

Association for Endangered Peoples - Austria  
Prinz - Eugenstraße 52/1/5  
A - 1040 Wien, Austria

To:

## PETITION ON THE RETURN OF THE BLACK HILLS TO THE LAKOTA PEOPLE

- WHEREAS the BLACK HILLS are the sacred center of the aboriginal territory of the Sioux - Nation and as such hold deep religious significances for the Sioux - Nation and are central and indispensable for the free exercise of the Sioux religion, and
- WHEREAS the BLACK HILLS are within the Sioux treaty territory, as affirmed by the treaties of September 15, 1851 and April 29, 1868, and
- WHEREAS the Sioux - Nation views the BLACK HILLS as inalienable and has never voluntarily surrendered or ceded the BLACK HILLS, and has resolved not to accept money in exchange for extinguishment of title to such lands and for extinguishment of the right to practice traditional religion in the BLACK HILLS area, and
- WHEREAS the Sioux - Nation never has been accorded a forum within which to seek the return of lands and has pressed its claims to the BLACK HILLS vigorously and continuously for more than hundred years, and
- WHEREAS it will further the interests of the United States to enter into a just and honorable Sioux - Nation BLACK HILLS land settlement, recognizing and reaffirming its domestic and international commitments to Sioux - Nation self-determination, economic security and religious freedom, and acknowledging the traditional and historical belief of the Sioux in the sacred character of the Earth and in the BLACK HILLS in particular, as well as their right to freely exercise such beliefs,
- NOW THEREFORE we the undersigned hereby demand that the BLACK HILLS be returned to the legal owners - the Lakota people. In case of any legislative action we ask the responsible bodies and persons in the US-Congress to hold all necessary hearings as close as possible to the reservations of the Sioux - Nation, so that the affected members of the Sioux - Nation have a realistic chance to participate therein.