

Head Quarters Bergen County

July 4<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir

On an examination of the quantity of powder in the hands of the public we find that the whole together with what we are to expect from the French fleet will not be more than one third of the quantity required for a decisive operation, and that unless we can derive very extensive aids from the respective States this deficiency alone must subvert our plans. I am therefore to request the Honorable the Council will be pleased to inform me whether we can obtain a supply from your State and to what amount. In an exigency like the present every State must contribute to the utmost of its abilities or we must fail in our projects and disappoint our allies.

It is with infinite chagrin and mortification I find that at this day the fourth of July more than six weeks since the first application to the States for the succours necessary towards the intended cooperation, not more than thirty Lewis have to my knowledge joined any part of the Army, nor have I any information what has been effected in this respect by any one of the States. Some of them have not even informed us what they intend to do. The Council will easily conceive the embarrassment of my situation — The French fleet and Army momentarily expected to call upon me for information of our prospects and for a plan of cooperation America looking to me to improve the aid which our allies are sending us — A British fleet expected at the heels of the French fleet — preliminary measures demanding an instant determination; if taken replete with hazard and involving certain disgrace should we not

be able to go on with vigor - if suspended, losing an advantage on  
which the whole chance of success must in all probability depend.  
While I remain unfurnished with means to begin; uninformed  
with tolerable certainty of those which will be put into my  
hands the time they will be ready, and consequently unable to  
decide any plan on reasonable grounds: I see the best opportunity  
America has had to establish her independence, fettered with  
delays, and clouded with uncertainties, which will not permit  
the most sanguine to hope for such an issue as vigor, decision,  
and dispatch might have insured.

With every sentiment of esteem & respect,

I have the honor to be

Sir  
Your most Obedt.

humbt. servant,

G. Washington

P.S.

In the course of our operations a  
number of seamen may become necessary;  
I request to be informed what number may  
be obtained from your State, on what terms  
and in what time after notice? Should any  
Vessels arrive in your ports with any intelligence  
of the French fleet and Army, or of the British  
fleet, said to be coming out, I shall be much  
obliged to you to send me immediate as precise  
and particular an account as you can obtain

1780, July 4.

The Honble

President. War

the State of Pennsylvania

Genl Washington  
receiving news  
of the July 1780