Education and Outreach Division

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in the name of the people of the United States, takes this measure in the interest of the Union, in order to maintain its authority and government. It is a necessary and proper measure for the protection of the nation, and for the preservation of the Union. All persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons. All authorities of any kind are required to take necessary measures for their protection.

In pursuance of this measure, the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, has appointed a special commission, which shall consist of five members, to be known as commissioners for the suppression of slave goods and persons. Such commissioners shall have power to arrest, seize, and remove all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and to dispose of them as they may deem proper.

This proclamation is issued by the President of the United States, in the name of the people of the United States, for the protection of the nation and the preservation of the Union. It is a necessary and proper measure for the protection of the nation, and for the preservation of the Union.

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as the states, and parts of states, wherein the people there,
of respectively, are this day in rebellion against the union,
ten states, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, except the Parish of
St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James,
Ascension, Iberville, Orleans, Lafourche, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Martin,
and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans; Mississippi,
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina,
and Virginia, except the fortieth counties designated
as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Acco-
nac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Pasquotank, Sur,
and Norfolk, either of the two, of Norfolk and Nansemond, and which except,
and parts are, for this present, left precisely as if this pro-
celamation was not issued.

And by virtue of the power, and for the purpose of
ensuring, I do order and declare that all persons held
as slaves within said designated states, and as parts of
said states, are, and henceforward shall be free; and that
the Executive government of the United States, inclu-
sing the military and naval authorities, therefor
recognizes and maintains the freedom of said persons.
And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self defense; and I recommend to them that in all cases where allowance, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition, will be receive into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincere, believing to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invite the consideration of mankind, and the gracious favor of the mighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the
Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

Abraham Lincoln

By the President;

William H. Seward

Secretary of State