

TRIBAL CONSTITUTION
INTERPRETATION NO. 10-96

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee is the duly elected governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, comprised of six member reservations (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth); and

WHEREAS, In a letter dated June 26, 1996, the Acting Area Director, Minneapolis Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs has stated that because of the "lack of constitutional direction" he possessed the legal authority to take "extraordinary measures", and that he has the power to remove duly elected members of a Tribal Council of a Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and establish rules for the operation of that Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe established the principle, in its Constitutional Interpretation No. 4-81, on January 27 and 28, 1981 that the Tribal Executive Committee—

Is the only proper body to interpret the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and that the United States, through its courts, solicitors, or employees, lacks the authority or jurisdiction to determine the meaning of the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in opposition to the interpretations or actions of the Tribal Executive Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe does herewith reaffirm its long-held position that the officials of the government of the United States, including but not limited to the Acting Area Director of the Minneapolis Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, do not possess any legal authority to interpret the Constitution of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, or to remove sitting members of a government of a Band of the Tribe, or to establish rules for the operation of a government of a Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Constitution Interpretation was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent during a telephone conference meeting with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee, a quorum present, held on July 3, 1996.

Norman W. Deschampe, President
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE

ATTEST: Peter J. Defoe, Secretary
THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE