

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR  
TO THE  
Legislature of Maryland.

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STATE OF MARYLAND, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, }  
ANNAPOLIS, April 25th, 1861. }

*Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:*

The extraordinary condition of affairs in Maryland has induced me to exercise the constitutional prerogative vested in the Governor to summon the Legislature in special session, in the hope that your wisdom may enable you to devise prompt and effective means to restore peace and safety to our State.

I shall detail briefly the startling events which have induced me to summon you together, and which have so suddenly placed us in the state of anarchy, confusion and danger from which I sincerely trust you may be able to extricate us.

Believing it to be the design of the Administration to pass over our soil troops for the defence of the City of Washington, and fearing that the passage of such troops would excite our people and provoke collision, I labored earnestly to induce the President to forego his purpose. I waited upon him in person and urged the importance of my request. I subsequently communicated with him and his cabinet by special despatches, entreating an abandonment of their designs. To all my requests I could get but the reply: "that Washington was threatened with attack—that the government had resolved to defend it,—that there was no