

APPENDIX I

(translated from the Portuguese original)

Document N° 115/2002/CaDIM/MPF

Brasilia, March 7, 2002

Subject: Yanomami blood

Dear Professor,

We recently learned that, during the 1960s, American researchers collected blood from the Yanomami Indians, whose territory is located on both sides of the Brazilian-Venezuelan border. The blood samples were deposited in the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. We would appreciate your responding to the following questions:

- 1) Are Yanomami blood samples still stored in laboratories at these universities?
- 2) If so, how many samples are there and how are they being conserved?
- 3) What was the source of these samples?
- 4) What documents exist that attest to the procedures used for obtaining informed consent at the time the blood samples were collected?
- 5) When were the samples collected in Brazil? Is there documentation pertaining to official authorizations granted by Brazilian institutions for research projects allowing these samples to be collected?
- 6) What is the current juridical-administrative status of the custody of these samples by these university laboratories?
- 7) What is the connection between such custody and the use of Yanomami blood samples in the Human Genome Diversity Project (HGDP), as well as the relation between this project and official agencies of the United States government, such as the U.S. Department of Energy?
- 8) Have these samples been reprocessed to extract their DNA, or have they been used in new research projects?
- 9) Are there documents stating whether informed consent was obtained for undertaking new research projects with these samples?
- 10) Have Yanomami blood samples or DNA been released (through donations or sale) for research or other purposes by other public or private laboratories? What type of contract was involved? Which laboratories?

Attached is a copy of the Brazilian Constitution, which attests to the legitimate authority of the Federal Public Ministry to carry out this investigation.

Cordially,

ELA WIECKO VOLKMER DE CASTILHO
Assistant Attorney General of the Republic of Brazil
Coordinator, Sixth Chamber of Coordination and Review,
Indigenous Communities and Minorities