BEFORE THE INDIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION

THE SEMINOLE INDIANS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
and
THE SEMINOLE NATION OF OKLAHOMA,
Plaintiffs,
v.
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Defendant.

Docket Nos. 73 and 151 (Consolidated)

ORDER ADMITTING EXHIBITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the documents hereinafter described be, and the same hereby are, admitted into evidence and denominated Commission Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively:


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the parties' joint motion made at the settlement hearing on March 26, 1976, for waiver of the Commission's usual policy, as enunciated in Commission Policy Statement §103, dated December 23, 1968, of scheduling compromise hearings to begin no sooner than ten days after the filing with the Commission of the stipulation between the parties, the joint motion for entry of judgment,
and the letter of approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs be, and the same hereby is, granted.

Dated at Washington, D. C., this 23rd day of April 1976.

Jerome K. Kuykendall, Chairman
John T. Vance, Commissioner
Richard W. Yarborough, Commissioner
Margaret M. Pierce, Commissioner
Brantley Blue, Commissioner
The Executive Council
Everglades Miccosukee Tribe of Seminole Indians
c/o Mr. Morton H. Silver, Attorney-at-Law
710 Biscayne Building
19 West Flagler Street
Miami 32, Florida

Dear Sirs:

In your letter of January 6, you ask for Bureau of Indian Affairs recognition of your tribal organization.

Ordinarily formal recognition is given to Indian Tribal organizations by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior where these organizations deal with assets under the trusteeship of the Federal Government. Since your organization admittedly does not deal with such assets, and is presumably not interested as an organization in the management of such assets, the request you have made presents us with a rather unique situation.

After my recent visit to Florida, I am satisfied that your organization includes in its membership a substantial number of Seminole Indians of Florida who are not affiliated with the reservation organizations nor participating in the services now being sponsored by this Bureau. I am also aware, of course, of the recognition which was granted to your organization by the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions of Florida last July.

I am, therefore, willing and glad to recognize your organization which you call the "Everglades Miccosukee Tribe of Seminole Indians" as qualified to speak for and on behalf of those Indians who have affiliated with the organization by signing their names to the roll attached to the Constitution. More specifically, we are recognizing your organization as qualified to speak for its members on matters which are of concern to the Florida Seminoles as a whole (such as the pending claim against the United States) and in connection with any State lands where your organization may be given special jurisdiction by the State. You will, of course, understand that this recognition in no way affects the Federal recognition accorded to the majority of Seminole Indians of Florida who are now organized under Federal law and with whom we are now associating in the management of the tribal trust property.
It was indeed a pleasure to have had the opportunity to visit with your organizational leaders and members and I trust that your organization will hold firm to the admirable intention with which it was conceived.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Commissioner
OUR TRIBE, YOU SOMETIMES CALL THE MICCOSUKEE SEMINOLE NATION, WAS NEVER NOTIFIED OF ANY SO-CALLED JANUARY MEETINGS FOR ALL FLORIDA INDIANS AND NO ONE EVER ASKED FOR OUR TRIBE'S APPROVAL OF THE SO-CALLED $16,000,000. SETTLEMENT WITH ALL FLORIDA INDIANS- WHICH OUR TRIBE DOES NOT APPROVE- AND WHICH APPROVAL YOU WILL SEE IS NECESSARY FROM THE LETTER YOU WILL GET FROM OUR TRIBE MARCH 25, 1976 ENCLOSING BOTH COMMISSIONER EMMON'S
JAN. 27, 1958 AGREEMENT AND SECRETARY OF INTERIOR SEATON'S JULY 12, 1960 AGREEMENT WITH OUR TRIBE.

OUR TRIBE HAS TOLD YOU MANY TIMES, OVER 25 YEARS, THAT THIS UNAUTHORIZED CLAIM #73 WAS NEVER MADE OR AUTHORIZED BY OUR TRIBE. ALL INDIANS AND LAWYERS WHO HAVE EVER HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH STARTING AND MAKING CLAIM #73 AND THE SO-CALLED $16,000,000 SETTLEMENT, SUCH AS HOWARD TOMMIE, NEVER REPRESENTED OUR TRIBE. WE HAVE NEVER HAD ANY LAWYERS REPRESENTING OUR TRIBE IN CLAIM #73, OR ANY OTHER CLAIM FOR MONEY EXCEPT TO FIGHT IT.

THUS, IF YOU TRY TO TELL EVERYONE YOU ARE GIVING YOUR MONEY TO ALL FLORIDA INDIANS, OUT OF CLAIM #73, OR ANY OTHER
CLAIM, WE WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO YOU AND THE WORLD
THAT OUR TRIBE DOES NOT WANT YOUR MONEY AND HAVE NEVER
ASKED FOR ANY MONEY FROM YOUR COMMISSION OR ANYONE ELSE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THE U.S MADE UTRONG TREATIES THAT
PROTECT OUR TRIBE AND OUR FLORIDA LANDS FOR US FOREVER SO
NO ONE CAN TRICK US OUT OF THE LANDS OR FORCE US TO
SELL IT. OUR LAND IS NOT FOR SALE.

MARCH 24, 1976
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
EVERGLADES MICCOSUKEE TRIBE OF SEMINOLE INDIANS
HOWARD OSCEOLA
FREDERICK OSCEOLA
DOUGLAS OSCEOLA
BILL MCKINLEY OSCEOLA
JOHN OSCEOLA

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