

The Colonization of Freed African Americans in Suriname *Archival Sources relating to the U.S.-Dutch Negotiations, 1860-1866*

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U.S.-Dutch Negotiations, 1860-1866

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LEIDEN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cover design: Geert de Koning

Cover illustration: First day print of Surinamese stamp with Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of his death (photo by Michael J. Douma).

Lay-out: Crius Group

ISBN 978 90 8728 325 4

e-ISBN 978 94 0060 348 6 (e-PDF)

e-ISBN 978 94 0060 349 3 (e-PUB)

NUR 685

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This book is distributed in North America by the University of Chicago Press
(www.press.uchicago.edu).

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Introduction

During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln's administration engaged in protracted negotiations with representatives of the Netherlands to aid in the voluntarily colonization of free African Americans to Suriname. The American government also held similar negotiations with representatives of Panama, Haiti, St. Croix, British Honduras, and British Guiana, and made inquiries on the topic of African American migration with Ecuador and Nicaragua. In 1862 and 1863, Panama and Haiti actually received emancipated African Americans as a result of these negotiations, but both attempts to settle American blacks in the region ultimately failed.

In the shadow of these better-known examples of Civil War colonization schemes, the Dutch Suriname case drew the lowest number of mentions in the American press and remains today probably the least known. Most of the discussion about this Dutch-American plan remained in diplomatic circles and was neither leaked to the press, nor recalled in published memoirs after the war. It is, in a sense, a forgotten story that can be reconstructed only from original documents in archival collections. For American history, Suriname's neglect in Civil War colonization literature is unfortunate because the Dutch plan provides an additional and alternative case demonstrating the seriousness and depth of the Lincoln administration's interest in colonization. But this story also has multiple other dimensions worth considering. For example, it sheds light on Dutch racial thinking, the history of Suriname, and the role of governments in shaping new post-emancipation labor systems in the Atlantic world. It is a case of one of the many "what ifs" of history. What if the Dutch and American governments had successfully colonized African Americans in Suriname? How might that have affected race relations and the progress of African Americans in the United States? What effect might such a migration have had on the culture and development of Suriname? How could the post-emancipation Atlantic World labor market have developed in different ways? These are the kinds of questions such new sources encourage us to ask.

In the years 2011 and 2012, I discovered two folders of papers on the Suriname colonization plans kept in two separate collections in the Netherlands' National Archive in The Hague. The papers were a mix of English, Dutch, and French writing, oftentimes existing only as copies of their originals. At the time that I located

these papers, a historiographical debate on colonization in the Civil War era was heating up among academics in the United States.¹ Few, however, had paid much attention to the case of Dutch Suriname or had bothered with foreign language sources. Meanwhile, in the Netherlands, where the history of slavery and race was also becoming a topic of increasing interest, the history of the relationship between Suriname and the United States fell outside the traditional areas of study of the Dutch national and global history. The papers that I had found in The Hague had only once been cited in an academic work. That honor went to Jozef Siwpersad (1944–2007), a respected Surinamese historian who in 1979 defended a PhD dissertation on the emancipation of slaves in Suriname.² Siwpersad, however, made little use of these Dutch-American diplomatic papers, likely because they seemed tangential to his project, and because, even for a Dutch-speaker, much time and effort was needed to understand the context and read the difficult handwriting of the old documents. After all, the papers were not in any kind of order, chronological or otherwise, and there was little context for them in their archival collections. But the clear connections to President Abraham Lincoln, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward, and other prominent names in American Civil War history aroused my interest. Historians of the American Civil War, I have been arguing, too often engage in arguments about the same old sources, which leads them to repeat the same arguments on the same perennial topics. But, here, across the Atlantic Ocean, I had discovered what were in a sense “new” documents on the American Civil War. So, in 2012, I began translating these and other related papers on Dutch-American colonization

¹ The literature on African American colonization during the Lincoln administration peaked in the 1950s, with a number of articles and dissertations. Noteworthy challenges to the older historiography include: M.E. Neely, “Abraham Lincoln and Black Colonization: Benjamin Butler’s Spurious Testimony,” *Civil War History* 25 (1979), 77–83 and D.B. Davis, “Reconsidering the Colonization Movement: Leonard Bacon and the Problem of Evil,” *Intellectual History Newsletter* 14 (1992), 3–16, and recent contributions have included: P.S. Paludan, “Lincoln and Colonization: Policy or Propaganda?,” *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* 25:2 (Winter 2004), 23–37; R.J. Blackett, “Lincoln and Colonization,” *OAH Magazine of History* 21:4 (Oct., 2007), 19–22; M.E. Neely, “Colonization and the Myth that Lincoln Prepared the People for Emancipation,” in W.A. Blair and K.F. Young (eds.), *Lincoln’s Proclamation: Emancipation Reconsidered* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009), 45–74; N. Guyatt, “A Topic Best Avoided,” *London Review of Books*, Dec. 1 (2011), 27–31; A. Guelzo, Review of Philip W. Magness and Sebastian N. Page, *Colonization After Emancipations: Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2011) in the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* 34, Nov. (2013), 79–84; P.W. Magness and S.N. Page, “Lincoln, Colonization, and Evidentiary Standards: A Response to Allen C. Guelzo,” *Social Science Research Network*: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2267625.

² J.P. Siwpersad, *De Nederlandse Regering en de Afschaffing van de Surinaamse Slavernij (1833–1863)* (Groningen/ Castricum: Bouma’s Boekhuis, 1979).

negotiations with the goal of better understanding the sources, cross-checking names for potential leads, and thoroughly mining the text for clues to the story of colonization.

Once I was confident in reading and understanding the sources, I used them to write an article that was published in the journal *Civil War History* in 2015. Significant portions of that article have been reproduced, with permission, in this introduction. In that article I highlighted the difficulties caused by a lack of singular vision in the negotiations, in which a variety of opinions and tensions were at play. Some members of the Dutch government, I showed, were in full support of an agreement or treaty on colonization, but the Dutch diplomats in the United States were reluctant, and the Lincoln Administration seemed at once confident and then silent, almost cryptic about it all. I argued that in the end the negotiations failed not essentially because of a lack of will or obvious dismissal by the Lincoln Administration, but because of diplomatic delays and the changing situation on the ground, which ultimately made any such international agreements unnecessary. Prior to the publication of this peer-reviewed article, a condensed version of my findings was published in the *New York Times*' Disunion blog. This was later reprinted as a short chapter in a book with Oxford University Press. A Dutch-language version of my findings was also published in popular form in *Geschiedenis Magazine* in 2013.³ Readers are encouraged to locate these sources for more context on the topic.

I recognize that in publishing these translated sources I am in a sense repeating the story I told in previous publications. However, I have come to believe that these sources are rich enough to tell more than one story, and that they are useful for a variety of researchers writing on a number of topics. For American historians, the most obvious contribution of the sources produced in this volume is the addition of new sources for the resurgence of colonization scholarship. In particular, scholars have been interested in this topic for what it can tell us about the character and political motives of Abraham Lincoln. The dominant view of Lincoln on colonization is expressed by the American historian Eric Foner, who believes the president's thoughts on African Americans evolved during the Civil War, as did his relationship with the colonization movement. After the Emancipation Proclamation took effect in January 1863 – this line of argument goes – Lincoln more or less abandoned

³ M.J. Douma, "The Lincoln Administration's Negotiations to Colonize African Americans in Dutch Suriname," *Civil War History* 61.2 (2015), 111-37; M. J. Douma, "Holland's Plan for America's Slaves," *New York Times* [online], 11 July. Reprinted in Ted Widmer (ed.), *The New York Times Disunion: A History of the Civil War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 260-3; M.J. Douma, "Hoe verder zonder slaven? Het kolonisatie project van Amerikaanse vrijgelaten slaven op de Surinamse plantages, 1862-1866," *Geschiedenis Magazine* 4 (2013), 14-9.

his interests in colonization. A 2011 study by Philip Magness and Sebastian Page, titled *Colonization After Emancipation*, challenged this view, and encourages us to look to Caribbean and European archives for evidence of the continued interest in the Lincoln administration's colonizationist plans.⁴ Following Magness and Page, it appears that Lincoln, through his Secretary of State, William H. Seward, kept colonization on the table in 1864 and 1865. That is to say, American negotiations concerning colonization remained open, even if they had stalled.⁵

The negotiations to colonize African American in Suriname and the related correspondence on this topic began in 1862, during the second year of the American Civil War, and continued until 1866, a year after the war had ended. The documents in this volume indicate that Lincoln must have been aware of the Dutch Suriname plan as it continued to be discussed in 1863 and 1864. In fact, most of the diplomatic correspondence on colonization in Suriname occurred *after* the Emancipation Proclamation took effect.

The American government, under President Abraham Lincoln, was motivated in this discussion by a number of factors, including the fear of potentially high unemployment and social unrest among emancipated African Americans at the end of the war. The Dutch, meanwhile, were concerned about a shortage of laborers on their colonial Surinamese plantations with their own emancipation law coming into effect in July 1863. Coincidentally then, the two separate emancipations aligned, but they were connected in a wider world of changing political orders. Negotiations between the Netherlands and the United States were intended to establish inter-governmental regulations to aid in the expressly *volunteer* migration of free laborers from the U.S. to Suriname. The negotiations stalled during the war, and while the American government ultimately allowed the Dutch to recruit potential laborers on American shores as the war came to a close, it appears that no African Americans chose to leave the United States for Suriname in this period.

A Dutch-American agreement on colonization was signed in December 1863, a full year after Lincoln's famous act, but the agreement languished in Congress, awaiting a ratification vote. In February 1864, Seward wrote separate letters to James Shepherd Pike (the U.S. Minister in the Netherlands) and Roest van Limburg

⁴ P. Magness and S. Page, *Colonization After Emancipation: Lincoln and the Movement for Black Resettlement* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2011). This work improved on early research by J. L. Coryell, "The Lincoln Colony: Aaron Columbus Burr's Proposed Colonization of British Honduras," *Civil War History* 43:1 (March, 1997), 5-16; R. L. Gold, "Negro Colonization Schemes in Ecuador, 1861-1864," *Phylon* 30:3 (1969), 306-16.

⁵ Recent books with this view include: W.A. Blair and K.F. Young (eds.), *Lincoln's Proclamation: Emancipation Reconsidered* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2009), 176; and C. Manning, *What This Cruel War Was Over* (New York: Vintage, 2007), 86.

(the Netherlands' Resident Minister in the United States), stating that he did not expect the U.S. Senate to ratify the proposal. Roest van Limburg was told that the likelihood of the approval of the treaty was "doubtful" because of the "altered condition of affairs relating to the treaty since the negotiations commenced." Similarly, Seward informed Pike that the treaty was "not now expected" to be ratified, since "the American people have advanced to a new position in regard to slavery and the African class since the President in obedience to their prevailing wishes accepted the policy of colonization."⁶

Seward's statement on Lincoln was vague and ambiguous. Did he mean to say that Lincoln had previously accepted colonization only because of the wishes of the people? This, of course, could not have been the case, since no one seriously doubts that before 1863 Lincoln supported colonization. Nor does Seward make clear any change of mind in Lincoln himself. According to Seward, the failure of the ratification of the Dutch proposal had more to do with a change in American society than a change with the president. "Now not only their free labor, but their military service is also appreciated and accepted," Seward concluded in his February 1864 letter to Pike. Seward's use of the passive verb leaves some ambiguity: who exactly appreciated and accepted African Americans for their free labor and military service? Shortly after Lincoln's death, Seward is reported to have said that, regarding Lincoln, "no knife was sharp enough to divide us on any question of public policy" except "his 'colonization' scheme."⁷

A thorough reading of the papers of the Netherlands' Department of Foreign Affairs demonstrates that the Dutch continued to hold out for a potential ratification of the Suriname colonization treaty through to the end of the war. Indeed, the war's end sparked another round of Dutch inter-department memoranda on colonization. These sources show, furthermore, that neither Seward's words to Roest van Limburg nor Roest van Limburg's growing pessimism about the plan convinced the Dutch government that the plan had been defeated. In fact, the Dutch had reason to hold out hope. Although no further official American correspondence on colonization in Suriname appeared after February 1864, Roest van Limburg, as the lead Dutch diplomat in the United States, continued to field relevant information on the matter until spring 1866. Roest van Limburg's personal correspondents at

⁶ Seward to Roest van Limburg, Feb. 12, 1864, folder 142, NA 2.05.13, Papers of the American Legation, Collection 2.05.13, National Archives of the Netherlands; Seward to Pike, Feb. 15, 1864, Diplomatic Instructions from the Department of State, 1801-1906 (vol. 14, Jan. 29, 1833-Sept. 12, 1864), General Records of the Department of State, RG 56, U.S. National Archives.

⁷ F.B. Carpenter, *Six Months at the White House with Abraham Lincoln* (Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 2008 [original 1866]), 291.

this time included former U.S. Secretary of State, Lewis Cass, the Danish chargé d'affaires in Washington, Waldemar Raasløff, the commissioner of emigration and Freedman's Bureau general, Oliver O. Howard, and the interim secretary of state, William Hunter, among others. Roest van Limburg grew increasingly convinced that the plan was impractical or even infeasible but not that it was impossible or diplomatically defeated. In the end, it was not the Lincoln administration that killed the Dutch Suriname colonization plan; instead, diplomatic inefficiencies delayed progress and preparation for the scheme, and African Americans demonstrated a consistent reluctance to migrate to foreign lands. Hence, the Dutch-American colonization proposal died a slow death.

So far, this is a story that I have already told. I have emphasized in particular that the Suriname colonization scheme's failure to launch falls into this picture of the Lincoln Administration's reticence to abandon colonization. But this historical topic is interesting in a number of other regards, particularly for what it shows us about transatlantic attitudes regarding slavery and emancipation and the role of governments in protecting their citizens. The sources translated for this volume have not seen the light of day since their original composition. They can be used to tell new stories and find new links in Dutch, Surinamese, American, and Atlantic World history. The sources reproduced here will be useful for scholars who study (1) the international dimensions of the Dutch colonial world, (2) the development of labor markets in the Caribbean during the age of migration, (3) Dutch views on race and slavery in the nineteenth century, or (4) the history of Suriname and its long-term relationship with the United States, among other topics.⁸

To understand the place and relevance of these documents, their various frames of reference, time-scales, and background, a certain amount of explanation is required. First, I provide some background on colonization in its social and political context in the United States. But to understand the domestic U.S. story it also helps to have a background in U.S. race relations in antebellum America and an understanding of the aims of the American Colonization Society. And then, to understand the view from the Netherlands and the Dutch colonial dimension, it helps to have some background knowledge of Suriname, of Dutch political and diplomatic culture, and the development of emancipation ideas in the Dutch world. All of this is set within an interconnected Atlantic world, a Dutch colonial web, and an expanding American sphere of influence. The sections that follow will aim to explain these themes.

⁸ J. Egger, "The Economic Influence of the United States in Suriname," in H. Krabbendam, C.A. Van Minnen, and G. Scott-Smith, *NL-USA: Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations* (Amsterdam: Boom, 2009), 886-95.

Colonization in U.S. Politics and Society

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, northern states adopted various emancipation laws. Slave-owners in states that maintained the legality of slavery also sometimes manumitted their slaves. Free blacks lived alongside free whites, mostly in peace, but not without tension. Colonization was the name given to the policy and practice of providing transport for free-born blacks and emancipated slaves to return to Africa or go to other countries like Mexico, Canada, or Haiti. Colonization could be seen as liberating or racist. It was a proposed solution for the threat of slavery to the republic, or to presumed social strife in a post-emancipation era. Although colonization was a political position most identified with political moderates, there were also significant numbers of slaveholders and abolitionists who supported it. Some saw colonization as a salve for the wound of slavery, an antidote to sectionalism, or an aide for the Christianization of Africa. With the coming of the American Civil War, colonization remained a crucial part of the political discussion of slavery.⁹

The American Colonization Society (ACS), which formed in 1816, was the largest player in this political movement and was particularly popular in border states like Maryland and Pennsylvania. The ACS has been the subject of significant research. In particular, historians have been keen to track its members and main supporters, showing their social connections to free labor advocates, political moderates, or racist ideologists. The ACS had wealthy financial backers but it also sought support from the government, and was favored by the American Whig Party. Southern slaveholders, however, increasingly saw colonization as a threat to the “peculiar institution” and their theory of good slavery. Abolitionists, meanwhile, worried that colonization distracted Americans from the true spirit of freedom and disrupted African American communities.

Through the ACS’s efforts, over 11,000 African Americans migrated to Africa. The ACS established an independent republic in Liberia in 1847, but despite the hopes of its backers the new republic failed to become a bridge between American and African culture, but persisted as a sort of in-between nation, with a hybrid culture.¹⁰

⁹ B.C. Tomek, *Colonization and its Discontents: Emancipation, Emigration, and Antislavery in Antebellum Pennsylvania* (New York: New York University Press, 2011); B. Tomek and M.J. Hetrick (eds.), *New Directions in the Study of African-American Recolonization* (Place: University Press of Florida, 2017). Entry for “Colonization” in P. Finkelman (ed.), *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

¹⁰ M. Tyler-McGraw, *An African Republic: Black and White Virginians in the Making of Liberia* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

African Americans often refused to support the ACS, particularly because the society didn't take a clear stance against slavery while many of its members held explicitly racist views.¹¹ African Americans also had little motivation to relocate to a country they had never known. The American Colonization Society continued to be active during the American Civil War. The society opposed colonization schemes that would compete with their efforts in Liberia.

Suriname in Dutch Colonial History

Colonization is also not just an American story but rather one that must be seen within an international context. Suriname in the nineteenth century was of course part of a Dutch colonial network, linked by trade and common diplomacy with the Netherlands. Even with emancipation, the Dutch looked to control their colonial labor market, and thereby regulate production and trade. As the historian Duco Hellema suggests, some liberal policies were pursued in the 1830s and 1840s, but it was only after the change of government in 1848 that free trade made substantial gains. By the 1860s the Dutch ended their monopoly on trade with their colonies. Without this monopoly privilege, Dutch colonial trade decreased, but other trade increased. It was the geographical position of the Netherlands, its relationship to the international political structure, its position in the world economy, and, perhaps most importantly, its domestic culture which allowed liberal free trade and neutrality.¹² But reconciling the story of slavery, emancipation, colonization, and imported labor that defined the 1860s in Suriname is a challenge for historians to address.

In Suriname, colonization was the latest Dutch proposal concerning the importation and control of labor in their South American colony. First established by the English, conquered by the Dutch in 1667, reconquered by England in 1672-74, and then returned to the Netherlands in 1674, Suriname was essentially a sugar colony that also produced significant exports of cacao, coffee, and cotton. The Dutch government initially placed Suriname under the control of the Charter Society of

¹¹ O.K. Power-Greene, *Against Wind and Tide: The African American Struggle against the Colonization Movement* (New York: New York University Press, 2014); E. Burin, *Slavery and the Peculiar Solution: A History of the American Colonization Society* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2005); P.J. Staudenraus, *The African Colonization Movement, 1816-1865* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1961); D.R. Egerton, "Averting a Crisis: The Proslavery Critique of the American Colonization Society," *Civil War History* 43:2 (June, 1997), 142-56.

¹² D. Hellema, *Neutraliteit & Vrijhandel: De Geschiedenis van de Nederlandse Buitenlandse Betrekkingen* (Utrecht: Het Spectrum, 2001).

Suriname which, consisting of three equal partners – the West India Company, the City of Amsterdam, and Cornelius van Aerssen van Sommelsdijk (and, later, his descendants) – who ruled the territory until 1795. Under the Dutch, slave imports were almost always needed to maintain stable populations and to promote economic growth. When France took control of the Netherlands in 1795 and threatened to occupy its colonies, the English provided protection for Suriname and became its ostensible sovereign. Now free of French rule, the Dutch regained control of Suriname in 1816. Although Surinamese trade picked up in the wake of Napoleon's defeat, the colony faced financial difficulties throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, despite subsidies from the Netherlands. Once a crown colony, in 1848 Suriname became the responsibility of the Dutch Parliament and its advisor, the minister of colonies.¹³

Global Context of Post-Emancipation Labor

By making Dutch primary sources available in English translation, their potential audience grows manyfold. One particular area of research deserves special mention. Such translations, I believe, are critical for those scholars of Atlantic World and Caribbean history who typically have to rely on the few English-language secondary sources about the Dutch if they are to include Suriname, the Netherlands, the Dutch West India Company, or topics of Dutch trade in their research. The sources demonstrate channels of knowledge and racial and colonial attitudes within the Atlantic world. One way knowledge spread in this world was through newspapers. But diplomats formed another kind of knowledge network, as did merchants. These sources indicate some ways in which news came to Suriname from other places and how information spread into a variety of networks. General news of developments in the United States typically came to Suriname via British Guiana and the English-language newspapers there. Some, but not all, of those news articles were translated into Dutch by newspaper editors in Suriname. Letters from the Dutch government also directed colonial administrators, who conversed with their support base, the Surinamese planters. It appears that the Surinamese planters were aware of the American colonization talk, but it is unclear if they knew many specifics. Perhaps additional sources located in archives in the Netherlands or Suriname can tell their story. Knowledge transfers in the Atlantic World were subject to delays. For example, it took sixteen days for mail from the Netherlands to reach Washington D.C.

¹³ C.C. Goslinga, *The Dutch in the Caribbean and in Surinam 1791/5-1942* (Assen: Van Gorcum, 1990); R. Hoefte, *In Place of Slavery: A Social History of British Indian and Javanese Laborers in Suriname* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 1998).

This collection should be particularly useful for scholars interested in labor markets in the era of emancipation in the Caribbean. The British abolished slavery in their colonies in 1833, with a 5-year gradual indenture before slaves received complete freedom. France and Denmark followed with colonial emancipation laws in 1848, but these had little direct impact in Suriname, even though Suriname neighbored French Guiana.

The Dutch, with an emancipation law of 1863, were late on the scene of colonial emancipation, but it must be remembered that others in the region, such as Cuba and Brazil, continued as slave societies for decades to follow. Labor in the nineteenth century Caribbean then was always a mixture of free and slave labor. Generally, nations and colonial powers took a mercantilist approach with the idea that controlled forms of labor (slavery, indenture servitude, labor contracts) were beneficial to the state on the whole, since the costs of labor could be held down and no plantations would fail on account of the emigration of workers.

The attempt to recruit American blacks for Suriname was part of a wider Dutch concern, an international system of state-sponsored and regulated migration that distributed wage laborers around the world. The history of slavery in Dutch Suriname or the Dutch Atlantic World and the history of slavery in the United States therefore converged at this date. Extensive negotiations between the two nations on the topic of resettling blacks in Suriname continued as late as 1866. The related correspondence regarding colonization demonstrates the depth and significance of Dutch and American colonial sympathies. Indeed, the Dutch responded positively to Lincoln's colonization message of the summer of 1862; they saw colonization as a desired component of colonial emancipation plans. A key figure in the Dutch discourse was Adriaan David Van der Gon Netscher (1811-1897), a former Dutch sea captain, who had also been an attorney, a painter, and part proprietor of a coffee and plantain estate in Demerara, British Guiana. According to his own account, he served as magistrate and member of the Court of Policy in British Guiana from 1841 to 1857 before returning to life in the Netherlands where he served on a government committee to recommend emancipation policy for Suriname.¹⁴ Van der Gon Netscher, like most other Dutchmen, believed emancipation in the Dutch West Indies was inevitable and desirable but that the main concern would be finding the proper procedure to enact such reforms.¹⁵ In a series of lengthy pamphlets, two

¹⁴ P.C. Molhuysen and P.J. Blok (eds.), *Nieuw Nederlandsch biografisch woordenboek*, pt. 3 of 10 (Leiden: A. W. Sijthoff, 1914), 910.

¹⁵ J.M. van Winter, "De openbare mening in Nederland over de afschaffing der slavernij," *De West-Indische Gids* 34:3 (1953), 61-90; P.C. Emmer, "The Ideology of Free Labor and Dutch Colonial Policy, 1830-1870," in G. Oostindie (ed.), *Fifty Years Later: Antislavery, Capitalism, and Modernity in the Dutch Orbit* (Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1996), 207-22.

from 1858 and one from 1859, he outlined a plan consisting of three main parts: compensation for slave owners, state supervision of freed slaves for ten to twelve years of contract labor, and state subsidized immigrant recruitment to prevent a decline in production on the Surinamese plantations.

Immigration was the key plank in Van der Gon Netscher's platform, since he believed that only immigrant labor could compensate for the loss of slave labor. For this reason he supported the immigration of thirty-six thousand laborers over the twelve years immediately following emancipation. He asked for government premiums to be paid to immigration recruiting agents to encourage the flow of people: Africans (at a cost to the government of 60 guilders each), Chinese (at 200 guilders each), Portuguese (including people from Madeira, Azores, and Cape Verdeans, Canary Islands at 75 guilders each), while inducements for Dutch, Germans, and other northern Europeans to journey to Suriname would be paid for by a tax on Surinamese planters.¹⁶

Although the Dutch never got their hoped-for emigration treaty, they still managed to open up the possibility of migrants leaving the United States for Suriname. Ostensibly, Dutch law allowed for whites or blacks, or people of any nationality, to immigrate to Suriname as long as a Dutch consul was present at the port of emigration to ensure proper procedure. A January 1865 royal decree also relaxed the requirements for immigration, allowing anyone to recruit immigrants, so long as a Dutch consul supervised them.¹⁷ But in the minds of the Netherlands' Department of Foreign Affairs, the real idea was to get African American laborers. This much is clear from Roest van Limburg's letter of 21 April 1866, in which the author mentions specifically the intention to ship blacks, and not whites, from Boston to Suriname. Yet, without the U.S. government supporting a colonization effort, emigration plans fell flat. African Americans were allowed to leave the United States voluntarily, but by 1866 there was no government effort to aid them, or to recruit them for such a move.

Emmer also notes that Dutch labor policies in the colonies were based on cost-effectiveness, not ideology.

¹⁶ A.D. van der Gon Netscher, *Bijdrage ter aanwijzing van de grondslagen, waarop de afschaffing der slavernij in Suriname dient gevestigd te worden* ('s Gravenhage: A. Belinfante, 1858); A.D. van der Gon Netscher, *Beschouwing van het op den 25e oktober 1858, aan de Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal voorgesteld ontwerp van wet ter afschaffing der slavernij in Suriname, voornamelijk ter aanwijzing der noodzakelijkheid om eene gelijktijdige en voldoende immigratie door wetsbepalingen mogelijk te maken en te verzekeren* ('s Gravenhage: A. Belinfante, 1858); A.D. van der Gon Netscher, *De Quaestie van Vrijen Arbeid en Immigratie in de West-Indie, toegelicht door A. D. van der Gon Netscher* ('s Gravenhage: A. Belinfante: 1859).

¹⁷ Royal decree dated Jan. 26, 1865, folder 142, Papers of the American Legation, Collection 2.05.13, National Archives of the Netherlands.

The Dutch Diplomatic Network

Collections like these are also essential for exploring the international and transnational dimensions of the Dutch colonial world, and for pointing scholars to crosscurrents of inter-imperial relations. At the intersection of empires is where we can discover new hints about regional and global patterns. These documents, for example, suggest numerous connections between the Netherlands and other political powers in the Americas. How did information in the 1860s flow from British Guiana to Dutch Suriname, as indicated in the selection from the newspaper, *The Colonist*. Knowledge networks in the Dutch empire and across empires are a new and promising avenue of historical research. To date, however, most of the focus on this topic of the global Dutch presence has been on the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.¹⁸ The records provided here also give insight into the nature of diplomatic networks in the nineteenth century, the limitations of international knowledge transfer, and the difficulties of complex diplomatic negotiations. Drawing on scholarship from historians like Duco Hellema, we can use these sources to look to the relationship between the Netherlands and the United States and see the impact of American diplomacy on Dutch colonial policy. Such diplomacy, it is clear, went well beyond reciprocal trade agreements. American power in the Western Hemisphere shaped Dutch colonial policy in a variety of ways that have not been fully explored.

From the summer of 1862 to 1866, the Resident Minister Roest Van Limburg followed the orders of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, urged on by the Minister of Colonies, to organize his consular officers in the United States to prepare for encouraging and aiding freed African Americans to migrate to Suriname. While Roest van Limburg worked on this in the United States, the Dutch government was negotiating a deal with the American Ambassador to the Netherlands, James Shepherd Pike. One wonders if the delay in the treaty proposal was ultimately responsible for its failing to come before the U.S. Senate, which might have been more supportive of the measure earlier in the war. In support of this view, the Senate was also likely awaiting word of how the colonization venture on Île à Vache, Haiti, had fared. Ships with African American colonists set sail in early 1863 and,

¹⁸ K. Fatah-Black, "A Swiss Village in the Dutch Tropics: The Limitations of Empire-Centered Approaches to the Early Modern Atlantic World," *BMGN – Low Countries Historical Review* 128:1 (2013), 31–52; C. Antunes and J. Gommans, *Exploring the Dutch Empire: Agents, Networks and Institutions, 1600–2000* (London: Bloomsbury, 2015); R. Raben, "A New Dutch Imperial History: Perambulations in a Prospective Field," *BMGN – Low Countries Historical Review* 128:1 (2013), 5–30; W. van den Doel, "The Dutch Empire. An Essential Part of World History," *BMGN–Low Countries Historical Review* 125:2–3 (2010), 179–208; W. Klooster and G.J. Oostindie, *Realm Between Empires: The Second Dutch Atlantic, 1680–1815* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2018).

after months of conflicting reports on its success or failure, had to be rescued in early 1864.¹⁹ An important reason for the Dutch treaty's failure must also be seen in the delay, inefficiency, and opposition within diplomatic channels. The Dutch government, including the king, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and, above all, the Department of Colonies, supported the efforts to settle African Americans in Suriname. Furthermore, the Dutch and American consuls in Suriname expressed their willingness to aid the project. But Roest van Limburg, the leading Dutch diplomat in the United States, expressed increasing reservations about the efforts, while the Dutch consuls in American port cities were reluctant to participate. Pike and Seward, acquainted through long careers in New England politics, were no help to the proposal, and Pike, at least, secretly hoped for its failure. In 1861, he wrote to Seward, "We have got to destroy the race of slaveholders in order to prevent permanent dismemberment."²⁰

A relatively high rate of turnover in key ministry positions contributed to the diplomatic struggles on the Dutch side. From the late spring of 1862 through early 1866, Roest van Limburg answered to three different foreign affairs ministers (P. T. van der Maesen de Sombreff, W. J. C. van Kattendijke, and E. J. Cremers) and three colonial ministers (Gerhard Hendrik Uhlenbeck, Gerardus Henri Betz, and I. D. Fransen van de Putte.²¹ In December 1862, the Dutch Senate (Eerste Kamer) refused a bill to enlarge the colonial domains and Uhlenbeck resigned. De Sombreff did the same the following year when the Senate rejected the enlargement of the Foreign Affairs Department.²² Roest van Limburg must have felt like he was talking to a revolving door. Each new colonial minister also demanded action, and Roest van

¹⁹ P.W. Magness, "The Île à Vache: From Hope to Disaster," *New York Times*, 12 April 2013, available at <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/12/the-le-vache-from-hope-to-disaster/?fbclid=IwAR1ZTIEDqd3NS99sGywBKGSTMr8IhIJYVjqrFANx88W2kVwM7PicFULDOPE>

²⁰ Pike to Seward, July 7, 1861, reel 64, Seward Papers, Library of Congress.

²¹ James Loudon was foreign affairs minister from 12 March 1861 to 31 January 1862; Paul Therese van der Maesen de Sombreff, from Roest van Limburg, a Roman Catholic, was minister of foreign affairs from 12 March 1862 to 2 January 1864, and a liberal of the second Thorbecke cabinet. From Groningen, E. J. B. "Eppo" Cremers, at 31 years of age became minister of foreign affairs from 15 March 1864 to 1 June 1866. Cremers was a Liberal, with ties to Fransen van de Putten. Colonial ministers included Gerhardt Hendrik Uhlenbeck, born in Ceylon, a Liberal officer in the military in the Dutch East Indies, who served as minister from 1 February 1862 to 3 January 1863. Isaac Dignus Fransen van de Putte, a Liberal from Zeeland was minister of colonies from 2 February 1863 to 30 May 1866. Willem Huyssen van Kattendijke was also minister of foreign affairs from 2 January 1864 to 15 March 1864.

²² "Jhr. Mr. P.Th. van der Maesen de Sombreff," *Parlement en Politiek*, accessed 12 July 2012, http://www.parlement.com/id/vgo9ll34k2y1/p_th_van_der_maesen_de_sombreff.

Limburg explained why he could do very little to speed things up. Colonial ministers took every event in the development of the war in the United States as a sign in their favor. And yet, Roest van Limburg, on the ground, could only report with an increasingly pessimistic tone his late receipt of the news of the signing of the convention. Indeed, he felt slighted to have first learned about the signing through a clipping from the 19 December 1863 *Nederlandsche Staats Courant*, handed to him by a German. His first official notice of the event, a letter from the minister of foreign affairs dated 18 January 1864, would not have arrived at his station until early February. Roest van Limburg was not sure if such a convention was legitimate; discussion with Cass led him to believe that the United States would not allow any foreign government to make such an agreement.²³ Seward had just informed him that the Senate had not seen the text of the convention, probably would not see it, and would not pass it as law if they did see it. Yet, the Dutch government thought ratification was imminent. Roest van Limburg found it necessary to write at length to bring the new minister, Kattendijke, up to speed on what had transpired over the past two years and to express his frustrations.

These sources demonstrate the inner workings of the Dutch diplomatic network and highlight the personalities of its members. For example, Roest van Limburg's letters to the minister of foreign affairs from 1864 are lengthy, passionate expressions of frustration, tempered only by the requirement to remain civil and formal in diplomatic writing. As is clear in the letters of Roest van Limburg, information in the Dutch world flowed through political channels, through Dutch ministers and consulates. But these diplomatic officials were also informed by merchants and businessmen, by politicians representing other nations, and by a plethora of newspapers in circulation. Roest van Limburg's cooperation with the Danish representative in D.C., for example, points to the importance of personal connections between diplomats as a source of useful information. Representatives from smaller nations like the Netherlands and Denmark might be more willing to share information and thereby expand their knowledge networks. Dutch ideas about slavery and labor markets, as shown in these documents, also indicate that the Dutch were influenced by British and French political and economic models. It is also worthy of note that Roest van Limburg, the central figure in the documents in this volume, became the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1868, and played a role in Dutch diplomacy that prepared the way for east Asian migration to Suriname.²⁴

²³ Roest van Limburg (New York) to Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs, Jan. 30, 1864, folder 142, Papers of the American Legation, Collection 2.05.13, National Archives of the Netherlands.

²⁴ R. Hoeft, *In Place of Slavery: A Social History of British Indian and Javanese Laborers in Suriname* (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 1998), 30-1.

Racial Thinking

These documents also provide numerous examples of Dutch racial thinking, evidence that can contribute to the growing literature on this topic by Dienke Hondius, Guno Jones, Gloria Wekker, and others.²⁵ We can see racial thinking laid bare in the failure of the proposed colonization treaty. It is clear that the treaty failed not only because the U.S. government turned against the project but also because colonization in general was rejected by African Americans, who were perceived to have a proclivity to stay where they were – to enjoy their newfound freedom on known soil. This image of content, intentionally stationary African Americans convinced American and Dutch observers that diplomatic efforts to encourage migration constituted much work for little gain.

Diplomats also observed the behavior of freedmen as a sign of natural temperament relating to their race. The Dutch general consul in New York City, Rudolph C. Burlage, for one, exemplified this stereotype when he wrote, “Blacks are by nature lazy and sluggish.”²⁶ Once the Union army began recruiting black soldiers, there was no chance of getting strong, young African men, Roest van Limburg wrote. Emigration agents, he continued, might be able to find willing emigrants in Washington, D.C., or Norfolk, but what kind of people would they be? Mostly the weak, sick, and demoralized, he figured. Other potential emigrants would likely fear that five-year contracts were a new form of involuntary servitude. Roest van Limburg could find no kind words for Pike, that “fiery abolitionist” who failed to see the problems that emancipation wrought.²⁷

²⁵ D. Hondius, *N. Jouwe, D. Stame, Dutch New York Histories: Connecting African, Native American and Slavery Heritage* (place: LM Publishers, 2017); D. Hondius, *Blackness in Western Europe: Racial Patterns of Paternalism and Exclusion* (place: Transaction Publishers, 2014); G. Wekker, *White Innocence: Paradoxes of Colonialism and Race* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2016); G. Jones, “De Slavernij is onze geschiedenis (niet). Over de discursieve strijd om de betekenis van de ntr-televisieserie De Slavernij,” *BMGN – Low Countries Historical Review* 127:4 (date), 56–82; M.J. Douma, “A Black Dutchman and the Racial Discourse of the Dutch in America, 1850–1920,” *Dutch Crossing: Journal of Low Countries Studies* 36:2 (2012), 143–57; M.J. Douma, “A Dutch Confederate: Charles Liernur Defends Slavery in America,” *BMGN – Low Countries Review* 132:2 (June, 2017), 27–50.

²⁶ Rud C. Burlage (New York) to Roest van Limburg, 3 June 1863, folders. 3230–1, Papers of the Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs, Collection 2.05.01, National Archives of the Netherlands.

²⁷ Roest van Limburg (New York) to Kattendyke, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Feb. 16, 1864, Papers of the American Legation, Collection 2.05.13, folder 142, National Archives of the Netherlands. William H. Seward, U.S. Department of State (D.C.) to Roest van Limburg, Feb. 12, 1864, folders 3230–1, Papers of the Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs, Collection 2.05.01, National Archives of the Netherlands.

Contrasted with this negative image of racialization, control, and discrimination of African Americans, these sources indicate a humanitarian concern of government officials. Regardless of their personal beliefs – whether they were outright abolitionists or reluctant opponents of slavery – Union government officials and Dutch diplomats in the United States all expressed hope for the sound treatment of African Americans. Many of the letters in this collection attest to their liberal concern for regulations to prevent corruption and mistreatment.

The Translated Documents

Of the ninety-four source documents included in this collection, only four have been previously available in digital databases or published in any form. One is a selection from the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debate at Galesburg, Illinois, one of many occasions in the 1850s when Lincoln gave his support for colonization. This selection helps to give some context to the story, indicating that colonization was very much a part of the political discussion in the 1850s, and that it was on Lincoln's mind as he entered the presidency in 1860. Two reports by James Mitchell, the U.S. commissioner on colonization, and a selection from Adrian David Van der Gon Netscher's book *Werking van de Wet Tot Opheffing der Slavernij in de Nederlandsche West Indische Kolonien, en Middelen om Suriname van verder verval te redden*, were originally published in the 1860s but have not been reproduced since then.

In sum, then, this collection provides a completely new set of records for historians interested in a variety of topics, including but not limited to the history of Suriname, comparative emancipation, the Lincoln administration, and the Dutch diplomatic network in the nineteenth century. Besides a few newspaper clippings and printed governmental ordinances, all of the original materials have been transcribed from handwritten sources and, when necessary, translated into English from the original Dutch or French. A total of forty-eight of the documents were translated from Dutch, and eight from French. The remainder were either originally in English or bilingual side-by-side Dutch and English. For the translations of sources originally in French, I thank Sebastian Page and Reyes Mabasa. For help with some difficult words and idioms, I sought the advice of native speakers of Dutch, including Dries Glorieux.

The bulk of the records reproduced here come from the Netherlands's national archive in The Hague, and are located specifically in the records of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Colonial Office. Suriname was a colony of the Netherlands until 1975, and most Surinamese records are still housed in the Netherlands. Attempts to locate relevant records in Suriname proved fruitless. Additional records on this topic were located in the files of the U.S. Department of

State, held in the United States' national archives. Each source includes information on its archival location, author, date, and original language. Naturally, as historians know all too well, archival sources can be found in a jumble, with no apparent chronological or thematic order. I have chosen to organize these sources in chronological order, so that one can follow the story by reading the sources from first to last. In a few cases, the original dates on these documents were not clear and had to be partially deciphered either through handwriting analysis or the context of the content of the materials. I am confident that the dates given here are accurate, but it is possible that I have made errors in reading the date of one or more letters.

As a non-native speaker of Dutch, I felt it necessary to translate all of the Dutch (and French) documents in question so as to better understand what I had discovered, and so that I would be thoroughly familiar with the records before I attempted to piece the story together. For a number of reasons, the translations proved to be a difficult task. Nineteenth century Dutch handwriting is legible enough, but when the only surviving text is a copy of the original letter made by a department secretary, one wishes that the copyist had not sacrificed clarity for speed. Two or three memoranda in the relevant Dutch files were scribbled so poorly that my attempts at transcription failed, and the sources are therefore not reproduced here. The longer, formal Dutch correspondence, on the other hand, was entirely legible, although produced by a variety of different hands. Here, the primary difficulty was understanding the diplomatic Dutch language of the period, with all of its formalities, abbreviations, French loan words, and complex syntax.

In particular, the formal system of honorific titles also proved to be difficult to deal with. Nineteenth-century Dutch had long list of honorific titles for persons of various governmental and social ranks. Writers commonly used the formal title "Hoogedelgeboren" (high well born) abbreviated as "Hoogedelgeb" or "HEgb", but they also used the similar "Hoogweledelgeboren" and the abbreviated HEWgb" or "Hoogedelgestrenge heer" (high noble sir) abbreviated as "HEGH" and other similar titles with variations on their abbreviations. Added to this difficulty, the abbreviations could appear without the full word present in the same correspondence. The abbreviations are sometimes all in capital letters, and the form of the capital letters is inconsistent. Errors here, however, will not likely detract from the text or significantly alter its meaning.

I have produced fairly literal translations, attempting to represent as much as possible the structure of written language in the mid-nineteenth century, while also producing an English-language text that is true to the period and understandable to modern ears. I have attempted, of course, to avoid any anachronistic use of modern language in the translations. The diplomatic language of the mid-nineteenth century could at time serve as a straightjacket, limiting the personal expression of the authors, forcing them into fixed formalities. At the same time, however, the

language was precise and functional. For those familiar with the style, the long but properly-formed sentences with all the redundancies of form made sure that the writers were understood clearly, and that communication would not be delayed or misinterpreted because of a rare unreferenced pronoun, or a confusion about the precise matter of concern of correspondence. References to letters sent and received indicated how a chain of correspondence functioned as a larger discussion. The correspondence reproduced here – including materials from a single archival folder – was not generally labelled as consecutive pieces of writing. This is because, in this period, most Dutch diplomats appear to have organized their correspondence chronologically, and not by topic or theme. When correspondence was copied or transferred to other offices, however, topical letters were extracted from the general chronological order. For purposes of following the narrative, and for ease of locating sources, I have found it best to maintain a strictly chronological order for the sources.

Register of Persons

Americans

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), the sixteenth President of the United States, served from 1861 to 1865. As a Whig in the 1840s and 1850s, Lincoln supported negro colonization. Lincoln joined the American Colonization Society in 1855, and openly advocated the policy by pairing it with gradual compensated emancipation as a solution to the problem of slavery. With the establishment of an office for colonization in 1862 and an appropriation of \$600,000 for the cause, he appeared to be making colonization part of his administration's policy. Although the administration less actively pursued colonization in 1864 and 1865, efforts appear to have been delayed by political factors and never completely shelved.

William Henry Seward (1801–1872) was the U.S. Secretary of State in 1861–1869. As fitting for his position, Seward took a lead role in American foreign relations. Although he proved to be a loyal stalwart of Lincoln's administration, he personally diverged from the president over the wisdom of colonization. Seward therefore proved a reluctant executor of the program and, at times, dragged his feet on the pursuit of negotiations for colonization sites. Seward authored the 30 September 1862 circular to the European powers, soliciting proposals to receive black emigration from the United States and therefore initializing the formal phase of negotiations over Suriname. In 1865, Seward barely survived an assassination attempt on the same night that John Wilkes Booth shot and killed Lincoln. Seward's prolonged recovery from his injuries overlapped with a brief post-war resumption of interest in colonization. Seward's duties in this period were transferred to William Hunter, a long-time diplomat who served as acting secretary for the interim period.

James Shepherd Pike was the U.S. Minister to the Netherlands in 1861–1866. Pike, a Maine Republican, became Lincoln's minister to the Netherlands in 1860. Pike had deep antipathy for blacks, but wanted to see them set free, and kept separate from whites. At first, he wished the South would be granted leave from the Union without trouble. As ambassador, he fought for and temporarily gained an advantage for the Union's war cause, as the Netherlands, refusing to follow England and France entirely, recognized the belligerent status of the Confederacy but blocked their

ships from entering neutral Dutch ports in all but times of distress. Early in the war, as Lincoln avoided talk of slavery on the domestic front, Pike encouraged the Europeans to view the war as a struggle for the end of slavery. Pike thought Lincoln's emancipation proclamation did not go far enough. Pike opposed the colonization treaty with the Dutch and thought an alternative was to give blacks a region of their own in the South.¹

Caleb Smith was U.S. Secretary of the Interior in 1861-1862. Smith was one of the strongest advocates of colonization in Lincoln's cabinet, and helped to secure congressional funding for the project in 1862. The government's emigration office was placed under the charge of the Department of the Interior at his direction. Smith resigned from the cabinet in December 1862 due to declining health, and accepted an appointment to a federal judgeship in his home state of Indiana. Smith's departure saw the elevation of deputy secretary John Palmer Usher to be head of the department. Usher's tempestuous relationship with the president's policy of colonization became a recurring point of tension within the administration and, in 1864, induced Congress to suspend funding.

Henry Sawyer (1827-1877), a U.S.-born businessman, came to Suriname in 1847, was married there in 1849, worked as a businessman and served as the consul of the United States in Paramaribo, Suriname, from 1858 until his death in 1877. Sawyer was interested in technology, innovation, and promoting Surinamese business. He introduced new American machinery to Suriname, sold steam-ground rice, imported wine, formed various gold and metal prospecting partnerships (including the New York and Suriname Company) and opened a photograph atelier.² It is unclear if Sawyer had any strong views about colonization.

William Hunter was U.S. interim Secretary of State in 1866. A career diplomat, Hunter filled the role of acting secretary of state for William H. Seward in 1865 when the latter was recovering from a succession of injuries caused by a carriage accident and subsequent attempt on his life the same night that Lincoln was assassinated.

Edward Boonen Graves (1803-1865) was a New York merchant who forwarded a call for laborers in Suriname. His grandfather, Jan Boonen Graves, was a Dutch-born

¹ R.F. Durden, *James Shepherd Pike: Republicanism and the American Negro, 1850-1882* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1957).

² *De West-Indiër: dagblad toegewijd aa nee belangen van Nederlandsch Guyana*, February 28, 1866. *Suriname: Koloniaal nieuws-en-advertentieblad*, October 23 (1874); May 11 (1877); November 8 (1872); *Surinaamsch Weekblad*, August 1 (1858).

merchant who had once been the Dutch consul for North Carolina and Georgia for a number of years before moving to New York in 1797. A contemporary, Walter Barrett, wrote, “The firm of Boonen Graves & Co.... has never faltered or failed...It has been chiefly engaged in the trade with Holland and its colonies. It has among its correspondents some with whom an active intercourse had continued for over sixty years, and these are both English and Dutch.”³

James Mitchell was U.S. Commissioner of Emigration in 1862–1865. Mitchell was a former midwestern agent of the American Colonization Society, as well as administrator of Indiana’s state colonization office. He came to know Lincoln in the early 1850s while traveling to Springfield, Illinois, on Colonization Society business. Lincoln appointed Mitchell as an agent and then commissioner of the newly formed emigration office in 1862. After the departure of his ally Caleb Blood Smith from the department of the interior where he was situated, Mitchell became involved in an increasingly rancorous political feud with the new secretary, John Palmer Usher. Mitchell was nonetheless able to shift the focus of the president’s colonization policies away from private contractors and toward diplomatic arrangements with the European powers in the West Indies. Mitchell saw his office shuttered by Usher in late 1864, and remained involved in an effort to revive it at the time of Lincoln’s death.

John Palmer Usher was U.S. Secretary of the Interior in 1863–1865. Previously the assistant secretary of the interior, Usher took over the department in January 1863 after the resignation of Caleb Blood Smith. He inherited his predecessor’s oversight of the government’s colonization functions, although its diplomatic charge remained in the state department. Usher himself became personally involved in a proposed colonization project on the isthmus of Panama in late 1862, which he unsuccessfully attempted to revive. He is known for his involvement in a succession of political feuds that plagued later, and potentially competitor, colonization projects. These included a perpetually beleaguered attempt in 1863 to settle a freedmen’s colony on the Ile à Vache off the coast of Haiti, as well as infighting with James Mitchell over control of the emigration office in 1864.

³ W. Barrett, *The Old Merchants of New York City, Third Series* (New York: Carleton Publishers, 1865), 288.

The Dutch Diplomatic Network in the United States⁴

Th[eodorus] M[arinus] Roest van Limburg (1806-1887): The Dutch Minister Resident in Washington D.C., Roest van Limburg was the primary organizer of and correspondent for the Dutch colonization project. Roest van Limburg, a critic of the Lincoln Administration, was also frustrated by the difficult task set for him by the Dutch government. He had previously worked as an editor of a newspaper in the Netherlands, and in the Dutch diplomatic service in Vienna and Lisbon. He served in Washington from 1856 to 1868. In 1858, he married Isabella Cass, the daughter of the former Vice President of the United States, the democratic politician Lewis Cass of Michigan.

Rud[olph] C[hristian] Burlage (1809-1883). Born in Amsterdam, Burlage served as the Dutch Consul General in New York from 1855 to 1883. Burlage had founded an iron foundry in Germany and had worked in England before moving to New York, where he established a commission house, a successful firm that remained in business until his death.⁵

Louis Amedee (sometimes spelled Amadee) Couturie (1827?-18??) was a French-speaking consul for the Netherlands in New Orleans. Born in Guadeloupe, he moved to New Orleans and established an import firm that dealt in wines and brandy from France. His business partner for some time was an Ernest Bordelois. Despite his reservations about the Suriname colonization scheme, Couturie was a consummate diplomat, willing to follow orders from his superiors. During the Union General Benjamin Butler's occupation of New Orleans, Couturie became caught up in a legal dispute when he used his consulate to protect silver coins belonging to a New Orleans bank.

Lesser-known Dutch consuls in the United States include George K. Zeigler, who was the American consul for the Netherlands in Philadelphia. He was a supporter of the colonization scheme. Henry Raden was the interim consul for the Netherlands

⁴ For more information on the structure of the Dutch diplomatic network in the United States see ch. 5 of M.J. Douma, *How Dutch Americans stayed Dutch* (Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam Press, 2014).

⁵ F. de Goey, *Consuls and the Institutions of Global Capitalism* (New York: Routledge, 2016: first edition 2014 Chatto & Pickering), 101-5; H. Krabbendam, "Capital Diplomacy: Consular Activity in Amsterdam and New York, 1800-1940," in G. Harinck and H. Krabbendam (eds.), *Amsterdam-New York: Transatlantic Relations and Urban Identities since 1653* (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2005), 167-81.

in Boston in 1862. The Boston city directory of 1862 lists Francis Hirsch as the Boston consul for Prussia, Austria, and the Netherlands. By 1864, Christian Bois had taken the post. A[lfred] Schuiking was the Dutch Vice Consul in Washington D.C. Little else is known about these men.

Diplomats in the Netherlands

P[aul] Th[erese] van der Maesen de Sombreff (1827-1902) was the Dutch foreign affairs minister from 1862-1864. De Sombreff worked with U.S. Ambassador James Shepherd Pike to hammer out an agreement on colonization. A member of the second cabinet of Dutch prime minister Johan Rudolph Thorbecke.

Isaac Dignus Fransen van de Putte (1822-1902) was the Dutch colonial minister from 1863 to 1866. A liberal opponent of the Dutch culture system, he had been a sugar planter on Java. He had a brief stint as Prime Minister of the Netherlands in 1866.

W[illem] J. C. ridder Huyssen van Kattendijke (1816-1866) was the interim Dutch foreign affairs minister from 2 January 1864 to 15 March 1865. From The Hague, he was a marine officer who became a liberal politician.⁶ He had practical maritime experience sailing in the Mediterranean, in the East Indies, including the route to Japan, and in the West Indies. He became the Dutch Navy Minister in 1861. Much impressed by the news of the battle between the *Monitor* and *Merrimac*, he encouraged Dutch research for armored ships.

E[pimachus] J[acobus] B. “Eppo” Cremers (1823-1896) was the Dutch foreign affairs minister from 15 March 1864 to 1 June 1866. A liberal politician and supporter of I.D. Fransen van de Putte.

G[erhard] H[endrik] Uhlenbeck (1815-1888) was the Dutch colonial minister from 1 February 1862 to 3 January 1863. Born in Ceylon, he came from a family of naval officers and businessmen. He was partially responsible for proposing the 1862 law for the emancipation of slaves in Suriname and the Dutch West Indies. He also hoped to end the Dutch cultivation system and replace it with free labor in the Dutch East Indies.⁷

⁶ K. Huyssen van Kattendijke-Frank (ed.), *Met Prins Hendrik naar de Oost: De reis van W.J.C. Huyssen van Kattendijke naar Nederlands-Indië, 1836-1838* (Zutphen: Walburg, 2004).

⁷ A. Goss, *The Floracrats: State-Sponsored Science and the Failure of the Enlightenment in Indonesia* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011), 43-4.

Gerhardus Henri Betz (1816-1868), was a member of Thorbecke's liberal cabinet as the minister of finances from 1862 to 1865. He was also the ad interim Dutch colonial minister in January and February 1863. He was responsible for ending Dutch trade protectionism and ushering in an era of free trade.

Adrian David Van der Gon Netscher (1811-??). A Dutch planter who encouraged colonization to increase the laboring population in Suriname. Born in Rotterdam, he became a coffee planter in British Guiana from 1848 to 1857, before returning to live in the Netherlands. He was a writer and an artist.

Locations of Archival Material

National Archives of the Netherlands

Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs, American Legation NA 2.05.13, Folder 142.

Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs
NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

United States National Archives

General Records of the Department of States, RG 56: Diplomatic Instructions from the Department of State, 1801-1906 (vol. 14, Jan. 29, 1833-Sept. 12, 1864).

Dispatches from United States Consuls in Paramaribo, 1799-1997, roll 4, vol. 4: Jan. 9, 1858-Dec. 31, 1862.

Some additional related materials (not selected for inclusion in this volume) can be found in the U.S. National Archives, RG 84: Records of Foreign Service Posts, Diplomatic Posts, Netherlands, Volume 90., which include some correspondence between the U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, James Pike, and the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Van der Maesen Sombreff.

List of Primary Sources

The sources which follow are presented in chronological order, based on the given (or reconstructed/ estimated) date of composition. For each source, I have provided a date, its archival location, its author and when possible its recipient, a note about its original language, and, for longer entries, a summary of contents.

The sources are presented in chronological order, as follows:

1. 7 October 1858. A selection from Abraham Lincoln's Galesburg Debate
2. 25 June 1862. Department of Colonies to Depart of Foreign Affairs
3. 1 July 1862. Th. van der Maesen de Sombreff to Roest van Limburg
4. 19 July 1862. Roest van Limburg to Seward
5. 21 July 1862. Roest van Limburg to Department of Foreign Affairs
6. 22 July 1862. W.H. Seward to Roest van Limburg
7. 25 July 1862. Waldemar Raasloff to Roest van Limburg
8. 28 July 1862. Roest van Limburg to Foreign Affairs
9. 29 July 1862. Roest van Limburg to Foreign Affairs
10. 8 Aug. 1862. Foreign Affairs to Minister of Colonies
11. 11 Aug. 1862. Roest van Limburg to Department of Foreign Affairs
12. 3 Sept. 1862. Sombreff to Roest Van Limburg
13. 3 Sept. 1862. Sawyer to Seward
14. 9 Sept. 1862. Colonies to Foreign Affairs
15. 12 Sept. 1862. Lincoln Executive order on emancipation in the District of Columbia
16. 15 Sept. 1862. Colonies to Foreign Affairs
17. 19 Sept. 1862. Roest van Limburg to Caleb Smith
18. 22 Sept. 1862. Caleb Smith to Roest van Limburg
19. 25 Sept. 1862. Roest van Limburg to Sombreff
20. 27 Sept. 1862. Uhlenbeck (Colonies) to Department of Foreign Affairs
21. 30 Sept. 1862. Sombreff to Roest van Limburg
22. Oct. 1862. Van der Gon Netscher's Publication
23. 8 Oct. 1862. Seward to Pike

24. 11 Oct. 1862. Roest van Limburg to the Department of Foreign Affairs
25. 13 Oct. 1862. The Department of Foreign Affairs to the Department of Colonies
26. 25 Oct. 1862. Sawyer to Seward
27. 27 Oct. 1862. Roest van Limburg to Sombreff
28. 29 Oct. 1862. The Department of Foreign Affairs to the Department of Colonies
29. 31 Oct. 1862. James Pike to Sombreff
30. 1 Nov. 1862. Sombreff to the Department of Colonies
31. 3 Nov. 1862 E. Boonen Graves to Roest van Limburg
32. 5 Nov. 1862. Roest van Limburg to E. Boonen Graves
33. 1862 (no month or date given). Report on Colonization and Emigration made to the Secretary of the Interior by the Agent of Emigration
34. 10 Jan. 1863. Van der Gon Netscher Newspaper Article with article from the British Guiana Newspaper *The Colonist* (5 Nov. 1862)
35. 19 March 1863. Consul Instructions Publication
36. 19 March 1863. Ordinance laborers to Surinam
37. 2 April 1863. The Department of Colonies to the Department of Foreign Affairs
38. 27 April 1863. Sombreff to Roest van Limburg
39. 27 April 1863. Sombreff to Pike
40. 19 May 1863. Roest van Limburg to Sombreff
41. 20 May 1863. Roest van Limburg to Couturie
42. 29 May 1863. Zeigler to Roest van Limburg
43. 30 May 1863. Henry Sawyer to Seward
44. 3 June 1863. Burlage to Roest van Limburg
45. 5 June 1863. Henry Raden to Burlage
46. 5 June 1863. Couturie to Roest van Limburg
47. 6 June 1863. Roest van Limburg to the Department of Foreign Affairs
48. 13 June 1863. Roest van Limburg to the Department of Foreign Affairs
49. 19 June 1863. Roest van Limburg to Sombreff
50. 19 June 1863. Roest van Limburg to Couturie
51. 22 June 1863. Roest van Limburg to the Department of Foreign Affairs
52. 18 July 1863. The Department of Colonies to the Department of Foreign Affairs
53. 31 July 1863. Seward to Pike
54. 31 Aug. 1863. Pike to Sombreff
55. 8 Sept. 1863. Colonies to Foreign Affairs
56. 7 Oct. 1863. Pike to Sombreff
57. 9 Nov. 1863. Pike to Sombreff
58. 11 Nov. 1863. The Department of Foreign Affairs to the Department of Colonies
59. 17 Nov. 1863. Pike to Sombreff
60. 15 Dec. 1863. Proposed Treaty
61. 18 Jan. 1864. Kattendijke to Roest van Limburg

62. 27 Jan. 1864. Sawyer to Seward
63. 30 Jan. 1864. Roest van Limburg to the Department of Foreign Affairs
64. 9 Feb. 1864. Roest van Limburg to Seward
65. 12 Feb. 1864. Seward to Roest van Limburg
66. 13 Feb. 1864. Sawyer to Seward
67. 15 Feb. 1864. Seward to Pike
68. 16 Feb. 1864. Roest van Limburg to Kattendijke
69. 18 Feb. 1864. Roest van Limburg to Kattendijke
70. 23 Feb. 1864. Kattendijke to Roest van Limburg
71. 14 March 1864. Roest van Limburg to Kattendijke
72. 16 March 1864. James Pike to Henry Seward
73. 25 March 1864. Roest van Limburg to the Department of Foreign Affairs
74. 25 April 1864. French Legation to Roest van Limburg
75. 7 Jan. 1865. Van de Putten to Foreign Affairs.
76. 12 Jan. 1865. Cremers to Roest van Limburg
77. 26 Jan. 1865. Amendment to Ordinance
78. 31 Jan. 1865. Roest van Limburg to Cremers
79. 9 Oct. 1865. Van de Putten to Foreign Affairs
80. 18 Oct. 1865. Cremers to Roest van Limburg
81. 9 Nov. 1865. Schuiking to Roest van Limburg
82. 13 Nov. 1865. Roest van Limburg to Cremers
83. 24 Nov. 1865. Roest van Limburg to Foreign Affairs
84. 1865 (no date or month given). James Mitchell's Brief on Emigration & Colonization
85. 10 March 1866. Van Praag to Foreign Affairs
86. 19 March 1866. Van de Putten to Foreign Affairs
87. 22 March 1866. Cremers to Roest van Limburg
88. 13 April 1866. Roest van Limburg to Christian Bois
89. 17 April 1866. Christian Bois to Roest van Limburg
90. 18 April 1866. Christian Bois to Roest van Limburg
91. 18 April 1866. Christian Bois to Roest van Limburg
92. 21 April 1866. Roest van Limburg to Foreign Affairs
93. Nov. 1866. Van der Gon Netscher Publication

N. 54.

Niagara Falls, 6 July 1863

Sonijette van Uze nages
uit de P. I. naar de
Kolonie Suriname

George Myb. Van.



