
SUMMARY: This letter dated 11 May 1586 (1 May 1586 Old Style) was written by Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604) to King Philip II of Spain on the same day as K.1564.79, in which Mendoza expressed a similar opinion that Charles Arundel, who was then at the Spanish court, was acting as a spy for England. It would appear from the note in King Philip's handwriting that the King accepted Mendoza's advice, and sent Arundel back to France. The Countess of Arundel mentioned by Mendoza is Anne Howard (1557-1630), the wife of Oxford's second cousin, Philip Howard (1557-1630), 13th Earl of Arundel, who was distantly related to Charles Arundel. In his letter Mendoza also mentions Thomas (c.1544-1590), 4th Lord Paget, who had fled England with Charles Arundel for fear of arrest in December 1583, and Lord Paget's brother, Charles Paget (c.1546-1612), who had been living in exile since 1581. For the roles played by Charles Arundel and Lord Henry Howard in events involving Oxford in 1580/1 see TNA SP 15/27A/46, ff. 81-2 and other documents on this website, in particular the letters of the Spanish ambassador to England, Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604). The translation below is taken from Hume, Martin, ed., *Calendar of Letters and State Papers relating to English Affairs*, Vol. III, 1580-1586, p. 577.

As confirmation comes from all sides of the armaments in England, I have decided to obtain intelligence about them by means of sending an Englishman to London, a man who is recommended to me by Paget as being thoroughly trustworthy. He has already left, and takes with him credences for friends of mine in London, and also other letters from Charles Paget requesting them to dispatch men to all the ports to inquire fully into the armaments and report the result under cover through the French ambassador in London. If they cannot do this they are requested to send back this man fully informed verbally. I have also sent specially to the priest who came to me from the English Catholics to delay his return hither for a week, in order that he and his friends might take similar steps. I have also asked the Scots ambassador for some Scotsman for a like task, and he has promised to find me one with the same diligence as he always displays in your Majesty's interests, sending me as he does instant advice of everything, even at midnight. In acknowledgment of this, and of the fact that every interview that Iniquez and I have had with Muzio [=the Duke of Guise] has been arranged by him, the letters all being sealed with his own hand, I did not think it would be too much to make him a present, but, as he is a man who could only be offered a very large sum of money, I took the opportunity of his having greatly admired a tapestry bed of mine, and I had it dismounted and sent to him. The value of it is 380 crowns, and I have considered it advantageous to your Majesty thus to mark your approval of his services. Charles Paget also is doing his best to serve your Majesty here, and both he and Lord Paget, his brother, well deserve the pensions your Majesty has been pleased to bestow upon them.

An English priest, whom I know well for a good soul, and who is now at Rouen, and used to administer the sacraments to the Countess of Arundel, has informed that, much as he is indebted to that family, his first duty is towards his conscience, and he feels himself bound to say that Charles Arundel had gone to Spain by orders of the Queen of England, in order to discover what was being done there, she having supplied him with money for

the purpose. This confirms my suspicion, and your Majesty should order him to return.*
Paris, 11th May 1586.

* In the King's hand: 'It will be well to send him away, and give him fresh attendants'.