

Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.
48 East 86th Street
New York 28, N. Y.
Alexander Lesser, Executive Director
TRafalgar 9-3130

FOR RELEASE: Wednesday, November 17, 1954

STOP PLANNED EXTINCTION OF AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES,
ASSOCIATION DEMANDS AT EMERGENCY SESSION

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR FIRST AMERICANS URGED BY LA FARGE

HUMANE CRITERIA FOR ENDING FEDERAL TRUSTEESHIP DEFINED
BY INDIAN AFFAIRS GROUP

A halt to snowballing administrative pressures and Federal legislation directed toward the planned extinction of American Indians as Indians was demanded today by Oliver La Farge, president of the Association on American Indian Affairs, in releasing yesterday a strongly worded policy statement adopted by the Association's Board of Directors in emergency session.

In calling for a national policy which will allow the first Americans the same right of self-determination which this nation affirms as a principle for the rest of the world, the Association said, "In recent years, particularly in the two years of the 83rd Congress, political pressures have been applied to Indians in a new and almost irresistible manner. The Congress has passed and the President has approved a number of termination bills, so-called, which prescribe when and how the Indians shall stop receiving Federal assistance and protection, and in some instances dictate their extermination as Indians."

The unquestioned power of the Federal Government to terminate its responsibilities to the Indian tribes "carries with it the moral and legal obligation to use that power for the best interests of the Indians," the Association statement warned, asserting that Indian consent to termination should "not be obtained by pressure amounting to duress, such as was used last year, in the case of Menominee and Klamath, when it was made clear to these Indians that they would be permitted to withdraw their own funds from the United States Treasury only if that withdrawal was coupled with Federal termination." Instead, the Association on American Indian Affairs contends "Termination should be orderly, planned, after agreement with the Indians, with other Federal agencies concerned, with the states and local governmental units, with churches and other organizations which will assume new responsibilities for Indians locally", adding that Indian consent "is a necessary element in fair dealing", and that "the absence of consent may easily be the cause of a new series of claims against the United States."

Demanding that Congress redefine the criteria it uses in legislating termination for Indian Tribes, the Association stated as "fundamental and inescapable" three principles: the principle that termination of Federal responsibility does not require the extinction of the tribe; the principle that the Federal Government should

not withdraw until it has formal assurances of state and local acceptance of the abdicated responsibility; and the principle that the Federal Government owes it to the people of the states in which the tribes live, including the Indians themselves, to retain its responsibility until the Indians have in fact achieved, as a minimum, the standard of living of their non-Indian neighbors.

The full text of the Association's statement is attached:

Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.
48 East 86th St., New York 28, N.Y.

November 16, 1954

THE CURRENT TERMINATION PROGRAM IN INDIAN AFFAIRS

A Statement of Association Policy

As long ago as when the Republic was founded it was foretold that assimilation in American life was the best future for the American Indians. In the succeeding century and a half, the economic and social pressures upon the Indians have steadily mounted, to make them become and live more and more like their non-Indian neighbors. In the more recent years, particularly in the two years of the 83rd Congress, political pressures have been applied in a new and almost irresistible manner. The Congress has passed and the President has approved a number of termination bills, so-called, which prescribe when and how the Indians shall stop receiving Federal assistance and protection, and in some instances dictate their extermination as Indians.

This Association urges the adoption of a national policy which will preserve for Indians a greater right of self-determination than they have had in the past, the same right of self-determination which this nation has urged and approved as a principle which should apply throughout the world. Conceding that the Federal Government has the power to review and terminate its special responsibilities to Indians, the Association believes that the exercise of this power carries with it the moral and legal obligation to use that power for the best interests of the Indians, therefore of the nation.

Termination, if it is justified at all, should be orderly, planned, after agreement with the Indians, with other Federal agencies concerned, with the states and local governmental units, with churches and other organizations which will assume new responsibilities for Indians locally. The consent of the Indians is a necessary element in fair dealing. The absence of consent may easily be the cause of a new series of claims against the United States. Finally, that consent should

not be obtained by pressure amounting to duress, such as was used last year, in the cases of Menominee and Klamath, when it was made clear to those Indians that they would be permitted to withdraw their own funds from the United States Treasury only if that withdrawal was coupled with Federal "Termination."