Een voorbeeld g. mynen brief van den 14. de den
 vorig maand 4. 82, betrekking van den land
 kadaster bevestigde omzettingen van vroege nagen. uit
 de S. L. naar de Kolonne Savinard, heb
 ik de van hierwaarts aan den Kadaster ten
 te inden een voppt van de Lande J. van
 gepoed geant met een voppt van den
 Lande de Mattheus en met een voppt
 van de Lande te Phil. voppt ^{altij} betrekking
 het voppten Duitland.

Het Invalide wil ten Dae de die vryfde
 verstanten op dat ^{van} de orgen wil ten
 de ^{van} de orgen wil ten
 later hte. gelyk; ^{van} de orgen wil ten
 Ten vryfde in de hte. hte. vryfde
 vryfde vryfde. ^{van} de orgen wil ten
 de vryfde (at vryfde hte. vryfde
 vryfde vryfde is.

Let me be opposite to Green to that
in the New Orleans you are always under
the hat etc my biggest die in New Orleans
to the nation.

Mrs. W. B. D.

P. 1. My address is Lane Co.
outside of the Jr. ...

1. Date: 7 October 1858

Source: A selection from the Lincoln-Douglas Galesburg Debate, *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 1809-1865. Volume 3 (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1953), pages 233-4.

Author: Abraham Lincoln

Language: English

So far in this controversy I can get no answer at all from Judge Douglas upon these subjects. Not one can I get from him, except that he swells himself up and says, "All of us who stand by the decision of the Supreme Court are the friends of the Constitution; all you fellows that dare question it in any way, are the enemies of the Constitution." Now, in this very devoted adherence to this decision, in opposition to all the great political leaders whom he has recognized as leaders-in opposition to his former self and history, there is something very marked. And the manner in which he adheres to it-not as being right upon the merits, as he conceives (because he did not discuss that at all), but as being absolutely obligatory upon every one simply because of the source from whence it comes-as that which no man can gainsay, whatever it may be-this is another marked feature of his adherence to that decision. It marks it in this respect, that it commits him to the next decision, whenever it comes, as being as obligatory as this one, since he does not investigate it, and won't inquire whether this opinion is right or wrong. So he takes the next one without inquiring whether it is right or wrong. He teaches men this doctrine, and in so doing prepares the public mind to take the next decision when it comes, without any inquiry. In this I think I argue fairly (without questioning motives at all), that Judge Douglas is more ingeniously and powerfully preparing the public mind to take that decision when it comes; and not only so, but he is doing it in various other ways. In these general maxims about liberty-in his assertions that he "don't care whether slavery is voted up or voted down;" that "whoever wants slavery has a right to have it;" that "upon principles of equality it should be allowed to go every where;" that "there is no inconsistency between free and slave institutions." In this he is also preparing (whether purposely or not) the way for making the institution of slavery national! I repeat again, for I wish no misunderstanding, that I do not charge that he means it so; but I call upon your minds to inquire, if you were going to get the best

instrument you could, and then set it to work in the most ingenious way, to prepare the public mind for this movement, operating in the free States, where there is now an abhorrence of the institution of slavery, could you find an instrument so capable of doing it as Judge Douglas? or one employed in so apt a way to do it?

I have said once before, and I will repeat it now, that Mr. Clay, when he was once answering an objection to the Colonization Society, that it had a tendency to the ultimate emancipation of the slaves, said that "those who would repress all tendencies to liberty and ultimate emancipation must do more than put down the benevolent efforts of the Colonization Society—they must go back to the era of our liberty and independence, and muzzle the cannon that thunders its annual joyous return—they must blot out the moral lights around us—they must penetrate the human soul, and eradicate the light of reason and the love of liberty!" And I do think—I repeat, though I said it on a former occasion—that Judge Douglas, and whoever like him teaches that the negro has no share, humble though it may be, in the Declaration of Independence, is going back to the era of our liberty and independence, and, so far as in him lies, muzzling the cannon that thunders its annual joyous return; that he is blowing out the moral lights around us, when he contends that whoever wants slaves has a right to hold them; that he is penetrating, so far as lies in his power, the human soul, and eradicating the light of reason and the love of liberty, when he is in every possible way preparing the public mind, by his vast influence, for making the institution of slavery perpetual and national.

There is, my friends, only one other point to which I will call your attention for the remaining time that I have left me, and perhaps I shall not occupy the entire time that I have, as that one point may not take me clear through it.

2. Date: 25 June 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Colonial Minister G.H. Uhlenbeck (The Hague) to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: This letter is the first to mention the idea of African American colonization in Suriname. It demonstrates that the idea originated with members of the Dutch government but was motivated by developments in the United States.

Afschrift

's Gravenhage, 25 Junij 1862

In verband met het ontwerp van wet [...] A tot afschaffing der slavernij in Suriname, dat thans bij de II Kamer der Staten Generaal ahangig is, en waarvan de overvoer van vrije arbeiders naar de Kolonie, wanneer dat ontwerp tot wet mogt worden verheven een hoofddeel uitmaakt, is, behalve de aangeknoopte onderhandelingen met Engeland over eene te sluiten overeenkomst, tot werving van Koelies in Britsch Indie, waarover laatstelijk handelde mijn schrijven van 1 Junij 1862, I a Bet 36, het denkbeeld bij mij gerezen of de tegenwoordige toestand van de Vereenigde Staten van Noord Amerika, geene gelegenheid zou kunnen openen, om bij de emancipatie onzer slaven, vandaar werkrachten naar Suriname over te voeren.

Het is toch bekend, dat het Afrikaansche menschen ras, niet alleen de Zuidelijke Staten dier Unie, alwaar de slavernij bestaat, maar ook en vooral in de Noordelijke dier Staten, met vooroordeelen, miskenningen en terugzettingen te kampen heeft, die bij het onderwijs welke de gemanumitteerde of vrijgeboren neger genoten heeft, en de burgerlijke vrijheid, welke hij geniet, zijn toestand onaangenaam, ja drukkend maakt.

De Regering dier Staten heeft onder den President Monroe reeds ingezien, de noodzakelijkheid, om voor de massa vrije negers een anderen uitweg aan te wijzen, met het gevolg, dat op Afrikaansch west kust de neger Republiek Liberia met de hoofdstad Monrovia is gesticht, waarvan een groot getal vrije negers den grondslag uitmaakt.

Over de vruchten, welke deze onderneming gedragen heeft, in opzigt tot de verbetering van den stoffelijken en zedelijken toestand der derwaarts gezonden of vertrokken negers, is het oordeel zeer verschillend, maar het is mij voorgekomen dat, wanneer van de Vereenigde Staten negers, als emigranten zouden te verkrijgen

zijn, gelijke vrijheid en bescherming, onder de Nederl. Wetten in Suriname, en de voordeelen, welke de uitgebreide en vruchtbaren bodem hun zou kunnen aanbieden onder uitlokkende bepalingen van de Regering om zich daar te vestigen, na eene werkovereenkomst voor eenige, zegge bv. vijf jaren, met een planter aan te gaan, dit alles geschikt zou kunnen zijn, om tot emigratie naar Suriname aan te sporen.

Ik kom derhalve UE tusschenkomst inroepen, om dat denkbeeld, wel te willen onderwerpen aan Onzen Gezant te Washintgon ten einde te worden ingelicht of er uitzigt zou bestaan op zoodanige emigratie naar Suriname, en welke casu quo de bepalingen en maatregelen zouden dienen te zijn, door de Regering te nemen, om het beoogde doel te bereiken.

Aangenaam zou het mij zijn als dit punt door Ue in spoedige behandeling mogt kunnen worden genomen, en mij den uitslag haren welwillende tusschenkomst in tijd en wijle werd medegedeeld.

De Minister van Kolonien,

(get.) Uhlenbeck

* * *

Copy

The Hague, 25 June 1862

In connection with the bill for the abolition of slavery in Suriname, which is now being considered before the Second Chamber¹ of the States General, and of which draft the provision for the transportation of free workers to the Colony (if that bill is to be elevated to law), forms a major part, besides the already established negotiations with England to conclude a contract to recruit Coolies in British India, as I described in my last writing on this matter on 1 June 1862, I have thought that considering the present situation in the United States of North America, an opportunity could arise with the emancipation of our slaves² that laborers could be brought from there over to Suriname.

It is well known that the African race, not only in the Southern states of the Union, where slavery still exists, but also most of all in the Northern states, fights against prejudice and setbacks, while the education that the manumitted or free-born Negro has enjoyed, and the civil freedom which he enjoys, makes his situation unpleasant, indeed oppressive.

¹ The Netherlands' House of Representatives: Tweede Kamer.

² "Our slaves" refers to the slaves in the Dutch Caribbean, which Uhlenbeck knew were scheduled to be emancipated on 1 July 1863.

The Government of those States has under President Monore already seen the necessity of directing the bulk of free negroes to another exit, with the consequence that on the west coast of Africa the negro Republic Liberia was founded with the capital city Monrovia, whose population consists of a great number of free negroes.

The fruits which this undertaking has bared, in respect to the improvement of the material and moral condition of the negroes who were sent there or chose to go there, are quite varied. But it occurs to me that if the negroes from the United States can be received as emigrants with equal freedom and protection under the Dutch laws in Suriname, and if the advantages of this extensive and fertile land could be offered to them under the provisions of the Government to establish themselves there, after entering a contract for, say, five years, with a planter, all of this would be fit to encourage an emigration to Suriname.

I therefore ask for your intermediation in informing Our Minister in Washington of this idea to see if he has any insight into such an emigration to Suriname and what (he thinks) are in that case the provisions and regulations to be taken by the Government in order to reach this goal in sight.

I shall be pleased if you would act quickly on this matter and report to me from time to time on the results of your benevolent intermediation.

The Minister of Colonies,

(signed) Uhlenbeck

3. Date: 1 July 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Authors: P.Th. van der Maesen de Sombreff (The Hague) to Roest van Limburg (Washington, D.C.)

Language: Dutch

Note: De Sombreff requests more information, so that the Dutch can write a proposal to send to Washington, as Walker has done for the Danish on St. Croix.¹

Dierbare Heer Roest van Limburg

Buitengewoon Gezant & Gevolgmagtigd Minister van z. M. den Koning der Nederlanden te Washington

Hoog Edel Gestrenge Heer,

Ik heb de eer UHEdG: hiernevens afschrift te doen toekomen eener missive van mijn ambt. Genoot van Kolonien, 25 Junij W: 13 B, waarin met het oog op het thans bij de tweede kamer der Staten Generaal aanhangige wetsontwerp tot afschaffing der slavernij in Suriname, het denkbeeld wordt geopperd eener emigratie van negers uit de Vereenigde Staten naar gemelde Nederlandsche Kolonie, en inlichtingen te dier zake worden verlangd.

Mij gedragende aan de inhoud van voormeld schrijven, verzoek ik UHEG: mij zijne denkbeelden dienaangaande mee te willen mededeelen, en daarbij zoo noodig, de tusschenkomst der Noord Amerikaansche Regering in te roepen tot het verkrijgen van inlichtingen omtrent de mogelijkheid en wijze van bereiking van het door mijn ambtegenoot beoogde doel, waaromtrent gelijk UHEG bekend is, onlangs ook door den Heer Walker te St. Croix, ten behoeve dier Deensche kolonie, voorstellen aan het kabinet te Washington gedaan te zijn.

¹ George Walker was an agent of St. Croix in New York. Denmark was the first nation to seek an agreement with the Lincoln administration to receive African Americans as laborers. The Danish worked from the precedent of an agreement made with U.S. President James Buchanan regarding settling slaves freed from captured slave ships. For more information on the similar negotiations between the U.S. and St. Croix see M.J. Douma and A.B. Ramussen, "The Danish St. Croix Project: Revisiting the Lincoln Colonization Program with Foreign-Language Sources," *American Nineteenth Century History* 15:3 (2014), 311-42.

Gelief, HoogEdelGestrenge Heer, de vernieuwde verzekering mijner hoogacht-
ing aan te nemen,

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff.

* * *

Dear Sir Roest van Limburg
Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the
Netherlands in Washington

Dear Sir,²

I have the honor herewith to provide you a copy of the letter of my colleague the
minister of Colonies, dated 25 June W:13 B, wherein the idea has been put forward,
given the present proposal for the abolition of slavery in Suriname now being con-
sidered in the second chamber of the States General, of an emigration of negroes
from the United States to the said Dutch Colony and in which information regard-
ing this matter is required.

Acting on the contents of the said letter, I request you, sir, to give your opinions
concerning the matter, and thereby to call on the cooperation of the North American
Government to acquire information concerning the possibility and manner of
reaching the goal my colleague has set in sight, and about which as you are aware
Mr. Walker of St. Croix, acting on behalf of the Danish colony, has made a proposal
to the cabinet in Washington.

Dear Sir, receive the renewed assurance of my high regard,

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

² The Dutch uses “Hoog Edel Gestrenge Heer”, a term denoting the high official status
of the addressee.

4. Date: 19 July 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to William H. Seward

Language: French

Note: A scribbled copy of the original French exists in collection 2.05.13 in The Hague. Due to the difficult handwriting of this French copy, I have not provided a transcription of the original French here. The U.S. Department of State employed translators who faithfully rendered received foreign language letters into English. The following translation appears in the ledger of incoming letters from the Netherlands Legation in the U.S. to the U.S. Department of State National Archives, M56, T5: Notes from the Netherlands Legation in the U.S. to the Dept. of State, 1810-1906 (Sept. 8, 1861-Dec. 28, 1864).

Detroit, 19 July 1862
The Hon. Mr. Seward

Sir,

Whilst the States General of the Netherlands are engaged with the draft of a law for the abolition of slavery in the colony of Surinam, the Government of the King has under consideration the introduction of free laborers, which, the adoption of the measure proposed would render necessary, and it is asked whether among the people of color, who in the United States have acquired, or are acquiring their freedom, there could not be found many who would be willing to engage for a certain term of years (say for example 5 years) to dispose of their labor to the planters under the protection of the Netherlands law, and in consideration of some advantages connected with their emigration to a country so fertile and extensive as that spoken of – The King's Minister of Foreign Affairs has done me the honor to communicate this idea to me, and has authorized me, Mr. Secretary of State, to submit it officially to you, not only for the purpose of learning if the Government of the United States would be disposed to cooperate but also to benefit by the rights which it would be able to throw upon the question.

I avail myself of this authorization, Sir, to have the honor to address you officially, and to request you will have the kindness to inform me of the dispositions of the Government of the United States in relation to the measure in question, and

if favorable to it, to enlighten me with the information which its knowledge of the African race has given to it.

If, in your opinion, Sir, the ends aimed at can be attained, I shall be happy to be able to communicate to the Royal Government, how, in your judgment, it would be most effectively.

I seize this fresh occasion Sir to repeat the assurances of my high consideration.

Roest Van Limburg

5. Date: 21 July 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to Department of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: What follows is the first part of a letter, the second half being somewhat illegible in the original. The most important parts of the letter are transcribed here. The final three paragraphs have been omitted. This letter is also numbered as letter number 76 in Roest van Limburg's correspondence.

Detroit, 21 July 1862

Hoogwelgeb. Heer,

Met veel belangstelling heb ik kennis genomen van Uwe Exc. depeche van den 1ste dezer maand, No. 35, en der bijgevoegde missive van Z. Exec. Den Minister van Kolonien, betreffelijk tot denkbeeld eener emigratie van negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname, in geval van afschaffing der slavernij aldaar.

Waardeerende de eer die mij aangedaan wordt door mijne denkbeelden dien-aangaande te raadplegen, heb ik mij begeerd dezelve op te klaren door het inwinnen van inlichtingen zoo bij de Amerikaansche Regering als bij de zaakgelastigde van Denemarken; bij dezen laatste, inzonderheid, met het oog op wat tusschen hem en de Regering der V.S. verhandeld geworden is betreffelijk emigratie van negers uit de V.S. naar St. Croix.

In afwachting der antwoorden van den heer Seward en den Colonel von Raasloff,¹ en na met den generaal Cass over de aangelegenheid te hebben gesproken, geef ik mij [eens] de eer een paar punten aan te raken waaromtrent de generaal en ik het geheel eens zijn, namelijk:

1. Dat er uit de noordelijke staten zeer weinig of geen negers voor arbeid op plantages te bekomen zullen zijn:
2. Dat het verkieslijker zijn zou de negers te doen contracteeren met de Nederl. Regering liever dan met planters.

¹ The Danish chargé d'affairs, the equivalent of an amabassador, in Washington D.C.

- A. No 1. De in de noordelijke staten gevestigd negers zijn meerendeels knechts in logementen, restaurants, stoomboten, enz koetsiers. Men vindt er ook in particulieren huizen en in andere werkkringen, doch zeer weinigen werken als arbeiders op het land. De negers die als bedienden of koetsiers dienst doen, bekomen doorgaans 10 a 12 p.c. minder loon dan de blanken.

[Note in margin] De voornaamste plaatsen van aanneming en inscheeping zoude denkt mij Baltimore en N. Orleans zijn.

* * *

Detroit, 21 July 1862

Dear Sir,

With much interest I have become acquainted with Your Excellency's dispatch of the 1st of this month, No. 35, and with the attached letter from His Excellency the Minister of Colonies, regarding the idea of an emigration of negroes from the U.S. to Suriname, in case of abolition of slavery there.

Appreciative of the honor done to me by you having consulted my ideas, I have desired to clarify my thoughts on the matter by obtaining information from the American Government as well as from the chargé d'affaires of Denmark; from the latter, especially, with an eye towards what has been discussed between him and the American Government regarding the emigration of negroes from the U.S. to St. Croix.

In expectation of the answers from Mr. Seward and the Colonel van Raasloff, and having had the opportunity to speak with General Cass about the matter, I have the honor to touch upon few points about the matter where the General and I are in agreement, namely:

1. That from the northern states there shall be very few, if any, negroes available for work on plantations.
 2. That it would be more preferable to let negroes establish contracts with the Dutch Government than with individual planters.
- A. No. 1. Negroes in the northern states are for the most part servants in houses, restaurants, steamboats, etc, as coachmen. One finds them also in individual houses and in other types of work, but very few work as laborers

on the land. The negroes who are servants or coachmen earn generally about 10 to 12 percent less in salary than the whites.

[Note in margin] The principal places for hiring and embarkation should be, I think, Baltimore and New Orleans.

6. Date: 22 July 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: W.H. Seward (Washington, D.C.) to Roest van Limburg (Detroit)

Language: English

Note: This document exists as a copy made by a secretary in the Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs.

Department of State
Washington, 22^d July 1862
To Roest van Limburg, Detroit.

Sir,

I have received your note of the 19th instant, representing that you had been instructed to ascertain if free persons of African extraction in the United States could be induced to repair as laborers to the Netherlands colony of Surinam, and inquiring as to the disposition of the Government on that subject.

In reply, I have to state that it is believed the demand for laborers of that class in the military and naval service of the United States alone is sufficient to outweigh any inducement to their emigration abroad likely to be offered by foreign countries. By acts of the last session of Congress, however, authority has be[en]¹ given to the Executive to enter into contracts with the representation of Governments having possessions in the West India Islands to receive there not only Africans captured in vessels engages in the slave trade, but also of freed persons in the United States of African descent. If your government should be disposed to enter into such contracts, you are recommended to apply to the Secretary of the Interior, who has been charged with that business, on the part of the Government of the United States.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant

Wm. H. Seward

¹ In the Dutch copy of the original letter, the word “been” has likely been falsely copied as “be.”

7. Date: 25 July 1862

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: W. Raasløff (Long Branch, New Jersey Mansion House) to Roest van Limburg

Language: French

Note: The Danish minister is willing to aid Roest van Limburg in gathering information about colonization, but he warns that Africans Americans appear unwilling to migrate.

Mon cher collègue!

Je reçus votre aimable lettre du 19 la veille de mon départ de Washington – j’étais alors très indisposé et très occupé – depuis lors j’ai voyagé et ce n’est que depuis hier que je suis casé – comme on peut l’être dans un watering-place américain – et en état d’écrire une lettre. Laissez-moi donc espérer que vous ne m’en voudrez pas de vous avoir fait attendre si long. Elle me/ne sere² avec tout cela que préalable, car il y a pas mal de choses à dire sur le sujet dont vous vous occupez. J’ai commencé par écrire à M. Hunter pour le prier de vouloir bien m’envoyer un exemplaire de la correspondance imprimée entre M. Seward et moi – quand je l’aurai, je vous l’enverrai. Vous avez lu dans les journaux que j’ai fait, avant de quitter Washington, avec le Secr. de l’Intérieur un arrangement pour que les ‘recaptured Africans’ soient désormais envoyés à St Croix au lieu de Libérie. Si vous le désirez je vous enverrai une copie de cet arrangement. Quant à l’immigration des nègres contrabands³ ou émancipés par suite de “la Confiscation Act” il y a je crois rien à faire pour le moment. Ces messieurs ne sont nullement disposés à émigrer – leur position actuelle étant trop bonne et leur attachement au sol trop fort. Mais la misère viendra – le Gouv. des E.U. sera bientôt très intéressé à se débarrasser de toute cette population et alors viendra je crois le moment pour vous et moi d’agir. Je vous avoue du reste que je n’ai pas étudié cette dernière question comme j’ai l’intention ^et comme je devrai^ de la faire car du moment que je me ^suis [?]^ convaincu qu’il n’y avait rien à faire dans cette

² sert?

³ Only a closing quotation around “contrabands” in the original letter. Likely the author meant to put quotes around the whole word “contrabands” which was in that year being used in a new way, to refer to slaves who had run to union lines.

direction, pour le moment, du moins, j'ai concentré mon attention et mes efforts aux affaires des "recaptured Africans" qui j'ai réussi à mener à bonne fin. Je ne sais pas du reste si nos⁴ colonies gagneront beaucoup à s'enrichir (sic) de ces nègres qui, avant d'émigrer, auront passé par un état de liberté de paresse, et de licence – mais, cela sera à examiner plus tard.

Je vous quitte pour aujourd'hui mais en me réservant de causer plus longuement avec vous sur tous ces [?] – le temps me manque pour le moment – et je n'ai pas besoin de vous assurer du plaisir que j'aurai à vous fournir tous les renseignements que vous désirez et que je possède.

C'est mon intention de rester ici quelques semaines pour me remettre à neuf à l'aide d'une certaine quantité de "surf bates". Le Comte Piper est ici et se recommande à votre bon souvenir et se joint à moi pour présenter ses plus respectueux compliments à Madame de Limbourg. Veuillez aussi je vous prie me rappeler au bienveillant souvenir de Général Cass pour lequel j'ai une véritable vénération, et me croire

Votre sincèrement dévoué collègue

Vous pouvez m'adresser comme ci-dessus si vous voulez m'écrire dans une quinzaine d'ici.

* * *

My dear colleague!

I received your agreeable letter of the nineteenth the day before my departure from Washington – at the time, I was unwell and very busy – since which time I have been traveling, and it's only since yesterday that I have been able to settle down – as is known to happen⁵ in an American watering-place⁶ – or been in a state to write a letter. Let me hope, then, that you are not annoyed with me for keeping you waiting so long. It does not help with much more than the preliminaries,⁷ because there are a decent number of things to say on the subject in which you are engaged. I started by writing to Mr. Hunter to ask him to kindly send me a copy of the published correspondence between Mr. Seward and me – when I have it, I will send it to

⁴ Perhaps vos.

⁵ Overall, this phrasing can cover either his behavioral state, or literally the problem of finding a room – I am unclear which of them is coming up here, given what follows.

⁶ Or spa/ seaiside resort.

⁷ Literally, then, "it does not help with all of that [other] than [that which is] preliminary"?

you. You have read in the newspapers that, before leaving Washington, I made an arrangement for the “recaptured Africans” to be sent hereafter to St Croix instead of Liberia. If you like, I will send a copy of this arrangement. As to the immigration of “contraband” negroes, or those freed due to the “Confiscation Act,” I believe there is nothing to do for the moment. These gentlemen are not at all inclined to emigrate – their current situation being too good and their attachment to the soil too strong. But misery will strike – the U.S. Govt. will soon be very interested in relieving itself of all that part of the population, and then, I think, the moment will come for you and me to act. Besides, I have to confess to you that I have not studied the latter question as much as I intend and ought to, because as long as I was convinced that there was nothing to do toward that end, at least for the time being, I concentrated my attention and my efforts on the “recaptured African” business, which I managed to carry through. Moreover, I do not know whether our colonies will gain much by enriching (sic)⁸ themselves from those negroes who, before emigrating, will have passed through a state of freedom of laziness, and of license – but that will be something to investigate later.

I leave you for now, but with a promise of talking to you at greater length on all these matters – I do not have enough time at the moment – and I need not assure you of the pleasure that I will have in providing you all the information that you desire and that I possess.

I intend to stay here a few weeks to refresh myself with the help of a certain amount of “surf bates.”⁹ Count Piper¹⁰ is here and asks to be remembered to you, and joins me in presenting his most respectful compliments to Madame de Limbourg. I also kindly ask you to remember me to General Cass, for whom I have the utmost respect, and believe me

Your sincerely devoted colleague

You can write me at the above address, if you want to write me within the next fortnight.

⁸ This “sic” is in the original, intended as sarcastic commentary on the worth of the immigrants.

⁹ As in “surf baits”, i.e. surf-fishing?

¹⁰ Swedish Count Edward Piper who helped out with Danish-American diplomacy when Raasløff was absent, and otherwise just took care of Swedish-American stuff i.e. in 1864 (when his government tries to get a better understanding of how the Monitor works).

8. Date: 28 July 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: The following newspaper clipping came to The Hague attached to a short letter, only a copy of which is retained, and in poor handwriting. The letter is a follow-up to Roest van Limburg's letter from 21 July. The attached newspaper clipping reported on the signing of an agreement between the U.S. and Denmark to send all captured slaves in the slave trade to St. Croix to work for five years, and to give them land and provide them with clothes and shelter.

No. 80¹¹

Detroit, 28 July 1862

HoogWelGeb. Heer,

Ten vervolge op mijne missive van den 21er deze No. 76 en nog tegemoet ziende de vermelde antwoorden der heer Seward en Van Raasloff heb ik de eer hierna Uwe Excellent. toe te zenden eenen uit uwe laatste officiële depeche van Washington uitgeknipte copy eener overeenkomst dezer dagen aangegaan tusschen den zaakgelastigen v. Denemarken en de Minister van Binnenl. Zaken der V.S. betreffende negers van de Deensche kolonie St. Croix.

Met eerbied

* * *

No. 80

Detroit, 28 July 1862

Dear Sir,

In follow-up to my letter of the 21st of this month, No. 76, and still looking forward to the mentioned answers from Mr. Seward and Van Raasloff, I have the

¹¹ Dutch diplomats often used a numbering system for easy reference to past correspondence.

honor herewith to send to Your Excellency clipped copy of an official report from Washington regarding an agreement made recently between the chargé d'affaires of Denmark and the U.S. Secretary of Interior relating to negroes of the Danish colony St. Croix.

Respectfully

Disposal of Recaptured Africans

From the *National Intelligencer*

In acceptance of a proposition made some time since by the Danish Government, and communicated by the President to Congress, an act was passed at the recent session authorizing the President to enter into arrangement with one or more foreign Governments having possessions in the West Indies or other tropical regions to receive from the United States all negroes delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the Slave-trade by commanders of United States vessels, and to provide them with suitable instruction, clothing and shelter, and to employ them at wages, under such regulations, as shall be agreed upon, for a period not exceeding five years from the date of their being landed at the place or places agreed upon. In pursuance of this act, the subjoined contract has just been entered into by the Minister of Denmark and the Secretary of the Interior on part of the United States.

COPY OF THE AGREEMENT

This agreement, entered into between Waldemar Rudolph Von Raasloff, *Chargé d'Affaires* for and on behalf of the Government of Denmark and Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, for and on behalf of the Government of the United States, witnesseth:

That the Government of Denmark agrees to receive from the United States, through its duly constituted authorities, for a term of five years, at a landing-place called West-end, on the Danish Island called St. Croix, in the West Indies, all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the Slave-trade by commanders of United States armed vessels, and to provide them with suitable instruction, and with comfortable clothing and shelter, and to employ them at wages in conformity with the provisional act issued by the Governor of St. Croix on the 26th day of January, 1849, entitled "Provisional act to regulate the relations between the proprietors of landed estates and the rural population of free laborers is copy of which is hereto annexed)¹² for a period not exceeding five years from the date of their being landed at the aforesaid landing-place, and that the United States shall not be liable for any expenses on account of said negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, after having landed them at the aforesaid landing-place.

¹² The original is missing closing quotation marks.

And the Government of the United States agrees to deliver to the Government of Denmark, or its duly constituted authorities, at the aforesaid landing-place on the Danish Island of St. Croix, in the West Indies, whenever practicable, all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color delivered from on board vessels seized in the prosecution of the Slave-trade by commanders of United States armed vessels during the five years next succeeding the date of this agreement, and to issue instructions to the commanders of the armed vessels of the United States, directing them, whenever it shall be practicable, and under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the President of the United States to proceed to the aforesaid landing-place on the Danish island of St. Croix, and there deliver to the duly constituted authorities of the Government of Denmark all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color delivered from on board vessels seized in the persecution of the Slave-trade.

And as further agreed that the Government of Denmark shall allow the United States Consul for St. Croix or another agent as the Government of the United States may appoint for that purpose, freely and without hinder, and at all times to visit and inspect the condition of the negroes, mulattoes or persons of color that may have been landed on the Island of St. Croix under this agreement.

Signed, sealed and delivered in duplicate at the City of Washington, this nineteenth day of July, A.D. eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

W. RAASLOFF, *Chargé d'Affaires*

CALEB B. SMITH, *Secretary of Interior*

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of Geo. Walker and George. C. Whiting.

9. Date: 29 July 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: The surviving source is a poorly-written copy, made by a secretary in the Dutch Department of Foreign Affairs. Roest van Limburg sometimes uses the term “emigration” instead of “colonization”, the latter being a term in use in the United States to specifically refer to African American emigration. Roest van Limburg mentions an answer from Seward, but no additional information about Seward’s answer is available.

No. 81

Detroit, 29 July 1862

Hoogwelgeb Heer,

Ten vervolge op mijn brieven van den 21ste en den 28ste deze maand, No. 76 en 80 zakende het denkbeeld eene emigratie van Negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname, heb ik de eer hiernevens aan Uwe Exc. toe te zenden het antwoord welke ik, deze morgen, ontving van den heer Seward op mijne aan hem ter dier zake gerigt schrijven, waarvan ik de eer had [om uwe Exc.]¹³ copie over te leggen bij mijn schrijven op de 21ste, no. 76.

Ook van den Deenschen zaakgelastigen ontving ik deze morgen een voorlopig antwoord. “*J’ai commencé par écrire à Mr. Hunter*” Ik heb de eer het hiernevens, confidencieel, aan Uwe Excellentie toe te zenden.

Met eerbied

* * *

¹³ Text in margin.

No. 81.

Detroit, 29 July, 1862

Dear Sir,

In follow-up to my letters of the 21st and 28th of this month, numbers 76 and 80, concerning the idea of an emigration of Negroes from the U.S. to Suriname, I have the honor herewith to send to Your Excellency an answer which I received this morning from Mr. Seward, to my letter I sent to him about this matter, of which I had the honour to send [your Exc] a copy in my writing number 76.

Also from the Danish minister I received this morning a provisionally answer: “~~J’ai commence par escrire a Mr. Hunter~~”. I have the honor to send this, confidentially, to Your Excellency.

Respectfully

10. Date: 8 Aug. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Van der Maesen de Sombreff, Minister of Netherlands Foreign Affairs to Minister of Colonies

Language: Dutch. The original letter survives only in a copy made at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Note: The Dutch Colonial Ministry and the Dutch Department of Foreign Affairs are cooperating on this project. They are waiting to hear more from Roest van Limburg.

Naar aanleiding van uwer Exc' missive van 25 Junij jl. No. 13 B, betreffende de emigratie van negers uit de Vereenigde Staten naar Suriname, heb ik de tusschenkomst van Z.M.' Gezant te Washington ingeroepen, ter verkrijging van inlichtingen omtrent de mogelijkheid en wijze van bereiking van het door UEG beoogde doel. In antwoord daarop, ontving ik bij nevens gaanden [~~depictie?~~] brief d. 21 Julij No. 76, met bijlage van den M. Roest van Limburg, waarbij voorlopig eenige beschouwingen ter zake worden medegedeeld, in afwachting der antwoorden van den Amerikaanschen Minister van Staat en van den Deenschen zaakgelastigen aldaar, op de van hen [van] gemelden Gezant gevraagde inlichtingen.

Zodra nadere berigten ter zake van den M. Roest van Limburg mij zullen geworden, zal ik mij beijveren deselve ter kennis van Uwe Exc. te brengen, terwijl het mij aangenaam zal zijn, na gemaakt gebruik, de bijlagen dezes van UHEg te mogen terug ontvangen.

De Min. Buit. Zaken.

VdMds

* * *

In reference to your letter of the 25th of June, Number 13 B, concerning the emigration of Negroes from the United States to Suriname, I have called for the intercession of His Majesty's Minister in Washington, for information regarding the possibility of reaching the goal you have in sight. In answer, I received the enclosed letter dated 21 July, Number 76, from Minister Roest van Limburg, in which it was stated that he

is waiting for an answer from the American Minister of State and the Danish chargé d'affaires there, whom the Minister has asked for information.

As soon as I receive further information from M. Roest van Limburg, I will bring it to your attention, as it will also please me if after your use, you return the reports that you have received.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs,

VdMdS

11. Date: 11 Aug. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” (copy # 516)

Author: Roest van Limburg (Sharon Springs) to Department of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg shows sympathy for African Americans facing violence from working class whites.

Extract N. 85

Sharon Springs, 11 Aug. 1862

UEgeb Heer,

Verontrustend worden de mishandelingen der vrije nijvere negers door de blanke arbeiders klasse, meerendeels zamengestelde uit ruwe en armoedige Ieren, die, vaak, te lui of te baldadig om voor de enorme loonen van 1½ a 2 dollars daags, te willen werken, de negers die het goedkoper doen, aanvallen.

Als proeve daarvan heb ik de eer een paar extracten uit den New York Times in te sluiten, betreffende het gebeurde te Brooklyn eene stad aangrenzende aan New York.

Op enz.

(get.) Roest van Limburg

* * *

Extract No. 85

Sharon Springs,¹⁴ 11 Aug. 1862

Dear Sir,

The actions of the white working class, consisting mostly of rough and impoverished Irish men, against the free industrious Negroes have been disturbing. These

¹⁴ Sharon Springs, New York.

men who are too lazy or too wanton to be willing to work for the enormous wage of 1 and a half to two dollars a day, attack the Negroes who work for less.

As evidence of this, I submit a few extracts from the New York Times, relating to the occurrences in Brooklyn, a city bordering New York.

(signed)¹⁵ Roest van Limburg

¹⁵ This is a secretary's copy of the original letter. The secretary added the word "signed" next to the copy of Roest van Limburg's signature.

12. Date: 3 Sept. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: P.Th. van der Maesen de Sombreff (The Hague) to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: De Sombreff shares Roest van Limburg's sympathy for mistreatment of African Americans. He encourages Roest van Limburg to seek out more information for their cause.

Den Heere Roest van Limburg

Buitengewoon Gezant & gevolmagtigd Minister van Z.M. den Koning der Nederlanden te Washington

Hoog Edel Gestrenge Heer,

Ik heb de eer gehad te ontvangen UHEdg. dépêches van 21, 28, 29 July, 11 Augustus, No. 76, 80, 81, & 84, betreffende het denkbeeld eener emigratie van negers uit de Verenigde Staten naar Suriname.

Het Departement van Kolonien aan hetwelk uwe berigten en beschouwingen zijn medegedeeld heeft daarvan met veel belangstelling kennis genomen en mij verzocht de behartiging dier aangelegenheid UHEdG: aan te bevelen.

Ik voldoe gaarne aan dat verlangen en vind daartoe te meer aanleiding in het bericht omtrent de schandelijke mishandeling der vrij negers vervat in Uwe laatst-gemelde dépêche.

UHEG: zal zich derhalve thans tot de Secretaris van Staat voor Binnenlandsche Zaken kunnen wenden, overeenkomstig het voorstel van den Heer Seward, (medegedeeld bij Uwe depeche van 29 July) en van dien Minister trachten te vernemen, op welke voorwaarden zijne Regering genegen zou zijn met die der Nederlanden eene overeenkomst aan te gaan over de zaak der emigratie van vrije negers naar Suriname.

Gelief, Hoog Edel Gestrenge Heer, de vernieuwde verzekering mijner hoogachting aan te nemen.

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

* * *

Mr. Roest van Limburg
Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty, the King of the
Netherlands in Washington

Dear Sir,

I had the honor to receive your dispatches of 21, 28, 29 July, 11 August, Numbers 76, 80, 81 & 84, relating to the notion of an emigration of Negroes from the United States to Suriname.

The Department of Colonies, to whom your messages and considerations have been communicated, has taken great interest in learning of this and has requested me to commend you in the matter.

I will gladly fulfill that request, all the more so because of your message about the shameful mistreatment of the free Negroes described in your last dispatch.

You shall now, therefore, be able to turn to the Secretary of State for Interior Affairs, as proposed by Mr. Seward (communicated in your dispatch of 29 July), and attempt to ascertain through that Minister which conditions would satisfy his Government in coming to an agreement with the Netherlands about the emigration of free Negroes to Suriname.

Dear Sir, accept the renewed assurance of my respect,

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

13. Date: 3 Sept. 1862

Source: (U.S. National Archives, Dispatches from United States Consuls in Paramaribo, 1799-1997, roll 4, vol. 4: January 9, 1858 – December 31, 1863)

Author: Henry Sawyer, consul to William H. Seward

Language: English

Note: The American Ambassador in Suriname writes directly to Seward, expressing his desire to bring black laborers to the plantations in Suriname. He describes Suriname and potential labor contracts in glowing terms. Sawyer has learned about colonization plans from the Governor of Suriname, who has learned from the Dutch government. A potential line of further research would be to find papers in which the Dutch government described these plans to the Governor of Suriname. While the Governor of Suriname is clearly aware of the idea, and perhaps others in Suriname are as well, neither details nor discussion of the colonization plan appear in Surinamese newspapers in 1862-1865. Sawyer plays the booster for his adopted Suriname.

United States Consulate

Port of Paramaribo

September 3, 1862

Honorable Hon William H. Seward

Secretary of State of the United States of America

Sir

I most respectfully beg to inform you that the planters and other inhabitants of this colony have requested me to apply to my government in order to solicit information relative to the disposition of the free blacks in the United States as the emancipation of the slaves in this colony (about 37.000) takes place the ensuing year in the month of July and the planters are very desirous of attaining emigrants that they may continue with their plantations as undoubtedly their emancipated blacks will not be inclined to work at first.

If it should please the U.S. government to send here two or three hundred families immediately they will find ample employment on the Sugar, Cotton, Cocoa and coffee plantations at a fair remuneration and receive good treatment.

I also offer my services acting as agent for the U.S. government and will provide for them on their arrival here, by procuring them suitable situations.

In order to incur as little expense as possible to the U.S. government I beg to suggest that the emigrants refund the amount paid for their passage and other expenses, by a small amount of their wages being withheld by their employers monthly and paid into my hands for the account of the United States until the requested sum is collected.

There will of course be some expense incurred on their first landing such as house rent and provisions.

The Governor and authorities are much in favor of the scheme and will give me all possible assistances.

Twenty of three thousand can be employed here on the plantations.

The Governor has informed me that the Netherlands government have addressed the United States government upon the subject.

The planters will furnish houses and medical attendance gratis and their pay will be according to the amount of labor they perform which is from one to three guilders per diem.

There is not a colony in all the West Indies so healthy at present and has been for years and to my knowledge for fifteen years past (during which time I have resided here) as this, being free from all contagious or pestilential diseases whatsoever.

The planters propose to send an agent to the United States to ascertain the fitness of the emigrants to performed our field labor and if possible to make an agreement that they shall be indentured to the plantations to which they engage for the term of three years which condition can be considered as much in their favor as the planters. As by this they have a guarantee of being fairly paid for their labor during that time and will become well acquainted with the country its inhabitants and customs and will be better able after those three years to to judge for themselves whether a contract is more profitable or to settle themselves some other way.

There is not a place in the West Indies where so little distinction of color is made as in this colony and in every respect the emigrants will be treated as becomes Christian free people.

Hoping to have an early response.

I am your most faithful and obedient servant,

Henry Sawyer

Enclosure

14. Date: 9 Sept. 1862 (received 11 Sept.)

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 "Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870." (Copy 514)

Author: Minister of Colonies to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Forwarded info from Roest van Limburg.

's Gravenhage, den 9 September 1862

Met dankbetuiging heb ik de eer Uwer Excellentie hierbij terug te zenden de missive van den Amerikaanschen Minister Resident alhier, dt. 29 Augustus ll, welke gevoegd was bij Uwer Excellenties brief van den 3^{de} dezer no. 3.

Voor den Minister van Kolonien,

De Secretaris Generaal

* * *

The Hague, 9 September 1862

With gratitude, I have the honor to send in return to Your Excellency the letter of the American Minister Resident here, dated 29 August, which was added to Your Excellency's letter of the 3rd of this month, no. 3.

For the Minister of Colonies,

The Secretary General

15. Date: 12 Sept. 1862

Source: Senate Executive Document #55 (Washington D.C., Government Printing Office)

Author: Abraham Lincoln

Language: English

Note: Slaves in Washington D.C. are emancipated by federal act. Appropriation for colonization is attached to this measure, indicating the connecting between emancipation and colonization.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, September 12, 1862.

The Department of the Interior is charged, under the direction of the President, with the execution of the 11th section of the act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia, approved April 16, 1862; and that portion of section 1 of the act making supplemental appropriations for sundry civil expenses, approved July 16, 1862, which appropriates \$500,000 for the colonization of certain persons of African descent.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

16. Date: 12 Sept. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” (copy 515)

Author: Minister of Colonies to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Information gathered from Roest van Limburg in the United States bounces back and forth between the two Dutch departments.

Aan Zyne Excellentie den Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken

's Gravenhage, den 12 September 1862

Met dankbetuiging heb ik de eer Uwer Excellentie hiernevens terug te zenden de stukken betreffende het bezigen van vrije negers op St. Croix en het couranten uitknipsel over de mishandeling der vrije negers in de Verenigde Staten mij medegedeeld bij Uwer Excellentie's missive van den 3^{de} dezer, No. 56.

Voor den Minister van Kolonien,

De Secretaris Generaal

* * *

To His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

The Hague, 12 September 1872

With gratitude, I have the honor to send in return to Your Excellency the pieces regarding the making use of free Negroes at St. Croix and the newspaper clipping about the mistreatment of free Negroes in the United States, communicated to me in Your Excellency's letter of the 3rd, No. 56.

For the Minister of Colonies,

The Secretary General

17. Date: 19 Sept. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Caleb Smith

Language: English

Note: Van Limburg presents a formal request to discuss African American emigration with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

New York, 19 Sept. 1862

The Honorable Caleb Smith, Secretary of the Interior

Sir,

By legislative action of the 8th of August, slavery has been abolished in the Netherlands colonies of Surinam, Curacao, Bonaire, Aruba, St. Eustatius, Saba, and St. Martin. In view of it I had the honor of submitting to the Secretary of State by letter of the 29th of July, the informal question whether the United States's Government would be disposed to cooperate with the Government of the Netherlands to a transportation of free colored laborers from the United States in the Netherlands Colony of Surinam. The government of the King would desire them to engage for a certain number of years (5 years, for example) their labor to a planter under the protection of the Netherlands' laws, and with same advantages attached to their immigrating into a country so fertile and so extended as the abovementioned.

In reply, the Secretary of State did me the honor to inform me that by act of the last session of Congress, authority has been given to the Executive to enter into contracts with the representatives of Governments having possessions in the West Indian Islands to receive there not only Africans captured in vessels engaged in the slave trade, but also the free persons in the United State of African descent, and not if the King's Government should be disposed to enter into such contract. I was recommended to apply to the Secretary of the Interior, who has been engaged with that business on the [?] of the Government the United States.

Consequently, Sir, According to instructions recently received from the Government of the King I have now the honor to request you to be kind enough to inform me on what conditions the Government of the United States would be disposed to enter into a with the Netherlands Govern. concerning an emigration of

free negroes to Surinam? I have the honor, Sir, to present to you the assurance of my high consideration.

R.v.L.

Envoy Ext. and Minister Plenipo. of the King of the Netherlands to the United States.

18. Date: 22 Sept. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Caleb Smith, Department of the Interior (D.C) to Roest van Limburg (New York)

Language: English

Note: This document exists as a copy in the Dutch files.

Department of the Interior
Washington, September 22, 1862

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 19th instant, asking to know upon what conditions the Government of the United States would be disposed to enter into a contract with the Government of the Netherlands concerning an emigration of free negroes to Suriname, and to inform you, in reply that the Government is not, at present, prepared to make any arrangements to that end.

I had the honor to be,
With much respect
Your obt. Servant,

Caleb M. Smith
Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Roest van Limburg
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Netherlands,
New York

19. Date: 25 Sept. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Sombreff, The Hague

Language: Dutch

Note: This 1-page letter, given the diplomatic series number 102, sent from New York, is a copy of the original, written in such poor handwriting as to limit effective transcription or translation. From what is legible, it is clear that Roest van Limburg is writing a follow-up to the Foreign Affairs Minister's letter of September 3. Roest van Limburg explains that he had asked the U.S. Secretary of Interior under what conditions the United States would be prepared to enter into a treaty for emigration to Suriname. The answer was not promising, and it appears to Roest van Limburg that not a single Senator would be in support. Roest van Limburg also mentions the consuls of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans.

20. Date: 27 Sept. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: G.H. Uhlenbeck (The Hague) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: The Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs has learned that British Guiana is working with the United States on colonization. This impresses upon him the idea that the Dutch should be successful in the same endeavor. At this point, the discussion in the Netherlands is clearly more positive about the matter than is Roest van Limburg and his informants on the ground in the United States.

Aan Zijn Excellentie

Den Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken

's Gravenhage, 27 September 1862

In de dagbladen is dezer dagen medegedeeld een berigt uit Britsch Guiana, waarin vermeld worden de middelen die aldaar door het Koloniaal bestuur zijn gebezigd om met den meesten aandrang bij het Government der Vereenigde Staten van Noord Amerika pogingen aan te wenden, ten einde een aanzienlijk aantal geëmancipeerde of later te emanciperen negers als immigranten te verkrijgen, dan wel als vrije kolonisten die zich met hunnen gezinnen onder gunstige voorwaarden in Demerary zouden willen vestigen daarhenen te lokken.

De Gouvernements Secretaris der Engelsche kolonie was zelf naar de Vereenigde Staten vertrokken om aan die pogingen eene goede uitvoering te verzekeren.

Het hier gegeven voorbeeld heeft bij mij het denkbeeld doen ontstaan of het niet wenschelijk zou zijn om ook den Gouverneur van Suriname te autoriseren zich met het Gouvernement der Vereenigde Staten van Noord-Amerika over deze aangelegenheid in betrekking te stellen door tusschenkomst van zijner Maj's Gezant te Washington.

Gaarne zou ik hieromtrent met eenige spoed de denkbeelden van Uwe Exc. vernemen.

Voor het geval dat hiertegen bij Haar gene overwegende bezwaren bestaan zal Uwe Exc. Mij zeer verplichten door de Z'r M's. Gezant te Washington aan te schrijven en uit te noodigen, om te dien opzigte, den genoemenden Gouverneur zoovel mogelijk behulpzaam te zijn.

De Minister van Kolonien,

(get. G.H.Uhlenbeck)

* * *

To His Excellency
The Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Hague, 27 September 1862

In the newspapers these days a report from British Guiana states that the colonial administration there is busy and urgently working with the Government of the United States of North America to promote the acquisition of a substantial number of emancipated or to-be-emancipated Negroes as immigrants, or to lure them to there as free colonists who would like to establish themselves with their families in Demerary under favorable conditions.

The Government's Secretary of the English colony himself went to the United States to ensure a good outcome in the efforts.

This example has given me the idea it might also be useful to authorize the Governor of Suriname to act on this matter with the Government of the United States by intermediation of His Majesty's Minister in Washington.

I should gladly and with speed like to learn of your opinion on this.

In the case that there should be no objections to this, it behooves Your Excellency to write to His Majesty's Envoy in Washington and to invite him to be in this matter as helpful as possible to the said Governor.

The Minister of Colonies,

(signed, G.H. Uhlenbeck)

21. Date: 30 Sept. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: P.Th. van der Maesen de Sombreff (The Hague) to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: De Sombreff is interested in giving authority to the Governor of Suriname to negotiate with the U.S. government. De Sombreff suggests that Roest van Limburg would be the intermediary in such a negotiation. In practice, this could have served to confuse the negotiations and pressure Roest van Limburg into a subordinate role.

No. 60

's Gravenhage, den 30 September 1862

Den Heer Roest van Limburg

Buitengewoon Gezant & gevolgmachtigd Minister van Z.M. den Koning der Nederlanden te Washington

Hoog Edelgestrenge Heer,

Ten vervolge op mijne missive van 3 September jl. No. 48 waarbij UHEG: gemagtigd werd zich tot den Secretaris van Staat voor de Binnenlandsche Zaken te wenden, ten einde te vernemen op welke voorwaarden zijn Regering genegen zou zijn met die der Nederlanden eene overeenkomst aantegaan over de zaak der emigratie van vrije negers naar Suriname; – en waaromtrent ik nadere berigten van UHEG: te gemoet zie, heb ik de eer UHEG: hiernevens afschrift te doen toekomen eener missive van het Department van Kolonien dd 27 September jl. No. 22. B., waarin door mijn Ambtgenoot het denkbeeld wordt geopperd, den Gouverneur van Suriname te magtigen zich door UHEG s tusschenkomst in betrekking te stellen met de Regering der Vereenigde Staten, over de bedoelde aangelegenheid der emigratie.

Mij gereedelijk met gemeld denkbeeld kunnende vereenigen, heb ik dienvolgens de eer UHEG: de behandeling der bedoelde zaak, als van overwegend belang voor den bloei onzer West-Indische bezittingen, dringend ter behartiging aan te bevelen; vertrouwend dat UHEG: met mij van oordeel zal zijn, dat uit den aard der zaak de wenschelijkheid voortvloeit, om, zoo mogelijk met eenigen spoed, pogingen ter bereiking van het beoogde doel intstellen.

Aangenaam zal het mij zijn op de hoogte gehouden te worden van de resultaten van UHEdG welwillende bemoeijingen ten deze. Gelief, Hoog Edel Gestrengen Heer, de vernieuwde verzekering mijner hoogachtig aan te nemen.

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

* * *

No. 60

The Hague, the 30th of September 1862

Mr. Roest van Limburg

Extraordinary Envoy & Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands in Washington

Dear Sir,

In follow-up to my letter of 3 September, instant, No. 48, wherein you were authorized to contact the Secretary of State for Interior Affairs¹⁶ with the intent to learn under what conditions his Government would be prepared to enter into an agreement with the Netherlands concerning the emigration of free Negroes to Suriname – and whereas I look forward to receive further messages, I have the honor herewith to present you a copy of a letter from the Department of Colonies, 27 September, instant, No. 22 B., wherein my colleague put forward the idea of authorizing the Governor of Suriname to engage (through your intermediation) the Government of the United States concerning the affair of emigration.

In accordance with the previously stated idea, I have the honor to recommend urgent representation on this matter as being of utmost importance for the prosperity of our West Indian possessions; trusting that you shall judge the matter likewise, that considering the nature of the matter, it is desirable to work with some speed to attempt to reach the goal in sight.

I shall be pleased to be held up to date on the results of your benevolent exertions for this. Dear Sir, accept the renewed assurance of my respect.

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

¹⁶ The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, then Caleb Smith.

22. Date: Oct. 1862

Source: Adriaan D. Van der Gon Netscher, *Opheffing van de Slavernij en De Toekomst van Nederlandsch West-Indie* ('s Gravenhage: Broeders Belifante, Oct 1862)

Author: Adriaan D. Van der Gon Netscher

Note: In a 39-page booklet published in the Netherlands, the Dutch former planter in British Guiana, Van der Gon Netscher, writes about the hope for laborers in Suriname and expressing the view that while no African American laborers might be coming from Northern U.S. states, perhaps others from the U.S. will still be willing if the American government aids in their migration.

[p. 16] [...] Wel is 't ons bekend dat, naar aanleiding van het verlangen, nu onlangs door de Regering der Nooderlijke Amerikaansche Staten te kennen gegeven, om zich zoo veel doenlijk op geschikte wijze van de zwarte en gekleurde bevolking aldaar te ontdoen, bij velen de hoop ontstaan is, dat van daar als van zelve een voldoende aanvoer van geschikte arbeiders naar Suriname zal plaats hebben, maar gesteld dat die lieden genegen zijn om naar Suriname te verhuizen, dan is het toch te voorzien, en om der menschheid wille ook te hopen, dat zij alleen door de dadelijk hulp en leiding en op door de wederzijdsche Regeringen goedgekeurde voorwaarden, uitgevoerd zullen worden, indien het van onze verwachting blijken mogt, dat zij met voordeel tot plantage-arbeid in Suriname te gebruiken zijn en dat zij daartoe vaste huur-contracten voor zeker getal jaren sluiten willen, zoo als, ter vergoeding van transport- en andere kosten, van all immigranten moet gevorderd worden.

[p. 21] [...] Wat de Noordelijke Staten der Unie betreft, hoezeer wij reeds al onze meening te kennen gaven dat van daar geene geschikte plantage-arbeiders voor Suriname te bekomen zullen zijn, zoo betwijfelen wij daarom de mogelijkheid niet, om aldaar eene kolonisatie door vrije zwarten en kleurlingen uit Noord-Amerika tot stand te brengen; het zal echter blijken, dat ook daarbij het Opperbestuur op dadelijke wijze tusschenbeiden zal moeten komen, zoowel ter verzekering van eene goede keuze als ter wering van grove misbruiken, en dat het zich in dat geval genoodzaakt zal zien, door aanwijzing van geschikte gronden en het nemen van voldoende politie-maatregelen, de vaste en geregelde vestiging dier lieden te verzekeren en mogelijk te maken.

* * *

[p. 16] [...] It is well known to us, from what was recently stated by the Government of the Northern American States, wishing to do much to rid themselves of the black and colored population there, that many here now hope that there shall be plenty of fit laborers imported to Suriname, but if those people are inclined to move to Suriname, then it is to be expected, and for people's sake to hope for, that they will only be exported with the immediate help and direction of the Governments on both sides, and that, if our expectations may be met, they can be used with advantage in plantation labor in Suriname and that they will want to sign fixed contracts of a certain number of years as like is to be claimed from all immigrants as recompense for transportation and other costs.

[p. 21] [...] As far as concerns the Northern States of the Union, although we have already given our opinion that there will be no fit plantation laborers for Suriname to be obtained there, we do not doubt the possibility of arousing a colonization of free blacks and coloreds from North America. It shall appear, however, that the upper administration must serve as a go-between in assuring the good choice as well as preventing grave mistreatment, and that in that case they will be obligated, through identification of suitable land and sufficient police regulations, to ensure the possibility of a fixed and regular settlement of the people there.

