The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “Indian Leaders - Meeting of July 16, 1976” of the Bradley H. Patterson Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Dear Mr. President:

Recently, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been engaged in discussions with members of your staff concerning a proposed White House meeting with the National Indian leadership for the purpose of reaffirming the Administration's interest and concern in matters of significance to America's Indian people.

As the Nation's Bicentennial is now rapidly approaching its climax, I am writing to request that the plans for such a meeting be finalized and to indicate that an announcement to that effect would now be most timely.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Secretary of the Interior

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
Dear Mr. President:

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Respectfully,

(Sgd) Tom

Secretary of the Interior

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.  20500

cc:  T. Harris, Special Assistant to the President
### AGENDA

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
WASHINGTON  
Friday  
July 16, 1976

**MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL INDIAN LEADERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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</table>
| 1:30   | Opening Remarks        | The Honorable Theodore C. Marrs  
Special Assistant to the President                                           |
| 1:35   | Department of the Interior | The Honorable Thomas S. Kleppe  
Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Morris Thompson  
Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs                                       |
| 1:45   | Department of Health, Education and Welfare | The Honorable Stanley B. Thomas, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary for Human Development  
Dr. Emery A. Johnson  
Director, Indian Health Service  
Dr. George Blue Spruce, Jr.  
Director, Native American Programs  
Dr. S. Gabe Paxton, Jr., Acting Deputy Commissioner for Indian Education |
| 2:00   | Department of Labor    | The Honorable Ben Burdetsky  
Deputy Assistant Secretary                                                     |
| 2:10   | Department of Housing and Urban Development | The Honorable Constance E. Newman  
Assistant Secretary                                                             |
| 2:20   | Department of Commerce | The Honorable John Eden  
Assistant Secretary                                                               |
| 2:30   | Department of Justice  | The Honorable Peter Taft  
Assistant Attorney General                                                       |
| 2:40   | Adjourn to the East Room | The White House                                                                 |
| 3:00   | THE PRESIDENT          |                                                                                |
SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO INDIAN LEADERS

July 16, 1976

1. The critical unmet needs of the First Americans, American Indians and Alaskan natives, are recognized to a significant degree in this bicentennial year. I have directed the departmental secretaries to analyze these economic, social, and educational needs, and to make a coordinated effort to meet these needs.

2. I support the efforts of local Indian communities to direct their own affairs. I support self-determination without termination of tribes and/or the Federal services delivered to them and this is the established policy of this Administration.

3. Too often in the past Indians have not received services and benefits from Federal programs to which they were entitled as citizens, independent of special programs and funds earmarked for Indians. The reasons or excuses for this are many, ranging from the rural isolation of the reservations to the lack of knowledge and concern by the Federal agencies toward Indian people. To rectify this situation I am asking the Secretary of each Department to develop a plan of action to assure that Indian people receive more of the services through Federal programs for which they are eligible as citizens. Each Department will show what activities are planned to accomplish this goal and how the increased receipt of services will be measured.

4. While there is an excess of teachers, nationwide, there is not an excess of Indian teachers. There is a lack of trained leadership to support Indian self-determination in all of the other professions. Therefore, I am directing the Secretary of HEW and the Secretary of Interior to continue a strong coordinated effort to support training and advance education for American Indians, particularly in the areas of Education, Medicine, Law, Engineering, Business, and Forestry.

5. There is already a nucleus of Indian-controlled junior colleges scattered throughout the nation. I am directing the Secretary of HEW and the Secretary of Interior to increase Federal communications with these institutions and to determine areas for increased cooperation.
6. The Indian Education Act of 1972 has had a significant and successful beginning. A total of $13$ million has been expended aiding over $400,000$ American Indians since the law was passed. These resources have provided services to Indians and we look forward to continued success in this area.

7. I have directed the Federal Interagency Committee, under the sponsorship of HEW, to convene a National Conference on Indian Education in the spring of 1977. This conference will focus on analyzing all Federal educational services to Indians. We expect significant proposals for legislative remedies to correct deficiencies. (Note: planning has already started for this conference.)

