

Project Waitangi Meeting with Community Organisations

to Discuss 1990

17 June 1988

Opening and welcome - Marion Wood

Introductions - Project Waitangi mentioned how they see the Treaty as the focus for 1990 and the need to get our act together as Pakeha organisations.

Other organisations here to share ideas, some have already taken initiatives, e.g. pressure on 1990 Commission; others seeking guidelines for their own organisations.

Question raised of accountability to Maori groups

Overview Peter Glensor looked back at the 1940 centenary and lack of government response to calls to ratify the Treaty.

1990 Commission - not bicultural

few Pakeha with track record of being committed to Treaty

\$20 million to spend

has operated with secrecy until now

Will it just be well-organised exploding kiwifruit in 1990?

1990 Commission hand-out - mission statement has Treaty as fifth point. Hon Michael Bassett has always spoken of Treaty as just one of many anniversaries.

Few of the currently proposed activities relate to the Treaty. Commission has set up a Maori committee to deal with Treaty matters. There is a separate Finance committee.

YWCA has had correspondence with commission over the words "celebration" and "commemoration". Peter Boag thanked YWCA for pointing out the "mistake"! Commission has also added to their mission statement something about the principles of the Treaty.

CCEJD wrote to Commission about composition of Commission. Reply - members appointed as individuals, Treaty just one aspect...

A REQUEST: PLEASE SEND COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE TO AND FROM COMMISSION TO PROJECT WAITANGI PO BOX 825 Wellington

CCANZ has been asked by Commission to provide list of members and stalling because CCANZ want to have a joint response.

PROJECT WAITANGI spoke to Russell Marshall in June 1987 and made a submission about make-up and focus of Commission at his request. Dr Bassett took over 1990 after elections - Project Waitangi telegraphed him when heard of major meeting to set up a Commission. Asked also for meeting. Sent copies of submission. Project Waitangi has many times requested a meeting with Commissioners and Dr Bassett but has been refused. Wally Hirsh also wrote recommending Bassett see Project Waitangi.

OPTIONS proposed by Project Waitangi

- # set up alternative event with or without Commission money
- # set up alternative 1990 Treaty Commission along bicultural lines
- * Project Waitangi is currently working on kits for schools and community groups
- * Project Waitangi offering a full-time worker for 1990
- * Kit on Waitangi Tribunal under production now
- * Draft open letter to 1990 Commissioners
- * Can make the Treaty live, rather than just protest, lets use the year positively and constructively

DISCUSSION

Ask the Commission - is the funding being split 50:50 Maori/Pakeha

There is currently a campaign against the Waitangi Tribunal - the Tribunal is crucial to 1990 - implemenation of its findings.

Two Auckland groups have been set up ATAC and He Taua and are working to stop the games, stop the celebrations. Protest and wider educational moves can be complementary. Needs to be wide range of protest to get as much support as possible.

Treaty has been left out of laws since SOE act - strong move by legislators as power of Treaty is seen

Pakeha groups should publicly support the Tribunal and the Treaty so its not just the backlash in the medai. Christchurch Project Waitangi - ads going into local papers to give information.

Keep focus on the Treaty - Quote from Reeves. Lets become a Treaty driven society.

Each organisation needs to have its own Treaty debate, through workshops or whatever.

Plans for 1990

Childcare Assoc want to help with pre-school kit

CCANZ - joint church leaders statement on 1990

- recommend that church leaders dont participate on Feb 6 1990
- Catholic, Anglican, Methodist - pre 1840 mission churches will meet
- May forum - Treaty be a prime focus for 1990 Churches shouldnt be coopted into false honouring of Treaty

CCEJD July hui to talk about honouring of Treaty

Project Waitangi CHCH focus on Treaty - 3 local kitsets 1.Pakeha Culture, 2. Institutional racism 3. Local history

EYM Letter writing so far, workshop for young people

Priests and sisters network meeting next month

National C of Women could focus conference on 1990

Lower Hutt City Council - intends setting something up, will monitor.

YWCA international conference on the status of indigenous women (possibly) also working towards clear power-sharing within YWCA

Historic Places Trust started planning, maybe a record of hui on Treaty

CORSO National meeting coming up to discuss 1990

ATAC and HE TAUA - 2 meetings so far, philosophy is honour the Treaty, no celebrations, Groups working on fund-raising, calendar theatre. Immediate issues - \$5 million already paid out for Maori people to assemble waka in Tamaki Makau Rau in 1990. Govt should be challenged for dangling that money. Also over fisheries.

Project Waitangi want 1990 to be about putting the Treaty into effect - through education, pressure on government changing Pakeha organisations along Treaty lines. Will have national meeting in August.

SMALL GROUPS TO DISCUSS

What is the base-line for your groups

What structure do we set up to take this further - How do we remain accountable to each other, and to tangata whenua.

