

United States. — On referring to the regulations prescribed on this subject I find that the testimonies you have forwarded apply (if at all) to the prohibition contained in the 7th Article; but when it is considered that you had a full opportunity of procuring this evidence when the owner of the vessel was present to offer his explanations or produce proof of her having been originally armed for cruising previous to her arrival in Baltimore, and that it is now not only taken in a manner generally supposed illegal, but if admitted in the fullest extent, would still leave a doubt whether the case authorized the immediate interposition you require; I hope you will think it reasonable that I decline any interference respecting the *Rochampton* until particular directions shall be given by the executive power of the United States for which purpose I have forwarded to the Secretary of War a copy of your letter and of the depositions accompanying it. It does not appear to me that this vessel was restored to her owner on the supposition that she was

(intended)