

[in alliance with] the English, it will be best to include in the expedition the gunboat with the galiots, since the heavy artillery on the former will alarm them and put them to flight.

In the year 1781 a small party of the inhabitants of San Luis with some savages made themselves masters of the post of San José, on the river of the same name which flows into Lake Michigan. That which they did then may be accomplished now with greater means and more complete knowledge. The militia captain, Don Carlos Tayon, who was in the expedition, is still alive, and I do not doubt that he can inform you of the means of capturing and destroying this post a second time.⁷⁰

An expedition of the same force may be detached against any other post which the English have established to carry on their trade in furs on the nearer rivers. But providing the latest reports received by Governor Don Zenon Trudeau⁷¹ confirm the news of the establishment of a fort by the English among the Mandana tribe you will arrange as secretly as possible, and taking advantage of all the knowledge which you can acquire from the traders who have gone as far as this tribe, an expedition sufficient to destroy the post,⁷² for the command of His Majesty

⁷⁰ See *ante*, pp. 430-432. There was no post on the St. Josephs at this time, a fact of which Carondelet was apparently in ignorance. William Burnett had a trading house at this place, but entirely under American jurisdiction; see Henry H. Hurlbut, *Chicago Antiquities* (Chicago, 1881), pp. 62-64. Probably Carondelet confused the British post on St. Joseph's Island, in St. Mary's River, with the former British fort on St. Josephs River, in southwest Michigan.—Ed.

⁷¹ Zenon Trudeau was of Canadian birth (1748), apparently the son of a merchant prominent in New Orleans during the last years of the French regime. In 1781 he married at New Orleans, and having entered the Spanish service was captain in the Louisiana regiment. In 1792 he was appointed governor of Upper Louisiana, which post he held until 1799. He died a few years later in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.—Ed.

⁷² The Mandan Indians were early visited by French explorers; see *ante*, p. 188, note 40. Just how early the English traders had reached this point from the north is not known. A Canadian, René Jessaume, claimed to have been in these villages as early as 1791. In 1793 the