

Copy can in the frontier Garrisons, I have also wrote to Gen^l Gates desiring him to hold all the Continental troops under his command ready to march this way, should the Count D'Estaing, upon settling a plan of operations determine upon an attempt against New York. But there is a possibility that he may, upon being made acquainted with the numbers and situation of the enemy prefer an attack upon Rhode Island, I have desired Gen^l Gates to be looking towards and preparing for such an event, I had, upon the first report of the Counts standing towards this Coast, stationed Major Lee in Monmouth with a letter for him, to be carried on board upon his first appearance in which, I informed him of the enemys force by Sea & Land, their position at that time, and pointed out to him the measures which I thought it would be most advantageous for him to pursue upon his arrival I am preparing fresh letters for him, in which, I shall inform him fully of all posterior Events, and the measures I am taking for a cooperation. I am also engaging and sending down proper pilots to him.

I have taken the liberty to countermand the march of Col Clarke with the two Regiments of North Carolina, upon a presumption, that from the favorable aspect of affairs to the Southward, I shall stand justifiable for such a measure

I observe by a Resolve of Congress lately transmitted to me, that three of the Continental Frigates were ordered to South Carolina. I do not know the views of Congress in making this disposition but should they have no particular object in contemplation I would venture to recommend their being ordered to join the Counts Fleet, which in my opinion would be much benefitted by an additional number of Frigates, especially for the Navigation of the North River and the Sound. I think it would be also well, should the Marine Committee be directed to turn their attention to the transportation of Flour from the Delaware and Chesapeak by Water, Should we obtain the command of the Sea, Vessels may, without the least danger, be introduced into the Hook, thence to Amboy, from whence their Cargoes may be easily conveyed in Boats to Newark Bay, or should some of them run round into the Sound, it would be equally, nay more convenient Should we operate to the Eastward, measures of this kind will be indispensibly necessary, as the length and difficulty of Land Carriage will render the support of any considerable Body of Men almost impossible.

The Wheat of Maryland being in more forwardness for grinding than any other, I could wish that Governor Johnson may be requested to push the purchases within that State. The Commissary General gives the fullest encouragement on