

3 November, 1982

You are invited to join other tribal leaders in a meeting with Mr. Anwar Barkat, Director of the Geneva, Switzerland based, World Council of Churches Program to Combat Racism. An afternoon conversation between Mr. Barkat and tribal representatives has been arranged by the Church Council of Greater Seattle, and the National Congress of American Indians on Wednesday, 19 November, 1982 at 3:30 pm. The meeting will take place in the Offices of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, 4759 - 15th N.E. in Seattle.

The Program to Combat Racism was established by the WCC to provide public information concerning the problem of racism, and to provide financial support to populations suffering under the effects of racism. The WCC has become more active around the world in support of indigenous peoples' movements. Evidence of this activity includes their financial and technical support of Aborigines in Australia, Inuits in the circumpolar region and tribal populations in Zimbabwe in Southern Africa.

Mr. Barkat, a national of Pakistan, has begun to direct his Program's activities to support Indian populations in North America. He has expressed a specific interest in the situation of indigenous peoples living in Northwest U.S. and Southwest Canada.

The meeting is expected to be a two-way conversation on the WCC Program to Combat Racism, and key issues concerning Indian peoples in this part of North America. The meeting is also expected to center on the ways that the grant program Mr. Barkat represents might support Indian priorities. Some issues you may consider: Child welfare, land rights, economic and social conditions, and issues of racism which may have arisen in Indian/white relations. You may, of course, raise any issue of tribal, regional or international importance.

You should note that this meeting is, in part, preparatory to a World Council of Churches General

Assembly planned for Vancouver, British Columbia next summer. The 10 November meeting may have an important influence on the agenda of the General Assembly. If the General Assembly includes agenda items concerning Indians in North America, this event could have a major impact on Indian Rights in Canada and the United States for the next several years. Church support of Indian Rights in North America could be enhanced through increased church financial support to Indian populations and Indian organizations. You may want to examine the enclosed copy of the WCC sponsored "Declaration of Barbados" for a clearer idea of where the WCC stands on American Indian issues. Your participation in this meeting may create new opportunities for your people as-well-as Indian peoples throughout North America.

In addition to the 3:30 pm meeting with Mr. Barkat, you are invited to attend a luncheon at 12:00 noon on the same day at the University Christian Church, 4731 - 15th Avenue N.E. Cost for the luncheon will be \$3.75. The luncheon is with Mr. Barkat. Please confirm your participation by calling Rudy Ryser at (206) 775-1007.

Yours sincerely,

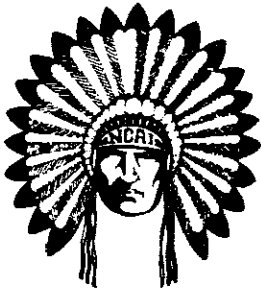
JOSEPH DELACRUZ
President

Similar correspondence has been sent to:

Councilman Russel Jim, Yakima Nation
Vice Chairman Mel Tonasket, Colville Confederated Tribes
Chairman Russel Woodruff, Quileute Indian Tribe
Chairwoman Jean Fish, Sauk-Suiattel Indian Tribe
Chief Mark Recalma, Qualicum Band
Chief Wayne Christian, Spallmucheen Band of the Shuswap Nation
Vice Chairwoman Marie Starr, Muckelshoot Indian Tribe
Chief Archie Putlas, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
Chairman Ron Allen, Jamestown Clallam Indian Tribe
Chairwoman Karen Boney, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe

cc: NCAI file
Ralph Eluska, NCAI Vice President
Hollis Stabler, NCAI Treasurer

Enclosure: WCC: Declaration of Barbados



**NATIONAL
CONGRESS
OF
AMERICAN
INDIANS**

202 E STREET, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-1168

3 November, 1982

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