In Congress June 1st 1781.

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Sir,

I am directed to inform you that Congress have received undoubted intelligence both from their Minister at the Court of Versailles, and the minister of France in America by order of his Court, that the Courts of Vienna & Petersburgh have offered their mediation to the belligerent powers for the reestablish=ment of peace. That these overtures had been eagerly embraced on the part of Great Britain: that France had declined her full acceptation thereof until the concurrence of her allies could be obtained for that purpose, at the same time observing that should she again be pressed on this head she would be obliged to enter into a previous plan of negotiation conditionally for her self & allies. That Spain had answered in such manner to the proposals of the mediating powers as to shew her eventual accep=tance. The intervention of such formidable powers will unatoubtedly prove an event the most favorable to these United States, if by a great & timely exertion we sufficiently reduce the force of the enemy now operating in our country. But should languor and inaction subject us to the contempt of the negotiators all the consequences will be chargeable upon our selves. —

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

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