

Hare Reweti Arapere

Tribe Ngati Raukawa

Hapu Ngati Pikiahuawae

Occupation Social worker

WGIP 18/OCE . NZL/2

18/11/72

Tena koutou katoa

Madam Daes Distinguished Members of the Working Group.

I, and colleague of mine arrived here two days ago from Stockholm, Sweden where we were the Maori representatives to the World Conference of the International Federation of Social Workers. We have not yet had time to do a full and detailed analysis on the draft set of principles on Indegenous Populations and Standard Settings.

However with respect, we do have the following comments to make

-firstly we support the proposed name change of the document from Indenous Populations to Indegenous Peoples

-With reference to the preamble - you have heard from my brothers and sisters here about the cultural genocide in our country and how Maori culture, systems and traditional way of working were at one time almost at the point of extenction In agreeing with and acknowledging this I must add that there are some elements of Maoritanga that have strongly resisted this invasion.

-Maori language is still alive despite attempts by successive governments to eradicate it with assimilationists policies. However it is at this point that I wish to make an adjustment to part to item 10 to change the word "children" to read "all people". As we believe that all people have a right to education in their own language.

-As Maori people we still have a deep love of and committment to our land and it is for this reason that we condemn our colonisers who abuse and exploit it.

-Our tribal systems are remarkably still intact in spite of pressure from ~~Muskets~~ Measles and missionaries. And our document will help us to strengthen our own Tribal Systems even more.

We support the directions of this document and we call on our government for

-Maori autonomy/ Sovereignty /Selfgovernment.

-and to honour their half of the treaty of Waitangi. We have always honoured our half.

It is in this connection we refer to the proposed Study of Treaties made between Indegenous Peoples and settler governments. We believe that it is crucial that Mister Martinez visits our country to closely scrutinise our Treaty of Waitangi. and the N.Z governments failure to honour its terms.

Therefore on behalf of the Maori Delegation we invite the Distinguished member of the Working Group Mister Miguel Alfonso Martinez to visit Aotearoa and meet with our People and further study our Treaty in the hope that this will further international understanding of our plight.

At home we are being called "activists and traitors", however we prefer to think of ourselves as conservationists - as our wish is to conserve our land , our language and all other values that are uniquely ours.

I conclude, with this statement from one of our elders.

Ka huri taku titiro ki nga Tangata Whenua  
o ia motu, o ia Takiwa, o ia Wahi  
Maranga mai, Kokiritia te Kaupapa  
Kia kore ai tatou e ngaro i roto i  
te Ao Hurihuri

Translation:

We turn to the indigenous peoples of each island, of each  
territory, of each country  
Rise up and heed our call  
Lest we vanish from this Universe.

*Ne Kura Tena Kouta Kouta.*