

the General Court, be pleased to take the depositions of such witnesses as may appear before you to give information relative to the above subject, at the instance of the Attorney of the United States for the District of Maryland, or the French or British Vice Consuls resident at Baltimore, at such convenient time and place as you may think proper to appoint, the respective Vice Consuls as well as the United States Attorney having notice thereof.

My reason Sir, for thus calling upon you is to secure a proper execution of the views of the President, by obtaining a full and satisfactory disclosure of the several matters of fact, the ascertainment of which may be necessary to govern his decision on a question respecting the legality or illegality of the alterations or equipments (if any) made in the harbour of Baltimore to the before mentioned vessel.

It is necessary that the Testimony taken on a subject of this importance should be free from the suspicion of inaccuracy, and that it should be as fair and explicit as possible: and hence it is that I have been led to solicit your agency in the taking of it.

I shall write to the Vice Consuls and Mr Hollingsworth apprising them of this request, and requiring them to pursue the necessary steps for obtaining before you the examination demanded: They will, it is presumed, call upon you for this purpose and produce their witnesses; whose evidence you will be good enough to cause to be forwarded to me as soon as it shall have been obtained.

I have the honour to be Sir

Samuel Chase Esquire  
Chief Justice of the Gen Court.

The Secy

Council Chamber, Annapolis, November 23<sup>d</sup> 1793

Sir

In consequence of a representation made to me by the British Vice Consul respecting certain military equipments received by the privateer the Schooner Indus, in the Port of Baltimore, which with the depositions respecting the same were transmitted to the President of the United States for his consideration, the President has called upon me to cause an inquiry on oath to be instituted relative to this subject and to forward the result to him, as soon as it shall have been obtained, in order that he may be enabled to give his decision