



Excerpt from *Minutes of Conferences, Held at Lancaster, in August, 1762 with the Sachems and Warriors of Several Tribes of Northern and Western Indians* (Philadelphia: B. Franklin and D. Hall, 1763), 31.

At a Conference with the Indians, held at Lancaster, on Friday, the Twenty-seventh of August, 1762.

...The Governor<sup>1</sup> continuing his Speeches to the Six Nations,<sup>2</sup> spoke as follows.

Brethren,

By this String<sup>3</sup> I inform you, that a few Days since your Cousins, the Western Indians, applied to me about our Trade with them, and told me that we sold our Goods very dear, and desired we would sell them cheaper; on which I informed them that I had, for their Benefit, opened a large Store of Goods at Pittsburgh, and had appointed honest Men there to deal justly with them, and made no Doubt but they had done so; but that our Land Carriage<sup>4</sup> was so long, and made the Expences so very high, that we lost Money by the Trade every Year; and that I knew of no other Method, by which we could supply them cheaper, than by your suffering us to go up the Western Branch of the Sasquehannah River, with Boats or Canoes, and to build some small Store Houses, to put our Goods and Skins in, as we went up and came down that River. This Liberty I told them I would apply to you for, and I now desire you will be free, and tell me whether you will consent that we should build such Store Houses there, being unwilling to do any Thing of that kind, without having first obtained your Approbation [sic], or to give you the least Reason to think we intend to settle any of the Lands there.

If you approve of this Proposal, I will send proper Persons to view that River, and to see how far Boats or Canoes can go up it, and I desire the People I shall send upon that Service may be under your Protection, and treated as your Friends, by any of your People they may happen to meet with in their Journey.

A String.

Then Kinderuntie, the head Warrior of the Seneca Nation, suddenly rose up, and spoke as follows.

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<sup>1</sup> Pennsylvania Governor James Hamilton

<sup>2</sup> The Haudenosaunee or Iroquois Confederation. (See glossary.) The Six Nations were the dominant power in the northeastern part of the continent.

<sup>3</sup> The British and Six Nations exchanged diplomatically symbolic strings and belts of wampum. (See glossary.)

<sup>4</sup> Overland portion of the trade route, which was considerably costlier and more time-consuming than using waterways.

Brother Onas,<sup>5</sup>

You have laid out two Roads already; one you told me was a good one, the other leads from Potowmack, and now you want another Road to go by Water; we cannot grant it to you, because our chief old Men are not here; we are chiefly Warriors here...if it is agreed upon in our Council, that will be another Thing; but at present we deny you entirely.

Brother,

You may remember you told me, when you was going to Pittsburgh, you would build a Fort against the French; and you told me that you wanted none of our Lands; our Cousins know this, and that you promised to go away as soon as you drove the French away, and yet you stay there, and build Houses, and make it stronger and stronger every Day; for this Reason we entirely deny your Request; you shall not have a Road this Way.

A Belt.

*Discussion Questions:*

1. *\*What does Kinderuntie's statement reveal about the historical relationship between the Seneca and the British?*
2. *What does this source tell us about diplomatic practices between American Indians and British settlers?*

*\*Question included in Collection Essay*

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<sup>5</sup> Native people in the region called the governor of Pennsylvania "Brother Onas," the Iroquois word for pen or quill.