

Pakistan 27.6.95

#5 P17 (26)
Madam Chairperson,

WG on 112

PAKISTAN 27.7.95

by Mr. Babar Hashmi

Mr. Babar Hashmi

#5

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your reelection to chair this session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

I would also like to congratulate the Working Group for their substantial effort in preparing the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. (Our special compliments ~~are due~~ to Mrs. Rigoberta Menchu, for her outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of the rights and cultural heritage of indigenous people.

Madam Chairperson,

There has been extraordinary movement in the area of human rights over the last few years. Despite this, however, we still do not live in a perfect world where human rights are fully protected and promoted. Unfortunately, the same is also true concerning the rights of the indigenous people who have been struggling for their rights courageously and consistently, and whose valiant struggle deserves our admiration.

The Government of Pakistan, is deeply committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, both at home and abroad. We support the efforts of the indigenous people in achieving their legitimate rights and are looking forward to work with other governments so that the rights of the indigenous people are duly recognized, protected and promoted in an effective way.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation has listened carefully to the statements made by ~~all~~ speakers at this session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. There appears to be some blurring of the lines between minorities and indigenous populations, which, if allowed to go unnoticed could undermine the cause

WGIP 95 GOV/SAS. PAK/1

of true indigenous populations.

Madam Chairperson,

⑤ My delegation would now like to comment on some points of interest to us with a view to present the facts and set the record straight.

⑥ Firstly, Sindh is one of the four Provinces of Pakistan, because the people of Sindh in 1947 chose to be a part of Pakistan. This Province has the unique distinction of being the birth place of the founder of Pakistan. It is the home of at least four Prime Ministers and even today one of its most illustrious daughters is the Prime Minister. It has produced innumerable and eminent men of letters, jurists, industrialists and politicians in the country. The name of a respected political figure of Pakistan, Mr. G. M. Syed has been mentioned in this forum. I would only like to say that Mr. G. M. Syed ~~was~~ a respected politician ~~and~~ was a member of the Muslim League, the Party which launched the successful struggle for the creation of Pakistan and Mr. G. M. Syed *himself* played an active role in the creation of Pakistan in 1947. ~~No matter what has been said from the floor,~~ Mr. G. M. Syed was allowed by the Government to proceed abroad for medical treatment, however, in view of his advanced age and the weak condition, his doctors did not permit him to undertake the journey. He was provided with the best medical ^{facilities} available in the country. ~~At the advanced age of 92,~~ *in the hospital.* ~~At the advanced age of 92,~~ *he died* May God bless his soul.

⑦ Secondly, the world is well aware that the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people has been recognized by the United Nations for over forty years. The U.N. mandated plebiscite in Kashmir was accepted by both the States that emerged from the relinquishment of power by the colonial forces, in 1947. What is more, but is less well known, is that the last Imperial Governor General of India, Lord Mountbatten, in accepting the so-called Instrument of Accession of the Maharajah of Kashmir (which in itself is an

(8) In the forty eight years that have elapsed since the imperial power left, the people of Kashmir have been brutally denied their right to self-determination. The U.N. plebiscite remains to be held. This is the real issue in ~~the~~ State of Jammu + Kashmir.

(9) Maabur Chisposon

The govt of Pakistan is deeply committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, both at home and abroad. We support the efforts of the indigenous people in achieving their legitimate rights and are ~~looking forward~~ ^{committed} to work with ~~the working committee~~ ^{and} other governments so that the rights of the indigenous people are duly recognized, protected and promoted in an effective way.

I thank you - * (3)