FINAL DRAFT

working title: INDIAN TREATIES REVISITED

a slide-audio play

The content of this slide-audio play is fictional. Historical photographs and quotations have been used to reinforce the dramatic story you are about to experience. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

SONYA YELLOW FEATHER, a young tribal girl
TECUMSEH, great Shawnee chief
RED CLOUD, great Sioux chief
CHIEF JOSEPH, great Nez Perce chief

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL, U.S. Supreme Court Justice
~~STAGE~~ MANAGER

MINOR CHARACTERS:

HERBERT W. BRECK, a fictitious BIA agent
~~THOMAS JEFFERSON~~
~~JOHN ROSS, Cherokee Chief~~
STANDING BEAR
ANONYMOUS VOICES

THE SETTING:

A young tribal girl, SONYA YELLOW FEATHER, has become concerned about the confusion people are having about the treaties. When the slide-audio play begins, she is seen among the stacks at a large library nearing a state of frustration and exhaustion.... she then falls asleep. Once asleep, she begins to dream about the subject of her research and encounters a variety of historical figures who willingly respond to her questions. Conversations highlight the main aspects of the treaties and the development of U.S. policies which have distorted their meaning.....

ACT ONE

DISCLAIMER SLIDE

MUSIC begins —

VOICES (under music):

My tribe has a treaty. What does it mean?

(4 sec.)

Does changing the treaty change the tribe?

11 slides

Was there a tribe before the treaty?

Why can the United States government interpret the treaties any way it wants?
Why can't the tribes do the same?

Does a treaty protect the tribe?

Can Congress ignore the treaty without the consent of the tribe?

If we are not a country...and we are not a state.... and we are not a territory...What are we?

Why were treaties signed in the first place?

Why do our leaders keep talking about treaties?

Should we keep our treaties?

Can the treaties be changed?

45 sec.

VOICES fade OFF. MUSIC continues.

SONYA YELLOW FEATHER: (exasperrated. Slams book on table)
Whew...Boy....Am I CONFUSED? Treaties....Supreme Court decisions....plenary power of Congress....
I wish someone could explain to me what Indian treaties are all about.

TITLE SLIDE

MUSIC continues

STAGE MANAGER: (under MUSIC)
Sonya Yellow Feather doesn't know it yet....but with the magic of fiction and dreams, she is about to be transported on a journey through history.
She hasn't had much luck with the books in the library...her mind is alive with visions of tribes and treaties...she's tired.....
Sonya Yellow Feather is ONE tribal member who has become concerned about the treaties....She's about to REVISIT Indian treaties in a very unusual way....
(PAUSE)
Let's join her in the library and see how she's coming along.

SONYA: (yawning...very tired)
I'm sleepy....I've been in this library forever...there's so many books...so many words...so many words....

MUSIC fades off

VOICES: (fade in gradually)
T. Those treaties were solemn agreements.

M. I agree...and they still are!

T. I'm glad you agree....but that's not what happened to my people.

Brock. We must civilize these heathen savages....make them like white men!

The United State government lied to us when they signed the treaties.

VOICES: (continued)
The U.S. government did not lie!
(PAUSE)

SONYA: (voice low) Oh....they are talking about treaties....
I wonder if they can hear me?

SONYA: (voice louder...stuttering)
ahhhhem....I'd....I'd.... I'd like
to ask you some questions...

STOP MUMBLING

STAGE MANAGER: (very softly)
Sonya Yellow Feather has entered a dream world...
(PAUSE)
Everyone knows that Indian tribes have been signing
treaties for several centuries....
Before the United States ~~itself~~ became a country,
more than 400 treaties were negotiated with the countries
of Spain, France and England...
~~The first Indian~~ An early treaty with the United States was
signed in 1778 by the Delaware Nation...During treaty
negotiations, the possibility of statehood for ~~the~~ that tribe
was seriously considered....But ~~for almost~~ after 100 years
of treaty-making with the U.S. government, the tribes remained
completely separate from the American political system.

Treaties have long protected tribal rights to self-
government....and yet the United States Congress has
frequently passed laws which directly affect
tribal populations...even though the tribes were
not given any say in such matters.

~~A treaty is a binding international agreement~~
~~between two or more sovereign nations.~~
~~They have also been called alliances, conventions,~~
~~compacts, agreements and contracts...~~
When nations make treaties, they recognize each
others respective sovereignty.
(PAUSE)

STAGE MANAGER:
Let's see what's happening to our young researcher in her dream. She seems to be having some difficulty.

