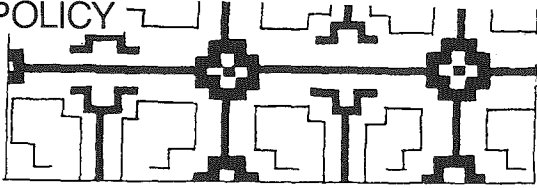


AIDSEP CALLS FOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT AMAZON POLICY



The Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDSEP) held its Thirteenth Assembly in September, 1988, and called for changes in Peruvian government policy to include Indian participation in designing Amazon development policies.

Among the themes discussed were those of land, natural resources and ecology, production and commercialization, social services, and organization. Consensus emerged on several key points:

- "to demand changes in the government's economic policies for the Amazon, so that development benefits our communities, and not the bosses and business interests"—to develop an urgent program for nutrition and medicine, with the funding for this project controlled by Indian representatives in order to avoid corruption;
- to develop a national plan for land titling for Indian communities, with AIDSEP coordinating the self-demarcation of Indian lands.
- that international funds from development agencies be prioritized to "recognize, title, and increase the size of" Indian lands, "because we are the ancestral owners and the best caretakers of the Amazon".

Representatives of the 19 regional organizations attending the meeting in Villa la Paz, Chosica elected a new Board, consisting of:

President, Miqueas Mishari, Asháninka

Vice-President, Roman Shajiam Sakejat, Aguaruna-Huambisa

Vocals, Eli Sanchez Rodriguez, Shipibo and Raul Casanto, Shingari

Treasurer, Oswaldo Manihuari Murayi, Cocama; and

Secretary, Santos Adan Atsua, Aguaruna.

SOURCE: "Voz Indígena", Av. San Eugenio 981, Lima 13, Peru.



ASHANINKA INDIANS HELD IN SLAVERY

Among the most serious violations of the human rights of Indian people in Peru is the enslavement of the Asháninka people in the Ucayali, Tambo, and Urubamba River regions.

At the recent Congress of the Regional Indian Organization of Atalaya (OIRA), delegates called for immediate action on the part of the Peruvian authorities to stop these violations.

Delegates of the community of Diobamba stated that "Hernan Cagna, owner of the Fundo Nueva Luz has been exploiting more than 50 Asháninka families for more than 30 years through slavery and hard labor without payment, and with threats of putting people in the private jail he has built. Cagna has about 60 men working in the extraction of lumber in the Tahuania Creek, forcing them to work from 6am to 6pm."

Florinda Arenas Campos denounced the *patron* Victor Merino for raping her 15-year old daughter in front of her. Later, she said, Merino took the young woman to the Fundo Salvaje on the Ucayali River. In spite of Florinda's denunciations, no action has been taken by the authorities. She revealed that Merino has 20 Indian people working in his house as slaves.

There may be thousands of Indian people in the Atalaya region who are being physically mistreated or held in slavery, whose lands have been stolen. Some who protested have been murdered. According to OIRA, this is in clear violation of the Law of Native Communities and related government regulations.