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Employment of Indian scouts. Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of State, with accompanying papers, relative to the employment of Indian scouts

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 299, 51st Cong., 1st Sess. (1890)

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EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN SCOUTS.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*A communication from the Secretary of State, with accompanying papers,
relative to the employment of Indian Scouts.*

MARCH 25, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

To the House of Representatives :

In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 8th instant, in relation to the employment by the regular Army of the United States of Indian scouts for the purpose of pursuing hostile Indians in their raids in the territory of the United States and of Mexico, and in regard to the proposed transfer of the Apache Chiricahua Indians from Mount Vernon Barracks, Alabama, to Fort Sill, Ind. T., I transmit herewith a communication from the Secretary of State on the subject, together with the accompanying papers.

BENJ. HARRISON.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
March 24, 1890.

To the PRESIDENT :

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 8th instant, requesting the President, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the House "any correspondence with the Mexican Government in regard to the employment in the regular Army of the United States of Indian scouts for the purpose of pursuing hostile Indians in their raids in the territory of the United States and of Mexico, and in regard to the proposed transfer of the Apache Chiricahua Indians from Mount Vernon Barracks, Alabama, to Fort Sill, Ind. T.," has the honor to transmit the papers enumerated in the subjoined list.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES G. BLAINE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 24, 1890.

LIST OF ACCOMPANYING PAPERS.

1. Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard, March 1, 1886, with accompaniments.
2. Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero, March 10, 1886.
3. Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard, March 12, 1886.
4. Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard, April 6, 1886.
5. Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero, April 10, 1886.
6. Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero, June 10, 1887.
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8. Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero, June 10, 1887.
9. Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard, June 10, 1887.
10. Mr. Romero to Mr. Blaine, February 4, 1890.
11. Mr. Blaine to Mr. Romero, February 10, 1890.

No. 1.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard.

LEGATION OF MEXICO,
Washington, March 1, 1886.

Mr. SECRETARY: I have the honor to inform you that I have received instructions from my Government, dated city of Mexico, February 18, 1886, to transmit to the Government of the United States an official dispatch dated Guaymas, January 7, 1886, and addressed by the general-in-chief of the first military zone to the secretary of war of the United States of Mexico, inclosing two communications from the president of the district of Moctezuma, in the State of Sonora, the said communications being addressed to General Guerra, and containing official letters from the municipal president of Las Granadas, dated December 1885, 27, announcing the murder of two persons, together with other outrages committed by the savages, who are believed to be scouts employed by the United States forces. I inclose a copy of the three dispatches in question.

Mr. Mariscal instructs me, in communicating the inclosed documents to you, to inform you how greatly the injuries and mistakes are increasing which are occasioned by the entrance into Mexican territory of the scouts in the service of the United States, notwithstanding the fact that the agreement in force on this subject restricts the privilege of crossing to the regular or permanent troops of the U. S. Army.

Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary, etc.,

M. ROMERO.

[Inclosure No. 1.— Department of State and Foreign Relations. Mexico. Political Department. Section of America. Department of State and War and Marine. Number 29, 539.]

The general-in-chief of the first military zone writes to me from Guaymas, under date of January 7, 1886, as follows:

The general commanding the Eleventh Regiment, writes to me under date of December 31, 1885, as follows: I have the honor to send you a copy of two communications which I have just received from the prefect of this district, in which that officer inserts the contents of two official letters which the municipal president of Las Granadas has addressed to him, under date of the 27th instant, informing him of the murder of the persons whose names are therein mentioned, and also of other outrages recently committed by the savages. In so doing I take the liberty to state that there is reason to believe that the parties who committed these murders are the Indians employed as scouts by the American forces, both because the date of the commission of said murders coincides with that of the passage of said forces through that locality, and because it is not known that there are any hostile Indians in that region

in which several detachments of the Eleventh Regiment are now scouting. I have the honor to assert the foregoing for your information, inclosing the originals of the copies referred to.

I have the honor, general, to assure you of my subordination and respect. Independence and liberty. Mexico, February 26, 1886.

HINIJOSO.

