

MILITARY RESERVES ON INDIAN LANDS IN THE AMAZON

The Brazilian military controls 25 million acres of land in the Amazon. Presidential decrees have allotted and reserved 36 areas for the armed forces. According to Angelo Pansa, an Italian priest who is a member of the International Tribunal for the Rights of the People and who is also active in CIMI (Indigenous Council of Missionaries) there are 6 areas that transcend Indigenous lands, totally or partially. In the southern part of the state of Pará, where 2,600 Indians live, the military holds 16 million acres, an area twice the size of the Kayapó Indian reserve. The majority of the land reserved for the military is devoted to the establishment of living quarters, the stationing of battalions and border platoons as well as for military training in areas that are remote and sparsely populated.

Source: *Jornal do Comércio*, 2/11/92 (via *alternex*)



GOLD-MINERS AND SOLDIERS SPREADING VENEREAL DISEASES TO INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Indigenous women and young girls in the Amazon have been contracting venereal diseases from gold miners and soldiers. According to CIMI (Indigenous Missionary Council) and Indigenous leaders from Pará, Amazonas and Acre, many of them, lured to the cities, end up in brothels and in the trafficking of babies throughout the Amazon.

"Prostitution among indigenous girls is alarming. Indigenous women come to the city and don't have job qualifications, so selling their bodies becomes the only alternative", said Antonio Apurinã, Coordinator of UNI-Acre (The Union of Indigenous People in Acre). Anthropologist Antonio Maria de Souza confirms that soldiers have been known to gang rape Indian women in the city of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, on the border of Brazil and Colombia, in the state of Amazonas.

Source: *Folha de São Paulo*, 2/10/92 (via *alternex*)

