

Rudy Ryser  
728 212 Pl S.W.  
Lynnwood, Washington 98036  
FAX 001 (206) 672-4918

June 25, 1991

Dear Rudy,

We are expectantly awaiting your July 11 arrival. During July most mornings are clear and the afternoons are rainy. It will certainly rain in Nicaragua. I may ask Charlie in Geography to mail you a couple of boxes of slides to bring to me.

You will note that the MacArthur application is limited to 4000 words or about 16 pages which will include perhaps 3 or 4 pages of bibliography and description of distribution of results, etc. That leaves say 12 pages to describe the project.

The key words I see in the announcement are environmental change, sustainable human society, population, development, international cooperation.

I suggest a collaboration between AC-IRENA (me), CWIS (you), ILRC (Armstrong), and Mikupia (Rony, etc) as principal project directors. Let's think about a bringing together international indigenous and non-indigenous consultants, scientists, and policymakers. The topic could be the MCPA itself, or, perhaps the entire Miskito area, or all that and the Rama, Sumo, Monimbó, Subtiava, Matagalpa, and Garifuna. We need to provide a central issue (theme, argument, goal).

Bring the addresses and fax numbers of the three people you will ask to write letters of recommendation on your behalf.

Yes, your realtor may use our telephone and fax numbers (home: 506 27-09-81, fax 506 34-00-71).

Thanks for inquiring about a job letter for Juan Francis Hammer in Toronto.

Cheers,

*Jerry*

015-

Rudy Ryser  
CWIS  
FAX 001 (206) 672-4918

May 31, 1991

Dear Rudy,

We made a semi-change in what we do when we decided to move here and leave Berkeley for awhile (I'm not sure what it is I exactly do as I no longer profess, nor do old-style research...). In Berkeley we were very busy and it is a lovely place with terrific people but things only got talked about and rarely did anything significant actually get done. So, we packed the tropa off to Costa Rica. Somehow, the university lets me do this (3 1/2 years out of 4 in Costa Rica), which says how much they don't think of me. We are camped out here in a very nice house (we bought it in 1988). And we have the ease of access to Nicaragua but not the headaches of living there (big problems yet with everything, like don't get sick, or try to make telephone calls, or send faxes, or courier mail, and on and on). I am able to go to Nicaragua for significant trips, or sometimes just overnight. I am the coordinator of scientific advisors on environment to Nicaragua, which allows me to be on both sides of the issue, which is why we can move rapidly ahead with many things. In May I made a trip with Armstrong to the communities north and south of Puerto Cabezas -- by sea in a dori -- to take Mac Chapin from Cultural Survival who wanted to look before putting in some of CS's project money into Mikupia (he did but small change at \$15,000). Nevertheless, it was another terrific trip and the communities are totally supportive of the project to design and control their own protected area (this is a code for hands on self-determination).

Armstrong was ready to quit Indian Law Resource Center because after the Miskito-Sandinista war, everything was sort of the same defensive stuff -- indigenous peoples in global retreat one way or the other. But with Mikupia and Miskito Kupia (Miskito Heart, the name for the 5,000 square mile area, also known as the Miskito Coast Protected Area), Armstrong is now in top form and has made two trips with me to some of the most distant communities (Armstrong lives in Washington and has gone two times to Sandy Bay in three months, while Lionel Pantin the RAAN governor, has not gone to even once to the closest Miskito community, much less to these isolated ones).

I have spent much time on this because it is something that matters. As I mentioned before, I think it is the best thing happening that I know of in the Americas.

So you need to get involved in some major way. Get down here so we can talk and make a trip to Puerto Cabezas to give some seminars. Worry on getting to Costa Rica and we'll get you the rest of the way somehow. Early July is the time. It will be rainy but so what.

I want to write up a dream grant to the MacArthur Foundation (I spent a day with the head of the program) that gets you, Armstrong and me some funds to work with Mikupia. This is due August 1. A copy is in the mail to you.

We will go back to Berkeley, perhaps but for a semester before returning to work on the project. A minister friend of mine in the Nicaraguan government will get the president to write a letter to Berkeley asking to borrow me. We don't know what we will do with the house in Berkeley. You and Nancy can live in our house in Berkeley next year. And you could live in our Costa Rica house this year. Come on down and check it out. We will expect you in July. The plan will be to work on the MacArthur grant for a day or two and then go to Nicaragua and Puerto Cabezas for a couple of seminars, one with the Mikupia staff and another in a community, perhaps Wawa. Think of bringing some slides.

