

Baltimore, January 2nd, 1794

Sir,

I have received information that carriages are made or making in this Town by your direction, for the avowed purpose of arming defensively certain french Merchantmen in this Port. Such a measure if carried into effect would be deemed an infraction of the first rule established by the President of the United States for preserving the neutrality of the Country which expressly prohibits "The original arming and equipping of vessels in the Ports of the United States, by any of the Belligerent parties, for Military Service, offensive or defensive." If the merchantmen in question have received any equipments of a military nature, it will be my duty to reduce them to the situation in which they were when they arrived in this State, as well as to prevent the Carriages being applied to their intended use. In the conduct of this business it shall be my study, as it is my earnest wish, to avoid giving the least cause of offence to you Sir, and to that end I beg leave to make this Communication, and at the same time permit me to solicit your good offices to facilitate the carrying the views of the President into effect.

With perfect Respect

I have the Honour to be Sir

Y^ors S^t Lee

M^oseilles, le 21 Janvier 1794
Vice Consul of the French Republic

Baltimore, January 3rd 1794

Sir,

Having received information that the Consul of France was arming certain Merchantmen in this Port, I am to request that you will examine the present condition of the french vessels in the Port, of that description, and make a report to me of their present condition as to military equipments, and in what particular, if any, their situation is changed since their arrival.

I am Sir with great Respect

Your m^o Ob^t Serv^t

W^m J^r Williams Esq^r

Collector, at the Port of Baltimore

Thos Lee