



***11TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP
ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - JULY 1993***

**ITEM 5 : REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO THE
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES,
INCLUDING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN STATES.**

***STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR
THE 1993 WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONFERENCE :
EDUCATION***

WGIP 93/OCE. A05/13

MADAM CHAIRMAN ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE 1993 WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONFERENCE : EDUCATION I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RE-ELECTION AS CHAIRMAN/RAPPORTEUR AND COMMEND YOU FOR THE STRENGTH OF CONVICTION THAT YOU HAVE DISPLAYED IN PROGRESSING THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

MAY I ALSO COMMEND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP BOTH CURRENT AND PAST FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

OUR INDIGENOUS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP, EDUCATION IN ITS PUREST FORM IS THE VEHICLE FOR CHANGE AND EMPOWERMENT

YOU HAVE JUST HEARD ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRALIA WITH REGARD TO EDUCATION OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS.

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE NATIONAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE 1993 WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 'CONFERENCE : EDUCATION ARE PROUD TO BE HOSTING THE THIRD : WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONFERENCE : EDUCATION AS AN INDICATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' EDUCATION

THE 1993 WIPCE IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES WITH THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA HOSTING THE FIRST WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONFERENCE : EDUCATION IN VANCOUVER IN 1987. THE MAORI PEOPLES OF AOTEOROA HOSTED THE SECOND CONFERENCE AT THE TARANGAWAEWAE MARAE, NGARUAWAHIA IN 1990.

THE 1993 WIPCE IS TO BE HELD IN WOLLONGONG, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA FROM SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER TO FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER 1993

THE SYMBOL THAT YOU SEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1993 WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONFERENCE : EDUCATION EMBODIES THE PRINCIPLES OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATION

A GREAT DEAL OF WORK HAS BEEN DONE BY MEMBERS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS TO CREATE AND DEVELOP THE ETHOS FOR A FORUM WHICH WILL SEE THE FRUITION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHY OF CONFERENCE ORGANISERS. THIS PHILOSOPHY IS EMBODIED IN THE CONFERENCE THEME AS WELL AS THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

OUR THEME IS,

LISTEN, LEARN, UNDERSTAND, TEACH - THE ANSWERS ARE WITHIN US

MADAM CHAIRMAN, THE PHILOSOPHY FOR THE 1993 WIPC E IS ABOUT HOLISTIC EDUCATION, NOT THE STAGED, SEGMENTED CATEGORISED EDUCATION OF THE COLONISERS. IT IS ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

THE THEME IS

LISTEN, LEARN UNDERSTAND, TEACH - THE ANSWERS ARE WITHIN US

LISTENING WITH NOT ONLY OUR EARS, BUT WITH OUR EYES, OUR SOULS, OUR HEARTS ENSURES LEARNING.

LEARNING IF LEARNING IS THE RESULT OF AN EDUCATION PROCESS BASED ON THE DEFICIT MODEL OF THE COLONISERS THEN WE HAVE NO REAL UNDERSTANDING.

UNDERSTANDING IS WHEN WE GRASP THE POWER OF LEARNING AND OF KNOWLEDGE SO THAT IT BENEFITS US AND WE ARE ABLE TO GROW FROM IT AND SHARE IT.

THE ESSENCE OF HOLISTIC LEARNING IS EMBODIED IN THE PRINCIPLE OF TEACHING - FACILITATING THOUGHT.

THIS FORM OF EDUCATION OCCURS IN A CYCLE.

THE ANSWERS ARE WITHIN US AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - FOR ONLY WE CAN TRULY LISTEN, LEARN, UNDERSTAND AND TEACH - DETERMINE WHAT MUST BE FOR OURSELVES.

THE CONFERENCE AIMS ARE TO:

- 1) TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE PROCESSES OF LEARNING AND SHARING EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER LIFE EXPERIENCES BETWEEN THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS**
- 2) TO INITIATE DRAFTING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARTER OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS**
- 3) TO FURTHER UNITE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE WORLD**

THE 1993 WIPC E WILL ACHIEVE ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES IF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD COME TO AUSTRALIA AND SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE EDUCATION, EDUCATION BASED ON INDIGENOUS PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING, EDUCATION WHICH OFFERS CHOICE, EDUCATION WHICH TRULY TRANSMITS CHANGE, EMPOWERS

AND STRENGTHENS US WHILST ALLOWING US TO RELEASE OUR MINDS FROM THE DOCTRINE OF THE COLONISERS AND WHICH HELPS TO RE-EDUCATE NON-INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARTER FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EDUCATION RIGHTS BECOMES AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE WORK BEING DONE BY THE WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND OTHER UN AGENCIES AND FORUMS.

THE 1993 WIPCE WILL ACHIEVE ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES IF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD COME TO AUSTRALIA AND SHARE THEIR ASPIRATIONS THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARTER SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO STATE THESE ASPIRATIONS ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

WE WILL ELABORATE ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE CONFERENCE IN AGENDA ITEM 11(A) AND I ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COME TO MEMBERS OF MY DELEGATION TO SPEAK TO US ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AND TO RECEIVE DOCUMENTATION THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THIS THE 11TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

AS INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS WE HAVE SEEN THE ORGANISATION OF THIS CONFERENCE AS AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR 1993. WE HAVE DETERMINED THE CONTEXT AND CONTENT FOR THE CONFERENCE. WE MUST MADAM CHAIRMAN BEFORE CLOSING ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION PROVIDED TO ORGANISERS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND IN PARTICULAR THE SUPPORT FROM MINISTER TICKNER AND MINISTER BEAZLEY. THEY HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONVENE AND CONSTRUCT OUR OWN FORUMS IN THIS INSTANCE, WE MUST PUBLICLY APPLAUD THIS.

MADAME CHAIR THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMISSION AND THE FEDERATION OF ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE GROUPS MUST ALSO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION.

SO TO WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF QANTAS THE AUSTRALIAN AIRLINE WHO ARE SPONSORING THE CONFERENCE.

MADAM CHAIRMAN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1993 WIPCE HAVE BEEN A MAJOR FEATURE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR. WE AS ORGANISERS HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL.

WE MADAM CHAIRMAN, INVITE AND WELCOME INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO JOIN US IN OUR FINALE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND SHARE IN OUR CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EDUCATION POWER, OUR PRINCIPLES AND OUR PEDAGOGY.