

admitted that he had allowed "Jan Snediger to give or to promise secretly a gratification to the savages" claiming the ownership of the land at Midwout. The purpose inciting him to write this communication was, as he too truthfully remarked, to influence the members of the council to draw up and place on record a resolution by means of which he should "have in the future a better defence before the Lords-Directors" of the West-India Company, and which, as he further explained, should "prevent any blame of negligence falling upon us."

"Jan Snediger has been pleased to address us in a most unmannerly way, saying among other things, that upon me and mine should [fall] the losses and damages hereafter [caused] by the natives. These words were shouted so loud that every one could hear them, which is derogatory not only to our person but also to our official position, and not willing to submit to such insult, we have been compelled to inform your Honors of the occurrence and call for your advice and assistance.

"As to the matter itself, your Honors should know that shortly before the last murder [of colonists by the Indians] the said Jan Snediger came to me and reported in the presence of the Reverend Doctor Megapolensis that some savages had come to see him demanding payment for the land at the *vlacke bos*, but the discussions had about it, our proposals and the consequences resulting from it cannot be known to you. They can be brought under two heads as follows :

"1. Is it expedient and advantageous to uphold the savages in their unmannerly and impudent demand so far as to buy and pay again upon their threats the lands which previously they have of their own good will sold, given, ceded, and received payment for, and which partly have since been occupied ?

"2. Would it not lead to serious consequences, if it can be proved, that there is in the midst of the purchased land some which has not been bought, (although we are not quite convinced of it), or what would be the consequences at this juncture if we gave a small gratification to the savages, or would their ignoble and insatiable avarice not take advantage of it and consider it as an inducement to murder more Christians, imagining them to be faint-hearted, and threatening a massacre that later on they may obtain money and goods for another piece of wild and waste land ?

"Concerning these points, I am somewhat in doubt whether the savages had a better claim to the wild and waste bush, upon which God and nature had grown trees, than any other Christian people ; and what proof and assurance could be produced that the savages had a better right and title to this parcel of land than other savages, even than the greatest sachem or chief who