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WORLD COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (WCIP)

BOGOTA

27 MARCH 1985

DECLARATION OF BOGOTA

The World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), an international organization with consultative status in the United Nations and its regional organizations, the Regional Coordinator of the Indian Peoples of Central America, Mexico and Panama (CORPI), the Indian Council of South America (CISA), the Nordic Sami Council (NSC), the Regional Council of North America (RCNA), and the Regional Council of the Pacific (RCP), declare to the government of Nicaragua, to the Indian organization MISURASATA and to public opinion in general that: the principles of our Indian Peoples in America and in the rest of the world are born with the history of humanity, and these are the principles which quide WCIP. The States and Republics which exist today are the products of invasions, occupations and colonization of our peoples and original nations, which have institutionalized a systematic oppression on the part of their governments in opposition to our peoples, imposing models and systems foreign to the reality of our existence.

During the [Spanish] colonization and existence of the Republic of Nicaragua the rights of the Indian Peoples have not been recognized; on the contrary, [Indians] have been the objects of dispossession of their fundamental rights.

With the change of government in Nicaragua and the new administrative process of the Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional, the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama peoples expected to achieve recognition of their historic rights.

After five years of the present Nicaraguan administration, the Indian Peoples continue fighting for their inalienable rights, such as: autonomy, territorial rights, natural resources, culture, social organization, economy and politics.

The failure to recognize these rights, and the genocidal policies brought against the Indian People through violence and repression, have produced a violent response, actions that have been and are taken advantage of by political interests antagonistic toward and foreign to the Indian struggle, obstructing and aggravating the situation of our brothers.

The WCIP and its regional organizations are familiar with and lend their decided aid to the organization MISURASATA in its requests to the Nicaraguan authorities to

reach a just recognition of the inalienable natural rights characteristic of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Peoples who have inhabited the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua from time immemorial.

The WCIP and its regional organizations state that the systematic genocide of our peoples were and are blatant facts in the majority of the States and Republics which exist in all of the American Territories, Our Mother Earth; and we ask that each national government seriously examine its present politics and conform in practice with the principles of humanity, to achieve the peaceful coexistence of all the peoples. The WCIP and its regional organizations offer their unconditional support to the peace offers and recognition of rights which are being bilaterally considered between the Indian organization MISURASATA and the government of Nicaragua from October 1984 to the present.

The WCIP and its organizations declare that Indian Peoples are not social classes or ethnic groups, rather they are Nations and/or Peoples discriminated against, oppressed, and exploited racially, culturally, spiritually, socially, economically, and politically within our own original territories, as much within the States and Republics of America as in other areas of the world.

The WCIP and its regional organizations ask that these present negotiations between the genuine Indian representatives and the government of Nicaragua be conducted within a framework of mutual respect, responding to the reality of the peoples whom they represent.

The WCIP and its regional organizations recognize and are grateful to the government and national Indian organization of Colombia for making possible the undertaking of these negotiations between the government of Nicaragua and the Indian organization MISURASATA, likewise the generous hospitality offered to all of the international Indian observers.

Signed in the city of Bogota on 27 March 1985.

The Executive Council of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Clem Chartier Presidente
Donald Rojas Maroto Vice Presidente
Hayden Burgess Vice Presidente
Alejandro Swaby Coordinador de CORPI
Asuncion Ontiveros Coordinador de CISA

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Questions may be referred to: Director of Research Center for World Indigenous Studies
PMB 214
1001 Cooper Point RD SW Suite 140
Olympia, Washington 98502-1107 USA
360-754-1990
www.cwis.org cwis.org
usaoffice@cwis.org <mailto:usaoffice@cwis.org>

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