

CHILE


The on-going conflict between the inhuman dictatorship of General Pinochet and grassroots organizations continues to effect the Mapuche. On September 3, in Temuco, 300 miles south of Santiago, paramilitary commandos fired at the office of the Mapuche organization AD-MAPU. There were no casualties. As a result of international pressure the Mapuche leader Jose Santos Millao was released after several months of internal exile. Also the Painemal brothers who had been accused of having explosives were set free.

BRAZIL

Sixty leaders of 32 Indian nations met under the auspices of the Union of Indigenous Nations (Uniao das Nacoes Indigenas--UNI) in Goiania, capital of the central state of Goias, from June 9-13. According to Poratim (subscription \$15; send a bank order to CIMI/PORATIM, Edificio Venancio III, Sala 310, Caixa Postal 11-1159, CEP 70084, Brasilia, DF, Brasil), the main issues discussed were:

(1) The Indian policies of the civilian federal government which took office earlier this year after 21 years of military rule. The feeling of Indian leaders was summarized by Paulo Nonda of the Xavante community of Sangradouro in Mato Grosso, who said, "Nothing is going to change. (President) Sarney is very weak. He's afraid of the big landowners and the military." The meeting specifically rejected a plan to shift responsibility for the administration of economic policy toward Indian communities from federal to state governments.

(2) The form of Indian participation in elections to the assembly which will constitution for Brazil. The meeting reiterated that Indian nations should elect their own representatives to the assembly rather than participate in a process dominated by non-Indian political parties.



(3) Agrarian reform and demarcation of Indian land. "Agrarian reform must be accomplished, but not at the expense of the land of Indian communities." It was agreed that Indians should work with landless non-Indians to develop a plan which provides land to the latter, expels non-Indian settlers from Indian land, and fixes legal, permanent boundaries for Indian communities. Independently of government progress on these issues, Indian communities must proceed with self-demarcation, not only to promote recognition by outsiders of Indian rights but also to develop consciousness of self-determination within Indian communities.

(4) The structure of UNI. Sixteen Indian nations have joined UNI, raising membership to 60 of the 180 Indian nations in Brazil. Five regional councils were created to facilitate internal activity. The non-authoritarian nature of UNI's relationship with