

Letter Bk. III Body of Regular Forces & a great Number of Indians from different Nations were expected there in the Spring & that immediately on their Arrival an Expedition was to be undertaken ag<sup>st</sup> Fort Cumberland or a Descent made on One of these Provinces. Upon this Information & the Receipt of a Letter from Lord Loudoun I have sent Orders to the Officer of the Militia in the Frontier Counties to hold themselves in readiness to march in Case Colonel Stanwix should stand in need of such Assistance I have also ordered a considerable quantity of Ammunition up for their use on such Occasion & if we should receive Advice of the Approach of any considerable Body of the Enemy towards this or either of the neighbouring Colonies I shall repair to the Frontiers myself & proceed as the Officer appointed to command His Majesty's Forces in these Parts shall direct

I am &c.

[Sharpe to Joshua Sharpe.]

Annapolis the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1757.

D<sup>r</sup> B<sup>r</sup>

Inclosed I take the Liberty to send you a State of a Case on which I should be very glad to have the Opinion of His Majesty's Attorney Gen<sup>l</sup> & I should be much obliged to you for obtaining it. You will learn from the Case itself what Difficulties I find myself under, therefore I shall not trouble you with a prolix account of them. I expect that the Assembly will at their next Meeting address me again & desire to know why I have not ordered the Bonds of the Naval Officers to be put in Suit agreeable to the Request that they have now made. I hope you will be able to transmit an Opinion before that time by the N York Packett that I may be prepared with a proper Answer; but as Lord Baltimore might be much interested in the Event of a Trial at home if the matter should be carried to that Length I would not have you take any Step therein till you have seen & consulted M<sup>r</sup> Calvert it is possible that he will object to that part of the State wherein the Tonnage Duty & Impost of one Shilling a Hhd are mentioned as the Legality of collecting such Money has been at times questioned by the Lower House of Assembly, But as Acts of Assembly have been made in Virginia, New York & almost all the Colonies laying a Tonnage Duty on British Ships & exempting such as are owned by Residents in such Colonies, & as a Duty of 2/ p Hhd is paid on Tob<sup>o</sup> made in Virg<sup>a</sup> instead of the 1/ paid in this Province I presume you will not find any difficulty in obviating such an Objection if you think that part of the State essential. I do not suppose you