

State of Maryland Executive Chamber
Annapolis, April 25th 1861

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates,

The extraordinary condition of affairs in Maryland has induced me to exercise the Constitutional prerogative vested in the Governor to summon the Legislature in Special Session, in the hope that your wisdom may enable you to devise prompt and effective means to restore peace and safety to our State.

I shall briefly detail the startling events which have induced me to summon you together, and which have so suddenly placed us in the state of Anarchy, confusion and danger from which I sincerely trust you may be able to extricate us.

Believing it to be the design of the Administration to pass over our soil troops for the defence of the City of Washington, and fearing that the passage of such troops would excite our people and provoke collision, I labored earnestly to induce the President to forego his purpose. I waited upon him in person and urged the importance of my request. I subsequently communicated with him and his Cabinet by special despatches, entreating an abandonment of their designs. To all my requests I could get but the reply, "that Washington was threatened with attack - that the Government had resolved to defend it - that there was no other way of obtaining troops than by passing them over the soil of Maryland - and that the military necessity of the case rendered it impossible for the Government to abandon its plans, much as it desired to avoid the dangers of collision". My correspondence with the Authorities at Washington is herewith submitted.

The consequences are known to you. On Friday last a detachment of troops from Massachusetts reached Baltimore, and was attacked by an irresponsible mob and several persons on both sides were killed. The Mayor and Police Board gave to the Massachusetts soldiers all the protection they could afford, acting with the utmost promptness and bravery. But they were powerless to restrain the mob.

Being in Baltimore at the time, I cooperated with the Mayor, to the fullest extent of my power, in his efforts. The military of the City were ordered out to assist in the preservation of the peace. The railroad Companies were requested by the Mayor and myself to transport no more troops to Baltimore City, and they promptly acceded to our request.

Hearing of the attack upon the soldiers, the War Department issued orders that no more troops should pass through Baltimore City, provided they were allowed to pass outside its limits. Subsequently, a detachment of troops was