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Copy of Dispatch No. 1 from HM Chargé d'Affaires to Persia, Henry Willock, in Tehran, to HM Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, George Canning

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/L/PS/9/70/67
Date(s)	13 Jan 1826 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (6 folios)
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About this record

Copy of dispatch No. 1 from HM Chargé d'Affaires to Persia [Iran], Henry Willock, in Tehran, to HM Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, George Canning, of 13 January 1826. The letter originally enclosed copies of correspondence between the Russian General Wilhemennoff and the Prince Royal of Persia [Crown Prince of Persia, 'Abbās Mīrza Qājār] concerning an ongoing border dispute between Russia and Persia over land on the shores of the lake of Gokcheh [Lake Sevan] (now catalogued as IOR/L/PS/9/70/68-69). The letter itself also concerns this frontier dispute, detailing:

- The Prince Royal's erroneous reports of a build-up of Russian troops in the Caucasus
- The mission of Mirza Saudik [Mirza Muhammad Sadiq Marvazi] to Tiflis [Tbilisi] to discuss the dispute with General Wilhemennoff
- The desire of the Shah of Persia [Fath-'Ali Shāh Qājār] to open a correspondence with Canning concerning the dispute, and Willock's efforts to defer the matter until the arrival of the East India Company Envoy to Persia, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonald Kinneir, in Persia.

This document was originally enclosed in Willock's letter to the Secret Committee of the East India Company of 17 February 1826 (IOR/L/PS/9/70/66).

LPS/9/70/67

①

Tehran January 13 - 1826 -

Copy

No 1
58

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose
translations of a recent correspon-
dence between H. E. General Wilhe-
meroff and the Prince Royal in
which the former denies having
by any act infringed on the
stipulations of the Treaty and H.
R. H. recapitulates the charge of
apprehension and demands satis-
faction.

The Prince Royal having
reported that thirty thousand
Russian Troops had arrived at

The Right Honourable
George Canning

Kizlar

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Kizlar on their way to Georgia
and that other military prepara-
tions combined with the
forcible occupation of the lands
of Gokcheh shewed views of
hostility on the part of Russia
towards Persia. The Shah sent
a confidential officer to the
frontier of Erivan to ascertain
the actual state of affairs in
that quarter.

Sefi Khan returned
a few days since and has re-
lieved H. M.'s mind by stating
that the report of the advance of
a large additional force for
Georgia

(2)

Georgia was without founda-
tion - that the greater part of the
Russian detachment had been
withdrawn from Gokcheh and
that Meerza Saudek had proceeded
to Tiflis having received every
attention at Kara Keliseah the
frontier Russian station -

Meerza Saudek writes from
Tiflis that he has been honourably
received that in the absence of
General Gernuloff he has con-
-versed with General Wilheime-
-roff who said "that the lands
"of Gokcheh were occupied agree-
"ably to the capitulation by Suttah Allee
"Khan and that the Prince Royal
in

"in return had received the coun-
tries bordering upon Kapouch
"sea - that no hostile views were
"entertained by Russia & Persia"
Meerza Saudek further reported
that as General Yermoloff was
engaged in Dagestani where
his troops had been defeated
with the loss of some guns, his
return to Tiflis could not be
expected - He had accordingly
explained by letter to H. E. the
objects of his mission and he
shortly expected a satisfactory
answer -

Yesterday had an
audience

③

audience of the Shah - H. M
recapitulated the late transac-
-tions on the frontier and con-
-cluded that I had informed
H. M's Government of the viole-
-tion of Territory by the Russians
He desired me also to write that
he should proceed in the spring
to Azerbaijan with an Army
to drive the Russians from his
territory if they did not previously
retire - That H. B. M's Government
should be informed of the ag-
-gression on the part of Russia
and of his intention and he
directed Meerza Abul Kassem
Khan

Khau to write to you Sir -
I acquainted H. M. that
I had fully detailed to H. B. M
Government all that had pas-
sed on the frontier that as this
learned every prospect of a
successful termination to
Meerza Saadiks Mission I re-
commended H. M. to defer
communicating with H. B. M
Secretary of State until an
answer had been received
from General Gerasloff - H. M.
however did not approve of
delay and I desisted in opposing
his

(4)
his wishes which might have
given offence as the point was
more easily to be attained by
subsequent conference with
the Minister.

