

REPLY TO: 728 212th Pl. S.W.  
Lynnwood, Washington  
USA 98036

13 October 1982

MS. MARGARET MALLARD, Chairperson  
WCIP Sub-Committee  
National Aboriginal Conference  
P.O. Box 259  
Woden, A.C.T. 2606  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Ms. Mallard:

Since this time last year I have been following the development of the World Bank's new loan policy which would require borrowing states to consider the impact of development projects on tribal populations. In May 1982 the World Bank officially issued its new indigenous policy under the title: Tribal Peoples and Economic Development: Human Ecologic Considerations. The new Bank policy has profound importance to indigenous populations all over the world. This is certainly no less true for the Aboriginal Peoples in Australia, and other indigenous groups throughout the Pacific.

Because of the importance of this matter I am sending you a copy of an article I have written reviewing and commenting on this new Bank policy. As you may recall at the Third WCIP General Assembly, many delegates (notably from South America) called for more direct involvement of the World Bank in the development of indigenous communities and nations. My article points out the grave implications for indigenous peoples flowing from just such a World Bank trend. I urge that you, Mr. Malone, Mr. Nichols and Mr. Dhamarrandji seriously consider the Bank's policy implications for your peoples. Particularly, since Australia is presently a debtor to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Australia has been borrowing externally to support low interest loans inside of Australia to promote mining and fossil fuel development. I suggest that Aboriginal peoples may have a significant amount of international leverage on Australia through the Bank's new policy. If leverage cannot be directly put, you may want to apply leverage indirectly through other Commonwealth States by working on those states with other indigenous populations (in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Costa Rica, India, Mexico). I have reviewed the article with George Manuel and sent it to Jose Carlos Morales, as well as the other WCIP Executive Council members. I believe the matter is of immense importance, and, therefore, requires our immediate consideration

May I hear from you on this?

Regards

RUDOLPH C. RYSER