

Copy

N^o 200 of 1863.

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From,

Secret Department,

To,

The Commissioner in Sind,
Captain Herbert Disbrowe.

Acting Political Agent, Muscat.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter N^o 56, of 30th ultimo, and accompaniments, forwarded to me by the Captain of one of H. M. the Imam's vessels of war.

2. Your despatches, and the letter from the Imam to the address of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay will be forwarded to Bombay by the mail steamer of the 9th, and I hope to receive instructions by the return steamer which will probably arrive at Kurrachee about the 15th instant. I shall leave Kurrachee immediately on receipt of these instructions, and hope to reach Muskat not later than the 20th.

3. In the meantime, I can only express my general concurrence in the views contained in your letter under reply. — As far as my information goes, there is no ground for the assertion that Charbar has been sent by Persia to the Imam; but even were this the case the

threat

नामिका, सुराजत रास्टास माभसरागा
मायत मरुतार के पारान

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threat of the Governor of Bumpoor would be equally unjustifiable. He avows that he does not act under orders from his own Government: and he nevertheless threatens that he will, on his own responsibility, invade territory of which the Lnaum has been placed in possession by his own sovereign. Such a threat is the greatest affront possible to His Highness the Lnaum, and if carried into execution with the sanction of the Persian Government, would constitute a gross violation of the law of nations. I do not clearly gather from your letter, and that of His Highness the Lnaum, whether any reply has yet been sent to the Governor of Bumpoor. Should it be necessary to reply before my arrival at Muscat, I consider that the purport of the Lnaum's answer should be that which you suggest. His Highness should reply that he has a perfect right to allow the English to carry a telegraph line to Swader, if he pleases, that even if Charbar had been lent to him by Persia (which he will probably deny) no servant of Persia, acting without the orders

orders of his sovereign, has any right to occupy it; that the Imam is fully prepared to answer for his proceedings to the Persian Government, with which he is on friendly terms, but that he is not to be called to account by a subordinate Governor, and that if the Governor of Bampur invades his territory, he will do so at his own peril.

4 The Imam has clearly a right to resist the threatened invasion by every means in his power, but not being acquainted with the relative power of the two parties, I cannot counsel either resistance or submission. His Highness must act as he thinks best. The principal object of his reference to the Bombay Government doubtless is to ascertain whether we are ready to assist him against Persia, if he is embroiled with her in consequence of the assistance which he has rendered to us in the erection of our telegraph line. I am unable myself to offer any expression of opinion on this point, but on my arrival at Muscat, I shall be able to put His Highness in possession of the

views

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views of the Bombay Government.
In the meanwhile I do not think
it likely that the Governor of Bampur
will attempt to carry his threat into
execution.

Commr's Office
Kurrachee
8th April 1863

I have the
pleasure to
inform you
in this

P.S. I beg that you will consider the
remarks contained in this letter to be
merely the expression of my own private
views, and written for your own private
information only. Officially, I have no power
to give any instructions, nor even to offer
any advice, in regard to the conduct of
our official relations with the Sircums
of Muscab. I request therefore that you
will not communicate to His High-
ness, as of any weight or authority,
opinions which I have given at your
solicitation, but which may be at
variance with those entertained by
the Bombay Government.

Signed S. Mansfield
Commissioner in Charge X X X

True Copy
Signed J. Melville
Assistant Commr in Charge

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Abstract translation of an Arabic letter from His Highness Syud Tuzaynee bin Sultan Syud, Sultan of Muscat, to the address of the Commissioners in Sind.

After compliments.

I have stated all I wish you know to Captain Desbrowe the Political Agent, who has promised to write to you, and I despatch these letters by one of my own vessels in order that they may reach you soon, and that you may send them to Bombay and get an early reply.

True Abstract translation -
Signed M. Malville -
Assistant Commissioner.

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Abstract translation of a letter
From the Commissioners in Sind.
To His Highness
The Pinaum of Muscat
Dated Kurnache 8th April 1863.

After Compliments.

I have received Your Highness' letter

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भारत सरकार के अख्तियार
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letter and one for His Excellency Sir
 Bartle Frere, Governor of Bombay. I
 am deeply grieved that on account of your
 friendly disposition to the English
 Government Your Highness should have
 been subjected to such an affront as that
 contained in the letter from the Governor
 of Bampur. I will send your letter by
 steamer to Bombay and hope to receive
 His Excellency the Governor's reply in a
 few days. I shall then at once set out
 with it myself, and present it to your
 Highness with my own hands.

Meanwhile let not your mind be
 disturbed, for all will be well.

Trus Abstract translation
 (Signed) Mr. Melville
 Assistant Commissioner

Handwritten initials

1. Copies / No 60 of 1863.

From: Captain Herbert Disbrowe
Acting Political Agent.

To, Muscat

H. Walton Esquire,
Superintendent Mekran Telegraph Departt.

Dated Muscat April 3^d 1863.

Secret Department

Sir,

I received the day before yesterday your communication, No 87 of 1863 enclosing transcript of a message from the Commissioner in Sind, dated March 27th 10^o 25th a. m.

With reference to the message in question, I do myself the honor to inform you that H. H. the Sultan of Muscat has kindly consented to our landing troops at Gwadar for the purpose of protecting our working parties, and has at my request furnished a letter to the address of the Governor of Gwadar, acquainting him that such consent has been given, and strongly directing him to facilitate its accomplishment.

