

ACom Links Indigenous People Via Computers



During the past few years, Jose Barreiro and others have worked to establish an indigenous peoples' computer network service called ACom. ACom makes possible instant communication among its subscribers and gives access to the Indigenous Press Network, an international, indigenous-based information network. SAIIC recently spoke to Jose, who said, "Now for the first time, indigenous groups are reaching out over long distances. We now have more access to phones and typewriters, and computers are the next step. With computers we can transfer information from remote areas. It used to take six weeks to get information to us, for example from a city in South America. Now we can cut it down to six minutes. Indigenous people need to break from isolation in terms of human rights. Now an Indian massacre in South or Central America doesn't have to go unreported for six months."

Jose also discussed the idea that indigenous people have a depth of knowledge and understanding of the natural world, and that through the use of computers this understanding can be shared among people for the protection and appropriate use of land and resources. "Often the first outside contact has been with those who wish to exploit resources. We need to go around that. We need to break the isolation between indigenous people and be able to communicate with one another. For example, the Aborigines are dealing with Alcoa and other multinationals, and the Amazonian Indians are dealing with the same threatening entity. Now

the Aboriginal people and the Amazonian people have the potential to communicate directly with one another about any particular multinational and how to deal with it. Fourth World communication is what we are talking about. There is a close relationship among indigenous people with the natural world. We can go from that and access computers. Let's skip tanks and rocketships."

For more information about ACom, contact Jose Barreiro at P.O. Box 71, Highland, Maryland 20777.



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Announcements

The International Indian Treaty Council will hold its 11th Annual Conference at Big Mountain, Arizona, from June 2 to 8, 1986. People are invited to attend and present issues relating to land, water, religion and treaty violations. All documentation is condensed and submitted to United Nations forums as human rights violations.

A Brother who is incarcerated would like to write to an "Indian Sister for friendship and exchange of thoughts concerning our Indian People." Contact Edmundo Sanchez, P.O. Box C-19618, Represa, CA 95671.