private

My Lord

I have been requested by many of the Greeks of the islands to offer a few memorandums concerning their revenues to your Lordships consideration & I hope that the urgent necessity & difficulty of finding some fund for the regular supply of the Greek National Navy will plead my apology, if I repeat what you have already learnt from some better source of information.

It is a fact that the revenues of all the islands of the Archipelago for this year 1827 have been already sold & the proceeds spent without the Govt of Greece applying anything to the support of the fleet or of the army before Athens, which has lived on the supplies of Col. Gordon, Col. Heideck the committees and your Lordship. And what is more alarming the Govt since investing your Lordship with full powers over the islands has endeavoured to levy the contributions usually paid, before you can possibly find time for arranging the means of appropriating these funds for the public service of the Navy- How the revenue of the islands has been spent God knows, but I ethe Gool does not pretend to say it was spent for the purposes of the war -

This state of things is alarming as in Greece a continual supply of money must be found to pay the sailors at the end of every month & to purchase all the stores & provisions wanted for no magazines at present exist- With order the means however may be found as the revenue of the islands under the present robbery & speculation yields 120,000 dollars a year. It is true 8 months must elapse before this is due & if measures be not instantly taken, the customs which under your Lordship protection would yield 80,000 dollars, will be sold for next year. In the meantime, however, the islands have [1] every year paid considerable contributions & they are willing to pay these & even much more to your Lordship that you may not be in any difficulty with the organisation of their Govt; on the condition however of your guaranteeing them from the invasions of irregular troops from the continent & the ravages of the sailors. The islands would make any sacrifice to change the present system & indeed should it continue 12 months it will almost suffice to render the islands as desert as the plain of Attica.

In 1825 Roumely & the Morea paid about 5 million piastres. To the public they now yield not one farthing & the causes which chiefly ruined them are every day gaining ground & laying waste the islands of the Archipelago. The details in some instances are shocking but they do not affect the political question – Scopelos at the commencement of the revolution yielded 100,000 piastres a year. It is now occupied by 2000 soldiers who have fled from the Turks; but find themselves powerful enough to consume all the provisions of this & the neighbouring islands & to cut down the olive trees unless a price is paid for their redemption- Adding the ruin of their country to that of their countrymen. The same thing goes on at Skiathos & Skyros - Naxia, Paros, Amorgos & Zia have likewise suffered severely but the locusts have left these islands.

The memorandums of each island however may easily be verified. The only point of importance is the establishment of some system of Govt which may furnish a regular supply of money for the fleet - to render the existing means available, which at present is not the case – Circumstances strongly prove that an immediate supply of money to secure the regular pay of the sailors is the only means of assembling or retaining foreigners sufficient for manning any portion of the fleet, which I understand your Landship consider absolutely necessary for ensuring obedience to your orders & success at the enemy. [2]

The plan My Lord which has been suggested is this – That a Receiver general's office should be appointed to receive the revenues of all the islands. If there be in Greece a Greek or a foreigner who can he trusted, the office may be under the control of one individual; if not two may be better – Let this office have an armed Vessel at its disposal to collect the revenues; for the leading men in some of the islands have assured me, that a force is necessary to show that they will be protected from paying twice. The Govt of each island will then the made responsible for its own revenue & let the means of collecting it be left entirety to themselves, only compelling them to furnish monthly returns to the receiver general's office & instituting some

mode of appeal lest the Primates should not render justice - No payment shall then he made from this office except
under your Lordships direct orders.

Should your Lordship think it necessary to send some part of the contributions for this year, it is advisable to send instantly authority to prevent any further payment of revenues under the pretence of supplying the troops, particularly if it will be shown that the troops never received one farthing of the late contributions levied.

The division & details of any office which your Lordship may think fit to establish can easily be organised, your commands for its formation is the important point & the hourly delay of some establishment for the purpose diminishes the revenue of this year & perhaps may afford time for a total dilapidation of these revenues which it is pretended will be appropriated for the maintenance of the National Navy.

I hope my Lord you will find some reason in what I say -permit me in conclusion to offer any sincerest wishes for your most ample success & believe me with the greatest respect.

Your Lordships most obedient Servant
George Finlay