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Letter to Lord North

Windsor Castle Sep 25. 1779

From a wish that Lord North should be informed of the subsequent steps I have taken since I wrote to him yesterday, I send a copy of the letter I thought it right to put into Lord Sandwich's hands when he left me to proceed to Portsmouth; He saw it was alarming him in the strongest manner, he therefore thanked me for it and had my consent to make such use of it as he might think advisable, to Sir Charles Hardy he will certainly communicate it at the first interview; I own the unexpected step of the Admirals bravely venturing to come to Spithead and take the necessary refreshments without applying for leave, shews me that he is a man of real resolution and not afraid of the murmurs which the step may occasion; consequently that when prepared to follow the Enemy that he will manfully seek it, none of the popular names is out here and to take such a path; but I am not surpris'd for the hand of Providence seems to be taking a part in our favour. I therefore only admire the Dictates and do not presume to take any other line till it is clearly pointed out.



5 Sept-1799