

PERU

## Women's Voices

"You must understand that, in the countryside, things are really different. The *campesina* is like a slave to her husband. Her life is the kitchen, the animals, the fields. She gets up at 4 a.m. to cook, carry water, make the *chicha* [fermented corn drink] and work on the farm. Even if it's pouring rain she has to cover up with plastic and go out to bring in the sheep. Many nights we don't get in from the fields before 8 or 9 p.m. and then we begin supper for our children."

—Marta, 36, married and the mother of 7 children, the only woman leader in the Agrarian Federation of Apurimac in the Andean highlands.

"We've formed our women's committee to defend our interests, because we want to defend our rights. As women, we want to be respected by the men; they should at least let us participate freely in different organizations and also let us be leaders too. Don't you think? . . . They tell us . . . that we have formed our committee because we want to get out of the kitchen. But that's not true. We want to get things done, like real people, just like the men."

—Presentación, who participates in a women's committee in her community.

"The most conscious women are the ones who participate and fight with their husbands to try to make them understand. To do this they must be fully aware of the need to participate, that they have the right to do so, that they have to fight it out with their husbands, and make them understand that this situation of exploitation, misery and oppression must be confronted by both of them."

—Nelly, 43, mother of 11, general secretary of the women's committee of her shantytown.

Quotations and photo from *Women in Peru: Voices from a Decade*, published in English in 1986 by the Ecumenical Committee in the Andes, 198 Broadway, #302, New York, NY 10038.

## New Federation Forms In Peruvian Amazon

On March 28, leaders and representatives from seven organizations of Indian people met to form the Confederation of Amazon Nations of Peru (*Confederación de Nacionalidades Amazonicas del Peru*, CONAP). The goals of the new group include "representing our people and addressing our fundamental rights" and acting "in the long struggle against all forms of colonialism."

Groups comprising the new organization include the Federation of Yanesha Indian Communities (FECONAYA), Federation of Cocama-Cocamilla (FEDECOCA), Federation of Indian Communities of the Ucayali (FECONAYY), Federation of Campa-Ashaninca Indian Communities (FECONACA), Federation of Indian Communities of Madre de Dios (FENAMAD), Federation of Piro Indian Communities (FECONAYA), and the governing council of the Nomatsiguenga Indian communities.

