

Lord North

July 18 1779

3448

(2)

18 July 1779

Lord North has the honour of inclos-  
-ing for his Majesty's perusal, some  
extracts of Letters written from  
Holland to Mr Montagu, & a  
note from Mr Devaynes of information  
received from Mr Lanchand. It ap-  
-pears from all these Letters that  
the Cadix fleet has sailed, & that  
the greatest part of it is to join  
Mr S' Morvilliers. The Dutch Letters

by mistake say the number of the  
Combined fleet will be 72 Ships of the  
Line, as, by their account it will not  
exceed at the most, 66. But Lord  
North is afraid that they over-rate  
at the same time, the British  
Fleet which, in all probability, will  
not amount to 40 Ships of the Line  
when they will be called to give battle  
to the fleets of France & Spain.

Lord North was yesterday & today  
seen a gentleman lately arrived from

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Paris, who assures him, that <sup>four</sup> ~~the~~ embarka-  
-tion at St Malo, Granville,  
Havre de Grace & Dunkirk are upon  
the point of sailing for Rye, Winchel-  
-sea, Hastings & Penenden. He seems  
to doubt of the embarkation at Dunkirk  
but speaks with greater confidence of  
the other three, & of the places where  
the disembarkations are intended. Al-  
-though he gives some reason to believe  
his report, Ld North does not  
think it deserving of absolute credit.  
He is of opinion, however, that his  
story is plausible & probable enough

to render it immediately necessary to keep  
an eye upon that part of the country  
& to take every step which may enable  
us to resist with success an invasion  
- in that quarter. Lord North  
has communicated all this intelligence  
- to Lord Sandwich & Lord  
Amherst.

Presby Park. July 18. 1779.

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intelligence about the track  
to Spanish Fort, and  
the situation of the  
country in that quarter.