

Our Ref. ADY:asm

10th March, 1988

President Jose Sarney
Barasilia - DF
BRAZIL

COMISSÃO CRIAÇÃO PARQUE YANDOMAMI
C. C. P. Y
BOA VISTA, P.R.

CEDI - P. I. B.
DATA 27/03/88
COD. 52060017

Your Excellency:

We have received a letter dated 18 February 1988 from Head Office of the World Council of Churches in Geneva informing us of the plight of our indigenous sisters and brothers in your country. Brazil is a country known to have amongst its teeming population peoples who have come from Europe, North America, Central America, Africa and in fact from all over the world but which also includes the Indians who are themselves the indigenous inhabitants. It must be an enriching diversity of human resources to have them all living in Brazil, a country which is a significant member of the international community through its membership of the United Nations Organisation, and which holds as dear the fundamental rights of human beings.

I write, your excellency, with the concern that a draft proposal prepared by your Inter-Agency Working Group and National Security Council of Brazil is now before your National Assembly for its deliberation. If the said proposal is accepted, we fear that 80% of Brazilian indigenous people will lose their rights of ownership and possession of traditional lands. We know that a particular people called Makuxi, are reported to be threatened with death and are being moved off their lands.

We call on you and your Government to request first that indigenous land rights of Brazil be respected and for the forced removals of inhabitants to be ended and to give support for strongest constitutional guarantees for the indigenous people.

Our Pacific Conference of Churches includes as members indigenous peoples who are themselves engaged in the struggle for the repossession of their traditional rights over their land and sea. We therefore look upon the struggle of your own people as of the greatest importance.

Above all, we appeal to you in the name of Jesus Christ whose Gospel calls for the liberation of all from bondage, social, economic, cultural and political. PCC is committed to proclaim that Gospel as well as seeking the recognition of the fundamental rights of humanity as contained in the United Nations Charter.

2/.....

President Jose Sarney

10th March, 1988

we are therefore sending this letter in response to a desperate appeal from your indigenous people for help. The appeal is directed to you calling for your immediate action.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Rev) Akwila D. Yabaki
SECRETARY - JUSTICE, PEACE & DEVELOPMENT

cc. ✓ Carlos Zuzquin
c/o Mauricio e Maria
Rua Cereje Cruz no. 403
Boa Vista - Roraima/Brazil
CEP: 69.300