

# EXHIBIT A



# HAUDENOSAUNEE

MOHAWK - ONEIDA - ONONDAGA - CAYUGA - SENECA - TUSCARORA

ONONDAGA NATION - VIA BOX 319-B NEDROW NEW YORK 13120

September 14, 1995

Honnahdahguyuss  
President William Clinton  
White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Greetings Brother:

Thank you for your letter of August 26, 1994, to Chief Leon Shenandoah concerning the Treaty of Canandaigua of 1794 between the United States and the Haudenosaunee or Six Nations. We are gratified to read in your letter that you are "looking forward to working together to open a new chapter in our nation's history --- a chapter in which the federal government keeps faith with Native Americans."

We are writing now because the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs has decided to take legal action to recover land that was taken from us in violation of United States law, the United States Constitution, and in violation of our treaty agreements. We are writing specifically to request a meeting with you to discuss the United States' obligations and duties in connection with this claim and to request that an individual be appointed by you to deal with this matter as provided in Article VII of the Treaty of Canandaigua. Let us explain further.

The lands that we are seeking to recover are aboriginal and treaty-guaranteed lands of the Onondaga Nation and the Haudenosaunee, the Confederacy of which we are a part. These lands are located in Central New York and comprise some five million acres in all.

These lands were taken by the State of New York between 1790 and 1822 in clear violation of the federal Trade and Intercourse Acts. The United States Supreme Court decided in County of Oneida v. Oneida Indian Nation, (1985) that lands taken in violation of the Trade and Intercourse Acts remain the property of the Indian nation. We believe that we would be successful in establishing our legal title to these lands in federal court.

9/14/95

The lands that were taken from us by New York State were guaranteed both by the Treaty of Canandaigua and by an earlier treaty with the United States, the Treaty of Fort Stanwix of 1784. Thus, the United States government has the primary responsibility for resolving this matter in keeping with its treaty commitments. The Onondaga Nation is willing to discuss a broad range of issues, including means for avoiding hardship to innocent parties. We believe that the United States can and should be a leading party in working for a resolution of this claim.

There are several specific ways in which the United States could assist us at this time. We would like to discuss exactly how the United States can play a supportive role in any litigation in federal court. We need to explain and discuss our ideas on this matter. Secondly, we believe that the United States should provide assistance by providing funds to the Nation to help cover our attorney fees for this claim. We shall be making a formal application for this. Third, we believe that the United States could be very helpful by providing technical assistance to the Nation in relation to the claim. This would include, for example, mapping, surveying and appraising the claim areas or parts of them, and identifying present-day "title" holders.

Our attorneys in this matter are Robert T. Coulter of the Indian Law Resource Center, 602 N. Ewing Street, Helena, Montana, 59601, (406) 449-2006, and John D. B. Lewis, 52 Duane Street, New York, New York 10007, (212) 608-4111 and Joseph Heath, 716 East Washington Street, Suite 104, Syracuse, New York 13210, (315) 475-2559 who are associated with Mr. Coulter.

These are obviously matters of great consequence and urgency, and we believe that we should meet as soon as possible with you or your designate. We look forward to hearing from you so that we may arrange a meeting either here at Onondaga, the seat of the Haudenosaunee, or in Washington, D.C. Please contact us at the address at the top of this letter.

In peace and friendship,

The Onondaga Council of Chiefs

*Tadodaho*  
*Chief Leon Shenandoah*  
Chief Leon Shenandoah  
Tadodaho

# **EXHIBIT B**



# HAUDENOSAUNEE

ONONDAGA NATION

HEMLOCK ROAD - BOX 319-B - VIA NEDROW, NEW YORK 13120

December 27, 1988

Governor Mario Cuomo  
Governor New York State  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Governor Mario Cuomo  
Brother:

Greetings from the Onondaga Council of Chiefs, Clan Mothers, Faithkeepers, men (those without titles) women (those without titles) children, those creeping about, those yet on the cradle board and those yet to come, the seventh generation, we bring greetings.

This is to advise you that the Onondaga Nation and the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy) regard as legally void the so-called treaties made by the State, by which the State claimed to acquire Onondaga Nation land. These so-called treaties were made in violation of the valid treaties made between the Haudenosaunee and the United States, and they are in violation of other laws as well.

We expect to pursue legal remedies to resolve our claims. Before taking legal steps, we will contact your office to arrange a meeting to discuss these matters.

Chief Vincent Johnson  
Da La La La La La  
Lewy Johnson

H/17-HE-HO

Chief So. da. kwa. Sga  
William Lazore

Dawnyatoh,

ONONDAGA COUNCIL OF CHIEFS

Chief Leon Shenandoah  
Tadodaho

Chief Leon Shenandoah

Tadodaho

He won't be here

JOAGQUINHO Chief Joseph

Chief Nom

Chief Joseph  
Chief Joseph