

the Native Council of Canada once. Among the other witnesses in Ottawa were two Indian organizations and seven Indian bands and governments who were unable to meet with the Committee during its cross-country hearings.

In its travels, the Committee generally tried to hold meetings on reserves or native premises. Of the 39 hearings on the road, 14 were held on reserves, 9 in friendship centres, 3 in Indian offices and 13 in hotels or halls. The Committee also travelled to Washington, D.C., to meet with United States government officials and with U.S. national Indian organizations (*see Appendix G*). This trip continued to five Pueblo reservations in New Mexico.

The Committee also sought evidence through research projects. Four major subjects were identified as significant areas where specialized information was required. Research projects from private consultants were commissioned on the following subjects:

- 1) federal expenditures and mechanisms for their transfer to Indians;
- 2) the First Nations and the Crown, a study of trust relationships;
- 3) relations between aboriginal peoples and governments in other parts of the world; and
- 4) the economic foundations of Indian self-government.

When the studies were completed, the researchers met with the Committee *in camera* to provide brief overviews of their reports and respond to questions. These studies proved to be valuable aids in the preparation of this report. More detailed descriptions of them can be found in Appendix F.

The Committee was originally scheduled to table its final report on September 12, 1983, but was unable to complete its work by this deadline. Consequently, the Committee tabled its First Report on Monday, September 12, 1983, requesting that its mandate be extended to the end of the current session. The Committee's First Report was concurred in by the House and thus the Committee continued its work.

Further details on how the Committee organized its work are provided in Appendix E.

Powers of Committees

The House of Commons Special Committee on Indian Self-Government is a parliamentary body made up of representatives from the three political parties. It can make recommendations to the House of Commons, but implementation requires action by the government. This can take the form of legislation submitted to Parliament or policy changes within the existing legislative authority. In addition, the rules of the House of Commons provide that a committee can request that the government submit a comprehensive response to the committee's report within 120 calendar days of the tabling of the committee's report (see page 136 of this report). With respect to the numerous criticisms the Committee heard about DIAND actions, in some cases the Committee made direct representations to the Minister, while other matters were referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs.