Slave Trade

The Undersigned, His &c
Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs, has to acknowledge
to the Chevalier de Mattos, Charge &
d'Affaires from His Majesty the Emperor
of Brazil, the receipt of the Note, which
was addressed by him on the 4th Ultimo
to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs, requesting, &
that the Mixed British and Brazilian
Court of Commission established at Rio
de Janeiro under the Slave Trade
Convention of the 23rd of November,
1826. may be dissolved by the end
of

The Chevalier de Mattos
&c — &c — &c

of December 1830, and that the Mixed Commission established at Sierra Leone, may be dissolved by the 30th of June 1831.

The subject of this note has been taken into consideration by His Majesty's Government. —

It appears however that the dissolution of British and Brazilian Mixed Commission Courts at the period suggested by the Chevalier de Mattos, would necessarily be productive of much and serious inconvenience. —

The open Trade in Slaves being now no longer permitted to the Subjects of Brazil, it is to be expected, that for some time to come, recourse will be had by illegal Slave Traders to

every

every species of Stratagem for the purpose of securing to themselves a continuance of so lucrative a traffick. —

Many captures therefore of Brazilian Slave Ships may probably take place. Some considerable time will still elapse, before arrangements can finally be made for the constitution of Tribunals, for exercising criminal Jurisdiction on cases of Piracy, under the Provisions of the Treaty; and it is absolutely necessary, that in the mean time, some Courts should be in existence, with power to decide upon the cases of such Brazilian Ships as may be captured in the

interval

interval; otherwise the unfortunate Individuals on board may remain for an indefinite period uncertain of their Fate. —

Under these circumstances His Majesty's Government feel it impossible as yet to fix the period, at which it may be expedient to dissolve the Mixed Commission Courts at present subsisting under the Convention with Brazil of November 1826. —

The Undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Chevalier de Mattos the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

Palmerston

Foreign Office
December 10. 1830 —