

and Situation of the Spanish Troops in Denmark and its Dependencies, the following, according to the various Circumstances that present themselves to my View, appears to form a Plan that promises the fairest Prospect of Success to ensure their Security and ultimate Embarkation.

Those in Zealand I would propose to force their Way to the Peninsula, of which Halkon, near Corsoir, forms the projecting Point towards Sproe. That Isthmus appears capable of being defended, or at least seems to afford the Means of Defence for a few Days, till I could remove them to the Island of Sproe.

Those at Frederica, by seizing on Vessels, might possibly force an Embarkation and unite with those on Funen, which might perhaps be favoured by some Movements of the Troops at Odense.

Separate, or united with those in Jutland, I apprehend those in Funen could secure themselves in the Presqu' Isle (Peninsula) which terminates near the Island of Romsoe, of which the Pass near Kúrteminde appears to form the Gorge, and I could, if necessary, remove them to Romsoe; it would greatly facilitate the necessary naval Operations, and might enable me to send a Ship of the Line towards Frederica to favour the Troops in Jutland, if those in Langeland should be thought in Security on that Island; if they should, the other Troops might be landed at Leisure on that Island, and the whole embarked from thence; but if the Troops at present there are incapable of maintaining themselves at that Place, in that Case I must leave a Ship of the Line and a Sloop, which could at almost any Time receive them on board, and convey them to any other Place that might be approved of, till Transports could be procured for their Reception. My Means, (Three Ships of the Line and Half a Dozen small Vessels at most,) are not perhaps sufficient to embrace all these Objects at once; but the Zeal and Exertion of the Officers and Ships' Companies would greatly diminish the Difficulties, and I should be much aided in lending Assistance to the Troops at Frederica if, as I have before said, those in Langeland should be considered capable of maintaining that Post without any immediate Support. I am aware some Sacrifices of Horses, and perhaps Cannon, might be necessary, and we must be prepared to encounter even unforeseen Difficulties; Naval Arrangements and Movements are ever dependent, in some Degree, on Weather; but I should hope to surmount them all. It would of course be right to drive in Cattle, and take whatever Provisions might be practicable with the Troops, as it would not only save our present Supply which, the Victuallers not having at this Moment arrived, is rather scanty for the Spanish Army, but would put me at Ease on that Score, provided any unavoidable Delay should intervene, and prevent my sending Supplies to them on Shore.

In my present uninformed State I am not in a Situation to judge how far it might be in the Power of, or deemed preferable by the Spanish Commander, to seize on Nyborg. It would secure the Inactivity of the Gun Boats in that Port. But such a Measure might possibly involve the Safety of the Troops in Zealand and Jutland, by inducing the Danes to act hostilely, when otherwise they might be disposed to wink at, or make no serious Efforts to impede the quiet Removal of the Spanish Troops.

But if the Principles of this Plan should be approved of, and deemed feasible by those in Command, I would recommend the Movement to be general. That it be agreed to act upon it in all its Parts the same Day, except a Discovery should take place, in which Case each Part should act immediately without Hesitation.

I acknowledge I should have little Expectation of the Success of any Negotiation for the peaceable Removal of the Troops. But a Declaration immediately after the Movement shall have commenced, of the peaceable and unoffending Object in View, accompanied with a Threat of Retaliation in the Event of any hostile Opposition on the Part of the Danes or French, might perhaps be found advantageous.

In stating the Naval Force at present under my Command, it is right to observe, I am in Expectation of more Ships, and have been informed that a sufficient Supply of Provisions for all the Spanish Troops is now on its Passage to me.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

*To His Excellency the Marquis de la Romana,
Commander in Chief of the Spanish Troops
in Denmark.*

N. B. I have just heard that the expected Supply of Provisions is in Part arrived, which obviates Difficulties on my Part.

SIR, *Brunswick, August 9, 1808.*

I HAVE the Honour to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter of this Morning, and to congratulate you and the Spanish Nation on the firm and manly Step you have taken on this important Occasion. Circumstances of Weather unavoidably prevent the Arrival of Two Ships of the Line now in Sight. I send Captain Graves of the Brunswick, informed of my Ideas, to see what Uses can be made of the Vessels at present in Nyborg. In my present Situation I can receive nearly Fifteen Hundred Men on board; and, under all Circumstances, it appears to me the most advisable to convey the Troops with all Expedition to Langeland; and, as it appears to be the Opinion of your Aid-de-Camp that you will be in a Situation to maintain that Island, to take Post there till the Arrival of Transports to embark the Army, I shall order Seamen in to man Twenty of the Smacks at present in the Port, and more as the Ships arrive. I apprehend the Baggage and Artillery had better be embarked in them, and moved out under my Protection. Among the Spanish Troops perhaps Seamen may be found; and I would suggest the Propriety of the immediate Establishment of a Marine Corps on the most extensive Scale possible; and I request your Excellency to keep in Mind, the Embarkation of Water and Provisions with the Troops, in our present Circumstances, is of great Consequence.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) R. G. KEATS.

*To His Excellency the Marquis de la Romana,
Commander in Chief of the Spanish Troops
in Denmark.*

SIR, *Brunswick, off Nyborg, Aug. 9, 1808.*

HIS Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Spanish Forces in Denmark having deemed it expedient under the present Circumstances to take Possession of Nyborg, my Duty naturally calls me