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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to W.P. Preston

Date: February 19, 1847

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F15

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Department of State,

Washington, 19th February, 1847.

To W. T. Preston, Esquire, Baltimore.

Sir:

I have received your letter of yesterday, accompanied by one addressed to you by Mr William Taft, requesting that instructions may be given by this Department to our Minister at Bogota to have an authenticated copy taken of documents relating to the debt due by the late Republic of Colombia to Salung Montrop, recently of Baltimore, deceased. In reply, I have to state, that this Department cannot with propriety grant your request. It is not within its province to give, nor is

it incumbent on our diplomatic agents abroad to execute, instructions relating to a matter of more private business, such as that presented by your communication would appear to be. I doubt not, however, if the parties were to apply directly to Mr W. A. Bidlack, the Charge d'Affaires of the United States at Bogota, and would make the proper arrangements for defraying any expense that might be incurred, he would cheerfully comply with their wishes.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
James Buchanan

Department of State
Washington, 19th February, 1847
To W. P. Preston, Esquire, Baltimore

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