

SLIDE CHANGES
MARKED ⑤

NARRATIVE FOR SLIDE-TAPE REPORT
ON THE WCIP MEETINGS IN PERU

On February 26, 1980, three representatives from U.S. Tribal governments arrived ⑤ in Peru for meetings sponsored by the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

The meetings began in Cusco... a beautiful city located in a valley 11,000 feet high in the Andes mountain range. The location was chosen because Cusco was the capital of the ancient Inca Empire and presently has a largely indigenous population.



These are scenes from the famous Market of Cusco. ⑧ ⑧

There were daily parades and ceremonies as part of the South American Regional Meetings ⑨ On the first day an Indigenous Peoples flag was paraded around the main plaza by the Peruvian Indian movement.



There were speeches indoors and outdoors in Spanish and Quechua which is the native language still spoken today.



The U.S. delegates learned of the rich history and cultural heritage of the indigenous people of South America. Speeches were made proclaiming the need for solidarity among indigenous people to end the domination of Western civilization and to revive the collective tribal values and traditions. ⑩

The official U.S. delegate was Joe DeLaCruz, center, President of the Quinault Nation. (X) He is on the right talking with the Sami delegation from northern Scandinavia.

(X)
Joe was accompanied by two other tribal government leaders including Delphin Lavato, on the right, President of the All Indian Pueblo Council and Russell Jim, councilman from the Yakima Nation on the left.

(X)
Working staff included delegation liason Rudolph C. Ryser. (X) and Research Assistant Ellie Menzies.

(X)
To appreciate the significance of these meetings it is important to know something about the organization called the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. The World Council of Indigenous Peoples was formally established at an international conference held in Port Alberni, British Columbia in October, 1975. At the conference were indigenous leaders from 18 different countries.

(X)
The key figure in organizing the World Council was George Manuel, a Shuswap tribal leader from British Columbia. George had travelled around the world meeting with indigenous leaders and discovered that they were similarly suffering from the domination of Western political and cultural values. (X) He realized that it would be valuable to have an organization that would represent

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and strengthen the indigenous world view internationally. And especially to be able to defend those tribal people who in some parts of Latin America are still being hunted down like animals.



The purpose of the World Council's meetings in Peru was to form a South American Regional organization and to conduct an Executive Council meeting which consists of representatives from all regional organizations.



Nilo Cayoquao, a Mapuche Indian from Argentina and principle organizer of the conference spoke of the links between indigenous people of all continents because of our love of nature, our manner of life and our respect for humanity. He spoke about how indigenous people have had enough of being told to assimilate.



George Manuel in his opening remarks stated that "We have our own philosophy as Indian people; we have our own ideology. The World Council of Indigenous Peoples does not want to side with any of the established political groups whether they are on the left, the right or the center. The World Council of Indigenous People is developing its own indigenous ideology.



Following these speeches, Nilo joined in a tree planting ceremony in honor of the conference with each delegate

being asked to participate by throwing dirt on the roots...

showing their solidarity and common interest. (X) (X) (X)

(X)

Accompanying the ceremony there were dancers and musicians from the nearby community of Tinta. (X)

(X)

Prior to the meetings... Peruvian news media had announced the coming of Hollywood filmstars Marlon Brando, Jane Fonda and Charles Bronson. At times, members of the U.S. delegation were mistaken to be the fictional Hollywood delegation. Russell Jim gave out many autographs.

(X)

After adjusting to the climate, altitude and food of Peru, the U.S. delgation said goodbye to their Cusco friends and headed for Urubamba. where the Executive Council meetings were held for the next three days.

(X)

Transporation for the U.S. delegation was by taxicab but for most Peruvians the standard mode of transportation is in the back of trucks.

(X)

The delgates saw Inca ruins scattered along the way.

(X)

As well as general scenes of the Peruvian countryside.. (X) (X)

(X)

Sally Hyer, an American living in Cusco, was the delgations' interpreter. (X)

The delgation then visited the town of Ollantaytambo. (X) (X)
where they briefly observed the South American Regional Meetings (X)
which were being held there. It was also here that the great
Indian hero of Peru, Tupac Amaru hid from the Spanish
against whom he had organized a rebellion. He was eventually
captured and taken back to Cusco where he was drawn and
quartered.