23. Date: 8 Oct. 1862

Source: Diplomatic Instructions from the Department of State, 1801-1906, Vol. 14, Jan. 29, 1833-Sept. 12, 1864

Author: William H. Seward to James Pike

Language: English

Note: President Lincoln has authorized Seward to enter into negotiations with the government of the Netherlands for the purpose of colonizing freed blacks. Emigration was to be free, voluntary, guided by government agents. Instead of working with Roest Van Limburg, Seward writes to James Shepherd Pike in the Netherlands, and asks him to take the message to the Dutch minister of Foreign Affairs, van der Maesen de Sombreff.

No. 73

Department of State

Washington, 8th Oct. 1862

James S. Pike, Esqr. etc. etc. etc.

Sir,

Many free persons of African derivation residing within the United States have made known to the President their desires to emigrate to foreign countries if they could do so with the consent of the government and with guarantee of its guardian care over them while arranging their departure and preserving their voyages, choosing their new houses and purchasing lands, or otherwise contracting for their permanent location and settlement abroad, and especially securing them, in every event, against being hereafter reduced to slavery or bondage. It is believed that the number of this class of persons so disposed to emigration is augmenting and will continue to increase.

On the other hand, some foreign governments situated within the tropics, and other having colonies or dependencies therein, have intimated to the President a desire to receive such accessions to their population upon conditions favorable to the welfare, prosperity, and happiness of the emigrants.

In view of these facts, the President has authorized me to enter into negotiations upon the subject with the government of the Netherlands if it shall be inclined to such a course.

It is not with the purpose of this communication to present the project of a convention, but simply to state some of the general principles which this government supposes proper to be recognized in any treaties which may be contracted with reference to the objects which I have presented.

First. That all emigration of persons of African derivation to take place under the stipulations of the treaty shall be perfectly free and voluntary on the part of adults, and with a full and expressed consent of parents and guardians for minor children and wards.

Second. That agents of the government desiring to receive such emigrants shall be recognized by this government and authorized to solicit such emigration, but such agents shall be appointed by such government or with its sanction. Their names, with the dates of their appointment and the terms for which they are to continue, shall be made known to his government, which shall engage to protect them while peacefully and inoffensively pursuing their occupation, but shall have always a right to require the dismissal of any such agent whose conduct or deportment shall be found injurious to the peace, safety, or welfare of the United States.

When any government which shall have entered into the treaty shall have obtained the consent of a colony or party of emigrants, a record of their names, ages, sexes, and conditions shall be made up with their proposed place of embarkation and destination, duly attested and verified. Such government shall then cause them, with their personal effects, to be received with all convenient dispatch on board of sea-worthy vessels, which shall afford them healthful and convenient accommodations of space, air, food, water, and other necessities for their intended voyages, and shall, in all cases, suffer no cruelty, inhumanity, or unnecessary severity to be practiced upon them. And families so emigrating shall not be separated without their consent. Any party of such emigrants who may desire it may be attended by an agent, being a citizen of the United States, to be selected by them and approved by the government, who may remain with them during the voyage and after their arrival at their destination, until they shall have been established in their new settlement; but such agent shall be paid by them or by the United States, and he shall be liable to be removed or recalled by this government and may be replaced upon representation from the other contracting party that his proceeding or conduct are disloyal or offensive to the government receiving such emigrants.

On arriving at the place of disembarkation such emigrants shall be furnished with plain but comfortable dwellings, one for each family or with comfortable homes in the families of the resident inhabitants of the country and either with lands to be occupied and owned by themselves adequate to their support and maintenance, they practicing ordinary industry in cultivating the same, or else with employment on hire, with provision for their wants, and compensation adequate to their support and maintenance, clothing and medicines and an education of the

children in the simple elements of knowledge, which provision shall continue for the term of five years, minors and infants being permitted to resident with their parents and guardians during their minority, unless apprenticed with the consent of their parents and guardians. All such emigrants and their posterity shall forever remain free, and in no case to be reduced to bondage, slavery or involuntary servitude, except for a crime; and they shall specially enjoy liberty of conscience and the right to acquire, hold, and transmit property, and all other privileges of person common to inhabitants of the country in which they reside. It should be further stipulated that in case of indigence resulting from injury, sickness, or age, any of such emigrants who shall become paupers shall not thereupon be suffered to perish or to come to want, but shall be supported and cared for as is customary with the inhabitants of the country in which they shall be settled.

You are authorized to bring this subject to the attention of Mr. Van der Maesen and to inquire whether the Netherlands government has a desire to enter into such a negotiation. Should an affirmative answer be given, you may transmit to this Department any suggestions that Mr. Van der Maesen may desire to make in the premises, and you will, upon due consideration of the same, be furnished with a draft of a convention.

It should be understood that it is not desired by the United States to give to any state a monopoly of the proposed emigration, but to open its benefits on equal terms to all States within the tropics, or having colonies there, which, maintaining free constitutional governments shall desire those benefits. As it might be expedient to fix upon a definite period for the duration of the proposed treaty, you may suggest then years as the term, with the privilege, after that time, of terminating it at the expiration of one year's notice to that effect.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant

William. H. Seward

24. Date: 11 Oct. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg to The Hague, Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: This is a two-page letter, existing only in a copy. Only the first paragraph is fully legible. Below is the translation of the first paragraph of the letter. In summary of the remainder of the letter, Roest van Limburg has spoken with a number of diplomats, including the envoy from Costa Rica and Nicaragua.¹⁷ It appeared to Roest van Limburg that the foreign diplomats were generally opposed to the idea of sending blacks to St. Croix. He states further that freed blacks and slaves are valued in New Orleans, even above whites. Roest van Limburg notes that the Danish Minister has left the United States, and his secretary remains as the chargé d'affaires.

No. 111

New York, 11 Oct. 1862

Hoogedelgeb. Heer,

Gisteren ontving ik een bezoek van den Kolonel van Raasloff, zaakgelastigde van Denemarken die den 15ⁿ dezer de V.S. verlaat ten einde in speciale missie, een landsverdrag met China te gaan sluiten, en gedurende wiens afwezigheid de legatie, ad interim, zal worden waargenomen door den graaf Piper, Minister Resident van Zweden.

Ter sprake kwam de aangelegenheid der emigratie van vrije negers naar de Deensche Kolonie van St. Croix. De Heer van Raasloff zeide mij dat de Amerikaansche Regering zich verbonden had om gedurende 10 jaren al de negers welke de Kruisers der V.S. op negerboten vinden mogten, voor zoo ver althans de [af ...] het niet velen te bezwaarlijk maakte, op die Deensche kolonie af te zetten. Hij zeide ons dat hij van de V.S. slechts die negers had willen hebben en gene andere, hoofdzakelijk omdat de andere zouden kunnen gecenseerd worden als Amerikaansche onderdanen [...] onder Amerikaansche [...] te blijven, hetgeen een lastige bemoeienis *interferentie* [...] van de N. Amerikaansche Regering met de behandeling der negers op St. Croix zou kunnen naslepen.* Buitendien had de heer v. Raasloff daarbij verwachting als arbeiders

¹⁷ Likely Don Luis Molina, representing Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

van kleurlingen die door de V.S. in vrijheid mogten hebben zijn gesteld. Ook de graaf Mejan met wien ik over de zaak sprak, verklaarde zich bepaald tegen de aanneming van “nègres libérés” waarvan hij weinig goeds verwachtte. Andere negers zeide hij, slaven zoo wel als vrijgeboren negers waren te N. orleans (in L[...] meer bijzonder) [...] zeer geacht als arbeiders en meestal hoger bezoldigd dan blanken. Daarbij zeide hij, waren zij kostbaar te onderhouden meer voordeel verdelende dan blanken.**

Ook de zich thans hier bevindende Belgische Gezant verlaat met [...] verlof Amerika, de secretaris [...] als chargé d’Affaires achter latend..

Met eerbied [...]

* soortgelijk was het gevoelen den den Gezant van Costa Rica en Nicaragua, die sterk heeft tegen de emigratie van bevrijde negers naar de [...] van [...] Amerika, het [...]

** Wat daarvan zij, ingeval van materiële aanneming van negers van Suriname, zou men als eerste voorwaarde kunnen stellen: afzwering van hun hoedanigheid van Amerikaansche burgers of onderhoorigen.

* * *

Number 111

New York, 11 Oct. 1862,

Dear Sir,

Yesterday I received a visit from the Colonel van Raasloff, chargé d’affaires of Denmark, who leaving the United States on the 15th of this month, intends to close a treaty with China, and during whose absence, the legation shall be looked after by Count Piper,¹⁸ Minister Resident of Sweden.

The subject of emigration of free negroes to the Danish colony of St. Croix came up in conversation. Mr. van Raasloff told me that the American Government had agreed, that for the next ten years, they would drop all Negroes cruisers of the U.S. might find on negro-boats on that Danish colony, as far as the af [...] didn’t give a hard time. He told us that he from the U.S. only had wanted those negroes and no other, primarily because the others might be counted as American citizens [...] to stay under American [...], which could be a tricky interference from the N. American Government with the treatment of negroes on St. Croix in the aftermath.* In addition, Mr v. Raasloff expected also as laborers the colored freed by the U.S. Even Earl Mejan, with whom I discussed this matter, stated to be against the hiring of

¹⁸ Carl Edvard Vilhelm Piper, Swedish Ambassador to the U.S. from 1861 to 1864.

“freed” negroes, of which he didn’t expect anything good. Other negroes, so he said, slaves as well as freeborn negroes were in New Orleans (in L[...] more specific, [...] very respected as laborers and they received usually more remuneration than whites. Additionally they were expensive to feed [...] than whites.**

Even the Belgian legate here abandones [...] America, and leaves behind as Secretary [...] chargé d’affaires.

Respectfully [...]

* Similar feelings were expressed by the envoy of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, who strongly [...] against the emigration of the intended negroes to [...] America, the [...]

** Whatever the case, if negroes are hired by Suriname, one would have to make it a first condition that they renounce of their status of American citizen or resident.

25. Date: 13 Oct. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” Copy 536

Author: De Sombreff, Minister of Foreign Affairs to Minister of Colonies

Language: Dutch

Note: Although Seward authorized Pike with a letter of October 8, 1862, this information has not yet reached the Netherlands, where the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs believes the U.S. government is still not ready to enter into an agreement. De Sombreff asks Roest van Limburg for information on the willingness of Dutch consuls in the United States to aid in a possible migration.

Ten vervolge op mijne missives van 3 en 30 Sept. jl. No. 5[b] en 5b, betreffende de quaestie der emigratie van vrijverklaarde negers uit de Verenigde Staten van N. Amerika, naar Suriname, heb ik de eer Uwe Exc. hiernevens te doen toekomen eene depêche van Z.M' Gezant te Washington, dd. 25 Sept., jl. No. 102, met daarbij ingeworden schrijven van den Amerikaanschen Minister van Binnenl. Zaken, waaruit UHEG blijken zal dat de Amerikaansche Regering vooralsnog ongenegen is eene overeenkomst ter bedoelde zake met Nederland aan te gaan.

Aangenaam zoude het mij zijn, onder terugzending der overgelegde stukken Uwer Exc' denkwijze te mogen vernemen over het door den M. Roest v. Limburg aan het zelvde zijner vervulde depêche geopperd denkbeeld, om de consulaten te Nieuw-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, en Nieuw-Orleans, met de aanzending en verscheping van neger arbeiders voor Suriname te belasten.

De Min. Buit. Zaken,

PVdMds

* * *

In follow-up to my letters of 3 and 30 September last, Numbers 5[b] and 5b, regarding the question of the emigration of freed Negroes from the United States of N. America to Suriname, I have the honor to provide Your Excellency herewith a dispatch from His Majesty's Minister in Washington, dated 25 Sept., last, Number 102, including therein the writings of the American Minister of Interior Affairs,¹⁹ from

¹⁹ The Secretary of the Interior.

which it appears that the American government is not yet prepared to enter into an agreement with the Netherlands in this matter.

With the return of these documents, it would please me to learn of Your Excellency's opinions regarding Minister Roest van Limburg's attempts to charge the consulates in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York with receiving and shipping of free blacks to Suriname.

The Min. of For. Affairs,

PVdMds

26. Date: 25 Oct. 1862

Source: C8.1 Official Correspondence, 1858-1876. RS: Records of Foreign Service Posts: Paramaribo, Vol. 12.

Author: Henry Sawyer to William H. Seward

Language: English

Note: The letter begins with two pages of statistics, as an annual report of the consulate. Sawyer listed imports from U.S.: Beef, pork, mackerel, soap, Candles, tar, pitch, lard, onions, corn meal, matches, turpentine, tobacco, flour, kerosene, oil, timber, wine, machinery and furniture at \$320,000, and exports: sugar and molasses at \$335,000. He then addressed the question of important African American laborers. The text below is an excerpt of the third page of the letter. This is the letter as it appeared in Sawyer's record book; the struck-out words likely did not appear in the actual correspondence to Seward. Sawyer's letters indicate that the planters in Suriname were aware of the possibility of African American colonization.

I earnestly hope that it may please the United States government to send the emancipated blacks here in view of colonizing them in a new country. It could be less expensive to the United States besides being much more to the welfare of the negroes.

In my dispatch No 11 I informed you that the planters had applied to me to use any endeavors to have the freed Negroes slaves sent here bought here and they would at once give them employment on their sugar cotton coffee and cocoa plantations at a fair remuneration.

27. Date: 27 Oct. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142. Also NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 "Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870." Copy 549.

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Sombreff, Netherlands' Department of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Although Seward had informed Pike on October 8 that the United States was interested in negotiating an agreement, that information had not yet reached Roest van Limburg, who was then in New York. Roest van Limburg advises Van der Maesen de Sombreff that a colonization project is not expedient or desirable.

No. 118

11 Nov. 1862 No. 16

New York 28 October 1862

Excellentie

HoogWelGeb. Here van der Maesen de Sombreff

Minister van Buitenl. Zaken

HoogWelgeboren Heer,

Ik had de eer te ontvangen uwer Excellentie Depeche van den 30de der vorige maand, No. 60, voorgesteld van eene missive van het Department van Kolonien, waarin het denkbeeld word geopperd den Gouverneur van Suriname te magtigen zich, door mijn tusschenkomst, in betrekking te stellen met de Regering der Verenigde Staten over de aangelegenheid der emigratie van vrije negers naar de gemelde Kolonie.

Intusschen zal Uwe Excellentie, uit mijne brieven van 25 September, No. 102, en 11 October, No. 111, gezien hebben dat de Amerikaansche Regering niet geneigd is om tot het bedoelde denkbeeld mede te werken, en dat, om aangegevene redenen, mijne achtens, voor deselfde verwezenlijking weinig uitzigt bestaat.

Wat nu het laatstelijk geopperd denkbeeld van het Department van Kolonien aangaat, zoo zal Uwe Excellentie vermoedelijk reeds bij de Britsche Regering informatie hebben doen inwinnen omtrent den uitslag der zending van den Gouvernements Secretaris der Engelsche Kolonie, en daardoor, beter dan ik, in staat gesteld geworden zijn om te beoordelen in hoe vere de zending der Gouverneur van

Suriname, met eenige waarschijnlijkheid, aan de daarvoor verknochte kosten zou kunnen beantwoorden.

Niet geheel, echter, ben ik van inlichting dien aangaande ontbloot. De mij bevriende zaakgelastigde van Denemarken, toch, die hier den bedoelden Engelschen ambtenaar aantrof, zeide mij dat dezelfde onverrigten zake, Amerika had verlaten, zich overtuigd hebbende dat het beoogde doel onbereikbaar was, en, vooral, afgeschrikt geworden door eene eventuele bemoeienis der Amerikaansche Regering met de uit de V.S. onder hare bescherming als het ware, te emigreren personen.

Alles wat ik, omtrent de verwezenlijking van het bedoelde denkbeeld, vroeger en later heb vernomen, bevestigt mij in de meening dat het niet, doelmatiger wijze en met wenschelijke gevolg uitvoerbaar is.

Met eerbied,
Hoogwelgeboorn Heer
Van Uwe Excellentie
De zeer gehoorzame en onderdanige dienaar,

Roest van Limburg

* * *

No. 118
New York,
28 October 1862,
received 11 Nov. 1862
Excellency,
Mr. Van der Maesen de Sombreff,

Dear Sir,

I had the honor to receive your Excellency's dispatch of the 30th of last month, Number 60, accompanied by a letter from the Department of Colonies, wherein the idea was proposed to authorize the Governor of Suriname, and through my intermediation to connect him with the Government of the United States for the concerns of the emigration of free negroes to the said Colony.

Meanwhile Your Excellency shall have seen from my letters of 25 September, Number 102, and 11 October, Number 111,²⁰ that the American Government is not

²⁰ Diacritical marks above the numbers indicate that Roest van Limburg spoke this number as "een, cen, cen" or "One, one, one", and not "one hundred and eleven." This may indicate a concern for precision and clarity.

yet disposed towards cooperating on the matter, and that, for this reason, I feel there is little prospect of realizing the goal.

As for what concerns the recent proposition of the Department of Colonies, Your Excellency shall presumably already have gained information from the British Government about the result of the mission of the Secretary of the English Colony's Government, and from this, you are in a better state than I to judge to what extent a mission of the Governor of Suriname would have any probability, and whether the costs of a mission would be justifiable.

I am not entirely without information, however. My friend, the *Chargé d'Affaires* of Denmark, who came across the intended English functionary,²¹ told me that the latter had left America without success, believing the goal in sight was unreachable, and most of all, he was frightened of the possible interference by the American government because the government would still consider the emigrants as under their protection.

Everything that I have learned about the realization of our designs – both what I learned earlier and what I have gathered recently – establishes in me the opinion that it is neither expedient nor are the desired consequences feasible.

With respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's very obedient and humble servant,

Roest van Limburg

²¹ Or "civil servant"/"official".

28. Date: 29 Oct. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” Copy 538.

Author: Minister of Foreign Affairs to Minister of Colonies

Language: Dutch

Note: De Sombreff forwards Roest van Limburg’s letter of October 11 to the Minister of Colonies.

29 Oct. 1862 No. 27

(zie 13 October 1862 No. 25)

Ten vervolge op mijn schrijven van 13 October il. No. 25, betreffende de quaestie der emigratie van vrijverklaarde negers uit de Ver. Staten van ~~N~~: Amerika naar Suriname heb ik de eer Uwe Exc. hiernevens te doen toekomen, eene missive van Z.M. Gezant te Washington, d. 11 Oct. j.l. No. 111, mededeelingen inschouwende naar aanleiding der emigratie van vrije negers naar de Deensche kolonie St. Croix.

Aangenaam zal het mij zijn den brief van den M. Roest van Limburg na gemaakt gebruik van de overig aan UWEG toegezonden betrekkelijk stukken te mogen terug ontvangen.

De Minister Buit. Z.

PVdMds

* * *

29 Oct. 1862 No. 27

(see 13 October 1862 No. 25)

In follow-up to my writing of 13 October, last, No. 25, concerning the question of the emigration of freed negroes from the United States of ~~N~~: America to Suriname, I have the honor herewith to provide Your Excellency with a letter from His Majesty’s Minister in Washington, dated 11 Oct. last, No. 111, including communications about the matter of the emigration of free negroes to the Danish colony St. Croix.

I shall be pleased if, after you make use of the letter from Minister Roest van Limburg, you would return it and other related materials.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

PVdMds

29. Date: 31 Oct. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142, and also NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” Copy 539

Author: James Pike, United States Legation, The Hague to the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: English

Note: James Pike inquires if the Dutch would like to enter into an agreement on colonization and he establishes the terms of such potential negotiations.

United States Legation

The Hague October 31. 1862

His Excellency

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sir,

Many free persons of African derivation residing within the United States have made known to the President their desire to emigrate to foreign countries, if they could do so with the consent of the Government, and with guaranties of its guardian care over them while arranging their departure and pursuing their voyage, choosing their new homes and purchasing lands, or otherwise contracting for their permanent location and settlement abroad, and especially securing them in every event against being hereafter reduced to slavery or bondage. It is believed that the number of this class of persons so disposed to emigrate is augmenting and will continue to increase.

On the other hand some foreign Governments, situated within the tropics, and others having colonies or dependencies therein, have intimated to the President a desire to secure such accessions to their population upon conditions favorable to the welfare, prosperity and happiness of emigrants.

In view of these facts I am authorized to say, that the Government of the United States is ready to enter into negotiations²² upon the subject with the Government of the Netherlands, if it shall be inclined to such a course.

It is not within the purpose of this communication to present a project of a convention, but simply to state some of the general principles which the American

²² Spelt with a “c” in the original.

Government supposes proper to be recognized in any treaties which may be contracted with reference to the objects which are here presented.

First, that all emigration of persons of African derivation to take place under the stipulations of the treaty, shall be perpetually free and voluntary on the part of adults, and with the full and express consent of parents and guardians for minor children and wards.

Second, – that agents of the Government desiring to receive such emigrants shall be recognized by the United States Government and authorized to solicit such emigration, but such agents shall be appointed by such Governments or with its sanction. Their names with the dates of their appointments and the terms for which they are to continue, shall be made known to the United States Government, which shall engage to protect them while peacefully and inoffensively pursuing their occupations; but shall have always a right to require the dismissal of any such agent whose conduct or deportment shall be found injurious to the peace or welfare of the United States.

When any Government which shall have entered into the treaty shall have obtained consent of a colony or party of emigrants, a record of their names, ages, sexes, and conditions, shall be made up, with their proposed places of embarkation and destination duly attests and verified. Such Government shall then cause them with their personal effects, to be received with all convenient dispatch on board of seaworthy vessels, which shall afford them healthful and convenient accommodations of space, air, food, water, and other necessities for their intended voyage, and shall in all cases suffer no cruelty, inhumanity, or unnecessary severity to be practiced upon them; and families so emigrating shall not be separated without their consent. Any party of such emigrants who may desire it, may be attended by an agent, being a citizen of the United States, to be selected by them, and approved by the Government who may remain with them during the voyage and after their arrival at the destination, until they shall have been established in their new settlement: but such agents shall be paid by them or by the United States, and he shall be liable to be removed or recalled by the American Government, and may be displaced upon representation from the other contracting party that his proceedings or conduct are disloyal or offensive to the Government receiving such emigrants.

On arriving at the place of disembarkation, such emigrants shall be furnished with plain but comfortable dwellings, one for each family, or with comfortable homes in the families of resident inhabitants of the country, and either with lands to be occupied and owned by themselves, adequate to their support and maintenance, they practicing ordinary industry in cultivating the same, or else with employment on hire, with provision for their wants and compensation adequate to their support and maintenance, clothing and medicines, and an education for the children in the simple rudiments of knowledge; which provisions shall continue

for the term of five years, minors and infants being permitted to reside with their parents and guardians during this minority, unless apprenticed with the consent of their parents and guardians, all such emigrants and their posterity shall forever remain free, and in no case reduced to bondage, slavery, or involuntary servitude, except for crime, and they shall specially enjoy liberty of conscience, and the right to acquire, hold, and transmit property, and all other privileges of freemen common to inhabitants of the country in which they reside. It should be further stipulated that in cases of indigence resulting from infancy, sickness, or age, any of such emigrants who shall become paupers shall not therefore be suffered to perish or come to want, but shall be supported and cared for as is customary with the inhabitants of the country in which they shall be settled.

In bringing this subject to the attention of His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I am instructed to inquire whether the Government of the Netherlands has a desire to enter in such a negotiation. Should an affirmative answer be given, I shall transmit to my Government any suggestions that Your Excellency may desire to make in the premises, and be prepared upon their due considerations, to furnish Your Excellency with a draft of a convention.

It should be understood that it is not desire by the United States to give to any State a monopoly of the proposed emigration but to open its benefits, on equal terms, to all states within the tropics, or having colonies there, which, maintaining free constitutional governments, shall desire those benefits.

As it might be expedient to fix upon a definite period for the duration of the proposed treaty, I am authorized to suggest ten years as the term, with the privilege after that time, of terminating it at the expiration of one year's notice to that effect.

I embrace the occasion to renew to your Excellency the assurance of my high consideration

James S. Pike.

30. Date: 1 Nov. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” Copy 546

Author: Minister of Foreign Affairs to Minister of Colonies

Language: Dutch

Note: Van der Maesen de Sombreff forwards Pike's letter of the day before to the Minister of Colonies.

1 Nov. 1862 No. 11

Ten vervolge op mijne vroegere mededeelingen betreffende de emigratie van vrij verklaarde negers uit de Ver. Staten van N. Amerika naar Suriname, heb ik de eere uwe Exc. hiernevens te doen toekomen eene missive van den N. Amerikaansche Minister Resident alhier dd. 31 October jl. waarin te kennen gegeven wordt dat het Kabinet van Washington genegen is eene overeenkomst ter bedoelder zake met de Nederlandsche Regering aan te gaan, en de hoofdvoorwaarden worden opgegeven waarop zoodanig tractaat zoude behooren gegrond te worden. Met het oog op de aan het slot der missive van den M. Pike voorkomende mededeeling dat de Regering der Ver. Staten bereid is de voordeelen eener dusdanige emigratie toe te staan aan alle Gouvernemen ten koloniën in West. Indië bezittenden, die zulks mogten verlangen, zal naar ik vertrouw UHEg met mij de wenschelijkeheid beamen om zoo spoedig mogelijk aan bovengemeld voorstel gevolg te geven, ten einde de Nederl. bezittingen in West. Indië in de eerste plaats van de daaraan verbonden voordeelen zouden kunnen gebruik maken.

Aangenaam zal het mij dienvolgens zijn, onder terugzending der bijlage dezes, zoodra mogelijk Uwer Exc' meening omtrent het voorstel der N. Amerikaansche Regering te mogen vernemen.

De Min. Buit. Zaken

PVdMds

* * *

1 Nov. 1862 No. 11

In follow-up to my previous communications regarding the emigration of freed negroes from the United States of N. America to Suriname, I have the honor to provide Your Excellency with a letter from the N. American Minister Resident here, dated 31 October last, wherein it is stated that the Cabinet in Washington is inclined to enter into an agreement on the matter with the Dutch Government, and wherein are stated the main conditions upon which such a treaty would be based. With an eye towards the end of Minister Pike's letter communicating that the Government of the United States is prepared to allow the benefits of emigration to all Governments possessing colonies in the West Indies, of those which may so desire, I find it desirable to respond to the abovementioned proposal as soon as possible, in order that the Dutch possessions in the West Indies can be the first place to make use of the advantages of the proposal.

I shall be pleased if, with the return of this report, you would inform me as soon as possible of Your Excellency's opinion about the proposal of the N. American Government.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs

PVdMds

31. Date: 3 Nov. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: E. Boonen Graves²³ (New York) to Roest van Limburg

Language: English

Note: E. Boonen Graves, a Dutch-descent merchant in New York, forwards to Roest van Limburg a call for laborers from Suriname.

N. 112 Wall St.

New York, 3 Nov. 1862

To His Excellency

Roest van Limburg

Minister of the Netherlands

Dear Sir,

After a temporary absence from the city I found on my return a letter addressed to my home from Mr. Huzinga of Amsterdam of which the following is an Extract

“We would feel very much obliged for you informing us how we should prevail to some Negro laborers with you for immigration to our Dutch Colony of Surinam (Guyana) where the Negers²⁴ are to be free on the 1 July next. We will be in great want of free laborers there and will have to import them from various quarters. As the Federal Government don’t well know how to dispose of a large black population they have on their hands, it would suit the convenience of all parties to send them to places as Demerara and Surinam much better than to uncultivated shores of Central America, this latter course will no doubt occasion an immense expense and the final ruin of the emigrants themselves. Could you not inform us if your government would not allow us to make contract with such people as would be inclined to go to Surinam?”

Supposing that this subject may have already engaged your consideration and possibly your action, I have thought it expedient on leaving of your Residence in this city, to contact you before I take any steps in the matter. Will you be kind enough at your leisure to make any suggestions that the occasion calls for and whether I can in any way cooperate with you in obtaining the desired information.

²³ In my previous article publication in *Civil War History*, I incorrectly read this as “E. Boram Graves.”

²⁴ He does not translate the Dutch word “negers” into the English word “Negroes.”

My current residence is in New York, and until the 1st of Dec. I am to be found at my [customary?]²⁵ room in Wall Street on every day except Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Very respectfully
Your obed. Servant

E. Boonen Graves

²⁵ Perhaps “counting.”

32. Date: 5 Nov. 1862

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg's Secretary?, New York to Mr. E. Boonen Graves, New York

Language: English

Note: Roest van Limburg acknowledges receipt of the letter from Boonen Graves and reports that he will not act until he is further informed.

New York, 5 November 1862

Mr. Roest van Limburg has had the honor to receive the letter of Mr. Boonen Graves concerning dated Novemb. 3^d, concerning the ~~introduction~~ immigration of free negro laborers to the colony of Surinam. In reply he had the honor to communicate that having been informed a ~~few weeks~~ month ago, by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior "that the U.S. Government is not, at present, prepared to make any arrangements to that end", and having moreover learned* he will abstain from inference with the matter, till further occasion.

Mr. R. v. L. avails himself of the opportunity to

*[Note in margin] ~~learned~~ from the Danish Chargé d’Affairs that ~~all~~ the negroes to be found by the U.S. Navy on slavers will be [brought?] to the Danish Colony of St. Croix

33. Date: 1862 (no month or date given)

Source: Report on Colonization and Emigration made to the Secretary of the Interior by the Agent of Emigration (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1862), pages 16-17.

Author: James Mitchell

Language: English

Note: In 1862, James Mitchell compiled a report on colonization and included a short section on Suriname. Mitchell had access to Roest van Limburg's letter of 19 September 1862, which he cites in part. He appears to not be informed about Seward's correspondence with Pike.

Surinam.

The communication of the minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Roest Van Limburg, on behalf of his government, inquiring "whether the United State government will be disposed to co-operate with the government of the Netherlands in the transportation of free colored laborers from the United States to the Netherland colony of Suriname."

"The government of the King would desire to engage, for a certain number of years, (five years, for example) their labor to a planter, under the protection of the Netherland laws, and with some advantages attached to their immigration into a country so fertile and so extended as is the above mentioned."

The general aspect of this country is that of British Guiana. It has an area of 60,000 square miles. The Surinam is the principal river, with a rich and fertile soil highly cultivated, producing coffee, cotton, and sugar.

The population of this country consists of 54,000 negroes, and about six or seven thousand white persons. Such is the preponderance of colored population in all those countries in South American over white.

34. Date 10 Jan. 1863

Source: Newspaper: *Nieuwe Amsterdamsche Courant: Algemeen Handelsblad*

Author: A.D. Van der Gon Netscher

Language: Dutch

Note: This letter to the editor of an Amsterdam newspaper comes from Adrian David Van der Gon Netscher, a Dutch-born former resident of British Guiana who actively promoted the causes of Suriname in the Netherlands.

Aan de redactie:

Het is niet alleen voor het opper-bestuur der kolonien, maar ook voor Surinaamsche belanghebbenden, hoogst nuttig om aanhoudend en zoveel mogelijk tot de laatste datums, op de hoogte gehouden te worden in hetgeen er in den vreemde en wel bijzonder in de geëmancipeerde west-Indische kolonien onzer naburen, met de van slavernij ontslagenen met den aanvoer van nieuwe werkkrachten door *Immigratiën*, plaats vindt.

Ook zal door algemeene bekendheid, door juist begrip dier zaken het nadekend en belangstellend publiek, de overtuiging *algemeen* [vi]nden, dat de oorzaken waardoor de vraag naar het aanbod van ar[beid] over het algemeen geregeld worden, in de West-Indien niet of op en verschillende wijze bestaan, dat de toestanden in zeer uitgestrekte, [--mal] bevolkte tropische gewestern zeer verschillen met die in de overbevolkte landen der Noordelijke en gematigde luchtstreken en [da]t de regelen van staathuishoudkunde, welke daarop door velen als zonder [uit]zondering voorgeschreven worden, dus voor alsnog aldaar niet van toepassing zijn! Ja zelfs, dat de krachtige tusschenkomst, van het opper-bestuur onontbeerlijk is, om die kolonie (en in het bijzonder Suriname), [?] hare exceptionele toestanden, bij den zoo moeilijken overgang van slavernij tot vrijheid, tegen verval en ondergang te behoeden.

Maar bovendien wordt daardoor de particulier tegen gewaagde speculatiën en teleurstellingen gewaarschuwd en wordt het tevens den belang-hebbenden mogelijk om met goede betoogen op maatregelen aan te dringen [] de meest geschikte medewerking te verleen, tot behoud hunner [sch]oone plantages door vrijen arbeid, als het beste zoo niet het eenige middel instandhouding der kolonie, wáár, bij verval der groote landbouw-industrie en verminderden uitvoer van stapel-producten, aan geene redelijke ontwikkeling of beschaving, aan geene welvaart, aan geene bestrijding en eigen bestuurs-uitgaven te denken is.

Daarom wezen wij in onze vroeger geschriften (*)²⁶ op alles wat hieromtrent onzes inziens voor Nederland tot waarschuwend voorbeeld strekken en, op veel wat tot behoud van Suriname dient gedaan en gelaten te worden, en publiceeren wij het laatste nummer der *Koloniale Jaarboeken* [] e. 1862, de vertaling der *Fransch-Englesche-Emigratie-Convention*, met onze toelichting daarop, waaruit (wat ook overigens het oordeel over [] koloniale politiek van Engeland wezen moge), ten duidelijkste en bij [her]haling in bijna ieder Artikel blijkt, dat het aanwerven en het transport van koelies uit Britsch-Indie, als arbeiders voor de Fransche kolonien, alleen door de dadelijke tusschenkomst, door de uitsluitende zorg en [?] der wederzijdsche regeringen geschiedt en dat dus aldaar voor particulieren, door de uit te loven premien aangemoedigd, geen enkele arbeider te verkrijgen is.

Maar, blijkt in de rigting, voor particuliere ondernemingen de weg gesloten te zijn, het is wel bekend dat naar aanleiding van hetgeen daaromtrent in Britsch-Guiana is beproefd en bekend geworden, ook bij Surinaamsche belanghebbenden het verlangen is ontstaan, om zoo mogelijk [uit] de Noord-Amerikaansche Staten, zwarte werklieden te bekomen, [en] dat zelfs van wege het bestuur onzer kolonien een voorloping onderzoek werd ingesteld in hoeverre door de uitloving van premien op [d]en aanvoer van neger-arbeiders en familien uit die gewesten aan dat ver[lan]gen zou voldaan kunnen worden.

De daaromtrent gevraagde en welligt reeds ontvangen inlichtingen zijn echter niet bekend gemaakt en wij [g]even dus ter opheldering dier zaken en in afwachting van meer positive berigten omtrent hetgeen door tusschenkomst der diplomatie voor de Nederlansche belangen mogt verkregen zijn, eene vertaling van hetgeen in het Demerarysche dagblad *The Colonist* gezegd wordt omtrent de zending, die ter bevordering van emigratiën uit de Noord-Amerikaansche staten, den Heer Wm. Walker, *gouvernements-secretaris* van Britsch-Guinea werd opgedragen en waaruit te volle blijkt, dat van dáár, zonder dadelijke tuuschenkomst der belanghebbende regeringen aan geene emigratiën naar de West-Indische kolonien te denken is.

Het is tot heden niet bekend voor welke soort van arbeiders, tot welke bedrag en onder welke voorwaarden, de bij de emancipatiewet toegezegde premien tot aanmoediging van immigratiën in Suriname, zullen uitbetaald worden. Zoodra de daarvoor vereischte en in het belang dier kolonie, reeds te lang verlaagde

²⁶ (*) Bijdrage ter aanwijzing van de grondslagen waarop de afschaffing der slavernij in Suriname dient te worden. April 1858. Beantwoording van het op 25 Oct. 1858 voorgesteld Ontwerp van wet ter afschaffing der slavernij in Suriname, voornamelijke ter aanwijzing der noodzakelijkheid eener gelijktijdige en voldoende immigratie. Dec. 1858. De quaestie van vrijen arbeid en immigratie in de West-Indiën toegelicht. 1860. De Opheffing van de slavernij en de toekomst van Nederlandsch West-Indië. Oct. 1862. Allen uitgegeven bij Gebr. Belinfante te 's Gravenhage.

verordening, zal bekend zijn, zullen wij daarop terugkomen en vooral met opzigt tot immigratie van China, eenige hoogst belangrijke opmerkingen bekend maken, omtrent de voorzorgen bij de verhuring, overvoer en plaatsing, in aanmerking te nemen, welke als de uitkomst der laatste en op groote schaal daaromtrent in Britsch-Guiana, opgedane ondervinding door een zeer bevoegd en onpartijdig beoordeelaar zijn medegedeeld.

Wat de westkust van Afrika betreft, het spreekt van zelve, dat er van dáár aan geen uitvoer van arbeiders, zonder dadelijken steun van het Gouvernement en zonder dekking van den wimpel kan gedacht worden, zonder [?entieve] toezegging daarvan zou de speculant in premiën en vrijen arbeiders, zich blootstellen om als slavenhaler de Engelsche kruisers opgebracht te worden en geen eerlijk, verstandig Nederlander zal zich daaraan wagen.

Intusschen zal de plaatsing dezer regelen en de overname van bovengenoemde vertaling in het Algemeen Handelsblad, juist nu, voor veler belangen hoogst nuttig kunnen zijn en er is dus, wij weten het bij ondervinding, geene verdere aanbeveling bij de redactie noodig, om aan ons verzoek daartoe weldra gevolg te zien geven.

Delft. 6 Januarij 1863 A.D. VAN DER GON NETSCHER

Vertaling uit *the Colonist* Britisch-Guiana

Georgetown Demerary, 5 Nov. 1862

Er zijn door Z. Exc. den gouverneur brieven ontvangen van den Edelen Heer William Walker te Washington. De Heer Walker had een samenkomst met den Minister van Binnel. Zaken gehad, maar hem was te kennen gegeven, dat het gouvernement der Vereenigde Staten niet kan onderhandelen met den afgevaardigde uit kolonien, welke ook, en dat dit onderwerp door tusschenkomst der hooge regering moet behandeld en beslist worden. Het gouvernement der Ver. Staten schijnt echter zeer genegen om voorstellen in overweging te nemen ter overzending van vrijgemaakte slaven naar de Britsche West-Indische kolonien, en er zijn redenen om te gelooven, dat aan die kolonien daaromtrent de voorkeur zal gegeven worden boven andere landen. De Heer Walker had bij zijn schrijven nog geen gehoor bij den Heer Seward gehad over dit onderwerp gesproken en had den Heer Walker berigt, dat de onderhandelingen door de Britsche ambassade gevoerd zouden moeten worden, maar hij den tijd nog niet gekomen achtte, om bepaald voorstellen omtrent deze zaak tusschen de beide gouvernementen te doen.

Hij dacht het echter waarschijnlijk, dat lord Lyons, bij zijn terugkomst te Washington omtrent 20 Oct., ten volle zou bekend zijn met de inzigten van Harer Majesteits gourvernement ten dezen opzigte.

De tegenwoordige stand der immigratie-kwestie wordt door den Heer Walker in het slot van zijn brief volgenderzije beschreven. Wij verwachten dat er zich drie

bronnen van toevoer voor ons zullen openen. *Ten eerste*, de vrijgemaakte Afrikanen van de genomen slaverschepen. *Ten tweede*, de slaven van de grens of tusschen-staten, vrij te maken door aankoop volgens voorstel van den president Lincoln. *Ten derde*, de wegloopers of onwettig vrijen, (*contrabands*), welke door de oorlogskansen of op andere wijze ontsnapt zijn, maar over welke de gewezen meesters nog een regt van eigendom doen gelden.

Ten opzigte dezer drie bronnen van aanvoer merkt de Heer Walker op, dat de eerste gedurende de vijf eerstvolgende jaren uitsluitend bestemd is voor het Deensche eiland St. Croix.

Ten opzigte der slaven, die door aankoop vrijgemaakt kunnen worden, en waaruit bij ver de meesten hoop op een overvloedigen toevoer van arbeiders bestaat, deze zijn nog niet te verkrijgen en het is zeer onzeker wanneer zij te krijgen zullen zijn, alhoewel het ook zeer mogelijk is, dat die tijd spoedig zal aanbreken.

Ten opzigte van een derde bron van aanvoer “de *Contrabands*,” merkt de Heer Walker op, dat door des presidents kort geleden uitgevaardigde proclamatie, alle bezwaren waren opgeheven welke uit aanspraken op vergoeding door de Vereenigde State, zouden kunnen ontstaan; maar hij dacht dat de tijd om met hem te onderhandelen nog niet gekomen was, om de volgende redenen: Eerstens, omdat ook ten hunnen opzigte niet met de koloniale besturen, maar met den gevolmagtigden minister van Groot Brittannie kon onderhandeld worden. Ten tweede omdat het gouvernement der Ver. Staten die slaven gebruikt aan de openbare werken en voor het oogenblik niet genegen schijnt om hen vrij te laten. Ten derde, omdat dit volk in verschillende streken verspreid is, zoodat hun getal en toestand niet nauwkeurig bekend is, terwijl van vele families nog eenige leden in slavernij verkeerden, die, indien hun de keuze gelaten wordt, waarschijnlijk verkiesen zullen om te blijven, zoo als zij die de vrijheid verkregen, hunnen betrekkingen niet achter zullen willen laten. Ten vierde, omdat dit volk over het algemeen zeer onwetend is, zoodat zij geen begrip hebben van eenig land dan dat, waar zij leven en waaraan zij zeer gehecht zijn. Ook mistrouwen zij elke aanmoediging om het te verlaten en zijn de meer beschaafde onder de kleurlingen bepaald tegen kolonisatie naar Liberia op welke wijze ook of waar elders ook. Zij zijn echter gedwongen te bekennen, dat er niets zal gedaan moeten worden, om de vrijgemaakte slaven te vestigen, indien des presidents regeringsbeleid ten deze tot uitvoering komt, waaromtrent geen grond van twijfel bestaat, in zoo ver als dit van hem en zijn gouvernement afhangt. Ook is reeds door vertoogen uit andere kolonien, de aandacht van Harer Majesteits gouvernement op dit onderwerp gevestigd, en het is duidelijk, dat indien de voorstellen onzerzijds aangenomen worden, het voornemen bestaat om op dezelfde regeling aan te dringen, die te opzigt van de immigratie uit andere landen bestaat. Daarmede wordt bedoeld, dat aan iedere kolonie zal toegestaan worden om een agent aan te stellen, ten einde onder het oppertoezicht van den Britschen gezant te Washington

en de consuls in de verschillende havens, welke voor de emigratiezaken zullen aangewezen worden, werkzaam te zijn.

Dit is voor het oogenblik de onzekere toestand, waarin de geheele kwestie verkeert en daar het onmogelijk te voorzien is welken loop de zaken nemen zullen, zoo heeft de Heer Walker het niet goed geoordeeld om de aanvragen terug te roepen, welke reeds voor emigranten uit Indie naar Engeland gezonden zijn.

* * *

To the editor:

It is most useful, not only for the upper administration of the colonies, but also for those with Surinamese interests, to remain as up to date as possible on what is taking place abroad and in particular in what is occurring with the emancipated West Indian colonies of our neighbors, with those discharged from slavery, and with the supply of new Immigrant labor.

Also through general acquaintance, through correct understanding of the situation, the thinking and concerned public shall be generally convinced that there are many and various reasons for inquiring into the offer of labor in the West Indies, that the situation in the extensive, thinly populated tropical region differs greatly from that in the overpopulated Northern countries and the temperate zones, and that the rules of political science, which many think of as fixed and without exceptions, are for the time being not applicable there! Yes, even, that the powerful intervention of the upper administration is essential to keep the colonies (and in particular Suriname) from downfall and decline in the difficult transition from slavery to freedom.

But above all this is to warn against risky speculation and disappointments, so that those concerned will have good reasons to insist on regulations, to permit the most appropriate cooperation, to keep their plantations for free labor, as it is the best but not only means of maintaining the colony, where, by decline of the great agricultural industry and the reduced export of staple products, no moral development nor civilization, no welfare, and no control of their own administration's expenditures is thinkable.

For this reason, in our earlier writings, we pointed out everything that we think should serve as an example to warn the Netherlands, and which serves to preserve Suriname, and in the last number of the *Koloniale Jaarboeken*²⁷ (1862) we published the translation of the French-English-Emigration-Convention, with our explanations alongside, which shows clearly and in nearly every article that the canvassing

²⁷ The title of this publication might be translated as "Colonial Yearbooks."

and transport of coolies from British India as workers for the French colonies happens only through the immediate intervention and the exceptional care and concern of both administrations²⁸ involved, and that, therefore, for private persons of that place not a single worker is available through the encouraged premium rewards.

While the path appears to be closed for private enterprises, it is well known from what has been tested and known concerning this in British Guiana, and also among Surinamese interests the desire has arisen to get as many blacks as possible from the United States, and that even by way of the administration of our colonies a preliminary investigation was begun to learn how far the rewarding of premiums for the supply of negro laborers and families from those areas could fulfill those desires.

The requested and perhaps received information regarding this has however not been made known, and for clarification of these matters in expectation of more positive messages which we might receive through the intervention of the diplomacy of the Dutch interests, we are providing here a translation of what the Demerary newspaper *The Colonist* said about the sending of Mr. Wm. Walker, government secretary of British Guiana, with instructions for the advancement of emigrants from the United States. This article makes clear that without immediate intervention of the concerned administrations²⁹ no migration to the West Indian colonies is conceivable.

Up to today it is not known to what kind of laborers, nor under what conditions and what stipulations, the emancipation law's promised premiums for the encouragement of immigration in Suriname shall be paid out. As soon as the demanded, important, and already long delayed regulations are made known we will return and, especially with respect to immigration from China, make highly important remarks about considerations to make concerning precautions for hiring out, transport and placement, which as a result of this latest and large-scale concern in British Guiana will be announced with experience by a very highly qualified and impartial judge.³⁰

As far as the west coast of Africa is concerned, it speaks for itself that no transport of laborers without immediate support of the Government and without the cover of the flag can be thought of. Without permission for that the speculator in premiums for free laborers exposes himself to be brought in by the English cruisers as slave trader, and no honest, reasonable Dutchman shall risk that.

²⁸ Or governments.

²⁹ Governmental administration.

³⁰ Or "competent critic." The author is saying that he himself will be a good judge of events, and that Guiana will serve as an example for Suriname, so that the Dutch can follow on this experience.

In the meantime, the placing of these rules and the transposition of the above-mentioned translation into the *Algemeen Handelsblad* can be extremely useful for many interests, and there is therefore, we know from experience, no further recommendation needed from the editor to meet our request to follow-up soon.³¹

Delft. 6 Januarij 1863 A.D. VAN DER GON NETSCHER
Vertaling uit the *Colonist* Britisch-Guiana
Georgetown Demerary, 5 Nov. 1862

His Excellency the governor has received letters from Mr. William Walker of Washington. Mr. Walker had an interview with the Minister of Interior Affairs,³² but he indicated that the government of the United States cannot negotiate with the delegates of colonies, and that this subject must be explicitly negotiated by the high administration. The government of the United States appears however very inclined to propose to enter into deliberations to transfer freed slaves to the British West-Indian colonies, and there are reasons to believe that among the colonies in that area the advantage shall be given to other countries. Mr. Walker, at the time of his writing, had not yet spoken with Mr. Seward about this subject. However Seward had informed Mr. Walker that the negotiations had to take place through the British embassy, but the time had not yet come for both governments to present specific proposals concerning the matter.

He thought that probably, however, the Lord Lyons, with his return to Washington around Oct. 20, should be fully acquainted with the insights of Her Majesty's government in this respect.

The present condition of the immigration question, Mr. Walker wrote about at the end of his letter. We expect that three sources of supply will be opened for us. First, freed Americans from the captured slaveships. Second, the slaves at the borders of the middle states, released by purchase according to the proposition of President Lincoln. Third, the runaways or illegally free (contrabands) who have escaped because of the war or for other reasons, but over whom the masters no longer have the valid right of ownership.

In respect to these three sources of supply, Mr. Walker remarks that the first is, during the next five years, exclusively reserved for the Danish island of St. Croix.

In respect to the slaves, who can be emancipated through purchase, and for whom by far the most hope is for a supply of laborers, these are not yet available and it is unclear when they shall be available, although it is very possible that that time shall soon arise.

³¹ I am still unclear about the meaning of this last sentence.

³² Probably the "Secretary of the Interior".

In respect to the third source of supply, “the Contrabands,” Mr. Walker remarks that with the President’s recent proclamation all objections for compensation by the United States which could arise have been raised, but he thought that the time for negotiating with them had not yet arrived, for the following reasons. First, that also from their perspective, they could not negotiate with the colonial administration, but with the Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain. Second, that the government of the United States, which used slaves on public works, did not appear at the moment to be inclined to released them. Third, because these people are spread across many regions, so that their number and condition are not accurately known, while in many families a few members are still in slavery, which, if the choice were offered, probably would choose to stay, so that when they receive their freedom, they will not leave their relations behind. Fourth, because these people are in general very ignorant, so that they have no understanding of any country except where they live and that which they are attached to. Also, they mistrust any encouragement to leave, and the more civilized among the coloured are distinctly opposed to colonization to Liberia, or for the same reason to other places. They are however forced to confess that nothing will be done to settle freed slaves if the policy of the President’s administration is implemented, about which there is no ground of doubt, in so far as it depends on him and his government. Also already through the remonstrances of other colonies, the attention of Her Majesty’s government on this subject is established, and it is clear that, if the proposition is accepted on our side, the intention will be to insist on the same ruling in respect to immigration from other countries. With this it is meant, that every colony shall be allowed to appoint an agent, under the final supervision of the British Minister in Washington and the consuls of the various ports, who shall be designated to deal with emigration cases.

This is for the moment the uncertain situation, whereupon the whole question turns and which makes it impossible to predict which course the case shall take. So Mr. Walker has not judged it wise to rescind the requests which have been made for emigrants from India to be sent to England.

35. Date: 19 March 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Government of the Netherlands

Language: Bilingual, Dutch English. English translation from Dutch.

Note: The Dutch government enacted a resolution for transporting emigrants to Suriname. This was printed and available for the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, in whose collection it sits. Although this document doesn't mention African American colonization, given the timing it is likely that that migration stream was part of the motivation for these regulations.

Instructions for the Dutch Consuls in exercising actual superintendence over the levying of emigrants, conferred on them by Art. 3 of the "ordinance respecting the superintendence over the conveyance of free laborers to Surinam" enacted by royal resolution of the 19 March 1863, No. 71.

The importation of free laborers into Suriname being left to private undertaking, the tendency of the control thereon, conferred on the Dutch consuls, is to prevent abuses and to insure the performance of the regulations on the subject.

The said superintendence therefore includes the competency to take cognizance of the proceedings of the agents of leviers, with respect to:

- a. the means used by them to obtain free laborers for making working-contracts;
- b. the arrangement and management of the depositories for the temporary lodgment and support of the emigrants;
- c. the arrangement, equipment, size and stanchness of the ships, the victuals and the water, the medical attendance and whatever stipulations for the voyage have been made besides in favor of the emigrants.

To make superintendence answerable to the purpose, the consuls are qualified to exact from the admitted levying-agents the requisite informations on the aforesaid matter, whereas they themselves, by giving informations and otherwise, assist the said agents as much as possible in promoting the object in view [sic], the obtaining of emigrants, without losing therefore out of view [sic] the duties incumbent on them, being charged by the Dutch Government with the superintendence over the levying and transport of the emigrants.

The consuls make the said agents intent up on all proceedings which might be contrary to the existing regulations, and endeavor to restrain them therefrom.

Whenever differences arise between agents and emigrants or between agents and the local authorities on the head of the contracts, the depositories or the transport, the consuls endeavor to settle the said difference amicably by their interference.

In the scope of, and within, the limits, indicated therefore, the following is to be connected with the articles, named hereafter, of the: "*Ordinance respecting the superintendence over the conveyance of free laborers to Surinam,*" mentioned in the head of the present.

1. In the place or ports, meant by art. 2, the acts of notoriety and admission, to be delivered by the Dutch Government to the agents or persons who charge themselves with the levying, mentioned in art. 3, are to be shown by the holder to, and visaed by, the there residing consul, who keeps register thereof.

The application of the agent or party concerned for ratification of the act of notoriety and admission by or on the part of the Government of the country is made by him to the authority indicated therefore by the contract to be made, or, when the said application to the Government concerned is to be made directly, in the diplomatic way. At all events the ratification obtained is shown to the consul.

2. Both in legalizing and in passing the agreements, indicated in art. 6, the contents thereof shall be explained and elucidated by the consul to the contracting emigrants, in order that it may appear to him that the agreement is entered up freely; that the emigrant may be acquainted with the place whither he is conveyed and the conditions, whereon he binds himself. Moreover the consuls shall acquaint the emigrants with the contents of the 1st alinea of art. 18, and with that of the articles 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the ordinance, named in the head of the present, respecting the conveyance of free laborers to Surinam.

The consuls shall be provided with a sufficient number of copies of the following ordinances:

- a. of that respecting the superintendence over the conveyance of free laborers to Surinam;
- b. of that respecting the offer of premiums by the Government of the said importation;
- c. of the rates of working-tasks and wages for free laborers in Surinam;
- d. of the ordinance, regulating the conditions whereon the settlement of individuals or families as agriculturists into the colony of Surinam is to take place.

In as far as necessary copies of these ordinances in the Englisch [sic] language shall also be supplied to them.

In as far as necessary the consuls use the two latter ordinances to acquaint the emigrants, when entering upon their contract, with their rights and obligation.

3. The consul visits the depositories, mentioned in art. 8, as often as he thinks it proper and ascertains if the regulation on the said establishment are performed. In case of considerable deviations from the same, he entertains the holder of the depository thereabout and endeavors to stop the said deviations.

When his remonstrances are disregarded and when the performance of the prescriptions is not resumed, the consul records his proceeding and their result, and immediatelij [sic] communicates the same either to the competent local authority or to the Department of Foreign Affairs and at the same time in the periodical reports concerning the emigration, which are to be forwarded every three months to the chief of the said Department.

In the places and ports where such depositories do not exist and where no regulations in that respect have been stipulated by the Government of the country of the place, the consuls shall afford their cooperation [sic] and interference with the local Government to such agents or persons as are qualified for the levying, if the same should wish [sic] to form such establishments.

In these cases the whole establishment is provisionally regulated by the consul in concert with the undertake of the depository, consulting as much as necessary whatever has been ordained for similar establishments and other places.

These provisional regulations, accompanied by the elucidations required to form a proper judgment about the same, are forwarded by the consul for approbation to the Department of Foreign Affairs, in order to be as far as necessary established by the King, conformably to the conclusion of § 1 of art. 8.

4. Before emigrants are transferred on to any ship destined to convey them to Surinam, the consul shall [sic] examine if she corresponds to the stipulations and prescriptions contained in § 2 of art. 8.

In case the said vessels do not correspond to the aforesaid stipulations and regulations, or if the number of emigrants to be embarked should exceed that which it is thereby allowed to take on board in proportion to the last burden of the ship, the consul shall communicate his objections and considerations to the agent of the master of the ship, in order that the same may obviate them.

When the aforesaid objections and considerations are not obviated, the consul shall abstain from drawing up or visaing the documents, indicated in art. 8 § 3, and, whilst communicating his reasons, not protest with the local Government against the transport of the emigrants to Suriname by such a bottom.

The consul shall be bound, whilst forwarding copies of the documents relating to the matter and stating his reasons, to give by the shortest way and in the speediest manner notice of the occurrence to the Governnor of Suriname, in order that the said Governor, on incidental arrival of such bottom with emigrants from the place in question, may, on account of departure from the often named ordinance, bring on such actions as terms shall prove to exist for.

The consuls enjoy:

for passing each contract, entered in to with emigrants	f 1,00
for legalizing each such contract . . .	0,60
for visaing the 4 documents, named in art. 8 § 3 of the Royal resolution respecting the Superintendence etc. for each emigrant.	0,60

It is porhibited [sic] tho the consuls to act as officions [sic] leoying-agents [sic] on penalty of being divested of their office.³³

³³ Those who produced this document were not careful with spell checking. The final line should have read “It is prohibited for the consuls to act as official levying-agents on penalty of being divested of their office.”

36. Date: 19 March 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Government of the Netherlands

Language: English. (all spelling errors should be considered SIC – as it was written)

Note: The following text was published as a 24-page pamphlet, in English, with the title: “Ordinance, concerning the control on the introduction of free labourers in to Surinam. II. Ordinance, concerning the offer of premiums by the government on the introduction of free labourers in to Surinam.” The translation must have been made quickly and with little oversight, because it is somewhat poor at times, while spelling and typographical errors are common in the text. For this publication, I have omitted the text of pages 15–21, a decree of 1861 containing regulations concerning the passage and transport of emigrants, a subject which is not directly related to the subject of this volume, the encouragement of African-American laborers for Suriname. All spelling and grammatical errors in the text have been reproduced as in the original.]

March 19th, 1863, No. 71.

We William III, by the grace of God, King of the Netherland, Prince of Orange-Nassau, Grand-Duke of Luxemburg, etc., etc., etc.

On the proposal of Our Minister of Finances, temporary charged with the administration of the Colonial Department, of the 22nd of January 1863, lit. B, No. 26;

Having heard the Council of State (advice of the 3^d of Februarij 1863, No. 2);

Having seen art. 4 of the law of the 8th of August, 1862, “[*Staatsblad*” [i.e. *Government paper*] No. 164),

Have thought proper to enact the following ordinances, viz:

1. one concerning the control on the introduction of free laborers into Surinam;
2. one concerning the premiums offered by the Government for the introduction of free laborers into Surinam, as annexed to the present.

Our Minister of the Colonies is charged with the execution of the present, copies whereof shall be sent to the General Board of accounts and to the Council of State.

The Hague, the 19th of March 1863.

(signed) WILLIAM.

The Minister of the Colonies,

(Signed) I.D. Fransen van de Putte

ORDINANCE concerning the control on the introduction of free laborers into Surinam.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE FREE LABORERS AND THEIR RECRUITMENT AS EMIGRANTS

Art. 1. Throughout this ordinance, the word “emigrants” means such persons as spontaneously leave their native contries or residences in order to perform field or factory labor in Surinam in behalf of third parties, during a fixed number of years, according to an indenture made to that effect.

