

conference brought greetings of solidarity and reports that there have been recent threats to the little land that remains in their hands. The representatives stated that the Pataxos Indians have especially suffered at the hands of the government who last year permitted the activity of a French-North American multi-national corporation. This corporation set off numerous dynamite charges in the territory of the Kasinawas Indians. These explosions emitted poisonous chemicals that killed eight Indians and caused a great deal of illness. Ailton Lacerda, of the Grenak Indian nation, said in reference to this act, "After our brothers were killed, the cynical capitalists offered \$300,000 as compensation, as if the lives of people can be bought which is typical of the way they deal with our people."

## ARGENTINA

After the catastrophic situation of repression, assassinations, disappearances and hunger where many children and elders died in the provinces of Salta and the Chaco in northern Argentina, there is now the beginning of hope with democratic "apertura" begun in 1983. Although the economic crisis continues, a rebirth of Indian organizations and the struggle for the rights of the more than one million Indians who now live in Argentina has begun. Currently there is emphasis on establishing a law that guarantees the indigenous land base.

## CHILE--The Mapuche Situation

With Decree Law 2568 of 1979, the military regime of Pinochet provides for the extermination of Mapuche communal lands. Not only does this law state that all Indian lands must be divided, but it also implies that after the division, the lands will no longer be considered "Indian" (nor the people "Indians"). Indians will no longer be defined by their culture or language, and land division cannot be appealed.

The Mapuche were never conquered by either the Incas or the Spanish. Although Chileans state that they "pacified" Mapuches in 1883, Mapuches are proud and conscious of their history. Their struggle has not ended. They not only struggle for their land (which has been reduced from 31 million hectares in 1540 to 350,000 hectares at present), but they also resist being assimilated by the colonial society. At the same time, the Mapuche, along with a vast majority of the Chilean population, are actively fighting the authoritarian dictatorship of Pinochet.

URGENT NOTICE: Juan Neculqueo, a national leader of the Mapuche organization AD-Mapu, was imprisoned for three years after the coup of 1973, accused of collaborating with the freely elected Allende government. Since his release, he has been arrested three more times. His last imprisonment was on April 23, when he and four other AD-Mapu

members were on their way to talk to a lawyer in Temuco regarding the detention of two national officers (see SAIIC Newsletter no. 1, vol. 1). The other four members were held for 14 hours with no charge. Neculqueo was released six days later and his life threatened if he was seen again. He fled the country to Peru, where he was arrested again. After his release, he participated in the WCIP General Assembly in Panama. He is presently in Panama, expecting to obtain a visa to come to the United States and Canada.

If you or your organization can help with support efforts, please reach SAAIC by phone or mail. Also, any donations for Juan's family, still in Chile, can be sent through us.

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Since we are devoting most of this newsletter to the WCIP Conference, we want to include the following information on indigenous concerns at the international level.

#### CANADA

The government owned National Canadian Railroad is expanding their railroad line in British Columbia. This expansion will have an extremely damaging effect on traditional Shuswap, Thompson, and Stolo fishing sites. The major places where fish lay their eggs will also be greatly damaged. The expansion program threatens all the native fishermen of the area. The 4th General Assembly of the World Council of Indigenous People resolved to give support to the first Indian nations, Shuswap, Thompson, and Stolo in their efforts to stop this expansion program to insure that the traditional economic base will not be destroyed.

#### SAMI NORDIC GROUP

The Sami Nordic Council suggests that during the International Year of Peace in 1986 the United Nations should organize a workshop on the role of indigenous peoples of the world. The objective of the workshop should be to emphasize and discuss human rights, solidarity, democracy, tolerance, knowledge, understanding, and acceptance of indigenous peoples. They should also discuss more concrete matters, such as war, disarmament, de-nuclearized zones, and other activities that threaten world peace and peaceful co-existence.