

## CHILE

The on-going conflict between the inhuman dictatorship of General Pinochet and grassroots organizations continues to effect the Mapuche. On September 3, in Temuco, 300 miles south of Santiago, paramilitary commandos fired at the office of the Mapuche organization AD-MAPU. There were no casualties. As a result of international pressure the Mapuche leader Jose Santos Millao was released after several months of internal exile. Also the Painemal brothers who had been accused of having explosives were set free.

## BRAZIL

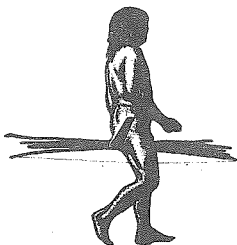
Sixty leaders of 32 Indian nations met under the auspices of the Union of Indigenous Nations (Uniao das Nacoes Indigenas--UNI) in Goiania, capital of the central state of Goias, from June 9-13. According to Poratim (subscription \$15; send a bank order to CIMI/PORATIM, Edificio Venancio III, Sala 310, Caixa Postal 11-1159, CEP 70084, Brasilia, DF, Brasil), the main issues discussed were:

(1) The Indian policies of the civilian federal government which took office earlier this year after 21 years of military rule. The feeling of Indian leaders was summarized by Paulo Nonda of the Xavante community of Sangradouro in Mato Grosso, who said, "Nothing is going to change. (President) Sarney is very weak. He's afraid of the big landowners and the military." The meeting specifically rejected a plan to shift responsibility for the administration of economic policy toward Indian communities from federal to state governments.

(2) The form of Indian participation in elections to the assembly which will constitution for Brazil. The meeting reiterated that Indian nations should elect their own representatives to the assembly rather than participate in a process dominated by non-Indian political parties.

(3) Agrarian reform and demarcation of Indian land. "Agrarian reform must be accomplished, but not at the expense of the land of Indian communities." It was agreed that Indians should work with landless non-Indians to develop a plan which provides land to the latter, expels non-Indian settlers from Indian land, and fixes legal, permanent boundaries for Indian communities. Independently of government progress on these issues, Indian communities must proceed with self-demarcation, not only to promote recognition by outsiders of Indian rights but also to develop consciousness of self-determination within Indian communities.

(4) The structure of UNI. Sixteen Indian nations have joined UNI, raising membership to 60 of the 180 Indian nations in Brazil. Five regional councils were created to facilitate internal activity. The non-authoritarian nature of UNI's relationship with



individual nations was emphasized: "No representative to UNI supplants the authority of the community represented. After discussion of issues within each community, the community can accept or reject the representative's position."

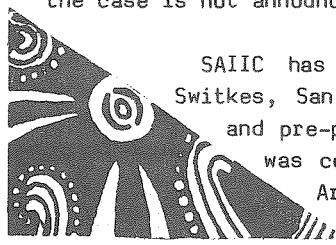
(5) The need for international organizations of Indian nations. Speaking on behalf of related Brazilian Indian groups, Miguel Tankamash, a Shuar leader from Ecuador, said, "Indians of Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, all of Latin America and all of the world have the same problems. We must develop international organizations of indigenous people to combat the policies of the capitalist governments."



Also according to Poratim, 3,000 Indians from three states blockaded a highway in southwestern Parana, the next state south of Sao Paulo, for four days in early June and expelled 7 non-Indian settler families from Indian land, the most recent incidents in a long struggle by the Kaingang and Guarani communities of the Manguerinha reserve to regain usurped land.

The blockade ended with an agreement that the communities will receive financial compensation for land taken by a highway, a hydroelectric plant, and a high-voltage electric line on the reserve and that there will be a rapid decision by federal courts of a long-pending Indian suit to reclaim a large portion of the reserve occupied by a non-Indian lumbering firm.

The Manguerinha reserve dates from the 19th century, when Indian communities were formally granted land as payment for services to the Brazilian government. In 1903, a reduced area of about 18,000 hectares was again legally recognized by the government after invasions by non-Indian farming and lumber interests. In 1949, 9,000 of the 18,000 hectares were appropriated by the federal government as part of a scheme to encourage non-Indian settlement in the area. In 1961, the government sold the land to a private lumbering firm, against whom the Indians have struggled in court since 1974. Although the highway blockade was lifted, Kaingang and Guarani Indians continue occupying the disputed land and have pledged to initiate new blockades if a favorable disposition of the case is not announced soon.



SAIIC has received news from Brazil from Rosaines Aguirre and Glenn Switkes, San Francisco Bay Area residents who are currently doing research and pre-production work for a film they plan to make on Amazonia. Glenn was co-producer of the film "The Four Corners: A National Sacrifice Area?"

They write, "FUNAI (the government agency in charge of Indian affairs) is especially interesting, since the 'colonels' are now gone. There are a number of activists working there who are truly interested in redefining FUNAI's inaction

and negative impact on Indian people. Of course, the people at the top are still very vulnerable to outside pressures (from the Minister of Interior or even the President)."

Also, "Recently the Brazilian government authorities have exposed an illegal scheme to occupy and exploit the resources of the Rio Mequens Indian reserve in Rondonia. Officials charge that a consortium of wealthy landholders from the south of Brazil drew up a plan to divide the land of the Makurap and Sakurap people, and to expand a logging operation that is already responsible for the exploitation of millions of dollars in rare tropical hardwoods from the reserve. The loggers have cut a network of roads through the area, including one through the middle of an Indian village and another through a cemetery.

"Federal police also ordered the closing of a sawmill belonging to Lavrama, Brazil's second largest exporter of lumber. The police confiscated \$40,000 worth of mahogany and other hardwoods and plan further legal action against Lavrama which has illegally operated the sawmill within the boundaries of the Indian area since 1981. These woods command extravagant prices from consumers in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

"The Indians of the Mequens reserve were first contacted by rubber traders during the 1940's, and today they gather and sell rubber in order to obtain products such as cooking oil, salt, and rifles and ammunition for hunting. The logging companies have destroyed thousands of rubber trees on the reserve.

"The police action coordinated by FUNAI is one of the strongest measures yet taken to enforce the demarcation of Indian lands in Brazil."



SAIIC hosts "The South American Indian Update" the first Friday of each month at 8:00 P.M. on KPFA (FM94.1) in northern California. The program includes interviews with South American Indians regarding current issues, an update of recent events in South America from an Indian perspective, and traditional and modern South American Indian music. Listen in.



If you are beyond our range, you can order a cassette of the latest program from SAIIC by sending \$8.00 to: American Friends Service Committee/SAIIC, P.O. Box 7550, Berkeley, CA 94707.