

tion had taken that route, and the remainder were kept back only by the chief of the nation<sup>6</sup> who had most contributed to engage them in the war they are obliged to sustain. In any case, it is expedient, as I have already told you in another despatch, that you should continue to induce the nations of Canada to undertake fresh expeditions against them, unless, on receipt of news from Monsieur de Vaudreuil,<sup>7</sup> it should be necessary to suspend these.

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1744: NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTERN TRIBES

[Letter from the French minister to Beauharnois, dated March 24, 1744. Source, same as preceding document, but vol. 78, folio 20.]

VERSAILLES, March 24, 1744.

MONSIEUR—I have received your letters of the 18th of September and 13th of October last with the annexed documents.

When, in my despatch of May 31 of last year, I wrote you—in connection with the report made to me from Louisiana regarding the Scioux and Renard Savages—that it was necessary to take measures to prevent the evil consequences that might result from the league they were alleged to have formed, I did not mean to disapprove of what you had done with reference to those savages during their negotiations with you

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<sup>6</sup> This chief was either the Red King or Pimataha, both of whom died in 1784. The latter's boyhood name was Nouholubbe (White Man Killer). He was noted as an especial enemy of the French, and caused the defeat of the Illinois expedition of 1736. The site of this disaster was in Pontotoc County, Miss. See Draper MSS., owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society, 10U109-118.—ED.

<sup>7</sup> Sieur de Bienville, governor of Louisiana, had in 1742 asked to be relieved from his office. His successor, Pierre François Rigaud, Marquis de Vaudreuil, arrived in New Orleans May 10, 1743. For a brief sketch see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 31.—ED.