

in fact exist. and it is my further request that with the assistance of the attorney General of the United States for the District of Maryland you will be pleased to investigate the truth of these allegations with all possible despatch in order that, if hastily made, the Vessel may not be carelessly prevented from pursuing the objects for which she was destined.

If you shall find it proper under a view of circumstances to detain this privateer until a definitive Enquiry can be accomplished. and Resistance is made to your arrangements for that purpose Force must be resorted to. for where the Interposition of Government is requisite on occasions of this kind it must be made effectual. - I have no doubt however that so disagreeable a measure will be unnecessary. but if necessary the Presidents Directions require that the military should be called upon. The French Consul to whom I have written will it is presumed lend his Influence and Exertions to procure a compliance with your Views. -

You will be pleased to transmit to me as early as possible your Proceedings in consequence of this communication and request. I have taken measures thro the French and British Vice Consuls and the attorney of the United States for the District of Maryland to set on foot an Enquiry upon oath relative to the alterations and Equipments in question. and of course your attention will merely be directed to a Detention of the Vessel until that Enquiry can be completed. unless as before observed such Detention should be found to be improper. -

Robert Purriance Esq.
Collector at the Port of Baltimore

I am &c

John H. Stone

Council Chamber November 11 1794

Sir

In consequence of a Representation from the British Vice Consul at Baltimore stating that a Vessel called the Lovely Lass intended to act in a hostile manner against the Commerce of Great Britain. as a French Privateer had received sundry important military alterations and Equipments in that port. and requesting my Interference to prevent her from departing on an intended Cruise until an authentic Enquiry