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Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting in response to Senate resolution of March 11, 1890, correspondence regarding the Apache Indians

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LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

In response to Senate resolution of March 11, 1890, correspondence regarding the Apache Indians.

MARCH 20, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 19, 1890.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the Senate a letter from the Adjutant-General, dated the 17th instant, inclosing copies of the correspondence between Lieut. Gen. P. H. Sheridan and Brig. Gen. George Crook regarding the Apache Indians, between March 26 and April 5, 1886, inclusive, in response to resolution of March 11, 1890, as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be instructed to communicate to the Senate copies of the correspondence between Lieut. Gen. Sheridan and Brig. Gen. George Crook regarding Apache Indians between March 26 and April 5, 1886, inclusive.

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 17, 1890.

SIR: Senate resolution of 11th instant, calling upon the honorable Secretary of War to furnish the United States Senate copies of the correspondence between Lieut. Gen. P. H. Sheridan and Brig. Gen. George Crook, regarding the Apache Indians, between March 26 and April 5, 1886, inclusive, having been referred by the Major-General Commanding the Army to the Adjutant-General for the necessary action, I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of the correspondence covered by the requirements of the resolution in question, which is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

J. C. KELTON,
Adjutant-General.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LIEUT. GEN. P. H. SHERIDAN
AND BRIG. GEN. GEORGE CROOK, REGARDING THE APACHE
INDIANS.

CAMP EL CAÑON DE LOS EMBUDOS,
20 Miles southeast of San Bernardino, Mex., March 26, 1886,
(via Fort Bowie, Ariz., March 28, 1886).

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

I met the hostiles yesterday at Lieutenant Maus's camp, they being located about 500 yards distant. I found them very independent, and as fierce as so many tigers; knowing what pitiless brutes they are themselves they mistrust every one else. After my talk with them it seemed as if it would be impossible to get any hold on them except on conditions that they be allowed to return to the reservation on their old status. To-day things look more favorable.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
March 29, 1886.

Respectfully forwarded to the Secretary of War for his information.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

Confidential.*]

CAMP EL CAÑON DE LOS EMBUDOS, MEXICO,
March 27, 1886,
(Via Fort Bowie, Ariz., March 29, 1886.)

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN, U. S. A.,
Washington, D. C.:

In a conference with Geronimo and other Chiricahuas, I told them that they must decide at once upon unconditional surrender or fight it out; that in the latter event hostilities should be commenced at once and the last one of them killed, if it took fifty years. I told them to reflect on what they were to do before giving me their answer. The only propositions they would entertain were these three: That they should be sent east for not exceeding two years, taking with them such of the families as so desired, leaving at Apache, Nana, who is seventy years old and superannuated; or that they should all return to the reservation on their old status; or else return to the war path, with its attendant horrors. As I had to act at once, I have to-day accepted their surrender upon their first proposition.

Ka-e-te-na, the young chief, who less than two years ago was the worst Chiricahua of the whole lot, is now perfectly subdued. He is thoroughly reconstructed, has rendered me valuable assistance, and will be of great service in helping to control these Indians in the future. His stay at Alcatraz has worked a complete reformation in his character.

* The conference between General Crook, Geronimo and other Chiricahua Apaches, here referred to, appears in full on page 11 and subsequent pages.

I have not a doubt that similar treatment will produce same results with the whole band, and by the end of that time the excitement will have died away. Mangus, with thirteen Chiricahuas, six of whom are bucks, is not with the other Chiricahuas. He separated from them in August last and has since held no communication with them. He has committed no depredations. As it would be likely to take at least a year to find him in the immense ranges of mountains to the south, I think it inadvisable to attempt any search at this time, especially as he will undoubtedly give himself up as soon as he hears what the others have done.

I start for Bowie to-morrow morning to reach there next night. I respectfully request to be informed whether or not my action has been approved and also that full instructions meet me at that point. The Chiricahuas start for Bowie to-morrow with the Apache scouts under Lieutenant Maus.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., March 30, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

A courier just in from Lieutenant Maus reports that during last night Geronimo and Natchez, with twenty men and thirteen women, left his camp taking no stock. He states that there was no apparent cause for their leaving. Two dispatches received from him this morning reported everything going on well and the Chiricahuas in good spirits. Chihuahua and twelve men remained behind. Lieutenant Maus, with his scouts, except enough to take the other prisoners to Bowie, have gone in pursuit.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
March 31, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.
P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., March 30, 1886.

