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TEMBE AND URUBU-KAAPOR INDIANS

Since their pacification in 1928, the Urubu Indians have been the victims of a continuous process of exploitation, cultural disorganisation and depopulation, at the hands of the regional non indigenous societies.

The same thing happened to the Tembés of the Tenetehara group, who had a permanent, pacific contact with the surrounding society, yet they have lost almost all their territories and they live scattered in the land between the Guama and the Gurupi rivers, in the eastern part of the State of Para. The Tembés of Rio Guama, assisted by the "Posto Indigena Tembé" lived between the above mentioned river and the Igarapé Pitoma, but were forced to leave their lands due to the continuous pressure of settlers or land owners. Now one finds only scattered families and individuals living near the "Posto Indigena Pedro Dantas" (on the left bank of the Gurupi river, above Igarapé Coraci-Parana within the territory of Para), and Felipe Camarão (in the right bank of Gurupi, in Maranhense territory, near the headwaters of the river Araçatéua).

The above mentioned "Postos Indigenas" were specially created to help the Urubu Indians; in order to give these Indians the minimum conditions of survival, a reservation was established in 1940, in the State of Para, between the left bank of the Gurupi river and the Guama River.

This reservation, which was their most important agricultural and hunting territory was the object of continuous penetration of settlers. This was intensified by the creation of the San Luis-Belem road. This reservation has its limits at the South and West on a line which runs from in the mouth of the River Araçatéua north-east to the Igarapé Tauari-Grande, tributary of the Guama River, along this river to the Guama River, then along the right bank of this river until the mouth of Igarapé Pitoma, North of the Tembo abandoned old post. The eastern boundary of this reservation goes from the left bank of the Igarapé Pitomba to its headwaters and from there on a line to the junction of Igarapé Coraci-Parana with the Gurupi River. Beyond this point, the boundaries follow the left bank of the Gurupi River to the south, to its junction with the Araçatéua.


Recently some land was granted to the Swift and Company, (meat packing). This concession includes a very important part of the Urubu and Tembé Indian reservation, and makes it impossible for them to use these lands.

There was some resistance to this concession since these were Indian lands, but they were easily overcome by the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Costa Cavalcanti, who gave the authorization for the concession to the Swift & Co., saying that there were no Indians on that reservation. In order to remove further difficulties the Ministry transferred the control of the "Posto Indigena Pedro Dantas", which was in charge of the reservation (until then in pargense territory) to the State of Maranhão. This happened a few months ago.

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GUAMÁ

Explicação :

- Delimitada = : reserva indígena
- Delimitada  : área de terras concedida à SWIFT

47° W. Gr.

2° S

RESERVA INDÍGENA

RIO GUAMÁ

IGARAPÉ PITOMBEA

RIO TAUARI-GRANDE

RIO GURUPI

POSTO INDÍGENA TEMBE

IGARAPÉ CORACI-PARANA

POSTO INDÍGENA PEDRO DANTAS

RIO URANIM

"SWIFT"

POSTO INDÍGENA FELIPE CAMARÃO

3° S

