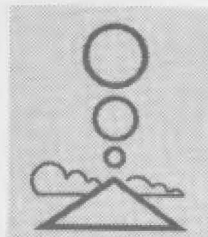


**The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “Mohawk Nation” of the
Norman Ross Files, 1974-75
at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Norman E. Ross, Jr. donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

AMERICAN INDIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
NEWS SERVICE



New File
ROOM 206
1346 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
Phone: (202) 293-9150

Executive Director: *Rose Robinson*
News Director: *Richard LaCourse*

OCCUPY - MY181

EAGLE BAY, N.Y.--(AIPA)--About 75 members of the Mohawk Nation have set up camp in a timberland area on the north shore of Moss Lake in the Adirondack Park Forest Reserve here and intend to stay until large tracts of land are returned to the Mohawk Nation by the state of New York.

The occupiers, who moved onto the area May 14, have as their objective the reestablishment of the old Mohawk Nation of Ganiienkeh, the Land of the Flint, through the recovery of sufficient undisturbed acreage where they could live a natural outdoor life by hunting, fishing and growing their own crops. According to Mohawk spokesman Kakwirakeron, the long range objective is to establish an independent North American Indian state open to all traditional North American Indians.

The occupiers claim that state possession of the land constitutes "illegal theft," arising from illegal acts of a Mohawk man who in 1797 claimed to have power of attorney for the tribe and who surrendered 5,500,000 acres of Mohawk land to the state in return for the sum of \$1,000.

The Mohawk contingent, consisting of Mohawk men and women from both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border, sent letters announcing their purposes and intentions to the President of the United States, the governors of New York and Vermont, and also to 154 foreign representatives at the United Nations in New York City seeking foreign relations with those nations.

The site the Mohawk occupiers are camped on lies midway among four small rural towns of Eagle Bay, Inlet, Old Forge and Big Moose. Plans were in the offing to present the Mohawk proposals to the neighboring townspeople including schoolteachers, church leaders and members, town and state government representatives, and community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Lodge, Lions Club and the like.

Immediately facing the occupiers were negotiations concerning an extension of a camping permit on the land, which has a normal duration of three days. Also ahead were negotiations, now quietly opened, with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. There was no known immediate presence of federal marshals in the area, but there were reports of a buildup of N.Y. state troopers in a nearby town.

The treaty upon which the Mohawks are making their case is the 1768 Fort Stanwix Treaty negotiated in what is now the town of Rome, N.Y. Spokesman Kakwirakeron said the 1797 surrender of Mohawk lands by Joseph Brant to the state of New York violated the tribal constitution of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy at that time, because under that constitution "no person or single Nation has the right to sell any land without the consent of the Grand Council."

Kakwirakeron said Brant was not authorized by the Mohawk government to enter into the 1797 agreement, and Brant was not a Mohawk chief. After study in Europe, Brant returned to the U.S. and began translating Christian texts and hymns for his Christian denomination. The Mohawk occupiers have labeled Brant "a sellout."

The Eagle Bay action, said a spokesman, was an "all-Mohawk effort" which excluded non-Indians from the camp but which accepted assistance and support from other Indian groups.

In Washington, D.C., on May 15, seventy members of Jewish Defense League demonstrated at the Lebanese Embassy, protesting Arab guerrilla actions against Israeli school children.

SOCIALIST GROUPS PROTEST JUNTA IN CHILE

New York City

On May 11, approximately 135 persons conducted demonstrations in a downtown area, protesting the ruling Chilean military junta and demanding freedom for political prisoners in Chile. Signs identified protestors as representatives of the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, Workers World Party, Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF), and Spartacist League (SL). Speakers denounced the military coup and military trials in Chile and attempted to promote unity among the various socialist groups.

Buffalo

On May 11 seventy five persons participated in demonstrations at Lafayette Square and later at Chase Manhattan Bank. Demonstrators, representing YAWF, SL, Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Young Workers Liberation League, were protesting the present military junta in Chile and demanding that the United States cease all aid to the Chilean dictatorship.

INDIANS TAKEOVER NEW YORK STATE LAND

On the morning of May 12, about 25 Indians from the Caughnawaga Reservation near Montreal, Quebec crossed the border in small groups at various points of entry into Northern New York State. On May 14, they joined about 75 Mohawk Indians from the Onandaga Reservation near Syracuse in occupying an isolated 600 acre section of the Adirondeck Park Forest Preserve near Big Moose Lake, Eagle Bay, New York. This property, formerly a private school, was purchased by the state, but has not been put to use. The Indians have established a camp and a perimeter guard and are denying access to the property to all visitors. Some of the Indians are armed with hunting rifles.



According to an Indian spokesman, this group is the advance party of between 400 and 500 Indians who are expected to move into the area.

The militant Indians claim that the reservation from which they came is inadequate and that this 600 acre site, which they claim is legally theirs because of a 1768 treaty, will be their new reservation. This "occupation" has been peaceful so far and the New York authorities have no plans for confrontation.

November 27, 1974

Dear Mr. Blumberg:

Thank you for your letter of November 14 regarding the October 28th separate incidents in which two persons were wounded by gunshot fire while riding in vehicles traversing County Road #1 in the Township of Webb, Herkimer County, New York.

The relevant portion of Article VII of the Treaty with the Six Nations entered into November 11, 1794 provides as follows:

ARTICLE VII.

Lest the firm peace and friendship now established should be interrupted by the misconduct of individuals, the United States and Six Nations agree, that for injuries done by individuals on either side, no private revenge or retaliation shall take place; but, instead thereof, complaint shall be made by the party injured, to the other: By the Six Nations or any of them, to the President of the United States, or the Superintendent by him appointed: and by the Superintendent, or other person appointed by the President, to the principal chiefs of the Six Nations, or of the nation to which the offender belongs: and such prudent measures shall then be pursued as shall be necessary to preserve our peace and friendship unbroken; until the legislature (or great council) of the United States shall make other equitable provision for the purpose. (Emphasis added.)

The Congress of the United States did, as provided by the treaty, make other provisions in 1948 and 1950 for the resolution of disputes, and the punishment of criminal acts by the enactment of two laws conferring jurisdiction on the State of New York.



The Act of July 2, 1948 (62 Stat. 1224), 25 U.S.C. Section 232, granted to the State of New York criminal jurisdiction over offenses committed by or against Indians on Indian reservations within the State. The Act of September 13, 1950 (64 Stat. 845), 25 U.S.C. Section 233, conferred civil jurisdiction on the Courts of the State in civil actions and proceedings between Indians and between one or more Indians and any other person or persons.

In view of the above, the provisions of the treaty having been superceded by later Acts of Congress, the President is no longer authorized to act. Any complaints or alleged acts of wrongdoings are appropriately under the jurisdiction of the State of New York.

Sincerely,

Norman E. Ross, Jr.
Assistant Director
Domestic Council

Mr. Henry D. Blumberg
District Attorney - Herkimer County
Herkimer County Court House
Post Office Box 588
Herkimer, New York 13350

NEROSS/ee

cc: White House Files