Art. 2. Emigrants from India, China, the United States of North-American, the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries and the Cape Verd Islands and from such other countries and places as may be indicated hereafter, may be embarked at such places or ports only, as shall be indicated for that purpose by the Dutch Government, of in virtue of as pecial authorization, by the Governor of Surinam.

Art. 3. Every one is intitled, either on his own account of on that of third parties, to engage emigrants from the countries named in art. 2, provided he be furnished with an act of notoriety and admission, to be delivered by the Dutch Government or by the Governor of Surinam and ratified for the permission for recruitment, by, or on the part of the Government of the country, where he shall operate.

The recruitment takes place under the immediate control of the Dutch consul at the place of operation.

Art. 4. All local ordinances, legally existing or to be enacted, on the recruitment of emigrants, are binding and shall be followed up by the persons indicated in art. 3.

Art. 5. Wherever in the present ordinance allusion is made to the intervention of the competent authority, it is to be understood to be the Dutch consuls of whatever rank they may be, or where there are none, the magistrates or other local authorities.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE INDENTURES.

Art. 6. The indentures made with emigrants by the persons mentioned in art. 3 are either passed in the presence of the competent authority or legalized by the same.

The consuls respectively accord all acts passed in their presence or legalized by them.

Art. 7. The indentures are to be made according to the form annexed to the present ordinance and must contain:

the duration of the agreement expressed in writing, mentioning besides that each year of the indenture is rated at 300 workingdays;

the number of working hours per day;

the name and profession of the hiring party, mentioning at the same time whether the contract is made on account of third parties, and, if so, also the names and residences of the principals;

the amount of wages, expressed in writing, stating at the same time whether free board has been stipulated besides;

the stipulation of free lodging and medical attendance, and if a free return passage has been stipulated, the fixation of time wherat the emigrant has a claim thereto, and the conditions under which he may renounced the same.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE DEPOTS AND THE TRANSPORT OF THE EMIGRANTS.

Art. 8. § 1. *Of the depots.*

In such countries where depots are established by hiring parties for the temporary reception of emigrants, all ordinances made or to be made in that respect by, or

on the part of, the Government of such countries, are applicable to the said parties and binding for the holders of acts of notoriety and admission. In the places or ports, indicated in art. 2, where such ordinances do not exist, they will be enacted by Us, as far as needful, for the guidance of the above mentioned hirers or undertakers.

§ 2. *Of the vessels and whatever further relates to transport.*

- a. The vessels used for the transport of emigrants from ports in North-American, the West-Indies, the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries, the Cape Verd Islands and the east coast of South-America to Cape Horn, are in dimensions and outfit in conformity with, and the board entertainment and deck-space allowed to emigrants from these ports are in accordance with the regulations of the Royal decree of the 1st of August 1861 (Staatsblad No. 62) on the transport of emigrants, annexed to the present ordinance.

If however there should exist legal ordinances at the place of embarkation, which on account of the nature and habits of the emigrants are deemed preferable by the competent authority, the undertaker is free, according to art. 28 of the said decree, to conform to the same, provided in no case more than one emigrant per measured last of ship space be taken on board, when the voyage is of more than two weeks duration, and provided moreover the rules for security and health, as laid down by the said decree, be not derogate from.

- b. The ships used for the transport of emigrants from British India, China and other countries and places situated to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, are at least three hundred lasts burden, in a good state, completely manned and fitted out.

They carry, except the crafts belonging to the ordinary inventory and in which is always included a long boat, for every fifty emigrants, one boat.

All these boats are in good order and equipment, at least 6,5 metres long by 2.2. metres broad, and one of them is accommodated for a lifeboat and is even at sea constantly kept ready for immediate use.

There are also constantly some lifebuoys at hand for immediate use.

The space destined for the exclusive use of the emigrants, either between decks or in solid wel covered berths, places on the upperdeck, amounts for each fullgrown emigrant to at least two cubic metres.

This space is in height no less than one metre, six decimeters, five centimetres.

For each emigrant there is a deck-space of at least 1.89 square metres between decks or 1.50 square metres in the berths on the upperdeck.

For the promotion and preservation of good order, cleanliness and health among the emigrants is observed, what has been enacted in this respect, in behalf of the emigrants, in the articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the Royal decree of the 1st August 1861 (Staatsblad No. 62).

There is on board a medical man, provided with the necessary medicaments and instruments, in conformity with the existing usages and the precepts of the law on the 28 June 1816 (*Staatsblad* No. 32).

The space set apart for attendance on the sick, amounts, by at least 1.65 metres height between decks, to 9 square metres area for every hundred emigrants who are on board.

Goods which according to the judgment of competent authorities are prejudicial to the health or safety of the emigrants, or which may become so by fermentation or corruption during the voyage, may not be shipped.

In the measurement of the requisite ships-space two children from one to ten years of age are equivalent to one fullgrown emigrant.

The determination of the probable length of the voyages to Surinam, for the computation of the quantity of victuals and fresh water to be taken on board, is left to the local authorities.

The usages which are generally adopted at the place of embarkation in respect to the feeding during the voyage are follow, with the observation of what has been determined in art. 21-24 and 26 of the above named decree in regard to the preparation of the victuals, the distribution of fresh water and the nourishment of the sick.

§ 3. *Of the embarkation.*

At the embarkation of the emigrants the master of the vessel causes to be drawn up in duplicate, by or in the presence of the competent authority:

1. a list, stating the surnames, Christian names, sex, age, profession, religion, moral conduct and last residence, of each emigrant, with designation of the heads of the families, if the engagement is made by families;
2. a statement that the emigrants bear knowledge of the place of their destination and betake themselves to the colony of their own accord and under indenture to perform field or factory-labor.
3. a certificate concerning the state of health of the emigrants, to be delivered by a competent physician, as far as no official person has been appointed for the purpose by the local Government.
4. a voucher to be delivered by the competent authority at the place of embarkation, that the provision, the water and the medicaments on board of the ship are of a good quality and in sufficient quantities at hand.

All these documents shall bear the vise of the competent authority in whose presence they have been drawn up.

§ 4. *On the departure of the ships and the touching of intermediate ports.*

In case a ship should not have put to sea seven days after the embarkation of the emigrants, or if she has during the voyage touched at an intermediate port, the voucher, mentioned in the preceding paragraph sub. 4., must be drawn up anew by the competent authority.

§ 5. *Of the obligations incumbent on the masters of the vessels during the voyage.*

The master carefully attends to whatever can promote cleanliness and the enjoyment of fresh air, to the due preparation and regular distribution of the food, to the nursing and treatment of the sick, and joins a kind behavior to the maintenance of a becoming discipline.

The master duly keeps register of the embarked emigrants, and records the state of their health during the voyage together with such cases of birth and decease as may occur among the emigrants.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE OBLIGATION OF THE MASTERS ON ARRIVAL AND DISEMBARKATION

Art. 9. The immigrants are landed at Paramaribo. Should a party of immigrants be brought on, exclusively destined for the districts of Nickerie and Coronie, the vessels may enter Nickerie. In that case the regulations, established for the importation at Paramaribo, shall be applicable.

Art. 10. If on the arrival at Braamspunt there be any sick person on board, the master does not sail up the river Surinam any further than the quarantine establishment near the former redoubt "Leiden."

The Master is with his vessel, subject to the quarantine measure prescribed by the colonial ordinances, if the illness is contagious.

If neither of the cases exists, the vessel sails to the fort of New-Amsterdam.

In the district of Nickerie the vessel comes to anchor at Nickerie-point.

Art. 11. Immediately after his arrival, either before the fort of New-Amsterdam or at the Nickerie-point, the master gives notice thereof in the former case to the commissary at Paramaribo, charged with the superintendence over the immigrants,

and in the latter case to the district commissary; forwarding at the same time a statement containing the names of those for whom the immigrants are destined, the date of his departure from the place of embarkation and from the port they last touched at, the number of the immigrants imported and their condition, together with an expedition of the original documents, or an authenticated copy thereof, as indicated by art. 8 §§ 4 en 5, and of a statement of mutations by birth or decease during the voyage.

The said functionaries send, as soon as possible, copies of these documents to the Governor.

Art. 12. The documents named in art 11 having been found in order, the commissary at Paramaribo or the district-commissary at Nickerie institutes a medical inquiry into the sanitary state of the immigrants on board of the vessel.

The immigrants are further confronted with call of names, and a report is drawn up of their condition as well as of the treatment which they met with during the voyage.

After the vessel which entered the river Surinam sails up till before the town; that which lies at Nickerie stops before New-Rotterdam.

Art. 13. If all conditions and obligations prove to have been duly fulfilled, the commissary at Paramaribo, having given previous notice to the Governor, and the district-commissary at Nickerie, deliver of their own authority a written voucher thereof to the master.

If however it appears that the master has not complied with all the regulations, or if the complaints of the immigrants give rise thereto, the commissary at Paramaribo, having given previous notice to the Governor and to the district-commissary, communicates the facts of his own authority as soon as possible, to the attorney-general, in order to institute a prosecution, if terms exist thereto, and makes mention thereof in the voucher to be delivered to the master.

Within five days after the delivery of the said voucher the master disembarks the immigrants with their luggage.

Art. 14. The master is liable to punishment:

- a. for not fulfilling all the obligation imposed on him by the present ordinance to the last new paragraph but one of art. 13 inclusive, by a fine from one hundred to two thousand guilders, besides and beyond the action of the public ministry against him, if terms exist thereto, and the claim of the immigrants for reimbursement of damage suffered;

- b. for not disembarking the immigrants within the time fixed in the last new paragraph of the preceding article, by a fine of two guilders fifty centers (f. 2.50) per immigrant for each day of delay;
- c. for taking on board a greater number of emigrants than it was allowed to embark agreeable to the present ordinance by forfeiture of a sum equal to the entire amount of the offered premiums.

CHAPTER V. OF THE CARE FOR THE IMMIGRANTS AFTER DISEMBARKATION

Art. 15. Immediately after being disembarked, the immigrants are at charge of the importer, who takes care that they are, as soon as possible, conveyed to the place where they are to be employed.

The importer is bound to afford them immediately lodging and board and to provide for the medical attendance of the sick on penalty of a fine of two guilder fifty center per day for each immigrant, imported and not lodged or attended to.

Moreover provisions are made by the Colonial Government to provide there in, on account of the importer.

The importer binds himself on arrival to reimburse to the colonial treasury the costs which may accrue by supplying the wants of such immigrants as are disembarked in ill health or not employed for other reasons.

For these costs are pledged if needful, the premiums offered for the importation.

CHAPTER VI. OF THE ENTIRES INTO THE REGISTERS.

Art. 16. The commissary at Paramaribo and the district-commissary at Nickerie keep a register wherein are entered:

- a. the surnames, christian names, sex, age, profession, religion, moral conduct and last residence of each immigrant, with designation of the heads of families, if the engagement has taken place by families;
- b. the place and date of their departure;
- c. for whom, when, where and by what ship they were imported;
- d. the mutations by birth and decease during the voyage;

- e. whose service the immigrants have entered, and where;
- f. the conditions and duration of the indenture.

Before his departure to the place of his destination, a voucher of the said entry is gratuitously delivered by the immigrant to the above named functionaries.

Art. 17. Each district-commissary keeps a register, as designated in the preceding article, concerning the immigrants who arrive in his district, wherein all mutations occurring among them are subsequently entered.

Whenever a new party of immigrants has arrived, the commissary at Paramaribo and the district-commissary at Nickerie forward a complete extract from their registers:

- a. to the district commissaries in whose districts the arrived immigrants shall enter their service, which extract is immediately inserted into their register;
- b. to the Inspector of the domains of agriculture and industry.

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE CONTROL OVER THE IMMIGRANTS.

Art. 18. The immigrants stand under the protection of the Colonial Government.

The immediate superintendence over them is intrusted to commissary at Paramaribo, and to the districts-commissaries in the districts.

The Inspector of the domains of agriculture and industry is charged with the general superintendence and control over all immigrants, who reside in the colony, and keeps a general register thereof.

All the mutations occurring among the immigrants are communicated to the above Inspector by the commissary at Paramaribo and by the district-commissaries.

The official relations on this head, between the above functionaries and the Inspector, are regulated by the prescription of the Governor.

Final-Regulations.

Art. 19. The immigrants enjoy all civil rights held by native citizens.

The tariffs of labor-tasks and wages for free laborers are applicable to them, unless they have contracted in that respect special agreements with their employers.

After fulfillment of their contracts, lots of land are granted to the immigrants, agreeable to the ordinance, regulating the conditions whereon individuals or families are allowed to settle as farmers into the colony of Surinam.

Art. 20. Contracts agreed upon abroad are valid in the colony, until modified by mutual consent.

Art. 21. The Colonial-Government causes the employers duly to comply with the terms of the indenture made with the immigrants; the immigrants' being supplied with satisfactory lodging and medical attendance, and their being secured a free return passage to the country whence they removed, in as far as they are entitled thereto after expiration of the indenture, and have not renounced their right, stipulated thereby.

The employer of immigrants give security, to the satisfaction of the Colonial Government, for the costs of a free return passage, as designated in the preceding paragraph, for the event that the Colonial Government, owing to the employers not complying with his obligations in regard to the return passage, will have to attend to it at his expence.

Art. 22. In case of decease of the parents, the Colonial Government provides for the children left behind by the immigrants if they are in a state of destitution.

This ordinance appertains to the Royal decree of the 19th of March 1863, No. 71.

With my knowledge,
The Minister of Colonies,

(signed) I.D. Fransen van de Putte

ORDINANCE concerning the offer of premiums by the Government on the introduction of free laborers into Surinam.

Art. 1. The following premiums are allotted on the importation of free laborers as immigrants into Surinam, in proportion to the distances.

1. From the countries east of the Cape of Good Hope.

From China:

for a male person from 16 to 40 years of age guilders	125
for a married couple	200

for a female	“	100
for a child from 8 to 15 years of age	“	55
for a child from 5 to 8 years of age	“	35

From Britisch India:

for a male person from 16 to 40 years of age guilders		100
for a married couple	“	150
for a female	“	75
for a child from 8 to 15 years of age	“	40
for a child from 5 to 8 years of age	“	25

From the United States of North America:

for a male person from 16 to 40 years of age guilders		40
for a married couple	“	60
for a female	“	30
for a child from 8 to 15 years of age	“	20
for a child from 5 to 8 years of age	“	10

From the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries and the Cape Verd Islands:

for a male person from 16 to 40 years of age guilders		30
for a married couple	“	45
for a female	“	20
for a child from 8 to 15 years of age	“	15
for a child from 5 to 8 years of age	“	10

From the West-Indies:

for a male person from 16 to 40 years of age guilders		25
for a married couple	“	40
for a female	“	20
for a child from 8 to 15 years of age	“	10
for a child from 5 to 8 years of age	“	5

The children alluded to in the present article must belong to a family. For immigrants older than 40 years the premium can only be granted in case they belong to an immigrating family.

Art. 2. In order to be entitled to the premium, offered for a male person, the immigrant must be healthy, of moral conduct, fit for field or factory labor in Surinam and must have engaged himself as follows: those from India and China for at least 5 years, and those from the other countries for at least 3 years.

Art. 3. Each party of emigrants, except from the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries, the Cape Verd islands and the West-Indies, must be composed of both sexes, in the proportion of one female or one family on every three emigrants, unless there exist in the countries where the emigrants are engaged different regulations, which then are binding.

Art. 4. The premiums offered by the present ordinance are only granted during a period of five years at the utmost, to be counted from the publication in the Netherlands of the law of the 8th August 1862 (*Staatsblad* No. 161) and in as far as the million of guilders, appropriated for the purpose *bij* the same law, shall go.

Art. 5. When the regulations of the ordinances respecting the importation of immigrants, enacted by Our decree of the 19th March 1863, No. 71, have been complied with, the premium is paid to the importer on the presentation of a declaration, authenticated by the commissary at Paramaribo or by the district-commissary at Nickerie, either by means of a mandate of payment, to be delivered by the Administrator of the Finances or by the colonial receiver and paymaster, or by means of a bill, payable at thirty days sight, to be drawn on the Minister of the Colonies.

This ordinance belongs to the Royal decree of the 19th March 1863, No. 71.

With my knowledge,

The Minister of the Colonies,

(signed) I.D. Fransen Van de Putte

37. Date: 2 April 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” Copy 575

Author: Minister of Colonies to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: I have reproduced the following letter only in part, where it is relevant to the topic of this volume. The Minister of Colonies speaks at length about the emigration to Suriname in general, and of the hope of getting the English to cooperate in an emigration of peoples from British India. It is clear that the Pike-De Sombreff negotiations were delayed while both sides were waiting for the Dutch government to establish emigration regulations for Suriname.

Ministerie van Kolonien

aan Zijne Excellentie den Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken

's Gravenhage, den 2 April 1863

Bij den dezerzijdschen brief van 4en November II, La. B, No. 43, werd aan Uwe Excellentie medegedeeld dat, zoodra het ontwerp van de verordeningen, regelende de werving, den overvoer enz van vrij arbeiders naar Suriname zou zijn vastgesteld, een afschrift daarvan aan Uwe Excellentie zou worden toegezonden.

Mijn ambtsvoorganger stelde zich daarbij voor, Uwe Excellentie als dan te verzoeken, om die, door Zijner Majesteits gezant te Londen, te doen mededeelen aan de Engelsche Regering en om indien deze daartegen geene bedenkingen had, dadelijk de wijze vast te stellen, waarop vrije arbeiders uit Britsch Indie, – even als dit naar de Britsche-West Indische Kolonien plaats heeft, – ook naar Suriname zouden kunnen worden overgebracht.

[...] plaatsen van inschepping aan te wijzen en bekend te maken, dan wel of Uwe Excellentie het verkieslijk acht, om alvorens daaromtrent het gevoelen van de in die plaatsen gevestigde consuls te vernemen.

C. De Vereenigde Staten van Noord-Amerika.

Zoo als hiervoren reeds is aangestipt, zijn met Uwer Excellentie's brieven van 13 en 29 October en 1 November II, No. 25, 27, en 11, bij het department van Kolonien ontvangen de daarbij gevoegde missives van Z.M. gezant te Washington en van den Noord Amerikaanschen Minister Resident Pike, welke stukken onder dankbetuiging, hierbij weder worden aangeboden.

Mijn ambtsvoorganger heeft, zo als reeds gezegd, de behandeling daarvan aangehouden, in afwachting van de definitieve vaststelling der verordeningen tot regeling van de immigratie.

Het komt mij voor, dat thans, nu die vaststelling heeft plaats gehad, zoowel aan den heer Pike als aan Z.M. gezant te Washington een bepaald antwoord kan worden gegeven.

Aan den heer Pike zou mijns inziens kunnen worden medegedeeld:

Dat een antwoord op zijn welwillend aanbod is aangehouden in afwachting der vaststelling van de verordeningen die hem daarbij behooren te worden toegezonden.

Dat de Nederlandsche Regering volkomen bereid is, om op de voorwaarden in die verordeningen omschreven, met de Regering der Vereenigde Staten van Noord Amerika eene overeenkomst aantegeaan tot het regelen van eene emigratie van vrije arbeiders uit die Staten naar Suriname.

Dat, zoo als uit die verordeningen blijkt, op den aanvoer van immigranten die zich voor een bepaald aantal jaren op contract verbinden, premieën zijn uitgelooft, terwijl voor de kolonisten andere voordeelen zijn weggelegd in eene verordening, die eerlang zal worden vastgesteld en waarvan de hoofdbeginselen hiervoren zijn aangegeven;

Dat de Regering zich in de hoofdbeginselen zeer wel met de strekking van het voorstel van den heer Pike kan vereenigen en gaarne daarvan gebruik maakt om zoodanige wijzigingen als door de Nederlansche Regering gewenscht worden, aan zijn gouvernement te onderwerpen en dat na overweging daarvan gaarne eene ontwerp-conventie voor den tijd van 10 jaren geldig, zal worden te gemoet gezien.

Bij het beantwoorden van den heer Pike in dezen zin, zou ik gaarne nog enkele punten van verschil zien behandelen, die zich bij de overweging van zijn voorstel hebben voorgedaan, doch die zeker geen overwegend bezwaar zullen opleveren.

1. Zegt de heer Pike omtrent de agenten "but such agents shall be appointed by such government or with its sanction".

Hoewel ik de hoop koester, dat het government der Vereenigde Staten zich zal tevreden stellen, met de bovenbedoelde acte van bekendheid en toelating, zal het, ter vermijding van latere verschillen, noodig zijn om de aandacht van den heer Pike op het karakter van de agenten, vooral ook op het door de consuls te houden dadelijk toezigt te vestigen en om daarbij aantetoonen, dat alle waarborgen tot wering van misbruiken bij de werving en verschepping zijn gegeven.

2. Het door den heer Pike aangegeven denkbeeld, dat elke partij emigranten zal kunnen worden vergezeld door eenen agent, zijnde burger der Vereenigde Staten van Noord Amerika, die, zoowel op de reis als ter plaatse en gedurende de vestiging over de belangen der emigranten waakt, komt mij niet geheel vrij van bedenkingen, althans met het oog op deze verordeningen onnoodig voor. Ik twijfel dan ook niet, of de Regering der Vereenigde Staten van Noord Amerika

zal, na kennis te hebben genomen van de thans vastgestelde verordeningen en van de daarbij gestelde waarborgen om misbruiken van allerlei aard te voorkomen, om zoowel bij de inschepping als gedurende de reis aan boord, alles in acht te nemen, wat in het belang eener goede behandeling der emigranten kan strekken, en om hen bij aankomst dadelijk van een goed onderkomen en van voorziening in hunne behoeften te verzekeren, gaarne van dezen eisch afzien.

Het komt mij zeer wenschelijk voor, dat door Uwe Excellentie te gelijken tijd met de bovenstaande mededeelingen aan den heer Pike, ook van een en ander kennis worde gegeven aan Z.M. gezant te Washington, met verzoek om de zaak aldaar zooveel mogelijk te bevorderen en te bespoedigen, en om dadelijk in overleg te treden met de Nederlansche consuls in de Verenigde Staten van Noord Amerika, omtrent de vaststelling en aanwijzing der plaatsen van inschepping.

Door den genoemden gezant worden, in zijnen brief van 25 September II. No. 102, genoemd de consulaten te New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, en New Orleans, als het best geschikt, om zich met de werving en verschepping te belasten.

[...]

De Minister van Kolonien,

* * *

Ministry of Colonies

To His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hague, April 2, 1863

By means of a letter from our side from the 4th of November, last, No. 43, Your Excellency was informed that, as soon as the bill for the regulation of the recruitment, transport, etc., of free workers to Suriname is established, a copy thereof shall be sent to Your Excellency.

My predecessor requested Your Excellency to inform the English Government through His Majesty's envoy in London – and if they had no reservations – duly to establish ways in which free workers from British India could be brought over to Suriname, as they have already been brought to the British West Indies. [...]

to designate and announce the places of embarkment, or whether your Excellency considers it appropriate to learn in advance the opinion of the consuls based in those places.

C. The United States of North America.

As has already been highlighted before, were received together with Your Excellency's letters of 13 and 29 October and 1 November, last, No. 25, 27, and 11, by the Department of Colonies the accompanying letters from His Majesty's envoy

in Washington and from the North American Minister Resident Pike, which documents I send you back with gratitude.

My predecessor has, as has already been said, postponed action on this matter, in expectation of a definite establishment of regulations concerning the immigration.

It seems to me that at present, now that the establishment has taken place, it would be proper give a specific answer to Mr. Pike as well as His Majesty's minister in Washington.

To Mr. Pike, I think it can be communicated:

That an answer to his charitable offer has been postponed in expectation of the establishment of regulations which relating to this need being sent to him.

That the Dutch Government is completely prepared, with the conditions specified in those regulations, to enter into an agreement for regulating an emigration of free laborers from the States to Suriname.

That, as appears from the regulations, the importation of immigrants who bind themselves by contract for a certain number of years, premiums are given, while for the settlers other advantages are determined in a regulation that shortly will be established and whose main principles have been given;

That the Government in its basic principles is in accord with with those presented in Mr. Pike's proposition and that they like to make use of it to present to his government as a bill those changes the Dutch Government wants and that after consideration of it, an agreement valid for ten years will be awaited.

While answering to Mr. Pike in this sense, I should gladly like to handle a few more points of difference, which have arisen during consideration of his proposal, yet which shall certainly give rise to no objections.

1. About the agents, Mr. Pike says "but such agents such be appointed by such government or with its sanction."

Although I cherish the hope that the government of the United States shall be satisfied with the above-intended action of recognition and admission, it shall, to avoid subsequent difficulties, be necessary for Mr. Pike to pay attention to the character of the agents, and duly to establish the consuls' supervision and thereby ensure the prevention of all abuses in recruitment and embarkation.

2. The image given by Mr. Pike, that each party of emigrants shall be led by an agent who is a citizen of the United States of North American, who shall be present during the emigration as well as at the place of arrival to protect the interests of the emigrants, does not appeal to me without reservations and seems unnecessary considering those regulations. I do not doubt that the Government of the United States of America will retract its demands after having learned of the present established regulations and the stipulations therewith to prevent abuses of all kinds – at embarkation as well as during the trip – and which assure proper provision of needs at arrival.

It seems very desirable to me, that Your Excellency respond at the same time to the above communications to Mr. Pike, and to His Majesty's minister in Washington, requesting him to advance the matter there as quickly as possible, and duly to deliberate with the Dutch consuls in the United States of North America concerning the establishment and directions of the places of embarkation.

Through the named envoy, in his letter of 25 September, last, No. 102, the consulates of New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New Orleans were declared to be most fit to be given the task of recruitment and embarkation

[...].

The Minister of Colonies

38. Date: 27 April 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: P. van der Maesen de Sombreff (The Hague) to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: De Sombreff urges all speed on the project, asks Roest van Limburg to prepare consular agents in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and New Orleans.

Heere Roest van Limburg

Buitengewoon Gezant gevolmagtigd Minister van Z.M. den Koning der Nederlanden
te Washington

's Gravenhage, 27 April 1863

Hoog EdelGestrenge Heer,

Ten einde UHGestr. bekend te houden met hetgeen, sedert de ontvangst uwer dépêche van 25 September en 17 October jl. No. 102 en 111 alhier verrigt is met betrekking tot de aangelegenheid der emigratie van vrije arbeiders naar Suriname, heb ik de eer UHEGstr hiernevens in afschrift medetedeelen eene missive van den Minister Resident der Vereenigde Staten alsmede mijn antwoord daarop. Van het daaringenoemd besluit van 19 Maart jl ontvangt UHEGestr mede hierbij eenige exemplaren in het Nederduitsch en in het Engelsch.

In afwachting van het ontvangen antwoord op laatstgenoemd stuk, verzoek ik UHEGestr de zaak uwerzijds zoo veel mogelijk te bespoedigen, en dadelijk in overleg te treden met de Nederlandsche Consuls in de Vereenigde Staaten, omtrent de vaststelling en aanwijzing der plaatsen van inscheeping.

In de eerste uwer bovenaangehaalde depeches worden de consulaten te New-York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, en New Orleans genoemd, als het best geschikt om zich met de werving en verschepping te belasten.

Gaarne verneem ik van UHEGestr op welke wijze van die aanwijzing het best kan worden partij getrokken.

Ontvang, HoogEdelgestr. Heer, de vernieuwde verzekering mijner hoogachting.

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

* * *

Mr. Roest van Limburg
 Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the
 Netherlands in Washington
 The Hague, 27 April 1863

Dear Sir,

With the goal of keeping you acquainted with what has happened here with regard to the opportunity of the emigration of free laborers to Suriname since your last dispatches of 25 September and 17 October, last, No. 102 and 111, I have the honor herewith to provide you with a copy of a letter from the Minister Resident of the United States along with my answer thereupon. Please receive a few copies in Dutch and English of the resolution of 19 March, last, mentioned therein.

In expectation of the received answer to the last-mentioned piece, I encourage you to pursue the case with all possible speed, and immediately enter into consultation with the Dutch Consuls in the United States concerning the establishment and allocation of places of embarkation.

In the first of your above-cited dispatches, the consulates of New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New Orleans were named as the most fit to be charged with the recruitment and shipping.

I would gladly like to hear your opinion on how the designations can best be applied.

Receive, Sir, the renewed assurance of my respect,

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

39. Date: 27 April 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: James Pike (The Hague) to Roest van Limburg

Language: French

Note: Pike apologizes for the delay in informing Roest van Limburg about the development of negotiations in the Netherlands. He explains that the two sides were busy hammering out the terms and did not want to provide any premature information about a Dutch-American agreement on Surinamese colonization.

La Haye le 27 Avril 1863

Monsieur,

L'offre bienveillante contenue dans votre office du 31 Octobre dr ne serait pas restée si longtemps sans réponse si le Gouvernement du Roi n'avait tenu à ce que cette réponse pût être définitive, ce qui n'était pas possible avant que les dispositions relatives à l'immigration de travailleurs libres à Suriname fussent arrêtées. Tel était le cas maintenant, je m'impresse M. de vous faire parvenir ci-joint quelques exemplaires de la traduction anglaise de l'arrête royal du 19 mars, et 21, contenant des dispositions relatives 1° à la surveillance à exercer sur l'immigration des travailleurs libres à Suriname, 2° aux primes que le gouv't se propose d'accorder pour favoriser l'immigration. Le gouv't du Roi, M. usant [?] de l'office qui vient d'être rappelée est tout disposé à conclure avec celui des Etats Unis d'Amérique, aux conditions déterminées par les règlements arrêtés le 19 Mars, une convention ayant pour objet de régler l'immigration de travailleurs libres des Etats Unis à Suriname. Selon ces règlements, une prime sera accordée à ceux qui feront des expéditions d'immigrants s'engageant par contrat pour un certain nombre d'années. D'autres avantages qui seront déterminés par un règlement qui sera prochainement arrêté sont réservés aux immigrants qui s'établissent comme colons proprement dits, c'est à dire définitivement comme agriculteurs.

J'ai donc l'honneur, M, de vous prier de vouloir bien porter à la connaissance de votre gouvert que celui des Pays Bas n'ayant pas d'objection aux principes fondamentaux proposés dans votre dit office comme pouvant servir de base à un arrangement international, sera charmé de recevoir un projet de convention, qui resterait en rigueur pendant dix années. Abordant quelques points de détail, je me permettrai, M, de vous faire observer que les agents d'immigration dont il est dit

dans votre office “but such agents shall be appointed by such government or with its sanction”, ne sont pas, selon les règlements néerlandais, des agents nommés par le gouvrt. Les articles 2 et 3 du règlement nommé en premier lieu ont toutefois pour objet d’obvier aux inconvénients qui pourraient résulter de l’absence de pareils agents. Ainsi l’acte de notoriété et d’admission, qui sera délivré aux agents, c’est à dire à tout individu qui se charge, à ses frais ou à ceux de tiers, de l’expédition des émigrants, énoncera qu’ils sont connus comme jouissant d’une bonne réputation et comme méritant la confiance du gouvrt. Neerl. Cet acte sera donc conçu de telle manière qu’il suffira, aux yeux du gouvrt. du Roi, pour satisfaire aux justes exigences du gouvrt. étranger, sur le territoire duquel l’agent est appelé à faire les expéditions. D’autre part les consuls Neerl. exerceront sur tous les actes des agents d’émigration un contrôle incessant et sur les expéditions une surveillance qui sera déterminée par une instruction détaillée. En un mot toutes les mesures qui sont en son pouvoir seront prises par le Gouvrt. des Pays Bas pour prévenir les abus lors de l’engagement et de l’expédition des émigrants.

D’après votre office, M. toute partie d’émigrants pourrait être accompagnée par un agent, citoyen des Etats Unis chargé de veiller à leurs intérêts tant pendant le voyage que durant leur séjour à Suriname. Le gouvrt du Roi estime qu’une stipulation de ce genre se serait pas exempte d’inconvénients en tous cas qu’elle n’est pas nécessaire en égard aux dispositions des règlements Neerl. Il ne doute donc pas que le Gouvrt des Etats Unis ne consente à renoncer à cette stipulation, lorsqu’il aura pris connaissance de ces règlements et des garanties qu’ils contiennent pour prévenir toute espèce d’abus pour veiller à ce que les émigrants soient bien traités tant lors de leur embarquement que pendant le voyage, pour les loger dès leur arrivée à destination et les pourvoir de tout ce qui leur est nécessaire. Je saisis etc.

* * *

Sir,

The kind offer contained in your dispatch of 31 October last would not have gone so long without a reply had the Government of the King not held out for this response to be definitive, which was not possible before the provisions relating to the immigration of free laborers into Suriname were decreed. Such is now the case,³⁴ and I hasten, sir, to send you some copies (attached) of the English translation of the royal decree of 19 March, and 21, containing provisions relative, first, to the supervision to be exercised over the immigration of free laborers into Surinam, secondly, to the bounties that the govt suggests granting in order to incentivize immigration. The

³⁴ Literally “such was now the case.”

govt of the King, sir, making use of the dispatch, which has just been remembered, is willing to conclude with that³⁵ of the United States of America, on the terms laid down by the regulations decreed on 19 March, a convention intended to regulate the immigration of free laborers from the United States to Surinam. Under these regulations, a bounty will be granted to those who will make shipments³⁶ of immigrants committing themselves by contract for a certain number of years. Other benefits, which will be fixed by regulations that will shortly be decreed, are reserved for immigrants who establish themselves as proper settlers, that is to say, as farmers for good.

I have the honor, then, sir, to kindly ask you to bring to the notice of your govt³⁷ that that of the Low Countries, entertaining no objection to the fundamental principles suggested in said dispatch as the basis of a diplomatic arrangement, will be delighted to receive a draft convention, which would remain in force for ten years. Addressing some points of detail, I will allow myself, sir, to point out to you that the immigration agents, of whom it is said in your dispatch “but such agents shall be appointed by such government or with its sanction”, are not, under the Dutch regulations, agents nominated by the govt. Articles 2 and 3 of the first-named regulation are, however, intended to obviate the disadvantages that may result from the absence of such agents. Thus, the certificate of recognition and admittance, which will be issued to agents, that is to say, to all individuals who take responsibility for a shipment of emigrants at their expense or that of a third party, will state that they are known as having a good reputation and as deserving the trust of the Dutch govt. So this certificate will be designed in such a manner that it is sufficient, in the eyes of the govt. of the King, for meeting the just requirements of the foreign government, on the territory from which the agent is called to make shipments. On the other hand, the Dutch consuls will exercise unceasing control over all the acts of the agents of emigration and over the shipment a level of surveillance that will be determined by detailed instructions. In short, the Govt. of the Low Countries will take all measures within its power to prevent abuses in the recruitment and dispatch of emigrants.

According to your dispatch, sir, each party of emigrants may be accompanied by an agent, a citizen of the United States tasked with tending to their interests as

³⁵ i.e. government.

³⁶ “expédition” is shipping, in a delivery sense. Its use with “faire” suggests this intent, rather than geographical exploration, but your call, per your preferred usage in translations from Dutch.

³⁷ i.e. the foreign government to which he is minister.

much during the voyage as during their stay in Suriname.³⁸ The govt. of the King believes that such a provision would not be free of disadvantages and, in any case, that it is not necessary in view of the provisions of the Dutch regulations. It does not doubt that the Govt of the United States will agree to waive this provision when it learns of these regulations and of the guarantees that they contain to prevent all manner of abuse and to ensure that emigrants are treated as well at their embarkation as during the voyage, to house them from their arrival and to equip them with everything they need. I seize etc.

³⁸ Although perhaps a bit less likely, this could just be “during their voyage and stay in Surinam”, if the “tant que” is just being used to mean “while”. But since we also have “pendant” and “durant”, that would seem a bit repetitive, and I think that the fact that “tant” and “que” are split points to a comparison.

40. Date: 19 May 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: This is a copy of the original, made for the Dutch Department of Foreign Affairs. Roest van Limburg is now up to date with developments up to the end of April 1863. He remains opposed to the project because of its impracticality. He also disparages the condition and abilities of African Americans. He remains willing to aid the Dutch government as it seeks information about the matter, but continues to advise against it.

No. 52

Emigratie van vrije arbeiders naar Suriname

New York, 19 Mei 1863

Hoogwelgeboren Heer,

Gisteren had ik de eer te ontvangen Uwer Excellentie *dépêche* van den 27de den vorige maand, No. 3238/22 betrekkelijk de aangelegenheid van de emigratie van (Kleurlingen uit de V.S. als) vrije arbeiders naar Suriname. De daarbij agekondigd exemplaren van het besluit van 19 Maart [geworden?] mij het nog toe niet.

In de genoemde *dépêche* gewaagt Uwe Exc. van mijne tot de bedoeld aangelegenheid betrekkelijke brieven van 25 September en 17 October jl., No. 102 en 111, maar geen zins van mijner brief van dan 27de October ll no. 118, waarin ik de eer had te schrijven:

“Alles wat ik omtrent de verwezenlijking van het bedoelde denkbeeld, vroeger en later, heb vernomen bevestigt mij in de meening dat het niet doelmatiger wijze en met wenschelijk gevolg uitvoerbaar is.”

Ik meen te moeten onderstellen dat laatstgenoemd schrijven aan Uwer Exc. aandacht is ontgaan.

Wat daarvan zij, meer en meer ben ik bevestigd geworden in de meening dat de hier te lande bevrijdde negers, al konden zijn tot de bedoelde emigratie worden bewogen, niet aan de verwachting beantwoorden zullen, en dat het toezigt, ‘t welk de Amerikaansche Regering, zich, onder hunne voorkennis voorbehouden wil, waarschijnlijk stof tot onaangenaamheden geven zou. Een en ander voorgesteld

hebbende in mijne brieven van 17 October No. 111 en 27 October, No. 118, heb ik de eer te verzoeken dat daarvan aantekening moge worden genomen.

Overigens zal ik – ofschoon, op grond van wat ik te Washington van de aldaar in troepen aan komende bevrijde negers zag en hoorde, hier en daar vernam en [bekomen?] kon, geene goede uitkomsten van het bedoelde denkbeeld verwachtend – naar best vermogen de bevelen aankomen welke Uwe Execellentie my wel ten dezer zal willen geven.

Inmiddels zal ik, ter voldoening aan Uwer Execellentie aanschrijving, zonder verwijl met de Nederlandsche consuls in overleg treden omtrent de vaststelling en aanwijzing der plaatsen van inschepping.

Het is mij nog niet gelukt den Consul Generaal, die veeltijds door zijne handels-bezigheden afgetrokken is over Uwer Exc. *dépêche* te kunnen spreken, maar de Vice Consul Generaal, dien ik aan het Consulaat aantrof en vriendschappelijkerwijze over de zaak onderhield antwoordde mij, in dezelfde zin, dat [^]ze niet wenschelijk achtte en persoonlijk zoo afkeerig was van de neger aard, dat [hij] [^] zich met de aanwerving en inschepping niet zou willen belasten.

De bedoelde kleurlingen zijn zeer haveloos, meerendeels zoo vervuld met het denkbeeld dat zij eenmaal bevrijd, niet meer behoeven te werken en door het gouvernement moeten worden onderhouden, (hetgeen wij te Washington uit veler mond hoorden) dat men algemeen ongeneigd is om met hen in aanraking te komen en zeer weinig van hen verwacht.

De generaals aan wier [linien?] zij veelvuldig [aankennen?], klaagden meerendeels ook zeer over het bezwaar 't welk die lieden, meestal onwillig om te werken hen aanbragten.

Met eerbied,

P.S. Uwer Execellentie *dépêche* No. .../21 is mij niet geworden.

* * *

No. 52

Emigration of free workers to Suriname

New York, 19 May 1863

Dear Sir,

Yesterday, I had the honor to receive Your Excellency's dispatch of the 27th of last month, No. 3238/22 regarding the the matter of emigration of (coloreds from the U.S. as) free laborers to Suriname. I have not yet received the corresponding copies of the resolution of 19 March.

In the said dispatch Your Excellency spoke about my letters referring to the intended matter of 25 September and 17 October, No. 102 and 11, but not to my letter of the 27th of October, last, No. 118, wherein I had the honor to write:

“Everything that I gathered about the prospects of the intended idea, sooner or later, has established in me the opinion that it is neither opportune nor are the desired consequences feasible.”

I should suppose that that last-mentioned writing has missed your attention.

Anyway, I have established more and more an opinion that the negroes freed here in this country, even if they could be moved to emigrate, would not answer expectations, and that the supervision, which the American Government wants to reserve to itself, would probably result in unpleasantnesses. All this was suggested in my letters of 17 October No. 111 and 27 October, No. 118, and I have the honor to request that note be taken of them.

Moreover, I shall, however (on the basis of what I could see and hear here in Washington from the freed negroes arriving (t)here, and here and there learned, expecting no good result from the intended idea) – be able to follow to the best of my ability the commands which Your Excellency shall give me on this matter.

Meanwhile, I shall, in fulfillment of Your Excellency’s summons, not delay in consulting with the Dutch consuls regarding the establishment and designation of the places of embarkation.

I have not been successful in speaking about Your Excellency’s dispatches with the Consul General, who is often distracted with his business activities, but the Vice Consul General, whom I encountered at the Consulate and amicably spoke to about the matter, answered me in the same sense, that he didn’t consider it appropriate, and that he personally so disliked the nature of the negro, that he did not want to be burdened with the recruitment and shipping.

The intended coloreds are very ragged, mostly so filled with the idea that, once they are free, they no longer have to work, and that the government will support them (which we in Washington heard from the mouths of many), that one is generally unwilling to come into contact with them and that very little is expected from them.

The generals whose [...] they frequently [...], also for the greater part complained about the difficulty of dealing with people who were unwilling to work.

Respectfully,

P.S. I have not received Your Excellency’s dispatch No...../21.

41. Date: 20 May 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142, and also NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” Copy 612

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Amadee Couturie (New Orleans)

Language: French

Note: Roest van Limburg writes the Dutch consul in New Orleans to gauge his willingness to aid in the colonization. Presumably, Roest van Limburg also wrote similar letters to other consuls.

Tandis que la loi sur l’émancipation des esclaves à Surinam était encore soumise aux délibérations des Etats Généraux, le Gouvernement du Roi s’occupait déjà de l’idée d’introduire dans cette importante colonie des ouvriers libres qui s’y établiraient comme colons ou agriculteurs, après l’expiration d’un engagement (pour 5 ans par exemple) dans lequel ils seraient entrés avec un planteur, sous les auspices et la protection du Gouvernement Royal.

Il songea aux nègres libérés des Etats Unis; non, toutefois, sans vouloir, en premier lieu s’assurer, de l’assentiment et, s’il se pouvait, du concours du Gouvernement Américain.

Maintenant qu’à cette fin un accord se prépare entre les deux Gouvernements, j’ai été chargé de renseigner son Exc. Mr le ministre des Affaires Etrangères sur la coopération que les consuls Néerlandais pourraient prêter à l’exécution de l’idée, ainsi que sur les ports des Etats Unis ou les nègres libérés pourraient après un engagement librement contracté par eux avec un agent autorisé par le Gouvernement Royal, être expédiés à Surinam.

J’ai donc l’honneur de vous engager, Monsieur, à vouloir bien, sincèrement et franchement, me communiquer votre opinion, d’abord, sur l’aptitude des nègres libérés aux travaux qu’on en attend et au but auquel on les destine; ensuite, sur la coopération que vous pourriez y prêter à la Nouvelle Orléans, considéré comme port d’émigration. Veuillez recevoir, monsieur, la nouvelle assurance de ma considération distinguée.

* * *

While the law of the emancipation of slaves in Surinam was still subject to the deliberations of the States General/Although the law on slave emancipation in Surinam

had already been submitted to the deliberation of the States General,³⁹ the government of the King was already busy with the idea of introducing into this important colony free workers who would establish themselves as settlers or farmers, after the expiration of a commitment (5 years for example) in which they would be joined with a plantation owner, under the auspices and the protection of the royal government.

He considered the free negroes of the United States; not without wanting to make sure in the first place, of the consent and, if possible, the assistance of the United States government.

Now that, to this end, an agreement is being prepared between the two governments, I have been charged with giving information to His Exc. Mr the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the cooperation that the Netherlands consuls could offer to the execution of the idea, as well as on the United States ports (harbors) where the freed⁴⁰ negroes could, after an agreement freely contracted by them with an authorized agent of the Royal government, be sent to Suriname.

I therefore have the honor to ask you to be so good as to convey me your opinion, sincerely and frankly, first of all, on the abilities of the freed negroes for the expected work and toward the goal for which they are intended; also, on the cooperation that you could offer the scheme in New Orleans, considered here as a port of emigration.

³⁹ I might put in a word for this second translation here, as I wonder if the “tandis que” is not slightly more oppositional than chronological, given what follows, and it is also truer to the pluperfect verb construction.

⁴⁰ In view of the sought-after category of African Americans, I would think that “libéré” should reflect English usage, i.e. (recently) “freed” rather than (long) “free” (the latter of which, I suppose, might likewise be “libre” in French).

42. Date: 29 May 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.” 604

Author: Geo. K. Zeigler (Consul) to Roest van Limburg

Language: English

Note: George Zeigler, a German-born Consul for the Netherlands opposes the emigration of black laborers to Suriname. Zeigler writes in English with a few spelling errors (reproduced here) and grammatical idiosyncracies. Words missing from the ends of written lines make the final paragraph, in particular, somewhat difficult to read. The editor has added words in brackets indicating possible missing words.

Consulate of the Netherlands

May 29th, 1863

Sir,

Your letter of 23d inst. in relation to the migration of free colored laborers into Suriname reached me several days ago & would have received an immediate reply had I not desired to make some inquiries beofre I answered.

In reply to your first question in respect to the aptitude of the free negroes for the work, that would be expected from them, I can answer promptly that they are fully competent to perform all such labor that would be required; they are in my opinion superior after proper instruction to laborers from the British Isles.

In reply to your second question, I beg to state: altho I will do all I can to cooperate in carrying the wishes of His Majesty's gouvernement all on my part would be in vain. For 30 years the subject of emigrating from their native to a foreign land has been before the free negroes of this state, they have stood inexcuseably opposed to it. Only now and then some few would emigrate under the care of the Colonisation Society. They have been opposed to emigration with a firmness of faith in the future that in my opinion could only arise from a religious conviction and with the teaching of [church] fathers, that they would someday enjoy the [life] enjoyed by the white population (wareover they have a strong local attachment which one might says is animal.)

Now to the point; Is is likely these negroes now consent under present condition of this [day] and when from present circumstances they will [?] for their race,

privileges not heretofore [enjoyed] by them, and furthermore at a period, at the our⁴¹ when this land needs population seeks to increase I think not and now upon the whole, whether there would be a favorable port of emigration for [them.] I respectfully reply that I think any effort would be a failure.

I am Sir

Respectfully

(signed) Geo. K. Z.

⁴¹ Sic for "hour."

43. Date: 30 May 1863

Source: (U.S. National Archives, Dispatches from United States Consuls in Paramaribo, 1799-1997, roll 4, vol. 4: January 9, 1858-December 31, 1862)

Author: Henry Sawyer, consul to William H. Seward

Language: English

Note: Sawyer writes to Seward to encourage the colonization. An enclosed newspaper copy about Dutch government premium offers affirms the statistics which Sawyer gives in his letter. *Koloniaal Nieuwsblad*, 29 May, 1863.

United States Consulate

Paramaribo

May 30 1863

Sir,

I beg to enclose herewith a Newspaper of the colony, wherein please find notice of the premium offered by the Dutch Government for Immigrants brought from the United States.

For one man from 16 to 40 years of age	f 40
“ “ man + wife “ “	60
“ “ woman “ “	30
“ “ child 8 to 15 “	20
“ “ [Ba] 5 to 8 “	10

Thousands can be employed at once on the cotton, sugar and coffee plantations at a fair remuneration.

I am –

Hon. H.W. Seward
Ast. Secretary of State
Of the United States
Washington

44. Date: 3 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Rud C. Burlage (New York) to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: Rud C. Burlage, the Dutch consul General in New York City is pessimistic about the possibility of a successful colonization in Suriname. Torn edges of the letter make translation difficult. Words in brackets represent the author's attempt to fill in missing text.

New York, den 3de Juni 1863

Den Heere Roest van Limburg

Buitengewoon Gezant & Gevolgmatigd Minister van Z.M. den Koning der Nederlanden, enz., enz. Enz.

New York

Hoog Edel Gestrenge Heer

Ik heb de eer gehad te ontvangen Uwer Exc. dépêche, onder dagteekening 19 Mei ll. No. 11 betreffende de emigratie van vrije negers uit de V.S. naar de Kolonie Suriname.

In antwoord op het eerste punt in hoever deze negers geschikt zouden zijn om zich aldaar [te] vestigen als kolonisten of landbouwers, als[mede?] zij na het verloop van eene verbinding met een [contract?, planter?](b.v. voor vijf jaren) onder de begunstiging [en bescher-?]ming van Z.M. Regering zouden komen, heb ik de eer Uwe Exc. hierbij te berigten, onder [in...?] van de inzichten hieromtrent der Consuls te Philadelphia & Baltimore, die ik krachtens Uwer Exc. aan[vraag?] hierover heb geraadpleegd, dat, volgens mijn [meening?] de vrije negers der V.S. tot dit doel niet alleen [niet?on-?]geschikt, maar ook ongenegen zijn, dewijl de neger reeds van natuur lui en traag, wanneer hij vrij is geheel voor zwaar werk ongeschikt wordt, waarvan ik bij ondervinding tijdens mijn verblijf in de Zuidelijken Staten de klaarblijkelijke bewijzen gezien heb, want volgens de bekrompene begrippen van den neger omtrent vrijheid, behoeft hij vrij zijnde niet zwaar te werken, en is bij gevolg, zoo hij daartoe niet gedwongen kan worden, niets goeds van hem te verwachten. Daarenboven kunnen zij vooralsnog in de V.S. genoeg ligt werk vinden als waiters, barbers, carhauler enz. en zelfs in het leger [vrij?genoeg?] in hunne levensbehoeften

te voorzien, zoodat zij dientengevolge ongenegen zouden zijn om hun vaderland te verlaten en zich onder het bestuur van een planter te begeben.

Ter beantwoording van het tweede punt in hoeverre ik zou kunnen medewerken te New York als plaats van werving en inscheeping beschouwd, moet ik Uwe Exc. bemerken, dat, hoezeer het mij [...] aangenaam is Z.M. Regering van dienst te kunnen [zijn] en hare belangen te helpen behartigen, ik niet [g?] bij de weinige neiging van den vrijen neger om te[emi?]greren hetgeen ten duidelijkste blijkt uit de 30 ja[ren? rige?] ondervinding van de American Colonization Society [...] slechts zéér weinig uit het Noorden emigreerden [?] dat de Nederlandsche Consul hen van denk[beeld] hieromtrent zou kunnen doen veranderen en ik [dien] tengevolge vrees, dat zijne pogingen om de emig[ratie] van vrije negers naar de Kolonie Suriname te[vens?] geheel vruchteloos zouden zijn.

Zoodra ik antwoord van den Consul te [?] hieromtrent ontvangen zal hebben, geef ik onmiddelijk de eer Uwe Exc. daarvan een afschr[ift] te zenden.

Uwe Exc. gelieve te ontvangen de vernieuwde [ver]zekering mijner eerbiedige hoogachting,

Rud. C. Burlage

* * *

New York, the 3rd of June 1863

Mr. Roest van Limburg

Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, etc., etc., etc.

New York

Dear Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your dispatch, dated 19 May, last, No. 11, relating to the emigration of free negroes from the U.S. to the Colony of Suriname.

In answer to the first point concerning the extent to which these negroes should be fit to settle themselves there as Colonists or farmers, and they should only come under the favour and protection of His Majesty's government after an engagement with a planter (for example, for five years), I have the honor to inform Your Excellency herewith, taking into account the insights of the Consuls in Philadelphia and Baltimore, whom I consulted on this matter for your sake, that in my opinion, the free negroes of the United States are not only not fit for this end, but are also not excited by it, because while the negro is by nature already lazy and slow, when he is free, he will become completely unsuitable for hard labor. I discovered this clearly

myself during my stay in the Southern States, because according to the negro's limited understanding of freedom, he believes being free he does not have to work hard. By consequence, if he is not forced to worked, nothing good can be expected from him. In addition, they can find enough light work in the United States as waiters, barbers, car-haulers, etc., and even provide for themselves in the army, so that, in result, they should be loathe to leave their fatherland and give themselves to the control of a planter.

In answer to the second point concerning the extent to which New York could serve as a place for recruitment and shipping, I must inform Your Excellency that, as much as it pleases me to be in service of His Majesty's government and to help look after its interests, I am not [] with the little inclination of the free negroes to emigrate, which is most clearly been demonstrated by the American Colonization Society over the past 30 years, [...] only few have emigrated from the North [...], that the Dutch Consul could persuade them to think otherwise about this matter and I fear in consequence that his attempts to recruit free negroes for the Colony of Suriname [...] should be completely fruitless.

As soon as I shall receive an answer from the Consul in [...],⁴² I shall immediately send a copy thereof to Your Excellency.

Your Excellency, please receive the renewed assurance of my high regard and respect,

Rud C. Burlage

⁴² May be "Boston."

45. Date: 5 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 "Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870." Copy 606

Author: Henry A. Raden (Boston Consul) to Rud C. Burlage

Language: English

Note: Henry Raden states that he is not a proper judge of the freed blacks, since there are too few in Boston. The edge of the letter is missing. Words in brackets are the best attempt to render missing or partially missing words.

Boston, June 5th, 1863

Rud C. Burlage, Esq.

N.Y.

Sir,

Your favor of the 23d ult. has been received and in reply I beg to observe that it [would] be difficult to judge of the practicability of emigration of free negroes to go to Surinam unless the [conditions] are distinctly known; as far as I can form any opinion there will be little chance, as all strong and [sober] admitted a few exceptions have enrolled in the service; the regiment that has formed at [?] has left for the seat of war and in a few days about 600 more negroes had enlisted for a new regiment. I have made known your desire to the present consul, Wm. Bois, and he will give further [in]formation after the conditions [expected are] known.

I am sir,

Respectfully Yours

Signed. Henry A. Raden

46. Date: 5 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Amadee Couterie (New Orleans) to Roest van Limburg

Language: French

Note: The Dutch minister in New Orleans is concerned for the health of African American colonists, and specifically points to the possible diseases that they might encounter when moving to the tropics. Although Couterie is willing to help, he thinks there is little possibility of giving aid.

M. Roest van Limburg

Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de S.M. Le Roi des Pays Bas a Washington

Consulat des Pays Bas

Nouvelle Orléans, 5. Juin 1863

Monsieur le Ministre

J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir votre lettre du 20. du mois dernier dans laquelle vous me faites part de l'idée qu'aurait le Gouvernement du Roi, d'introduire à Surinam, avec l'assentiment du Gouvernement Américain, les nègres libérés des Etats Unis, qui s'y établiront/-aient [?] comme Colons ou Agriculteurs à l'expiration d'un engagement avec un planteur de cette Colonie. Vous me faites en même temps, l'honneur de m'engager à vous communiquer mon opinion sur l'aptitude des nègres libérés aux travaux qu'on en attend, et au but auquel on les destine, et sur la coopération que je pourrais prêter à l'exécution de l'idée a la Nouvelle Orléans, considérée comme port d'emigration.

Si les travaux sont ceux de la grande culture, celle de la canne à sucre, par exemple, ou bien du coton, comme en Louisiane, je ne vois pas pourquoi ces nègres n'y seraient pas aussi aptes, à Surinam, qu'ils le sont ici; du moment qu'à leur arrivée, un engagement contracté pour un temps déterminé, avec un planteur du pays, les ferait retomber sous cette discipline, sans laquelle il n'est guères possible d'en obtenir un travail constant et productif. Il y aurait pourtant dans des vues diverses à prendre en considération les risques pour eux de l'acclimatation. Car, si même à la Nouvelle Orleans, pendant l'été, les nègres venant de l'intérieur de l'Etat ne sont pas plus à l'abri des épidémies, que l'Européen qui débarque, peut on espérer qu'ils en seront épargnés davantage sous le climat plus insalubre de Surinam? D'autant plus que les

nègres du Sud bien que mieux nourris et mieux traités en général, sont plus délicats de tempérament, et exigent plus de soins et de ménagements que ceux des Colonies.

Quant à en faire des Colons ou des Agriculteurs après l'expiration de leur engagement, je doute que le Gouvernement Royal réussisse à remplir le but libéral qu'il se propose à leur égard. Le nègre du Sud, surtout le nègre de champ, est indolent de sa nature, et très inconstant dans ses habitudes. Livré à lui même, il s'astreint rarement à un travail régulier, si ce travail est quelque peu pénible et doit l'attacher à un endroit particulier du sol. Une fois élevé à l'état de Colon ou d'agriculteur libre il cesserait bien vite d'être une acquisition pour la colonie: il arriverait en peu de temps à en être une plaie.

Mais je me demande, Monsieur le Ministre, quels nègres libérés le Gouvernement du Roi pourrait faire engager, ici, dans ce but? Sont-ce les nègres affranchis par leurs propres maîtres depuis longtemps, et que, pour la plupart ouvriers, sont généralement établis dans les villes? Ceux-ci, j'ai tout lieu de le croire, seraient peu disposés à abandonner un pays où le travail de l'ouvrier est si largement rétribué. Excepté cette classe, je ne connais pas en Louisiane de nègres (.) libérés légalement, à moins qu'en dehors de l'Etat, on ne considère comme définitivement libérés, ceux qui de par la loi martiale, ont été les uns de leur propre gré, les autres contre leur gré, emmenés de chez leurs maîtres pour former les régiments nègres des Etats Unis, ou sous/pour [?] exploiter au profit des spéculateurs du Nord les plantations confisquées des rebelles ainsi nommés. Mais ces actes sont en violation directe de la loi et de la Constitution de l'Etat de la Louisiane, dont l'opération est pour le moment suspendue par l'effet de l'occupation militaire. La Constitution n'en demeure pas moins, et le Gouvernement militaire, en a maintes fois admis la force dans des actes publics, mais plus particulièrement dans ses nominations de Juges à des tribunaux existant sous la Constitution, lesquels ont à prêter le serment d'administrer la loi selon la Constitution avant que de prendre leurs sièges. Vienne donc un retour au Gouvernement civil, serait il impossible que devant les cours de justice les mesures militaires d'aujourd'hui fussent déclarées illégales? et dans cette hypothèse, la situation actuelle ne pourrait-elle pas n'être que provisoire?

