July 1973

This newsletter is being distributed along with IWGIA/Documents
No. 12, Nelly Arvelo Jiménez: The Dynamics of the Ye'cuana ("Maquiri-
tare") Political System: Stability and Crisis, and
No. 13, Carmen Junqueira: The Brazilian Indigenous Problem and Policy:
The Example of the Xingu National Park.

The Aché Indians

In connection with the release of IWGIA-Document No. 11, Mark
Münzel: The Aché Indians: Genocide in Paraguay, the Secretariat of
IWGIA in letters of February 15th to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs
in Denmark, Norway and Sweden appealed to them urgently to put the situ-
ation of the Aché Indians before the relevant bodies of the United
Nations.

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dagfinn Vårvik,
in a letter of reply, March 8th, states that: "Information received
by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Norwegian sources in Latin
America, on several points gives the same picture as that of the re-
port from the German Anthropologist Mr. Mark Münzel. Consequently,
there is reason to consider the situation of the Guyaki Indians with
anxiety".

Whereas the Swedish Minister has yet not responded to IW GIA's
appeal, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed us that
the Danish ambassador to Paraguay has been instructed to investigate
the present situation of Paraguayan Indians.
Shortly after Mark Münzel's report was distributed 95 members, i.e. 53% of all members of the Danish Parliament, signed a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs urging him "to seek to bring it about that the persecution of and encroachment against the Aché Indians be brought as a complaint before the U.N. as a violation of the Convention on Human Rights.

A considerable number of organizations and individuals in many countries have reacted to the information in the Aché report. Space does not permit us to go into detail on this point. As one example we may mention that two voluntary associations of Greenlanders in Denmark, "The Association of Greenlanders" and "The Council of Young Greenlanders", urged the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs to put the cause of the Aché Indians before the relevant bodies of the United Nations.

Finally, we are glad to report that Colonel Patrick Montgomery on behalf of the Anti-Slavery Society in his statement March 29th to the 29th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, referred in considerable detail to the atrocities against the Aché Indians of Paraguay.

We find it unsatisfactory not to be able to present an evaluation of the responses in Paraguay and elsewhere to Mark Münzel's report. In a later issue of the newsletter we hope to give a detailed account of the official Paraguayan reaction to the report.

Although we cannot presently say if the report has led to changes in the situation of the Aché Indians, we find reason to conclude that it has at least led to a widespread public debate of the fate of indigenous groups in many countries.

Attempts by military authorities in Paraguay to slander Mrs. and Mr. Münzel failed totally, and were described as "utterly ridiculous and fantastic" by Münzel's Paraguayan colleagues. It should be added, however, that the authorities of Paraguay have tried hard to put extreme pressure on these colleagues in an obvious attempt to terrorize them into silence.
Future Documents.

We regret very much that we have not been able to distribute any documents before now but the last manuscript has been seriously delayed for several reasons.

However, we are glad to announce that our financial situation has improved considerably and we will be able to publish several documents within the next six months. We have been promised reports from Guatemala, Mexico, Argentina and Canada.

The next AMAZIND/IWGIA Documents will be René Fuerst: "Present Situation and Future Perspectives of the Indians of the Brazilian Amazon Region", which we hope to distribute at the end of the year.

We are also happy to announce that arrangements have been made to publish IWGIA Documents in Spanish. We hope that this project can be realized within the next six months.

Adjustment of Prices.

Because of the recent devaluations of the US $ we have been forced to readjust our membership fee and the prices for separate copies. For the rest of the year the membership fee for new members will be US $ 6.00 for individuals and US $ 10.00 for institutions. The US $ prices for separate copies will be raised 20-25%.

IWGIA Grants

IWGIA has donated small grants to the following projects:
1. Tuna Chichame - a film about the situation of the Shuar' Indians of Ecuador. (US $ 100.00)
2. A project to buy land for a group of Indians in Paraguay. (US $ 100.00)
3) Aboriginal Peoples' International Congress to be held in Canada in 1974. (US $ 500.00) This congress is sponsored by the National Indian Brotherhood of Canada. The congress is an attempt to organize the indigenous groups on an international level. In a future newsletter we hope to bring a progress report.
A group of about fifteen Indians from various tribes in the United States is planning to make a tour in Europe. "The purpose of the delegation is to meet with top governments leaders regarding the status of Indian nations as Sovereign entities, as well as educating them to the issues on which the Indians are trying to bring action. Also, they want to educate the people of the countries visited in the way of life of the American Indians."

Anyone interested in supporting this tour or making arrangements and speaking engagements for the group or some of its members should address themselves to Georgina Matten, 52 Sedbury Road, Sompting, Sussex BN15 0LN, England.

Social Development Activists

We have recently had a visit from Dr. Ned Iceton from the University of New England, Australia, a medical man by training, but now working to assist Aboriginal and other groups in Australia to redesign their values, norms and social structures so they can deal more effectively with the changing reality all round. He would like to maintain a correspondence network - and maybe a professional newsletter - with other workers attempting a similar task. He offers a number of descriptive papers which he has produced. Some deal with the problems for social development professionals. Others are attempts at explanation of that task, directed toward lay persons who may be interested. They may be obtained by writing to: The Secretary, Community Development, Dept. of University Extension, University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W., Australia 2351.

The Minority Rights Group's Publications.

For earlier issues see IWGIA Newsletter no. 6, January 1973.

(14) Rom: Europe's Gypsies (price 45p.)
(15) What Future for the Amerindians of South America? (price 45p.)
are obtainable from M.R.G., 36 Craven Street, London W02N 5NG, Great Britain.

The Pelican Latin American Library

In addition it is relevant to draw the attention to a recent publication in the Pelican Latin American Library; Victor Daniel Bonilla: Servants of God or Masters of Men? The Story of a Capuchin Mission in Amazonia (price 60p.).
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: .........................................................................................................................
.........................................................................................................................
.........................................................................................................................

I want:
A personal membership for 1973 ..... (US $ 6.00 or the equivalent in other currencies).
To start a local work group ......... (if yes, further information and questionnaire will be sent to you).
The following IWGIA Documents: .........................................................
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. 17 99 oo ......................).

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: ..................................................
.........................................................................................................................
.........................................................................................................................