

Mapuche Groups Define Common Goals

During the first week of June a significant gathering of the three major Mapuche organizations, Centros Culturales Mapuches, AD-Mapu, and Nehuen Mapu, resulted in a clear set of jointly defined goals:

1. All Mapuche demands for the coming democracy in Chile shall be presented through the Assembly of Civil Organizations, the nationwide coalition of non-governmental organizations working for a democratic Chile.

2. The formation of a tripartite commission to formulate a document to unite the Mapuche people into one organization that carries forward their struggles and goals.

The groups also agreed to the following proposals to the Assembly of Civil Organizations:

1. The immediate repeal of Laws 2568 and 2750, which eliminate communal land holdings of Indian people, and a return to Law 17,729, which supported the gains in landholding made before the military coup of 1973.

2. The reinstatement of all lands taken from Indian communities under Law 2568.

3. The reestablishment of the Indian Institute under Indian control.

4. The establishment of a new constitution giving rights of self-determination to Mapuche people. Legislation to conserve Mapuche land and natural resources. Recognition by all sectors of Chilean society of traditional Mapuche forms of social organization and authority structure. Guarantee of the rights of political participation in national affairs.



Assault On Huilliche Land Described

Carlos Orlando Lincomán is a member of the Butahuillimapu, the central council which represents 137 organized communities of Huilliche people between Valdivia and Chiloé in southern Chile, and *cacique* (chief) of the province. In an article in *Fortín Mapocho* dated June 9, 1986, he states, "After the coup [in 1973] they destroyed the Indian communal laws. They divided our land, trying to do away with our organizations. They told us we would each be landowners. But individualism is alien to the Huilliches."

Carlos says that Achala Island, which once belonged to Juan Bautista Inaicheo, another *cacique* and a relative of Carlos, now belongs to a hotel owner from Quellón. "Nobody knows how he got a title of ownership." He adds, "The beaches that once were ours have been turned over to individuals. We aren't allowed to gather shellfish or raise fish in the carrols."

Carlos also talked about the company which is building roads in the area. They take down the Huilliches' fences and the animals roam away. Then the police come and give the Huilliches tickets for not keeping their animals fenced in. "One day I complained to the engineer. He told me he had expropriation orders. But later I found out that this wasn't true."

For the Huilliches, the destruction of fences is a part of life. "I don't think that any future government will return our lands. The current policies are stacked against us. We had an opportunity with the Allende government, but then the coup came and nothing was left."