September 1974

This newsletter is being distributed along with IWGIA-Documents No. 16 Richard Chase Smith: The Amuesha People of Central Peru: Their struggle to survive, and No. 17 Mark Münzel: The Aché: Genocide Continues in Paraguay.

We regret very much that we have not been able to send out any reports for a very long time. This is regrettably not due to a general improvement in the situation of indigenous peoples as could be shown by the increasing number of offers to write reports. The main reason for the delay has been the difficult working conditions of most of the potential authors.

More manuscripts are presently being prepared for publication so it will not last very long before we can send out the next reports.

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Renewal of Subscription

Your subscription expires with the two reports enclosed in this letter. We will therefore ask you as soon as possible to return the enclosed reply letter and renew your subscription. The fees have not been raised for the 3rd Series of Documents (no. 18-).

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The International Conference of Indigenous People will be held in Canada in 1975

Many of our readers will know that the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada (NIB), under the active leadership of its President, Chief George Manuel, for some time has explored the possibilities of bringing together representatives of indigenous peoples of the world in an international conference.

This idea developed during Chief George Manuel’s visits to the Maori in New Zealand, the Aborigines in Australia, and the Same in Scandinavia, during 1971 and 1972, and a decision to hold such a conference in 1975 was recently taken. On the initiative of NIB a most successful Preparatory Meeting of the International Conference of Indigenous People was held in Georgetown, Guyana, April 8-11, 1974.
Representatives at the Preparatory Meeting were:
Rangi Walker, from the Maori Council of New Zealand/
Gary Williams, representing the Aborigines of Australia/
Aslak Nils Sara, representing the Sami of Norway, Finland and
Sweden/ Angmaglortoq Olsen, representing the Inuit of Greenland
(Denmark)/ Sam Deloria, representing the National Congress of
American Indians, the National Tribal Chairmans Association and
Americans for Indian Opportunity/ George Manuel, representing
the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada and Inuit Tapirisat
of Canada/ Manuel Trino Morales, representing Consejo Regional
Indigena del Cauca, and Asociacion Nacional de Usuarios Campesinos/
Phillip Duncan, representing the Indians of Guyana,
attended as an observer.

In addition to the official delegates from ten countries, there
were 13 official observers from Guyana and Canada. Mrs. Marie Marule,
from the NIB of Canada, was Co-ordinator of the meeting, and Mr.
Clive Linklater was Chairman.

Space permits the mentioning of only a few of the many important
resolutions adopted at the Preparatory Meeting:

(1) **That an International Conference of Indigenous Peoples**
    be held for the Purpose of:

1) The meaningful exchange of information (organizational,
   legal, sociological and cultural, etc.) to strengthen
   voluntary associations of Indigenous People in various
   countries to:
   
   (a) reduce the possibility of physical and cultural
       genocide;
   (b) combat racism;
   (c) ensure political, economic and social justice;
   (d) establish and strengthen the concept of indigenous
       and cultural rights.

2) The consideration of the feasibility of a permanent
   international organization of Indigenous People.

3) The continuance of meaningful exchange of information
   between the representatives at this meeting.

(2) **That the Report of the Committee on the Definition of
Indigenous People' for the Purpose of the Larger Conference**
    be Accepted:

The term Indigenous People refers to people, living in
countries which have a population composed of different
ethnic or racial groups, who are descendents of the
earliest populations living in the area, and who do not,
as a group, control the national government of the
countries within which they live.
That the Section of the Report on the Means and Criteria for Selecting Delegates be Adopted:

1) Three delegates from each country with an Indigenous Population that fits the definition agreed upon for participation in the Conference
   (a) Where Indigenous Population has a self-recognized representative National body, these groups will select their own delegates.
   (b) Where Indigenous Population has no recognized representative National body, delegates may be selected on the basis of numbers and population; regions in the country, tribal affiliations; organized bodies.

2) Expenses for travel, meals and accomodation will be paid for delegates.

Furthermore, it was decided that observers from Indigenous Groups, and from Funding and Support Groups, could be admitted to the conference. Observers will meet all their own expenses.

The Preparatory Meeting decided that its participants will act as a policy board to make the decisions which would have to be made in the months to come to enable the world conference to be held. The exact location of the conference and the exact dates are left to the decision of the National Indian Brotherhood as the host organization. (Address: National Indian Brotherhood of Canada, Suite 1610, Varette Building, 130 Albert St., Ottawa, K1P 5G4, Ont., Canada).

The Colombian newspaper "Vanguardia", August 28, 1974:

**During a party**

Colombia: 25 indians machinegunned by white men.

Bogota 27/8 -- 25 indians, belonging to the Macu tribe, were murdered by whites in the province of San José del Guaviare in the eastern lowlands, very close to the Venezuelan border.

