

Council Chamber December 27<sup>th</sup> 1794

Sir

I enclose to you a copy of a letter from M. Thornton, the British Vice Consul at Baltimore, respecting the Prize Ship Hope, and her Cargo. I beg of you in conjunction with M. Hollingsworth immediately to make an inquiry relative to the facts and allegations contained in M. Thornton's letter and if they should be satisfactorily established, the sale of this vessel and her cargo must be prevented. and altho I am not in possession of evidence sufficient to form a positive decision, yet as this subject is submitted to the Executive of the United States, I think the sale of this vessel and her cargo ought to be postponed until the President can give direction in this case -

I beg the favor of you to give the necessary information to the Consul of France relative to this subject as I have not time to write to him by this opportunity

Robert Purviance Esq.  
Collector at the Port of Baltimore

I am &c

John N. Stone

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Sir,

This day I received your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> Instant respecting the Ship Hope and her cargo and I have referred the information therein contained to the enquiry and consideration of the attorney of the United States and the collector of the customs at the Port of Baltimore and if the allegations and facts stated by you should be established, I have no doubt but that they will direct the sale to be postponed. but I cannot undertake to give positive direction in this case until enquiry is made and proof exhibited to me of the facts necessary on which I can form a decision

Edward Thornton Esquire  
Vice Consul of His Britannic Majesty at Baltimore

I am &c

John N. Stone