

The British Commissioners, in their report communicated to Mr. Fox, express an opinion, that the true line of the Treaty of 1783 is materially different from that so long contended for by Great Britain. The report is altogether *ex parte* in its character, and has not, yet, as far as we are informed, been adopted by the British Government. It has, however, assumed a form sufficiently authentic and important to justify the belief, that it is to be used hereafter by the British Government in the discussion of the question of Boundary; and, as it differs essentially from the line claimed by the United States, an immediate preparatory exploration and survey on our part, by Commissioners appointed for that purpose, of the portions of the territory therein more particularly brought into view, would, in my opinion, be proper. If Congress concur with me in this view of the subject, a provision by them to enable the Executive to carry it into effect will be necessary.

M. VAN BUREN.

Washington, June 17, 1840.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

*Discussion in the Senate on the Boundary Negotiations.*

#### NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY.

THE resolution offered by Mr. Ruggles, calling on the President of the United States, if not inconsistent with the public interest, for a copy of the report and map presented to the British Government by their Commissioners for surveying the disputed territory, coming up in its order:—

*Mr. Buchanan*, as he must be absent from the Senate this morning, asked, as an act of courtesy, that the Senator from Maine would let the resolution lie over till Monday. He proceeded to remark, that this was a subject of great delicacy; that but one copy of the report and map had been sent to this country, and that in a confidential manner, and as a mere act of courtesy, as the report had not yet been acted upon by the British Government; that to his certain knowledge, important information had been often withheld from this Government, from the apprehension that it would be made public. Under these circumstances, although the report was really no secret, Mr. B. thought it not proper to publish it. But, for the present, he wished merely that the resolution should lie over till Monday.

*Mr. Ruggles* said, it was not on his own account particularly that he had submitted the call for this map and report. But the President of the United States had warmly recommended a survey of the disputed territory on the part of the United States. That recommendation was ostensibly founded on the report and map in question; and Mr. Ruggles thought it due to the Senate that they should themselves see the ground on which they were called upon to act in relation to this subject.

*Mr. Allen* said there was a manifest impropriety in adopting this resolution, especially as the action of the Senate, even so far, on this map and report, would give them a sort of sanction which ought not to be given them, while it was known that they had not been accepted by the British Government, and no intimation had been given that they would be adhered to. Mr. Allen, therefore, moved to lay the resolution finally on the table; but on its being observed, that Mr. Buchanan had left the Senate, and might wish to say something further on the subject on Monday, Mr. Allen withdrew his motion, and the resolution was laid over till Monday.

---

*In answer to C.S.  
Holmes  
dated 2. 11. 1841.*