To the SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS.

A copy.

Washington, March 1, 1886.

CAYETANO ROMERO,
Secretary.

[Inclosure No. 2.—Department of War and Marine. Mexico. A seal containing the words, "State of Sonora." Office of the Prefect of the District of Moctezuma.]

The president of the municipal board of Granadas writes me, under date of the 17th instant, as follows: Yesterday at 6 o'clock in the morning, I was informed by a person who arrived at Tepache, that a man and three donkeys were lying dead on the top of Cacalote hill, and that several saddles and bags lay near them in a much damaged condition. I at once informed the president of Guasabas, asking him to send me some men to assist in scouting; I myself collected as many men as I could, and at noon twelve men arrived from Guasabas. By that time I had twelve other men in readiness, and having united both forces, I sent them out under the command of Lieut. Juan Durazo, who has returned to-day and has addressed to me the following dispatch:

"In obedience to the instructions which I received from you, I set out yesterday (the 26th) with twelve men belonging to the national guard of this town, and twelve others from Guasabas. At about noon I organized the march, with all necessary precaution; I reached La Tinaja at 5 o'clock, where, after the men had had their supper, I sent them to reconnoiter every path by which escape was possible, but no signs of Indians were seen. I then continued our march, with the same precautions, until we arrived at the foot of Cacalote hill, where I allowed the men to rest until the moon rose. Our march was then resumed, and continued until we reached the top of the hill, where we found the dead body of Francisco Labandera. I immediately ordered the greater part of my men to take the strongest positions that could be found, and sent the rest to look for young Tomas Horeno, whose lifeless body was found a short distance off. I ordered the men to bury him, after which we returned to the foot of the hill, where we waited until it was light, and then started to return. At La Tinaja, where we had supped the previous evening, we discovered the trail of six men on foot, passing over that which we had left; we examined it well, and I became convinced that it was an Indian trail; we were, however, unable to follow it, because we had no provisions and because we were carrying the baggage left by the Indians. I continued the march with the same precautions, and we returned to this town without the occurrence of anything else worth mentioning. I regret that I am unable to give a better account of our expedition. Liberty and constitution, Moctezuma, December 31, 1885.

"JOSÉ M. TORRES [flourish]."

To the citizen Diego M. Guerra, general in command of the Eleventh Regiment, present. A true copy of the original. Moctezuma, December 31, 1885. The General-in-Chief Diego M. Guerra, Mexico, February 16, 1886. (Signed) I. Revueltas. The foregoing are true copies. Mexico, February 18, 1886. (Signed) Eduardo Garay, chief clerk.

A copy.

Washington, March 1, 1886.

CAYETANO ROMERO,
Secretary.

Enclosure No. 3.—A seal containing the words: Department of Foreign Relations.—Mexico.—Political Department.—Section of America.—Department of War and Marine, Mexico.—A seal containing the words: State of Sonora.—Office of the prefect of the district of Moctezuma.]

The municipal president of Granados, in a communication dated the 27th instant, writes me as follows:

The band of Indians under the command of the American captain, Emmet Crawford, passed through this town on the 25th instant, on their way to Baca de Huachi. After they had gone I dispatched an officer with several men in the direction of La

Tinaja by the road leading from this place to Baca de Huachi; the party found five cattle which had been shot, and the remains of a fire by which the Indians had roasted their flesh. As it was very late, however, it was impossible to make any further investigations until yesterday, the 26th, when the party returned, finding on their way five more dead cattle; of these animals but one was a small one; the rest were, for the most part, oxen, and belonged to parties in this town. The Indians had cut up three or four of the animals, leaving the others untouched. There is no doubt that the Indians employed by the American troops killed the cattle, for, in addition to the fact that one of the men who had been engaged in driving them so told certain persons who were coming from Baca de Huachi, these same persons heard the shots fired by the Indians in the very locality where the dead cattle were found.

