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AUG 11 1882

Santa Fe N.M.

July 31/82.

Inspr. Howard.

Rel to Navajoes off their reserve. a reservation for them and the Moquis appr of new agent &c.

Regarding Moquis, see report to Secy. enclosing draft of Ex Order. Dec 13, 1882, also see 21.371 and 22 383 - 1882.

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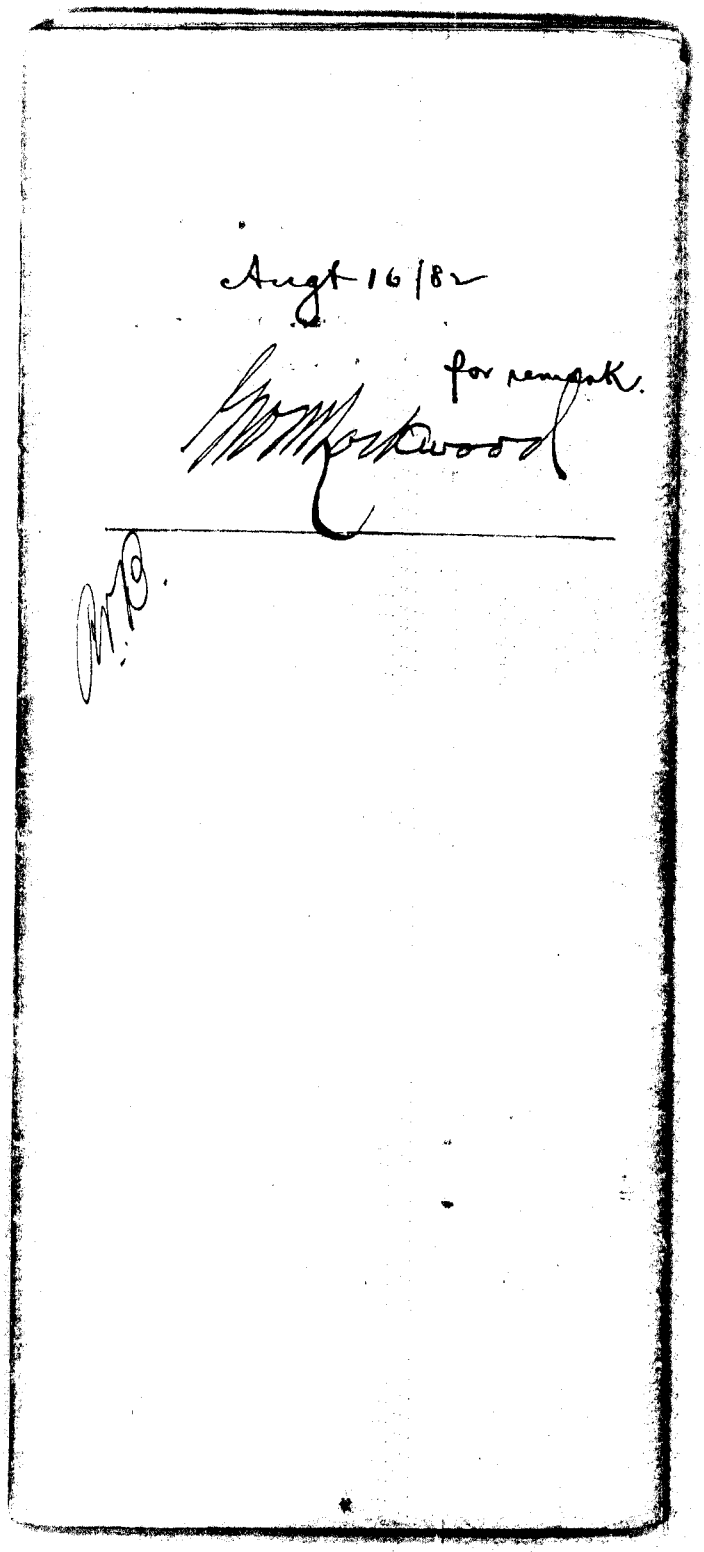

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United States Indian Service,

Office of U.S. Indian Inspector ~~Agency~~,

Santa Fe, N.M., July 31, 1882.

Hon. H.M. Teller,
Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I do not think it wise for me to defer one or two matters until I shall have completed my full report of recent inspections of the Navajo Agency and of the situation and prospects of the Navajos.

The complaints of citizens more or less contiguous to the reservation as to depredations of the Indians and the encroachments by their flocks are so numerous and strenuous that something ought to be promptly done.

