

IWGIA

INTERNATIONAL WORK GROUP FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
FREDERIKSHOLMS KANAL 4A - DK 1220 COPENHAGEN K - DENMARK

IWGIA IS A NONPOLITICAL AND NONRELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION
CONCERNED WITH THE OPPRESSION OF ETHNIC GROUPS
IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

N e w s l e t t e r n o . 1 0

December 1973

This newsletter is being distributed along with IWGIA-Documents
No. 14 Douglas Esmond Sanders: Native People in Areas of Internal
National Expansion: Indians and Inuit in Canada, and
No. 15 Alicia Barabas and Miguel Bartolomé: Hydraulic Development
and Ethnocide: The Mazatec and Chinantec People of Oaxaca,
Mexico.

For many different reasons we have not been able during 1973 to distribute the number of reports we had planned. Instead of charging you with a new membership fee for 1974 now, we shall wait until you have received the number of reports we had intended, namely around 8 documents (250-300 pages). In the future we shall switch over to subscription to a series of reports instead of annual subscriptions. This will be an arrangement more in accordance with the possibilities of this kind of organization. The first series consisted of Documents nos. 1-10 (1971-2); and the second series will consist of Documents nos. 11-17/18 (1973-4); this series you have paid for with your 1973 membership fee. In due time we will announce when the fee for the third series is due.

The James Bay Case

Document No. 14 was printed in time to be distributed to the delegates of the Arctic Peoples' Conference, held in Copenhagen on November 22-25, 1973. The very day the report was ready from the printers, November 15, 1973, Judge Malouf's judgement in the James Bay case was made public. We decided to publish a portion of the conclusion of that important decision together with clippings from the Canadian press as a special Newsletter No. 9 (for the Arctic Peoples' Conference), which you will find enclosed.

We take this opportunity to congratulate the Indian and the Inuit (Eskimo) people of Northern Quebec on this great victory in their long struggle for their lands and their rights. There are still many battles ahead, and we wish all involved the courage to go on fighting. The James

Bay case is being followed with great interest by native peoples in many parts of the world.

Arctic Peoples' Conference

On the initiative of the Canadian Indian James Wah-Shee, president of the Federation of Natives North of 60^o, and the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, the first circumpolar conference of indigenous peoples took place at Christiansborg (the Parliament building), Copenhagen, on November 22-25, 1973. The hosts of this conference were the Greenlanders Arngmalortoq Olsen and Robert Petersen, on behalf of the Association of Greenlanders in Denmark. Attending the meetings were 40 delegates representing 21 organizations of Indians, Non-Status Indians and Inuit (Eskimos) from Canada; Greenlanders; and the Same people of Finland, Norway and Sweden. IWGIA participated in the organizing committee of the conference.

The conference was a great success, and demonstrated mutual understanding and concern for the urgent problems facing all the peoples represented. The conference agreed to explore the possibilities of a permanent future collaboration among the Arctic peoples, and a working committee was formed to plan this collaboration.

A resolution unanimously adopted by the delegates was submitted to the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. It reads:

1. The first circumpolar conference of indigenous people has taken place at Christiansborg, Copenhagen, on November 22nd to 25th 1973. Attending this meeting were representatives of the following organizations: (Names of 21 organizations mentioned above.)
2. The representatives have recognized through these discussions their respective identity. We are autochthonous peoples, that is we are an integral part of the very lands and waters we have traditionally used and occupied. Our identity and culture is firmly rooted in these lands and waters. It is this relationship which constitutes the very unique features of our cultural identity in contrast to the cultures of other peoples within each of the countries from which we come. We, the participants, strongly support the continuing need to exchange, share and respect each others cultures, values and traditions of our identity. We agreed to cooperate in formulating present and future means to preserve and develop our specific cultures for our people through all available sources of communication.
3. The states from which we come should recognize and respect the unique features of our identity. It is only thereby that we will gain a place of equality with the dominant culture in each country. Also, it is only thereby that each country can fully benefit from the contribution which our culture can make to the greater well being of the whole society.
4. The states we come from should recognize with honesty and clarity the collective ownership to the lands and waters traditionally used and occupied by each indigenous group.

5. We request the obvious: that the governments of each state from which we come recognize our rights as peoples entitled to the dignity of self-fulfilment and realization. This further means that there must not be any displacement or interference with our rights by government and/or industry, nor can there be disturbance of our lands.

In any negotiations of these crucial issues we expect to participate in a position of full equality.

The IUAES Commission on Ethnocide and Genocide

At the IXth International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, held in Chicago on September 1st to 9th, 1973, the following mandate for a permanent Commission on Ethnocide and Genocide of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences was adopted:

1. To generate and disseminate documents on cases of ethnocide and genocide, including the dispatch of fact-finding teams in cases of emergency.
2. To bring documented cases of ethnocide and genocide to the attention of relevant national and international bodies, acting as an arm of the IUAES in so doing.
3. To encourage and to carry out activities which contribute to the options of aboriginal groups of determining their own future and reducing their morbidity and mortality, and coordinate the efforts of anthropological and other institutions in discouraging activities contrary to these ends.
4. To cooperate with other organizations devoted to the interests of indigenous peoples, and to lend support to the attempts of indigenous peoples to organize for the purpose of defending their rights and their cultural identity (e.g. the attempt of the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada to arrange the Aboriginal Peoples First International Conference in 1974).
5. To enroll anthropologists and other interested persons as regular supporters of and participants in the above efforts, and to seek financial assistance from relevant funding sources.

 The suggestion that professor dr. Cyril Belshaw be appointed president of the IUAES Commission on Ethnocide and Genocide was approved without comment.

 Thinking back on what happened in Chicago could tempt the members of the Secretariat of IWGIA to make a lengthy and rather outspoken comment. We have decided, however, not to waist your

time and our restricted resources. That the above mandate was passed with an overwhelming majority in a plenary session of the congress, should not, however, disguise the fact that many well-known anthropologists, and even a majority of the members of the Permanent Council of the IUAES, did all they could to avoid any commitment by anthropologists to cooperate with the peoples from whom they for so long have drawn all their data.

AMAZIND Bulletin

The first issue of the AMAZIND Bulletin, which has recently appeared, can be obtained free of charge by writing to: AMAZIND, P.O. Box 509 CH-1211 Geneva 3, Switzerland. This issue contains the following items: Editor's Note page 5-8, Correspondence page 9-10, Document: THE BRAZILIAN INDIAN WILL NOT SURVIVE, by Meirelles, Fuerst and the Villas Boas page 11-28, News and Commentaries page 29-42, Publications' Review page 43-48.

AMAZIND Bulletin is a biannual publication which will appear in Spring and the Autumn of each year. Individual issues can be ordered separately, and annual subscriptions can be obtained, the cost of one issue is 10.00 Swiss francs, while an annual subscription to two Bulletins costs 20.00 Swiss francs (including postage). Orders accompanied by a cheque, as well as correspondence in general, should be sent to the above address.

AMAZIND is a documentation and information center for indigenous affairs of the Amazon region. It was founded in 1972 as a specialized agency of IWGIA, and is now also a charter member of ECIP (see below).

INDIGENA

Indigena (Address: P.O. Box 4073, Berkeley, California 94704, USA) will act as an information source and a distribution center for recent books, articles, documents, photographs, and films on the social conditions of Indian peoples in Latin America. It hopes to translate and make available information on the conditions of Indian peoples in North America to concerned organizations and individuals in Latin America.

Marie-Helene Laraque and Ahelton H. Davis, who are presently responsible for Indigena, write in an information leaflet on Indigena: "We need people to research the infringement on the human rights of Indian Peoples by North American and multinational corporations, and missionary activities and effects in regard to members of particular Indian Nations. We need help in finding source materials and clippings

from local publications regarding this issues. We need people to do translations. Individuals or organizations can contribute in the particular way that is most suitable and effective for them. Numerous Individuals and groups in the Americas and around the world have expressed interest in what we hope to do. We are at the moment trying to raise funds to carry on our activities and will welcome contributions and all forms of support, especially getting access to films, photographs and written materials."

The European Council for Indigenous Peoples (ECIP)

During the spring of 1973 ECIP was formed as an attempt to coordinate the activities of some of the many European groups concerned with the problems of indigenous groups. Among other things, the council will try to provide active and concrete support for closely defined projects designed to ameliorate the situation of particular tribal groups: e.g., projects to secure land for a particular tribe. One of ECIP's first projects was an attempt to raise funds for permanent legal assistance to Brazilian Indians. (See IWGIA Newsletter no. 6, p. 2, 1973).

Communications concerning ECIP should be addressed to the chairman: Stephen Corry (ECIP), Survival International, 36 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NG, England.

Tribes of the Amazon Basin in Brazil 1972. Report for the Aborigines Protection Society by Edwin Brooks, René Fuerst, John Hemming and Francis Huxley of a mission to the Brazilian Amazon Region in 1972. (See IWGIA Newsletter no. 4, 1972). This book is obtainable in paperback (65p) from the Anti-Slavery Society and in hardback (£3.50) from Charles Knight & Co. Ltd., London.

REPLY LETTER

Please return this page as soon as possible to:

The Secretariat of IWGIA,
Frederiksholms Kanal 4A,
DK-1220 Copenhagen K,
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Name: Profession:

Address:
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To start a local work group (if yes, further information and
questionnaire will be sent to you).

The following IWGIA Documents
A check for US\$ (or the equivalent in other currencies), payable
to The Secretariat of IWGIA, Copenhagen, is enclosed
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I have documentary evidence of incidents of
in the following areas

The Secretariat is requested to send an information sheet on IWGIA to:

Name Name:
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