The Association urges that the Congress renew and redefine the criteria to be considered before termination legislation is passed. Certain obvious criteria had been stated and had received general acceptance, even by the committees of the Congress, but these criteria were ignored by the 83rd Congress, notably in passing S.2670, the bill for the Paiutes of Utah. Recognizing that the application of the criteria is not necessarily uniform, the Association believes that the following are fundamental and inescapable:

- (1) Termination must not mean extinction. The right to survive as an organization, be it tribe, cooperative, corporation or club, must be preserved. Implied is the right to hold and operate the tribal estate.
- (2) The Federal Government should not withdraw until it has formal assurances of state and local acceptance of responsibility. Wholesale surrender of Federal responsibility, as in Public Law 280, is unwise and unfair.
- (3) Federal assistance and protection should not be withdrawn unless the earning power, the resources, in general the economic status of the tribe give assurance that the Indians will be self-supporting and will not be a burden on the local community and the state. The Federal obligation to help Indians to achieve this status must not be evaded. The Federal Government owes it to the people of the States, including the Indians themselves, to retain its responsibility until the Indians have in fact achieved, as a minimum, the standard of living of their non-Indian neighbors.

Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.
48 East 86th Street, New York 28, N. Y.

Wash., D.C.: Richard Schifter, Arthur Lazarus
ST 3-2677

N.Y., N.Y.: La Verne Madigan, TRafalgar 9-3130

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY AM's and PM's APRIL 23

New York, N. Y., April 23, 1958.....An alternative to existing Federal policy which is demoralizing American Indians already in panic over their disappearing land base was offered last night by the Board of Directors of the Association on American Indian Affairs, 48 East 86th Street, New York City.

The Board adopted as its organization policy a program calling for a one-year moratorium by the Federal Government on all Indian land sales to non-members of the tribes. The action, taken at a meeting in the American Museum of Natural History, was based on a resolution passed at an A.A.I.A. annual membership meeting earlier in the afternoon.

Five other recommendations were incorporated in the program, including one calling for the addition of \$20 million to the Revolving Loan Fund, providing that all money in the Fund be available for loans for use in land consolidation programs for Indians in this country. During the year of moratorium Indian tribes would prepare and submit to the Bureau of Indian Affairs a land consolidation and

land use plan, and receive technical assistance upon tribal request. The Bureau of Indian Affairs would accept such tribal plans, or offer a counter-proposal, the tribe and Bureau working out a mutually acceptable arrangement within a year. Funds would then be made available to put the plan into effect. A final recommendation requires the moratorium to remain in effect if a bona fide plan has been submitted under this program prior to the expiration date.

The A.A.I.A. membership's resolution, on which the Board of Directors acted, observed that the answer to the problem of how to give new economic opportunities to the American Indian cannot be found exclusively in relocation.

Reservation Indian population is growing by numbers greater than those of relocated Indians, the Resolution said. Work opportunities must be provided on the reservations.

The 36-year old Indian Affairs organization, with a membership of approximately 15,000, the majority of which is non-Indian, is vigorously opposed to present Federal land sales policies and what it conceives to be ill-conceived termination of the Government's historic trusteeship role with regard to Indians.

While conceding that some efforts are being made toward improving economic conditions, the A.A.I.A. Board of Directors finds that there is hope for an Indian future only where a stable land base exists. The Indians' chief asset, according to LaVerne Madigan, executive director of the Association, is their land. Where reservation land has been allotted to individual members of a tribe, it is being sold at a pace that some observers believe, will make such Indians completely without land within five years' time.

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EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESS OF OLIVER LA FARGE, PRESIDENT,
ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, Inc.
At Membership Meeting, April 27, 1958
Carnegie Endowment, International Center,
New York City

ON THE TERMINATION POLICY - "In the Congress, there were a number of Senators and Congressmen who did listen to the Indians, but they were outnumbered by a group determined to get rid of the so-called Indian problem once and for all by the simple process of declaring that those people were no longer Indians and abandoning them. To this astonishing and brutal proposal, with all its intellectual dishonesty, the executive gave its heartiest cooperation."