SONYA: I'd...I'd....I'd...like to ask you some questions...
(voice gets louder)
....about treaties. Excuse me....I have some questions....

TECUMSEH: But Mr. Justice...You're wrong!

JUSTICE MARSHALL: I have what I need to prove my point right here.....

SONYA: ~~(coughing)~~ Excuse me for interrupting.
But please...where...where am I?
Who...who are you?

TECUMSEH: (laughing) Ha. Ha...at last a fresh face....
we have an interruption to our long-winded debate!

VOICES:(whispering)
But who is she?
What is she doing here?
Don't pay any attention to her!

TECUMSEH: Don't mind them....Tell me, daughter...
from what time do you come?

JUSTICE MARSHALL:
My dear Tecumseh...I'd like to make my point!
I have it here in my opinion....

TECUMSEH: Yes, ~~your honor~~....now would be a good time.
(PAUSE)
Listen closely to this young lady....your questions will soon be answered.

JUSTICE MARSHALL: ~~(interrupting)~~
~~cough cough~~....
It may well be doubted whether those tribes which reside within the boundaries of the United States can....with strict accuracy....be denominated foreign nations.....They more correctly, perhaps, be denominated DOMESTIC DEPENDENT NATIONS.
(~~from~~ the case of Cherokee v. State of Georgia, 1831)

SONYA: But Justice Marshall...Did the signing of the treaties make the tribes dependent on the United States?

You, Justice...

RED CLOUD: That's ridiculous! ..... we've never been dependent upon anybody but the Great Spirit and ourselves!

TECUMSEH: Red Cloud is right, Justice Marshall.... your notion of domestic dependent nations might have been well-intended, but it hasn't helped tribal people...and besides...it wasn't true....
I remember when I was negotiating with Governor Harrison in 1810....we had no such confused ideas about the longstanding existence of Indian nations... We were only dependent on the Great Spirit....not no other men!

~~THOMAS JEFFERSON:~~
~~If I might interrupt....~~
~~I'm Thomas Jefferson....I have a view that might shed some light on this debate....~~
~~In 1786, I said to Congress....~~
~~"It might be regarded as certain....that not a foot of land will ever be taken from the Indians without their own consent. The sacredness of their rights is felt by all thinking persons in America."~~
~~(PAUSE)~~

JEFFERSON:

I might add..it was the intent at the time that Indian peoples should become friends of the United States.

TECUMSEH:

~~As long as we are recalling those days~~....I'd like to repeat what I said to Governor Harrison when he tried to swindle the Shawnees out of our lands...

"Since my residence at Tippicanoe...we have endeavored to level all distinctions...to destroy village chiefs... by whom all mischiefs are done. It is they who sell the land to the Americans.
Brother, this land that was sold, and the goods that were given for it, was done only by a few....If you continue to purchase them...it will make war among the different tribes.... and at last I do not know what will be the consequences among the white people.
Brother, I wish you would take pity on the red people as I have requested. If you do not give up the land and do cross the boundary of our present settlement.... it will be very hard and produce great trouble between us.
The only way to stop this evil is for the red man to unite in claiming a common and equal right in the land... as it was at first....and should be for now...for it was never divided....but belongs to all.
No tribe has the right to sell...even to each other... much less to strangers.
Sell a country! Why not sell the air, the great sea, as well as the earth?
Did not the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children?

ALL: (APPLAUSE and outbursts)

TECUMSEH: (embarrassed) Now wait a minute...
Miss Yellow Feather had a questions I believe...

TECUMSEH: (continued)

There are many differences in the way our peoples see things....
But Justice Marshall's words....domestic dependent nations....have confused both tribal and U.S. leaders for almost 150 years.
Maybe you had better explain what you meant...
Mr. Justice.

JUSTICE MARSHALL:

Take the Cherokee question...for example....The Cherokee Nation was certainly prepared to function as an independent sovereign.....
The problem was...the state of Georgia was demanding control over the Cherokees.
....I believe the state had no such right ~~to authority~~ because the Cherokees were independent...
For political reasons...I developed the idea of "domestic dependent" sovereignty merely so the Supreme Court could hear the case...
(PAUSE)
I thought the idea of domestic dependent status would help convince the Congress to protect the Cherokee Nation's rights in Georgia.
I was on the Indians' side....I can't help it if my words were later misused and misunderstood.

