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## **Copy of a Letter from HM Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia, Sir Gore Ouseley, in Tehran, to HM Ambassador Extraordinary to the Ottoman Empire, Stratford Canning**

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/9/68/120
<b>Date(s)</b>	23 Dec 1811 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
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### **About this record**

Copy of a letter, numbered 4, from HM Ambassador to Persia [Iran], Sir Gore Ouseley, in Tehran, to HM Ambassador Extraordinary to the Ottoman Empire, Stratford Canning, of 23 December 1811. The letter concerns the question of whether the Ottoman Empire would refuse to enter into any kind of treaty with Russia without the consent of Persia. Ouseley requests Canning's views on the subject of peace between the Ottomans and Russia, and also points to the role played by British influence in stopping Persian encroachments on the eastern frontiers of the Ottoman Empire.

The letter was enclosed in Ouseley's letter to HM Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of 31 December 1811 (see IOR/L/PS/9/68/117).

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in Tehran, to HM Ambassador Extraordinary to the Ottoman Empire, Stratford  
Canning [1r] (1/4)

L/PS/9/68/120

Tehran, Dec: 23<sup>rd</sup> 1811

Sir,

In consequence of my late interference with the Persian Minister on the Baghdad business, I have been called upon for a categorical reply to the following question viz "Has Sir Stratford Jones applied for & obtained, or not, a written engagement from the Turkish Minister through the English Ambassador at Constantinople, that they will refuse entering into any kind of Treaty with Persia, without the consent of Persia?" On applying to Mr. Sheridan, who is still here and to whom Sir Stratford Jones referred me for every information respecting all his public affairs, that Gentleman had declared his ignorance of Sir Stratford Jones's having ever written on the subject, and I am therefore obliged to trouble you for a formal reply on this very important point.

The Prime Minister affects to feel convinced that the engagement alluded to has been applied for and obtained, on the principle that no English Ambassador would exact a line of conduct from the Nation to whom he was accredited in favour of any other Nation, (these are his words) without insisting on a promise of similar acts of friendship & assistance from the Nation thus favored, if it came to their turn to have proposals for peace made to them." But although the Prime Minister holds this language I am convinced he is not sincere in thinking that any such engagement has been entered into, whatever just cause he may have for

Stratford Canning Esq<sup>r</sup>

H. M. Minister &c. &c. &c.

expecting

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expecting that the conduct of Persia in refusing to listen to repeated offers of a separate peace with Russia merited such a return, because the late intimations of his newswriter (Nasir Agha) tell him as something new, that the Reis Effendi talks constantly about consulting the interests of Persia in any negotiation the Porte may have with Russia.

As I have entered very deeply into the subject of the actual relations between the Porte & Persia with the Persian Government, and as (I am happy to say) I find it not ready to lend me its name & cordial assistance towards strengthening our influence at Constantinople I take the liberty of requesting (if it does not militate with your instructions) an exposé of your views & wishes in the event of the Porte being forced into an immature Peace with Russia — will she consult the interests of England? for although the chances are in favour of a war between France & Russia, we ought to guard against the worst possible turn which affairs may take. The whole of the Eastern Frontiers of the Turkish Dominions is naked & unprotected and the Persians long since, but for my interference, would have been masters of Baghead & a great part of Syria. Will not the conviction which the Turkish Government must feel that they owe this abstinence, if I may so call it, of the Persians to British Influence, operate strongly in favour of any part you may take in the pending negotiation?

As I feel certain that any possible appearance of impropriety in my present suggestions will be  
sincerely

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②

kindly imputed by you to its real Cause, a zealous wish of  
being useful to my Country, I take the liberty of adding  
that with your able management, & the assistance I can  
afford you from hence I do not despair of being able (if  
you think it a great object) to have the French Mission com-  
-pletely dismissed from Constantinople — and lest a good  
opportunity may be lost before we can again communicate  
I promise you that any threats which you may be induced  
to have recourse to either for this purpose, or that of in-  
-cluding England & Persia in a Negotiation for a Peace  
between the Porte & Russia, shall be duly corroborated  
by the Persian Government.

In concluding I must revert to the Commencement  
of my letter by saying that if the Turkish Government will  
not on the principle of reciprocal good faith enter into  
a written engagement, or a verbal one guaranteed by you,  
that if it be its turn to make peace first, it will consult  
the Interests of Persia the first offer made by Russia to  
Persia will be closed with, and should the Porte unfortu-  
-nately have neglected Persia ere this in her Negotiations  
with Russia I can no longer guarantee the safety of  
Baghdad altho' I shall even in such an Event exert my  
influence to save it.

As I conceive that the expenses of the last  
Polar and the one whom you may think proper to  
dispatch with your reply to this are not properly  
chargeable

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chargeable to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> E. I. Company as heretofore, may  
I suggest the propriety of your requesting M<sup>r</sup> Monier to  
place them to the account of the Crown?

I have the honor to be with great respect and  
consideration

Sir Your most faithful &  
obed<sup>t</sup> humble servant

(Signed) Gore Ouseley

a true copy  
Gore Ouseley

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