

That Crown Point should be at the same time attacked wth 6000 Troops, a Fort afterwards built on Lake Champlain & one or more Vessels built to navigate that Lake, & in order to divide the Force of Canada more effectually after breaking up all the French Settlements upon the River Chaudiere with 2000 Troops about the same time to make a Feint with them on Quebec at the Mouth of the said River which is within three Miles distance from that Metropolis situate on the opposite Side of the River St Lawrence.

His Excellency then desired the Opinion & Advice of the Council upon every part of the proposed plan & particularly whether the Number of Troops proposed for carrying every part of the said Expedition into Execution at one & the same time was sufficient or whether any less or greater & what number might be sufficient to do it—

His Excellency then observed to the Council that if the beforementioned Attempts for the Reduction of the French Forts & Settlements upon the Lake & the Ohio & Crown Point, should not be made at the same time but one of them only carried on at a time these Dangers would ensue. Viz. If an Attempt should be made upon the Lake Ontario for the Reduction of the Forts at Cataracui & Niagara &c without any against Crown Point, The French would either bend the chief part of the whole Force of Canada to oppose it in which Case so large a Body of Troops would be required to encounter it there as would make the Transportation of them & their Stores & Provisions to Oswego in time almost impracticable or else the French would muster so strong a Force against Albany as might take it & by that means likewise cut off all Communication between it & the Forces at Oswego which must receive its whole Support of Stores & Provisions from thence—

On the other hand if an Attempt should be made for the Reduction of Crown Point only & not against Fort Cataracui Niagara &c at the same time Oswego which from the Intelligence gained at that place appears to be the great Object of the French would be in Danger of being lost to them in case they should bend their principal Force against it, which Loss would be an irretrievable one to the English, as it would not only be Loss of the Country as far as Albany together with the Six Nations but give the French the Dominion of the Great Lake & the whole Southern Country.

His Excellency then acquainted the Council that immediately before his Departure from Oswego as well as since he had received Intelligence that the French are building at least three large Vessels of Force in the Harbour of Cataracui which together with those they had already built will be much superiour to those built by us on the Lake whereupon he likewise desires the Opinion & Advice of the Council concerning