En vue des légitimes récriminations qui de toutes les parties de l'Etat ne manqueraient pas de m'assaillir dans mon caractère officiel et privé, en vue aussi des graves responsabilités que l'on pourrait faire peser sur moi dans la suite, selon les conditions dans lesquelles nous nous retournerons ici, à la conclusion de la guerre entre les deux Sections, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je ne saurais prêter soit directement soit indirectement, ma coopération à l'exécution de l'idée du Gouvernement du Roi; et conséquemment je regrette d'être contraint de vous envoyer ma démission des fonctions de Consul des Pays Bas à la Nouvelle Orleans, en vous priant de vouloir bien la transmettre à Son Excellence, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Veillez, Monsieur le Ministre, agréer, les nouvelles assurances de ma très haute considération.

* * *

Mr Roest van Limburg
Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of H.M. The King of the Low
Countries at Washington
Consulate of the Low Countries
New Orleans, 5 June 1863

Mr. Minister

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 20th ultimo in which you inform me of the idea that the King's Government is reported to have had, of introducing to Suriname, with the assent of the American Government, the freed negroes of the United States, who will/would establish themselves there as Settlers or Farmers upon the expiration of an indenture with a planter of that Colony. At the same time, you do me the honor of recruiting me to communicate to you my opinion on the suitability of the freed negroes for the expected tasks, and for the goal for which they are intended, and on the assistance that I could offer to the execution of the plan in New Orleans, taken as a port of emigration.

If the tasks are those of intensive agriculture, that of sugar cane, for example, or else cotton, like in Louisiana, I do not see why these negroes would not be as suitable, in Suriname, as they are here; from the moment of their arrival, a commitment contracted for a fixed term, with a planter of that country, would make them fall once more under that discipline, without which it is scarcely possible to obtain steady and productive work from them. However, there would be, taking various points into consideration, risks of acclimation for them. For, if even in New Orleans, during the summer, the negroes coming from the interior of the state are no more sheltered from epidemics than the newly disembarked European, can we hope that they will be spared to a greater extent in the even more insalubrious climate of Suriname? Especially as the negroes of the South, although better fed and better treated in general, have a more fragile disposition, and demand more care and moderation than those of the Colonies.

As to making Settlers or Farmers of them after the expiration of their indenture, I doubt that the Royal Government will succeed in fulfilling the liberal goal that it plans with respect to them. The negro of the South, especially the field negro, is indolent by nature, and very unsteady in his habits. Left to fend for himself, he rarely commits to regular work, if that work is somewhat burdensome and must tie

him down to a particular piece of ground. Once raised to the status of Settler or that of free farmer he would cease very quickly to be a gain for the colony: in a short time, he would become a plague.

But I wonder, Mr. Minister, which freed negroes the Government of the King could engage, here, to this end? Are these the negroes freed by their own masters a long time ago, and that, being mostly laborers, are generally established in the towns? These ones, I have every reason to believe, would not be inclined to abandon a country where the laborer's work is so handsomely rewarded. Apart from that class, I do not know any legally freed negroes in Louisiana, unless beyond the State people do not consider definitively freed those who, by military law, have been, some by their own free will, others against their will, taken away from among their masters to form the negro regiments of the United States, or to farm, to the gain of speculators from the North, the confiscated plantations of the so-called rebels. But these acts are in direct violation of law and of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, whose operation is for the moment suspended by the effect of the military occupation. The Constitution abides, and the military Government has admitted its force many times in public acts, but more particularly in its nominations of Judges to courts existing under the Constitution, who have to take the oath to administer the law according to the Constitution before taking their seats. So, come a return to civil Government, would it be impossible that, before the courts of justice, the military measures of today were declared illegal? and in this hypothesis, could not the current situation only be temporary?

In view of the legitimate complaints that, from all parties in the State, would not fail to assail me in both my official and private capacities, also in view of the serious responsibility that could be placed on me afterward, under the conditions in which we will be returning here, at the conclusion of the war between the two Sections, I have the honor of informing you that I would not know how to lend, whether directly or indirectly, my cooperation in executing the idea of the King's Government; and consequently I regret being forced to send you my resignation from the duties of the Consul of the Low Countries at New Orleans, while begging you kindly to convey it to His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Please, Mr. Minister, accept the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

47. Date: 6 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (Niagara Falls) to Netherlands Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Partly illegible copy. Follow-up to his letter of the 19th of the previous month. Roest van Limburg is waiting for responses from Consular agents, and will forward them when received.

Niagara Falls, 6 June 1863

Hoogwelgeb. Heer,

Ten vervolge op mijnen brief van den 19en der vorige maand, no. 52, betrekkelijk de door Uwe Excellentie beoogde emigratie van vrije negers uit de V.S. naar de Kolonie Suriname, heb ik de eer hiernevens aan Uwe Excellentie toe te zenden een rapport van den Consul Generaal gepaard gaand met eene rapport van den Consul te Baltimore en met eene rapport van den Consul te Philadelphia alles betrekkelijk het voormeld denkbeeld.

Uwe Excellentie zal zien dat de drie rapporten overeenstemmen op dat punt van de ongeschiktheid der kleurlingen die [reeds] eenige tyd in de noordelijke staten hebben geleefd, terwijl opzigten de geschiktheid der nieuwlyk in de zuidelijke staten vrij geworden negers de gevoelens meer afwijken, doch opzigt hunne ongezindheid tot emigratie in het algemeen het oordeel weder eenstemming is.

Zouden rapporten der Consuls te Boston en New Orleans door mij ontvangen zullen zijn zal ik mij beogen die aan Uwe Exc. te doen toekomen.

Met eerbied,

* * *

Niagara Falls, 6 June 1863

Dear Sir,

In follow-up to my letter of the 19th of last month, no. 52, concerning Your Excellency's contemplated emigration of free negroes from the United States to the Colony of Suriname, I have the honor herewith to send a report to Your Excellency

from the Consul General, paired with a report from the Consul in Baltimore and a report from the Consul in Philadelphia concerning the stated idea.

Your Excellency shall see that the three reports are unanimous concerning the unsuitability of the coloreds who have already lived for a time in the northern states, while respecting the suitability of the negroes newly freed in the Southern states, the feelings are opposed, yet concerning their unwillingness for emigration in general, the judgement is unanimous again⁴³

Should I receive reports from the Consuls in Boston and New Orleans, I shall aim to provide them to Your Excellency.

With respect,

⁴³ The text of the second part of this letter is nearly illegible, but I trust I have approached the intended meaning with this translation.

48. Date: 13 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142 (24)

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to Netherlands Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg reports that he received a letter from the 6th of this month, and he is forwarding a copy of a letter from the Boston Consul Henry Raden.

No. 59

Emigratie van vrije negers

Naar de Kolonie Suriname

Detroit, 13 Junij 1863

Hoogwelgeb. Heer,

Met [?] aan mijnen brief van den 6e dezen no. 56, heb ik de eer hiernevens aan Uwe Exc. te doen toekomen een afschrift van een schrijven van den heer Raden die ad interim het consul waarnam te Boston betreffende de emigratie van vrije negers uit de V.S. naar de Kolonie Suriname.

Met eerbied,

* * *

No. 59

Emigration of free negroes

To the Colony of Suriname

Detroit 13 June 1863

Dear Sir,

In follow-up to my letter of the 6th of this month, no. 56, I have the honor herewith to provide Your Excellency with a copy of the writing of Mr. Raden, the ad interim Consul in Boston, concerning the emigration of free Negroes from the United States to the Colony of Suriname.

With respect,

49. Date: 19 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 "Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870." Copy 607

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to Sombreff, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg is forwarding letters from Couturie in New Orleans. Couturie is unable to help.

No. 61

Detroit, 19 Junij 1863

7 July [received]

Zijn Excellentie

Hoogwelgeboren Heere van der Maesen de Sombreff

Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken, enz., enz. enz.

Hoogwelgeboren Heer,

Ter verder antwoord op Uwer Excellentie depeches van 27den April laatstleden, No. 3238/22 en ten vervolge op mijne brieven van den 18^{de} Mei, No. 52, den 6^e Junij, No. 54, en den 13^e Junij, No. 59, allen betrekkelijk de emigratie van vrije negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname, heb ik thans de eer aan Uwe Excellentie, hiernevens ingesloten, toe te zenden:

1. Een afschrift van eener, den 26^e Mei door mij ter bedoelde zake aan onzen consul te New Orleans gerigten brief;
2. Der consuls antwoord daarop, gedagtekend van den 5^{de} dezer maand.

Mogt nu Uwe Excellentie in mijne brieven van 27 Oct. Ll, No. 118, en 19 Mei No. 52, zoo mede in die van de meesten onzer geraadpleegde consulaire agenten, geen genoegzame redenen vinden om af te zien van haar plan tot aanneming van bevrijde negers uit de V.S., zoo zal het, voor zoo verre het Consulaat te New Orleans daarbij betrokken mogt worden, noodig te voorzien in de vervanging van onzen tegenwoordige consul voor Louisiana.

In afwachting van instructie dienaangaande, zal ik de heer Couturie schrijven dat zijn brief aan mij naar Uwe Excellentie toegezonden is, en ik voor mijn, behoudene nadere beschikking van uwe Excellentie den aangevraagde [demissie?] slechts als de casu quo aangevraagd beschouwen.

Met eerbied,
Hoogwelgeboren Heer
Van Uwe Excellentie
De zeer gehoorzame en onderdanige dienaar

Roest van Limburg

* * *

No. 61
Detroit, 19 June 1863
7 July (received)
His Excellency
Mr. van der Maesen de Sombreff
Minister of Foreign Affairs, etc., etc., etc.

Dear Sir,

In further answer to Your Excellency's dispatches of the 27th of April, last, No. 3238/22 and in follow-up to my letters of the 18th of May, No. 52, the 6th of June, No. 54, and the 13th of June, No. 59, all relating to the emigration of free negroes from the U.S. to Suriname, I now have the honor to send to Your Excellency the following enclosures:

1. A copy of a letter of the 26th of May, on the intended matter, from me to our consul in New Orleans.
2. The consul's response, dated the 5th of this month.

If now, in my letters of 27 Oct., last, No. 118, and 19 May, No. 52, as well as in the letters of most of our consulted consular agents, Your Excellency may find no sufficient reasons to abandon the plan of adopting the freed negroes from the U.S., then it will be necessary, if the Consulate in New Orleans might be involved, to provide for the replacement of our present consul for Louisiana.

In expectation of instructions on this matter, I shall write Mr. Couturie to say that his letter to me has been sent to Your Excellency, and as for myself, I shall remain available to Your Excellency and consider the matter only if I am called upon.

Respectfully,

Sir,

Your Excellency's very obedient servant

Roest van Limburg

50. Date: 19 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to Amadee Couterie (New Orleans)

Language: French

Note: A draft of a letter, Roest van Limburg acknowledges letter from Couturie and forwards it to The Hague.

Monsieur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 5 de ce mois, relativement à l'émigration de nègres libérés des Etats Unis à Suriname. La copie qui y était jointe a été envoyée par moi à Son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, dont j'attends des instructions ultérieures sur l'idée en question. Jusqu'à disposition contraire de Son Excell. je considererai votre [?] demande de démission (ainsi)⁴⁴ que je le lui⁴⁵ ai mandé à M. V. de Maesen de Sombreff – ^votre demande de démission^ comme demandée faite [?] seulement pour le cas que la coopération du Consul à la Nouvelle Orléans à l'exécution de l'idée fût jugée nécessaire.

* * *

Dear sir,

I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of your letter of the fifth of this month, regarding the emigration of freed Negroes from the United States to Suriname. The copy that was attached was sent by me to His Excellency Mr the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whose subsequent instructions on the idea I await. Until⁴⁶ the contrary disposition of His Excell.,⁴⁷ I shall consider your [?] resignation request, while I have

⁴⁴ Part of me wonders if this was supposed to be deleted. Author checks on this letter seem cursory and rushed.

⁴⁵ In view of the deletion of the man's name later in the sentence/

⁴⁶ i.e. pending?

⁴⁷ Recalls the aborted "Son Excellence" above, now that the author has introduced him by name.

sent⁴⁸ him news of it, your resignation request as made only for the case that the cooperation of the Consul at New Orleans in the execution of the idea was judged necessary.

⁴⁸ Dictionaries seem to have “summon”, “send news of” and “command” for “mander”. This is the bit of the letter I am therefore least confident about, again because he is writing disjointed thoughts and editing at speed.

51. Date: 22 June 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (Detroit) to Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg has met with his father-in-law, the former Secretary of State, Lewis Cass, who thinks the colonization agreements are not legal. This secretary's copy of an original letter from Roest van Limburg is at times difficult to read due to poor handwriting. This necessitated a more general translation.

No. 63

Detroit, 22 Junij 1863

Hoogwelgeboren Heer,

Gisteren had ik met den vorigen Secretaris van Staat genoemd Cass, een onderhoud over de bedoelde emigratie van vrije negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname. Ik las hem de aan Uwe Exc. gerigte nota van den heer Pike, de dato 's Gravenhage, 31 October 1862, voor. De generaal zeide: "Geene vreemde Regering zal zulke voorstellen aannemen; ook geloof ik niet dat zij van de Regering der V.S. uitgaan; veel waarschijnlijker is het dat de heer Pike ze [gedirigeerd?] heeft, het oog op eene latere publicatie hier te lande en verwachten bijval van de abolitionistisch partij."

Even als mij, kwam het den generaal vreemd voor, dat de heer Pike den 31e October zich gemagtigd verklaarde tot het [ingaan?] in onderhandelingen, die door den ^met het onderwerp belasten^ Minister van Binnenlandsche Zaken in zijn, den 22e September, aan mij gerigt nota afgewezen werden, met de woorden, "The Government is not, at present, prepared to make any arrangements to that end."

Doch wat daarvan – een [nevenpunt] – zij, de generaal Cass verklaarde, zeer bepaaldelijk, mijn gevoelen te delen dat wij, met de V.S. eene overeenkomst aangaande waarbij deze zich eene soort van bescherming over de emigranten voorbehouden, vroeger of later met de Amerikaansche Regering in onaangename verwickelingen zouden geraken.

Overigens acht hij de bevrijde negers zeer weinig geschikt voor het door Uwe Excellentie's met hen beoogde doel.

Het scheen mij [pligmatig] Uwe Exc. hiervan kennis te geven, naardien de V.S. geen algemeen hooger geachten staatsman dan den generaal Cass bezitten.

Met eerbied.

* * *

No. 63

Detroit, 22 June 1863

Dear Sir,

Yesterday I had a conversation with the former Secretary of State, named Cass, about the intended emigration of free negroes from the United States to Suriname. I read him the note from Mr. Pike sent to Your Excellency, from The Hague, 31 October 1862. The general said, "No foreign Government shall accept such proposals; also I do not believe that those proposals originated with the U.S. Government; it is far more probable that Mr. Pike has [guided (directed?) them], with an eye towards a later publication here, and with an eye towards a strong acclaim of the abolitionist party."

The general found it strange, as did I, that on the 31st of October Mr. Pike declared himself authorized to enter negotiations, which the Secretary of the Interior who was in charge on that subject had refused in a note to me on the 22nd of September. His words were, "The Government is not, at present, prepared to make any arrangements to that end."

Besides, general Cass declared decidedly to share my feelings, that our attempts to reach an agreement on emigration with the United States, would sooner or later lead us to unpleasant complications with the American Government.

Moreover, he thought the desired negroes to be very unfit for Your Excellency's intended end.

It is my duty to inform Your Excellency because in the United States there is no greater statesman than the general Cass.

Respectfully.

52. Date: 18 July 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Fransen van de Putten, Minister of Colonies to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: It appears from Roest van Limburg that it won't be possible to get black laborers from the United States, but the Governor of Suriname reports that a Mr. Desse has successfully recruited 3 or 400 hundred blacks in New York for this purpose. It is unclear who Mr. Desse is.

Aan Zijne Excellentie den Minister van Buitenlandse zaken

Lett. B, No. 19

's Gravenhage, den 18 July 1863

Zyn M. _____

Ik heb de eer gehad te ontvangen Uwer Excellenties missive van den 9e dezer No. 6393, waarbij mij werden medegedeeld verschillende stukken van Z.M. gezanten te Washington en te Londen, en van 's Konings Minister-Resident te Madrid.

Uit al die stukken, die Uwe Excellentie hierbij onder dankbetuiging voor de mededeling wederom worden aangeboden, schijnt ongelukkiger wijze te blijken, dat evenmin veel uitzigt bestaat op het bekomen van immigranten uit Britsch-Indie, als uit de Spaansche en Portugesche kolonien, of uit Noord-Amerika.

Van den Gouverneur van Suriname ontving ik, in antwoord op de verschillende dezerzijdsche mededelingen betreffende de immigratie, den brief van den 3e Junij ll., No. 14/202, dien ik de eer heb hierbij aan Uwe Excellentie over te leggen. Daarom worden...⁴⁹

In de door Uwe Excellentie in die concept instructie – zoo als die gewijigd was gevoegd bij mijnen brief van 20e Mei ll., La. B, no. 15, nog nader voorgestelde veranderingen, zal ik, om tot afdoening te geraken, thans gaarne berusten, zoodat de vast te stellen instructie zal luiden, zooals die hierbij aan Uwe Excellentie op nieuw wordt aangeboden.

⁴⁹ Page missing.

Uwe Excellentie gelieve alsnu wel het noodige tot vaststelling der van te verrigten, waarna ik maatregelen zal nemen om eene vertaling daarvan in de Engelsche taal te doen vervaardigen en afdrukken, met zoodanigen spoed, dat die aan de consuls in China kunnen worden toegezonden, voordat belanghebbenden aldaar met de werving een aanvang zullen hebben kunnen maken.

Ik zal wijders gaarne van Uwe Excellentie vernemen hetgeen verder van de Britische en Noord Amerikaansche Regering ter zake wordt voorgesteld, opdat in het belang der zaak alles kunnen worden verrigt wat tot het spoedig bereiken van het beoogde doel – de aanwijzing van havens – kan leiden.

Welligt zou Uwe Excellentie kunnen oordeelen, dat de drang der omstandigheden eene vernieuwde uitnodiging aan Onze Gezanten te Londen en Washington wettigt, om toch hunne beste pogingen te blijven aanwenden om spoedig eind-antwoorden te verkrijgen.

Vooral acht ik dit wenschelijk omdat de brieven van Z.M.'s gezant te Washington mij voorkomen te zijn geschreven onder den indruk, dat het niet mogelijk zou zijn in de Verenigde Staten van Noord-Amerika vrije arbeiders voor Suriname aan te werven, terwijl uit de berigten van den gouverneur van Suriname moet worden opgemaakt, dat het den heer Dessé reeds sou zijn gelukt om 300 a 400 negers als zoodanig te New-York aan te werven.

Aan den Gouverneur van Suriname, die onder dagtekening van 28 Maart ll. reeds is uitgenoodigd om vooral met het oog op het aanwijzen van havens in West Indie, de noodige voorstellen te doen tot het verkrijgen van de bij art. 2 bedoelde bijzondere magtiging – wordt thans weder van het nu verhandelde kennis gegeven, met verzoek om alles te verrigten of voortestellen wat hem in het belang der immigratie noodig voorkomt.

Van het in Uwe Excellentie's onderwerpelijken brief bedoelde tarief van werktaken en loonen kunnen alsnog geene exemplaren aan Uwe Excellentie worden aangeboden, vermits de vaststelling en uitvaardiging daarvan in Suriname zal plaats hebben en de berigten daaromtrent dus moeten worden afgewacht.

Op het verzoek van den heer Dessé ter bekoming van eene acte van bekendheid en toelating is teregt door den gouverneur van Suriname afwijzend beschikt, vermits den havens van inschepping niet waren aangewezen, en bovendien niet ten name van den ondernemer in Suriname, althans indien hij zich niet persoonlijk ter plaatse van werving begeeft, maar ten name van diens agent, die ter plaatse van werving voor hem werkzaam zal zijn, zoodanige acte behoort te worden gesteld.

Aan den gouverneur behoort mijns inziens te worden overgelaten de beoordeeling, of hij op het crediet van den heer Dessé, of van eenen anderen aanvrager, diens agent wil kwalificeren, maar teregt verzoekt de gouverneur om spoedige overlegging aan het aangenomen model voor de bedoelde acte. Ten einde aan dit gegrond

verlangen te kunnen voldoen, heb ik de eer, Uwe Excellentie, te verzoeken, mij dit model wel zoodra mogelijk te willen doen toekomen.

Gaarne zal ik den overgelegden brief van den Gouverneur van Suriname met de bijlagen met eenigen spoed van Uwe Excellentie terug ontvangen.

De Minister van Kolonien,

Fransen van de Putte

* * *

To His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Lett. B, No. 19

The Hague, the 18th of July 1863

Your M.,

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letter of the 9th instant, No. 6393, whereby various papers from His Majesty's Ministers in Washington and London, and of the King's Minister-Resident in Madrid, were communicated to me.

From all these papers, for which Your Excellency is herewith offered thanks for their communication, it appears unfortunate, that neither has much prospect of acquiring immigrants from British India, nor from Spanish or Portugese colonies, nor from North America.

From the Governor of Suriname I received, in response to the various communications from this side relating to the immigration, a letter of the 3rd of July, last, No. 14/202, which I have the honor herewith to produce for you Your Excellency. Therefor [page missing]

I will gladly consent to the additional proposed changes in Your Excellency's draft instructions, as they were amended and attached to my letter of 20 May, last, La. B., no. 15, so that the established instructions shall sound such as that it agrees with what Your Excellency presents here.

Your Excellency please do what is necessary to establish the regulations, which I shall have translated into the English language and published, with such speed that they may be sent to the consuls in China before interested parties there can begin to recruit.

Furthermore, I shall gladly hear from Your Excellency what further will be proposed by the British and North American Governments concerning this matter, so that everything in the interest of the intended goal – the designation of ports – may be reached quickly.

Perhaps Your Excellency could judge that the pressure of the situation warrants a renewed invitation to our ministers in London and Washington to continue to give their best efforts in procuring a final answer.

I especially consider this desirable because the letters of His Majesty's minister in Washington appear to me to have been written under the impression that it should not be possible to recruit free laborers in North America for Suriname, while the messages from the governor of Suriname state that Mr. Dessé has already been successful in recruiting 300 to 400 negroes in New York.

In a letter dated 28 March, last, the Governor of Suriname has already been invited to obtain the necessary proposals for designating the ports in the West Indies as required by art. 2 of the special authorization, and has now again been requested to make all proposals that are in the interests of immigration.

Still no copies of the intended tariffs on work and wages referred to in Your Excellency's letter on this subject can be offered to Your Excellency, since the adoption and promulgation thereof shall take place in Suriname and the messages concerning this must be waited for.

Mr. Dessé's request for an act of recognition and admittance was rightly rejected by the governor of Suriname, since the ports of embarkation were not identified and since, above all, the act which is on behalf of the entrepreneur in Suriname, at least if he does not personally attend the recruitment, but has an agent working for him at the site of recruitment, then such an act should be made.

The Governor, in my opinion, should be left to judge whether he wants to admit Mr. Dessé or another applicant, whose agent will qualify, but rightly the governor asks to receive quickly the approved proposal of the act. In order to fulfill this deep desire, I have the honor, Your Excellency, to request that this model will be sent to me quickly as possible.

I shall gladly and quickly like to have returned to me the letter to the Governor of Suriname with the reports.

The Minister of Colonies

Fransen van de Putte

53. Date: 31 July 1863

Source: Diplomatic Instructions from the Department of State, 1801-1906, Vol. 14, Jan. 29, 1833-Sept. 12, 1864

Author: William H. Seward to James Pike

Language: English

Note: Seward is satisfied with the provisions of the ordinance of the Dutch government. He gives an example of what a treaty would need to include if it were to be ratified by the Senate. He writes that blacks were to be settled to relieve the charities of the U.S., but many are now “earning livelihoods through their own exertions.”

Department of State
Washington, 31st July 1863

No. 113

James S. Pike, Esq, etc, etc, etc.

Sir,

Your dispatch No. 91, of the 20th ultimo, has been received, and taken into consideration. The ordinance of the Netherlands Government on the subject of emigration to Surinam which accompanied it seems to be liberal just and precise. Its provisions may be considered rather as supplementary to, than conflicting with, the instruction to you of the 8th of October, last. The object of that instruction was to secure freedom and humane treatment to such persons of African extraction as having been cast upon the charities of this government by the events of the existing civil war, foreign government or their subjects having possession in the tropics, might be desirous of taking thither as settlers or laborers. Many of these, however, who have become free by the operation of the war, are earning a livelihood by their own exertions. These may be presumed competent as they are entitled, at liberty to make their own bargain and to take charge of their own interests with a view to emigration abroad.

As the Dutch Government, however, has expressed a desire for a Convention upon the subject with that of the United States, a draft of such a one as would probably be approved by the Senate and ratified by the President, is herewith transmitted with a power to you to sign the Convention. The draft is believed to combine the essential features of the proposals of both governments. The clause securing to the emigrants the same civil rights as those of the natives of the country to which they

may proceed has been adopted from the Dutch ordinance, and may be regarded as peculiarly comprehensive and judicious.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

William H. Seward

54. Date: 31 August 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: James Pike to Van der Maesen de Sombreff

Language: English

Note: Pike send Van der Maesen de Sombreff a draft of a treaty. Pike demonstrates humanitarian concerns as a key feature of the draft treaty.

His Excellency

P. Van der Maesen de Sombreff

Minister for Foreign Affairs

8233

United States Legation

The Hague August 31, 1863

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you a draft of a Treaty on the subject of the emigration of persons of African extraction to Surinam, which I am empowered to conclude and sign.

The ordinance of the Netherlands Government on this subject, is deemed by the Government of Washington, just, liberal, and precise. Its provisions are considered rather as supplementary to than conflicting with the original propositions of the American Government made by me in my first communications on this subject. The object of that was to secure freedom and humane treatment to such persons of African extraction as having been cast upon the charities of the American Government by the events of the existing civil war, foreign governments, having possessions in the tropics, might be desirous of taking thither as laborers or settlers. Many of those however who have become free by the operation of the war, are earning a livelihood by their own exertions. These may be presumed competent, as they are entirely at liberty, to make their own bargains, and to take charge of their own interests with a view to emigration abroad.

The accompanying draft is thought to be such a one as would probably be approved by the Senate and ratified by the President, and is believed to combine the central features of the proposals of both governments. The clause securing the emigrants the same civil rights as those of the natives of the country to which they may

proceed has been adopted from the Netherlands' ordinance, and may be regarded as peculiarly comprehensive and judicious.

I avail myself of the occasion to renew to your Excellency the assurance of my high consideration.

James S. Pike

55. Date: 8 Sept. 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Fransen van de Putten, Minister of Colonies to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Van de Putten is forwarding letter from Pike. He is in support of the treaty, which he calls “so cheap and advantageous” that he thinks the Dutch should pass it as quickly as possible.

Lett. B.

No. 33

's Gravenhage, den 8e September 1863

Aan Zijne Excellentie

den Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken

Ik heb de eer hierbij aan Uwe Excellentie weder te doen toekomen den brief van den Noord Amerikanschen Minister Resident alhier van den 31^e Augustus ll., met het daarbijgevoegde ontwerp eener overeenkomst tot regeling der emigratie van vrijverklaarde negers uit de Vereenigde Staten naar Suriname, mij medegedeeld bij Uwer Excellentie's brief van den 4en dezer, No. 8233.

De overweging van de bepalingen dier conceptovereenkomst heeft bij mij geene aanleiding tot bemerkingen gegeven en over het algemeen vind ik die zoo billijk en voordeelig, dat het mij zeer wenschelijk voorkomt, om zoo spoedig mogelijk tot het sluiten van zoodanige overeenkomst overtegaan.

Het zou echter welligt overweging verdienen om, ter verduidelijking, en om daardoor zooveel mogelijk alle aanleiding tot latere reclames tegen ons gouvernement te voorkomen, eenige wijziging te brengen in art. VI, door daarin te vermelden, dat de toezegging door het gouvernement, van land- of arbeid in dienst van anderen zich slechts uitstrekt tot den waarborg, dat de contracten tusschen de emigranten en de huurders, daaromtrent te sluiten, behoorlijk zullen worden nageleefd. Dit zou kunnen geschieden door art. VI., door toevoeging van eenige woorden aldus te lezen:

Art. VI

On arriving at their destination the emigrants shall be provided with comfortable dwellings, or with homes in the families of the previous inhabitants. They shall also be provided with lands to cultivate on their own account or with employment

in the service of others according to the agreement made between them and the engaging persons and defined by contract, and they shall enjoy all civil rights held by native citizens.

Gaarne zal ik van Uwe Excellentie vernemen of er bij Haar of bij den heer Pike ook bezwaar tegen deze verduidelijking bestaat.

De Minister van Kolonien

Fransen van de Putte

* * *

Lett B.

No. 33

The Hague, the 8th of September 1863

To His Excellency

the Minister of Foreign Affairs

I have the honor herewith to again provide Your Excellency the letter from the North American Minister Resident from the 31st of August, last, with the enclosed draft of an agreement for regulating the emigration of freed negroes from the United States to Suriname, communicated to me in Your Excellency's letter of the 4th of this month, No. 8233.

The consideration of the provision of the draft agreement has given me no cause for remarks and generally I find it so fair and advantageous that it appears to me very desirable to get to the conclusion of such an agreement as soon as possible.

It is probably worthy of consideration, for clarification, and to prevent as much as possible all later complaints against our government, to bring a few alterations to art. VI, by mentioning therein, that the commitment made by the government of land or labor in service of others extends only to the guarantee that the contracts between the emigrants and tenants, to be concluded in that matter, will be duly respected. This could be done to read art. VI., by adding a few words, thus:

Art. VI

On arriving at their destination the emigrants shall be provided with comfortable dwellings, or with homes in the families of the previous inhabitants. They shall also be provided with lands to cultivate on their own account or with employment in the service of others according to the agreement made between them and the engaging persons and defined by contract, and they shall enjoy all civil rights held by native citizens.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ This paragraph was written in English in the original letter.

I should gladly like to learn from Your Excellency if you or Mr. Pike also have objections against this clarification.

The Minister of Colonies

Fransen van de Putte

56. Date: 7 Oct. 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: James Pike to Sombreff, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: English

Note: Pike received Van der Maesen de Sombreff's letter of the 31st of Sept. His added line to the proposal was accepted: namely that contracts shall be made with planters in Suriname, specifically. Pike does not presume the article will meet with any objection by the U.S. government.

His Excellency

P. van der Maesen de Sombreff

Minister of Foreign Affairs

9353

United States Legation

The Hague, October 7, 1863

I have had the honor to receive your reply to my communication of the 31st of August last in respect to the draft of a treaty enclosed therein having for its object the regulation of the emigration of persons of African extraction from the United States to Surinam.

I observe your suggestions in relation to the 6th Article of that treaty, and beg to say that I see no objection to the addition thereto that you propose to make.

The article as amended by you, will then read as follows:

“Article VI – On arriving at their destination, the emigrant shall be provided with comfortable dwellings, or with homes in the families of the previous inhabitants. They shall also be provided either with lands to cultivate on their own account, or with employment in the service of others [according to agreement made between them and the engaging persons as defined by contract] and they shall enjoy all civil rights held by native citizens.”

I enclose in brackets the addition you propose to make. In this form, I presume the article will not meet with any objection from the United States Government.

I beg to renew to your Excellency the assurance of my high consideration.

James S. Pike

57. Date: 9 Nov. 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: James Pike to Sombreff, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: English

Note: Pike is ready to sign the treaty and is waiting for a final response from Dutch side.

10316

United States Legation

The Hague, November 9, 1863

His Excellency

P. Van der Maesen de Sombreff

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Sir,

On my return to town I have the honor to find the communication of your Excellency in response to my note of the 7th of October, in which you ask if I have the powers necessary to conclude the treaty, of which I had the honor to furnish you the original draft on the 31st of August last.

In reply I beg to enclose to your Excellency the Power to negotiate the treaty in question which I have received from my Government, and which I trust will be found satisfactory.

I shall take pleasure in receiving from your Excellency an intimation of the time when it will be convenient to have me wait upon you for final action upon the subject.

I beg to renew to your Excellency the assurance of my high consideration.

James S. Pike

58. Date: 11 Nov. 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Minister of Foreign Affairs to Minister of Colonies

Language: Dutch

Note: The director of the Dutch King's cabinet has reported that the King has given his authorization for the treaty. The director, who did not sign his name to this letter, was Frederik Lodewijk Willem (Frits) de Kock, who had also recently (10 October 1863) taken on the position of Minister of State.

10401

's Gravenhage, den 11 November 1863

N 63

Zijne Excellentie

den Heer Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken

Ter voldoening van de bevelen des Konings heb ik de eer Uwer Excellentie, hierevens, voorzien van Zijner Majesteits onderteekening te doen terug geworden, de, bij Uwe rapport van gisteren, N 10316, aangeboden volmagt tot het aangaan uwer overeenkomst met de Vereenigde Staten van Amerika, tot het bevorderen van het regelen der emigratie van vrije arbeiders uit die Staten naar Suriname.

De Minister van Staat,

Directeur van het Kabinet des Konings,

* * *

10401

The Hague, 11 November 1863

N 63

His Excellency

Mr. Minister of Foreign Affairs

In fulfillment of the King's commands, I have the honor, Your Excellency, to return to you herewith, the authorization sent in your report from yesterday, N 10316, (completed with His Majesty's signature), of a convention with the United States of

America for the advancement of the arrangements to be made for emigration of free laborers from those States to Suriname,

The Minister of State,
Director of the King's Kabinet

59. Date: 17 Nov. 1863

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: James Pike to Sombreff, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: English

Note: Concern over terms of treaty, that it is clear emigrating blacks will be declared to have the same status as all residents in Suriname.

His Excellency

P. Van der Maesen de Sombreff

Minister of Foreign Affairs

10601

United States Legation

The Hague Novem. 17. 1863.

Sir,

I have the honor to receive your communication of yesterday. I observe what you say in regard to alterations in the phraseology of Articles 3d and 6th of the treaty.

That in Articles 3d, substituting “proper officers” for “collector”. I see no objection to, although the original form, being more precise, I think is to be preferred.

The alteration in the 6th article, proposing to insert “resident in the Colony” in place of “native citizens,” is at least proper in one respect. “Native citizens,” can hardly be deemed an accurate description of the subject of a Prince, + I shall allow you to impute the use of the term to republican inadvertence.

But nevertheless it was intended to express an idea which I suppose is, at best, but indefinitely conveyed in the terms, “resident in the Colony.” Resident may be foreign or domestic, and the term may be considered vague, as the rights of each are not the same. The design of the original stipulation was to give to the emigrant the same rights as are possessed by that class of persons who were born in the colony.

If therefore no substitute for “native citizens,” the words “the native resident of the Colony”, shall, I think, better fulfill the condition of the original stipulation. If there is no objection to the substance of the stipulation, and I do not

understand that there is, I can see none to the adoption of the phraseology I suggest.

If this proposition meets with your approval, you can have the draft made to conform thereto, and I shall be happy to meet you at the Foreign Office on Thursday afternoon the 19th inst. at 3. o clock, to sign the convention.

Accept I pray the assurance of my high consideration.

James Pike

60. Date: 15 Dec. 1863

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Signed, P. van der Maesen de Sombreff, Fransen van de Putten, and James Pike

Language: Bilingual (Dutch-English side-by-side)

Note: The original is a handwritten copy of treaty proposal in parallel text of Dutch (on the left) and English (on the right of the page). I have reproduced only the English text here.

His Majesty the King of the Netherlands and the United States of America, being desirous of preserving and strengthening the harmony and good understanding, which now exist between them, by means of a convention for the purpose of regulating the emigration from the United States to Surinam, of persons of African extraction have conferred full powers:

His Majesty the King of the Netherlands on Sir Paul vdr Maesen de Sombreff, His Minister of foreign Affairs, and on Isaac Digenes Fransen van de Putte, His Minister for the Colonies, and the President of the United States on James S. Pike, accredited on their Minister Resident at the Hague, and the said plenipotentiaries, after having exchanged their full powers, which are found to be in proper form, have concluded the following articles.

Art. 1.

The Dutch Government, of the Governor of Surinam, will authorize in writing any person, who may be desirous of engaging in the United States persons of African extraction to emigrate to Surinam.

Art. 2.

The authority thus conferred must, whenever required, be exhibited to the proper officers of the United States.

Art. 3.

Whenever the agent, then appointed and recognized, shall engage emigrants, a list of them with a statement showing that, if adults, they have freely consented to the engagement, and if minors, that the same consent has been given by their parents or guardians, shall be lodged with the proper officer of the port at which they may embark.

Art. 4.

The same statement shall specify the names, ages, sexes, and, if adults, the previous occupations of the emigrants.

Art. 5.

The emigrants shall with their effects be received on board of seaworthy vessels, which shall afford them healthful and convenient accommodations as to space, air, food, water and other necessities.

Art 6.

On arrivng at their destination, the emigrants shall be provided with comfortable dwellings or with homes in the families of the previous inhabitants.

They shall also be provided either with lands to cultivate on their own account, or with employment in the service of others, according to agreement, made between them and the engaging persons as defined by contrat, and they shall enjoy all civil rights held by native residents in the colony.

Art. 7.

All such emigrants and their posterity shall forever remain free and shall, in no case, be reduced to slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime.

Art. 8.

The present treaty, shall be ratified and the mutual exchange of ratifications shall take place at the Hague in twelve months from the date hereof, or earlier if possible.

It shall continue and remain in full force for the term of ten years, from the day of exchange of the ratifications, and further until the end of one year after either of the contracting parties shall have given notice to the other of its intention to

terminate the same, each of the contracting parties reserving to itself the right of giving such notice to the other at the end of said term of ten years.

And it is hereby agreed between them, that on the expiration of one year, after such notice shall have been received by either from the other party, this treaty shall altogether cease and determine.

In faith whereof we, the respective Plenipotentiaries, have signed this treaty, and have hereunto affixed our seals.

Done in duplicate at the Hague, the fifteenth day of December, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and sixty three.

James Pike

61. Date: 18 Jan. 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: W.J.C. Huyssen van Kattendijke (The Hague) to Roest van Limburg (Washington)

Language: Dutch

Note: Willem Johan Cornelis ridder Huyssen van Kattendijke, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, has replaced P. van der Maesen de Sombreff and would now like to ask Roest van Limburg to work towards designating the proper ports of embarkation. Kattendijke is under the false impression that Roest van Limburg had already been informed about the signing of the convention in The Hague, which occurred a month earlier.

Den Heer Roest van Limburg
Buitengewoon Gezant en gevolmagtigd
Minister van zijne Majesteit den
Koning der Nederlanden te Washington
No. 192/3
's Gravenhage, den 18 January 1864

HoogEdelGestrenge Heer,

Gelijk UHEG. uit de terzake, tusschen het Departement van Buitenlandsche Zaken en Zijner Majesteits Gezantschap te Washington gevoerde briefwisseling bekend is, zijn door de Nederlandsche Regering onderhandelingen gevoerd met het Gouvernement der Vereenigde Staten, omtrent de emigratie van vrij verklaarde negers als vije arbeiders naar Suriname. Die onderhandelingen hebben tot het gewenschte einde geleid, en op 15 December jl. is alhier te dier zake een tractaat gesloten, waarvan ik de eer heb UHEdG. hiernevens afschrift te doen toekomen.

Diensvolgens, en met het oog op Artikel 2 der bij Zijner Majesteits Besluit van 19 Maart jl. N. 71 vastgestelde verordening betreffende het toezigt op den aanvoer van vrije arbeiders in Suriname, zullen door de Nederlandsche Regering de havens moeten aangewezen worden alwaar de inscheping der emigranten zal moeten geschieden.

Bij UHEG missive van 25 September 1862 No. 102 werden de consulaten ter New-York, Baltimore, Philadelphia en Nieuw Orleans voorgesteld als het best geschikt om zich met het toezigt over de werving en inscheping van emigranten

te belasten, terwijl echter bij UHEG missives van 27 October 1862 No. 118, 19 Mai jl, No. 52, 6 Junij jl, No. 54, 13 Junij jl. No. 59., 19 Junij jl. No. 61 en 22 Junij jl. 1863, onder toezending der berigten van de betrekkelijke consuls, veelerlei bezwaren tegen de aanwerving van kleurlingen in de Vereenigde Staten als vrije arbeiders werden geopperd.

Zonder het gewigt dier bezwaren te willen tegenspreken, en zonder te willen beoordeelen in hoe verre de bedoelde emigratie aan het beoogde doel zal kunnen beantwoorden, zullen thans, nu het tractaat eenmaal gesloten is, havens voor de inschepping der emigranten moeten aangewezen worden, en ik vertrouw dat UHEG, welke overigens zijne zienswijze omtrent deze aangelegenheid zij, wel zijne groote bekendheid met de bestaande toestanden in de Vereenigde Staten zal willen bezigen om de bedoelde zaak te helpen bevorderen, en de zich voordoende zwarigheden zooveel mogelijk uit den weg te ruimen.

Ik neem dus de vrijheid UHEG te verzoeken mij te melden welke havens zijns inziens het meest geschikt zijn om als plaatsen van inschepping te worden aangewezen, het zij de vier bovengenoemde, hetzij zoodanige andere als UHEG bij nader onderzoek, en met het oog op den tegenwoordigen staat van zaken, meer verkieslijk mogt achten.

Alvorens mij mededeeling der door UHEG voortstellen havens te doen, gelieve UHEG mede van het kabinet te Washington te vernemen of bij hetzelfde eenig bezwaar, tegen de aanwijzing dier havens als plaatsen van inschepping mogt bestaan.

Naar aanleiding der wenschelijkheid om de bedoelde aanwijzing tegelijk met, of althans zoodra doenlijk na de bekendmaking der ratificatie van het tractaat, te doen plaats vinden, veroorlof ik mij UHEG te verzoeken mij wel zoo spoedig mogelijk de verlangde inlichtingen te willen doen toekomen.

Tevens heb ik de eer UHEG onder kruisband te zenden een tiental Engelsche exemplaren der Verordeningen betreffende het toezigt op den aanvoer van vrije arbeiders, en het uitloven van staatswege van premien op dien aanvoer in Suriname, zoomede een tientaal exemplaren, Engelsch en Hollandsch, der betrekkelijke Instructie voor de Nederlandsche Consuls. UHEG zal wel exemplaren derzelve aan de betrokken Consuls willen doen geworden, nadat de havens van inschepping zullen aangewezen zijn.

De sub c en d van No. 2 der genoemde instructie bedoelde verordeningen zijn nog niet vastgesteld. Zoodra zulks geschied zijn, zal ik er UHEG mede de noodige exemplaren van doen toekomen.

Gelief HoogEdelGestrenge Heer, de verzekering mijner hoogachting aan te nemen,

Kattendijke

* * *

Mr. Roest van Limburg
 Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of
 His Majesty the King of the Netherlands
 In Washington
 No. 192/3
 The Hague, 18 January 1864

Dear Sir,

As you are aware from the correspondence between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Your Majesty's delegation in Washington, the Dutch Government has conducted negotiations with the Government of the United States on the emigration of freed negroes and free workers to Suriname. Those negotiations have led to the desired end, and here on 15 December, last, a treaty was concluded of which I have the honor herewith to provide you a copy.

Accordingly, and with an eye towards Article 2 of His Majesty's resolution of 19 March, last, No. 71, which established regulations for the supervision of the transport of free workers to Suriname, the Dutch Government will have to designate the ports where the embarkation of emigrants will have to occur.

With your letter of 25 September 1862, no. 102, the consulates in New-York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New Orleans were proposed as the best fit to be burdened with the supervision of the recruitment and shipping of emigrants, while however with your letters of 27 October 1862 No. 118, 19, May, last, No. 52, 6 June, last, no. 54, 13 June, last, No. 59, 19 June, last, No. 61, and 22 June, last, 1863, with the messages of the respective consuls included, many objections were raised to the recruitment of coloreds in the United States as free laborers.

Without arguing against the importance of these objections, and without desiring to judge to what extent the intended emigration will answer the goal in sight, now that the treaty has been concluded, ports for the embarkation of the emigrants must be designated, and I trust that, regardless of what your views on this opportunity are, you do want to employ your great knowledge of the existing situation in the United States to help forward the purpose, and resolve as many objections as possible.

I take the freedom, therefore, to ask that you report to me which ports are in your view the most fit to be designated as places of embarkation, whether the above-mentioned four, or after further research, and with an eye towards the contemporary state of affairs, which others you esteem more preferable.

Before you communicate the proposed ports to me, I afford asking you to find out from the cabinet in Washington if there any objections might exist against the designation of those ports as places of embarkation.

In order to fulfill the wish to designate the ports at the same time of or as soon as possible after the ratification of the treaty, I permit myself to request of you to provide me with the desired information as soon as possible.

Also, I have the honor to send to you about ten wrapped English copies of the regulations relating to the supervision of the supply of free laborers, and the offer of state premiums on the supply of them in Suriname, as well as about ten copies, in English and Dutch, of the related Instructions for Dutch Consuls. You will want to provide the respective consuls with copies of the same, after the ports of embarkation shall have been designated.

The regulations sub c and d of No. 2 of the said instructions have not yet been enacted. Should such occur, I shall provide you with the necessary copies.

Dear Sir, receive the assurance of my high regard,

Kattendijke

62. Date: 27 January 1864

Source: U.S. National Archives, Dispatches from United States Consuls in Paramaribo, 1799-1997, roll 5, vol. 5: January 5, 1864 – December 31, 1869.

Author: Henry Sawyer to William H. Seward

Language: English

Note: Sawyer, in Suriname, writes to Seward, expressing his surprise that mail from Europe states that a treaty has been concluded between the United States and Netherlands for emigration.

No. 106

U.S. Consulate

Paramaribo

January 27 1864

Hn. H.W. Seward

Asst. Secretary of State of the U. States

Washington

Sir,

On the fast mail from Europe I learned that a treaty had been concluded between the U. States and Holland relative to the Emigration of Coloured people from the U. States to this and other Colonies of the Netherlands.

At the moment the plantations are suffering for the want of laborers and many of the planters have applied to see for information pertaining to the subject and are willing to employ them at fair wages immediately on their arrival here.

As I before informed you in my despatch no. 11, 1862, I will offer my services and will attend to their wants and interests and see that they are here provided for on the plantations where they [would] be employed.

I beg to say that the Governor of the Colony has received no information relative to the above treaty.

I am

63. Date: 30 Jan 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Netherlands Department of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: This is a copy of the original, made by a clerk in the Department of Foreign Affairs. Roest van Limburg is upset to find out that the treaty has been signed in the Netherlands and he has not been informed. He learned about the treaty's conclusion in the press.

No. 10

Een, aan de legatie niet medegedeeld, verdrag, tusschen Nederland en de V.S. betrekkelijk emigratie van vrijverklaarde negers uit de V.S. aan Suriname.

New York, 30 January 1864

Zijne Excellentie.

den Hoogwelgeb. Heer Ridder Huyssen van Kattendijke

Minister van Buitenl. Zaken, enz., enz., enz.

Hoogwelgeboren Heer,

In de Nederlandsche Staats Courant van den 19en December ll, No. 299, las ik, onder de rubriek "Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken", het volgende:

"Den 16en december is te 's Hage een verdrag geteekend tusschen Nederland en de V.S. van Noord Amerika, ten zaken den emigratie van vrijverklaarde negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname."

Van dat verdrag is 's Konings gezant bij de V.S. door Uwer Excellenties ambtsvoorganger onkundig gelaten. De legatie had de eer, van den verledene Minister van Buitenl. Zaken brieven te ontvangen de dato 22 en 23 december, No. 51 en No. 52, zijnden eenen brief voor den Minister geteekend door den Secretaris generaal, de dato 29 december, No. 53, nadat die drie genoemde brieven voorafgegaan waren door eener brief van den Minister, de dato 11 december, No. 50. Sedert de onderteekening des verdrags, dan, tot op het laatste schrijven van den heer van der Maesen de Sombreff, de dato 2 Januarij ll, ging er geen brief te lezen; zoodat het, hetzij aan een onvoorbedachtelijk verzuim, hetzij aan eene

min volledige bekendheid met algemeen aangenomene diplomatische gebruiken, steunende in bedoeld geval op ontbrekend aan gezond verstand, schijnt te moeten worden toegeschreven dat 's Konings gezant in Amerika, alweder, over door den heer Van de Maesen, gelijk vroeger door den heer baron van Zuylen, onkundig werd gelaten van eene gewigtige diplomatische transactie tusschen 's Konings Regering en de Regering van het land waar hij de eere heeft Nederland te vertegenwoordigen.

Mijn pligtsbesef noopt mij, met alle verschuldigden eerbied aan te merken dat zoodanige handeling van nature is om 's Konings Regering, althans om 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken, bij den vreemde in een valsch daglicht te doen voorkomen.

Het schijnt, namelijk, zonderling dat 's Konings gezant, hier door leden der Regering, der Vertegenwoordigers door Collega's of consulaire agenten omtrent een door zijne Regering met het land waar hij geaccrediteerd is gesloten verdrag aangesproken, antwoorden moet, generlei kennis van dat verdrag te hebben.

De zonderlingheid daarvan komt mij, in onderscheiden opzigt, zoo opvallend voor, dat ik mij, met eerbied onthoud zo nader toe te lichten.

Wat het verdrag zelf betreft, moet ik mij bepalen tot de hoop dat het beduidend afwijkend moge van de schets door den Minister Resident der V.S. te 's Gravenhage bij zijn nota van 31 October 1862, aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenl. Zaken voorgelegd, en mij door laatstgemelden medegedeeld bij *dépêche* van 27 april 1863, No. 3238/22. Tegen het daarin vervatte opperde ik, bij mijne brieven van 19 Mei 1863, No. 52, en 22 Junij 1863, no. 63, met bescheidenheid, bezwaren, gedeeld door onze consulaire agenten hier te lande, en niet minder zwaarwegend bij den generaal Cass, den meest geachten staatsman in de V.S., en wiens ervaring, ten zijnent nooit in twijfel werd getrokken, gedurende de lange jaren dat hij er Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken en Resident van den Raad van Ministers was. Zijne woorden waren: geene vreemde Regering kan zulke voorstellen aannemen. De Heer van der Maesen de Sombreff, echter, had vertrouwen genoeg in zijn eigen oordeel, tegenover dat van 's Konings gezant ten betrokken plaatse, en al de door den zelve aangevoerde autoriteiten (bij brieven van 11 en 27 oktober 1862, No. 111 en No. 118) om in te gaan op voorstellen volgens welke eene vreemde en dat wel de Amerikaansche Regering gemagtig zou worden om, of aan haar of aan leden van het Congress gerigte reclamaties van emigranten, het verdrag in de hand, remonstranten te doen over de behandeling dien emigranten te onzent. Geene Regering, [meende] ik met den generaal Cass en schier alle vreemde diplomaten kon zulke voorstellen aannemen.

De ene ongerijmde reclamatie, eenige jaren geleden, ten aanzien van den monsieur Gibson door den heer Belmont aangedrongen, als to be informed by his

government, moet, dunkt mij, behoedzaam maken om de Regering der V.S. geenerlei vat tot reclamatie te geven.

Met eerbied,
Hoogwelgeb. Heer,
Van Uwe Excellentie
De zeer gehoorzamen en onderdanigen dienaar

R.v.L.

* * *

No. 10

A convention, not communicated to the legation, between the Netherlands and the U.S. regarding the emigration of freed blacks from the U.S. to Suriname.

New York, 30 January 1864
Excellency
Sir⁵¹ Huyssen van Kattendijke
Minister of Foreign Affairs, etc., etc., etc.

Dear Sir,

In the Dutch official journal⁵² of the 19th of December, last, No. 299, I read the following under the heading “Ministry of Foreign Affairs”:

“On the 16th of December in The Hague, an agreement was signed between the Netherlands and the U.S. of North America, concerning the emigration of freed negroes from the U.S. to Suriname.”

Your Excellency’s predecessor neglected to inform the King’s minister in the United States about this agreement. The legation had the honor to receive letters from the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, dated 22 and 23 December, No. 51 and No. 52, and a letter for the Minister signed by the Secretary General, dated 29 December, No. 53, after those three named letters were preceded by a letter from the Minister, dated 11 December, No. 50. Since the signing of the agreement, until the last writing of Mr. van der Maesen de Sombreff, dated 2 January, last, there

⁵¹ The title “Heer Ridder” indicated that Kattendijke was a knight, a member of a noble family.

⁵² *Nederlandsche Staatscourant*, the paper of the national government, for publishing legal notices, treaties, etc.

have been no other letters, so that whether it was an unpremeditated omission, or whether it was done with an incomplete knowledge of the common accepted diplomatic customs, supported in the latter case by a lack of common sense, it appeared that the King's minister in America, again (with Mr. van der Maesen, as was earlier the case with Mr. Baron van Zuylen), was left uninformed of an important diplomatic transaction between the King's Government and the Government of the country which he has the honor to represent.

My sense of duty calls me, with all possible respect, to remark that such proceedings by nature put the King's Government, as well as the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs, abroad in a false light.

Specifically, it appears curious that the King's minister here must answer without any knowledge questions from members of the Government, Representatives, colleagues, or consular agents about a convention concluded between their government and the land where he is accredited.

This strikes me in many respects as such a curiosity that I, respectfully, would like to elucidate further.

As far as the convention is concerned, I hope that it differs significantly from the sketch presented by the Minister Resident of the United States in The Hague, in his note of 31 October 1862 to the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs, which was last communicated to me in a dispatch of 27 April 1863, no. 3238/22. In response thereto, in my letters of May 1863, No. 52, and 22 June 1863, no. 63, I presented modest objections shared by our consular agents here, and of no less weight, by general Cass, the most honorable statesman in the United States, whose experience was never in doubt during the long years that he was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of the Board of Ministers.⁵³ His words were: "no foreign Government can accept such proposition." Mr. van der Maesen de Sombreff had confidence, however, in his own judgement against that of the King's minister in the place concerned, and against the arguments that same minister⁵⁴ presented from authorities in letters of 11 and 27 October, 1862, No. 111 and

118, to accept proposals according to which a foreign country – the American Government – could have been authorized to complain [to us] about reclamations based on the agreement, brought by emigrants against her [the government] or the Congress concerning the handling of emigrants. No government, I assumed together with general Cass and nearly all of the foreign diplomats could accept such proposals.

⁵³ Cass was Secretary of State and a Member of the Cabinet.

⁵⁴ Roest van Limburg, speaking in the third person.

The one absurd reclamation entered into a few years ago against Mr. Gibson by Mr. Belmont, as to be informed by the government, must, I think, make us cautious to give the Government of the United States any possibility to raise a reclamation.

Respectfully,

Sir,

Your Excellency

The very obedient and humble servant

R.v.L.

64. Date: 9 Feb. 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142.; U.S. National Archives, M56, T5: Notes from the Netherlands Legation in the U.S. to the Dept. of State, 1810-1906 (Sept. 8, 1861 – Dec. 28, 1864).

Author: Roest van Limubrg to William H. Seward

Language: French

Note: The following English translation of the original French appears in the ledger of incoming letters from the Netherlands Legation in the United States to the U.S. Department of State.⁵⁵ Only a copy of the French original exists in the Netherlands' national archives. Roest van Limburg asks Seward about his views on proper ports of embarkation for the colonization. He would like this information to forward it to the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Honb: William H. Seward
Secretary of State of the United States of America
New York 9 February 1864

Sir,

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has communicated to me a convention concluded at the Hague, the 15 December 1863 between the Netherlands and the United States relating to the emigration of persons of african Origin from the United States to Surinam. He has added thereto an order to inform myself through you, whether the government of the United States would object to designate the ports it might think preferable as places of embarkation.

Hastening to acquit myself of this task, I have the honor to request you will have the goodness to put it in my power to inform the Minister for Foreign affairs of the views of the Government of the United States in relation to the subject mentioned, with a designation if possible, of the port which the Government shall deem most suitable for the purpose.

I have the honor to be Sir with renewed assurances of my high consideration.

Roest van Limburg

⁵⁵ National Archives, M56, T5: Notes from the Netherlands Legation in the U.S. to the Dept. of State, 1810-1906 (Sept. 8, 1861 – Dec. 28, 1864).

65. Date: 12 Feb. 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142; and NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: William H. Seward, U.S. Department of State (DC) to Roest van Limburg

Language: English. A copy of the original exists in the Dutch files.

Note: Seward responds to Roest van Limburg, noting that ports of embarkation are not yet identified, and he is doubtful they will be since the treaty has not been seen or confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Roest van Limburg
Department of State
Washington, 12th. Feb., 1864

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 9th instant, in which, under the instructions of your Government, you ask, with reference to the Convention concluded at the Hague between the United States and the Netherlands, on the 15th of December last, relative to the emigration of persons of African origin from the United States to Surinam, to be informed whether the Government of the United States would object to designate the ports it might think preferable as place of embarkation.

In reply, I have the honor to state that the treaty has not yet been approved by the Senate, and it is doubtful whether it will be confirmed by that body in view of the altered condition of affairs relating to the treaty since the negotiations commenced.

I have the honor to be, with high consideration, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wm. B. Seward

66. Date: 13 February 1864

Source: U.S. National Archives, Dispatches from United States Consuls in Paramaribo, 1799-1997, roll 5, vol. 5: January 5, 1864 – December 31, 1869.

Author: Henry Sawyer to William H. Seward

Language: English

Note: Henry Sawyer has interests in the success of the colony of Suriname. In letters to Seward on the subject of employing American blacks as laborers, Sawyer highlights the advantages of the situation. He mentions racial troubles in Suriname, but follows up with positive reports of Surinamese economic prospects.

U.S. Consulate Paramaribo Feb 13th 1864

Hon. H.W. Seward

Assistant of State

Of the U.S. of America

Sir,

I beg to inform you of the manner by which the recently emancipated negroes are kept at work and so far with success considering all circumstances.

