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WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,  
Richmond, Va., November 10, 1862.

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
Commanding, &c.

GENERAL: The letter of Colonel Gonzales, with your endorsement recommending the immediate construction of two light-draught iron-clad gunboats at Charleston, was submitted to the Chief of the Engineer Bureau, who reported that such vessels would be of great value in the defense of that city if constructed in time; but that they could not be paid for from the Engineer appropriation, and recommended a reference to the Secretary of the Navy. This was done, and Mr. Mallory replies that "the Navy Department is now constructing all the boats at Charleston that it can find mechanics and materials for. If there are parties in Charleston able and willing to build iron-clad war vessels, this Department will employ them at once."

Your obedient servant,

GEO. W. RANDOLPH,  
Secretary of War.

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*Note - This is included in the Navy  
Dept. was of little acct. & several  
the troops in Charleston were greatly  
superior in every respect. G. T. B.*