October 8th 1827.

Gentlemen

Whilst the fleets of his Most Christian & His Britannic Majesty are occupied in preventing the Ottoman fleets and troops from approaching Hydra & Napoli, or any other places of the Morea, or islands in the possession of the Greeks, I learn with great surprise that the Greek vessels instead of hastening to the protection of the place which are threatened, are scattered about like pirates in the mort remote seas, and continue to molest and commit plunder on the commercial vessels of the neutral powers.

I am informed that besides English vessels and others recently plundered Seven French ones have been detained and stripped in open Sea, and two have been conducted to Egina before the so-named prize court.

The Treaty, which unites the three powers has for its basis, as the premium announces, to put an end to the piracies which infest the seas. It devolves therefore on the commanders of each division to use every measure to attain that end.

Vice Admiral Codrington has already announced to you his view of the subject. He considers it our duty not to interfere with the rights which the Greeks have to protect that part of their territory which has already taken up arms. We merely wish to prevent that protection from becoming hostile to the flags of European powers, who seem, for a long time, to have been the only ones which have suffered from the Greeks by sea.

Leaving to the Greeks the right to invade, defend or blockade all the coasts from Volo to Lepanto, and comprehending the islands of Hydra, Spezzia and Egina, and an extent of twelve miles, in [1] distance from the coasts, they have all the requisite space in that distance, and further their cruising must not extend. It is no longer allowed that under pretext of blockade or of Turkish merchandize, that they may run about seeking adventures, and molesting neutrals flags trading with the Ottoman Empire. Ammunition for the Turks may alone be detained. But since it happens that even under this pretext, vessels are constantly diverted from their course, and then plundered, although having no contraband good onboard, and since it has happened that neutral vessels have been taken before the prize counts of Napoli & Egina, where though they have escaped confiscation, they are not repaid for the injury sustained. (as was the case lately with French vessels, which were visited and detained and saw their papers torn up by the Greeks and thrown into the fire, and their men ill-treated. I therefore acquaint you that no French vessel whatever may be her course or her cargo, is liable to be visited by a Greek vessel, or to be tried by any Tribunal - that even in the only case, in which I will allow them to be detained, namely having ammunition on board, they shall not be tried, without my having due notice that I may look into the business, which be assured I will do with justice & impartiality.

It would indeed be a singular thing, if whilst we take upon ourselves the care of ensuring the safety of the islands of Hydra & Spetzia, the vessels of these two islands [2] should treat as enemies our trading vessels, and that the prize court should teach France how far it would allow her commerce to extend.

I therefore hasten to announce to you, Gentlemen,

1rstly that I consider as illegal every letter of marque & whatsoever cruiser it be given.

2ndly that Greek vessels of war, even whilst lawfully acting in objects of war, when they extend beyond the limits requisited for the protection of Greece, namely, from Volos to Lepanto, may, according to the circumstance, be detained & prevented.

3dly that every piracy committed by pirates known to be of Hydra or Spetzia shall be placed to the account of one of those two islands.

I make this Communication to you, Gentlemen, and I beg that you will impart it to the islands of Hydra & Spezzia, & I hope that I may find myself necessitated to recur to those rigorous measures, which my government has presented to me, should I find it requisite to employ them.

I have the Honour to be, Gentlemen

Your Humble Servant

H. de Rigny

Vice Admiral, Commanding the naval

division of H. M. C. M. in the East