Abrazos,

FAX (011(506) 34-00-71

Reidy.

Cor Hobas = \$15: \$1.00

Colon = \$125: \$1.00

Nicaragua

Costa Rica

Costa Rica costs less \$700-900 / month

Nicaragua

\$ 800-1000 / month.

May 30, 1991

Barney,

Thanks for the quick "faxresponse."

Your TeleFax machine is set for 4800 baud and mine runs at 9600 baud. As a result, my system thinks it has to send the document twice. Can you crank your system up to 9600 baud to match mine? Otherwise my system places two calls. Anyway ....

The MacArthur Foundation grant competition for environmental collaborative projects sounds interesting - count me in! Environmental policy development could drive both a new revolution, influence the development of a new political culture in Yapti Tasbia which more accurately reflects the needs of Miskito, Sumo and Rama and their neighbors.

If Indian nations in North America have learned anything, it is that to wear another man's political clothes is to find yourself tripping alot while trying to maintain your dignity. It really is better to fashion your own clothes to match your needs and body type. It is this lesson that is now being applied in the self-governance demonstration project among the Hoopa, Lummi, Quinalts and JT Klallam. Balancing human wants and needs with natural environmental capacity may serve as the means to "fashion your own clothes" in Yapti Tasbia.

Should we set up a "telefax connection" between you, Armstrong, Mikupia and me to facilitate the formulation of a "collaborative project?" Let me know how you all would like to set up logistics.

What's the current cordoba-to-dollar exchange rate? What are living costs in San José like - short-term/yearly? In other words, What's it cost to live in that neck of the woods?

The best to you all,

\*INC:rudysig.inc

CSUCA  
Confederacion  
Universitaria  
Centroamericana

SECRETARIA GENERAL

Rudy Reyes  
CWIS

FAX: 001 (206) 672-4918

May 29, 1991

Dear Rudy,

Got your fax. Your new situation is coming at a good time for us folk here in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Mikupia and the Mosquito Coast Protected Area project are the best thing I know of in the Americas. We have some small grants from World Wildlife, Cultural Survival and AID (!!!). These funds will keep the project alive but have no funds for consultants. I do what I do out of pocket which is getting tight.

The MacArthur Foundation has a grant competition for collaboration projects in the area of environmental protection. How about you, Armstrong, me, and Mikupia putting in an application - due August 1. Could be for up to \$300,000, say for two years. Would allow for travel, some salaries, etc. I'll get a copy to you because we are also going to write up some other proposals and will include you. Please come to Costa Rica. July is fine, especially early July as we may be leaving for Berkeley in late July (or early August - depending on how extending our return ticket for more than a year).

Cheers to you and Nancy. *John*

1E-0042 (95) MC X-12

May 28, 1991

Dear Barney:

Thank you for your letter of May 3. It came at a good time. To you, Angé and the rest of the *Nietchmann Tropa* we send our very best.

The business of establishing a political culture is not generally a simple or unsoiled process as the RAAN process is clearly demonstrating. It also demonstrates how the idea of autonomy (where a nation is lashed to a state and "granted powers" to function) tends to lack the virtues of full freedom. Despite having Brooklyn in the Nicaraguan government position, or any other Indian for that matter, the process of governing Yapti Tasbia will remain corrupted - it is built into the "autonomy option." David Rodriguez or any other governor will have to be a strong and independent voice with exceptional political skills to ensure internal political integrity while carefully balancing the demands and influences brought on by Nicaragua and other interests. It is a good thing that you and your colleagues are not now getting tangled in the RAAN. Building the base (MIKUPIA and others) remains the key priority.

Your invitation for my participation in "upcoming seminars and workshops" comes at a very good time. If I can find the money to travel, I would eagerly join you in July. The Seattle-to-San José flight cost (Round trip) is about \$466 (US) (if obtained in May).

Nancy and I are in the throws of changing "what we are doing" to "do something else." We are planning to sell our house (May - June), and then we look to "do something else." I will stay as a Board member of CWIS, but the main operation will move to Vancouver, BC under Rosalee Tisya and a crowd of others. I will put into low gear my consulting for tribes in the U.S., and Nancy will resign her computer Programmer Analyst position at SAFECO Insurance - all by the end of July.

We are looking for a situation where we will be able to apply our talents, concentrate on unfinished writing projects, contribute to tangible rebuilding or development efforts and earn a modest income sufficient to feed and house us for a time. Would there be any situations in your neck of the woods where we might plug-in? Maybe there is a temporary situation that might allow for time to plug in other places or secure a grant for some work in the field of self-government.

