

## Update on Chiapas

August 6-9, the National Democratic Convention (CND), organized by the EZLN in Aguascalientes, Chiapas, emerged as one of the most significant political gatherings in modern Mexican history. Six thousand delegates from all over Mexico attended. The central theme was the "transition to democracy." Several local, regional and national Indigenous organizations participated (see article below). Most were not entirely satisfied with either the CND's structure or results, but have chosen to continue participating.

October 8, the Zapatista National Liberation Army broke off negotiations with the government, stating that the Salinas administration was not acting in good faith, and was preparing a military assault. The EZLN also claimed to have mined the roads leading to their territory.

October 10, peace mediator, Bishop Samuel Ruiz expressed "grave" concern regarding the tensions in the state, and called on both sides to maintain the cease-fire and return to the negotiating table.

October 12, the CND reconvened in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. With the support of thousands of local Indigenous supporters, the CND then symbolically and peacefully took over the town. The convention declared itself in permanent session, stating that a civil insurgency is necessary in order to topple the PRI from power. The CND also called for nation-wide mobilization on Nov. 5, to prevent President-elect Ernesto Zedillo from taking office.



Photo: Carlos Contreras

The EZLN has maintained a presence in Chiapas's principal city, San Cristobal de las Casas: mini Zapatistas for sale.

## Six Principles for a New Mexican State

The following article is based on a proposal titled "Six Principles and Six Proposals" written by the Independent Indian Peoples Front (FIPI)

and the Committee for the Support and Defense of Indian Rights (CADDIAC). After extensive consultations with Indigenous organizations, FIPI con-

tributed this document to the working roundtables established at the National Democratic Convention. Although written for Mexico, the analysis could apply