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27th July 1821

Your Majesty's Confidential
Servants have had under their
Consideration the Humble
Addresses of the two Houses of
Parliament presented to Your
Majesty at the close of the
Session respecting a Reduction
in the Public Expenditure.

They feel it to be their
Duty to observe that in the
course of the Discussions which
led to these Addresses,

Expectations were professed to be entertained by some of those who usually oppose Your Majesty's Government, that a Reduction might be made in the Expenditure of the Country, in all its different Branches, to the amount of four millions per Annum.

Your Majesty's Confidential Servants neither did see, nor can they, upon minute Examination, now see, the possibility of a Reduction to this extent, without serious detriment to the Public Service & manifest Injustice to Individuals.

They are fully & deeply impressed however with the

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Conviction that Economy must be carried in every Branch of the Public Service to the almost practicable extent, & they cannot conceal from Your Majesty - that the most reasonable & moderate of their Supporters look to a saving in the Public Expenditure of from a Million & a half, to Two Millions.

Your Majesty's servants beg leave most humbly to call Your Majesty's attention to the Summary in the inclosed Paper which will at once bring before Your Majesty the mode in which it is proposed to partition the said

Saving amongst the different
Branches of the Service.

The Reduction in the amount
of the Land Forces appears
to be the most material Article
in this Summary. It is the
point upon which the anxiety
of Parliament has been most
clearly manifested; & the
augmentation of the Marines
in 1820, the increase of the
Volunteers, & the embodying the
Militia, take away every pretext
which could be brought forward
in opposition to a Reduction
in the Regular Land Forces.

The numbers proposed to be
reduced upon the whole Army

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are from 12,000 to 13,000 Men, &
Your Majesty's Servants are
firmly persuaded that if a
Reduction to this Extent at least,
is not carried into execution
by the Executive Government,
Parliament will in the next
Session take the Business into
their own Hands, & will
accomplish a Reduction much
more extensive in amount,
& more inconvenient in the
manner in which it will be
effected. Your Majesty's Servants
are in Communication with His
Royal Highness The Commander
in Chief as to the best means

Cabinet

of giving effect to this Reduction
with the least detriment to the
Service, & the Details of such
a Plan will be shortly laid
before Your Majesty.

Your Majesty's servants
think it however of the utmost
importance to obtain Your
Majesty's sanction to the
general Principle before You
leave London, in order that
no time may be lost in
carrying into effect such
parts of the Arrangements
as may admit of early
or immediate execution.

Cabinet Papers

A.A. No 947

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2.
Cabinet Paper on
the subject of
Reductions in Public
Offices.

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