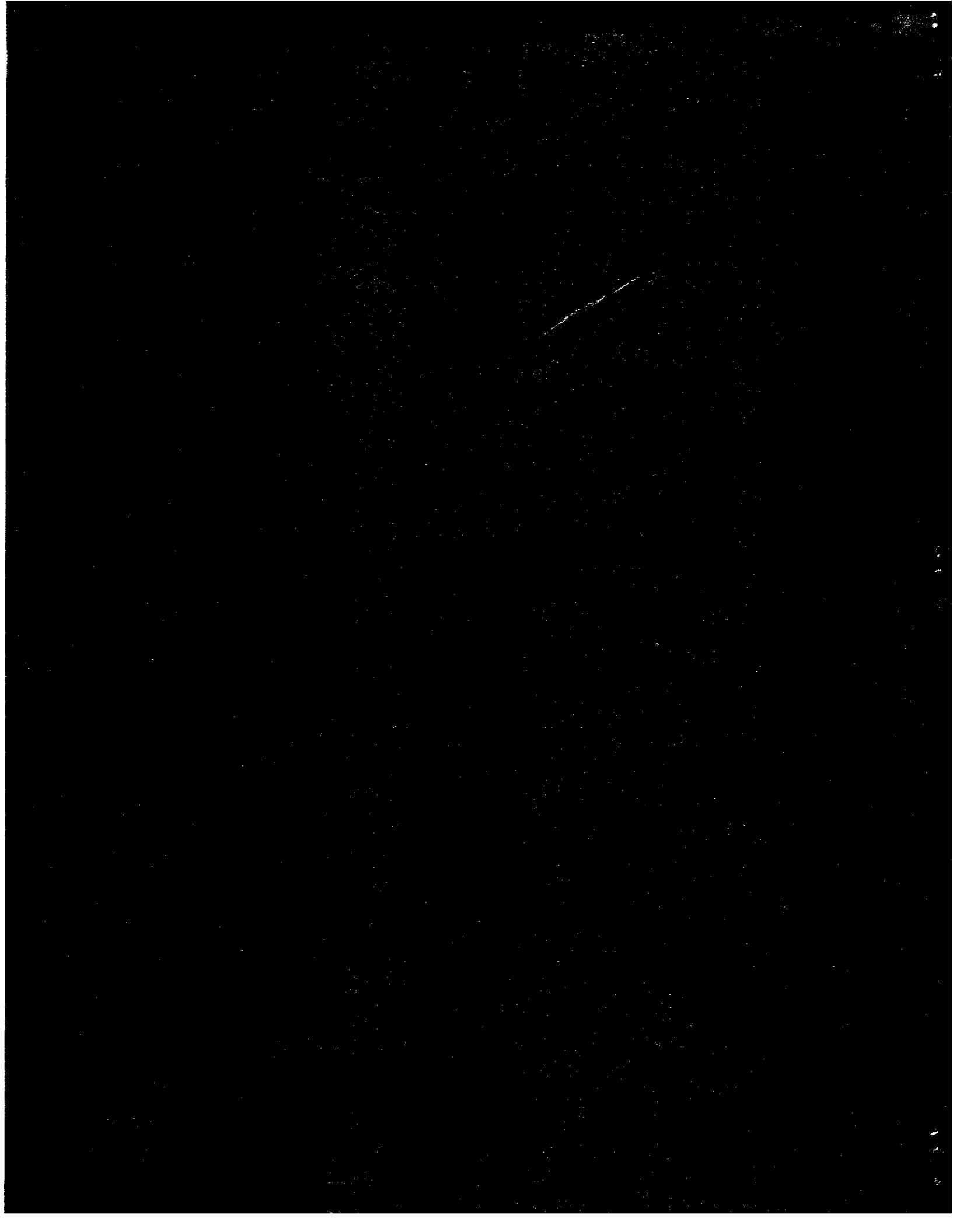




NORTH AMERICAN  
TRIBAL DELEGATION  
REPORT

World Council of Indigenous Peoples  
and the Special World Circumstances Conference  
New York, Grand Central Station  
June 27, 1980 through July 1, 1980





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**REPORT FOR THE U.S. TRIBAL AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS  
MAKING UP THE NORTH AMERICAN DELEGATION**

**TO**

**THE WORLD COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**JUNE 27 - JULY 3, 1980**

**NUUK, GREENLAND**

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REPORT FOR THE U.S. TRIBAL DELEGATION AND THE CANADIAN DELEGATION,  
MAKING UP THE NORTH AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE 27th  
THROUGH JULY 3rd, 1980.

