

By

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The United States in Congress Assembled

Oct 4 1782

Whereas by the Articles of Confederation & perpetual Union the Sole and exclusive right of making Peace is vested in the United States in Congress Assembled; and by the Treaty of Alliance with his Most Christian Majesty and then United States it is declared that Neither of the contracting parties shall conclude Peace or Truce with Great Britain without the Consent of the other; and the Ministers Plenipotentiary of these United States in Europe are Vested with full power and Authority in their Behalf and in Concert with their Allies to negotiate and Conclude a general Peace; Nevertheless it appears that the British Court still flatters itself with the vain hope of prevailing on the United States to agree to some term of Dependence upon Great Britain or at least to a separate Peace: And there is reason to believe that Commissioners may be sent to America to offer Propositions of that Nature to the United States, or that Secret Emisaries may be employed to delude & deceive: In order to extinguish ill founded hopes, to frustrate Insidious Attempts and to manifest to the whole World the purity of the Intentions & the fixed & Unalterable determination of the United States —

Resolved Unanimously That Congress are Sincerely desirous of an honourable & permanent Peace: That as the only means of obtaining it they will inviolably adhere to the Treaty of Alliance with his most Christian Majesty

Christian Majesty and conclude neither a separate peace
or truce with Great Britain: that they will prosecute
the War with vigor untill by the Blessing of God
on the United Arms a peace shall be happily accom-
plished, by which the free and absolute Sovereignty
& Independence of these United States having been
duly assured, their Rights & Interests, as well as
those of their Allies shall be Effectually provided
for and secured —

That Congress will not enter into the
discussion of any overtures for pacification, but in confi-
dence and in Concert with his most Christian Majesty —

That to Guard against the Secret Artifices and
Machinations of the Enemy, it be & hereby is Recom-
mended to the Respective States to be Vigilant and
Active in detecting and Seizing all British
Emissaries and Spies, that they may be brought
to Exdign Punishment: That it be enjoined
on all officers of Departments charged with
persons coming from the Enemy under the
protection of Flags of Truce to take special Care
that Such Persons do not abuse their Priviledges
but be restrained from all Intercourse with the
Country & Inhabitants which is not Necessary
for transacting the Public business on which
they may be sent; and lastly it is recommended
to the Several States that no Subjects of his britannie
Majesty

Coming directly or Indirectly from any part of the
British Dominions be admitted into any of the
United States during the War —

Ordered

That the Hon^{ble} the Minister
Plenipotentiary of France be furnished
with a Copy of the above act; & that Copies
be Transmitted to the Ministers of these
States at Foreign Courts and that in the
mean time it be published —

By the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS assembled.

October 4, 1782.

WHEREAS by the articles of confederation and perpetual union, the sole and exclusive right of making peace is vested in the United States in Congress assembled; and by the treaty of alliance between his most Christian majesty and these United States, it is declared, that neither of the contracting parties shall conclude peace nor truce with Great Britain, without the consent of the other: and the ministers plenipotentiary of these United States in Europe, are vested with full power and authority, in their behalf, and in concert with their allies, to negotiate and conclude a general peace: nevertheless it appears the British court still flatters itself with the vain hope of prevailing on the United States to agree to some terms of dependence upon Great Britain, at least to a separate peace: and there is reason believe, that commissioners may be sent to America, to offer propositions of that nature to the United States, or that secret emissaries may be employed to delude and deceive: In order to extinguish ill founded hopes, to frustrate insidious attempts, and to manifest to the whole world the purity of the intentions, and the fixed and unalterable determination of the United States;

Resolved unanimously, That Congress are sincerely desirous of a permanent and honourable peace: that as the only means of obtaining it, they will inviolably adhere to the treaty of alliance with his most christian majesty, and conclude neither a separate peace nor truce with Great Britain; that they will prosecute the war with vigour, until by the blessing of God on the united arms, a peace shall be happily accomplished, by which, the full and absolute sovereignty and independence of these United States having been duly assured, their rights and interests as well as those of their allies, shall be effectually provided for and secured:

That Congress will not enter into the discussion of any overtures for pacification, but in confidence and in concert with his most christian majesty;

That to guard against the artifices and machinations of the enemy, it be, and hereby is recommended to the several states, to be vigilant and active in detecting and seizing all British emissaries and spies, that they may be brought to condign punishment; that it be enjoined on all officers of departments, charged with persons coming from the enemy, under the protection of flags of truce, to take special care that they do not abuse their privileges, but be restrained from all intercourse with the country and inhabitants, which is not necessary for transacting the public business on which they may be sent: and lastly it is recommended to the several states, that no subjects of his Britannic majesty, coming directly or indirectly from any part of his dominions, be admitted into any of the United States during the war.

Ordered, That the honourable the minister plenipotentiary of France, be furnished with a copy of the above act, and that copies be transmitted to the ministers of these states, at foreign courts, and that in the mean time it be published.

Cha^l Thomson Secy.

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Resolve of Congress. Oct^r 14 82
relative to a separate Peace