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EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP ON AMAZONIA

*Amazonia: ahora o nunca !*

*Amazonia: now or never !*

*Amazonie: maintenant ou jamais !*

*Amazonie: jetzt oder niemals !*

*Amazonie: nu of nooit !*

Mr. Carlos Macedo

SOCIETY OF ENDANGERED PEOPLES

Maria Hilserstrasse 105 - II-13

1060 Vienna

AUSTRIA

Ref.CR/AM/49/90

12th April, 1990

Dear Friends,

Re: Meeting of the European Working Group on Amazonia, on  
May 4th, 1990.

This is to invite you to the meeting of the European Working Group on Amazonia, which will take place on May 4th, 1990, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, at the EEB, Brussels.

I regret to inform you that we still have not been able to find the necessary funds to assist you with travel expenses to come to Brussels. Nevertheless, I am hopeful that the European Commission will decide positively on our new grant-proposal submitted to DG I on April 2nd. The proposal includes the production of a directory of organizations working on Amazonian issues and a comparative analysis of the main positions and views regarding the development of Amazonia.

As regards to the status of the Working Group, I can inform you that the EEB has decided that the group should become fully independent, and develop its own administrative support, letter-head paper, etc. For the coming period, however, we can continue to make use of the EEB secretariat services.

As a preliminary agenda for the meeting, I suggest, in general, an updating of the subjects listed in our working programme and, more specifically, on the following:

- The Yanomami indigenous people:

On January 25, the Brazilian government announced a conciliatory solution to the Yanomami problem. The miners would be transferred to the Santa Rosa mining reserve - an area of 100,000 hectares outside the National Forest of Roraima. Nevertheless, after a violent miner's demonstration in Boa Vista, Justice Minister Saulo Ramos backed out of the agreement, and proposed that the miners could prospect in the National Forest - but only after the completion of the legal paperwork.

- The World Bank has approved a loan to the Brazilian National Environmental Project, whose objectives are to strengthen the National Environmental Agency (IBAMA) and to protect conservation areas and endangered ecosystems in the Pantanal wetlands and the Atlantic forest.

We are sending to you, in a separate envelope, background documentation on some of the topics listed above, and also copies of the new grant-proposal, letters sent to the Presidents of Brazil and Colombia in the name of the Working Group, letter about the outcome of the Brazilian extractive reserves' campaign, reference to the article by Arturo Ornat on sustainable development of tropical forests, and other relevant information.

I hope to be able to send you the last meeting's minutes in time for the next meeting, but it may be necessary, for technical reasons, to distribute them at the meeting on May 4th.

I hope to see as many of you in Brussels, but if you cannot come, please send us your comments and news.

My best regards,

*Romano*  
Claudia Romano  
Consultant

On behalf of W. Veening  
Chairman of the European  
Working Group on Amazonia

*Liebe Grüße*  
*Carlos Haube*

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- The new Brazilian government: What to expect and how to assist José Lutzenberger in his new post as Special Secretary for the Environment.

- The "Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indigenas de la Cuenca Amazónica" -COICA- is organizing a workshop to be held in Iquitos, Peru, from 7 to 11 May, 1990. Environmentalists of USA, Europe and South America are being invited for the meeting, which aims to find concrete ways for improving co-operation between indigenous and environmental organizations.

- Padre Paolo Joanil da Silva is coming to Madrid at the beginning of May and will spend a month in Europe. He has been working in the Carajás region in Pará, Brazil, for ten years and has become one of the leaders of peaceful resistance movements in defence of the poor people of the region. At the moment, visits are arranged in Bonn, Brussels and Strasbourg. For more details contact Wouter Veening, Claudia Romano (at the EEB) or José Santamarta (Comisión Pró-Amazonia).

- The situation of oil exploitation in the Ecuadorian Amazon: In 1986 the Ecuadorian government gave the concession to oil exploitation within Ecuador's largest National Park, the Yasuni. One of the most serious problems of oil development in the area has been the cultural destruction of the Huaorani people and the contamination and environmental destruction. The "Corporación de Defensa de la Vida" - CORDAVI- has taken legal action against the concession to oil exploitation within Yasuni National Park and three other protected areas. CORDAVI is asking for information on the possible International Law measures which could be used in their legal fight for the protection of the protected areas. (A report by CORDAVI: "The rights of Nature in Ecuador's Amazon Basin" will be available at the meeting or at request.)

