

EXHIBIT N

4
To which the Governor replied

Brother

I am happy to see you at the Council
Fire and I am with you in thanks to the
Great Spirit for visiting you here
in safety and health. Although the path
to this place is long yet the distance is
great and the weather has been bad.

It was a nation with you for father even
when they had no particular business to
meet together and converse upon their
mutual interests. When our great Council
meets they are drawn to this place, the place
where our fathers used to meet. Their object
was to preserve the chain of friendship as
it has been without ever succeeding to become
your destruction. I have explained them
that you have agreed - I now must to
take you by the hand and go from
the Great Council house to the Council Office
joined with you to business.

At Council Fire, 1834.

The Governor being prevented by another
meeting of the Congress and on Monday
from coming back and the Grand
Council in this city was had at a place a day
to come with from this meeting upon
the Council together with the Taylor
to attend and receive their communi-
cations, which being announced to the
Great Indians.

The Atlatl Coyage Chief rose and spoke as
follows

Brother - Attention

Wm

our nation have been told from the
 Council of the Council at Miami, we
 are informed that the Government of
 the State wish to deal with the Indian
 for their lands. When we heard this request,
 we decided it ought to be postponed till next
 Spring.

About the middle of the winter we
 had a great fire in the State, we
 were informed that the Government
 of the State wish to deal with the Indian
 for their lands. When we heard this request,
 we decided it ought to be postponed till next
 Spring.

We are great lovers of the Indian people,
 but we are not willing to deal with them
 for their lands. We are informed that the
 Government of the State wish to deal with the
 Indian for their lands. When we heard this
 request, we decided it ought to be postponed
 till next Spring.

We are great lovers of the Indian people,
 but we are not willing to deal with them
 for their lands. We are informed that the
 Government of the State wish to deal with the
 Indian for their lands. When we heard this
 request, we decided it ought to be postponed
 till next Spring.

We are great lovers of the Indian people,
 but we are not willing to deal with them
 for their lands. We are informed that the
 Government of the State wish to deal with the
 Indian for their lands. When we heard this
 request, we decided it ought to be postponed
 till next Spring.

allege, that you are charged with business, and
were three commissioners left spring to con-
sult with me. I am unwilling to again offer
to meet us at Buffalo Creek about the
middle of the following April.

We wish that Mr. John Harris should also
attend with them.

At our Council at Buffalo Creek it was
agreed to request Genl. Pichegru and his
interpreter and Mr. John Harris and
also Dr. Her of the British to attend with
us in compliance with what they are
now doing.

Brother

That is the only way we had from
the Commissioners. The request that it
may receive as early a consideration
as possible by the Great Council, that
we may then receive an answer and
return home.

Attesting at March 8, 1794

At a meeting of the Commission
with the said Indians
from Buffalo Creek and the
Grand Council.

The names of the said are follows

Brother

My health did not permit me to meet
you on Saturday. I sent my Secretary to
hear what you had to communicate. He
took it down in writing and delivered it to
me - I have read it and understood it.

Brother

It would take more time than I can at-
present spare to relate all that has passed
between your Nations and ours since the close
of the late War. It is necessary however to re-
mind you that as soon as peace was restored
through a Council held at Fort Stanwix and
invited you to meet me at it. The Oriskany
and respectable deputations of all your other
Nations assembled at that place. We sha-
ked hands and embraced each other as Brothers.
We wiped away the blood that had been
shed in the War - We consoled each other
for our mutual losses and dried up for ever
the tears. I pulled up the briars and brambles
that had grown up in the path between us
and removed every obstruction in the way
that we might renew our former friendly
intercourse. We renewed the antient covenant
which had existed between our fore-fathers.
We bridged the stream of friendship. I
invited you to return to your lands and
rejoice your Country and assured you of our
firm and friendly - I explained to you
our Constitution and Laws and promised
you that we had taken great pains to prepare
for you your lands and that to, I request you

being defended that no person could purchase
of you without the consent of our govern-
ment. We spent many days together, review-
ing each other of our former customs which we
determined to abide by and then parted a
mutually satisfied with each other happy meeting
brothers.

