cross]

No. 79

The governor of the province of Texas makes known to Your Lordship that he has received a letter from Distinguished Private Don Andrés Courbiere, informing him of his arrival at Nagcodoches and the tour he has made through the rancherias of the lower Nations of Friendly Indians of this governorship. [The governor] has also received [a letter] from Captain [Antonio] Gil Ybarbo, in which he informs him of a new settlement [which persons] from New Orleans have gone to set up at the mouth of the Colorado River, which territory belongs to this province.

My dear sir: By way of the presidio of La Bahía del Espíritu Santo I have received two letters dated the 8th of the past May, one from Distinguished Private Don Andrés Courbiere, of this cavalry company, and the other from Captain Don Ant[oni]o Gil Ybarbo, my lieutenant governor at the town of N[ue]stra S[en]ora del Pilar de los Nagcodoches.

The first informs me of the course of his journey from his departure from this location on the 4th day of the past April until the 6th of the following [month], when he arrived at the aforesaid town of Nagcodoches.

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// During this period he had been at all the rancherias of the

Vidai, Coco, Mayeye, Orcoquizac, and Tancague nations to announce to them their [invitation to the] meeting at the aforesaid settlement during the course of the moon of this present month to receive the

gift which has been designated for them. He assured them that a trader would be maintained for them to supply them with whatever they needed for their sustenance, on the condition that by no means were they to have trade or contact with the Lipanes. This they promised to do. But I doubt that they will comply, for it is impossible for any Indian to do a good thing.

He tells me also that the Tancagues have set up their village on the arroyo of Navasoto and that it is quite well established. It has cost immense labor to procure ² // [this concession] from these Indians, since they, like the Lipanes, have until now behaved like vagabonds and gypsies.

Also he mentions to me that he passed through the village of San Pedro to speak with Chief Bigotes of the Texas, but he could not be found, since he was with the rest of his men hunting deer. But he was left word to travel to the town of Nagcodoches to hear what I had disposed should be told to him. Then, resuming his journey, he arrived there in the afternoon of the 6th day of May and delivered my packets to Captain Gil Ybarbo. He had come there accompanied by an old friend of his named Yaculchén, of the Tancague nation (of whom I have made a number of references to your commandery general). He begged him to go ^{2v} // to the presidio of La Bahía to bring me his letter, because it was important that I have news of his arrival at Nagcodoches. The aforesaid Indian offered to do so and thus arrived at the afore-cited presidio on the 18th day of the aforesaid May. And when he had delivered to Cazorla [MS: two words struck through] [Courbiere's] letter and that of Gil Ybarbo, they were remitted to me on the first

occasion that was available, and by this means I have learned of all that I convey to Your Lordship.

Captain Gil Ybarbo tells me he cannot reply to all my official letters because of the short time of the stay of the Indian Yaculchén but that he will deliver my packets to the cavalle[ro] commander at Natchito[che]s and the [caballero] governor of Louisiana with the greatest possible speed.

He informs me he has ³// news from New Orleans that 200 families and 100 men from the troops have left that port to settle at the mouth of the Colorado River, and it seems this new settlement has been made at the behest of the Most Excellent Señor Conde de Galbes. And since [MS: one-half line struck through] it is in the territory of this governorship, he has informed me of it, as I consequently [inform] Your Lordship. I assure you that if it is true, it could be extremely useful, [MS: two words struck through] because they may have found a port to which ships from the entire Gulf of Mexico can come and also because [the settlement] will yield a great deal of assistance in [MS: one word struck through] pursuing and ~~extinguishing~~ exterminating the Carancaguazes. And it offers an indescribable opportunity for them to travel from that place to this. [MS: three and one-half lines struck through] [C. in h. The rest of p. 3 is autograph.] For from the said settlement to the Guadalupe River by the coast road, [the distance] is 28 leagues; from this river to the presidio of La Bahía, 16; and [from that presidio] to this one [the distance is] 36; [making a total of] 80. And taking the straight road from the afore-mentioned settlement to this location, the distance is 63 leagues on a very good

road, and by virtue thereof I am // ^{3v} [C. in h.] [MS: two words
struck through] eager to know the truth of this news so that I may
convey it to Your Lordship with any other I can acquire relative
thereto, considering its importance.

God keep Your Lordship many years. Béxar, June 7, 1785.

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

Dom[ing]lo Cabello

[Non-autograph signature]

Señor Don José }
Ant[on]ilo Rengel }

[Df.S., 1-3v pp., 6/7/1785]