

desirable, so as to protect the fidelity of these Indians against the insinuations of the English. But the delay they interpose to that movement induces his Majesty to apprehend that the Marquis de Beauharnois will meet with more difficulties than he had anticipated, and that the English, with whom his Majesty is informed they trade, had made sufficient progress among them to dissuade them therefrom. However that may be, Sieur de Beauharnois should neglect nothing to accomplish that removal; and this object deserves now the more attention by reason of the settlement which a party of Cherakis and Chickachas has made on the river Oio, as Sieur de Beauharnois must be aware.

His Majesty is satisfied with his explanations respecting his determination in 1734 not to press the affair that occurred among the Ouatatonons, and to be content with the pardon these Indians demanded of him. A mild and moderate policy is always preferable, when it can be pursued without affecting the honor of the Nation and the glory of His Majesty's arms. But there are occasions when it may be absolutely necessary not to stop short, and when such policy may be accompanied by very unfortunate consequences. It is for Sieur de Beauharnois to decide on the course he is to adopt in occurring circumstances, and his Majesty cannot but rely on his zeal and prudence. As respects the Scioux: according to what the commandant and Missionary at that post have written to Sieur de Beauharnois, relative to the dispositions of these Indians, nothing appears to be wanting on that point. But their delay in coming down to Montreal since the time they promised to do so, must render their sentiments somewhat suspected, and nothing but facts can determine whether their fidelity can be absolutely relied on. But what must still further increase the uneasiness to be entertained in their regard, is the attack on the convoy of M. de la Verandèrie,<sup>1</sup> especially if this officer has adopted

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<sup>1</sup> The Sioux attacked on June 8, 1736, a party of twenty-one French sent by Sieur de la Vérendrye, in charge of his oldest son, to convey the Jesuit missionary, Aulneau, to Mackinac, and massacred the entire