

# *The Hand . . .*

*That Guided and Protected Your Ancestors  
Is Now Open to You For JUSTICE !*



AKWESANSE COUNSELOR ORGANIZATION  
ST. REGIS RESERVATION

*Hogansburg, N. Y.*



# Does a Small Nation Have the Right To Exist ?

While the United States, through its statesmen, is insisting that the rights of small nations shall be recognized in world politics, there is actually a small nation which is insisting that the United States should practice what it preaches. The Six Nations Confederacy (or League of the Iroquois) gained recognition in the History of the United States, but lately it has been denied the right to exist as a nation.

In spite of all the propaganda about what has been done for the Indians by the so-called "white father", the Indians who are living on practically every reservation that we know anything about have kept the feeling of independence, and they have expressed this feeling numerous times.

There exists today a free and sovereign government with a record of dignity, sovereignty, and a working democracy extending back beyond written record on this continent within a short distance of many modern cities of the United States and Canada. This is the government of the League of the Six Nations. Six Indian tribes united uncounted years ago in a confederacy under the terms of an actual constitution, securing to its citizens the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This confederacy has, to this day, never been dissolved, never been conquered, has occupied its lands by absolute title of occupancy and has carried on treaty relations with the great powers of the world: the United States and Great Britain. This confederacy has *never* broken any of its treaties and thus it becomes an example to the world.

Nowadays, we hear a lot about satellite states being dominated by certain powerful countries wherein any expression of freedom and independent action is ruthlessly squelched and the people become mere subjects of a foreign nation instead of citizens of their own. The United Nations today is divided on that question. The United States and other so-called western powers have pointed accusing fingers at the countries of Eastern Europe and the Near East. But what is happening there is also taking place here. The Six Nations have every right in the world to exist as a sovereign and independent nation; yet the United States, while it is accusing Russia of dominating its weaker neighbors, itself is forcing the Indians of the Six Nations to accept domination. (St. Luke, Chapt. 6, 42 verse) "Or how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me cast out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote that is in thy brother's eye."

In the traditions of all Indian tribes, the strongest force in their community life is independence and in their personal life is freedom. Now their independence as a group and their freedom as individuals is being encroached upon constantly. The pressure is especially severe today. Indians are waking up now and are insisting that the United States live up to its responsibilities as a law-abiding and God-fearing member of the community of nations.

Treaties which have been signed in the most solemn manner with all expressions of good faith are now being brought out and compared to the actual conditions existing. The Six Nations Confederacy has more than once proved in the law courts that the State of New York has acted high-handedly and unconstitutionally in its dealings with the Indians. In fact the State of New York has admitted that 18,000,000 acres of its land area was obtained by fraud. Yet, the only action that has been taken by either the State or Federal Government has been legislation designed to eliminate the Indian so that he cannot press his claims.

In the last session of the United States Congress, three bills were introduced which, if they become laws, would effectively dissolve the Six Nations. The bills, if passed, would be forced upon a people who have no representation in the government that passed the laws, and who have no desire to be represented in that government.

Now the question is, do the Indians have a right to their own government? Will the United States permit a nation to exist within a nation? Will the Six Nations Confederacy be permitted to function under its centuries-old constitution from which the United States learned many of its principles of democracy?

America, when you go to the United Nations and you shout your incriminations to the eastern world, do not close your ears to the weakened cry of a small nation struggling to be heard. A small nation wishes to remain so. Will the United States help the Six Nations to keep their respected form of government and their beloved way of life? Come! Read again your Declaration of Independence. "Prudence indeed will dictate, that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

JULIUS COOK (Sa-Ka-Ron-Hio-Ke-We)



# ATTENTION: Friends and Those who stand for justice:

## BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

The following United States Senate Bills, *if approved* by Congress will cause irreparable injury to the future social and economic status of all our Indian People, viz:

Senate Bills, S. 1683, S. 1686, S. 1687, affecting New York State Indians.

