

# Rolling Toward Revolution ... October 1774



**In Philadelphia:** The delegates to the First Continental Congress continued their deliberations until October 26. Two competing sentiments drove the discussions and debates. The Pennsylvania delegation were moderates urging reconciliation. The more aggressive group, insisting on guarantees of established rights of Englishmen, were led by the Adams cousins (Massachusetts delegation) and fiery Patrick Henry, Virginia delegation. The possibility of separation from England was openly discussed in a shared colonial forum for the first time. **New Jersey** leaned toward a moderate position but had its own divisions within the state. Its delegates monitored the positions of both the Pennsylvania and New York delegations closely. They weren't ready... yet.

The three official documents passed by the First Continental Congress offered something each camp could be satisfied with:

**October 14:** A **Declaration and Resolves** stated the colonies' shared objections to British rule beyond the Intolerable Acts, asserted the rights of the colonists as English subjects, and itemized their grievances.

**October 20:** **Articles of Association**, alias the Continental Association, called for a boycott of all imported goods from Great Britain should the Intolerable Acts remain in effect. One clause called for the banning of slave trade and proposed other economic action to be fostered among the colonies.

**October 25:** The **Petition to King George III** ended the session in a way that satisfied the moderates, but left the door open to future, more decisive action. The formal petition summarized the grievances of the colonies for the King. It didn't blame him for them but asked for redress. Upon its receipt, Ben Franklin, still in Britain, would personally present the petition to his Majesty.

Before adjournment, the Continental delegates agreed to re-assemble in Philadelphia in May of 1775. Though they had not proposed extreme measures, the delegates recognized the political situation would not quickly resolve. They would need to re-assess the situation in light of the King's response. Delegate George Washington, before leaving Philadelphia on this return journey to Virginia, made a few key purchases. He bought some muskets, a military uniform, and a book on military discipline. He believed in being prepared... Sources:

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