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'Memorandum taken at the desire of Sir Harford Jones Baronet by Mr D Morier'

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Date(s)	31 May 1810 (CE, Gregorian)
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About this record

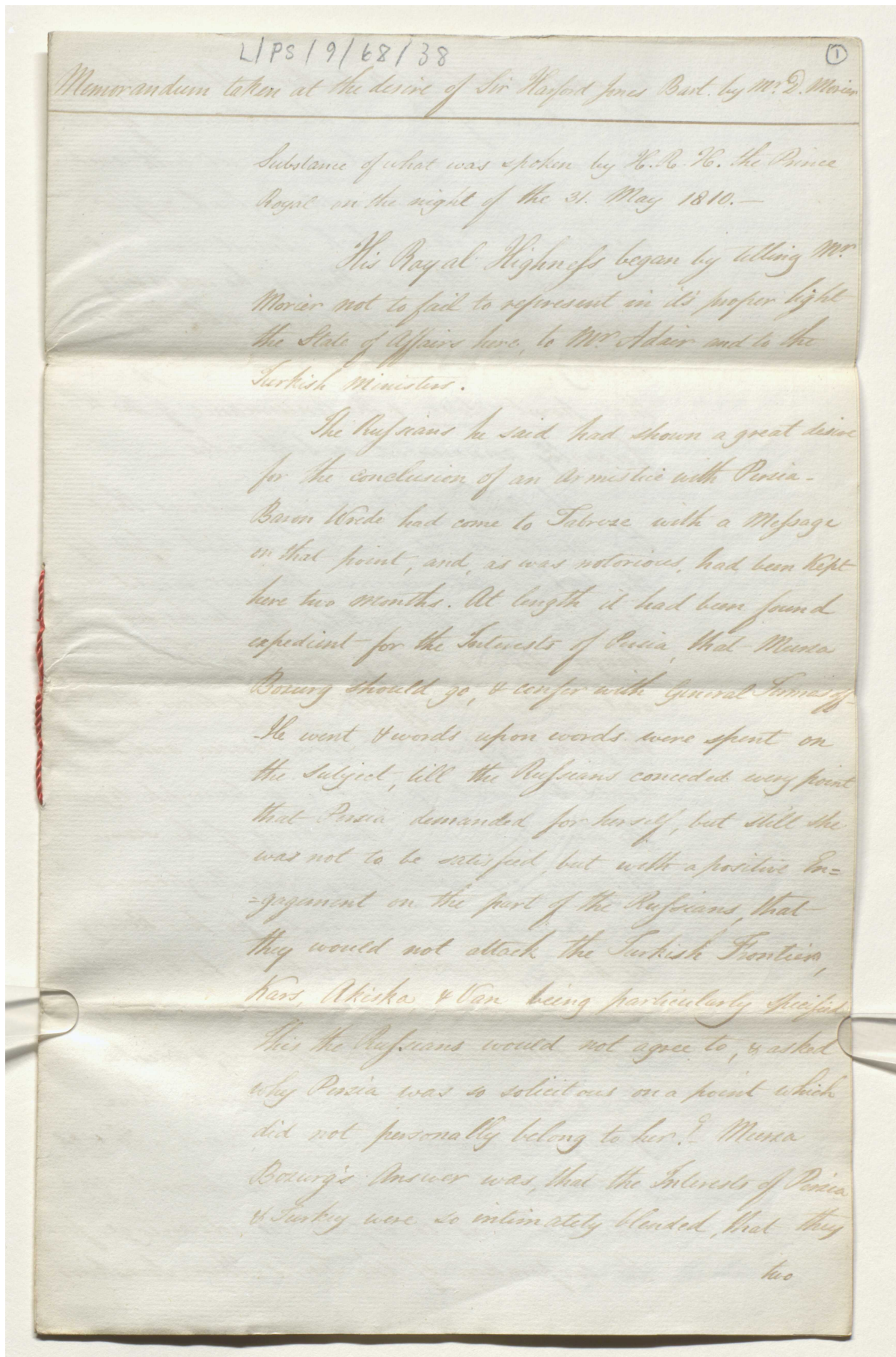
Copy of a memorandum detailing the views of the Prince Royal [Crown Prince] of Persia [Iran], Abbas Mirza, expressed to Sir Harford Jones, HM Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Persia, on the night on 31 May 1810. The Prince Royal mainly expressed views concerning Russo-Persian armistice negotiations and Ottoman-Persian relations including:

- The breakdown of the armistice negotiations and renewal of war between the Russians and Persians over the sole issue of the defence of the Ottoman frontier
- Persian-Ottoman cooperation in the defence of the frontier
- The perceived shortcomings of the Ottoman defensive arrangements at the frontier
- Suggestions for the appointment of a new Seraskier [Serasker] to the frontier by the Ottomans.

The memorandum also details the Prince Royal's frustrations at his having received payments of tobacco and sugar from the British for the war with Russia, rather than money or war matériel.

