California July 14th 1856

Thomas J. Henley
San Francisco Oct 12th 57

Submit extract from the
Report of Special Indian
Agent, W.O. Darby for the
Colorado. - Instructions
to the Agent re. to expenditure
Presents to Indians-
peaceable relations with them
preparing their minds for
removal. - Agreed to pay
the Agent $1500, per annum

Rec'd Nov. 11th 57

And 2nd Dec. 8th 57.
Office of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs
San Francisco Cal. Oct. 14, 1854

Hon. G. W. M. Money Penny

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith an extract from the report of the Special Indian Agent Maj. H. H. Hewett for the Colorado.

I have given instructions to the Agent to make no expenditures of money in that region, and to give the Indians no presents except a small quantity of tobacco, which I consider indispensable.

He is instructed to devote his time to preserving peaceable relations between the Indians and the Whites, and especially the Emigrants passing through that Country, and to preserving the minds of the Indians for removal and colonization. The salary I have agreed to pay him is Fifteen Hundred dollars per annum. And he is requested to act as Special Agent.

Colorado River Sept. 5th, 1854
Near Fort Yuma.

The Yuma Indians inhabit the Colorado commencing near our former boundary line with Mexico extending some two hundred and fifty miles up the river.
they can also extend on New River, which is a Lagoona making from the Colorado a short distance below the boundary line running east about fifty miles.

I met with much difficulty in ascertaining their number, being scattered over a large scope of country, and as they have no idea of numbering or number I was compelled to get them together and judge for myself: my estimate is Three Thousand.

They are a fine looking race surpassing any other tribe on the Pacific Coast. Like other Indians they are jealous and treacherous, they view the encroachments of the White or other Indians have ever done.

They subsist by Cultivating the soil, they produce corn, Melons, Beans and Turpentine. Their mode of Planting is after the Annual overflow, they select the low places on the river, and after the water recedes they then put in their seeds, the ground retaining sufficient moisture to mature the crops.

It sometimes occurs that there is no freshet. When such is the case they suffer very much for the want of food, their only resort being the Musquito Bean which grows here in great abundance but like other beans it also fails sometimes. It is not considered however by them a healthy food. This last summer there was
no greater and it looked at one time as though their sufferings would be great as the Bean both may also short. I procured tools, shovels, and axes, commenced opening a ditch or flume and clearing away a field at this time their came the heaviest rain I ever saw an occurrence which had not taken place for years, this answered very purpose of an overflow and they have succeeded in making tolerable crops. A large portion of these Indians live near the Crossing of the river they frequently have disturbances with the emigrants the stock of the emigrants getting into their fields.

These Indians are rather impudent, they do not fear the Americans as other Indians do, they have so far been successful in attacking small parties of Americans, from all the information that I can gather from the Indians themselves and others they have killed at least one hundred Americans since 1849. The Yumas are at war at this time with the Pahatans a tribe living below our boundary and the Gulf of California. I have made frequent efforts to bring about a reconciliation but to no effect it is an old feud and cannot be healed, they are also at war with the Mirapopas a tribe living on the Pilar river about one hundred miles above this place.
I would not advise the immediate collection of these Indians on a reservation as it would be difficult to make them understand the policy of the Government.

They think that all that portion of the country which they inhabit belongs to them. I would advise however that a reservation be made at once and conveyed.

This may prevent trouble in the future as the country will soon be taken up and settled. The most suitable I think is between the Colorado and Gila at the junction.

I have endeavored to avoid all unnecessary expense. I have been compelled to make some presents to their principal men, such as Blanket, Tobacco, and also two hens for a feast, to induce them to meet me and have a talk so that I could ascertain their number and inform them that the Government is disposed to treat them kindly.

Spoken with Chief Zeke

W. H. Harney
Special Agent

I should be pleased to have some instructions in regard to future operations on the Colorado.

Respectfully,

John F. Coltrin

Suppt. Indian Affair