

and negative impact on Indian people. Of course, the people at the top are still very vulnerable to outside pressures (from the Minister of Interior or even the President)."

Also, "Recently the Brazilian government authorities have exposed an illegal scheme to occupy and exploit the resources of the Rio Mequens Indian reserve in Rondonia. Officials charge that a consortium of wealthy landholders from the south of Brazil drew up a plan to divide the land of the Makurap and Sakurap people, and to expand a logging operation that is already responsible for the exploitation of millions of dollars in rare tropical hardwoods from the reserve. The loggers have cut a network of roads through the area, including one through the middle of an Indian village and another through a cemetery.

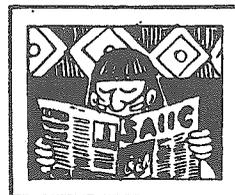
"Federal police also ordered the closing of a sawmill belonging to Lavrama, Brazil's second largest exporter of lumber. The police confiscated \$40,000 worth of mahogany and other hardwoods and plan further legal action against Lavrama which has illegally operated the sawmill within the boundaries of the Indian area since 1981. These woods command extravagant prices from consumers in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

"The Indians of the Mequens reserve were first contacted by rubber traders during the 1940's, and today they gather and sell rubber in order to obtain products such as cooking oil, salt, and rifles and ammunition for hunting. The logging companies have destroyed thousands of rubber trees on the reserve.

"The police action coordinated by FUNAI is one of the strongest measures yet taken to enforce the demarcation of Indian lands in Brazil."



SAIIC hosts "The South American Indian Update" the first Friday of each month at 8:00 P.M. on KPFA (FM94.1) in northern California. The program includes interviews with South American Indians regarding current issues, an update of recent events in South America from an Indian perspective, and traditional and modern South American Indian music. Listen in.



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