Arizona D 581
November 3, 1873

RG75 BIA
M234, LR/OIA
Arizona Superintendency
Roll #8

Arizona D 4990

W. S. Defrees
Dy Defiance N. M.
Nov 3, 73

Reply to office letter, remitting him funds for erection of temporary buildings

Ans Nov 22, 1873

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Fort Defiance Arizona Ter
Nov 3rd 1873

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge
rec't of yours of 13th Oct. also remitting
a Draft in favor of Lieut Col Pfeiffer for
the Erection of temporary buildings at the present
Moqui Villages. I would respectfully ask that
I be permitted to use the money for the purposes spe-
-cified. The Erection of Agency buildings, and School
house, at Moencopy, the place proposed. to which
I would recommend the removal of the Moqui Indians.
They will have to be removed at no far distant day
& be subsisted Entirely by the Government. Now is a
most favorable time, as quite a number have agreed
to quit their old homes and move to the new places.
They have for the last few years been on the verge
of Starvation barely raising enough to keep soul & body
together. Referring to back reports. The Department is
advised that their present home is unsuitable in every
way. Their farming land consists of a sandy waste

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without any facilities for irrigation. Their crops are uncertain, or rather it is pretty certain they will amount to nothing. Their villages are built upon stone mesas, very high above the plain they farm.

Their farms are from One and one half miles to two miles from their homes. taking up half their morning hours in going to and from work. I would refer you to my report of Sept 8th for the advantages of the new plan over the old. ~~Until these advantages force the Government~~ in establishing them on their new home, they would in the course of a year or two, three, at the furthest, become entirely self sustaining, with plenty; and not in a half starving condition as they have been for a few years back. And then we can work to some purpose, in Educating, and civilizing them. These people are industrious, and will dispersed; and if assisted at once, and in the right direction, by the Government will soon relieve it of further care of them.

In view of this I have the honor to request that I be authorized to commence work with the funds I have, to erect buildings at Moencopy where the money will not have been expended in vain, but to some purpose until permanent grds. I respectfully ask that I be instructed how to proceed to secure the balance

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of the account of my Estimate, in the event I am permitted to commence work at Moencopy?

Very Respectfully,
Your Obt. Servant
W. S. Peters

Hon. E. P. Smith
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

U.S. Disbursing Agent
for Moqui Pueblos.

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