

REPORT OF A PEACE COUNCIL BETWEEN NAVAJO
AND APACHE INDIANS

Fort Wingate, New Mexico
August 4, 1872

REPRESENTED BY

<u>GUARO, Principal Chief of Navajos</u>	<u>VICIENTE'S Brother</u>
<u>LARGO, Principal Chief of Navajos</u>	<u>BOQOSKISH</u>
<u>MANULITO, Principal Chief Navajos</u>	<u>HERITO</u>
<u>GANADO MUCHO, Principal Chief</u>	<u>CABALLO BLANCA</u>
<u>MUERTO DE HAMBRE</u>	<u>JUAN MARTIN</u>
<u>CHIQUITO</u>	<u>FACUNDO</u>
<u>AGUA GRANDE</u>	<u>GANTAN SIGA</u>
<u>MARIANO</u>	<u>BISIPAHICHI</u>
<u>MANUELITO of Canyon Bonito</u>	<u>NARBONE SEGUNDO</u>

BARBAS HUERON, and about one hundred (100) sub-chiefs and principal men of the tribe, and tribes of Apaches; represented by SANTO, a chief of the Arivaipa Pinals; ESKELLESELA, Chief of the Sierra Blancas; MIGUEL and PEDRO, chiefs of the Coyotero; Held at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, in the presence of GENERAL HOWARD and his aide, CAPTAIN SLAYDEN, the Officers of the Military Post, and MR. KEAMS, (Thomas Vicor Keams) the acting Agent for the Navajoes.

Genl. Howard opened the council with prayer. He then stated that he had been sent by the President to visit the different tribes of Indians; That he sent him first to the Indians of Arizona; The Pinals, the Yumas, the Mojave Apaches, the Coyoter and the Sierra Blancas; That they make peace with each other, with the Mexicans and Americans.

The chiefs of the Apaches say that there is one tribe, the Navajoes, with whom they have had difficulties: That it would be a good thing for all good Indians who are doing right to make peace with each other. Now, what do the chiefs of both tribes present think about it?

HUERRO--I have listened to what has been said, and it is good. I am satisfied with what the Government has done, and my people want to have peace with everybody. They are doing everything to live peaceably now. There are bad people among us, as among all others, but when they commit depredations, we do all we can to hunt them down. When we were at war, we lost many of our people, and now we wish to live at peace. Here, in our country we can be quite and sleep at night, and therefore, we all want to remain at peace. What happened in the past is all forgotten now. We can go about the country in peace.

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MANUELITO--I know that Genl. Howard is here now, and that if anything occurs between the two tribes, Genl. Howard can regulate it. I know that what Genl. Howard thinks, so the Government thinks. I know well that the tribes were put in a condition of peace by the Government. That, at first, the Navajoes did not believe in it, but now, they do, and probably the same is true of the Apaches. I want to tell the truth. We are not the same as Americans. Their regulations are different. We can't have the same regulations as Americans, and we cannot accomplish things so quickly. There are a great many on the Reservation and some are now leaving it, and we cannot hear as soon as anything occurs off the Reservation. If anything happens we are questioned, and we reply that we have not been anywhere. But after diligent inquiry the truth is found out. We receive news from the President, from Mr. Keams. There are a great many good people among us and some bad ones, but in time we will find out who the bad are. I know well that General Howard wants all these depredations stopped and we are trying to do the same, and if we cannot accomplish it, we will call on the President for help. I do not wish that the whole people should be disturbed or ill treated on account of the thieves. The thieves should be punished apart from the good.

GENERAL HOWARD--The Government will always do that if the tribe will give up the thieves.

MANUELITO--With all this I wish to regulate this thieving myself. All these people have come here to hear these words of myself and General Howard. I think all are good men, but bad men may be here listening to what is said. If anything wrong is done after this I do not wish it laid to the chiefs; for even now, roving bands may be out.

GENERAL HOWARD--Has Manuelito any salutation for the Apaches?

MANUELITO--If we talk among ourselves we must say something. I am well treated by the Officers and Mr. Keams, and feel bad if I do not see them for a long time. If the Apaches want to talk, I am ready.

GENERAL HOWARD to HUERRO--Do any more Captains want to speak?

GANADO MUCHO--I am well satisfied with the words of General Howard and the words of Huerro and Manuelito. I have had good thoughts ever since I was a boy. I think good thoughts, now, I am old. I am satisfied with the words of the Captains and their words are true. I can't put my foot on the other side. These people all know me and my doings, and the Apaches from a distance will also know me. My desires are to live well so that my family and my people can sleep well. All these people understand what I am saying. and I want to say only what is right. What I have told my people is good. I have nothing to say to the Apaches until we have talked among ourselves.

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MIGUEL (Apache)--I have told General Howard before that I wish to make peace with the Navajoes, and that I want to talk to the Navajoes by themselves.

