Slave Trade

The Undersigned, His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has duly received the Notes &c addressed to him by the Viscount &c d'Itabayana on the 24th. of November 1828, and the 16th. of February 1829 - demanding, under the Stipulations of the Convention of the 28th. of July 1817, that the most positive orders should be issued to British Cruizers, to abstain from detaining such Brazilian Vessels as have not actually on board, Slaves taken from Ports in Africa to the North of the Equator, where Slave Trade

The Viscount d'Itabayana
&c - &c - &c

Trade is entirely prohibited to the Subjects of Brazil. —

In answer to this demand, the Undersigned has the honor to refer the Viscount d'Abaeyana to the Note dated the 2nd of December 1828, in which the Undersigned explained the principles on which the British Government maintain, that the "Heroina" Slave Vessel, though having no Slaves actually on board at the time of her detention, was nevertheless justly captured; and eventually, in strict accordance with the Spirit of the Convention, condemned by the Mixed Court of Commission at Sierra Leone. —

The grounds of the condemnation

of

of that Vessel (it is scarcely necessary to repeat) were, that, in her case, there had been committed an infraction of a particular provision of the Convention, which had already formed the subject of a special communication and remonstrance from the British Govt. to the Government of Brazil; in reply to which the latter had left it to the British Government to apply to the infraction in question, the measures which the Treaty had established, for the prevention of illicit Slave Trade.—

In answer, moreover, to the sweeping demand which the Viscount d'Abaeyana has considered himself warranted in seeking to apply to <u>all</u> cases of Vessels not

not having Slaves actually on board, the Undersigned must refer the Viscount d'Itabaiana to the First Additional Article to the Convention of the 28th of July 1817, dated the 15th of March 1823, wherein a case is specifically described, in which Vessels not having actually Slaves on board are expressly declared to be liable to capture and condemnation for a violation of the Spirit of the Convention. —

The Undersigned has only further to state, that the strictest injunctions have repeatedly been given to the Commanders of His Majesty's Cruizers, to abstain from molesting all Vessels not engaged in Traffick interdicted

by

by Treaty; and that His Majesty's Government will always be found ready and anxious to afford to the subjects of His Imperial Majesty the fullest redress for any injuries which they may at any time sustain, from the unauthorized interference of British Naval Officers, with Brazilian Vessels engaged, bonâ fide, in legitimate Commerce. —

The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Viscount d'Itabayana the assurances of his distinguished consideration. —

Aberdeen

Foreign Office;
March 17th; 1829 —