

ver is 800 other members of the Council of State, had decided that the following steps should immediately be taken:

1. Secret inquiries should be instituted in the French ports to discover whether a fleet was being fitted out and if so, where, and whither bound.

2. Preparations should be begun at Seville for fitting out a strong fleet, and 4000 bushels of wheat were to be purchased there.

3. Ships for the Indies were to be armed and to sail together under convoy.

4. The construction of all forts in the Indies was to be hastened, and those already completed were to be strengthened.

5. Finally all citizens in the Indies were to be provided with arms.¹

A week later, on October 17, Francis openly issued a commission to Jacques Cartier for the proposed expedition to Canada, Hochelaga, and the kingdom of Saguenay:

'With the desire,' ran Cartier's commission, 'to learn and have knowledge of several countries said to be inhabited and possessed by savage peoples living without knowledge of God, we have at great expense already sent several good pilots, our subjects, to discover in the said countries, and among others we set out our dear and well-beloved Jacques Cartier, who has discovered great tracts of the countries of Canada and Hochelaga which form the confines of Asia on the west, which countries he found productive of good commodities . . . in consideration whereof we have decided to send back the said Cartier to the said countries of Canada and Hochelaga, and as far as the land of Saguenay, should he be able to penetrate there.'²

Cartier was appointed master-pilot of the fleet, with power to choose fifty persons suitable for settlers from the districts of Paris, Rouen, Caen, Blois, Tours, Maine, Anjou, and Guyenne.

¹ Archivo General de Simancas, *Estado, Castilla*, leg. 50, ff. 102-6 and 108-11; and Archivo de Indias, Seville, est. 110, c. jon 7, l. 19, 31. Cf. also British Museum, Add. MS., 25502, ff. 191-105.

² J. P. Baxter, *A Memoir of Jacques Cartier*, 339-42 (New York, 1909).