...."The good heart and conscience of Congress rejected it, (Termination Policy) once the real facts were laid before it....The Executive branch, or that part of it concerned with Indian Affairs, did not change. As you know, we made every possible attempt to get through those closed doors, to reach those unhearing ears, but nothing could be accomplished when in fact it was hearts that were closed. I need not recite to you again the tale of Indian initiative frustrated, enterprises blocked or crippled, the empty talk of investigations and committees to build up Indian economies while those economies were in practice let break down, the withholding of the Indian Revolving Loan Fund, the increased interest rates, the ruinous calling in of loans before they were due, following some alleged banker's policy....Above all, you all remember the fundamental drive to dissipate the Indians' land holdings, to pull out from under them the mere physical space on which to survive, successful to the tune of hundreds of thousands of acres."

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.
48 E. 86 Street, New York 28, N. Y.

For information: Helen McMillan Meyers TR 9-3130
Richard Schifter (Washington) ST 3-2677

FOR RELEASE A.M.s and P.M.s Tuesday, April 28, 1959

New York, N. Y.....An unsung "revolution" in American Indian policy reversing the six-year-old federal policy of "terminating the Indian tribes" was attributed to Senator James E. Murray, Montana Democrat, and Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton, Republican, yesterday in New York by Oliver La Farge, president of the Association on American Indian Affairs.

The author and anthropologist told the annual membership meeting of the Association that Secretary Seaton's dramatic new policy announced last September, barring any termination plans which did not have the understanding and acceptance of the tribes concerned, was in effect a revolution on the top level of government.

From this point on, he said, the Interior Department and Congressional leaders should "establish a steadfast, long-range, bipartisan program of economic and social development for American Indian communities -- a program to which the United States could commit itself in honor and which the Indian people could be sure would not change with changes in political administration in years to come."

La Farge said that a recently proposed Senate resolution (SCR 12) introduced by Senators James E. Murray(D. Mont.) and Richard Neuberger

(D. Ore.) and co-sponsored by eight other senators represents the sentiment of many members of the new Congress that termination plans should not be prepared for an Indian tribe or group obviously unready for casting adrift from federal protection. The same resolution was introduced in the House by Congressmen Lee Metcalf (D. Mont.) and Leroy H. Anderson (D. Mont.) It calls for a goal of eventually attaining a position of parity for Indians with other Americans, socially and economically, and appropriate federal aid toward that end. SCR 12, if passed, La Farge stated, will put "a final end to any more yammering about a mandate from Congress to eliminate Indians and firmly establishes principles of positive good."

He suggested that Congress should add to the pending resolution certain instructions requiring the Secretary of the Interior to review all programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau, according to La Farge, should be an agency to assist American Indian communities to reach the level of well-being enjoyed by other communities in the United States. But so far, he said, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has failed to pass on instructions to the various Bureau offices to follow the new, positive policy to which the Department of the Interior has shown the way.

Constructive national planning for Indian communities to survive and become independent economically and socially should be the next step in federal policy, La Farge declared. He said there was need of great caution to prevent the present progressive Interior Department philosophy from undergoing "another reversal with the next change of officials."

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ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.

48 East 86th Street, New York 28

For information: Richard Schifter, Washington,

D. C., ST 3-6510

Helen Mc Millan Meyers

New York City, TR 9-3130

FOR RELEASE AM.s and FM.s December 2, 1959

New York, N. Y.....John Woodenlegs, tribal chairman of the Northern Cheyenne, Lame Deer, Montana, has been mulling over ways to set a brake against what he considers a resistable force intent on breaking up Indian reservations.

The brake he plans to exercise for the Northern Cheyennes is the newest Indian-initiated idea to hit the western lands in some time. After watching the detachment of millions of acres of allotted Indian land from tribal possession during the past 10 years, he has put this proposition to the Department of the Interior: 'Unallot my people's land.'

