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The Speech of the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament, on Tuesday, January 23, 1810.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

HIS Majesty commands us to express to you His deep Regret that the Exertions of the Emperor of Austria against the Ambition and Violence of France have proved unavailing, and that His Imperial Majesty has been compelled to abandon the Contest, and to conclude a disadvantageous Peace. Although the War was undertaken by that Monarch without Encouragement on the Part of His Majesty, every Effort was made for the Assistance of Austria which His Majesty deemed consistent with the due Support of His Allies, and with the Welfare and Interest of His own Dominions.

An Attack upon the Naval Armaments and Establishments in the Scheldt, afforded at once the Prospect of destroying a growing Force, which was daily becoming more formidable to the Security of this Country, and of diverting the Exertions of France from the important Objects of reinforcing Her Armies on the Danube, and of controuling the Spirit of Resistance in the North of Germany. These Considerations determined His Majesty to employ His Forces in an Expedition to the Scheldt.

Although the principal Ends of this Expedition have not been attained, His Majesty confidently hopes that Advantages, materially affecting the Security of His Majesty's Dominions in the further Prosecution of the War, will be found to result from the Demolition of the Docks and Arsenals at Flushing. This important Object His Majesty was enabled to accomplish, in consequence of the Reduction of the Island of Walcheren, by the Valour of His Fleets and Armies.

His Majesty has given Directions that such Documents and Papers should be laid before you as He trusts will afford satisfactory Information upon the Subject of this Expedition.

We have it in Command to state to you that His Majesty had uniformly notified to Sweden His Ma-

jefty's decided Wish, that in determining upon the Question of Peace or War with France, and other Continental Powers, she should be guided by Considerations resulting from Her own Situation and Interests: While His Majesty therefore laments that Sweden should have found it necessary to purchase Peace by considerable Sacrifices, His Majesty cannot complain that She has concluded it without His Majesty's Participation. It is His Majesty's earnest Wish that no Event may occur to occasion the Interruption of those Relations of Amity which it is the Desire of His Majesty and the Interest of both Countries to preserve.

We have it further in Command to communicate to you, that the Efforts of His Majesty for the Protection of Portugal have been powerfully aided by the Confidence which the Prince Regent has reposed in His Majesty, and by the Co-operation of the Local Government, and of the People of that Country. The Expulsion of the French from Portugal, by His Majesty's Forces under Lieutenant-General Lord Viscount Wellington, and the glorious Victory obtained by him at Talavera, contributed to check the Progress of the French Arms in the Peninsula during the late Campaign.

His Majesty directs us to state that the Spanish Government, in the Name and by the Authority of King Ferdinand the Seventh, has determined to assemble the general and extraordinary Cortes of the Nation: His Majesty trusts that this Measure will give fresh Animation and Vigour to the Councils and the Arms of Spain, and successfully direct the Energies and Spirit of the Spanish People to the Maintenance of their legitimate Monarchy, and to the ultimate Deliverance of their Country.

The most important Considerations of Policy and of good Faith require that as long as this great Cause can be maintained with a Prospect of Success, it should be supported, according to the Nature and Circumstances of the Contest, by the strenuous and continued Assistance of the Power and Re-