General GEORGE CROOK,
Fort Bowie, Ariz.:

You are confidentially informed that your telegram of March 29 is received. The President can not assent to the surrender of the hostiles on the terms of their imprisonment east for two years with the understanding of their return to the reservation. He instructs you to enter again into negotiations on the terms of their unconditional surrender,

only sparing their lives. In the mean time and on the receipt of this order you are directed to take every precaution against the escape of the hostiles, which must not be allowed under any circumstances. You must make at once such disposition of your troops as will insure against further hostilities by completing the destruction of the hostiles, unless these terms are acceded to.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

[First indorsement.]

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
March 31, 1886.

Seen by the Secretary of War.

R. C. D.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., March 31, 1886.

General GEORGE CROOK,
Fort Bowie, Ariz.:

Your dispatch of yesterday received. It has occasioned great disappointment. It seems strange that Geronimo and party could have escaped without the knowledge of the scouts.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the Field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., March 31, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

Your dispatch of 31st received. There can be no question that the scouts were thoroughly loyal, and would have prevented the hostiles leaving had it been possible. When they left their camp with our scouts they scattered over the country so as to make surprise impossible, and they located their camp with this in view, nor would they all remain in camp at one time. They kept more or less full of mescal. They had so tamed down since we first met them that some of the most prominent were hunting their ponies unarmed the evening of the night they left.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., April 1, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., March 31, 1886.

General GEORGE CROOK,
Fort Bowie, Ariz. :

You have not acknowledged the receipt of my telegram of March 30, conveying instructions of the President. Inform me at once of this, and telegraph me any further information you may have of the escape of the hostiles and the prospects of their capture.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the Field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., March 31, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C. :

In reply to your dispatch of March 30, to enable you to clearly understand situation, it should be remembered that the hostiles had an agreement with Lieutenant Maus, that they were to be met by me 25 miles below the line; that no regular troops were to be present. While I was very averse to such an agreement I had to abide by it, as it already had been entered into. We found them in camp on a rocky hill about 500 yards from Lieutenant Maus in such a position that a thousand men could not have surrounded them with any possibility of capturing them. They were able upon the approach of an enemy being signaled to scatter and escape through dozens of ravines and cañons, which would shelter them from pursuit until they reached the higher ranges in the vicinity. They were armed to the teeth, having the most improved guns and all the ammunition they could carry. The clothing and other supplies lost in the fight with Crawford had been replaced by new blankets and shirts obtained in Mexico. Lieutenant Maus with Apache scouts was camped at the nearest point the hostiles would agree to his approaching. Even had I been disposed to betray the confidence they placed in me, it would have been simply an impossibility to get white troops to that point either by day or by night without their knowledge, and had I attempted to do this the whole band would have stampeded back to the mountains. So suspicious were they that never more than from five to eight of the men came into our camp at one time, and to have attempted the arrest of those would have stampeded the others to the mountains. Even after the march to Bowie began we were compelled to allow them to scatter. They would not march in a body, and had any efforts been made to keep them together they would have broken for the mountains. My only hope was to get their confidence on the march through Ka-e-te-na and other confidential Indians, and finally put them on the cars; and until this was done it was impossible even to disarm them.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
April 1, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.
 P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARIZONA,
In the Field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., March 31, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

Your dispatch of the 30th, conveying instructions of the President, was received this a. m., and answered as soon as possible. To inform the Indians that the terms on which they surrendered are disapproved would, in my judgment, not only make it impossible for me to negotiate with them, but result in their scattering to the mountains, and I can't at present see any way to prevent it. There is nothing further to report with reference to the escape of the hostiles, nor is it probable I shall be able to give any positive information until the 2d or 3d proximo, when I can interview the Indians now en route. Lieutenant Maus has eighty scouts and can perhaps remain out a week before he will be obliged to return. While it is possible he may succeed in getting the hostiles to return, it is extremely doubtful.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, April 1, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.
 P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 1, 1886.*
 (Received 2.11 p. m.)

