

the new coalition had been given Imperial authorization to monopolize trade in these same territories.²¹ Deputy Governor J. H. Pelly wrote urgently to Londonderry on March 27, 1822, to put the Company's case before him,²² and in this and later communications²³ he included such supporting evidence which, although not always strictly accurate, was relied upon extensively by the British government in developing its own case.

The Duke of Wellington, who had been appointed to represent Great Britain in conferences at Vienna and Verona following the suicide of Londonderry in August, 1822,²⁴ was given verbal assurances by Count Lieven that the Russian emperor "did not propose to carry into execution the Ukase in its extended sense", and that Russian ships had been directed to cruise at the shortest possible distance from the shore."²⁵ The new foreign secretary George Canning derived similar impressions from a talk with Count Lieven, and was confident that, so far as their extreme claims at sea were concerned, the Russian government were "prepared entirely to waive their pretensions."²⁶ Wellington was far from satisfied, however, with verbal assurances that left the ukase itself in being; and in a note to Russian foreign secretary Count Hesselrode on October 17 he expressed strong objections to the claims of exclusive sovereignty, as set forth in the ukase, over both land and sea.²⁷ When Hesselrode replied in rather conciliatory fashion offering to negotiate boundaries but in effect reasserting the terms of the ukase,²⁸ Wellington countered by restating his objections in a stiff note to Count Lieven. He also wrote, in blunt language more characteristic of the general than the diplomat:

I must inform you that I cannot consent, on the part of my Government, to found on that paper the negotiations for the settlement of the question which has arisen between the two Governments on this subject I think, therefore, that

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