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Letter appointing Lewis Pelly as Agent to the Governor-General and Special Commissioner at Baroda, as a Temporary Measure

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	Mss Eur F126/80
Date(s)	25 Nov 1874 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (8 folios)
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About this record

Letter No. 2564 P from Charles Umpherston Aitchison, Secretary to the Government of India, 25 November 1874, to Colonel Sir Lewis Pelly informing him of his appointment as Agent to the Governor-General and Special Commissioner at Baroda as a temporary measure whilst the Baroda Enquiry Commission is being undertaken.

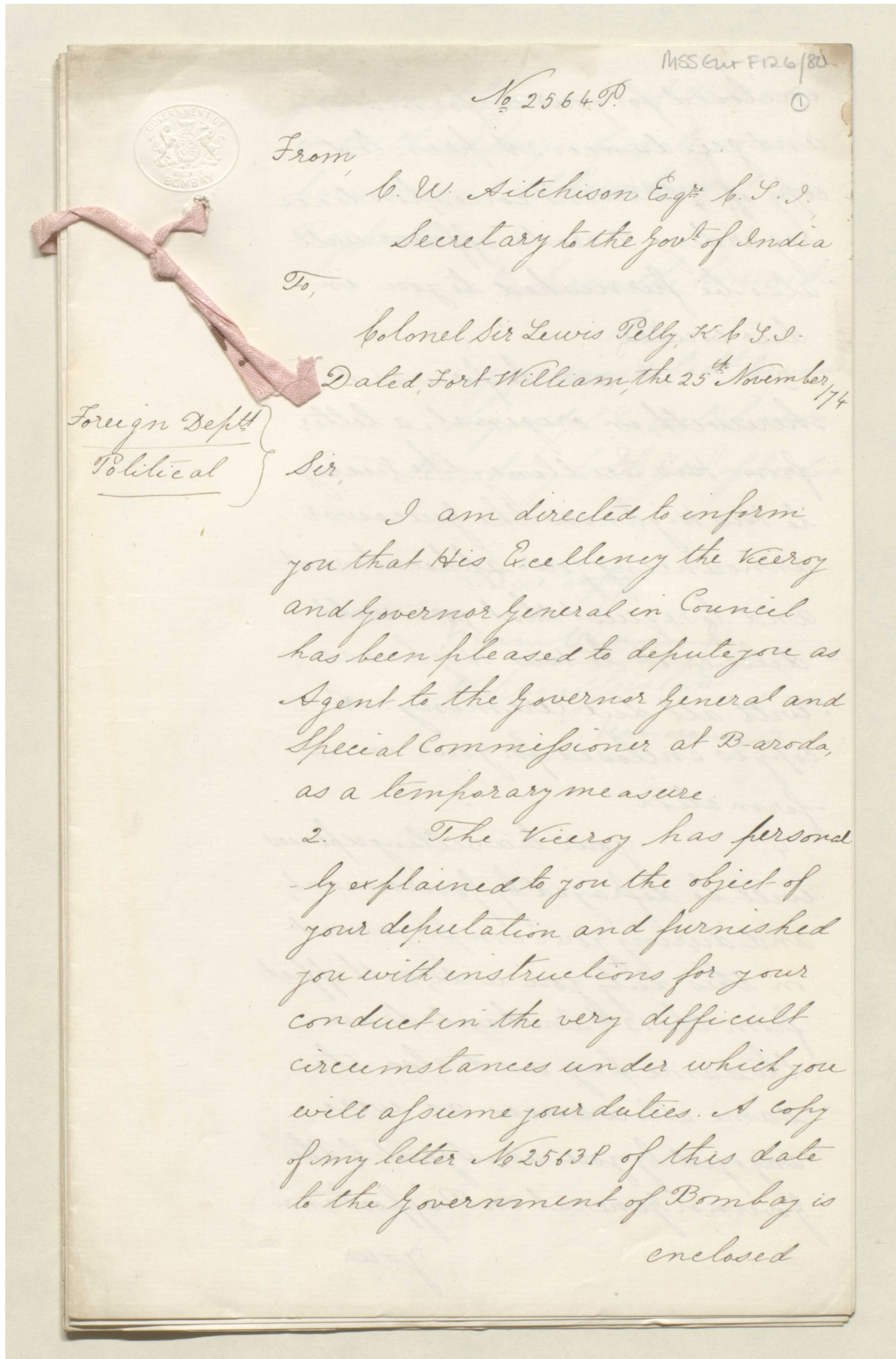
The letter details arrangements for travel expenses, assures Pelly that it will not affect his permanent position as Agent to the Governor-General at Rajputana and requesting that he take a letter from the Viceroy for His Highness the Guicowar [Gaekwar] announcing Pelly's appointment. The letter also refers to two enclosed letters, one from the Viceroy detailing his expectations of Pelly and outlining the duties in this difficult role (not enclosed) and the other from the Government of India to the Government of Bombay:

