

STATEMENT OF THE DAKOTA NATIONS IN SUPPORT
OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR "SELF DETERMINATION".
MADAME CHAIRPERSON, HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF
THE WORKING GROUP AND FELLOW INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES.

MY NAME IS CALVIN TOMPANA, I REPRESENT
THE DAKOTA NATIONS AT THIS MEETING SINCE
I AM CO ORDINATOR. DAKOTA NATIONS, CANADA
CONSISTS OF 2 NATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF
MANITOBA AND 4 DAKOTA NATIONS IN THE
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA.

THE CHIEFS OF THE DAKOTA NATIONS SEND
THEIR REGRETS FOR THEIR BEING UNABLE
TO ATTEND THIS MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP.
HOWEVER, MADAME CHAIRPERSON, CHIEF
DENNIS RASHE OF THE DAKOTA TIPI NATION
WAS HERE AT THE PALACE OF NATIONS TO
DELIVER A STATEMENT TO THE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE
THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE LAST
MARCH IN OTTAWA.

AT THAT TIME, CHIEF RASHE MET MR. GUMMUND AK
ALFRED SSEN, SECRETARY TO THE WORKING GROUP.
MADAME CHAIRPERSON, THE DAKOTA NATIONS HAVE
FILED A LENGTHY AND DOCUMENTED BRIEF ABOUT
THE DAKOTA NATIONS. I WILL NOT REPEAT
MATERIALS IN THAT DOCUMENT.

THE DAKOTA NATIONS ARE IN SOME-WHAT OF
A UNIQUE SITUATION AND BECAUSE OF THAT,
OUR DAKOTA NATIONS STRONGLY SUPPORT
AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DECLARATION OR

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COVENANT.

OUR UNIQUE SITUATION IS THAT THE DAKOTA NATION'S ORIGINAL TERRITORY COVERS LAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CANADIAN - AMERICAN (USA) BORDER. SINCE WE ARE OF THE BUFFALO NATION PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED OUR ORIGINAL LANDS ^{WHICH} EXTENDED SOUTH TO THE ARKANSAW RIVER, NORTH TO THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER IN CANADA, EAST TO THE MISSOURI TRIBAL TERRITORY AND WEST TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. IN 1868, THE DAKOTA NATIONS ENTERED INTO TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES AT FORT LARAMIE. THOSE PEOPLE OF THE DAKOTA NATIONS WHO LIVED IN OUR TERRITORY IN WHAT IS NOW CANADA NEVER MADE TREATIES WITH CANADA.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON, THE UNIQUE PROBLEM OF THE DAKOTA NATIONS IS THAT AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER CUTS THROUGH OUR ORIGINAL LANDS AND SINCE OUR TREATY IS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND SINCE WE HAVE NO TREATY WITH CANADA, CANADA CONSIDERS US IMMIGRANTS IN OUR OWN TRIBAL LAND.

MADAME CHAIRPERSON, IN THE DAKOTA NATIONS SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE FOLLOWING BE CONSIDERED:

III

ONE, WHERE A BOUNDARY IMPOSED BY NATION-STATES DIVIDES OR CROSSES THROUGH ABORIGINAL LANDS OF AN INDIGENOUS NATION, THAT A STANDARD BE PUT IN PLACE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT SUCH BOUNDARIES DO NOT MAKE IMMIGRANTS OUT OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHO HAVE OCCUPIED THAT TERRITORY SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.

TWO, THAT WHERE AN IMPOSED BOUNDARY ARBITRARILY IMPOSED BY NATION-STATES, THAT RECOGNITION BE GIVEN OF THE NATIONS ON BOTH OR ALL SIDES OF THAT BOUNDARY OF ANY AND ALL TREATIES WITH THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES BY ALL STATES CONCERNED.

THREE, THAT WHERE SUCH TREATIES EXIST INVOLVING LANDS OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS OF MORE THAN ONE STATE BE GIVEN THE RANK AND STANDING OF A TRULY INTERNATIONAL TREATY AND THAT THOSE TREATIES HAVE THE FULL PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

FOUR, AND FINALLY, THAT WHERE INDIGENOUS NATIONS HAVE ABORIGINAL LANDS IN MORE THAN ONE NATION-STATE, THAT AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED TO RESOLVE, REVIEW AND TO ADJUDICATE ANY DISPUTES PERTAINING TO THESE LANDS. MADAME CHAIRPERSON, THERE EXIST NOW AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HANDLE ISSUES DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL WATERS

IV

SUCH AS THE GREAT LAKES AND OTHER MATTERS.
MADAME CHAIRPERSON MY POINT IS, THAT THE
SIOUXA NATIONS REQUEST TO HAVE AN
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH
INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS LANDS ALREADY
HAS A PRECEDENT - PARTICULARLY AS
BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.
IT IS THEREFORE REASONABLE AND URGENT
THAT THE WORKING GROUP ENCLOSE IN ANY
INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS DECLARATION,
THE PROVISION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
TO OVER-SEE, TO MONITOR AND TO RESOLVE
INDIGENOUS LAND ISSUES INVOLVING TWO
OR MORE NATION-STATES.
MADAME CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE
WORKING GROUP - YOUR URGENT CONSIDERATION
OF THE ABOVE STANDARDS IS REQUESTED.