

2/8/84

Introductory statement to item 6

The Working Group will now take up item 6 entitled "Other Matters" of its agenda. Under this item, at its second session, the Group considered the question of the establishment of a fund .

By its resolution 1982/31, the Sub-Commission requested that the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council establish a fund for the purpose of allowing representatives of indigenous populations to travel to Geneva to participate in the work of the Working Group. The Commission on Human Rights , in its resolution 1983/23, decided, inter alia, to request the Sub-Commission to make more specific proposals regarding the possible establishment of such a fund, including criteria for its administration, as well as appropriate standards for making such a fund available to those who might be considered eligible. Pursuant to this resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a note E/CN.4/Sub.2/1983/20 to the Sub-Commission, containing information on possible arrangements for the establishment and management of the suggested fund. The note has been made available by the Secretariat for reference to the Working Group.

At its second session, the Working Group considered various suggestions made in this respect. It agreed that the question of the fund needs more time for consultation among indigenous populations and should be further discussed at its third session.

At its 40th session, in resolution 1984/32, the Commission on Human Rights took note with interest of the Working Group's discussions of the possible establishment of a voluntary fund and looked forward to its considered proposals in this regard.

In the light of the decisions made by the above-mentioned resolutions of the Commission and taking into account the consideration of the Working Group of this matter, I feel that ^{at the present session,} the Group may wish to consider certain aspects concerning the administration of the fund and recommendations of provisional arrangements which would maintain the fund in the United Nations, with an advisory body which will consist of representatives of indigenous organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as appropriate standards for making the fund available for those concerned.

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Furthermore, I should like to recall the second decision of Commission resolution 1983/23. By this resolution, the Commission also decided to request the Sub-Commission to suggest appropriate means designed to ensure that the activities of the Working Group shall be better known in every country so as to ensure the broadest possible participation of representative observers from indigenous populations. At its last session, in this respect, proposals have been made to proclaim an international day of solidarity with indigenous populations and an international year of the indigenous populations.