

deliberations will necessarily be delayed until we receive the reply from the War Department. We have the honor to be, gentlemen,
The President of the United States

William B. Martin
Walter Dorsey

Gentlemen

War Department May 22 1863

The President has been pleased to refer to me your Note of yesterday, covering a copy of a Resolution of the Legislature of Maryland of the 20th instant, the object of which is to ascertain 1st What further protection will be afforded by the General Government against the incursions of the common Enemy, and 2^d What provision may be expected to liquidate the expenditures which have been, or may be incurred in providing against their aggressions. The former of these questions is so broad in its terms, that (prudential motives aside) it is quite impossible to give to it a definitive answer. The protection given by Government must necessarily be subject to two rules, both of which are in their own nature absolute, the extent of the means placed within its reach, and the degree and proximity of the danger to be repelled. It is only of the former that I can say any thing, and in regard to that, after referring you to the laws, and the provisions made by them, I can but subscribe an assurance, that every attention to the special defence of Maryland, that may be compatible with the just claims of other parts of the Union, shall be promptly and cordially given. To the second question of the Legislature a more precise answer may be given. So far as expenditures have arisen, or shall arise, in consequence of Militia calls made by the State, without the participation of the United States, no provision is found to exist under the present laws. On the other hand, in all cases in which Militia detachments have been called out or recognized, (as in the case of the Baltimore Militia) by the authority of the Union, such provision is found to exist, and will be applied. I have the honor to be gentlemen, with very great respect your Most obedt and very humble servant
The hon. the Committee from the Executive Council of Maryland.

John Armstrong

Gentlemen

In Council Annapolis May 23 1863

I have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter to the President of the United States, deputed the honorable William B. Martin and Walter Dorsey to wait on him with