

and any course of argument that may appear to be most advisable.

If it should be determined to grant this concession, I beg leave to solicit orders on the following points:

1. Is the declaration to contain all that he seems to require, that is, the acknowledgment of his sovereignty over all the Sikhs, and an engagement not to oppose the establishment of his sovereignty over them, or only the latter?

There seems to be a considerable difference between the first and last. The first, perhaps, could not be granted without injury to the right of those chiefs who are still independent; since it does not appear to be just to acknowledge his sovereignty over those who have never yet acknowledged it, and over whom it is not perfectly established.

2. Is the declaration to be verbal or written?

Runjeet Singh will certainly wish it to be written.

3. Is the declaration, if written, to be part of a treaty, or a separate engagement?

It will, I conceive, be equally acceptable to him in either way.

4. Are any exceptions to be made in favor of any Sikh chiefs, and if so, what?

5. Are the bounds to which he will be allowed to proceed to be explained to him, and if so, what bounds?

I conclude that it will be deemed proper to explain to him that he is not to consider those parts of the British dominions which are held in Jageer by Sikh chiefs as included in the supposed declaration.

6. Is the dominion of Koonjpoora to be included in the concession, or reserved under the protection of the British Government?

The cause of my putting the last question is, that the cantonment of Kurnal is in a manner dependent for supplies on the town of Koonjpoora, which, with its fort, is about four miles from that post. Being in the possession of a Patan family, it cannot justly be claimed.