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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Phoenix Area Office
Hopi Agency
Keams Canyon, Arizona

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United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, Hopi Agency
Hopi Hearings July 15-30, 1955

Minutes of the meetings held on the Hopi Reservation during July 15-30, 1955 by a Committee appointed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Mr. Glenn L. Emmons, to hear the problems of the Hopi people. The Committee was composed of Mr. Thomas M. Reid, Assistant Commissioner, Chairman; Mr. Joe Jennings, Program Officer and Mr. Graham Holmes, Program Officer. The Phoenix Area Office was represented by Mr. Harry L. Stevens, Assistant Area Director (Community Services), and the Hopi Agency by Mr. Clyde W. Pensoneau, Superintendent, both as observers. Stenographers for the hearings were: Mrs. Leora R. Weaver, Mrs. Else W. Kingsley, Mrs. Helen L. Brenner and Mrs. Adella L. Adams. Meetings were conducted at the following villages and on the following dates:

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not only the Indians but the white people all over the world. We are going to look for the best life and make our lives better. That is what I have been instructed by my people and the white people. There is no necessity of having all this murdering, stealing and everything. Thank you for your kind attention.

David Monongye: One of the earliest statements of policy is in the Northwest Orders of Congress, dated July 13, 1787 states: "The utmost good faith shall always be observed toward the Indians. Their land shall not be taken away from them without their consent." I feel they are sincere men and want to do the right thing, and I am glad they are here today.

One of the things we have talked about and objected to is the highway coming through our Hopi land, because of this road many of our people have lost their trees and farms and most of them without the consent and without their knowledge. These trees to us are the very goal of our life, because it is our food which we put into our bodies so that we may be well and strong, and we must spend much time taking care of these things. Yet in order to put this road through, those who are working on it do not get the consent from the people, but went ahead and cut many of the trees down. I have protested this matter with other people, and I want to say again that I do not want this highway to go through, because I know what it will do to our life here. I have read many articles of what has taken place in other Indian lands. Many Indians have allowed highways through their land and lost much of it, and now their lives have been corrupted. Knowing this, I do not want this to go through. I want to bring this out because I feel these men are sincere and want to do the right thing and are willing to listen. And I want to explain this life plan that this road would destroy.

I want to bring out this Hopi life which is followed since he first came to Oraibi. It was at Oraibi here the Great Spirit who gave this life plan to us, and here we established our first village. Here all these life patterns are being told to the various religious orders which were established at that time, and all are for the future of the Hopi people and all those who are with him here. In Oraibi we obtained this life pattern of the Hopi which has been told until things took place that cause people to not teach their young people of this life pattern, and many of them knowing this failed to pass on down to their children, but some of us would obtain these life patterns from our forefathers and have remembered them and are striving to keep within this life pattern of the Hopi which life is for all of us.

(Illustrates with a map or drawing of the Life Plan)