Letter No. 2563P from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary of the Government of Bombay Political Department, 25 November 1874, concluding that Colonel Phayre misunderstood 'the spirit' of the instructions he received from both the Government of India and the Government of Bombay and that he is to be removed from his position as Resident at Baroda with Lewis Pelly being sent as a temporary replacement; informing them of the instructions Pelly has received from the Viceroy and of the letter for His Highness the Guicowar that he has been entrusted with.

The letter goes on to reprimand the Government of Bombay for the manner in which they handled affairs, their delays in forwarding correspondence and their failure to grasp the severity and importance of the matter. The

Secretary then requests to be informed of the outcome of the investigation into the attempted poisoning of Colonel Phayre, sending their sympathies to him in that matter and informing him that Colonel Pelly has been instructed to send all correspondence relating to the enquiry directly to the Government of India, with duplicates to be sent to the Government of Bombay and only to send correspondence relating to the running of Baroda State to the Government of Bombay first.

Letter appointing Lewis Pelly as Agent to the Governor-General and Special
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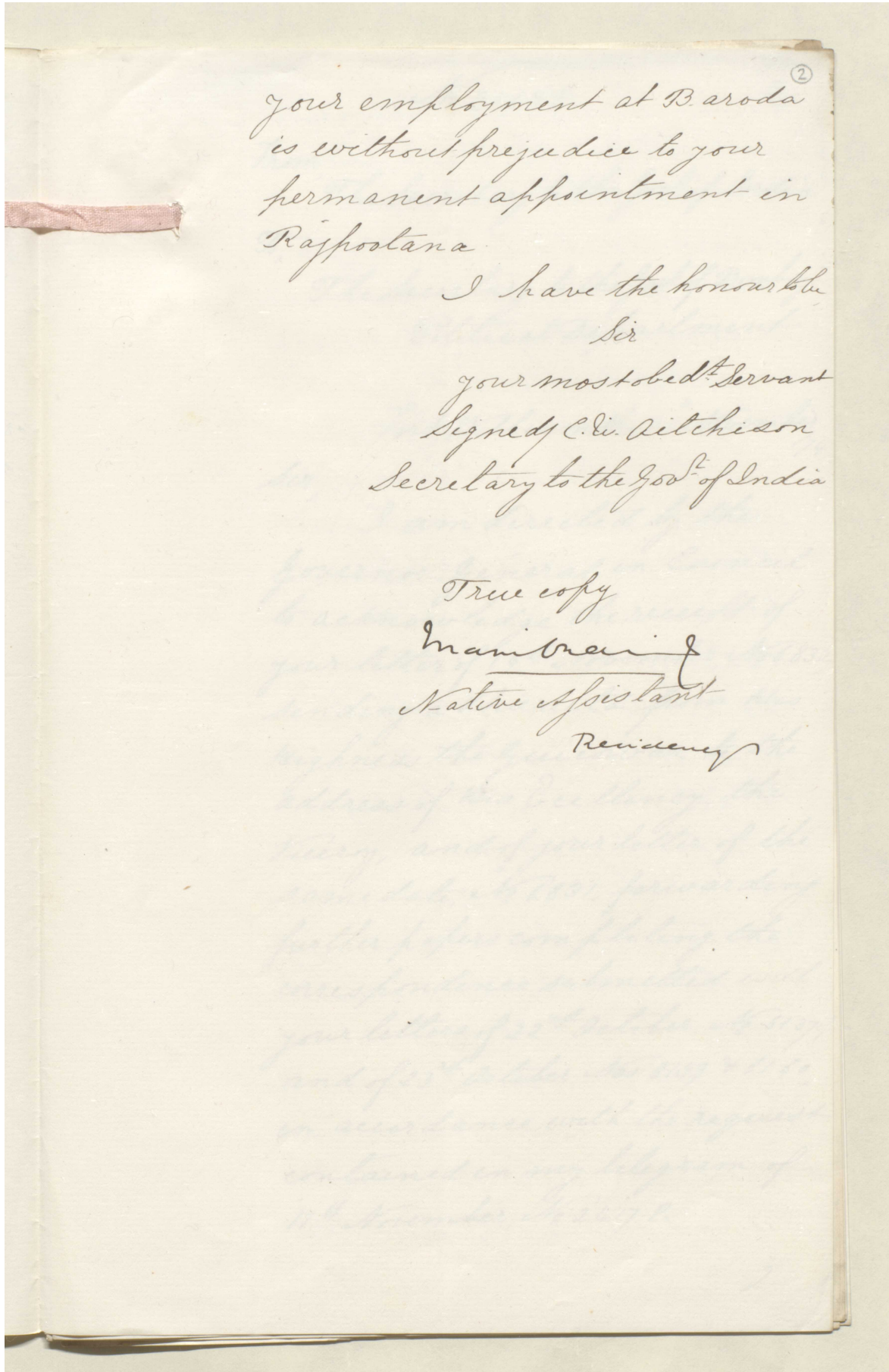
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enclosed for your information
and guidance. A printed
copy of all recent correspondence
regarding Baroda affairs will
also be furnished to you in
due course.