On the first of July 1863 the slaves of this colony about 37.000 thousand were proclaimed free with the proviso that they should be under the surveillance of the Government for the term of ten years. That is they were obliged to make a contract with their former owners for a term of months and on the expiration of the same time specified in the agreement they should renew the same or with other planters at their option.

At first they all objected to the contract and rushed to commence work on their own account by taking a small piece of ground and live in a state of independence or in other words laziness.

Men of war steamers were sent up the rivers near the plantations. The negroes were called before the magistrates, which in each division there is one, and had their choice either to abide by the laws (which were explained to them) or at once be taken from the plantations and sent to work the Government estates.

Nearly all have contracted and remained on the same estates with but few exceptions.

The stipulations of the contract are that wages is paid for the amount of work performed, that being a tariff, and a common field hand can earn from one to two

guilders per diam⁵⁶ or eighty American cents per diam and at the cheap rate of provisions and clothing required there, they can lay up one half of their wages.

The laborer has a book duly signed by himself and planter before the magistrate and in case of a dispute should arise between them it is settled before that officer.

If the planter should violate the stipulations of the contract he is liable to a heavy fine and on the other hand if the laborer does not fulfil his part thereof he or she is punished by having being sent to the chain gang or on Government work.

The Planter finds houses and medical attendance gratis.

If the U. States government should decide to send destitute negros here they would probably be obliged to come under the same regulations which is certainly all that could be desired and is beneficial to both Planter and laborer and also prevents vagabondage.

If a planter hires a laborer otherwise than by the aforementioned measure he is subject to a heavy fine.

The only trouble at the moment is the Negro does not work regular, as the amount of wages earned in three days will provide for all his wants for a week leaving the rest of the week.

I understand that a treaty has been concluded between the Netherlands and the U. States relating to the emigration of the free colored people of the U. States to this colony.

I beg to make one or two remarks knowing the state of the colony well at the moment.

There are many planters here who could employ thousands of emigrants and pay them well for their work, but there are others who would willingly take them, trusting to their crop for the payment of their wages, they not having the means otherwise and in case of the failure of the crop the hands would be destitute.

I beg to suggest that it would be the safest way to have the planter indecisively give security to the Government for the payment of their wages before they were sent here.

I have been a resident of this colony now nearly fifteen years and can say that I am well acquainted with the standing of nearly if not quite all the planters here.

As I before informed you I will attend to the interests of the emigrants here if required by the U.S. Government.

As some one must bear the expense of passage here I think that it could be so managed that the planters would pay the same and afterwards be allowed to deduct it from the wages of the laborers gradually.

⁵⁶ "Per diem."

The enclosed tables show what this colony has produced in former years and now could with emigrants and labor saving implements produce double the quantity.⁵⁷
I am your most obedient servant.

Henry Sawyer

⁵⁷ The editor has omitted Sawyer's export statistics from this transcription. The statistics cover Surinamese sugar, coffee, cocoa, cotton, and molasses exports from 1771-1774, and 1859-1862.

67. Date: 15 Feb. 1864

Source: Diplomatic Instructions from the Department of State, 1801-1906, Vol. 14, Jan. 29, 1833-Sept. 12, 1864

Author: William H. Seward to James Pike

Language: English

Note: Seward informs Pike that it is not now expected that the treaty will be ratified. He states that "American people have advanced to a new position in regards to slavery." Much of the letter is regarding the neutrality of the Netherlands and the controversy surrounding international recognition of the Confederacy as an insurgent among the maritime powers. Seward briefly mentions the failure to ratify an emigration treaty, which is followed by a final paragraph acknowledging Dutch concern with the U.S. treasury. Only a selection of the letter is reproduced here.

No. 142

James S. Pike, Esq.

Department of State

Washington 15th Feb. 1864

Sir:

Your dispatch of January 27th, No. 121 has been received.

The President was promptly made acquainted with the kindly sentiments and good wishes of the King of Holland which you communicated to me in your No. 118, and they were accepted with sincere satisfaction.

[...]

I am obliged to confess that it is not now expected that the treaty in regard to negro emigration will be ratified. The American people have advanced to a new position in regard to slavery, and the African class since the President in obedience to their prevailing wishes accepted the policy of colonization. Now not only their free labor, but their military service also is appreciated and accepted.

[...]

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant

William H. Seward

68. Date: 16 Feb. 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Kattendyke, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: This is Roest van Limburg's most important letter concerning the Suriname proposition. It is a long letter, running to eleven full pages in the original handwritten Dutch. Roest van Limburg is upset about the whole matter, and feels that he was put in an uncomfortable position, arguing for something he didn't support, while not being informed in time about developments in regards to the treaty then under negotiation in the Netherlands.

No. 15

New York, 16 February 1864

Zijn Exc. Den Hoogwelgeb. Heer Ridder Huyssen van Kattendijke

Minister van Buitenl. Zaken, enz., enz., enz.

Het verdrag ter regeling der emigratie van kleurlingen uit de V.S. naar Suriname

Hoogwelgeb. Heer,

Ik had de eer te ontvangen Uwer Exc. missive van den 18^e January laatstleden, No. 192/3, begeleidende eene afschrift van eene Overeenkomst, den 15en december des vorigen jaars, te 's Gravenhage tusschen Z.M. den Koning der Nederlanden en de V.S. van Amerika gesloten, tot regeling der emigratie uit de V.S. naar Suriname, van personen van Afrikaansche afkomst.

Hoewel ik daaruit niet anders dan met leedwezen zien kon dat mijne tegen wat thans bij Verdrag daargesteld is geopperde bezwaren 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken niet hebben weerhouden om op het voorstel van den heer Pike in te gaan, heb ik mij begeerd aan Uwer Exc. bevelen te voldoen, en den Secretaris van Staat te raadplegen over de vraag of het kabinet van Washington bezwaar vinden zou om de havens van inscheeping aan te wijzen; met verzoek om bij aldien er bij hetzelfde geen bezwaar daartegen bestaan mogt, nog wel de wenschelijkst geachte havens te willen noemen. Zoodra ik op mijn aan den heer Seward gerigt schrijven antwoord bekom, zal ik de eer hebben het aan Uwe Exc. mede te deelen.

Uwe Exc. doet mij de eer aan, te genoeg van mijne missive van den 25^e Sept 1862, No. 102, als waarbij ik de eer had aan te merken dat de Amerikaansche

Regering niet gezind scheen om zich van weerbare negers te ontdoen; doch dat behoefde [echter] Suriname neger-arbeiders, het mij doelmatiger voorkomen zou dat de consulaten te New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore en New Orleans met de aanneming en verscheping derzelve wierden belast. Die brief werd geschreven alvorens ik de gewenschte nadere inlichtingen omtrent de bedoelde aangelegenheid had ontvangen, en de aard der negers, gelijk die zich later openbaarde, mij nog niet bekend zijn kon. Ik deed dan inderdaad niets meer dan oppervlakkig havens van inscheping noemend, en [gewagend?] van de aldaar gevestigde consulaten als eventueel te belasten met de aanneming en inscheping van negers. Niet alleen beoogde ik nooit de tusschenkomst van werfagenten, maar van den beginne af aan was ik er tegen, en meende ik dat alles aan de consuls zou worden overgelaten, behoudens, natuurlijk schadeloosstelling derzelve voor te maken kosten. Deze aanmerking veroorlof ik mij alleenlijk ter verhoeding dat ons kunne worden voorgeworpen dat ik aanvankelijk gezind scheen om aan onze consuls op te dragen wat thans door de Regering beoogd wordt: persoonlijk toezigt over het gedrag van werfagenten, niet door hen aan te stellen. Wijder was toen de aard den bedoelde [negers] niet bekend, en bezigde de Amerikaansche Regering ze nog niet zeer veelvuldig gelijk thans, laat staan tot soldaten, iets waaraan zich onderscheidene, laten te vermelden consideraties aanknopen. Gevolgelyk zou ik, ook al hadde de heer V.d. Maesen de Sombreff, bij dépêche van 27 april 1863, N. 3238/22, het [ons] niet bepaaldelyk opgedragen, de betrokken consuls hebben moeten raadplegen. Dit begeerde ik mij te doen, en dezelve adviezen werden door mij, onvertraagd aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken toegezonden. Wat die heeren, dus, omtrent de bedoelde havens, als plaatsen van inscheping, en omtrent hunne bemoeienis daarmede denken, is aan het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken bekend zo veel als aan mij en ik heb noch toen ik de brieven [dier] hun ontving, noch sedert, iets vernomen, 't welk, wij de juistheid hunner inlichtingen in twijfel zou kunnen doen trekken. Mogt nu de Amerikaansche Regering eene of meerdere havens voorslaan, zoo zal ik dadelijk aan onzen consul aldaar (indien wij er eenen hebben) schrijven, en hem vragen of hij gezind zijn zou tot het beoogde doel mede te werken? Want, helaas, ik mag het aan Uwe Excellentie niet verzwijgen, ik bedacht zeer, dat schier al onze consulaire agenten, te beginnen met den consul generaal, hun ambt liever nederleggen zullen dan volbrengen wat er door 's Konings Regering van hen verlangd wordt.

De heer Van der Maesen de Sombreff heeft mij niets doen vernemen omtrent den door mij aan Zijne Exc. toegezonden belangrijke brief van onzen consul te New Orleans behelzende [mede deszelfs?] nederlegging zijner amtsbetrekking (door mij opgenomen als slechts gedaan voor het geval dat zijne medewerking tot het onderhavige doel verlangd mogt worden). Evenwel ware het misschien niet ondoelmatig geweest, mij, zodra mogelijk, te verwittigen of er al dan niet een ander consul te New Orleans zou worde vereischt. Want men zou zich zeer bedriegen als men zich

voorstelde dat het bekomen van geschikte consuls hier eene ligte taak is. Ook te Philadelphia wordt het consulaat nog slechts tijdelijk waargenomen, en moet er in eene nieuwe aanstelling worden voorzien. De heer Van der Maesen de S. bleef mij alsmede antwoord schuldig op mijnen brief van 12 October II, N. 87 waarin ik, onder anderen de eer had aan te merken, dat er mij niemand ten bekleeding van het consulaat werd genoemd uitgenomen de heer Dixon, die geen Hollands kende, terwijl ik “zonder het goedvinden van ’s Konings Minister van Buitenl. Zaken te hebben vernomen”, niet gaarne eenen persoon tot consul te Philadelphia aanbevelen zou, tenzij hij althans de Nederlandse taal lezen kon. Later vernam ik dat de heer Dixon dit niet doen kon, en alle mijne nasporingen, gelijk die van den consul generaal en den vice consul generaal, om eenen geschikte consul te Philadelphia te vinden, bleven vruchteloos.

Daar ik nu echter geen oogenblik twijfel of de heer Zeigler (die reeds een paar malen aan den heer Burlage gevraagd heeft of de Regering nog niet geantwoord had) zal terstond het consulaat vaarwel zeggen, zoodra van hem eene bemoeienis met neger-agenten en neger-inscheping verlangd wordt, zijn, voor het bedoelde geval, de beduidende consulaten van New Orleans en Philadelphia als vacant te beschouwen. Tot bewijs van de bezwaarlijkheid die er bestaat om hier te lande Nederlandsche consuls of vice consuls te vinden, wat moeite ik mij ook geven moge, veroorloof ik mij aan te merken dat ik, gedurende vier jaren te vergeefs, eenen, door mij zeer gewenschten vice consul te washington zocht. Wat ook kon ik antwoorden, als men, soms [uitgelokt?] door de ruime bezoldigingen van Engelsche, Fransche, Oostenrijksche, Russische, Italiaansche consulaire agenten, mij vroeg naar de voordelen aan onze consulaten verbonden? Traktement? Volstrekt niets. Emolumenten? Zeer gering; de berekening in Hollandsch geld, toch, is hier onbeduidend. Vergoeding van gemaakte kosten? Uiterst beperkt. Decoratie? Na zeer lange diensttijd en bijzondere verdienste, misschien. Doch gansch niet zoo gebruikelijkenwijze als van wege veel andere Regeringen, die, bij gebrek van betaling, door onderscheidingen en decoraties gaan wekken en onderhouden. [?], en daar nu hier een consulaat niet vrijstelt van militaire dienst noch van belasting, vraagt men waarom men op zich nemen zou eene betrekking waaraan wel werkzaamheden en verplichtingen, doch geene gangende voordelen verbonden zijn? Hoe gewigtig het evenwel is, geschikte consuls hebben, zal opvallen als het mij veroorloofd is een paar namen te noemen: den heer Couturie, te New Orleans, die 800,000 dollars bewaarde, den heer Geldemeester, te San Francisco, die de ervenis ene Nederlanders ontvreemde, juist in het tijdverloop, zoo ik mij niet vergis (de daarbij betrekkelijke correspondentie bevindt zich in de archieven des departements van Buitenlandse Zaken) dat de heer Van der Maesen de Sombreff, door mij uitgenodigd om hem uit de dienst te [verwijderen], het wijzer achtte mij op te dragen nadere informatie te nemen.

Allerbetreurenswaardigst zou ik het achten, indien nu ook het Consulaat Generaal te New York mogt komen te vaceren. De heer Burlage, die het met veel ijver en waardigheid bekleedt, die aan het hoofd staat van een aanzienlijk handelshuis, geniet hier hoge achting, en heeft in zijne acht jaren dienst thans eene ervaring vergaderd die niet ligt door eenen nieuwelings te benoemen consul zou worden evernaard. Mogt hij nu ook, gelijk ik beducht, terugtreden voor de veelvuldige bemoeienis met eene zaak waarvan hij volstrekt geene goede uitkomst verwacht, en liever het consulaat nederleggen, zoo zou ik zulks als een groot verlies beschouwen en Uwe Excellentie geene hoop kunnen geven op eene even wenschelijke vervulling dan belangrijke betrekking door eenen anderen. Terwijl ik geene reden heb om te verwachten dat de vice-consulgeneraal, meer dan de consulgeneraal zelf, geneigd zijn zou tot vervulling der bedoelde nieuwe taak.

Wat nu, de consulaire bemoeienis daargelaten, de aangelegenheid zelve der aanwerving van kleurlingen in de V.S. aangaat, zoo verzoek ik eerbiedig dat mijn eerste schrijven dienaangaande, namelijk mijn missive van 21 July 1862, No. 76, moge worden beschouwd als een bewijs mijner opregte bereidwilligheid om tot de verwezenlijking van een met de belangen der lands strookend doel mede te werken, en, voor zoo veel ik kan, bezwaren uit den weg te ruimen. Mij zal niet meer dan regt geschieden, als 's Konings Regering wel gelooven wil dat de door mij achtereenvolgens, naar mate ik nader onderrigt werd en meer nog, met meer en meer klem aangevochten bezwaren louter en alleen de uitdrukken zijn van mijne overtuiging dat het thans door de Regering beoogde niet dan nadeelige vruchten dragen kan. Die overtuiging is bij mij nu zeer gevestigd en zoo opregt, dat ik het van mijnen pligt acht nog nader en uitvoeriger de in mijn oog bestaande bezwaren aan te wijzen, met allen eerbied verzoekende dat zij in nadere overweging mogen worden genomen.

Het verdrag toch is, ja, gesloten, maar het is nog niet bekrachtigd, en een nieuwe Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken zou, gelijk meer geschied is, zeer wel bezwaar kunnen vinden tegen wat zijn voorganger beraamd had. Gelijk, indien ik wel onderrigt ben, de heer Thorbecke zelf eenmaal adviseerde, is het niet volstrekt noodig dat een verdrag bekrachtigd worde, al is de volmagt niet te buiten gegaan. Doch al moest de onderhavige overeenkomst worden bekrachtigd, zij behoeft daarom nog niet ten uitvoer worden gebracht. Er is wel gestipuleerd wat er bij de emigratie zal moeten worden in acht genomen; maar niet dat Nederland emigranten nemen moet. Wij zijn dus bevoegd de uitvoering des verdrags uit te stellen tot dat de omstandigheden gunstiger zullen zijn.

En dit althans, zal het geval wezen, als de oorlog eindigt. Want nu – en dit is nu juist, 't welk ik aan de ernstige aandacht van 's Konings Regering aanbeveel – nu hebben wij voor zoo veel de aanwerving van gezonde, krachtige mannelijke kleurlingen betreft, allen tegen ons: namelijk, de Regering der V.S. zelve, die, gelijk aan den heer V.d. Maesen reeds had kunnen blijken uit den aan mij gerigten brief van

den Secretaris van Staat, de dato 22 July 1862, welke door my aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken is overgezonden, de bedoelde Kleurlingen voor arbeiders, en thans ook voor soldaten behoeft. Opmerkelijk toch waren de woorden: "I have to state that it is believed the demand for laborers of that class in the military and naval service of the United States alone is sufficient to outweigh any inducement to their emigration abroad likely to be offered by foreign countries." Het blijkt niet dat daarvan, noch van het aan mij gerigte en door mij alsmede aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenl. Zaken overgezonden schrijven des Amerikaanschen Ministers van Binnelandsche Zaken, de dato 22 Sept. 1862, notitie genoeg genomen werd om het hem vreemd te doen voorkomen, dat, eene groote maand slechts later, de heer Pike hem kwam voorstellen wat hier, 40 dagen vroeger, door zijn Regering afgewezen werd.

Aan den heer V.d. Maesen viel deze tegenstrijdigheid niet op; althans niet genoeg om er 's Konings Gezant opheldering van te vragen. Hadden niet misschien de [?] leden van het Kabinet hier de bedoelde emigratie afgewezen, wijl zij de voor werk geschikte kleurlingen behouden wilden en te loyaal waren om slechts uitschot te willen leveren; terwijl de heer Pike, een vurige abolitionist, zich veel minder schroom behoeft te maken om ons te laten opzamelen wat men hier zeer gaarne kwijt zijn zou. Luie, liederlijke, ziekelijke kleurlingen, zal men [binnenkort?] gaarne laten aanwerven maar gezonde, krachtige mannen thans minder nog dan in July of September 1862, want thans worden zoodanige kleurlingen ook gretig opgenomen in militair dienst. Niet minder, wijders dan de algemene Regering zullen zich de Regeringen van individuele staten aankanten tegen de werving van zoodanige mannelijke Kleurlingen, want ieder Kleurling die hier vrijwillig in militaire dienst treedt, vermindert het contingent 't welke elke staat leveren moet. Eveneens niet elke stedelijke of plaatselijke Regering, ja, eveneens niet het publiek; want elke negervrijwilligen verligt de dienstplichtigheid der blanke bevolking. Alles hebben wij hier, dus, tegen, voor zoo veel het geschikte mannelijke arbeiders betreft, terwijl daarentegen iedereen onze werfagenten in de hand werken zal, als het zwakte, ziekelijke gedemoraliseerde kleuringen aangaat, levend in vreeselijke ellende, gelijk geschilderd werd in het artikel Emancipation and Extermination, 't welk ik de eer had over te zenden bij mijne dépêche van den 8en dezer maand, N. 14. De Minister van Brazilië, die uit Washington komend, zich hier eenige dagen ophield, hing mij alsmede treurige taferelen op van de negerkampen bij Washington, waar de vrijverklaard kleurlingen vrijelijk van ellende, demoralisatie en ziekten vergaan. De pokken rigteden er slagtingen aan, ten gemiddelen getale, van 100 per weeks. Schier nooit werden zij bezocht, nooit althans werd hen hulp gebragt door hunne fanatische voorsprekers. De heer Kennedy, die aan het hoofd stond van den laatsten census, bezocht een dier kampen (kampen genoemd gelijk men verzamelingen van vee Koekampen noemt), en getroffen door de aldaar heerschende ellende, reikte hij,

bij het heengaan, tien dollars voor de behoeftigen over aan den opzigter des kamps. Verwonderd zag die hun aan,

en met tranen in de oogen, zeide hij: Gij zijt de eerste die eenen gift hebt gegeven voor deze rampzaligen. Gedemoraliseerd door drank en luiheid, in den dwazen waan dat vrijheid bestaat in het vrij zijn van arbeid, willen zij niet werken voor het geringe loon 't welke zij zouden kunnen verdienen; gering loon, want de gezonde en krachtige, nog ongedemoraliseerde mannen bevinden zich daaronder niet; deze zijn reeds door de militaire overheden als werklieden, wagenmenners, soldaten aangenomen. In de negerkampen te Washington en deszelf omtrek te Norfolk, Newton, enz., daar zouden onze werfagenten misschien vol op emigranten vinden; doch wat soort van volk!

Ik weet wel dat men geene zwakke, ziekelijke, gedemoraliseerd lieden aannemen wil; zekerlijk wil men dit niet. Maar de Regering der V.S. wilde ook geene zwakke, ziekelijke gedemoraliseerd vrijwilligers aannemen; en nogtans werden er door de werfagenten en officieren zoo veel aangenomen, dat de Inspecteur Generaal der Militaire geneeskundige dienst, de heer Tripler⁵⁸ (een man van algemeen erkende eerlijkheid) uit wiens eigen mond ik dit heb, een derde van het gebied der reeds geuniformeerde en naar Washington opgezonden vrijwilligers, duizenden ten getale, die ten zijne inspectie kwamen, ontslaan deed. Zullen onze werfagenten van eene andere natuur zijn dan die welke zoo veel duizenden ongeschikte vrijwilligers aannamen. Uit welken maatschappijken stand men ze nemen wil, blijkt mij even weinig uit het mij medegedeelde, als het mij blijkt wie de vervoering bekostigen zal? Of die al dan niet in de premie is begrepen? Of men, in Suriname, allen die aangevoerd worden, hoe ongeschikt ook, zal moeten aannemen, en zoo neen, wat er dan van de geweigerde worden zal? Als men ze laat voor rekening van den werf-agent, is het dan te verwachten dat hij ze behoorlijk terug brengen zal naar Amerika? Is de Nederlandsche Regering niet verantwoordelijk voor het gedrag der daarheen geadmitteerde agenten?

En hier kom ik tot mijn derde punt van bezwaar. En als de kleurlingen niet behandeld worden, gelijk er hier verwacht wordt door henzelfen, en verlangd worden zal door hunne grootendeel hypocritische of fanatische voorstanders, wat hebben wij dan te voorzien?

Een paar dagen geleden, liet ik het te 's Gravenhage gesloten verdrag lezen aan den mij bevrienden Minister van de Hanze-steden, een der scherpzinnigste en zaakkundigste leden van ons corps diplomatique. Onder de lezing schudde hij herhaaldelijk het hoofd, daarna gaf hij mij het verdrag terug, met de woorden, “Je regrette ce traité, je crains qu’il ne vous en [ecualte ret....?] du [département,

⁵⁸ The text is a bit difficult to read, but this is likely Charles Stuart Tripler, U.S. Army Brigadier General and surgeon.

désagréments?] non pour vous personnellement, mais pour votre Gouvernement, sinon de suite, pendant qu'ici l'on a les mains pleines, alors plus tard..."

Een nieuwe bevestiging van wat ik zoo herhaaldelijk aanvoerde, dat hier ieder eenigzins bevoegde beoordelaar met mij voorziet dat der door de kleurlingen, of hunne fanatische of hypocritische voorstanders, over hunnen behandeling zal worden geklaagd, in de dagbladen, in het Congress, en dat de dezerzijdsche Regering zich genoopt vinden zal zich, ook inderdaad ongegronde, reclamaties aan te trekken; laat staan zich bij magte vinden zal er gebruik van te maken, als het haar tegen ons gelegen mogt komen.

Hier wordt dit bezwaar door alle deskundigen zeer ernstig genomen; bij de kritische overheden woog het zoo zwaar dat de gouvernements secretaris der Engelsche Kolonie van wien de heer Uhlenbeck, toenmaale Minister van Kolonien in zijnen brief aan den Minister van Buitenlandschen Zaken, de dato 's Gravenhage, 27 Sept. 1862, N. 22 gewaagde, ter betrokkenen zaken hierwaarts gekomen, dadelijk weder vertrok, toen hij vernomen had wat men hier wilde en hoe het hier ten bedoelden aangelegenheid gesteld was. In mijne dépêche van den 11^e October 1862, N. 111, had ik de eer 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken opmerkzaam te maken op de omstandigheid dat de door hem bedoelde kleurlingen als Amerikaansche onderdanen zouden kunnen [gecenseerd?] worden meer of min onder de bescherming der V.S. te blijven. Een bezwaar hetwelk zeer zwaar woog bij den Deensche Chargé d'Affaires, de Minister van Nicaragua en Costa Rica. Daarbij voegde ik toen: "Wat daarvan zij, ingeval van eventuele aanwerving van negers voor Suriname, zou men als eerst voorwaarde kunnen stellen: afzwering van hunnen hoedanigheid van Amerikaansche burgers of onderhoorigen. Bij het sluiten des verdrags, evenwel, schijnt de heer V.d. Maesen dit, in mijn oog steeds zeer gewigtig punt, over het hoofd te hebben gezien en naar den zin van den abolitionischen heer Pike te hebben gehandeld.

Er bestaat nog eene andere consideratie, waaraan de heer v.d. Maesen de Sombreff misschien niet gedacht heeft: namelijk: de hoedanigheid der vrijverklaarde negers opzigtens de zich noemende "Confederate States." In de zelve ook zijn de negers, die ten hunnen weglieden en door de Regering der V.S. vrijverklaard werden, privaat eigendom, waaromtrent de regering der V.S. of inconstitutioneel handelt of het oorlogsregt te buiten gaat. Zoodra dan de Confederate States kennis gekregen hadden van eene correspondentie tusschen de Deensche zaakgelastigde en den heer Seweard betrekkelijk vrijverklaarde negers, protesteerde hun agent, de heer Dudley Mann te Kopenhagen tegen de aanneming van negers die privaat eigendom mogten zijn van burgers der Confederate States: Een dergelijk protest en misschien, werd er niet op gelet, later hostiliteit van wege de Confederate States zouden wij te voorzien hebben, wierd er aan het onderhavige plan gevolg gegeven.

Hadde de heer V.d. Maesen de Sombreff, alvorens de Conventie van 15 December te onderteekenen, ze mij medegedeeld en er mijn gevoelen op gevraagd gelijk even natuurlijk, als, meen ik, diplomatisch gebruikelijk gewent ware, daar ik dan toch, ter plaatse zeker, geachte kon worden eenige kennis van zake, hoe gering ook, te bezitten zoo zou ik sterk aangeraden hebben elk woord uit te sluiten t'welk aan de Amerikaansche Regering eenigen val tot bemoeienis zou hebben kunnen geven, nadat eenmaal de kleurlingen vrijwillig op Nederlandsche bodem voet hadden gezet. Bezwaar zou ik b.v. hebben gevonden tegen de, in art. 6 voorkomende, uitdrukking "comfortable dwellings" hetgeen veel meer uitdrukt dan de term "behoorlijke" en die, misschien niet zonder voordacht, door den heer Pike is verkozen, in plaats van "suitable", het juiste woord indien er al een adjectief bij het substantief "woning" moet worden gevoegd. Bezwaar, alsmede, tegen de uitdrukking, in art. 7, "noch tot gedwongene dienstbaarheid tenzij alleen wegens misdrijf". Menige neger zal vinden dat hij "tot gedwongen dienstbaarheid 'involuntary servitude' gebragt wordt als men hem dwingt tot het werk waartoe zijn contract hem verplicht of geacht worden zal te verpligten. Waarbij dat de kleurling in geen geval, tot slavernij gebragt zou worden, ware, dunkt mij, voldoende geweest.

Niet te zorgvuldig toch kan in verdragen, inzonderheid met [dertien? staten], elk woord worden gewogen. En in dit opzicht komt het mij, inzonderheid voor Nederland, gewigtig voor, dat alles wat van deszelf Regering uitgaat, in betrekking met het Buitenland zich door nauwkeurigheid en correctheid onderscheide. Eenig geld daaraan bekostigd is, dunkt mij, als uitnemend wel besteed te beschouwen, en ook dienaangaande zou karigheid my laakbaar voorkomen. Dwaal ik daarin niet, zoo zal het mij veroorloofd zijn mijn leedwezen te uiten over stukken zoo gebrekkig gesteld en gedrukt als de "Instructions for Dutch Consuls" welke ik de eer had te ontvangen, en waarvan ik de eer heb hiernevens een exemplaar in te sluiten, 't welk ik mij niet voorgesteld heb te corrigeren maar waarin ik slechts eenige drukfouten heb aangewezen (waarvan vier in eenen enkelen regel), en eenige uitdrukkingen als slecht Engelsch heb aangeduid. Hoogst onaangenaam valt het mij zulks te doen; want ik weet zeer wel dat het alweder van nature is om mij althans eenen vijand meer te maken, van hem die met het bedoelde belast was; doch ik heb mij ten regel gesteld mijn pligtsbesef naar te komen ook waar het mij meer onaangenaamheid dan [gunst mogt baren?].

Na, nu, onder drie opzigten 1. De waarschijnlijke aftreding onzer betrokkene consulaire agenten; 2^e den aard der negers, welke men waarschijnlijk bekomen zou; 3^e de gevaarlijke termen van het verdrag, de geslotene overeenkomst te hebben toegelicht, zou ik, wierd mijn advies gevraagd, bescheidenlijk in bedenking geven, niet alleen onzer zijde niet op de ratificatie aan te dringen maar dezelve, wierd ze gevraagd, liever te onthouden; vond men daartegen bezwaar, dan althans de

conventie niet uit te voeren zoo lang hier de omstandigheden niet veranderd zijn, en er geen gegronde hoop op menschelijke uitkomsten bestaat.

Mogt 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken, evenwel tot de onvertraagde uitvoering willen overgaan, dan zou ik met allen bescheidenheid en allen verschuldigten eerbied verzoeken dat mijn tegewoordig schrijven onder het oog van Z.M. Koning mogt worden gebragt, en aan den Raad van State moge worden medegedeeld, ten einde het wel gestateerd zij dat ik het mogelijke deed ter verhoeding eener transactie die mij, ten onregte misschien, maar in [gevoele], nadeelig en gevaarlijk voor den Lande voorkomt.

Vergissen kan ik mij, trouwens, daarin, en eerbiedigen moet ik een van het mijne afwijkend gevoelen, gelijk ik gehoorzamen moet aan de mij gegevene en verder te geven instructien; buiten mijne verantwoordelijkheid.

Met eerbied,
Hoogwelgeb. Heer,

P.S.

Ik heb de eer hiernevens in te sluiten eene belangrijke order van den generaal Banks, commanderend het Department van den VS waarin Louisiana begrepen is. Dit ander behelst, onder andere in art 16 de volgende bepaling: "Het vervoer van negergezinnen naar andere landen zal niet worden goedgekeurd."

* * *

No. 15

New York, 16 February 1864

His Excellency Sir Huysser van Kattendijke

Minister of Foreign Affairs, etc., etc., etc.,

The convention for regulating the emigration of Coloreds from the U.S. to Suriname

Dear Sir,

I had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letter of the 18th of January, last, No. 192/3, accompanying a copy of an agreement concluded on the 15th of December of the past year in The Hague between His Majesty the King of the Netherlands and the United States of America, for regulating the emigration of persons of African descent from the United States to Suriname

Although I cannot react to this convention except with sorrow that despite the objections I raised against what now has been agreed, the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs, has not withheld agreeing to Mr. Pike's proposal. Yet I desire to fulfill

Your Excellency's commands to inquire with the Secretary of State about the question whether the cabinet in Washington would have objections to designate ports of embarkation, with request of the same that if no objections to this exist, to want to name the most desired ports. As soon as I receive a response to the writing I sent to Mr. Seward, I shall have the honor to communicate it to Your Excellency.

Your Excellency would do me the honor to consult my letter of the 25th of September 1862, No. 101, in which I had the honor to remark that the American Government did not appear to be willing to release resilient negroes; but that if Suriname needed negro-workers, it appeared to me more effective to burden the consulates in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans with taking on and shipping the same. That letter was written before I had received the wished for further information regarding the intended opportunity, and before I could have known about the nature of the negroes, as this nature was revealed only later. I did indeed do nothing more than superficially name ports of embarkation, mentioning the established consulates there as ones to possibly be burdened with the taking on and shipping of negroes. Not only did I never intend the intervention of recruiting agents, but from the beginning I was against the same, and I supposed that the consuls would take care of everything, except, of course, for the compensation of the costs. I mention this only to prevent that one could accuse us that I at first tended to ask the consuls to do what the Government now aims for: personal supervision over the behavior of recruiting agents, not by appointing them. Moreover, the nature of the intended negroes was then not yet known, and the American Government did not employ them as frequently as they do now, let alone as soldiers, something on which one can add thoughts later to be mentioned. Consequently, I should have consulted with the respective consuls, even if Mr. v.d. Maesen de Sombreff had not really yet requested me to do with his dispatch of 27 April 1863, N. 3238/22. That's what I desired to do, and I sent the same advice, without delay, to the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs. What these men think about the intended ports and places of embarkation and about their involvement in this the Minister of Foreign Affairs knows as well as I, and I did not learn anything when I received the letters from these men, nor have I learned anything since which could cause any doubt about the correctness of their information. Should the American Government advocate one or more ports, so shall I immediately write to our consul there (if we have one there), and ask him if he would be in favor of cooperating towards the intended goal. Because, unfortunately, I must not deny, Your Excellency, that it appears that nearly all of our consular agents, beginning with the consul general, would rather step down from their posts than perform what the King's Government desires of them.

Mr. Van der Maesen de Sombreff has told me nothing about the important letter from our consul in New Orleans (which I sent to His Excellency) regarding stepping down from his consular post, which I assume would only be done because

his cooperation in this duty might be delayed. Nonetheless it would be not inconvenient, to alert me as soon as possible whether or not another consul in New Orleans should be appointed. Because one would be quite deceived if one imagined that it is a light task to find suitable consuls here. Also in Philadelphia the consulate is only temporarily occupied, and a new appointment must be provided. Mr. van der Maesen de Sombreff also still owes me an answer to my letter of 12 October, last, No. 87, wherein I had the honor to remark amongst other things that no one's name was proposed to me worthy of the position of consulate except Mr. Dixon who knows no Dutch, while I would not likely, "without having learned of the approval of the King's minister of Foreign Affairs,"⁵⁹ propose someone for the position of consul, unless at least he could read the Dutch language. Later, I learned that Mr. Dixon could not do this, and all my investigations, likewise those of the consul general and the vice consul general, to find a suitable consul in Philadelphia remained fruitless. Because I do not doubt for a moment that Mr. Zeigler⁶⁰ (who has already asked Mr. Burlage a few times whether the Government had not answered) shall at once say farewell to the consulate, as soon as it is desired that he trouble himself with negro agents and negro shipping, the significant consulates for New Orleans and Philadelphia can both be considered vacant.

Added to these difficulties in finding Dutch consuls or vice consuls, whatever effort I make, I must also be permitted to say that for four years I looked, in vain, for a very desired vice consul in Washington. What also could I say, when a person, sometimes motivated by the spacious remuneration of English, French, Austrian, Russian, and Italian consular agents, asks me of the advantages of being employed in our consulates. Salary? Completely nothing. Emoluments, very few. The conversion rate here at least for Dutch money is insignificant. Compensation for costs? Extremely limited. Decoration? After very long service and special merits, perhaps. Yet nothing so useful as that of many other governments, who, in lack of payment, encourage and maintain awards and decoration. [...] Since a consulate here is not free from military service, nor of taxation, one wonders why one should take up a position with duties and obligations, yet with no advantages to be found. How important it is, though, to have suitable consuls should be clear if I am permitted to name a few: Mr. Courturie in New Orleans, who is keeping⁶¹ \$800,000 dollars, Mr. Geldemeester⁶² in San Francisco, who stole the inheritance of a Dutchman, at the same time, if I am not mistaken (the related correspondence is to be found in the

⁵⁹ Roest van Limburg means that even he could find a suitable candidate whose credentials could be presented to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for an appointment.

⁶⁰ The Dutch Consul in Philadelphia.

⁶¹ Couturie was responsible for maintaining the accounts of others, worth \$800,000.

⁶² Consul in San Francisco from 1849 to 1862, a businessman and importer/exporter.

archives of the department of Foreign Affairs) that Mr. Van der Maesen de Sombreff asked by me to remove him from service,⁶³ considered it more wisely to demand me to look for further information.

What I would find most regretful now is that the position of Consul General in New York would become vacant. Mr. Burlage, who held it with so much diligence and worthiness, and who is the head of a considerable trading firm, is much respected here, and has in his eight years of service now gained an experience that could not be matched lightly by naming a newcomer as consul. Might he now also, as I'm afraid of, withdraw from the frequent interferences in a case where he expects absolutely no good outcome, and rather step down from the consulate, so should I consider this a great loss, and I would not be able to give your Excellency any hope to fill this post which is as desirable as it is important, with another person. Besides, I have no reason to expect that the vice-consul general, more than even the consul general, should intend to fulfill this new intended task.

Now, leaving the consular participation there, to consider the opportunity for the recruitment of coloreds in the United States, I request, respectfully that my first writing concerning this, namely my letter of 21 July 1862, No. 76, may be considered as proof of my honest willingness to work for the realization of the country's interests, and for as much as I can, to eliminate any obstacles. It would only do me justice if the King's Government does indeed want to believe, that the successively (the more I have learned about it and said), number of objections more and more challenged by me are solely the expression of my conviction that the goal of the Government now cannot result in anything but disadvantage. My conviction is now so firmly established and so sincere, that I consider it my duty to point out further and with more detail what I view as the existing objections, seeking, with respect, that my words are taken into further consideration.

The convention has been concluded, yes, but has not yet been ratified, and a new Minister of Foreign Affairs could, as has happened sometimes, very well find objections against what his predecessor had devised. As, if I have been properly informed, even Mr. Thorbecke⁶⁴ once advised, it is not strictly necessary to ratify a convention, even if the powers of authority haven't been exceeded. But even if in the present case the convention already has been ratified, it doesn't have to be implemented.⁶⁵ It is indeed stipulated what will have to be taken into account with the emigration,

⁶³ He = V.d. Maesen de Sombreff.

⁶⁴ Thorbecke served as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands in 1849-1853, 1862-1866, and 1871-1872.

⁶⁵ R.V.L. probably means that without a convention the emigration cannot occur. Therefore, a convention must be drawn up.

but not that the Netherlands must take emigrants. We are therefore authorized to postpone the implementation of the convention until the circumstances improve.⁶⁶

And this, at any rate, shall be the case when the war ends. Because now – and this is the point at which I must command the serious attention of the King’s Government – now, everything is against us in the recruitment of healthy, strong colored men, even the Government of the United States itself, which needs the intended Coloreds as laborers, and also as soldiers. This Mr. V.d. Maesen already could see from my letter to the Secretary of State, dated 22 July 1862, which I forwarded to the King’s Minister of Foreign Affairs. The words were worthy of note: “I have to state that it is believed the demand for labors of that class in the military and naval service of the United States is sufficient to outweigh any inducement to their emigration abroad likely to be offered by foreign countries.” It does not appear from this, nor from the writings of the American Minister of Interior Affairs⁶⁷ sent to me and forwarded by me as well to the King’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, dated 22 Sept. 1862, that enough notice was taken to show him how strange it was that, only a full month later, Mr. Pike came to propose what was rejected by his Government, here,⁶⁸ 40 days before.

Mr. V.D. Maesen did not flinch from this inconsistency, at least not enough to ask for clarification from the King’s Minister.⁶⁹ Perhaps the [seven⁷⁰] members of the Cabinet here rejected the intended emigration because they wanted to keep the coloreds who were fit for work and were too loyal to provide us only with riffraff; while Mr. Pike, a fervent⁷¹ abolitionist, had much less hesitancy to let us reap what people here gladly wanted to get rid of. Lazy, debauched, sick coloreds one would gladly like to dispose of, but healthy, strong men less now than in July or September 1862, because now such coloreds are gladly taken up in military service. Not any less than the national Government, the Governments of the individual states shall oppose the recruitment of such Colored men, because every Colored who enters into voluntary military service here reduces the contingent which each state must supply. Likewise with any city or local Government, yes, likewise with the public, because every black voluntary soldier reduces the conscription duties⁷² of the white population. Thus everything is against us here for as much as the fit male laborers are concerned, while every one will play into the hands of our recruiting

⁶⁶ Or until the circumstances are more profitable.

⁶⁷ Secretary of the Interior.

⁶⁸ In the United States.

⁶⁹ The Minister Resident, R.v.L.

⁷⁰ This word is unclear in the original.

⁷¹ Or “fiery.”

⁷² Or “service duties.”

agents the weak, sick, and demoralized coloreds, who live in awful conditions, as was described in the article Emancipation and Extremation,⁷³ which I had the honor to forward with my dispatch of the 8th of this month, N. 14. The Minister of Brazil, who coming from Washington, held up here a few days, also described to me sorrowful scenes from the negro camps near Washington, where the freed coloreds literally die from poverty, demoralization and sickness. The pox provoked a slaughter, on average, of 100 people per week. They appear never to be visited, nor is there ever help brought by their fanatic supporters.⁷⁴ Mr. Kennedy, who led the last census, visited these camps (called camps like cow camps, what one calls a collection of cattle), and stricken⁷⁵ by the reigning poverty there, when he left, he gave ten dollars to the supervisor of the camps for the needy there. Astonished, and with tears in his eyes, he said, "You are the first to have given a gift for these miserable people." Demoralized by drink and laziness, and in the foolish belief that freedom exists in being free from work, they do not want to work for the meager wages which they could earn; meager wages, because the healthy and strong, yet undemoralized men are not to be found there; they have already been taken up by the military as laborers, carriage drivers, and soldiers. In those negro camps in Washington and in the same neighbourhood of Norfolk, Newton, and so forth, our recruiting agents might find plenty of emigrants; but what kind of people!

I know very well that no one wants to take on weak, sick, demoralized people; certainly no one wants this. But the Government of the United States also wants no weak, sick, demoralized volunteers. Yet so very many were taken by recruiting agents and officers that the General of the Military's medical service, Mr. Tripler (a man of well recognized honesty), who told me this personally, dismissed one third of those volunteers, recruited and sent to Washington, who came to him for inspection. Shall our recruiting agents be of another nature than those who took on so many thousands of unfit volunteers? From what has been communicated to me, what social class one takes them from is as unclear as who shall pay the transport? Whether or not that is already understood⁷⁶ in the premium? Whether, if one, in Suriname, must take all those delivered, even if they are unfit, or, if not, what shall happen with those who are refused? If one let them for the account of the recruiting agent, can one expect then that he shall bring them back properly to America. Is the Dutch Government not responsible for the conduct of the agents admitted there?

⁷³ In English in the original.

⁷⁴ Those who speak for them.

⁷⁵ Or "moved", "heart-struck."

⁷⁶ Perhaps "included." "included in the offer of the premiums."

And here I come to my third point of objection. If the coloreds are not handled, as it is here expected that they will be, and shall be desired by their mostly hypocritical or fanatic proponents, what do we have to provide?

A few days ago I let my friend the Minister of the Hanse-cities, one of the most sharp-witted and handiest members of our corps diplomatique, read the convention concluded in The Hague. While reading, he repeatedly shook his head, and afterwards gave me the convention back, with the words, – “I regret this treaty; I fear that it will [just depress you], not you personally, but your Government, if not right away, while we have our hands full, then much later...” This was a new confirmation of what I had so repeatedly argued, which every somewhat competent assessor could predict with me, that the coloreds or their fantatical or hypocritical proponents would complain about their treatment, in the newspapers, in the Congress, and that the Government on this side might also find itself attracted to unwarranted reclamations, let alone make use of what it might find against us.

This objection was taken very seriously by all the experts; the critical governments⁷⁷ found it so bad⁷⁸ that the government’s secretary of the English Colonies (about who Mr. Uhlenbeck, the then Minister of Colonies, spoke in his letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, dated the Hauge, 27 Sept. 1862) who came here about those matters, immediately left again when he learned what was wanted here and what the state of the intended matter was.⁷⁹ In my dispatch of the 11th of October 1862, N. 111, I had the honor to inform the King’s Minister of Foreign Affairs of the circumstance that the coloreds he intended could remain American subjects, more or less to remain under the protection of the United States. An objection which weighed very heavily with the Danish Chargé d’Affairs, and the Minister of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. I then added to this, “Whatever may be of the potential recruitment of negroes for Suriname, one should first place the condition: swearing off of their status as American citizens or subjects. With the conclusion of the convention, however, it appears that this still very important point went over the head of Mr. V.d. Maesen, who acted upon in the liking of the abolitionist Mr. Pike.”

I still have one other consideration which Mr. v.d. Maesen de Sombreff perhaps did not think of: namely, the status of the freed negroes in respect to the already named “Confederate States.” In the same situation are the negroes who have run away and been declared free by the Government of the United States, private property, and this is something in which the government of the United States either operates outside the constitution, either outside the laws of war. Hence, as soon as the Confederate States had gained acquaintance with a correspondence between the

⁷⁷ The diplomatic representatives thereof.

⁷⁸ Evil, harmful.

⁷⁹ “Made.” This sentence is ambiguous, or unclear.

Danish agent and Mr. Seward regarding the freed negroes, their agent, Mr. Dudley Mann in Copenhagen, protested against the taking of negroes who might be the private property of a citizen of the Confederate States. A similar protest, and perhaps if we don't notice this, later hostilities of the Confederate States, we would have to anticipate, if we had followed the present plan.

Had Mr. V.d. Maesen de Sombreff communicated to me and asked my feelings about this, which is as natural as, in my opinion, common in diplomatic usage, before he signed the Convention of 15 December, last, because I, living here, at least could have had some knowledge of the facts, as little it might be, could have advised strongly to exclude each word that could have given the American Government some reason for interference, after the coloreds voluntarily had set foot on Dutch soil. I would have found objection, for example, against the expression in art 6 "comfortable dwellings" which says a lot more than the term "behoorlijke",⁸⁰ and which perhaps not premeditated chosen by Mr. Pike, in place of "suitable" to use the correct word if an adjective must be placed by the noun "residence." Objection, as well, against the expression, in art 7, "in no case, be reduced to 'gedwongen dienstbaarheid' involuntary servitude, except for crime." Many a negro shall find that he is brought to "involuntary service" if one forces him to work as his contract requires or is meant to require of him. "Whereby that the colored in no case shall be brought to slavery", was, I think, sufficient.

We have to be very careful in treaties, especially between [thirteen states], weighing each word. And in this respect I find it especially important that what goes out from a Government in relation to Other Countries is accurate and stands out in correctness. To fund this with a little bit of money, is, I think, money very wisely spent. If I am not wrong about this, it affords me an opportunity to express my regret over pieces so poorly made and printed as the "Instructions for Dutch Consuls" which I had the honor to receive, and whereof I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy, which I do not propose to correct,⁸¹ but in which I have pointed out only a few printing errors (four of which are in one line), and some expressions which I point out as bad English. It is highly displeasurable to do such, because I know very well that it is again of a nature to make me another enemy, of him who was tasked with this; yet I have set myself to follow my sense of duty, even when it causes more unpleasantries than favor. After now having explained the closed agreement in three aspects: 1) The probability of the resignation of our concerned consular agents, 2nd) the nature of the negroes, which one probably should obtain, 3rd) the dangerous terms of the convention, I would, were my advice asked for, modestly leave you with the consideration, not only for our side not to insist on ratification

⁸⁰ Decent, fair, suitable.

⁸¹ To fix the grammar, spelling.

of the same, but, were it asked for, rather to refrain from it; if one found objection to this, then at least not to implement the convention so long as the circumstances have not changed here, and no reasonable hope exists for human results.

May the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs, however, proceed towards the undelayed execution, then I should with all modesty and all due respect request that my present writing may be brought to be viewed by the king, and that the Council of States may be informed, so that it can be stated that I did everything possible to protect from a transaction that seems to me, perhaps mistakenly, but in good conscience, detrimental and harmful to the Country.

I could be mistaken about this, in fact, and I must respect feelings that differ from my own, as I must obey the directions I receive and pass them on outside my responsibility,

With respect,

Sir,

P.S.

I have the honor herewith to enclose an important order from the general Banks, commanding the section of the United States which includes Louisiana. This involves, among other things, in art. 16 the following clause: "the transport of negro families to other countries shall not be ratified."

69. Date: 18 Feb, 1864

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Kattendijke, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg thinks the agreement will not be ratified by the U.S. Senate.

2265

New York, 18 February, 1864

No. 16

Zijne Excellentie

De Hoogwelgeb Heer Ridder Huyssen van Kattendijke

Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken, enz., enz., enz.

HoogWelGeboren Heer,

Ik heb de eer, hiernevens ingesloten, aan Uwe Excellentie toe te zenden het antwoord, ‘twelk ik van den Secretaris van Staat ontvangen heb op mijn aan hem gerigte vraag vermeld in mijnen voorgaande brief, dated the 16th of this month, No. 15.

Het is, gelijk Uwer Excellentie bemerken zal, meer in harmonie met de nota's van den leden van het Amerikaansche Kabinet, gedagteekend 22 July en 22 September 1862, welke ik de eer had over te zenden bij missives van 29 July 1862, No. 81, en 25 September 1862, No. 102, dan met de handelingen van den heer Pike.

Doch wat daarvan zij, er schijnt, voor het tegenwoordige weinig reden te bestaan om te verwachten dat de overeenkomst van 15 december 1863 hier zal worden bekrachtigd.

Met eerbied,

Hoogwelgeboren Heer,

Van Uwe Excellentie

De zeer gehoozame en onderdanige dienaar

Roest van Limburg

* * *

2265

New York, 18 February, 1864

No. 16

His Excellency

Sir Huyssen van Kattendijke

Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken, etc., etc., etc.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to send to Your Excellency an answer, enclosed herein, which I received from the Secretary of State in a question I asked him, and which I mentioned in my past letter, dated the 16th of this month, No. 15.

It is, as Your Excellency shall remark, more in harmony with the notes of the members of the American Cabinet, signed 22 July and 22 September 1862, which I had the honor to send to you in letters of 29 July 1862, No. 81, and 25 September 1862, No. 102, than with the actions of Mr. Pike.

Anyway, as it appears, there is little reason now to expect that the agreement of 15 December 1863 will be ratified here.

Respectfully

Sir,

Your Excellency

The very obedient and humble servant

Roest van Limburg

70. Date: 23 Feb. 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: W.J.C. van Kattendijke, (The Hague) to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: Kattendijke is upset about the tone of Roest van Limburg's letter from January 30th.

No. 1596/8

's Gravenhage, den 23 Februarij 1864

HoogWelGestrenge Heer,

Weinige dagen na de verzending van UHEG missive van 30 Januarij jl N. 10 zal door UHEG mijn brief van 18 Januarij jl No. 192/3 ontvangen zijn, betreffende het met de Vereenigde Staten gesloten tractaat wegens emigratie, waarvan de afzending door toevallige omstandigheden vertraging heeft ondervonden. Het sluiten van dat traktaat moest echter onvermijdelijk op de spoedigste wijs door de Staats Courant ter uwer kennis komen. Bovendien komt dat verdrag niet in werking voor het geratificeerd zal zijn, waarvoor de termijn van een vol jaar is bepaald, zoodat er geen de minste reden kon bestaan om UHEG binnen den korst⁸² mogelijken tijd met den inhoud van dat traktaat bekend te maken.

Ik vertrouw dat het UHEG bij de ontvangst mijner bovengenoemde missive aangenaam zoude geweest zijn dat uw voormelde brief nooit geschreven ware, en vermeen het aan UHEG eigen oordeel, bij bedaard overleg te kunnen overlaten, in hoe verre het betamelijk kan geacht worden dat aan den Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken, door een hem ondergeschikt Gezant, op zoodanigen toon worde geschreven, als die UHEG heeft vermeend te kunnen bezigen.

Ik acht het niet overeenkomstig de waardigheid van een Minister des Konings, aldus tegen de handelingen zijner ambtvoorgangers geformuleerde aanmerkingen te wederleggen, en zal mij dus van eenige verdere beantwoording van UHEG voormelde missive onthouden, terwijl ik de verwachtig meen te mogen koesteren dat UHEG wel in het vervolg het Department van Buitenlandsche Zaken zal gelieven te verschoonen van de ontvangst van mededeelingen in soortgelijken toon en vorm geschreven.

⁸² Misspelling of "kortste" (shortest)?

Gelief HoogWelGestrenge Heer, de vernieuwde verzekering mijner hoogachtig van te nemen.

W.J.C. van Kattendijke

* * *

No. 1596/8

The Hague, 23 February 1864

Dear Sir,

A few days after the sending of your letter of 30 January, last, No. 10, you shall have received my letter of 18 January, last, No. 192/3, in relation to the recently closed treaty for emigration, the sending of which was delayed by unfortunate circumstances. However, the closing of the treaty had to come to your attention immediately and in the quickest way through the *Staats Courant*. Moreover, the agreement does not come into effect before it shall be ratified, for which a term of a full year is specified, so that there could not be the least reason to acquaint you with the contents of the treaty within the shortest time possible.

I trust that you upon receipt of my abovementioned letter should have been pleased if your said letter was never written, and I believe that I can leave it to your own judgment considering calmly, to what extent it is proper that a Minister of Foreign Affairs be addressed in such a tone by a subordinate minister, as you fancied to employ.

I do not consider it in accordance with the dignity of a Minister of the King to refute in such way the actions of his predecessor's observations, and I shall refrain from further answering your last letter, while I expect that in the future the Department of Foreign Affairs will be pleased to be excused from the receipt of communications written in the like tone and form.

Dear Sir, accept the renewed assurance of my high regard

W.J.C. van Kattendijke

71. Date: 14 March 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142 (35) Also NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Roest van Limburg (New York) to Kattendijke, The Hague.

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg has received the letter of the 23rd of Feb. Roest van Limburg apologizes for the tone and contents of his last letter, and again explains his frustrations.

3039

New York, 14 March 1864

No. 20

Excellentie

HoogWelGeboren Heere Ridder Huyssen van Kattendyke

Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken, enz., enz. enz.

HoogWelGeboren Heer,

Ik had de eer te ontvangen Uwer Excellentie missive van den 23^e des vorige maand, N. 1596/8, betreffelijk mijnen brief van den 30^e January laatstleden, N. 10, waarin ik, het oog uitsluitend gevestigd op het belang van de dienst des Konings en des Lands, dacht, hoe leede ook, mij te moeten veroorloven Zijner Majesteits Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken “met allen verschuldigen eerbied,” opmerkzaam te maken op eene door Zijner Excellenties ambtsvoorganger, naar ik meende, vertraagde mededeeling van een met de Vereenigde Staten gesloten verdrag, waarbij ik zelf niet geraadpleegd was, en de aan een en ander, mijnes achtens, in den regel, [voor ’s Lands dienst]⁸³ verknochte bezwaren.

Met de opregte gevoelens van hoogachtig voor Uwe Excellentie vervuld, en bewust van, in mijnen bedoelden brief, niets anders te hebben beoogd dan het belang van ’s Konings dienst, viel mij Uwer Excellentie’s missive, na hare doorloping van verbazing en leedwezen uit de handen. Zij was mij het droevigst raadsel ‘twelk van mij ooit voorkomen. Eerst, na eene herhaalde lezing, ontwaarde ik dat eene voorname omstandigheid door Uwer Excellentie uit een oogpunt beschouwd was lijnregt strijdig met het oogpunt waaruit ik ze beschouwde. Gevolgelyk begeer

⁸³ In copy 720 only.

ik mij, zoo uit de hooge achtig welke ik voor Uwe Excellentie persoonlijk, als uit de diepen eerbied welken ik voor 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken gevoel, eene opheldering te geven, die vertrouwd ik, Uwe Excellentie tot andere gevoelens steunen zal.

Uit Uwe Excellentie aanmerking: “Het sluiten van die traktaat moest echter onvermijdelijk op de spoedigst wijze door de StaatsCourant ter Uwer Kennis Komen”, bleek mij dat Uwe Excellentie in die bekendmaking eenen grond vond ter mijner voldoening, terwijl ik juist op die bekendmaking mijne klagt gronde. Hadde die bekendmaking niet plaats gehad, ware het publiek niet officieel onderrigt geworden dat er te 's Gravenhage een verdrag met de Vereenigde Staten gesloten was, dan zou ik volstrekt geen grond hebben gehad om mij te beklagen dat mij niet ten spoedigste kennis daarvan gegeven werd. Dan zou een brief als die mijne hoogst ongepast geweest zijn. Dan zou ik Uwer Excellentie ontevredenheid volkomen begrijpen. Dan toch zou al het door mijn aangevoerde van wezenlijke grond ontbloom geweest zijn. Dan zou het, voor wie kennis mogt hebben verlangd van de sluiting des verdrag het aanzien hebben gehad als wilde de Nederlandsche Regering er nog geene bekendheid aan geven. Dan zou niemand uitgezonderd misschien een lid der Amerikaansche Regering er 's Konings Gezant over hebben kunnen aanspreken. Maar na de officiële aankondiging door den Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken, dat er een zoodanig traktaat gesloten was; na dat het artikel der Staats Courant, door Deutsche bladen overgenomen, hier bekend werd, had iedereen de bevoegheid om er mij naar te vragen. Het interesseerde onze consuls; het interesseerde eenige mijner collega's inzonderheid den Deenschen Minister, die mij met de grootste vriendschappelijkheid, in vertrouwen medegedeeld had wat hij en zijne Regering ten zake der aanneming van Kleurlingen gedaan hadden, en die, gevolgelijk, als onder goede collega's, wederkerigheid van vertrouwelijke mededeeling kon verwachten. Het interesseerde leden van den Amerikaansche Senaat en van het Amerikaansche Congress, die het of vreemd of onhoffelijk hadden kunnen vinden dat ik antwoordde geene kennis te hebben van een verdrag met de V.S. welke sluiting te 's Gravenhage officieel aangekondigd was. Het was dus juist de bekendmaking door de StaatsCourant die mij in verlegenheid stelde, zoo lang als de inhoud des traktaats mij niet medegedeeld werd; terwijl de heer Van der Maesen, daarin, mijner achtens, ook bij veel gewigtiger bezigheden, zoo ligt had kunnen voorzien, door een paar woorden, “Laat het verdrag aan der Gezant bij de V.S. worden medegedeeld, met bijvoeging dat hem later te dien aanzien instructie zullen worden gegeven.”

