

Albany the 8th May 1722

Instructions for Lawrence Claessen the Interpreter

Whereas we have recd an Information from Two Mohawke Indians that they expect three hundred Indians wth their Families (known by the Two Nations viz^t Mahikindus and Shouhonus) at the Onondago Castle to Treat wth our Six Nations about settling themselves and their Families among our Nations, and upon that Acc^t our Sachims have requested his Ex^{ty} Govern^r Montgomerie and the Comm^{rs} to send one or Two Persons to be at the Onondago Castle at said Meeting.

You are therefore upon your departure from hence to go in the name of his Ex^{ty} Govern^r Montgomerie to the Onondago Castle to be there at the Meeting of the said Indians and then and there to represent his said Ex^{ty} and to Engage the said Indians to incorporate themselves among our Six Nations in the best Manner you can, and to invite Two Sachims of each of the afores^d two Nations to come here and enter into the Covenant Chain, according to the Promises they made upon their last Treaty with his Ex^{ty}.

And whereas the aforesaid Two Mohawke Indians have further advised us that the Govern^r of Canada has sett out wth an Army of Two thousand men. Therefore if upon your arrivall, or during your stay at the Onondago Castle, you can be informed that it is the Intention of the aforesaid Army to attack the Garrison at Oswego; you are in the name of his Ex^{ty} Govern^r Montgomerie to request the Sachims of the Six Nations to aid and assist Capt John Price the officer now commanding there to prevent such an attack and whatever Charges may accrue on that Acc^t. We will certify the same to as you may be Reimbursd by the Province of New York, and you are likewise to Forwards the Letter sent by you herewith to Capt^l In^o Price at Oswego as soon as possible.

Capt^l John Price

Albany the 8th May 1722

Sir

We have received an Information from Two Mohawke Indians who came here upon the following Brands to advise us that there has been some French Indians at Onondago Castle, who then told our Indians there that the Governour of Canada has raised an Army of Two thousand men wth whom he goes himself to command which Army our said Informers believe are by this Time sett out but upon what Design or account our Informers are as yet Strang^r to. Therefore we have thought it highly necessary (as well on acc^t of the safety and Preservation of the Garrison now under your Commands, w^{ch} is our constant Care, as also the Affection & Zeal we bear for the Province in generall) to desire that you'll be very Watchfull, not only in respects of the Fear of an Enemy but Solicitous to Inform your self and Enquire if possible into the Design and Intents of the French Governour and his Army as also to Learn if you can what Course they Intend to take and if you can obtain their Intentions to Write us accordingly.

Present

- Mr. Livingston
- Mr. Holland
- Mr. Snyler
- Mr. Brough
- Mr. Snyler
- Mr. Gerrits
- Mr. Wendell
- Mr. Lansingh
- Mr. Sanders

At a Meeting of the Comm^{rs} of the Indian Affairs in Albany the 15th May 1722

This afternoon returned from Canada the Two Indians Messengers (in seven days) sent thither by the Comm^{rs} to Enquire what Intelligence and Preparations are making there for an Expedition, the said Messengers relate that when they arrived at Sachnawage (the preying Indians Castle) they stayed there four days, and Enquired for news but at first could hear nothing. at Last they met one of their brethren, who asked them what their Brands was they relying on his Fidelity resolved to discover it, and told him the same to Enquire for News; on which he answered I thought so, and now you have found the Man who shall Tell you the Truths The French have made great Preparations for an Expedition Fifty Battoes are ready made at Montreal and some hundred below