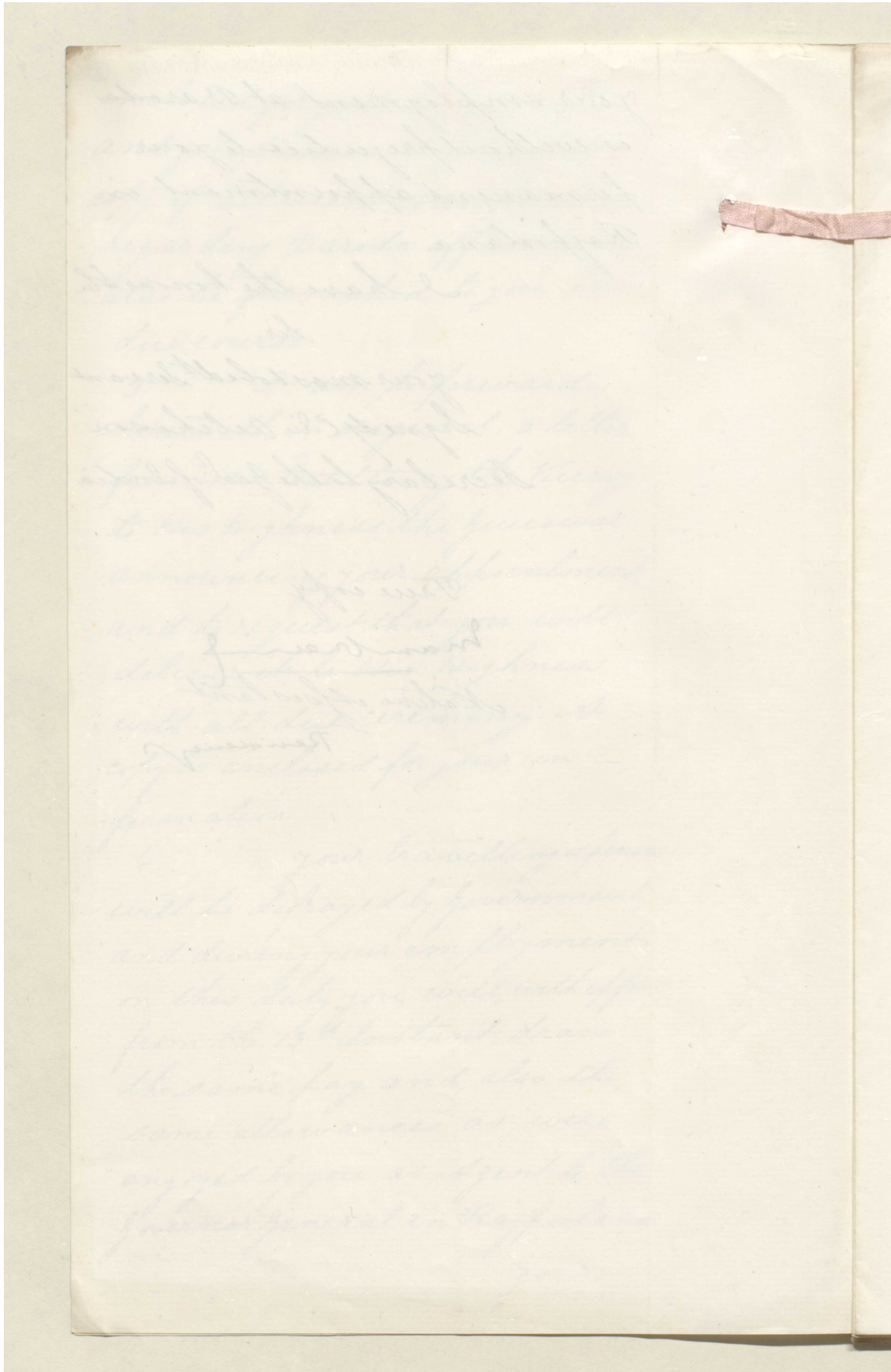
3. I am to forward
herewith, in original, a letter
from His Excellency the Viceroy
to His Highness the Guicowar
announcing your appointment,
and to request that you will
deliver it to His Highness
with all due ceremony. A
copy is enclosed for your in-
formation

