

## La réponse du gouvernement britannique à l'offre de paix de Napoléon

(source : Goldsmith, Histoire d'Angleterre)

The reply of the English government, dated January 14th, was decorous in its language, but wholly evasive ; and not the slightest wish was expressed of farther explanation. Lord Mulgrave, who had now succeeded lord Harrowby as secretary of state for foreign affairs, replied to the emperor's communication, in a letter to M. Talleyrand, to the following effect : “ His Majesty has received the letter, addressed to him by the Head of the French government, dated the 2d of the present month. There is no object that his Majesty has more at heart, than to avail himself of the first opportunity to procure again for his subjects the advantages of a peace, which may not be incompatible with the permanent security and essential interests of his dominions. His Majesty is persuaded that this end can only be attained by arrangements, which may at the same time provide for the future safety and tranquillity of Europe, and prevent the recurrence of the dangers and calamities in which it is involved. Conformably to this sentiment, his Majesty feels it is impossible for him to answer more particularly to the overture that has been made him, till he has had time to communicate with the powers on the continent with whom he is engaged in confidential connexions and relations, and particularly the emperor of Russia.”

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