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Carlos IV tries to calm Spanish distrust of Napoleon's army

1808

'Beloved subjects: your noble agitation in the present situation bears fresh witness to the feelings of your hearts. This we find reassuring, and we, who love you as a tender father, hasten to comfort you in the anguish which besets you at the present. You can breathe again: We assure you that the army of our beloved ally, the Emperor of the French, is crossing our kingdom in a spirit of peace and friendship. His plan is to move his forces to those places which lie under threat of enemy landings. We assure you also that the mustering of the troops of the royal bodyguard has not been occasioned either by a threat to our person or by the impending journey on our part which malicious tongues have led you to suppose we are being forced to make. Surrounded by the untarnished loyalty of our subjects of which we have irrefutable token, what can we have to fear? and should we need to make use of them, can we possibly entertain doubts about the forces their generous hearts would offer us? But no; our peoples will not have to face up to such a necessity. Spaniards; calm your spirits; behave towards the forces of your good King's ally as you have done up to now, and soon you will find peace restored in your hearts and see us enjoying the fruit of heaven's dispensation in the bosom of our family and the shelter of your love.

Given in the royal palace of Aranjuez, 16th March 1808. We, the King. To Don Pedro Ceballos, First Secretary of State and Cabinet.'
(*Gaceta de Madrid*, 18 March 1808.)