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Sir

War Office April 14th 1777

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There are a Number of Scotch Prisoners at Baltimore on their Way to be exchanged. The Cartel being at present at an End it is thought adviseable that the Prisoners proceed no farther & Col. Stevens of the Virginia Regiment under whose Care they now are has Orders to apply to the Government of your State to receive from him such of the Prisoners as are in Maryland to be conveyed to a Place of Security. You will be pleased to give Orders that some convenient Place for their Reception be provided & the Prisoners safely escorted thither. A Detachment of the Prisoners who are now at New Castle are ordered to Lancaster but as that Place was appointed for the Residence of the Hessians it is feared there is not Room for many other Prisrs & that therefore Frederick will be the most proper Place for those now in Maryland of the Scotch Regiment.

I have the Honour to be
Your very obed Servt
Richard Peters Secy

His Excelly Govr Johnston.