

Sir

Council Chamber July 18th 1795

I have received two Letters from the Spanish Consul J. B. Barnabeu alleging that the Spanish Brig called the *Mra. Gra de las Mercedes*, has been illegally captured by the French Privateer *Coleoured*, because the said Privateer was armed and fitted out in the Port of Baltimore contrary to Law and our Neutrality. M. Barnabeu has not offered to me a shadow of Proof to substantiate these Circumstances nor indeed adduced any thing which would be sufficient to direct my interference in this Case. Yet as M. Barnabeu appears to be most solicitous, and this being the first application which he has made to me, and my anxiety to put an End to every possible complaint that he might have, has induced me to take the liberty of requesting you to attend and take any Proof which M. Barnabeu may choose to offer respecting the illegal Capture of the said Brig and transmit the same to me by the earliest opportunity with Sentiments of very great respect and Regard.

Zebulon Hollingsworth &
Robert Purviance Esq^{rs}

I am &c
John H. Stone

Council Chamber July 18th 1795

Sir

I am favoured with your Letter of the 17th Instant. all I can say in answer thereto is, that I have written to Zebulon Hollingsworth Esquire the Attorney for the United States and to the Collector of the Customs to attend and take any Proof which you may be pleased to exhibit to them respecting the illegality of the Capture of the Brig *Mra. Gra. de las Mercedes* and if the fact is established by sufficient proof, I shall immediately give such directions as justice may require. —

John B. Barnabeu
Consul for His Catholic Majesty
at Baltimore

I am &c
John H. Stone