

Head Quarters Springfield

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Gentlemen

June 19. 1780

From the vast importance of the thing, I hoped that I should have been informed before this, of the measures which the several states meant to adopt, in consequence of your late requisitions; but as I have not, I am certain you are unadvised yourselves, and have only to lament with you the delay. This is a point of primary consequence. We are now arrived at the period, when we may momentarily expect the fleet from France. For want of information, it has been impossible for me to digest a system of co-operation. I have no data on which to proceed—and of course; were the armament to come, I should find myself in the most delicate embarrassing and cruel situation. The French Commanders, from the relation in which I stand, the instant they reach our coast, will look to me for a plan of the measures to be pursued—and I ought, of right, to have one prepared: But I cannot even give them conjectures. The interest of the states—The reputation of their Councils—The Justice and gratitude due our Allies are regard for my own character, all demand that I should without delay, be enabled to ascertain and inform them what we can or cannot undertake. Besides, there is a point now to be determined, on which the success of all our future operations may turn, which for want of knowing our prospects, I am altogether at a loss what to do in —

To avoid involving the Fleet and Army of our Allies in circumstances, which if not seconded by us, would expose them to material inconvenience and hazard;

hazard, I shall be obliged to suspend a step, the delay
of which may be fatal to our hopes - I therefore beg
leave to suggest to the Committee the indispensable
necessity of writing again to the different States, urging
them to give immediate and precise information of
the measures they have taken - the success they have
had and the probable result of them

I have the honor to be
with great respect & Esteem

Gentlemen

Your most Obedt. Servt.

J. Washington

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Letter from Gen. Washington
to the Committee of Co-operation.
19 June, 1787.
(Copy)

Honble Committee of Cooperation

From Gen. Washington
of June 19, 1787