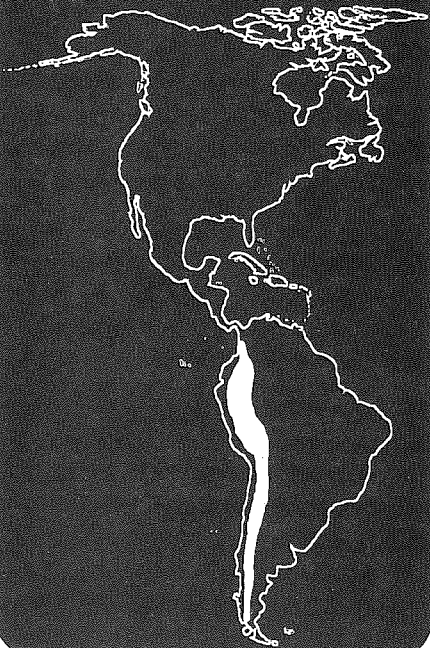


Andes



Uprising in Ecuador!

(Ecuador) One-hundred representatives of the nine Indigenous Nations of Ecuador met and decided to stage the "First Uprising of Indigenous Peoples" on June 4th. The uprising was a response to the Borja administration's treatment of Native peoples and their continuous disregard for agreements made, promising restraint regarding the exploitation of Indian lands by multinational corporations.

The decision to call for an uprising was spearheaded by the *Confederation of Indigenous Nations of Ecuador (CONAIE)*, the *Confederation of Indian Organizations of the Ecuadorean Andes (ECUARUNARI)*, and the *Confederation of Indian Organizations of the Ecuadorean Amazon (CONFENIAE)* the umbrella organizations which includes all major Indian organizations in Ecuador. Collectively, these organizations represent approximately four million people. The decision was made in early June, in the town of Pujili, Cotopaxi Province.

The uprising began with a sit-down occupation of the Santo Domingo Church in Quito by approximately 200 Indian people and their supporters from human rights organizations. Simultaneously, all major roadways were blocked in the

Amazonian province of Napo. The uprising quickly spread throughout the nation as people proceeded to congregate in massive protest demonstrations engulfing the nation's population centers. All major thoroughfares in Ecuador were blocked, and the situation was complicated by a general strike among farmworkers.

At the start of the uprising, CONAIE declared "the history of our country is the history of 500 years of Indigenous resistance against colonialism, oppression, discrimination and neocolonialism. The Indigenous Uprising demonstrates the continuity of a struggle begun by Rumitahui, Tupac Amaru, and other leaders who fought to recover the lands belonging to our forefathers."

Violent clashes between the military, police and Indian people took place in various parts of the country, leading to several casualties and the arrest and detainment of some leaders. According to ECUARUNARI, Oswaldo Paguay, one of their leaders was killed by the military in the Chimborazo Province.

CONAIE demanded that the Borja government comply with the Sarayacu Agreement signed in June, 1989. The 16 point agreement in-

cludes a demand for the return of stolen lands and that negotiations be held in good faith to solve existing land conflicts, the immediate halt to oil exploration and exploitation on Indian lands, the recognition of an Indigenous Nationality Law, which recognizes Ecuador as a plurinational state, and the immediate expulsion of the *Summer Institute of Linguistics* from Ecuador. Negotiations began on June 7th, when the demonstrators left the Quito church and the military released those they had arrested. The Archbishop of Quito, Antonio Gonzalez and Bishop Victor Corral of Riobamba mediated the talks between CONAIE and the government to put an end to the violence.

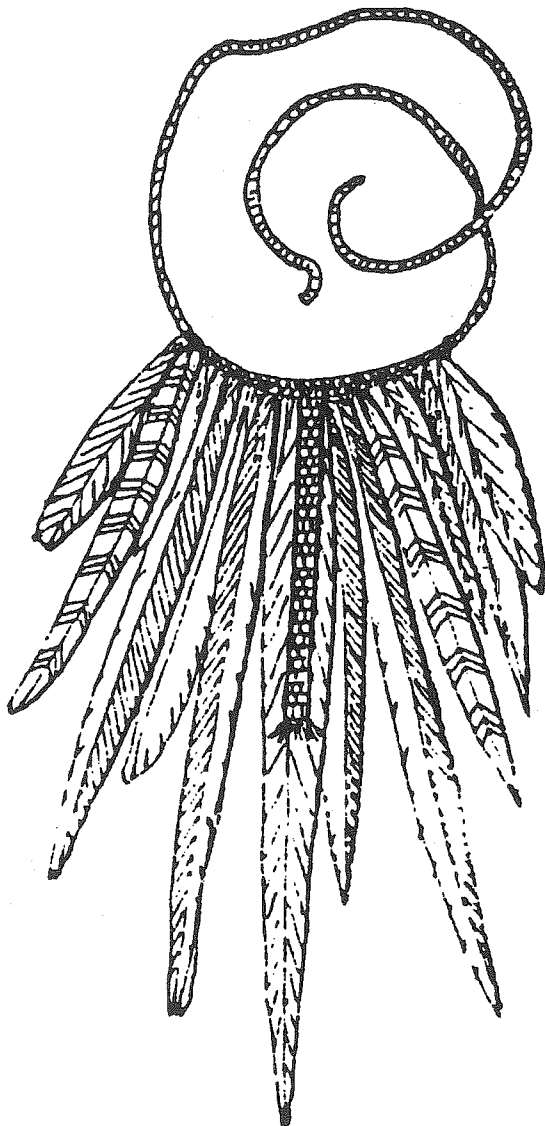
President Borja ordered the military into the "conflict zone" while publicly accusing "irresponsible agitators of manipulating the Indigenous people, encouraging them to commit acts of violence which blocks the economic progress of Ecuador, as well as the arrival of food supplies to the cities."

From November 9-15, police and paramilitary groups hired by local landowners, violently evicted Indian people from lands which historically are theirs in



the Quechua communities of San Francisco de las Cajas, Huaycopungo, 1 de Mayo, and San Clemente. During the attack, Gaitana Farinango was killed and more than 40 men, women and children were wounded, homes were burned and gardens were destroyed. This act of violence was denounced by CONAIE, who then announced a break in the negotiations with the Ecuadorian government on November 19th, after five months of unsuccessful negotiations.

In an open letter to President Rodrigo Borja, dated November 11th, CONAIE states that "the government is responsible for the attacks on the Indigenous and campesino movements and we call on you the President to reflect on the dangerous consequences of permitting the paramilitary groups who work for the landowners, along with the complicity of police forces to carry out such attacks with impunity." After this, the government issued an order for the capture of Luis Macas, Vice President of CONAIE and eight other Indian leaders.



Please send letters and telexes of concern to:

**President Rodrigo Borja
Palacio Nacional
Quito, ECUADOR
Telex: 393-223-75 PREREP ED**