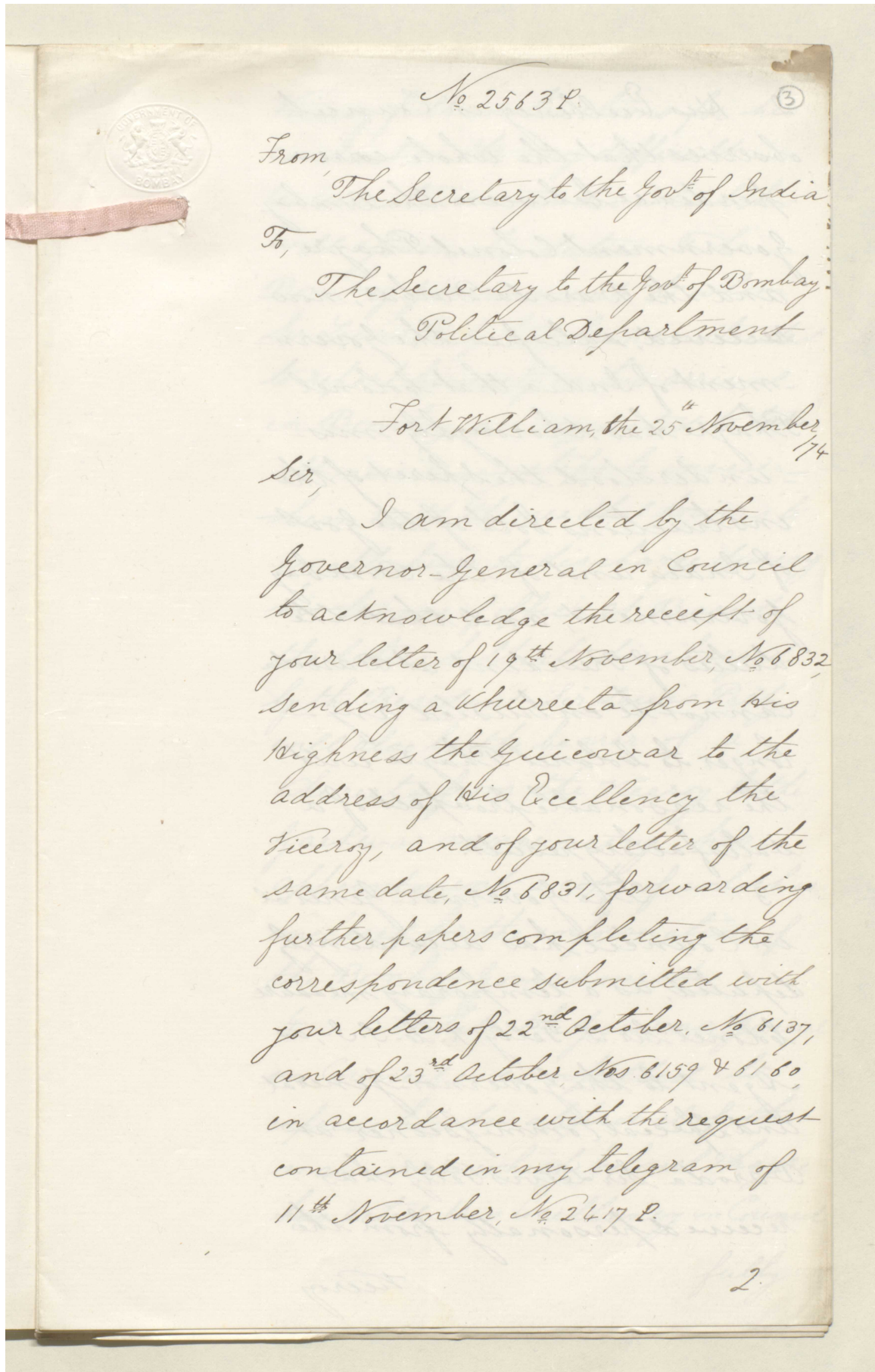
4. your travelling expenses
will be defrayed by Government,
and during your employment
on this duty you will, with effect
from the 13th Instant, draw
the same pay and also the
same allowances as were
enjoyed by you as Agent to the
Governor General in Rajpootana.
your