- The situation of the Ashaninka people of Peru: AIDSEP, an indigenous organization in Peru, denounced in 1986 the terrible situation of the Ashaninka people. To this day, the situation has not improved; hundreds of families are kept as slaves on farms and the local authorities close their eyes to the problem. (A report produced by COICA on the future of the Amazon, directed to the International Community, will be available at the meeting or at request.)

- The situation in Suriname

- The Dutch government may start next year a reforestation project with tropical trees in South America, to offset carbon dioxide pollution. The scheme has not been approved yet. Any possible action/pressure by the working group on this?

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP ON AMAZONIA  
19th JANUARY 1990, 10.00 a.m. - 16.00 p.m.  
BRUSSELS

1. Introduction

Present:

Roberto Smeraldi (FoE-Italy) (RS)  
Peter Koenig (Individual consultant, representing the GAIA Foundation in London, and World Runners in Switzerland) (PK)  
Brigitte Vonäsch (Switzerland) (BV)  
Jacques de Kort (WIP/Dutch Rainforest Campaign) (JDK)  
Miles Pratt (Comisión Pro Amazonia-Spain) (MP)  
Wendel Trio (Belgium, KWIA) (WT)  
Wam Kat (Third World Rainforest Group - NL) (WK)  
Albert Westerbeek (Third World Rainforest Group - NL) (AK)  
Johan Bosman (KWIA-Belgium) (JB)  
Ana Cuenca (CODA-Spain) (AC)  
Wouter Veening (EEB/RISED) (WV)  
Jeanette Kingham (EEB/RISED) (JK)  
J. Smeyers (Natuur 2000-Belgium) (JS)  
Claudio Romano (Consultant to Working Group-Brazil) (CR)

Apologies:

Ronald van der Giessen (WWF-Netherlands)  
Tony Long (WWF-International)  
Koy Thomson (FoE-UK)  
Clarita Müller Plantenberg (FGR)

Suggestions for discussion points from:

Tony Gross, CEDI, Brazil  
Yollanda Kakabadse, Funacion Natura, Quito, Ecuador  
Association Amigos del Bosque, Guatemala  
Parliamentarians Baleares  
Terra Brazil, Toulouse, France  
Magda Renner, FoE, Brazil  
IWGIA, Copenhagen

2. Status of the Working Group

The EEB Executive decided that it should work as any other EEB working group. At the AGM of the EEB last December, however, it was suggested that it should be part of the EEB environment and development working group. WV wants the Working Group to be independent, especially for what concerns the substance matters. Of course EEB has to be consulted for making use of the EEB office.

MP: The Spanish feel very strongly about independence. Were it impossible to achieve, they would have to rethink their involvement. He has a letter with him from José Santamarta Flores, President of the Comisarió Pro Amazonia and vice-chairman of the Working group, explaining this position. WV will report position of Working group to the EEB Executive.

3. The Yanomami situation

Most of the morning session was devoted to a discussion of the Yanomami situation and potential action on the side of the Working group, which should be supplementary to what is already being done.

3.1. Information/communication

First of all the need for information on hard facts, coming directly

out of the area, was stressed. Two sources were named: Carlos Zaquini, working with a Mission in Boa Vista, speaks Yanomami, can be contacted through CEDI (fax link). The other link is the chief of the Macuchi tribe, who has a phone link with FoE-Italy. CEDI (Tony Gross contact person), can supply Working group members and other interested parties with information through E-mail, because of their relations with "Acao Pela Cidadania", in which several organisations in the areas, fighting for justice and sustainable development, cooperate. Since most information coming from the area will be biased (because so much has to be done by conjecture and the basis of rumours), sources should preferably be diversified (PK). A central point to collect and then distribute information for action purposes is necessary, however (WV). The World Information Clearing Centre in Switzerland and the Green Net Information Centre in the Netherlands, could serve as central point(s). PK and WK will look at possibilities.

