

DOCUMENT: NIC_DEC.TXT

DECLARATION OF INDIGENOUS LEADERS
REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF THE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND NATIONS
OF NICARAGUA'S ATLANTIC COAST REGION

WHEREAS:

1. the Miskito, Sumo, and Rama are indigenous peoples and nations of the Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua;

2. the Miskito, Sumo and Rama are currently engaged in a struggle to protect their rights to self-determination, their aboriginal lands, and their traditional ways of life;

3. MISURASATA, the Coalition of Miskito, Sumo and Rama nations, has initiated a process of negotiations with the government of Nicaragua in order to achieve peace in the Atlantic Coast region and recognition of the basic rights of the indigenous peoples and nations;

4. MISURASATA in the negotiations is asserting the land rights of the indigenous peoples of the Atlantic Coast and their right to self-determination through political and administrative autonomy claims which are fundamental to the survival of indigenous peoples and nations throughout the Americas;

5. governments throughout the Americas have failed repeatedly to accord indigenous peoples and nations their rights to their aboriginal lands and self determination which arise from their status as pre-existing sovereigns;

6. the Nicaraguan government has professed its commitment to advance the interests of indigenous people within its revolutionary process, and therefore interested observers are focusing on the Nicaraguan government to see whether it will incorporate within its ideology full recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and nations, or whether it will follow the path of other governments which have pursued ethnocidal policies against indigenous peoples and nations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT WE THE UNDERSIGNED:

1. support MISURASATA's position that the Miskito, Sumo and Rama, as with all indigenous nations and peoples, are sovereign indigenous nations who possess natural rights of self-determination and the right to determine their economic, social and cultural development in accordance with their own values and traditions;

:: The Center For World Indigenous Studies ::
:: www.cwis.org ::
:.....:

Originating at the Center for World Indigenous Studies, Olympia,
Washington USA www.cwis.org <<http://www.cwis.org>>

© 1999 Center for World Indigenous Studies

(All Rights Reserved. References up to 500 words must be referenced
to the Center for World Indigenous Studies and/or the Author

Copyright Policy

Material appearing in the Fourth World Documentation Project Archive is accepted on the basis that the material is the original, unoccupied work of the author or authors. Authors agree to indemnify the Center for World Indigenous Studies, and DayKeeper Press for all damages, fines and costs associated with a finding of copyright infringement by the author or by the Center for World Indigenous Studies Fourth World Documentation Project Archive in disseminating the author(s) material. In almost all cases material appearing in the Fourth World Documentation Project Archive will attract copyright protection under the laws of the United States of America and the laws of countries which are member states of the Berne Convention, Universal Copyright Convention or have bi-lateral copyright agreements with the United States of America. Ownership of such copyright will vest by operation of law in the authors and/or The Center for World Indigenous Studies, Fourth World Journal or DayKeeper Press. The Fourth World Documentation Project Archive and its authors grant a license to those accessing the Fourth World Documentation Project Archive to render copyright materials on their computer screens and to print out a single copy for their personal non-commercial use subject to proper attribution of the Center for World Indigenous Studies Fourth World Documentation Project Archive and/or the authors.

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 <<http://www.cwis.org>>
usaoffice@cwis.org <<mailto:usaoffice@cwis.org>>

OCR Software provided by Caere Corporation