

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 lose 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 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



Justice Chavez and her baby. Photo: F. Lobo

over 2,000 disappeared and presumed dead in the past four years. Most are Quechua Indians. International loans to Peru have paid for much of the Peruvian military buildup. Currently the Reagan administration is asking Congress to approve an increase in military assistance to Peru from its current level of \$8.8 million to \$74 million in 1986. Reagan's push to increase military aid is ominous and does not point to a future where the killing of Indians will stop.

One of the results of the violence in the highlands and the lack of food is that many Indians are fleeing to the cities of the coast, particularly Lima, to live with relatives who have settled in the squatter settlements there. Over half the population of Lima now consists of migrants from the highlands, and the vast majority of these people are Indian. Life in the squatter settlements is always a struggle for survival, and now with more and more people fleeing from the armed violence in the highlands, it is even more difficult for families to survive each day.

CISA, the South American Indian Council, which holds non-governmental organization status with the United Nations, represents a major organizing force among the approximately forty million Indians of South America. The CISA office is located in Peru (Apartado Postal 2054, Lima 100, Peru) and publishes the bulletin Pueblo Indio (subscription \$12) which gives information regarding the Indian situation in Peru and throughout South America.

Indian nations. When the government relocates highland Quechua Indians in colonies in the jungle, they see it as a means to "pacify" and "civilize" the jungle peoples, while at the same time placate the highlanders' need for land. The scenario is only too familiar: multinationals determined to extract natural resources no matter at what human cost; a national government with its back to the wall in debt to international banking interests becomes willing to compromise the land and the people; and Indian nations find themselves in a conflict in which the survival of all Indian people is threatened.

The war currently being fought in Peru between the Sendero Luminoso and government forces is a brutal conflict with more than 4,000 people killed and