

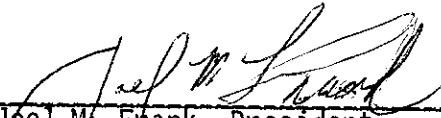
UNITED SOUTH & EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. B-88-210


- WHEREAS, U.S.E.T. is an inter-tribal Council composed of seventeen federally recognized tribes in the Eastern United States, and
- WHEREAS, U.S.E.T. is deeply concerned about the health, safety, and well-being of Indian children and those programs developed and proposed to address these concerns, and
- WHEREAS, the Save The Children's American Indian Nations program has been identified as such a program, and
- WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians has proposed and adopted a resolution (resolution B at its Annual Convention, October, 1988), which calls for a fact finding committee to determine the facts concerning this program and report its findings with six months.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT U.S.E.T. supports the N.C.A.I. resolution No. B, requests that U.S.E.T. representatives be involved in this fact finding committee, and the results and recommendations of the committee be reported to the U.S.E.T. Board at the next meeting following the committee's conclusion of its findings.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Annual Board of Directors meeting in Miami, Florida, December 12-16, 1988, at which a quorum was present.



Joel M. Frank, President
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Harold Tarbell, Secretary
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

RESOLUTION B

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
45TH ANNUAL NCAI CONVENTION
OCTOBER 24-28, 1988

- Whereas, the membership of the National Congress of American Indians wishes to express its deep concern regarding the present state and direction of Save The Children's American Indian Nations Program; and
- Whereas, on July 1, 1979, Save The Children announced to the American Indian Tribes that it would begin a brand new program that would be called the American Indian Nations Program; and,
- Whereas, Save The Children made many promises to the American Indian people with the announcement of this new American Indian Nations Program; and
- Whereas, Save The Children's President also made a commitment as to the agency's recognition of the "nation status" of the American Indian Tribes, and the establishment of a new American Indian Nations Program Region within the Save The Children organization; and
- Whereas, it was also promised that there would be a Regional Director for the American Indian Nations Program, and this Regional Director would always be an American Indian; and,
- Whereas, it was also promised that each of the local Indian Nations Program field offices would always be under the supervision of a Field Office Director, who would be an American Indian from one of the tribes of that Nation Program area, and these individual programs would be very sensitive to the cultures and ways of these tribes; and
- Whereas, the new American Indian Nations Program would change from a child assistance program to a "self-help community development program that would advocate learning by doing" for the reservation communities; and
- Whereas, the communities and their committees would do the planning and work, and Save The Children would provide training, technical assistance, and financial assistance to the communities for their projects; and
- Whereas, child sponsorship funds from an area would be allocated to support community projects within that reservation community; and
- Whereas, in 1979 there were fifty-seven (57) tribes and one hundred sixty (160) reservation communities actively involved with the Save The Children program; and
- Whereas, a majority of these tribes are active members in good standing with the National Congress of American Indians; and
- Whereas, Save the Children has had a two hundred percent (200%) staff turn-over of its Indian field staff within a period of thirty-six (36) months; and

- Whereas, many of these former Indian employees of Save The Children are speaking out and telling stories of Indian funds being re-directed to cover cost over-runs within Save The Children's headquarters, and stories are being told of a total lack of concern and respect for individual tribal cultures and lifestyles; and,
- Whereas, many of these former Indian employees of Save The Children were forced OUT OF THEIR JOBS after they had tenure of eight (8) to ten (10) years of service; and
- Whereas, these employees work in a number of different offices, all around the country, in approximately seven (7) different states; and
- Whereas, Save The Children is looking to reduce its commitment to the Indian people in favor of its overseas programs; and
- Whereas, Save The Children has steadily reduced its sponsorship commitment to the Indian Nations Program over the past three (3) years by approximately forty (40%) percent; and,
- Whereas, even now tribes and reservation communities are being notified that their community project funds will not be available even this year; and,
- Whereas, Save The Children is still using American Indian children to raise sponsorship funds; and,
- Whereas, When a sponsor sends an Indian child a birthday check, Save The Children re-directs this gift check, and the Indian child never sees his or her birthday check; and
- Whereas, Save The Children will make major cut-backs in both the southeastern and southwestern areas of the U.S. this year; and
- Whereas, Save The Children's American Indian Nations Program is one of the largest private sector non-government programs working with American Indians, and it is an important resource; and,
- Whereas, The Regional Director is now a non-Indian, and many of the local Indian Field Directors are being replaced with non-Indians; and,
- Whereas, it appears that Save The Children has a trail of broken promises, promises that have been made to sponsors and contributors, the tribes and reservation communities, the Indian employees of Save The Children, and to the Indian children; and,
- Whereas, it is important that these issues are addressed, and it is important that Save The Children be given a fair opportunity to explain their position concerning these issues; and,
- Whereas, it is also important that Indian people are involved in this process, because it is our Indian children that are being used for fundraising; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the National Congress of American Indians shall establish a fact finding committee within sixty (60) days to determine the facts concerning Save The Children's American Indian Nations Program, and this committee shall have tribal representation from the tribes involved in Save The Children's program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if Save The Children is concerned about the welfare of the American Indian people, they should fully cooperate with this National committee; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, this committee shall report to the membership of the National Congress its findings within six (6) months of this date.

This Resolution was duly passed at the 45th Annual National Congress of American Indians Convention, held in Sioux Falls, North Dakota, October _____, 1988; a quorum being present by a vote of; _____ for, _____ against, and with _____ absentions.