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The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Interior,

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, a draft of an Executive Order withdrawing certain lands, in the Territory of Arizona, from the mass of the public domain, for the use and occupancy of the Moqui Indians, and such others as the Secretary of the Interior may see fit to settle thereon, and to request that the same be laid before the President for his signature.

In this connection I would respectfully state that the conditions are such, that it has been found impossible

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extend to these Indians the proper and needful protection to which they are entitled. They have no reservation, but are living in pueblos or villages, cultivating the soil within easy reach.

They are temperate and industrious, are given to agricultural pursuits which they follow to no inconsiderable extent, and are distinguished for their honesty, for their politeness toward each other, and for their friendship toward the whites; in short they are described as an exceedingly interesting and deserving people.

They number according to last report 1810 souls. Having no vested title to the lands they occupy,

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which fact it seems is well understood, they are subject to continual annoyance and imposition, and it is not difficult to see, that it is only a question of time, when, if steps are not taken for their protection, they will be driven from their homes, and the lands that have been held and cultivated by them for generations, if not centuries, will be wrested from them, and they left in poverty and without hope.

Even the Agency itself is unprotected, and the Agent declares himself powerless to do good as matters now are. He finds it impossible to meet and pacify

mischiefmakers. They openly and insolently defy his authority and he is forced to submit.

He frankly says: "If there is
" no remedy I shall tender my
" resignation as Agent of the Moquiet
" believing as I do, that it would
" not be right for me to remain
" here simply to draw my salary,
" with no hope of accomplishing
" anything."

That these people should be separated from the evil example and annoyances of unprincipled whites who appear determined to settle in their midst is a truth that needs no argument, and I know of no way by which the desired end can be reached, other than

by withdrawing the lands indicated in the Order herewith presented, from white settlement.

The estimated area of land cultivated by these Indians is 10.000 acres. Owing to the poor quality of the soil, they seldom plant the same patch two years in succession. Hence they are scattered over a considerable area of Country, and the estimated area of their cultivated lands includes all the lands held by them for cultivation.

I earnestly urge the withdrawal of the lands as proposed.

I enclose, herewith, an official map of Arizona, upon which the lines of the proposed reservation

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are drawn, I respectfully request the return thereof to the files of this Office.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
H. Rice
Commissioner.

Lanabee.

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