

Port of the Phalere 24 April 1827

My dear Sir Richard

In forty-eight hours, the question of relieving Athens is at a close. I have told Karaiskaki what I think of the state of affairs, and I have made up my mind to act accordingly taking upon me all the responsibility of not looking longer on at stubborn disputes – whilst it is resolved by the Greeks themselves not to march to the relief of Athens.

I have not sent the transports to Attica to raise the miserable inhabitants at this late hour, and so have the load on my conscience of causing their heads to be struck off when we know it is too late for them to be of the least service in relieving the Acropolis. Colonel Gordon had rightly long ago endeavoured to prevail on Karaiskaki to do this, but he resisted every application for reasons which it will be well if he can explain

If your men will not come over, and Karaiskakis will not pass in the night the miserable tambours, which in that case are no impediment what is the use of my delaying my Squadron here? I have viewed the Bugbear of a Convent this day from all sides, that is from opposite sides, and it is no more in Karaiskakis way than the church of Poros.

I have since writing to you then evening received your [1] note, requesting that 600 men shall be transported hence to Karaiskakis camp in the rear. The naval funds have been expended and our provisions exhausted in bringing forces nearer to the Enemy. I am sure, if you reflect, that his headquarters are twice as far from Athens as the Phalere, you will be of my opinion that it would be better to bring an equal number or even the whole of Karaiskakis people here and endeavour immediately to save Fabier and the garrison from destruction.

I shall hold the transports in readiness for their embarkation and to advance Karaiskakis towards Athens, but I cannot divert the transports at this **critical** moment to the purpose of conveying part of our advanced force twice as far from the Acropolis in order to fight tambours without the slightest chance of any beneficial result.

Surely it has been entirely forgotten that by marching to Athens, the Greek force will be immediately increased by nearly 2000 men - it may be well to put Karaiskaki in mind of this. My anxious wish is to do whatever is right, but the moment is now arrived, when I can no longer admit of hesitation, so far as regards my official duties

Believe me