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## **National Cipher Challenge Challenge 5 part A, 11/2/08 8:38**

Major George Scovell to Commissary General Murray.

My Dear Sir,

The art of writing in cypher is so much improved since Conradus wrote as to render it next to impossible to unravel what it conceals without being in possession of the key. The enclosed message resisted my analysis for some time, until the fortuitous capture, by Don Julian and his brave guerillas, of some other messages using the same cypher, several showing passages en clair. This gave me sufficient context to begin the arduous task of breaking it.

Several things become clear. First, that General Marmont has persuaded his commanders and his King of the vital importance of security in their communications. The variant on the Dalmatian cypher used in the attached communique is a clever ruse - simple enough to be reliably used on the field of battle, but sufficiently ingenious to foil the amateur cypher clerk in his task. Second, that the long awaited Grand Chiffre has still not arrived at the Court of King Joseph, though its arrival will surely not be delayed much longer. Third - and this is most important - King Joseph feels threatened by the independence of the Marshals in Spain. His demand that he should retain direct authority over them signals a fractious enemy, and this must surely please General Wellington. Should King Joseph's wish be granted, the number of messages between the forces in the field and King Joseph's headquarters will necessarily dramatically increase. This may indeed give us the advantage we seek in breaking their cyphers, however strong they may be.

I remain etc., Major Scovell

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## **National Cipher Challenge Challenge 5 part B, 11/2/08 8:38**

By order of King Joseph

My dear Duke,

It was with deep dismay that I learned of the activities of the forces under your command in the beautiful countryside surrounding Madrid. It surely cannot be necessary that widescale foraging of this nature should be allowed, let alone encouraged, so close to this jewel in our Empire. I understand that this activity was explicitly sanctioned by General Foy, and that you have encouraged him in this. Moreover there are rumours that he has been instructed to ignore my commands where they conflict with your standing orders. I am sure this malicious gossip is unfounded.

It cannot have escaped your knowledge that I have the full support of our dear Emperor, who, by his own hand, appointed me King of this demesne. It must also be known to you that he has ordered all of the Marshals here in Spain and Portugal to report directly to me on matters of intelligence. I am aware of the messages from Berthier, Chief of Staff in Paris, which are circulating among the senior commanders, and I am most distressed that I seem to be excluded from among those with access to the key to the cipher in which they are drafted. You would reassure me of your loyalty if you would arrange to furnish me with a copy of this grand chiffre at your earliest convenience.

Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite

King Joseph