

In a project outline that he produced in 1988, Mr. Alfonso expressed his intention to evaluate "the extent to which the conclusion of new treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements ... may contribute effectively to the development of more solid, lasting and equitable bases for the relationship ... between indigenous populations and States".

Canada has had considerable experience with a wide variety of treaties, agreements and other arrangements with its indigenous peoples and believes this experience may provide useful guidance for other societies. The Canadian Government has offered the Special Rapporteur every cooperation. We have already provided him with material through the Canadian Embassy in Havana.

The Government of Canada offers its best wishes for the success of the study and expresses its hope that other states will also cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and that no region of the world with significant indigenous populations will be ignored.