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MS. MARY L. WILLIAMS
Box 155
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Dear Mary:

Greeting to you and the people of Lil-wat. I promised to send you a copy of a news clipping which I regard as an example of the growing Canadian propaganda campaign devoted to convincing the "external world" that "all things are going well for Canada's native people".

As you know, the "Constitutional Conference" was widely televised in the United States. Without a thorough background and understanding of the various indigenous political positions prior to the conference American viewers were left with the clear perception that "Canada is prepared to seriously consider dealing with native concerns in an atmosphere of free and democratic debate". The Constitutional Conference became a powerful public propaganda display in and of itself. The outside-world was given the clear impression that while "Canadian Natives" have problems, those problems are not so great that they cannot be handled within the legal and political framework of the Canadian democracy. Indeed, it was clear by the televised conference that "Canada's Natives" have chosen to solve their differences within Canada as Canadian citizens.

While the enclosed newsclipping touches on some of the serious concerns of indigenous nations, it clearly gives the overall impression that native peoples are in the process of getting a special deal and both the federal government and the provinces are willingly cooperating. Since the Knight News Service is a network for publications all over the United States, this article in its various forms has received wide attention across the US. Again, it must be understood, Americans have little or no background regarding the indigenous struggle in Canada. Americans have little information about the basic questions regarding Canada's constitution. For the most part, Americans will not read the article with any understanding of the true situation in Canada. They will simply read the headline and conclude that all is well with "Canada's Natives".

The political views of Lil-wat, Bella Coola, Nitaskenan, MicMac and others are no where understood in the outside-world. As far as the public understanding can comprehend, there is no indigenous movement toward political self-determination. Canada is capitalizing through its own public and diplomatic propaganda ~~xxx~~ on global ignorance.

In my opinion, such public ignorance combined with systematic public and diplomatic propaganda can only damage the indigenous movement. Indeed, such propaganda will effectively undermine the internal political development of each indigenous nation. The battle for minds and opinions is on. We need to move swiftly and deliberately to counter Canada's diplomatic and publicity campaign or risk the total loss of political momentum. Regards