Αρχειακός Τόπος Θεόδωρου Κολοκοτρώνη

Αριθμός Τεκμηρίου 0588

Απαντητική επιστολή του George Canning προς τους Θεόδωρο Κολοκοτρώνη και Ανδρέα Μιαούλη στο αίτημα Προστασίας

1 Οκτωβρίου 1825

Ταυτότητα Εγγράφου *(Περίληψη)*

Ἐπίσημη ἐπιστολὴ τοῦ Βρετανοῦ Ὑπουργοῦ Ἐξωτερικῶν George Canning πρὸς τὸν Θεόδωρο Κολοκοτρώνη καὶ τὸν Ἀνδρέα Μιαούλη, μὲ τὴν ὁποία ἀπαντᾶ στὸ αἴτημα προστασίας ποὺ εἶχαν ὑποβάλει οἱ Ἕλληνες, τὸν Ἰούλιο τοῦ 1825. Στὸ ἀρχεῖο σώζεται ἡ μετάφρασή της ἀπὸ τὸ χέρι τοῦ Νικόλαου Δραγούμη, ἡ ὁποία ἔχει δημοσιευτεῖ στὰ Ὑπομνήματα (βλ. σχετ.). Ὁ Ὑπουργὸς Ἐξωτερικῶν της Μεγάλης Βρετανίας ἀναφέρεται στὴν ἐπιστολὴ ποὺ ἔλαβε μέσω τοῦ Ἀνδρ. Μιαούλη, δηλαδὴ στὸ αἴτημα προστασίας πρὸς τὴ βρετανικὴ κυβέρνηση. Ἀπαντᾶ «θετικῶς» στὸ αἴτημα, ἀλλὰ τονίζει πὼς ἡ βρετανικὴ κυβέρνηση ἀπὸ τὴν ἀρχὴ τῶν ἐχθροπραξιῶν τήρησε αὐστηρὴ οὐδετερότητα. Δηλώνει ρητὰ πὼς ἡ Βρετανία δὲν ἐπιθυμεῖ πόλεμο μὲ τὴν Ὑψηλὴ Πύλη, ἀφοῦ δὲν εἶχε παραβιαστεῖ καμία συνθήκη, καὶ ἐπισημαίνει πὼς ὑπεράσπιση τῆς Ἑλλάδας σημαίνει καὶ «οἰκονομικήν, πολιτικὴν καὶ στρατιωτικὴν βοήθειαν». Τέλος, δηλώνει πὼς ἡ Βρετανία θὰ ἐξακολουθήσει νὰ τηρεῖ αὐστηρὴ οὐδετερότητα καὶ θὰ ἐπιχειρήσει νὰ ἐπιτύχει τὴν εἰρήνευση μὲ μία ἐπωφελῆ συνθήκη. Γιὰ τὴν ὑποδοχὴ τῆς ἐπιστολῆς ἀπὸ τοὺς Ἕλληνες βλ. Χαρ. Βλαχόπουλος, Διονύσιος Ρώμας καὶ Ἐπιτροπὴ Ζακύνθου, σ. 381 κ.ἑξ.

Προηγούμενες Εκδόσεις: Αδημοσίευτο

Foreign Office
October 13th, 1825
Gentlemen,

I have received through the hands of Captain Miaulis, the letter which you did me the honour to address to me dated the 28th of July, accompanying a manifesto which you request me to lay before the King my Master. As a duplicate of this manifesto (accompanied with a letter from M. Colocotroni) reached me some time ago, through the Government of the Ionian Islands; the matter of it had already been fully considered by His Majesty's Government, before Captain Miaulis's arrival.

I am therefore prepared at once to return to you a definitive answer upon it. The British Government, from the beginning of the present hostilities between the Ottoman Porte and the Greeks, has proclaimed and observed a strict and impartial neutrality. Great Britain has long been connected with the Porte by treaties. She has not to complain of any violation by the Porte of those treaties; under the faith of which, the persons, the property, and the commercial interests of large bodies of His Majesty's subjects are protected, within the Ottoman dominions.

Under such circumstances, it does not appear to the British Government to be consistent with good faith, on their part, or with the principles of that law by which the proceedings of nations towards each other are regulated, and the peace of the world is maintained, to make war upon the Porte which has given to the British Government no just cause of quarrel.

That to accept the offer conveyed in the manifesto which you have done me the honour to transmit to me, would be in effect, to make war upon the Porte, no rational man can doubt for a moment.

It would be the height of baseness as well as of folly in any Power to assume to itself the offered Protectorate of Greece, and not to afford to Greece, at the same time, financial, political, and military aid to the utmost extent to which it could afford them.

