

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

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is advised that the United States Civil Rights Commission intends to review the Tribal Courts of the Navajo Nation pursuant to its on-going study of Tribal Court systems on Indian reservations; and

WHEREAS, by previous Resolution No. 86-273, the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe opposed the investigation by the United States Civil Rights Commission of Tribal Courts on reservations on the basis that the investigation was ill-conceived, ill-prepared, lacked a sound empirical basis and although conducted under the guise of determining whether individual civil rights were being observed in tribal courts, has as its underlying and real purpose the goal of undermining tribal sovereignty and the jurisdiction of tribal courts; and

WHEREAS, the latest attempt by the United Civil Rights Commission to investigate the tribal courts of the Navajo Nation is in furtherance of this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council opposes this intrusion by the United States Civil Rights Commission upon the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation and other Indian tribes as the quality of tribal courts is the responsibility of the tribal governments and the trustee United States through its principal agent, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and not the United States Civil Rights Commission which, in fact, should be investigated in respect to its own compliance and deviation in carrying out its original mission as envisioned by Congress.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby supports the Navajo Nation in its opposition to having the United States Civil Rights Commission pass judgment on the quality of the Navajo Tribal Court system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that it hereby proposes that the United States Civil Rights Commission be investigated itself as to whether it is acting in conformity with its original mission as envisioned by Congress, and whether it has exceeded its authority by its unwarranted intrusion upon the Navajo Nation and the jurisdiction of other Indian tribes.

The foregoing resolution was on February 19, 1987, duly adopted by a vote of NINE for and ZERO 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 Bylaws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 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).

Robert Tate  
Chairman of the Tribal Council

Mariddie J. Craig  
Secretary of the Tribal Council

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 27 1987**

Fort Apache Indian Agency  
White River, Arizona