He is asking the Department of the Interior to approve a 50-year unallotment program by which the tribe could save its reservation from the fate of other allotted tribes by buying allotments from individual Northern Cheyennes forced by poverty or heirship tangles to sell their holdings. A moratorium on land sales on the 400,000-acre reservation is sought.

In a letter to the Department of the Interior, made public in

"Indian Affairs," November newsletter of the Association on American Indian Affairs, Mr. Woodenlegs asks for approval of the tribe's application for \$500,000 from the Indian Revolving Loan Fund for land purchases, and the opportunity to keep the Northern Cheyennes' land in tribal trust. The letter also asks for a program of social and economic development for the Northern Cheyenne Reservation with the aid of the Association on American Indian Affairs and Northern Montana College. The Association is a non-profit, private membership organization now carrying out race relations programs with foundation funds on several Great Plains reservations.

Under the Northern Cheyenne's plan, the amount of land to be bought each year would increase in proportion to the rise in income from land already owned and producing a return. A portion of its annual income would be reserved for land purchases, or the tribe would borrow against this income from the Revolving Loan Fund for economic development projects to supplement the agricultural income of the community. Individual tribal members would be able to trade, buy and sell land among themselves without affecting the trust status of the land.

It is estimated that applications for sale by allottees and the patents to be approved in the next five years would affect 68,000 acres of land in the amount of \$872,440, and the Montana tribe's unallotment program would stem this reservation disintegration.

Lands of numerous Indian reservations in this country were partially allotted to individual tribesmen under the General Allotment Act of 1877. The Northern Cheyennes were fortunate in not being blanketed under this Act until 1926. At that time more than half the reservation was changed into individual holdings. While other Plains States tribes have been watching their homelands break up through supervised sales of this individually-owned land, the Cheyennes resisted such fragmentation even after an Act of 1948 removed restrictions against sales of allotted land on their reservation.

In October, 1957, the Bureau of Indian Affairs threw open for sale 60 tracts of land. Up to now the tribe has lost only 6,000 acres of its original reservation. This year, in spite of the low state of the tribal coffers, it bought out of tribal funds the more than 2,000 acres put up for bidding.

A feature of the October, 1957 sales was the stir created by the purchase of "the Bixby Tract" which fell into the possession of a non-Indian rancher when the tribe's attempt to buy the allotment from its own funds was blocked by the failure of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to release the money in time for a tribal bid to be entertained. A year later the Bixby Tract, with extensive improvements was offered to the Tribe at a price they were unable to pay and at the same time purchase other key tracts then up for sale. Recently the tract was again sold, into absentee ownership.

"It is not improbable that it was bought as a speculation with the idea that the reservation would soon pass out of Cheyenne hands," according to La Verne Madigan, executive director, Association on American Indian Affairs. But "the tribe's unallotment plan and program of community development are open announcements that they will fight for every foot of Northern Cheyenne ground from now on."

This conservative and proud group of approximately 2,200 people of Algonquian stock live in great poverty in six Montana communities in Rosebud and Big Horn Counties at Birney, Busby, and Lane Deer. Four-fifths of the families live in log houses on incomes of less than \$500 a year, but on an estate valued at nearly 5-1/2 million dollars.

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ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.
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FOR RELEASE A.M.s and P.M.s, April 27, 1959

New York, N. Y.....The Association on American Indian Affairs has made a recommendation to the Department of the Interior that the Federal Government acquire from Florida for the Miccosukee Tribe of Seminoles 200,000 acres of the Everglades swampland near the southern tip of the state.

In its newsletter, Indian Affairs, published today, the Association suggests that the United States hold title to the land for the Miccosukees without designating it as a reservation, "leaving it to them at their own pace to establish a governmental pattern which meets their needs and to settle their unresolved differences with the Reservation Seminoles."

At the same time, the Association's executive director, La Verne Madigan, announced that her group is urging action upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reimburse the Big Cypress Seminoles for \$20,000 spent annually by the Tribe to repair flood damage to their lands. The damage, charges the Association, results from omissions by the Corps in its land reclamation activities in the area. In a letter to Indian Commissioner Glenn L. Emmons, also released today, the Association terms the Corps' action 'a shocking violation of Indian Rights.'

