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July 12, 1893

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Report

Keam's Canon P.O. Apache County Arizona

Moqui Indian Reservation

July 12th 1893.

John S. Mayhugh US Special Allotment Agt

Letter relating to the Orabis refusing to take their land in severalty in conference July 7th 1893.

File

28/22

RG 75, BIA, E.102
Special Case 147, Box 149
Moqui
1893-26753

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Moqui Indian Reservation Arizona

Keams Canon P.O. Apache Co.

July 12th 1893.

Hon. D. M. Browning
Comm. Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to report that pursuant to an agreement made with Chief Lo-Lo-my and a number of his head men about the middle of last May which I reported to your Office May 19th 1893 at which time said chief and his head men agreed to take their land. In pursuance of this agreement for the 5th time, I made preparation to give land to them and left my Office for Oribi Mesa July 1st 1893 with supplies for camping accompanied by Surveyor Sanders with his instruments employing a team to convey our supplies for a months work. Upon arriving I found Lo, Lo, Lo, my was not at the Village although he was informed of my coming but was some distance from the Village herding sheep. I immediately sent for him to come and see me as I had come to allot to him and his people their land according to our agreement made some time

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ago. To this message he sent word he would not come until the next day at which time he appeared with his head men representing about 150 of the Orabis out of the 850 belonging to the Village none of the Hostile element were present. Lo Lo Lo, my seemed sullen and after we had commenced talking he stated that the Government had not protected the Orabis who had taken land at Moencopie (Tuba City) that their land and water had been taken from them by the Mormons that the Government had lied to them that no Washington man had come to protect his people as was promised some time ago referring to what I had told the Orabis at Moencopie April 9th 1893. pursuant to your office letter under date of March 16th 1893. marked Land and numbered H. 85. 1893 stating that an Inspector would visit Tuba City for the purpose of investigating and adjusting the difficulties between the Moencopie Indians and the Mormon settlers

At this stage of the proceedings I found it necessary to procure a more satisfactory Interpreter the one I had employed being a school boy and

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timid I therefore sent for Mr Peter Mauffer the Agency Mechanic who speaks the Moqui language quite well and who Lo, Lo, Lo, my preferred and further for the purpose I could have a clear understanding of his objections of not receiving land for himself and people. I employed a runner to go to Keam's Canon for Mr Mauffer with the request that he come immediately this took the greater part of two days time and upon Friday July 7th we held our final council of some six hours upon which occasion Lo, Lo, Lo, mi advanced all of his former frivolous objections about Hab be-mer chief of the hostile element going to kill him if he took land in severalty I finally reached his main objection and that was, that, the Government had given land to some of his people at Moencopie wash and failed to protect them and that the Mormons had taken their water and driven them off of the land allotted to them besides abusing and beating them and further if he and his people should take lands

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they would be treated in the same way. I endeavored to fully explain to him the difference between the allotment of land to Indians on and off the Reservation by telling him the land at Moencopi was Washington land and not Reservation land that no white man or Mormon would be allowed to take their land or water that was on their Reservation except such as were sent from Washington for school and other humane persons. In fact I explained to these people for the fifth time the great advantages that would accrue to them and their children if they now received their lands and made their own selections taking the best lands adjacent to water that there was no danger of any white man or Mormon interfering with them. And that the Government would soon have a Washington man at Moencopie to look after the rights of the Indians who had taken land in severally - there and I told them further that the white man had equal rights to live on land off the Reservation as they had and that whoever first settled upon land and used the water was entitled to both water and land

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and that was why Government was going to send an Inspector to investigate, The reason that he was a long time coming was because there was a great many Indians and Indian Reservations and a great many white people to look after hence the delay. To these and other reasonable explanations he simply replied Washington had lied and I had lied and that he and his people would not take land unless I would go right away to Nuencopie (tomorrow June 8th) and drive the Mormons off of the land and protect the Indian Allotees in their water rights, I explained to him it was not my duty to do that without instructions from Washington that your Department had another man for that work that I was only told to give them land - after rehearsing the whole subject matter over several times Lo Lo Lo mi and his head men agreed to take allotments as soon as the Nuencopie trouble was settled to their satisfaction this was their ultimatum but I have no faith in their promises, this ended the conference as well as the allotment work at Orbi Village

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and the Surveyor and myself returned to the East Mesa. As soon as the Surveyors Bonds are approved and his instructions received he will proceed immediately to make the additional surveys ordered by your Office after which I will allot the same thereby completing the work of allotment for all these people excepting the Oraibis numbering about 850.

In the meantime I shall continue to examine the wood land adjacent to the East and Middle Mesas who have taken allotments with a view of preparing a sketch and reporting the same as directed by Office letter under date of Feb 9th 1893. marked Land number 3222— 1893

I can assure your Office I felt disgusted with these Oraibi people - they are most cunning and should not be permitted to trifle longer with the just and liberal offers of your Office and to dictate impudent terms and conditions as conditional to their acceptance of their allotments in severalty, By your kind per-

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mission I would suggest that an order be now made that the land in question be allotted to these people if allowable under Section 2 of the Allotment Act to the end that the work of allotment may be closed up this season at this Reservation,

I have alleady a full and correct list of names of the Orabi people less what has been born the past two months — there is adjacent to this Village a Mesa about 31,000 acres of surveyed land ready for allotments

Besides the explanations herein made to the Orabi Village people I reminded these people of the heavy expense the Government had borne making these surveys and in sending an allotting Agent to give them their choice of the land and that their refusal would be a great disappointment to the big Chief at Washington that he would feel bad to know they had broken their promise To this they made no reply but hung their heads in silence. All of which is respectfully submitted

Yours Very Respectfully John S. Mayhugh U.S. Special Allotting Agt.

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