

War Office 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1776.

Gentlemen,

An Exchange of Prisoners having been long agreed upon, but prevented from taking Effect by the General's being constantly employed in counteracting the designs of the Enemy; it is now desired that no longer delay may be used. General Washington writes very pressing for all prisoners of War to be sent to Fort Lee in New Jersey under the care of Genl Green's Commanding Officer there. You will therefore be pleased immediately to collect all the British Prisoners in the State of Maryland and have them properly escorted to Fort Lee that an Equal number of our Suffering Countrymen may be relieved from Imprisonment and Distress. By Order of the Board of War.

I have the Honour to be,

Humble Council of Safety  
Maryland

Your very Obedt Servant.

Richard Peters Secy.

Be so good as to send lists of the Prisoners to the War Office with an Acct of all Expenses incurred by your State in the care of Prisoners. Please to have the Officers conveyed separate from the Privates, and let both take a Route by which their coming thro' Philadelphia may be avoided.

St. Eustatia 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 1776.

Gentlemen

I have by different Opportunities lately advised you of the Change and turn that has taken place here by Government in favor of the American States. Now our Flag flies current every day in the roads.

The Merchants here are always complaining of Government untill they would give as much Protection and Indulgence here to us as the French and Spaniards do. The orders from the States and Great West India Company to this Governour for the Prohibition of the Export of Powder and other warlike Stores Expires the 28<sup>th</sup> Instant. Its made publick and the Governour is daily expressing the greatest desire and intention to protect a trade with us here - Indeed they begin to discover their Mistake and are now very zealous of the French's running away with all their trade. All kinds of goods and warlike Stores are very Plenty here and much more Reasonable than they are at the French Islands and all your goods purchased here, and at a very great expense and Risque too they are up to Martinique to be shipped to Maryland in your vessels as they all arrive here. Your Flower, Bread and Tobacco is all sent down here to be sold as this is always the best market for your produce especially Tobacco which this is the only market for. All these goods are brought with a very heavy freight from Martinique here and never fail to suffer great loss. It is indeed its value is 50 % Cent - All this I have often mentioned in summary of my last letters to your Honorable House - I have enclosed all my own private Accounts by three different Vessels. I hope you