

Photo: S. Lobo

James Muneta, who has been a frequent contributor of articles and illustrations to the SAIIC newsletter, as well as a participant in our radio program, returned home to take the position of coordinator of programs for the disabled through the Dine Center at Tsaille, Navajo Nation, Arizona. His thoughtful perspective on international indigenous issues has broadened the understanding of all of us. He plans to continue as an active member of SAIIC with a southwestern perspective. He writes, "I miss my good friends in the Bay Area, but I must help my people. My clan is the red sand people and the earth here in Tsaille is red, which makes me feel very happy and peaceful. There are many sagebrush bushes and cedar trees here which are also sacred medicine herbs to the Dine."

DAYS TO REMEMBER

July 3, 1492

The Italian adventurer Christopher Columbus set sail from Puerto de Palos in Spain with three ships. He reached the American continent on October 12 of the same year. This voyage was the first of many negative events that affected Indian people during the following nearly five hundred years.

August 29, 1532

The Inca leader Atahualpa was executed by order of Francisco Pizarro. In addition to the desecration of sacred temple and plundering, the death of Indian leaders were among the outrages the Indian people suffered during the Spanish conquest.

August 26 & 27, 1780

Tupac Amaru, the Quechua leader in what is now Peru, and Tupac Katari, leader in what is now Bolivia, initiated the liberation struggle against Spaniards occupying their land.



August 2, 1953

The then president of Bolivia, Victor Paz Estenssoro, under pressure from the Indian "campesinos," decreed the agrarian reform law and as a result, a large part of Indian land was returned to them. Paz Estenssoro is presently back in power.

August 29, 1977

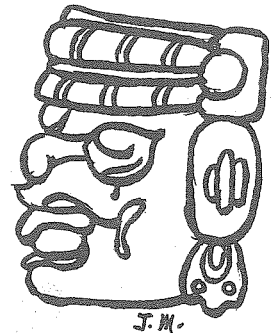
The Nordic Council of Samis in Scandinavia organized the Second Conference of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) in Kiruna, Sweden.

September 14, 1977

At the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) organized a conference on racism and discrimination against native peoples of the Americas.

September 19 & 20, 1985

Major earthquakes devastated southwestern Mexico. As we prepare our newsletter, the extent of damage in indigenous communities is unclear, but SAIIC expresses its sympathy for those effected and its support of efforts in the future to provide assistance.



BRIEFS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

45th International Congress of Americanists

Jennie Joe (Navajo), professor of American Indian Studies and Anthropology at UCLA, attended the Congress of Americanists in Bogota, Colombia, July 1-7. She organized a symposium on Involuntary Migration and Its Consequences, and presented a paper on the effects of relocation for Navajos in the joint use area of Arizona. Her comments on the congress overall: "I didn't see that fighting spirit I was looking for. Indigenous issues were sort of swept under the rug. Indians were only talked about as if they were in the past; a glorious past, but the present was ignored." Why can't an international congress of Americanists do better than that?



Film, Video, and Photography

A group of people working in film, video, and photography has begun meeting monthly in the San Francisco Bay Area. Indigenous concerns are a major focus of the group. If you are interested in attending, contact Leanna Wolfe, (415) 834-5740.