

Kosztka

(In archives of U.S.)

To Geo. P. Marsh
Copied from Ingraham's own
handwriting

U.S. Ship St. Louis
Lyonna, 4th July 1853

Sir:

Upon the receipt of Mr. Brown's letter of the 28th of June, brought down by the Capou oglan of the Legation, I requested from the Commandant of the Brig "Hussar" another interview with Martin Kostka which was granted. I asked Costa how long he had been in the U.S. He told me one year and eleven months. I then asked him if he had intended to settle in the U.S; he answered "yes". I then said do you demand the the protection of the American Flag. He told me he did. He seemed much better at this interview than at the last I was astonished to see by Mr. Brown's letter that Costa declared himself on our first interview a Hungarian I did not hear him say so.

I now demanded his release from the Austrian Commandant as a Citizen of the U.S by 7 o'clock PM (this was at 8 A.M. or I should use force to take him out, and this was by direction of the acting charge d'affaires of the U.S. at the Porte. He replied he had nothing to do with the prisoner M.

Costa, I must settle that with the
Consul of Austria, but protested
against my violence towards the
Brig and Schooner and would hold
me responsible. He immediately
(?) - and beat about the Harbor.
Mr. Coffey, the U.S. consul waited upon
the Austrian Consul and they had a long
and hostile talk. The Austrian Consul
by 11 A.M. agreed to deliver Costa into the
hands of the French Consul to be
held by him subject to the joint
order of the consuls of the U.S. and
Austria and not to be delivered
without both signatures. I thought it
best to agree to this as one out of the
Brig he would be safe. And now
you gentlemen of the pen must uphold
my act as it was done in accordance
with Mr. Brown's instructions backed
by Mr. Lyon's advice. Although not
binding upon me, I felt I should
respect their opinions.

The whole town was in ferment
and C. was received at the wharf
with three cheers. I know I have
taken a very heavy responsibility
but as they had more guns than I
had (26) although mine were larger



and three steamers to help them they will not like to own it was that made them deliver up C. so must suppose it was a sense of returning justice. I shall sail soon to report to the Commodore. I again hope you will back me in this affair.

Mr. Brown will show you the letter he wrote me. I enclose the answer of the Cap. of the Brig. All the rest of the correspondence Mr. Osley will send you by the Cassin & Glen.

I told Mr. Osley I hoped he would never sign for the delivery of Cort a until he hear from the U.S. In that case he will be safe, for every day will strengthen the sympathy felt for him. I suppose the Interminic will make a terrible complaint against me to our Government, but as they chose to yield and I did not do what I threatened I think they had better keep silent.

The French consul I think approves my course although he does not say much. Some of the others share their heads.

I have written a much longer letter than I intended as you will have everything from Mr. Osley. The Austrian consul, to show his spite to the last did nothing we never could have supposed possible, landed Costa in chains. The French consul however had them removed immediately.

Respectfully yours
G. Ingraham.

4th July. The Austrian vessels of war have hoisted the American flag in honoring the day.

I should like an answer immediately as I feel anxious to hear what you think of my course in this business.

~

