

H. M. Lord Sandwich
Copy of 3454-5

3457 New July 29th 1779.

Lord Sandwich ought to be apprized that I yesterday mentioned to Lord Weymouth, Lord North, and Lord Amherst, how very essential it appeared to me the making an alteration or rather Addition to the Instructions of the Admiralty to Sir Charles Hardy of the 19th June; Which matter will be laid before the Cabinet for consideration this day; But as I am so fully impressed with the propriety of this Measure, I can not help stating my sentiments on paper and desiring Lord Sandwich to communicate it to the Cabinet. —

I own when that Instruction was sent, it rather seemed to me to carry an appearance of leaving Sir Charles Hardy towards a retreat for further Success, than leaving him at liberty to take the path the circumstances of the moment might point out as most efficacious; Yet at that time, the Cutlasses, Resolution, Terrible, Formidable, and Prudent had not joined him, it might therefore be cautious to give that Advice; The situation is now changed, all those Ships have probably by this time reinforced the Admiral. In the course of the Month of August scarcely more than the Marlborough, Ardent and Buffalo can be added to his Squadron — Sure that cannot be thought such an additional strength as to render it
advisable.

advisable under the present circumstances to decline an action.
The Ardours now so conspicuous in the Fleet, adds more real strength
to it, than three Ships obtained by a retreat which could not
fail of greatly humbling the spirit of that Squadron. Besides if
Sir Charles quits the Lizard Station, Ireland is quite open to every
attempt of the united Fleets and the East India and the Rich Fleet
from the Islands must fall into their hands. I do not mean by
this that Sir Charles Hardy should be ordered at all Events to risk
an engagement, But should be informed that having received a
very large reinforcement since the date of those Instructions, it
is his duty to take such steps as the Valour and discipline of
the Squadron under his command may naturally encourage, and
should the joined Fleets of the Enemies be too strong for him with
any probability of success to risk a general action, that he
should at least so watch them as to avoid himself of every favourable
contingency; For it must be self evident that if so great and so
well appointed a Fleet retires into Port without having done every
thing that Prudence, a Knowledge of the Profession, and a Spirit equal to
the necessity of the Times, could suggest towards distressing at least
if not defeating the Fleets of our Enemies and protecting the extra-
ordinary Number of rich Merchants now on their return, that not
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only the greatest disgrace must fall upon the commanding Officer
and his recommenders, but what is of infinitely more serious
consequence the whole Nation must either be intimidated, or so
disgusted as to produce universal confusion. —

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New. July 29th 1779.

Copy of a Paper sent to Lord
is desired to be communicated
to the Privy Council. —

to be sent to