Declaration of the Return of Indian Land

How did we lose our land?
Wars-Massacres-Fraud-Occupation-expropriation-Forced
sales-Division of Tribal Lands-Deprivation of Water-
Flooding.

Who Took it?
Government-Railroad-Oil-Mining-Timber companies-
Settlers Homesteaders-Robbers.

When England ruled our right to our land was recognized
by the British Crown. After the revolution, Indian title
was recognized by The United States in proclamations by
Presidents, in Treaties in Statutes. Vast Areas of the United
States were ceded by Indian tribes to the government.
Could anyone believe that any Indian tribe would
voluntarily cede their ancestral land, more precious to
them than life itself, and the sole source Of satisfaction for
their spiritual, religious and material needs? Almost before
The treaties were signed they were broken-In order to take
still more Land.

Finally within the past two or three decades the
government has (confessed?) the wrongs done to the Indian
people. Statutes have been passed concerning illegality,
unconstitutionality and unconscionable behavior and
the courts and the Indian claims commission have been
authorized to find specifically the (?) places and victims of
these wrongs.

How does the government propose to
right these wrongs?
In place of their land the government offers to the Indian
tribes, and the Indian people. Money. How much money?
For California they offer 47 cents an acre for land which, in
some areas is worth 5 million times that. For the hundreds
of billions taken from or earned by Indian land-nothing.
For more than one hundred years that Indians have been
without their land-nothing.

Will Indians accept money for their land?
To the government of the United States the Indian people
say: You cannot be relieved from your Legal and moral
obligations, Your conscience cannot be assuaged, the
historical, spiritual and material needs of the Indian people
cannot be satisfied-except by what we demand and by this
declaration affirm.

The Return of our land
Under the white man’s law we have the right to the return
of our land. When (?) white man illegally deprives another
of his land the wronged one always (?) (?) his land. At
the very moment the government is promising the TAOS
Indians that they reject their Indian claims commission
checks and their historic (?) land will be restored to
them. It would have been better for the white man’s (?)
self-esteem & world-image if he had done what we must
do. Indian patience and (?) have been exhausted. We
cannot, will not wait any longer. From the facts, (?) (?)
and the verities we have recited it flows as inevitably and
relentlessly as the great rivers of our country, that we mist,
and we do declare.

Our land is ours again
As a first step we announce on behalf of all the Indian
people, or tribes, that from this day forward we shall
exercise dominion, and all rights of use and possession,
over Alcatraz island in San Francisco Bay.

Hence forth, from time to time, the Indian people, Or
tribes or other groupings of Indian people, will Similarly
announce the restoration of other land to Indian Dominion
use and possession.

What we have done by this declaration we have done
Indians-but to those whites who desire their government
To be a government of law, justice and morality we say
We have done it also for you.

Indians of All Tribes, Inc., Alcatraz Island, May 31st 1970