

†

No. 184

The governor of the province of Texas informs Your Lordship of the request made by several Orcoquizac, Coco, Mayeye, and Carancaguaz Indians that a mission be set up for them. [He relates] that when the padre mi[nis]tro from Nagcodoches had traveled [there] for this purpose, the attainment thereof was frustrated by a Frenchman established on the Angelina River, as is indicated on the [priest's] original statement, which [the governor] is sending to Your Lordship, to whom he [also] states what he has determined on this matter.

My dear sir: In a letter of the 1st of September of the proximate past year, I was informed by Captain Don Ant[on]ilo Gil Ybarbo, lieutenant governor in the town of Los Nagcodoches, that when the Orcoquizac Indians traveled to that town to receive the gift designated for them, they stated with the greatest earnestness and humility, on their part [and] that of the Cocos, Mayeyes, and seventy-seven Carancahuazes, who live next to them and are not of the coastal [group, who are] harmful, [that] they desired to be baptized and gathered into a mission in the place called El
lv
// Atascoso. And when he

attempted to dissuade them from this idea, knowing the character of the Indians, they appealed to Padre Fr[ay] José Mariano Reyes, ministro in that town. [They were] determined to have him travel with them to bring about this objective. The said religious would not accede to these requests until he could bring word to the president of these missions, and he did so, indicating to him all the afore-mentioned.

Consequently the afore-mentioned president approached me. And when I had given my tacit permission for the afore-mentioned religious to go and examine the intention of the said Indians, he sent him an order to travel there. I communicated the same to my lieutenant governor so that he could give permission to Padre Reyes ~~to-travel~~ to go and conduct, the examination to find out whether the requests of the afore-mentioned Indians were or were not legitimate.

As a result of all the aforesaid ²// my lieutenant governor replied to me under date of the 3rd of November of the past year that on the 22nd day of ~~the-same~~ October, eight Orcoquizac Indians, six Mayeyes, four Cocos, and seven Carancaguaz Indians appeared before him with their chief and repeated the request they had previously made. Thereupon Padre Reyes arranged to go out with the said Indians to explore the intentions and willingness of the rest of the aforesaid nations. For that purpose he set out on the 2nd day of November, while I awaited the results this matter might have. He made known to me the information I had been given by the afore-mentioned religious from the mission of El S[e]ñor S[an] José, to which he traveled for this purpose. ^{2v}// He later did so at my lodging, where the same matter has been discussed. And so that Your Lordship may be informed of it, I am sending to you the original statement in which this religious has given me an account of all that occurred on the journey he undertook at the request of the afore-mentioned Indians.

The principal cause of the poor results had on the journey of the afore-mentioned religious is the Frenchman established on the Angelina River, who with his clandestine commerce ~~not-only~~ and diabolical

suggestions has subverted not only the afore-mentioned Indians but also the Lipanes. In view of this I have sent orders to my lieutenant governor, since the afore-mentioned Frenchman is located a few leagues from that settlement, so that he may attempt to take ³// steps to see whether he can apprehend him, and if not, to take any steps possible to dislodge him from that place. With information of his name and other circumstances, he is to give word thereof to the ~~señor~~ cavall[er]o governor of the province of Louisiana so that he may deign to have the said Frenchman restrained. And [he is to do so] with the many others from Los Atacapas and Apeluzas ~~Orrequisas~~ who are active in this same fraudulent commerce, in view of how pernicious these men are. For they not only supply excessive provisions of goods to the Indians, which afterwards they transfer to the possession of the Lipanes. But they also inspire them with diabolical reasoning in order to attract them to [carry on] trade and commerce with them. [I] know what little effect this will afford in view of the repeated official letters which ^{3v}// I have sent to the governor of Louisiana on this matter and to Colonel Cavall[er]o de Clovet, commander of Los Apeluzas and Atacapas, seeing how little good it has done with respect to the frequency with which traders from those places enter our territories to do what I have mentioned. [MS: 5 lines inserted in margin in Cabello's handwriting:] [Yet] so that Your Lordship may be informed of how I answered the afore-mentioned religious, I am enclosing for you the reply I gave to his letter, and I hope it merits your approval. [MS: end of inserted material]

These actions cause me the pain of seeing the senseless method by

which the Lipanes are supplying and providing themselves with powder, bullets, and fusils, with which they are so well equipped. For rare is the Indian among them who does not have two fusils with sufficient powder and bullets. From this fatal consequences may result, as I have previously stated to Your Lordship in detail. In view of this I have ⁴// [MS: inserted in margin in Cabello's handwriting] I have nothing further to bring to your attention [MS: end of inserted material] than to tell you I continue praying God may protect your life--as is my desire--many years. Béxar, March [MS: "14" erased] 18, 1786.

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

Dom[ing]lo Cabello

[Non-autograph signature]

Señor Don José }
Ant[oni]lo Rengel }

^{4v}
// [Blank]

[Df.S., 1-4 pp., 3/18/1786]