

Dear Sir

<sup>th</sup>  
Havana 20 January 1791

It is with inexpressible satisfaction that I learn by Letters from Madrid that His Majesty had promoted you to the Distinguished Rank as a Member of the new appointed Junta de Estado - give me leave Sir to Congratulate you on the flattering occasion, and at the same time to express my wishes that you may continue ascending in Honors untill you obtain that Station, which your Abilities and Character certainly destined you to fill

Knowing your desire of obtaining more information concerning these remote parts of His Majesty's Dominions, I take the liberty of forwarding to you a fresh Solicitation respecting the supplying the Havana with Slaves - You will find the Memorial in favor of the Contract signed by many of the most principal Inhabitants of the Havana

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but as Mankind in general are more influenced  
by self Interest and private Attachments or prejudices  
than by Public good, you will not be surpris'd that  
there are some who wish for a prolongation of the  
Cedula, as appears from the enclosed Memorial  
tho' experience has shewn them the inefficacy of  
it; and I can assure you that most of the People  
who have signed this Paper (particularly your Friend  
the Treasurer) were some time ago very solicitous in  
requesting me to propose anew the Contract - so contra-  
dictory and unsteady is poor human Nature

I think it necessary to observe to  
you that Dawson is the only English African Merchant  
that has introduced Slaves into the Havana during  
the free Commerce as it is called, as you will perceive  
from the annex'd List - the reasons will appear  
obvious to you after reading the enclosed Periodical  
Paper, which I understand the Governor order'd to  
be printed, and which I can assure you is a very



exact description of the mode the English observe  
in their African Trade Not being able to  
ascertain here by a Public Document the number of  
Slaves Baker & Dawson introduced into Caracas, I  
have taken the liberty of referring to you for a confirmation  
of what I set forth on the subject, and am fully  
convinced that if your informe is demanded it will  
be the best guide for the Minister to go by si desca  
acertar

Being you will do me the honor of  
presenting my most Respectful Compliments to  
M<sup>rs</sup> Saavedra I remain

With the greatest Regard & Esteem

Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient and  
Most Humble Servant

Francis Saavedra Esq.

Ph. Allwood



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*[Faint, mirrored handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and mirroring.]*

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*[Partial view of handwritten text from an adjacent page on the right. Legible fragments include:]*  
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