### 3.2. Present situation

PK: Especially news on the medical and food situation is vital. If present situation continues, Yanomami may not survive more than 3 to 4 months. He reports that at this moment there is little news. Around January 2, medical teams visited the most affected areas, they were deserted. January 8: Garimpeiros to be evacuated organized a protest demonstration. As a result government decided they only had to leave the national forests, which of course would hardly help the situation. MP points to information that recently 200 Yanomami were killed. Source is not sure, however. (Shows Brazilian press clippings.)

In Brazil the Courts are speaking out against the non-execution of the evacuation orders, which are based on existing laws, by the Government and the police. The Courts are losing their face. We have an ally there!

JB has read in newspaper that President Sarney had made \$ 500.000 available for medical care.

WV has heard from Brazilian Embassy a few days earlier that there were no reports about violence in the area. Gold-diggers seemed to move into Guyana.

On the mercury pollution issue, BV reports that Brazilian Minister of Defence told (Japanese) Director of WHO that "mercury is naturally bound to gold", so mercury pollution is inevitable and therefore money is necessary to purify the rivers. This maybe an excuse to get outside money and for not doing anything about the gold-diggers. Brazilian NGOs will talk with organisation of geologists to 'debunk' this theory. WHO Director believes mercury pollution could be as bad as the one Japan has had.

Other pieces of information/documentation. There is a film available about the area (PK), a travelling exhibition is being organized by Comisión Pro Amazonia (MP); a Dutch exhibition and TV programme videos are available (JDK).

### 3.3. Action/short term

BV and PK warn for too much outside political pressure. We should follow as much as possible suggestions and advice from our Brazilian friends. On the other hand, for them it is also not too clear what can be done.

CEDI has suggested to approach Brazilian Ambassadors to express our concerns.

Political lobby, however, is not the only thing we should do. We should promote constructive, economically viable alternatives for the region. Also, we should prepare for food and medical relief action, if the area so desires.

RS points to the need to have this type of action well organized. The logistical problems are considerable: the Yanomami live widely dispersed, they have their own language and their own medicines and medical practices. Outside medical aid has to fit their own system and has to be applied in communication with their own practitioners. Any help has to be well-planned and supervised, also on the long-term, because of potential (unexpected) side-effects. JDK mentions the fact that Médecins Sans Frontières do not work in Brazil, since the Brazilian authorities have turned down all 'foreign aid'. BV says that Red Cross only helps when there is armed struggle. They should always help, however, when there is a need. A small international action would be adequate.

JDK says that the logistical problems can be overcome. He stresses the need to deal with Mr Machado, the man who organizes the flying-in of the gold-miners, the military - they can remove the landing-strips - and the local FUNAI, because of their contacts and presence inside the Yanomami territory. Also, there are border problems with Venezuela and Guyana. Action cannot rely upon the corrupt and conservative local authorities.

He could approach Pilotes Sans Frontières at Schiphol Airport. They could fly in the supplies. (Getting the supplies from the existing relief organisations would not be the biggest problem. The Dutch relief organisation NOVIB, will go next week to Brazil.)

The following approach was suggested by PK and agreed upon:  
We would be prepared first to organize whatever we could do on our side (getting the necessary supplies and means of transportation to the area ready) and start moving whenever the local organization would be in place. This approach would be communicated as a positive sign of our willingness to help and to listen.

PK would serve as trait-d'union, giving the signals to go ahead and also preparing the guidelines on what to ask for concretely in case of goods and services.

If the Brazilian Government refuses this offer, spreading this information by E-mail around the globe would not help their image...

E-mail/fax will be our means of communication.

There was discussion whether short-term political action by the European parliament (EP) would be advisable.

An EP resolution calling for expelling the garimpeiros and restoring the rights of the Yanomami was already adopted. The resolution could have been more operational, however, by specifying for example, support for the mercury clean-up. JDK mentions in this respect a conference on mercury pollution in Bélem.

It was felt that EP missions to the area at this moment could be

counter-productive.

Acting as concerned individuals and NGOs should be preferred in the given circumstances.

