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Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting papers showing the necessity for telegraphic communication between the military stations in Arizona.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

Papers showing the necessity for telegraphic communication between the military stations in Arizona.

DECEMBER 13, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *December 12, 1872.*

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the United States Senate and House of Representatives copies of papers showing the necessity for telegraphic communication between the military stations in Arizona, additional to those heretofore presented to the consideration of Congress in communications from this Department of 28th February and 26th March, 1872.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco, California, October 18, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith the annual report of Brevet Major-General Geo. Crook, commanding the Department of Arizona, to accompany my report of October 2, 1872.

I think it must now be evident that forbearance toward the Apaches of Arizona has reached its extreme limit, and that no course is left us but a vigorous and unremitting prosecution of the war they have so long invited, until they are completely subdued. I recommend that General Crook be given ample means and full authority to deal with this difficult problem. While the generous provisions made for those Indians who remain upon their reservations should be continued as long as necessary, great care should be taken not to afford in this manner a place of refuge and of preparation for those engaged in acts of hostility.

The Department commander should have full authority to prevent such abuse, and for this purpose to impose all necessary restrictions upon the Indians on reservations.

The importance of telegraphic communication with the principal points in Arizona is so great that I unite with General Crook in again

inviting attention to this subject, and beg leave to refer to my special report of December 12, 1871, for the details of the proposed line, and estimated cost of construction.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Major-General Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL
United States Army, Washington, D. C.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., October 31, 1872.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

I agree with General Schofield that a condition of war has existed and does exist in Arizona, and if General Crook, as department commander, is to be held accountable, he should be supplied more liberally with all the authority and power of the War Department to bring this condition of things to a permanent conclusion. To this end, there should be telegraphic communication opened, as far at least as Prescott; and if the local interests do not warrant the construction of a line, Congress might either appropriate the necessary money or grant a liberal charter to encourage a private company. As to the necessity for such a line, I suppose there can be no difference of opinion.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 7, 1872.

Official copies.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.