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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
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Moquies Chiefs

Conference

June 27/90

With Commissioner of

Indian Affairs

Copy furnished Indians
June 28/90

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CONFERENCE WITH MOQUI PUEBLOS.
INDIAN OFFICE JUNE 27, 1890

Present Commissioner Morgan
Agent C. E. Vandever,
Thomas V. Keams, Interpreter,
Shimo, Tribal Chief
Polawa (Polacca), Chief Tewa,
An now its, Chief Schichita navc,
Honani, Chief Civaluvi
Lalolamy, Chief Oraibi (Oraibi).

Shimo. I have never seen the Great Father before. I am glad for what I have seen on the way here and look on your face now. On the way we saw great fields of corn and wheat and grass, every thing was green and beautiful, very different from our dry country, where we raise only a little for want of water. What we need is a water supply. We noticed that all the white people were busy at something. We let our horses loose in our few watering places and when we go after them we find them short. Some of the Navajos take them and they encroach on the water too. The Agent is far off; by the time he hears the horses are gone. Before we left home we lived, as it were, with closed eyes. What we had heard of Americans we could not believe. But now our eyes and our ears have been opened. We will tell the others when we get home what we have seen and those who live on the mesas may with help be willing to come down. We have lived on the mesas for fear of enemies, but there are no enemies now. All of us work hard. The women and children grind corn and work in the house and the men work in the fields from morning till night; our hands are blistered, but we accomplish little. But the white men got wonderful things done. They put up a house in a short time. We have to come from the top of the mesa for wood and water and it is a great deal of work. But our houses are there. If we could get assistance in building houses I would do all in my power to get the people to come down from the mesa. We need something for grinding corn too. I am old and grey and some of my hair is gone. Since the Americans came to the country we have better clothes and live differently. The Government has treated us kindly and we are thankful for that. If we could have some improvement about water, live down in the plain where the water is handy, we would be better off, and I will try and induce my people to do just as you advise. You have never heard of a Moqui going out and stealing from the whites some of the Navajoes, though, are bad people. I see now how much more pleasantly the white people live. We want wagons and stoves and help to build houses so as to live more like the whites.

Polawa (Polacca). I am not a Moqui but a Tewa. Although my father has the old religion and all the old ideas, yet I have listened to the whites and have moved down from the mesa and have a good house and horses and cattle. We want horses and cattle, stoves

and wagons. When I go back I think we will be willing to do as you ask. I am younger and stronger than most of these, and have taken the white man's way and I think after coming here and seeing things the others will do as I have done.

An now ita. We thank you for allowing us to come here. Our people wanted us to tell you how poor we are. Particularly we want sheep; we could sell the wool and buy what we need. The Navajoes have sheep and they do well. Also we want wagons and stoves. We have seen much on the way and coming here has done us good. We thank you. The Americans are great and strong and have big hearts. We are small and insignificant. When we left we had finished planting, we left our people to take care of our fields. They begged us to ask for assistance, and they will ask us how we succeeded, and what the Great Father will do for us. We shall have a long story to tell them of what we have seen.

Honani. I also thank you for the chance to come here. My people told me to see everything, to find out how Americans live, whether there are many of them &c. I have seen wonderful things. What Indians want most is green grass. The Americans must have plenty of water. We have lived for years on the mesas, away from water. With assistance we will move into the valley near springs and our fields, and then if we had sheep we could sell wool and buy sugar and coffee and other good things and live like whites. We could look after our stock and get pay for what we do like white people. I am a young man and hope to do a good deal. Our horses are stolen by the Navajoes and the Agent can hardly help it. The Navajoes encroach on our water. The stealing of horses is a great trouble both to us and to the Agent. Often we cannot find out who stole the horses. We would like to have that stopped.

Lalolamy. My people are blind. Their ears are closed. I am the only one. I am alone. They don't want to go in the white men's ways, although I am Chief. You are strong and have a good heart. You have much to do and many people to look after. I am thankful to see and I want your advice as to what to do with my people who are hard headed. We are very poor and very few, especially compared with the white people whom we have seen. All of it is very wonderful. We don't know much about improving what little water we have and any assistance my people would be glad to get. I can tell my people now that I have seen you with my own eyes. I have seen for them. I want to know from you what is best to be done for them. Some of my people seem to have hearts of stone, blind eyes, deaf ears and don't believe what is told them. They are away from the world and know nothing except what is there where they live. This journey is a great thing for me. I never saw any thing in my life before. We raise corn, melons, peaches and some other vegetables and do fairly well, but here we have already seen melons and peaches. Ours are not ready yet. We work hard and our lives are centered in our work to raise what we can, and any assistance from you we will appreciate. Probably the hard headed and hearted

people may sometimes believe what is told them. The Agent if he had not a good strong heart would not have been able to do what he has for the Navajoes and us.

Commissioner. I am glad you have enjoyed coming here, and I want you to go to Carlisle and to see all you can. As you see the white people are very much greater in numbers than you are. They are increasing very fast, and are very prosperous. They live in good houses and have good clothes and plenty to eat. Two things make them prosperous, one is that they educate all their children and keep them in school year after year, and they learn about books and how to do all kinds of things. The white people educate the women too, as you see here, and when they are educated they all work. These are the two things, we educate all our children and we all work. We are establishing schools for the Indian children, where they may be educated as white children are. If your children would go to those schools and stay as ours do, then your girls would learn to wash, iron, keep house, and your boys would learn farming, blacksmithing, carpentering, &c., they could learn to do just as well as white children do. When you go to Carlisle you will see Indian girls and boys doing just as white boys and girls do.

I will talk with your Agent and see what can be done for you. He knows you and lives near you and you must take his advice. I shall be glad to do whatever I can for you, with whatever money Congress gives me to spend.

All except this part of the cost was given the Indians.

To Agent Vandever: - How many families have moved down?

Agent Vandever. Eight. This man has a good house, plastered, and he has a stove. All the eight except two have stoves.

Commissioner. Provide those that are already down with stoves. I will authorize that so far as I have the power. If there is another company who want to go down from the mesa, help them to build.

Agent Vandever. They need doors and windows. They should do the hauling themselves. I think about forty would go if some help were given them.

Commissioner. Is there a carpenter at the school?

Agent Vandever. Yes.

Commissioner. I will spare the carpenter from the school for awhile and will instruct him to show you how to build houses. So far as we give help it must be given to those who go down from the mesa.

Agent Vandever. They have never got any thing for their sick and when they come to the school the Dr. does not give medicines or wait on them. He says the medicines are for the school. For implements next year, they need only hoes and axes.

Commissioner. Next year I will try and have a blacksmith's shop established. I will ask the Secretary to authorize that. I will see what can be done towards furnishing medicines. The Agent is going down to stay with you for a month or two, and I will instruct the school carpenter to show you how to build houses and so far as I can I will help those who go down from the mesa. I cannot do very much, but I will do what I can.