Notwithstanding this, it was not long
before we heard that you were treating
with some of our young people for the
purchase of the whole of your country and the
you had actually entered into some agreement
with them concerning it. This was so con-
trary to our laws and former customs and what
we had so lately agreed upon between us
and we felt the need of notice of for immediate
action, that it became our duty to in-
quire and prevent it. I then deeply kind
another Council Fire at Fort Snelling and
invited you all to attend in order to see
by this council - Some of you the British
and to make you fully attended - We had
before us with each other in that same
manner that becomes brothers when any
misunderstanding arises between them -
Your people saw that they had done wrong
They were sorry for it and humbled it was
then entered into a new and stronger
treaty never to be altered or violated - It was
well understood - it was pleasing to both
parties - it was to last forever.

The winter following the Cayugas who remained
in their own country met me at a Council Fire
in this place and made a similar covenant
with

me and I then hoped that every thing was
adjusted to general satisfaction - But
was not long before I was informed that
some of your Nation who had left their bow
and rinded at Croffins Creek were not content
with these agreements because they were not
present at their conclusion. These Com-
mune were hindered at the place where our
ancestors usually assembled to transact public
business - I invited you all to attend - I could
do no more - I could not force you to meet
I did every thing that was proper or necessary
on my part. But some things being neglected
by an honest review of former my former
conduct, which I considered essential to
your happiness, I determined to hinder
your Council from that place where
about five or six years ago died at
which the White Carrier and all the principal
chiefs of your Nation together with Capt.
Barnett and a number of our brethren of
the other side attended. On this occasion,
I thought, you may very well remember that
we conversed upon our former transactions
and after perfectly understanding them, they
were solemnly ratified and confirmed by
your chiefs in the presence of Capt. Barnett
and all the Nations then present. That we
signed and sealed them and each party
took a copy that what had been done might
not be forgotten even by our Posterity. This
covenant so perfectly understood and so
solemnly ratified, I had reason to expect
would be faithfully observed by all parties.
On our side it has been kept without the
least deviation - Everything we promised, we
have faithfully performed and shall continue to

do so. It was however not long before we learned
that you were negotiating with some of your
young men at a New Town Point and had
ceded to them the lands reserved for your
use. This cession was so contrary to our
Agreements and so repugnant to our former
intentions and to our law that we could not
consent to it and the same was accordingly
declared to be void by the President of the
United States. We were soon after informed
that this gave you great dissatisfaction and
you wished to sell or lease your lands. Genl.
Chapin who is now present mentioned it
and left you - and communicated it to our
great Council then sitting in New York.
Upon which they appointed three Com-
missioners, one of whom was Genl. Chapin
to confer with you on this subject in order
that your interests might be made con-
sistent with our own Country laws
on this business, but it seems you did not
listen to their voice for they did not find
you there.

Yours,

You must be sensible that there is
a short time detail of every transaction
that has taken place between us and it
concerns it proper to remind you of it
to remove any misapprehensions which
the stories of the little birds may have made
on your mind. There have also been various
events arising more generally among the
people of the little birds and among
their own countrymen making our government
have never listened to the stories of the little birds.
They

at your ancient seat speak differently, they say that you
have left your Country and now want to sell the Land,
they live on, and have taken care of. Brothers. I do not
mingle with your disputes. I wish to reconcile you to
each other, and do equal Justice to both parties. it is
for this purpose I formerly send a second commission
at Fort Stevens some of you were there I recollect your
faces, and you know the power I took to reconcile you
to each other and do you equal Justice, it was with this
view also that I now sent for your principal chiefs &
were authorized to transact your business, my Mission
was to your Nation and I desired the Nation to settle
each other, in order that Harmony might be restored
among you - Brothers -

If your Chiefs had attended we could
have concurred together upon our business face to face
like men and have understood ourselves to each other
truly and have explained the different transactions
that has taken place between us. I have done this
now to you and I appeal to you, whether any thing that
I have related is not exactly true. Your Chief at a great
distance says that we want to defraud you - now
we are face to face I call upon you to point out, as

single Instance in which we have not acted fairly & openly
and honestly with you as Partners should do with each other
or in which we have failed to fulfil our agreements with
you speak freely Partners this is the best way to preserve
friendship because Partners if you can convince us that
we have ^{done} been wrong in any instance it is in our power
to correct it and we wish to do it

