

Indians First Environmentalists: Earth Week

WASHINGTON, D.C., (AIPA)—American Indians were called the “first environmentalists” at the opening of Earth Week activities here.

“There are no people more sensitive to our natural environment than are Indian people,” remarked Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, to a group of educators from Indian boarding and day schools across the country.

Traditional Indian reverence for nature marked the theme of the five-day meeting of educators for an Indian Environmental Education Workshop at the Bureau of Indian Affairs here and Catoclin Mountain Park, Maryland.

Morton told the group that Indian history, religion and philosophy all reflect a oneness with nature.

He said environmental education in Indian schools is an “exciting beginning” and will provide Indian children with an “opportunity for leadership beyond anything I’ve seen for a long time.”

“This is a forerunner of environmental awareness to children across the country,” Morton said.