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To the Hon^{ble} Secy
February 20. 1782

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The very extraordinary Resolution carried by the Opposition last night having obliged Ed. North to notify to me that he thinks it impossible he can be any longer of utility to Me and the Nation in his present situation; I think it proper to authorize the Lord Chancellor to sound Ed. Gower and Ed. Weymouth whether in conjunction with them they cannot form an Administration with such others of any party they may think right to recommend; the basis of Public Measures being founded on keeping what is in our present Possession in North America, and attempting by a Negotiation with any separate Provinces or even Districts to detach them from France, even upon any Plan of their own, provided they remain separate States.

Feb. 28. 1782.

J. C.

[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting on a rectangular piece of paper pasted onto a larger sheet. The text is mirrored across the page, suggesting bleed-through from the reverse side. A small, rectangular piece of tape is visible on the left edge of the pasted paper.]