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formed in relation to the status of the Sioux nation, as well as the object of the expensive military operations in the Sioux country. In a communication to President Grant, dated July 8, 1876, not three months before the date on which Gen. Crook made his sweeping indictment, the secretary of war said: "The present military operations are not against the Sioux nation at all, but against certain hostile parts of it which defy the government ... No part of these operations is on or near the Sioux reservation... The object of these military expeditions was in the interest of the peaceful part of the Sioux nation, supposed to embrace at least nine-tenths of the whole, and not one of the peaceful or treaty Indians has been molested by the military authorities." Gen. Sheridan had said in a letter to Gen. Sherman in May, 1876, that nearly every Indian, man, woman, and child, among the agency Indians, was at heart a friend. In the light of the statements of the secretary of war and Gen. Sheridan, it seems marvelous that Gen. Crook should place in his report such unfounded charges against the Indians of the Sioux agencies.

Although the secretary of war advised the president in July that not one of the peaceful or treaty Sioux had been molested by the military authorities, it appears from the annual report of Gen. Sherman, made on the 10th of November, 1876, that it was a part of the "original plan" of the campaign to dismount and disarm the friendly Indians at the agencies, and this deed of treachery was actually performed at Red Cloud on the 23d, Standing Rock on the 26th, and Cheyenne river on ³¹⁵ / the 28th of October, 1876, by the forces of Gen. Crook and Gen. Terry, assisted by the local