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Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 8 Jan 1824

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Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/69/143
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About this record

A copy of a letter from Henry Willock, HM Chargé d'Affaires in Persia [Iran], to George Canning, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, sent from Tabriz and dated 6 December 1823.

The letter concerns frontier relations between Persia and the Russian Empire.

The letter was enclosed in Willock's letter to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company dated 8 January 1824 (IOR/L/PS/9/69/140).

Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 8 Jan 1824
[1r] (1/12)

4PS/9/69/143 (D)

Tabriz December 6th 1823

Copy
No 3

Sir

After a considerable absence from Persia I naturally compare the present state of her relations with Russia with their connection at the period when I left the Court - Persia then shewed a disposition to adopt the policy of Russia - An expression used by General Gernisloff to Mirza Nassir leads us to suppose that the Prince Royal was willing to secure his success by the aid and interference of Russia - Her intrigues, combined with other circumstances, influenced the Prince Royal in his attack on the Turks, and H. R. H. subsequently declared his readiness to continue the war or conciliate the Porte as might seem more agreeable to the Emperor Alexander

Two motives induced Persia to pursue this policy - She wished

to

The Right Honourable
George Canning

Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 8 Jan 1824
[1v] (2/12)

To arouse the jealousy of England,
and to encourage a renewed cour-
-ship by showing the dangerous
influence exercised by Russia over
the councils of Persia - She also
hoped by concealing to the mind
of the Emperor to gain advantages
in the settlements of the frontiers,
and to secure the general protection
of so powerful a neighbour.

The Prince Bagat who was
the chief author of these schemes now
fares, and reflects on the result
of his endeavours to improve the
foreign relations -

A change is proposed in the
maintenance of the alliance with
England - The avowed object is mutual
convenience, and a desire to strengthen
the ties of amity; but the real view
- opinion is that His Majesty's Govern-
-ment wish to disengage themselves
from the incumbrances of the
connection

②

Carneassian - Remarks have
escaped the Prince Royal which
show that his conceit is floating
in his mind - his pride will not
allow him to avoid it, and the
pecuniary advantage which an
Embassy from Calcutta holds forth,
diverts his attention from the
protesting consideration -

The painter discussions come
on, and Persia is found to hold a
higher tone in proportion as Persia
is submissive to her will -

The Prince is inclined at the
present moment to spurn the
yoke of Persia - he looks around
and finds that England is the only
power which can attack a part
him - He is disposed to resume
the strict relations which formerly
existed with her, and he may
possibly for a time cultivate
them - But the weight of Persia
prevents

press upon him - He has during
the last seven years consolidated
his authority in Georgia - He has
repeated his army and finds him-
self daily more weak - He has
no choice - The Power of Russia
preponderates, and on the first
alarm Persia has no resource
but submission -

The relative positions of the
two countries, and the probable
result of any negotiations which
may arise between them may be
inferred from the language which
Persia holds when she considers
herself injured by Russia, and
when she wishes to overcome the
Frontier authorities - She feels that
the dread of her arms would have
no weight, and the only defensive
measure that suggests itself is the
suspension of any Embassy of complaints
to

to St Petersburg which His R. H. has
threatened — ③

Both the weakness of Persia
as a state and the fickle disposition
of her rulers show that we must
not expect from her the steady
pursuit of any fixed principles of
policy —

We see her within a short
interval of time offering to attack
the Turkish provinces by way of
conciliating the good will of Russia,
and making overtures to the Turks
to enter in an offensive and defen-
-sive alliance against Russia —

While she pretends submission to
the will of Russia, she collects the
materials of future annoyance
to her, by giving encouragement
to the refugee chiefs from Georgia —
She assigns them a residence on the
Frontier where they intrigue in
endeavouring to preserve an influence
over

over the countries they formerly
governed tends to derange the order
established by Russia, and renders
questionable and suspected her
professions of friendship and
Submission—

The Prince Royal has not
aided the survey of the frontier by
his visit to the Spot— The
Commissioners Generals Generaloff
Ludov and Megalefsky waited
upon him, and had a short au-
-dience on horseback, which
produced no satisfactory explanation,
and they were offended that H. R. H.
did not receive them in his tent—

The parties have such different
views of their respective rights that
on almost every point of the frontier
there are disputed points which
it is difficult to determine, as the
Treaty was drawn up by people
who

(4)
who had very little knowledge of
the country - Indeed the commissioners
seem to have no authority to cancel
or to make any alteration from
the letter of the treaty

H. S. General Gerasimoff
Senior in one of his communications
to the Prince said that he had ap-
-pointed commissioners to review and
the definitive arrangement of the
frontiers with the officers nominated
on the same duty by the Prince.
But when General Gerasimoff Senior
has been pressed on any disputed
point he has said it is not in
my power to make any decision
as we are now taking the survey
of the frontiers as defined by the
Treaty, and we cannot be influenced
by your representations - When the
Survey is completed then our
superiors must decide on their
respective pretensions

General Madadoff the
Governor

Governor of Larabagh entered the
Persian dominions to pay his
respects to the Prince Royal —
He came with so large a body
of people that Mr R. H. had some
hesitation in receiving him, and
it was ascertained that the
pouches of a battalion of
Infantry which was brought
to exercise before the Prince,
contained no balls cartridges
before they were permitted to
cross the bridges of the Aroas —

