



JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
President

FRANK J. DAYISH, JR.
Vice-President

THE NAVAJO NATION

For Immediate Release
Jan. 22, 2006

Contact: George Hardeen
Communications Director
Office – 928-871-7917
Cell – 928-309-8532
georgehardeen@opvp.org

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., welcomes Stendahl University President Patrick Chezaud to Navajo capital

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The president of a university in Grenoble, France, repaid a visit to the Navajo Nation President and First Lady last week.

Patrick Chezaud, President of the l'Université Stendahl, hosted Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., and First Lady Vikki Shirley last June. President Shirley traveled there last June to make a presentation titled "The Survival of Native People in America" as part of an international colloquium called "Sites of Resistance – Textual Tactics."

On that trip, President Shirley also met with Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant-Director General of the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization to discuss the Navajo Nation's concern over the desecration of the sacred *Dook'o'osliid* – the San Francisco Peaks – and the need to declare it a World Heritage Site.



President Shirley present President Chezaud with Laura Gilpin's book of historic photographs, "The Enduring Navajo," during his visit to the Navajo Nation last week.

President Chezaud, who visited here Jan. 18, said he wanted to renew ties between France and the Navajo Nation. He told President Shirley the French appreciate the history and contemporary efforts of the Navajo Nation.

"In France, you have friends who think what you do is important," he said. "You were the first nation and we admire the way you try to regain sovereignty."



President Shirley, President Patrick Chezard of Stendahl University of Grenoble, France, and First Lady Vikki Shirley.

He also said how impressed he was with the beauty of the Navajo Nation.

President Shirley welcomed President Chezard and said he appreciated how graciously he and the First Lady were treated in Grenoble. He said he always looks forward to exercising Navajo sovereignty by creating bonds with other countries.

President Shirley presented President Chezard with a book of historic photographs, "The Enduring Navajo," by Laura Gilpin. President Chezard gave President Shirley a book of watercolors by the French artist Claude Monet.

###