

RUDOLPH C. RYSER  
728 212th Pl. S.W.  
Lynnwood, Washington  
U.S.A. 98036

George Manuel  
8187 Lawrence Lane  
SS1 Mission, British Columbia  
CANADA V2V 5V6

*28 March 1983*

Dear George:

I've just got off the telephone with you. Please find enclosed two copies of the brochure for the Nuclear-free and Independent Pacific conference scheduled for July 10-20, 1983 at the village of Mele in Vanuatu. I am convinced that the Bella Coola - Mt. Curry Enclave should immediately seek "participant status" at this conference. I just spoke with Rebecca Clark, a member of the US Nuclear Free Spacific Coordinating Committee, -- advises that the decision regarding "indigenous delegate participation" in the conference (from North America) has not as yet been settled. She also advises of her concern that AIM is having an "undo" influence in the decision about indigenous participation from North America. I will be meeting with Ms. Clark next week when I will offer suggestions for delegate participation (i.e. Ed Burnstick, representative from Bella Coola-Mt. Curry, NCAI, etc.). I am told that the Coordinating Committee will make the decision on delegate participation.

The driving force behind the conference is the Pacific Concerns Resource Center in Honolulu, Hawaii and the Vanuatu Pacific Community Centre in Port Vila. A total of 80 delegate participants are being invited to take part in the conference -- the majority are indigenous peoples. Twelve (12) delegates are being allocated from Canada and the United States. Of these, only four (4) - are supposed to be indigenous delegates. I believe we should push for a total of six or seven indigenous delegates. Consolidation of representation may be necessary because of the prohibitive cost -- \$2000 + per delegate. I believe we should make every effort to confirm at least two delegates from "sovereign indigenous nations". More on this later.

I have suggested to you on the phone and Chief Quinney earlier that a consultation meeting take place as soon as possible between Micmac, Nitaskenan (Cree) and Bella-Coola - Mt. Curry. Contacts should be made with Micmac's Alec Denny, Bernie Francis and Nitaskenan's Chief Henry Quinney, Sam Bull or Ed Burnstick. If the Cree pick me up again I may be able to help more on both the Vanuatu and consultation efforts. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Rudy

RUDOLPH C. RYSER  
728 212th Pl. S.W.  
Lynnwood, Washington  
U.S.A. 98036  
206/775/1007

22 March 1983

GEORGE MANUEL  
8187 Lawrence Lane  
SS1 Mission, British Columbia  
CANADA V2V 5V6

Dear George:

I have just completed another opus, and I would like to receive your comments on it. Enclosed is a copy of the paper entitled: "Toward an Internationally Recognized Political Status: Indigenous National Coexistence with the State of Canada".

The central focus of the paper is that, though divided into enclave reserve territories, sovereign indigenous nations (those which reject Canadian sovereignty over their territories) have been foreclosed from joining the Canadian Confederation as a first order of government. Their claims to inherent sovereignty have been rejected by Canada. These indigenous nations are left with three political alternatives: independence, political association with a state, or involuntary assimilation into Canadian society. If the sovereign indigenous nations choose either independence or political association as a political goal they must seriously consider one or a combination of the following strategies: violent conflict resistance, passive resistance or peaceful negotiations. The paper focuses on one alternative, namely, peaceful negotiation of a treaty or compact with Canada establishing in-part an internationally recognized political status.

The specific strategies and tactics as well as specific goals must be determined for each sovereign indigenous nation. I do not believe a multi-national indigenous effort from within Canada can work. Each indigenous nation must consolidate internally and formulate external policies to achieve their goals. Bella Coola-Mt. Curry, Shawwap, Cree, Micmac, and others have the best chance to achieve a new political status.

Regards,

RUDOLPH C. RYSER

17 June 1982

Reply To: 728 212th Pl. S.W.  
Lynnwood, Washington  
U.S.A. 98036

Mr. George Manuel  
8187 Laurence Lane  
Mission, British Columbia  
CANADA V2V-5V6

Dear George:

In previous conversations I promised to send you copies of materials I have been working on that may be of interest and/or use to you. The enclosed materials are in fulfillment of that promise.

The booklet entitled "Tribes and States in Conflict: A Tribal Proposal" is a Galley Print and not a final published book. It requires some final editing before it is formally published as a book. I think you will find some interesting perspectives in this book that have relevance to indigenous situations in Canada and the world over. Because the Galley Print is copyrighted it cannot be copied or otherwise duplicated. It is a gift to you.

I am also enclosing a copy of "First Nations, States of Canada & United Kingdom: Patriation of the Canadian Constitution" which I largely wrote under contract with the WCIP & Indian Association of Alberta. While 5000 copies were made of this booklet I believe it has been generally suppressed -- for fear of not embarrassing the Canadian Government. The booklet was written in its present form as a direct response to Tanzanian requests for more concrete information concerning "What Indians in Canada want." I believe it contains information of continuing relevance to tribal peoples inside of Canada as well as the continuing process of formalizing the political status of first nations within the international context. The document was distributed by Wayne Christian to the Tanzanian High Commissioner in Ottawa and the High Commissioners of Barbados, Nigeria, Lesotho and Zaier. I am aware of only Wayne Christian using the document in community situations.

I hope this letter and the enclosed materials find you in good spirits. Please note, there is a possibility, which must remain confidential, that the National Congress of American Indians will withdraw from the WAFN co-sponsorship role after the 22nd of June. The planned Indigenous Political and Legal Roundtable which we discussed would in the event of withdrawal, be cancelled. This must remain confidential!

Warm Regards,

Rudolph C. Ryser

COPY