S. 1680, affecting Menominee Indians in Wisconsin.

S. 1681, affecting Turtle Mountain Indians in North Dakota.

S. 1682, affecting Flat Head Indians in Montana.

S. 1684, affecting Osage Indians in Oklahoma.

S. 1685, affecting Hoopa, Mission and Sacramento Indians in California.

S. 1222, affecting Klamath Indians in the State of Oregon.

S. 1688, affecting Pottowotimi Tribe in the State of Kansas.

These bills in one form or another, are the most devastating and destructive ever proposed in the Congress of the United States. Reference is made to forcing the sale of private and tribal lands to the highest bidder, especially heirship lands, and all allotted lands on reservations.

We are asking that you and your friends *write at once* to your U. S. Senator, Senate Building, Washington, D. C., and to your Congressman, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., *urging them to kill these bills.*

Should it become necessary — a Protest, and an appeal for justice — will be made to the UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY, and sent to all governments of the world.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS, NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

Frank Tom-pee-saw, *Secretary*

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## AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

Many winters ago your forefathers came to our country. They were poor, weak and feeble. They asked for a little land to plant corn on for their women and children, a place to spread their blankets. We took pity on them. We gave them a great tract of land. Our forefathers taught them how to live in America. They showed them many things: how to plant corn, beans, squashes, potatoes, tomatoes and many more vegetables; showed them how to make sugar from the sap of the maple; told them that the clam and oyster were good to eat; showed them how to make the canoe, the moccasin, the sleeping bag, the snowshoe; they taught them how to smoke the pipe of friendship and peace; taught them healing roots and herbs; showed them the workings, the operations of a great democracy, the Iroquois Government, a system unknown in Europe or Asia. During times of hardship when their little ones cried for bread, it was the Indian who brought them meat, corn and fish.

Now the white man has become strong. Our little countries (Reservations you call them) are all that we have left of this beautiful country, the gift of the Great Spirit to us, his Red Children. We have the right to call this our country. It is ours. We have the written pledge of George Washington that we should have it forever as against him or his successors, and he and his ministers promised to protect us in it. We didn't think we would ever live long enough to find that an American promise was not good. An enemy's foot (New York State) is on our country, and the United States knows it, for our chiefs have told him.

There are many reasons why we wish the United States to live up to its treaties. First, as a people, we love the land of our birth, our little reservations, the place of our father's graves and could we be permitted to remain unmolested on our lands, the gift of the Great Spirit to his Red Children, we would be content. We are satisfied with our country! We neither ask nor seek a better one!

A few years ago you won a great war. We fought by the side of your generals. We were told that we were fighting for democracy, for the rights of little peoples! Your generals still live to bear testimony of our fidelity. Yes, the blood of our warriors was shed on the battlefields of France, Germany and Japan for what you then told us was our common cause, DEMOCRACY! Why then, should you wish to break the sacred agreements between your country and the Six Nations? Our sacred treaties have been broken like saplings and your land speculators come forth to cheat and rob us, your former protector, once a great and powerful nation, the Iroquois. What harm can our retaining our reservations and treaties do to you?



What are a few thousand acres of land to a nation like the United States? Neither have you any lack of wealth that your people need become rich at our expense. Neither have we given you any grounds of complaint against us.

We want justice from now on. After all that has happened to us, that is not much for us to ask. When your Thirteen Colonies won their freedom from Great Britain you took a brand from our Council Fire (our government) and kindled your own fire. Now the same fire is trying to consume the very people who taught you the worth of such a fire!

Your government has just decided to take away the political liberties of all the Red Men you promised to protect forever, by passing such laws through your Congress in defiance of the treaties made by George Washington. Those laws, of course, would mean the breaking up of the tribes, if enforced. Our people would rather be deprived of their money than their political liberties. So would you!

We believe that if the people of the United States knew our story, that they would not allow their government to pass these bills, in violation of our sacred treaties and without our consent. If you think the Indian is being wronged, write letters to your Congress and tell them so. They will listen to you, for you elect them. If they are against us, ask them to tell you when and how they got the right to govern people who have no part in your government and wish to retain their own way of life, — guaranteed by your fathers. They can't tell you that!

THE HAND THAT GUIDED AND PROTECTED YOUR ANCESTORS IS NOW OPEN TO YOU FOR JUSTICE!

January 1948

— RON-AREN-KAIEN-KWI.

