

To Sir William Johnson. Annapolis the 20 of August 1767

The Letter You were pleased to write to Me the 1<sup>th</sup> of May last having been presented  
a few Weeks ago by eleven Indians from Otsegingo who were conducted hither by  
Mr Ogden being on their Way to Dorchester Somerset & Worcester Counties in this Province  
where All the Indians remaining among Us reside, I not only gave Order for their  
being treated with kindness & furnished with provisions as they should pass & refresh  
thru the Province, but also made them a Present of some Cloaths they appeared to  
be in Want of & recommended it to some Gentlemen who I apprehended had  
some Influence with our Indians to encourage them to accept the Invitations  
those Ambassadors came to give them, but as the Lands our Indians possess are  
confirmed to them by Acts of Assembly to be held so long as any of them shall chuse  
to reside on them & then to revert some of them to original Patentees others to the Lord  
Proprietary & the Residue to be at the Disposal of the General Assembly I could not  
take upon Me to enter into any Treaty with those Indians about the Sale of their  
Right to the Lands they occupy at present in this Province it being necessary that  
the Affair should be referred to the Assembly & that the Acts by Virtue of which the Indians  
here now hold their Land should be repealed previous to their offering it for Sale;  
if upon their Return they should represent to You that their Brethren here are willing  
to relinquish their Land & to go back to Otsegingo & You should thereupon think fit  
to empower Mr Ogden or some other Person on their behalf to come hither about the  
Middle of October next when our Assembly will be sitting & to make an Agreement  
about the Sale of their Land You may be assured I will recommend it to the Assembly  
to give them a reasonable Compensation for their Right to the Land & in case they  
shall One & All be willing to relinquish Should they sell to whom pry is the  
Purchase Money to be paid or how divided among them, will any besides those  
who actually reside in the Province at this time set up pretensions to it or May it  
all be paid to them, I should be glad to know Your Sentiments with regard to  
those particulars & what Measures You apprehend will be most satisfactory to them.