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2. His Excellency in Council observes that the whole correspondence between the Bombay Government, Colonel Phayre, and the Baroda Durbar, now received, satisfies the Government of India that Colonel Phayre has thoroughly misunderstood the spirit of the instructions both of the Gov^t of India and of the Bombay Government, and that the duties of President at Baroda cannot be entrusted any longer to Colonel Phayre with the reasonable prospect of a satisfactory result.

3. The Governor-General in Council has accordingly deputed, as a temporary measure Colonel Sir L. Pelly, K. C. S. I., as Agent to the Governor-General and Special Commissioner at Baroda. Sir Lewis Pelly has received personally from the
Viceroy

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4

Viceroy full instructions for his
conduct in the very difficult
circumstances under which he
will assume his duties. The
Bombay Government, to whom
Sir Lewis Pelly has been instructed
to report himself on his arrival
in Bombay, are requested to take
all necessary steps to invest
him with the needful powers to
enable him to discharge, during
his tenure of office at Baroda,
the duties hitherto discharged
by the Resident. Sir Lewis Pelly
will also be the bearer of a
Khureeta from the Viceroy to the
Gaekwar announcing his
appointment, a copy of which is
enclosed for the information of
the Bombay Government.

4 While the Governor General
in Council is compelled to
express his disapproval of the
manner in which Colonel Phayre
has acted, His Excellency in Council
fully

fully admits the difficulty of
the position in which he has
been placed, and the integrity
of his intentions

5. The governor-general
in Council has not as yet
received information as to
the result of the enquiry into
the atrocious attempt to poison
Colonel Phayre which was
reported in your letter of 14th
November, No 40 P, but His
Excellency in Council desires
to convey to Colonel Phayre the
sympathy of the Government
of India and their congratula-
tions upon his escape. This
circumstance, however, cannot
affect the conclusion at which
the Government of India has
arrived in consequence of
transactions which occurred
long before the attempt, that it
will not be for the advantage
of the public service that
Colonel

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colonel Phayre shall remain⁵
longer as President at Baroda.

6. The Governor-General
in Council trusts that the
authors of the attempt will be
brought to condign punishment;
and, if the investigation has
not been completed, it will be
the first duty of Sir Lewis Pelly
to bring it to a conclusion or to
recommend the measures that
he considers to be necessary
for that purpose.

7. The Governor-General
in Council regrets to have to
point out to the Government of
Bombay that serious public
inconvenience has been caused
by the delay which has occurred
in furnishing the Government
of India with full information
as to their proceedings, and
those of Colonel Phayre. The delay
is the more to be regretted as
the subject was one of first-rate
importance

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importance, which had been referred by the Bombay Government for the orders of the Government of India, and upon which instructions had been issued by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council.

8. Although the most important communications between Colonel Phayre, the Baroda Durbar, and the Bombay Government, took place in the month of August, it was not till the 19th of November that the Government of India was put in possession of full information of those transactions.

9. The Governor-General in Council considers that the course taken by the Government of Bombay was not suited to the gravity of the situation, that their notice of Colonel Phayre's conduct, although proper

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proper so far as it went, was
inadequate, and that it was
their duty to have kept the
Government of India fully &
promptly informed of everything
of importance that occurred
at Baroda.

