



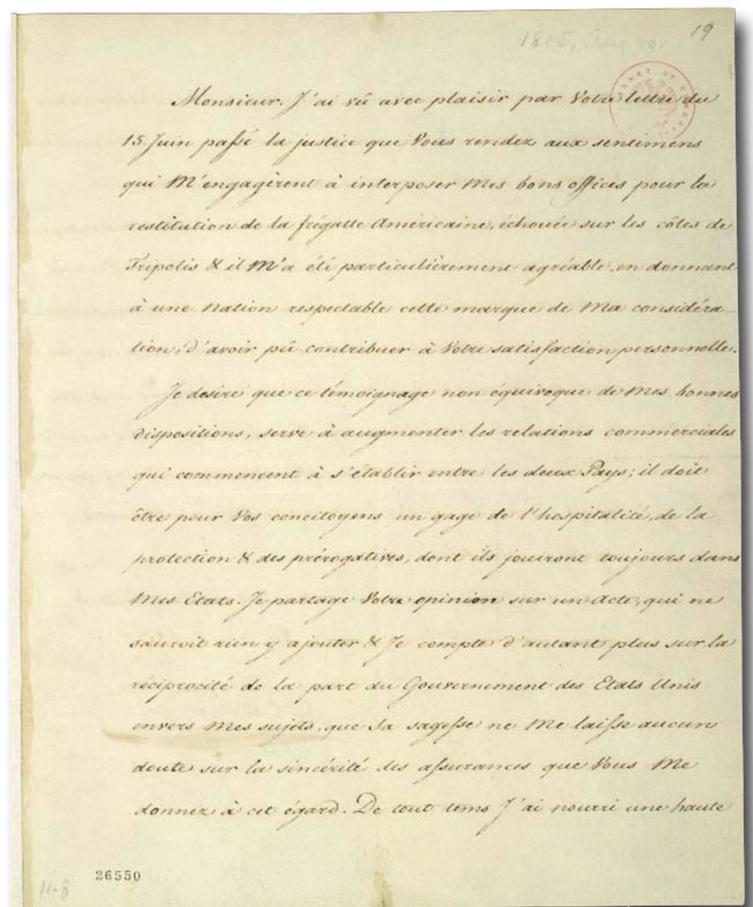
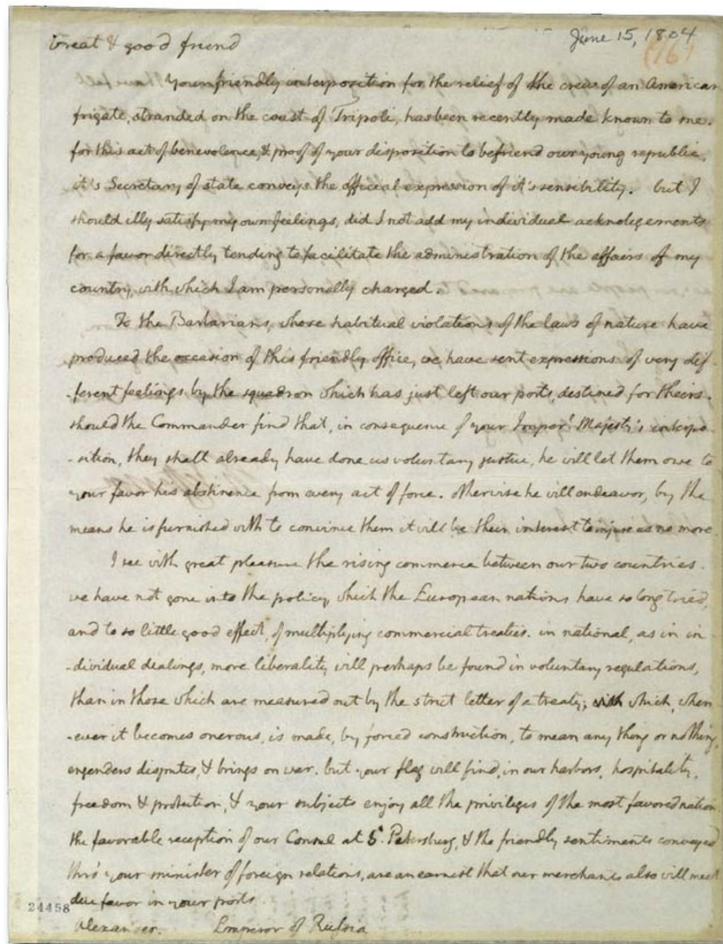
SEEDS OF DIPLOMACY

“GREAT & GOOD FRIEND ...”

The 18th century Age of Enlightenment, with its emphasis on applying reason to all areas of human experience and replacing tyranny and tradition with liberty and ethics, had an impact on both countries.

It greatly influenced the American Revolution, resulting in a democratic government, the Bill of Rights, and a free-market economic system. In Russia, Tsar Alexander I began the implementation of constitutional rule and liberal reforms. For a time, the Tsar corresponded and exchanged books with President Thomas Jefferson, who addresses him, in one letter, as his “Great & Good Friend.”

The two men established official diplomatic relations between their nations in 1807. Tsar Alexander I then formed an even closer association with the first U.S. Minister to Russia, John Quincy Adams, who arrived in St. Petersburg in 1809 and stayed until 1814. Adams, eventually the sixth U.S. president, used his diplomatic position to establish America as Russia’s top trading partner.



Top left: U.S. Capitol building, Washington DC, 1800. Top middle: Thomas Jefferson. Top right: Tsar Alexander I. Middle left: Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Tsar Alexander I, June 15, 1804. Middle right: Letter from Tsar Alexander I to Thomas Jefferson, August 20, 1805. Bottom left: John Quincy Adams, 1795. Bottom right: St. Petersburg, Russia, 1804.