General GEORGE CROOK,
Fort Bowie, Ariz.:

Your dispatch of March 31 received. I do not see what you can now do except to concentrate your troops at the best points and give protection to the people. Geronimo will undoubtedly enter upon other raids of murder and robbery, and as the offensive campaign against him with scouts has failed, would it not be best to take up defensive and give protection to the people and business interests of Arizona and New Mexico? The infantry might be stationed by companies on certain points requiring protection, and the cavalry patrol between them. You have in your department forty-six companies of infantry and forty companies of cavalry, and ought to be able to do a good deal with such a force. Please send me a statement of what you contemplate for the future.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the Field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., April 1, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

Your dispatch of to-day received. It has been my aim throughout present operations to afford the greatest amount of protection to life and property interests, and troops have been stationed accordingly. Troops

can not protect property beyond a radius of one-half mile from their camp. If offensive movements against the Indians are not resumed they may remain quietly in the mountains for an indefinite time without crossing the line, and yet their very presence there will be a constant menace, and require the troops in this department to be at all times in position to repel sudden raids; and so long as any remain out they will form a nucleus for disaffected Indians from the different agencies in Arizona and New Mexico to join. That the operations of the scouts in Mexico have not proved as successful as was hoped is due to the enormous difficulties that they have been compelled to encounter, from the nature of the Indians they have been hunting, and the character of the country in which they have operated, and of which persons not thoroughly conversant with both can have no conception. I believe that the plan upon which I have conducted operations is the one most likely to prove successful in the end. It may be, however, that I am too much wedded to my own views in this matter, and as I have spent nearly eight years of the hardest work of my life in this department, I respectfully request that I may be now relieved from its command. (See G. O. No. 15, series 1886, relieving General Crook from command.)

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
April 2, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.

Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Telegram.]

[Confidential.] HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the Field, Fort Bowie, A. T., April 2, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

The hostiles who did not leave with Geronimo arrived to-day, about eighty; I haven't ascertained the exact number; some of the worst of the band are among them. In my judgment they should be sent away at once, as the effect on those still out would be much better than to confine them. After they get to their destination, if they can be shown that their future will be better by remaining than to return, I think there will be but little difficulty in obtaining their consent to remain indefinitely. When sent off, a guard should accompany them.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, April 3, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

Seen by the Secretary of War.

[Telegram.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the Field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., April 2, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

In an interview with the hostiles to-day after they arrived, I learned that bad liquor was at the bottom of the party with Geronimo and Natchez leaving. They are of the opinion that Lieutenant Maus stands but little chance of coming up with them.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, April 13, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

Seen by the Secretary of War:

m.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 3, 1886.*
 (Received at 2.40, p. m.)

Gen. GEORGE CROOK,
Fort Bowie, Ariz.:

Your telegram of April 2 received. Under authority from the Secretary of War you will as soon as practicable arrange for the transportation and subsistence of the Chiricahua prisoners now in your possession at Fort Bowie, and send them to Fort Marion, St. Augustine, Fla., where they will be turned over to the C. O. St. Francis Barracks as prisoners under the terms directed by the President in my telegram of March 30. Send with them, under suitable officers, a sufficient guard to insure their safety.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., April 4, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C.:

Two men of the hostiles who left with Geronimo are here, having joined Lieutenant Maus 16 miles from this post yesterday and come in with him. They say that they were sleeping together on the night of the stampede, and heard the others leaving, and went themselves because they thought something wrong. After they got out and it became light they made up their minds that there was no reason for leaving. They saw Lieutenant Maus with his scouts following the trail made by the hostiles. After hiding in the mountains for a day they concluded

to return. They report that there are several others with Geronimo who are very tired of the life they have been living. Upon investigation it appears that a man named Tribolett, who has been selling the Indians large quantities of bad whiskey, is at the bottom of all this trouble. Lieutenant Maus followed the trail of the renegades for two days until it broke up and scattered in the mountains west of Fronteras, and until he became satisfied that further pursuit would be useless.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
April 5, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.
P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

* [Second indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
April 8, 1886.

Seen by the Secretary of War. File.

WM. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

[Confidential.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the field, Fort Bowie, Ariz., April 4, 1886.

