

the military who insist that Indian lands in the frontier zone threaten national security and the maintenance of Brazilian sovereignty.

This effort by the Senate is one more obstacle to the already slow process of demarcating Indian lands in Brazil. According to the bill, future demarcations would require the approval of the National Congress. Additional provisions would require the President to consult with the government of the state in which the Indian Area is proposed. These rules would make the demarcation of Indian lands anywhere extremely difficult, if not impossible.

From CIMI (Indianist Missionary Council).

More of the Same Under Paraguay's "Democratic" Government

Indigenous peoples in Paraguay have yet to reap the benefits of democracy, which was restored in 1989 after more than three decades of military dictatorship. Little has changed for Paraguay's Indigenous peoples since General Alfredo Stroessner's overthrow in 1989. In fact, many of the country's Indigenous communities have been fighting increased pressures to force them off their lands, as well as government indifference to their needs.

"We have title to our land, but it has been invaded by more than 200 peasant families. Our forest has been destroyed, our wild fruit trees have been uprooted and tossed aside without pity, the animals in the jungle have been killed off and we are going hungry," said Nobeito Romero, an elder in the Mbyá-Guaraní community, located in Ypaú in the southern department of Caazapa. Dozens of similar conflicts are being overlooked, or played down, by President Carlos Wasmosy's government.

In 1993, the Indigenous community in Ypaú managed to have some of its territory demarcated as an Indigenous reserve. The community of Ypaú was given 2,600 hectares of natural forests and swamps to share with two other communities. However, this has not put an end to the land invasions which began in 1989. The most recent land invasion in Ypaú began this past April, an official in the Ministry of Agriculture and Ranching's Farm Credit Office is reportedly a principal backer of this invasion. Three months after campesinos began invading the Indigenous lands, the Justice Ministry ordered police to dislodge the invaders. Yet, no action has been taken.

The Paraguayan government's position in relation to Indigenous communities is characterized by a double standard. Paraguay has one of the best laws on Indigenous rights in Latin America, but pays little attention to it. Instead, according to the Indigenous rights group Professional Socio-Anthropological and Legal Services, the government has actually tried to paralyze the progress of Indigenous communities and allied NGOs.

Information from Latinamerica Press, Lima, Peru.

Indian Lands in US and Canada Targeted for Nuclear Dumping

Nuclear waste produced throughout the United States could soon end up in the lands of the Meadow Lake Cree Reserve in Canada's Saskatchewan province. If plans under consideration by tribal councils, nuclear power companies and government agencies come to fruition, this would be the final stop in a long chain of nuclear waste production and storage housed on, or adjacent to, Indian lands.

The US Department of Energy and a potential waste recipient, Atomic Energy of Canada LTD, are considering construction of a permanent nuclear waste dump on the Meadow Lake Cree Reserve. The Meadow Lake Tribal Council has supported this proposal. In their current Economic Initiatives Report, the Council touts the dump as an economic boon for the tribe's 8,000 members.

In promoting nuclear waste as the cure for economic ills, the Council follows in the footsteps of the Mescalero Tribal Council in New Mexico, which has offered the Mescalero reservation as a temporary nuclear storage site. In Feb. 1994, officials of the Meadow Lake Cree and the Canadian government visited the Mescalero Reservation, and are reportedly working on an agreement within which the Mescalero would act as temporary holder and broker of US nuclear waste—which would then be shipped on to Cree lands. Mescalero Tribal President Wendell Chino is currently negotiating with thirty-two utilities and three nuclear companies for storage of their waste, according to a Greenpeace representative. These plans may have been forestalled by a tribal plebiscite in which Mescalero members categorically rejected proposals for nuclear waste storage.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has paved the way for international shipping of nuclear waste. Irradiated fuel is a non-tariff item within the trade agreement, making it economic to ship nuclear waste into Canada. The only requirement is access to temporary and permanent storage sites. For this, Indigenous lands have been targeted, just as they have always been for nuclear testing, uranium mining and fuel enrichment.

Tom Goldtooth of the Indigenous Environmental Network characterizes this as "a plot by government and industry to take advantage of Indian territories." He adds, "They know that we don't have environmental codes or infrastructures that would protect us from storage of waste. Our network and our constituents have been vehemently opposed to the federal strategy to site nuclear facilities on our lands. It has to be stopped. If our elected tribal officials—and some of them are puppets of the government—won't stop it, our grassroots organizations will."