

To General Sir Richard Church

Of the Phalere
evening of the 24th April 1827

My dear Sir Richard

Forty-eight hours and the question of relieving Athens is at a close. I have told Karaiskaky 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 insignificant disputes – whilst it seems resolved by the Greeks themselves not to march for the relief of Athens.

I have not sent the transports to Attica to raise the miserable inhabitants at this late hour, when it is well known that it is too late for them to be of the least service in relieving the Acropolis and so load my conscience with being the willing instrument of their destruction. I can assure you Sir Richard that Colonel Gordon and myself, laboured long ago to prevail on Karaiskaky to do this and he resisted every application for reasons which it will be well if he can explain hereafter.

If your men will not come over, and Karaiskaky will not pass the miserable tambouris, that (if he shall march by night) aca not in his way, of that use am I here. I have viewed the bugbear of a Convent from all sides, that is from opposite sides, and it is no more in Karaiskakys way than the church of Poros. If he really finds himself in a position whence, he cannot extricate himself with his cowardly troops by land, I shall transport him by sea.

I have since writing the above received your note, requesting 600 to be taken back to the headquarters of Karaiskaky. I must see you first for the naval funds and provisions have been expended in bringing a force nearer to the enemy. I am certain, if you reflect on this demand of his, you will be of my opinion that it would be better to bring an equal number or even the whole of Karaiskakys people here and endeavour immediately to do something [1] effectual to save Fabvier and his garrison from destruction inevitably attendant on the present mode of proceeding.

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.

If Karaiskaky wants more men he wants them to take tambours and not to march past them as he ought for his present position is of no use whatsoever, having the Phalere as he has to tatin to within one half the distance from Athens at which he now is.

Do for Godsake cause some rational mode of proceeding to be adopted or let us give it up: for we are now only in the way by occasioning. jealousy and promoting the most vile intrigues. I shall hold the transports and ships of war in readiness for the embarkation of Karaiskaky' troops, or to embark the abandoned garrison of the Acropolis if it should arrive at the beach, but I cannot divert them at this critical moment to convey people trice as far from the Acropolis to fight tambouris which ought to be passed without firing a shot and all the present position of our people except the Phalere abandoned.

Surely it has been entirely forgotten by Karaiskaky that the Greek force on arriving at Athens will be immediately increased by the force of the garrison or 1500 men, to aid their return if they do not think fit (as they may) to remain, after being the instruments of saving the people: from death and slavery.

My anxious wish is to do whatever is right - and I am come to learn from your own mouth your opinion. The moment is now arrived when my public situation will no longer admit of hesitation.

Believe me. [2]

To General Sir R. Church

My dear Sir Richard

I am now anchored of the Pireus and am ready to transport Karaiskakis troops from a position when it seems they cannot according to their notions of military tactics extricate themselves.

Pray go to the top of the hill where I went the other day and you will see how easy the affair is by sea or by land.

yours

Morning of the 25 April.