When we sell our house, we expect to have all of our financial entanglements completely resolved - leaving us with some money from the sale, some retirement funds and savings. Our number three son Morgan, who is eighteen, wants to live with us for a little while, but his plans may change since he is graduating from high school in June.

What this all says is: We are planning to revise our life and take another approach. Maybe we can work out a way for Nancy and me to visit you guys for a week to 10 days in July, do some seminars and maybe we can find a way for us to fit in and be supportive to the cause at the same time. If there is no possibility of working us in, at least we can do the seminars.

If you send a telefax in return, I have the telefax on between 10:00am and 3:00pm each day. The telephone number is 206-672-4918.

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warm regards,



Dear Rudy,

May 3, 1991

I want to bring you up to date about the progress of events in Yapti Tasba. The autonomous government, RAAN (Nicaraguan North Atlantic Region), was taken over by the opportunists and worst of the worst from both sides, who then tried to sell exclusive rights for stripmine-like fishing and toxic waste dumping. The communities were outraged and the RAAN people were afraid to venture away from Puerto Cabezas -- except to Managua. This Saturday, May 4, Brooklyn and others will participate in an Assembly in Puerto Cabezas to call for changing people in the autonomous government, possibly David Rodríguez will be named as governor.

Brooklyn is still a pain and never goes to the communities, but perhaps he'll have to come around if only for self-serving reasons.

The people we work with are the military commanders and fighters and their communities -- in other words, everyone but the old leaders.

Meanwhile, we have been working in the area and ignoring the RAAN government. An organization called MIKUPIA (Miskito Coast Environmental Defense-- also means Miskito Heart) has been formed and it beginning to operate in the coastal communities. Associated, is the effort to create a Miskito Coast Protected Area which will be a Miskito-run region that will gain state and international land and sea border recognition, and be able to militarily confront the armed resource pirates that come in from at least 12 states to rob the Miskito of some \$2 million dollars of lobster and shrimp every month. Also the drug traffickers are beginning to increase operations and they will have to be dislodged by the MCPA people.

World Wildlife gave some startup funds for the MCPA and Armstrong and I and some others did some community workshops in the area. Good stuff. Solid support. The basic idea is simply to help the communities organize to control and to defend the resource base and territory, while Managua and the bogus RAAN argue over words.

We would sure like to get you to participate in the upcoming seminars and workshops. Would you have a week to 10 days in June or July?

Cheers and best regards to the Ryser Trova.

*Hells from all here.*

Abrazos

Mail: Apartado 1062-2050  
San Pedro Montes de Oca  
San José, Costa Rica  
FAX: 011 (506) 34-00-71  
TEL: 011 (506) 27-09-81



To: Rudy Ryser  
CWIS  
FAX: 001 (206) 672-4918  
From: Bernard Nietschmann  
CSUCA  
FAX: 011 (506) 34-00-71

2 pages

July 3, 1991

The proposal synopsis looks good. We should consider doing the project over a two-year period instead of one year. (The budget limit is \$300k whether the project is one, two or three years.)

We need to consider which organization should administer the grant (CWIS, Mikupia, IRENA, or ILRC?). Can the revamped CWIS do this? We would need a separate account and use banks in the states, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

To bring to Costa Rica: 1) your vitae/resume, 2) a list of examples (and citations if written about) on nation-nation technical cooperation projects, 3) computer disks with project and any other items that you believe will be of use (remember that I have but an Epson II, so many 386/486 stuff won't run), and 4) a short description of CWIS (origin, evolution, projects it has developed and administered).

One of the seminar topics for Puerto Cabezas will be an open discussion of organizing the organization. I am firmly convinced that the Miskito don't have a leadership problem (their explanation for why things go wrong), they have an organizational problem (all of the organizations have followed non-Indian, non-Miskito formats). None of the organizations had consensus-control of decisions and planning, nor shared responsibilities. This allowed one-person to control too much; and the organizations were all located where that control could be conveniently carried out -- that is, far from the communities which were the theoretical reason the organizations existed.

Marcos wants to recreate Misurasata with all of its internal problems. He doesn't know another model. The Mikupia boys want another model but have little experience in designing and producing plans due to the dictatorial legacies of Brooklyn, Wycliff and Steadman that didn't allow alternative planning.

Armstrong and I have talked at length about this problem. Nobody wants to see Mikupia recreate an organizational model doomed to repeat all the internal problems of the past.

