Council of Indigenous Listeners

for the

International Indigenous Peoples Tribunals

May 17-19, 1993

The Council of Indigenous Listeners is a group of twelve Indigenous People who will serve as the hear the testimony of Indigenous Nations, organization and community groups at the International Indigenous Peoples Tribunals. Some of the responsibilities of the Listeners will be as follows:

- The Listeners will hear testimonies from Indigenous Nations, organizations and community groups from throughout the Continent and deliberate and decide upon the findings.

- The Listeners (with the help of a technical team) will be responsible produce the final documentation in which to submit to the United Nations and whatever other forums the Council of Listeners view as necessary.

- The Council will decide which Indigenous nations, organizations, and community groups help demonstrate clearly the impact the Nation-state governments have had upon Indigenous Sovereignty rights. With this information the Council will select a few examples of "living" sovereignty as a way to advance the grassroot Sovereignty efforts.

- The Council will provide leadership beyond the tribunals by providing direction and reaffirming the Indigenous Sovereignty rights strategy.

- The Council will provide international leadership during the Tribunals by facilitating presentation and thus optimizing the most effective and complete testimony.

- The Council should be able to derive from the testimonies a working foundation for the terminology that is utilized by groups that will testify. For example, the United Nations definition of Sovereignty is quite different than the grassroot Indigenous peoples vision of Sovereignty and it may be that this needs to be addressed at the International level and other various United Nations forums.