

new federation and opened a cultural center in the eastern part of the island. In a recent letter, Roy Nigerian Harris, leader of the Young Maroons, says, "We seek support to assist our music, our poetry, our sports, our religion, and also our drama. At the moment, we are lacking funds, but our heritage is very rich, and there is a lot owed to us. We are seeking sponsors, who would have a lot to gain. If cultural tours with lectures could be arranged, great."

The Maroons can be contacted at The Maroons Cultural Centre, 12 Harbour Street, Port Antonio, Jamaica, Xaymaca, WI. In the United States, I can be reached c/o 360 62nd Street, Oakland, CA 94618. Music of the Maroons is available on Folkways Records, 43 W. 61st St., N.Y., N.Y. 10023.

—Randi Kristensen

## Caribs From Three Groups Meet In Dominica

Throughout the Caribbean there is an increasing awareness of indigenous concerns. According to the newspaper *Iere*, Carib representatives from Belize, St. Vincent and Dominica met in the spring in Dominica and called for more governmental recognition of Carib culture and identity. Like the Maroons in Jamaica, Caribs are descended from Indians and Africans who banded together in resistance to colonial European society.

Caribs living in Dominica maintain a local government Carib Council headed by the Carib Chief, who is elected directly by the people, according to tradition. However, the representative from St. Vincent at the conference spoke of the lack of such structures on his island and expressed concern about the disappearance of the culture of St. Vincent's estimated 5,600 Caribs. "We would like when the gap is filled and we are together as one people," he said. Another conference is planned on St. Vincent next year with the theme "Caribbean Indigenous Revival."



## AOTEAROA

# Maori Delegation Visits United States

*In June a delegation of seven Maori from Aotearoa (also known as New Zealand) traveled to the United States. They were hosted in the San Francisco Bay Area by Women of All Red Nations and the International Indian Treaty Council. Hinewhare Harawira of the Wailangi Action Committee told SAIIC:*

We have about 3.5 million people in Aotearoa and 300,000 are Maori. We are fighting for our independence.

We don't now have control of our lands. And one thing we find important as a first step in our independence is the taking back of our lands. The way we want to do it is not by



asking the government, "Is it okay to buy the land or is it okay to put our homes on the land?" When we see the need to go back to our land, our people are just moving back and sitting on it, living in tents or busses or makeshift homes, starting to build up the land, and starting to survive on the little land that we have.

Whenever there is a land occupation, the people are always supportive of it. And that is encouraging, because the people support it from the right wing to the left wing, from the old to the young.

We are starting to take control of our lives. We now speak Maori to one another and to other people, and if they can't understand it, too bad. We have a pre-school, and only Maori is spoken there. At the school there are older brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, a whole *fanu* base. That is the extended family. It is only through that, through the nurturing of the child to go out into the so-called rat race, so that they can cope with it, that we can survive.

We have our own spirituality. We can say a story and it has three or four meanings to it. We believe all the meanings are the right ones.

We know that the people of the Pacific need to unite together. We all achieve our independence together. Nobody is free until everybody is free. To the people of South America, we say, "Be strong in your stance."



## The Seventh Generation Fund

*SAIIC has been working with Victoria Bomberry and the Seventh Generation Fund to find ways to bring together Indian people of North, Central, and South America. Victoria, who is also editor of Native Self-Sufficiency, spoke with SAIIC recently about Indian sovereignty.*

**SAIIC:** Could you tell us about the Seventh Generation Fund? What is the basis for the work you do?

**Victoria:** The Seventh Generation Fund was founded in 1977 by a group of activists who were interested in moving from merely rhetorical speech about sovereignty toward making sovereignty a reality. In order to do that, there were several things that needed to be articulated. People here had a notion of sovereignty and we started working on all the areas that make a people sovereign. To be sovereign, a nation needs to have an economic system. It needs to have a shared culture and language. It needs to have a land base, and it needs to have a people who are tied together by those common bonds. We began thinking about ways we could move these things to reality on reservations throughout North America.

**SAIIC:** What kinds of projects have you been doing to make these kinds of changes?

**Victoria:** We've worked in several different areas. We work with land and natural resources protection. We work in the area of economic development to find ways that are culturally benign and environmentally protective and to develop economies that are self-sustaining. For example, we have worked with several Navajo communities to develop an agricultural system based on traditional foods, and branching out to develop crops that can be sold in the market place for a little bit of cash income.

