

hey cannot obtain bread at the morning market and he has requested me to authorize you to employ the Swiss regiments arriving in the course of the day at the Champ de Mars to restore order, if need be and only if the regiments of guards and the Swiss regiments already in Paris are insufficient for this task. As this request is solely intended to afford protection to the citizen and to prevent disorder, I fully authorize you to comply with it, employing that habitual circumspection which you have evinced over the past three months which will prompt you to issue the officers commanding the detachments you may be called upon to employ with the most precise and limited orders so that the troops may only act as protectors and scrupulously avoid getting entangled with the people – unless to prevent arson or excesses and pillage which threaten the safety of the citizen.

I trust that you will not have to employ these means and I desire it more than I can express: I am perfectly sure that these are no less your own sentiments.

Caron, 'La tentative de contre-révolution', p. 25

90 Fears for the safety of the Bastille: Broglie to Besenval, 5 July, 3.30 p.m.

... To return to the matters in your letter, I will say straight away that there are two sources of anxiety concerning the Bastille: the person of the commandant and the nature of the garrison there. To obviate these difficulties I have engaged His Majesty to instruct the comte de Puysegur to confer with M. de Villedeuil [minister for the *maison du roi* and Paris] and recommend a good senior officer to whom he can entrust the command of the Bastille and send there as commandant; and you must despatch to this post (today if you can but certainly tomorrow after the arrival of the Swiss regiments who are to camp on the Champ de Mars) 30 men from these regiments to act as a garrison – and see that they are under a very firm officer; and as soon as the artillery regiment arrives you must send in a small detachment of gunners to examine whether the cannons are in good order and to use them if it comes to that – which would be extremely unfortunate but happily is wildly improbable. ...

Caron, 'La tentative de contre-révolution', p. 26

91 Barentin to the king, 8 July 1789

... M. de Mirabeau then proposed a very strong motion to the effect that Your Majesty be beseeched to withdraw the artillery and troops and send

them back to the places from which they were taken. He proposed the establishment of a bourgeois militia, both in Paris and Versailles.

Things were very heated in the Assembly and there were threats to denounce those who had given Your Majesty such a perfidious counsel as to call in troops. I am only giving Your Majesty a faint impression of all the dangerous principles advanced in this session and of the fatal consequences for royal authority to which they could lead: their every act seems to reveal a fixed intention to lay hold of it.

Lettres et bulletins de Barentin à Louis XVI, no. 73

92 Broglie to Besenval, 11 July 1789

The bureaux [of the war office] have sent out their orders so imperfectly and the schedule we have been given for the movement of the troops bears so little relation to the routes that were sent them that they are not arriving on the expected days with the result that they find neither staff officers to receive them nor food and lodgings prepared; all this will sort itself out gradually. ...

As I am apprised from many quarters that there is reason to fear a violent insurrection at daybreak tomorrow, I beseech but also enjoin you – as the king writes to bishops – I instruct you therefore, on the pretext of military exercises, to bring up the battalions of Swiss Guards which are at Rueil and Courbevoie ... before dawn. ...

If there is a general insurrection we cannot defend the whole of Paris and you must confine yourself to the plan for the defence of the Bourse, the Royal Treasury, the Bastille and the Invalides. ...

Caron, 'Contre-révolution', pp. 27–8

93 Saint-Priest on the collapse of royal authority in Paris after 14 July

Necker [on his return from exile] appeared before the National Assembly and received an ovation. Next, he wanted to go to Paris to enjoy a triumph and show himself at the Hôtel de Ville. As the capital fell within the jurisdiction of my ministerial department, I thought the occasion would be propitious to accompany him in order to take possession of the municipal administration of the said city. This was a false step but Necker readily accepted my offer. We left in his carriage, escorted by the National Guard of Versailles ... Finally we reached the Hôtel de Ville. Upstairs we found a table at the head of which were two armchairs which I thought had been put there for Necker and myself, both of us being *ministres d'état*. The mayor, Bailly, offered one to Necker and, without ceremony, took the other.