I would like you to talk in a seminar about internal problems of groups and organizations and peoples you've worked with. This has got to be the most common problem -- which Mikupia needs to recognize. And it is important to examine how these groups solved their problems.



While you are here we will take a trip to the beach at Limón (bring bathing suits). The Sandinista vs. government political situation in Nicaragua for the moment is but tense. However, this can change quickly due to a possible vote to strip the Sandinistas of the \$700 million in property and houses they grabbed during their last two months in power. We will watch this closely before traveling north.

I may ask Widd Schmidt to send you a camera tripod head to bring to me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laney".

To: Rudy Ryser  
CWIS  
FAX: 001 (206) 672-4918

From: Bernard Nietschmann  
CSUCA  
FAX: 011 (506) 34-00-71

4 pages

July 8, 1991

Dear Rudy,

Thanks for the proposal update with the organizational diagram. Communication to Mikupia is difficult and fax is sometimes impossible. We will handcarry whatever and present all in person. When I have to communicate to Mikupia it works this way: I call Ange's parents who then send a kid to find Rony who comes to the phone at an agreed time, we talk if the connection can be made and is good, Rony then writes a note or letter and takes that to the airport at 5:30 in the morning to ask someone flying to Puerto Cabezas to give it to one of the Mikupia people. To get back to me, the process is reversed.

The MCPA project has many groups interested in helping and being funded. Here is the lineup: 1) we began with \$25,000 of WWF help for the seminars (a bargain); 2) the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (a strong backer and early participant in the MCPA project evolution) and I wrote up a proposal to AID for \$150,000 matching funds. The proposal focuses on funds for inventories, equipment, office, and outside researchers -- AID has awarded the money and now the CCC has to find the other \$150k and sent a proposal for the matching funds to the MacArthur Foundation; 3) Tim Coulter at ILRC also sent a proposal to the MacArthur Foundation on indigenous peoples and the environment which featured the Miskito and the MCPA -- so the ILRC and the CCC talked about who would do what; 4) meanwhile, the Mikupia people had no money and the communities wanted to get the show on the road and so I wrote a request for emergency funding to the WWF people (they've been great) who have connections with Cultural Survival and the deal was to provide \$50,000 to Mikupia (\$35,000 from WWF and \$15,000 from CS). WWF came through in record time and sent the first \$7,000 to Mikupia, but Cultural Survival is dragging its feet even though they acknowledge that Mikupia is the best thing going; 5) Armstrong was part of a group invited to talk to the MacArthur Foundation on 1992 and Indian peoples and that made an impact and I and two Mikupia representatives later met in Managua with one of the MacArthur head of programs and he was very supportive of funding for next year (he would support IRENA this year and Incer said he wanted the support to go to NGOs, so I wrote the proposal which will give Mikupia another \$50,000 for radios and boats this year -- two other protected area NGOs to the west will also get \$50,000

each; and finally 6) The U.S. Congress last year appropriated \$300 million to Nicaragua of which more than \$250 million will be used to pay interest on other loans and \$9 million of the rest is for environmental stuff and IRENA. AID administers these funds and will of course pay itself and others to carry out its programs. However, some of the people are great and the MCPA and Mikupia though very young are at least the second best organized project in Nicaragua and so the AID team recommended that the MCPA project receive 1,106,000 over four years, beginning mid-1992.

So, this adds up and doesn't add up. First there is about \$1,500,000 for the project in the pipeline but minus AID expenses, personnel and so on. Mikupia will get quite a bit nevertheless. But the problem is that though it is funded, the project could be diverted because Armstrong, BQN and other strong support people such as yourself have no funds to do the necessary work. This would mean that the CCC biologists and the AID contracted people could be the only ones working with Mikupia and the communities. Big problem. And Armstrong and I can not continue to support our participation out of pocket. So this is the next step: Armstrong, Rudy and BQN get some funding to coordinate the project and outside FW assistance and we work primarily in the communities with Mikupia people. And bingo the MacArthur Foundation has this program which seems to fit our needs.

I have written nine proposals of which some will be funded for \$1.5 million but because of restrictions only some of this money will go to the right place and the right projects, and, typically, we couldn't write ourselves into the projects. What I want to focus on -- like you -- for the MacArthur Foundation, is the most critical links that need to be forged for the long-term success and impermeability of Mikupia and the MCPA. Much of this will be internal in the communities, some will be structural within and between the east and west coasts, and some will be international. We need to focus on but part of the overall project and we need to fund ourselves first this time. I will have zero university support to take off more time; Armstrong can no longer sustain trips to the Coast (each one costs him a minimum of \$500 out of pocket). And I think you should be funded. So for the budget we will include travel and per diems for the three of us and Mikupia people, a salary equivalent for me and you (Armstrong will continue to get his salary), and so on.