Lieut. Gen. P. H. SHERIDAN,
Washington, D. C. :

Your dispatch of April 3, designating Fort Marion as the place of confinement for the hostiles, received. Arrangements are being made for their transportation and they will be sent as soon as possible. I shall not inform them that the President has disapproved the terms upon which I accepted their surrender, for the reason that I can communicate nothing to them through interpreter without every one knowing what is said, and if the fact was known it would absolutely prevent the return of any of the others, and unless this war is ended by the surrender of the hostiles it is likely to last for years. The fewer the number that remain out the more difficulty there will be in catching them.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF ARMY,
April 5, 1886.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.

Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5, 1886.
(Received 4.15 p. m.)

General GEORGE CROOK,
Fort Bowie, Ariz. :

Your telegram of April 4 received. Your action is approved. It is the desire of the President that the prisoners be sent off without delay. Please inform me when they will be started and the number of men, women, and children.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

[Telegram.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5, 1886.
(Received 7.30 p. m.)

General GEORGE CROOK,
Fort Bowie, Ariz. :

The present terms not having been agreed to here, and Geronimo having broken every condition of the surrender, the Indians now in custody are to be held as prisoners and sent to Fort Marion without reference to previous communications and without in any way consulting their wishes in the matter.

This is in addition to my telegram of to-day.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. OF THE ARMY, ADJT. GEN.'S OFFICE,
No. 15. } *Washington, April 2, 1886.*

The following order has been received from the War Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, April 2, 1886.

By direction of the President the following changes of and assignments to command are ordered:

Brig. Gen. George Crook is, at his own request, relieved from the command of the Department of Arizona, and is assigned to the command of the Department of the Platte.

Brig. Gen. Nelson A. Miles is relieved from the command of the Department of the Missouri and assigned to the command of the Department of Arizona. He will turn over the command of the Department of the Missouri to the senior officer on duty in that department.

The journeys required in complying with this order are necessary for the public service.

WM. C. ENDICOTT,
Secretary of War.

By command of Lieutenant-General Sheridan.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

CONFERENCE HELD MARCH 25 AND 27, 1886, AT CAÑON DE LOS EMBUDOS (CAÑON OF THE FUNNELS), 20 MILES S.S.E. OF SAN BERNARDINO SPRINGS, MEXICO, BETWEEN GENERAL CROOK AND THE HOSTILE CHIRICAHUA CHIEFS.

FIRST DAY.

Present: Geronimo, Catle, Chihuahua, Natchita, Captains Roberts and Bourke, Lieutenants Maus, Faison, and Shipp, Dr. Davis, Mr. Strauss, Mr. Moore, Mr. Daly, Mr. Fly, Ka-e-at-te-na, Alchisay, Charlie Roberts, Interpreters Concepcion, José Marie, Antonio Bresias, Mr. Montoya.

General CROOK. What have you to say; I have come all the way down from Bowie?

GERONIMO. I would like Concepcion to act as interpreter.

General CROOK. All right, but all the interpreters must remain to act as checks on each other.

GERONIMO. I want to talk first of the causes which led me to leave the reservation. I was living quietly and contented, doing and thinking of no harm, while at the Sierra Blanca. I don't know what harm I did to those three men, Chatto, Mickey Free, and Lieutenant Davis. I was living peaceably and satisfied when people began to speak bad of me. I should be glad to know who started those stories. I was living peaceably with my family, having plenty to eat, sleeping well, taking care of my people, and perfectly contented. I don't know where those bad stories first came from. There we were doing well and my people well. I was behaving well. I hadn't killed a horse or man, American or Indian. I don't know what was the matter with the people in charge of us. They knew this to be so, and yet they said I was a bad man and the worst man there; but what harm had I done? I was living peaceably and well, but I did not leave on my own accord. Had I so left it would have been right to blame me; but as it is, blame those men who started this talk about me. Some time before I left an Indian named Wadiskay had a talk with me. He said, "they are going to arrest you," but I paid no attention to him, knowing that I had done no wrong; and the wife of Magnus, "Huera," told me that they were going to seize me and put me and Magnus in the guard-house, and I learned from the American and Apache soldiers, from Chatto, and Mickey Free, that the Americans were going to arrest me and hang me, and so I left. I would like to know now who it was that gave the order to arrest me and hang me. I was living peaceably there with my family under the shade of the trees, doing just what General Crook had told me I must do and trying to follow his advice. I want to know now who it was that ordered me to be arrested. I was praying to the light and to the darkness, to God and to the sun, to let me live quietly there with my family. I don't know what the reason was that people should speak badly of me. I don't want to be blamed. The fault was not mine. Blame those three men. With them is the fault, and find out who it was that began that bad talk about me.