8. Under Part D of the Indian Education Act of 1972, a National Council on Indian Education was established to provide technical assistance to local educational agencies and to Indian organizations. The law stipulates that the Council will be composed of $15$ persons who are Indian or Alaskan natives and are appointed by the President from recommendations submitted by Indian tribes and organizations. These names have been submitted to me and I intend to appoint this Council within thirty days.

9. Too often Federal agencies are unable to detail what services are being provided to Indian people and in what amount because the agencies neglect to collect information which includes "American Indian and Alaskan Native" as a separate population category. Instead, Indians are one of the nameless groups which compose the "Other" category. When agencies cannot detail how many of their services are being utilized by Indian people, there is no way of telling whether the agency is making its resources and services available to Indian people. To correct this situation which fosters non-accountability, I am requesting each agency which collects descriptive data on the recipients of its services to include the separate category of "American Indian and Alaskan Native," using the format that has already been recommended by the Office of Management and Budget.

10. In recent years, the settlement of Indian land claims has resulted in increased income for many Indian families. The receipt of these judgment funds has caused a hardship for many Indian college students when they were considered for financial aid. Therefore, I am directing the Secretaries of HEW and Interior to
ignore these judgment funds for Indians, when analyzing the financial needs of Indian and Alaskan native students, and to prepare appropriate guidelines.

11. This Administration is committed and will continue to be committed to making the Federal bureaucracy more aware and responsive to the needs of Indian people. Some progress has been made. I understand that the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has chartered an Intra-Departmental Council on Indian Affairs composed of high level agency personnel and committed to forging a consistent and uniform Departmental policy on Indian Affairs. In addition, this Council has been chartered to improve and increase the delivery of the Department's services to Indian people. I endorse this initiative by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and trust that it will achieve its goals and serve as a model for other Departments.

12. Many Federal programs, such as General Revenue Sharing, allocate funds to cities, States and Tribes based on their population. Unfortunately, too often the population data on Indian derived from the Census represents an undercount of the actual Indian population both on reservations and in urban areas. Because of this undercount, Indian people have not always received their fair share of the funds allocated on the basis of population. The Bureau of the Census has recognized this problem. I am requesting that the Bureau of the Census redouble its efforts to insure that the 1980 Census accurately counts the American Indians and Alaskan Natives in villages, on reservations and in cities.

13. I have directed the Federal agencies to improve communications among the Indian communities particularly in the use of newsletters, mailouts and other media for the purpose of informing them of policy developments and changes.
Marie Thompson
Annette Mason
Bobbi Grayboy
Lucille Dawson
W. J. Stickland
Delwin Lytle

Becken McCreary

Bob Drapp
Bob & Mary Drapp
Rose Swinor

Alec Garfield
Pete Mason
Ranny Taylor
Charles Lemke

Karl Bussink
Matthew Andrews
Joe Vaughan (see below)

Janet Killaway
Larry Johnson
Alvin Elshoof

Walter, Lutein and Zilla

Johnson (factual error) Menick
George Ortiz
Claude Cox
Jake White Crow
Jim Henry
LeBlanc  Dan McDonald
William  Cecil
Calbee  Sara
Walter  Liza
Lindsay  Bert
Chris  Marnahell
Carl McKay
Wildcat  William
La Rocca  Louis
Lobo  Lawrence
Sandy  Calvin
Padrick  Ray
Foster  Joe
Spindler  Tony
Alden  Jerry
Engel  Ralph
Spring  Ray
Clarence  Charles

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Crumb, Lou
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Leon Clay
Duss Lor + Son
Gibbons
Mills, Ed
Tar Me Laughlin
Chase, Joe
Tucker, Eugene
Brown, Elmer
Trower, Gun M.
Narango, Alfi
Burrow, Frank - Addison Mining
Annette Rider
Barlow, Lou
Mills, Elżebith
Colby, Shields
Bennett, Karen
Weber, Stanley
Lee, Darla
Jaswa James
John, Sanders
Matthew, Luke

