



South American Indian Information Center (SAIIC)

P.O. Box 7550, Berkeley, California 94707 - USA

Phone 415-521-2779

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1984

We extend a welcome to all our friends who have an interest in receiving information about Central and South America. With this issue, we are initiating a bi-monthly bulletin in English containing summaries of information which we receive regarding Indian issues from Indian sources within South America. In this first issue, we include information from various countries, which will be amplified in forthcoming issues. Also from time to time, we will send out emergency bulletins about events in South America that affect Indian people. The committee of SAIIC welcomes you and looks forward to our continued communication. Our office is located at Intertribal Friendship House, 523 E. 14th st., Oakland, California and our mailing address is P.O. Box 7550, Berkeley, California, 94707.

Working Commission Reports: Second Conference of Indian Nations and Organizations of South America, Tiwanaku, Bolivia, March 6-13, 1983. With this publication, SAIIC initiates a series of publications containing information received from South American Indian sources in order to reach English-speaking readers throughout the world. We depend on your valuable collaboration in order to continue to maintain open communication, which will bring us together in a dialogue of solidarity focusing on the problems we face today, and our aspirations for the future.--Nilo Cayuqueo, Coordinator of SAIIC.

** Special thanks to Ester Hernandez who designed the SAIIC logo.**

ECUADOR

The different Indian organizations in Ecuador have found it necessary to create a coalition organization to present a united front against continual government policies prejudicial towards Indian people. The Second Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Ecuador took place in Quito from April 11-14, 1984. In his opening speech, the coordinator of the meeting, Manuel Imbaquingo, remarked that despite the racism and conflicts that Indians suffer, the meeting represents an advance in the Indian struggle against external exploitation.

COLOMBIA

The federation of Indian Communities of the Cauca (CRIC) are being harassed by the Colombian army in the army's struggle against the guerrilla movement M-19. Several Indian organizations, including CISA, have deplored the army's repressive actions a-

solidarity with Indian people.

MINES THREATEN YANOMAMI, SANEMA, AND YEKUANA IN VENEZUELA

The government of Venezuela continues to grant mining rights on Indian land. Recently renewable twenty year exclusive rights of mineral exploration and extraction over 2250 square kilometers of Yanomami territory at the headwaters of the Orinoco river have been given by the government to the MAVAC.A. corporation. This governmental action was carried out without consulting the Yanomami, nor with consideration of ancestral territorial rights of the Yanomami. In exchange for these mining rights, MAVAC.A. will contribute \$75.00 a month to the regional hospital and \$750 annually to the Salesian mission school.

The 13,500 Yanomami in southern Venezuela are one of the largest groups in the Amazon. For the past four years, they have been striving to gain title to their ancestral lands; so far unsuccessfully. The consequences of mining in their area will be grave in terms of the survival of the Yanomami because of the introduction of infectious disease, destruction of land, and threatened ethnocide and genocide. Indigenous support groups such as IWIGIA, the Anthropology Resource Center, and Cultural Survival have been important in bringing the situation of the Yanomami to the attention of the international community.

PERU

In Peru where over 50% of the population is Indian, national perspectives are increasingly worse. This is due to the economic crisis, and to strong repression by the government directed toward organizations representing a wide spectrum of Indian interests and groups. Also in Ayacucho, in the southeastern part of the country where the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path guerrilla organization) operates, matters are very critical. Since December, 1982 when the Peruvian military took control of the Ayacucho region, 2,300 people have been killed as a result of armed activity in that area and 1500 people are listed as missing. These are the official figures; other estimates are much higher. During this past month of July, it is estimated that over fifty people, most Indians, have died in this area.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Argentinian recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize visited Peru from May 9-11 through the sponsorship of Peace and Justice (SERPAJ) of which he is the Latin American coordinator. On May 9th he led a march for solidarity for peace in Ayacucho during which he called for a stop to the genocide and ethnocide of indigenous people in southern Peru and all parts of the world.

The Tupac Amaru Indian Movement (MITA) which includes a dozen Indian Organizations, has announced it will run candidates and present issues in the forthcoming elections of

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