

AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND

Antoine de Bordeaux-Neufville, French Ambassador to England (1652–1660)

to Jules Mazarin (1602–1661), chief minister of France (1642–1661)

London, Thursday, 20 October 1659 [OS]

There is as yet no government established in England, notwithstanding the attempts which have been made for this long while by the leaders of the army, and some ministers of the Council of State, to agree to one. They had indeed projected to form a secret council, with a senate of seventy, and to recall the Parliament to make it authorize this establishment, revoke the Acts of 11, 12, and 13 September, provide for the payment of the troops, and pass some regulations.

But at the meeting which was held yesterday evening at the house of the Speaker of this body, for the purpose of concerting these propositions with the deputies before restoring the power into their hands, they could not agree, the greater number refusing to receive orders from the army; already even many of them have retired, as well as nine members of the Council. The others continue to meet.

One of their principal cares has been to dispose the judges to perform their functions, and they must sit until the twentieth of next month, Parliament having given them commission only until that time.

The Council of War has, meanwhile, made Lambert major-general of all the forces and Colonel Desborough, the uncle of the last Protector, Commissary-General of the cavalry. It has also sent messengers on its part into Scotland, Ireland, and all the garrisons to make sure of the commanders or to dispose of them. Some doubt whether Generals Monck and Ludlow will change their views so easily, and there even appears to be considerable difference of opinion among the officers who are in London. One party is inclined to maintain the republican government, and opposes the resolutions which Lambert wishes to have adopted....

François Guizot, *Monk, or, The Fall of the Republic*, Andrew R. Scoble, translator (London: Bell and Daldy, 1866):I:117–118.