

From: José María de Tornel y Mendivil

To: Vicente Filisola

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Ministry of War and Marine
Military Statistics Commission

Dear Sir,

On September 24, 1839, this commission was formed at the request of the Supreme Government. The members of said commission, naturally answering to the wishes of the Supreme Government, gathered all of the documents that they could locate as well as producing various political, religious and military authorities of the Republic. In addition, the commission also provided statistical and geographic data possessed by these sectors and, as a result of receiving this information, the commission immediately proceeded to catalogue this information for the purpose of studying the compilation of statistics of the country.

However, the very nature of these assignments requires stability and peace and [Page 2], as a result, the gathering of statistical information about the Republic since its emancipation has not been at all possible. The emancipation of the Republic has prevented the public administration from undertaking this very important task. Further, in spite of the current internal situation, the President wishes to remove those barriers that may be removed through all available means in order to achieve the common good. Therefore, the President has ordered that the statistical commission should convene by issuing appointments of its members as to those who will be corresponding members. The purpose of this objective is not only designed to measure labor communications that may be initiated, but it is also intended to make an effective contribution to the implementation of said project. Therefore, the members of the commission will assist this ministry by sharing their expertise.

As you are one of the individuals who merits the distinction of being appointed as a member of said commission, I have the honor of soliciting your comments regarding the aforementioned, pursuant to the terms of the agreement with the President

God [Page 3] and Liberty. Mexico. July 21, 1846.

Signed by José María de Tornel y Mendivil

Mr. Vicente Filisola, Esteemed Division General.