

Martin Van Buren (1782-1862)

Proclamation 45A - Neutrality With Respect to Canadian Affairs

January 5, 1838

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas information having been received of a dangerous excitement on the northern frontier of the United States in
5 consequence of the civil war begun in Canada, and instructions having been given to the United States officers on that
frontier and applications having been made to the governors of the adjoining States to prevent any unlawful
interference on the part of our citizens in the contest unfortunately commenced in the British Provinces, additional
information has just been received that, notwithstanding the proclamations of the governors of the States of New York
and Vermont exhorting their citizens to refrain from any unlawful acts within the territory of the United States, and
10 notwithstanding the presence of the civil officers of the United States, who by my directions have visited the scenes of
commotion with a view of impressing the citizens with a proper sense of their duty, the excitement, instead of being
appeased, is every day increasing in degree; that arms and munitions of war and other supplies have been procured by
the insurgents in the United States; that a military force, consisting in part, at least, of citizens of the United States,
had been actually organized, had congregated at Navy Island, and were still in arms under the command of a citizen of
15 the United States, and that they were constantly receiving accessions and aid:

Now, therefore, to the end that the authority of the laws may be maintained and the faith of treaties observed, I, Martin
Van Buren, do most earnestly exhort all citizens of the United States who have thus violated their duties to return
peaceably to their respective homes; and I hereby warn them that any persons who shall compromise the neutrality of
20 this Government by interfering in an unlawful manner with the affairs of the neighboring British Provinces will render
themselves liable to arrest and punishment under the laws of the United States, which will be rigidly enforced; and,
also, that they will receive no aid or countenance from their Government, into whatever difficulties they may be
thrown by the violation of the laws of their country and the territory of a neighboring and friendly nation.

25 Given under my hand, at the city of Washington, the 5th day of January, A. D. 1838, and the sixty-second of the
Independence of the United States.

M. VAN BUREN.

30 By the President:

FORSYTH,

Secretary of State
(409 words)

Quelle: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=67317>