SONYA: Justice Marshall....~~I'm sorry to interrupt...~~ ~~but~~ it's not yet clear to me....~~How come~~ why did the tribes sign treaties in the first place?

MARSHALL: Many of the earlier treaties were negotiated primarily to protect the tribes from encroachments by white settlers....and to prevent the tribes from making treaties with other nations....
You must remember, at this time the United States was still a relatively weak, forming nation.

MARSHALL: The treaties....by reducing hostilities with the Indians....actually strengthened the U.S. position in its dealing with other countries....

By allowing the tribe's case to be heard in the Supreme Court....the Court could reinforce the importance of treaty commitments made by the United States....and strengthen treaty-making powers..

(PAUSE)

Afterall, the treaties are still binding....

The United States Constitution clearly stipulates...

"Treaties are the Supreme law of the land."....

~~in Article Two.....clause two.~~ ....

~~JOHN ROSS: (halting English)~~

I am John Ross....president of the Cherokee Nation.

I ~~tried to help my people~~ keep our lands....

But the power of the U.S. Army was too great....

~~When my~~ people agreed to removal to Oklahoma...

~~we did not want~~ bloodshed.....

(PAUSE)

The story of our ordeal is well known....many ~~died along~~ the way.

(PAUSE)

We only wanted to run our own affairs....

~~In Oklahoma~~ Indian Country we tried to re-establish the Cherokee Nation.

The wish to govern ourselves was still very strong. ~~We formed alliances with other nations to help~~strengthen our position in dealing with the ~~United States~~...

It worked....for a while.....

SONYA: ~~But Mr. Ross...what happened after that?~~ But what happened after that?

TECUMSEH: With their removal to the west of the Miss~~i~~issippi....

TECUMSEH: (continued)
tribes from the Eastern United States hoped to gain peace and lasting protection from the whites....their traditional native lands were soon occupied by white settlers.....
(PAUSE)
~~Tribal economies and lifestyles were~~ the tribal way of life was severely damaged by these removals. Driven to barren and often unproductive soils...the tribes gradually began to depend on the United States government for more than protection.....
(PAUSE)
Later treaties reflected the changing needs of devastated ~~tribal economies...~~ tribes...
but many tribal leaders...farther to the West ....were slow to realize the importance of these treaties and the language included in them.....

~~JOHN ROSS: Tecumseh...you have explained the circumstances in history quite well....~~

ACT TWO

SONYA:

~~STAGE MANAGER:~~

Our young researcher has already seen the historical evidence of mistreatment....and been disturbed by it. But let us continue now,... In her dream world... timeless ideas are being discussed..... I Sonya Yellow Feather REALLY wants to understand....

~~SONYA~~: Someone PLEASE tell me....why did the tribes negotiate treaties?

MARSHALL:

~~STAGE MANAGER:~~

Chief Joseph...you saw a lot during your time....

CHIEF JOSEPH:

~~All right~~...I will answer your question....
Treaties were negotiated by the tribes for a lot of reasons. In early treaties....many tribes tried to establish lasting PEACE and FRIENDSHIP with the white man's government.....
They hoped to avoid bloodshed ....
(PAUSE)
Later treaties emphasized clearly defined boundaries....
Tribes gave up lands to the United States in order to preserve lands for themselves....Millions of acres were ceded to the United States government in exchange for specific guarantees....
Some treaties provided for the regulation of trade... preservation of hunting, fishing and other rights....
(PAUSE) the tribal ways
As ~~tribal economies~~ were destroyed by reservation restrictions and abuses....many tribes made long-term arrangements for compensation and care of tribal people in the treaties.....

JOSEPH: (continued)

Many, such as my father, did not trust the white man....
In discussions with Governor Isaac Stevens in 1855...
he refused to give up our homeland and move to Idaho....
(PAUSE)
It is probably true that tribes who obtained treaties
are better off than those who didn't.....
(PAUSE)
.....But my father's words still ring in my ears:
"I will not sign your paper." he told Governor
Stevens...."You go where you please....so do I.
You are not a child....I am not child....
No one can think for me. I have no other home than this...
I will not give ~~it~~ up my land to any man.
My people would have no home. Take away your paper
...I will not touch it with my hand!"
(PAUSE)
These are the words of my father.

