

Wm. H. Seward  
Secretary of State under  
A. Lincoln May 20<sup>th</sup> 1861

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1861

Department of State,  
Washington, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1861.

To Messrs. Arthur G. Coffin, Wm. Martin, J. R.  
Wachener, Henry S. Sherrerd, and Richard  
S. Smith, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

This Department has no information which is not in possession of the public, in regard to the question submitted by your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant. No foreign Government has announced a purpose of opening its ports to privateers upon our commerce for shelter of such vessels, or for detention or condemnation of prizes. Nor is it apprehended that any such privileges will be allowed by any foreign nation.

I am, Gentlemen, respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
Wm. H. Seward.