The Association's newsletter requesting the United States Government to act on the behalf of the Seminoles in these two instances is based on a recent field trip of its executive director to the reservations in Florida, to study tribal conflicts.

The Reservation Seminoles, a modern-minded majority living under a tribal constitution on three reservations in the state, want a money adjustment of their claim, combined with that of the Oklahoma Seminoles, for \$48 million against the U.S. Government under the U.S. Claims Act of 1946. Tamiami trail-dwelling

Miccosukees want no settlement that entails an exchange of money for the land they now occupy, but to which they have no title. The 'sovereignty' claim of the Miccosukees has led them to appeal to the British and French Embassies on the basis of French and English treaties which guaranteed to the tribe fair treatment by the United States.

The legitimate aspirations of the Miccosukees, whose only organization is a tribal corporation, are being lost to view, Miss Madigan states. "If the Miccosukees do not acquire title to their homeland within the next year or two, they will see the time when they will be unwelcome upon it even as squatters."

United States aid in developing reservation resources is being used freely by the federally organized Seminoles, representing some 650 members on Dania, Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations, and another 50 off-reservation Indians. These reservation Seminoles have a "clear set of objectives and will almost certainly be able to reach them on their own power," the Indian Affairs Association says. Its director cites long-range agricultural plans, the development of an Indian village, a pending business lease, a projected motel, golf course, and shopping center as part of the reservation Seminoles' certain future.

But time is not on the side of the Miccosukees, the Association's newsletter makes plain, in view of the rise in land prices resulting from a new Florida boom and the proposed \$362 million land reclamation project of the Army Engineers in that state. Drainage projects are making even swamplands potentially valuable to other than Indian interests. Activities of the Army Engineers damage Indian interests in other ways, as well. The Seminoles on Big Cypress have had to fight to keep flood waters off more than 1,300 acres of their developed pastureland as a result of the Corps of Engineers' failure to complete construction of a canal to drain land south of Okeechobee. It may be 1961 before this work is completed. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, according to Miss Madigan, has had to begin rebuilding at a cost of \$45,000 a road threatened by the rising water level resulting from the Corps' operations. The road, through Big Cypress Reservation, was completed only two years ago.

The Association on American Indian Affairs' newsletter report on the Seminoles is mailed to 15,000 members and contributors.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.
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For information: Samuel Birnkrant
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To the Editorial Department:

The enclosed press release, plus Oliver La Farge's letter and our newsletter giving the background of the Kinzua Dam Project, may be of interest to you as subject-matter for an editorial.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Respectfully,

Samuel Birnkrant,
Public Education Asst.

New York, N. Y., May 24, 1960. . . . Oliver La Farge, President of the Association on American Indian Affairs, has urged Congress to prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from starting work on the Allegheny River Kinzua Dam Project, which would use Seneca Nation lands for a reservoir, until an investigation of the alternative Conewango-Cattaraugus project is undertaken.

La Farge, in letters to Appropriations Committee Chairman Senator Hayden (Arizona) and House Representative Cannon (Missouri) pointed out that the Treaty of 1794, signed by George Washington, guaranteed the tiny Allegheny Reservation the protection of the Federal Government.

"The United States has a solemn obligation to honor its promise not to disturb the Seneca Nation unless and until the Indians so consent," wrote the Pulitzer prizewinning author and anthropologist.

The last judicial obstacle to the building of a \$119 million dam at Kinzua near Warren, Pa. was removed on June 15, 1959. On that date, the Supreme Court refused to review a decision upholding the Government's right to exercise the power of eminent domain on Indian land.

The Seneca Nation, facing loss of one-third of its 30,000-acre reservation, had filed a petition for certiorari on April 22, after a decision

(more)

by the U. S. Court of Appeals that Congress had authorized the taking of the lands for a reservoir, and was empowered to do this.

"Congress must halt work on the project until an independent, impartial investigation of the merits of the Conewango-Cattaraugus alternative project is undertaken and completed," La Farge said. "Only in this way will we be doing justice to an Indian nation which has never broken faith with the United States."

