

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Prior to the occupation of the Southwest by the United States, the Navaho existed as groups of people, either clans or groups of clans, united by language and by tribal culture, but with no political entity. There were chiefs, or head men, chosen by each group, but there seemed no need for any further government. Certainly the Spanish Government of the 17th <sup>to the</sup> and early 18th centuries did not realize the independence of these Navaho ~~Groups~~, nor did the Mexican Gov. during its 25 year duration. Nor was it fully comprehended by our Government until the time of the exile to Fort Sumner.

Shortly after General Kearney entered Santa Fe proclaiming the ~~entire area~~ <sup>the Southwest area</sup> as a part of the United States, he sent Colonel Doniphan on an expedition to learn what he could about the Navaho and their country which now ~~belonged to the United States~~ <sup>was a part of the area claimed</sup>. Col. Doniphan arrived at Bear Springs, (a site later to become Fort Wingate, near Gallup, New Mexico) where he gathered some 500 Navaho and attempted to explain the change in Governments, urging the Navaho to sign a treaty of peace with the U.S. and demanding that Navaho raids on the settlements cease. <sup>This was accomplished in 1847, when the group acquiesced to Col. Doniphan's demands.</sup> ~~It~~ was not long until Navaho raids commenced again, to the consternation of Gen. Kearney, some stock even being stolen from the immediate environs of Santa Fe. Not realizing that these raids were instigated ~~by~~ <sup>from</sup> other groups of Navaho who bore no political alignment with those who had signed the treaty at Bear Springs, he prepared a more extensive campaign to ~~produce law and order.~~ <sup>stop Navaho aggressiveness</sup> ~~Fort Defiance was established in 1861, and a command of U.S. Military personnel were established at this ten far removed point.~~

in 1849  
\* ~~So~~ <sup>4</sup> another treaty was signed at Bear Springs, this one, much more detailed in its proclamation, placed <sup>ing</sup> the Navaho under the jurisdiction



and protection of the U.S. It called for the establishment of military posts, boundries, federal laws of trade and annexed the territory of the Navaho to ~~New~~ Mexico. While this treaty was <sup>and</sup> ratified by Congress <sup>and</sup> it still had but little effect as the head men who signed it had no comprehension of its meaning nor did they in any <sup>several</sup> way represent the thousands of Navaho who were under the leadership of other head men. Fort Defiance was established in 1851 and a command of U.S. Military personnel were established at this <sup>h</sup> <sup>ten</sup> far removed spot. Further effort was made to inform the Navaho about the U.S. Gov., but disturbances continued, both at the Fort and else where, ~~in 1863~~ until July of 1861 when troops were withdrawn for Civil War duty. Fort Defiance was deserted and a small command was left to establish a new post at the present site of Fort Wingate. With ~~the~~ almost all the U.S. soldiers now away from the ~~Navaho~~ territory, Navaho and apache raids began to increase until they reached a peak in 1863. Then Brigadier General James Carleton (stationed at Fort Union?) ordered Col Christopher Carson and nearly 1000 men to proceed to the Navaho country <sup>and to</sup> <sup>have Indians</sup> and bring ~~them~~ to terms. Fort Defiance (renamed Fort Canby) was ~~rebuilt~~ repaired. To augment ~~his~~ troops, Col Carson offered \$20. for every captured Navaho horse, and \$1. for every sheep. This brought many volunteers to aid his campaign and frightened the Navaho who fled to every hiding place they knew. Then began the destruction of cornfields, and <sup>the</sup> killing of much livestock. <sup>Finally</sup> ~~Then~~ the Navaho, who were in <sup>no</sup> ~~now~~ way united to defend themselves, surrendered, though there were some isolated groups who hid in remote canyons to the north. Then Gen. Carlton decided on the exile to Ft. Sumner, and the long march began in ~~xxxxxxx~~ 1864. It was during ~~xxxxxxx~~ the years at Fort Sumner that Gen. Carlton tried to establish a simple form of self government,