10. During the present
critical circumstances therefore
His Excellency in Council considers
it desirable that all orders
required for the purpose of
carrying out the instructions
of the 25th July consequent on
the Report of the Baroda
Commission shall in future
be given by the Government of
India. Sir Lewis Pelly has
therefore been instructed to
communicate directly with
the Government of India on
these matters, forwarding at
the same time duplicates of
his letters to the Government
of Bombay. His Excellency in
Council

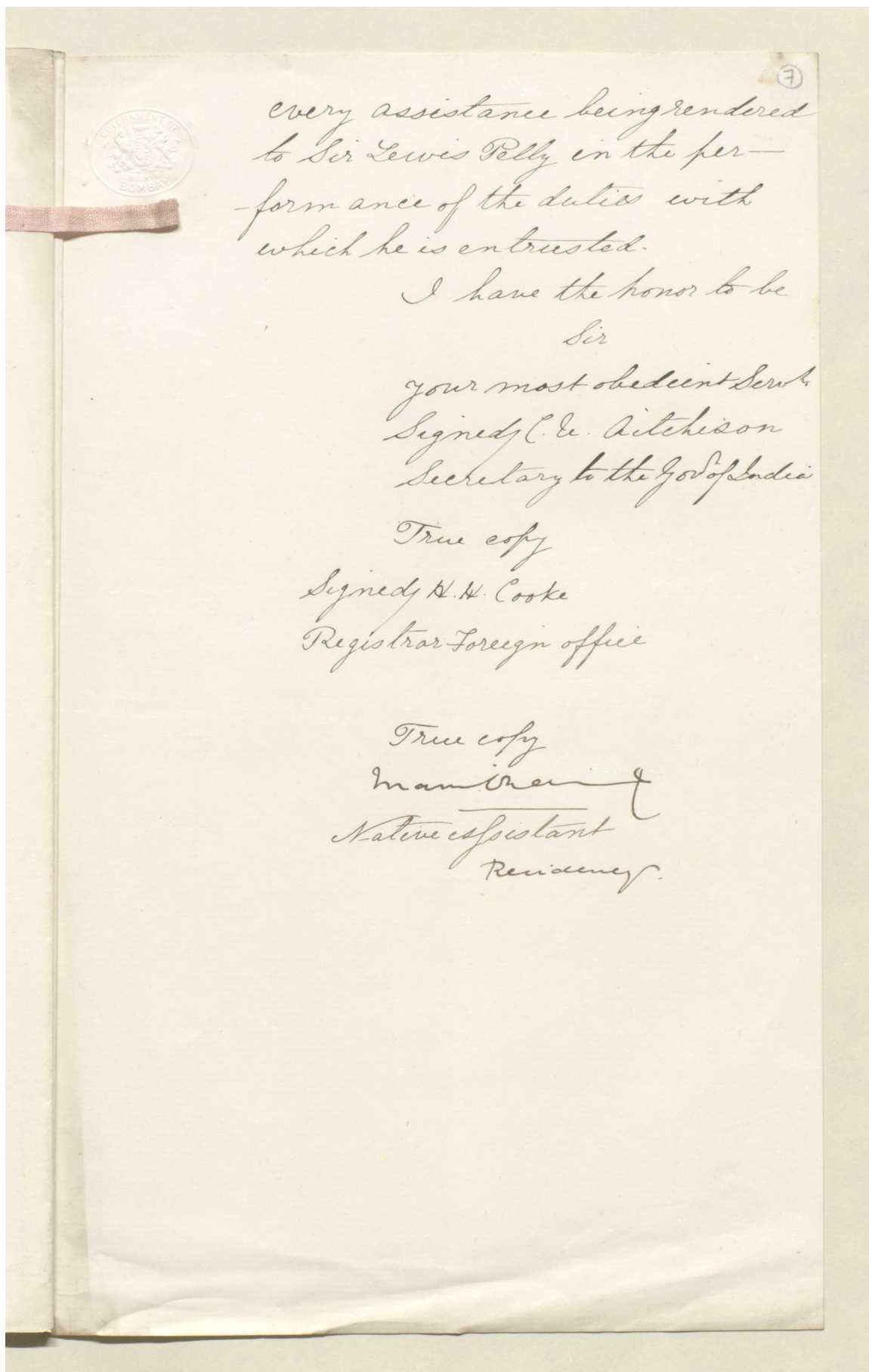
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Council will be glad to receive
from the Government of Bombay
any observations which that
Government may desire to make
on those communications, and
he desires to avail himself of
the advice and assistance of
the Bombay Government on
such matters, especially as
affect the reform of the interior
administration of the state of
Baroda.

