

Fondo, Subfondo o Serie GUE RRA Signatura 4784

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Her Majesty's Ship Orion Off Greytown
15 January 1857.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which your Excellency did me the honor to address to me on the 8th Inst, and to thank you for the information therein contained of the movements of the forces under your command.

Not having received any instructions from my own Government to take a part in the hostilities which are now carrying on in Central America, it has been my endeavour and is still my intention to preserve a perfect neutrality between the contending parties. I therefore considered it my duty to take no part either to aid or to obstruct the forces of Costa Rica in making the voyage at

Yr Excellency
General Jose J. Mora
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at Punta Arenas of the vessels which had been actively employed in the service of their enemies. At the same time I represented to Colonel Fernandez, who was introduced to me as commanding officer of the party, that as the future disposition of the territory in the neighbourhood of Greytown, including the opposite bank of the river at Punta Arenas (or Punta Castille) was still the subject of negotiations, I could not recognize the right of Costa Rica to a military possession or occupation of the same, and I beg to state to your Excellency that I consider it the less advisable on your part to attempt such a measure, as a feeling of insecurity, in consequence of the probable collisions at the point of the Costa Rican forces, with armed men arriving in steamers from the United States, would undoubtedly be felt in Greytown, which it is my duty to protect, and give rise to unpleasant discussions.

In like manner, without denying the right of Costa Rica to prevent the passage up
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the river of fresh bands of adventurers, or of any of
her enemies. I cannot recognize such a blockade
of the port of Greytown or of the river in its immediate
neighbourhood as would interfere with the lawful
pursuits of British subjects.

Your Excellency may however be assured that no
interference, with any other object than the security
of the rights and properties of those whom it is my
duty to protect, will be offered on my part to any
operations you may think necessary to engage in
in the course of the war, and I shall always be
happy to shew any attentions in my power to the
officers of Costa Rica between which state and
Great Britain the most friendly relations have
existed for several years.

Have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant.



Captain and Senior Officer
of Her Britannic Majesty's Forces
employed on the Coast of Central
America