The Executive Council Meeting was staged in Nuuk, Greenland to occur simultaneously with the Second Inuit Circumpolar Conference organized by the Greenland Delegate, Hans Pavia-Rosing, and the Inuit Delegate from Alaska, Eben Hopson. Attending the Executive Council Meeting on June 29th, in the Parliament Building of the Greenlandic Government in Nuuk, were:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| For South America:   | -Ramiro Renaga from Bolivia   |
|  | -Nilo Cayuqueo from Argentina, Special Council to the South American Conference                   |
| For Central America:   | -Armando Rojas Smith from Corpi (Nicaragua)   |
| For the Pacific Region<br>and the National<br>Aboriginal Conference<br>of Australia: | -Reg Birch  |
| For North America:   | -Ralph Eluska, National Congress of American Indians, by proxy for Harry Daniels and Joe DeLaCruz |

In the absence of the President, George Manuel, and by mutual consent, Ralph Eluska was elected to serve as Chairman of the Executive Council during the Nuuk Session.

Also present at the Executive Council Meeting were:

- Marie Marule, Chief Administrator for the Secretariat of the WCIP
- Doug Sanders, Legal Advisor for the WCIP
- Rudolph C. Ryser, Assistant to the President of the WCIP
- Eleanor Menzies, Special Guest, representing the International Division of the YMCA in New York.

Absent from this Executive Council Meeting, for a major portion of the meeting, was Hans Pavia-Rosing, who was engaged in steering the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

Major Issues before the Executive Council, to be considered, included:

- ▲ A position of the WCIP with regards to the subsistence whaling position of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference in relation to an upcoming conference of the International Whaling Commission in Brighton, London on July 21.
- ▲ Policy of the Regional Councils regarding the acceptance of funds from various foundations and national governments.
- ▲ A proposed World Council of Indigenous Peoples Plan of Operation, drafted since the previous Executive Council Session in Cuzco, Peru held from February 27 through March 3, 1980.
- ▲ Planning an organization of the Third Plenary Session of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples in Canberra, Australia.
- ▲ Planning an organization of a Western Hemisphere Conference of Indigenous Peoples on Economic Self-Determination.
- ▲ Discussion of a Pacific Regional Conference on Appropriate Technology.
- ▲ The organization and establishment of a World Council of Indigenous Peoples Endowment Fund.
- ▲ Transmittal of correspondence to Amnesty International regarding alterations in their interpretation of the Amnesty International Charter.
- ▲ Transmittal of correspondence to the U.S. State Department, Secretary of State, Edmund Muskie.
- ▲ Submission of a WCIP Paper to the International Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland regarding self-determination policies of indigenous populations.
- ▲ Participation of the Executive Council in the Central American Regional Conference meetings in December 1980, in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- ▲ Follow-up debate on WCIP actions with regards to the Inter-American Institute on Indian Life, located in Mexico City, Mexico.
- ▲ Follow-up on Cuzco Executive Council Meeting decisions regarding the Pinochet government's policies towards the Mapuche, typified by their law regarding the land appropriation.
- ▲ Acceptance of the WCIP Calendar up to 1982.
- ▲ Designation of Nilo Cayuqueo as temporary representative of the WCIP in Europe, based in Paris, France.
- ▲ Special refugee status of the Aguillares tribe in El Salvador due to military and police actions against that tribe by the national government.

- ▲ Consideration of a WCIP interventionist policy as a mediator between national governments and indigenous groups or their governments in conflict.
- ▲ Consideration of the National Congress of American Indians' request for WCIP action with regards to recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions affecting tribal taxing authority.
- ▲ Consideration of proposals to secure the services of Mr. Jim Abourezk, a lawyer located in Washington, D.C., for purposes of developing the WCIP Endowment Fund and developing strategies for WCIP mediation roles in national government/indigenous group conflicts.

In summary, the Executive Council of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples took the following actions:

- (1) Adopted a resolution affirming the WCIP support and endorsement of Inuit positions regarding the preservation of their right to continue taking the bowhead whale and other whales in the Circumpolar region for subsistence purposes, despite the interest of the International Whaling Commission to assume jurisdiction over subsistence whaling.
- (2) The Executive Council accepted in principle, with modifications, the WCIP Plan of Operation, that it should be used during the period of July 1980 through April 1981 as a working document of the WCIP, and that it should become a principle agenda item for the Third General Assembly in Canberra, Australia for revisions, amendments and improvements.
- (3) It was approved that requests for proposals should go to Mr. Jim Abourezk concerning his possible assistance to the World Council of Indigenous Peoples in the areas of forming a WCIP Endowment Fund with support from national governments and assistance from Mr. Abourezk with development of a strategy for inserting the WCIP as a mediator in national government/indigenous group conflicts.
- ⊖ (4) The Executive Council voted to have Ralph Eluska officially represent the WCIP, in observer status, at the International Whaling Commission meetings beginning July 21st in Brighton, England.
- (5) The WCIP Executive Council discussed, at length, the difficulties presently being experienced by indigenous groups in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua and El Salvador, with emphasis on the Aguillares tribe in El Salvador, which is now experiencing violent confrontations with the El Salvadorian government. These conflicts have given rise to a need for WCIP action and Corpi action to preserve the tribes by providing them with a refugee assistance in some form. Discussions focused on the Mosquito tribe in Nicaragua,

providing a home base absent UNESCO and other international organizational assistance in refugee matters.