MARSHALL
~~STAGE MANAGER~~:

But Joseph, Your people did sign a treaty?

CHIEF JOSEPH:

What happened afterwards is a painful story. ..
thirty years later, the soldiers came to enforce the treaty....

MARSHALL
~~STAGE MANAGER:~~

We know of the great tragedy experienced by your people...
But tell us more about the treaty.....

CHIEF JOSEPH: (intensely)

I BELIEVE...that the old treaty was never correctly
reported. (PAUSE)
If we ever owned the land....we own it still.
For we never sold it. In treaty councils, the
commissioners claimed that our country had been sold
to the government. Suppose the white man should come

JOSEPH: to me and say.....

"Joseph, I like your horses and Iswant to buy them."
I say to him, "No. My horses suit me. I will not sell them."
Then he goes to my neighbor and says....
"Joseph has some good horses. I want to buy them...but he refuses to sell."
My neighbor answers, "Pay me the money and I will sell you Joseph's horses."
The white man returns and says, "Joseph...I bought your horses and you must let me have them."
If we sold our lands to the government....this is the way they ~~were~~ bought. it.

STOP — INTERMISSION

SONYA: Justice Marshall....you've heard the story....you said the Supreme Court wanted to protect the tribes....
Why did the Supreme Court allow Indian commissioners to get away with these things?
Why didn't the Supreme Court protect the tribes who were cheated like Chief Joseph's band was?

JUSTICE MARSHALL:

Lawyers and courts were not always available to protect the Indians....Communications were not efficient in those days.
Many tribes finally sent representatives to Washington, D.C. to express their grievances.....
when cases were heard, the Supreme Court usually held that the treaties should be interpreted in the way the original signers understood them.....

TECUMSEH:

But Mr. Justice....you really didnt tell Sonya why the courts couldn't protect the tribes.....

JUSTICE MARSHALL: (in a fatherly tone)

The court is one of three branches of the U.S. government....
It's role has been to ~~only~~ interpret the laws made
by the Congress in terms of the U.S. Constitution....
I must admit ~~that it has always been true that the~~
U.S. courts could not directly protect the tribes....
And ~~The~~ truth ~~is~~...the obligation of the court was obligated to
protect the United States.
(PAUSE)
Treaty matters should never have been heard by a
United States court....such matters should
have been heard by an INTERNATIONAL COURT...
In those days, there was no international court
that could hear such cases.....
(PAUSE)
Remember....Indian peoples made up independent
nations....they were our equals.

SONYA: But Mr. Justice....Aren't Indian people protected
by the U.S. Constitution?

JUSTICE MARSHALL:

For a long time...Indian people were NOT protected
by our Constitution....I hope you understand that.
They were not citizens of the United States....please
....despite what I wrote...those people were citizens
of their own nations.
(PAUSE)
The United States wanted and needed more land....
We couldn't get it solely through wars and treaties....
So we decided to make your people citizens of the United
States. Our laws provided that INDIVIDUAL land-owning
Indians could become citizens....
(PAUSE)

STANDING BEAR: (~~rustles some papers~~)

(Impatiently) I am Standing Bear...
The Ponca people made a treaty with the
Great Father in 1865...but twenty years later,
it was ignored....Soldiers came to drive us
from our native soils....I told the Omaha Court
in 1876....
"You have driven me from the East to this place...
and I have been here a thousand years or more....
I have not wished to give even a part of it to the
Great Father. Though he were to give me a million
dollars....I would not give him this land....
(PAUSE)
When people slaughter cattle....they drive them
along until they get them to a corral....and then slaughter
them. So it was with us....my children have been
exterminated; my brother has been killed....
(PAUSE)
Look at my hand....that hand is not the color of your hand,'
but if I pierce it I will feel pain....the blood that will
flow from mine will be the same color as yours.....
I am a man....the Great Spirit has made us both!"

JUSTICE MARSHALL: (pompous summation)

In ~~the~~ Standing Bear's case...the government lawyers
argued that Indians ~~were~~ are not persons in the meaning of
the Constitution. Standing Bear spoke on his own behalf....
and even the soldiers who arrested him were moved by his plea.
(PAUSE)
Judge Dundy of the federal court in Omaha ruled that
an Indian was a person and is entitled to the same
Constitutional protection as the white man....
The 1876 case was a landmark in the history of ~~Indian~~ U.S.
law....Standing Bear and his band were freed and allowed
to return to bury the dead in tribal traditions on
their own lands.

