

Letter from Alexander Hamilton to George Washington, April 9, 1783

Philadelphia April 9th. 1783

Sir

Congress having appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs Maddison, Osgood, Wilson, Elsworth & myself to consider what arrangements it will be proper to adopt in the different departments with reference to a peace; I am directed by the Committee to address your Excellency on the subject of the Military department.

The Committee wish your Excellencys sentiments at large on such institutions of every kind for the interior defence of these States as may be best adopted to their circumstances, and conciliate security with economy and with the principles of our Governments: In this they will be glad you will take as great latitude as you may think necessary; and Will therefore assist entering into any details.

The Committee apprehend it to be the intention of Congress to lay down a general plan, to be carried into execution as circumstances will permit; and that in attending to such dispositions as the immediate situation of the Country may require, they are chiefly desirous of establishing good principles, that will have a permanent salutary operation.

I have the honor to be

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Alexⁿ. Hamilton

Chairman

His Excellcy

Genel. Washington

Transcript Source: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History