

## ECUADOR CONFENIAE Denounces Land Seizures By Oil Companies

The Confederation of Indian Nations in the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) has accused Occidental, Esso-Hispanoil, and Diamond Oil Companies from the United States, British Petroleum from England, and the Conoco-Opic consortium from the United States and Taiwan of moving into Indian lands with the approval of the Ecuadorian government. They have now become the largest threat to Indian communities.

Esso-Hispanoil, one of the largest oil companies in the world, obtained 100,000 hectares of land which belongs to the Huarani (Aucas). British Petroleum also obtained 200,000 hectares of Quichua land. According to CONFENIAE, both companies have been granted the use of land which is now being planted in African palm (see SAIIC Newsletter, Spring 1986). They say, "We have been able to prove that all these transnational corporations work cooperatively. The oil companies make the roads which are then used by those who exploit the African palm, cut down the forests and make this wood available to the large lumber companies."



*Shuar Indian of Ecuador.*

Photo: © 1979 P. Israel

## "The History Of My Organization"

*The following comments are part of an essay which won first prize in 1985 in a nationwide competition among Indian organizations in Ecuador. They originally appeared in La Bocina, the publication of the Ecuadorian Federation for Public Progress (Federación Ecuatoriana de Populorum Progressio).*

Our unity taught us what our goals must be. Our organization is not only for building community centers, bridges, schools, warehouses, water systems, and cooperatives, but also to develop a vision of our future. Clearly one of our goals is to develop the material infrastructure of our community, because we have to improve our lives. But as an organization we must be leery of developmentalism. We can't concern ourselves solely with material work, because then we run the risk of exploiting others in the same situation we were before.

At first we didn't understand this well and thought that by organizing ourselves we could do to other cultures what they have done to us. We lacked analysis and reflection. We always have to look to the future to see where our organization is going, to keep an eye on our goals, to avoid falling into the trap of developmentalism. Developmentalism brings along with it egoism, individualism, and materialism. It

