



CHEROKEE NATION

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March 31, 1993

The Honorable Ann Richards
Governor, State of Texas
State Capital
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Richards:

It was such a pleasure to join you in celebrating Sam Houston's Birthday on March 2. The festivities were great, but I particularly enjoyed the time we spent together. In our discussion, you spoke about your need for occasional respites. I would like to formally invite you to join Gloria Steinem, Alice Walker and me for a week in Costa Careyes, Mexico just after Christmas in 1993.

Our discussion also rejuvenated an interest I have long had in formalizing the historical relationship between Texas and the Cherokees.

As you know, when the Cherokees were forced westward from their ancestral southeastern lands in the early 1800s, many settled in what is now east Texas. The legendary Cherokee Chief Bowles befriended Sam Houston, endorsed his desire for Cherokee citizenship, and gave him his daughter's hand. President Houston promised the Cherokees quite enjoyment of their lands and executed a formal treaty with the Cherokee tribe, though his successor unfortunately repudiated it after Texas statehood. For over 150 years, Cherokees in Texas and Oklahoma have quietly pursued just compensation for the loss of their Texas lands. Predecessors of your and mine have considered but never consummated plans for recompense.

At your convenience, I would like to meet with you in Austin to discuss ways we might formalize the longstanding relationship between our two governments. I have no particular agenda or specific plans in mind but rather a desire to explore with you and your staff ideas for possible joint cultural and economic development activities.