+ This letter to the Walee, or Governor, Saif bin Salim, I herewith enclose to you for delivery.

Translated summary purport thereof is also attached for your information

information.

I have fear

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(Signed) Herbert Disbrowe
Acting Political Agent Muscat

Translated Summary purport of
a letter dated 13th Shawul 1279. from
2nd April 1863.

H. H. Syed Toweynee
Sultan of Muscat.

To
Sybin Salim
At: His: Wala at Quader

A.C. When the English troops arrive and
want to land at Quader, wheresoever they
want to land, let them land.

The place is theirs.

Be most careful to stand/and attend to/
all their requirements great and small.

Take care, take care, that nothing
occurs contrary to their wishes.

Constantly write me news from your
quarter.

Translated Summary purport.

(Signed) Herbert Disbrowe
Acting Political Agent
Muscat

N: 62 of 1863.

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From Captain Herbert Disbrowe
Acting Political Agent,

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To, H. Wallow Esquire,
Superintendent Mekran Telegraphic
Department
Muscat

Dated Muscat April 3. 1863.

Secret Department

Sir. When you telegraph to the Commission
in Sind that the Sultan of Muscat has
granted permission for English troops
to be landed at Gwader will you be so
good as to make known further that both
His Highness and myself have addressed
the Commission, as also Her Majesty's
Government of Bombay by His Highness's
Vessel the "Gurber", sent across to Kurrachee
"express". The Gurber sailed from this
Port during the night of the 31. ultimo
Ibrahim Khan Persian Governor
of Bampur, threatened to occupy
Gwader if the telegraphic line were
constructed without Persian Government
authority. He presently abandoned
the intention of occupying Gwader,
acknowledging it to be the Sultan
of Muscat's territory, and declared

His determination to prevent you from
placing your foot to the westward of Guadur
if desirous of doing so. To the Sultan of Muscat
Ibraheem Khan has written an unbecoming,
if not to say an insulting letter, stating that
Chahbar, though entrusted to the Sultan
by the Persian Government, is nevertheless
sail protected by Persia, and that if His
Highness is unable to prevent the English
from landing things, His Highness is to
let him know that he may come and
prevent them. Indeed from the tone of a
letter addressed by Ibraheem Khan to
the Waker of Guadur, I am not free
from apprehension that the design
of occupying Chahbar may possibly be
somewhat seriously entertained by the
Persians. The Persians, if they thought
we should actively support the Sultan
would perhaps scruple to come into open
collision with the Sultan's dependents
any where, and would, of course,
hesitate ere they planted themselves
on the sea Coast. If, however, they
are of opinion that we should not
actively support His Highness, is it
not to be feared that, when we
occupy Guadur with troops,

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the C. C. Skettell

the Persians may retaliate by occupying Chahbar with a Military force on the plea that it is territory belonging to Persia, and Chahbar having been some 90 years or upwards in the undisputed possession of the Muscat Rulers, such a plea and such an occupation would be contrary to the laws of "prescription". My object in submitting the above observations is not to induce hesitation as to the policy of our landing troops at Gwandar, but to place in a clear light, so far as my judgment carries me, the embarrassing position the Sultan of Muscat may, possibly, be thrown into by our Telegraphic proceedings, from which embarrassment he would naturally, and justly I submit, expect to be relieved and extricated by us.

2. The Sultan consulted me regarding the reply he should forward to the Bampur Sirdar, also whether I deemed it advisable that he should send troops across to Chahbar for purposes of defence. The Bampur Governor having acknowledged that he addressed the Sultan without the authority of the Persian Government, I counselled His Highness to

tell the Bampur Governor that he (the Sultan of Muscat) was happily on terms of perfect friendship with the Shah of Persia - If therefore, the Persian Government possessed matters of State regarding which they were desirous of communicating with His Highness, the Persian Ministers would, no doubt, make the necessary communications with His Highness on the subject - An expression of surprise that the Persian Sirdar should without the authority of his Government have addressed His Highness on such matters, might I thought, with propriety be added. For the rest, I advised the Sultan to act with moderation, to await the receipt of intelligence from Kurrahee, and not to despatch troops to Chahbar at present.

3. His Highness expects in a few days to receive a communication from the Persian Government regarding telegraph, Chahbar, &c, and has written to His Excellency the Honble the Governor in Council, apprising him that he will reply to the Persian Government, if addressed on the subject, precisely in the terms suggested by His Excellency the

Governor in Council. This written communication from His Highness went also per "Curlier" with a request to the Commissioner in Sind to forward it with speed.

4 The above forms the pith of what I am desirous should be communicated by telegraph to the Commissioner at once, or as early as practicable. I have written at considerable length by the "Curlier," but deemed it prudent to write briefly by H. M. vessel "Hugh Rose" likewise.

5 The mail steamer may be expected to arrive this evening or early tomorrow. I have packets to prepare for Bushire, Bagdad and Tehran. Being pressed for time, I beg you will be kind enough to lay this despatch, or a copy thereof, before the Commissioner, whom I understand you expect to meet within a few days.

I have the honor to be &c,
Signed/ Herbert Disbrowe
Acting Political Agent Muscat

C. C. Strettell