

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

A translation of a note from the Mexican minister in relation to the wild Indians of the United States on the frontier of Mexico.

APRIL 3, 1850.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States :

I transmit the translation of a note, under date the 20th of last month, addressed to the Secretary of State by the minister of the Mexican republic accredited to this government, expressing the views of that government with reference to the control of the wild Indians of the United States on the frontier of Mexico, as stipulated for in the eleventh article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Z. TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, April 3, 1850.

[Translation.]

Mr. de la Rosa to Mr. Clayton.

MEXICAN LEGATION,
Washington, March 20, 1850.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, has the honor to address the Hon. John M. Clayton, Secretary of State of the United States, in order to inform him that he has carefully examined the documents which the honorable Secretary was pleased to transmit to him, with his confidential notes of the 4th and 5th instant, relative to the orders issued by the government of the United States for the fulfilment of the stipulations of the eleventh article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The government of Mexico, to which the undersigned has sent copies of those documents, will with great satisfaction see in them the desire and good faith of the government of the United States for the religious fulfilment of the obligations contracted by it towards Mexico in the said eleventh article of the treaty of peace, with the object of repressing the inroads which may be made upon that nation by the wild Indians now inhabiting the territories

ceded to the United States. The Mexican government will see with pleasure in those documents that the Department of War considers the engagements contracted by the United States in that eleventh article of the treaty of peace as an explicit sanction of the duties which humanity requires from all civilized nations; but it will at the same time see with regret that the efforts hitherto made by the government of the United States to prevent or punish the inroads of the savages upon the frontier States of that republic have been ineffectual, from the want of a military force sufficient to restrain and repress the Indians, and from the want, moreover, of funds to cover the great expenses rendered necessary by the said eleventh article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The undersigned is persuaded that the only advantage which can accrue to Mexico from the treaty which happily terminated the war between that republic and the United States, the only advantage which can compensate her for the many sacrifices which that peace rendered necessary on her part, is the exact fulfilment of all the obligations contracted by the United States towards Mexico in the said eleventh article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The undersigned believes that his first and principal duty, as a representative of Mexico in this country, consists in constantly requiring the most exact and punctual fulfilment of that article; and he therefore takes the liberty to request of the honorable Secretary of State to be pleased to obtain from the Congress of the Union all the laws and authority which he may consider requisite to enable the government of this republic to comply with good faith, as it has already endeavored to do, with the obligations of the eleventh article of the treaty of peace. In one of the documents accompanying the confidential notes from the honorable Secretary of State, mention is made of inroads committed on the territories of certain peaceful Indians belonging to the United States by volunteers in the service of the State of Chihuahua. The undersigned has received no notice of these acts; but he has communicated them to his government, and doubts not that it will adopt the necessary measures to have those persons punished, according to the laws, who have committed the excesses mentioned by an officer of the United States army in the letter addressed by him to the War Department, accompanying the confidential note from the honorable Secretary of State, dated on the 4th of the present month. The undersigned again calls the attention of the honorable Secretary of State to the necessity of putting an end to the atrocities of all kinds so frequently committed by the wild Indians residing in the territory of the United States on the inhabitants of the frontiers of Mexico. Among many other evils occasioned by these acts of atrocity, is that of their preventing the establishment and increase of those relations of amity and commerce between the people of the frontiers of Mexico and of the United States which would be so advantageous to both republics, and which would become so extensive, were not this obstacle interposed by the wild Indians to the advancement and civilization of those settlements.

The government of Mexico can give no greater proof of the confidence which it entertains in the honor and good faith of the government of the United States, than by its desire that a military force may be kept on the frontier, which it is well assured will not be employed in any other way than in repressing the wild Indians. Mexico, on her part, will continue, as she has hitherto, to use all her efforts for the repression of the tribes on

those frontiers. The undersigned has no doubt that the honorable Secretary of State will, as promptly as the interests of humanity require, take the necessary steps to obtain from the Congress of the United States the laws required for the execution of the eleventh article of the treaty of Guadalupe. The undersigned prays the honorable Secretary of State to be pleased to communicate the result of these measures to him, in order that he may make it known to his government.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to repeat to the honorable Secretary of State the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

LUIS DE LA ROSA.

Hon. J. M. CLAYTON, *Secretary, &c.*