### 3.4. Action/longer-term

A vision on the future of the region has to be developed, proceeding from the protection of the rights of the Yanomami and the preservation of the unique ecological wealth of the area, and taking into account the need for sustainable solutions for the problems facing the territory.

PK will go, also on behalf of the Working group, to Dr. Konrad Gorinsky's lecture on Roraima, on January 25th in the Venezuelan Embassy in London, to hear about his ideas on how to make use of the ecological wealth of Roraima.

World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Communities should be approached to stop short-sighted 'economic' loans, to help with cleaning-up the mercury pollution, and to incorporate the long-term ecological perspective into their lending or grant operations. The EP has asked the European Commission to come up with new guidelines for its aid programmes to Latin America, especially on the subjects of human rights, indigenous peoples and the environment. We could suggest constructive amendments.

In this area WV and the secretariat of the Working group will take the necessary initiatives. RS reminds the Working group of EC Commissioner Ripa di Meana's (DG XI) commitment to Amazonia, made at a FoE conference last year.

Of course, letters as written by the Comisión Pro Amazonia to President Sarney, can still be written and sent out to Brazilian Embassies and Government officials.

It will be most important, however, to receive suggestions on the course and direction of future action from our friends in Brazil.

### 4. World Bank loan to Rondonia

WV: Loan aims at protecting indigenous communities and natural resources in Rondonia, also making up for damage caused by previous loans for road-building. This is in itself good, but there are no guarantees that the money will actually be used to these ends. Consultation with local communities and NGOs has been absolutely insufficient and there is too much danger that the money will be used for further encroachment upon indigenous and rubber-tappers territories or disappear in the pockets of fraudulent local authorities. IUCN-Netherlands and EEB have co-signed a letter drafted by Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, FoE-Washington and FoE-Sweden, calling for linking disbursements to concrete, "monitorable" performance at field level.

RS points to the need to address in each country the Minister of Finance (responsible for World Bank policies), interested Members of Parliament, and the Executive Directors of the World Bank in Washington, representing the various countries. They will probably have to vote on the loan in late February.

Since the problems in Rondonia are to a great deal caused by the immigration of poor and landless people from other parts of Brazil, it is important that the Working group also looks at the causes of this migration and supports the movement for a Peforma Agraria, the expulsion of labour from this soybean production in Southern Brazil, the moving up of the soybean frontier, etc. World Bank and IADB should be lobbied to promote sustainable development outside Amazonia instead of financing destructive projects inside Amazonia!

(WV)



JDK will show a video on the situation of the Zoro Indians in Rondonia after the meeting.

5. Carajas

MEP Hemmo Muntingh and his assistant Bart Romijn are preparing a second resolution on the EC's involvement in the Carajas iron-mining projects. Although the biggest problems are with the use of charcoal, derived directly from the rainforest, to produce pig-iron, an internal World Bank report now also criticizes the environmental aspects of the iron-mine itself, always hailed as an environmentally sound operation. The new resolution will certainly be adopted by the new EP, which is 'greener' than the previous EP, and will be sent to the Working group.

WV mentions that Magda Renner (FoE-Brazil) and Yolanda Kakabadse (Fundacion Natura, Ecuador) have expressed great worries at the ideas in Europe to boycott this pig-iron. It would reinforce the position (of especially the military) that all this foreign concern about indigenous peoples and the environment is only a pretext to boycott Brazilian products and to weaken the economic position of the country.

RS agrees with WV, however, that a) we should make clear that nobody likes boycotts, but b) that we may be forced to use this "ultimate remedy" if the Brazilian Government refuses to consider alternatives to charcoal and continues to open up the area for migration.

→ The problem is, of course, to find out in which (end)products this pig-iron is used. We should know what to boycott.

WV: IUCN-Netherlands is doing research on steel production and use in the Netherlands. Maybe it is possible to talk with the steel industry about this.

AFTERNOON SESSION

6. Colombia

WV: Liz Hosken (GAIA Foundation) asks us to congratulate President Barco with his initiative to hand over the management of large parts of Colombian Amazonia to the indigenous peoples and also to congratulate the EC for supporting his initiative. President Barco has a personal interest in this. Everybody agrees that the Working group should send out congratulatory letters.