The memorandum was an enclosure in Jones's letter to Earl Bathurst, enclosed in Jones's secret letter of 4

June 1810, which was received on 4 October 1810.



two would stand & fall together, & that either for the Conclusion of Peace, or the Continuance of War, they would never act, but in concert with each other, & in conjunction with England. After incessant Debates, which almost wore out the soul of Messrs Bouary, he insisting upon the point above-mentioned, & the Russians resisting, the negotiations were broken off, on that point alone & the Continuance of the War formally announced on both sides.

The Prince was particularly anxious that this Matter should be well understood & felt by the Turkish Government. He never would allow it to be said, that whilst the Turks were in danger, he was sitting quietly in Tabreez without making any efforts to assist them; that if the flame approached them, Persia and Turkey would be burnt up together or triumph together. The Considerations of their being of the same Religion, & of their being close Neighbours were powerful inducements for his Acting as he did, but more than these, he knew that if he sat idle, the Russians would not only make themselves Masters of Kars, & Arshak, but there would be nothing to prevent them, getting on to Ara Room & Trebizond. He was persuaded, however, that in the present instance, he was to expect no advantage from the cooperation of the Turks. Their Sentiments were

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were hardly appointed, than they were removed from their Governments, & the few months they remained in power were employed in enriching themselves at the expense of their Subjects, not in carrying on the War against the Enemy. - He did not understand the Turkish system of Government. There was no rule, no subordination among them. They were proud, they were indolent: they loved smoking & drinking coffee, but as for exertions against the Enemy, they had no idea of making any, and he knew they would do nothing towards the defence of their own Frontier, of Kars & Akhis ka. "The Turks accuse us of being false-lies - they speak from their experience of the turbulent times subsequent to Nadir Shah, in the reigns of Kerim Khan, Sulph ali Khan &c: when the whole Country was in Confusion, & good faith had ceased to exist. But now, thank God, we are not in that situation - Lies are of no use to me why should I employ them? - The Turks are not yet acquainted with us. It was only my Integrity and good faith, that prevented me profiting by the weakness & distractions on the Turkish Frontier; for who was there, at any time to oppose my making myself master of all the Country to

to Ars-Room. The Turkish Government once had occasion to complain of us, but the fault did not lie with me. The fact is this. When Yusuf Pasha came on the Frontier two years ago to fight the Russians, he was desirous to have a Conference with me. I was then attended by a very few people, & in a small Tent &c. It was necessary to make some preparations for the proper reception of Yusuf Pasha, and I accordingly sent for more apparatus and Attendants. In this Interval Yusuf Pasha met the Russians, was beaten, and retreated to Ars-Room. 'tis true I did not come to blows with the Russians, but I did as good, for by my advance to Sivian, I prevented them marching upon Kars, and thus saved the rear of the Turks."

What the Prince then recommended was, that after representing all these matters to the Turkish Government, Mr Adair should, at the particular instance, & in the name of the Prince, strongly urge the Porte to appoint for Sraskier on their frontier, for the defence particularly of Kars & Akiska, a man who should be active, & zealous in cooperation with the Prince; who should have troops entirely at his, the Sraskier's disposal; plenty

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of money; and he invested with Power to con-
-trol all the operations of the inferior
Chiefs in these parts. — He particularly speci-
-fied Schapron Bglow as the fittest Person
for such a command, and desired, also,
that whoever the man might be, he should be
ordered to have a meeting with him (the Prince)
that they might confer together, & combine their
operations for the successful prosecution of
the war against the Russians. —

