

A. M. b. h. d. North

3452 Windsor Castle
July 24th 1779

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The intelligence transmitted by Lord North, so far differs from that brought yesterday by the deuant, that it particularises that the French and Spanish combined Fleets expect 12. Ships of the line from Cadix the other only mentioned that 32 Ships of the line were off Cape St. Vincent, consequently we could not tell whether the whole or a part only should come towards us. I may appear strange, but I undoubtedly wish for the return and feel a confidence in the success that never attended any other event provided Mr. Balthus will raise a Corps of Finns on the same foot the other, supplied with officers not in the Army do, I shall think it a most desirable object and of immediate use for the defence of Plymouth, I desire Lord North will instantly send to Lord Amherst that a proper proposal may be sent to Mr. Balthus on what foot it may be raised. Lord Faulconberg's Regt. must not exceed 700. if more money is collected it is to be for recruiting the

[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper]

24 July 1779