

PROJECT

Waitangi

PAKEHA DEBATE THE TREATY

P.O. BOX 825, WELLINGTON

Phone 781-734

20 June 1988

OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE 1990 COMMISSION

Since September 1987, Project Waitangi has several times sought a meeting with you and the chairman of the Commission, Hon Dr Michael Bassett, to discuss 1990. In January of this year, the Race Relations Conciliator, Mr Wally Hirsh, recommended to Dr Bassett that he meet with us.

We ask to meet with you again.

In May of last year, the Project met with Hon Russell Marshall (then Minister of Education) who suggested that we make a submission on the make-up and focus of the proposed 1990 Commission. This was sent to Mr Marshall in June 1987, and he acknowledged it.

Our submission said that the composition of any 1990 Commission should reflect the realities of the Treaty of Waitangi: its membership be 50:50 Maori/ Pakeha and that women, men, young and old be represented; every member to have shown an active commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and to accept it as a basis for the Commissions' work; Maori members, not to be chosen by Pakeha.

We said that the Treaty be the central feature of the Commissions' work, and that it foster dialogue between the Treaty partners resulting in a renewed commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Dr Bassett, however, chose to ignore our recommendations and established a Commission that is predominantly Pakeha, most of whom do not have any record in anti-racism work. Our submission was referred to the Maori Committee, once more putting the onus on only one of the Treaty partners to ensure the honouring of the Treaty. This also reinforces the myth that the Treaty is solely a Maori issue.

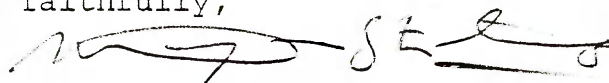
The Treaty of Waitangi is also only one of several anniversaries the Commission has chosen to commemorate/celebrate, instead of being the central theme of the year. It would appear that you are placing as much emphasis on the anniversaries of Auckland and Wellington cities, the welfare state, unions, the electoral system and the Gallopoli landings. Whereas these anniversaries are important, we are concerned that they are being used to try and avoid fronting up, honestly and openly, to the Treaty and its place in New Zealand society. Also, in the case of the 150th anniversaries of Auckland and Wellington, is the Commission going to re-educate Pakeha New Zealanders about how these cities were founded and for whose benefit? Similarly with the electoral system, are you going to tell Pakeha about the historic reasons for the four Maori seats and how our electoral system was used to disenfranchise Maoridom?

We believe 1990 is an important milestone in our nations' history and that it should be used to calculate the impact of the Treaty on this nation and to put in place new structural and organisational models that give effect to the Treaty. To this end, Project Waitangi recently organised a meeting of community organisations to discuss ways in which they can be involved in making 1990 a year in which the Treaty is honoured. Representatives from thirty seven National organisations attended the meeting. Dr Bassett was invited to attend this meeting but declined because of prior committments.

As a result of this meeting Project Waitangi now joins the undersigned in calling for a meeting with all 1990 Commissioners, including the Chairman.

We urge that you take our request seriously and with the utmost urgency.

Yours faithfully,



Maryanne L'Estrange
National Coordinator of Project Waitangi

2 copies

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.

HISTORY OF PROJECT WAITANGI CONTACTS WITH 1990 COMMISSION

Date

- 5 May 1987 Meeting with Hon Russell Marshall (then Minister of Education) re our views on 1990 Commission make-up and focus. He requested a submission about this.
- 12 June 1987 Submission about our views sent to Mr Marshall.
- 30 June 1987 Acknowledgement of submission from Mr Marshall
- August Elections. Hon Dr Michael Bassett appointed as Minister Internal Affairs and responsible for 1990 plans.
- 16 Sept 1987 Telegram to Dr Bassett at initial meeting to form Commission. Said Treaty of Waitangi must be central focus for 1990. Requested a meeting with Dr Bassett.
- 28 Sept 1987 Letter for Dr Bassett - "unable to meet with us".
- 2 Dec 1987 Copy of submission sent to Dr Bassett as Chairman of 1990 Commission. Request a meeting with Commission.
- 13 Jan 1988 From Dr Bassett "comments will be considered". Past onto Commission.
- 25 Jan 1988 Wally Hirsh (Race Relations Conciliator) sent letter to Dr Bassett recommending he meet with Project Waitangi.
- 23 Feb 1988 Letter sent to Commissioners - requesting a meeting re our views on 1990.
- 29 Feb 1988 Project Waitangi request a meeting with Dr Bassett or officials re funding and 1990.
- 4 March 1988 From Dr Bassett - "more appropriate it be dealt with at departmental level". Handed over to Secretary of Internal Affairs.
- 22 March 1988 Project Waitangi letter to Mr Boag, Secretary of Internal Affairs re funding and letter from Dr Bassett.
- 5 April 1988 Reply from Mr Boag re our letter 23 February. Referred our submission and request for meeting to Maori standing committee.
- 22 April 1988 Letter from Project Waitangi to Mr Boag about referral of our submission to Maori Committee and our views. Copies sent to 21 Govt Ministers.
- 3 June 1988 Invitation to Dr Bassett to Project Waitangi meeting with National organisations.
- 9 June 1988 From Dr Bassett - unable to attend meeting because of "prior committments".
- 15 June 1988 Letter from Bob Cater (Assistant Secretary of Internal Affairs) clarifying 1990 Commission current position on Treaty of Waitangi.

SIGNATURES

[Signature]
Catholic Commission F.P.D.

[Signature]
Lisa Biggs Student Christian Movement

Richard Watson

Anna Coventry

[Signature]

Wellington Catholic Commission E.T.D.

Heather Mulholland WEA-TUPES

Carol Pinner } New Zealand Coalition for Trade & Development

Jenny Mosier }

[Signature]

Lily Keilcox

Marian Jerny Network of Religious Priests for Justice & Peace Wellington

Paul Finlayson " " " " " "

John White Catholic Churches of Peace New Zealand

[Signature]

P Broadbent

Wendy Morrison

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Philippa Brentnall Nonsexist Resource Group

Women of the Methodist Youth Movement of Methodist

K. P. Lee

PROTECT WAITANGI CHRISTCHURCH.

Workers Educational Association (WEA) National Executive

Debbie Rundle Auckland Treaty Action Coalition
Judith Be. Auckland Treaty Action Coalition

Bekka Martin Project Waitangi, Lower Hutt.
Family Centre, Anglican Social Services

Richard Nathan National President YPOCA NZ.

Eve Miller V. C. 4-14 area Community Development

Shirley Carpenter Project Waitangi Wellington

Marie Bellin

Provide Total Training Programme for Biculturalism

W. J. P. [Signature]

Project Waitangi National Core Group

George Edwards

Waitangi Youth Council

[Signature]

Project Waitangi