

obey them. Around Surucucus, there are a lot of gold-miners. The federal police have not taken them out. They tried, but what they did was to get the nice gold-miners out, not the bad and mean ones.

I am a Yanomami Indian who understands the non-Indian world. I keep asking President Collor to expel the gold miners from our territory. President Collor has been to Surucucus, but... only to a military base... That is the only thing he saw. President Collor knows that the situation is not good. So I am asking other people to continue pressuring the Brazilian government to help expel the gold-miners.

I spoke to the United Nations, which gave me an award. I told them that the prize did not help my people. So I am asking the UN to help the Yanomami people to pressure the Brazilian government to remove the gold-miners from our area. Also, we want the Organization of American States... to help us as friends.

I don't think it is just the Brazilian government. You should pressure every government in the world because they are all alike, and they should help us... Protect the Indians, protect the rivers, the mountains, the forest. We need to survive.

It is very important for them too. It is not only the Yanomami but also the non-Indians. We all depend on the land. So if they do not protect the land, all of humanity will die.

To you whom I am sending this message, what I am asking is to do something to help the Brazilian Indians, and also all the Indians of the world, because the Indians want to live in peace. Not only the Indians who live in the forest, but also the Indians who live in the city and the non-Indians who are living in the city are suffering because the government should pay attention to all of us and do something to help us.

I am going to say something else... about the 19 islands of Yanomami land that former President Sarney demarcated. We Yanomami Indians do not want to live in islands. We want to be safe. The gold miners are going to enter our islands... We need a continuous area and a big area in order to be able to fish and hunt and live well. We want all of our land united.

In regards to the government operation that is supposed to take out the gold miners... they have not taken out all of the gold miners. The operation has stopped because the government says that they do not have money... I know the government authorities, the Brazilian authorities, and I know the politicians and I know the way they work. My feeling is that they do not want to take the gold miners out... What they really want is to be here and exploit our resources. That is why they do not want to solve our problems.

*(See Davi, p. 45)*

## Some Ground is Made in the Struggle for the Construction of a Yanomami Park

President Collor finally obeyed the Brazilian court decision and revoked former President Sarney's illegal decrees dividing Yanomami territory into 19 'islands' and create three illegal mining reserves. But optimism about a decision on a Yanomami Park soon diminished when Collor announced he was setting up a group to study Yanomami boundaries. On April 19, National Day of the Indian, he signed a decree calling for a proposal for the demarcation of the Yanomami territory to be presented to him within six months.

During President Collor's visit to the United States in June, environmental and Indian support groups informed him that the evacuation of the gold-miners in the Yanomami area had been paralyzed and the gold-miners had again invaded an extensive part of the Yanomami territory. Upon returning to Brazil, Collor fired FUNAI president Cantidio Guerreiro Guimaraes.

Meanwhile, the government planned to begin on July 19, the third operation to expel the gold-miners from the Yanomami territory using a sum of \$1.8 million. The government's plans for the gold-miners is being questioned. It was reported that the intention is to incorporate several thousand expelled gold-miners into agricultural projects. If the projects are set up near the Yanomami area, it is certain that they will re-invade the territory.

Sydney Possuelo, the new president of FUNAI published a resolution on July 22, 1991, calling for the demarcation of the Yanomami territory as a contiguous area of 9,419,108 hectares, located in the states of Roraima and Amazonas. This was signed by President Collor. The government is estimating that it will cost \$6 million to demarcate the territory.

### Last Minute News!!!

**On November 14, President Collor de Mello granted "permanent rights" over 36,358 square miles to the Yanomami!!!**

