

After exchanging greetings a council was held. I told Swift Bear I was very glad to see him and had sent messengers to say he might come and see me without fear, that he might talk together. If the Sioux were willing to abstain from all hostilities and not commit any depredations upon the whites, I would tell the Great Father so and he would make peace with them. They must understand that they were offered peace and not asked for it, and it was for them to decide whether they would accept it or not. For myself, I was only the military commander, and could make no treaty, but I would protect them from all maltreatment and would permit them to camp where they could get game and live quietly.

I then introduced Mr. Jarrot, the Indian agent, who made some remarks of a similar purport.

The Swift Bear answered that he had come when he received my message, as he believed it to be true. He knew the big war was over and the Great Father had peace with all his white children. He wanted peace and would be very glad to make it, and promised that no more depredations should be committed. Heretofore they had been afraid to come to the fort for fear of being killed, but now they were glad to be able to come and get some things for their women and children, who were naked and starving.

After some further talk about presents and provisions, the council broke up and Mr. Jarrot and myself issued them some clothing and provisions.

I have information that the Red Cloud, the principal chief of the Ogalallas, will be here in a short time with a large band, some two hundred and fifty lodges.

Those that have come in are in a condition of utter destitution