

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-090

Title: Appeal to Religious Institutions for Support

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians in our own distinct territories, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the treaty obligation and trust responsibility in its many facets, one being a moral duty; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the over zealous military and religious influences on the Native peoples of America, in the many tragic historical events that have taken place on this sacred ground we call Mother Earth, the displacement of whole tribes in the Trail of Tears to the many massacres such as Sand Creek lead by a minister and the Wounded Knee the killing of innocent women & children, and yet to this day it has not been addressed in a fair and just manner by our world leaders in the U.S. government; and

WHEREAS, in this recognition our Tribal People are still under attack in many areas but specifically in recent Supreme Court decisions that are detrimental to the civil liberties of Tribes and their members, there are many injustices to the Native People, the first inhabitants of this sacred ground called America, that to this day have yet to be addressed by the U.S. government in proper reconciliation and restitution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request clergy's of the religious institutions of God in America, the Pope in the Vatican, and the religious institutions

of God of the world support the moral duty/trust responsibility of the U.S. government to the Native Peoples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the continuing exploitation of Native Peoples, the stealing of the land and resources, the polluting of the air and water be addressed as a moral wrong in dire need of correction, thou shall not steal should be adhered to by the U.S. government, all organizations, and institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we, appeal to the clergy of the religious institutions of God in America and the Pope in the Vatican ask their congregations to recognize the exploitation that is still persistent today and the clergy and their congregations of the religious institutions of God pressure their state & federal legislators to the moral duty of the U.S. government's treaty obligation and trust responsibility to the Native Peoples; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.