Sandy McRae
Bert Arndt
A. T. Anderson
Wally Lehak
Myler Elliott
George Williams
Pal Havatun
Wilbur Whitonam, Sr.
Dave Fred
Mary, Tom Hampe
Reley Elliott
Hatt Swabber
Warnek, Anne
Jack Anderson
Jr. Johnston
Jennie Allen
Bill, Jollie
Leonard Cottler
Lyda Blyde
Leonard Buel
Lemo, Blanka
Baron, Winter
Callego, Jaff

Mrvin Hathaway
Laura Swaunt
Long Tauger
Carl Oldham
MEETING ON PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION

Sponsored by the Office of Public Liaison
In Cooperation With
The National Congress of American Indians

10:00 a.m. Opening Remarks Theodore C. Marrs
Special Assistant to the President for Human Resources

Economic and Social Conditions -

Review and Current Status Albert W. Trimble, President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

Scope and Size of Federal Role; Special Studies and Task Force
Recommendations Theodore Krenzke
Director, Office of Indian Services
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior

Oglala Sioux Tribal Plan -

Tribal Responsibility; Economic Development; Priorities Albert W. Trimble, President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

Development of Agri-business Richard Schifter
Counsel to Oglala Sioux Tribe

Tribal Expectations Albert W. Trimble, President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

BIA Recommendations Morris Thompson
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Department of Interior

Response Albert W. Trimble, President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

Lunch -
MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL INDIAN LEADERS

P. M.
1:30 Opening Remarks - The Honorable Theodore C. Marrs
Special Assistant to the President

1:35 Department of the Interior - The Honorable Thomas S. Kleppe
Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable Morris Thompson
Commissioner, Bureau of Indian Affairs

1:45 Department of Health, Education and Welfare -
The Honorable Stanley B. Thomas, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Human Development
Dr. Emery A. Johnson
Director, Indian Health Service
Dr. George Blue Spruce, Jr.
Director, Native American Programs
Dr. S. Gabe Paxton, Jr., Acting
Deputy Commissioner for Indian Education

2:00 Department of Labor - The Honorable Ben Burdetsky
Deputy Assistant Secretary

2:10 Department of Housing and Urban Development -
The Honorable Constance E. Newman
Assistant Secretary

2:20 Department of Commerce - The Honorable John Eden
Assistant Secretary

2:30 Department of Justice - The Honorable Peter Taft
Assistant Attorney General

2:40 Adjourn to the East Room
The White House

3:00

THE PRESIDENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 16, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN LEADERS

THE EAST ROOM

3:15 P.M. EDT

Let me welcome each and every one of you to the White House this afternoon. I am extremely happy to have the opportunity to meet with you individually as well as collectively and I am very proud to have the distinguished leaders and the elected representatives of America's Indian tribes here in the East Room of the White House.

I looked over your schedule and I hope from the distinguished speakers that spoke with you that you have had an informative briefing session, not only with Secretary Kleppe, but the others -- those who were responsible for some of the Government Indian programs. I think it is vitally important that you tell us what your problems are, what your needs are and then we can be fully informed as to the right policies and the right programs.

Let me take just a few minutes to talk with you on a personal basis, to let you know of my personal concern and for the needs of Indians and native Americans. The Federal Government has a very unique relationship with you and your people. It is a relationship of a legal trust and a high moral responsibility. That relationship is rooted deep in history, but it is fed today by our concern that the Indian people should enjoy the same opportunities as other Americans, while maintaining the culture and the traditions that you rightly prize as your heritage.

That heritage is an important part of the American culture that we are celebrating in this great country in our Bicentennial year. Your contribution has been both material and spiritual. Your ancestors introduced settlers not only to new foods and new plants, but to Indian ways of life and Indian values which they absorbed.