I've got pages of proposals and budgets here, which we can use as a guideline to see what things are not covered and which should be covered.

We have included satellite image analysis in one or more budgets. I agree that we should use it but I suggest we don't include it in this MacArthur proposal, because it is on another proposal and it is very expensive. Eventually, we will have satellite images for the proposed area and adjacent areas. But we want to get started on some projects that require delimitation

using remote sensing, ground truthing and mapping. For these we will use airphotos and perhaps the satellite photos, but the satellite computer tapes would not be used until we get some serious money and commitment for training and access to the remote sensing computers. All costs big money. For example, one 60 km by 60 km French SPOT image and tape costs \$3200 if it is already available (more if their satellite has to be redirected to take the image); you end up with a nice large photo and thousands of dollars of additional costs for training and analysis of the tape. (One of the National Geographic Society's Board of Trustees and an expert on computer analysis of satellite images, Lew Branscom, told me earlier this year, that for environmental analysis, anything higher than a step ladder was a distorted, expensive pain.) To do it right takes several months and equipment that is available in Costa Rica (at CATIE in Turrialba). Besides the expenses, satellite image analysis takes so long that it backs up work dependent on it. I suggest we let AID and the CCC proposals take care of messing around with the tapes and that we get our hands on much cheaper airphotos (and perhaps just the color print images from the satellites) and train the community people in analysis and then we do the community-based MCPA demarcation project right away (oil exploration is next on the horizon so we need to work quickly). Though it has finer pixel density, the French SPOT system is not as good over water as are the Lansat images. Whichever system used would cost about \$25,000 for the images and computer tapes and \$250,000 for computer analysis in Costa Rica, not including costs of going back and forth, bringing Miskito people to work on the project, and so on. This has all been priced. Conclusion: sexy, useful, but very pricey and time-consuming.

The Miskito have many, many people who can do almost all that is needed if given some funding and support or short training. We should think about bringing in key people to act as a catalyst, but only a few as those expenses mount up quickly at the average rate of \$1800-\$2000 to get someone for a week and that is without a consultant fee. That amount of money could be put into the communities and produce some big impacts. Technical help from the Fourth World will most certainly be part of the argument we make in the proposal. At the same time we will not produce a shopping list proposal because those are often not awarded. Instead we will focus on a theme and goals that are strongly interrelated and that will be supportable in terms of the MacArthur Foundation. In other words, first we get the money.

You are absolutely right about biodiversity and we've got a lot of suggestions and proposal information on that. And I like what you suggest about the natural medicines. The article you faxed on drugs was blurred; please handcarry a xerox copy.

Given all the logistic problems I propose that we produce the proposal as follows: 1) find out what Armstrong wants to do and if Steve Tullberg wants to collaborate and on what, 2) you bring the disks with what you've written to Costa Rica, 3) we

brainstorm, shuffle the three sets together, red-eye write it into something coherent, 4) take the draft to Managua and Puerto Cabezas and discuss it and Mikupia's participation, and 5) do the final proposal in San José and send it off by express mail. You will need to get three letters of support to the MacArthur Foundation soon afterwards as will Armstrong and I.

I do have a 386 computer at the office and desktop stuff if we want to use that. Even if we don't use it for the proposal, would you please bring any programs that would be useful to hotrod the 386. I do most of my work now at home on the old Epson because as you set it up it is easier and more efficient to use than the 386 which has no shells or shortcut programs --only raw speed that is now cut to a crawl because of all the stuff dumped without a central structure. Consider a morning of your life and a fine lunch afterwards. If possible bring whatever programs, shells, utilities you think would be critical for a 386 used by several people in an office.

I am quite happy with the QD, Norton U, ldirplus you installed. And I use Spinrite II which works well.

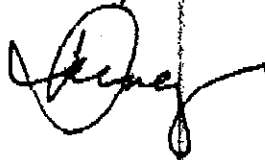
Please see what can be done to locate someone in Toronto who will write a job letter for Juan. You will meet him when you arrive. Great lad.

