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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 States
Washington 21 November 1846.

To Moses. y. Beach Egune,

der/

The President,

having learned that you are about to wiret the Cily of Mexico on your own furious business, and reposing full confidence in your patriotisms, and abelily & discretion, has thought proper to appoint you as a Confedential Agent to the Messelic of Mexico.

Low one well reverse that the shest don't had resorted to every honorable means to avoid the existing war; & whilst presecuting it with vigor, he has been anytous, ever since its.

commencement, to make peace on just & honorable, leaved. It is known that you entertain the same desire: and, in all your conduct & convention, in ellegico, your ought to keep this object constantly in view.

The bust thus confided to you is one of great delicacy & iniportance. In performing the duties which it imposes, great fundence & caution will be required. You ought mover to give the Mightest intimation to any person, either directly or indirectly, that you are an

Alack, 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. The upon your quard against their willy diplomacy, & lake 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. Though you have any very important intelligence to bransmet, it may be sent through It! Black to the Commander of our Naval forces of Nora Cruz, who, upon his request, well doubtleft despatched to Vensacola.

Afour compensation well be at the rates of sij dollars for day from the time of your definitive from the timited states unite your neturn: and your will be allowed your own travelling & other necessary expenses during your absence, for which you will lake voichers when these can be obtained without leading to a discovery of the character in which you are employed. It will greatly

the Satisfactory Selllement of your accounts, if you would make regular entries of your expenditures, as soon as may be convenient, after they occur. I am, Ser, very respectfully, your obedient servane. James Buchanans Secretary of State.

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" is written below the last line to indicate that it is also the first word on the following page]

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agent of this Government unless it may be to Mr. Black, our Consul in Mexico, or to some high officer of that Government, after and to the caller 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 Mr. Black to the commander of our Naval forces off Vera Cruz, who, upon his request, will doubtless dispatch 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 traveling & 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

#### [Page Break]

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.