


I and many Cherokees share the sentiments of the Poncas in your objection to the subject statute. In the least it is insensitive to a very painful history of the Cherokees.

We have not planned a public response to the whole 1993 Cherokee Strip Celebration. We find that in many ways a response by the Cherokee Nation adds dignity to the event. We plan to issue one response during September, 1993, presenting our side to the "celebration." If you have any questions, Chad Smith, (918) 458-9440 will be glad to visit with you.

Again, thank you for your letter and stand on issue.

Sincerely Yours,

  
Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

1. Foreman, Grant, The Five Civilized Tribes, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1933 (reprinted 1968); Royce, Charles, The Cherokee Nation of Indians, Chicago, Adline Publishing Co. 1975; Treaty of New Echota, December 29, 1935, 7 Stat 478.

2. Treaty of May 6, 1828, 7 Stat. 311.  
ARTICLES OF A CONVENTION

May 6, 1828

WHEREAS, it being the anxious desire of the Government of the United States to secure to the Cherokee Nation of Indians, as well those now living within the limits of the Territory of Arkansas, as those of their friends and brothers who reside in States East of the Mississippi, and who may wish to join their brothers of the West, a permanent home, and which shall, under the most solemn guarantee of the United States, be, and remain, theirs forever--a home that shall never, in all future time, be embarrassed by having extended around it the lines, or placed over it the jurisdiction of a Territory or State, nor be pressed upon by the extension, in any way, of any of the limits of any existing Territory or State.

ART. 2. The United States agree to possess the Cherokees, and to guarantee it to them forever, and that guarantee is hereby solemnly pledged, of seven millions of acres of land, to be bounded as follows, viz. Commencing at that point on Arkansas River where the Eastern Choctaw boundary line strikes said River, and running thence with the Western line of Arkansas, as defined in the foregoing article, to the...

In addition to the seven millions of acres thus provided for, and bounded, the United States further guarantee to the Cherokee Nation a perpetual outlet, West, and a free and unmolested use of all the Country lying West of the Western boundary of the above described limits, and as far West as the sovereignty of the United States, and their right of soil extend.