

# ORGANIZATION & COMMUNICATION

## CONIC Preparatory Meeting in Bolivia

The provisional council of the Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Nations and Organizations of the continent held its planning meeting for the upcoming continental encounter in Chuquiagu (La Paz), Bolivia from May 11-4. The Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Women of Bolivia hosted this meeting.

At CONIC's last continental encounter held at Temoaya, Mexico in 1993, participants decided to hold a constitutive congress in October 1994 in Guatemala, and to form a Provisional Council to plan this congress. Delegates from the Southern Cone, Andean region, Central and North America elaborated proposed bylaws at this meeting, and have sent these along with a declaration of principles and objectives to all CONIC members. The coming congress in Guatemala was set for the 10-14 of October and will be hosted by the Council of Maya organizations of Guatemala (see calendar below). All member organizations will be attending, and may also invite up to three additional organizations from their region.

## Fourth Session of Mapuche Tribunal--Wallmapu Norngulamtuwum--Held in Temuco, Chile.

From the 28-29 of March 1994, the Mapuche organization Aukiñ Wallmapu Ngulam (Consejo de Todas las Tierras--All Lands Council) held their annual meeting, focusing on reforming the Chilean State and self-determination for the Mapuche. The Council issued several resolutions rejecting Chile's "Indigenous Law" (Law #19.2553) as serving the Chilean state, but not the Indigenous population. Many specific changes were recommended.

For information: Aukiñ Wallmapu

Ngulam--Consejo de Todas Las Tierras. Maraflores 1326, Casilla 448, Temuco, Chile.

## Indigenous News Agency begins Publishing

The International Indian Press Agency (AIPIN) began wiring news relating to Indigenous nations and organizations of the continent through the IPS network last January. Genaro Buatista, Mixtec journalist and Natividad Gutierrez are the acting coordinators in Mexico City. All Indigenous journalists are invited to submit reports to AIPIN, by fax (525) 761-8573. The reports are published over the wire every week and are accepted every Wednesday until 6:00pm. Submissions should be a maximum of 300 words, approximately 60 lines of text.

## CONAIE National Congress Approves National Policy Statement

From the 15-18 of December last year, CONAIE celebrated its fourth national congress in the town of Unión Base, Puyo in the Amazon Region. The Congress approved CONAIE's "Political Project", a document which outlines the organization's national political strategy. According to CONAIE president Luis Macas this project "will be a guide for the construction of a more just, plurinational and pluricultural state and for the recognition of the Indigenous people and the poorest sectors of the country.", and proposes solutions to the problems of land distribution, housing, industrialization, health, unemployment, segregation and discrimination.

According to CONAIE, the project's proposals are based on the fundamental principals of the Indigenous peoples, especially, an integral humanism which recognizes that the close relationship between people and nature is what guarantees us life; communitarianism

based in reciprocity; solidarity and equality; and plurinational democracy. For information: CONAIE, Los Granados 2553 y 6 de Diciembre, Casilla 17-17-1235, Quito, Ecuador, Tel: (593-2) 248930 Fax: (593-2) 44271 email [ccc@conaie.ec](mailto:ccc@conaie.ec)

## Ashaninka Women Begin Organizing for Self-Sufficiency

Many Ashaninka have been forced to flee their homes by conflicts between the military and the Sendero Luminoso Guerilla movement. Ashaninka women are searching for solutions to the critical lack of food, clothing, and health care facing their families. Following the First Ashaninka Summit in November-December of 1993, an "Ashaninka Mothers' Club" was formed with the goal of carrying out projects to meet basic needs in the Central Forest region of Peru. According to club leader, Lucila Arce Salcedo, the traditional Ashaninka economy which was based on self-sufficient agriculture, hunting and fishing has been seriously impacted in recent years by the arrival of colonist, Sendero Luminoso activity, logging and most recently the activities of oil companies such as Shell and Mobil.

The Mothers' organization is therefore working to develop sewing and cooking industries to help support their families with cash incomes. If successful, this project will benefit 500 Ashaninka families. Next, they hope to begin a home for children who have been orphaned during the wave of violence. Arce Salcedo reports that approximately 2,000 children in the communities of Provincia de Satipo, Purtor Ocopa, Rio Ene, and Rio Tambo are orphans in their communities living in various stages of malnutrition, sickness and poverty.

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