



IMPERIALISM AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

In 1966 the United States sent a special military force to Bolivia that included North American Indians. This secret mission used North American Indians to spy and infiltrate because they look similar to the Bolivian Indians. This special military force was instructed to hunt down Che Guervara and execute him. As a result, Che Guevara and many others were killed. Many Indian brothers from the United States are now being used in military activity in Central America. Furthermore, the Civilian Military Assistance (CMA), a private U.S. group, is organizing a team of American Indian Vietnam veterans to train some anti-Sandinista Miskitu Indians in Honduras. They will teach these Miskitu Indians demolition and weapons training techniques to fight the Sandinistas. Indian people who participated in these military actions often speak of their experiences in Bolivia and Central America and knowledge of their participation is widely known in the Indian Community.

This type of military tactic is nothing new for American Indians. Historically, the indigenous people of the American continent have suffered genocide from the invading colonists. In many cases the colonists were successful in annihilating tribes because they utilized Indian guides and scouts who supplied the conquerors with vital information about the tribes. The more information the conquerors obtained, the easier it was to obliterate these indigenous people. Perhaps without such vital information and assistance from these Indian spies and scouts, the colonists may have never conquered many tribes. The exact reasons why these "sell-out" Indians or traitors assisted the conquerors is not known. Perhaps their behavior resulted from the confusion that the imperialists intentionally created to fragment the tribes and conquer them. Or these "sell-out" Indians may have been seeking revenge by utilizing the colonial forces as a weapon against their enemies. Or perhaps they desired a reward that would improve their personal livelihood.

Today in the U.S., numerous Indians are recruited or voluntarily join the military. Many of these individuals end up in the combat portion of the U.S. military. These Indian youth are prospective candidates for the Central Intelligence Agency and other secret mercenary forces that specialize in killing people. For whatever reason, they enlist in the military, they are in general unemployed, young, and seeking opportunities to better themselves economically.

Sadly, this is the situation of contemporary Indians and has made many indigenous

people refer to the U.S. people (including Indians) as imperialists who come to their countries to kill and terrorize. We cannot deny this unfortunate title describing the U.S. relationship with other countries. However, many of us do not agree with the U.S. policies in Latin America and other regions.

Indians in the United States have always been the victims of imperialism, and also suffer the contemporary threat of being divided and conquered. The F.B.I. and other espionage groups that have undermined the indigenous people continue to be a threat to Indians in the United States.

If indigenous people are to maintain their tribal cohesiveness, traditional homelands, culture, and other essential values, it is a must to create solidarity with other indigenous people. We must counsel and educate youth about how indigenous people are manipulated by the military to obliterate other indigenous people. Hopefully, through a better understanding and awareness, such oppression and bloodshed will be eliminated. History has revealed to us how indigenous people were obliterated and quickly assimilated into the mainstream culture by the use of Indian scouts and spies. If this "sell-out" behavior does not cease, we will loose everything we have, from the lands we occupy to the culture, and lives of many people.

--James Muneta



PERU

Peruvian Indians are in the midst of a major crisis that is reason for renewed solidarity with their struggle against ethnocidal forces. As a nation, Peru is suffering under extreme inflation, and the effects of devaluation that the government has imposed in an attempt to pay off an international debt of over \$13 billion. Indian people who represent more than half the population, and who most often suffer from poverty are are hardest hit by this extreme economic situation.

The International Monetary Fund representing the interests of industrialized European and North American nations, and multinational interests, began making high interest loans to Peru in 1976. These loans are often intended for "development" projects, which often mean roads cutting through indigenous homelands and sacred areas for government and private industry access to timber, minerals, and petroleum.

Another face of development has been the government policy of encouraging Quechua-speaking Indians from Andean mountain villages, whose land has been taken from them, to settle in colonies in the jungle to the east of the Andes. Government officials in Lima do not respect the fact that these jungle areas are the territories of sixty different