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Enclosure in Sir Harford Jones's Letter No. 5 of 23 May 1810

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/68/27
Date(s)	23 May 1810 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (4 folios)
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About this record

A copy of a note from Brigadier-General John Malcolm, Envoy of the Supreme Government of India to Persia [Iran], to Persian Ministers, undated. The note concerns the confusion created by the presence of both Malcolm and Sir Harford Jones, HM Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Persia, in the country, and also mentions the supply of arms to Persia under the Preliminary Treaty of Friendship and Alliance, 1809.

The extract was enclosed in Jones's Letter No. 6 to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company dated 23 May 1810.

Cotes LPS/9/68/27 ①
Note from Brigadier General Malcolm to His Majesty's Ministers.—

It must be clear & evident to your Excellencies, that there is nothing desirable but truth; & as it is not only just but wise to pursue a proceeding, which as it is open & candid can never produce shame but must create that compleat Confidence, which ought to subsist between two States, whose Interests are one, I consider it proper to follow the same course upon this Occasion, that I have upon all others with the Ministers of this State, & therefore submit to your Excellencies' consideration, the following real Statement of those Causes, which have produced a temporary perplexity, and an apparent Clashing of Orders between the Authorities of the British Government in England & India.—

You have been made acquainted, by the Memorial forwarded by Captain Pasley, with the principal grounds upon which the Governor General has acted in all his proceedings since the Arrival of Sir Harford Jones in Persia, & it must have been a source of satisfaction to you to observe that tho' the Governor General did not approve of the Conduct of Sir Harford Jones, he immediately confirmed the Treaty, which that Minister had concluded, & adopted such measures as he deemed best for carrying the preliminary Treaty into execution; and as H. M. the King of Persia, who always has honored me
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with his favor, had condescended to desire my return to his Court, I was deputed by the Governor General with instructions to confirm & improve the established Alliance. —

The Ministers of his Britannic Majesty, and the Directors of the Company's Government in England, having heard that the King of Persia had formed an Alliance with the English Government, through the Agency of Sir Harford Jones, thro' they had received the Governor General's letters, disapproving of that Minister's Conduct, & suspending him from his Functions as Envoy, nevertheless resolved to confirm the Treaty, he had made, & to restore him to his Powers as Plenipotentiary at the Court of Persia; as they justly considered that not to confirm the treaty would be to break that Public faith, which had been pledged by an accredited ^{Agent,} & not to restore Sir Harford Jones to his functions as a Public Minister might delay the execution of the Treaty. —

His Majesty's Ministers, and the Directors of the Affairs of the Company in England, would receive intelligence of my Mission, a short time afterward, as well as full accounts from Lord Minto of all his proceedings, & the reasons by which these were dictated; and the final decision of the Authorities in England after they are in possession of this knowledge will probably reach Persia in two or at the farthest three months, & will when it

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it arrives put an instant end to all further embar-
-rassment & discuspion; and the future conduct of the
Interests of the British Government in Persia, will
be settled on Principles, that can never be again
affected by that Collision to which the most accord-
-ant authorities are subject when placed at such
a vast distance from each other as England & India.

It will occur to your Superior wisdom, that
this confusion of orders has been attended with
no injury whatever to the Interests of the Persian
Government, on the contrary that State has re-
-ceived during its existance the most unequivocal
proof of the equal desire that prevails both
in England & India, to cultivate its friendship
by the prompt confirmation of the preliminary
Treaty, both by the authorities of Government
at home & abroad. —

The nature of the Constitution of the Indian Govern-
-ment is very simple - The English Nation having
acquired a great Empire in the East, has found
it expedient to administer that Empire, through
a Body termed the Company, and the Directors of
the Affairs of that Body, with the concurrence &
-advice of the Ministers of the King, nominate a
Ruler of this Empire, who during the period of
his Rule exercises Sovereign functions, & has
complete Control & command over all the power
& resources of the Empire under his charge, & as
such has always had assigned to him that

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Rank & Character, which are naturally associated in the estimation of the world, with the possession of extensive political Power. He is in fact a Ruler competent, within the Sphere of those Nations, who are connected by their local Situation, or political Interests with the State he governs, to maintain all the Relations of War & Peace, to conclude & confirm treaties, without Reference to any other Authority whatever, & in short to support an intercourse with other States, on the same Terms as are usual among Nations who desire to cultivate the ties of harmony & friendship.

