

hd. Sandwich. Mem^{to} to Cabinet.

Fortesque 2275

2885

Communicated to April 6th 1778

The Cabinet.

Present L^d Weymouth, L^d George Germaine, L^d North
L^d Amherst, L^d Sandwich.

It is my opinion that there are not ships enough as yet in readiness to form an Squadron fit to meet the French fleet under Mons^r D'Estaing, unless we were to sacrifice every other intended service to this object; or to send out Admiral Keppel with a proper force to try to meet Mons^r D'Estaing; which however seems to me a very dangerous measure, as our own coast & Ireland would then be subject to alarms, as the Brest fleet (without considering the fleet of Spain) would be superior to any thing we shall have ready for sea till Admiral Keppel's return.