MORE
This is a year for all of us to realize what a great debt we individually and collectively owe to the American Indians. Today, you are concerned about such serious problems as poverty, unemployment, crime, poor health and unsuitable housing on Indian reservations. I share your concern. I am hopeful about the future and about what we can achieve by continuing to work together.

The 1970s have brought a new era in Indian affairs. In the last century, Federal policy has vacillated between paternalism and the threat of terminating Federal responsibility. I am opposed to both extremes. I believe in maintaining a stable policy so that Indians and Indian leaders can plan and work confidently for the future.

We can build on that foundation to improve the opportunities available to American Indians and at the same time, make it possible for you to live as you choose within your tribal structure and in brotherhood with your fellow citizens.

We have already begun to build. My Administration is supporting the concept of allowing Indian tribes to determine whether they and their members, in addition to being under tribal jurisdiction, should be under State or Federal civil and criminal jurisdiction.

I have directed the Departments of Justice and Interior to draft legislation which would accomplish this goal efficiently, effectively and within adequate guidelines. They have solicited the views of the Indian community in preparing their recommendations which I will soon send to the Congress.

I am committed to furthering the self-determination of Indian communities but without terminating the special relationship between the Federal Government and the Indian people. I am strongly opposed to termination. Self-determination means that you can decide the nature of your tribe's relationship with the Federal Government within the framework of the Self-Determination Act, which I signed in January of 1975.

Indian tribes, if they desire, now have the opportunity to administer Federal programs for themselves. We can then work together as partners.

On your part, this requires initiative and responsibility as you define your tribal goals and determine how you want to use the Federal resources. On the Federal Government's part, self-determination for Indian tribes requires that Federal programs must be flexible enough to deal with the different needs and desires of individual tribes.
In the past, our flexibility has been limited by the lack of effective coordination among departments and agencies offering a wide variety of programs and services to the Indian people. Programs serving both reservation and non-reservation Indians are spread across half a dozen different Cabinet Departments involving agencies ranging from the Economic Development Administration to the Federal Aviation Administration.
As many of you know, this is Ted Marrs' last day on the White House staff. Ted's service as White House Liaison for Indian Affairs has been invaluable to me as President and to the Cabinet officers and I am confident to the Indian community.

With his departure, I will announce shortly the name of a person who will assume Ted Marrs' duties in the Office of Public Liaison in the area of Indian Affairs. This appointee will be an individual with responsibility to work with the Cabinet officers, with the Office of Management and Budget, with the Domestic Council and with my Legal Office to encourage the improved coordination of the various Federal agencies and programs that currently serve the Indian population.

As an additional step in this direction, I am also sending a memorandum to the heads of all Cabinet departments with Indian responsibilities, directing them to give priority attention to the coordination of Indian programs. These two actions will help to insure that one and one half billion dollars spent annually on Indian programs and services will be spent efficiently, with cooperation and without duplication.

An important task we can help you with is the challenge of economic development of your lands. I congratulate you on the initiative that you have shown. I pledge encouragement. I pledge help in your efforts to create long-term economic development.

Many Indian reservations contain valuable natural resources. There must be the proper treatment of these resources with respect for nature, which is a traditional Indian value. My Attorney General has established an Indian resources section whose sole responsibility is litigation on behalf of Indian tribes to protect your natural resources and your jurisdictional rights.

Indian leaders and the Indian people have gained an increasing skill in managing these resources so they benefit your tribes and our nation as a whole. I wholeheartedly and unequivocally pledge our cooperation in working with you to improve the quality of Indian life by providing soundly managed programs and a stable policy.

We can make the rest of the 1970s decisive years in the lives of the Indian people. Together we can write a new chapter in the history of this land that we all serve and this land that we all share.

I thank you very much.

END (AT 3:25 P.M. EDT)
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I thank you very much.

