

your affecting the alledged alterations and Equipments - of course, it
will be proper that an Enquiry on oath in relation to these alterations
and Equipments should be instituted under the Direction of the
attorney of the United States for this District upon Notice to the
French Vice Consul and transmitted to me with all convenient
Despatch in order to found a conclusive Judgment upon the
Subject.

The Depositions may be taken before any associate Justice or
Justice of the peace in Baltimore Town. in the same manner as
heretofore prescribed in similar cases.

I shall write to the French Vice Consul and to Zebulon Hollings-
worth Esquire apprising them of this Communication and arrang-
ment -

I am &c

John H. Stone

Edward Thornton Esquire

Vice Consul of his Britannic Majesty at Baltimore

Council Chamber November 18th 1794

Sir

A letter lately received from Mr Thornton the British Vice
Consul resident at Baltimore represents a Brigantine called the
Lovely Lass to have received extensive military alterations and
Equipments in the Port of Baltimore as a French Privateer for
hostile purposes against the Commerce of Great Britain contrary
to the Sense of the Instructions given by the President of the United
States. as you will perceive by a Copy of the Vice Consul's Letter
herewith enclosed for your Information.

It is incumbent upon me in pursuance of the Instructions above
mentioned to procure an authentic Enquiry to be instituted upon the
Subject of this Representation. and if ultimately discovered to be well
founded, to cause the vessel to be dismantled of her illegal Equipments
and reduced to her original Situation - In the mean Time I have
to request of you that this vessel if not already departed be not
permitted to sail. unless upon Examination you should discover
that the Grounds of Interference suggested by Mr Thornton do not