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L. P. WALKER TO DOUGLAS H. COOPER

Confederate States of America

War Department

Montgomery May 13th 1861

Maj. Douglas H. Cooper

Choctaw Nation

Sir - the desire of this Government is to cultivate the most friendly relations & the closest alliance with the Choctaw Nation and all the Indian tribes West of Arkansas and South of Kansas. Appreciating your sympathies with these tribes and the reciprocal regard for you, we have thought it advisable to enlist your services in the line of this desire. From information in possession of the Government it is deemed expedient to take measures to secure the protection of these tribes in their present Country from the agrarian rapacity of the North that unless, opposed, must soon drive them from their homes and supplant them in their possessions, as indeed, would have been the case with the entire south but for present efforts at resistance.

It is well know that with these unjust designs against

the Indian country. The Northern Movement for several years has had its emissaries among the tribes for their ultimate destruction. Their destiny has thus become our own and common with that of all the Southern states entering this confederation.

Intertaining these Views & feelings and with these objects before us, we have commissioned Genl. Ben McCulloch, with three Regiments under his command, from the States of Ark, Texas & Louisiana, to take charge of the Military District embracing the Indian Country. And I now empower you to raise among the Choctaw & Chickasaw a mounted to be commanded by yourself in cooperation with Genl McCulloch. It is designed also, to raise two other similar Regiments among the Creeks, Cherokees Seminoles and other friendly tribes, for the same purposes.

This combined force of six Regiments will be ample to secure the frontiers upon Kansas & the interest of the Indians while to the South of the Red River.

three Regiments from Texas under a different command have already assigned to the Rio Grande & Western border.

It will thus appear I trust that the resources of this

Government are adequate to its ends and assured to the friendly Indians.

We have our agents actively engaged in the manufacture of amunition and in the purchase of arms, and when your Regiment has been reported organized in ten Companies ranging from sixty four to one hundred men each and enrolled for twelve months if possible, it will be received in the confederate service and supplied with arms and amunition.

Such will be the course pursued also in relation to the two other Regiments I have indicated. The arms we are purchasing for the Indians are Rifles & they will be forwarded to Fort Smith.

Respectfully

Signed L. P. WALKER

Secretary at War

Confederate States of America
War Department

Montgomery May 13th 1864

May Douglas H Cooper
Choctaw Station

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Secretary at War