



SANTE' MAWI'OMI wjit MIKMAQ

foreign affairs

18 May 1987

Jakob Th. Möller
Chief, Communications Unit
Centre for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10

Ref.: Case No. 205/1986

Dear Mr. Möller:

With regard to the above-referenced matter pending before the Human Rights Committee under the Optional Protocol, I have the honour to advise you of further developments which the Committee may consider relevant.

The final conference between the Government of Canada and selected indigenous organisations, for the discussion of the constitutional status of "aboriginal peoples" in Canada, took place on 26-27 March last as had been anticipated by the State party in its Response of 9 February. As anticipated by paragraph 36 of our communication, we were not permitted to participate. We must further advise you that the conference was unable to reach any agreement. There is no constitutional authority to convene any further conferences.

In paragraph 50 of our communication, we sought a declaration--

that the future political status of the Mikmaq people, in relation to Canada, must be based on the freely-expressed wishes of the Mikmaq people themselves, either through the consultative framework established by section 37 of the Constitution Act 1982, or through negotiations and/or plebiscites independently arranged for this purpose.

Now that the section 37 process has expired without results, there is greater need than ever to declare the necessity of preceding any legislation affecting the political status of Mikmaq people within Canada on direct negotiations, as we have repeatedly proposed, thus far unsuccessfully, to the State party.

Appreciatively,


Russel Barsh

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