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## Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 6 Jul 1820

<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/9/69/27
<b>Date(s)</b>	1 Apr 1820 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 item (4 folios)
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### About this record

A copy of a letter from Mountstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay [Mumbai], to Henry Willock, HM Chargé d'Affaires in Persia [Iran], sent from Baroda [Vadodara] and dated 1 April 1820.

The letter instructs Willock to solicit the Persian Government for the concession of Kenn [Kīsh] as a military and naval base against 'piracy' in the Gulf.

The letter was enclosed in Willock's letter to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company dated 6 July 1820 (IOR/L/PS/9/69/27).

copy-

N<sup>o</sup> 49 - of 1820

4P519/69/27 ①

Baroda - 1<sup>st</sup> April - 1820

Sir

I have had the honour of receiving your letter dated the 1<sup>st</sup> of last month enclosing copies of your dispatches to Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Sir W G Keir, explanatory of your proceedings at the Persian Court regarding the Expedition to the Persian Gulf, and beg to express on the part of this Government, my acknowledgments for the very zealous and efficient co-operation which you have afforded to promote the objects of the armament in question.

2 - - My Dispatch of the 15<sup>th</sup> December, the enclosed copies of the instructions which have been issued by this Government to  
Major

Majors Genl. Sir W. G. Keir combined with  
that Officers communications to yourself, the  
scrupulous good faith with which he has  
respected the integrity of the Persian dominions,  
and the immediate reduction which was  
made in his force on the termination of  
operations on the Arabian shores of the Gulf  
must have afforded the most decisive proofs  
to the Persian Court, that the views of the  
British Government in the present expedition  
have, equally with those under which the former  
was undertaken, been limited solely & exclusively  
to the destruction of the maritime resources of  
those Arab Tribes in the Gulf who have been  
engaged in piracy -

3. . . . The experience however which the British  
Government has had of the inefficacy of operations  
directed to the mere destruction of their  
craft -

②

craft, and their fortified holds, has determined it, as you are already informed, to adopt measures of a more permanent nature for the complete suppression of that spirit of depredation which has been productive of such cruel injuries to its Indian subjects -

4. - - The intention of this Government is now directed to that important object which can be attained only by the maintenance of a Military and Naval Force for the purpose of countervailing the observance of those treaties for the abandonment of Piracy which the Arabs on the Arabian shore have subscribed to. - -

5. - - The enclosed Copy of a dispatch from Major General Keir and of its reply will fully inform you of the grounds on which a preference has been given to the

the Island of Kenna or Guep which is a dependency  
of the Island of Charrak and subject no doubt  
to the Sovereignty of Persia.

6. -- I have to solicit your good offices in obtaining  
the consent of the Persian Court to our occupation  
of that Island either temporarily until the piratical  
habits of the Arabs on the Arabian shore shall  
have undergone a radical change, or to our  
permanent occupation of it which would be the  
preferable arrangement. -- If it should be  
absolutely necessary to remove the suspicions of  
the Persian Court, it might be made a  
condition that we should not maintain a  
larger force on that Island than is at  
present in the Persian Gulf.

7. ... If the conduct of the British  
Government as exercised in the two last  
expeditions against the pirates, has not  
proved

③

proved sufficiently manifest to the Persian  
Court, to satisfy it that no objects of  
aggravation have entered into our  
views; no assurances will convince that Government  
that our policy in the proposed establishment is  
connected with the object of confirming the  
Persians in the observance of those relations  
which they have engaged to maintain; but  
on which experience has taught us no reliance  
can be placed, if left to the uncontrouled  
exercise of their dispositions, which have been  
so long habituated to a course of piracy, and  
which would immediately revive on our wholly  
leaving the Gulf.

8. - If therefore the Persian Government  
should refuse to admit us to occupy the  
Island of Keen, we must of necessity form  
the

the establishment on the Island of Kishmee, to  
which I understand that Persia acknowledges  
she has no pretensions; for the British  
Government cannot, merely for the purpose  
of gratifying the unfounded alarms and  
jealousy of the Persian Court, leave the  
Persian Gulf as in the preceding expedition,  
uncontrouled; and thus expose itself to a  
repetition of those insults and atrocities  
which followed and be ultimately obliged  
to incur the expence of a third armament  
for the chastisement of the Pirates.

9. - - You will be so obliging as to  
communicate the result of your application  
to Major Gen<sup>l</sup> Sir William Grant Knt, or  
to Mr Bruce in the event of the Major  
Generals absence; in order that measures  
may

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④

may be adopted to remove the troops  
to Vishnee, should permission be refused  
to our occupying the Island of Kenna -

I have the honour to be  
yours &c &c &c

Signed - Wm Alpherstone -



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