Partners. we never
desired to buy your reserved Lands, it was our duty to
Protect you in the enjoyment of them according to the
Covenants between us this we have always been ready to
do, but your friend General Chapin said that you were
discontented. that you wanted to sell or lease your
Lands and this induced our Great Council to send me
among you to confer with you on the subject. He was
one of them. He is now here present I call upon him
to mention whether this is not true. our Commission
sent Messengers ^{being} to meet them at a Council here that they
were about to kindle in your country, you did not listen
to their voice it seems you could not conveniently do so.
they could only Invite you, they could not force you to
it. they accordingly met your Partners who live upon
the Land. and conferred with them. this they did not
consider

consider as injuring you, and I doubt not but that they would be able to explain their conduct in the most satisfactory manner, if your Chiefs who were now invited to attend here were present to hear them.

But then I have now done I expect that you will consider me truly and sincerely, this is the best way to preserve Friendships, it best becomes men and Warriors - We should keep nothing disagreeable upon our minds we should disclose it all to each other.

Excuse of the Little Cayuga Chief -

But then you requested us to mention the time and place when you have arranged us, and the particular Instances, as you consider yourself a friend, we will tell you.

what we mean is that we wanted your Commissioners to postpone the business last Year, as we were not ready, but they come on like strong headed men, and treated with Dey's at Onondago - The Annual Payments are made to the Indians, including those also who wrong the Majority of them.

10
I hope when we speak of you we only mean the
You sent among us, we have buried the Bargain with
The onelagos, as well as those we made with your
Young Men, we hope there will be a New Bargain
made, to the satisfaction of the Nation.

The Governor Replies

Brothers as to the
annual payments you know they are by our
agreement with you to be made at Fort-Stanwix
on a certain day and it has always been so
we pay them to those of your Nation who attend
we cannot pay them to you if you do not
to receive them, if you did you would get the
full portion, and if there is any thing wrong ^{in this}
is your fault and not ours.

Brothers - I shall now lay before
our great Council all that has passed before
us and mention to them the answers they
have offered to me of having your business dis-
patched so that you may immediately return,
and as soon as I receive their answer I will
communicate it to you.

1794
13-17 Mar

Minutes of meeting at Albany between Cayugas and Onondagas from Buffalo
Creek and Grand River with the governor of New York. NEW YORK STATE
ARCHIVES, ALBANY, N.Y., LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PAPERS, VOL. 40, PP.
225-242.

241

Exhibit N

Proceedings of a meeting between Governor George Clinton with the Cayugas and Onondagas from Buffalo Creek and Grand River, held at Albany, March 13, 1794
New York State Archives, (A-1823), Legislative Assembly Papers, vol. 40, pp. 225-242;
also in *Iroquois Indians: A Documentary History*, reel 42

Albany, March 13th 1794

At a meeting of the Governor with the Cayugas and Onondagas from Buffaloe Creek and the Grand River,

The little Cayuga Chief spoke as follows

Brother—We are glad to see you at the Council Fire which you have kindled at this place. We thank the Great Spirit for having protected us and brought us together. Some of us were at Buffaloe Creek when we received your message, others at Grand River. We thought it advisable to send for them. The distance is great and we were prevented by storms from meeting you as soon as some of our Brethren who have been with you and have returned home.

Brother—As it has been the custom of our forefathers and the rules they followed we wish to keep up. Your leading characters are frequently dropping off. It is the case with others. I can scarcely refrain from tears when I look at you. I will endeavor to wipe the tears from your eyes, open your eyes, and clear you throat that you may see and hear us and speak to us with a strong voice. This has been customary with our fore-fathers when they met. Brother, this is all we have to say to present.

To which the Governor replied

Brothers—I am happy to see you at the Council Fire and I join with you in thanks to the Great Spirit for conducting you here in safety and health. Although the path is open and clear, yet the distance is great and the weather has been bad. It was a custom with our fore-fathers even when they had no particular business to meet together and converse upon their mutual interests. When our great Council invited your Nation to this place, the place where our fathers used to meet, their object was to brighten the Chain of friendship and to know what was necessary to promote your happiness. I have informed them that you have arrived. I now meet to take you by the hand and as soon as the Great Council have deliberated to proceed with you to business

Albany, 15 March 1794

The Governor being prevented by indisposition from meeting the Cayugas and Onondagas from Buffaloe Creek and the Grand River now in this City who had signified a desire to confer with him this morning, requested his Secretary together with John Taylor Esq. To attend and receive their communications, which being announced to the said Indians,

The Little Cayuga Chief rose and spoke as follows

Brothers—attention. Upon our return home last fall from the great council fire kindled at Miami, we were informed that the Government of this State wished to treat with the Indians for their lands. When we heard this request, we desired it might be postponed till next Spring.

