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UN Speech third draft 02-01-2000, English translation  
By Eli J. Tail, Sr., Lakota Elder from Pine Ridge Indian  
Reservation and Direct Descendant of Sinte, a member of the Crazy  
Horse Band

I am here today as a member of the silent majority, the non-treaty  
signers, and as a member of the Crazy Horse Band of the Lakota,  
whose human rights continue to be violated every single day.

To explain why a Permanent Forum for indigenous people is  
necessary, I am addressing you here today for four reasons.  
First, to document the need and our request to revoke the papal  
bulls of 1095, 1452 and 1493. Columbus came to America with the  
authority of the Romanus Pontifex, the papal bull issued by Pope  
Nicholas V in 1452. Second, to document the need for France to  
repay \$15,000,000 to the United States, for its wrongful act in  
selling the Louisiana Territory, much of which was Lakota territory  
in 1803, without the Lakotas' knowledge or consent. Third, to  
document the illegality of the United States Indian Reorganization  
Act tribal governments, and the separation of the Lakota from those  
entities. And fourth, to request the return of as many Lakota  
artifacts as possible, in particular our sacred pipes, our Canupa,  
to the Lakota people and families to whom they belong.

The Permanent Forum you are discussing is necessary because under  
the existing law of the United States and every other country who  
colonized lands which did not belong to them originally, the *indigenous*  
~~original~~ people are no longer recognized as Nations or States who  
may become members of the United Nations. We are not legally  
recognized and we therefore have no real forum in which to enforce  
our human rights. We Lakota people still exist, we still have our  
language, our culture and our traditions including a system of  
governance. Yet in the eyes of the United States and the world's  
governments, including the United Nations, we do not exist. We  
understand that this problem originated in the Christian Discovery  
Doctrine which has been used by every large government since 1095  
to deny the human rights of the ~~original~~ people in every land that  
has been colonized by these governments.

All of the four issues I mentioned above, which the Lakota people  
must solve, are extreme human rights violations. Yet we have no  
forum in which to adjudicate or negotiate our claims. Lakota is  
not a written language. Even today, although some white people  
have created a way to try to write it, Lakota is NOT a written  
language.

Thank you for your attention. Until we can be legally recognized  
as who we are, human beings of the Lakota Nation, the Permanent  
Forum is the only available international forum in which we can be  
heard.