

Private and Confidential
Department of State
Washington 19 January 1847

My dear Sir:

Your dispatches to No. 400 (dated 28th November last) inclusive Nos. 393, 394, & 396 excepted, have been received.

I feel greatly indebted to you for the important information contained in your numerous dispatches. You have manifested a zeal and devotion in the service of your country demanding the warmest commendation. I hope you may yet be rewarded in a suitable manner by Congress for all your Labors. What Little influence I may possess shall at the proper time, be exerted to accomplish this object.

Colonel A.J. Atocha who will deliver you this letter is the bearer of an important dispatch from myself to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Republic. If he should call upon you in your consular character for any advice or assistance, you will afford it to him. Ere this can reach out, Moses Y. Beach of New York will most probably have reached Mexico. I gave him a letter of introduction to you which he has doubtless presented. He possesses my entire confidence and is fully acquainted with my views. Should he not call, you will not introduce the subject to him nor give an intimation of it to any other person.

We are as we have ever been sincerely desirous of peace with Mexico. It is both our interest and desire that she should become a great, a prosperous and a free Republic bound to the United States by the ties of mutual commerce and friendship. Whilst the war will be conducted with increased vigor, we shall ever be ready to make peace upon fair and liberal terms. Our people have become enthusiastic in the cause: the spirit of volunteering has attained such a height that the struggle in many parts of the Union is who shall have the privilege of marching to Mexico. Public opinion has rebuked those who were opposed to conducting the war with vigor. Most of them have changed their tone. Still we are willing, at any moment, to treat the Mexicans as brothers not as enemies.

You will please to deliver the enclosed letter to M. Beach without letting any person know anything of the matter. I have no time to keep a copy of this letter – write in great haste.

Yours very respectfully

James Buchanan

John Black Esq.

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