

Subj: **IIC Meeting and Apidos**

Date: 6/22/99

To: Benguet@pop.skyinet.net

CC: Abeya@erols.com, Abeyami@aol.com, Hand4b@aol.com

June 22, 1999

Dear Gov. Raul Molintas & Jeffrey Cabato:

Greetings from America.

As you may have heard, the Igorot International Planning Commission will be meeting in Vancouver on July 2-4 to make a final review of IIC-3 in Baguio City in April 2000. A day's session will be spent on addressing Cordillera issues, led by our Cordillera public officials. The preliminary list of attendees from the Cordillera included Gov. Raul Molintas, but I was recently informed that his attendance has not yet been confirmed. The ones confirmed, according to the Chair of the Invitations Committee, are Congresspersons Cappleman, WAcnang, Dominguez, probably Cosalan and CEB Exec. Dir. Gaspar Cayat. I also understand that a Congressman Shahani is interested to attend. At her request, I also sent a letter of invitation to Edna Tabanda to represent the IIC-2000 Philippine Taskforce.

One of the interests that will come out in the meetings will be the Apidos Case, as it continues to excite our kababayans in here. [We still have funds to be remitted to the Apidos Account with the PNB and are still waiting for more funds to come.] One of the things we like to do is to prepare a fact sheet on Apidos, and therefore we would like to be as factual as we could. If new facts have come about since your latest communications to me on the Apidos case, we would appreciate your sharing them with us. We would like to know also, the progress on your request for Executive Clemency.

Further, we would like to know how much has been collected so far for the Apidos Fund and how much has been contributed from Overseas. Fellow Igorots in Australia also tells me that they have collected some amount (not a large amount, they say) and sent it to you through someone who went home to the Philippines. They wonder whether or not you received the funds.

We wonder why the Apidos Fund Campaign seems not be generating as much interest in the Cordillera as it is affecting us here in America. We suggest that one of your communications officers bring the attention of the Apidos Case in the local papers, mentioning the moral and the amount of financial support the Igorots and other Filipinos in America and elsewhere have so far contributed. Such a news coverage might generate Cordillera interest in the case. We also could use such news coverage as part of our promotions campaign. In fact, a few Filipinos, while responding to the campaign by BIMAK DC to the wider Filipino community, have asked for news coverage on the Apidos Fund Campaign.

I hope we receive a response to this letter before June 30, in time for the IIC Planning Commission Meeting.

With best regards from

Sincerely yours,

Rex Botengan

Chairman, The IIC Planning Commission

cc - Edwin and Mia Abeya, Apidos Fund Campaign Promoters in the Eastcoast
Harry Basingat, Bibaknets E-mail Moderator