Norfolk 14th March 1781

Capt. O'Bryen

Sir

Capt. Mc Lane arrived this last night with a letter to the Commodore from the Marquis, in which he states the force of the enemy at one frigate and a brig, then off St. Jeromes. Two vessels have come for this morning within five or six miles of the Virginia the same, it is probable, that have since the Marquis's intelligence, but which the Commodore does not think longer than three sloops of war.

The Commodore is not apprehensive of danger from these vessels, but as their real strength is yet to be discovered, or as they may be supported by others, perhaps your Excellency may judge it expedient to add to the precautions the establishment will necessarily take for our safety

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