

the public safety required that they should be removed far from the scene of their depredations and guarded with the strictest vigilance. The remainder of the band captured at the same time, consisting of eleven women, six children, and two enlisted scouts, were ordered to be sent from San Antonio to Fort Marion, Florida, and to be placed with the other Apaches under custody at that post. Geronimo and the adult members of his band arrived at Fort Pickens on October 25, and on the same date the women and children, and the two enlisted scouts reached Fort Marion.

On the 20th of October General Miles advised the Department that a small party of Apache Indians, who had separated from Geronimo and his band in August, 1885, and consisting of Mangus, two men, and eight women and children, had arrived at Fort Apache, having been captured by a detachment under Captain Cooper, Tenth Cavalry. Under orders issued October 26, Mangus and the two adults were sent from Fort Apache October 30 for confinement at Fort Pickens, Florida, at which place Mangus and one of the men arrived on the 6th of November, the other having died on the way. The eight women and children were sent to Fort Marion at the same time.

It is proper also to state the circumstances which led to the removal to Fort Marion of the Warm Spring and Chiricahua Indians on the Fort Apache Reservation.

On the 4th of July General Miles telegraphed that there were strong military reasons for allowing a delegation of the Apaches from the Fort Apache Reservation to visit Washington in regard to their removal from Arizona. Upon consultation with the President and the Secretary of the Interior it was decided that they could come, and they at once started, under charge of Captain Dorst, Fourth Cavalry. This permission was granted upon the supposition that they desired a change of abode, or could be induced to change without coercion, and the only question to be determined here would be where they should go.

Later, by telegram and letter received after the delegation was on its way, General Miles urged that the Apaches on the Fort Apache Reservation, numbering about five hundred, be sent to the Indian Territory, and that the existing laws should be so changed that this disposition of them could legally be made. This proposal was considered for many reasons entirely impracticable, and General Miles was so informed on July 15, and that military movements must proceed in view of the present arrangements in regard to these Indians. The law was against it, and the Executive would not be justified in requesting a change. To place this lawless and dangerous tribe among the peaceful Indians of that Territory would have been a breach of good faith and treaty obligations. But the same proposal was again renewed by him on the 20th as the solution of the whole difficulty, and he requested that the delegation be allowed to visit and see certain points in the Indian Territory.

In the meantime the whole matter of the removal of the tribe to the Indian Territory or to any other place voluntarily was settled by the demands and expressions of opinion made by the Indians then in Washington. Their sole desire was to remain where they were; that apparently was the object they had in view in coming, and the assurance of the authorities here that they should not be removed was very earnestly pressed. In their interviews with the President, the Secretary of War, or the Secretary of the Interior they expressed no desire or willingness to go elsewhere. No assurance was given them in any form of words that they should remain at Fort Apache. The conferences granted them were solely to hear their complaints and their requests. Information came from the officer in charge of them that they were restless and uneasy, dissatisfied with their reception and the failure to receive any assurance that they could remain at Fort Apache. In this condition of affairs the Lieutenant-General, in an indorsement to the Secretary of War dated July 30, 1886, remarked:

There are now on the reservation near Fort Apache seventy-one Chiricahua and Warm Spring adult male Indians. These are exclusive of those in this city. It is my belief that if the delegation which is now here goes back to the reservation without having received what they deem a most satisfactory promise on the part of the Government, a large number of those that are now peaceable will endeavor to join Geronimo. I therefore recommend that authority be granted me to direct General Miles to arrest all the male Indians now on the reservation near Fort Apache, and send them as prisoners to Fort Marion, Florida; that the delegation now here be sent there also, and that they be held at that point as prisoners of war until the solution of the Geronimo troubles.

This recommendation was approved so far as the removal of the Apaches on the Fort Apache Reservation was concerned, provided they could all be successfully secured by the troops; and the President directed inquiries to be made of General Miles for his opinion in regard to their forcible arrest. General Miles replied, objecting to such removal, and by letter gave his objections in detail. But, on August 20, he informed the Department that Colonel Wade, commanding at Fort Apache, was of opinion that the Indians there could be secured and moved without difficulty. Orders thereupon issued that they should be taken and sent to Fort Marion, which were carried out on the 7th of September, and they were conveyed to that fort, where they arrived on September 20, and where they are now confined.

In the matter of the Lieutenant-General's recommendation that the delegation of Apaches in Washington should also be sent to Fort Marion, it was thought that these Indians should first be returned to Arizona, which was the understanding upon which they came here. After their return they could be treated as the rest of their tribe and taken to Fort Marion. But it was of the first importance that they should not confer with their brethren on the reservation until after the latter had been secured by the troops and were in custody for removal. This delegation contained some of the most dangerous of the Chiricahuas.