I have the honor to communicate to you the foregoing for your information and for such purposes as may be proper. Liberty in the constitution, Moctezuma, December 31, 1885. J. M. Torres [flourish]. To the Citizen General Diego M. Guerra, in command of the Eleventh Regiment, present. A true copy of the original, Moctezuma, December 31, 1885. Diego M. Guerra, general. A copy. Mexico, February 16, 1886. (Signed) Ignacio Revueltas.

A copy.

Washington, March 1, 1886.

CAYETANO ROMERO,
Secretary.

No. 2.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 10, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 1st instant, relative to the murder of two persons in Sonora, alleged to have been committed by the Indian scouts with the United States troops in Mexico, together with outrages said to have been perpetrated by those Indians.

A copy of your note has been communicated to the Secretary of War for the consideration of his Department.

Accept, sir, etc.,

T. F. BAYARD.

No. 3.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard.

LEGATION OF MEXICO,
Washington, March 12, 1886.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to inform you that I have received a dispatch from the secretary of foreign relations of the United States of Mexico, dated City of Mexico, February 24, 1886, inclosing a copy of a telegram addressed to the Secretary of War by the governor of the State of Chihuahua, dated the 28th of January previous, in which that officer states that the Apache Indian Antonio, who was sent to the City of Mexico, together with the Indian Ju, entered the State of Chihuahua with the United States forces, after which he returned with some of his companions and attacked El Sabinal, where he committed several murders and stole several animals, and then sued for peace; for this reason a number of citizens of the cantons of Guerrero, Degollado, and Bravo, in the aforesaid State, have requested him to urge the President not to permit the entrance of Apache scouts into the territory of that State.

Mr. Mariscal therefore instructs me to represent to the Government of the United States of America that, when the regular troops of this country in pursuit of hostile Indians, take other Indians of the same tribe with them, this is productive of much mischief, for, in addition to the fact that those Indians commit depredations while assisting the United States Army, they frequently, after returning to their reservation, apply for leave of absence in order to go hunting, or absent themselves without permission, and return to the territory of Mexico for the purpose of committing outrages, making raids into those districts with which they have become acquainted while employed as scouts, which raids they would probably never undertake if they had no knowledge of the country.

Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary, etc.,

M. ROMERO.

No. 4.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard.

MEXICAN LEGATION,
Washington, April 6, 1886.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to inform you, with reference to my former notes relative to the inexpediency of sending to Mexico in pursuit of the rebel Apache Chiricahua Indians, Indians of the same tribe as scouts of the U. S. Army, that I have received a communication from the Department of Foreign Relations of the United States of Mexico, dated at the City of Mexico, the 25th of March last, with which it forwards to me copy of a report sent to the Department of War by the general-in-chief of the second military division (Zona), from Chihuahua in the preceding month of February, in which he states the impossibility of distinguishing the rebellious Indians from the scouts, adding, that at several conferences held by Colonel Joaquin Terrazas, of the National Guard of the State of Chihuahua, and Lieutenant Davis, of the U. S. Army, in the neighborhood of Janos, it was agreed that the auxiliary Indians should wear a red handkerchief on their heads in order to distinguish them from the rebels, and also to prevent their being attacked by the Mexican soldiers; but this had not been carried out.

The said report adds that some auxiliary Indians and some Americans were disarmed by the citizens of the settlement San Miguel Baricoza, who took them for rebel Indians, and carried them to San Buenaventura, where they were recognized, and as soon as it was ascertained that they were scouts of the United States troops they were set at liberty with their respective arms. It is stated that these Indians had alarmed that district because they were killing cattle to make use of the meat without giving any notice, although the animals killed were paid for in presence of the authorities of San Buenaventura on these Indians being set at liberty.

The general-in-chief of the second military division (Zona) adds, that there is danger of the Indian scouts being attacked not only by the citizens of the Mexican frontier, but even by the Federal troops themselves, when they have not the badge agreed upon, they naturally believing them to be rebel Indians, because they are in no way distinguished from them.

The said general stated finally that as the Indian scouts referred to go to the Mexican frontier with officers of the U. S. Army, they re-

connoitre and explore the territory which they do not know—the greater part of them having been born in American reservations—and afterwards they revolt and return to Mexico to commit depredations with perfect knowledge then of the country.

Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary, etc., etc.,

M. ROMERO.

No. 5.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 10, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 6th instant (a copy of which I have communicated to the Secretary of War), relative to the employment of Indian scouts with the United States troops in Mexico, in pursuit of the renegade Apaches.

Accept, sir, etc.,

T. F. BAYARD.

No. 6.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero.

[Personal.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 10, 1887.

DEAR MR. ROMERO: On October 16, 1885, the agreement between the United States and Mexico to grant reciprocally the right to pursue savage Indians across the boundary line between the two countries, was extended until November 7, 1886, when it expired.

It is important in the present emergency that authority should be obtained from Mexico for the pursuit of said Indians, and, pending a formal arrangement to that effect between the two governments, I hope it will be in your power to enable me to inform the Secretary of War that such pursuit may be made by the military forces of the United States under the command of Major-General Howard, Pacific Division, U. S. Army.

I inclose a copy of the former agreement, and will ask of you a reply at your earliest convenience, as the telegram from General Miles in Arizona indicates the necessity of prompt action.

Believe me faithfully yours,

T. F. BAYARD.

No. 7.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard.

[Personal.]

LEGATION OF MEXICO,
Washington, June 10, 1887.

MY DEAR MR. BAYARD: In reply to your personal note of to-day, relative to the crossing of United States forces into Mexico in pursuit of the Apache Indians who recently went on the war-path, I have to inform you that the Constitution of Mexico requires that the consent of

the Senate be given before the President can authorize the entrance of foreign troops into Mexican territory, and that that consent was obtained before the signing of the agreement of July 29, 1882, and of the subsequent agreements, whereby the time during which that instrument was to remain in force was extended, until the last, which was signed in the city of Mexico October 16, 1885, and which is mentioned by you.

As the Mexican Senate is not now in session, its first session for this year having terminated on the 31st ultimo, an obstacle to the speedy settlement of this matter arises.

It seems to me certain that in case that agreement is extended or a new one is made, owing to the expiration of that signed in 1882, the Government of Mexico will insist upon a stipulation forbidding Indian scouts to enter its territory, because it so understood the former agreement, and because the entrance of those Indians into Mexico occasioned the unfortunate encounter at Tiopar, in which Capt. Maurice Corredor, of the Mexican Army, and Capt. Emmett Crawford, of the U. S. Army, were killed.

I feel confident, however, that the terms on which a stipulation relative to this matter has been accepted by the Secretary of War of the United States will be acceptable to the Government of Mexico.

I have already informed Mr. Mariscal, by cable, of the desire expressed in your aforesaid note on this subject, and as soon as I receive a reply I shall have the pleasure to communicate it to you.

I am, my dear Mr. Bayard, very truly, yours,

M. ROMERO.

No. 8.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 10, 1887.

MY DEAR MR. ROMERO: I have submitted to my colleague, the Secretary of War, the memorandum received from you just now, in the words following:

It is understood that no Indian scouts of either Government shall be allowed to cross the boundary line unless they go as guides and traders, and not exceeding in any case five scouts for each company or each separate command, this arrangement to continue until a formal extension of the previous agreement can be executed between the two Governments.

And he says that he accedes to it and begs that you will take steps to have such permission to the United States to enter Mexican territory duly authorized.

May I, therefore, consider the order *au fait accompli*, so that the military officers in Arizona may act under it?

I am, very truly, yours,

T. F. BAYARD.

No. 9.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Bayard.

MEXICAN LEGATION,
Washington, June 10, 1887.

MY DEAR MR. BAYARD: I have just received your second letter of this date in reference to the passage of troops across the frontier in pursuit of hostile Indians, and I have to state to you in reply, that after

my interview with you of this morning, in which I presented the difficulties in the way of the Mexican Government's acceding to the desires expressed by the Government of the United States with regard to this matter, and which I afterwards set forth in a personal letter which I addressed to you, in reply to your first letter to-day, and sent to you before receiving your second letter, I went to the Department of War to speak with the Secretary of that branch concerning the stipulation which, in my judgment, would be required by the Government of Mexico, in order that the exploring Indians (scouts) should not enter into Mexico in pursuit of other hostile Indians.

