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THE FOLLOWING COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REPORTS INCORPORATE MUCH RECENT INFORMATION FROM THE WCIP CONFERENCE AND OTHER SOURCES.

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## GUATEMALA

The following interview was taped by Nilo Cayuqueo at the WCIP Conference. It represents one of the many indigenous women's voices heard to speak out regarding the continuing repression and genocide in Guatemala:

"We are here representing "Mayas," (Movimiento de ayuda y accion solidaria) to give testimony and to ask support of the Council as an organization that works in defense of indigenous rights. We are here to ask for concrete action against the Guatemalan government. This government is killing us every day in diverse forms. Also they are using the Indian people in many ways to maintain military control in Guatemala.

We estimate there are approximately 200,000 refugees outside the country. At the same time, it is established that there are more than a million people who have been displaced and remain in the country. These people are in very difficult situations, many living outside and suffering daily from hunger and cold.

The reaction of Indian women to all this is very strong because women are used by the government in various ways, due to our being women and Indian. This suffering that women go through is a kind of torture and, for a mother, it is even more difficult. A woman might take passive or aggressive action, but it is very difficult to act, because of the type of psychological warfare that exists. One suffers, because of the killing of our children, of our husbands, and our people. At the same time, it is a woman's responsibility to educate, raise, protect, and feed her children, particularly if her husband has been killed. So a woman's attitude must be strong in finding a way to defend and sustain herself and her family in this critical situation.

## NICARAGUA

Representatives of the Miskito organization, MISATAN, founded in July, 1984, were in attendance at the WCIP conference. The representatives invited the conference participants to visit Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica in order to gain a clear picture of Miskito reality and to support "the reunification of our families that have been dispersed for the past three years."

Representatives of the Miskito opposition organization, MISURASATA, were also present, but did not participate officially in the conference. The representatives affir-

med that their organization will struggle on the side of the people of Nicaragua if faced with a military intervention by the United States, and that they are eager to enter into a dialogue with the Sandista government, if Miskito rights are recognized. On the other hand, Brooklin Rivera, the principal leader of MISURASATA, travelled to Managua in response to an invitation extended by Daniel Ortega, now president elect, in order to reach an agreement between the Sandanista government and the Miskito Indians. They are hoping to make progress in these conversations, keeping in mind the threat of North American intervention which would create catastrophic results for the people of Central America.

\* The General Assembly also condemned any intent by the United States to intervene in Central America, as well as military support given by the U.S. to the governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatamala.

#### VENEZUELA

(Statement from the WCIP Conference)

The Venezuelan government continues to deny the right of self-liberation, self-determination, and self-management to the indigenous peoples of Venezuela. Furthermore, the state does nothing to discourage aggressive acts against the Piaroa in the Federal Amazon territory and continues to persecute those who protest these acts.

The Indigenous Movement for National Identity and the Civil Association of Yukpa Indigenous People demand the following: (1) Respect for indigenous peoples and provision for their social welfare; (2) Control of all policies affecting indigenous peoples; (3) Passage of the Law of Indigenous Ethnic Groups; (4) Redistribution of territorial rights with nontransferable title of collective ownership; (5) Respect for cultural heritage, languages, and traditions complying with Decree No. 283; and (6) Formation of a national organization representing all ethnic groups.

Let it also be known that many Venezuelans support our claims and echo our protests.

#### COLOMBIA

Since the establishment of peace agreements with the guerilla groups, the government has placed rural areas, especially the Cauca, under military control. All meetings have been prohibited, and Indians are jailed if they are considered subversive. In February, 1984, in Tolima, two indigenous leaders were assassinated by mercenary groups working for the large land owners.