



TREATY COUNCIL NEWS

777 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, NY 10017
870 MARKET STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

VOL. 1, NO. 8
NOVEMBER, 1977

Solidarity is Worldwide

by Allene Goddard

There is now a worldwide movement with American Indians. People in Bulgaria, Germany, the USSR, Mongolia, and even here in the United States commemorated the Day of International Solidarity with American Indians on what used to be called "Columbus Day" (October 12).

This year, no one had time to get together anything great big, but it is really important that people in Europe and here in the U.S. decided to do something this year. Next year we will see some real demonstrations of solidarity, and every year it will get bigger.

One interesting thing that happened this year would have been impossible last year or before; the Governor of Minnesota officially proclaimed October 12 to be Solidarity with American Indians Day. So maybe that didn't get any of our brothers out of prison in Minnesota, or get any of our lands back, still, it is part of a process that we've started.

Who would have thought four years ago that there would be a nationwide Indian solidarity organization? Now we have one. Even though the Native American Solidarity Committee (NASC) has some problems (just like us or anyone that has to deal with all of the brainwashing in this country), it has some very good people and does a lot of good work. Also, NASC is learning from its mistakes.

NASC chapters held various events around the country on Indian Solidarity Day. The New York chapter held a public meeting at which several of our people who had been in Geneva made presentations.

Working with the Treaty Council, NASC has started to have international ties with solidarity groups in Europe.

The Treaty Council is getting into some very good things internationally. For example, contact made with various international women's organizations and the Women's International Democratic-Federation will have a significant effect on our struggle. National organizations such as the Soviet Women's Committee and the Mongolian Women's Committee have declared their solidarity with Indian peoples struggles and are awaiting our women's applications to the International Federation. The main goals of this international organization are peace, women's rights



American Indians from the Geneva Conference in Helsinki, Finland. They had just met with trade union leaders and members of the Finnish Parliament. Next stop: Moscow. Story on page 3.

U.S. Supreme Court Grants Stay

by Paul Smith

Russell Means, plenary speaker at the Geneva Conference, cancelled a planned tour of Czechoslovakia, Greece, and Romania to report to Sioux Falls State Penitentiary on Friday, October 14. He arrived in New York to find out that the Supreme Court, at the eleventh hour, granted a stay of execution and he would not have to go to prison immediately.

The stay gives Means' attorney, William Kunstler of New York, time to prepare an appeal that will challenge the constitutionality of the bond the South Dakota courts have placed on him. He is restricted from participating in AIM activities, and if he is convicted of any other outstanding charges, the bond would be revoked.

and children's rights, and the actions they take have an effect on the entire world. Their membership includes liberation organizations from many countries such as Angola and Vietnam.

It is only right that we are now adding our name to that list, and joining with international peace forces. □

Allene Goddard is a Lakota who is also known as "Chockie." She is presently living in San Francisco.

The State of South Dakota is attempting to jail Means for charges that go back to April of 1974. At that time several Indians and a white man were on trial for allegedly participating in a riot in Custer, South Dakota, in February of 1973 when a Sioux man was murdered in front of several witnesses by a white gas station owner and he was charged with only manslaughter. Indians gathered in Custer to protest the injustice. Sarah Bad Heart Bull was the mother of the man who was murdered, and for protesting she was put on trial. (She was convicted and sentenced to one to three years, while her son's killer was free).

It was at this trial that the rulings from the court were so outrageous that people refused to stand when the judge entered the courtroom. The judge called in the police tac squad, and they attacked the people in the courtroom. One of the defendants, who was ordered to stay in the courtroom while the tac squad "cleared" the room, was beaten so badly that he almost lost the sight of one eye. This police riot resulted in the indictments of more than a dozen of the Indians and supporters.

The State of South Dakota claims that Means violated the terms of his bond by speaking as an AIM leader Sisseton, South Dakota. It was there that a year ago, tensions ran high after six Indians from the

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A New Stage in History

The International Indian Treaty Council recognizes the sovereignty of all Native Nations and will stand in unity to support our Native and international brothers and sisters in their respective and collective struggles . . . We recognize that there is only one color of Mankind in the world who are not represented in the United Nations; that is the indigenous Redman of the Western Hemisphere.

— from the Declaration of Continuing Independence, the founding document of the Treaty Council, June, 1974

In 1975 the Treaty Council prepared documentation for the United Nations about the situation of the Mapuche Indians in Chile. We did that at the request of the Mapuche Confederation. For the Geneva Conference we prepared additional documentation about their situation, but then we were able to locate the President of the Confederation, who is in exile from his land. He was one of the strongest speakers at the conference.

