



Office of  
The Minister of Internal Affairs  
Wellington, New Zealand.



6 July 1988

Jocelyn A Armstrong  
Executive Secretary  
Conference of Churches In Aotearoa  
Wellington Office  
PO Box 27264  
WELLINGTON

Dear Ms Armstrong


The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Dr Michael Bassett, has asked me to thank you very much for your letter of 1 July in which you request an interview to discuss the Conference of Churches' views on 1990 and the Treaty of Waitangi.

Unfortunately, Dr Bassett has an extremely heavy schedule until his departure overseas in August, and regrets that he will be unable to meet with the Conference representatives. Dr Bassett has suggested instead, that you might care to approach the Executive Director of the 1990 Commission, Mr Bob Cater, for an appointment.

Dr Bassett has also asked me to convey his appreciation for the interest the Conference is taking in these important issues.

Yours sincerely

Paul Brewer  
Private Secretary



CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES IN AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND

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1 July 1988

Dr Michael Bassett  
Minister of Internal Affairs  
Parliament Building  
WELLINGTON

Dear Dr Bassett

I write to convey to you the resolution passed at the recent Annual Forum of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand concerning the observance of 1990.

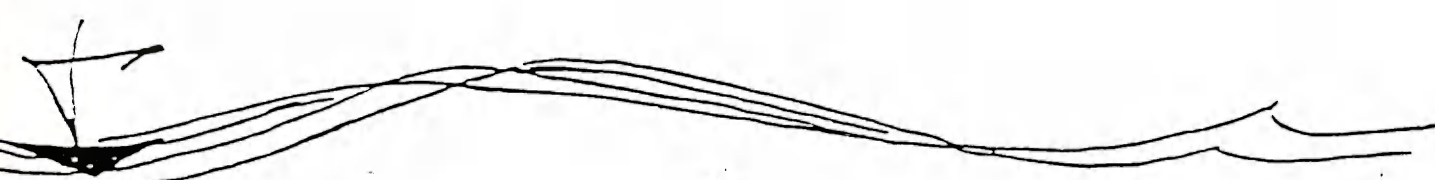
This was the first Annual Forum of the new Church Body which involves 11 member Churches, and includes the Catholic Church. I enclose a Brochure to give you a little background information.

The Conference of Churches has declared itself to be in relationship of partnership with Te Runanga Whakawhanaunga I Nga Hahi o Aotearoa, The Maori Ecumenical Council, and aims to act and work accordingly. The Runanga was represented in the Annual Forum.

The Annual Forum discussed the part played by the Churches in the formation and signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. Three Missionary Churches, the Anglican, the Methodist and the Catholic, all played a significant role. The Forum reviewed the ensuing history in relation to the Treaty, including the part played by the Churches themselves. It discussed the bicultural partnership expressed in the Treaty. The Church shared information and reports about the bicultural development undertaken in their Institutional Bodies and amongst their Constituencies.

The Forum then passed a unanimous resolution. The resolution is significant because it reflects the first major policy expressed by the Conference of Churches.

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The resolution reads as follows:

"That, in the light of the Goals of the CCANZ, especially that of Bicultural Partnership established by Te Tiriti o Waitangi,

in 1990 Te Tiriti o Waitangi be a primary focus for the CCANZ, and that the CCANZ offers that priority to its member Churches;

We believe our Churches have a responsibility to make positive proclamation of the realities in our society, especially in regard to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

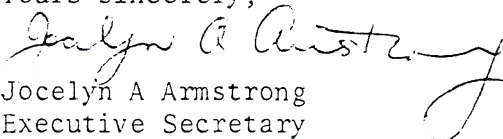
We accept there is need for increased education, within member Churches, about the significance of 1990 and we wish Te Tiriti o Waitangi, its history and present-day obligations to be part of that education in all Church courts, schools and congregations".

The Churches are in a strong position to make positive contribution to the further discussion and planning required to ensure that 1990 honours the Treaty of Waitangi. Without the Treaty none of the other anniversaries would be occurring in 1990. Without the Treaty none of the expectation and hope of a living partnership between two peoples would be emerging to form the basis of a healthy and secure nation. We have clearly reached a turning point time. We know it already in the Churches and we are experiencing it in the nation. The partnership foreshadowed in the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 could become possible in Legislation in the late 1980's. 1990 could make history in bringing to fruition a partnership of peoples of Aotearoa - New Zealand, so bringing hope to the people of the Pacific, Asia and the wider world.

In the Conference of Churches we would be glad to discuss these matters with you. Would it be possible for 2 or 3 of us to spend an hour with you before our next Executive Meeting which will take place in Wellington from August 5 - 7. If you agree to this, I can telephone your Office to make arrangements.

The Conference of Churches plays a key role in the Churches' consulting and acting together. We believe a significant role could be played by the Churches in a positive and creative approach to a 1990 that is firmly founded on the Treaty of Waitangi.

Yours sincerely,

  
Jocelyn A Armstrong  
Executive Secretary  
Wellington Office

cc: Mr Bob Cater,  
1990 Commission  
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Wellington.