(X)
At the South American Regional meetings it was proposed
that a World Indian University be established here in
Ollantaytambo.

(X)
The delegates then returned to Urubamba where the
agenda for the Executive Council meetings was intense.

(X)
The meetings were chaired by U.S. tribal delegate
Joe DeLaCruz of the Quinault Nation. Here seen with
Marie Marule, a Blackfoot from Alberta who handles the
World Council's office of the Secretariat in Lethbridge.

(X)
Sections of the meeting were recorded by Peruvian television.
Througnout their visit, the U.S. delegation was hounded by
Southa American and European journalists seeking interviews.

(X)
For three days, the World Council's business was discussed
in both Spanish and English. Here we have the Central American
delegation from Costa Rica and Mexico on either side of their
intennpreter (X)

There were important decisions to be made about the future meetings and organizational development of the World Council. A Third General Assembly was agreed upon for March, 1981 in Australia.



Rudy Ryser, on the far right, special assistant to the President and U.S. staff liason presented proposals for international strategies aimed at gaining a United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights. This included plans for a World Council liason office in New York so it could work more closely with the United Nations and potentially supportive non-governmental agencies. Communication has already been established with the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the Environmental Program.



Mr. Ryser proposed that two conferences be held ...A Western Hemisphere Conference of Indigenous Peoples to bring world attention to indigenous economic and political issues... and a Pacific Regional Conference on Appropriate Technology in cooperation with the International YMCA and the United Nations. These proposals were accepted by the delegates.



During breaks the delegates went out into the hot sun and played a Peruvian lawn game. Metal objects were thrown into the mouth of a frog.



Doug Sanders, legal advisor to the World Council proposed a Conference on Indigenous Legal Rights for June 1982.

There were also important discussions about organizations requesting membership in the World Council. Each group had to meet the requirements that they not be affiliates of a national government and that they truly represent indigenous populations.




Del Lavato, first vice president of the National Congress of American Indians, talked about the role of the U.S. tribal delegation and the support which the NCAI would continue to offer to the important organizational and political work of the World Council.



The South and Central American delegates asked that something be done to stop the harmful work of the Inter-American Indian Institute located in Mexico. The institute is an organization of government and multi-national corporate interests who seek to exploit tribal resources. The U.S. and Canadian delegations both pledged an active investigation to see if they could either change its policies or dismantle its operation.



The U.S. delegates also learned that Mapuche tribal people in Chile are now experiencing attempts by the National government to take over tribal lands.

Also, in several Central American countries, indigenous people are being asked to give up their tribal identities and assimilate as citizens of Guatamala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. 

A proposed calender is presently under consideration by the Executive Council to be finalized at their next meeting in June. The highlights of the plan include:

--1980 meetings in Greenland and Oaxaca, Mexico...

--1981, a Pacific Region Conference on Appropriate Technology planned for Seattle, Washington ...and in March, a Third General Assembly of the World Council is to be held in Australia.

--in 1982, an Intrnational Conference on Indigenous Legal Rights and Western Hemisphere Conference are planned.

At the end of three days of hard work, the delegates agreed to meet again in Greenland in June.

The U.S. delegates and other participants in the Executive Council meetings posed for group pictures.

The delegation left Urubamba to return to Cusco. driving through town they could see political symbols decorating even the doorways to small dwellings in the town. Peru is preparing for its first elections after many years of a military government.

After a good nights rest in Cusco, the group travelled by train to Machu Picchu.

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On the train, Russell Jim played cards with a
Peruvian journalist.

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At Machu Picchu, members of the U.S. tribal delegation

explored one of the great wonders of the world.. ⓧ

the remnants of an Inca city. ⓧ hidden for centuries. ⓧ

at the top of a mountain. ⓧ

ⓧ

After examining the ruins, the delegates headed home.

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THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY COSAMCO, LTD. ON BEHALF
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