END (AT 3:25 P.M. EDT)
The President
White House
Washington, D. C. 20202

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the invitation for Tribal Leaders to attend a briefing at the White House and the opportunity to meet you. It was indeed, quite an honor, and something I will never forget.

A very special thanks to Mrs. Velma Shelton, who was kind enough to have my son, Robert, cleared so he would have the opportunity to meet you.

We, both would like to thank you for allowing me to take your picture with him so he could get an "A" in civics. He gave a presentation to both civics classes the following Monday.

Thank you again, it was nice.

Respectfully,

Carmen Daisy Welch
Tribal Chairman
Viejas Indian Reservation

August 10, 1976
PARIS, July 18 (AP)—The French franc tumbled 1.4 cents compared to 20.77 cents Thursday. This corresponds to a rise in the dollar's power against the franc from 4.81 to 4.88. It also meant the franc was at its lowest level since September 1974.

Several factors were blamed for the dip of the French currency against almost all currencies of the world. The French government had announced on Monday that it would allow the franc to depreciate. The government also announced that it would sell more than 200 million francs worth of foreign exchange in the next three months. The franc is also being used as a reserve currency by many countries around the world.

The franc's weakness is due to a combination of factors, including the sharp increase in oil prices, the weak foreign trade picture, and the uncertainty surrounding the future of the American economy. The franc is also being used as a reserve currency by many countries around the world.

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C/o John Schokwerk

Matteo Ann
1506 Broadway
Berkeley, Cal. 94704
They Talked, We Listened

Indians Unhappy With Ford Visit

By David Braaten
Washington Post Correspondent

No one went so far as to say the Great White Father spoke with a forced tongue — that's not the Indians' style these days. It seemed Ford was outside Hollywood — just a spokesman for the American Indian leaders who met with President Ford and administration officials yesterday was clearly impressed with the day's lobbying effort.

"He's not informed on the illegal actions of his underlings," said Mr. Tonasket, president of the National Congress of American Indians, at a sidewalk press conference outside the White House, where the chief had just been greeted with nothing but byes by the chief executive. "We were denied the opportunity to give-and-take. It was all we'll-talk-and-you-listen, " Tonasket said.

Ford had promised the Indian leaders he would take steps to coordinate the handling of Indian affairs, give help particularly to economic development of reservations, many of which contain valuable natural resources.

Two of the Okanogan from Colville, Wash., expressed a definite suspicion that he, and his colleagues were being used for political purposes. Invited to the White House as members of colorful groups in Ford's election campaign.

"The President made good promises, and we expect he will keep them," he said outside the Northwest state of the White House. He seemed skeptical that the bureaucrats who would be charged with putting Ford's promises into effect will ever get the word, however.

"We weren't even given an opportunity to talk with [Health Secretary] Thimmesch," Tonasket said. "We got in an argument, and we lost. It shows the kind of one-way street the Indian always wind up on."

In his White House speech to the Indians in the East Room, Ford mentioned the $1.1 billion a year allocated for "Indian affairs," but Tonasket said, "Very little of that goes down to the reservations. It goes for employees' salaries, for rugs and lamps. It would probably be enough, if it were used properly."

The policies of the Indians' situation, he indicated, is that, though they're sitting on vast mineral and other wealth, they need money to make money out of it. One of the things they need money for is the legal expenses of battling the federal government over the best way of realizing the potential of Indian-owned resources.

Under S.D., he said, Indians and their tribal councils always the legislature can "rent out minerals and hydroelectric -- worth at nominal terms to the tribes."

As an example, Tonasket cited a lease negotiated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, on behalf of the Northern Cheyenne for extraction of coal in northern Montana.

The government handled lease negotiations at a sharply low price by present-day energy standards. The Indians are trying to overturn the lease and get a better price for the coal.

"I think the government has always taken us for granted, as a bunch of dummies," Tonasket said.

The Indian leaders decided to be drawn into a partisan political discussion of his people's chances for better treatment under a Democratic administration.