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SENSE INC.

1010 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 421 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 • 202/628-1151

MEMORANDUM

TO : Rudy Ryser

FROM: Joe Tallakson, SENSE, Inc. *JET*

RE : NILB Letter/Attachments, SENSE Letter, and Recent
Announcements

DATE: 18 November 82

Enclosed, for your review, is the National Indian Lutheran Board letter and attachments, SENSE letter to Lutheran World Relief, and recent announcements regarding the international indigenous scene.

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29 November 82

Dr. Mark Thompson, Director
The American Lutheran Church
Division of World Missions and Inter-
Church Cooperation
422 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Dr. Thompson:

This letter regards our continued efforts to secure support for the international indigenous communications project proposed by the National Congress of American Indians as forwarded to The American Lutheran Church in August, 1982.

As I relate our efforts to date, it becomes clear that this proposal transcends the established domestic and foreign offices and responsibilities of the ALC. The NCAI proposal was forwarded to the National Indian Lutheran Board which rejected consideration in early November as their mission focuses on North American Indians. At the suggestion of Dr. Sorenson, special assistant to ALC President Preus, I forwarded the proposal to Dr. Norman Barth, Director of Lutheran World Relief. Unfortunately, Barth indicated per telecon that his office only supports foreign relief efforts.

Dr. Barth referred the proposal to Dr. Paul Wee of the Lutheran World Ministries. Wee was most receptive to our expressed concerns, but indicated that this arm of the Church supported only domestic relief efforts.

Wee indicated, however that a letter from you supporting the proposal would allow the Lutheran World Ministries to seek, as a conduit, support of West European Churches from West Germany, Sweden, and Norway. Wee telephoned me this afternoon and indicated that the LWM would be sending \$1000 to the NCAI to help offset development expenses of Rudy Ryser, Special Assistant to the NCAI President for International Affairs. We are most appreciative.

At your suggestion, I also made contact with Reverend Phil Anderson, currently working on a study for your ALC Division regarding conditions in Central & South America. Anderson was also most supportive of our proposal initiative and suggested that the NCAI proposal be targeted to the Lutheran World Federation Community Development Service Committee. Anderson expressed a definite enthusiasm for this project. We plan to meet next week.

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Dr. Mark Thompson

The basic premises, as outlined in the enclosed proposal is to provide financial support for research and proposal preparation for submission to the Committee to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches, raise public and Congressional awareness as to the plight of Central & South American indigenous populations, finance travel for NCAI leaders to attend regional international meetings, and support professional staff work in preparation for the World Council of Churches' meetings in Vancouver, Canada and Geneva, Switzerland. The proposal lays the basic groundwork for American Indian leadership and involvement in supporting the rights of indigenous Tribal groups.

I appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Joe Tallakson
President

cc: Dr. Morris Sorenson, ALC
Dr. Paul Wee, ALC-LWM
Joe DeLa Cruz, President, NCAI
Rudy Ryser, NCAI