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### **Memorial of delegates of the Creek Nation of Indians remonstrating against the organization of a territorial government for the Indian Territory.**

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## MEMORIAL

OF

# DELEGATES OF THE CREEK NATION OF INDIANS

REMONSTRATING AGAINST

*The organization of a territorial government for the Indian Territory.*

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MARCH 8, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Territories.

MARCH 9, 1870.—Ordered to be printed.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., February 26, 1870.

*To the President of the United States Senate :*

SIR: The undersigned delegates from the Creek Nation have the honor herewith to transmit a copy of resolutions adopted by our general council on the 13th November, 1868, and of a protest made and signed by delegates to a convention of the whole Creek people, assembled for that purpose, on the 10th instant, at Okmulkee, and which we are instructed to lay before you for your information, and for the information of the Senate.

Permit us here to say that it is with painful anxiety we have witnessed the introduction into Congress and the discussion of measures which, if matured and acted upon, would unavoidably result ultimately in the ruin and extinction of our people. We are jealous of the smallest infraction of our treaties, knowing it would be taken advantage of and held as a precedent by those who are anxious to get our lands; that the breach would rapidly widen, till soon our treaties would be held sacred no longer.

We do not doubt the kind feelings of the best men in the government toward us. We feel sure the government would not intentionally do anything that would prove injurious or disastrous to our people; yet we are painfully conscious of our weakness, our poverty, and our ignorance, and of the vast power of the political and pecuniary interest which threaten us. We cling to our treaties, and hope for safety in the strength and good faith of the government, believing that the time-honored policy of the United States toward our nation, confirmed by so many solemn treaties, and rendered sacred by the sanction of all the good and great men of America from General Washington to General Grant, will not be lightly set aside now.

We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

G. W. STIDHAM,

S. W. PERRYMAN,

*Creek Delegates.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Okmulkee, C. N., November 18, 1868

GENTLEMEN: Inasmuch as several propositions have been made to the Congress of the United States to organize a territorial form of government for the Indian Territory; and inasmuch as the Muskokees have always been, and still are, averse to such a form of government, as plainly shown in an act passed in general council assembled, to wit: "Enacted by the national council of the Muskokee Nation, That the delegates representing this nation at Washington be, and they are hereby, instructed, and the United States superintendent of Indian affairs be respectfully requested, to lay before the proper officers of the United States government the objections to the organization of a territorial form of government for the Indian country, and to use all proper efforts to avert the passage of a law for that purpose;" therefore it becomes my duty, as principal chief of this nation, to furnish you with objections urged by the Muskokee Nation against the establishment of a territorial form of government for the Indian country, and respectfully request that you represent, in behalf of the Muskokee Nation, to the United States government—

That it is the earnest desire and hope of the Muskokee people that a territorial form of government, such as has at various times been proposed to the Congress of the United States, be not extended over the Indian country; that in consequence of the late war our schools and other facilities of advancement and civilization were destroyed, thus disabling the Muskokees to make any steps toward improvement in the affairs of their government, or otherwise, but, on the contrary, to a great measure, virtually ignored the existence of any government at all, which circumstance rendered the Muskokees more unfit to be subjects of a territorial form of government than ever before.

That while the Muskokee people are of opinion that the proposition to extend such a system of government over the Indian country was made in a spirit of benevolence, and in the belief that it will tend to the amelioration of their condition, still, the Muskokees are fully persuaded and convinced that, if allowed unmolested to make their own laws, they will make more rapid progress toward that government so much desired by the United States government; that the Muskokees have just begun to recover from the shocks of the late war, by recently establishing schools and other means of enlightenment; and until they see the fruit of these they cannot entertain the idea of such a form of government.

That it is the earnest desire and prayer of the Muskokee people that the United States government will propose no more innovations on their present system of government, other than that already stipulated in existing treaties.

That it is their prayer, moreover, that, should any changes be proposed, they will be more in conformity to the established usages and customs of the Muskokee people; and for this they will ever pray.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant and friend,

SAM'L CHEKOTE.

*Principal Chief Muskokee Nation.*

Hon. G. W. STIDHAM and S. W. PERRYMAN.