ESKELLESELA (Apache)--The Navajoes have some captives of my tribe. I know that both tribes are at peace now, but the Navajoes have often mistreated us. We only want the captives taken in peace. We wish to talk with the Navajoes themselves.

GENERAL HOWARD--Some of the worst enemies of the Navajoes and Apaches want them to be fighting each other and try to keep them at war. The reason the Indians have been so poor is because they have been at war so much with each other, with Mexicans and Americans. Nations are often at war-England against France, and Americans against Mexicans. A short time ago, a portion of the American Nation was fighting against the rest. War makes nobody happy. The same amount of labor and time spent in raising stock and grain would make them prosperous. I want to see the Navajoes very prosperous but for them to run a fair race with other people, their children will have to learn to do all kinds of work. Very soon the R.R. will come through here, and R.R. people want the Indians to cut ties and do all sorts of work and will pay for it. I want them to learn to plant as Americans do and bring in corn and wheat; and if they will only have their children properly taught, they will become a prosperous Nation. This they cannot do if they are at war with the Utes and Apaches and other tribes. When I was small I was taught to work, also, read and write. I am having my children taught that they can take care of themselves when they are grown up. Now I am very anxious to have the Navajoes and Apaches make friendship. One bad Navajoe who takes the horses and brings them in among his people gives them all a bad name. People told me as I came that the Navajoes are thieves. Now, I know these good Captains cannot help this altogether. Take away the stolen horses or sheep and bring them back and punish the thief. If the chief is not strong enough to punish him, give him to the Commandant. A very few examples of that kind would stop all the stealing. Then, when I come through the country, all the people will say what a good people the Navajoes are. Now, the President is like a good father to all his people and wants to do them good; Wants to help them when they are poor and suffering, and wants to make them independent, and if a bad American or Mexican goes among them, the Navajoes must not think we are all bad, and we will punish our bad man, just as we want the Navajoe to punish their bad man. The Apaches who have been with me so long know I speak the truth. I told SANTO that we had the same father

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in heaven, and he is my brother; so are these chiefs, and I want them to embrace each other and be friends. (SANTO and the three principal chiefs embraced. MIGUEL, ESKELECELA and PEDRO followed) MIGUEL said to me one day that there were two ways, a good way and a bad, and he wanted to go the right way.

MANUELITO--I am not contented with a big heart. When I cannot regulate the thieves myself I know I can get help in case the thieves throw me. The Generals' forces will help me. Here are a great many listening to what I say. If I see these things I will not be afraid to tell it, for I shall have held. What I want is that there shall be no thieves among us one way or the other. Between the two forces it can be regulated. I can't do it all myself but I want to do all I possibly can.

GENERAL HOWARD--I will tell the people and the Commandant and the President what you say.

MANUELITO--Now that we are together with the Americans and for the sake of one thief, I do not want to separate again; but I don't want the thieves to take our land away. We want to remain here. All these words I have said, the other Captains say, they will not do as the thieves want them. Here is Mr. Keams who knows all our regulations and he can inform the Government of all that occurs. There is a great deal of talk when two persons do not understand each other and for this reason we desire Mr. Keams for our Agent.

GENERAL HOWARD--Before I left Washington, a new Agent had been appointed. Formerly, many Agents were bad. But now, societies of good men elect the Agents and watch him; and if he does not do right, the President will remove him. And this new Agent was appointed in this manner and I know him to be a very good man, I will try to have Mr. Kearns retained too.

MANUELITO--I wish it for the reason that Mr. Keams knows us all, large and small, and knows our regulations and our language.

GENERAL HOWARD--I will write to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs what you say.

MANUELITO--Agents come here with their families and will not admit the Indians into their houses. I wish the General to write a strong letter of what we say.

GENERAL HOWARD--If you ever have a bad Agent, and you will get someone to write to me, I will be your friend and go to the President for you. I will tell him what you say. But if the new man comes, I want you to treat him kindly.

MANUELITO--When a new man comes he will not know our ways and we cannot tell if he is a good man.

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GENERAL HOWARD--Col. Pope, the Supt. for all this Territory is here. (They then approached one by one, and Col. Pope embraced them.)

COLONEL POPE--I have been in this Territory two years and have heard much of you. I am glad to have heard the words said here today and that you have made peace with the Apaches. I have heard good things of your chiefs who have brought in thieves. I am very sorry to hear that you have so small a school established for your children. I will talk more to you when I get up to the Reservation. Rations are now on the way for you. When Mr. Miller was killed by the Utes I asked to have Mr. Keams appointed; But General Howard has already told you why he was not. I am glad to see that the Navajoes and the soldiers are good friends. General Howard asked how many of their people are about here tonight, as he had a beef for them.

MANUELITO--Before General Howard and Col. Pope, I want to have some very important questions brought up. Five or six days ago, I came back from New Mexico from chasing thieves having stolen horses from the Apaches. I went to where Col. Price was and asked for these animals. He told me he had them for certain, so we go back.