MP: In Madrid we heard about destructions in the Cacho by Smurfit, an Irish company, and Cartón Columbia, who use tropical wood to manufacture paper pulp. The following organisation is asking to put pressure on Smurfit:

Fundación Herencia Verde (Enrique Murqusitio)  
Cali, AA 32802, Colombia

Further details can be obtained from José Santamarta of the Comisión Pro Amazonia.

JDK counters information that now the activities have stopped, because of the high costs and bad communications (transport by boat etc.).

The destruction is carrying on; they had information from a group (is not sure which).

7. Road BR 364

WV: Has no news on this project except that certain Peruvian NGOs and the government are now working on a document for a Peruvian conservation strategy (which would include the Amazon area).

Promoting sustainable development in other parts of Peru would have positive results for the Amazon.  
The BR 364 may not be finished before long because of terrorism in Peru.

(Reads a passage from World Rainforest Report, which reports that Japan is ready to finance the last section of the road. They bought logging concessions, in Western Amazonia and now want to shorten the transportation distance to Japan. He also points to a WWF News article on the Amerindians in Peru.)

JDK: A campaign is going on to support the Indians (a letter was sent to the Government of Peru).

RS: Varga Llosa confirmed his position, i.e. to oppose the road. But it is difficult to rely on such statements, as he is campaigning for the presidential election! In the past, he used to be in favour of opening up the forest.

#### 8. Situation in Ecuador

WV: An article on the Conoco Oil Company operations in the Ecuadorean Amazon, from World Rainforests Report will be annexed to these minutes.

JDK: We have had a request from the Indians from Ecuador, who would like to send someone over to Europe, as "ambassador". Could we give this support?

AC/  
MP Luis Vargas (who belongs to the Ashuar-community of Ecuador and also chairs the CONFENIAE - Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonía Ecuatoriana) came over to Europe, to sign a cooperation agreement for the 500th Anniversary of the Discovery with the Comisión del Quinto Centenario y CONFENIAE: this agreement will aim to strengthen the capacity of indigenous craftsmanship and help with the marketing of their products. The idea is to publicize the situation of the Indians. L. Vargas also visited the Comisión Pro-Amazonia.

In fact, the indigenous people of the Amazon are preparing to celebrate the 500th Anniversary: on the one hand, there will be official celebrations, including help for the marketing of local craftsmanship in Spain, and on the other hand, the Comisión Pro-Amazonia will celebrate the Indian "resistance".

#### 9. The situation in Suriname

JDK: The status quo is that the rivalry between the Indians and the Blacks continues. The latter are also divided. Until recently, the Indians lived either in the city, where they suffered discrimination, or in the forest. Now, they are starting to move to the countryside. They have mounted armed resistance since a year ago, apparently benefitting from the support of the army.

The health situation is very bad especially in cities and in the refugee camps (which were established in 1987, when the civil war started).

JDK doubts there will be a solution soon. Added to that, is a danger that the US might interfere (the Indians think that is possible). The outcome also depends on an agreement between the Indian and the Blacks on forest policy. This could bring a break-through. Armed resistance is presently blocking (potentially damaging) development projects.

Production of aluminium: exports to North America are endangered ...

WV: There is not much to do at the European level, although Suriname is an ACP country and we could use the framework of the Lomé Agreements.

JDK: The EC should consider the bad health situation!

#### 10. Sustainable Development

WV: We should consider what the possibilities for sustainable development in Amazonia are. At the last meeting, Arturo Ornat said he was willing to write on that. We will tell him that we would like to profit soon from his insights.

Extractive reserves: there was a meeting in Washington at the beginning of December on extractive reserves. We shall have a report.

If the EC gives money to the Working group we will produce an analysis of the various views, positions and approaches on the development of Amazonia and its relevance for cooperation with Europe, including the following:

- Views of the indigenous communities
- Position of rubber-tappers
- FAO/UNEP analysis of ecological/agricultural zoning
- Present IUCN meeting in Quito on the conservation of ecosystems
- Official government documents like "Nossa Natureza"
- World Bank (loan to Rondonia includes some good elements as to the analysis of the problems).

Suggestions from the participants as to how sustainable development could be implemented are of course most welcome!

