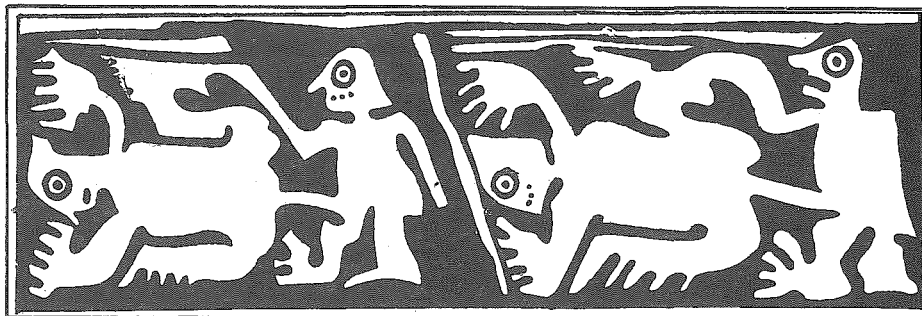


GRASSROOTS RAINFOREST CONFERENCE

On the weekend of November 15 through 17 SAIIC joined a wide range of environmental and indigenous peoples organizations for a Grassroots Rainforest Conference held near Sausalito, California. The conference was an educational and brainstorming session put together by the Rainforest Action Network of San Francisco in order to forge an international coalition of organizations to mount a campaign to stop the destruction of the world's rainforests. Environmental organizations which sent representatives included Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club, Earth First, Greenpeace, Threshold Foundation, and World Resources Institute. In addition to SAIIC, indigenous peoples organizations which participated in the conference included the International Indian Treaty Council, Akwasasne Notes, Hopi Traditions, the Indigenous Women's Network, Cultural Survival, and people from Hawaii, Mexico, Kenya, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

A major inspiration for the conference was the successful effort early last year by environmental lobbyists in Washington, D.C., to temporarily halt World Bank funding for a major economic development project in the Amazon forest in Brazil. This was the first time

that the World Bank acknowledged the ecological implications of a development project in its funding process. Two participants in the



lobbying effort, Bruce Rich of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Barbara Bramble of the National Wildlife Federation, detailed the 18-month campaign. Interestingly, it was conservative Republican members of Congress who oppose U.S. foreign aid on ideological grounds who were most successful in confronting the Reagan Administration on the funding issue. The danger of continuing to work with such allies, the temporary duration of the funding halt, and the extent of damage to the rainforest already caused by the project under consideration were emphasized by Bruce and Barbara. They concluded that preservation of the rainforests depends on the political mobilization of people in countries where the forests exist and indicated that environmental groups in the United States will be increasing their efforts to coordinate activities with kindred organizations in the tropical regions of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Discussions at the conference were permeated by recognition of the key role in rainforest preservation which is played by people whose culture is indigenous to the rainforest environment. Protection of the right of indigenous peoples to pursue their traditional ways of life was acknowledged as a primary goal of the coalition formed at the conference. The importance of seeking in the knowledge of indigenous cultures appropriate methods for utilizing rainforest resources without destroying the rainforest environment was emphasized by conference participants. The necessity of developing cooperative relations between environmental activists in industrialized countries and indigenous groups in rainforest areas was a

major strategy agreed on at the conference.

The Rainforest Action Network is located at 466 Green St., Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94133, (415) 434-1403.

—Pete Hammer

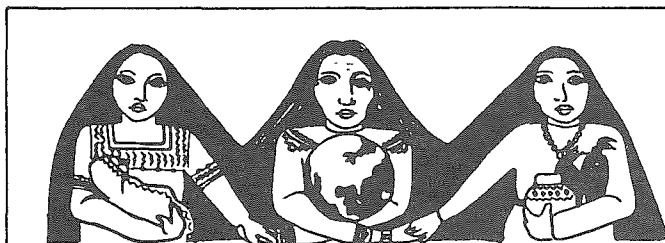
FIRST LATIN AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF INDIAN PEOPLES FILMS

The Brazilian monthly *Porantim* (Edifício Venancio III, Sala 310, Caixa Postal 11-1159, CEP 70084, Brasília, DF, Brasil) carried the following report written by Cláudia Menezes, director of the Indian Museum in Rio de Janeiro, in its October issue:

“Two weeks before the earthquake which partially destroyed Mexico City, the ancient Aztec capital hosted the First Latin American Festival of Indian Peoples Films. Organized by the Inter-American Indian Institute, the Film Society of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and the National Institute of Anthropology and History, the festival ran from September 5 to 8 and presented nearly 100 films and videos from 15 countries . . . which exposed the tragic living conditions of Indian people throughout the Americas.

“In addition to the film showings, several decisions were made, including (a) the creation of a Latin American Committee of Indian Peoples Film, with headquarters in Mexico City-Tenochtitlán, and four regional subcommittees; (b) plans to develop a catalog of Latin American films to serve as a base for an audiovisual archive; (c) promotion of the production and distribution of Indian films, especially projects directed by Indian communities; and (d) scheduling of the Second Latin American Festival of Indian Peoples Films for Rio de Janeiro in 1987. . . .

“The prizes in the categories of best film from Latin America, best film from outside Latin America, best ethnographic film, and best cinematography were awarded, respectively, to *Nuestra voz de tierra, memoria y futuro* [*Our Voice of the Land, Memory and the Future*], by Martha Rodríguez and Jorge Silva (Colombia); *The Tree of Life*, by Bruce Lane (United States); *El pueblo Ona: vida y muerte en tierra del Fuego* [*The Ona: Life and Death in Tierra del Fuego*], by Ana Montes and Annie Chapman (Argentina); and *Los hieleros del Chimborazo* [*The Icemen of Chimborazo*], by Gustavo Guayasamin (Ecuador).”



Logo from the 1985 Indigenous Women's Network Gathering held in August, 1985. For information, contact Julie McCloud, Puyallup Tribe, P.O. Box 8279, Tacoma, WA 98408.

“Working within the framework of the visions of our Elders”