

Secret

By the command of his Majesty for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain.

Additional Instructions for James Cook appointed to Command His Majesty's Bark the Endeavour

Whereas the making Discoveries of Countries hitherto unknown, & the Attaining a Knowledge of distant Parts which though formerly discovered have yet been but imperfectly explored, will redound greatly to the Honour of this Nation as a Maritime Power, as well as to the Dignity of the Crown of Great Britain, & may tend greatly to the advancement of the Trade & Navigation thereof; & Whereas there is reason to imagine that a Continent or Land of great extent, may be found to the Southward of the Strait lately made by Captⁿ Wallis in His Majesty's Ship the Dolphin (Spanish name will hereafter receive) or of the Track of any former Navigator in Pursuit of the like kind, You are therefore in Pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure hereby required & directed to put to Sea with the Bark you command as soon as the Observation of the Transit of the Planet Venus shall be finished & observe the following Instructions. You are to proceed to the Southward in order to make Discoveries of the Continent above mentioned until you arrive in the Lat^{de} of 40, unless you sooner fall in with it. But not having discovered it in that Run you are to proceed in search of it to the Westward between the Lat^{de} before mentioned & the Lat^{de} of 95 until you discover it, or fall in with the Eastern side of the Land discovered by Tasmans & now called New Zealand.

If you discover the Continent above mentioned either in your Run to the Southward or to the Westward as above directed, you are to employ yourself diligently in exploring as great an extent of the Coast as you can carefully observing the true Situation thereof both in Lat^{de} & Longth, the Variation of the Needle, bearings of Head Lands, Height, direction & Course of the Tides & Currents, Depths & Soundings of the Sea, Shoals, Rocks &c. & also surveying & making Charts, & taking Views of such Bays, Harbours, & Parts of the Coast as may be useful to Navigation. You are also carefully to observe the Nature of the Soil, & the Products thereof, the Plants & Trees that inhabit or frequent it, the Fishes that are to be found in the Rivers or upon the Coast for which Plenty & in Case you find any Mines, Minerals, or valuable Stones you are to bring home Specimens of each, as also such Specimens of the Seeds of the Trees, Fruits &

& Graves as you may be able to collect, & transmit them to our Secretary that he may cause proper Examinations & Experiments to be made of them. You are likewise to observe their Genius, Temper, Disposition & Number of the Natives, if there be any & endeavour by all proper means to cultivate a Friendship & Alliance with them, making them presents of such Things as they may Value inviting them to Traffick, & showing them every kind of Civility & Regard, taking Care however not to suffer yourself to be surpris'd by them, but to be always upon your guard against any Accidents.

You are also with the consent of the Natives to take possession of convenient Situations in the Country in the Name of the King of Great Britain: Or: if you find the Country uninhabited take Possession for his Maj^{ty} by setting up Copper Markes & Inscriptions, as first discoverers & possessors.

But if you shall fail of discovering the Continent before mentioned, you will ^{upon} falling in with New Zealand carefully observe the Lat^{de} & Long^{de} in which that Land is situated & explore as much of the Coast as the Foundation of the Bark, the health of her Crew, & the State of your Provisions will admit of having always great Attention to reserve as much of the latter as will enable you to reach some known Port where you may procure a Sufficiency to carry you to England either round the Cape of Good Hope, or Cape Horn as from Circumstances you may judge the most Eligible way of returning home.

You will also observe with accuracy the Situation of such Islands as you may discover in the course of your Voyage that have not hitherto been discovered by any Europeans & take possession for His Maj^{ty} & make Surveys & Draughts of such of them as may appear to be of Consequence, without suffering yourself however to be thereby diverted from the Object which you are always to have in View, the Discovery of the Southern Continent so often Mentioned.

But for as much as in an undertaking of this nature several Emergencies may arise not to be foreseen, & therefore not ~~to be~~ particularly to be provided for by Instruction before hand, you are in all such Cases to provide, as, upon advice with your Officers you shall judge most advantageous to the Service on which you are employed.

You are to send by all proper Convoiance to the Secretary of the Royal Society Copies of the Observations you shall have made of the Transit of Venus; and you are at the same time to send to our Secretary for our information accounts of your Proceedings, & Copies of the Surveys & Discoverings you shall have made. Upon your Arrival in England you are immediately to repair to this

Place in order
whole course
may have
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have shown

By

Office in order to lay before us a full account of your Proceedings in the
whole course of your Voyage; taking care before you have the disposal to de-
mand from the Officers & Petty Officers the Log Books & Journals they
may have kept, & to seal them up for our inspection & enjoining them,
and the whole Crew, not to divulge where they have been until they shall
have permission so to do.

Given under our hands the 30 of July 1768

By Command of their Lordships

Robt Stephens

J Hawke

Cory Bretton

J Spence