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March 25, 1953

*[Handwritten initials]*  
Mrs. Edna G. Landin, President  
Tombstone Chamber of Commerce  
Tombstone, Arizona

Dear Mrs. Landin:

I thank you for your letter of March 23, and I regret very much that it was necessary to join in the announcement that Fort Huachuca was to be deactivated by June 1. A copy of the joint release of the Arizona Congressional Delegation as well as a copy of the Department of the Army release announcing the deactivation of Fort Huachuca and other Army installations is enclosed for your information.

*[Handwritten: of the Department of the Army]*  
As you know, *[Handwritten: I]* have insisted for years that Fort Huachuca be maintained as a permanent military base at as nearly full strength as possible, and understood from the conversations with ~~Army~~ *[Handwritten: the]* officials during the latter part of 1952 that ~~the~~ *[Handwritten: the]* Post would be continued in an active status. I continued to urge this upon the new Secretary of the Army, and was shocked to learn *[Handwritten: his]* decision ~~was~~ that Fort Huachuca will be relegated to an inactive status. The explanation furnished for the action taken with regard to Fort Huachuca is contained in the joint statement of the Arizona Members of Congress. A long conversation had with Department of the Army officials indicates that this is a final decision and that Fort Huachuca will be utilized at such time as it may be necessary greatly to increase the military mobilization program.

Regretting that I must send you this discouraging word, I am, with cordial good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

PRE:DM