



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

MUSKOGEE AREA OFFICE  
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA 74401

December 7, 1967

STATUS OF CREEK TRIBAL CLAIMS

Docket No. 21 - Fort Jackson Treaty Claim

On September 10, 1962, the Indian Claims Commission awarded a money judgment of \$3,913,000 to the Creek Nation, plaintiff, and the Creek Nation east of the Mississippi, plaintiff by intervention. The award became final on October 16, 1964, when the United States Supreme Court denied a request to review the case.

The award represents additional payment for almost nine million acres of land in Alabama and Georgia ceded to the United States under the Treaty of August 9, 1814 (Fort Jackson Treaty).

On April 30, 1965, Congress appropriated funds to pay the award. The attorney fees, expert witness fees and expenses, which were allowed by the Indian Claims Commission, Washington, D. C., in the total amount of \$435,435.43, have been paid out of the award appropriation. The balance of the funds is earning interest but cannot be distributed until Congress enacts legislation for that purpose.

A proposed bill to provide for distribution of the funds was submitted to Congress on September 11, 1967, by the Secretary of the Interior. The bill provides for preparation of a new payment roll and distribution of the funds, including interest, less administrative expenses, to those enrollees in equal shares. To be eligible for the new roll, an applicant must have been living on the date of the act, and his name or the name of a lineal ancestor must have been listed on one of several specified documents.

After the necessary legislation is enacted by Congress, this office will handle the enrollment. News of the enrollment will be released to newspapers and other news media. Application forms for each person who wishes to be enrolled will be issued free of charge upon written or oral request. Applicants will be required to trace their ancestry to the person through whom they are claiming eligibility. This must be done through birth certificates or other documentary evidence such as probate orders, death certificates, Bureau of Indian Affairs records, school records, baptismal certificates, and U. S. Census records. Any evidence submitted will be considered.



The bill which was submitted to Congress for docket 21 funds has not yet been introduced. We expect that it will be a year or more before Congress passes the bill.

Docket No. 276

The Indian Claims Commission awarded a money judgment of \$1,037,414.62 to the Creek Nation of Oklahoma on August 17, 1966. The award was for additional payment for 2,037,414.62 acres of land in Oklahoma which was ceded under the Treaty of August 7, 1856, to the Seminole Nation.

Funds were appropriated by Congress in payment of the award and are earning interest. An attorney fee of 10% has been allowed by the Indian Claims Commission and will be paid out of the award. The funds may not be distributed until Congress enacts the necessary legislation.