On discussing this point with the Hon. William C. Endicott, and moved by the desire to avoid one of the difficulties which I am sure will be presented in the settlement of this matter, I drew up a stipulation which, in my judgment, would be acceptable to the Government of Mexico, and I embodied therein, on the suggestion of Mr. Endicott, the idea that several Indians might go as guides or reconnoiterers of the paths with each company or command on separate duty of the regular forces. In this sense I draughted in the letter of the Secretary of War the first part of the stipulation which appears in your letter which I am now answering, but with the difference that where your letter says *traders* I wrote *trailers*. The Secretary of War accepted my draught, which was copied by General Drum, and thereupon the honorable Secretary of War added what appears in your letter as the second part of the aforesaid memorandum, and which is as follows :

This arrangement will continue until a formal extension of the previous agreement can be executed between the two Governments.

Immediately afterwards I went personally to give you this memorandum, which was written in pencil by General Drum, and not having been able to see you because you were in conference with another foreign minister, I left the memorandum in the hands of your private secretary, with the verbal explanation which I had intended to make to you in person.

This narrative, and the contents of my previous letter of to-day will show you that I am not authorized to accede to the desires expressed by you in your two letters of this date, and that the memorandum which I wrote in the War Department and which was accepted by the Secretary of that branch, contains a stipulation which, in my opinion, the Mexican Government would insist upon before giving its consent to the passage of the forces of the United States into the national territory, having done this in order to diminish the difficulties which I am sure will be in the way of granting such permission.

I am, etc.,

M. ROMERO.

No. 10.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Blaine.

LEGATION OF MEXICO,
Washington, February 4, 1890.

MR. SECRETARY: I duly informed the Government of Mexico of the efforts made by certain citizens of the State of Massachusetts in behalf of the Chiricahua Apaches (who have at various times risen against the United States Government and also invaded Mexico) with a view

to securing their removal to the Indian Territory from Mount Vernon, Ala., where they have been confined for some time.

As Mexico has suffered the consequences of the murderous incursions of these Indians, who have gratified their savage thirst for blood and rapine by butchering and robbing defenseless Mexican citizens, and as their pursuit and capture are attended with so great difficulty, for reasons well known to the United States Government, Mexico can not regard with indifference the danger of the said Indians returning to their old haunts, which would be a great incentive to them to resume their savage practices at the expense of peaceful citizens of the United States, and particularly of Mexico.

For this reason the Government of Mexico has instructed me to call the attention of that of the United States to the danger that, in its opinion, might arise from bringing Indians who have so often engaged in acts of hostility, near to the scenes of their former depredations, and to the desirableness of subjecting them to the vigilance to which they have hitherto been subjected, and in a locality far removed from those regions.

I have carefully read General Crook's report to the War Department of the United States, dated Washington, January 6, 1890, which report has apparently induced both the Secretary of War and the President of the United States to recommend the removal of Geronimo's band to the Indian Territory, and I think that, if General Crook was right in asking that those Indians who served the United States forces in the capacity of scouts should not be treated in the same way as those who were open enemies of this country, his recommendations in favor of the removal should be confined to the Indians who acted in that capacity, and should not extend, as they do, to all without discrimination.

It appears to me, moreover, that the result of the campaign of the United States forces against the Indians rendered it evident that the so-called scouts were nothing more than accomplices of the hostiles.

I also fear that the assurances given to General Crook by the Indians, that they are determined to live a peaceful and civilized life, and which are fully believed by him, are simply a strategem designed to secure their removal to a locality nearer to their old haunts, whereby a return to their former mode of life will be facilitated.

Be pleased to accept, etc.,

M. ROMERO.

No. 11.

Mr. Blaine to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 10, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 4th instant, in regard to the proposed release of Geronimo's band from Mount Vernon, Ala., and their transportation to their old haunts on the frontier, and to state that I have given the subject immediate consideration.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration,

JAMES G. BLAINE.