I have several times asked for peace, but trouble has come from the agents and interpreters. I don't want what has passed to happen again. Now, I am going to tell you something else. The Earth-Mother is listening to me and I hope that all may be so arranged that from now on there shall be no trouble and that we shall always have peace. Whenever we see you coming to where we are, we think that it is God—you must come always with God. From this on I do not want that anything shall be told you about me even in joke. Whenever I have

broken out, it has always been on account of bad talk. From this on I hope that people will tell me nothing but the truth. From this on I want to do what is right and nothing else and I do not want you to believe any bad papers about me. I want the papers sent you to tell the truth about me, because I want to do what is right. Very often there are stories put in the newspapers that I am to be hanged. I don't want that any more. When a man tries to do right, such stories ought not to be put in the newspapers. There are very few of my men left now. They have done some bad things but I want them all rubbed out now and let us never speak of them again. There are very few of us left. We think of our relations, brothers, brothers-in-law, father-in-law, etc., over on the reservation, and from this on we want to live at peace just as they are doing, and to behave as they are behaving. Sometimes a man does something and men are sent out to bring in his head. I don't want such things to happen to us. I don't want that we should be killing each other.

What is the matter that you don't speak to me? It would be better if you would speak to me and look with a pleasant face. It would make better feeling. I would be glad if you did. I'd be better satisfied if you would talk to me once in a while. Why don't you look at me and smile at me? I am the same man; I have the same feet, legs, and hands, and the sun looks down on me a complete man. I want you look and smile at me.

General CROOK. Let them finish their talk first.

GERONIMO. I have not forgotten what you told me, although a long time has passed. I keep it in my memory. I am a complete man. Nothing has gone from my body. From here on I want to live at peace. Don't believe any bad talk you hear about me. The agents and the interpreter hear that somebody has done wrong, and they blame it all on me. Don't believe what they say. I don't want any of this bad talk in the future. I don't want those men who talked this way about me to be my agents any more. I want good men to be my agents and interpreters; people who will talk right. I want this peace to be legal and good. Whenever I meet you I talk good to you, and you to me, and peace is soon established; but when you go to the reservation you put agents and interpreters over us who do bad things. Perhaps they don't mind what you tell them, because I do not believe you would tell them to do bad things to us. In the future we don't want these bad men to be allowed near where we are to live. We don't want any more of that kind of bad talk. I don't want any man who will talk bad about me, and tell lies, to be there, because I am going to try and live well and peaceably. I want to have a good man put over me. While living I want to live well. I know I have to die some time, but even if the heavens were to fall on me, I want to do what is right. I think I am a good man, but in the papers all over the world they say I am a bad man; but it is a bad thing to say so about me. I never do wrong without a cause. Every day I am thinking, how am I to talk to you to make you believe what I say; and, I think, too, that you are thinking of what you are to say to me. There is one God looking down on us all. We are all children of the one God. God is listening to me. The sun, the darkness, the winds, are all listening to what we now say.

To prove to you that I am telling you the truth, remember I sent you word that I would come from a place far away to speak to you here, and you see us now. Some have come on horseback and some on foot. If I were thinking bad, or if I had done bad, I would never have come here. If it had been my fault, would I have come so far to talk to you?

I have told you all that has happened. I also had feared that I should never see Ka-e-a-tena again, but here he is, and I want the past to be buried. I am glad to see Ka-e-a-tena. I was afraid I should never see him again. That was one reason, too, why I left. I wish that Ka-e-a-tena would be returned to us to live with his family. I now believe what I was told. Now I believe that all told me is true, because I see Ka-e-a-tena again. I am glad to see him again, as I was told I should. We are all glad. My body feels good because I see Ka-e-a-tena, and my breathing is good. Now I can eat well, drink well, sleep well, and be glad. I can go everywhere with good feeling. Now, what I want is peace in good faith. Both you and I think well and think alike. Well, we have talked enough and sat here long enough. I may have forgotten something, but if I remember it, I will tell you of it to-night, or to-morrow, or some other time. I have finished for to-day, but I'll have something more to say bye and bye.

