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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

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CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Richmond, September 6, 1862. }

*To the House of Representatives :*

I herewith transmit a communication from the Secretary of War in response to resolutions of your body requesting information concerning the prosecution of the work on the railroad for connecting the Richmond and Danville with the North Carolina railroad, and also concerning certain orders said to have been issued by Major General Thomas C. Hindman in the trans-Mississippi Department.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.



CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }  
WAR DEPARTMENT, Richmond, September 5, 1862. }

His Excellency, JEFFERSON DAVIS,  
*President C. S. A. :*

SIR: I have received the two resolutions adopted by the House of Representatives on the 1st instant, and referred to this Department for report by your Excellency.

In reply I have the honor to report:

I. A contract has been made with the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, under the style of the Piedmont Railroad Company, for the completion of the work. The company has secured the charter and commenced operations, but the Department is not informed of their progress.

II. The Department has no official information of the conduct imputed to General Hindman; but having seen orders purporting to come from him declaring martial law and adopting oppressive police regulations in Arkansas, General Holmes has been instructed to enquire into it, and, if he found such to be the case, to rescind the declaration of martial law and the regulations adopted to carry it into effect. General Holmes is also instructed as to the mode of executing the conscript law.

General Hindman was not sent to Arkansas by the Department, and has never been Commanding General of the trans-Mississippi department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. RANDOLPH,  
*Secretary of War.*

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