

tirely in my Confidence, and is fully authorized to treat and conclude with you on the Subject respecting which he has received my Instructions.

(Signed) **FREDERICK** Duke of York,  
Commander in Chief of the  
Combined English and Russian  
Army.

*To General Brune, Commander in  
Chief, &c. &c. &c.*

*Head-Quarters, Schagen Brug,  
October 15, 1799.*

**B**y virtue of the Authority, and in obedience to the Order of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, Commander in Chief of the Combined English and Russian Army, Major-General Knox will have the Honor of communicating with General Brune, Commander in Chief of the French and Batavian Army, and of stating to him,

That in consequence of the Difficulties arising from the very unfavourable and unusual State of the Weather at this Season, we have judged it expedient to re-occupy the Position of the Zuyp.

That in this Situation, with Cantonments amply adequate to the Amount of our Forces, having an uninterrupted and certain Means of keeping up our Communication with England, and Matters as we are of the Helder, the Texel, the Zuyder Zee, and the Ocean, it depends upon us either to await the Period when a favourable Change of Weather and of Circumstances may enable us to renew offensive Operations, or to withdraw our Army by Degrees and without Risk from this Country, retaining Possession of such detached Points as might be judged most favorable for annoying the Enemy, or for securing real Advantages to ourselves.

In the Event of our recurring to this last-mentioned Measure, it will become our Duty to neglect no Means which can contribute to the Preservation of the brave Troops entrusted to our Care, and for this Purpose (however distressing, however ruinous to the Inhabitants, and to the County, the Alternative may be) we shall be compelled to avail ourselves of those dreadful Expedients which it is in our Power to adopt. Having perfectly at our Disposal the Sea Dykes, both towards the Ocean and the Zuyder Zee, as well as the Interior Dykes, we should in that case be reduced to the terrible Necessity of inundating the whole Country of North Holland, and of adding to this Calamity every destructive Evil which must necessarily result from an Attempt to force or interrupt our Retreat. We should, under such Circumstances, also be constrained to make use of the ample Means we possess, of rendering the Navigation of the Zuyder Zee henceforth impracticable, by obstructing the Mars Diep, and destroying the Nieuwe Diep; Works upon which so many Years Labour, and such immense Sums have been expended.

Our System of carrying on War having on all Occasions been governed by the most liberal Principles, Necessity and the strongest Sense of Duty could alone induce us to adopt a System repugnant to the Sentiments which have ever directed the Conduct of the English Nation.

From these Considerations, and from our Persuasion that General Brune and the Dutch People

must be actuated by similar Motives, and equally desirous to prevent an useless Effusion of Blood by the amicable Arrangement of a Point which is perhaps the Object of both Parties, and from our Anxieties in case of a different Result, to stand justified to the whole Universe, from whatever Destruction may in consequence devolve upon this Country; we propose and offer to General Brune, and to the Batavian Republic, that the English and Russian Troops shall evacuate, before the End of the Month of November next, all the Coasts, the Islands, and the Interior Navigation of Holland, without committing any Act detrimental to the great Sources of its Navigation, or laying the Country under any Inundations.

For this Purpose, we propose that a Suspension of Hostilities shall take place until the Period above specified.

That during this Interval we shall remain in full Possession of all the Points, and of the whole Extent of Country we occupy at this Moment, and that the Line of the respective Advanced Posts shall also be that of Separation between the Two Armies, and that this Line shall not, under any Pretence, be passed by the Troops of either, even in the Event of our choosing to retire from any Part of our present Position, or of our quitting it altogether.

That during the above-mentioned Interval no Interference shall be allowed, nor any Objections be started, with respect to the Conduct of either of the Parties within the Limits of their respective Possessions; and that all the Rights of War (every Act of Hostility excepted) shall continue mutually in Force.

That we will grant to the Persons and Property of the Inhabitants of the Country occupied by us, every Protection consistent with Discipline, in the Circumstances under which we are placed, and all the Advantages which the Conduct generally observed by British Troops entitles them to expect on such an Occasion.

If these Proposals accord with the Wishes and are conformable to the Intentions of General Brune, there can be no Difficulty whatever in carrying them into Execution in Three Days from the Date hereof.

By Order of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief.

(Signed) **H. TAYLOR**, Secretary.

#### THE FRENCH AND BATAVIAN ARMIES.

EQUALITY. LIBERTY.

*Head Quarters at Alkmaar, the 15th of October  
1799, the 8th Year of the French Republic.*

*Brune General in Chief to the Duke of York, Com-  
mander in Chief of the Combined English and Russian  
Army.*

#### GENERAL,

**MAJOR-GENERAL KNOX**, who was instructed to confer with me on your Part, upon the Subject of a Note which he has delivered, signed by your Secretary, will communicate my Answer contained in an Explanatory Note.

(Signed) **CITIZEN BRUNE**,  
General in Chief of the Com-  
bined French and Batavian  
Army.