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FRENCH INTRUSION TOWARD NEW MEXICO  
IN 1695

BY F. W. HODGE

An original manuscript of 1695 in the library of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York City, is presented here in translation in order that it may be available to students of the subject of French encroachment in the Southwest and to show the relations between the Spaniards and the Indians, especially the Apache (probably the Jicarillas), at that time. The document is of additional importance because it bears date only three years after the reconquest of the Pueblo Indians following their rebellion of 1680, the natives remaining independent of Spanish authority for twelve years. Documents of this period were rendered the more rare because practically all the originals in New Mexico were destroyed by the Indians in their endeavor to rid themselves forever of the effects of Spanish contact.

In connection with the subject of this document the reader should consult Dr. H. E. Bolton's French intrusions into New Mexico, 1749-1752, in *The Pacific Ocean in History*, by H. Morse Stephens and Herbert E. Bolton, pp. 389-407, New York, 1917.

REPORT OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE BAND THAT  
CAME TO PICURIES ON SEPTEMBER 29, 1695.

Señor Governor and Captain General:

I received your Lordship's letter, and my soul is grieved at the illness that has befallen your Lordship. May His Divine Majesty grant you some improvement.

I give an account to your Lordship of the coming of Captain Mathias Lujan from his alcaidia of Picuries. The news which he brought is that on Saturday of this week the band entered for the purpose of barter into the said town of Picuries. The news which the Apaches bring is that a large number of French are coming toward the plains of Cibola; That the Apaches are retreating to this neighborhood on account of the frequent attacks made on them by the French. This information I impart to your Lordship. I have already caused the said Captain Lujan to return to his alcaidia with orders to examine the said Apaches to ascertain whence come these people whom they describe as French or Spanish, and how many leagues or days' journey they may be from this town. Of any news that there may be I will give an account to your Lordship. Whom Our Lord may preserve for many years as I desire.

City of Santa Fe, September 29, 1695.

I kiss the feet of your Lordship,  
your humble servant

LUIS GRANILLO.

*Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujan Ponze de Leon. Governor and Captain General of this kingdom and provinces of New Mexico, its new Restorer, and Conqueror at his expense, Reconqueror and Colonizer in it, and warden of its forts and garrisons for His Majesty, etc.*

Natives of different bands of Apaches being in the town of Picuries, having entered therein, informed the Alcalde mayor of that town, Mathias Lujan, that in the interior of the country there were certain men, white and ruddy like Spaniards who were making frequent attacks on the Apaches whose country is settled, and that they had killed many, and were still killing those whom they found, and that for that reason the said Apaches were leaving and retreating toward these parts. I, the said governor and Captain General, being on a visit to the Queres and Jemes

of the cordillera in a district of the said kingdom and town, my lieutenant as Governor and Captain General, the Field-master Luis Granillo, by a letter dated September 29 last of this present year gives me the aforesaid information of their marching toward the plains of Cibola, and how the Apaches are retreating to this neighborhood on account of the frequent attacks they make on them. Accordingly, pursuant to the receipt of said letter and the information it contains, I came with all speed to this said town, where I ordered the said lieutenant as Governor and Captain General, and at the same time in his company the Lieutenant General of Cavalry Roque Madrid, together with my secretary of Government and War, Domingo de la Barreda, to set out at once, and that the said lieutenant should make for the said town of Picuries with all speed, before the said band of Apaches left, and, with the two interpreters to be found in the said tribe of Picuries, to wit, the above-mentioned Alcalde mayor Mathias Lujan and the Sergeant Mayor Alonso Garcia, they should receive the declaration of the said Apaches, in the presence of my said secretary of Government and War, the said Picuries making a transcript in the said Apache language, in order that the said two interpreters, the Alcalde mayor and the Sergeant mayor Alonso Garcia, may express clearly and distinctly in our Spanish language the said declaration and relation of what they shall say and declare in so doing. My said lieutenant as Governor and Captain General is to do this by the questions and in the form here following.

First: Did the said Apaches see the said white and ruddy men, and how far away are they, and what time might be required to pass from where they are to this town or pueblo of Picuries where they are; whether they will make stops in coming on foot, as they say they are coming; or whether that which they have told was told them by other Apaches who had fled from that region; how long ago is it that they told them this, and if they informed them

whether the white and ruddy men were in great number; and whether they brought horses or mules with their provisions, or if they were settled in the immediate vicinity of their rancherías, and sallied forth to make those attacks for the purpose of securing for themselves alone the said herds of cibola [bison] to make themselves masters of them and of the said land. And whether they know how the said men came, and how long since, and whether they are settled, having built their houses, and whether they sow (fields) for their sustenance. The said Lieutenant general is to ask these questions in a familiar manner, so that the said interpreters may express and declare them with full understanding and they in like manner are to do as their reason shall tell them, without adding or omitting anything. And he will bring to me with this order and mandate the said original declarations which he may obtain, that there may be evidence of this said order and mandate, which he will execute while none but the said Indians are present, taking care to that end that the others do not join in, lest they should infer that the said information of the coming of the said white and ruddy men causes us apprehension or fear. And before he comes, he will say that if they come in great numbers, it will be better that they should have more clothes and cloaks than that they should rob our people and them (the Apaches) as well, seeing that they are our friends and brothers. And let them take care to advise us, and of the road by which they come, that we on our part may make such preparation as seems best to us and. . . .

Done in this town of Santa Fe on the 2d of October of this present year 1695, together with my secretary of Government and War.

D DIEGO DE VARGAS

ZAPATA LUJAN PONCE DE LEON.

By order of the Lord Governor and Captain  
General, Domingo de la Barreda

Secretary of Government and War.

In this town of San Lorenzo de Picuries, on the 4th of October 1695, I, the field master Luis Granillo, lieutenant as Governor and Captain General, in fulfilment of and obedience to the above decree and order of the Lord Governor and Captain General, caused to appear before me two chiefs of the Apache tribe, who, being interrogated by Sergeant mayor Alonso Garcia and Captain Mathias Lujan, Alcalde mayor and Captain of War of the said pueblo, and also by Antonio Surpatu, interpreter of the said language of the said Apaches, there being present Don Lorenzo, Governor of said town, I told them that the Lord Governor and Captain General was pleased that they came with good intent, and how we Spaniards were already on terms of friendship with all these nations of New Mexico, and that His Lordship was pleased that they too were friends. And the said Apaches replied that it was well that they were our friends.

And being asked whether any white Spaniards who were beyond their territory on the plains of Cibola made frequent attacks on them, they said that seven nations beyond the region where they live, very far from these parts, had informed them that certain white men came to the bank of the water and made war on the people of Quivira [the Wichita] and other parts, and presently they go away, and again return and make war and go away, and that it is very far off, and that they have not seen them, and that they have this report from other nations hostile to them, giving to understand that they who have given them the said information are their enemies and slaves. And that the said report may be accredited, I have signed it together with the said secretary of Government and War and Alonso Garcia. The others did not sign as they did not know (how to write).

LUIS GRANILLO  
ALONSO GARCIA

Done as above      Before me  
Domingo de la Barreda  
Secretary of Government and War.