

14th August 1795

Present

Lord Chancellor

Lord Privy Seal

Duke of Portland

Marquis Cornwallis

Earl Spencer

Lord Hawkesbury

Lord Grenville

Mr Pitt

Mr Windham

Mr Dundas

His Majesty's

Confidential Servants

having taken under their

serious consideration the

present state of the War,

and the force applicable

to the prosecution of it,

have resolved humbly to

submit to his Majesty

the following particulars

That the prosecu

-tion of the War by

a vigorous exertion both

by Sea and Land, in
the West Indies, is essen-
-tial to the present,
and future, security of
his Majesty's Colonies
in that part of the
World, and for this pur-
-pose it is necessary that pre-
-paration be forthwith
made for offensive
operations both in the
Leeward Islands and in
the Island of S. Domingo

That the conquest
of Guadaloupe &
S. Lucia not only from
their own intrinick value,
but as being essential to
the preservation of his
Majesty's other Colonies,
must be attempted with
the utmost expedition -

and with less than 15,000
Effective Infantry, this
object cannot be attempted
with any reasonable
prospect of success

That from the
opinion of such Officers
as have served in St.
Domingo in the course
of the present War, it
appears, that with
a force of less than
12,000 effective Infan-
try, it would be
unwise to attempt the
attaining Possession of
such Ports and Harbours,
as are requisite to main-
tain the Sovereignty
of that Island; and that
altho a less force
might be beneficially

employed to a certain
extent, it would still
leave the one half,
even of the French
part of St. Domingo,
totally in their power,
so that with that
half, and the whole
of the Spanish Part
of the Island, the
possession of the North
part by His Majesty's
Forces would be un-
-cure, and in no respect
adequate to the attain-
-ment of those impor-
-tant consequences to
be derived from the
complete possession of
the whole of the
Ports and Harbours on
the Coast of St. Domingo.

and in particular,
would not remove the
danger to which
the Island of Samarra
must be exposed, if
the French are suf-
ficed at this moment
to maintain a force
respectable footing in
the Island of S. Do-
-mengo

That makes
the proper allowances
for the defalcations of
Men, unfit for service
from various causes it
does not appear upon a
most accurate examination
of the Disposable Force
in the Country, that
after allowing 15000
Effective Men to act

the Leeward Islands,
and there will remain
(including the German
Corps) more than
9000 Infantry applica-
ble to the Service
of S. Domingo -

Under these Cir-
-cumstances - His Ma-
-jesty's Confidential
Servants think it their
Indispensable duty unani-
-mously to state to
His Majesty their
Opinion that a
Body of Guards amount-
-ing to 3000 Men to
serve under General
Abercromby, is essentially
necessary to give a
fair chance of

prosecuting the War with
Vigor, or of bringing
it to an honorable
Conclusion

M370

Copy of a Memoir of
Edmund (14th Dec. 1795)