

RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION

- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe is advised and aware that Senate Bill 1214, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977, is presently being considered in U.S. Senate Committee Hearings, and;
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council finds that said Bill proposes to provide proper and necessary protections of tribal control over off-reservation placement of our Indian children, as well as service programs for our Indian families, and;
- WHEREAS, such protections and service programs are presently imperative for the tribe and tribal members by reason of extensive pending and on-going off-reservation placements of our Indian children through agencies and person unauthorized by tribal authorities, and often unknown to tribal authorities, and;
- WHEREAS, it appears to the Tribal Council, that such placements are often undertaken with intentional deference to tribal law, or with intentional avoidance of tribal authorities, and;
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council strongly desires that notice and control of such activities through the Tribal government be recognized, enforceable requirements of non-tribal placement agencies and persons; specifically with reference to those placements over which the Indian families complain they have lost contact or effective control, and who seek the assistance of tribal officials in re-obtaining custody of their children, and;
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council firmly commits itself to the interests of its tribal members and the Tribe, by seeking a resolution to its placement and family related problems, whether on or off-reservation, and;
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Council deems it an abrogation of tribal self-government and responsibility to allow placements, guardianships, or adoptions to continue without the awareness, sanctions, or benefit of tribal custom, laws and legal process.
- BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby fully and urgently supports Senate Bill 1214, The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977, as a federal cognizance of the impending needs of the Indian people, as well as of the status and authority of tribal governments in the matter of their memberships, their children and their families.

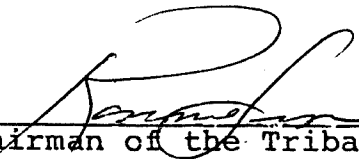
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tribal Council requests the support of all Arizona Congressional Delegates in the enactment of the proposed Indian Child Welfare Act of 1977.

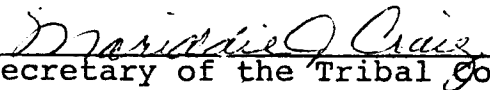
The foregoing resolution was on August 4, 1977, duly adopted by a vote of 9 for and 0 against, by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1 (i) of the Amended Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984).

RECEIVED

AUG 14 1977

FORT APACHE INDIAN
AGENCY
WILKINS, ARIZ.


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Acting Secretary of the Tribal Council