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Copy of a Letter from HM Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia, Sir Gore Ouseley, in Tehran, to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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About this record

A letter, numbered 2, from HM Ambassador Extraordinary to Persia [Iran], Sir Gore Ouseley, in Tehran, to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company, of 21 March 1812, which was received on 8 August 1812.

The letter concerns an order by Shah of Persia, Fath-Ali Shah Qajar, for 30,000 English muskets, with which he intends to equip a standing army of 50,000 soldiers to strengthen the position of his son, the Crown Prince of Persia, Abbas Mirza. Ouseley discusses the means by which the order may be fulfilled and requests the price to be charged to the Shah.

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in Tehran, to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company [1r]
(1/4)

N^o. 2.

L/PS/9/68/128

Tehran Maub 21th 1812 ⁽¹⁾

Hon^{ble} Sir Sir,

I feel the highest gratification
in being able to inform you that the good effects of
the Definitive Treaty and the proof of the confidence
with which it has inspired the Shah are already
Manifest.

Previous to publishing his now unalterable
determination respecting the Prince Abbas Mirza to
his other Sons H. B. M. has confidentially
informed me, that it is his intention to strengthen
the former as much as possible and raise for
him a Standing Army of 50000 disciplined Troops
which I have assured him (after his other Sons
have vowed allegiance and obedience to Abbas
Mirza) will amply suffice for garrisoning all
his Frontier Fortresses and enable him to
discharge double or triple the number of useful
Provincial Match lock Men now devouring the
greater part of the Royal Revenues; in the
spirit of these intentions I have just received.

The Hon^{ble} the Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the

Hon^{ble} Court of C. S. Directors

his

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his commands to procure for him with the greatest possible expedition thirty thousand stands of English muskets and accoutrements, the amount of which I am to deduct out of the subsidy— The Shah has further promised me that this large deduction from the subsidy shall be made up through me to Abbas Mirza's army from the Royal coffers, so that we may congratulate ourselves upon having worked a wonderful and, by many, unexpected, alteration in the Shah's general sentiments.—

As he appears extremely impatient to have the 30,000 stand of arms, and it is our interest to encourage such promising propensities, may I take the liberty of suggesting to your Hon^{ble} Court the expediency of sending out the above number to India with as much expedition as possible. I shall write to the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor General, and the Hon^{ble} Governors of Madras & Bombay, on whose kind assistance and cooperation I have the firmest reliance, to dispatch the whole or such proportions as they can

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②

can spare to Bushcher, but as I have already
indentd for 6000, I am afraid they will
not be able to afford the full supply, and
therefore have taken the liberty of offering the
above suggestion; for even in the event of my
being supplied to the full indent from the
three Presidencies, it will probably be
necessary to make up the deficiency thus
occasioned from England.-

May I further request that you will have
the goodness to inform me by the first dispatch
from the Foreign Office only by the Malta Mail,
what price I am to charge H. M. Majesty for
each Musket & accoutrements complete,
including freight and every other charge to
their being landed at Bushcher in the Persian
Gulph? The Shah is very anxious to know
what they will stand him in, and I have
no doubt but that the comparative cheapness
of them contrasted with the exorbitant attempts
at Muskets manufactured here will induce
him

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hereafter to supply his wants of every kind either
from India or England.

I have the honor to remain with great truth
and respect

Honble Sirs,

Your most ob. & Hble Servant

Gore Ouseley

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Tehran
21 March 1812.

Sir Gore Ouseley

to the

Chairman & Deputy Chairman

Supply of Arms

Recd
August 8th 1812.