

Network, the National Environmental Summit, the Indigenous Peoples Alliance and the Indigenous Environment Network.

The Indigenous Peoples Tribunals will be held to bring forth these critical issues.

## **THE TRIBUNAL STRATEGY**

The Indigenous Peoples Alliance and the Coordinating Commission of Indigenous Nations and Organizations of the Continent (CONIC) endorsed the proposal to host regional tribunals on the continental level and to deliver a report of the findings to the United Nations in 1993.

The United Nations has designated 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. We are proposing that in 1993, Indigenous Nations call for the UN General Assembly to convene a Special Session to specifically hear the grievances and of the assaults made upon Indigenous Peoples. The strategy is not to ask for Sovereignty, but rather to assert it to the World Community. We are asking the General Assembly to adopt the Working Group on Indigenous Populations "Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". We believe that the timing is right in the sense that the UN has gone beyond its own definition of Sovereignty by intervening within the internal affairs of Nation-state governments throughout the world. A recent example is the situation of the United Nations intervening on behalf of the Kurds within the Iraq borders. They have admitted this and are unsure how to approach Indigenous Sovereignty rights.

If the United Nations does not accept this proposal, we believe that we have already begun to accomplish our goal to build alliances with other Indigenous Nations and Organizations throughout the continental to begin building an Indigenous Sovereignty campaign.

## **COALITION BUILDING**

We believe that alliance building will be the fruit of this whole effort. Indigenous People have always held the inter-relatedness of all beings as an integral, important part of our responsibility to Mother Earth and all Creation. We believe that the Non-Governmental Organizations, Churches and other institutions are willing to help assist in this effort. Several Churches have made formal apologies to Indigenous people regarding the past 500 years of oppression and colonization. Many of the NGO's have been working precisely on this issue and many welcome the idea that Indigenous Nations prepare to directly meet with the UN General Assembly on a Nation to Nation basis. This is a time to unite all our efforts to protect and prepare for future generations.

## **COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS LISTENERS**

We are seeking 12 Indigenous Listeners which will serve as the council who will listen to the concerns brought forth by Indigenous Nations, organizations and community groups. The Council will have the primary responsibility to produce the final documentation of the tribunals which will then be presented to the United Nations in 1993. The council will provide leadership beyond the tribunals by helping to decide which Indigenous Nations, organizations and community groups help demonstrate clearly the impacts the Nation-state governments have had upon Indigenous Sovereignty rights.