Copy.

Headquarters Department of Arizona,

Prescott, A. T., December 9th 1870.

D. B. F. Campbell
and others

Gentlemen:

In reply to your petition of the 6th instant, asking for the establishment of a military post on the headwaters of the San Pedro, near the line of Sonora, for the protection of the settlements in that vicinity against depredations by Mexican outlaws, and roaming Apaches, I have to state that the limited appropriations by Congress for the present fiscal year, and existing laws prohibiting the expenditure of public funds except for the objects for which appropriations are made, leaves it out of my power to comply with your request at present.

over

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USFH-00000620

Your petition will be forwarded to the Secretary of War, with a recommendation that Congress be solicited to appropriate a sufficient sum for the desired object.

I have heretofore reported on the pecuniary necessity of troops on the border.

Under ordinary circumstances, it would be possible to place troops in camp at the point designated until money could be obtained for the construction of a permanent post, but the allowance for forage at present is so limited that barely sufficient to keep the public animals alive can be afforded them.

Such scouting as it is possible to do with the means at hand will be kept up, and as soon as it is possible, more will be done

Very respectfully

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