Now, since the Geneva Conference, we have good contacts with real representatives of Indian people in almost every country in North, South, and Central America.

Since we have had our UN office, Treaty Council representatives have travelled to Canada, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Panama and Barbados.

We are able to bring Indian leaders from those and other American countries to the Geneva Conference. On their own, none of those people could have gotten to Geneva, so their stories would not have been really told.

By talking with them in Geneva we all learned a lot of things about liberation, self reliance, and even about international politics. There are many strong people in South America, and all of us have begun to pool our strengths. We are coming together in the entire hemisphere. Our symbol, North and South America with a pipe of unity, is becoming a reality. We have always known that we are one people. Now the world knows it, and we have started to act together.

We are the majority in the Western Hemisphere, and that is a strength we can use.

The Treaty Council UN office is the UN and international voice for Indians everywhere in the Americas. The Treaty Council, following our Declaration of Continuing Independence, is becoming a coordinating center for all Indian people, whether they are from Bolivia, Guatemala, or South Dakota.

It is time for us to act from the strengths that we have, and to support each other in every way possible.

We are moving into a new stage of history, and we ourselves can change the map in the Western Hemisphere. This is not just big talk. We are already doing it. □

— Jimmie Durham and Russell Means

The International Indian Treaty Council

The International Indian Treaty Council was founded at the First International Indian Treaty Conference on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, co-sponsored by the Standing Rock Tribal Council and the American Indian Movement in June 1974. Four thousand delegates from 97 nations directed the Treaty Council to work for international recognition of the sovereignty of Indian Nations. The International Indian Treaty Council has consultative

status in the United Nations with offices at 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY, 10017. Telephone: [212] 986-6000. The Treaty Council News is the official bulletin of the International Indian Treaty Council and is published monthly by the American Indian Treaty Council Information Center, 870 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102. Telephone: [415] 434-4917. Staff for the Treaty Council News is Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, Jimmie Durham, Simon J. Ortiz, and Paul Smith.

The Treaty Council News is a peoples' newspaper, so we don't require that our readers subscribe. We do ask, however, that those who can pay for the Treaty Council News do so. Our subscription rates: \$6 for individuals in the U.S., \$8 for individuals in Canada, and \$10 for institutions, libraries, and foreign countries.



THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

Official Report by: INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017

- **The Geneva Conference:** Official report by the International Indian Treaty Council on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas September 20-23" held at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Includes speeches by Indian delegates UN and international organizations observers and delegates, Commission Reports, and the Final Resolution of the Conference. Special edition, 35 pages with photos, on heavy beige paper. \$1.50

- **The Great Sioux Nation: Sitting in Judgement on America** by Dr. Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz. An oral history of the Sioux Nation and its struggle for sovereignty, based on and including testimony heard at the "Sioux Treaty Hearing" held in December, 1974 in Federal District Court, Lincoln, Nebraska. 224 pages; 22 photos. \$5.95 paper; \$10.00 cloth. (For more than two copies please order from Random House, Westminster, Md. 21157.)

- **The Declaration of Continuing Independence:** The founding document of the International Indian Treaty Council. 11 x 17" poster in yellow, red, and blue. \$1.00.

- **Treaty Council News back issues:** **May:** Carter's Energy Plan, Peltier convicted, Sovereignty and Resistance, statement from African freedom fighter. **June:** Vigilantes, Rosebud v. Kniep, Dependence and Independence. **July/August:** Complete report of the Third Treaty Council held at Wakpala in June. **September:** The Treaty Council: Three years at the UN, solidarity statements from Africa and Vietnam. \$1.00 for each issue.

- **Night of Solidarity with Indian People:** Poster in beige, black and red. Graphic below is from the poster. \$1.00. □



Indian Delegation Visits Soviet Union

Allene Goddard of San Francisco, Bill Means of Rosebud, South Dakota; Greg Zephier of Yankton, South Dakota; and Bill Wapepah of Oakland, California travelled to Finland after the Geneva Conference on the first stop of a tour to the Soviet Union.

The group met with members of the Finnish Parliament and representatives from the political parties. Finland is a socialist country. The delegates took the message of Geneva to the political leaders, and they seemed interested in American Indians. They were asked for their support in bringing up the issue of human rights of native people in the Western Hemisphere in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The group, minus Bill Means, entered the Soviet Union on an overnight train trip from Helsinki to Moscow. They were met by the Soviet Peace Council. The days in Moscow were full of meetings with government officials, educators, and press. The three delegates had nightly meetings in which they would review the events of each day, and plan the work for the next day.

