

500 Years of Indian Resistance: 1492 - 1992



The Confederation of Indian Nations of Ecuador (CONAIE) and the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) denounce Latin America's proposed celebrations of the "Discovery of America." They are initiating the development of a stronger network of Indian nations to protest all official government celebrations and are asking international supporters to do the same.

As the year 1992 approaches, the government of Spain, the Vatican, and certain Latin American countries will be planning spectacular fiestas to commemorate what they entitle, "The Meeting of Two Worlds," a term recently created in an attempt to win over the approval and participation of Indian people in the government-sponsored celebrations.

In response to the government planned activities, CONAIE will be staging a counter-campaign entitled, "500 Years of Indian Resistance." CONAIE is one of Ecuador's largest indigenous organizations which include Indian nations from both the Amazonian and mountain regions of Ecuador. CONAIE is calling upon all social sectors of Ecuador to demand dignity and justice for all Indian cultures and to denounce the 500 years of colonial and neo-colonial subjugation, slavery and uncivilized brutality of Indian people in the entire American continent.

ONIC has already organized various working committees, which include academics, cultural workers, educators, popular organizations, and networking and financial committees. ONIC has distributed internationally an eight-page document, inviting the general public to actively and decisively participate in "The Campaign of Self-Discovery of Our America." ONIC declares that the day of October 12, 1492 was a sad day for all Indian people. From that day on began the violent conquest and forced religious conversion whose impact is still felt today.

According to CONAIE and ONIC, the main objectives are:

(1) To organize a massive counter-campaign led by various Indian Nations to denounce the government-endorsed celebrations of "The Meeting of Two Worlds" and the "Discovery of America."

(2) To provide an avenue for debate and public opinion regarding the real significance of 500 years of European conquest in Latin America.

(3) That the campaign of "500 Years of Indian Resistance" draw political strength among the Indian people of Ecuador and Latin America to address the 500 years of exploitation, oppression, colonialism and ethno-cultural domination by Western European civilization.

(4) To declare 1992 as the year of Self-Determination of all Indian peoples and the right to full access of their land and territories.

(5) That the counter-celebration mobilization campaign become one of the highest forms of political expression for Indian people of Ecuador, Colombia and all of Latin America.

(6) To develop the political consciousness of Indian people and strengthen their organizations to be able to construct and function within a new society.

(7) To encourage solidarity among all social sectors, institutions, and allied groups, both nationally and internationally, which support Indian peoples' efforts to organize and become autonomous.

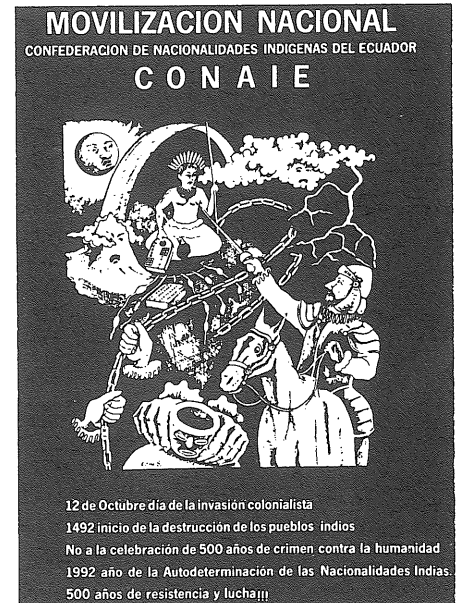
(8) To develop an extensive program of socio-economic studies of the Indian people of Ecuador, Colombia and of Latin America as a whole.

(9) To call upon the Christian churches to avoid confrontation and discrimination in their work with the Indian Nations, and to commit themselves to understanding religious and cultural differences in order to strengthen these bonds and break the centuries-old cycle of subjugation.

(10) To organize a campaign of historic recuperation, recognition of the values and the autonomy of all popular sectors.

CONAIE and ONIC have both established commissions which will coordinate the activities and research necessary to accomplish these goals of such unprecedented magnitude. For those interested in actively participating in this historical campaign, please contact the SAIIC office for more information.

NATIONAL MOBILIZATION
Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador
CONAIE



The 12th of October—the day of the colonial invasion
1492 began the destruction of the Indian Peoples
No to the celebration of 500 years of crime against humanity
1992 the year of Self-determination for Indian Nations
500 years of resistance and struggle!

500 Años de Resistencia
We Stand in Honor
Red Nations of Women
Warriors
Children
A Continent of War Cries
Echo in Hollow Caverns
Chaco, Kollasuyo, Ouro Preto, Potosi
Veins of Land in Our Hands
Obscure Eyes of Endurance
We Speak with the Heart of the Earth
Our Drums, Our Songs, Our Words, Our
Movement
We are Many Indian Nations, One People
We Speak in the Spirit of Resistance.
Gina Pacaldo