About the middle of this Winter, we received a message requesting us to attend the Great Council Fire at this place. Upon which it was considered by the principal Chiefs in the general Council of the Six Nation and it was agreed that deputies from the Onondagas and Cayugas should be appointed to attend this Council Fire.

We have great councils among ourselves. Let those who wish to treat with us send Commissioners to our Council Fire which is generally held at Buffaloe Creek. When the deputies were there appointed to attend your Council Fire, they were instructed by the Head Chiefs to request that Commissioners should be appointed by the governor of the State to attend a council at Buffaloe Creek which would give satisfaction to our Chiefs & Warriors, their Women and Children. The small councils that have been held for several years back have created great dissatisfaction. I present these Strings to lead the Commissioners by the hand to Buffaloe Creek.

Six Strings of Wampum

Brothers—Do not in opposition to this request alledge that you are thronged with business. There were three Commissioners last Spring to confer with us. Let Commissioners be again appointed to meet us at Buffaloe Creek about the middle of the following April.

We wish that Mr. John Harris should also attend with them.

At our council at Buffaloe Creek it was agreed to request Genl. Chapin and his Interpreter and Mr. John Harris and Dr. [Benson?] of the British to attend with us. In compliance with which they are now here.

Brothers—This is the message we had from our Head Sachems. We request that it may receive as early a consideration as possible by the Great Council, that we may have a speedy answer and return home.

Albany, 17 March 1794

At a meeting of the Governor with the said Indians from Buffalo Creek and the Grand River The Governor addressed them as follows

Brothers—My health did not permit me to meet you on Saturday. I sent my Secretary to hear what you had to communicate. He took it down in writing and delivered it to me. I have read it and understood it.

Brothers—It would take more time then I can at present spare to relate all that has passed between your Nations and me since the close of the late War. It is necessary however to remind you that as soon as peace was restored I kindled a Council Fire at Fort Stanwix and invited you to meet me at it. The Oneidas and a very respectable deputation of all your other Nations assembled at that place. We shook hands and embraced each other as Brothers. We wiped away the blood that had been shed in the War. We condoled each other for our mutual losses and dried up our tears. I pulled up the briars and brambles that had grown up in the path between us and removed every obstruction in the way that we might renew our former friendly intercourse. We revived the antient covenant which had existed between our fore-fathers. We brightened the chain of friendship. I invited you to return to your lands and enjoy your Country and assured you of our [illegible] and good will. I explained to you our Constitution and Laws and shewed you that we had taken great pains to preserve for you your lands and that to prevent your being defrauded that no person could purchase of you without the consent of our government. We spent many days together, reminding each other of our former customs which we determined to abide by and then parted mutually satisfied with this happy meeting.

Brothers—Notwithstanding this, it was not long before we heard that you was treating with some of our young people for the [illegible] of almost the whole of your Country and that you had actually entered into some agreements with them concerning it. This was so contrary to our laws and former customs and what had been so lately agreed upon between us, and might have been productive of so much mischief, that it became our duty to interfere and prevent it. I accordingly kindled another Council Fire at Fort Stanwix and invited you all to attend in order to rectify this error. Some of you, the Oneidas and Onondagas only attended. We had explanations with each other in that friendly manner that becomes brothers when any misunderstanding arises between them. Your people saw that they had done wrong. They were sorry for it and disannulled it and we entered into a new and strong covenant never to be altered or violated. It was well understood. It was pleasing to both parties. It was to last forever.

The winter following the Cayugas who remained in their own Country met me at a Council Fire at this place and made a similar covenant with me and I then hoped that every thing was finally adjusted to general satisfaction, but it was not long before I was informed that some of your nations who had left their Country and resided at Buffaloe Creek were not content with those agreements because they were not present at their completion. These Council Fires were kindled at the place where our ancestors usually assembled to transact public business. I invited you all to attend. I could do no more. I could not force you to meet. I did every thing that was proper or necessary on my part. Notwithstanding being actuated by an earnest desire of promoting harmony among you, which I considered essential to your happiness, I determined to kindle another Council Fire at Fort Stanwix which I did about three or four years ago and at which the Fish Carrier and all the principal chiefs of your Nations together with Capt. Brandt and a number of our brethren of the Mohawks attended. At this occasion, Brothers, you may very well remember that we conversed upon our former transactions, that after perfectly understanding them, they were solemnly ratified and confirmed by your Chiefs in the presence of Capt. Brandt and all the Nations then present, that we signed and sealed them and each party took a Copy that what had been done might not be forgotten even by our

Posterity. This covenant so perfectly and so solemnly ratified, I had reason to expect would be faithfully observed by all parties. On our side it has been kept without the least deviation. Everything we promised, we have faithfully performed and shall continue to do so. It was however not long before we heard that you are treating with some of our young men at New Town Point and had leased to them the lands reserved for your use. This Brothers was so contrary to our agreements and so repugnant to our former customs and to our laws, that we could not consent to it and the lease was accordingly declared void by the President of the United States. We were soon after informed that this gave you some dissatisfaction because you wished to sell or lease your lands. Genl. Chapin who is now present mentioned it to me last year and I communicated it to our Great Council then sitting in New York, upon which they appointed three Commissioners, one of whom was Genl. Chapin, to confer with you on this subject in order that your minds might be made easy. These men went to your Country last fall on this business but it seems you did not listen to their voice for they did not find you there.

Brother—You must be sensible that this though a short is a true detail of every transaction that has taken place between us and I conceive it proper to remind you of it to remove any improper impressions which the stories of the little Birds may have made on your minds. These birds are the Emissaries which designed men generally employ to create strife between brothers and promote their own interested views. Our government have never listened to the stories of the little birds. They always have dealt and always will deal faithfully and honestly to you and your own reflections must convince you of it.

Brothers—Open your ears and listen attentively to what I have to say, that you may be able to repeat it to your Chiefs and Warriors and to your Women when you return home. They are but a few words. They are however strong and must be pleasing. They come from the heart. Our great council who are now sitting in this place hearing that you had not met the men whom they had sent into your country last summer to confer with you, and being still anxious to promote your interest and happiness requested me to send a messenger to your different nations to invite a deputation of each to attend at this place that they might hear from your own mouths if there was anything that disturbed your minds or that they could do to advance your welfare. This message I accordingly sent. The Oneidas and such of your Nations as reside in their respective countries attended and left this place on their return home before your arrival here. Our great council requested me to assure them as I now do you, that they continue the strongest friendship for your nation, that they will protect and secure them in the possession and enjoyment of their Reservations according to the several agreements made with them and are ready to make any further disposition thereof for their benefit whenever the wishes of your respective nations shall be made known for that purpose. This Brothers is all I have to say to you. As to the place at which business is to be transacted between you and us, this according to the customs of our Ancestors, must be left to our great Council to determine, as well as the time. You cannot doubt but that they will study our mutual convenience, as was always the case with our forefathers.

To which the little Cayuga Chief replied,

Brother—We had a Council day yesterday and we agree that our directions before we left home were simple and confined to request that Commissioners should be appointed to meet us at Buffaloe Creek about the middle of April if convenient. Our head Chief came with us for this purpose as far as Canadaque but business prevented him from proceeding. He then made a speech to Genl. Chapin to which we refer you.

Br.—When we came here we were not instructed to deliberate on general matters. This is reserved for the great Council which we desire to be held at Buffaloe Creek and to which we entreat you to send Commissioners.

Br.—We wish the Superintendent appointed by the United States Genl. Chapin to be present and see justice done us in our negotiations, as we look on him as our father. We do not expect that he will confine his care to us only, but that he should be a mediator between both parties.

Br.—You say that you had not time to relate all our past transactions. You mentioned some of the heads. We listened with great attention. We thank you for it. It shall rest on our minds and we will communicate it on our return to our people.

You mentioned some of the transactions that took place in our Country. Our instructions being limited to request the appointment of Commissioners, it is not in our power to make lengthy replies.

