

May 9, 1990

NATIVE AMERICAN TREATY RIGHTS & RACISM
Policy Statement

The Milwaukee Jewish Council is deeply concerned by both the incidents of racism and insidious racist overtones which have permeated the dispute over Native American treaty rights in Wisconsin.

The Council recognizes that treaty rights are Constitutionally based, honored by the Congress and Executive Branch of the United States government, and repeatedly upheld by the Supreme Court. We support these legal rights of the Native Americans and their governments.

We commend those communities and individuals who have attempted to create a peaceful and cooperative climate for the resolution of disputes related to the complex issues of the economy and environment in Northern Wisconsin. We urge all those involved to follow their example.

The Council also urges that elected officials throughout the state publicly condemn the racism and violence related to Native American treaty rights and take appropriate steps to oppose illegal forms of public protest. It is also the responsibility of local and state government and law enforcement agencies to enforce those laws which protect Native American treaty rights.