WK: This should be a longer-term project. 1992 will be a major focal point for many groups.

When is there going to be an information clearing house on all the initiatives, projects etc., concerning Amazonia? Maybe EEB/Working Group on Amazonia should not take the initiative itself, but someone should really start such a system. It should be linked to existing computer networks, since there is much more going on than we know.

PK: An association based in München, Aro Verde, plans to put forward proposals for financing with BUND for the same type of work as just described.

MP: The Federación de Amigos de la Tierra is planning a project on sustainable use of forests in central America (e.g. Costa Rica, Nicaragua).

JDK: Some christian Indian groups have a central office. The ONIC (Organization of Indigenous Nations in Colombia) promotes an alternative 1992 Latin American campaign.

WV: The Working Group decided not to take any initiative on 1992/Quinto Centenario celebration.

JDK: The Working group should stick to problems directly related to Amazonia, and choose a couple of projects in the region itself (one of them could be a central documentation centre: as the COICA has proposed). Maybe we should stress activities of coordination in Amazonia rather than coordination in Europe on 1992.

PK: The 1992 question should not be mixed up with problems of sustainable development itself.

Initiatives on sustainable development: we should first find out who is doing what (= purpose of a clearing house). This week-end, in Switzerland, there will be a discussion about centralizing documentation on sustainable development in Amazonia.

WV: Agrarian reform: Letter from Terra-Brasil: could people support it? We'll look at the possibilities for influencing trade relations to

support agrarian reform.

We are in contact with EDEN (Institute in Paris, doing research a.o. on soy bean production and exports to Europe.)

11. Japan

It is necessary to approach Japan on the Amazon issue. In the Netherlands, NGOs are working on a campaign on Japan and the rainforests, including Amazonia. WV is contact point for the Working group.

12. EC Policy

RS: We should look at the EC position on tropical forests. On November 28th, the Council of Ministers postponed discussion of a document. This is expected to be discussed in March 1990. The original document (dating from July 1989) was much better than its final version (September).

FoE has lobbied ministers in different countries and also the EC Commission.

Apart from the present controversy on timber trade; there are a lot of aid-related issues which are important to Amazonia. Any initiative to put the pressure on Environment and Development Ministers before the next Council would be welcome. We should ask Koy Thomson (FoE-UK) for FoE documents with their remarks.

13. Guidelines for aid to Latin America

RS: We could refer to the EEB's Lomé Report  
There are bilateral agreements:

- Italy/Brazil: principles are OK, but the consequences of the agreement are not clear. The emphasis is on trade and banking, but environmental policy?

WV: Brazil is entering into agreements with the European countries. There are already agreements with the UK and the BRD.

MP: mentions the FoE memorandum on the timber aspects of the EC strategy. As far as sustainable development is concerned, we should see the supply side of it (way of using the forests) but also the demand side, e.g. work on incentives in our own countries to import products promoting and stimulating sustainable development.

WV: Mentions the annual campaign in the Netherlands to promote global food security and products helping sustainable development. This year, it is planned to focus also on Brazil.

13. Relations with Latin American organisations

WV: refers to a letter from Tony Gross from CEDI (last October), in which he advocates "organic" relations, i.e. we should connect with field organisations and then organically work out the kind of relationship we want.

The members of the Working group should have that kind of organic relationships not necessarily the 'Secretariat' of the WG, which will have to work more on a coordinating and political level.

JDK: We should push for Latin American organisations to be present in Europe. The problem is money.

WV: On the Working group level, it would be quite unmanageable to have such direct relations with Latin American groups. But we should get Latin Americans to guide our work by helping them to come over.

PK: Agrees. The members of the WG should think of informing each others, especially when someone comes over to Europe from Latin America. For instance, the Gaia Foundation will have a regular through-put via

their London office.

15. Reports from national committees

WV: We should use H. Muntingh's first resolution on Carajas, advocating support of national committees/initiatives. Some of those committees have actually been set up. We will relay their information to other committees.

MP: Mentions a concert in Madrid which was organized in honour of Chico Mendes. It was successful: large amounts of money were raised. Exhibition on the Yanomami is being organized.

