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From: Asian Caucus in Support of Wounded Knee
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ASIANS SUPPORT WOUNDED KNEE STRUGGLE

The Los Angeles Asians who returned from the Easter Sunday survival pilgrimage to Wounded Knee, held a press conference at the L.A. Press Club, Friday, April 27.

Spokespeople for the group explained why they decided to try and go to Wounded Knee, relating parallels of the Asian and Indian peoples. They also leveled charges that the mass media was not covering Wounded Knee accurately and objectively.

There were 14 men and women amongst the Asians who went - all working in some way for their communities. Some still remain in South Dakota, and were joined by other "re-inforcements". The pilgrimage was supposed to have been a 100 mile march from Rosebud Reservation into Wounded Knee. This was broken up on Tuesday, April 24, in Bennet County, some 60 miles from Rosebud, when the group was confronted by 50 Federal Marshalls, BIA men, and FBI, armed with M-16s, sub-machine guns, grenade launchers, and a helicopter. At that time there were about 75 people on the march - it fluctuated from day to day. The next day 62 people of the pilgrimage were arrested in Kyle, S.D., at a meeting at traditional Chief Foolscrew's home. They were charged with misdemeanor, \$50 bail.

Though the Indian people's struggle for their land, their culture, and their sovereignty has been going on for a long time, Wounded Knee - 1973 has again reminded us of its significance and importance to the movement as a whole. As a result, Asian Caucus in Support of Wounded Knee expects to continue support of the Native American struggle, on a long term basis, no matter what happens at Wounded Knee.

From the statement by Asian Caucus in Support of Wounded Knee:

Asian people have lived on reservations called concentration camps. They have also seen their relatives shot on TV in old war movies and in the news of Vietnam. Our children also die of drug overdoses and share prison cells with Indian, Black and Chicano people. We have our Pres. Thiou's in Vietnam, as they have their Wilson's of Pine Ridge - puppets of the U.S. Government. Western "civilization" has tried to bury both our cultures - this "civilization" which says, "the only good Indian is a dead Indian," and "you don't have a Chinaman's chance." These people have killed our people with their bullets and atom bombs, but they cannot kill our spirit. They have only created a new unity among us because we want the same things - self-determination and sovereignty for our people, here and overseas. We support the Ogalala Nation in their struggle for we know if the original people of America cannot free the land, nobody else can.

THIS IS WHY ASIANS WENT TO SOUTH DAKOTA:

1. to physically show support of Asian people by bringing supplies and trying to help peacefully break the blockade,
2. to bring back news to the communities, which has been blacked out, spottedly reported, and distorted by the U.S. Government, with the cooperation or the ignorance of the mass media,
3. in answer to the invitation of traditional Chief Foolscrow, of the Ogalala Sioux Nation, sanctioning the presence of Asian people and inviting all other non-Indian people for their physical presence and support.

We know there are segments of our community who have "moved up in the world" and want to forget Manzanar, Gila, and our other concentration camps. But we want the Indian people to know that there are Asian people who will never be able to "move up in the world", who will never forget, and who's heart and body is with those at Wounded Knee.