## OKMULKEE, MUSKOCHEE NATION,

February 10, 1870.

GENTLEMEN: It has come to our knowledge that it is seriously proposed to introduce in the Congress of the United States measures having for their object the placing of the various Indian tribes and nations under territorial government. We need not remind you that the establishment of such a government over us would work our ruin and speedy extinction, by subjecting us to the absolute rule of a people foreign to us in blood, language, customs, traditions, and interest, who would speedily possess themselves of our homes, degrade us in our own estimation, and leave us a prey to the politician and land speculator, thus destroying the unity of our race, and producing national disintegration.

We have received the above information with apprehension and serious alarm, regarding, as we must do, the above policy, if adopted by Congress, as the prelude to our funeral march to the grave; and we enter our solemn, deliberate, and unanimous protest against the consummation of so unjust, oppressive, and cruel a measure, calling on all the various Indian tribes and nations to co-operate with us in resisting such measure by all lawful, peaceful, and honorable means at their command.

We do not believe, however, that a majority of the Congress of the United States will be found prepared to sanction a scheme calculated to prove so disastrous to us as a people, so subversive of the policy of the United States government from its earliest dealings with the Indians, and the inevitable tendency of which would be to blot us out of existence both as a people and as individuals.

We hereby proclaim ourselves the friends of the United States government; that we are ready to defend it with our lives, if necessary; that all we ask is that its legislative body will not forget that we hold our lands in fee simple by letters patent from the President of the United States; that those lands were bought and paid for in cash, and in exchange for other lands deemed more desirable by the United States; and that our national character is recognized and confirmed again and again by the highest laws known to political societies, namely, treaties.

All we ask is that good faith and justice be shown to us, and that a policy may not be adopted toward us which would be productive only of evil, and which could never be practically enforced without our utter destruction.

We know that we are but few in number and weak, while the people of the United States are many and strong, and we appeal to their greatness and magnanimity to spare us from a forced extinction.

We have been moving on for generations, and hoped when we settled here that we had at length found a place of rest, and that our council fires would burn as brightly west of the Father of Waters as they had done centuries ago on the shores of the Atlantic.

We are historians enough to know that the hoary despotism of Europe has spared the petty republic of Andora (an *imperium in imperio*) for more than a thousand years; cannot this mighty republic endure our presence at least until natural laws shall extinguish our existence as a nation? Like the people of the United States, we are men, created by the same God, and accountable to him for our acts; and we beseech our white brethren not to stir up strife which would result in depriving us of every remaining right and guarantee now enjoyed by us. The doctrine that irresistible destiny insures our national extinction, and with it annihilation as individuals, is abhorrent to the feelings of common humanity; and we implore the people and government of the United

States not to precipitate our fate by doing violence not only to treaty stipulations, but to the laws of nature and of nature's God.

Finally, in the exercise of right of petition for the redress of grievances, and for protection from threatened dangers which spring from our relations as wards of the government of the United States, hereby request our national delegates at the city of Washington to send copies of this our respectful, but earnest, remonstrance against the policy foreshadowed by the information which has reached us, to the President of the United States, and the heads of the executive departments, and before the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

With great respect and confidence in your fidelity and patriotism, we are, gentlemen, very sincerely yours, &c.,

John R. Moore,  
Itshars Harjo,  
Walter Collins,  
Pars Cofar,  
*Arkansas District.*

P. Porter,  
John Haynes,  
James Larnee,  
*Muskokee District.*

Woxey Harjo,  
Cosar Tustunnucky,  
James McHenry,  
*Coweta District.*

Wiley Kanard,  
Tustunnuck Harjo,  
Yarhar Harjo,  
Conip Yarholar,  
Chocote Yarholar,  
*Deep Fork District.*

J. M. Perryman,  
G. W. Grayson,  
Hotulk-Emarthlar,  
Micco Harjo,  
Pink Hawkins,  
Chilly McIntosh,  
*North Fork District.*

Osooch Harjo,  
Cosar Fieco,  
Emar Harjo,  
Cusetah Yarholar,  
*We-Wo-Ka District.*

Messrs. G. W. STIDHAM and S. W. PERRYMAN,  
*Creek Delegates.*