

1732: EXPENSES OF THE INDIANS URGED TO WAR

[Extract from a statement of Beauharnois and Hocquart to the French Minister. Source, same as preceding document, but fol. 76.]

MONSEIGNEUR—

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We have received the statements of the funds appropriated this year both for the marine and for the Domain Which will be expended in accordance with their destination.

With reference to the sum of 21,749 livres, 12 sols, 6 deniers, it is true that The Statement that was sent you concerning the same last year was very summary. Monsieur hocquart was unable to make it any more complete as The last Ship was about to sail.

We have the honor to forward you a more detailed statement. This expenditure has not been effected out of the Magazines. The munitions of which it consists were delivered to the Savages by the French Voyageurs by command and on The written orders of the Officers commanding the various posts, which orders were countersigned by the missionary, When one happened to be there.

It has always been the custom—And it is unavoidable—to give provisions and other munitions to the Savages, When we ask Them to go to war. When they are at Montreal or in the other places where the King has Magazines, then this expenditure is included with that incurred for presents. But everywhere else, as at detroit, at Missilimakinac, at River St joseph, and at the other places, it is just that the Voyageurs should, on their return, be repaid The price of the munitions that they have taken to the upper country for their Trade, and that they deliver on The orders of the Commandants for exceptional occasions, such as those connected with war. Otherwise the Officers commanding in the upper Country could not carry out The commands sent them by the General.

When our savages go on the war-path of their own accord without the General's participation, such as Those who are setting out against the testes plates, that is their affair and it costs