

home to 60 per cent of Indian people in Brazil."

The plan, based on a North American model, allows 100 square kilometers for each Indian family, "as if we were like a white family—father, mother, and child—instead of Indian communities. This can only force Indians to integrate into non-Indian society, establishing such a degree of dependence that we will no longer be able to live without whites."

Such forced integration is consistent with long-standing policies of the Brazilian government. Indians are forced to participate in political life, such as the writing of the new constitution, on the same terms as the non-Indian majority, whose vastness overpowers Indian voices. FUNAI, Brazil's bureau of Indian affairs, attempts to exercise authority over every aspect of Indian lives. FUNAI is attached to the Ministry of the Interior, which is also responsible for economic development, which often works contrary to Indian interests. FUNAI has issued illegal permits for mineral exploration in Indian territory as well as neglected its responsibility to define the boundaries of Indian land so it can be protected from outside encroachment.

UNI, which includes 120 of the 170 Indian nations in Brazil, has heightened its activities on behalf of Indian rights as the new constitution is written. On March 31, UNI met with CIMI (the Indian Missionary Council of the Catholic Church), the Pro-Indian Commission, the Ecumenical Documentation and Information Center, the Brazilian Association of Anthropologists and the National Institute for Social and Cultural Studies in Brasília to elaborate a unified proposal regarding Indian rights in Brazil. The proposal demands the demarcation of all Indian land to secure the

survival of Indian traditions and languages. It has been presented to the Subcommittee for Blacks, Indians, Disabled People and Minorities of the constitutional convention.

During an international telephone conference call on June 11, Ailton Krenak also said, "In Brazil today there is a generalized concern regarding land distribution, and the Indian situation must be put in this context. The rubber tappers of the Amazon region as well as hundreds of thousands of landless peasants throughout the country are also discriminated against."

Ailton also said that, "Indians have advanced in this struggle due to increased public awareness and support from national and international non-governmental organizations." In addition to Ailton, the telephone conference call included José Carlos Saboia, member of the Brazilian national legislature; Dr. Julio Gaiger, a lawyer from CIMI; David Maybury-Lewis, president of Cultural Survival; Richard Smith of Oxfam America; Steve Schwartzman of the Environmental Defense Fund; and Maria Sousa and Nilo Cayuqueo of SAIIC.

"It is important," said Saboia, "that national and international organizations work together to mobilize the media and make the Indian struggle in Brazil known. Public support is fundamental to success in defending the rights of Indian people at the national constitutional assembly."

Letters of support for the UNI position should be sent to Deputado Ivo Lech; Presidente da Subcomissão dos Negros, Populações Indígenas, Pessoas Deficientes e Minorias; Camara dos Deputados; 70.160 Brasília, DF Brasil.

Yanomami Land Claims Not Yet Recognized

An article in the Winter, 1987, issue of the *SAIIC Newsletter* mistakenly stated that the president of Brazil had granted official recognition to Yanomami land claims in the Amazon

near Brazil's border with Venezuela. In fact, the president only announced his intention to grant such recognition, which may conflict with military plans for the area.