

The pronunciamiento in independent Mexico, 1821-1876

A research project at the University of St Andrews

Aclaración de José Urrea de 16 de julio

16 July 1840

Ciudad de México, México D.F.

Content:

Aclaración de José Urrea de 16 de julio que apareció en el Boletín de Gobierno, miércoles 22 de julio de 1840

[Al] Ministerio de Guerra y Marina

Art. 1°. No habiendo sido la intención del ciudadano José Urrea y de las fuerzas de su mando, atacar de ninguna manera la persona del presidente de la república, general D. Anastasio Bustamante, queda este repuesto en el ejercicio de sus funciones.

Art. 2°. En uso de sus facultades como tal presidente de la república, hará cesar los fuegos de las tropas que actualmente hostilizan a las del ciudadano Urrea. Este hará otro tanto por su parte.

Art. 3°. El referido Sr. presidente organizando un ministerio que merezca la confianza pública, se compromete a restablecer en su observancia la constitución de 1824, convocando luego un congreso para el preciso efecto de reformarla.

Art. 4°. Bajo estas bases se restablecerá la paz y el orden, y ninguno será molestado por las opiniones que haya manifestado o principios que hubiere sostenido, poniéndose en libertad a los que aun se hallaren presos por sus opiniones políticas.

México. Imprenta de Cumplido. 1840.

Context:

In the early hours of 15 July, José Urrea, who had been moved from Perote to the gaol in the old Inquisition building in Mexico City as punishment for his leadership of the 1837-39 Sonoran-Sinaloa-Tamaulipeco cycle of federalist pronunciamientos, was freed by a rebel infantry battalion from the local garrison, and together they stormed the National Palace taking President Anastasio Bustamante prisoner. Urrea then invited Valentín Gómez Farías to join him, which the well-known liberal politician did immediately. However, despite having taken the National Palace with the President inside, Minister of War Juan Nepomuceno Almonte refused to negotiate with the pronunciados. More importantly, General Gabriel Valencia chose to stand by the government. Therefore, after the cannons of the arsenal based in the Ciudadela garrison were moved to outside the National Palace, Valencia's forces opened fire on the pronunciados at 2 p.m. on the 15th. Eyewitness Fanny Calderón de la Barca vividly captured the moment violence broke out in the city centre in her classic *Life in Mexico* (Boston, 1843, p. 226): "The firing has begun! People come running up the street. The Indians are hurrying back to their villages in double-quick trot... The cannon are roaring now. All along the street people are standing on the balconies, looking anxiously in the direction of the palace, or collected in groups before the doors, and the azoteas, which are out of the line of fire, are covered with men. They are ringing the tocsin – things seem to be getting serious." As can be seen from the "Aclaración" reproduced here and which Urrea circulated the following day, in the hope that Almonte would call an end to the bombardment of the pronunciados' positions, he went on to claim he had not

threatened Bustamante in any way and that the President actually backed his call for a return to federalism. Bustamante, however, managed to escape on the 16th and publicly condemned the pronunciamiento as can be seen in the related documents section to this page. Besieged in the National Palace, Urrea and Gómez Farías tried to muster support by issuing a detailed federalist plan on the 19th. However, the support they were hoping to obtain never materialised and on hearing that Santa Anna was on his way to Mexico City from Veracruz, the pronunciados surrendered at 6:30 a.m. on 27 July.

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<https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/pronunciamientos/database/index.php?id=190>