Dat die paar woorden niet werden uitgesproken; dat 's Konings ambtenaar van de hoogsten rang zich niet meer begeerde om 's Konings ambtenaar van mindere maar toch van hoogen rang kennis te geven van wat hem, den ambtenaar, van belang was te weten, daarover beklagde zich die ambtenaar, niet de heer Roest van Limburg persoonlijk maar de in verlegenheid gestelde Nederlandsche Gezant.

Zijne aanmerkingen werden hem niet door gekrenkte eigengereide noch door ijdele ligtgeraaktheid ingegeven, maar werden hem, dacht hij, geboden door twee feiten, welke hem in eene valsche positie bragten, en welke een langer praktijk van diplomatie hem meer doelmatig deden beschouwen voor 's Konings dienst: De niet mededeeling van het stuk gedurende de halve maand dat de heer van der Maesen de Sombreff het Department bleef besturen, nadat hij het traktaat had onderteekend.

Met eerbied,
HoogWelGeboren Heer,
Van Uwe Excellentie
De zeer gehoorzame en onderdanige dienaar

Roest van Limburg

* * *

3039
New York, 14 March 1864
No. 20
Excellency
Sir Huyssen van Kattendijke
Minister of Foreign Affairs, etc., etc., etc.

Dear Sir,

I had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letter of the 23rd of the past month, N. 1596/8, relating to my letter of the 30th of January, last, N. 10, wherein I, with my focus exclusively on the interests of the service of the King and the Country, thought that, as much as it brings me sorrow, I must be allowed to inform His Majesty's Minister of Foreign Affairs "with all due respect" about what I felt was a delayed communication from His Excellency's predecessor about a concluded convention with the United States, which I myself was not consulted on, and of the other, in my opinion, as a rule, devoted objections with the country's service.

With sincere feelings of esteem for Your Excellency, and conscious of viewing nothing else in my mentioned letter but the interests of the King's service, I dropped Your Excellency's letter, surprised and distressed as I was after reading it. It was the saddest mystery ever to have befallen me. First, after a re-reading, I noticed that a major circumstance was seen by Your Excellency from a diametrically contrary perspective from which I viewed it. Consequently I desire, with the personal respect that I have for Your Excellency, as with the deep respect that I feel for the King's

Minister of Foreign Affairs, to give a clarification, which I trust, will help to move Your Excellency to other feelings.

From Your Excellency's remark: "The conclusion of the treaty must however immediately and in the quickest way come to your attention through the Staats Courant," it appears to me that Your Excellency found a basis for my satisfaction, while I based my complaint precisely on this ground. Had the notification not taken place, had the public not been officially informed that a convention with the United States had been concluded in The Hague, then I should have had no basis at all for my complaint that the quickest notice of this had not been given me. Then a letter such as mine would have been quite inappropriate. Then I should completely understand Your Excellency's dissatisfaction. Then everything I had argued would have been devoid of substance. Then for those who would have desired to know the conclusion of the convention, it would have seemed as if the Dutch Government still had not wanted to publicise this.⁸⁴

But after the official announcement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that such a treaty was concluded, after the article from the *Staats Courant*, re-printed in German newspapers, was made known here, everyone was warranted to ask me about it. It interested our consuls; it interested a few of my colleagues, especially the Danish minister, who with the greatest friendship trusted me with what he and his Government had done to take on Coloreds, and who, consequently, as among good colleagues, expected reciprocity of confidential information. It interested members of the American Senate and the American Congress, who could have found it strange or discourteous that I replied to have no knowledge of an officially announced convention with the United States which was concluded in The Hague. It was precisely the notification through the *Staats Courant* which embarrassed me, so long as the contents of the treaty were not communicated to me, while Mr. Van der Maesen, I think, even if busier with more important tasks, could have quite easily provided with a few words: "Let the convention be communicated to the Minister in the U.S., noting that he shall later be given instructions regarding this."

That those few words were not expressed; that the King's servant of the highest rank did not desire to acquaint the King's Minister of lesser, but still high rank with what was important for him (the Minister) to know, this is what the Minister complained about, not as Mr. Roest van Limburg personally, but as the embarrassed Dutch Minister.

His comments were not made in aggrieved intent, nor through vain sensibility, but were, he thought, offered with two facts, which brought him into a difficult situation, and which, with longer diplomatic practice, he considered more expedient for his King's service: The lack of communication of the piece during the half month

⁸⁴ The meaning of this sentence is unclear.

that Mr. Van der Maesen de Sombreff remained in command⁸⁵ of the Department, after he had signed the treaty,

With respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency

The very obedient and humble servant,

Roest van Limburg

⁸⁵ Or “in direction”, as the director. V.d. Maesen was replaced as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

72. Date: 16 March 1864

Source: House of Representatives, Executive Document No. 1, 38th congress, 2nd session (Washington, 1865)

Author: James Pike to William H. Seward

Language: English

Note: Extract from a letter from Pike to Seward. Pike now shows his opposition to the treaty.

“This government receives with regret the intimation that the treaty with regard to emigration to Surinam, lately negotiated here, is not likely to be ratified. Surinam wants labor, and the colonial department is anxious to have the credit of making a treaty that looks to the obtaining of it. I have no doubt, however, of the good policy on our part of rejecting the treaty.”

73. Date: 25 March 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg (NY) to Netherlands Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg's follow-up to his letter of 16 March. He quotes from a letter from Seward to Francis Adams in London (30 Sept. 1862) which was apparently read by Pike. Seward expresses worry that the British efforts to get freed slaves for Carribbean colonies might cause them to get entangled with U.S. troubles. Roest van Limburg quotes from a letter from William Dayton in Paris to Seward. (5 March 1863) who, in turn, quotes from a translated letter from 30 Jan. 1863. Some sections are difficult to decipher.

No. 24

New York, 25 Maart 1864

Emigratie van vrijverklaarde Negers uit de V.S. naar vreemde Kolonien; door de Amerikaansche Regering voorgeslagen aan de Regeringen van Engeland, Frankrijk en de Nederlanden;

Afgewezen door den Engelsche Regering; door de Fransche Regering in bedenking gegeven aan den Gezant des Keizers bij de V.S.,

door den Nederlandschen Gezant bij de V.S. even onraadzaam geacht als door den graaf Russell.

Zijn Excellentie

Den HoogWelGeb. Heer Ridder Huijssen van Kattendijke

Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken, enz., enz., enz

HoogWelGeboren Heer,

Ten vervolge op mijnen brief van den 16en der vorige maand, No. 15, waarin ik meende, in 's Lands belang, bezwaren te moeten aanvoeren tegen het door den heer Van der Maesen de Sombreff met den heer Pike gesloten verdrag ter regeling der Emigratie van vrij verklaarde negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname, verzoek ik thans eerbiedig te mogen bijbrengen wat door de Regering van Engeland en Frankrijk geschied is, toen haar dezelfde voorstellen werden gedaan, welke door den Minister Resident der V.S., den 31^e October 1862, aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken gedaan werden.

De nota van den heer Pike aan den heer Van der Maesen, de dato 31 October 1862, stemt woordelijk overeen met eene dépêche van den heer Seward, Secretaris van Staat, de dato 30 September 1862, aan den heer Adams, Gezant der V.S. te Londen; welke, naar men mij verzekerde, gelijkkluidend was met eene, onder dezelfde dagteekening, door den Secretaris van Staat aan den Gezant te Parijs gerigte dépêche, alsmede met eenen brief, van dezelfde dagteekening, aan den Minister Resident te 's Gravenhage.

Een ^officiële^ afdruk, nu, van den brief van den heer Seward aan den heer Adams, de dato Washington, 30 September 1862, No. 360, ligt voor mij, gelijk mede het antwoord van den heer Adams, de dato Londen, 30 October 1862, No. 253.

Ik geef mij de eer daaruit woordelijk te citeren:

“Immediately after the reception of your No. 360, of the 30th of September, I applied to Lord Russell for an interview, which I obtained this morning at half past ten o'clock. I then stated to his Lordship the substance of your communication so far as was necessary to put him in a position to reply to the preliminary inquiry whether his government was disposed to negotiate about it at all. He replied in the negative. I gathered from what he said that the whole matter had been under consideration with the ministers for some time back, and that the Duke of Newcastle had had much correspondence with the authorities in the West India colonies about it. The conclusion had been that on the whole it might be the means of entangling them in some way or other, with the difficulties in the United States, by possible reclamations of fugitives, or in some other way, or danger which they were most desirous to avoid. Hence they should not be inclined to enter upon negotiations, and least of all to adopt the form of a convention.”

Zie Papers relating to Foreign Affairs ^aan het^ bladz. 227. Een bundel door mij ten zijnen tijd aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenl. Zaken toegezonden; blijkens mijne depeche van den 15^e December 1862, No. 140. Congress medegedeeld in December 1862.

Wat de onderhandeling met Frankrijk betreft, ben ik min volledig onderrigt, en kan ik op dit oogenblik niet al het wenschelijke te weten komen wegens de afwezigheid van den Gezant, die mij, ware hij hier, het voorgevallene denklijk ^in vertrouwelijk^ mededeelen zou. Het aan den ad interim met de waarneming der Legatie belasten Secretaris te vragen, zou mij min diskreet voorkomen, en ik bepaal mij dan tot de bijbrenging van hetgeen ik zakende de onderhandeling met Frankrijk [weet]; dit werd geput uit de volgende dépêche van den heer Dayton, Gezant der V.S. te Parijs, aan den heer Seward:

No. 282

Paris, March 5, 1863

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose you herewith a translation of a communication received from the foreign office, and which relates to matter contained in your dispatch, No. 227 of September 30th last.

(getek) William L. Dayton

His Excellency William H. Seward

Secretary of State, etc.

(Translation)

Paris January 30, 1863

Monsieur the Minister of the United States, by order of his government, communicated to Mr. Drouyn de L'Huys,⁸⁶ in the month of November last, a dispatch from the Secretary of State, of Washington, relative to the facilities which foreign Governments might, under the present circumstances, find for recruiting for their colonies willing workmen amongst the great number of blacks who reside in a State of Liberty upon the federal territory. The minister of foreign affairs [of the Emperor] has been obliged, before thinking of following up the overtures which were addressed to him upon this occasion, to demand of the legation of his Majesty at Washington certain indispensable information upon different points of detail connected with the question. Mr. Drouyn de L'Huys, consequently, is not able to give to Mr. Dayton the answer which he has expressed the desire of obtaining as long as this expected information had not transmitted by Mr. Mercier and he can only confirm himself therefor for the present to making known to him the circumstances.

Waar het magtige Groot Britanye schroomde zich “in moeilijkheden te wikkelen”, bezwaar zag in “mogelijke reclamatie van voorvlugtigen”, of gewoon “‘twelk het zeer verlangde te vermijden, waar het allermint een ^[ter vorm van een bewijs?]^ geen verdrag sluiten wilde”, achtte ook de Nederlandsche gezant, de aangelegenheid van nabij bestudeerd hebbende, het Amerikaansche voorstel min aannemelijk en begreep hij, ofschoon niet even als de gezant der Franschen Keizers

⁸⁶ Edouard Drouyn-de-Lhuys was French Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1862-1866.

door de Minister v. Buitenl. Zaken zijns souvereins om inlichtingen gevraagd geraadpleegd; 's Konings Regering met allen verschuldigden eerbied opmerkzaam te moeten maken op wat hem – niet minder dan voor Lord Russel van Engeland – voor Nederland gevaarlijk scheen.

Met eerbied,

* * *

New York, 25 March 1864

Emigration of emancipated Negroes from the U.S. to foreign Colonies, suggested by the American Government to the Governments of England, France, and the Netherlands;

Turned down by the English Government; by the French Government, given in consideration to the Envoy of the Emperor at the U.S.?

By the Dutch minister in the United States considered unreasonable, as well as by Lord Russell.

His Excellency

Mr. Ridder Huijssen van Kattendijke

Minister of Foreign Affairs, etc., etc., etc.

Dear Sir

In follow-up to my letter of the 16th of last month, No. 15., wherein I thought, for the sake of the country, to argue against the convention regulating the Emigration of freed negroes from the U.S. to Suriname, concluded by Mr. van der Maesen de Sombreff with Mr. Pike, I request to produce what the Governments of England and France have done, when the same proposals were made, which were made by the Minister Resident of the U.S., on the 31st of October, 1862, with the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The note from Mr. Pike to Mr. van der Maesen, dated 31 October 1862, is in literal agreement with a dispatch of Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, dated 30 September, 1862, to Mr. Adams, Minister of the U.S. in London, which I am assured, is consonant with a dispatch of the same date from the Secretary of State to the Minister in Paris, as well as with a letter, of the same date, to the Minister Resident in The Hague.

An official copy, now, of the letter from Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, dated Washington, 30 September 1862, No. 360, lies before me, as does a reply from Mr. Adams, dated London, 30 October 1862, No. 253.

I have the honor to cite literally from this:

“Immediately after the reception of your No. 360, of the 30th of September, I applied to Lord Russell for an interview, which I obtained at half past ten o’clock. I then stated to his Lordship the substance of your communication so far as was necessary to put him in a position to reply to the preliminary inquiry whether his government was disposed to negotiate about it at all. He replied in the negative. I gathered from what he said that the whole matter had been under consideration with the ministers for some time back, and that the Duke of Newcastle had had much correspondence with the authorities in the West India colonies about it. The conclusion had been that on the whole it might be the means of entangling them in some way or other, with the difficulties in the United States, by possible reclamations of fugitives, or in some other way, or danger which they were most desirous to avoid. Hence they should not be inclined to enter upon negotiations, and least of all to adopt the form of a convention.”

See Papers relating to Foreign Affairs on page 227, a bundle I sent to your side to the King’s Minister of For. Affairs, according to my dispatch of the 15th of December, 1862. communicated to the Congress in December 1862.

About what concerns the negotiations with France, I am less completely instructed, and I cannot at this moment learn all that is desired from the Minister, who is absent and who, were he here, would reliably communicate to me what has happened. Asking this of the ad interim Secretary of the Legation, seems to me less discreet and therefore I confine myself to teach you what I know about the negotiation. This was drawn from the following dispatch of Mr. Dayton, Minister of the U.S. in Paris, to Mr. Seward

No. 282

Paris, March 5, 1863

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose you herewith a translation of a communication received from the foreign office, and which relates to matter contained in your dispatch, No. 227 of September 30th last.

(signed) William L. Dayton

His Excellency William H. Seward
 Secretary of State, etc.
 (Translation)
 Paris January 30, 1863

Monsieur the Minister of the United States, by order of his government, communicated to Mr. Droyn de L'Huys,⁸⁷ in the month of November last, a dispatch from the Secretary of State, of Washington, relative to the facilities which foreign Governments might, under the present circumstances, find for recruiting for them colonies willing workmen amongst the great number of blacks who reside in a State of Liberty upon the federal territory. The minister of foreign affairs of the [Empire? Emperor?] has been obliged, before thinking of following up the overtures which were addressed to him upon this occasion, to demand of the legation of his Majesty at Washington certain indispensable information upon different points of detail connected with the question. Mr. Droyn de L'Huys, consequently, is not able to give to Mr. Dayton the answer which he has expressed the desire of obtaining as long as this expected information shall not be transmitted by Mr. Mercier and he can only confirm himself at the present to making known to him the circumstances.

Whether the mighty Great Britain hesitated to “get involved in difficulties”, saw objections on “a possible reclamation of refugees”, or just very much desired to avoid it, they absolutely did not to make a treaty. Also the Dutch Minister, after studying the matter closely, considered the American proposition less acceptable and he understood, although not asked by the Minister of Foreign affairs of his Sovereign for more information (like the envoy of the French Emperor was asked), that he had to inform the King’s Gouvernement with due deference about what him – not any less than to Lord Russel of England – appeared dangerous to the Netherlands.⁸⁸

Respectfully,

⁸⁷ Edouard Drouyn-de-Lhuys was French Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1862–1866.

⁸⁸ This last paragraph is difficult to read in the original, and may contain errors.

74. Date: 25 April 1864

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: French Legation to Roest van Limburg

Language: French

Note: The French Legation seeks information about the Dutch American convention.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Le Gouvernement de L'Empereur ayant appris qu'une Convention a été conclue à la Haye entre Celui de S.M. Néerlandaise et celui des Etats-Unis à l'effet de régler l'introduction des noirs libres de l'Amérique au⁸⁹ Nord dans la Guyane hollandaise, m'a chargé de prendre des informations sur la manière dont cette convention est exécutée, de savoir si les enrôlements pour la Guyane hollandaise sont nombreux et si dans la pratique ils ne rencontrent pas d'obstacles de la part des autorités Américaines.

Je vous serai infiniment reconnaissant, Monsieur le Ministre, si vous pouvez me fournir quelques renseignements qui me mettent à même de répondre à mon Gouvernement et je saisis avec empressement cette occasion de vous renouveler les assurances de ma haute Considération.

[Signature]

Mille compliments, voulez vous, je vous prie me mettre aux pieds⁹⁰ [?] de Madame de Limbourg?

* * *

Mr. Minister,

The Government of the Emperor, having learned that a Convention has been concluded at The Hague between That of His Netherlands Majesty and that of the United States for the purposes of regulating the introduction of free blacks from

⁸⁹ i.e. du Nord?

⁹⁰ prières?

North America to Dutch Guiana, has charged me with obtaining information on the manner in which this convention is carried out, and to find out whether there are many enlistments for Dutch Guiana and whether in practice they encounter obstacles from the American authorities.

I will be infinitely grateful to you, Mr. Minister, if you can provide me some details enabling me to respond to my Government, and I eagerly seize this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration for you.

[Signature]

A thousand compliments, will you, I kindly ask you, place me at the feet⁹¹ [?] of Madame de Limbourg?⁹²

⁹¹ Place me in the prayers?

⁹² Gesture of respect, or literal request to be allowed to meet her? I guess that this purely personal P.S. could be cut.

75. Date: 7 January 1865

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Fransen van de Putten, Minister of Colonies to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: Van de Putten re-opens the case, arguing that since blacks stream into Grant’s army camp, it would now not be a good moment to re-emphasize the treaty with the U.S. The final paragraph is partly illegible.

248

’s Gravenhage, den 7 Januarij 1865

Kabinet

Aan Zijne Excellentie, den Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken

Van een zeer geachte zijde is mijne aandacht gevestigd geworden op het berigt, dat ten gevolge eener mogelijke wapening der Slaven in de Zuidelijke Staten van Noord Amerika, vele Slaven de wijk nemen naar Grant’s legerkamp. Mij is het denkbeeld ter overweging aanbevolen om daarvan zoo mogelijk voor Suriname partij te trekken, omdat die werkbare mannen daar, naar het schijnt, zeer nuttig zouden kunnen zijn, en hun overvoer minder kostbaar zouden wezen dan die van Chinesche emigranten.

Het traktaat tusschen Nederland en de Vereenigde Staten van Noord America wegens de aanwerving van vrije arbeiders voor Suriname in die Staten is nog niet bekrachtigd.

Werd die bekrachtiging nu nader ter sprake gebragt, welligt zou het Gouvernement der Vereenigde Staten thans meer dan vroeger bereid zijn daartoe over te gaan.

Ik neem daarom de vrijheid Uwe Excellentie te verzoeken om door tusschenkomst van ’s Konings Gezant te Washington dienaangaande wel inlichtingen te willen doen [inwinnen?] en mij hiermede zoo spoedig mogelijk bekend te maken.

De Minister van Kolonien

P. Fransen van de Putte

* * *

248

The Hague, 7 January 1865

Cabinet

To His Excellency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

On good authority my attention has been focused on the message that, following a possible arming of the Slaves in the Southern States of North America, many Slaves flee to Grant's army camp. I was recommended to consider taking advantage of this, if possible, for Suriname, because those workable men there, it appears, could be very useful, and their transport should cost much less than that of Chinese emigrants.

The treaty between the Netherlands and the United States of North America for the recruitment of free laborers for Suriname in those States has not yet been ratified.

Were the ratification discussed further now, perhaps the Government of the United States should now be more prepared than before to proceed with this.

I take the freedom to request Your Excellency, through the intercession of the King's Minister in Washington, to gather information on this, and to get me acquainted with that as soon as possible.

The Minister of Colonies

P. Fransen van de Putte

76. Date: 12 Jan. 1865

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: E. Cremers, The Hague to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: Eppo Cremers, the new Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, shows that he is aware of Roest van Limburg's opposition to the emigration, but insists that he is under pressure from the Minister of Colonies and the Dutch subjects in Suriname, who are calling for laborers.

No. 240/2 's Gravenhage, den 12 January 1865

Den Heer Roest van Limburg

Buitengewoon Gezant en gevolmatigt Minister

Van Z.M. den Koning der Nederlanden

Te Washington

HoogEdelGestrenge Heer,

Bij eene missive van 7 January ll E. Kabinet berigt de Minister van Kolonien mij, dat van eene zeer geachte zijde zijne aandacht gevestigd is op het berigt, dat tengevolge eener mogelijke wapening der slaven in de Zuidelijke State van Noord Amerika, vele slaven de wijk nemen naar Grants legerkamp, en dat hem dat denkbeeld ter overweging aanbevolen is om daarvan zou mogelijk voor Suriname partij te trekken, omdat die tot werken geschikte mannen aldaar, naar het schijnt zoo nuttig zouden kunnen zijn en hun overvoer minder kostbaar zou wezen dan die van Chinesche emigranten

Mijn Ambtsgenoot veronderstelt, dat, indien de bekrachtiging van het tracktaat tusschen Nederland en de Vereenigde Staten van Noord Amerika wegens den aanvoer van vrije arbeiders, welke nog niet heeft plaatsgehad, thans weder ter sprake werd gebracht, het Amerikaansche Gouvernement welligt thans meer dan vroeger bereid zou zijn daartoe overtegaan, en hij verzoekt mij door uwer tusschenkomst daarover inlichtingen te bekomen, zoo het kan met eenigen spoed.

Bij het overbrengen van dien wensch van mijn ambtsgenoot zie ik geenzins voorbij al hetgeen door UHEG te dezer zake vroeger is medegedeeld en evenmin de bedenkingen, welke door U zijn geopperd, en van zoödanigen aard zijn, dat ook van onze zijde de vraag zou moeten ontstaan, of het wel wenschelijk zou zijn, al ware de Noord Amerikaansche Regering alsnog tot ratificatie geneigd van wege Nederland daartoe overtegaan. Maar het belang van vele Nederlandsche onderdanen om

werkvolk voor Suriname te krijgen is zoo groot, en hun aandrang dier tengevolge bij de Nederlandsche Regering zoo sterk, dat ik niet mag nalaten UHEG met den wensch van mijn Ambtsgeenoot voor de Kolonien bekend te maken en UHEG verzoeken met mij uwe beschouwingen deswege medetedeelen.

Ik verzoek u tevens met den meesten aandrang al hetgeen de immigratie van arbeiders in Onze West Indische bezittingen bevorderlijk kan zijn, zonder dat daaruit eenig gevaar kan ontstaan, met uwe beste pogingen wel te willen ondersteunen.

Gelief, HoogEdelGestrenge Heer, de verzekering mijne hoogachtig aantenemen.

E. Cremers

* * *

No. 240/2 The Hague, 12 January 1865

Mr. Roest van Limburg

Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary

Of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands

In Washington

Dear Sir,

With a letter of 7 January, last, E. Cabinet, the Minister of Colonies informed me that his attention has been focused on good authority on the message that, following a possible arming of the Slaves in the Southern States of North America, many Slaves flee to Grant's army camp, and that he was recommended to consider to make use of this, if possible for Suriname, because workable men there, it appears, could be very useful, and the transport there should cost much less than that of Chinese emigrants.⁹³

My colleague assumes that, if the treaty between the Netherlands and the United States of North America for the supply of free laborers, which had not yet taken place, now would be brought to discussion again, the American Government would perhaps be more prepared now than they were earlier to proceed with this, and he requests me, through your intercession to get information about this, if possible, quickly.⁹⁴

In proceeding with the wish of my colleague, I am in no way looking past what you already communicated about this matter, nor the concerns, which were offered,

⁹³ Cremers copies the exact words from the letter of 7 January.

⁹⁴ The original seems to be missing a verb here.

and were of such a nature that the question must also arise on our side, whether it should be desired, if the North American Government were to be inclined, to proceed in the Netherlands with ratification. But the interest of many Dutch subjects to acquire laborers for Suriname is so great, and their insistence of the same of the Dutch Government is so pronounced, that I cannot neglect to acquaint you with the wish of my Colleague for the Colonies and to request you to communicate your considerations to me.

I request you as well with the most insistence to want to support with your best attempt, as long as it becomes not dangerous, everything that advances the immigration of laborers in Our West Indian possessions.

Dear Sir, receive the assurance of my respect,

E. Cremers

77. Date: 26 Jan. 1865

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Government of the Netherlands

Language: Dutch/English dual, printed.

Note: Royal Decree to Amend the 2 ordinances of 19 March 1863, introducing free laborers to Suriname and premiums. Allows anyone to recruit emigrants, so long as supervised by a Dutch consul and embarking from a port with a Dutch consul. Gender is now one woman for every three immigrants, except from Maderia, Cape Verde, Canaries, Azores, and West Indies. Only one female for every four Chinese is required. [relaxing the rules to encourage more emigrants]. Only the English version is reproduced here, and it is reproduced in full. Frequent spelling errors are reproduced as in the original.

Royal Decree of the 26th January 1865, No. 46.

TO AMEND THAT OF THE 19TH MARCH 1863, NO. 74, RESPECTING THE ENACTMENT OF TWO ORDINANCES

1. concerning the control on the introduction of free labourers into Surinam; and
2. concerning the offer of premiums by the Government on the introduction of free laborers into Surinam

Jan 26th 1865, no. 46.

We WILLIAM III, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, KING OF THE NETHERLANDS, PRINCE OF ORANGE-NASSAU, GRAND-DUKE OF LUXEMBURG, ETC., ETC., ETC.

On the proposal of our Minister of the Colonies of the 9th of January 1865, lit. B, no. 15;

Having heard the Council of States (advice of the 24th of Jan. 1865, no. 17;

Having seen the subsequent report of our Minister of the Colonies of the 25th of January 1865, lit. B, no. 34);

Having seen our decree of the 19th of March 1863, no. 71, respecting the enactment of two ordinances;

1. concerning the control on the introduction of free labourers into Surinam; and
2. concerning the offer of premiums by the Government on the introduction of free laborers into Surinam

Having seen our decree of the 19th of May 1864, no. 29,

Have thought fit to modify for the present the ordinance concerning the control on the introduction of free labourers into Surinam:

Art. 2. Emigrants may be embarked at such places or ports, where no prohibition t to⁹⁵ that effect exists on the part of legal authorities, and where a Dutch Consulate is establisheid.

Art. 3. Every one is entitled, to engage Emigrants, either on his own account, or on that of third parties, provided he obtain a warrant to that effect, to be delivered by the Dutch Government or by the Governor of Surinam. The recruitment must take place under the immediate control of the Dutch Consul, at the place where the indenture is made.

Art. 7. The indentures must be drawn up according to the form annexed to this ordinance, and contain:

the term of the agreement expressed, in full letters, with the mention that each year of the engagement is calculated at the rate of 300 days of labour;

the date when the engagement was entered into;

the number of hours of labour a day:

the name and profession of the contracting party, mentioning whether the contract has been entered into on account of third parties, and, in that case, also the names and residences of the principles;

the stipulation that the contract, after the arrival at Surinam, may, with the sanction of the Governor, be made over to another contracting party;

either the amount of wages, expressed in full letters, stating whether free board has been stipulated; or, the agreement that the Emigrant shall be

⁹⁵ The original word here is “tho”, but this must be a typo of “to”

remunerated according to the rates of wages for piece work as existing for free labourers in Surinam;

the stipulation of free loding and Medical attendance, and if a free return passage has been agreed, to the duration of the time which an Emigrant has a claim thereto, and the conditions under which he may renounce the same.

§ 1. *Of the depots.*

In the countries where depots are established by contracting parties for the temporary reception of Emigrants, all ordinances relative to such depots, already enacted or to be enacted by, or on the part of, the Government of such countries, are applicable to the said parties and binding for the holders of warrants. In the places or ports where such ordinances do not exist, they will as far as needful be enacted by or⁹⁶ for the guidance of the above mentioned contractors.

§ 2. *Of the vessels and whatever further relates to the transport of Emigrants.*

- a. The vessels used for the transport of Emigrants from ports in North-America, the West-Indies, the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries, the Cape Verd Islands and the east coast of South-America to Cape Horn must be in dimensions and outfit in conformity with, and the provisions, attendance on, and deckspace allowed to Emigrants from those ports must be in accordance with the regulations contained in the Royal decree of the 1st of August 1861 (*Staatsblad*, no. 62), on the transport of Emigrants, annexed to the present ordinance.

If however, at the place of embarkation, there should exist legal ordinances which on account of the nature and habits of the Emigrants may be deemed preferable by the competent authorities, the contractor is free, according to art. 28 of the said decree, to conform to the same, provided when the voyage is of more than two weeks duration, in no case more than one Emigrant per measured last of ship-space be taken on board, and the regulations for the safety and health of the Emigrants, as laid down by the said decree, be not deviated from.

- b. The ships used for the transport of Emigrants from British India, China and other countries and places situated to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, must be at least of three hundred lasts burden, in a good state, completely manned and fitted out. They must carry, besides the boats included in the ordinary inventory, and in which is always included a long boat, one boat for every fifty

⁹⁶ The word “or” is missing in the original text.

Emigrants. All the boats must be in good order and equipment, and, according to the judgment of the proper authorities must in case of need be capable of containing all the Emigrants on board.

One of the boats must be fitted out as a life-boat, and when at sea always be kept ready for immediate use. There must also be some lifebuoys, constantly at hand for immediate use. The space destined for the exclusive use of the Emigrants, either between decks or in solid well covered berths, placed on the upperdeck, must be for each fullgrown Emigrant at least two cubic metres. This space must not be less than one metre, six decimetres, five centimetres, in height. For each Emigrant there must be a deck-space of at least 0,47 square metre. For the promotion and maintenance of order, cleanliness and health among the Emigrants, the regulations concerning this point, contained in art. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 15 and 17 of the Royal decree of the 1st August 1861 (*Staatsblad* no. 62), must be strictly attended to. There must be a medical man on board, provided with the necessary medicines and instruments, in conformity with existing usages, and the stipulations of the law of the 28th of June 1816 (*Staatsblad* no. 32). Goods which according to the judgment of competent authorities are prejudicial to the health or safety of the Emigrants, or which may become so by fermentation or corruption during the voyage, may not be taken on board. In the measurement of the requisite ship-space two children under twelve years of age are equivalent to one full grown Emigrant. The determination of the probable duration of the voyages to Surinam, for the computation of the quantity of provisions and fresh water to be taken on board, is left to the local authorities. The usages generally adopted at the place of embarkation with respect to the nourishment of the Emigrants during the voyage must be followed, in accordance with the stipulations contained in arts. 21-24 and 26 of the afore said decree, relative to the preparation of the victuals, the distribution of fresh water and the nourishment of the sick. On board of foreign vessels employed for the transport of Emigrants, such measures shall be taken, with respect to the medical-officer, medicines and instruments and also the space to be set apart for attendance on the sick, as the proper authorities, in conformity with the existing local regulation, may ordain. On board of such vessels, Dutch measures and weights need not be used.

2.. To stipuate that in the form of the indenture, mentioned in art. 7, between the third and fourth phrases shall be inserted:

“After the arrival at Surinam this contract may, with the sanction of the Governor, be made over to another contracting party”; and that in this form, not the 4th is to be read as follows:

“The amount to be given in full letters with a mention whether free board has been stipulated, or, whether the Emigrants are to be renumrated according to the tariff for piece-work, and wages for free labourers in Surinam.”

3.. Art. 3 of the ordinance concerning the offer of premiums by Government for the introduction of free labourers into Suriname to be modified as follows.

Art. 3. Each consignment of Immigrants except those coming from the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries, the Cape Verd Islands and the West Indies must consist of persons of both sexes at the rate of one female to every three Immigrants unless there exist in the countries where the Immigrant are hired different regulations, which then are binding. To each consignment of Chinese Immigrants, only one female to every four Emigrants is required.

Our Minister of the Colonies is charged with the execution of this ordinance, a copy of which shall be sent to our Minister of Finances, to the General Board of Control, and to the Council of State.

The Hague, the 26th of January 1865.

WILLIAM

The Minister of the Colonies,

I.D. FRANSEN VAN DE PUTTE

78. Date: 31 Jan. 1865

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142, and NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 "Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870."

Author: Roest van Limburg to E. Cremers, The Hague

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg received the letter of January 12. He thinks there is very little probability that the U.S. government will now want to enter into the treaty. War is nearing an end.

1539

No. 9

New York, 31 Januarij 1865

Zijne Excellentie

Den HoogEdelgestrenge Heer Cremers

Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken te 's Hage

HoogEdelgestrenge Heer,

Tot mijn leedwezen kan ik niet de eer hebben op Uwer Excellenties missive van den 12den dezer maand, No. 248/2 betrekkelijk vervoer van negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname een gewenscht antwoord te geven. Sints de uitvoerige brieven, welke ik, ten dies zake, de eer had aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken te schrijven, is de toestand dienaangaande niet veranderd. Tot arbeid en mitsdien, gewoonlijk, ook tot wapenhandel geschikte negers worden nu niet minder dan ooit door de Amerikaansche Regering op prijs gesteld; de loonen en handgelden welke zoodanige mannen bekomen kunnen, zijn veeleer gerezen dan gedaald; bovendien heeft de General Sherman, in de omstreken van Savannah en elders aan negergezinnen geheele streken en eilanden aangewezen, waar zij in volle vrijheid gesteld, op gunstige voorwaarden zich aan rijst- en katoenteelt zullen wijden. Al mogt men dus aannemen, dat de voordeelen, welke de Nederlandsche Regering, of agenten van harentwege, hun in uitzigt stellen mogten, ze zouden kunnen bewegen tot emigratie naar Suriname, zoo bestaat er geen de minste waarschijnlijkheid om te geloven dat de Regering der V.S. of hare generaals ^zoodanige emigratie^ zouden kunnen goedvinden, laat staan tot dezelve zouden willen medewerken. Mocht al, tegen mijne verwachting, de Regering der V.S. thans willen overgaan tot de ratificatie van het dienaangaande te 's Gravenhage gesloten verdrag, zoo zou daaruit

toch, zoo lang de tegenwoordige omstandigheden voortduren, eene naar Suriname te wenschen emigratie niet het gevolg zijn.

Eerst bij het eindigen van den oorlog hier te lande zal, mijnes achtens, het gewenschte en trouwens zeer wenschelijke doel te bereiken zijn.

Inmiddels verzoek ik Uwe Excellentie wel te willen gelooven, dat ik niet in gebreke blijven zal, onverwijld aan 's Konings Minister van Buitenlandschen Zaken kennis te geven van iedere omstandigheid waarvan partij zou kunnen worden getrokken ten gunste van het beoogde belang.

*

Gelief, HoogEdelgestrenge Heer, de vernieuwde verzekering te ontvangen mijner bijzondere hoogachtig.

Roest van Limburg

* Eindelijk heb ik de eer hiernevens een exemplaar te voegen van de beschikkingen door den Generaal Sherman ten aanzien der negers genomen; zoo ten hunner gunste als, blijkbaar, ter partijtrekking van dezelve.

* * *

1539

No. 9

New York, 31 January 1865

His Excellency

Mr. Cremers

Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

Dear Sir,

To my sorrow, I cannot have the honor to give a desired reply to Your Excellency's letter of the 12th of this month, No. 248/2 relating to the supply of negroes from the U.S. to Suriname. Since the detailed letters on this matter, which I had the honor to write to the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the situation regarding this matter has not changed. Negroes fit for work, and therefore usually fit to handle weapons, are now not less than ever appreciated by the American Government; the wages and advances which such men can get have more often increased than decreased; moreover General Sherman, in the region around Savannah and elsewhere, has designated whole areas and islands for negro families, where they after being placed in full freedom, will devote themselves to rice and cotton cultivation under favourable

conditions. Thus even if one might admit that the advantages which the Dutch Government, or agents thereof, promise to them could induce them to emigrate to Suriname, there exists the least probability to believe that the Government of the United States, or her generals, should approve of such emigration, let alone that they should want to participate in it. Should the U.S. Government, against my expectations, now want to proceed with the ratification of that convention concluded in The Hague, it would yet be the case, as long as the present conditions endure, that the desired emigration to Suriname would not be a consequence.

First with the ending of the war here in this country, the wished for and in fact very desirable goal shall, I think, be able to be reached.

In the meantime, I request Your Excellency to indeed want to believe, that I shall not neglect immediately to inform the King's Minister of Foreign Affairs of every circumstances which could contribute to the favor of the intended interest.

*

Dear Sir, receive the renewed assurance of my especially high regard,

Roest van Limburg

* Finally, I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of the decisions of General Sherman taken on behalf of the negroes, as much in their favor, as apparently, taking their side.

79. Date: 9 Oct. 1865

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Minister of Colonies, Fransen van de Putten, The Hague to Department of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: The Minister of Colonies urges the Department of Foreign Affairs once again to take up the effort to recruit African American laborers.

Buitenl. Zaken

's Gravenhage, den 9 Oct. 1865

Met Uwe missive van den 22 Febr. ll. No. 1539, werd mij toegezonden een brief van Z.M. gezant te Washington van den 31 Jan te voren, waarin deze, naar aanleiding van het, bij mijne missive van 7 Jan. 1865, ll. E. Kabinet, te kennen gegeven verlangen inlichtingen verstrekt, betreffende de emigratie van vrije negers uit N. Amerika naar Suriname.

Daarin zegt de genoemde gezant onder anderen dat eerst bij het eindigen van den oorlog in de V. Staten, zijns er achtens, het gewenschte en trouwens wensche-lijke doel te bereiken zal zijn, terwijl zich voorstelt, aan Uexc onverwijld kennis te geven van iedere omstandigheid waarvan partij zou kunnen worden getrokken ten gunste van het beoogde doel.

Sedert is omtrent deze aangelegenheid niets meer vernomen hoewel de oorlog geëindigd is en de omstandigheden in het voordeel der zaak aanmerkelijke zijn gewijzigd.

Van eene zeer geachte zijde is thans mijne aandacht gevestigd op het berigt, dat niet minder dan vier millioen vrijgelaten slaven in de verschillende Staten van N Amerika, voor een gedeelte hulpeloos, verspreid zijn en dat van die omstandigheid in het belang eener zoo gewenschte immigratie en kolonisatie voor Suriname waar-schijnlijk veel partij te trekken zou zijn.

Ik neem daarom de vrijheid nogmaals de welwillende tusschenkomst van Uexc in te roepen, ten einde zoo mogelijk tot de gewenschte uitkomst te geraken. Reeds in mijnen brief van 2 April 1863, La. B., No. 25, werden aan Uexc. Ambtsvoorganger uitvoerige beschouwingen medegedeeld omtrent de wijze waarop zoowel de immi-gratie als de kolonistie voor Suriname zou kunnen worden bevorderd.

Onder anderen werd daarbij gezegd, dat in de ter zake vastgestelde verorde-ningen waargenomen, dat het onderscheid tusschen immigranten en kolonisten

daarin bestaat, dat immigranten zijn personen, die overeenkomstige een ter zake aangegaan kontrakt, voor een bepaald aantal jaren in Suriname arbeid verrigten, terwijl als kolonisten worden beschouwd allen die zich als landbouwers in Suriname vestigen.

De aanwerving en den overvoer der immigranten ook uit de V. Staten e.g. in Suriname te brengen, moet geschieden onder het toezigt van den te plaatse van afschepping gevestigden Nedl. Consuls, volgens de regelen gesteld bij het Konink. Besluit van 9 Maart 1863, No. 71, zooals dit is gewijzigd bij besluit van 26 January 1865, No. 46.

Van die gewijzigde verordening, waarvan bij mijnen brief van 3 July 11, La. B. No. 10, afdrukken eener Engelsche vertaling aan Uexc. Werden toegezonden, gaat ten overvloede nog een zoodanig exemplaar hierbij.

Alvorens nu, naar de daarbij gestelde regelen vrije arbeiders als emigranten uit de V. Staten kunnen verkregen worden, moet het tractaat tusschen Nederland en de Regering dier Staten, wegens de aanverving van vrije arbeiders voor Suriname van daar bekrachtigd zijn.

In de eerste plaats gelieve Uexc. dus, door tusschenkomst van UweExc's Gezant te Washington nieuwe pogingen in het werk te doen stellen, om de gewenschte ratificatie alsnog te verkrijgen, waartoe de regering der V.Staten, thans, bij de gewijzigde omstandigheden, wellicht bereid zal worden bevonden. Voor eenen kolonisatie van Suriname door vrije negers uit de V. Staten waarvan ik mij niet minder dan van eene immigratie goede gevolgen voorstel – is het echter in geen deel noodig te wachten tot dat het bedoelde tractaat bekrachtigd zijn, vermits doch daartoe desmede werking en de goedkeuring der betrokken regering niet wordt vereischt.

Bij de Surinaamsche Publicatie van 1863, No. 23, waarvan een exemplaar hierbij gaat, zijn de voorwaarden geregeld, waar op de vestiging van personen of gezinnen als landbouwers in de kolonie Suriname zal kunnen plaats hebben. In de beide eerste artikelen is bepaald, dat aan Europeesche landverhuizers, voorzien van goede getuigschriften, de vereischte gronden ter bebouwing aangewezen en in gebruik afgestaan zullen worden, met vrijstelling van grond – en personele belasting gedurende zes jaren. Na geregelde bebouwing gedurende twee jaren, zullen hun gratis worden uitgereikt de titels van eigendom van het land, alsmede een burgerbrief.

Art. 4 bepaalt verder, dat het koloniaal bestuur bevoeg is dezelfde voorregten toetekennen aan andere Europeesche landverhuizers, welke verlangen zich in de kolonie te vestigen en voorzien zijn van goede aanbevelingen afgegeven of gewaarmerkt door Ned. Consuls. Premien voor den aanvoer van kolonisten in Suriname worden niet verleend, ofschoon art. 7 bepaalt, dat het koloniaal bestuur bevoegd is, om kleine voorschotten te geven aan de kolonisten, die zich, onder de bepaling der

verordening, komen vestigen en die genoegzaam van hun zedelijk gedrag en van arbeidzaamheid doen blijken.

Van den gunstige bepalingen der bedoelde verordening kan door de vrije negers uit de V. Staten, welke zich in Suriname zouden wenschen te vestigen ruimschoots partij worden getrokken, want er zijn uitnemend geschikte gronden in voldoende hoeveelheid voorhanden en het gouv. is bereid om van de, bij art. 7 verleende bevoegheid tot het geven van voorschotten gebruik te maken, ten einde de kolonisten, in de voor den overvoer naar Suriname gemaakte kosten, tegemoet te komen.

Het is mijn voornemen den Gouverneur van Suriname die zelf geheel door-drongen is van den wenschelijkheid, om door alle gepaste middelen vermeerdering van de bevolking der kolonie in de hand te werken bovendien nog aanteschrijven, de bedoelde verordening in zeer milden zin toe te passen en van zijne zijde alles te willen aanwenden, wat kan strekken, om eene kolonisatie van vrij negers uit de V. Staten naar Suriname te doen gelukken.

Ten slotte zij hierbij nog aangeeteekend, dat het nieuwe reglement op het beleid der regering in de kolonie Suriname (Stblad No. 55) met den 1^e January 1866 in werking treedt en dat daarbij aan alle ingezetenen (dus zonder onderscheid van godsdienst of kleur), gelijke aanspraak op bescherming van persoon en goederen is gegeven en dat de milde beginselen, welke aan dat reglement ten grondslag liggen, alle mogelijke waarborgen voor de kolonisten opleveren.

In verband met het bovenstaande heb ik de eer, Uexc thans te verzoeken alles te willen aanwenden, wat in Haar vermogen is, om eene kolonisatie van Suriname door vrije negers uit de V. Staten te bevorderen.

Ik ben overtuigd dat Uexc, uithoofde van het groot belang dat voor Suriname gelegen is in het welslagen van het beoogde doel, volgaarne ter zake, Hare medewerking zal willen verleen, houdende ik mij aan bevolen voor de mededeeling van hetgeen ten deze door Uexc. Zal worden aangewend.

Ben ik wel onderricht dan zouden N. en Z. Carolina kunnen worden aangewezen als de gewesten, waar er, kans is op welslagen, terwijl Hon. G.G. Leigh uit N. York hier's lande aanwezig, bereid zoude zijn, om de zaak, welke hij met ijver en belangstelling voorstaat, toetelichten en te bevorderen.

Ook zal naar ik verneem tot het verkrijgen van de noodig inlichtingen, met vrucht kunnen worden geraadpleegd de Mayor-Generaal D.D. Howard, Commissioner of refugees and Freedmen's Bureau, Washington, die e.g. volgaarne nuttige medewerking zou kunnen en willen verleen.

De Minister van Kolonien

I.D. Fransen van den Putte

* * *

For. Affairs

The Hague, 9 Oct. 1865

With your letter of 22 Feb., last, No. 1539, a letter of 31 Jan., last, was sent to me from His Majesty's minister in Washington, in which he, provoked by my letter of 7 Jan., 1865, last, E. Cabinet, which expressed the desire, provides information regarding the emigration of free negroes from N. America to Suriname.

Therein, the named minister says, among other things, that he thinks only with the end of the war in the U. States, shall the wished for and in fact desirable goal be attainable, while he proposes immediately to inform Your Excellency of every circumstances which could contribute to the favor of the intended interest.

Since then nothing more has been learned about this opportunity, although the war has ended and the circumstances have remarkably changed in the advantage of the matter.

A very honourable source brought to my attention the message that not less than four million freed slaves in the various States of North America, in some cases helpless, are spread out, and that from such circumstance for the interest of a so desired immigration and colonization for Suriname could probably contribute a lot in favour of the matter.

For this reason, I take the freedom to again call for the charitable intercession of Your Excellency, to get, if a possible, the desired outcome. Already in my letter of 2 April 1863, La. B., No. 25, were detailed considerations communicated to your predecessor on how the immigration as well as the colonization of Suriname could be promoted.

Among other things, it was said that the respective regulations observed that the difference between immigrants and colonists was that immigrants are persons who in accordance with an entered contract perform labor in Suriname for a certain number of years, while colonists were considered all those who settle as farmers.

The recruitment and the transport of the immigrants from the U. States, for example, to bring to Suriname, must occur under the supervision of Dutch Consuls established in the place of embarkation, according to the rules established in the Royal Decree of 9 March 1863, No. 71, as this is amended with the decree of 26 January 1865, No. 46.

Of the amended regulations, which were sent printed in English translation with my letter of 3 July, last, La. B., No. 10, I have enclosed another⁹⁷ such copy herewith.

⁹⁷ A redundant, unnecessary copy. Ten overvloede (in abundance) means that is in fact not necessary anymore, because he already sent it earlier.

Now, according to the established rules, before free laborers as emigrants from the U. States can be gotten, the treaty between the Netherlands and the Government of the States for the recruitment of free laborers for Suriname must be ratified there.

In the first place, please make efforts, Your Excellency, through the intercession of Your Excellency's Minister in Washington, to make new attempts to acquire the desired ratification, for which the Government of the U. States, now, given the changed circumstances, shall perhaps be found prepared. For a colonization of Suriname by free negroes from the U. States, which I propose will lead to good consequences no less than would an immigration, it is in no part necessary to wait until the intended treaty is signed, since the cooperation and approval of the concerned government would not be required.

In the Surinamese publication of 1863, No. 23, of which I enclose a copy here, the conditions are given by which the settlement of families as farmers in the colony of Suriname can take place. In the first two articles it is determined that for European immigrants, equipped with good references,⁹⁸ the required land for cultivation will be assigned and designated for use, with exemption for property and personal taxes for six years. After two years of regular cultivation, they shall be freely given titles of ownership of the land, as well as a letter of citizenship.

Art. 4 determines further, that the colonial administration is to recognize the same privileges for other European immigrants who desire to settle in the colony and are provided with good recommendations given or certified by Dutch consuls. Premiums for the delivery of colonists in Suriname are not granted, although art. 7 determines that the colonial administration is capable of giving small advances to the colonists, who, under the conditions of the regulations, settle and display sufficient moral behavior and industriousness.

The favorable conditions of the intended regulations can largely be applied to the free negroes from the United States who should wish to settle in Suriname, because there is enough excellent land, and the government is prepared to make use of the ability to give advances to help the colonists cover the costs of transport.

Moreover, it is my intention to write to the Governor of Suriname, who himself is very imbued with the desire to use all appropriate means to increase the population of the colony, to apply the intended regulations in a mild sense and to do everything possible from his side that can lead to a successful colonization of free negroes from the U. States to Suriname.

In conclusion, it is hereby noted, that the new regulation for the policy of the government in the colony of Suriname (*Staatsblad* No. 55), comes into effect on the 1st of January 1866, and that with that all the residents (thus without discrimination of religion or color), have the same claim for protection of person and property, and

⁹⁸ Or "certificates."

that the mild principles which underlie that regulation grant all possible guarantees for the colonists.

In connection with the above, I have the honor to request Your Excellency now to use all his abilities⁹⁹ to promote a colonization of Suriname with free negroes from the U. States.

I am convinced that Your Exc., on account of the great importance for Suriname that lies in the success of the intended goal, willingly shall lend Your cooperation in the matter, while I remain available for the communication of what you decide in this matter.

If I am well informed, then N. and S. Carolina could be designated as the regions where there is a chance for success, while the Hon. C.C. Leigh¹⁰⁰ from New York present in this country, could be prepared to promote and inform on the matter, which he advocates with zeal and concern.

Also, as I understand, I can get successfully the necessary information from the Major-General D.D. Howard, Commissioner of refugees and Freedmen's Bureau, Washington, who for example gladly would like to provide his cooperation.

The Minister of Colonies

I.D. Fransen van de Putte

⁹⁹ Or "everything that is in his power."

¹⁰⁰ Charles C. Leigh.

80. Date: 18 Oct. 1865

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: E. Cremers, The Hague to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: Cremers thanks Roest van Limburg for bringing him up to speed on the issue and wonders if better conditions will arise than what has already been present.

's Gravenhage, den 18 October 1865

No. 8320/ 62

Den Heere Roest van Limburg

Buitengewoon Gezant en gevolmagtid

Minister van Z. M. Den Koning

Der Nederlanden te Washington

HoogEdelGestrenge Heer,

Ik heb de eer UHEG hiernevens afschrift te doen toekomen eener missive van het Department van Kolonien gelezen No. 10, Lett. B., betreffende de wenschelijkheid vooreerst om thans naderen pogingen in het werk te stellen tot het doen bekrachtigen van het traktaat wegens emigratie van vrije negers uit de Vereenigde Staten naar Suriname, en ten anderen om eene kolonisatie van Suriname door vrije negers uit de Vereenigde Staten te bevorderen.

Ik neem de vrijheid mij aan den inhoud dier missive te gedragen, en refereer mij verder wat het eerste punt betreft aan mijn schrijven van 12 Januarij No. 248/2 beantwoord bij uw brief van 31 Januarij No. 9.

De ijver en zaak kennis steeds door UHEG bij de behandeling dezer gewigtige aangelegenheid betoond, geven mij de overtuiging dat, zoodra gunstiger omstandigheden ter bereiking van het beoogde doel zullen geboren worden, dan zich tot dus verre hebben voorgedaan, UHEG daarvan in het belang onzer West Indische bezittingen gebruik zult maken.

Wat het plan eener kolonisatie van Suriname door vrije negers uit de Vereenigde Staten betreft, zoo verzoek ik UHEG wel een onderzoek ter dierzake te willen instellen en mij alsdan uwe beschouwingen medetedeelen omtrent de mogelijkheid om, en de wijze waarop, ten dezen aan de wenschen van het Department van Kolonien zoude kunnen voldaan worden.

De omstandigheden en beschouwingen door dat department aangewezen doen mij veronderstellen dat het doel door mijnen ambtgenoot beoogd, met goed overleg en door uwe overige bemoeijng thans wel zou zijn te bereiken.

De in voornoemde missive van het Department van Kolonien vermelde Surinaamsche Publicatie van 1863, No. 23, gaat hierbij, terwijl van de daarin mede vermelde gewijzigde verordening op de emigratie, bij mijn schrijven van 21 July No. 5690/41 eenige exemplaren aan UHEG werden gezonden.

Gelief, HoogEdelGestrenge Heer, de verzekering mijner hoogachtig aan te nemen.

E. Cremers.

* * *

The Hague, 18 October 1865

No. 8320/62

Mr. Roest van Limburg

Extraordinary Envoy and Minister

Plenipotentiary of the His Majesty the King

of the Netherlands in Washington

Dear Sir,

I have the honor herewith to provide you a copy of a letter from the Department of Colonies, read N. 10, Lett. B, relating to the desire, first of all, to now make further attempts to put into effect the ratification of the treaty for emigration of free negroes from the United States to Suriname, and to promote a colonization of Suriname by free negroes from the United States.

I take the liberty to act on the contents of the letter, and I refer further to what concerns the first point in my writing of 12 January No. 248/2, answered by your letter of 31 January No. 9.

The diligence and knowledge continually shown by you in your handling of this important matter convinces me that as soon as more favorable circumstances shall arise for the attainment of the goal in sight, than what has come along so far, you shall make use of them in the interests of our West Indian possessions.

What concerns the plan of a colonization of Suriname by free negroes from the United States, I request you to research the matter and then communicate your considerations about the possibility and the way in which this could satisfy the wishes of the Department of Colonies.

The circumstances and considerations of that department cause me to assume that the goal viewed by my colleague can now, through good consultation and your interference, be reached.

The reported Surinamese Publication of 1863, No. 23, in the already named letter of the Department of the Department of Colonies, is included,¹⁰¹ while a few copies of the amendments to the regulations of emigration reported therein were sent with my writing of 21 July No. 5690/41.

Dear Sir, receive the assurance of my high respect,

E. Cremers.

¹⁰¹ Cremers has enclosed this publication.

81. Date: 9 Nov. 1865

Source: NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: A. Schuiking, Vice Consul, Washington, D.C. to Roest van Limburg

Language: English

Note: Schuiking notes that the economic situation of African Americans is favorable, that there is work for them in the United States and so they are unlikely to want to emigrate.

His Excellency
The Minister of the Netherlands
Washington D.C.

In compliance with Your Excellency's wishes I come to-day to report on two topics, which formed the subjects of the conversation, which Y.E.¹⁰² did me the honor to invite me to.

1. As to the plan of emigration from the United States to Surinam, I regret that upon consideration of this subject with my own lights and persons of sound judgement, I cannot arrive at a hopeful view of the matter. From the nature of the American Negro and the experience of the American Colonization Society and one or other attempt by the U. States Government we know, that a prominent characteristic of the negro, whom we have now to consult all over the United States as a free agent, is, “inhabitativeness”, that he is not of a migrating disposition, exceedingly addicted to his domicile under greater distress than any other people could bear, as he requires few comforts, and that his race altogether is very averse to leaving the United States. Public meetings of colored people in the United States have expressed their strongest and indignant opposition to all plans of emigration for them. The negro is also totally improvident, and careless of remote advantage, if his immediate to-day sustains him in his existence, wherever that may be cast. And strange to say, although we are said at this day to have a liberated mass of four millions of freedmen in the United States, there is by no means an excess of good laboring material furnished by them. If such were not the case, fortunately for the interests of the white laborer, there would be a cheapness of labor in the United States at

¹⁰² Your Excellency.

present and a competition of black labor with emigration from Europe and with white labor in the United States, stopping the former and likely to ferment violent disturbance in the country through opposition against the negro laborer. Your Excellency well knows, that all this is not. On the contrary, there is and continues an extreme dearth of all valuable labor, a complaint, that a great portion of the freedmen will not work, or are as unreliable as exorbitant in their demands and unsteady or totally worthless, and in short are valuable only when subject to that strict control which their liberation has taken from them. More particularly the loose and floating portion of them – the so called “contrabands” – are notoriously worthless, as families and employers everywhere testify. They are the material to be looked to for emigration, and they are the very material most unfit to enter in and carry out steadily and faithfully a contract for a given length of time. Those negroes in the United States who will work eight hours a day for 360 days in the year, can find abundant employment everywhere in the United States, with greater comfort and better pay and treatment, than in any other part of the world, and there is no occasion as yet for them to emigrate. The question, therefore, whether valuable emigrants, of this sort, for Suriname, can be had from the United States, must, I think, be answered, in the negative.

As to white laborers, all such of good character and industry can find employment in the United States at the best wages in the world, even if the climate of Suriname were suitable and inviting for them. – Altogether the United States is from its resources, its rapid progress and development and [vast future?], and therefore unlimited demand for labor, the last country to compete with in the matter of inducements to emigration or labor.

2./ In connection with the dearth of labor and high wages in the United States is the dearth of all articles of produce and consumption. Among them is fuel – wood and coal – so that we must pay \$15.00 – in gold \$10.50 – for a ton of coal of 2240 pounds, and \$12 for a cord of wood prepared for use (128 cubic feet), – in gold \$8.40 – which formerly cost us \$5.50 to 6.00 respectively. Hence attention has been awakened to the substitution of cheaper kinds of fuel. Among them is peat (Terf) which it is said can be produced in some localities in the United States, such as the State of New Jersey, and the use of which is being tried on some railroads.

Although with diffidence, as I am not a practical merchant, nor conversant with the price and cost of production of peat in Europe, I venture to suggest a consideration and calculation (for which I have not the data) of the practicability of importing this article to the U.S. fro, or via, Holland so long as Yankee ingenuity shall not have taken the field in the production here. Washington and the District of Columbia is so deficient in railroad and water communications that every article of consumption commands the highest prices here. A few cargoes of peat to Alexandria, our neighboring seaport might therefore be a paying enterprise more particularly as

the article is not covered by any import duty, that I know of: – or if might be tried in ballast to Baltimore.

I have the honor to remain Y.E.'s
very obed. servant,

A. Schuiking

V. Consul
Washington
Nov 9 1865

82. Date: 13 Nov. 1865

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142. Also in NA 2.05.01, No. 3230-3231 “Stukken betreffende de emigratie van werkvolk naar Suriname, 1858-1870.”

Author: Roest van Limburg (Washington, D.C.) to E. Cremers, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: In this rather lengthy letter Roest van Limburg again doubts the feasibility of the colonization project.