Here is a Ryser trip checklist:

- 1) umbrella
- 2) bathing suits and sunscreen
- 3) tobacco (they do sell Black Baxt here)
- 4) shells and utilities for the 386 and Epson II
- 5) a light jacket (cool for us is 75 degrees)
- 6) proposal information: draft, budget items, citations, references, info on CWIS, fax numbers of people we may need to contact, names, addresses and fax # of people who you'll ask for letters
- 7) an army surplus cot-size mosquito net (\$6.95 variety) for Puerto Cabezas
- 8) Toronto contact name
- 9) seasonings: dry mustard, bottle of Italian seasoning, a cheap bottle of course ground black pepper
- 10) 10 Electrolux vacuum cleaner bags (old style, made from 1950 on, tank model, torpedo-shape on wheels)

We will meet you at the airport July 11 (LACSA out of Miami, 9:45 AM). You obviously must be overnighting in Miami to make that flight or taking a redeye out of Seattle. You'll be in time for the solar eclipse which will occur July 11 at 1:30 PM.

Cheers,



July 31, 1991

Dear CWIS Board Member:

During my recent visit in Costa Rica with some Miskito leaders and Bernard Q. Nietschmann (Founding Board Member connected with the Dept. of Geography at the University of California - Berkeley) I worked at their invitation to develop a funding proposal. The resulting proposal is enclosed for your inspection and review. The proposal is being submitted to the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago requesting \$407,463.00 for a Training and Support for Miskito Conservation and Development Project beginning January 1, 1992. The Miskito organization (MIKUPIA) requested that CWIS administer the proposed project which forms a collaborative team (CWIS, MIKUPIA and AC-IRENA [a scientific advisory group to the Nicaraguan government's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment]).

Time and circumstances did not permit the opportunity to consult all of you before submitting this proposal (it was due at MacArthur on August 1). But, knowing that you have all consistently supported self-help projects like the one proposed, I was certain you would approve.

If, however, you do not, approve of the enclosed proposal, please advise me immediately.

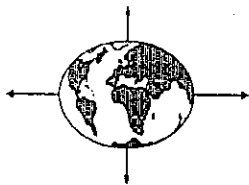
If the proposal is funded (I am informed by BQN that this proposal has a better than average possibility of funding), we will have to meet and discuss changes in the Board of Directors and the probable creation of some part-time administrative positions. This proposal will bring about \$30,000 directly to CWIS for administration and publication of a Project newsletter.

Please advise me of your views regarding the proposal.

Sincerely,

Rudolph C. Ryser

Enclosure.



# Center for World Indigenous Studies

P.O. Box 82038, Kenmore, Washington 98028 U.S.A.

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Identification Only

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Rosalce Tizya  
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Chief George Manuel Chair  
for Fourth World Politics  
In his memory - 1921 - 1989

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C.W.I.S. - UNA  
328 East 17th  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5V 1A8  
CANADA

March 31, 1992

Mr. Robert Crane, V.P. Program  
Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation  
218 E. 18th St.  
New York, NY. 10003

Dear Mr. Crane:

The enclosed letter is a brief description of our program plan to request an application for funding from your foundation. We look forward to further correspondence and invite you to contact us if you have any questions.

The Center for World Indigenous Studies (non-profit, research and education organization - 501 (c)(3)) is working in collaboration with the Mikupia organization and the Scientific Advisors Group to the Nicaraguan government's Institute of Natural Resources and Environment (IRENA). Together we seek to provide technical and organizational support for twenty-three Miskito Indian villages to manage a 5,000 square mile area of land and sea, the Miskito Coastal Protection Area project (MCPA). To do this we seek a grant of \$407,463, over a two year period, in order to plan, coordinate and implement this program. Through the support of your foundation our project would be able to begin the protection and conservation of the environment, protection of the indigenous peoples, and the formation of groups working toward the sustainability of these communities.

Located in the Northeast section of Nicaragua is the Miskito Coast, a diverse wildlife region and part of Miskito Indians territory. In recent years there has been increasing incidents of resource pirating, toxic waste and destructive fisheries schemes. These environmental changes have begun to biologically impoverish and economically suppress the Miskito Coast.

