



A Call to Arms

To many Texans in late 1835, the political situation in Mexico City had turned to chaos. A Consultation held at San Felipe in November 1835 issued a statement explaining why Texas refused to support the government of Santa Anna.

DIRECTIONS: Understanding Primary Sources Read the following passage and answer the questions below. As you read, think about

- why the Consultation was called.
- what the call to arms hoped to accomplish.

Declaration of the People of Texas in General Convention Assembled

Whereas, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and other Military Chieftains have, by force of arms, overthrown the Federal Institutions of Mexico, and dissolved the Social Compact [theory that people give up rights to establish organized governments] which existed between Texas and the other Members of the Mexican Confederacy— Now, the good People of Texas, availing themselves of their natural rights,

Solemnly Declared

1st. That they have taken up arms in defence of their rights and Liberties, which were threatened by the encroachments [invasions] of military despots, and in

SOURCE: E. Wallace and D. Vigness, eds., *Documents of Texas History*

defence of the Republican Principles of the Federal Constitution of Mexico of eighteen hundred and twenty-four.

2d. That Texas is no longer, morally or civilly, bound by the compact of Union; yet, stimulated by the generosity and sympathy common to a free people they offer their support and assistance to such Mexicans of the Mexican Confederacy as will take up arms against their military despotism.

3d. That they do not acknowledge, that the present authorities of the nominal [in name only] Mexican Republic have the right to govern within the limits of Texas. . . .

INVESTIGATING THE PRIMARY SOURCE

1. What actions in Mexico had Santa Anna taken?

2. Why had the people of Texas taken up arms?

★ Activity ★

DIRECTIONS: Predicting Consequences On a separate sheet of paper, suggest some possible results that came from the Consultation's decision to issue the Declaration.

