



received
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February 23, 1993

American Indian
Anti-Defamation Council
215 West Fifth Avenue
Denver, Co. 80204

To All Members and Advisors
of the American Indian Anti-Defamation Council,

I am enclosing a copy of the letter Mr. Costner and I received on February 9th from Ward Churchill, your co-chairman for public relations. All of your names are prominently displayed on the stationery. I am not certain if you receive all correspondence such as this, but I believe you should be aware of the letters on which your name appears.

I deeply resent the accusations and threats made in Mr. Churchill's letter. Your information regarding our employment of Indians and the "wholesale purging of these Indians" is simply not true. Your threat, "we will do everything in our power - which is considerable - to prevent consummation of your plans," is indefensible. It is difficult to fathom the complete thoughtlessness and utter contempt your letter is full of.

Tig and Pathways Productions have jointly employed hundreds of Indians during the production of "Dances With Wolves" and now "500 Nations." We have hired producers, directors, writers and actors from tribes across the country. Tig has contributed to numerous scholarship funds, including Futures For Children, held benefits for the American Indian Film Festival and supplied footage to documentaries like "Ride to Wounded Knee." The Costners have personally donated \$120,000 to the South Dakota Heritage Fund. Our support continues despite criticism like yours.

Futhermore, although we have been approached innumerable times to head various Native American committees, we have conscientiously avoided this role in order not to set ourselves up as the experts or the white knights able to correct the vast amount of wrongs inflicted on the Indians. We have always felt that the best thing for us is to be storytellers and try to remain apolitical.