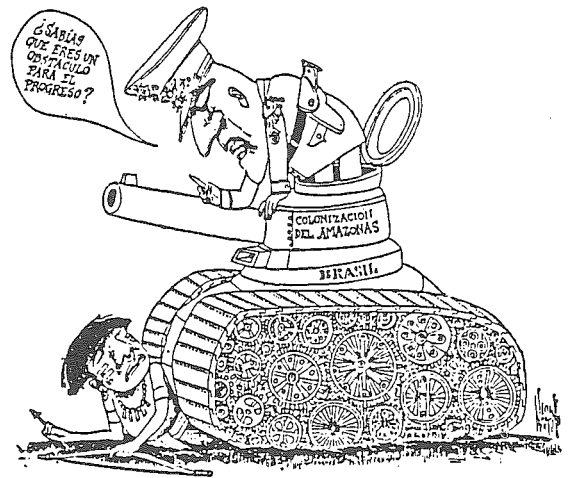


poison because the settlers washed a tank of insecticide in the lake. When it rains the poison that the settlers use on their plantations passes across our land and goes into the lake, and this causes a lot of illness. We can't get away from the edge of the Itaipu lake because our land is very narrow.

Next to our land are 420 acres that Itaipu owns. We want Itaipu to compensate us for the rest of the land they stole from us. We had about 3,750 acres of land, with forest, fish, and game, instead of 575 acres with poison and malaria. God put us in the world to live in peace as brothers. The whites want to kill the Indians rather than be brothers with them, but we want to live in brotherhood with everyone.

Now we have nothing and there are hardly any Indians left because in many parts of Brazil white men and foreigners have killed Indians with bombs and machine guns and have poisoned Indian areas. Can it be that you are not aware of this crime that must be resolved? You loaned money to the Itaipu people so that they could hurt us and the poor whites in the same situation as we are. Itaipu has done very great damage here, but you loaned money for this, and to FUNAI so that it could pay people to shoot the Indians, because we have enormous rights.

*Signed by the chief of the Ava-Guarani community, followed by the signatures and fingerprints of 58 others.*



*"Are you aware you are an obstacle to progress?"*



## Yanomami Land Claims Recognized

The Yanomami Indian people of northern Brazil have received official recognition of their claims to land through a presidential decree which establishes the Yanomami Indian Park near Brazil's border with Venezuela. The Yanomami, who number 10,000 to 12,000 people, are the largest Indian nation in Brazil still maintaining a traditional way of life.

The decree was announced in the midst of controversy over a proposal by the Brazilian military to occupy the remote northern frontier of the Amazon region with military bases and air strips. According to the Union of Indian Nations (UNI), the project would directly affect 50,000 Indian people from 51 groups now living in the rainforest, including the Yanomami, Tukano, Baniwa, Uanano, and others. Reports indicate that the decree establishing the Yanomami Indian Park includes provisions for a strip 60 kilometers wide along the Venezuelan border which would be designated an "Area of Environmental Protection" and used to accommodate the military plan.

Critics of the plan, which the military describes as "a joint project of economic development and national security," argue that its primary motivation is exploitation of the tin, aluminum, uranium, and other mineral resources thought to be buried beneath the dense Amazonian rainforests.