

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

12. November 1981

Ms. Marie Marule, Chief Administrator
World Council of Indigenous Peoples
Secretariat
Suite B-844
University of Lethbridge
Lethbridge, Alberta
CANADA T1K 3M4

Dear Marie:

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You will have received a copy of my memo and discussion paper on "The meaning of 'Indigenous' and WCIP Membership" by the time you receive this correspondence. I believe the paper covers the topic fairly adequately but, I think it would be desirable to attach a copy of Part I, Articles 1,2,3 and 4 from the April 28, 1981 Draft Covenant as a further amplification of the definitional question.

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2. "The WCIP Submission to the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy" in its final edited form.
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In August and again in September you and I spoke to the question of implementing Objective #12 (WCIP Plan of Operation) by virtue of a plan to commence initiatives in December 1981 with a probable Spring 1982 deadline for formal endowment establishment. Since the Executive Council session planned for Alaska was postponed, I would imagine our original timeline is too optimistic. With changes in some of our sponsoring state governments (elections - in Norway, for example) I suspect our general plan will require major adjustments. It seems to me, despite these changes in circumstances, we should never-the-less design a plan and strategy for implementing the objective prior to the up-coming Executive Council.

As my 6 November memo on the subject of the Draft International Covenant suggests, I am working on the development of sectional, point-form analysis of the Draft. I am also making some progress on the "patterns of colonialism" paper as well. I have also begun work on the first phase of "SIPS" (per the proposal) by designing the instrument. As of the present, I have not begun work on the multi-national papers nor the "U.S. Destabilization of Indian Tribes" study.

Since my communications by telephone with the Secretariat and other WCIP connections have declined I have not been able to secure information as quickly as I should. I am trying to rub pennies together to get the most from what funds have been made available to me. I will soon give you an accounting of the \$100 (CAN) (\$81.20 U.S.) the WCIP provided for postage, telephone, paper and copy - among other things. This little fund has been very helpful.

One last thing. In August you explained to me that the Sami were working to help on a WCIP newsletter or journal. Have we heard from them? What are the prospects?

Regards,

RUDOLPH C. RYSER

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22 February 1981

Dear Marie:

Finally, I am getting some materials into the mails I should have got out some time ago. On 7 December I sent a copy of "Global Energy Transition and the Indigenous Alternative" to Jose in hopes that it would reach him before the Managua Executive Council meeting. From what you told me, it didn't get there in time. The Secretariat's copy is enclosed.

In the middle of January Wayne C. asked that I prepare a comparative study of indigenous and nation-state land rights policies centering on Australia, Canada and the United States. I am nearing completion of that inquiry and will be sending it off as soon as I get it typed and copied. A copy of the study will be sent to Canberra as an article for publication, and copies will be sent to you, George, Wayne and Ralph. The study is complimentary to our inquiry into "patterns of colonialism".

As you no doubt know, events have heated up for the Miskitos in Nicaragua with the relocation of 10,000. While this has begun to serve as canon fodder for the U.S. propaganda machine I never-the-less believe that we in the WCIP have an obligation to expose the "neither left nor right" argument in a public campaign to protect tribal rights in that country. Neither the left nor right should be permitted to take advantage of the tribal populations in Central America. Joe D. and Ralph E. will meet with Nicaraguan officials in Washington very soon to promote this view. In a wider Central American context I believe it would be timely (in the light of Mexico's President and his proposals yesterday) to publically use the WCIP press

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statement from April of last year in a renewed effort to get an international focus on the situation of indigenous populations in Central America. With increasing public reports giving accounts of Indians being killed in Guatemala (Quiche in the village of Chumac) and continuing attacks on Indian villages in El Salvador as well as the Miskito confrontations in Nicaragua it would seem that the WCIP can remain silent no longer. I have urged NCAI to take a higher profile and I believe they will in March.. The WCIP must be prepared to deal with Reagan's Caribbean-basin Plan which is being announced before the O.A.S. today. This point is particularly crucial since Reagan's \$300 million (US) proposal includes "trade concessions that will improve access of raw materials and finished products to U.S. markets." Reagan's proposal is nothing more or less than a reexpression of the U.S. turn-of-the-century doctrine of "Manifest Destiny" with a heavy dose of U.S. hegemony thrown in on top. Again, in the light of the Mexican President's pronouncements in Managua yesterday, it would seem essential that the WCIP become visible at this time.

I hope this letter and the enclosed materials find you in good health and good spirits. From a recent telephone conversation I had with George M. the tribal struggle in Canada has gone underground. While I know the "human rights" arguments of the IAA in Britain are having predictably little effect and the UBCIC has withdrawn its legal case comments from Wayne and George tell me that the struggle is not dead -- even with the British Parliament's expected passage of the Canada Bill. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

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Enclosures:

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