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agency, or go to Fort Keogh or Buford.

Gall stated that he in person desired to visit Buford (and demanded transportation and an escort for this purpose. Being without any special instructions at that time, I declined to consent to Gall's demand, but plainly told him, and about 60 warriors present during the talk, that they would go to Buford without delay; gave them three days for deliberation, at the expiration of which time I intimated that an answer was wanted.

After this talk the chief The Crow requested an interview, and in the presence of about 12 of the headmen of this camp stated that they wanted to await the action of Sitting Bull, who was their only chief, and that he and his followers were ready and willing to do whatever their chieftain advised. Whilst thus engaged in council, your dispatches, sent out to reach me en route, and which had missed me, were handed me by courier, and as they forbid any intercourse whatever with the hostiles on my part, I advised the Crow to give good counsel to his people and to go to Buford. I appealed to him to do what was best for his people, who were wanting for food and clothing, / p.101 and who would be relieved of their suffering by accepting the kind offers of the commanding officer of Fort Buford.

On the morning of the 31st of December last, being then in possession of your telegram of the 28th (same month), informing me that the former instructions given by the department commander were revoked and authorizing me "to compel the surrender of The Gall and his people by such means as to me may seem best adapted to the end," I sent for Gall, The Crow, and all the headmen of the hostile camp. They met me, about 60 in number, fully armed, at the agency building, and in presence of my officers and the United States Indian agent, Mr. Porter. Scout Allison, with the two emissaries of Sitting Bull, on return trip from Fort Buford, were invited to be present, and upon my request, Crow King, the head soldier, gave the hostiles a description of his visit to Fort Buford; the