The Prince Royal complained
to General Madadoff of the
conduct of the Courmispianers,
and said he did not expect
that Russia would be so
Captains and tentatives of a
few villages when Persia had
ceded to her so much territory
General Madadoff recommended
to Mr R. H. not to agitate the
question

(5)

question with them, as they had not
the power of meeting H. R. H.'s wishes
and must complete the survey
of the frontier as they found it
defined in the Treaty - That the
Emperor had directed that every
reasonable concession should be
made to the Prince, and no doubt
General Gromoff would act
up to the Spirit of his Sovereign's
Commands -

General Madadoff com-
-plained of the extreme irregularity
of the Persian Subjects on the
frontier, and requested H. R. H.
to check them by the removal
of some officers who were par-
-ticularly active in creating dis-
-turbances - H. R. H. has mani-
-fested a wish to satisfy the
Russians in this particular -

Russian Soldiers continue
to desert, and to enter the Persian
Service

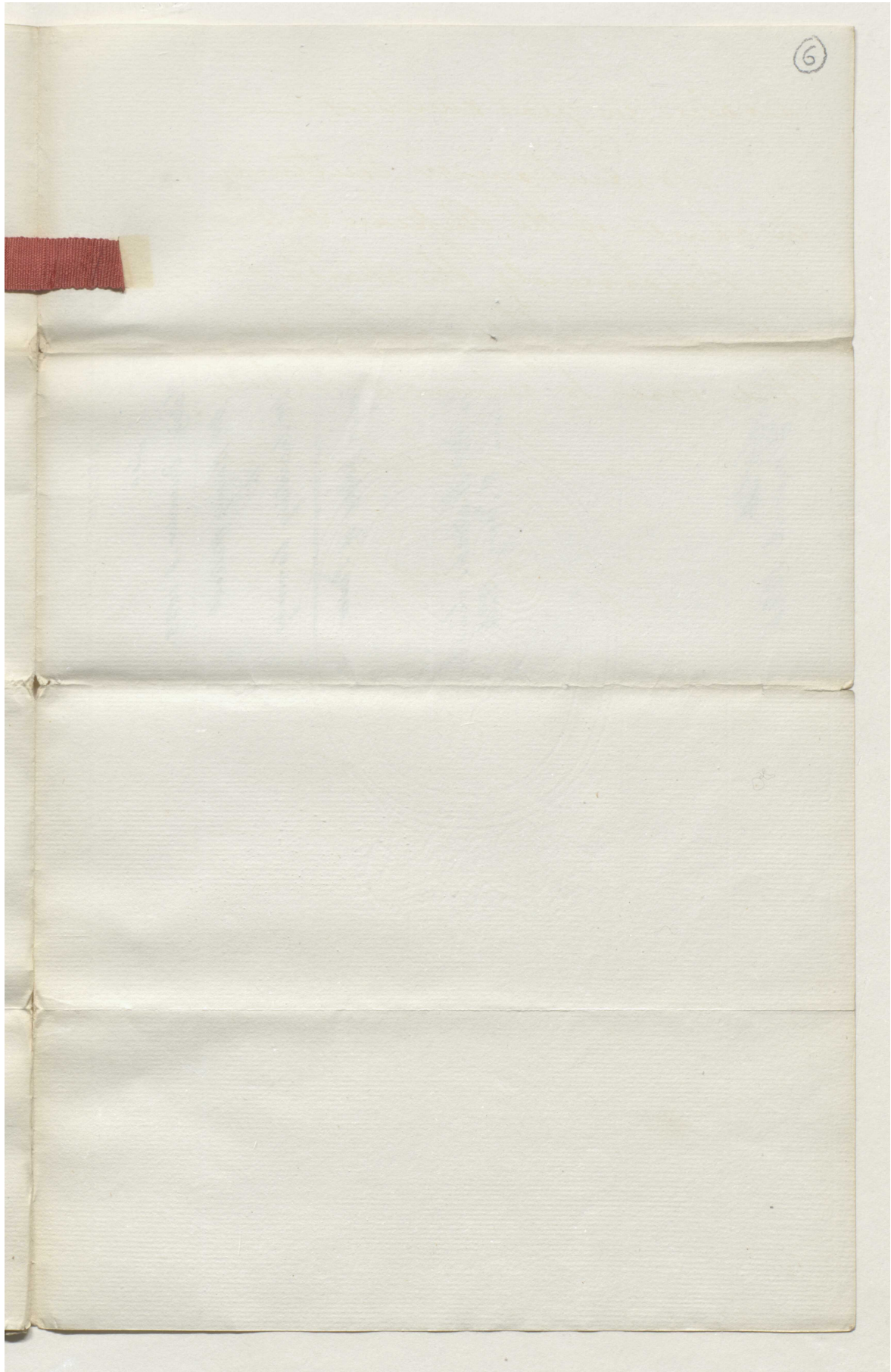
desires in great numbers —

Mr Ambroger continues
in charge of the Russian Mission
Mr. Magarowich the chargé d'
affaires is at Tiflis and is expec-
-ted soon to return to his post.

I have the honor to be

(Signed) Henry Willock

Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 8 Jan 1824
[6r] (11/12)



Enclosure in Letter from Henry Willock to the Secret Committee of 8 Jan 1824
[6v] (12/12)

