

Friday 9th. August 1793

The Council met.

Present Mr Brice
Mr Kilty
Mr Davidson
Mr Pinkney

The following Communications were received from the Secretary of War:

War Department

August 6, 1793

Sir,

[p. 255] The Minister of France has represented that certain inhabitants of St Domingo are combining to form a Military expedition from the territory of the United States to go and support their Accomplices in the said Island who are still Opposing the constituted authority there; and that Baltimore has been pointed out as the place at which such combinations are taking place.

I am directed Sir, to inform You that the President of the United States deems the fitting out any Military expeditions from any of the ports of the United States as unlawful and therefore to be prevented, and he requests that you will please to take the necessary measures accordingly, and report the result in writing.

I have the honor to be with great Esteem

Your Excellency's most Obed't Servant
H Knox Sec'y of War

His Excellency
The Governor of Maryland

War Department August 6. 1793

Sir,

Authentic information has been received that there are at this time two french Privateers fitting out at Baltimore, the one a Brig to mount fourteen Guns, and the other a Virginia Pilot boat.

[p. 256] The President of the United States expresses his confidence that you will take immediate and effectual measures for the suppression of the said Vessels as privateers.

I have the honor to be with great Respect

You Excellency's most Obed Servant
H Knox Sec'y of War

His Excellency
The Governor of Maryland

[L]ikewise a private and confidential Letter relating to the subject of one of the letters above recited.

Whereupon it was Resolved that John Kilty Esquire of the Council be requested to repair immediately to Baltimore; there to make diligent enquiry into the truth of the information stated in the above letters; and if he shall find the same to be well founded, to consult such persons as he shall judge well disposed towards the maintenance of the Laws and the