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IX.

VI.

* Proposals for concerted operation among the powers at war with the Pyratel States of Barbary.

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1. It is proposed that the several powers at war with the Pyratel States of Barbary (or any two or more of them who shall be willing) shall enter into a Convention to carry on their operations against those states in concert, beginning with the Algerines,

2. This convention shall remain open to any other power who shall, at any future time, wish to accede to it; the parties reserving a right to prescribe the conditions of such accession according to the circumstances existing at the time it shall be proposed.

3. The object of the convention shall be to compel the pyratel states to perpetual peace, without price: & to guarantee that peace to each other.

4. The operations for obtaining this peace shall be constant cruises on their coast, with a naval force now to be agreed on. It is not proposed that this force shall be so considerable as to be inconvenient to any party. It is believed that half a dozen frigates, with as many Tenders, or Sloopes, one half of which shall be on cruise while the other half is at rest, will suffice.

5. The force agreed to be necessary shall be furnished by the parties in certain quotas now to be fixed: It being expected that each will be willing to contribute in ^{such} proportion to their abilities as circumstances may render reasonable.

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6. As miscarriages often proceed from the want of harmony among officers of different nations, the parties shall now consider & decide whether it will not be better to contribute their quotas in money to be employed in fitting out & keeping on duty, a single fleet of the force agreed on.

7. The difficulties & delays too, which will attend the management of these operations, if conducted by the parties themselves separately, distant as their courts may be from one another, & incapable of meeting in consultation, suggest a question whether it will not be better for them to give full powers for that purpose to their Ambassadors or other minister resident at some one court of Europe; who shall form a Committee or Council for carrying this Convention into effect; wherein the vote of each member shall be computed in proportion to the quota of his sovereign, & the majority, so computed, shall prevail in all questions within the view of this Convention. The court of Versailles is proposed, on account of its neighborhood to the Mediterranean, & because all these powers are represented there who are likely to become parties to this convention.

8. To save to that Council the embarrassment of personal solicitations for office, & to assure the grantees that their contributions will be applied solely to the object for which they are destined, there shall be no establishment of officers for the said council, such as Commis, Secre.aries or of any other kind, with either salaries or perquisites,

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nor any other lucrative appointments, but such whose functions are to be exercised on board of the said vessels.

9. Should war arise between any two of the parties to this Convention, it shall not extend to this enterprise nor interrupt it; but as to this they shall be reputed at peace.

10. When Algiers shall be reduced to peace, the other pyratrical states, if they refuse to discontinue their piracies, shall become the objects of this Convention either successively or together, as shall seem best.

11. Where this Convention would ^{interfere} ~~interfere~~ with treaties actually existing between any of the parties and of the said States of Barbary, the treaty shall prevail & such party shall be allowed to withdraw from the operations against that State.

Nov: 1786

308 [This plan was approved by Portugal, Naples, the two Sicilies, Venice, Denmark & Sweden - France seemed favourably disposed. Spain alone, having just concluded a treaty with Algiers, was indisturbed - In this state of things, the plan was communicated to Congress, ~~but~~ together with information that we would be expected to maintain a frigate towards its execution. ~~But~~ Unfortunately, the supplies of the Treasury were so uncertain that Congress were not willing to enter into an engagement which they might not be able to fulfil, & thus the plan failed. E.D.]