- (6) Requests from Reg Birch, National Aboriginal Conference and representative from the Pacific Region, for approval of the General Assembly location in Canberra, Australia and arrangements which the National Aboriginal Conference have made to date regarding the Third General Assembly. Approval was given for those requests. It was made clear by the Executive Council that it expected or anticipated the Australian government to supply up to \$100,000 (Australian). Those funds would be placed in a special account by the National Aboriginal Conference, under the name of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. The theme of the Third General Assembly was established and approved as being concerned with the establishment or creation of an international covenant on indigenous rights. It was approved by the Executive Council that the Third General Assembly should contain, as part of its agenda, several principle items:
- (a) The question of indigenous political status in the international community;
  - (b) The WCIP Plan of Operation;
  - (c) The question of indigenous political rights.
- (7) It was agreed by the Executive Council that the WCIP would no longer solicit financial support from the Inter-American Foundation located in the United States and, furthermore, that each region having concerns about sources of funds that may have political significance in their areas, would provide the Secretariat with a list of those funding sources with which they would have difficulties politically.
- (8) Hans Pavia-Rosing appeared, during a break in the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, to advise the Executive Council that because he now had greater responsibilities with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, he would have to withdraw from the Executive Council and turn his seat over to a representative from the Sami in Scandinavia. That, given the already understood nature of his political position, the Executive Council should accept the Sami Delegate as an on-going and full member of the Executive Council (from Nuuk onward).
- (9) Each Regional Delegate gave a report from their area. In the case of the South Pacific, particularly Australia, Reg Birch reported that the National Aboriginal Conference was seriously considering a process for establishing negotiations between the aboriginal peoples of Australia and the government of Australia, regarding a treaty to identify specific lands throughout Australia over which the aboriginal peoples would exercise full sovereign control. Mr. Birch reported that the treaties, as presently contemplated, would deal with all aboriginal peoples within Australia and that, as such, it may create some serious difficulties among the aboriginal people



because of their differing situations. Mr. Birch further reported that the government of the State of Queensland was, for all practical purposes, a police state, and it was acting with impunity in its dealings with aboriginal people, largely relegating them to subordinate positions within the Australian society. That, in fact, some of the greatest violent difficulties experienced by aboriginal peoples throughout Australia were taking place in Queensland, which is located in the northeastern part of Australia. Mr. Birch reported, further, that all efforts to organize the building space and hotel accommodations for the Third General Assembly for the WCIP had been taken care of and that the National Aboriginal Conference looked forward to the Third General Assembly taking place in the latter part of April/first part of May 1981 in Canberra.

Armando Rojas Smith reported for the Central American Region that great difficulties were being experienced by tribes in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, and increasing tensions between tribes and the Mexican government were being experienced in the southern part of Mexico. Mr. Smith pointed out that the Central American Regional Organization was administratively divided into three parts so as to eliminate the possibility of the organization being disintegrated by actions of any single national government. A part of the regional organization is located in Nicaragua, the Secretariat in Costa Rica, some research elements and action elements of the regional organization are located in Guatemala. Mr. Smith was reporting that the Central American Regional Conference was eager to being answered from the Executive Council to several questions:

- (a) To what extent the WCIP may contemplate direct involvement in Central American Regional activities in the form of direct support or participation by WCIP members. He invited the Executive Council to participate directly in the Central American Regional Conference in Oaxaca, Mexico in early December 1980 noting that, in the opinion of the Central American Regional Organization leadership, it would be most appropriate and helpful that the Executive Council work directly and closely with members of the Central American Regional Organization.
- (b) A second question was raised by Mr. Smith regarding the financial aid coming from the WCIP Secretariat. The question, in fact, had to deal with the conversion rate of Canadian dollars into Nicaraguan dollars. The problem, as he saw it, was that dollars from Canada ended up having a lesser value when they arrived in Nicaragua. He proposed that a portion of the Nicaraguan aid package be retained by the Secretariat so as to avoid reductions in monetary value by virtue of the transfer from Canada to Nicaragua.

--Marie Marule, Secretariat Chief Administrator, pointed out that the actual conversion rate was not such that it, in fact,

affected the value of the money that arrived in Nicaragua for the Central American Regional Conference. She explained that the funds defined in Canadian dollars may, for example, be \$20,000 and appear as \$14,000 in Nicaragua . . . that, in fact, they had the same value.