The proposal, therefore, made to this country is not only to declare war against the Porte but to take upon itself the whole burden of that war, and to bind itself not to lay down its arms until

Greece shall be established in independence.
It is reasonable to hope that a proposal wholly unsought, and involving such momentous consequences, may be declined (however flattering the motives in which it may have originated), not only without offence to those who tender it, but without any impeachment of the sincerity of those assurances which I have, on a former occasion, conveyed to the Greek Provisional Government.
Determined as the British Government is to preserve unaltered the neutrality which it has so repeatedly declared, it would gladly avail itself of any opportunity, which the events of war, or the relenting hostility of either belligerent may open, of contributing by its good offices to the termination of a struggle which has already cost so much blood, by an arrangement in which the interests and honour of both parties might be saved.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,
your most obedient humble servant
George Canning

[ἐπιγραφὴ διεύθυνσης, στὴν πρώτη σελίδα:]
Messrs. ColocotroniandMiaulis

[ἐπὶτοῦνώτου:]
Τοῦ Κάνιγκος
10/25

Αριθμός Τεκμηρίου
0588

Τίτλος
Απαντητική επιστολή του George Canning προς τους Θεόδωρο Κολοκοτρώνη και Ανδρέα Μιαούλη στο αίτημα Προστασίας

Ημερομηνία Σύνταξης
1 Οκτωβρίου 1825

Τόπος Σύνταξης
Λονδίνο

Συντάκτης
Canning Georges / Κάνινγκ Γεώργιος

Αποδέκτης
Κολοκοτρώνης Θεόδωρος
Μιαούλης Ανδρέας

Είδος Εγγράφου
Πρωτότυπο

Διαστάσεις
200mm × 318mm

Αρ. Φύλλων
6

Γλώσσα
Αγγλικά

Προέλευση
ΑΡΧΕΙΑΚΟΣ ΤΟΠΟΣ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ ΚΟΛΟΚΟΤΡΩΝΗ

Διεύθυνση
kolokotronis-archive.org/items/code/0588

Μεταγραφή-Σχολιασμός: Βασίλης Παναγιωτόπουλος, Δημήτρης Δημητρόπουλος, Βαγγέλης Σαράφης, Σάκης Δημητριάδης
Έλεγχος μεταγραφής: Αγαμέμνων Τσελίκας

Creative Commons Αναφορά Δημιουργού - Μη Εμπορική Χρήση 4.0 Διεθνές (CC BY-NC 4.0).

Foreign Office
October 13th 1825.

Gentlemen,

I have received through the hands of Captain Mianlis, the letter which you did me the honour to address to me dated the 28th of July: accompanying a Manifesto which you request me to lay before the King my Master.

As a Duplicate of this Manifesto (accompanied with a letter from M. Colocotroni) reached me some time ago, through the Government of the Ionian Islands; the matter of it had already been fully considered by His Majesty's Government, before Captain Mianlis's arrival.

I am therefore prepared at once to return to you a definitive answer upon it.

The British Government, from the beginning of the present hostilities between the Ottoman Porte and the Greeks, has proclaimed and observed a strict and impartial neutrality. Great Britain has long been connected with the Porte by Treaties. She has not to complain of any violation by the Porte of those Treaties; under the faith of which, the persons,

the property, and the commercial Interests of large bodies of His Majesty's Subjects are protected, within the Ottoman Dominions:

Under such circumstances, it does not appear to the British Government to be consistent with good faith, on their part, or with the principles of that Law by which the proceedings of Nations towards each other

Resp.d Colocotroni & Mianlis
kolokotronis-archive.org

5

are regulated, and the peace of the World is maintained, to make War upon the Porte which has given to the British Government no just cause of quarrel.

That to accept the offer conveyed in the Manifesto which You have done me the honour to transmit to me, would be in effect, to make War upon the Porte,

kolokotronis-archive.org

6

no rational Man can doubt for a moment.

It would be the height of baseness as well as of folly in any Power to assume to Itself the offered Protectorate of Greece, and not to afford to Greece, at the same time, financial, political, and military aid to the utmost extent to which it could afford them.

The proposal, therefore,

kolokotronis-archive.org

7

made to this Country is not only to declare War against the Porte but to take upon Itself the whole burden of that War, and to bind Itself not to lay down its arms until Greece shall be established in Independence.