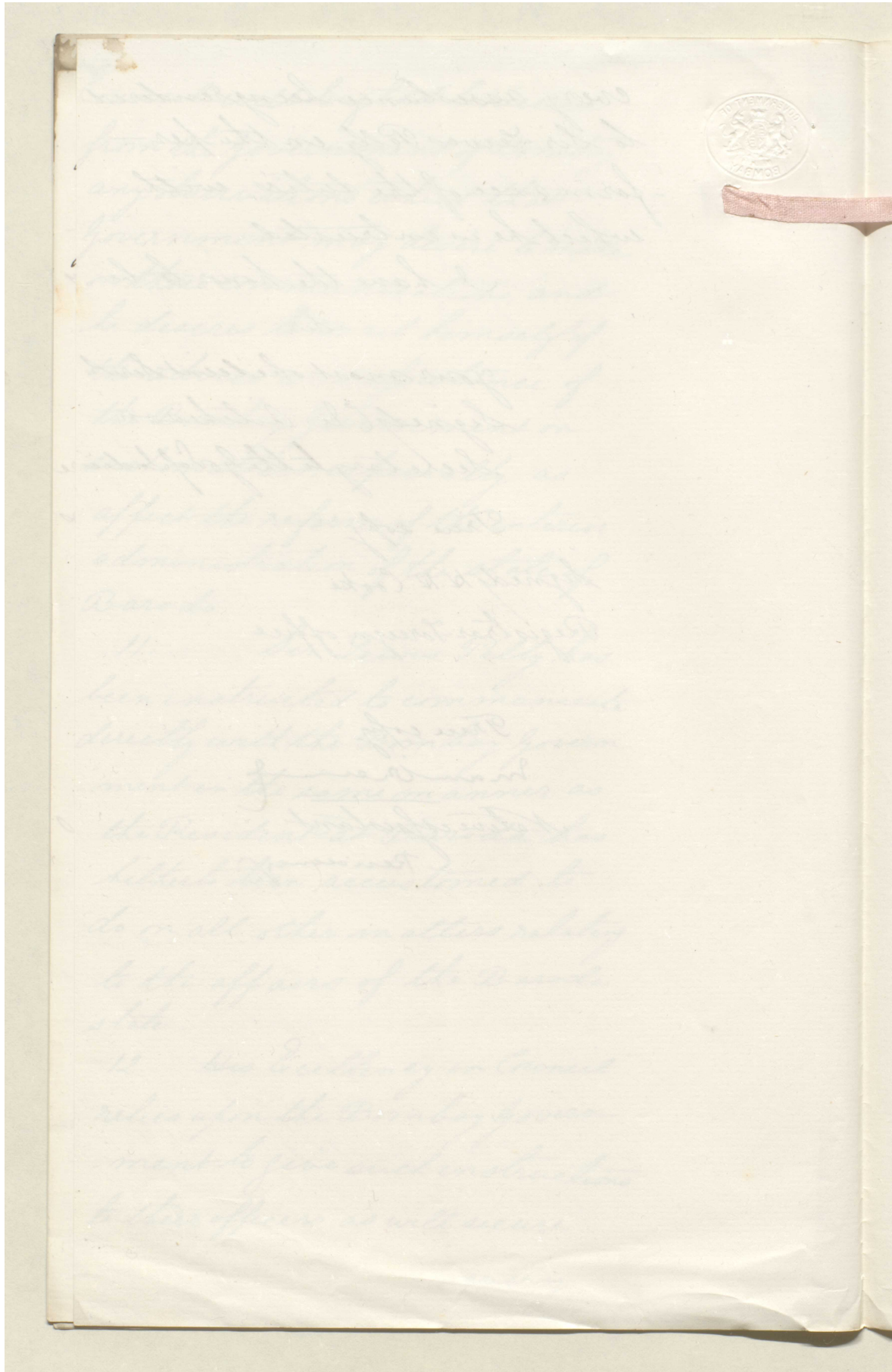
11. Sir Lewis Pelly has
been instructed to communicate
directly with the Bombay Govern-
-ment in the same manner as
the Resident at Baroda has
hitherto been accustomed to
do on all other matters relating
to the affairs of the Baroda
state.

