Int. Dept.

Aug 1 - 79

Rel. to Lt. Col. Melville

To Washington being detached on Indian educational work = also encloses letters from War Dept. fl. to same.

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File

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Department of the Interior.

Washington August 1, 1879.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Sir:

Referring to my telegram of the 19th ultimo to the Honorable the Secretary of War, copy of which was forwarded to you in my letter of that date, concerning the detail of Lieut. Melville C. Wilkinson, on Indian educational work, I enclose herewith a copy of the reply of the Secretary of War who states the impracticability of a compliance with the request.

Very respectfully,

C. Schuyler
Secretary.
Dear Sir:

In reply to your telegram of 19 "met. I have the honor to state that the law authorizes the detail of only one officer for duty in connection with Indian education, and as Capt. Pratt is already detailed for that service, my power in that regard is exhausted.

Lieut. Wilkinson will be detailed for duty at a College in Oregon where I understand a number of Indian youth can be sent for education.

Very respectfully,

Geo. W. McCray
Secy of War.

Hon. A. Bell
Acting Secy of the Interior.