They visited the Kremlin, and in Red Square met people from Iraq, Algeria and Namibia. These people said they had read of our struggle and supported us. Bill and Allene went to the Moscow Ballet one night. Once they met with a member of the Supreme Soviet, who told them that he was one of the first men to camp on the North Pole. It was pointed out that the Eskimos might have been there before him, but there were problems with the interpretations.

The Russian people had never seen American Indians before, so they were stared at in the streets. They appeared on Soviet TV, with an audience of 180 million people. At the University of Moscow, an ethnographer who was informed about the Indian struggle presented the visitors with eagle feathers from Siberia.

Bill, Greg and Allene flew from Moscow to the autonomous region of Khazikstan, over four thousand miles away. The region is near India. The Kazak people were a nomadic, tribal people, mainly goatherders and sheepherders. They had only a 2% literacy rate, and now they have a 99% literacy rate, with mandatory higher education. Khazikstan is very beautiful, with mountains and lakes. The people were warm and hardworking, a people of color. They had to fight for their dignity and human rights, and the Communist Party supported them. They understood what the Indian struggle was about, and they agreed to stand with us.

Allene went to visit the autonomous republic of Mongolia, and Greg and Bill went to West Germany.

Greg and Bill flew from Moscow to Leningrad, then to Hamburg, West Germany. It was a very stark contrast. Greeting the delegates was a Ford pickup, a Shell Oil sign and a U.S. military helicopter. They joined the German tour for a meeting of support groups from all over Europe. On one night the delegates — over a dozen by now — spoke to over 2700 people at a benefit concert, and there were 3000 people waiting outside. There were speakers outside for the people who couldn't get in. The enthusiasm that the German people had for American Indians was a very moving experience for the Indians.

On October 12, the International Day of

Solidarity with American Indians, Clyde Bellecourt asked the German friends to fast, and to send the money they would have spent on food that day to survival schools and the International Indian Treaty Council. That night there was a march of over 600 people carrying torches past the Brazilian and American consulates.

Bill Wapepah summed up the tour this way: "The people of these countries understand our struggle much, much better. And I think that because we got to know our brothers from the south better on these tours, we understood more than before that we are one people. We learned daily from our brothers to the south." □



Greg Zephier and Bill Wapepah with friends from Algeria and interpreter from the World Peace Council at the Kremlin in Moscow.

Netherlands Tour Meets with Dutch Congress

by Phyllis Bordeaux

On Tuesday, September 27, 1977, Indians from the Geneva Conference arrived in the Netherlands to meet with government officials and the Dutch people about the results of the Conference. The Indian delegates were Art Solomon, AIM spiritual leader, Canada; Ed Bernstick, American Indian Movement, Canada; Bobby Woods, American Indian Metis Society (AIMS), Canada; Majorie Dressyman, Canada; Renir Artist, Surinam; Fern Eastman Mathias, Dakota from the U.S.; and myself, Lakota, U.S.

The delegation stayed in Rotterdam for eight days. During this time, we met with the Dutch House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs. The political leaders were very receptive and anxious to hear about the situation of native people in the Western Hemisphere. We made a special appeal on behalf of the South American native people, and told the legislators about the planned relocation of the white settlers from Rhodesia to Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina. This was news to the Dutch House of Representatives. They told us that they would

recommend that the settlers be sent back to where they came from. They also assured us that a Dutch position on American Indians would be taken very carefully, and our words and documents from the Geneva Conference would be considered.

We also met with Dutch religious leaders and organizations. We talked with representatives from the Dutch Reformed Church and the Calvinist Church, the two main Protestant churches in the Netherlands. X minus Y, ICCO and Solidaridad are Dutch organizations that support development projects in the Third World, and we told them about the needs of Indian people.

We spoke at several colleges and universities in all parts of the Netherlands. There were many press conferences, and we made headlines everywhere we went.

One of the highlights was visiting The Hague, and the Palace of Justice. This is where the World Court of the United Nations meets.

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Phyllis Bordeaux is a Lakota who works for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She is one of the framers of the Declaration of Continuing Independence.

'These Countries Believe Strongly in Human Rights'

by Sherry Means

Travelling to the socialist countries that have strong communist parties was a good learning experience for me. The countries I travelled to were Bulgaria, a four hour layover in Yugoslavia, then Hungary and then East Germany.

