

of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Md. Regiments and 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Md. Cavalry - In reorganizing the regiments you propose as I understand to transfer the German Companies now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiments to the 4<sup>th</sup> whose organization as far as complete comprises chiefly German companies, that the 4<sup>th</sup> may thus be constituted as far as possible of companies of German birth; and to supply the places thus vacated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> by the Companies of Col. Myson's Battalion of Md. Infantry. I entirely approve the proposed modification of these Commands and think that so far as I can authorize it, the order of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst. which I transmitted to you will suffice for that purpose - That order you will find upon recurring to it is very comprehensive in its terms - authorizing you "to effect the consolidation of any two or more incomplete regiments within your Command" - and "for that purpose to transfer Companies from one Regiment or Battalion to another with the consent of the Col. or other officer in Command"

This I think is sufficient for the authority you now desire in reference to the union of the German Companies, if not you have it by the terms of this letter - subject of course still, in conformity to the order of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst. - to the consent of the Commanding officers of the Regiment whose Command is to be thus modified

When the Regiments are thus reorganized, you will of course furnish me with corrected Muster-Rolls of the several Regiments as thus remodelled

Yours very Respectfully  
H. W. Bradford

Washington March 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton  
Sec. of War

Sir:

Before leaving the City I take the opportunity of reducing to writing, in compliance with your request the subject which this morning I briefly called to your attention - I am anxious that your Department should definitely determine whether it or the Executive of Maryland will exercise the power of appointing the Regimental and Company officers of the Volunteers which have been raised and organized in that State - Some provisions in the Act of Congress of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July last as well as some contrariety of practice on the subject leaves me in doubt as to where this power properly resides - Whilst it will be entirely agreeable to me that the War Department should continue to exercise this authority yet if it is proposed (as has been recently suggested outside the Department) to devolve it upon the Executive of Maryland, I will ask the favor that it be communicated to me