

use military force on disputed territory, without direct authority from the President: for if these acts are to take place by the sole direction of subordinate officers, and the President does not disavow them, the consequences must be as evil as if the President had authorized them from the beginning.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

No. 8.

Lord Lyons to Lord J. Russell.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 176.)

My Lord,

Washington, September 8, 1859.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 3rd instant, and my despatch No. 174 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship extracts from the Washington and New York newspapers of yesterday, containing detailed accounts of the circumstances attending the occupation of the Island of San Juan by a detachment of United States' troops.

Upon reading these accounts last evening, I found that the proceedings of the American officers at San Juan appeared to be in some points directly opposed to the views of the Government at Washington, as expressed to me by the Secretary of State on the 3rd instant, and reported by me to your Lordship in the despatch No. 174 of that date, to which I have already referred. I thought, therefore, that I should do well to lose no time in apprizing General Cass that I should be able to transmit by telegraph to Halifax, in time to be put on board the Royal mail-packet bound for Liverpool, any information or explanation which he might be so good as to give me in the early part of to-day.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I accordingly addressed to the General last night. Your Lordship will perceive that I have recited in it the statement of the views of the United States' Government, which I have mentioned above as having been made to me by General Cass on the 5th instant, and that I have also quoted from the newspapers a document purporting to be an order from the captain in command of the United States' detachment at San Juan, establishing exclusive American jurisdiction in the island.

General Cass has just called to say that he has not yet been able to see the President, but that he still hopes to have it in his power to make me a communication in time to be transmitted by the telegraph to Halifax, and forwarded by the Royal mail-steamer. Should he do so, that communication ought to reach your Lordship some days before this despatch.

I have not received any information respecting the occurrences at San Juan, either from Governor Douglas or any other British authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have seen General Cass again. He says that the Government have received no official information whatever since our conversation on the 5th instant. He adds that the account given of that conversation in my note of yesterday is perfectly correct, except in one point. He would wish to strike out the passage, "that consequently he (General Harney) was not to take possession of the Island of San Juan, or to set up any jurisdiction there." He did not, he says, intend to convey to me the impression that orders to that effect had been sent to General Harney.

L.