

Ochajowace Nation - N

Lipon Apache Women Defense

Tetuwan Oyate

Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council

1315 E. St. Charles, Rapid City, SD 57701

PFO9 Charmaine 347  
Tetuwan Oyate

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Agenda Item 7. Future Work of the Permanent Forum including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.

We, representatives of the Tetuwan Oyate (Teton Sioux Nation of the Great Sioux Nation) Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council have been attending the sessions of the Permanent Forum since the First Session. We come as representatives of a nation not an organization. The following are our recommendations:

1. We strongly recommend that an international body be established with enforcement powers to mediate situations between Indigenous nations and colonizing states. We support the similar statement made last week by the Greek representative, Madame Erica Irene Dias. In many cases, **international treaties** were made between Indigenous nations and colonizing States, when the colonizing States were emerging from infancy while our Nations are already ancient, strong nations. Unscrupulous behavior in most instances led to the occupation of land areas that were guaranteed in the Treaties for the sole use of the Indigenous nation. Such occupation, accompanied with forced assimilation, has created situations of genocide. Without an intermediary to intervene on behalf of Indigenous nations such as ours, then genocide is inevitable. To allow such situations to happen is anathema to the purposes and goals of the United Nations.

2. We strongly recommend that the United Nations' agencies such as the Special Rapporteur on Toxic Waste and agencies associated with biological diversity and environmental protection and restoration conduct studies on the impacts of uranium mining in all parts of the world. Most uranium mining is usually in areas occupied by, or near Indigenous nations.

The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty Territory which is located in the middle of the North American continent must be included in such a study. This region is one of the highest producers of agricultural products that are shipped throughout the world. However, it is also an area that contains more than 1,000 abandoned open-pit uranium mines and prospects. Some of these mines are as large as one square mile. There are also more than 10,000 uncapped, unmarked, and unfilled uranium exploratory wells in this same region which have already been proven to cross-contaminate the aquifers. We call this region, that was the land area demarcated in the 1868 Treaty, "America's Secret Chernobyl" as the amount of radioactive pollution that has come out of there in the last 40 years would surpass the amounts emitted at the Chernobyl Nuclear accident 21 years ago. Plans are currently proceeding to begin uranium mining in this area again, and there are still active mines.

The Indigenous people of the Great Sioux Nation who live in this area, as well as American citizens, are significantly affected with cancer, birth defects, and other diseases caused by radioactive poisoning. The United States government has been completely aware of this disastrous situation for the past 40 years but has done nothing to stop it. This is a form of genocide of the Great Sioux Nation. Furthermore, the radioactive pollution impacts all of the agricultural products sent throughout the world which subsequently affects end-users, or all the

people who receive agricultural products from the Upper Midwest region of the United States. It is also possible that the Gulf of Mexico is being polluted by radioactive residue carried down the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers from these old, abandoned uranium mines.

3. We recommend that a study be implemented by the World Health Organization on the health effects of Indigenous peoples throughout the world caused by radioactive poisoning from uranium mining. Such a study must also include the Indigenous nations in North America particularly the Great Sioux Nation located in the Northern Great Plains.

Thank you very much for considering our recommendations. Wopila tonka.

Zumila Wobaga emacyapiye. My name is "A Little Wise One that Makes a Mark."

I am Charmaine White Face, Spokesperson, for the Tetuwan Oyate, Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council.

May 26, 2009