

ld, North

Oct. 4 1778

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Oct. 4.
Plan of expedition
against Greece.

Lord North has the honour of submitting
to his Majesty's consideration an idea, which
he has mention'd to Lord Sandwich & Mr Robins-
on, & to them only.

It would not be difficult, nor expensive
to make an attempt thro' winter on the
Island of Greece: & it may be carried into
execution without weakening us much at
home, & in a manner that is less liable
to discovery than any other expedition
that can be plan'd.

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Goree was taken in the last war by a small force & without much difficulty, & had North has been informid that the French here have done nothing to strengthen it since the Peace of Paris. If taken it will afford a very useful protection to our African Traders & contribute to support our very weak establishments on that Continent.

Sir Edward Hughes is to set out in about a month's time to convey the East India Fleet, & is to take with him for that purpose the Superbe of 74 guns, & the Barford of 64. About the same time

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it will be right to send a 4th gun
ship, & two or three strong frigates
to protect the Trade on the Coast of
Africa; The Directors of the India Compa-
ny most earnestly press for another
ship of the Line, & Lord Sandwich thinks
he can spare the Garmouth for this
service. This whole Fleet (with the addition
of two Bomb Vessels, which are ready,)
might sail together with the India Men
& would be supposed by every body to be
designed for India. It is but little out
of their course to stop at Goree in

their way.

The whole force would consist of.

The Superbe — — — — — 74.

Barford — — — — — 64.

Garnett — — — — — 64.

1 Ship — — — — — 44.

4 Frigate — — — — — 32.

2 S. — — — — — 28.

2 Bomb Ketches — — — — —

The Land force would be Lord the Lord's Regt
about 800 recruits that are going to India.

& the Marines on board the fleet. To this

should be added another Battalion, to accom-
-pany them to Greece, & after leaving 4 or

500 men in the Garrison, to return with the rest to Europe. This Battalion may likewise be supposed to be given to the E. India Company in consequence of their pressing solicitations.

The destination of this expedition may be perfectly conceal'd with ease, & it will take from this country very little more force than we should be oblig'd to send to Africa & India without having any such design. add to this that the French, who seem to have employ'd their whole force in assembling a great fleet in Europe, & in

equipping M^r D'Estaing, appears, for the
present moment at least, to have
abandoned their trade, & their distant
settlements to our mercy. so that there
is much reason to imagine that Gorce
will not be able ^{long} to resist the armament
which we shall send against it. & which
I dare say, might be still further augmen-
ted by a 50 gun ship, which might,
when the business is done, return directly
to England as convoy to the troops.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing
a state of the force employ'd against Gorce

under Mr Keppell, who took the place almost without resistance.

Lad North has leave to add another List of eight ships of the Line which would sail immediately if they had their complement of men. That there are ~~then~~ seamen enough in the nation is evident from the wonderful facility with which the Privateers man their vessels. Lad Sandwich says, that the admiralty can not prep on shore without great difficulty, that they have ^{not} ~~not~~ ^{properly} tenders enough to avail themselves of the sailors which arrive in the

home ward-bound fleets, & that it would be
of no service to press for protection.
It is a pity that some method can not
be devised to expedite the manning
of the Fleet. If we could carry on that busi-
ness with more dispatch, Lord North would
not despair of having a Fleet in the Spring
equal to the combined Fleets of France &
Spain, especially if Lord Howe returns
victorious from America.

Lord North thought it right just to
throw out these ^{for his Majesty's consideration} ideas, before he lost
the honour of paying his duty at St James's
on Wednesday.

Buckingham Oct 4