

STATE OF MAINE.  
*Secretary's Office, Augusta, April 23, 1838.*

A true copy of the original in this office.

Attest :

SAML. P. BENSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

—  
*Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Fox.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, April 27, 1838.*

SIR : The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has the honor, by the directions of the President, to communicate to Mr. Fox, her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, the result of the application of the General Government to the State of Maine, on the subject of the northeastern boundary line, and the resolution which the President has formed upon a careful consideration thereof. By the accompanying papers \*received from the Executive of Maine, Mr. Fox will perceive that Maine declines to give a consent to the negotiation for a conventional boundary ; is disinclined to the reference of the points in dispute to a new arbitration ; but is yet firmly persuaded that the line described in the treaty of 1783 can be found and traced whenever the Governments of the United States and Great Britain shall proceed to make the requisite investigations with a predisposition to effect that very desirable object. Confidently relying, as the President does, upon the assurance frequently repeated by the British Government of the earnest desire to reach that result, if it is practicable, he has instructed the undersigned to announce to Mr. Fox the willingness of this Government to enter into an arrangement with Great Britain for the establishment of a joint commission of survey and exploration upon the basis of the original American proposition and the modifications offered by her Majesty's Government.

The Secretary of State is, therefore, authorized to invite Mr. Fox to a conference upon the subject at as early a day as his convenience will permit ; and the undersigned will be immediately furnished with a requisite full power by the President, to conclude a convention embracing that object, if her Majesty's Minister is duly empowered to proceed to the negotiation of it on the part of Great Britain.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr. Fox the expression of his distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

HENRY S. FOX, Esq.

—  
*Mr. Fox to Mr. Forsyth.*

WASHINGTON, *May 1, 1838.*

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official note the 27th ultimo, in which you enclosed to me a communication received by the Federal Government from the Executive of Maine upon the subject of the northeastern boundary line, and in which you inform me that the President is willing to enter into an arrangement with her Majesty's Gov-

\* Vide Senate document No. 424, 2d session 25th Congress.