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Appendix § EL MOSQUITO
MEXICANO¹

When the basic rights of the people are obstinately ignored, and when their most sacred rights are forcibly stripped away by an oppressor incapable of justifying its tyranny; and when it persists, by its arbitrary power, to continue its oppression; the people, bereft of the remotest hope for a solution, are left with no other option but to repel force with force. This is the painful case in which we find ourselves.

— THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT OF THE PLAN DE VERACRUZ BY
GENERALS SANTA ANNA AND GUADALUPE VICTORIA IN 1822

VOL. II SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1835 NUMBER 75
INTERIOR

**THE TRUE PLANS OF MEJÍA FOR THE EXPEDITION
THAT HE HAS LED TO OCCUPY TTAMPICO**

So that the Mexican nation becomes thoroughly aware of the true intentions of that foreigner and ungrateful ex-general Mejía and his associates Don Valentín Gómez Farías and Don Lorenzo Zavala, we publish their professed documents that fortunately have arrived into our hands. No one can doubt their authenticity, and we point out that they conform entirely to the plans for their intrusive rule that they developed and began to execute in 1833.

Let the Mexican people, who are the true lovers of their country, their religion, and their own personal tranquility decide for themselves whether to die, rather than subject themselves to live under the ominous yoke of those Jacobites and demagogues. Enough with the introduction, let's get to the matter.

Num. 1 New Orleans, September 7, 1835

My dear Pancho: Cheer up and take full pleasure in knowing that you are going to be free from the strangling dominion of the aristocrats and know *Santa Anna*,

that rogue, traitor, and tyrant, will soon be shot and that the liberal federalists will be compensated, with interest, for that which they were made to lose through the perfidy of that wicked person and his stooge auxiliaries, *Tornelito*, *Quintana*, and the rest.

The attached extract, which has been kept very secret, especially from all the profane [non-Masons] and even from those hh ∴ [Masonic brothers] whose trustworthiness is in doubt, will inform you of what has been decided in the secret sessions of the Amphictyonic Council of this city and of our plan that is so advanced that in less than two months, the famous Mejía will have taken Tampico, Tamaulipas, and perhaps even San Luís (de Potosí), and possibly by the middle of the coming year our Republic will be truly free, because there will not be an aristocracy, or even a trace of a bishop, a friar, a nun, or any fanatic of those who have impeded and are impeding our nation from developing the abundant elements for happiness.

I still don't know if I will go with Mejía or travel to Texas, where I can be of more use, because Austin is a little hesitant and he chokes in shallow water. In any case, try to be in San Luís [de Potosí] during the month of December, where I hope to see you and give you a warm hug. Meanwhile, give Pepa and Ramona an affectionate hug from the boys and, again, receive the good wishes of your h ∴ [Masonic brother] and friend. — *Tomás*

Num. 2 Extract of the discussion and accord of the Amphictyonic Council of New Orleans in secret session held on the third of September, 1835, at number 103 Ursulines Street.

With a sufficient number of members of that council assembled, Mexicans as well as North Americans, Mejía stated that the objective being promoted at the meeting was to give an account to some of the members of the status of his plan and of how much he had accomplished and particularly to tell them of the conditions that they have imposed upon him, forcing him to make concession in order to be able to furnish the money and all types of supplies for the expedition decided upon for the port of Santa Anna, Tamaulipas. Several capitalists generally interested in the cause of the liberty of man, as well as the interests of the State of Louisiana, were ready to furnish money even at the risk of losing it in the case of a misfortune. They provided the money on the condition that General Mejía gave his word of honor to promote and award all of the territory that, under the Spanish government, was called the Province of Texas and today is part of the State of Coahuila y Texas. It is to be sold at fair prices, respecting the property of the colonists, such as Señor Zavala and the others who

have land there, and to the State of Louisiana or to its wealthy neighbors. They would erect a free, sovereign, and independent state that is recognized by the center of the government of the Union of the United States of the North until the grand project of the new Republic of the South is accomplished, which includes a part of the State of Louisiana.

Señor Gómez Farías, who is presently Vice-President of the United States of Mexico, stated that being cognizant of the preoccupation of his countrymen and being cognizant of the control and influence exercised by the clergy, friars, and other grand proprietors, he considered the fulfillment of the promises and concessions made by Señor Mejía as being very difficult and compromising. Although in reality no damage will be done to the Mexican nation by losing a territory that it could not populate, this dismemberment will surely be painful, and it will not be easy, particularly now, to make the great majority understand that this dismemberment is only superficial and temporary since, in the end, the states of the South will form one single federated nation. The essential premise of the plan should be the absolute freedom of conscience. The clergy oppose it vigorously, and it could all be for the better, or the expedition could be postponed for a more opportune time, or maybe Señor Mejía could convince his protective lenders to reduce the principal of their loan and receive only monthly payments at a premium of five percent, as soon as victory is declared and Señor Farías returns as head of the Republic.

Señor Mejía and the other gentlemen agreed that the plan would be in the interest not only of the lenders, but also of the liberals. If it was true that the influence of the clergy and aristocracy was powerful, then it is also true that there are many illustrious and aspiring people from the middle class who are also capable. It must be remembered that the multitude, which must be armed, is large and follows whoever pays them well. If Señor Farías was intimidated by the brief triumph of Santa Anna in Zacatecas, he should take heart from the news that our journalists describe for us how Santa Anna is already disgusted with the new order of things because he sees that Congress is not going to make him Emperor, a position to which he aspired and to which he has already committed, all of which urges Mejía to march upon Tampico [and] to remain resolute overnight regarding what he needs to do and that if he walks around with any doubts or fears, all of it would go to the Devil.