It is reasonable to hope that a proposal wholly unsought, and involving such momentous consequences, may be declined, (however flattering the motives

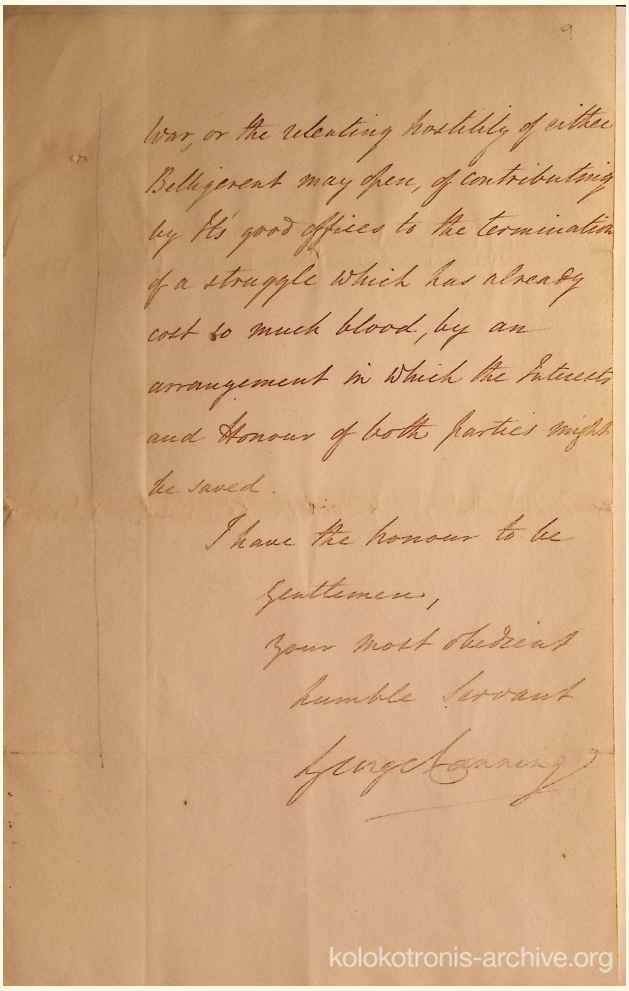
kolokotronis-archive.org

8

in which it may have originated) not only without offence to those who tender it, but without any impeachment of the sincerity of those assurances which I have, on a former occasion, conveyed to the Greek Provisional Government.

Determined as the British Government is to preserve unaltered the neutrality which It has so repeatedly declared, It would gladly avail Itself of any opportunity, which the events of

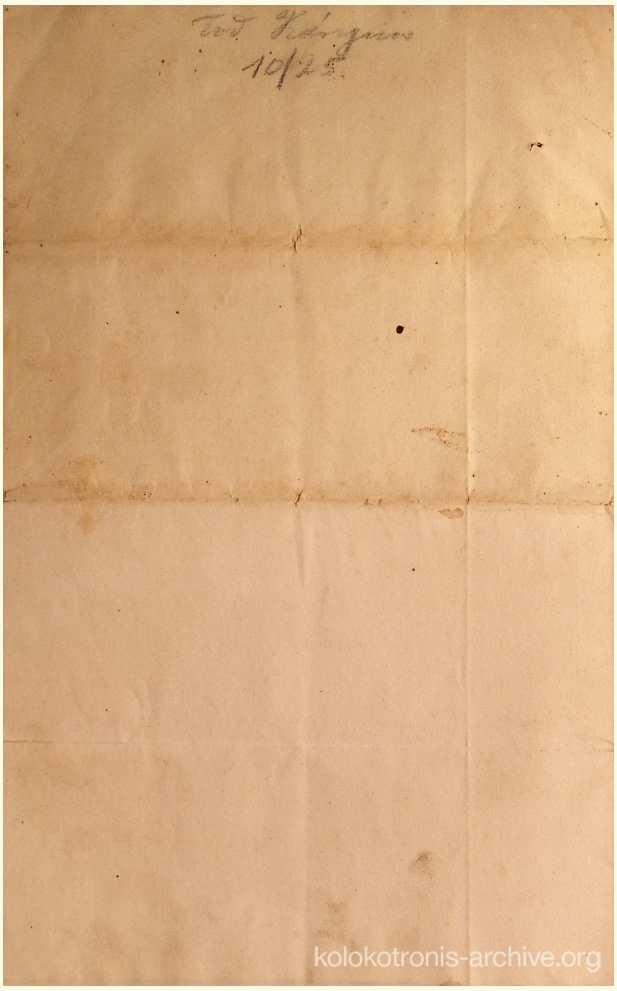
kolokotronis-archive.org



war, or the wanting hostility of either Belligerent may open, of contributing by his good offices to the termination of a struggle which has already cost so much blood, by an arrangement in which the Interests and Honour of both parties might be saved.

I have the honour to be
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble Servant
George Canning

kolokotronis-archive.org



kolokotronis-archive.org