

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
30th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
AJUMAWI TERRITORY, FALLS RIVER MILLS, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
July 8 – 11, 2004

Presented by the North/South Indigenous Network against Pesticides
and the “Right to Food, Subsistence, and Health” Commission

Bearing in mind the IITC’s decision to support the formation of the North/South Indigenous Network against Pesticides in order to continue to exchange information among Indigenous Peoples and provide better education to our communities regarding pesticides that impact environmental justice and the right to food and health, above all for infants and children;

Reminded that the objectives of the International Indian Treaty Council include the dissemination of information on human rights and environmental justice for Indigenous Peoples, their struggles, concerns, and perspectives;

Considering that members of several indigenous communities and tribes have submitted their testimony and documentation to IITC and to the United Nations, regarding the serious effects of exposure to dangerous pesticides, which contaminate the air and waters and migrate, penetrating the food chain worldwide, causing cancer, birth defects and other serious problems;

Bearing in mind that industrial countries such as the United States continue to allow the production and exportation of various toxic chemicals, including some that are prohibited for use in their own countries, to countries such as Mexico and Guatemala; and that between 1996 and 2000, the USA, for example, exported almost 1.1 billion pounds of pesticides, that is, 16 tons per hour, that were identified as known or suspected carcinogens;

Bearing in mind that many indigenous workers and communities who incur the direct effects have never been informed of the serious dangers of these toxins and do not receive any form of warning or protection;

Bearing in mind that many pesticides are Persistent Organic Pollutants that bioaccumulate in the bodies of humans and animals and widely disperse in the environment, affecting the land, water, and health, and contaminating foods, especially dairy products and meat, including breast milk, thereby violating the right to food throughout the world and especially in the Arctic;

Taking note of the negative experiences that Indigenous Peoples, in their great majority, have had with pesticides, chemical fertilizers and other man-made poisons:

The 30th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conference in Ajumawi territory of the Pit River Nation, California, July 8 – 11, 2004:

THE INTERNATIONAL INIDAN TREATY COUNCIL WILL fulfill all international, national and local obligations and commitments it has undertaken to promote, disseminate, teach, and guarantee the use and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental liberties;

THE INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL WILL prioritize its continued support for the efforts of indigenous communities at the United Nations and other national and international entities and forums to prohibit the practice and policy of countries who export toxins known to be dangerous or prohibited for use within those same countries;

THE INTERNATIONAL INIDAN TREATY COUNCIL calls on the international community, the member countries of the United Nations, and its various agencies and mechanisms, NGO's, industry and civil society to recognize that this policy represents a serious violation of the rights of the child, the right to food and other fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples and other Peoples of the world, together with the health of our mother earth and all living beings;

THE INTERNATIONAL INIDAN TREATY COUNCIL invites all organizations, communities and Nations to present and promote understanding, analysis, discussion, and the dissemination of information on the effects of pesticides in their communities and certain countries' policies to export pesticides and other prohibited toxins;