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Delegation from Gisèle lalonde

John of Brittany, earl of Richmond1

**Position paper for Scottish war of independence crisis committee**

Introduction

As the Earl of Richmond, an important earldom in northern England, I feel that the issue of the kingship of Scotland is of the utmost importance for many reasons. After the decease of King Alexander III, the crown passed to his young daughter Margaret. But, sadly, she also died. This has left the throne vacant, Robert Bruce and John Balliol have both laid claim to the throne2. In my opinion, it is in the best interest for all parties involved to reach a final agreement as to the regency of the throne of Scotland. In this paper, I will discuss who should assume the throne of Scotland and how we should manage this transition.

Candidate for the kingship of Scotland

King Edward, first of his name, king of England, has ruled England justly for many years. this situation is the perfect opportunity for king Edward to assume his rightful place as overlord of Scotland3. England has always been the superior to Scotland, as is a father to his child. It is only fitting that the leader of England should assume the leadership of Scotland too. With the ever growing conflict in between Robert Bruce and John Balliol, Scotland needs Edward to interpose himself and create order in this crisis. Of course, I think that there should also be a king of Scotland while Edward is Overlord. The best contender for this position would be Humphrey De Bohun - 4th earl of Hereford and John Balliol, both esteemed successors to the crown4. John Balliol is the one with the stronger claim to the throne, but, could possibly undermine the overlordship of King Edward I. If we could convince him to support King Edward in all his endeavors, he would be the perfect king of scots. If John Balliol would prove difficult, Humphrey de Bohun is the one that should sit the throne. He is second in line for the hereditary right to the crown and is a loyal proven Englishman, holding many important estates in England.

How to manage the crowns transition

Of course, the transition of the Scottish crown to its rightful English hands could prove difficult. The Scottish are a proud and boisterous people, and might oppose the crown's change of hands. I think that we should use every opportunity laid to us to resolve the conflict in our benefit while keeping a relative peace. I say this for many reasons, but I champion peace mainly because war is a costly messy thing. Already, our war with France has stretched us thin, if avoidable, we should try to avoid any expenses related to war as I am sure our treasurer Walton Langton would tell us. However, England should also not cowardly shirk from battle. England has a vastly superior army when compared to the disjointed scots. I do not doubt we could forcibly impose our will if needs be, but this should be a last resort.