

I have to request of you, Sir, that you will give your assistance and support to the Collector in the execution of the Directions herein communicated. after which the Vessel will be permitted to proceed upon her Voyage.

I am &c

Citizen Paul Thomas
Vice Consul of the French Republic

John H. Stone

Council Chamber December 4th 1794.

Sir

It is represented to me by the Vice Consul of the French Republic that since the Receipt of my last Letter on the Subject of the Ship Prodiye, you have compelled the relanding of the Cannon found in the Hold of that Vessel and expressly prohibited their Re-shipment--

I must take it for granted that the Grounds upon which my opinion in this particular given on a View of Mr. Thornton's Representation and the consequent Testimony has been disregarded are not to be found in that Representation or the Evidence transmitted to me. But there would have been an evident propriety in communicating to me the reasons which have produced an arrangement so directly contrary to what I prescribed.

If these reasons are not furnished by the Revenue Laws or other acts of Congress, but come within the Views of the President in reference to the preservation of our Neutrality and the observance of Treaties. I presume that under his Instructions they should be made known to me. and in any light the communication would be proper and attended with very little trouble.

I have to request therefore that you will be pleased to inform me what are the Grounds upon which the relanding of these Cannon and the Prohibition of their re-shipment have been conceived to be justified.

I will myself give no further Instructions in this or any other similar Case until I am satisfied that they are likely to be efficacious or at least not departed from without the