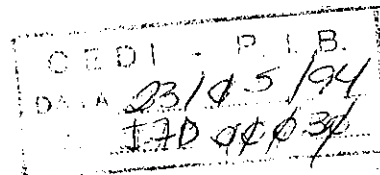


THE FORD FOUNDATION  
RIO DE JANEIRO - RJ  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM



*Confidential*

TO: Raul Sanchez  
FROM: Peter Fry *RF*

DATE: December 29, 1988

COPIES TO: Mora McLean  
Joan Dassin  
Peter May

SUBJECT: Proposal from Indian Law Resource Center

Sorry to have delayed so long in replying to your November 24 memorandum. Preparations for immediate relocation to Harare have left me with little time to think, let alone write!

Although any decision on this proposal will depend on the Brazil office staff's views from January 14 onwards, I have a few ideas which I would like to register before leaving:

1. The Brazil office has a long and respectable history in the funding of Indian legal assistance programs and organizations. The recent constitutional victories were achieved by the hard work of those and other Brazilian organizations. Our participation in providing support for Brazilian organizations has therefore borne some fruit. But more support will be needed, especially as Indians themselves develop their own organizations.

2. We have just received a proposal from a newly formed Nucleus for Indian Rights, a top-rate coalition of Indians and non-Indians (many of them Foundation grantees) that intends to monitor constitutional provisions, undertake the defense of Indian groups, train human rights lawyers in the field of Indian law and publish and disseminate important findings on those issues. Such a project will certainly be a strong contender for funds from our beleaguered FY 1989 budget.

3. Given 1 and 2 and our serious lack of funds at this stage, I would argue against the Brazil office providing direct support to the Indian Law Resource Center. Rather, I would look more favourably upon providing funds to local Brazilian organizations to make use of the Center should they so desire. Maybe the new Nucleus would welcome guidance. Maybe not.

4. In spite of my restrictions as far as Brazil office funding is concerned, I should add that the proposal is extremely well-informed and well-prepared. Maybe New York would like to help them out with their Brazilian liaison work?

Best wishes and Happy 1989.