12. His Excellency in Council
relies upon the Bombay Govern-
-ment to give such instructions
to their officers as will secure
every

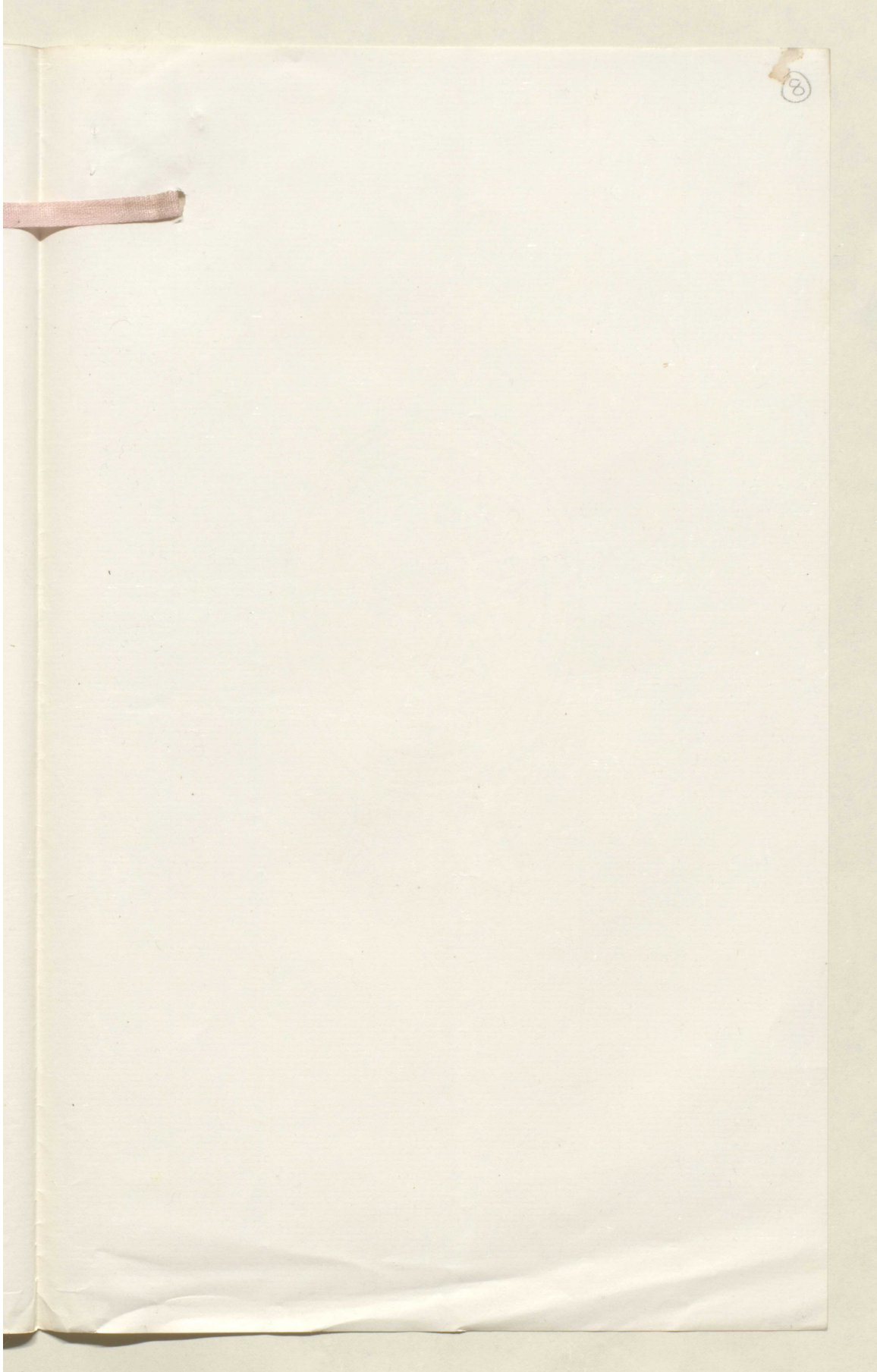
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Letter appointing Lewis Pelly as Agent to the Governor-General and Special
Commissioner at Baroda, as a Temporary Measure [7v] (14/16)



Letter appointing Lewis Pelly as Agent to the Governor-General and Special
Commissioner at Baroda, as a Temporary Measure [8r] (15/16)



Letter appointing Lewis Pelly as Agent to the Governor-General and Special
Commissioner at Baroda, as a Temporary Measure [8v] (16/16)

