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Head Quarters 13th July 1780

Gentlemen.

We have received intelligence, through different channels from New-York, that the *Guadalupe* had arrived there on Sunday morning and brought us account, that she had fallen in with a large French fleet, consisting of several sail of the line, and a number of transports between the capes of Virginia and Delaware. This intelligence has every appearance of authenticity; and, if true, the arrival of the fleet on the coast may be immediately looked for. This indeed must be the case at any rate, from the time they are said to have sailed.

It cannot be too much lamented that our preparations are still so greatly behind hand. Not a thousand men that I have heard of have yet joined the army, and in all probability the period for commencing our operations is at hand. I am happy to learn, that a spirit of animation has diffused itself throughout the States, from which we may expect the happiest consequences: But the exigency is so pressing that we ought to multiply our efforts to give new activity and dispatch to our measures — Employing and forwarding the men — providing the supplies of every sort required: forage and transportation demand particular attention. After what had been concerted with the honorable the Congress; after two months

months previous notice of the intended success,
if our allies find us unprepared, and are obliged
to wait several weeks in a state of inaction,
it is easy to conceive how unfavorable the
impression it will make of our conduct.

Besides this, the season is exceedingly advanced
— a decisive enterprise, if our means are equal
to it, will not permit us to lose a moment
of the time left for military operations, which
if improved with all the vigor in our power, is
less than were to be wished, for an undertaking
of so arduous and important a nature. —
So much is at stake — so much to be hoped —
so much to be lost, that we shall be inex-
cusable, if we do not employ all our zeal
and all our exertion.

With the highest respect and
esteem I have the honor to be

Gentlemen &c

G. Washington

(a copy)

Hub of the Committee
of Cooperation

Genl Washington's Letter
13 July 1780