

H. B. to H. North

Mar. 3 1778

(3) 2799

The papers communicated by Mr. Foxton are very curious, those from Edwards and Fother, convince me that France will inevitably go to War, it therefore becomes highly necessary to consider whether Lord Stormont should not soon complain of the open assistance now given by France to the Rebels which has drove us to the unpleasant necessity of visiting their Merchant Ships in the open Sea, and to demand a categorical Answer whether they have signed any Treaty with the Rebels, also whether Lord Grantham should not be directed to communicate this to Spain and complain of the protection given to the Rebel Cruisers. If France on this takes off the Mask whether it ought not to be considered whether the Season is too far advanced for an attack on the West India Settlements of France, or whether to be delayed untill the Autumn in either case the Troops for that Service

Service must be taken from North America. If Spain is not very explicit a Fleet must be stationed to seize the Fleet coming from the Havana, and a Corps of 2000. Men to be sent by Sir Henry Clinton to conquer New Orleans.

A Couple of Regiments of Foot must be sent to Ireland, and additional Companies to them and the other Regiments in that Kingdom raised there to strengthen the Forces in that Island.

I write these thoughts hastily as they occur that Lord North may have these various matters in his head for consideration but untill the Budget is opened and the American paper and the Commons Embarked I think it wisest not to be in a hurry.

Lucena House

March 3. 1778

On p. 6. P.M.