

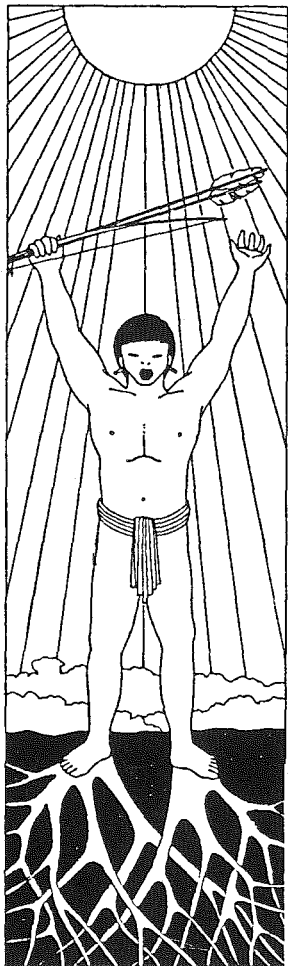
# Santa Fe Congress Resolutions

The resolutions adopted by representatives of indigenous people of the Americas at the Ninth Inter-American Indian Congress, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in November, 1985, have now been published. This meeting began with representatives of government agencies speaking of the Indian "problem" in their countries, but Indian people invited as observers quickly denounced that premise and met in a parallel "Open Forum" to discuss issues of mutual concern (see SAIIC Newsletter, Winter, 1986 ).

Testimony on human rights violations was presented by Indian people, including evidence of systematic violations by governments of the laws and treaties which protect Indian people. National governments have attempted to suppress or destroy the independence of the Indian movement through manipulation, confusing the issues, hindering its organization, and otherwise blocking its genuine expression.

Among the resolutions adopted by Indian leaders at the meeting were:

- to request the formation of an Indian human rights commission, with participation of Indian organizations, as a permanent body of the Inter-American Indian Institute.
- to promote a review of the concepts of genocide inherent in the upcoming celebration of "the Fifth Centennial of oppression of Indian peoples" in order to fully express the historical feeling of Indian people on this matter.
- to demand that governments commit themselves to recognize the collective ownership by Indian peoples of their territories and the restitution of those lands that were taken away from Indian peoples, together with the natural resources of the soil and subsoil.
- to press for a peaceful solution to the conflict in El Salvador, where more than 35,000 Indian people were massacred in 1932 and where murder and violence continue today.
- to request the U.S. government to grant legal resident status to Maya-Kanjobales refugees from the war in Guatemala.

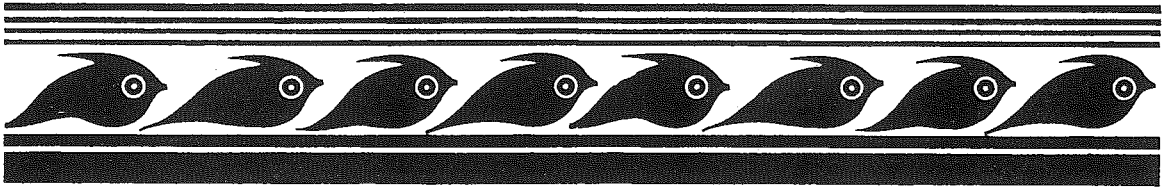


## CISA Conference Scheduled for Chile in November

The Third Conference of Indian Nations and Organizations of South America will be held in Temuco, Chile, in November, 1986. It will be sponsored by the South American Indian Council (CISA). The announcement was made by the Centros Culturales Mapuches, who stated that Indian organizations from South, Central, and North America will be invited. Also, indigenous people from Australia, the Pacific, and Scandinavia and solidarity organizations will be welcomed as fraternal delegates.

- to accommodate indigenous participation in the Organization of American States.
- to apply international human rights instruments to national policies.
- to develop a critique of the work of the Summer Institute of Linguistics.
- to recognize and support the struggles of indigenous peoples throughout the Americas, including the Kollas, Chiriguano, and Wichi people of Argentina; the Mbya and Maskoy of Paraguay; the communities of eastern Bolivia; the Yanomami in Brazil and Venezuela; the Indian people of the Amazon region of Ecuador; the Quechua people of Ayacucho, Peru; the Indian people suffering from the militarization of the Cauca, Choco, Cordoba, and Tolima regions of Colombia; the Miskitu, Sumo, and Rama people of Nicaragua; the Hopi and Navajo people suffering from forced relocation in the Joint Use Area of Arizona; and the Indian nations of British Columbia, Canada, to name only a few.

If you would like to receive a copy of the complete statement by Indian people attending the Santa Fe conference, please send \$3.00 to SAIIC to cover photocopying and mailing costs.



## Native Hawaiian Cites Ruin Of Ocean

*SAIIC recently spoke with a visitor from Hawaii, Ho'oipo DeCambria.*

"I'd like to share one of the more current concerns of Pacific Island people at this time in 1986. That is the United States effort to build an incinerator on what is called Johnson Island, previously known as Kalama Island when it was under the reign of King Kamehameha. Johnson Island is an atoll in the Pacific that now stores toxic wastes. It is a very small atoll. The Environmental Protection Agency has granted a permit for the U.S. army to build an incinerator to burn these toxic chemicals. This EPA permit was granted without any Pacific Island consultation. No Pacific Island people knew about this hearing. The only people who gave testimony were a few of us in Hawaii. This incinerator is already under construction, and it is life-threatening, we believe, to Pacific Island way of life.

"According to studies that have been done, we believe that emissions will fall into the sea and pollute the food chain further than it already has been by the bombings in the 50's of Eموita and Bikini Islands. We see that the United States sees us as being an expendable population of 90,000 people. We may live on small atolls and small islands, but the ocean is also our territory. The Western mindset does not see the ocean as part of the life cycle of indigenous Pacific Island people, so it chooses to use it and commodify it in different ways that really are going to destroy our future. . . .

"And I think Hawaii is seen too many times as a part of the West. I think people need to look at Hawaii as a part of the Pacific Islands. That concept has to be deepened and reinforced over and over again. And I think even though we have Congressional delegates in the United States, I think even they have to see themselves as representatives of Pacific Island people and not representing people who belong to the West, because we are in the ocean, and we are thousands of miles from the United States, and we are indigenous."