

ADM 1/502/703-713

(3)

October 27, 1812

Morse to Warren (cont.)

and enforce the prohibition by suitable regulations and penalties, the motive for the practice is taken away. It is this mode that the President is willing, to accommodate this important controversy with the British Government, and it cannot be conceived on what ground the arrangement can be refused.

A suspension of the practice of impressment, pending the armistice, seems to be a necessary consequence. It cannot be presumed, while the parties are engaged in a negotiation to adjust amicably this important difference, that the United States would admit the right, or acquiesce on the practice of the opposite party, or that Great Britain would be unwilling to restrain her Cruisers from a practice ~~that~~ which would have the strongest tendency to defeat the negotiation. It is presumable, that both parties would enter into the negotiation with a sincere desire to give it effect. For this purpose it is necessary, that a clear and distinct understanding be first obtained between them, of the accommodation which each is prepared to make. If the British Government is willing to suspend the practice of impressment from American Vessels, on consideration that the United States will exclude British Seamen from their service, the regulations by which this compromise should be carried into effect would be solely the object of negotiation. The armistice would be of short duration. If the parties agreed, peace would be the result. If the negotiation failed, each would be restored to its former state, and to all pretensions, by recurring to war.

(cont.)