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hundred under skilful and experienced officers will enable us to confine them within very narrow Limits, our People are resolute and determined they feel that animating and noble spirit which diffused itself through all Ranks at the Commencement of this glorious Contest, the Approach of the Enemy has apparently banished every sordid avaricious and selfish View, and we trust our People will act like Men sensible of the Blessings they are Struggling for and the Miseries which by an object and dastardly Conduct they most deservedly will feel. If our Militia could be well armed and accoutred they would acquire a Confidence which would stimulate them to a Conduct which would not disgrace Regulars, and on Congress we rely for that Aid and most earnestly solicit your Excellency to supply us immediately with what can be spared and forward them. The field Pieces intended for us would be very serviceable, Congress has not often been troubled with Applications from this State and we flatter ourselves the Exertions of our people upon all occasions merit every Assistance that can be afforded especially at this Crisis. We have taken every possible Precaution to prevent the Stores Provisions and valuable Property belonging to the Continent and State falling into their Hands.

Ibid. [Council Circular, collector of Horses for western Shore.]

We have this Day received Intelligence that the Enemy from Portsmouth in Virginia with forty sail of Vessels and several large Barges with about twelve or thirteen hundred Troops are coming up our Bay said to be destined for Baltimore. We want a Number of Teams to remove the Public Stores and Papers and therefore request you to forward immediately to this Post the Waggons and Teams collected by you, we need not say more to you as you will see the Necessity of forwarding without Delay.

Ibid. [Council Circular, Lieuts of St Mary's and Calvert Counties.]

We request you to Station Persons on whom you can depend upon such Points as command the most extensive View of the Bay to give Information of the Approach of the Enemy which you will be so obliging as to communicate to this Board by Express immediately on receipt of it

Ibid. [Council to President of the Special Council.]

We have this Moment received the enclosed Intelligence so that the Destination of the Enemy against this State no longer remain[s] doubtful, we are taking every possible Measure for Defence. We have about six hundred regulars at this City, and have ordered all the select Militia and all the Companies of light Horse of this Shore, and all the Draughts and recruits to rendezvous at this Post and Baltimore Town and shall order out the Militia in the Vicinity of those posts.