



## CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller  
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher  
Deputy Chief

December 15, 1993

The Honorable Skip A. Hayward  
Chairman, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe  
P. O. Box 160  
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Skip:

Because of your enormous success and visibility, I am sure you get a number of requests for contributions to important causes. I am about to join those petitioning for assistance. I respectfully request your consideration of the following solicitation.

I serve on the Board of the South Africa Free Elections Fund, an organization created at the request of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela to provide financial support to on-the-ground voter education projects in South Africa in preparation for the historic elections in April, 1994. This effort appealed to me because of the similarity between the colonization of Indian Nations in North America and the destruction of South African family and governmental systems. It also reminded me of our own efforts to rebuild our Native communities and our own voter education projects. I think it is fitting that Indian Nations here in North America extend a hand to assist South Africans as they take this important step in restoring democracy and hopefully building whole, healthy communities again.

My colleagues on the board include Dr. Anthony O'Reilly, CEO of Heinz Company, Judge Leon Higginbotham, Ten Sorenson, former Kennedy Cabinet Member, Cyrus Vance, Andrew Young, Daniel Tully, CEO of Merrill Lynch & Co. and many others. Almost all of the support we have received to date (over \$4 million) has come from major corporations. Our purpose is simple: to raise \$10 million in the next three to four months from a prominent group of Americans.

Of the 24 million South Africans eligible to vote next April, 18 million have never voted before, and over half of those have minimal literacy skills. The challenge is clear: with widespread, non-partisan voter education efforts, South Africans will have the opportunity to learn not only about the importance of their new franchise, but more importantly, about the process by which they can exercise it. South Africans are looking to Americans for