



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO

Tribal Government Services

DEC 17 1998

Ms. Oranna B. Felter
P.O. Box 251
Roosevelt, Utah 84066

Dear Ms. Felter:

This is in response to your letter dated December 7, 1998, regarding the Ute Partition Act of August 27, 1954, 68 Stat. 868. You asked us to answer three follow-up questions concerning an earlier response we sent to you concerning this same subject.

First, you want to know how anyone in the Department of the Interior or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) can understand the frustrations you feel concerning termination. We understand because some of us in the BIA have relatives that are members of terminated tribes.

Second, you asked for a copy of the Ute Tribe's (Tribe) position on the restoration of the Ute mixed bloods. You already have a copy of their position. You sent us a copy of the Tribe's official position along with your letter dated August 19, 1998, to the Secretary of the Interior. The Tribe's position is set out in Resolution No. 95-576, adopted on November 22, 1995. You also indicate that a former Business Committee member told you that the Secretary of the Interior sent a letter to the Tribe in 1995 indicating that the Ute mixed bloods were going to be restored. We have no record in our files of such a letter.

Third, you want to know why it is unlikely that the Ute mixed bloods would become recognized as a separate tribal entity if the Tribe does not support such restoration. The BIA has a government-to-government relationship with the Tribe and it consults with the Tribe on all issues that affect it. As long as the Tribe objects, we would not support the restoration of the Ute mixed bloods as a separate tribal entity because it could cause serious jurisdiction problems for the Tribe and its members.

The BIA no longer handles Individual Indian Money Accounts (IIM). All questions concerning the accounting of IIM accounts should be sent to the Office of the Special Trustee, Office of Trust Funds Management, Department of the Interior, 505 Marquette, NW, Suite 1000, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Sincerely,

Director, Office of Tribal Services

ENCLOSURE

Rec. 12-29-98