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Letter, 9 November 1757, written from London by “Dunk Halifax” (1716–1771) [George Montagu-Dunk, 2nd Earl of Halifax], Soame Jenyns (1704–1787), and William Sloper (1709–1789) as commissioners of the British Board of Trade to South Carolina governor William Henry Lyttelton (1724–1808), transmits instructions regarding colonial policy toward Native Americans, colonial defense, and a boundary dispute with the colony of North Carolina.

The commissioners began their letter by praising Lyttelton for the “measure of which you have taken to put the Affairs of the Indians upon a proper foot,” especially considering the “very perplexed & embarrassed state, in which you found Indian Affairs upon your arrival in your Government.” They continued by expressing their approval of the sentiments expressed by the South Carolina Commons House of Assembly that “trade with the Indians should be put under proper regulations,” but warned that any measures taken by individual colonies in this regard must “from the very nature of it, be partial and local, and probably will be counteracted by the measure of another Province the people of which may carry on a trade with the same Indians.” The commissioners preferred the establishment of a “general system under the sole direction of the Crown and its officers,” and asked Lyttelton for his “sentiments upon it, and your assistance in furnishing us with such lights and information as you shall think necessary.”

Next, they praised Lyttelton for the “prudent and vigorous measures you have taken for putting the Province into a proper posture of defense” following the outbreak of the Seven Years War (or French and Indian War) in 1754, and for his amicable relationship with the Commons House of Assembly, which enabled “proper supplies to carry those measures into execution.” As a result, the Commissioners forwarded Lyttelton’s request to the King of “having an engineer or two sent to you for directing the works proposed to be carried out for the defense of the Province.”

The commissioners concluded their letter by affirming Lyttelton’s suspension of William Wragg (1714–1777) from the Royal Council and urging the “speedy settlement of the boundary line between North & South Carolina...for the peace, quiet and good Government of both Provinces.”

William Henry Lyttelton, first Baron Lyttelton, was appointed Governor of South Carolina in 1755 and served until 1760, when he became Governor of Jamaica. **Acquired through the Allen Stokes Manuscript Development Fund.**