Arizona

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OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd MAR 6 1880

Moquis Agency.
Feby 23. 1880.

SC 147

Merritt. E.S.

Regarding necessity for Reservations for Moquis Pueblo Indians, &c,—

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CV-6417-201

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Un-official

Moquis Agency, A.T.
February 23. 1880.

Sir:

Allow me to state for the information of the government that I have in my possession a long letter from the Hon. Comsr. of Ind. Affairs regarding the segregation from the public domain of a Reservation for the Moquis Pueblo Indians, and also, as to whether they would consent to removal to the Little Colorado River, &c.

Having lived in the immediate vicinity of Pueblo Indians and Mexicans for near twenty (20) years, I most emphatically state that they could not be induced to change their location, and cannot be removed, except by force.

They are entirely self supporting in their present locality, and have been so from time immemorial, as reported by Don Cabeza de Baca centuries ago — They are more frugal and industrious than the Mexicans, have less vices, and more wealth, and better land generally, than the same number of Mexicans.

They, the Moquis, absolutely require Reservation and action should not be delayed — A piece of land 6 or 8 miles long & 3 or 4 miles wide in the form of a parallelogram, with the Mesa & the Each Village in or near the centre, is all which is required — about 3 Reservations — also a Timber Reservation of 6 or 8 square miles — at a distance

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of about 10 Miles, as there is no timber for fuel or building nearer —

The Agency building is too small for a Boarding School & Agency purposes, it is in a Cañon, narrow gorge, dry bed of a river, and liable to be overflowed at any time during the heavy rains in Summer — It is 15 miles from the nearest Village, Indians will not live in a Cañon, or stay in it, any longer than they can fill their belly, & procure a new suit of clothes — It is very unhealthy, the air at night, particularly heavy & cold, you cannot see but a few hundred yards for perpendicular bluffs — it should be sold or abandoned — Nearly all the reports written by Agents during the past few years regarding the Indians in New Mexico & Arizona are written from interested motives and do not show the real condition of the tribes — The Pueblo Indians of Arizona and New Mexico, want day schools, that is all, they dont want any Agent, it is useless expense, If they want some books &c, they could get them from the Teacher, a few articles once a year —

To the Hon. Commr of Ind Affrs. Washington.

Respectfully:
E. S. Merritt.

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