177

(177)

War Office July 28th 1780.

Sir.

177

Hoy

The Board do themselves the honor to inform you that they are directed by Congress to make contracts for a very considerable quantity of shot & shells to be furnished at a short period

In order to carry into execution the intentions of Congress, the Board have sent Capt Joy, into your State for the purpose of engaging as many of the furnaces in the public service, as shall be in his power. As the Board have understood, that some of the owners of these works reside in England, from which it is probable their agents in this Country, will be disinclining to engage in a business of this sort; they submit it to your Excellency & the Honble Council, whether it will not be proper at this particular crisis & on so important an occasion, to make use of the authority of Government, & to compel the agents of these furnaces to do the public work on their receiving a valuable consideration; perhaps some of them may only want an excuse to justify their engaging in an undertaking of this nature; If Capt.

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND