

Newsletter No.3. May 1969.

Documentary material on crimes and abuses against indigenous people in several countries of the world has now been received as a response to the call in Newsletter No.2. Further detailed documentation on the present status and situation of indigenous people in the various parts of the world is, of course, still invited.

Lars Persson is presently visiting Canada and the United States, where he has held meetings at a number of university campuses to inform colleagues on the activities and aims of IWGIA. He has also had informal discussions with various United Nations officials. These discussions centered around IWGIA's proposal "to form a non-national body of social scientists that can act as an advisory board for governments in countries who face serious and critical situations resulting from internal ethnic conflicts. This advisory board, according to our plan, will also function as an information center on the current status of indigenous people, thus being able to evaluate and communicate the positive or negative results of the different attitudes, policies and actions followed by various countries of the world."

Lars Persson's preliminary report on these meetings is not optimistic. There is little doubt that representatives of some nations are likely to oppose any U.N. initiative on the matter.

Colleagues in Canada, Denmark, Norway and Sweden are now sending appeals to their respective governments, that they take the initiative to work for the establishment of an advisory board under the United Nations. They are also urging the U.N. Commission of Human Rights to help establish such an advisory board of social scientists that would be a necessary scientific and informative complement to the present U.N. activities.

There is great urgency in this work, as dispossession of lands, acts of terrorism and genocide continue unabated in several countries of the world at this moment.

We call on concerned individuals or groups in all countries, to send similar appeals to their respective governments, and to the Executive Director, Commission of Human Rights, United Nations, N.Y.

All communication with respect to IWGIA membership or information should

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Editor of this newsletter: Helge Kleivan. Copenhagen, May 22nd 1969.