I am disposed therefore at once to recommend some general policy which shall at least put in motion agencies to remove the evils. First, instead of there being some half dozen parties off the Reservation as represented by ~~the~~ Governor,

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Sheldon, such lands should be counted by hundreds. They are to be found at distances ranging from 5 to 150 miles. They consist of roving families or tribes who are doing little in the way of agriculture and who live by herding, and others who have fixed farms and have lived upon them for 2, 3, and even as long as 9 years. After very careful inquiry of all persons best informed and after visiting different parts of the reservation on horseback so as to reach land that would otherwise be inaccessible and after going over large tracts of country extending 50 miles or more to the West of the Reservation I have come to the conclusion that considerably upwards of one-half of the entire Navajo people are living off the Reservation. There are at least four Navajos off the Reservation in Arizona. Second: I also made careful inquiry of the

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Capacity of the Reservation to sustain all of these Indians, I have no hesitation in saying that if they should all be crowded back on the Reservation it would become necessary for the United States Government to resort again to feeding them. At every ~~important~~ Council held the Indians themselves complained that they had not, even as now situated, sufficient room for their flocks and herds. Men, who themselves are practical herders and who have been on the Reservation for more than 10 years, military officers in the vicinity who have had a good chance to observe, and intelligent citizens living near the Reservation, all agree that there is not any too much grazing land on the present Reservation to support the herds and flocks now located there and that if the present rate of increase goes on a more diversified industry will become necessary or pasturage must be sought elsewhere.

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Third: At the same time it seems to me a necessity that all those Navajos who are off the Reservation to the North, to the South, and to the East and who live exclusively by pastoral habits and especially as they are pretty likely to couple with them more or less of stealing of Cattle and Sheep from the whites and are very certain to come in Contact with whiskey Saloons — always to be found outside the Reservation — Should be compelled to return to their Reservation.

My proposition in view of these facts is two fold, first: I recommend that the Agent be required to ascertain the whereabouts of every Party of Navajos off the Reservation in New Mexico and Colorado and what they are doing for a livelihood and that he instruct the wandering bands that they must return at once and keep within the bounds of the reservation and that he

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furnish passes, in some specified form, upon printed blanks to be made known to the military, to those Indians who are in good faith cultivating land and particularly to such as have been living two or more years upon their present farms and express a desire to remain there and that the agent be instructed promptly to take measures to enter homestead claims for the Indians of this class as soon as it shall be made practicable, and that the district (not the Militia) commander be informed of these regulations and be requested by the Department to co-operate in enforcing these instructions.

Second: I would recommend that a new reservation be set apart for the Arizona Navajos, extending 100 miles to the West of the present Reservation and contiguous thereto, its Northern boundary to be the boundary

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between Utah and Arizona, its Southern boundary to be the Continuance of the Southern boundary of the present Reservation, its Western boundary to be a straight line Parallel with the Western boundary of the present Reservation. It should be distinctly noted that this New Reservation would include the Seven villages of the Moqui Indians. In my full report of recent inspection I shall dwell particularly upon the wants of these Indians and especially the necessity of including them in some Government Reservation unless the Department is willing that the farms that they have tilled for many years — even centuries — shall be taken from them by the encroaching white settlers, their rights constantly overridden by their more powerful Navajo neighbors, and they be crowded back from self-support to a pauperizing dependancy upon the Government for food.

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If there were one Agent for the two tribes with one reservation as suggested, having in his care the 8000 Navajos and 2000 Moquis - the rights of both could be properly cared for. Of Course it would not be expected to find an Agent for $1300 — the Salary of the present Agent for the Moquis - who would be competent for such a responsible position. But the Executive Proclamation forming the new reservation should be issued in conjunction with sending out the other instructions to regulate this whole matter of absenteeism.

Proper provision for a new Agent might be a subject for subsequent action.

In this plan for providing for the return of the Navajos and for the creation of a new reservation I may add that I have the approval of the District Commander, of the more intelligent citizens interested, of the Governor of the Territory, and of

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other army officers commanding posts in the vicinity. But, as this plan would require the action of an active and energetic Agent, physically able to visit many difficult and remote localities on horse-back and would need co-harmonious co-operation with the military and their hearty support, it is the more important that my previous recommendation for the relief of the present Agent should be promptly acted upon.

Very respectfully,
Your obt. Servt.,
J. H. Hogan
U.S. Indian Inspector

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