In view of this decision, Señor Farías convinced himself of the importance of the plan, and it was resolved to press on with Señor Mejía's agreement with the lenders. He gave Mejía complete authority to proceed with the contracts, obligating himself to all the conditions, and then Señor Gómez Farías offered,

if deemed necessary, to sign as vice-president of the [Mexican] United States. He urgently proposed the work to begin and to reconvene the council tomorrow in secret session to examine what the commission has accomplished so far regarding the revolutionary plan that is to politically regenerate the Mexican people and secure their liberty forever.

Num. 3 The plan decided upon by the Amphictyonic Council of New Orleans on the night of September 4, 1835, designed to give true liberty to the United States of Mexico.

After a long and thorough discussion that began at eight o'clock at night and concluded at one-thirty in the morning, the following articles that formed the proposed plan were decided upon by a majority of more than two-thirds of the votes:

1. The chiefs and supreme directors of the undertaking for the reconquest of the federalist system and the establishment of an eminently liberal government in Mexico will be Señores Don V. G. Farías, Don J. A. Mejía, and Don Lorenzo Zavala.

2. The first will serve as Vice-President and chief of the Republic, given Santa Anna's treason. The Vice-President will give orders and make appropriate judgments in consultation with the other two officials whenever they are able to convene. When they [Mejía and Zavala] have reached a plan of execution, they will consult with the first [Farías] and make whatever adjustments deemed necessary. Only under extremely urgent and extenuating circumstances will these rules be set aside.

3. Señor Mejía will act as Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Army that will be composed of those recruited in the State of Louisiana and then all others recruited from civil militias raised in all the other [Mexican] States along the way until their arrival in Mexico City.

4. Señor Zavala will be the Director of the Texas colonists to which he will administer arms, money, men, and whatever supplies are necessary to defend them, and he will draw the attention of the Mexican government in that area, while Señor Mejía occupies the Port of Tampico, Tamaulipas.

5. The three supreme directors will decide upon this professed plan, which is based upon the federal system. They will also seek to give understanding in a manner that is enlightening. They will make an exception with Santa Anna and the ministers who have advised and aided him with

the so-called Plan of Cuernavaca. Those shall suffer capital punishment (whatever their conduct has been since). As for the rest, there will be a general pardon and total amnesty for past transgressions, and there will be an unceasing vitality for creating the future.

6. The legislatures and governors that existed in March of 1834 will be reinstated and reinstalled, except those persons who don't inspire confidence. Those shall be exiled from Mexico. Everything that belonged to the State on the date mentioned above will be restored, and toward that end Señor Gómez Farías will begin his journey, and the deputies and senators will be called upon, with ample time, to do the same.

7. Once Congress is installed, and once the so-called permanent army is disarmed and dispersed, Señor Mejía, as General-in-Chief of the Federal Army, will present before Congress the following petitions, respectfully and unthreateningly, but at the same time making it clear that he will not abandon his arms until these proposals are decided upon.

PETITIONS

First, that the said general congress declare itself, because of the extraordinary and urgent circumstances, legally and competently authorized to make the suitable reforms to the Constitution of 1824 without the ability to change with the form of government, the independence of the nation, and the absolute liberty of the press.

Second, that all of the bishops and persons, ecclesiastic as well as secular, who are suspected of being fundamentally against the reforms, be immediately exiled from the Republic.

Third, that all ecclesiastic dioceses be closed, that an interim governor be named, and that all the silver and precious jewels be turned over to the government.

Fourth, that all of the monasteries of friars and nuns be secularized and suppressed and that their real estate, furniture, silver, and jewels remain at the disposition of the government, with the exception of the sacred ornaments and vessels, which will be redistributed among the poor churches. The buildings, churches, and convents will serve as orphanages, houses of charity, hospitals, barracks, or workshops. Some can be sold for synagogues or temples of other religious sects.

Fifth, that all Mexicans are free to worship God as they wish. That all gov-

ernment communication with Rome be cut, although private citizens who want to follow Catholicism may do so as long as they do not disturb public order or proselytize.

Sixth, that all church real estate, as well as all urban or rural buildings and other holdings, be equally distributed, no matter who holds ownership, as long as the owners are allowed to keep at least a third of their holdings. All of the rest is to be distributed among the poor and preferably to the Federal Army. Those individuals will be awarded a sufficient portion of lands and houses in payment for their services.

Seventh, that there be a union and extended alliance with the United States of the North and with its citizens, especially those from Louisiana. That there be a fraternal relationship with them, and that they be allowed to come and go without the need of a passport, and that they shall receive one third of the import revenue collected from other countries. Much care must be taken not to introduce into the Republic any large number of Englishmen, nor should the Mexican government allow them to exert any influence upon its governing body.

Amphictyonic Council of New Orleans

September 6, 1835

Signed:

V. G. Farías

J. A. Mejía

[Followed by thirty-seven signatures]

NOTE

1. (Mexico City) *El Mosquito Mexicano*, Dec. 11, 1835, trans. Robert M. Benavides. Nettie Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas at Austin.