

10th regions. According to INDAP, by late 1983, 1,365 reservations totaling 235,000 hectares had been divided. This means that only 70% reservations have not yet been divided. . . .

"The implementation of this law has meant that several thousand Mapuches have been robbed of their lands and have been left without territorial rights. . . .

"One of the immediate effects which can be seen by the implementation of this new law is the severe social and economic situation. There is a high percentage of unemployment, hunger, and misery in all communities, both those which have been divided and those which have not. This is leading towards a situation of racial explosion of unforeseeable consequences, caused by the neglect, discrimination, and repression suffered during these years of military rule."

Mapuche Film

A film called Marri-Chihueu (Ten Times, We Will Overcome), in which the Mapuche give their testimony to the world, is now being made in 16mm and video. It presents the life, culture, and current reality of the Mapuche Nation, but it has not yet been completed due to lack of funds. If you would like to collaborate in any way, please write to: The Mapuche Film Project, 135 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238.

Juan Neculqueo

We would like to thank all those who were concerned about and collaborated with Juan Neculqueo, the Mapuche leader who was being sought by the military government of Chile (see our last newsletter). Juan spent some time in Panama but was denied visas to both Canada and the U.S. Through the assistance of SAIIC and other organizations, he is now exiled in Argentina under the sponsorship of the Centro Kolla. Juan is expecting his family to join him there and sends his thanks to all who, through SAIIC, have helped him.

BRAZIL

Contemporary scholars estimate that 500 years ago, before the European invasion of the New World, there were as many as 5 million people living in the Amazon basin in South America. The first Europeans to explore the Amazon River described sections where for mile after mile after mile the densely-clustered homes of the indigenous residents lined the river's banks. Today Brazilian Indians estimate their numbers at 200,000 people, organ-



ized into about 150 tribes scattered throughout the country, some 135 of whom retain their non-European language. Diseases and the demands of European-style economic enterprises have reduced the indigenous population to a mere three or four per cent of its original total.

Most of the news reaching SAIIC about Indians in Brazil during the last year centers on two topics, the continuing struggle to control their lands and their increasing success in joining the widely-scattered, linguistically-diverse Indian groups together for political action. Among the major events of 1984 were:

@ The Second Meeting of Indian Leadership, held in Brasilia in April. Organized independently of FUNAI, the government department for Indian affairs, the meeting resulted in the creation of the Indian Council of the Union of Indigenous Nations (Uniao das Nacoes Indigenas--UNI), with representatives from 44 Indian peoples.

@ The appearance of Jornal Indigena, published by UNI, which contains news on the organization and Indian people from throughout Brazil. Direct correspondence to Jornal Indigena; Rua Caiubi, 126; Perdizes 05010; Sao Paulo, S.P., Brasil.

@ An assembly of Guarani and other indigenous people in Dourados, Mato Grosso do Sul, November 24-25, to mark the first anniversary of the assassination of Marcal de Souza and press Indian demands for control of their land. In a letter to the president of FUNAI, the assembly gave the government until April 30, 1985, to act on their demands, after which the Indians will "go ahead and set our own boundaries."

@ The replacement of the non-Indian director of the Xingu homeland by an Indian after pressure from Indian groups living in the area.

URGENT ACTION BULLETIN from Survival International, 29 Craven St., London, WC2N 5NT, England:

"Isolated Indians of the Javari valley of western Brazil have been involved in violent clashes with petroleum prospectors invading their lands. Several people have been killed in these encounters. Following the killings, the oil prospectors withdrew from the region only to recommence their seismic surveys in another Indian area." The Catholic missionary organization CIMI has been active in denouncing oil prospecting in this area and pressuring FUNAI to take a more positive role regarding indigenous rights.