In response to these threats 23 Miskito villages have chosen to support the Miskito organization which has made a proposal for the protection of a 5,000 square mile area designated as the Miskito Coast Protected Area (MCPA). This area is being established by the Miskito Indian communities through international funding agencies and organizations and the support of the Nicaraguan government. The Mikupia project is a grassroots initiative

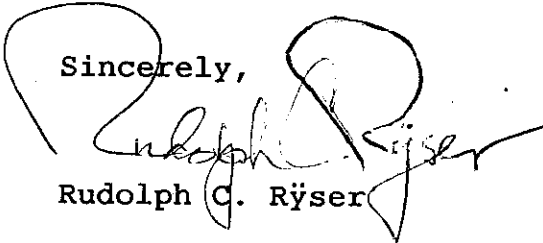
combining the 23 local communities of the region in an environmental protection agency group working towards the control and management of lands. Although funding exists for the necessary supplies there is no money allocated for a resource management training for the people of the region. Included in these workshops would be the linking of the communities with resources world-wide, along with gaining institutional support and technical assistance so they may become self-reliant in their resource management.

Although there is a great deal of foreign aid and assistance going to Latin American countries, much of the funding does not focus on a significant part of the state's population; Indigenous Peoples. This project is important because of the priority it places on indigenous peoples in controlling their land and resources. A July, 1991 report prepared by the Congressional Research Service found that current aid efforts "are insufficient and do not come close to meeting the specific needs of indigenous peoples of the hemisphere." The report suggested channeling foreign aid to assist indigenous peoples for institutional building, economic empowerment, strengthening of cultural identity, fortifying indigenous land rights, and increased support for skills training.

Previous efforts at protecting the environment and creating sustainable communities have found success when work is done directly with indigenous peoples. The collaborating organizations will organize an international MCPA Project team to assist in community-level planning and training, along with the establishment of local groups in each community. A final element of emphasis of the program is the development of an international support network for the protected area, including the formation of an international network of indigenous peoples.

The need for support of indigenous peoples on the Miskito Coast is greater now more than ever since much of the community infrastructure was seriously disrupted during the ten year war with the previous Nicaraguan government. We and the community seek to establish a strong system of self-reliance. We hope your foundation will be able to assist us in these efforts. We appreciate the time and energy you have extended in reviewing our proposal and look forward to hearing from you in the future.

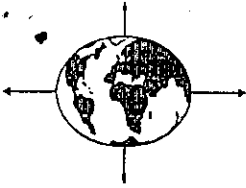
Sincerely,



Rudolph C. Rysler

FILE: 250MIK2.LCW





# Center for World Indigenous Studies

P.O. Box 82038, Kenmore, Washington 98028 U.S.A.

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Joseph W. Ryan, Treasurer

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March 31, 1992

Dr. Edward A. Holmes  
International Foundation  
c/o John D. Carrico and Associates, P.A.  
Ten Park Place, P.O. Box 88  
Butler, N.J. 07405

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\* Associations for  
Identification Only

---

Rosalce Tizya  
(Vanda Kutchin Nation)  
Chief George Manuel Chair  
for Fourth World Politics  
In his memory - 1921 - 1989

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C.W.I.S. - UNA  
328 East 17th  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5V 1A8  
CANADA

The enclosed letter is a brief description of our program plan and the funding we are requesting. The full proposal will be sent upon your request.

The Center for World Indigenous Studies (non-profit, research and education organization - 501 (c)(3)) is working in collaboration with the Mikupia organization and the Scientific Advisors Group to the Nicaraguan government's Institute of Natural Resources and Environment (IRENA). Together we seek to provide technical and organizational support for twenty-three Miskito Indian villages to manage a 5,000 square mile area of land and sea, the Miskito Coastal Protection Area project (MCPA). To do this we request a \$50,000 grant for seed monies in order to plan and implement this program. With this money we would be able to begin our planning and expand future funding efforts.

Located in the Northeast section of Nicaragua is the Miskito Coast, a diverse wildlife region and part of Miskito Indians territory. In recent years there have been increasing incidents of resource pirating, toxic waste and destructive fisheries schemes. These environmental changes have begun to biologically impoverish and economically suppress the Miskito Coast.

Twenty-three Miskito villages have chosen to respond to these threats by supporting the Mikupia organization which has made a proposal for the protection of a 5,000 square mile area designated as the Miskito Coast Protected Area (MCPA). This area is being established by the Miskito Indian communities through international funding agencies and organizations and the support of the Nicaraguan government. The Mikupia project is a grassroots initiative combining the 23 local communities of the region in the efforts of an environmental protection organization working towards the control and management

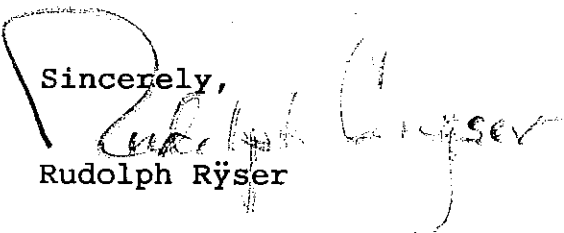
of lands. Although funding exists for most of the necessary supplies there is no money allocated for a resource management training for the people of the region. These workshops would include the linking and networking of the communities with resources world-wide, along with gaining institutional support and technical assistance so they may become self-reliant in their resource management.

