

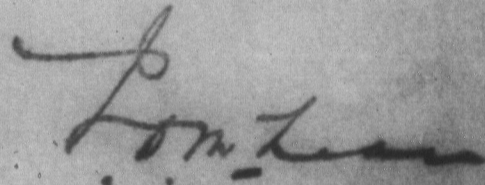
Ottawa, 5th November, 1902.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 3rd relating to the charge against William Ahroonquit I have the honour to inform you that it is not the practice of the Department to give instructions for the defence of Indians charged with a crime except in cases in which the lives of the accused are at stake or in which the Department is satisfied that there is a good defence to the charge; and that but for the intervention of the Department there is danger that the evidence will not be properly brought out. In the case to which your letter refers although the offence under the Criminal Code punishable with death or imprisonment for life there seems no reason to suppose that there will be any departure from the general practice of the Courts having criminal jurisdiction not to inflict the extreme penalty.

As at present advised, the Department is not prepared to give instructions for the defence.

Your obedient servant,



Secretary.

J. Frank Palmer, Esq.,  
 Attorney, etc.,  
 Port Huron, Ont.

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,  
 17 October 1902 - 8 November 1902, (R.G. 10, Volume 5009)

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