

Tetuwán Oyate

**MEMBER
RESERVATIONS**
Pine Ridge
Lower Brule
Cheyenne River
Standing Rock
Rosebud
Fort Peck
Crow Creek
Santee
Canadian Sioux

ITEM 7

World Conference against Racism including the Participation of Indigenous peoples
Intervention of the Tetuwán Oyate, Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council
delivered by Tony Black Feather
Spokesman, Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council

Commission on Human Rights--Subcommission on the Promotion and
Protection of Human Rights

XIVth Session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations
United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland July 23 – 27, 2001

Greetings Madam Chairperson from the traditional leadership of the Tetuwán Oyate Lakota Nation. My name is Tony Black Feather and I am the Spokesman for the Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council.

Today our topic is racism and the Conference on this subject to be held in South Africa. I want to say a few words on this, brief and to the point. Racism takes many forms. One form that has a particular impact upon the work that we do is creation of illegal law and jurisdiction within certain countries that have ignored our sacred treaties. The ability to make internationally binding treaties into something less is a violation of the Natural Law, because our treaties were sealed with prayer. It is a form of racism, against nations of people based upon centuries of institutionalized racism, originating with the Catholic Church, the Papal Bulls and the Law of Nations and continuing today with the Indian Reorganization Act, violation of sacred sites and illegal occupancy of treaty territory. It is political indoctrination using assimilation to destroy a race of people. It is time to end this violation of Natural Law and human rights standards. This type of system is designed to divide our peoples, hurt our elders and children and further violations must be justified in the eyes of the world. They want to destroy my Lakota people with an anti-Christ system.

Treaties and the history of domination based on racism by Western nations must be a part of the Conference on Racism. The conference must address, in particular, United States human rights violations against the Indigenous peoples of America. The American government condemns other nations while hiding its own tragic history of domination, annihilation and warfare against a race of people. The United States seems to think that separate rules apply to it as evidenced in their rejection of global warming and biological warfare agreements. They are only one nation among many and we cannot stand for it. International bodies must support the efforts of Indigenous peoples to change international law so it is based on our own Natural Law, which reflects the human rights standards of the United Nations. This should be included in the Agenda for the Conference and made a part of all the recommendations issuing from it. Ignoring international treaties is a form of racism based on denial of the collective rights of Indigenous peoples and the Lakota Nation. We live in a sick and dying world and if the Conference on Racism only concerns itself with racism against individuals, it will fail to address the concerns of Indigenous peoples. I had hoped to carry this message to South Africa myself, but it is hard for our traditional people to attend so many international conferences when resources are unavailable to us. I would therefore ask that the Working Group send a strong message to the Conference that collective rights of Indigenous peoples be a part of the Conference.

Wopila. Mitaku Oyasin.

Attachment 17

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