The Governor General, however, always owes Obedience to that source from which he derives his Authority, & therefore tho' an apparent Confusion of Orders may take place, between him, & the Government of England, it can only originate in one cause, the distance between England & India, and the want of knowledge for a few months of each others sentiments & measures. When the Governor General deputed me to the Court of Persia, he was aware of the Confusion that might arise & even contemplated the probability of Sir Harford Jones' Diplomatic powers being confirmed, but directed me, nevertheless to continue in Persia, as the Agent for the Government of India, as he anticipated, when an account of his measures, & the causes by which they had been dictated reached England, a different decision, and as my nomination to my present duties, is a measure, of which the authorities in England have
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as yet no knowledge, my situation is not affected by the late confirmation of Sir Harford Jones as Minister Plenipotentiary & Envoy Extraordinary, from the King of England, at the Court of Persia, but must continue till I receive orders from England subsequent to the letters from the Governor General, announcing my appointment reaching that Country. If these orders direct me to remain in Persia, I shall endeavour as I have always done to promote the harmony and Union of the two States, & if I am ordered to retire, I shall retire with the most sincere wishes for the success of Sir Harford Jones or of whoever may fill the high station of the Representative of the English Nation at the Court of Persia. The result of this affair whichever way it terminates can in no shape impair the subsisting friendship or injure the interests of the Persian Government; for the British Envoy at the Court of Sehran will be always instructed to cultivate and improve the friendship of the King of Persia, by every means within his Power, as that is an acknowledged object of National Policy, & as such can not be affected by the changes or removals of the Individuals employed to promote its accomplishment.

I directed Mr. Jukes to inform you of my having brought some small Arms, which are furnished in part fulfillment of the Articles of the Preliminary Treaty. I have also brought ten pieces of Cannon, which were made specifically for the King of Persia, & are decorated with his Name & arms - some more pieces of Cannon & other Stores, furnished in Conformity with the Preliminary Treaty are expected from India, all which Articles will be sent to Sehran, in the mode that you deem best.

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I was instructed by the Governor General, among other points, to settle regarding the future liquidation of the Pecuniary Subsidy. I find that some instalments of that, have been already paid, by Sir Harford Jones, who has, I am informed by Captain Pasley & Mohammed Nobe Khan, given an order to Mohammed Ally Khan, a servant of the Prince Abbas Meerza, on the Resident of Bushire, or the agent of the Governor General, for the payment of thirty thousand tomans on this account. I am vested by the Governor General with exclusive Authority, on all points of this nature, but have received no instructions to attend to such a requisition from Sir Harford Jones, as however, it is my anxious wish, that no circumstance should occur, that can be supposed to show a difference in Authorities, whose object must be the same, or which could affect in the slightest degree the Interests of the Persian Government; I have under the full conviction, that it has been paid in conformity with the Conditions of the Preliminary Treaty, resolved to take upon myself to make this disbursement, & have informed Sir Harford Jones, and Mohammed Nobe Khan of my having done so, & of the reasons by which I have been actuated, & I have at the same time stated, that when a future instalment becomes due, I am prepared as the Agent of the Governor General to grant the necessary bills for its payment.

I have deemed it consistent with that candour I have invariably observed towards the Court of Persia
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and with the Character of the Government I pre-
-sent, to make this full declaration of the true causes
of those past & existing embarrassments, which
have been caused by an apparent Clashing of
Public Authorities in England & India; & I have
considered that the Ministers of the Court of
Persia had a right to expect this explanation
which will I trust remove every doubt their
minds may have entertained upon this Subject
& satisfy them, that the British Government in
England, and in India, are & always must be
alike anxious for the continuance of friendship
with the Illustrious Sovereign of Persia.

signed a true Copy

John Malcolm

B. G. Esq.

True Copy

Thomas W. Shandian

Act. Pub. Sec.

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