



CEDI - P. I. B.
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SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL

FOR THE RIGHTS OF THREATENED TRIBAL PEOPLES

Mr S. Shahid Husain
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The World Bank
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26th November 1986

PRESIDENT:
ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON OBE

Dear Mr Husain,

DIRECTOR:
STEPHEN CORRY

We wish to convey to you our grave concern regarding the situation of the 5000 Indians who inhabit the area of influence of the Carajás Iron Ore Project, in the eastern Amazon region of Brazil. Given the Bank's considerable investment in the Project and its financial support for the CVRD/FUNAI Accord 059/82 to provide "Support for the Indigenous Communities", it clearly has a declared responsibility to ensure that the rights of those communities in the region are upheld.

Whilst we welcome the Bank's decision to fund such a programme of support, we are extremely concerned that, both in its conception and implementation, this programme fails to address the fundamental issue upon which any protective measures must depend - land demarcation. Moreover, the programme actually subordinates this need for effective land guarantees to a preconceived policy of integration of the tribal peoples into the economic structure of the Carajás Project. Only 1.8% of the total funds for the Support programme have been set aside for demarcation, whilst administration and agricultural projects together account for over 35% of that budget.

We understand that the extremely low provision for land demarcation in this budget arises out of the assumption that FUNAI, the Brazilian State Indian agency, already has a statutory responsibility to carry out the demarcation of all tribal territories in Brazil. Can we remind you, however, that due to the obstructive bureaucratic and legal procedures involved, the lack of federal resources available to FUNAI and the agency's apparent reluctance to fulfil this responsibility, land demarcation throughout Brazil has reached a virtual standstill. Although the Statute of the Indian (Law 6.001/73), article 65, required that all Indian lands be demarcated by 1978, two thirds of the country's Indian territories still remain to be demarcated.

It is unfortunate that, given its experience of working with FUNAI on the Polonoroeste programme, where thirty-four tribal territories have yet to be demarcated and twenty-two are now subject to invasions, the Bank has made no substantial provision of its own for land demarcation as a condition of its support for the Carajás Iron Ore Project. Repeating the experience of the Polonoroeste programme, the independent anthropologists of the

Brazilian Association of Anthropology, who were contracted to advise FUNAI on the needs of the Indian groups concerned, have found their work obstructed by the agency and their recommendations overruled or ignored.

As a result, the Xikrin, Suruí, Apinayé, Krikati and Gaviões are without effective protection of their lands or have had territories incorrectly demarcated; both official colonisation projects and independent farmers have invaded the lands of the Suruí, Gaviões, Krikati and Parakanã, and the territories of the Xikrin, Gaviões and Apinayé are crossed by roads, transmission lines and the Carajás railway.

We therefore urge you most strongly to take effective measures to ensure that the programme of "Support for the Indigenous Communities" is reformulated in accordance with the wishes and needs of the tribal communities concerned, and on the basis of the recommendations of the anthropologists contracted to advise FUNAI. More specifically, we urge you to arrange for adequate resources to be made available for the effective demarcation of the Indian territories in the region, and that the funds presently allocated to costly agricultural projects and to the maintenance of FUNAI's own bureaucratic infrastructure (in contravention of clause 5, sub-section C of the 059/82 accord), be re-directed towards measures that will genuinely benefit the tribal communities.

In addition, we urge you to give your special attention to the following, as yet, unresolved issues:

Demarcation of the Reserva Indígena Parakanã as proposed and presented to FUNAI in January 1979, including the so-called Gleba Parakanã;

Removal and resettlement of peasant families presently settled by GETAT within the Mãe Maria Reserve; ratification and effective policing of the Mãe Maria Reserve, especially along the Carajás railway; elaboration of a contract of indemnification for the use of land on the Mãe Maria Reserve by the Carajás railway and regulation of the same;

Removal of invaders and effective policing of Xikrin reserves Kateté and Kamkrokro to prevent invasions by timber-dealers and *garimpeiros*;

Delimitation and demarcation of AI Apinayé and AI Krikati according to the proposals put forward by the indigenous communities themselves;

Demarcation of Guajá territories with recognition of non-adjacent areas and Reserva Florestal do Gurupi.

Provision of effective, long-term support for the Asurini, whose inclusion in the CVRD/FUNAI Accord was only considered in 1985, despite the massive impact of the Tucuruí hydroelectric scheme on this community.

We look forward with interest to hearing how you plan to deal with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON
President