

Pecker, Consul.

Recd 17th October.

Consulate of the United States  
St. Louis, Missouri 25<sup>th</sup> Sep 1824

Sir

Your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> July last with  
the Petition that accompanied it reached  
me the day before yesterday

The Brig  
alluded to is the Netherlands Brig  
Condraucht which came in here on the  
21<sup>st</sup> Sep. 1822 under false papers; on  
the expedition against Porto Rico and  
is the vessel described in my letter of  
the 27<sup>th</sup> of that month (orig. p. Sanny dup.  
p. Mary) via New York to which I beg to  
refer you. The vessel has been condemned  
for sailing under forged Dutch papers  
and I thought with my counsel it  
would be useless to appeal.

It was with  
much

much difficulty that I got the vessels  
and cargo libeled separately; the trial  
of the latter has not yet come on and I have  
not pushed it, hoping some favourable  
event might take place; tho' appearances  
are against it. - the defence I set up is  
M<sup>r</sup> Agnew's ignorance of the object of the  
expedition and that what Capt. Soldo did  
ought not to affect his property.

M<sup>r</sup> De Courcy Holstien and  
M<sup>r</sup> Baptist Swin were tried as disturbers  
of the general peace and upon appeal to  
Holland were ordered to be set at liberty (out  
of Netherlands Territory) the former went  
to the United States, the latter is I believe  
now in Caracas; if I can procure a copy of  
their sentence, and of the order from Holland  
respecting their release, it shall be duly  
forwarded to you, they had no property  
to be condemned, or to be given up to them.

And reference to my letter of the  
27<sup>th</sup> Sep. 1822, you will see the Brig  
Mary

Mary of Philadelphia Capt. Burns was in  
Company with the Condraacht and was concern-  
ed in the expedition she was put under  
surveillance, but upon my interference  
in my official capacity she was suffered  
to go regularly through the custom house  
Sold her cargo, and sailed with another

The Condraacht being under  
false papers; these papers Dutch, and seized  
in a Dutch Colony for that offence; full of  
men and arms, these men openly declaring  
that they had been engaged by Holstein  
and Sold to assist in revolutionizing Porto  
Rico; when I saw proclamations to this  
effect signed by Holstein and Irving  
ready to be issued on their arrival in Piqua;  
it appeared to me that I could not in any  
way interfere as an officer of the United  
States; the Government of the United States  
never would have consented to the shipment  
of

de Corti.  
d.

I therefore thought it

of these arms had they known their destination, and consequently when that destination was developed, no one of its officers could interfere in behalf of the individuals concerned in it, lest not to fatigue the Government in which I reside or those in authority under it. I used every exertion in my power to bring the matter in as fair a light as I could before the tribunal of the Country in which I reside; if condemned I shall appeal, and when you have all documents before you a better opinion than now can be formed as to the propriety of Governmental interference until then I would not advise it, for if successful here; and the property liberated by such means; which I do not think would be the case if the Court would saddle it with very heavy expenses, against which, an appeal would probably not be allowed; whereas, in Holland higher authority would

make

See Invoice  
Bill Lading  
Merch. Note  
etc

make more impression, and the sentence  
of restitution would be much more  
definitive. Captain Gold's appearance  
here was very detrimental to W. Agnew's  
interest as he declared that he acted under  
a power of W. A. The claims were already  
made, when he arrived, and his stay  
very short on account of some of the party  
departing, and his confessing that he bore a  
Commission from H. S. as Post Captain  
in the Brigada Navy. A compromise was  
offered by the Seizers and I listened to it  
as far as to ascertain their terms which  
I refused, and acquainted W. Agnew  
immediately; of this shall send you proofs.

W. Agnew is wrong when he asserts  
his claim to the property as W. Gold's  
creditor, W. A. is principal owner, and Shipper.

W. Agnew, nor the assignees of  
W. Gold, never sent an agent here, at least  
I never have seen or heard of one.

See Certi.  
A

See Invoice  
Bill Lading  
with. N<sup>o</sup>.  
to be

N<sup>o</sup> 2

more than a Mr. Adams; Mr. Agnew's  
 Book-keeper was here last year, for his  
 health, and delivered me a letter of introduc-  
 tion, a copy inclosed, Mr. Adams ~~had~~  
 me another letter of same date; copy also  
 inclosed and spoke little or nothing of  
 business: some tobacco I had on hand  
 was not sold, and Mr. Agnew's accounts  
 could not be closed, since then I have sent  
 him his acct (a copy) inclosed in which  
 a Balance is in his favour, and which  
 I hold to pay expenses which may  
 attend the suit which will be heavy  
 and besides in case of appeal, I must  
 give surety for the costs in Holland which  
 are heavy in the extreme.

N<sup>o</sup> 3

I wrote the gentlemen appointed  
 by Mr. Agnew as his agents here the  
 inclosed, and also forward you their  
 answer

see letter  
N<sup>o</sup> 4

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answer. I write this to counteract any  
prejudices their false statements may  
have occasioned in no one instance  
have these Gentlemen stuck strictly  
by the truth and I have been collim-  
inated by those I have done every thing  
in my power to assist.

The Bryan was  
here when this business was fresh upon  
the Carpet allow me to refer you to Cap<sup>tn</sup>  
Spence for the general character of those  
belonging to Co. he saw what my  
conduct was towards those concerned in  
the expedition and the impossibility of  
interfering more than I did.

Mr Wm A. McRea of Alexan-  
ria or Mr Reynolds, now a clerk in  
the post office of New York, or on Duran  
master of the Brig Mary of Philadelp-  
hia, in which Capt<sup>ns</sup> Holsten and Irvine  
embarked

see letter  
N<sup>o</sup> 4

embarked from that place can give  
you full information of the expedition

In a Pamphlet published by  
M<sup>r</sup>. Swin it is said there were no arms  
or use of arms on the expedition

When the U. S. Brig Enterprise  
was lost in little Cyrenus and M<sup>r</sup>.  
Thos. Randall was here, who was on  
his way in her to Savanna speaking  
of a Major Andrews late in the U. S.  
(Army) who always asserted he had  
nothing to do with the expedition I  
handed him a regimental order from  
De Coudray Holsten, through his adju-  
tant a M<sup>r</sup>. Kingland who died in my  
house which proves quite the contrary,  
I mention this supposing M<sup>r</sup>. Randall  
will be in Washington, and you can  
procure a sight of the order.

I hope that what I have already  
said

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said will prove, that I have not neglected  
my duty as an Officer or an individual;  
I shall however not let the matter rest  
here, I have taken the necessary steps to  
procure copies of the evidences on the differ-  
-ent points alluded to, and shall forward  
them with a history of some of the individ-  
-uals to the department.

I am taking every  
step to bring on the trial of the Cargo,  
and if after you are in possession of this,  
you think Official interference neces-  
-sary, I will make it, but my opinion  
is it will be better made in Holland.

I shall wait your further  
orders.

I remain with the greatest  
respect Your Obedt Servt

Wm W. Parker

To Honorable

Mr Quincy Adams  
Secretary of State  
Washington