The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Cherokee Constitution” of the Bradley H. Patterson Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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August 31, 1976

Mr. Bradley H. Patterson, Jr.
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Patterson:

Thank you for your letter of August 27. I do realize the scheduling problem involved, but I think it would be extremely beneficial to the President and the Party if he could be present for the signing. I would be happy to come to the Capitol or White House for the signing if this is necessary. My schedule can be adjusted to meet at any time. I think Senators Bartlett and Bellmon might want to be present also.

The Cherokee Nation consists of over 100,000 Cherokees in every state in the Union. They would be very pleased at this display of recognition of the Cherokee people. Please advise if this will be possible.

Very truly yours,

Ross O. Swimmer
Principal Chief
NOTE TO GREG AUSTIN

You will note Phil Buchen's memorandum to me covering the attached original copy of the Cherokee Constitution.

My quick, oral advice to Phil was that this document does not have to be signed by the President and that Mr. Swimmer was doing a little bit of PR in presenting it to him at Lawton last month.

If I am correct in my advice, will you then take care of the rest of the proper procedure -- which I think should include replacing "President of the United States" with "Secretary of the Interior" on the last page and then having it signed? Will you also make sure this original copy gets to the Archives or wherever appropriate, with certified copies to those who need them?

Thanks.
TO: Hon Greg Austin  
6352 Interior

DATE: NOV 24 1976
NUMBER: 058887

TIME REC'D: 19:35

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]
DELIVERED BY: [Signature]
RETURN RECEIPT ROOM 54 IN O. E. O. B.
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