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*Statement*

Respond to:

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CHAIRMAN  
WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

As you requested, I am submitting several recommendations which may be included in the Working Group's report to the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

1. Delay consideration of definitions by the Working Group of the term "indigenous populations".
2. Recognize the actions of the United States of America in connection with agreements under the Helsinki Final Act relating to the application of Principle VII to Indian rights and the recognition of indigenous peoples as "peoples" as a significant change in the standards of international law concerning the rights of indigenous peoples.
3. A fundamental principle of indigenous land rights is:  
"Indigenous peoples are human beings who have the original and inherent right to enjoy for their own benefit, lands and natural resources sufficient to their needs and wants without external interference. And, Indigenous peoples cannot be denied the right to use and dispose of their own natural wealth in accord with their need and wants -- for their own benefit."
4. In accord with the above mentioned principle it should be recommended that: The municipal taxation systems of states governments cannot be used by states to infringe upon the right of an indigenous people to enjoy for their own benefit, lands and natural resources sufficient to their needs and wants.
5. Recommend the the Sub-Commission recognize that: the competition between states and indigenous peoples over land and natural resources seriously threatens the stability of states and the stability and future extense of certain indigenous populations. New attention must be put to the definition of peaceful means for resolving disputes between states and indigenous populations. International intervention in such disputes is now warranted and essential for the reestablishment of peace in increasing numbers of regions in the world.

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