JDK: - The Rainforest Campaign in the Netherlands received the information from Suriname. They are now trying to make this an international issue.  
- Upon the request of Indians, they are preparing a publication.  
- The Dutch government will soon discuss the environment budget of Development Aid. Lobbying of government for better policy will go on.  
- Yanomami campaign is going on.  
- Next week, an exhibition will be shown in Amsterdam on Tropical Rainforests and Indigenous Peoples.  
- A book on the Yanomami and other indigenous peoples is being written by the Working group on Indigenous Peoples. WIP

PK: An exhibition on the Yanomami is now in Munich.

RS: Italy does not have a nation committee yet. But FoE, jointly with WWF and others, held a Japan Day last September, which was very successful (ex: telephone blockade of Mitsubishi).

FoE launched a petition campaign (some other organisations accepted to join it): they are collecting signatures until the Spring of 1990, to send a letter to the Italian government on:

- aid
- trade
- indigenous issues

An exhibition on Amazonia was also held in Italy.

JDK: Asks what role UHIRI holds, if there are contacts with them.

RS: UHIRI focuses on organizing very specific initiatives. There is no real "movement action".

JB: KWIA is organizing a campaign in Belgium on the Sarawak forests, a petition campaign, and two brochures on Brazil are under preparation. Suggests to link this presentation to the campaign/lobby of Belgian politics. ?

Initiative on sustainable development: they met the Belgian Cooperation Minister.

WK: We have contacts with the Dag Hamarskjold Foundation. The latter wants to start a project on Amazonia. There will be an action in Belem, gathering the youth of the Amazon basin. We try to get youth organisations to cooperate on this. ←

BV: Plans for an exhibition on Amazonia (May, Switzerland).

PK: On 8 June, the Gaia Foundation will organize a concert in London to raise money for the forest peoples. Invites everyone to link in concerts all over the world.

16. Chico Mendes Memorial Day

WV: The Annual General Meeting of the EEB last December adopted a resolution (inspired by the action of the Comisión Pro-Amazonia)

asking the EEB members to make December 22, Chico Mendes Memorial Day in their countries.

Mentions VUB (Vrij Universiteit Brussel) conference last November on the tropical rainforests and held in honour of Chico Mendes. There is a budget for further support of Chico Mendes' activities. The date of the Memorial should be set for the 22nd December, the day Chico Mendes was murdered.

Invites people to take initiatives.

CR: Maria Alegretti has started a campaign in Brazil to enforce the law on extractive reserves. We should support it. Dossier to be copied and distributed. The aim of the campaign is to get President Sarney to sign the decrees, so that they can come into force and be implemented.

17. Any other business

WK: 1-21 August 1990: ECOTOPIA. Many groups are expected to attend. Will deal with various issues.  
Invites everybody to attend, make suggestions.

JDK: Mentions Human Rights event in 1990.

JS: Mentions publication of directory on Amazonia by Rainforest Action Network in San Francisco.

(After meeting video on Zoro Indians in Rondonia shown. Tape can be requested from Jacques de Kort.)

Brussels, 19 January 1990

ADDITIONS TO THE ACTIVITY REPORT

- Beginning January 1990: from FoE Sweden (Ulf Rasurusson) and Environment Defense Fund in Washington D.C. (Bruce Rich) came material to lobby against the proposed World Bank loan of \$ 167 million to Brazil for the Rondonia Natural Resources Management project. Due to the lack of adequate participation by rubbertappers, Indians, peasants and NGOs, lack of consideration of land tenure mechanisms and lack of support for the build-up of an effective environment management system, this loan, although praiseworthy in its objectives, is bound to fail. In Europe, support for a fundamental restructuring of the loan has already been expressed by Secretary-General of the EEB, the Netherlands Committee for IUCN, FoE-Netherlands, FoE-UK (announced by Roy Thomson), FoE-Sweden (of course). The Working Group on Amazonia could promote other organisations to sign on after its meeting on 19 January 1990, and discuss further steps.
  
- Beginning of January 1990: Information from CEDI (Sao Paulo) was received about the start of an emergency health programme for the Yanomani and about the removal of the gold diggers. Action will be discussed at meeting working group in January 1990.