Rio de Janeiro 20th July 1826

M. le Vicomte,

There has just been put into my hands the Copy of an Edital, bearing the Signature of the Acting Judge of the Custom House, published this day, signifying that from henceforward every Vessel clearing out from this Port for the Southward and Pacifick Ocean, with leave to call at Montevideo, must give Security in double the Amount of the Vessel and Cargo not to touch at an Enemy's Port. Which Security will be cancelled within Six Months for Vessels bound to Valparaiso, and Nine Months bound to Lima and the Ports called Intermedios, upon the production of authentick and known Documents proving that they have not touched at an Enemy's Port.

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His Excellency
The Viscon de Inhambupe
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I presume that this Measure therefore is intended only to attach to Vessels touching at Monte-Video, on their way to the Pacifick.

I believe, M. le Vicomte, that this Interference with the Trade of Vessels belonging to Friendly States is entirely novel. And, in that case, I am quite sure that it will not be acquiesced in by the British Government.

Brazil has the right, as a Belligerent, to blockade the Ports of her Enemy, and to capture such Vessels, under Neutral Flags as may attempt, knowingly, to commit a Breach of that Blockade – But she has no right to force Neutral Vessels to give Bonds that they will not touch at her Enemy's Ports: – and this bond, too, to double the Amount of the Ship and Cargo. –

The Law of Nations points out the penalty attached to the breach of Blockade, and, as yet,

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I believe, no Nation has attempted such a Controul over the movements of Neutral Shipping as that which is now set up in this Edital, or to lay the Commerce of Neutrals under such restraint and difficulty as that of finding Security to double the Amount of their Ships and Adventures before they are allowed to clear out, and afterwards of proving that they have not broken its conditions.

If a Blockade is effective, as it must be to make it legal, any attempt to infringe it will bring upon the parties the certain penalty of Condemnation. If it be not effective it is not legal, and will not be respected. And, as no one Belligerent has the right to interdict to Neutrals the carrying on of Trade (save Contraband of War) with the other Belligerent, neither can the Brazilian Government have

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the right to exact the bond in question.

I request Your Excellency to take these points into your consideration, the result of which I trust will be an order to the Judge of the Customs to withdraw the Edital, and the consequent removal of the newly contrived Impediments to that Commerce which Neutrals are entitled to carry on.

I request Your Excellency to accept the reiterated Assurances of high Consideration, with which I have the honour to be,

Monsieur le Vicomte,

Your Excellency's

most obedient

humble Servant,

H Chambalais