I hope to be able to
dissuade the Persian Govt
from a continuation of their
correspondence with you Sir
and I look with anxiety for
the arrival of Colonel McDon-
nald for I feel that I cannot
with propriety refuse to forward
a letter from the Persian Mi-
nister to H. M's Secretary of
State so long as the relations
are

are conducted through Mr. B
Mr. Agent -

In speaking to the
Minister previous to the audi-
ence I had wished to state to
the Shah the expected arrival
of the Envoy as an excuse
for deferring the communi-
cation to you Sir which I said
ought to be avoided as the
Shah had agreed to relinquish
that channel but as Meerza
Abul Hassan Khan recom-
mended me not to call to the
Shah's mind at the present
moment that he is cut off
from

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Tehran, to HM Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, George Canning [5r] (9/12)

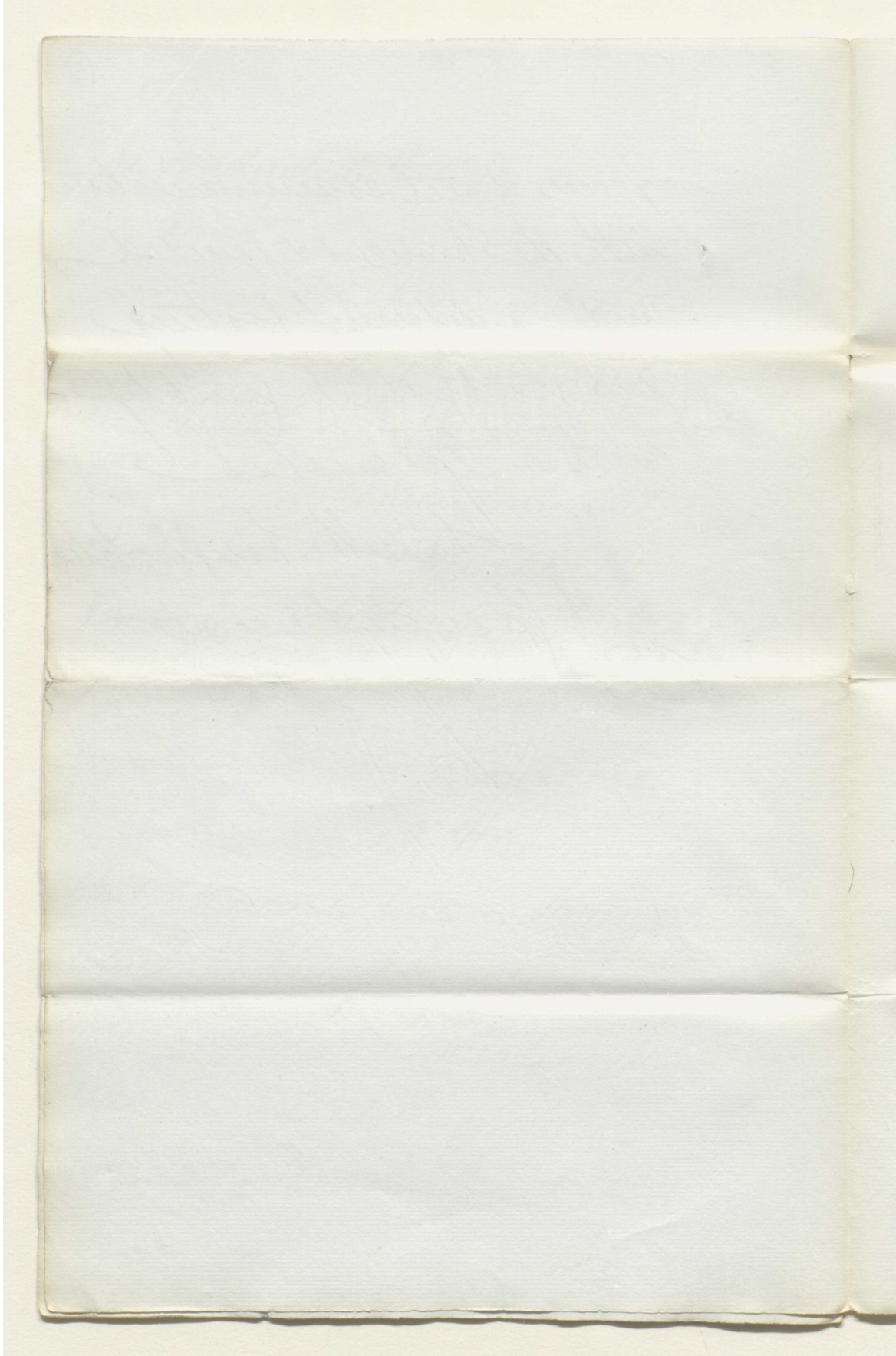
⑤

from direct communication
with the Throne I disguised
under a different footing
my reluctance to comply
with His Majesty's wishes

I have the honour to be
with the greatest respect

Signed Henry Willock

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(10/12)



Copy of Dispatch No. 1 from HM Chargé d'Affaires to Persia, Henry Willock, in
Tehran, to HM Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, George Canning [6r]
(11/12)

