

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.

#### INTERVIEW WITH NILDA CALLANAUPA, QUECHUA FROM PERU

SAIIC was fortunate to be visited by Nilda Callanaupa, who was in the United States to participate in the Handweavers Conference held in San Jose. Nilda is a weaver from the community of Chincheros, about a day's walk from the city of Cuzco, Peru.

SAIIC: Do the people in your community use what is woven there?

NILDA: Yes, especially the mantas. The women use them all the time. Women use them daily. One wraps the baby; one is to keep you warm from the cold mountain air; and one is for carrying the baby or other things on your back. So women use three mantas every day. And each woman weaves her clothing.

SAIIC: Can you tell us about your family?

NILDA: My father was a peon on a hacienda. He had a small piece of land, but he had to work for a hacienda to be allowed to work his land. When Velasco became president in 1968, he reduced the size of some of the haciendas, and my father was fortunate to be freed of this system. He tells many things about life on the haciendas. He suffered terribly because of the hacienda owners. For example, my father had to work from six in the morning until six in the evening, and it was two hours to walk from home to where he worked, all of it up a steep hill. At night he returned home exhausted; he slept a few hours and had to return to work. And the best sheep and cattle went to the hacienda owner. He could just say, "This one and this one is for me." The situation was incredible under the hacienda system.



Agnes Tso, Navajo weaver and teacher at Hintil Kuu Co, the American Indian pre-school in Oakland, with Nilda Callanaupa (right). Photo: S. Lobo

SAIIC: What are the current issues that your community faces?

NILDA: Now the people from the city of Cuzco want to construct an airport in the valley where Chincheros is located. The business people of Cuzco want the airport constructed without giving any importance to the people of Chincheros. Our town and lands will be destroyed. But now more and more, we Indians are becoming organized, so we can fight and resist these things such as the airport. Before, the Indian people were like a kind of slave or employee who was worth nothing, who shouldn't ask questions or give opinions to those who were the bosses. But now this kind of organization has changed.

SAIIC: What has made this change?

NILDA: The young people are learning more year after year.

SAIIC: Perhaps there will be a better future?

NILDA: Yes, but who knows? Now with the economic situation, we don't really know what is going to happen. The devaluation is too much; it is incredibly exaggerated. In 1981 the sol exchange rate was 450 per dollar. Now it is 10,000 per dollar. It is an extremely grave problem. Every child who is born in Peru has debts from the time he or she is born. From the time he or she is in the womb, they have debts that can never be repaid by the time they die, no matter how hard they work. We have to work each day to repay these debts. It is an impossible situation.

SAIIC: Do you have a message for Indian people in the United States?

NILDA: Yes. It is a pleasure to give a warm greeting from a Peruvian Indian from the Cuzco area, from a very small community where there are many weavers and where we work growing corn and potatoes.



\*\*\*URGENT BULLETIN\*\*\*

The missionary Irma Cleusa, coordinator of the Regional Indigenous Council of Puru in northern Brazil, was found assassinated May 3. Indian leaders have accused local landowners of her death.



BOLIVIA

From Boletin Chitakolla (subscription \$10; send a bank order to Sr. Eduardo Genaro Conde Quispe, Casilla 20214, Correo Central, La Paz, Bolivia):

"Bolvian President H. Siles Suazo has indicated that national elections will be