GENERAL HOWARD--Col. Price is up with the Utes.

MANUELITO--When we parted, Col. Price went there to the Utes. I went to Jemes. I told him in twelve days I would meet the Apaches in Jemes, there with the animals. I got to Jemes and waited there three days, and the forth left for Avago the other side of Elido. The Apaches came where I was. I never before knew these Apaches. I wanted to make peace with them. A Captain named Beciente came up. He embraced us and thanked me for returning the stock. I made peace, talked day and night. They talked plainer than these do. When the Apaches went away some of us went with them. We have found many of our children among the Mexicans. Many of our families here have children in New Mexico. We saw many other children wherever we went; And the children want to return. They tell them we kill them and work silver mines with their land. They don't believe anything told them and I want to return. I want you General Howard to do all you can to get them back.

GENERAL HOWARD--How did they get the children?

MANUELITO--You know very well how they come to be there. When this world was made dark with dirt and sand flying and the stones were raised by the wind, and all were fighting with the Government and themselves, you know very well how this thing happened. When all the Nations came against us then we lost our children. (Eight years ago)

GENERAL HOWARD--I suppose it will be difficult to get those who are so old. They are big enough to go where they please except by the lies that have been told them. They cannot be detained.

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MANUELITO--I know that. I could not force them to come back.

GENERAL HOWARD--Have any been taken since you have been at peace? And have you got any Mexican captives among you? If you have, we may effect an exchange

MANUELITO--We have no captives.

GENERAL HOWARD--I will think of it and try to get them back. I have just tried to get back some Apache captives from the Mexicans, and returned six.

MANUELITO--At the time I went near El Riro, I found the child of this man Barbas Herron. It was crying and we asked for him. We had no Peons of the Mexicans.

GENERAL HOWARD--Where was it? Is the father here?

MANUELITO--Yes, here he is. The child is in El Rito.

GENERAL HOWARD--Give a description to Mr. Keams and Col. Pope and they will do all they can to get the children back. ESKELLECELA has one at Algodones.

MANUELITO--A man here (pointing him out) knows very well where they are and the Mexicans are against him.

COLONEL POPE--No person under the law can hold a Peon. Each one can come back if he wants to. If anyone uses force to obtain them, inform me.

GENERAL HOWARD--They have no right to detain them. Have the Navajoes anything more to say to the Apaches?

GANADO MUCHO--I want to go to Colorado and New Mexico where the children are and get them. I want to go just as soon as I can. I want that man that is there to go with me.

GENERAL HOWARD--Are they (the captives) his own children?

INTERPRETER--He means his people.

GANADO MUCHO--He told us that some of his Grand children and Nephews were there and every time he thinks of them it makes his heart ache. Those that die he forgets after some time, but those that are alive, he cannot forget, but thinks of them all the time. He wants to have a talk with the Supt. at Fort Defiance. That man there (pointing to a Mexican captive in the crowd) is very strong, but the Mexicans will have nothing to do with him.

GENERAL HOWARD--When I came through Pena Blanca five days ago, a number of Mexicans came out to me and said that five Navajoes, five days before, had taken twenty-three of their animals and carried them off to their Reservation and that another party had gone around by Fort Union and killed a citizen and taken many horses. Now, before you go for the children, it would be a good thing to go through the Reservation and see if the animals are there, as the Mexicans might trouble you. We are your friends here and you have many friends there. But some doubt us because we are friends of the Indians

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and are glad to accuse you. Give them no such opportunity.

GANADO MUCHO--Manuelito had told you he will get back all stolen things he can.

GENERAL HOWARD--I know it. Only before he goes away he had better try. I don't believe it is all true, but I want to be sure.

MANUELITO--General Howard knows very well that if they are on the Reservation I will bring them in. In case they have already killed a horse the thieves say it is from somebody else.

GENERAL HOWARD--Of course they cannot return those that are eaten.

MANUELITO--Col. Pope and Mr. Keams will tell the General when we return stolen horses.

GENERAL HOWARD--General Granger said certain parties of Indians kept the animals outside the Reservation till the rumors of the theft blew over. Then they bought them in. And also, that some Americans and Mexicans are doing these things and laying it upon the Indians, and we would be very glad to catch them. The Commandant, the other night, went out for five thieves and if he had found them, said he would have them hung up by the neck on the plaza.

After this the Apache and Navajoes talked together for some time. Then embraced each other again. Afterwards, exchanged presents. They agree to a perpetual peace, as they said, in the presence of God.

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Letters Received by the Office
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NEW MEXICO SUPERINTENDENCY 1849-1880
National Archives Record Center--1872

(note) General Howard arrived in Washington on June 20, 1872.
He left Washington on July 10 and reached Santa Fe in
early August.