No. 109

Kolonisatie van vrije negers in Suriname

Washington. 13 Nov. 1865

Zijne Excellentie:

Den HoogEdelgestrenge Heer Cremers

Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken te 's Hage

HoogEdelgestrenge Heer,

Met genoegen zag ik uit uwer Excellentie's dépêche van den 18^e der vorige maand N. 8320/62, dat Uw Excellentie UHEG met ter zijde lating van het traktaat wegens emigratie van vrije negers uit de V.S. naar Suriname, nog slechts, ten gevolgen van aandrang van Zijne Excellentie den Minister van Kolonien, het oog had op Kolonisatie van negers in genoemd gewest. Daarbij toch kan – wat mij volstrekt noodzakelijk voorkomt – all bemoeienis van wegen de V.S. met de landverhuizers, zoodra zij zich op Nederlandsche bodem bevinden, uitgesloten worden.

Deze voorwaarde moet, dunkt mij als sine qua non, op den voorgrond gesteld zijn en blijven.

Behoudens dezelve schijnt mij het plan van kolonie – zoo uitvoerbaar – wenschelijk.

Maar is het uitvoerbaar? Is het, althans voor 's lands, uitvoerbaar?

Dit betwijfel ik, en daarom bragt ik, na het eindigen van den burgeroorlog de aangelegenheid nog niet bij Uwe Excellentie te berde.

Alle beoogde beoordeelaars, met welke ik er in de laatste maanden over sprak, onder anderen de Generaal Phelps, een der kundigste officieren van het Amerikaansche leger, die gedurende den oorlog een aanzienlijk commando in het zuiden had en hetzelfde nederlegde, omdat de Regering niet toetreden wilde tot zijn

gevoelen, dat of wel de negers moesten worden uitgevoerd of wel volle burgerregten aan hen moesten worden toegewezen, de Generaal Phelps verklaarde mij niet te gelooven, dat zij – zeker niet als arbeiders voor minder loon dan eene dollar daags – naar Suriname zouden willen gaan.

Zij zijn te zeer gehecht aan dit land, zeide hij, welks taal zij spreken, hebben te overdreven denkbeelden van hunnen vrijheid, weten dat zij hier grond, scholen en kerken zullen krijgen, om zich naar een onbekend land te willen begeven, met welks klimaat, taal, wetten, en gebruiken zij onbekend zijn.

Iedereen – Amerikanen en vreemde diplomaten – sprak mij in dezelfde zin en in den nevensgaanden brief van onzen Vice-Consul te Washington die gelegenheid had om de negers van nabij te leeren kennen, zal UhoogEdelGestrenge dezelfde gevoelens terug vinden.

[Mr. Leigh, of Bremen, is on a charitable tour in Europe for the collection of funds for the relief of the free negroes of America.]¹⁰³

Na Uwe Excellentie aanschrijving evenwel, ging ik terstond, tot een nader onderzoek der aangelegenheid over. De heeren Leigh en Generaal Howard, vermeld in den brief van Zijne Excellentie den Minister van Kolonie, waren tot nog toe niet door mij te raadplegen. De eerste bevindt zich in Europa, de tweede in de Zuidelijke Staten, waar hij onlangs aan de negers eene toespraak hield, waarvan ik de eer heb hiernevens een afdruk te voegen. Zoodra de Generaal te Washington teruggekeerd zal zijn, zal ik pogen een onderhoud met hem te hebben. Inmiddels sprak ik bij eene ontmoeting aan de Engelsche legatie, oppervlakkig en confidencieel over de zaak met den heer Hunter, de ondergeschikt hoofdpersoon aan het Department van Saat, die het tijdens de verwonding der heren Seward waarnam. Hij liet zich ontvallen, dat niets de beoogde aanneming tot kolonisatie verhinderde. Het is ook mijn gevoel, dat de Amerikaansche Regering ze niet zou kunnen verbieden, waarden de Constitutie iedereen vrijheid tot emigratie laat. Indien dus Uwe Excellentie, met 's Konings Minister van Kolonien, van oordeel is, dat daartoe de medewerking en de goedkeuring der Amerikaansche Regering niet vereischt wordt, zou het mij, ofschoon er misschien later tegekanting van harentwege volgen zal – doelmatigst voorkomen, casa quo te handelen, als hadden men er volkomen regt toe. Daar dit echter misschien zou kunnen worden betwist, zou ik er niet toe wenschen over te gaan zonder magtiging van Uwe Excellentie.

Evenmin als ik zeker ben van de medewerking der Regering, ben ik zeker van de medewerking onzer consuls. Ik acht het veeleer waarschijnlijk, dat althans eenige hunner liever hun ontslag zullen vragen, dan zich met de aangelegenheid bemoeijen. Een tweede punt, van Instructie zou dus zijn of de Consuls zullen worden verplicht zich met de zaak in te laten. Door het Gezantschap zou den aanneming der

¹⁰³ A newspaper clipping attached to the left margin of the letter.

negers natuurlijk nog veel minder kunnen geschiede. Maar zou het niet doelmatig zijn een bevoegd agent voor de Kolonisatie uit Suriname over te zenden? Hij zou dan andere agenten kunnen aanstellen.

Hoeveel kolonisten omstreeks verlangt men? Kosteloos zou het werk in geen geval kunnen geschieden.

Mogt er eene oproeping worden vereischt b.v. gelijk die waarvan ik mij veroorloof eene losse schets hiernevens aan Uwe Excellentie aan te bieden, dan zal het plaatsen derzelve in de dagbladen eene niet onaanzienlijke uitgaaf zijn, die niet van de Consuls kan worden gevorderd.

Zullen die, en andere [...] kosten aan het Department van Buitenlandsche Zaken in rekening mogen worden gebracht?

De reiskosten der kolonisten te betalen, zal onvermijdelijk zijn, anders krijgt men er, althans in de tegenwoordigen omstandigheden, zeker geen.

Zou aan de Consuls en aan Amerikanen, die tot het doel mogten [...] mede[w...], een belooning, geldelijk of honorifique, kunnen worden beloofd?

In de diplomatie toch houdt men zich aan den regel, dat niets voor niet gedaan wordt. In rerum natura, gelooft zij met Lucretius, dat ex nihilo nil fit.

De Legatie en het, naar onderscheiding gretige en door het uitzigt daarop aangewakkerde, Vice Consulaat hebben de zaak van allen kant overwogen. B.v. “of men de Maatschappij van Kolonisatie naar Liberie in den arm zou kunnen nemen?”

Neen; want, daargelaten, dat zij, ofschoon over ruime middelen beschikkende, weinig succes bij de negers had, stelt zij zich voor Afrika te civiliseren. Uitsluitend naar Liberie wil zij kolonisten zenden. Zij zal er ons dus niet leveren voor Suriname.

“of de Commissioner of refugees and freedman's Bureau er ons zou kunnen en willen leveren.”

In afwachting dat hij, de Generaal Howard, zich zelf daarop verklare, komt het niet waarschijnlijk voor dat hij wenschelijk personeel leveren zal; althans in beduidenden getale. Want wie werken wil en werken kan, vindt hier werkt. Zelfs de negerinnen, die als schoonmaaksters bij den dag uit werken gaan, van 's morgens 8 tot 's middags 5 ure, bekomen, daarvoor een dollar daags, benevens den kost, en wij ondervonden persoonlijk, dat het zeer moeilijk is, er voor dat loon te vinden. In de meeste huizen heeft men hier thans negers tot knechts; geen hunner bekomen minder dan 25 dollars 's maands met kost en inwoning. Als koetsier op zijne kosten bekomt geen neger minder dan 40 dollars 's maands. Uitgenomen exceptionele gevallen van vervolging, zijn zij dus tevreden, en in den regel kan aangenomen worden, dat wie gebrek lijdt, niet werken wil. Wat zal men dus met dergelijke lieden, naar Suriname overgebracht, doen?

In het binnenland, op de plantages van Noord- en Zuid Carolina, mogen een werver een aantal geschikte lieden vinden. Doch dan zal vooreerst hij er vervolgens het vervoeren der aangeworvenen naar de zeehavens moeten worden betaald. En al

zij, daar aangekomen, weigeren zich in te schepen, wat dan? Den sterken arm der overheid invoeren? Dit zal niet kunnen geschieden, nooit in uitoefening kunne worden gebracht. Geheel vrijwillig moeten zij zich aangeven; geheel vrijwillig moeten zij zich inschepen, of verloren is alle werk.

Dit is eene voorwaarde, welke ik, als diplomaat, op den voorgrond moet stellen, benevens de vroeger genoemde, dat alle bemoeijgens van Amerikaansche zijde, zoodra de negers zich op Nederlandsche bodem zullen bevinden, moet uitgesloten zijn. Overigens zie ik geen bezwaar dat men, de kosten willende dragen, de zaak beproeve, en, bij weigering der Consuls, speciale agenten bezige.

Ten slotte bepaald ben ik niet tegen het beproeven der kolonisatie; ofschoon het mij doelmatiger voorkomt gunstiger gelegenheid en omstandigheden af te wachten, liever dan, stellig, niet onaanzienlijke kosten te maken, met weinig uitzicht op gewenscht gevolg.

Gelief, HoogEdelGestrenge Heer, de vernieuwde verzekering te ontvangen mijner bijzondere hoogachting,

Roest van Limburg

* * *

No. 109

Washington. 13 Nov. 1865

His Excellency

Mr. Cremers

Minister of Foreign Affairs in The Hague

Dear Sir

With pleasure, I saw in your Excellency's dispatch of the 18th of the past month No. 8320/62, that you after leaving the treaty for emigration of freed negroes from the U.S. to Suriname, now only because of the pressure of His Excellency the Minister of Colonies, had your eye on Colonization of freed negroes in that said region. In this matter, what appears completely necessary to me, one can rule out all interference from the United States with the settlers as soon as these find themselves on Dutch soil.

It seems to me a *sine qua non*,¹⁰⁴ that this condition must be set and remain in the foreground.

¹⁰⁴ An essential, necessary condition.

Except for this, it appears to me that the plan for colonization, if executable, is desirable.

But is it executable? Is it at least executable for the country?

I doubt this, and for that reason, after the ending of the civil war, I didn't yet brought this matter up to Your Excellency.

All those whom I have spoken to over the last month who judged it favourably, amongst others General Phelps, one of the most able officers of the American army, who had a considerable command in the south during the war and who resigned from the same,¹⁰⁵ because the Government did not want to accede to his feelings that the negroes must be sent away or be given full rights as citizens. This General Phelps told me not to believe that they should want to go to Suriname – certainly not as laborers for a wage less than one dollar per day. He said that they are too attached to this country, whose language they speak, and that their ideas about their freedom are too exaggerated, knowing that they shall receive land, schools, and churches here, to want to move to an unknown country, whose climate, language, laws, and customs are unfamiliar.

Everyone – American and foreign diplomats – spoke to me in the same way, and in the letter hereby from our Vice-Consul in Washington, who had the opportunity to get to know negroes from nearby, you shall find the same feelings.

[Mr. Leigh, of Bremen, is on a charitable tour in Europe for the collection of funds for the relief of the free negroes of America.]¹⁰⁶

After Your Excellency's writings, however, I at once embarked on further research about the opportunity. Messrs. Leigh and General Howard, as reported in the letter of his Excellency the Minister of Colonies, have not yet been consulted by me. The first was to be found in Europe, the second in the Southern States, where he recently addressed the negroes. A copy of this address I have the honor herewith to enclose. As soon as the General shall have returned to Washington, I shall attempt to have a discussion with him. In the meanwhile, at an encounter with the English legation, I spoke superficially and confidentially over the matter with Mr. Hunter, the subordinate director of the Department of State, who has taken charge during the injury of Mr. Seward. He let it slip that nothing hinders the intended colonization. It is also my feelings, that the American Government could not forbid it, because the Constitution gives everyone the freedom of emigration. Thus, if Your Excellency, with the King's Minister of Colonies, judges that the cooperation and the approval of the American Government is not required in this matter, (although maybe later opposition on its part will follow) I think it is most effective to act as

¹⁰⁵ Perhaps "stepped down from his command"? Or "refuted his support for colonization"?

¹⁰⁶ A newspaper clipping attached to the left margin of the letter.

if one had complete right to do so.¹⁰⁷ Because this however could perhaps be challenged, I shall not do so without the authorization of Your Excellency.

Just as less as I am certain of the cooperation of the Government, I am certain of the cooperation of our consuls. I think that it is rather likely that at least some of them prefer to tender their resignation, than to trouble themselves with this matter. A second point of instruction should be, therefore, whether the Consuls are required to admit themselves to this matter. The ministry could even less be in charge to hire the negroes. But should it not be appropriate to send over a competent agent for the Colonization from Suriname? He could then appoint other agents.

About how many colonists does one desire? In no event could the work be gratuitous. Might a call be required, for example, like that which I allow myself to offer to Your Excellency as a loose sketch, then shall the advertisement of that in the newspapers be at a significant expense, which one can not expected to be asked from the Consuls?¹⁰⁸ Shall those, and other expenses, be charged to the Department of Foreign Affairs?

It will be inevitable to pay the travel costs of the colonists otherwise, at least in the present circumstances, one would not receive any.

Could a reward, financial or honorific, be promised to an American who may might cooperate towards this end?

In diplomacy, one does follow the rule that nothing will be done for nothing.

In *rerum natura*, Lucretius believes, that *ex nihilo nil fit*.¹⁰⁹

The Legation and the Vice-Consulate, eager for honor and fueled by the prospect thereof, considered the matter from all sides. For example, "if one could hire the Society for Colonization of Liberia?"

No; because, aside, although they knew of ample resources, and they had little success with the negroes, they have the goal to civilize *Africa*. They want to send colonists exclusively to Liberia. They shall thus not supply them to us for Suriname.

"Whether the Commissioner of refugees and freedman's Bureau could and would deliver them to us."

Pending that he, General Howard, may declare himself for this, it is not likely that he will deliver desirable personnel, at least in significant numbers. Because who wants to work and can work finds work here. Even the negro women, who work day by day as maid, from 8 in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, receive a dollar per day for this, besides food, and we discovered personally that it is very difficult to find them at that wage. In most of the houses now they have negroes as servants; none of them receives less than 25 dollars per month plus food and

¹⁰⁷ As if one had the right to emigrate.

¹⁰⁸ The text of this sketch, in English, follows this letter.

¹⁰⁹ It is in the nature of things, Lucretius believes, that nothing comes from nothing.

lodging. To get a coachman at cost, no negro receives less than 40 dollars per month. Except exceptional cases of persecution, they are thus satisfied, and as a rule it can be assumed that those who suffer lack, don't want to work. What shall one do therefore with similar people brought over to Suriname?

In the interior lands,¹¹⁰ on the plantations of North and South Carolina, there may be a number of fit people to be found by a recruiter. But then this recruiter first, and after that the transportation of the recruited people to the sea-ports must be paid for. And those who arrive, if they refuse to board the ships, then what? Call upon the strong arm of the government? This will not be able to happen, never be brought into practice. They must offer themselves completely voluntarily; completely voluntarily they must board the ships, or all work is lost.

This is one condition which I, as a diplomat, must place in the foreground, in addition to the previously mentioned, that any interference of the American side will be excluded, once the negroes find themselves on Dutch soil.

Moreover, I see no objections, if one wants to pay the expenses, to test the case, and in event the Consuls refuse, to employ special agents.

In conclusion, I am not against the testing of the Colonization, although it appears to me more effective to wait for a more favourable opportunity and circumstances, rather than, certainly, to incur not insignificant costs with little prospect for the desired consequence.

Dear Sir, receive the renewed assurance of my extraordinary respect,

Roest van Limburg

Attached newspaper clipping: Privileged Colonisation in Surinam

Since the abolition of slavery in the Netherlands colonies, excellent lands belonging to the Government have become vacant; and, by authorization of the King, the Governor of Suriname has decreed that every respectable man or head of a family, white or colored, who would cultivate such lands should be allowed to do so, for his own benefit, without having any taxes to pay during the six first years and with the privilege of receiving those lands in full property after ten years of good cultivation. At the end of those ten years, he will receive the title of his property and the documents of full citizenship.

For all this no payment at all will be required from him.

To obtain those advantages nothing is necessary but that the man or head of a family be able to prove his good conduct, declare to a Netherlands consul in the United States that he renounces his till then professed nationality and that he

¹¹⁰ Away from the oceans.

desires to settle in Suriname, subject only to the Netherlands laws and legal authorities whose protection he will enjoy.

Thereupon he and his family will be shipped to Suriname at the expense of the Government of the colony.

Applications can be made to any Netherlands Consulate in the United States, but more particularly to the Consulates of Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Richmond, Norfolk, Savannah, Charleston and New Orleans.

83. Date: 24 November 1865

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142 (48)

Author: Roest van Limburg (Washington, DC) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: This copy of the original is in poor handwriting, and a number of words must be guessed at here. Roest van Limburg has met with Oliver Otis Howard, Commissioner of the Freedman's Bureau, who gives little support to the project, but also no resistance.

No. 114

Washington, 24 Novemb. 1865

HoogEdelGestr. Heer,

Ten vervolge op mijne dépêche van den 13er dezer maand, No. 109, kan ik thans de eer hebben aan Uwe Exc. verslag te geven van een onderhoud 't welk ik gisteren had met den generaal Howard, den Commissioner of refugee's and Freedmen's bureau vermeld in den brief van Z. Exc. den Minister van Koloniën. Hij was juist teruggekeerd van eene inspectie-reis in de Zuidelijke Staten, en verklaarde zich, over het algemeen, tevreden over het gedrag en de [relaties?] der negers. Vooral zij aan welke landen ten bebouwing, met uitzigt op eigendom gegeven waren, kweten zich, zeide hij, zeer goed van hunne taak. Gebrek aan werk was er volstrekt niet; integendeel, op onderscheiden plaatsen was er gebrek aan lieden die werken wilden. Het uitvoeren van negers, over het algemeen, het uitvoeren van goede negers, meer bijzonderlijk, achte hy [door gaansch?] niet wenschelijk. Eenige weken geleden had hij "een partijtje" (hij bezigde het woord niet, maar de zin des woord lag in zijn uitdrukkingen), meerendeels vrouwen en kinderen, aan de Kolonisatie Maatschappij voor Liberia afgeleverd; en hij had nog wel wat beschikbaar te Richmond, hetgeen hij bereid was aan boord te leveren, indien een schip ze, ter Kolonisatie, overnemen wilde. Ik vroeg: Zijn er geen mannen bij? – "ook eenige mannen; maar wij kunnen ze niet dwingen, zij moeten vrijwillig gaan." Geheel hulpeloozen en vagabonderende, bedelaars, schijnen gedwongen te worden, en, wil iemand ze, geëxporteerd ^te worden^ gelijk de blanken van dien aard in Nederland naar eene bedelaarskolonie ^worden of^ werden vervoerd. Ik maakte den generaal met de bedoelingen van 's Konings Regering bekend en las hem de losse schets van oorsprong voor, voor 't welk ik de eer had aan Uwe Exc. oordeel te onderwerpen. Hij en een persoon die hij

bij zich had en nu en dan raadpleegde, (vooral: of er eene wetsbepaling in de weg stond? hetgeen ontkennend werd beantwoord) vonden het plan zeer liberaal en de oproeping zeer goed, met de eenige aanmerking dat hij in het belang den negers, het wenschelijk achtte een [?] land – een getal akkers – als minimum te noemen. Zij vonden de uitdrukking dat hun “vereischte gronden uit ‘s lands domein” zouden worden aangewezen te onbepaald.

Hier, zeiden zij, bekwam een hoofd van huisgezin 160 acres, blank of gekleurd, een halve vierkante mijl; doch de titels van eigendom werden hun eerst na vijf jaren goede bebouwing afgeleverd. Niet iedereen evenwel, die het verlangde kon land bekomen, er was niet genoeg voor iedereen. En zij die geen land bekomen? Vroeg ik, “werken als arbeiders, tegen goed loon, over en weder bepaald; en koopen later land als zij er geld toe hebben.

Daargelaten dat er geen verbod tegen bestond, had hij er niets tegen dat de uitvoer [bijgevoegd?] werd, ja dat er eenige geschikte lieden werden uitgevoerd. “Zij, die op de neger smaalde zouden dan zien dat de lieden door vreemden worden gewaardeerd.” Het doelmatigst kwan hem voor, een agent uit Suriname over te zenden, ter aanneming van negers in Virginia, Noord en Zuid Carolina, Georgia. In dat geval natuurlijk zou het Freedman’s bureau hun vervoer naar een haven van inschepping niet bekostigen. Dit zou, blijkbaar, slechts het geval zijn, indien men het uitschot nemen wilde.

Opmerkelijk scheen het mij dat noch de generaal Howard noch zijn raadsman, noch de Secretaris generaal van het Dep. van staat, nog amerikaansch toezigt reclameerde noch tegenwerping maakte tegen de door mij op den voorgaande gestelde voorwaarde van afzwering van hun burgerschap en volstreekte onderwerping aan het wettig Nederlands gezag. Er schijnt dus niet de minste reden te bestaan voor de werderopvatting des traktaats van den heer Van der Maesen, de dato 15 [Dec.]. 1863, waarbij wij ons allerhande beperkingen lieten opleggen en aan moeilijkheden blootstelden.

Wat, overigens, de waarschijnlijkheid van slagen betreft bleef ik bij mijn gevoelen dat het vooralsnog zeer moeilijk vallen zal en met groote kosten gepaard zal gaan geschikte negers, in beduidenden getale tot landverhuizing te bewegen. Wil men het evenwel beproeven, dan schijnt het mij doelmatigst eener vertrouwde agent uit Suriname met voldoende magtiging en geldmiddelen, over te zenden, en eene aankondiging in den geest der door mij aan Uw Exc. toegezondene in de dagbladen te doen plaatsnemen. De haven van inschepping zal best door den agent aan duiden zijn.

Gelief HoogWelGeb. Heer

* * *

No. 114

Washington, 24 Novemb. 1865

Dear Sir,

In follow-up to my dispatch of the 13th of this month, no. 109, I can now have the honor to report to your Exc. on a discussion I had yesterday with generaal Howard, the Commissioner of refugees' and Freedmen's bureau, reported in the letter from His Excellency the Minister of Colonies. He had just returned from an inspection trip in the Southern States, and he declared himself satisfied, in general, with the behavior and relations of the negroes. Most of all, those who were given land to cultivation, with a promise of ownership, acquitted themselves very well of their task, he said. Shortage of work there was none whatsoever; just the opposite, in several places there was a shortage of people who wanted to work. The exportation of negroes, in general the exportation of good negroes, he thought on the whole not at all desirable.

A few weeks ago he had delivered to the Colonization Society for Liberia a "little party" (he did not use that word, but the sense of the word was in his expression), of mostly women and children; and he still had some more available in Richmond whom he was prepared to put on board, if a ship wanted to take them for colonization. I asked: are there no men? – "also a few men, but we cannot force them, they must go voluntarily." The completely helpless, vagabonds, beggars, appear to be forced, and, if anyone wants them, they are imported like whites of their nature in the Netherlands were or they are relocated to a beggars' Colony. I acquainted the generaal with the goals of the King's Government and read the original sketch, which I had the honor to subject to your discretion.

He and a person he had with him and who he from time to time consulted (especially, if there was a statutory provision which stood in the way? It was answered that they were not aware of one) found the plan very Liberal and the call very good, with a single remark, that he had thought it desirable perhaps to name a [?] land, a number of fields, to be the minimum. They found the expression that they "should be given the necessary land from the nation's domain" too vague.

Here the head of a household, white or colored, should get 160 acres, a half of a square mile, but the titles to the property were given to them only after five years of good cultivation. Not everyone, though, who desired land should receive it, there was not enough for everyone. And those who receive no land?, I asked, "work as laborers, for good wages, by mutual agreement and are certain to be able to buy land when they have money."

Barring that there was no law forbidding it, he had nothing against the export, if indeed a few fit members were exported. Those who sneer at the negro then shall

see that they are valued abroad. The most expedient for him would be to send an agent from Suriname to receive the negroes in Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia. In that case, of course, the Freedmen's bureau would not pay for their transport to the port of embarkation. This shall, apparently only be the case if one wanted to take the rejects.

It appeared remarkable to me that neither generaal Howard nor his advisor, nor the Secretary general of the Dep. of State claimed any supervision by the Americans, nor gave any objection to my condition that they forswear their citizenship and completely subject themselves to Dutch authority. There appears to me not to be the least reason for again taking up the treaty of Mr. van der Maesen, dated 15 Nov. 1862, which imposed all sorts of limitations on us and exposed us to difficulties.

What, moreover, concerns the probability of success, I continued to feel that it shall be very difficult, paired with large expenses, for fit negroes to be induced in large numbers to migration. If one wants to test it, then it appears to me most expedient to send over a trusted agent from Suriname with the necessary authorization and financial resources, and to place an announcement, similar to that I sent to Your Excellency, in the newspapers. The ports of embarkation shall best be designated by the agent.

Please, Sir,

84. Date: 1865 (no month or day given)

Source: Brief on Emigration & Colonization and report in Answer to a Resolution of the Senate (Washington, Polkinhorn & Son, Book and Job Printers, 1865).

Author: James Mitchell

Language: English

Note: James Mitchell, formerly of the Lincoln Administration's colonization office, gives a summary of his efforts on colonization. Lincoln has been assassinated and Johnson has taken over as President. Mitchell argues that colonization was a crucial part of Lincoln's plans all along, and he (Mitchell) intends to honor such commitments.

LETTER ON COLONIZATION

Honorable and Dear Sir:

Permit me to review the question of colonization, as a policy of the Government, from a political stand-point, as disclosed by the acts of the Government; I leave the merit of the policy for future discussion, and simply ask the question "What is the policy of the Government thereon?"

In answer I will respectfully state that the spirit and policy of colonization underlie the enactments of the 37th Congress on the negro question, culminating in the Proclamation of Emancipation of September 22d, 1862, which is a colonization document, both as to words and intention. This measure was asked of Mr. Lincoln and his party, as a condition on the part of the Western Democracy who supported him, and out of which they cannot now be defrauded without endangering the unity of the existing organization, as passing events clearly disclose.

The authority given President Lincoln on this subject is as follow, made and adopted to enable him to meet his obligations to his western supporters. The law of the measure is found in the 12th section of the Confiscation Act, and placed there to make that act a more palatable measure for the western men – approved July 17, 1862.

"And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to make provisions for the transportation, colonization, and settlement, in some tropical country beyond the limits of the United States, of such persons of the African race, made free by the provisions of this act, as may be willing to emigrate – having first obtained the consent of the government of said country to their protection and settlement within the same, with all the rights and privileges of freemen."

This is the standing authority and instruction given the President, on it he issued to the writer an amended commission, dated August 4th, 1862, which is not dependent on supply bills, but is effective until revoked by the President. The power of the President to make this appointment is not questioned by the Attorney General, his opinion is rendered on salary, made unfortunately on a partial statement of the facts as to funds in the Treasury, so much so as to justify its being set aside; for the books of the Treasury disclose the fact that on the 31st of July, 1865, there was in the Treasury, subject to requisition for colonization purposes \$205,980, collected under the tax law approved June 7th, 1862 (see the last paragraph of section 12.)

“And one-fourth shall also be paid over to said State, as a fund to aid in the colonization or emigration from said State of any free persons of African descent who may desire to remove therefrom to Hayti, Liberia, or any other tropical state or country.”

My commission comprehends the supervision of this fund, so far as the General Government has to do with it, as I was “appointed to aid in the execution of the several laws and parts of laws” which relate to colonization, and “under the direction of the President.”

The above enactment and settlement of colonization, as policy, was followed, in quick succession, by the Proclamation of Emancipation two months and five days later; and that of January 1st, 1863, dissolved the limitation as to time, and let the fundamental proclamation of September 22 take effect, which unquestionably is a colonization measure of the most solemn and binding character – an instrument “of Providence,” in all its words and terms, against which resistance will prove madness and folly; the same mind that designed it to be an instrument of emancipation designed it to be equally an instrument of colonization – it was intended to be so. It proclaims to the world “That the efforts to colonize persons of African descent, with their own consent, upon the continent, or elsewhere, with the previously obtained consent of the government existing there, will be continued.” This policy, bequeathed to this nation by President Lincoln, in the midst of so much blood, North and South, seals the case beyond the power of parties or men to re-open it.

Again – to add further weight to this policy, and to root it deeper in the national heart and national economy, it has been surrounded with the solemnities of our Holy Religion, and the sanctions of the oath has forced it home on the conscience and the heart of the people of the South.

The success of our arms has enabled us to impose the above measure of emancipation on the people of the South, and enabled us to exact an oath binding it on them in all its provisions. Thus it has become a solemn compact and covenant between the two parties late at issue.

It is an obligation of our own making, both as to form and substance. Mr. Lincoln might have been silent on the point of colonization contained therein, but as a true

statesman he did not choose to be so. When the gauge of battle decided against the South – as a generous people should do – they come forward, and, with proper unanimity, assume the obligations imposed, and swear to support the Proclamation of Emancipation, colonization included. Does that assumption impose no obligation, no duty on the maker, the framer of the instrument? is there no corresponding obligation fastened on the people of the North? Surely there is. As one sadly cognizant to the fearful judgment that has swept over the land, and for seventeen years has seen the gathering storm, and warned my people of its approach, (at my request, Indiana placed colonization provisions in her Constitution fifteen years ago,) I have thus been reluctantly, though intimately, connected for that time with the class of measures and questions in issue. For one, I will not be found breaking faith with the people of the South on this subject; it is not well, it is not wise for us to be found amongst the first to disappoint the expectation we have made in such a solemn and formal manner. I have asked Southern statesmen to accept emancipation and unite with us on this policy, and they have done it – for one I dare not deceive them in this.

I intend to calmly take my stand on the Proclamation of Emancipation and its attendant oath, and be found asking the rules of this nation the fulfillment of the compact, liberal and just as it is – emancipation for the slave, and colonization of a *free and voluntary* kind. In opposition to the labor-monger, North as well as in the South, and as formidable now in the former as in the latter, we ask nationality for the African race, and finally their undisturbed rule in the Tropical Belt; we ask no hasty action, but calm, equitable, just and well-considered action; yet we protest against retrogression in what has been already done.

If republicanism is to be preserved amongst us, and the imperialism of the hour quickly removed and cut short by the wise policy of the President, I expect to see the American people unite in a noble effort to give this nationality to our freedmen; but if this union comes not in our day, the future will witness the wisdom and success of that policy laid down and settled by Presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

But I will be met with the question of expense. I will answer this in a word: we can colonize extensively and wisely and not cost the nation a dollar. In 1863, under the sanction of the President, I formed engagements with the British colonies in the American tropics, for the proper settlement of as many of our freedmen as desire to change their residence. The agents of those colonies agree to muster, ship to, and settle in their fine tropical lands as many emigrants as desire to remove thereto, without cost to us. They are this day asking me to fulfill this engagement – shall I be permitted to do so, or must I first appeal to the people for their opinion?

Mr. Lincoln thought a world-wide necessity existed for a combination with England on this question, and acted accordingly, believing that a union of two such powers as the United States and Great Britain could bring a third power into being for the benefit of the colored race.

I trust the leaders of the colored race will lend their aid in due time, and that we will recognize the coming future of the African and prepare him by education for the true independence in reserve for him. Undoubtedly the drift of events will carry our freedmen towards the Tropical Belt, where they will become masters of the situation and lords of the soil.

The privilege granted to the British colonies, the fulfillment of which is now desired, will cost (as I have stated) this nation nothing. Between the Governments of Washington and London it is but a change of population, we taking the white, they taking the black, whilst in the end the blacks will take the colonies as we drifted off in 1776; whilst for the time being, the limited imperialism of the one is best adapted to the proper government of the colored and mixed race; whilst republicanism suits the Celt and Saxon best. If this is true, should not our English speaking people, white and black, in Europe and American, consider it. Mr. Lincoln did consider it, and there are men in London who did respect his view. The time may come when the whole policy of the great emancipator – the true friend of the negro – will be fulfilled; for his memory and his views will now be held sacred by all English-speaking nations, whether white or black. I shall never forget the fullness and emphasis of his utterance, which flowed from his great heart, when I first brought this colonization of the British colonies to his notice. On asking permission to bring it to the notice of our able Secretary of State, he remarked: “Surely! If England wants our negroes, and will do better by them than we can, I say let her have them, and may God bless her!” This was uttered about the 23d of July, 1862, in the following September the Proclamation of Emancipation was issued, and the Secretary of State sealed the matter by his letter of the 30th of that month, addressed to our Foreign Ministers, asking the co-operation of Foreign Governments. The argument as to the intention of the Government is thus made complete.

In the light of the above facts, I think it a far-fetched argument to maintain that the repeal of part of the colonization appropriation is an abandonment of the policy – whilst the fact is, the \$600,000 supposed to be repealed is not so, but is just devoted to “existing engagement by the parties in interest, meaning Chirique:” to which contract I would have had no objection, if the rights of the colored emigrant had been respected, and which, so far as I am concerned, shall meet with no further opposition, so soon as colored men become the owners and holders of the contract, and are to be the benefited party.

It is no part of the object of this letter to discuss the reasons for colonization, either white or black, but to disclose the policy of the past administration, and to ask you, as a Western statesman of enlarged views, to build on the foundations already laid, and to respect the claims of the men who honestly differ from the radical division of the administration party on this subject.

Since the last of June, 1864, I have conducted the office at my own expense. Through all the time that this policy and the writer have suffered attack, I have been a silent, patient supporter of the administration – not without assurance, from President Lincoln, that there would be a change in the administration of the Interior. In that time I labored, so far as I had influence or skill, to perfect the measures of the administration on the negro question: in the effort I committed myself and political friends, so far as I have any, to the policy of Mr. Lincoln, as disclosed in this letter. I asked my friends of the border and South to accept the Constitutional Amendment, and it was accepted. I asked them to let the Freedmen's Bureau Bill become a law, promising that it would be carefully and prudently administered in the spirit of the above policy; they granted me this favor too. I may have no power to fulfill this promise, but shall I change front? – others may change front, but, under the circumstances, I cannot.

I have the honor to remain,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES MITCHELL,
Commissioner of Emigration.

85. Date: 10 March 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: A. van Praag (Amsterdam) to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (The Hague)

Language: Dutch

Note: A merchant with a trading firm that has an office in Boston with D.J. van Praag and an office in Suriname with M.S. van Praag wants permission to transport emigrants.

Amsterdam, 10 Maart 1866

Aan Zijne Exc. Den Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken,

Geven met den meesten eerbied te kennen A van Praag en Co., Kooplieden wonende te Amsterdam;

dat de Suppl. een handelshuis hebben te Boston, in den Staat Massachusetts (Vereen. Staaten van Noord Amerika) handelende onder de firma van Van Praag aan welks hoofd staat de Heer D. J. Van Praag.

dat de suppl. evenzeer een handelshuis hebben in de Kolonie Suriname handelende onder de firma van Gebr^s Van Praag, aan welks hoofd staat de Heer M.S. van Praag;

dat door hunne relatien met Suriname en met de Vereen. Staaten der Suppl. voornoemde handelshuizen de emigratie wenschen te ondernemen van zwarte landarbeiders, uit de Zuidelijke Staten der Vereen. Staaten van N. Amerika naar Suriname.

Dat hiertoe voor der Suppl. Handelshuis te Boston in de allereerste plaats vereischt wordt, volgens de deswege bestaande bepalingen, een akte van bekendheid en toelating af te geven door de Nederl. Regering;

dat de emigratie een levensvraag zijnde voor de Kolonie Suriname, de Suppl. overtuigd zijn van de hooge belangstelling der Nederl. Regering in dit onderwerp, terwijl vooral de invoer van landarbeiders van Afrikaanschen oorsprong de zekerste waarborg aanbiedt voor de instandhouding en uitbreiding van den landbouw en als gevolg daarvan, van den handel en scheepvaart der Kolonie Suriname.

Redenen waarom Suppl. zich wenden aan UE. eerbiedig verzoekende, dat het UE moge behagen eene akte van bekendheid en toelating te verleen aan den Heer D.J. van Praag te Boston, tot de aanneming van emigranten uit de Vereen. Staten van N. Amerika naar Suriname, overeenkomstig art. 3 van het K. Besluit van 26 Januarij 1865 no. 46, welke [art?] indien dit UE mogt kunnen behagen, zou kunnen worden

afgegeven aan gen. Heer D.J. van Praag, door tusschenkomst van Z.M. Gezant te Washington, even als zulks, naar de adressanten vernamen in Junij 1864, plaats had met den aan den Heer Lobscheid te [HonKong?] uitgereikte acte van bekendheid en toelating;

't welke doende enz.

A. Van Praag

* * *

Amsterdam, 10 March 1866

To His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Most respectfully submitted A. van Praag & Co, merchants living in Amsterdam;

That the suppl.¹¹¹ have a trading house in Boston, in the State of Massachusetts (United States of North America), trading under the firm of Van Praag, whose director is Mr. D.J. Van Praag.

That the suppl. also have a trading house in the Colony of Suriname, trading under the firm of the Brothers Van Praag, whose director is Mr. M.S. van Praag;

That through the relations with Suriname and the United States of their suppl. the above-mentioned trading houses wish to undertake the emigration of black land-laborers from the Southern States of the Unit. States of N. America to Suriname.

That this the suppl. trading house in Boston first requires an act of recognition and admission to be given by the Dutch Government, according to the existing regulations for this;

That because the emigration is a question of life for the Colony of Suriname, the suppl. are convinced of the great interest of the Dutch Government in this subject, while the importation of land-laborers from African origin offers the safest guarantee for the conservation and expansion of agriculture and, as a consequence thereof, of the trade and shipping of the Colony of Suriname.

These are the reasons why the Suppl. respectfully request, that you may see fit to give an act of recognition and admission to Mr. D.J. van Praag of Boston, for the receiving of emigrants from the Unit. States of N. America to Suriname, corresponding to art. 3 of the R. Decree of 26 January 1865, no. 46, which if you could see fit, could be given to Mr. D.J. van Praag through the intercession of His Majesty's Minister in Washington, in the same way, as the addressant understands, you saw

¹¹¹ Supplicants

fit to do in June 1864 with Mr. Lobscheid in Hong Kong, who was given an act of recognition and admission.

Acting in this regard, etc.

A. Van Praag

86. Date: 19 March 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Fransen van de Putte (The Hague) to Minister of Foreign Affairs

Language: Dutch

Note: The Dutch Colonial Minister explains that there is no specific regulation forbidding emigrants coming from the United States to Suriname.

Zijne Exc. Den Minister

Van Buitenl. Zaken

's Gravenhage, 19 Maart 1866

In antwoord op UExc^s missive van 14 dezer N^o. 2180, heb ik de eer mede te deelen, dat er naar mijne meening hoegenaamd geene bedenkingen bestaan, om aan den Heer D.J. van Praag te Boston, zooals door de Heeren A. Van Praag en Co, in hun request wordt gevraagd, te doen uitreiken eene acte van bekendheid en toelating, door tusschenkomst van Z. M.^s Gezant te Washington of door eene ander Nederl. Autoriteit in de Vereen. Staten van Amerika, voor het geval dat dezer voldoende mogt blijken, dat genoemde Heer van Praag te Boston aan de gesteld vereischten voldoet.

Door de wijziging toch welke de artt. 2 en 3 van de bij Kon. besluit van 19 Maart 1863, N^o. 71, vastgestelde verordening, betreffende het toezigt op den aanvoer van vrije arbeiders in Suriname, bij het K. besluit van 26 Jan. 1865, N^o. 46, hebben, ondergaan in het aanwijzen van havens en de goedkeuring van de betrokken Regering geen vereischte meer tot het verleenen der bedoelde acten van bekendheid en toelating en van de premien, indien overigens aan de gestelde voorwaarden is voldaan.

Art. 2 bepaalt thans, dat emigranten kunnen worden verscheept van plaatsen of havens, waar de overheid het niet verbieddt, en waar een Nederl. Konsulaat is gevestigd.

In verband daarmede heb ik van ook bij mijn brief van 30 Jan. Ll, L^a. B, N^o. 25, aan UE als mijn gevoelen doen kunnen, dat er geen bezwaar bestaat om, zooals door Z.M. Gezant te Washington in zijn brief aan Uexc. Van 13 Novbr. 1865, N^o. 109, werd aangegeven, vrije personen voor Suriname in de Vereen. Staten, geheel buiten toedoen der Regeering aldaar, te doen aanwerven, en ter zake te handelen, als hadde men er volkomen regt toe.

Alleen meen ik er de aandacht van UE op te moeten vestigen, dat het model der acte van bekenheid en toelating, in die voege zal behooren te worden gewijzigd, dat

achter de woorden van 19 Maart 1863, N^o. 71, op den vierden regel nog worden ingelascht de woorden “zoo als het zelfde is gewijzigd bij Kon. besluit van 26 Januarij 1865, N^o. 46.

De Minister van Kolonien

I.D. Fransen van de Putte

* * *

His Ex. The Minister
of Foreign Affairs
The Hague, 19 March 1866

In response to Your Exc.'s letter of the 14th of this month, No. 2180, I have the honor to communicate that in my opinion absolutely no reservations exist in presenting (through His Majesty's Minister in Washington or through another Dutch authority in the United States) Mr. D.J. van Praag of Boston with an act of recognition and admission, as asked for in the request of Messrs. A. Praag, etc., in the case that it may appear sufficient that the said Mr. van Praag of Boston fulfills what is required.

Through the amendment to arts. 2 and 3, of the Royal Decree of 26 Jan. 1865, No. 46, to the established regulations of the Royal Decree of 19 March 1863, no. 71., relating to the supervision of the supply of free laborers in Suriname, there is no longer a requirement for the intended acts of recognition and admission and of the premiums, if the other stated conditions are fulfilled.

Art. 2 now determines that the emigrants can be shipped from places or ports where the government does not forbid it and where there is a Dutch Consulate established.

In connection with this I have also presented my feelings in my letter of 30 Jan., last, La. B., No. 25, that there exist no objections, as was indicated by His Majesty's Minister in Washington in his letter to Your Excellency of 13 Novbr. 1865, to recruit without the assistance of the government there free persons for Suriname in the United States, and to deal with them as one had the complete right to do.

I only think to establish to your attention that the model of the act of recognition and admission, inasmuch shall have to be changed, that after the words of 19 March 1863, No. 71, on the fourth line has to be inserted “as the same was amended in the Royal Decree of 26 January 1865, No. 46”.

The Minister of Colonies

I.D. Fransen van de Putte

87. Date: 22 March 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142 (49)

Author: E. Cremers, The Hague to Roest van Limburg

Language: Dutch

Note: A. van Praag of Amsterdam seeks recognition for D.J. van Praag of Boston as an agent to carry emigrants to Suriname.

De Heere Roest van Limburg
Buitengewoon Gezant en gevolgmattigd Minister
Van Z.M. den Koning der Nederlanden
Te Washington
's Gravenhage, den 22 Maart 1866
No. 2433/12

HoogEdelGestrenge Heer,

Ik heb de eer UHEGestr. hiernevens afschrift te doen toekomen van een request der Heeren A. Van Praag enz, te Amsterdam, houdende verzoek eene akte van bekendheid en toelating te verleen aan D.J. van Praag, te Boston, als agent voor den aanvoer van vrije arbeiders uit de Vereenigde Staten naar Suriname, benevens afschrift eener betrekkelijk missive van het Departement van Kolonien, 19 dezer No. 3, La. B.

Ik voeg hier tevens bij eene voor den Heer van Praag opgemaakt akte van bekendheid en toelating, met verzoek dezelve, nadat door UHEg. het vereischte onderzoek zal zijn ingesteld, omtrent den Heer van Praag te Boston, en dit onderzoek een voldoende resultaat zal hebben opgeleverd, uittereiken, indien tegen die uitreiking overigens geene bezwaren van eenigen aard bij UHEGestr. bestaan.

UHEGestr. gelieve bij vernieuwing de verzekering aantenemen mijner hoogachting.

E. Cremers.

* * *

Mr. Roest van Limburg
Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary
of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands
In Washington
The Hague, 22 March 1866
No. 2433/12

Dear Sir,

I have the honor herewith to provide you with a copy of a request of Mr. A. Van Praag, etc., of Amsterdam, who requests an act of recognition and admission to be given to D.J. van Praag, of Boston, as agent for the transport of free workers from the United States to Suriname, alongside a copy of a related letter from the Department of Colonies, dated the 19th of this month, No. 3, La. B.

I have affixed to this a prepared act of recognition and admission, with a request that you deliver the same, after you have conducted the required research about Mr. van Praag of Boston, and this research shall have yielded a satisfactory result, unless in delivering this you have any other reservations of any nature.

Sir, please receive the renewed assurance of my respect,

E. Cremers

88. Date: 13 April 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg to Boston Consul, Christian Bois

Language: English

Note: Roest van Limburg empowers the Boston Consular agent, Christian Bois, to decide whether Van Praag is suitable, and to grant Van Praag further the recognition of the Dutch government in his endeavor to ship freed American blacks to Suriname. The remaining copy is poor but legible. It lacks Roest van Limburg's signature. The attached document that the letter mentions is missing.

Legation of the Netherlands

Washington, 13 April 1866

Ch. Bois, Esq

Consul of the Netherlands at Boston

Sir,

According to directions from his Exc. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I have the honor of requesting you to deliver to Mr. D.J. van Praag at Boston the enclosed document, provided you consider that gentleman an full entirely unobjectionable person.

If you might have any objection against him, I request you ~~to communicate it to me~~ inform me of it and to withhold the document, till otherwise advised.

Please accept, Sir, the confirmation of my distinguished consideration

[with your official visum on both the ~~Dutch~~ original and ~~English~~ translation.]¹¹²

¹¹² This line was added in the left margin.

89. Date: 17 April 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Christian Bois, Boston Consul to Roest van Limburg, Washington. D.C.

Language: English

Note: Van Praag does not have a good reputation. This is only for his own gain. Yet, he is still recommended.

Boston, April 17, 1866

His Excellency

Roest van Limburg

Minister of the Netherlands

Washington

Sir

I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of 13th inst. covering documents for Mr. DJ. v. Praag, which I have not yet delivered, first wishing to ascertain if he is the proper person to act for the Gouvernement in the matter referred to. – Mr. v Praag's reputation as a merchant is not quite what might be desirable, but I may perhaps not be able to point to any special act of his, that would make him an objectionable agent, particularly when it is taken into consideration that he is a citizen of Surinam, and, doing business with that place, is in a better position to forward the views of the Gouvernement, than any other person here. – I seem to feel convinced that Mr v Praag's motives for wishing to be appointed Agent, are self interest and gain. – and not patriotic, – but this may not be considered an objection, as long as the result is favorable to the enterprise. –

I considered it my duty to inform Your Excellency of my estimate of the Gentleman referred to, – but on the whole, I think he may be recommended as agent for this particular enterprise. I wish however to await your reply before delivering the document. I remain

Your most obt sevt

Ch Bois

90. Date: 16 April 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Christian Bois (Boston Consul) to Roest van Limburg

Language: English

Note: Individual reputation of Van Praag is good, even if his firm has a mixed reputation. [Possible that the actual date is the 18th?]

Consulate of the Netherlands

Boston, April 16, 1866

Sir,

I said that the individual reputation of DJ v Praag is good, and I have therefore delivered the documents: the remark I made in my yesterday letter is more applicable to the firm of A. Praag Co. whose reputation however seems to be better than I expected. –

As I learn that one of the firm has gone to Washington to see Your Excellency, I took the liberty to telegraph that the document was delivered.

Your obed. Servant.

Chr. Bois

91. Date: 18 April 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Christian Bois (Boston) to Roest van Limburg

Language: English

Note: Telegram. The bold indicates printed text. A small-print paragraph of terms and conditions of the telegram is omitted.

Form. No. 2

The American Telegraph Co.

N. 6 Dated Boston Apl 18th 1866.

Received at Washin Aprl 18th

To Excellency Limburg

Minister of the Netherlands

Individual reputation good have delivered document

C. Bois

Consul

92. Date: 21 April 1866

Source: NA 2.05.13, Folder 142

Author: Roest van Limburg, Washington D.C. to Department of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

Language: Dutch

Note: Roest van Limburg has learned that there is no reason to reject van Praag based on his character. Yet, it appears that no African Americans are willing to emigrate.

No. 35

Washington, 21 April 1866

HoogEdelGestr. Heer,

In antwoord op Uwer Exc. missive van den 22^e dez. vorige maand No. 2433/12 heb ik de eer te berigten dat ik geen bezwaar vindende in de uitreiking der mij daarbij toegezonden akte, dezelve ~~toegekomen~~ heb ^doen toekomen^ zou onzer consul te Boston, met verzoek aan de betrokkene D.J. van Praag te overhandigen, indien hij, na ingesteld onderzoek, dien heer als een volstrekt [onberispelijk] en bevoegd persoon beschouwen. De heer Bois gemelde mij daarop dat hij, ofschoon niet zeer ingenomen met de firma “van Praag” nogthans bevonden had dat de individuele reputatie van D.J. van Praag goed was en hem gevolgelyk het document had uitgereikt.

Er schijnen een aantal broeders van Praag te bestaan. Gisteren kwam er een bij mij met een afschrift der akte welke aan zijne broeder te Boston uitgereikt was, en betrouwde dat er, naar hij beweerde eene vergissing in de akte bestond. Zijn doel, namelijk, was niet uit Boston negers te voeren, zij hadden bevoegheid verlangd tot het uitvoeren van negers uit de V. Staten, zonder eenige gehoudenheid aan een bepaalde haven. Hij had nog volstrekt geene negers [gevonden] en hoopte er van den generaal Howard, het hoofd der “freedman’s bureau” te bekomen.

Ik heb hem uitgenodigd zich, zonder verdere omhaal zoo mogelijk met den generaal Howard te verstaan, en uit te voeren vanwaar het hem voegzaamst schijnen zou, met zorg vuldige vermijding van alles wat tot eenigerlei beklag aanleiding zou kunnen geven. Hij beoogde aldanlyk twee afzending, elke van 500 hoofden, per stoomboot.

Spoedig, [?] nu moesten blijken of geschikte negers tot landverhuizing naar Suriname gezind zijn zullen. Zoo ja, dan betwijfel ik niet of de Kolonie al er groot voordeel uit trekken.

Uw HEG te gelieve

* * *

No. 35

Washington, 21 April 1866

Dear Sir,

In reply to Your Excellency's letter of the 22nd of this past month, No. 2433/12, I have the honor to report that I, finding no objections to the extension of the act sent to me, have provided the same to our consul in Boston, with the request that he hand this over to the concerned D.J. van Praag, if he after the conducted research considers him a completely unobjectionable and competent person. Mr. Bois reported to me about this that although he was not very pleased with the firm "Van Praag", he found the individual reputation of D.J. van Praag good, and had consequently presented him with the document.

There appear to be a number of Van Praag brothers. Yesterday one came to me with a copy of the act which had been presented to his brother in Boston, and he trusted that there was, he claimed, an error in the act. His goal, namely, was not to export negroes from Boston; they had asked for the warrant to export negroes from the U. States, without a limitation to a certain port. He had still no negroes, and hoped to acquire them from general Howard, the director of the "freedmen's bureau." I have invited him to communicate, without any further ceremony if possible with generaal Howard, and to export them from where he found most proper, with careful avoidance of everything that could lead to a single complaint. He envisioned two shipments, each of 500 heads, by steamboat.

Quickly, it now must appear that negroes are willing to emigrate to Suriname. If so, then I do not doubt that this will be a great advantage to the Colony.

You will please,

93. Date: November 1866

Source: A selection from: Van der Gon Netscher, *Werking van de Wet Tot Opheffing der Slavernij in de Nederlandsche West Indische Kolonie..n, en Middelen om Suriname van verder verval te redden* ('s Gravenhage: A. Belinfante: November 1866), 12-13, 18.

Author: Adrian David Van der Gon Netscher

Language: Dutch

Note: Van der Gon Netscher, once hopeful about the recruitment of African Americans for Suriname, is not pessimistic about the chances of recruiting them.

Bij eenige belanghebbenden bestaat het voornemen om vrije Negers uit de Vereenigde Staten als Immigraten aan te voeren, hetgeen echter niet gemakkelijk lieden verkrigen worden dan is hunnen overkomst als Immigranten zeer wenschelijk, ook om tot evenwigt te dienen bij toenemenden aanvoer van Chinezen. Hoe nuttig eene immigratie dier negers ook zij, wanneer zij zich bij contract verbinden om voor een bepaalden tijd den veld-arbeid op plantages te verrigten, even onraadzaam daarentegen wordt een Kolonisatie van hen geacht, wijl die, tot hoofddoel hebbende ze hier, zonder eenige verbindtenis, op zich zelve te doen staan, van verderfelijken invloed zou weze voor de onder Staats-toezigt geplaatsten en andere op contract arbeidende negers en immigraten, die alras op het voorbeeld dier nieuw aankomenden aan geene werkovereenkomsten meer gehouden zouden will zijn, maar op eigen grondjes zouden willen werken, of, beter gezegd, dit zouden voorwenden, om zich aan den arbeid te onttrekken. [...]

[p. 18] [...] volgens de laatste daaromtrent ontvangen berigten, zeer weinig kans bestaat om uit de Vereenigde Staten van Noord-Amerika geschikte arbeiders te krijgen, die zich bij contract voor twee of meer jaren tot plantage-arbeid verbinden willen, zonder welke verbintedenis hunne komst in de kolonie vooralsnog meer kwaad dan goed zou doen. [...]

[p. 52] [...] Negers uit de Staten van Noord-Amerika kwamen er nog slechts weinige aan; de algemeene opinie is niet gunstig omtrent hunne geschiktheid voor deze Kolonie; men vreest veel onrust en vagabondage, daar de goeden en werkzamen onder hen het te huis zeer we'l vinden kunnen en niet behoeven te emigreren en de meeste, niet aan den veldarbeid tusschen de keerkringen gewoon, daaronder zwaar zouden lijden.

* * *

Some interested parties have good intentions to bring in free Negroes from the United States as Immigrants, but these folk are not easy to get, however, even though they are very desired as Immigrants to balance with the growing numbers of arriving Chinese. As useful as these Negroes are, when they can be established with a contract to perform field labor for a certain amount of time on a plantation, it is inadvisable to wish for a Colonization of them, because their main goal is to be without contract, to stand on their own, which would present a bad influence for those placed under state oversight and other blacks and immigrants working under contract. The example of the new arrivals would encourage them to break with their labor contracts, to seek to work on their own pieces of ground, or, better said, to pretend to and to withdraw from work. [...]

[p. 18] [...] according to the most recently recieved messages about this, there is little chance to acquire fit laborers from the United States who will want to be bound by contract for plantation work for two or more years, without which their arrival in the colony would cause more harm than good. [...]

[p. 52] [...] Negroes from the United States hardly came at all; the general opinion is not favourable regarding their fitness for this colony; men fear unrest and vagabondage, that the industrious among them prefer to stay at home and do not need to migrate, that they are not used to field labor in the tropics and would suffer heavily thereunder.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Philip Magness for getting me interested in this topic. Sebastian Page and Reyes Mabasa helped with the French translations, and Dries Glorieux took a second look at some hard to read lines in Dutch. A summer research fellowship from the Institute for Humane Studies enabled me to travel to the Netherlands in the summer of 2012. I want to thank the archivists at the Netherlands' National Archive in the Hague for providing access to these papers, and for allowing me to photograph them without filling in too much paperwork. I must also thank my friend Dennis Bos for making a follow-up visit to the archives on my behalf, after my departure from the country. I would like to thank the journal *Civil War History* for allowing me to reproduce some of my thoughts from an earlier article with them. Last but not least, I want to thank the editors of this series for their thorough work in improving my text and translations.

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The series *Colonial and Global History through Dutch Sources* stimulates historical research on the basis of Dutch archival and primary sources. These sources are imperative for understanding Dutch overseas history from the time of the earliest explorations to the latest phase of decolonization. At the same time, Dutch sources provide a fascinating contemporary window on the regional histories of Africa, the Americas and Asia and the various ways in which these areas were linked through global networks of migration, trade and empire. Hence the series effectively combines the use of Dutch sources with materials of other European powers and/or that of their local African, American and Asian counterparts. The result is a peer-refereed series of dissertations, monographs, edited volumes and edited translations of key texts that not only builds on the rich Dutch colonial archive but also integrates the Dutch case into a much wider global framework of comparisons and connections.

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During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln's administration engaged in protracted negotiations with representatives of the Netherlands to aid in the voluntarily colonization of free African Americans to Suriname. Scores of diplomatic letters in Dutch, English, and French, dating to the period 1862 to 1866 attest to the very real possibility that such a migration stream could have become a reality. They also indicate reasons why this scheme failed: it was bogged down by differences of opinion, mail delays, and ultimately the reluctance of African Americans to migrate.

Previously unpublished and unknown, these letters have been transcribed and translated here for the first time. The sources provide a rare look inside the minds of liberal government officials during the age of emancipation in the Atlantic World. They demonstrate the officials' humanitarian concerns, their racial prejudices, respect for legal order and process, and faith in governments to solve international problems.

Michael J. Douma is an assistant research professor at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, where he is also adjunct faculty in the history department. He has published widely on the history of the Dutch in the United States, and is working on a history of Dutch-speaking slavery in New York and New Jersey.

This collection of sources gives insight into how entrepreneurs and state officials engaged in international relations to solve the challenges of their time. The collection is also a reminder that avenues not taken – the migration of free Afro-Americans to Suriname – are crucial to understanding the history of this period. – **Karwan Fatah-Black**, university lecturer at the Institute for History, Leiden University.

This collection of sources is a very welcome addition to Surinamese and Caribbean historiography. The negotiations between the Netherlands and the United States shed light on an understudied topic; it is surprising how little we know about these crucial years of abolition beyond the actual abolition of slavery and the remuneration of the owners. The topic plus the translations into English make this publication a valuable contribution to pan-Caribbean history as it will help students and scholars to look beyond the borders of empire and will invite connecting perspectives on colonization plans for and by formerly enslaved African Americans. – **Professor Rosemarijn Hoefte**, professor in the history of Suriname after 1873 in comparative perspective at the University of Amsterdam and President of the Association of Caribbean Historians.

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