

In Council Annapolis May 26. 1803

Sir,

With the dispatches of the Government of the United States, authorizing you to negotiate with the British Ministry or to pursue by legal process the recovery of the Stock in the British Funds, belonging to the State of Maryland; you will receive an authenticated copy of two Resolutions passed during the last Session of our Legislature under which an application has been made by the Executive of Maryland to that of the United States soliciting and claiming their interposition.

One object contemplated by these Resolutions was the employment of the talents and attachment of a native Citizen so highly valued by the State in the pursuit, under a proper authority, of that justice which has been so long withheld. The latitude also of authority which has been given by the President of the United States in conformity with the opinion of the Executive of Maryland, to receive this claim partially, has to a certain extent provided for another object: but there was still a farther motive of the Legislature which you will have in view, and which the Executive of Maryland have been desirous of confiding to your prudence and address.

You will recollect that it was understood sometime since, that the material obstacle to the attainment of Justice was a claim made by the Representatives of Mr. Russell: whilst the Legislature were disposed to commit this together with the whole subject to the joint control of the Executive of the United States and that of their own State; you will receive Instructions that will enable you to admit in the interim (if necessary) any deductions equivalent to this claim, leaving however the definitive arrangement for further Instructions; if indeed any arrangement can be made to receive the balance without an express stipulation for allowing this claim: but if such arrangement cannot be made, the Executive of Maryland conceive themselves authorized in concurrence with the President of the United States and they are disposed to trust to your discretion the power of making this partial but absolute sacrifice, in preference to risking any longer the whole claim.

To your knowledge of the liberality of your native State, this Executive must refer you as to any remuneration you may expect to receive for your particular exertions in promoting and pursuing their Interest, and we assure you that every assistance which they can with propriety afford, you may calculate on, with entire confidence. With sentiments of high respect & perfect esteem, I have the honor to

The Honble William Pinkney

London

John. T. Murre