

WAITANGI ACTION COMMITTEE

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JANUARY 1986

MAORI. / INDIAN SOLIDARITY

Each year on Feb. 6th the New Zealand government commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi - a Treaty which was signed in 1840, which has meant nothing but continued oppression, loss of land, cultural alienation and untold suffering for the Maori people, the tangata whenua of Aotearoa.

Nationally Waitangi Action Committee has been involved in convening, hosting and organising protest marches against the 'Waitangi Day Celebrations' since 1979. As a result of that, Maori people thruout Aotearoa, with the support of other non-Maori organisations are determined to put a stop to the annual celebrations, as the first step towards a more just society after over one hundred years of exploitation.

Internationally Waitangi Action Committee has been involved in bringing other indigenous peoples to Aotearoa to take part in the marches and also to share with us the struggles of their peoples as a result of 'treaties'

In 1983 we were visited by Vernon Bellecourt, a member of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), sharing and building support for his people in their fight for self-determination. While here he extended an invitation for Maori organisation to attend the next IITC conference. Hone Harawira went representing WAC. It was at that conference that WAC was accepted as a member nation of the IITC.

Although WAC had worked with the American Indian in the past this was the setting for a more permanent working relationship.

As a result of Hone's trip we were able to have Larry Anderson present on the 1984 Hikoi ki Waitangi - well known for the beat of the drum, and also in attendance at Te Hui Oranga O Te Moana Nui A Kiwa.

1984 I made the trip representing WAC to the 10th IITC conference which was held at Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation where the following resolutions

were passed:

- 1) that the IITC adopt the name AOTEAROA as being the official name of our country (all documentation to use the the term AOTEAROA (NZ) instead of New Zealand)
rider: that the name New Zealand only be used in connection with NZ government endorsed actions.
- 2) that the IITC include the date of Feb 6 (Feb 5 USA time) as an international day of solidarity.
- 3) that the IITC opposes the exploitation of the Maori people in the exhibition 'Te Maori' realises too that they have also been exploited for capital gain.
- 4) that the IITC support the setting up of an office in Aotearoa.

While there, discussion was had re the office, and although it was supported, it was felt that a first step was to elect a representative to the board of the IITC.

At a meeting I was elected as that representative for a term of 4yrs from May 1 1985 - May 1 1989 at which time a new representative may be chosen. During this time I hope to liase closely with the IITC with updates and progress as we strive towards our independence as well as make them aware of different issues within the Pacific Region.

1985 saw the Indian delegation consisting of Johnell Sanchez and two sons Day and Redhouse, as well as George Martin. They were present on the march to Waitangi and also the national speaking tour.

1986 the IITC conference will be held at Big Mountain, Arizona which I will be attending with my 1yr old son Hone Pani, who I was carrying when I went in 1984.

The take of Big Mountain is very similar to that of Takaparawha and 1986 is designated for the relocation of the Indian people. More information is included.

Because of the national speaking tour that the overseas people have been on the Aotearoa delegation that will be attending this years IITC conf. consists of representatives from Kahunungu, Tai Rawhiti, Tauranga Moana who have become part of a support group both to the Hawaiian and Indian. The route that we are hoping to take is through Hawaii where we will give support to the Hawaiians in their fight to stop the bombing of one of the sacred islands 'Kaho'olawe' under the guise of 'Rimpac Exercises' of which our country takes part in. More information is included.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

- May 25 depart Aotearoa
- May 27 - 31 Kaho'olawe access
- June 2 - 8 IITC conference Big Mountain
- June 9 - 30 national speaking tour
- July 2 - 8 sundance Big Mountain
- July 9 return home

PROPOSED BUDGET

	\$NZ
Ak - Honolulu * Honolulu - San Francisco return	1600.00
San Francisco - nearest airport for conference return.	300.00
accomodation @ \$40 per wk for approx 7 wks	280.00
travel allowance for petrol @ \$20 per wk for approx 7 wks	140.00
toll calls national & international to organise delegation	<u>200.00</u>
	<u>\$2520.00</u>

Calender of International Events

- 1980 - sent rep. to the Black Hills Land Struggle in Sth Dakota during winter where first ever air lift was taken to the area.
- brought 1 Hawaiian and 1 Aboriginal for protest march to Waitangi
- 1981 - 2 Indian chiefs with delegation came to support court case of Nga Kuri A Tu.
- Hawaiian present at Waitangi protest march.
- 1982 - Aboriginal present on Waitangi protest march.
- first Te Hui Oranga o Te Moana Nui A Kiwa with international reps coming from Pacific Rim countries.
- 1983 - rep from IITC came to get support for their struggles.
- WAC sent rep to IITC conf.
- 1984 - 12 international guests attended protest march and national speaking tour.
- WAC rep at Hawaiian protest against 'Rimpac Exercises'
- attended 10th IITC conference at Sth Dakota.
- 1985 - Indian delegation which consisted of 2 children, 2 Hawaiian, 1 Tahitian and 1 Kanak present on the protest march as well available for national speaking tour.
- 1986 - WAC rep to 11th IITC conf.
- international rep for Waitangi hui at Waitangi and also for Te Hui Oranga.

AROHANUI



HINEWHARE HARAWIRA