MANIFESTO TO THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE

We, the traditional peoples of the Amazon forest and their support groups, together in the city of New York, United States of America, from September 21 through 28, 1996, on the occasion of Amazon Week VII,

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The conservation and rational use of the Amazon's natural renewable resources can only be achieved by recognizing the traditional populations' historical and constitutional right to the land in which they live and work in harmony with their environment;

2. The preservation of the Amazon rainforest for the sustained use of present and future generations can only be built with an effective partnership among organized civil society, the Brazilian government, the private sector and other actors in the socio-economic life of the region;

3. The conservation and implementation of a common agenda of sustainable development for the Amazon requires establishing a climate of peace, with the end of violence and assassination of indigenous, rubber tapper, peasant, professional and religious leaders, and all those who fight for social justice;

4. The preservation of the Amazon also requires that the political, social and economic proposals, generated from within, become viable and adequate in a globalizing world, both in terms of information as well as the market.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO:

1. Fight together for the immediate demarcation, removal of invaders and protection of all indigenous lands, as defined in the Federal Constitution of Brazil;

2. Work for the immediate implementation of Ecological Land Reform, establishing, with high priority, Extractivist Settlement Projects-PAEs (under the responsibility of INCRA) and Extractive Reserves-RESEX (under the responsibility of IBAMA), legitimizing land use as an effective means for the peoples of the Amazon to participate in deciding their own destinies;

3. Support the President of the Republic in his political decision, widely announced to Brazilian society, to end impunity in the country, demanding the immediate mobilization of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, to judge and punish — once and for all — the continuous and historical violation of human rights, which stains the image of our country, both nationally and internationally;
4. Demand that the organizers and sponsors of this event continue the Amazon Week project, as we consider it an invaluable forum for the reflection, articulation and search for joint, negotiated solutions for the future of the Amazon and its peoples.

New York, September 24, 1996

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President

CONFEDERACAO NACIONAL DOS TRABALHADORES NA AGRICULTURA
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Avelino Ganzer
Vice President

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IMAGENS DA TERRA
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Coordinator

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BRASILEIA - ACRE
Anacleto Maciel Moreira de Souza. Secretario de Base

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Caetano Scanavino

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BRASILIA
Manoel Rodrigues de Souza. DIRECTOR

YANOMAMI PEOPLE
Davi Yanomami

IMAFLORA - INSTITUTO DE MANEJO E CERTIFICACAO FLORESTAL E AGRICOLA
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Kasiripina Waiapi
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TEMBE PEOPLE
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CENTRO DE TRABALHO INDIGENISTA-CTI
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Marta Silva Vito (Guarani)