

Annapolis January 1<sup>st</sup> 1795

The Commander in Chief of the militia of Maryland orders that immediately on receipt of these orders, to Colonel John Stricker, or in case of his absence the senior officer of his Regiment, attend the Collector of the Customs at the Port of Baltimore, and after receiving from him an account of the number of militia necessary to be employed in procuring the possession of the Ship Hope and her Cargo in the Port of Baltimore Prize to the French Privateer le peuple Francois. assemble and employ such portion of his Regiment as may be requisite under the direction of the Collector of the Customs for the accomplishment of that object. The Commander in Chief expects that as these orders are intended only to procure the preservation of our Neutrality and obedience to the Instructions of the President of the United States, the operations of the contemplated force will be conducted with every possible regard to peace and good order.

Lieut Colonel  
John Stricker  
Baltimore

J H Stone

Council Chamber January 1<sup>st</sup> 1795.

Sir

The Collector of the Customs for the port of Baltimore has communicated to me a copy of your letter to him of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst in relation to the Prize Ship Hope and her Cargo. and it is with sincere concern that I discover in it the signification of your intention to take no part in postponing the sale of this Prize. Past transactions had induced me with entire confidence to rely on your disposition to second with your countenance and authority every interference of this and the General Government on subjects so delicate and embarrassing.

The Disappointment is calculated to produce real regret not only on account of the person from whom it proceeds but the consequences that may result from it. The Efforts of the constituted authorities of this Country to preserve its Peace and Neutrality inviolate must be made effectual. and it would have been in the highest degree acceptable if these Efforts could be so aided by the Influence of the Council of the Nations at War resident among us as to preclude the necessity of adopting active and