

American media ignores Indian massacre protest

TORONTO (CUP) — International protests against the massacre of Indians in Paraguay have been ignored in the American press, radio and television.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, the World Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Church in Paraguay and the International Commission of Jurists have all denounced the mass murder of Ache Indians which has been going on in Southeastern Paraguay for the last ten years.

Ache Indians are systematically hunted down by armed raiding parties. Men, women and children are indiscriminately mowed down in such "hunts". The preferred weapon of massacre is the machete — which saves the expense of bullets.

Survivors that are captured are detained in "reservations" indistinguishable from Nazi concentration camps; there they become slaves. They are forced to work in return for enough food to barely keep them alive; they receive no medical treatment, are forbidden to speak their own language or sing their traditional songs. They die quickly from malnutrition and sheer lack of will to survive under such conditions.

Their only crime is their refusal to surrender to the white man. They have always attempted to defend their territory against incursions and withdraw deeper into the forest when they can no longer resist the advance of the white man's civilization.

Liquidation of the Aches has been stepped up since 1968 when a

road was completed across their territory and settlement of "civilized" communities began on their land. Commercial penetration of this part of Paraguay has been heavily financed from the United States; the involvement of the Paraguayan military dictatorship is direct and incontrovertible.

General Stroessner, the dictator of Paraguay, allows military

vehicles of the Paraguayan army to accompany hunting raids. Government trucks are used which have been "put at the disposal of the Reservation by the Ministry of Public Works and Communication with a soldier as a driver". The Aches are now almost extinct and according to reports in the British press, "plans may already exist for the liquidation of other tribes"

in Paraguay.

The British and German press have at various times featured accounts of the genocidal war going on in Paraguay and although the London Bureau of the New York Times was explicitly informed and obviously sympathetic to printing a news story, nothing has appeared in the American press.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK — Joanne Barwise submitted our final photo special for the year. We thank all those who supported the idea with their work. See you next year!



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