

A Council held at the City of Annapolis, on Saturday the 14th Day
of May, in the seventh Year of his Lordships Dominion Annoque
Domini 1757. Present

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq. Governor

The Honourable Benjamin Tupper Esq. Col. Chas. Hammond, & Benedict Calvert Esq.

His Excellency is pleased to lay before this Board the following Letters.

Whitehall A. February 1757.

The King having nothing more at Heart than the Preservation of his good
Subjects, and Colonies of North America has come to a Resolution of acting with the greatest
Vigour in those parts the ensuing Campaign, and all necessary Preparations are making
for sending a considerable Reinforcement of Troops, together with a strong Squadron of
Ships for that Purpose, and in order to act offensively against the French in Canada.

It is his Majesty's Pleasure that you should forthwith call together your Council
and Assembly and press them in the strongest manner to raise with the utmost Expedition
as large a Number of Provincial Troops as may be, for the Service of the ensuing Campaign
over and above what they shall judge necessary for the immediate Defence of their own Province
and the Troops so raised do act in such Parts with the Earl of Loudoun or the Commander
in Chief of his Majesty's Forces for the time being shall judge most conducive to the
Service in General, and the King doubts not but that the several Provinces truly sensible
of his paternal Care in sending so large a Force for their Security, will exert their utmost
Endeavours to second and strengthen such offensive Operations against the French as
the Earl of Loudoun or the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces for the time being
shall judge expedient, and will not clog the Enlistments of the Men or the raising of
the Money for their Pay &c. with such Limitations as have been hitherto found to render
their Service difficult and ineffectual, and as a further Encouragement I am to acquaint you
that the raising of the Men, their Pay, Arms, and Cloathing will be all that will be required
for this Campaign on the Part of the several Provinces, Measures having been already
taken for laying up Magazines of Arms, and Provisions of all kinds at the Expence of
the Crown. I cannot too strongly recommend it to you to use all your Influence with your
Council and Assembly for the punctual and immediate Execution of these his Majesty's
Commands. I am likewise to acquaint you that the Earl of Loudoun is directed to send
forthwith to Virginia a Detachment of regular Forces to be employed, as the exigency
shall require for the Service and Defence of the said Province of Virginia, South Carolina
or any other of the Southern Provinces. I am Sir Your most obed^t. humble Serv^t

W. Pitt.

Governor of Maryland.