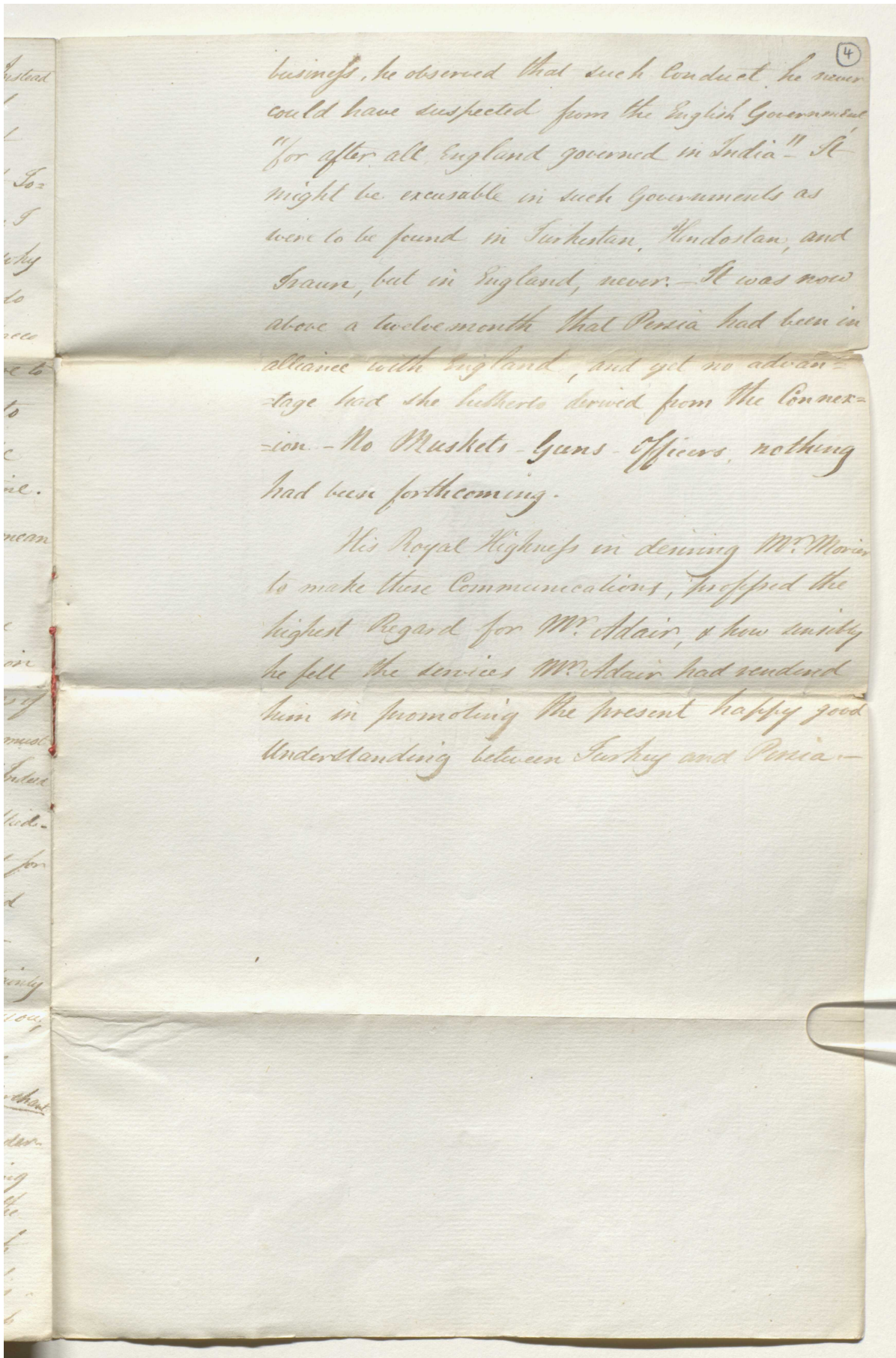
The Prince repeated his injunctions on
this head several times, interspersing them
with remarks on the Indolence, Subordination,
and bad management of the Turkish
Governors, and concluding with the most
earnest wishes, that his Representations
might be attended to, and that "Please God"
"they would fight a good fight against
"the Russians, and get a high name." —

His Royal Highness also desired Mr
Morier to tell Mr Adair what General
Malcolm had been doing — He said "What
"sort of conduct is this?" At the desire of the
King's Envoy, I sent one of my own people
down for the express purpose of bringing up
the money, which the Envoy gave an order
for, & which I so much wanted to enable
me

me to carry on the war against our Enemies. Instead of money what is this Tobacco & Sugar that General Malcolm is sending me up? What can I do with Tobacco & Sugar? Am I to load my Cannon with Tobacco, & set fire to it, as if it were Gunpowder? Am I to fight the Russians by smoking Kalkoons? Why if I were to issue an order to all my people, to do nothing else than smoke, there is enough Tobacco to last them all for five years;—and if I were to get together all the Confectioners of Saffhausen to make Sweetmeats of this Sugar, there would be enough to feast us all for the same length of time. What is all this? What does General Malcolm mean with his Tobacco & his Sugar? —

All this he said in the pleasantest tone possible, but evidently in the greatest vexation at the Disappointment he had suffered, & as if he felt for the Mortification which the subject must give to Sir Harford Jones. Sir Harford said "But Sir I am much ashamed" — To this the Prince replied. "If I were not persuaded of your Attachment for me, and that nothing of this could be attributed to you, I should include you in the blame — but I know it is no fault of yours — yet it certainly is a Circumstance that I am sure must give you, Mr. Adair, and all of you pain." In a more serious tone, he then said — He was not a Merchant to be treated in this manner, he could not understand what General Malcolm meant by sending Tobacco & Sugar instead of paying attention to the positive order which the man was sent down with for money! In the course of his remarks on this
business

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business, he observed that such conduct he never
could have suspected from the English Government
"for after all England governed in India" It
might be excusable in such Governments as
were to be found in Turkestan, Hindostan, and
Saur, but in England, never. It was now
above a twelve month that Persia had been in
alliance with England, and yet no advan-
tage had she hitherto derived from the Connex-
ion - No Muskets - Guns - Officers, nothing
had been forthcoming.

His Royal Highness in desiring Mr. Morier
to make these Communications, expressed the
highest Regard for Mr. Adair, & how much
he felt the services Mr. Adair had rendered
him in promoting the present happy good
Understanding between Turkey and Persia.

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[4v] (8/8)

