

Andrew Jackson to John Quincy Adams, March 15, 1823, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SECRETARY ADAMS.1

1 Copy.

Hermitage, March 15, 1823.

Sir, I have received your letter of the 19th ulto, and with it the commission as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico.

While I recognise in this act of my Government a further proof of its approbation of my official conduct heretofore; and of a continuation of that confidence, still for various reasons, which have been communicated in a letter to Mr Monroe, I cannot in justice to myself or country consent to act on this mission.

The present unhappy revolutionary state of Mexico; with an oppressed People struggling for their liberties, against an Emperor whom they have branded with the epithets of Usurper and Tyrant, convinces me that no minister from the U States could at this period effect any beneficial treaty for his country, and of the impolicy of a Republican Representative at a court, which might be construed as countenancing the Empire in opposition to a Republic. The People of Mexico in their honest efforts for freedom command my warmest sympathies, and their success is intimately connected with the ultimate and general triumph of these liberal principles for which our Revolutionary worthies bled, and which now form the pride and boast of United America. With these feelings and wishes and which I believe to be in unison with my fellow citizens; you may readily conceive that my situation at Mexico would be embarrassing to me independent of

Library of Congress

the conviction that I was rendering service to my country. To render service could alone constitute any motive for again acting in a public capacity.

The President has been kind enough to say that not having consulted me before he made the nomination it is not obligatory on me to accept: but that I will act as meets my convenience and approbation. The reasons stated above will shew that in consulting my own feelings I have not been uninfluenced by considerations connected with the best interests of my country. Yours