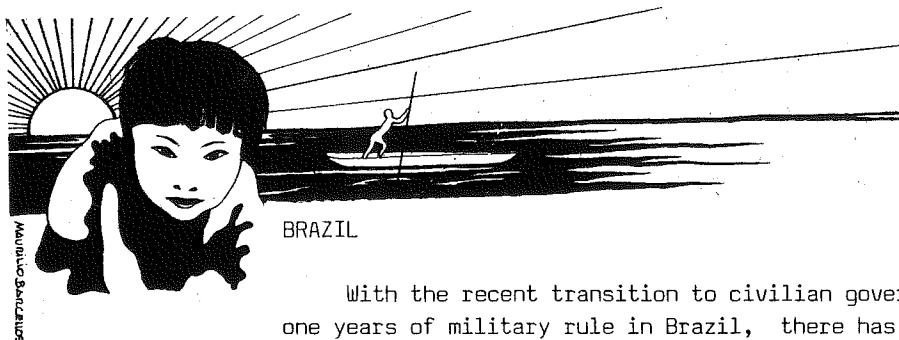


struggle has always been the domain of land. Land for us is Mother Earth, she which gives us life, the base of our existence, the base of our economy, and no people, no country, can continue to live without land. That is why we fight, for our land."



The Jornada sobre Discriminacion will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 19-22. It is sponsored by the Secretaria de Lucha Contra el Racismo of the World Council of Churches. For more information contact Yvone Quiroga, Cotagaita 1887, Ramos Mejia 1704, Buenos Aires, Argentina.



BRAZIL

With the recent transition to civilian government after twenty-one years of military rule in Brazil, there has been hope in Indian communities that administrators sympathetic to Indian concerns would be appointed to FUNAI, the government department for Indian affairs. However, according to the latest issue of Poratim (subscription \$15; send a bank order to CIMI/PORATIM, Edificio Venancio III, Sala 310, Caixa Postal 11-1159, CEP 70084, Brasilia, DF, Brasil), it now appears that an accountant who rose through the FUNAI bureaucracy during military rule will occupy the top position in the agency for the immediate future. Poratim suggests this reflects both the priorities of FUNAI, 75% of whose budget is consumed by the salaries of the agency's employees, as well as the slow pace of change that can be expected from the new government.

Another important issue on the horizon in Brazil is the apportionment of seats in the assembly which is to be elected next year to write a new constitution. Indian groups say they should be able to select Indian representatives to the assembly independently of the national political parties. They intend to promote the concept of Brazil as a

multiethnic federation where Indian nations can remain largely autonomous from other constituents.

Poratim also reports that 14 Indian groups have occupied a site in the state of Mato Grosso to block construction of a hydroelectric dam which will destroy a sacred waterfall of the Kayabi people. Work on the project began in 1983 with the construction of a road to the remote area on the Peixe River and barracks for some 3,000 workers who will build the dam. In 1984 preparation work was halted by lack of funds, and in March, 1985, Indians occupied the site in anticipation of renewed funding. They have expelled the caretaker left by the construction company, barricaded the road to the site, and burned one of the barracks. A commission has been established by the federal government to consider the Indians' demands, which include a permanent halt to construction of the dam, repeal of the law authorizing construction, and addition of the area around the waterfall to the officially-recognized domain of the Kayabi people.

The Kayabi and neighboring Apiaka people have resisted encroachment by non-Indians at least since the arrival of rubber prospectors in the early twentieth century. About half the Kayabi were relocated to the large Xingu reserve in the mid-1960s. Representatives of the relocated group joined in the occupation of the construction site and expressed their desire to return to their traditional home.

The dam will generate electricity for three small non-Indian settlements. Indians have suggested that a larger waterfall downriver from the Kayabi falls on a farm belonging to the governor of Mato Grosso would be a more appropriate site for the dam.

The Jornal Indigena (Rua Caiubi, 126; Perdizes 05010; Sao Paulo, S.P., Brasil), which is published by the Union of Indigenous Nations (Uniao das Nacoes Indigenas), also reports extensively on Indian groups in Brazil. The editors are Ailton Grenak and Alvaro Tukano.



#### DAYS TO REMEMBER

May 1, 1809

The pro-English governments of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay established the Triple Alliance and declared war on Paraguay to destroy the newly-formed Paraguayan state that was headed by Francisco Solano Lopez. Lopez had declared Paraguay a country that would stand independent in the face of external powers such as England and France. The armies of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay invaded Paraguay, defeated the Paraguayan army, killed Solano Lopez, and took a large portion of Paraguayan territory. In this tragic war hundreds of Mapuche Indians who were recruits in the Argentina army and many Paraguayan, Brazilian, and Uruguayan Indians died.