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M. All. *Washington's Attachment to America, but because the Season for the Enemy's taking the Field is near at Hand. We wish to put an entire Stop to a Communication that may be productive of bad Consequences; we therefore as Mr. Stephens is on the Spot, wish you would make the necessary Application to His Excellency Gen^l Washington to promote an Interview, on the Line, betwixt him and any Person or Persons he may name.*
We are &c.

General Smallwood.

Annapolis 15th April 1779.

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Sir. I have the Pleasure to send you by an Officer just going to Philadelphia, a Box which I received a few Hours ago from a Gent^l just arrived from L^o Orient, who informs me that he received it with verbal Directions to deliver it to the first Governor on this Continent that he possibly could, in Order that it might be forwarded immediately. On receiving the Box, I was apprehensive that the heavy Matter which it contained, put into it, I presumed for the Purpose of Linking it, if the Vessel in which it came should have been chased, would, in so long a Carriage on Horseback, have fretted and defaced the Papers so as to have rendered them useless, & therefore had the Cover ripped up, about eight or ten Pounds of Sheet Lead taken out, and the Cover again nailed down and sealed in the Presence of the Council and myself. I flatter myself Sir! that this Caution intended only to prevent your Papers being defaced, will not be disapproved. I have the Honour to be your &c.

Mess^{rs} Gerard

In Council 15th April 1779

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Sir. We are of Opinion that we cannot give Permission to recruit Men in this State for Col^l Drummond's Corps it having been enacted by the General Assembly in June Session 1777 that no Officer of the United States shall enlist any of the Inhabitants of this State in the Service of the United States unless in some one of the Battalions from this State under the Penalty of one hundred Pounds for each Person enlisted contrary thereto. Gen^l Pulaski's Officers enlisted a good many Men in this State for his Legion but that was done by Permission of the Assembly.

Gen^l De Siquaque

In Council 15th April 1779

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Gen^l Immediately on our Receipt of Mr. Peters Letter of the 25th of March we sent Orders to the Sheriff of Washington County to provide a Guard for the Prisoners at Fort Mifflin, and have not since heard from the Sheriff. Col^l Paulings is of Opinion that besides the Inconvenience of taking seventy Men from their Farms a Militia Guard if they can be kept together, will not be so attended as desirable. He says that he could in a Day or two put all the Prisoners and one or two at a Place, with Men who have taken the Oath of Allegiance and who he thinks, might be depended upon and that rather than be subject to the