General CROOK. I have heard what you have said. It seems very strange that more than forty men should be afraid of three. If that was a fact, that you left the reservation for that reason, why did you kill innocent people, sneaking all over the country to do it. What did those innocent people do to you that you should kill them, steal their horses, and slip around in the rocks like coyotes?

GERONIMO. We did not know what we had done to Davis, Mickey, Chatto, and Wodiskay.

General CROOK. But what has that to do with killing innocent people? There is not a week that you don't hear foolish stories in your own camp; but you are no child; you don't have to believe them. You promised me in the Sierra Madre that peace should last, but you have lied about [it]. All the Americans said that you were lying when I brought you up there to the reservation, and I have had a constant fight since with my own people to protect you from them. And the white people say that I am responsible for every one of those people who have been killed. When a man has lied to me once I want some better proof than his own word before I can believe him again. The feeling against having you come back to the reservation had about died out when you broke out again; but now it is worse than ever.

GERONIMO. That's why I want to ask who it was that ordered that I should be arrested.

General CROOK. That's all bosh. There were no orders for any one to arrest you.

GERONIMO. Perhaps those who were going to arrest me were under somebody else's orders.

General CROOK. Geronimo, you sent up some of your people to kill Chato and Lieutenant Davis and, then you started the story that they had killed them, and thus you got a great many of your people to go out.

GERONIMO. That's not so. You'll know one of these days that it's not so.

General CROOK. Everything you did on the reservation is known. There is no use for you to try and talk nonsense. I am no child. You must make up your own mind whether you will stay out on the war-path or surrender unconditionally. If you stay out, I'll keep after you and kill the last one, if it takes fifty years. You are making a great fuss about seeing Ka-e-a-tena. Over a year ago I asked you if you wanted me to bring Ka-e-a-tena back but you said no. It is a good thing for Geronimo that we did not bring Ka-e-a-tena back, because Ka-e-a-tena has now more sense than all the rest of the Chiricahuas put together.

GERONIMO. I am a man of my word. I am telling the truth, and why I left the reservation.

General CROOK. You told me the same thing in the Sierra Madre, but you lied.

GERONIMO. Then how do you want me to talk to you? I have but one mouth; I can't talk with my ears.

General CROOK. Your mouth talks too many ways.

GERONIMO. If you think I am not telling the truth, then I don't think you came down here in good faith.

General CROOK. I come with the same faith as when I went down to the Sierra Madre. You told me the same things there that you are telling me now. What evidence have I of your sincerity? How do I know whether or not you are lying to me? Have I ever lied to you?

GERONIMO. I was living at peace with my family on the reservation. Why were those stories started about me?

General CROOK. How do I know? Are not stories started in your own camp every day?

GERONIMO. There is no other captain so great as you. I thought you ought to know about those stories, and who started them.

General CROOK. Who were all the Indians that those stories were started about?

GERONIMO. If they talked only of me I should not have minded, but all the Indians know that the stories were about them, too. If you don't want to believe me I can prove it by all the men, women, and children of the White Mountain Apaches.

General CROOK. Answer my question.

GERONIMO. They wanted to seize me and Magnus.

General CROOK. Then why did Natches and Chihuahua go out?

GERONIMO. Because they were afraid the same thing would happen to them.

General CROOK. Who made them afraid?

GERONIMO. All the Indians here with me saw the troops and scouts getting ready to go out to arrest us. That is the reason they went out.

General CROOK. But what did you tell those Indians?

GERONIMO. The only thing I told them was that I heard I was going to be seized and killed, that's all.

General CROOK. But why did you send up some of your people to kill Lieutenant Davis and Chatto?

GERONIMO. I did not tell them to do anything of the kind. If I had said anything like that these Indians would say so.

General CROOK. That's just what they do say; and you reported that they were killed and that is the reason so many went out with you.

GERONIMO. If that was so, here are a number of White Mountain Indians. They ought to know whether that was so or not.

General CROOK. But they all know it up there.

GERONIMO. Well, here is a White Mountain sergeant, a man like that won't lie; ask him.

General CROOK. Plenty of your own friends up there at Fort Apache say it is so.

GERONIMO. This man ought to know something about it; ask him.

General CROOK. Very likely he don't know anything about it. Those we asked up there *did* know.