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.
48 East 86th Street New York, New York
La Verne Madigan TR 9-3130
Richard Schifter ST 3-2677 (Washington)

FOR RELEASE AMs and PMs FEBRUARY 24

New York, N. Y.....Indian community development is a newly-furbished version of an old idea running from reservation to reservation with increased force in Indian country today.

On-reservation birth rates are so far outstripping the off-reservation relocation of Indian families seeking urban experience and jobs that economic and social development of the reservations themselves has become the only solution possible to meet the growing Indian needs in health, education and economic opportunity on the same level as that achieved by non-Indians.

Directors of the Association on American Indian Affairs, meeting in New York last week, pointed to these facts and the mounting requests of tribes for the Association's help in creating a climate in their home states favorable to the continuance and the social-economic development of Indian communities.

The AATA leadership said their legislative program for 1959 will push HCR 40, a bill introduced by Representative George McGovern of South Dakota, embodying an American "point 4" program of economic aid to tribal communities; a land purchase program recognizing that Indian communities are here to stay; and a \$20 million increase in the Federal Indian Bureau's Revolving Loan Fund for use by the tribes in their land consolidation plans.

Along the same lines, one Indian Economic Development Bill (S. 953 introduced by Senator William Langer, North Dakota) now before the Congress provides for \$20 million in programs of assistance to Indian tribes and their members to establish reservation industries and other activities to provide employment, and to encourage private enterprise to establish such industries and activities.

The veteran Indian Affairs organization also said it would expand its own field operations in Indian communities. As part of its total program, the organization carries on pilot experiments in race relations between Indian and neighboring white communities. Such interracial community relationship programs logically lead to community development plans by the tribes themselves, La Verne Madigan, executive

director, Association on American Indian Affairs said.

One such pilot program is taking place on the Plains States reservations of Nebraska and the Dakotas where an Omaha-Winnebago community relations program turned into a community development plan has just staged a state-county-tribal conference on law and order which is expected to bring the Indians of that state their first satisfactory law enforcement since 1953. (A recommendation from "Present Relations of the Federal Government to the American Indian," House Committee Print No. 38, recently released by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, is that the Secretary of the Interior cause a study to be made of the trend in law and order administration on Indian reservations.)

As part of the same Great Plains pilot area project, a training course for tribal judges at a justice of the peace level will begin in early March at the University of South Dakota, according to the sponsoring Association's executive director. A curriculum workshop which aims at improving the way school children are taught about Indians, to be given successively at the Chadron State Teachers College, the University of Nebraska, and the University of South Dakota is also part of the AAIA, tribal, and local non-Indian community planning.

Announcement was made by the AAIA directors, of an affiliation between the private membership organization with the Nebraska We Shake Hands Advisory Council. The Nebraska affiliate is one of five Association branches and affiliates admitted and pending.

The AAIA's directors report said annual receipts of the organization have almost tripled since 1952, and in the same period its membership and contributors' list has more than doubled, indicating a remarkable acceleration of the national interest in the fate of the aboriginal population of the United States.

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A Proposed Federal Program
for the Miccosukee Tribe

Congress should be asked to authorize in 1960 a 10-year Miccosukee Development program. Its purpose should be sharply focussed application of limited federal service and expenditure to bring the Miccosukees to the point at which they will be economically self-sustaining and equal to their Florida fellow citizens in health.

Congress should be asked to appropriate \$25,000 for the first year of the program, this sum to be used to pay the salary of one Indian Bureau employee, the expense of two Miccosukee leaders, and costs related to their function. Their function should be to plan a development program for the following nine years, the appropriations for which program would rise toward a peak in the fifth year and then decline toward the ninth. From the planning in the first year should come an estimate of the total cost of the program over the remaining nine years. Congress, having revised or approved this calculation, should authorize the full sum it has itself arrived at. Thereafter, Congress should make annual appropriations based upon annual report and recommendations by a Board of Consultants consisting of one representative of each of the following: Interior Department, State of Florida, University of Florida, Association on American Indian Affairs or another citizens' organization designated by the Miccosukee Tribe, and the Miccosukee Tribe itself.

