

work with them to consolidate and strengthen The tree of peace, which had been planted in the presence of all the nations assembled at Montreal, about forty years ago (in 1702), before the then General, Monsieur de Caliere. They begged him also, in case of a war between France and England, not to make war in the country of their brothers the Dutch, but to leave them in peace. They said various other words accompanied by Collars, and all in favor of peace.

Four Chaouanons came in the name of their nation to bring messages to their father, proclaiming themselves very ready to execute his wishes. I do not speak in detail of those things, which are reserved for Monsieur The General, but mention only a portion which was made public like this whole Memoir.

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1741: SECRET PROJECT CONCERNING THE FOXES

[Extract from abstract of Beauharnois's reports for 1741. Source: *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, ix, p. 1086.]

The news received from the Upper countries to the effect that some underground Belts were sent by the English to divers Indian Nations, inviting them to rid themselves of the French scattered throughout that region; and that the Foxes had sent out some war parties against the Illinois, whereby several Frenchmen have been killed, led the Marquis de Beauharnois to think that some brilliant action would be necessary in order to keep the Nations in check, and that the French and domiciliated Indians who had been called out for the expedition against Choüeguen might be sent, next year, against the Foxes. But as it was of the greatest importance to keep this project secret, he contented himself with giving the Indians and the Militia who had been warned, to understand that he calculated on them for next year, the season being too far advanced for the execution of the design against Choüeguen.

The Marquis de Beauharnois' opinion respecting the war