April 23, 1870

Arizona P391
Capt. A. W. Palmer
Ft. Wingate, N. M.
Apl 23, '70

Ack's recpt of office telegram of 4th inst. and official copy of letter of same date through New Mex. Supercy. Asks early action on his estimate, and submits statement of action taken by him in his official capacity

File

RG75, BIA, M234
Ltr Rec'd, AZ Supt
P 391, Roll 4

USPRI000092

Fort Wingate, N. M.
April 23rd 1870.

Hon E. S. Parker
Comr Ind. Affairs Washington
D. C.

Sir;

I have the hon to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 4th inst; and of an official copy of your communication of the same date, through the New Mexican Superintendency.

I shall use my best endeavors to comply with the instructions contained therein.

I would respectfully call attention to my estimates for funds, forwarded on the 20th of December last, hoping for an early action thereon.

The following statement of action taken in my official capacity, is respectfully submitted—

Application has been made (since approved) to Gen G. W. Getty U.S.A. for (20) twenty stand of arms, and suitable ammunition and accoutrements, to be used for protection, alone, of the property and lives of the Navajoe Indians.

USPRI000093

and of persons connected with the Moqui Indian Agency from hostile Navajo and Apache Indians. Owing to the scarcity of troops at this time in this District no escort temporary, or permanent, can be allowed my agency. It must therefore be self protecting. The arms will be issued under my personal supervision, and not until I shall be satisfied of the reliability of the Indians to whom they shall given. Should the experiment prove as successful as I confidently hope, requisition will be made for a larger number of Arms. As pertinent here, I would mention that I have learned that several years since, the Zunis, a tribe similar to the Moquis, were intrusted with some (300) three hundred stands of arms, to be used against the navajoes, who were then hostile. I have yet to hear of their using them against whites, and it is said to have had an excellent effect on the conduct of the Navajoes toward them. During my visit last fall, I did not see a single serviceable fire arm, at the Moquis Villages. I attribute their present reduced condition to the fact of their want of arms.

In view of the approach of a detachment of the 8th U.S. Cavalry, said to be suffering from smallpox, to this region of the country, I have made application to Gen Getty for the services of a medical Officer or Hospital Steward.

USPRI000094

at the Moqui Villages, as soon as practicable, to vaccinate the whole tribe.

I have made arrangements to remain at least (3) three months at the Moqui Villages, and shall extend the time if found advisable.

Owing to the scarcity of water for irrigation, in the immediate vicinity of the villages, I have determined to locate my agency on the Colorado Chiquito River (30) thirty miles southwest of the villages, where I expect to find good land, wood and water in abundance. I shall endeavor to move a number of the Moquis to that point should the Cogotero Apaches not prove too hostile.

The season for crops on the said River is favorable until Dec. 1st yearly.

No freighters could be found by Maj. Chalmers who were willing to take my implements beyond Fort Defiance, the country being almost unknown & considered dangerous. I daily expect the arrival of the implements, and have sent for some Moquis to bring their animals to Fort Defiance for the purpose of transporting them to their Villages.

USPRI000095

I hope to be established at my agency by the 5th day of May next.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
A. L. Palmer
Capt. U.S. Army Sp. N.S. Agt
for Moquis Pueblos.
Arizona Terry

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