GERONIMO. Whenever I wanted to talk with Lieutenant Davis, I spoke by day or by night. I never went to him in a hidden manner. May be some of these men know about it. Perhaps you had better ask them.

General CROOK. I have said all I have to say. You had better think it over to-night and let me know in the morning.

GERONIMO. All right, we'll talk to-morrow; I may want to *ask* you some questions, too, as you have asked me some.

SECOND DAY (MARCH 27).

Present: Same as on first day.

CHIHUAHUA. I am very glad to see you and have this talk with you. It is as you say, we are always in danger out here. I hope from this on we may live better with our families and not do any harm to anybody. I am anxious to behave. I think the sun is looking down upon me and the earth is listening. I am thinking better. It seems to me that I have seen the One who makes the rain and sends the winds; or He must have sent you to this place. I surrender myself to you because I believe in you and you do not deceive us. You must be our God. I am satisfied with all that you do. You must be the one who makes the green pastures, who sends the rain, who commands the winds. You must be the one who sends the fresh fruits that appear on the trees every year. There are many men in the world who are big chiefs and command many people, but you, I think, are the greatest of them all, or you wouldn't come out here to see us. I want you to be a father to me and treat me as your son. I want you to have pity on me. There is no doubt that all you do is right, because all you do is just the same as if God did it. Everything you do is right. So I consider, so I believe you to be. I trust in all you say; you do not deceive. All the things you tell us are facts. I am now in your hands. I place myself at your disposition. I surrender myself to you. Do with me as you please. I shake your hand. [Shaking hands.] I want to come right in to your camp with my family and stay with you. I don't want to stay away at a distance. I want to be right where you are. I have roamed these mountains from water to water. Never have I found the place where I could see my father or my mother, until to-day I see you my father. I surrender to you now and I don't want any more bad feeling or bad talk. I am going over to stay with you in your camp. Whenever a man raises anything, even a dog, he thinks well of it and tries to raise it right and treat it well. So I want you to feel towards me and be good to me and don't let people say bad things about me. Now I surrender to you and go with you. When we are traveling together on the road or anywhere else, I hope you'll talk to me once in a while. I think a great deal of Alchisay and Ka-e-a-tena and they think a great deal of me, and I hope some day to be all the same as their brother. [Shakes hands again with General Crook.] How long will it be before I can stay with these friends?

General CROOK. After a while. [Chihuahua shakes hands again.]

CHIHUAHUA. If you don't let me go back to the reservation, I would like you to send my family with me wherever you send me. I have a daughter at Camp Apache, and some others, relations of myself and of my band, at San Carlos. Wherever you want to send me I wish you would also send them.

General CROOK. But will they want to go with you?

CHIHUAHUA. If they want to come, let them come; if they want to stay there, let them. [Shakes hands.] I ask you to find out if they are willing to go or not.

NACHEZ. What Chihuahua says I say. I surrender just the same as he did. I surrender to you just the same as he did. (Rep.) What he has

said I say. I give you my word, I give you my body. I surrender; I have nothing more to say than that. When I was free I gave orders, but now I surrender to you. I throw myself at your feet. You now order and I obey. What you tell me to do I do. [Shakes hands.] Now that I have surrendered I am glad. I'll not have to hide behind rocks and mountains; I'll go across the open plain. I'll now sleep well, eat contentedly, and be satisfied, and so will my people. There may be lots of men who have had feelings against us. I will go wherever you may see fit to send us, where no bad talk will be spoken of us. When I was out in the mountains I thought I should never see you again, but I am glad because I now see you and have a talk with you. I think now it is best for us to surrender and not remain out in the mountains like fools, as we have been doing. I have nothing further to say. I surrender to you, and hope you will be kind to us, as you have always been a good friend to the Indians and tried to do what was right for them. I have changed all my thoughts. I surrender to you. Whatever you do to me is right, and all these men here are witnesses that I surrender to you. The day has at last come when I could see you, talk to and surrender to you. I have always believed all you told me. You don't lie to me. I hope from this on you will see that I am in earnest, and will believe what I say. This is not the first time I've talked with you, and I hope it won't be the last. I surrender to you, and place myself in your hands. I'll do what you say, but I want you from time to time to talk with me. I think a great deal of Alchisay and Ka-e-a-tena, and I know you do too. I hope they will think as much of me as you do of them. I don't know where you are going to send me, but I am afraid I will not see Alchisay or Ka-e-a-tena again.

