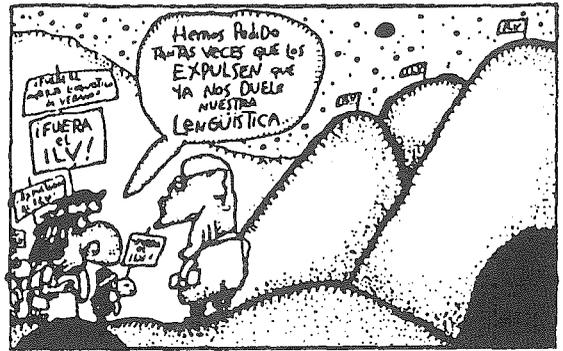


SIL Serves Government Interests In Brazil

The Summer Institute of Linguistics has operated in Brazil since 1959. The following statement on their activities was presented by the Union of Indian Nations (UNI) to the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1985.

"From the point of view of the government, they had everything to offer: personnel skilled in technology and methodology, experience working in similar situations in 21 countries, and the fact that they provide their work for free. And SIL textbooks served the development policies of the government, like trying to convince Indians that a road cut through our land would benefit us.

"In order to change the influence of SIL, bold moves are needed. Indian education should not be limited to the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. We must also redeem the past, not only to retain certain myths and narratives, but also to ensure the perpetuation of our body of scientific knowledge, of our knowledge of the world, of our own ways of accounting and measuring, and of our relationship with nature. Education should offer more than just an understanding of the world of whites. We need to move around and defend ourselves within it."



"Those Summer Institute of Linguistics people are really a pain in the mouth."

Many Sects Seek Indian Converts In Ecuador

Juan Aulestia, Oxfam America associate program representative for South America, made the following comments in an interview with SAIC.

"The government is focusing on how to disarticulate the Indian organizations. They have been utilizing many strategies. One is allowing an open-door policy to religious sects. The fundamentalists, such as the Jehovah Witnesses and the Pentecostals, have been able to penetrate to every corner of the country, which is steadily dividing Indian organizations and communities. In Ecuador there are about 300 different religious sects, most of them from the United States, as well

"We are not against a belief in God. We are very religious, very religious. We believe that people are the same as the plants, as all of the natural world. All have life and are brothers."

—Floriberto Diaz Gomez (Mixe) of Oaxaca, Mexico

"Most primitive tribal people are steeped in cultural practices initiated and motivated by superstition and fear. Religion . . . is generally a spiritist form of worship which is energized by satanic forces."

—New Tribes Mission