

SUMMARY: The letter below dated 4 March 1585 (22 February 1585 Old Style) from Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604) to King Philip II mentions a possible visit to England by King James of Scotland, and the rumour that Oxford, his second cousin, Philip Howard (1557-1595), 13th Earl of Arundel, and Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford (who died later that year on 28 July 1585) would be sent to Scotland as hostages for the King's safety. That this scheme was fairly widely known is suggested by a letter from Barnabe Penethorne to Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, which states that 'It is said that my Lords of Arundel and of Oxford go to Scotland as pledges to the King (see HMC Bath, iv, p. 159). Mendoza says that Claude Nau de la Boisselliere, Queen Mary's secretary from 1575 on, and William Waad (1546-1623) had already gone to Scotland to discuss the possible release of Mary, Queen of Scots. As Mendoza mentions in his letter, Sir William Waad had been sent to Spain in 1584 to explain to King Philip II why his ambassador, Mendoza, had been expelled from England, at which time the King has refused to grant Waad an audience. The embassy to Scotland mentioned in this letter is not referred to in *The Dictionary of National Biography* entry for Waad, but it is stated that in January 1587 Waad was sent as a special ambassador to France to explain to the French court why Mary, Queen of Scots, had been executed: The translation below is taken from Hume, Martin, ed., *Calendar of Letters and State Papers relating to English Affairs*, Vol. III, 1580-1586, p. 533.

Since I wrote last I have heard from England that Nau had left the Queen of Scotland after having been only a few days with her. He has gone to Scotland with a passport from the Queen of England, and is accompanied by Waad, who was sent by the Queen of [sic for 'to'] Spain when I left England. It is understood that they are going to discuss with the King of Scotland the release of the Queen, his mother, if they can come to terms on the matter. To this end they say the King of Scotland will go to England, and rumour still runs that the Earls of Bedford, Arundel and Oxford will be sent to Scotland as hostages for his safety. The priests whom the Queen of England had liberated have arrived her, and I have regaled them in my house. There are not more than 20 of them and one layman, besides four more who had joined their company. I have tried to discover from all of them, and particularly from Father Jasper Howard [=Heywood], the Jesuit, whom I know well, what reasons had moved the Queen to release them, whilst still keeping in prison the other priests who were with them. They say the only reason they can imagine for it is that the Queen may have been told that if she did so she would not be accused of punishing Catholics for their religion, and that the seven who were confined in the Tower may have been liberated to save the Queen the cost of keeping them, whilst the rest of them might have had some influence with the Councillors.

Raleigh's preparations were being conducted with less energy. Paris, 4th March 1585.