General CROOK. Don't worry about that.

CHIHUAHUA. That's all I have to say. I have spoken with all my heart. [Shakes hands with General Crook.] When shall we start from here?

General CROOK. I am going back to Bowie to-morrow, as I have much work to do there. Alchisay, Ka-e-a-tena, and the scouts will stay with you and take you over to Bowie. I think you will start in the morning. There are no rations here. Every day I will have a courier from Lieutenant Maus tell me where you are and how you are doing.

CHIHUAHUA. Our stock is very poor, and I was afraid that I'd have to travel too fast.

General CROOK. Not at all; you will come along in good time.

CHIHUAHUA. I will send you word each day.

General CROOK. All right. Ka e-a-tena can write your letters for you. [Chihuahua shakes hands with General Crook.]

GERONIMO. Two or three words are enough. I have little to say. I surrender myself to you. [Shakes hands with General Crook.] We are all comrades, all one family, all one band. What the others say I say also. I give myself up to you. Do with me what you please. I surrender. Once I moved about like the wind. Now I surrender to you and that is all. [Shakes hands with General Crook.] I don't want any one to say any wrong thing about me in any way. I surrender to you and want to be just as if I were in your pocket. My heart is yours, and I hope yours will be mine. [Shakes hands.] Now I feel like your brother, and Ka-e-a-tena is my brother also. [Shakes hands.] I was very far from here. Almost nobody could go to that place. But I sent you word I wanted to come in here, and here I am. I have no lies in my heart. Whatever you tell me is true. We are all satisfied of that. I hope the

day may come when my word shall be as strong with you as yours is with me. That's all I have to say now, except a few words. I should like to have my wife and daughter come to meet me at Fort Bowie or Silver Creek.

General CROOK. They can meet you on the road somewhere. I can't tell where. You must not pay any attention to the talk you hear. There are some people who can no more control their talk than the wind can.

GERONIMO. I want now to let Alchisay and Ka-e-a-tena to speak a few words. They have come a long way and I want to hear them speak.

KA-E-A-TENA. Let Alchisay speak for me. I have a sore throat.

ALCHISAY. They have all surrendered. There is nothing more to be done, but I'll speak only a few words. I am mad with Captain Bourke because he is writing down what I say. I am not a captain but a small man, and what I say don't count.

General CROOK. It's best to put everything on paper. When you are dead your children and your children's children can know what you have said. It is not this kind of paper that lies; it's the newspapers.

ALCHISAY. I am talking now for these Chiricahuas. They have surrendered. I don't want you to have any bad feelings towards them. They are all good friends now and I am glad they have surrendered, because they are all the same people—all one family with me; just like when you kill a deer, all its parts are of the one body; so with these Chiricahuas. Now they have surrendered, they are one body with the rest of the Apaches. You are our chief; the only one we have; there is no other. No matter where you send these Chiricahuas we hope to hear that you have treated them kindly. All these lies in the newspapers, don't mind them; if you are satisfied with us we don't care what the newspapers say. A hen has many chickens; she goes ahead, the chickens follow; so you are going over to Apache Pass and we are coming along behind you. Now, we want to travel along the open road and drink the waters of the Americans, and not hide in the mountains; we want to live without danger or discomfort. I am very glad that the Chiricahuas surrendered, and that I have been able to talk for them. After I get back to Camp Apache I want to talk a little for myself. We want you to be in charge of us and no one else; you know me well; I have never told you a lie, nor have you ever told me a lie, and now I tell you that these Chiricahuas really want to do what is right and live at peace. If they don't, then I lie, and you must not believe me any more. It's all right; you are going ahead to Fort Bowie; I want you to carry away in your pocket all that has been said here today.

General CROOK. You mean all that all the Chiricahuas have said.

ALCHISAY. That's what I mean.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA,
In the Field, Fort Bowie, March 31, 1886.

Official copy respectfully forwarded for the information of Lieut. Gen. P. H. Sheridan, U. S. Army.

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

APACHE INDIANS.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
April 7, 1886.Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War for his information.
P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Third indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
April 16, 1886.Seen by the Secretary of War. File.
By order of the Secretary of War.JOHN TWEEDALE,
Chief Clerk.