

Misunderstanding between you & them; which ought to be prevented in Time, We have <sup>th</sup> our Brethren the Mohoggs who are our nearest neighbours lived in peace & quietness together Time out of mind (two of the Sachims are here present to be witnesses to what we say) It seems as if you have a mind to be the Promoters of mischief, and are bent to break the Firm Ty and Friendship <sup>th</sup> is between us & the Nations which has so often been renewed between us. Last year you murdered one of your brethren at Skohere, which has been kept secret and is not come to Our Govern<sup>r</sup>s Ears; in Expectation that for the future you would behave your selves better; and for that reason is past by, but this blood lies yet on earth, and will cry for Revenge, Wherefore we desire you to remove your settlements in the woods beyond any Christian Plantation, that no mischief may follow from your Insolent behaviour towards your brethren of the Six Nations. So that what mischief be done for the future shall be demanded off your hands

Answer of the Indians

We acknowledge that some mischief has been done by those who live among us at Skohere but all that is done is generally imputed to us, tho' we be Innocent, And since you are desirous that we should remove, We promise to go to our native Country Cayouge and Oneyda and not to settle alone on the Christian settlements as you propose, for then some of our People might take revenge for our banishment. The Murder committed at Skohere has been Done in drink, and which we <sup>ought to</sup> have reconciled before now, which shall be done by the Sachims in due time. The Misdemeanours that particular Indians commit, We think ought not to break the Covenant Chain, but Ought by the Sachims to be made up

By the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at Albany the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1729. 282

Instructions for Lawrence Claess the Interp<sup>r</sup>

Whereas we have received advice that the French at Canada make preparations to attack the building at Ofwego this Spring <sup>th</sup> their Indians; which we think is an affair of such Moment to this Province, If the French do succeed in their design, That it ought to be prevented in the best manner possible; We therefore thought fit to send you to acquaint the Sachims of the Six Nations <sup>th</sup> this undertaking of the French, and that the demolishing of the said building will be very detrementall to them as well as to us; and surround them on all sides, while they have already had sufficient proof of the French fortifying near them, and that they have on severall Places made Fortifications without their Consents. But this building has been erected by their Consents and is a Defence & Security to them, They have sufficient Instances of the just Treatment and kind behaviour of this Govern<sup>r</sup> towards them for their security and welfare for many years past, Wherefore we cannot doubt but the Sachims will performe their repeated Promises, in a fighting and Defending the said building. In case it should be attacked, Wherefore you are in the name of his Excell<sup>ty</sup> Governour Montgomerie to desire the Sachims of the Six Nations to send up two Sachims of each Nation to go up to Ofwego forthwith, and lye there untill such time as they receive further order from his Excellency. and if in case the French should attack the house at Ofwego, That they will Tell the French that the English have built that house by their orders and upon their grounds, and that whomsoever should make an attack to demolish that house, that they would seem it an attempt on their own Castles