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

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/69/28
Date(s)	4 Jul 1820 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (2 folios)
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About this record

A copy of a letter from Henry Willock, HM Chargé d'Affaires in Persia [Iran], to Mountstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay [Mumbai], sent from Tabrīz and dated 4 July 1820.

The letter concerns the British Government in India's desired concession of an island in the Gulf to serve as a base against 'piracy', which had earlier been refused by Persian Ministers.

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/9/69/26).

L/PS/9/69/28 ①

Copy

Taher - July 4 - 1820.

Honourable Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge
the receipt of your dispatches of the 25th of
January, and of the 1st of April, and I was
gratified by the approbation of my conduct
expressed in the latter communication.

My dispatch of the 10th of May will
have informed you of the measures I adopted to
obtain from the Shah the opinion of an Island.

The decided manner in which the Persian
Ministers refused to negotiate with me,

places me in a situation extremely embarrassing.

My earnest desire to conform to the instructions
conveyed in the dispatch of the 1st of April

renders me solicitous of again urging the
subject, while a most perfect conviction that

a removal of the request would call forth a
repetition of the refusal I have already

The Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone

experienced

experienced, and prove an obstacle to future
negotiation, compels me at the present
moment to abstain from the re-employment
of discussions from which I despair of any
favourable result. — These considerations will,
I trust, excuse my deviation from the path
which your Honourable Board has traced for
my guidance. —

I am in daily expectation of a messenger from
Constantinople, and by the accounts he brings my
future conduct must be regulated. — If I find
that the expected Minister to Persia cannot
arrive soon, or if on other accounts the
smallest prospect of success presents itself, I shall
resume my endeavours to fulfil the instructions
of your Honourable Board. —

I much regret that it has not been

in

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[2r] (3/4)

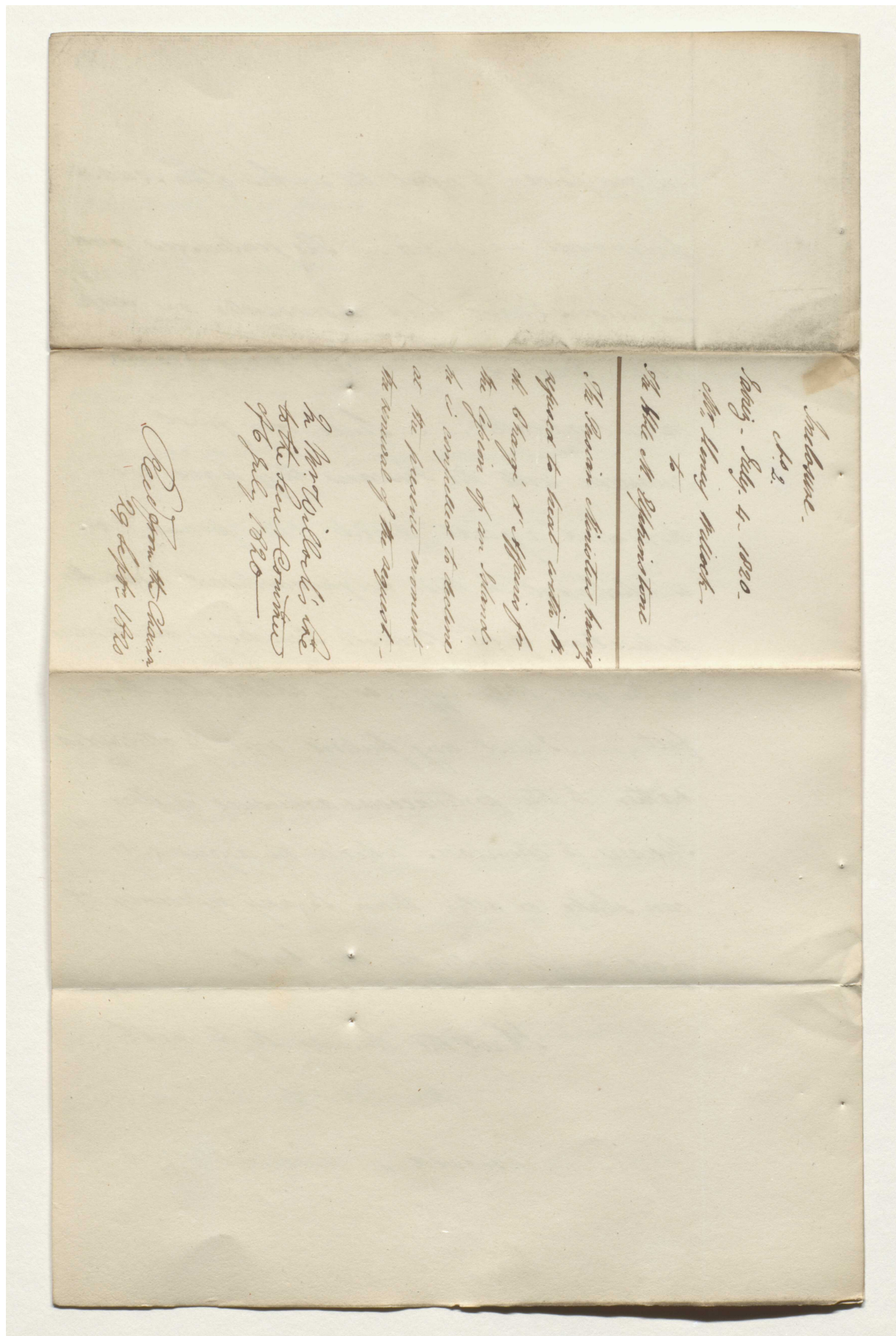
②

in my power to effect the wishes of the British
Government in India. - The jealousies and
suspicions I have had to encounter are deep
rooted, and are not in my opinion to be
easily eradicated. - Since our first
connexion with the Russians they have ever
displayed a great dread of our forming an
establishment in their neighbourhood, and the
destruction of the British Residency at Kaskhin
in the year 1800. sufficiently establishes this
fact. - I trust my failure will be attributed
rather to the pertinacious adherence of the
Russians to opinions which no arguments
can shake or alter, than to any deficiency of
zeal or assiduity on my part.

I have the honour to be with

Yours
signed - Henry Willock,

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[2v] (4/4)



Enclosure.

No. 2.

Paris. July. 4. 1820.

Mr Henry Willock.

To

Mr Wm. H. Stephens

The Russian Minister having
refused to treat with the
Mr. Chang's & offering for
the opinion of an Island,
he is compelled to return
at the present moment
the removal of the agent.

The Mr. Willock's are
to the Secret Committee
of 6 July 1820

Rec'd from the Russian
19 July 1820