

and how many such Vessels it is necessary to have built for gaining the Mastery of that Lake

The Council after taking the several matters into consideration gave as their unanimous Opinion: 1st That it is most essentially necessary at all times to secure the Navigation of the Lake Ontario, and from the Intelligence the General has informed them he has already Received of Vessels Building by the Enemy at their Forts, that at least three Vessels be built immediately at Oswego of a large size & Force as the Depth of the Water at the Entrance of the Harbour of Oswego will admit, & that on any future Intelligence of the Enemy increasing their Naval Force, that the General should build such and so many more Vessels as he finds necessary for securing the Mastery of that Lake

2^{dly} That one Expedition be carried on against Crown Point and another against the French Settlements on Lake Ontario, & that both Armies march to their Respective Places of Destination as soon as possible in the Spring

3^{dly} That an Army of 1000 Men will be necessary for the Expedition against Crown Point

4^{thly} That an Army of 6000 Men at least will be necessary for the Expedition against the French Encroachments on the Lake Ontario &c.

5^{thly} That as to the Attempt proposed to be made upon Fort Duquesne they are unanimously of Opinion that such a Measure, would answer very good Purposes, by availing the English Forces, of the Assistance of that Part of the Southern Indians which are still in Alliance with them, and preventing those in Alliance with the French from opposing our Operations to the Northward, and therefore advise the General to recommend it to the British Government to undertake an Attempt upon that Fortress and do it in such a manner as will not in the least interfere with the Expedition already agreed on

6^{thly} That as to the Point with 2000 Men against Quebec by the way of the River St. Lawrence they are unanimously of Opinion that it should be carried into Execution, Provided it can be done without Prejudice to the other parts of the Service already agreed on.

7^{thly} That with regard to the Operations on Lake Ontario it was the Opinion & Advice of the Majority of the Council that they be begun by the Attack of Cataragui.

Lastly the Council considering the several Services to be carried on in North America are unanimously of Opinion that an additional Number of Regular Troops will be necessary for Effectually Recovering and securing his Majesty's Rights & Dominion upon this Continent

W. Shirley

Chas. Hardy

Her. Sharpe

Robt. Morris

Tho. Dunbar

Peter Schuyler

Chas. Crovan

John S. Blair

Jas. Kinneer

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a true Copy W. Alexander Secy