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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Moses Beach

Date: November 21, 1846

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F14

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Department of State

Washington 21 November 1846.

To Moses Y. Beach Esquire,

Sir,

The President,

having learned that you are about to visit the City of Mexico on your own private business, and reposing full confidence in your patriotism, ability & discretion, has thought proper to appoint you as a Confidential Agent to the Republic of Mexico.

You are well aware that the President had resorted to every honorable means to avoid the existing war; & whilst prosecuting it with vigor, he has been anxious, ever since its commencement, to make peace on just & honorable terms. It is known that you entertain the same desire: and, in all your conduct & conversation, in Mexico, you ought to keep this object constantly in view.

The trust thus confided to you is one of great delicacy & importance. In performing the duties which it imposes, great prudence & caution will be required. You ought never to give the slightest intimation to any person, either directly or indirectly, that you are an

agent

of this Government, unless it may be to M^r.
Black, our Consul in Mexico, or to some high
officer of that Government, ~~after~~ and to the
latter only, after you shall have clearly
discovered that this may smooth the way
to peace. Be upon your guard against
their wily diplomacy, & take care that they
shall obtain no advantage over you.

You will communicate to this Department,
as often as perfectly safe opportunities may
offer, all the useful information which you
shall acquire. Should you have any very
important intelligence to transmit, it may be
sent through M^r. Black to the Commander
of our Naval forces off Vera Cruz, who,
upon his request, will doubtless despatch it
to Pensacola.

Your compensation will be at the rate
of Six dollars per day from the time of
your departure from the United States until
your return: and you will be allowed your
own travelling & other necessary expenses
during your absence, for which you will
take vouchers when these can be obtained
without leading to a discovery of the character
in which you are employed. It will greatly

facilitate

the Satisfactory settlement of your accounts,
if you would make regular entries of
your expenditures, as soon as may be
convenient, after they occur.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

James Buchanan
Secretary of State.

Department of State
Washington 21 November 1846

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