Feedback from Groups

Churches

- # Leaders should get feedback from grass roots
- # Liturgies for Feb 6 1990
- # Some formal recognition of church's past role and present responsibilities
- # Balance between positive action and protest reaction
- # Theatre, road shows etc
- # Media input - tell them what we're doing

* To do:

Send ideas to Programme on Racism

Circulate ideas widely

Contact church groups outside CCANZ

Set up groups with emphasis on 1990 - core group could be Project Waitangi with offer of worker. Accountability to Maori. Have meetings of wider group again.

Community Organisations

- # Focus is Treaty - resist other celebrations
- # Commemorate with vision beyond 1990 - what happens then
- # Education - info on Treaty, tribunal history
- # Look at our own organisations
- # Build up his/herstory of locality - Hutt valley doing this
- # Bicultural reps on all bodies
- # Evaluation
- # Build up of activities for 1990
- # Accountability
- # 1990 a year for auditing orgs response to Treaty
- # Be supportive between organisations

cont

What happens after? Waitangi Day 1990

To do:

Project Waitangi monitor and coordinate year
Do use money from Commission - do it through Project Waitangi
What about Pacific Island people
Auckland has access to printing
Use existing Project Waitangi newsletter
By 1990 should be real change in place
Pay People who come to meetings

Discussion - need to get act together now -

Community/Education/Arts

Baseline: no celebration, honour the Treaty
Coalition of groups gives strength
Sorting out baseline: do we go along to the Commission
Do we take funding
go beyond words to action
Turn things around to be positive

Union/Education

None of the groups had thought about 1990
Need to make challenges to our organisations
Dont want to be involved in official commemoration
But watershed year - make govt accountable - what have they
done over last 150 years
Perhaps be involved in alternative commemorations

Development Agencies

Some sort of coalition - use Project Waitangi as information
and clearing house
Project Waitangi could link up cells - similar groups form the
cells - and sent out information. Project Waitangi to sort out
and coordinate what needs challenging .e.g. 1990 Commission
All development groups have international and local links
YWCA - Indigenous Women's conference to meet in 1990 - others
could contribute
Working party through CID
Timeline for recognition of Treaty
Challenge basis of govts planning for 1990
Put our press statements
1990 - elections should be used
1989 - local body elections
A bicultural party?
Foreign affairs dept - abolish or restructure on Development
affairs - link overseas with local

Discussion

Tu: How do outsiders feel about the Treaty? How can we evaluate what we're going to do in 1990? are we just going to forget about it?

Waatarā (He Taua): What is baseline? Accept educ programmes to a to a certain degree - but when it comes to crunch - its a few of us Maori who have to get our heads kicked in once again. Need opposition to any celebration in 1990 - otherwise not partnership. Project Waitangi needs to attack commission. Funding for the frontline Maori organisations yet we're the ones who put our guts on the line. Project Waitangi got \$50,000.00 yet we're the ones who have put in the work, at the frontline. Do go back and consult. Waatare from Ngati Teata pusing for self government. There is local white backlash.

Helen (Salvation Army): Project Waitangi is against the celebration, the waffling is because we are trying to work it out.

Rona Bailey (Project Waitangi) It is only one year, but its a chance to highlight events. Project Waitangi is opposed to any celebrations. We take our stand on how we can implement the Treaty. Its more than education - organisations must change their power structures and resources.

Debbie (Atac): The bicentennial - lots of groups did get bought out. YWCA and other liberal groups took public stand against money tagged for celebration. The money in Australia was so heavily tagged that many groups gave it back.

Maryanne (PW): understand the lack of faith in Pakeha. We are opposed to celebration, to the 1990 Commission. But we must take those people with us - thats our responsibility as Pakeha. We have got to work with the people here. Many organisations are just starting on bicultural road- PW is working with them.

Philomena (He Taua): good to hear that from Project. Important that Pakeha focus is on Pakeha people. Any participation in the celebration is just shitting on us.

Peter (PW): Treaty is only base on which I have a right to be here. Treaty formalises relationship. My spiritual forebears Wesleyan missionaries - pused hard for that Treaty to be signed. "On our honour, the Treaty will be honoured". It is my issue - I am part of a signatory. 1990 is how I can make the Treaty come alive - a vision I want, not what is it I dont want.

Judith (ATAC): I can see all these waka, the Queen, Commonwealth games. Important that we get a strong base-line now. How can we take everyone with us? Dont believe we can. Its going to be like 1981 all over again. Brought backgrounders on Whare paia.

Mary (PW): We want to stop celebrations - but I also want change. Can we move on and look at what weve come up with.

Marion: We've had a clear lyaing out of the issues: Honouring the Treaty, Project Waitangi does not support the celebrations. Structures for moving on from here:

1. Open letter to Commissioners read out and signed
2. Action for Launch
3. Action on Fisheries
4. Project Waitangi asked to coordinate, act as a clearing- house and call these groups together. Will set up a 1990 coalition of National organisations

Structures (cont)

Mail out minutes
copy of open letter
next meeting

Need information on June 29 and network with other areas.

Focus on issues now as well as 1990

Freephone: govt depts using this a lot - so we should make
sure all our organisations phone in to counter backlash.

Thanks to all for attention and seriousness with which
they addressed issues.