- (c) The third question raised was whether the WCIP could publish a monthly Bulletin of the Secretariat, Regional and International events.

Mr. Smith then put his attention to the question of indigenous refugees who were becoming greater in number in Central America, due to revolutions, particularly in Guatemala and El Salvador. While not estimating the actual numbers of the refugees, Mr. Smith did indicate that because of national government policies of not recognizing individuals as having refugee status without a national government proclamation, that efforts by the World Council and the Central American Regional Conference would have to be focused on dealing with indigenous refugees, because no one else in the world, including UNESCO and other international organizations, would be concerned absent any national government requests for their aid. He pointed out that it would be highly unlikely that the Nicaragua, El Salvador or Guatemala governments would make such requests. The consequence, therefore, is that members of tribes in these countries and others in Central America, who have become refugees because of threat from the national government, would have great difficulty and would be directly under the thumb and oppressive arm of the various national governments. The solutions he suggested would be that members of the Mosquito tribe, or a tribe that was not presently under seige, should seek to provide homes and assistance on an immediate basis to the various tribes, and that the WCIP should consider directing aid to those tribes who are assisting the refugees, so as to ensure a reasonably comfortable situation for the refugees until political and military situations in those countries changed to a more favorable light.

Mr. Smith made a request from the Regional Conference, saying, in effect, that communications between the various regions and the Secretariat were phenomenal and reasonably ineffective. Therefore, the request was made that some montly bulletin be published by the Secretariat to communicate what, in fact, was going on - not only in Central America, but elsewhere in the world, so that there would be a greater appreciation for the actions taken throughout the world by indigenous populations.

--This last request was duly considered by the Executive Council and adopted, pointing out that, as soon as possible - meaning by the end of July, such a bulletin should in fact be published by the Executive Council's Secretariat in Lethbridge, Canada.

The South American report was delivered by Ramiro Renega from

Bolivia. The thrust of his report was that the South American Regional Conference was having great difficulties organizing due to lack of funds, and due to shifts in political situations throughout South America. On this last matter, he pointed out that a South American Regional Council was being formed by a leftist organization and these leftist organizations, principally Marxist in orientation, were interested in upsetting any work that was being undertaken by the South American Regional Council, so he was very concerned that in November 1980 this Regional Council would meet, would have nothing to do with the WCIP, and could, in fact, dilute any efforts of the South American Regional Council efforts to organize a WCIP constituency.

Mr. Renega pointed out, secondly, a problem that falls in the political category with the institution of the Bertrand Russell Tribunal, in Holland, which would take place about November. He was concerned that this Tribunal would represent ultimately an attack on indigenous groups. Though, as a tribunal, its principle focus was to be interested in preserving and protecting the rights and interests of indigenous groups throughout the world. The South American delegate expressed grave concern about the emerging conflicts in Bolivia, due to the impending military take-over of the government, due to uncertain results in the presidential election. The South American delegate indicated his belief that in Bolivia the 80% indigenous population would, in fact, be the target of military action and military stabilization throughout Bolivia. He indicated, once again, that the principle organizational difficulty of Bolivian Indians is a lack of funds to organize their political response to changes in the national government. He appealed to the World Council for an aid of some kind; in particular he was concerned that funds be directed in the amount of \$50,000 (U.S.) to organizational efforts in Bolivia. The South American delegate stressed, furthermore, the view that both the right and the left represented oppressive regimes throughout South America and that the need for an Indian ideology for South America and throughout the world was essential. Absent such ideology, organizational efforts for pulling together an indigenous constituency against national governments would be largely impossible.

--The Chief Administrator, Marie Marule, advised the South American delegate that, as a result of meetings in Norway during the previous two weeks, it had been determined that funds in the amount of \$15,000 (U.S.) would, in fact, be made available to the South American Regional Conference before the end of July, and that additional funds would be pursued in order to respond to the impending needs of the South American Regional Conference.

North American Delegate, Ralph Eluska, presented his report to the Executive Council, wherein he emphasized that the U.S. tribes were under considerable pressure from the national government - of an economic, legal and political kind - to diminish or reduce their exercise of self-government. This, he pointed out, was demonstrated by a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision where it was found that States have the authority to taxing powers within the boundaries of reservations, on retail sales to non-Indians. He further pointed out that recent cases prior to the just mentioned case, emanating from the Supreme Court, indicate a substantial change in direction of the U.S. Supreme Court to oppose any exercise of sovereign authorities by the tribal government.

Mr. Eluska reported that it appears with the recent election of Pierre Trudeau as the Canadian Prime Minister, bands and tribes within Canada may be experiencing a new round of termination legislation similar to the Trudeau policies of 1969.

No report was presented for Greenland and Samiland.