Administration of the program should be during its first year of planning under the Bureau of Indian Affairs and in its remaining years under the administration of the Miccosukee Tribe, operating within the framework of a budget and system of fiscal reporting approved by the Interior Department. The Board of Consultants will not be authorized to regulate the Miccosukee execution of the program, but the Board's annual report and recommendations will be a determining factor in Congressional appropriations of funds for the ensuing year.

It would be improper to forecast the results of the year of planning proposed, but it may be assumed as probable that the program, among other things, will call for:

A nine-year program by the U. S. Public Health Service;

A community center on the Tamiami Trail, in the heart of the Miccosukee area, which would not be defined as a school, but which would serve the purpose of a school in making adult and child education available in a setting acceptable to Miccosukee traditionalists;

The development of the very few tourist enterprises needed to create income for this small group of people -- as, for example, one Indian village, one motel, one first-class restaurant, a museum, an arts and crafts production and sale center.

-- La Verne Madigan, Ex. Dir.,
Association on American
Indian Affairs

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.
48 East 86th Street New York 28, New York

Text of Department of the Interior (Bureau of
Indian Affairs) offer to the State of Florida
in connection with a program of development
for the Everglades Tribe of Miccosukee
Seminoles.

January 30, 1960

Honorable LeRoy Collins, Governor
State of Florida
State Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Governor Collins:

The interest which you and your Cabinet and other Florida leaders have shown for the American Indians of your State is deeply appreciated by the Department of the Interior. On behalf of the Department we in the Bureau of Indian Affairs wish to express thanks for the demonstrated willingness to devote time to seek a better living for those of your fellow Floridians who are of Indian blood.

We particularly appreciate the State's consideration of the proposal jointly submitted November 17, 1959 by the two major groups of Florida Indians, relating to land which the State has set aside for Indian use.

Under this proposal, fully supported by both the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Everglades Miccosukee organization, the Seminole Tribe would be given use of a portion of the existing state reservation immediately adjoining the Big Cypress Federal Reservation, and the Miccosukee organization would have the use of the remainder of the state reservation, plus the whole of the new 143,000-acre area in the Everglades which the State set aside for Indian use on August, 1959.

I am advised that the State is looking to the Federal Government through the Bureau and Department to furnish a proposal which will supplement the State's setting the land aside in trust for the Indian people.

In accordance with the policy of the Government for special federal assistance to Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is now providing services and assistance in Florida only to Indians who are affiliated with the organization known as the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida; however, in the interest of resolving an historic problem which has received nation-wide and even international attention, the Bureau is prepared to furnish special assistance to members of the Everglades Miccosukee organization if the State of Florida makes land available to the group as proposed on November 17.

Under our proposal the Department of the Interior would immediately set aside sufficient money for a well-qualified specialist in development program planning. He would be assigned to help design a development program for a period necessary to bring the Miccosukees up to a desired living standard. In this connection we contemplate that the program planner would enlist the cooperation and assistance of knowledgeable local people who are known to be friendly to the members of the Miccosukee group. The Bureau of Indian Affairs would administer the program in the planning stages; thereafter the Miccosukees themselves would increasingly administer the program with continuing advice from the consultants.

Once the State has acted to effectuate the November 17 proposal, the development plan specialist would begin his two-fold assignment. First, he will consult with the Miccosukee Indians and appropriate state officials in developing the necessary rules and procedures under which the Miccosukees will administer the land set aside for their use. Secondly, he will work with individual members of the Miccosukees in preparing individual or family plans for economic and social rehabilitation and assistance in carrying them out.

Under this proposal, beyond making the land available, we do not anticipate that the State of Florida would be required to provide any additional assist-

ance to the Miccosukee group. If this proposal as outlined above in a general form is acceptable to the State of Florida I shall proceed to make the arrangements necessary to implement the program as quickly as possible. Once again the Bureau urges that the State give favorable consideration to the November 17 proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Glenn L. Emmons, Commissioner
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior