



# AUSTRALIA

UNITED NATIONS  
SUB-COMMISSION ON  
PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION  
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS  
POPULATIONS - EIGHTH SESSION.

STATEMENT BY MR M.E.K. NEUHAUS ON BEHALF OF  
THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION.

GENEVA  
3 AUGUST 1990.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

WG-1990/60V/CCB-FUG/2

MADAM CHAIRMAN,

ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT AN ALLEGATION MADE AGAINST AUSTRALIA BY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE WEST PAPUAN VOLKSFRONT (OPM) ORGANISATION, WHO SPOKE UNDER THE REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS ITEM ON TUESDAY 31 AUGUST.

IN HIS STATEMENT THE OPM REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED TO AN INCIDENT IN WHICH 8 IRIAN JAYANS SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSULATE IN JAYAPURA LAST DECEMBER. HE ALLEGED, AND I QUOTE THAT "AFTER CONSULTING THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA, PNG FORCED THE ASYLUM-SEEKERS TO LEAVE THE CONSULATE".

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LET ME ASSURE YOU AND OTHER WORKING GROUP MEMBERS THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. NEITHER THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA NOR ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER.

THIS ALLEGATION THAT AUSTRALIA SOMEHOW "CONSPIRED" WITH OTHERS TO DEPRIVE INDIGENOUS PERSONS OF THEIR RIGHTS IS THEREFORE SIMPLY UNTRUE.

THANK YOU MADAM CHAIRMAN.