Letter from Secretary Tobias Lear to Quakers

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AUTHOR: Tobias Lear (1762-1816)
SUMMARY: The President approved of letter from Quakers to the Cherokee delegation. Lear was Washington’s personal secretary.

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Philadelphia, February 11, 1792.

The President of the United States commands me to return the enclosed paper, which was submitted to the consideration of the President last evening, containing the sentiments prepared to be delivered in writing by the Quakers to the deputation from the Cherokee nation of Indians now in this City — and to inform, that the President, upon due consideration of the subject, does not see any impropriety in the enclosed speech being delivered to the Cherokees, as it contains the same friendly sentiments with which he has himself endeavored to impress these people — and does not appear to be a matter that can be drawn into precedent on any future occasion. — Neither has the President any objection to these Indians being furnished by the Quakers with such small presents as were mentioned to him last evening.

Johias Jeax
Secretary to the President of the United States.
The President of the United States commands T. Lear to return the enclosed paper, which was submitted to the consideration of the President last evening, containing the sentiments proposed to be delivered, in writing, by the Quakers to the deputation from the Cherokee nation of Indians now in this City and to inform, that the President, upon a due consideration of the subject; does not see any impropriety in the enclosed speech being delivered to the Cherokees, as it contains the same friendly sentiments with which he has himself endeavoured to impress these people and doesn't appear to be matter that can be drawn into precedent on any future occasion. Neither has the President any objection to those Indians being furnished by the Quakers with such small presents as were mentioned to him last evening.

Tobias Lear
Secretary to the President