Quoting unofficial sources the evening paper "El Bogotano" of this town (Bogotá) assures its readers that the case has been brought to the attention of the police authorities, apparently by two indians who managed to survive the massacre.

According to the evening paper the indians were invited to a hacienda in the municipality of Charras, and while there they "conversed" with various white men, whose identity still has not been completely established. These whites shot the indians with machine-guns and buried them afterwards in a distant place.

"El Bogotano" maintains that the first evidence seem to indicate that the object of the massacre was to prevent the indians from making use of certain lands, belonging to "nobody", where a group of whites was involved in some obscure activities.

Sources from the police in this town have not confirmed the deed, and a spokesman for the security organization confined himself to saying that "for the moment there is nothing official in that respect".
INDIGENA Newsletter

In Newsletter no. 10 (p. 4) we wrote about the creation of Indigena, an information source and distribution center for recent books, articles, documents, photographs, and films on the social conditions of Indian peoples in Latin America. Since then Indigena has started publishing a newsletter, which we think gives a very comprehensive and clear picture of the situation for the indigenous peoples of the Americas. We hope as many people as possible will subscribe to this newsletter we have therefore decided to send a copy of this Newsletter to all of our members. (The members in North America should have received the Newsletter directly from the Indigena office in California, for all other members the INDIGENA Newsletter will be distributed along with IWGIA Newsletter no. 11).

The Minority Rights Group's Publications
(16) Problems of a displaced minority: the new position of East Africa's Asians (price 45p)
(17) India and the Nagas (price 45p)
(18) The Montagnards of South Vietnam (price 45p)
(19) The Namibians of South-West Africa (price 45p)
(20) Selective genocide in Burundi (price 45p)
(21) Canada's Indians (price 45p)
are obtainable from M.R.G., 36 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NG, Great Britain.

Friends of Micronesia

This group, which is located in the United States, has the following program:

1. We support the Micronesian struggle for self-determination and have pledged ourselves to support the Micronesian people in any way possible.

2. We provide information to create a public awareness on the part of the American people concerning Micronesia and the exploitative administration of Micronesia by the United States Government.

3. We work to prevent the destruction of Micronesia by "developers" who have no sensitivity to Micronesian needs nor to the adaptability of traditional economic and political ways.

4. We work to prevent the resurgence of American militarism in Micronesia and support attempts to end American aggression in other parts of Asia.

5. We work against American racist policies as exhibited in the destruction of Micronesian islands, the forced removal of
populations, the radioactive contamination of Marshallese
and the discriminatory economic and political power of
American officials.

6. We work with many international groups who seek a peaceful
world free of armed aggression and nuclear weapons.

7. We do not attempt to dictate policy to the Micronesian
people nor do we prescribe solutions to the problem of
Micronesian "development".

8. We do not believe that anthropologists, political scien-
tists, economists and other academics are specially
qualified to dictate policy or evaluate events but we do
believe that academics, especially those who have profited
from their work in Micronesia, have an obligation to sup-
port Micronesian desires and to provide information and
services when requested.

Declaration of Independence

In connection with the Declaration of Continuing Independence
by the First International Indian Treaty Council, published on
page 14 in the enclosed Indigena Newsletter, George C. Roberts and
John Trudell, National Chairman of The American Indian Movement,
July 24, 1974 writes: "The time has come to quietly state the
truth. The American Indian Movement serves the people. The people
have been oppressed by the US government through the continuous
violation of every solemn treaty ever written and ratified by the
US government and Indian nations. The native people living in the
US will no longer tolerate these abuses and since recourse to re-
stitution in US courts have been denied we are forced to take our
case to a higher authority - ie. a world peoples court. We shall
not rest until the struggle is won - for the lives of generations
unborn are at stake".
REPLY LETTER

Please return this page as soon as possible to:
The Secretariat of IWGIA,
Frederiksholms Kanal 4A,
DK-1220 Copenhagen K,
Denmark.

Name:................................. Profession:.........................
Address:.................................................................
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I want:

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(US $ 6.00 for individuals and US $ 10.00 for institutions)
to IWGIA Document, 1st series, no.1,3,5-10, ..... 
(US $ 4.00 for individuals and US $ 6.00 for institutions)

To start a local work group ..... (if yes, further information and questions will be sent to you).

A check for US $ ...... (or the equivalent in other currencies), payable to the Secretariat of IWGIA, Copenhagen, is enclosed ...... will be sent later ......

(Scandinavians may use postal giro nr. 179900 .................)

I have documentary evidence of incidents of ......................... in the following areas .................................

The Secretariat is requested to send an information sheet on IWGIA to:
Name:.................................. Name:.................................
Address:................................. Address:.................................
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