

Native American Rights Fund

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Director
Thomas W. Fredericks

June 3, 1977

Mr. Gordon McLester
Box 353
Oneida, Wisconsin 54155

Dear Gordon:

Pursuant to your request, I will summarize the proceedings of the meeting which Suzan Harjo and I attended with the Solicitor and other Interior and Justice officials on May 31, 1977.

1. The Solicitor reported, and Justice Department officials confirmed, that Justice would file suit prior to July 18, 1977 on behalf of the Oneida Nations for ejection and damages against all persons claiming interests in the lands reserved to the Oneidas in the Treaty of Konondaigua in 1794 if the statute of limitations was not extended.


2. The Solicitor said he would await receipt of our memorandum prior to making a decision as to the merits of our pre-1790 claims.

3. He (the Solicitor) also said the government would ask for all (the highest amount) damages which could be legally justified.

4. He further stated that he and Justice planned to brief certain members of the New York Congressional Delegation as to the government's intentions. This meeting has since been postponed until June 7, 1977.

5. The Solicitor asked the tribal representatives and their counsel (the Mohawks and Cayugas and their attorney were also present) as to whether they would be willing to negotiate rather than litigate and if so what they really expected or hoped to secure in such negotiations. The Solicitor was advised that we weren't in a position to respond to his questions at that time, but would as soon as we were able to arrive at our position.

Very truly yours,


Lawrence A. Aschenbrenner

LAA/sem