Bulgaria was a simple one. My meaning of simple is that their living condition is simple. There was no advertising at all. Hungary and Bulgaria have their own alphabet. In Bulgaria shaking your head yes meant no, and shaking your head no meant yes. It was really confusing for a while. Also if you went to church you could go whenever you felt like praying. There are no services or set date that you should go. Bulgaria is also famous for their salad. What makes it so good is the cheese they put in it. The cheese is made from goat's milk. It has a salty taste, but it's good.

What really disappointed me there was so much pollution. The sky actually looked purple. Right now they are considering what they should do, but not much is being said about it. We met with someone from the Central Committee of Bulgaria, and some members of the World Peace Council.

When arriving or departing from the airport we were always government guests and had a place where only government people can wait. Every country we went to we were always stared at and asked a lot of questions which got annoying sometimes.

After Bulgaria we flew to Yugoslavia, stayed there for four hours, and then flew to Hungary. Hungary's air was a lot cleaner, which was a relief. In Hungary we toured the city and saw a lot of statues which all meant something from the past. We also saw a lot of old buildings which were beautiful. A long time ago kings ruled the people, but now they have become free from the dictatorships. The day after we arrived, we went to a children's city. In this orphanage, the children are not physically punished if they do something wrong. There has only been three run-aways in the past two years. Their discipline is in the form of denial of leisure

activities. Theft rarely happens. When it does they find out who and why. Then they compensate the theft with what they stole because they stole out of need and envy. In the ages of three to six, everything is made for their size, including the toilets. To know what is theirs, they have their own special sign. They have a fully equipped hospital and a dental clinic, and a full time doctor. They have seventy planned leisure activities. This orphanage is the largest out of 128 orphanages, and after touring this we met with people on their dinners and suppers. Once we met two famous Hungarian writers.

After Hungary was Germany (the German Democratic Republic). The German people were straightforward. Here we had a tight schedule because earlier we had cancelled because we were going to leave two days before. But they wanted us to come here so bad that we went anyway. Here is where I got really tired because we had to go here, there and everywhere without a break. We spoke to some people, we went to a wine factory, and had a press conference. I learned that before Germany was Germany the Sorbs ruled over the Germans who were being oppressed by the Sorbs. Finally the fascists, led by Hitler, took over. After the world conquered Hitler socialism grew in the East part of Germany. Now the East Germans condemn Hitler because he was a fascist. The Sorbs still exist but with their own language, culture and alphabet. They have human rights in their country. That goes to show what a lie the Americans are living.

In each country I felt that we accomplished something. We would have gone to Greece, Czechoslovakia and Ireland, but my Dad had to report to prison the 14th of October, but at the last minute, the Supreme Court decided to listen to his case. On the riot in Sioux Falls, so he doesn't have to go at least for now.

What I have learned in these countries is that they believe strongly in human rights and for our struggle. They aren't the people to feel sorry for. They have no

poverty or competition with each other, and nobody wants to get rich because they all have equal opportunities. □

Sherry Means, 15, is Lakota and attends Crazy Horse High School in Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

NETHERLANDS TOUR...

We found the Dutch people to be warm and interested in learning about Indians. They didn't have the same romantic ideas as some other countries do. The tour was sponsored by the Netherlands Action Group for North American Indians, who are a group of ordinary Dutch people who work on building friendship and solidarity between the people of the Netherlands and Indians. Margreet Anceaux and Maria Van Kitts took care of the arrangements, and the group presented us with wooden shoes at the end of the tour.

We left feeling stronger in the knowledge that we have friends in the Netherlands, friends who will support our struggle. □

SUPREME COURT...

Sisseton Reservation were on trial. Local vigilantes were out, and many predicted violence. When Means was asked to appear, he agreed, hoping to calm the situation. Despite the fact that a minister and the State's Attorney for Roberts County agreed that his presence was useful and constructive, the Supreme Court of South Dakota ruled 3 to 2 that he had violated the terms of the bond.

The order for Means arrest was issued around the time of the Geneva conference, but after Means had left the country. The timing, many believe, was no accident. Russell Means has faced almost 40 felony indictments since 1972. The stay by the Supreme Court is a serious defeat for South Dakota Attorney General William Janklow in his campaign to destroy the Indian movement in South Dakota. □

Next month: AIM Conference in Minneapolis; Citizen's Review Commission on the FBI, being held in New York by AIM, the Treaty Council and NASC. Plus a report from the People's Republic of Mongolia.

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American Indian Treaty Council
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San Francisco, CA 94102

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