Even though there is a great deal of foreign aid and assistance going to Latin American countries, much of the funding does not focus on a significant part of the state's population; Indigenous peoples. This project is important because of the priority it places on indigenous peoples in controlling their land and resources. A July, 1991 report prepared by the Congressional Research Service found that current aid efforts "are insufficient and do not come close to meeting the specific needs of indigenous peoples of the hemisphere." The report suggested channeling foreign aid to assist indigenous peoples for institutional building, economic empowerment, strengthening of cultural identity, fortifying indigenous land rights, and increased support for skills training.

Previous efforts at protecting the environment and creating sustainable communities have found success when work is done directly with indigenous peoples. The collaborating organizations will organize an international MCPA Project team to assist in community-level planning and training, along with the establishment of local groups in each community. A final element of emphasis of the program is the development of an international support network for the protected area, including the formation of an international network of indigenous peoples.

The need for support of indigenous peoples on the Miskito Coast is greater now than ever since much of the infrastructure was seriously disrupted during the ten year war with the previous Nicaraguan government. We and the community seek to establish a strong system of self-reliance. We hope your foundation will be able to assist us in these efforts. We appreciate the time and energy you have extended in reviewing our proposal and look forward to hearing from you in the future.


Sincerely,

  
Rudolph Rysler

FILE: 250MIK.LCW

# Center for World Indigenous Studies

317 E. Fourth Avenue - Suite 302  
Olympia, Washington 98501-1106  
U.S.A.

Telephone: 206/705-4578  
Telefax: 

## FAX

DATE: 6-10-93

TO: Barney Nietschmann  
FAX #: 510-642-3370

FROM: R RYSER  
FAX# 206-705-4578

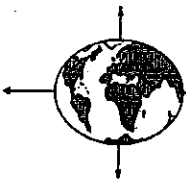
SUBJECT: GIS Specs, Union Institute Recommendation

### REMARKS:

Thanks for the PEW stuff. I will  
put it into the MIKUPAIA Proposal - Boeing  
etc.

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 6





# Center for World Indigenous Studies

317 E. Fourth Avenue ♦ Suite 302 ♦ Olympia, Washington ♦ 98501 ♦ U.S.A.

Phone & Fax: (206) 705-4578

June 11, 1993

Barney, Things do seem to come in bunches. . . .  
After about eight months of considering what kind of future life we could have with each other, and then nine months of separation, Nancy and I will be dissolving our twenty-five+ years marriage. She just sent me the papers.

In the last month or so I have also been trying to figure out how I can be more effective doing the stuff I do. Carol Minugh (whom you met, I think) suggested I look into the Union Institute's Graduate program. She thought maybe it would be sufficiently flexible that I might be able to work out a PhD in International Relations in two years, do what I do and get a book written. I have decided to apply for entry into the Union Institute program.

I am supposed to ask three persons "who know me well" to submit letters of recommendation "specifically assessing both your strengths and weaknesses and your capacity for self-directed work on the doctoral level." A recommendation from you would be a real prize. Here's the address:

The Admissions Office  
The Graduate School  
440 East McMillan Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206-1947

Telephone Questions: 1-800/543-0366

I am just now putting together the application for admission and will list you as one reference.

In addition to the application (1 page) they ask for recommendations to arrive as soon as possible. I am putting together three narratives (Autobiography, Current Interests and an Overview of a Proposed Doctoral Program). I think I will develop my proposal as a take-off from George Kennan's argument that the "new era" will require development of "new modalities, institutions and principles" for a new international framework which deals with resolving disputes between nations and states. I am submitting my little collection of essays, articles, etc. as some evidence that I qualify professionally (and in terms of scholarship) for a masters. If they accept me, I would probably begin in the Fall quarter (October) working on a piled-higher and deeper.

I am supposed to put together, with the school, a Doctoral Committee including a core faculty advisor, two adjunct faculty, two peers and a second core reader. Members of the committee have to be approved by the dean. I want a committee that includes maybe you, Carol Minugh, David Hyndman, John Bodley and maybe Bill Brown. Thanks for your supportive response. Rudy.