Three agreements were made with some of your people in our General Council which you have annulled, because they did not get the consent of your government, but the Commissioners you sent last fall made an agreement with a few of the people that live on our land, and did not obtain the consent of our head men nor the voice of our nation. It is void and we bury it.

Br.—Let us forget what is past—let us have a new agreement that will give general satisfaction.

We shall invite the people that live on our reservations to attend the proposed Council at Buffaloe Creek. We called a Council at Onondaga and Cayuga on our way and told them of it.

The Governor again addressed the Indians as follows:

Brothers—I observe that you refer me to a speech made by Clear Sky at Canadaque to General Chapin which he has now delivered to me. I request that the Interpreter may explain to you one part of it, which I think is very exceptionable. It is necessary that I should say a few words to you.

Brothers—You say you are but messengers and that this speech contains the principal part of what you have to say. If this is the case General Chapin might as well have [delivered?] the message himself.

Brothers—This message say that we Traded with Boys for their Lands and not with the owners and that we want to defraud you out of it. Our Brothers who live at your ancient seat speak differently, they say that you have left your Country and now want to sell the Land they live on and have taken care of. Brothers—I do not meddle with your disputes. I wish to reconcile you to each other, and do equal Justice to both parties. It is for this purpose I formerly kindled a second council fire at Fort Stanwix. Some of you were there; I recollect your Faces, and you know the pains I took to reconcile you to each other and do you equal Justice. It was with this view also that I now sent for your principal chiefs who were authorized to transact your business. My Message was to your Nation and I desired the Nation to Notify each other, in order that Harmony might be restored among you.

Brothers—If your Chiefs had attended we could have conversed together upon our business Face to Face like men and have unbosomed ourselves to each other Freely and have explained the different Transactions that has taken place between us. I have done this now to you and I appeal to you whether any thing that I have related is not Strictly True. Your Chief at a great distance says that we want to defraud you. Now we are face to face I call upon you to point out a Single Instance in which we have not acted fairly openly and honestly with you as Brothers should do with each other or in which we have failed to fulfill our agreements with you. Speak freely Brothers. This is the best way to preserve Friendship because Brothers if you can Convince us that we have done wrong in any Instance it is in our power to Correct it and we wish to do it.

Brothers—we never desired to buy you reserved Lands. It was our duty to Protect you in the enjoyment of them according to the Covenant between us. This we have always been ready to do, but your friend General Chapin said that you was discontented, that you wanted to sell or Lease your Lands and this Induced our Great Council to send men among you to Confer with you on the Subject. He was one of them. He is now here present. I call upon him to mention whether this is not True. Our Commissioners Sent Messages to you to meet them at a Council Fire that they were about to kindle in your country. You did not listen to their Voice it seems you could not conveniently attend. They could only Invite you. They could not Force you to it. They accordingly met your Brothers who live upon the Land and confer'd with them. This they did not consider as Injuring you and I doubt not but that they would be able to explain their Conduct in the most Satisfactory manner, if your Chiefs who were now Invited to attend here were present to hear them.

Brothers—I have now done. I expect that you will answer me Freely and unreservedly. This is the best way to preserve Friendship. It best becomes men and Warriors. We should keep nothing disagreeable upon our minds. We should disclose it all to each other.

Answer of the Little Cayuga Chief

Brother—you requested us to mention the time and place where you have wronged us and the particular Instances, as you consider yourself a Friend. We will tell you.

What we mean is that we wanted your Commissioners to postpone the business last Year as we were not ready. But they came on like Strong headed men and Treated with Boys at Onondago. The Annual payments are made to the Indians residing there also, who wrong the Majority of their [illegible]. When we speak of you we only mean the men you sent among us. We have buried the Bargain with the Onondagoes as well as those we made with your Young Men. We hope there will be a New Bargain made to the satisfaction of the Nation.

The Governor Replied

Brothers—as to the annual payments you know they are by our agreement with you to be made at Fort Stanwix on a Certain day, and it has always been done. We pay them to those of your Nation who attend. We cannot pay them to you if you do not attend to receive them. If you did you would get your full proportion and if there is any thing wrong in this it is your own fault and not ours.

Brothers—I shall now lay before our great Council all that has passed between us and mention to them the anxious desire you have expressed to me of having your business dispatched so that you may immediately return Home and as soon as I receive their answer I will communicate it to You.