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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, July 22, 1818, from  
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,  
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,  
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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Washington July 22. 1818.

Dear Sir

I expected long before this to have had the pleasure of seeing you in Albemarle, but the necessity of being here, on the receipt of Genl. Jackson's report of his operations in Florida, & in the expectation of the return of our commissrs from Buenos Ayres, whom I wished to meet, detained me in Loudoun till lately, when on the occasion of both events I return'd to the city.

The occurrance at Pensacola has been full of difficulty, but without incurring the charge of committing a breach of the Constitution, or of giving to Spain just cause of war, we have endeavour'd to turn it to the best account of our country, & credit of the commanding general. We shall tell the Spanish minister, that the posts will be deliverd up, but that their attach was owing to the misconduct of the Spanish officers, whose punishment wod. be demanded of his govt, and that his govt. must

keep a strong force in Florida to enable it to comply with the stipulation of the treaty of 1795, which would be rigorously exacted. The proof of misconduct in the Spanish officers in stimulating the Indians to make war, furnishing them with munitions of war to carry it

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on &c, is very strong. It has appear'd to be altogether improper, to hold the posts, as that would amount to a decided act of hostility, and might be considered an usurpation of the power of Congress. To go to the other extreme has appear'd to be equally improper, that is, to being Genl. Jackson to trial for disobedience of orders, as he acted on facts which were unknown to the govt. when his orders were given, many of which indeed occur'd afterwards, & as his trial unless he should ask it himself, would be the triumph of Spain, & confirm her in the disposition not to cede Florida.

I lately transmitted to Mr. Madison a copy of a paper, written at Moscow, by order of the Emperor, as the basis of his instructions to his ministers at the allied courts, relative to the differences between Spain & her Colonies, & likewise a copy of a letter which I have written to Genl. Jackson on the subject mentiond above for your joint information. Those papers will give you full information on both

subjects. I shall here this to day or to morrow for Loudoun, whence I shall proceed without delay with my family for Albemarle, where I hope to find you in good health.

With great respect & esteem your friend & servant James Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).