

[Council to D. Hughes.]

C. C.

In Council Annapolis 24th April 1779

Sir.

Yesterday Afternoon, after writing the Letter herewith sent you we received yours of the 19th Ins^t with Col^o Barrett's Letter inclosed.

We flatter ourselves that if an Expedition goes on the Westward, that Force will necessarily call off the Indians from the Frontiers, but in the mean Time the Inhabitants must be encouraged and protected, or they will leave their Settlements, Col^o Barrett has proposed in his Letters, the Building Stockaded Forts at three different Places; he does not mention his Ideas of the Expence or the Number of Men which will be necessary: we should have been Glad of your Sentiments on these Points, as well as the Means of supplying Provisions, Any thing that is done, we imagine, ought to be with a meer Temporary View. You will be frequently advised of the Situation of Things and therefore may, on a Change of Circumstances so likely to happen, be able to do what is proper before you can advise us. As Things now appear to us, we think it would be well for Col^o Barrett to draw out a Company, for a Month from his Battalion and that about sixty Men should be drawn out from your County Militia below, for the same Time; Barrett's Battalion renewing their Number from Time to Time, whilst necessary and, if it should be necessary, to replace the sixty Men, then to draw them below: if you think this Number necessary, we desire and empower you to give the necessary Orders accordingly or to order any less Number that you may think sufficient. If from the Situation of Affairs, you should judge it absolutely necessary, that a greater Force should be immediately sent we desire you to send out what you may think necessary to keep the People from deserting their Habitations and advise us by Express that we may exert every Means in our Power to preserve the Settlements and divide the Burthen as equally as may be. You do not mention the Quantity of Powder & Lead that you have or whether you have any; furnish Col^o Barrett with what may be necessary, if you have it, if not, order from Frederick Town an ample Supply. We wish you to concert the Means of supplying Provisions on the best Terms and to appoint some Person to conduct that Business whose Activity and Integrity may be relied on.

We are &^{ca}

Daniel Hughes Esq^r }
Lieu^t of Washington County }