

UNITED SOUTHEASTERN TRIBES
Resolution No. USET 1-72

A resolution requesting continued support from The Honorable Richard M. Nixon for Indian Self-Determination.

WHEREAS, the current federal administration is now implementing under your directory a scheduled decentralization of all federal agencies which will provide state governments with an increased opportunity to participate in the decision making process governing the distribution and utilization of federal resources, and

WHEREAS, we support the basic concept of increased local participation which underlies this re-organization plan to the extent that Indian Tribal Governments will be granted a comparable opportunity to participate in the decision making process with respect to programs which directly effect the Indian people (unfettered by administrative ties to state and regional (federal) agencies), and

WHEREAS, you explicitly expressed your support for and commitment to the concept of Indian self-determination on July 8, 1970, and have consistently supported the implementation of this philosophy throughout the federal structure, and

WHEREAS, the member tribes of the United Southeastern Tribes, Inc., wish to share with you our concerns vis avis

- (a) the historically poor record of state governments in providing services or support to Indian self-development efforts
- (b) the reality that the state governments in the southeast have little knowledge of or appreciation for the problems and desires of the Indian people
- (c) the fact that state governments in the southeast neither understand nor support our efforts to achieve tribal self-determination
- (d) our belief that, given the situation described above, an increase in state control over resources intended for Indian programs can only produce a curtailment rather than an expansion of existing Indian directed, Indian controlled program-services

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the United Southeastern Tribes, Inc., does hereby respectfully request that you take appropriate action to insure

- (a) the maintenance of centrally located Indian divisions for each federal agency which is empowered to provide financial and technical assistance to support Indian self-development efforts

- (b) that Indian tribal governments be authorized to deal directly with the appropriate Indian divisions of federal agencies...bypassing the respective state and regional (federal) agency levels
- (c) that this direct administrative communication link between the grantee Indian tribes and the aforementioned federal agency Indian divisions operate to provide a viable two-way flow of ideas and information so as to maximum the impact of Indian directed federal resources
- (d) that the federal agency structure and operative procedures be designed to support this 'direct link' approach between Indian tribal governments and the federal government at all phases of the program - resource - allocation process (planning, program development, negotiations, funding, evaluation) as delineated above.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the United Southeastern Tribes, Inc., and duly held at the Henry Grady Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia on March 1-3, 1972.



Phillip Martin
President
United Southeastern Tribes, Inc.



Howard Tommie
Secretary
United Southeastern Tribes, Inc.