TECUMSEH: (laughing)
Ha. Ha. It only took a hundred years to discover that our people were HUMAN!
We had decided that the white people were our brothers a long time before....
Your explanation of ~~your~~ YOUR law is interesting....
BUT...people have always been people!
The courts didn't need to tell the INDIANS that!

ALL: (laughter)

ACT THREE

SONYA: Does that mean that Indians were made citizens in 1876?

TECUMSEH: No. The U.S. tried to make our people citizens of its country many times before 1876....but Indian loyalty has always been to the tribe FIRST.

SONYA: I think I'm beginning to understand....There seems to be a bit of contradiction in history....
Let's see now....
In 1778, the Delawares were almost made a state...but the tribes preferred to remain foreign nations....Eastern tribes were removed to a new country called Oklahoma....
In 1849, the Department of the Interior went after tribal lands....the Congress decided to stop making treaties in 1871.....fifteen years later, Congress decided IT could divide the tribal lands and give it to individual Indians.....sell tribal lands and pay for health, education and assistance programs with the money....
and in 1876, Standing Bear was ruled to be a person....

HERBERT W.BRECK:
I am Herbert W. Breck.....In 1873, I was superintendent of the Tanglefoot Creek Agency .....
Miss Yellow Feather, you are aware of course that the United States has acted as a guardian over its wards...
I mean....Indian people just weren't ready to deal with the white man's more civilized ways..the tribes were weak...the United States was more powerful and therefore had the right to do whatever it thought was best for the Indians..Of course, we always felt it would be better if the tribes just disappeared into the American melting pot..we sincerely believed it would be best if the Indian could learn the ways of our higher civilization and religion.

SONYA: You mean....
~~I see~~...then the Bureau of Indian Affairs was really trying to help the Indians afterall?

BRECK: That's right my dear....Savages like your ancestors were really very superstitious...Many Indians of course, refuse to accept that our way is really superior to theirs.....
Some Indian statements even today....go as far as to claim the presence of the whites and other non-Indians is only a temporary event and eventually Indians will reclaim the entire continent!
Few Indians seriously expect this to happen, but the idea is a recurring one. Its power as a mystical dream, a deap-seated longing, a belief that this should happen is great...

(PAUSE)
The theme is reminiscent of the Ghost Dance and the religious movement that swept through the West in the 1880's..
A Piaute named Wavoka foresaw the end of the world as it was and a new world in which everything would be made right...
The religion of the Ghost Dance was a contributing factor to the fear and suspicion that led to the last armed battle of the Plains Wars at Wounded Knee, South Dakota in 1890...
The dance, the vision and the battle were doomed to failure....but the power, the longing....exists today and helps supply the emotional fuel for activist Indians....

RED CLOUD: (angrily) You ... agent...
Enough. Enough.....I cannot stand by and listen to your lies any longer. You are trying to confuse Sonya Yellow Feather. This is ~~typical of~~ how the United States government has always tried to confuse our people. and is still doing today.....
(PAUSE)
You lie about the Ghost Dance and the so-called battle of Wounded Knee. The slaughter of unarmed women and children can hardly be called a battle!

RED CLOUD:

My people danced the Ghost Dance and prayed to the Great Spirit.
...You ~~cannot~~ can't understand what this meant....
the white soldiers were afraid of what we did and they
killed Sitting Bull because his band would not give up
the dance.....
Your lies are like so many of the Great Father's
representatives who have ignored the treaties...
In 1870, I personally went to Washington, D.C.
to see the Great Father.....
"When I came to Washington, the Great Father explained to me
what a treaty was....and showed me that the interpreters
had decieved me.....All I wanted was, what was just
and right....I wish to know ~~why~~ why commissioners
are sent out who do nothing but rob us and get the riches
of the world away from us....."
(PAUSE)
BIA agents never ~~did~~ do say what they mean.....
"They made us more promises than I can remember....
But they kept but one....
They promised to take our land....and they took it."

TECUMSEH: Sonya Yellow Feather....you MUST understand....
We were separate from the jurisdiction of the United States
.....when the treaties were made, we were foreign nations....
In the Northwest Ordinance of 1787...one hundred years
before the Congress decided it had ~~no~~ power over Indians...
the Congress said....and I quote the 1787 Ordinance...
"The utmost faith shall always be observed towards the Indians.
Their lands shall never be invaded or disturbed unless in
just and lawful wars authorized by Congress....but laws founded
in justice and humanity shall, from time to time, be made for....
NOW LISTEN CLOSELY TO THIS SONYA...made for preventing
wrongs ~~being~~ done to them and for preserving peace and friendship
with them."

TECUMSEH:

Why, even Justice Marshall admits that the treaties are still binding agreements. This meant that the United States was limited in any powers to regulate and control the affairs of tribes. If you recall the definition of treaties as being agreements between sovereign nations....THEN.... the tribes are NOT a part of the United States.

(PAUSE)

In its lust for lands and overzealous attempts to destroy the Indian way of life....the Congress got carried away with the idea of [redacted] POWER....

In fact, if one looks at the record...it is clear that no such POWER is legitimate!

(PAUSE)

There was never anything in the treaties which gave the United States the power to tell Indians how to live on their own lands. In 1871, when the U.S. Congress passed a law against making treaties with Indian tribes.... they alwo told Indians they must stay on their reservations.... our people were forbidden to travel from their lands...

HERBERT W. BRECK:

That's not quite true Tecumseh....we allowed Indians to leave the reservations, as long as they behaved well. ~~I~~t It wasn't true that they couldn't leave the land. The U.S. had to take power over them...they were our wards...and still are.... We sought only to protect them...civilize them...and make good citizens out of them....

The Indians were dying out....we set up a bureaucracy to feed and care for them....and we succeeded...Afterall, there are still Indians today.

JUSTICE MARSHALL:

I should remind you that the United States Supreme Court ruled in 1903....in LONE WOLF v. Hitchcock....

JUSTICE MARSHALL: (continued)

and I'll read it....'

"When the treaties were entered between the United States and a tribe of Indians it was never doubted that the power to abrogate existed in Congress...and that in a contingency...such power might be availed from considerations of governmental policy...particularly if consistent with perfect good faith towards the Indians."

(PAUSE)

This is known as plenary power of Congress....

SONYA: Mr. Breck says that the tribes were wards of the UNITED STATES and Justice Marshall agrees that the U.S. Congress has power over Indians....but Tecumseh has said that the tribes are NOT a part of the United States....

I thought I was beginning to understand, but now I'm really getting confused ~~again~~....

CHIEF JOSEPH:

You must understand Miss Yellow Feather. This BIA superintendent has been expressing the prevailing United States view towards tribal people....It is clear that he does not understand the bonds which tie tribal people together.....Like other government officials he seems to think theIndian should give up his own views and accept what the United States government tells it.....

Always such men have tried to confuse the red man with their claims to civilization and superiority.... but their lies are easy to recognize.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has always hidden behind words and ~~systematically~~ tried to ignore the treaties. Miss Yellow Feather should be told in plain and simple terms what must be done....

TECUMSEH:

I Will summarize....

History has taught us many lessons today. We have seen that

TECUMSEH:(continued)

the white man will respect his written promises if we press the issue...It is apparent that many of the written promises were onesidedly favorable to the view of the United States government. Each tribe must look at its own treaties, agreements and constitutional ties to the United States.... and the people of the tribe must learn to talk in the white man's terms...not to be like the white man...but to be able to remain strong as Indian people....
It may be necessary to change the treaties in the future.... ONLY the tribe can authorize this....the Congress and the rest of the people i nthe United States still do not have any legitimate rights to interfere in the internal affairs of the tribes on tribal lands...
The treaties still guarantee this...
You must sharpen your wits, daughters and sons; you must look carefully at words and know their real meaning....the meaning of the treaty is still very clear...
The two thousand or more laws of Congress regarding Indians are ILLEGAL AND UNLAWFUL impositions on sovereign Indian nations...

SONYA: ~~Tribal~~ people cannot afford to allow the whites to destroy our beliefs and customs...Indian people....no matter what tribe ~~you~~ belong to...~~YOUR~~ DESTINY IS IN ~~YOUR~~ OWN HANDS...

(PAUSE)

~~Do not~~ dwell in the errors of the past...move cautiously into the future and protect what is rightfully yours.... support your leaders who understand these matters.
~~Think on these things before the whites try to change their minds again....~~
~~Remember what I have said today....do not forget~~ us....
That our people have always looked at the world differently from the white man is important to remember....
That we are different is our strength and our future...
We must look to the future so the wounds of the past can be healed.