

Do you know the cause of the war? You ask me if I am going to return to your country. It is impossible for me to go back. God never told the Americans to come to the head of the Missouri. We were raised on this side of the sea. You were raised on the other side. The Great Spirit told me that at the same time He brought me up in a great blanket. On both sides of America there are only two blankets left to cover me. God made me big enough, I know, because / His Great Mother covers me. My heart was made strong, but now really it is weak, and that is why the Americans want to lick my blood. Why do the Americans want to drive me? - because they want only Americans to be there. God made me leader of the people, and that is why I am following the buffalo. God told me, if you do anything wrong your people will be destroyed, and that is why I came here. I was afraid. Look at me. See if anything wrong sticks to my body. I have nothing but my hand to fight the white men with. I told the Americans to keep off my land. You are waiting for my people to come to your land so that the 'Long Knives' may rush at them and kill them. If you want to make a treaty, give us back our horses. God made all Indians out of one Indian, and He came to smoke with the old Indians and make peace. Are you here to ask me if I am going to throw my land away? I never thought of giving my land to the American people, and still you follow to bring something wrong to me. I came here to hear from my White Mother, and why, if I go back to the Americans, are they going to take all my stock away? Did God tell you to come and make me poor? I never tried to do anything wrong to the white men. My body is clean. I never saw the road" (the line)"before, but I came on till I got to this side of it. I only think of two people, the English and Spanish. (Note - It had been Sitting Bull's intention to seek refuge in "the Spanish country" - probably Mexico - if not in Canada.) I am between them. The Americans tried to cut me up, and that is why I talk to the Chief (Colonel Irvine) there and to you. If you will use your influence with the President to send back the bad men to where they came from and leave the good men, there will be peace."

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This speech, which is not without its pathetic touches, / drew from Colonel Irvine an assurance that "the White Mother" would protect the Sioux while they remained in Canadian territory so long as they behaved themselves; but the Government had no