

We've worked with the Western Shoshone people in their fight to maintain their ancestral homeland. They were also able to successfully defeat the MX missile that was proposed to go into Nevada. They used the argument that they held title to the land and it worked.

We've worked with women's health projects. We've worked with women who were interested in reviewing traditional methods of healing and midwifery. They have been very successful in their communities in bringing women together to talk about their common concerns and to gain control over their reproductive rights.

We've worked with over 85 projects in the past eight years and they are all grassroots, Indian-controlled, Indian-initiated projects in Canada and the United States.

SAIIC: How have you now become involved with some hemispheric-wide concerns of Indian people?

Victoria: We became involved as an organization in 1981 when the people in Guatemala asked us to speak out on their behalf. We ran a full-page ad in The New York Times denouncing the Guatemalan government for their brutalization of the Guatemalan people, in particular the Indian people who are the majority in that country.

We keep finding, no matter where we go or who we talk to, that our concerns as Indian people are the same concerns. We're all concerned about our land, our spirituality, our families, our communities, and our rights to exist as separate, distinct people. Those are themes that come up over and over again. And they are the same issues that people involved in both hemispheres are working on right now. I think that we have a lot to learn from one another as Indian people, and I think that we can help one another.

You know, it's all community. We are talking about community, and there are many people now working in both the United States and Canada to rebuild their communities and rebuild their nations. I think it is time to start reaching out to other Indian people in Central America and South America and to start rebuilding the ties that we've had over the centuries.

For more information about the Seventh Generation Fund, write P.O. Box 10, Forestville, CA 94536.



Art Dealers Raid Indian Heritage

John Ross, a correspondent writing from Peru, reports that the heritage of Indian civilizations is vanishing from under the noses of the Peruvian and Mexican governments.

The Peruvian government is concerned that some 50,000 objects created by Indian cultures before the European invasion are being stolen by graverobbers and art dealers each year. But descendants of the Incas argue that the government's policy of nationalizing such objects constitutes theft of Indian heritage by non-Indian governments.

"The whites manipulate our culture. They make laws for their own class and state which, of course, is not truly national, since we, the majority of the population, are excluded from power," says Salvador Palomino, a Quechua-speaking descendant of the Incas and one

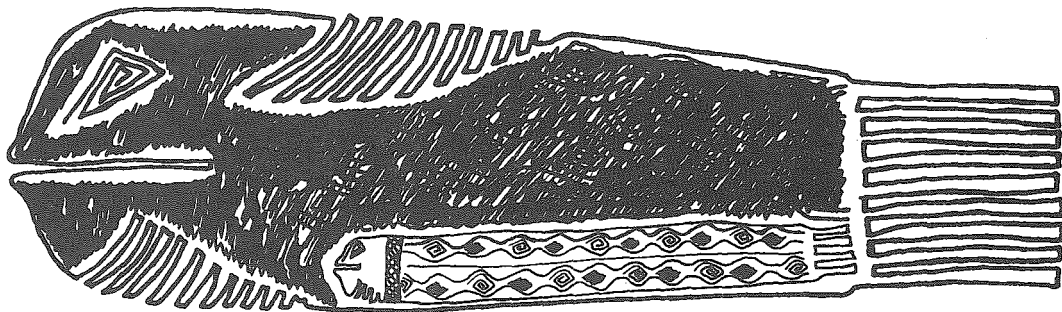
of the founders of the South American Indian Council (CISA), with headquarters in Lima. "They take our mummies and insult the dead by displaying them as they do. They take our religion and use our creations to justify their ethnocentric theories which say that European cultures were the height of civilization. When I go to their museums, a profound sadness comes over me." Several years ago CISA successfully prevented exhibition in the United States of a stela from the ancient Chavin culture because "we feared it would be lost to us forever."



Palomino and other Indian leaders propose a system of regional museums for Peru run by the nation's 64 Indian groups. "We are not against the whites, only their hegemony. We need to form a regional system so that we can have access to these relics," states Palomino.

In Mexico, the theft of 140 priceless Indian objects from the National Museum of Anthropology last Christmas eve renewed demands for the return of valuable ritual objects to the Indian communities from which they were originally removed. Indian organizations such as the National Nahua Council, who are descendants of the Aztecs, have long demanded such repatriation. Santiago Gonzales, a Tarascan Indian, said, "We don't know who stole those pieces Christmas eve, but the Anthropology Museum steals from us all the time."

Actress Shirley MacLaine has demonstrated recently another way that Indian heritage is stolen. Filming her life story in Peru, she spoke of revelations she received that the famous lines and figures drawn in the desert near Nasca are the work of extraterrestrials. Most other people familiar with the tremendous accomplishments of Indian cultures see no reason to attribute them to outside forces.



A beautiful collector's edition silkscreen print of the mythical Morib-it fish is now available through SAIIC.

Each print is numbered and signed by Ailton Krenak, an artist with the Nucleo de Cultura Indígena in Brazil and a coordinator of the Union of Indian Nations (UNI). Printed in red and black on pastel paper, the silkscreens are \$30 unframed or \$65 framed. All proceeds will benefit UNI.