

to request Your Excellency if it be in Your Power to favour us so far. Your
Excellency directs or recommends it to me to march about 1000 light-armed Troops
with some Indians immediately to blockade or invest Fort Duquesne & prevent
the Garrison being reinforced or receiving any Supplies of Provisions; I have already
intimated that no Indians have yet joined the Troops, & have also informed You how
far the Forces under my Command fall short of the Number that Your Excellency
desires may be detached on such Service: for my own Part I do not apprehend
that the Garrison at Fort Duquesne is at this time in want of Provisions, for was
that the Case they may easily have supplied themselves from our Frontiers, & I am
apt to think that instead of killing the Cattle in the Fields & burning all the
Grain in our Farms they & their Indian Allies who have committed such Devastations
would have driven off the best to the Ohio alive & loaded with Corn the
Numbers of Horses which We know they have taken from our Settlements to the
Westward. how strong the French are at Fort Duquesne I have not heard but
if they learn that we are making no preparations for another Expedition that
they will from the Captives they are daily making I presume
they will detach as many Men as they can possibly spare to reinforce their Garrison
on the Lakes; & I am confirmed in this Opinion by the Instructions that were found
in the Pocket of an Ensign who was lately killed by some of the Inhabitants of
Virg^a near Conococheague. I am persuaded that if the Assembly would have been
prevailed on to provide for their Subsistence a considerable Number of the Inhabi-
tants of Maryland would have been inclined to make a Campaign with me; but as
I have now no further hopes from that Quarter; unless Your Excellency should find Your-
self empowered & think proper to direct & authorize me to raise & subsist 500 or 600
Men during the Summer I must give over all thoughts of getting any Troops from this
Province; & have nothing more to do than in Obedience to Your Excellency's Orders to put
myself at the head of the Virg^a & Carolina Forces when they join & proceed on
You shall command either to secure the Frontiers of these Provinces or advance toward
the Enemy I am &c

To Governor - Morris April the 24th 1756

The Council of Phil^a calling on me on his Return from Virg^a I embrace
the Opportunity to intimate to You that our Assembly is still sitting but as the

Lower