

decisive arrangements for their Support.

From the Vice Consul of the Republic of France at Baltimore the Executive of this State has hitherto received the most ready assistance in carrying into Execution the Instructions of the President of the United States. and I cannot relinquish the Hope that we shall still find you a prompt Concurrence in the Measures which these Instructions may render necessary. I do not hesitate therefore to request of you that if the Ship Hope and her Cargo are not already sold you will interpose your power and Influence to suspend the Sale until the President of the United States shall have taken order on the Subject. - but it is my Duty also to state that if a Request so reasonable is not complied with (altho I rest satisfied that it will be attended to) the Sale if not already made must be postponed. and that I have forwarded Directions to Baltimore to this Effect - I cannot avoid repeating my firm Expectation that you will not unnecessarily reduce me to the alternative of risking on this occasion a Violation of the Instructions under which I act or resorting to a painful Expedition for the purpose of making them efficacious.

Citizen Paul Thomas  
Vice Consul of the Republic of France

Sam<sup>r</sup> H<sup>c</sup>

John H. Stone

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

Sir

I did not receive your Letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult. before 9 of Clock last Evening. and have taken the earliest Moment to act upon it.

I have written to the French Vice Consul calling upon him to interpose his authority and Influence to prevent the Sale of the Prize Ship Hope and her Cargo if not already made. and signifying to him that Measures will be taken to render my Request effectual if he does not think proper to comply with it. It is extremely painful to resort to force on occasions so delicate in their Nature. but the Conduct of Citizen Thomas will if persisted in render it indispensable.

I therefore enclose an order as Commander in Chief of the Militia. which you will be pleased in Case there shall be a