

CLAIMS: THE CASE OF THE BRIG "MORRIS"

Exchange of notes at Caracas February 26 and 29 and March 1, 1844

*Entered into force June 10, 1844*¹

*Terminated upon fulfillment of its terms*²

4 Miller 523.

The American Chargé d'Affaires to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES

Caracas, February 26, 1844

SIR: In pursuance of the verbal agreement concluded upon in our informal conversation on Saturday, I have now the honor to say to you, that I will agree to recommend to the favorable consideration of the Government of the United States, a proposition from the Government of Venezuela to pay eighteen thousand dollars, Spanish, as its proportion of the indemnity claimed in the case of the Brig Morris—said sum of eighteen thousand dollars to be paid by the Government of Venezuela so soon as official information of the assent of the Government of the United States to said arrangement shall be received in Caracas.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect, Your obedient servant,

ALLEN A. HALL

Hon. F. ARANDA

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the American Chargé d'Affaires

[TRANSLATION]

REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA,

Caracas, 29 February, 1844

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SIR: In conformity with the understanding come to at our last interview, of 24th instant, and with what you have been pleased to state in your

¹ Date of notification to the Government of Venezuela of approval by the Government of the United States.

² For a detailed study of this agreement, including a discussion of the settlement, see 4 Miller 523.

communication of 26th of same month, I have been ordered by His Excellency the President of the Republic, to propose, as a definitive settlement of the claim made on Venezuela for indemnity to the owners of brig *Morris* and cargo, the payment of eighteen thousand round dollars, in this city, as soon as official and competent information shall have been received of the acceptance of this proposal by the Government of the United States; it being well understood that this arrangement has for its object the termination of this business in a friendly manner, without admitting those principles with which the Government of Venezuela has not been able to coincide, and that this proposal must be submitted to the approbation of Congress, without which it cannot be carried into effect.

I improve this opportunity to reiterate to you, Sir, the assurances of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be your attentive servant.

FRANCISCO ARANDA

ALLEN A. HALL, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the
 United States.*

The American Chargé d'Affaires to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
Caracas, March 1st 1844

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, and to say, that the proposition therein contained is hereby accepted—subject to the approbation of my Government. With all proper respect for the opinions entertained by the Venezuelan Government, and the motives by which it has been actuated on this occasion, I entertain not a doubt, that, in strict justice, and upon universally received principles of International Law, a much larger sum than that now proposed to be paid might be claimed of Venezuela by the Government of the United States. But I have pleasure in believing, that under the influence of those feelings of unfeigned good will, which, I trust, will be admitted to have uniformly characterized the conduct of the United States towards the people of Venezuela, my Government will accept, in a spirit of liberal and amicable compromise, the offer now made by the Venezuelan Government with a view to settle definitively the claim in the case of the Brig *Morris*.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect, your obdt. servt.

ALLEN A. HALL

HON. F. ARANDA
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.