

SEP 27 1986

***INDIANS*

RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPT 21. REUTER - AN INDIAN TRIBE IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE TODAY WAS REPORTED TO BE KILLING OFF ITS CHILDREN IN AN EFFORT TO EXTERMINATE ITSELF OF THE ADVANCE OF MODERN MAN INTO ITS HUNTING GROUNDS.

ACCORDING TO A REPORT PUBLISHED IN O GLOBO NEWSPAPER FROM THE TOWN OF ATALAIA DO NORTE ON BRAZIL'S BORDER WITH PERU, THE MAYURUNA INDIANS DECIDED ON A POLICY OF SELF-EXTERMINATION AS A REACTION TO THE MISFORTUNES THAT HAD BEFALLEN THEM SINCE THEIR FIRST CONTACT WITH MODERN MAN FOUR YEARS AGO.

IT SAID THE MAYURUNAS WHO WERE 2000-STRONG THREE YEARS AGO, NOW ONLY NUMBERED 400, SINCE MANY HAD DIED FROM MEASLES AND INFLUENZA CONTRACTED FROM WHITE MEN AND FOR WHICH BRAZIL'S PRIMITIVE INDIAN TRIBES HAVE NO ANTIBODIES.

SOME HAD FLED ACROSS THE BORDER INTO PERU.

BEFORE, THE MAYURUNAS SOMETIMES KILLED FEMALE CHILDREN AS A MEANS OF ASSURING AN EVEN BALANCE BETWEEN THE SEXES, THE REPORT SAID.

BUT NOW THEY WERE KILLING MALE CHILDREN AS WELL.

THERE ARE ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 50,000 AND 130,000 PRIMITIVE INDIANS STILL LIVING IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE. *
MORE 2124

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***INDIANS 2 Rio*

THE REPORT WAS BASED ON A STUDY AMONG THE INDIANS CARRIED OUT BY RESEARCH SCHOLAR PAULO LUCENA.

HE SAID THE MAYURUNAS ARE SEMI-NOMADIC BUT ALWAYS MOVE WITHIN A DETERMINED AREA.

"IN DESPAIR AND FEELING THEY NO LONGER HAD ANYWHERE TO GO THEY DECIDED TO DIE SO AS NOT TO SURRENDER AND TO ESCAPE HUNGER," HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

"THE MAYURUNAS HAVE A REAL VENERATION FOR THE LAND WHICH THEY INHABIT, AND THAT IS THE REASON WHY THERE HAS NOT BEEN A TOTAL EXODUS TO PERUVIAN TERRITORY."

MR. LUCENA SAID THE INDIANS CONTACTED FOUR YEARS AGO HAD EARLIER BEEN PUSHED BACK BY RUBBER TAPPERS FROM THE AREA OF THE CURUCA RIVER AND HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN THE JAQUIRANA VALLEY, CLOSE TO FELLOW TRIBESMEN ON THE PERUVIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER.

"IN THE PAST THE INDIANS WERE CONSIDERED THE TERROR OF THE CURUCA REGION AND UNTIL THE FIFTIES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL MASSACRES AND THE ABDUCTION OF WOMEN IN THE RUBBER PLANTATIONS," HE SAID. *

REUTER 2127

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INDIANS & RIO

GRADUALLY PUSHED BACK BY RUBBER TAPPERS FROM THE JAVARI-CURUCA REGIONS; THE MAYURUNAS TOOK REFUGE IN THE JAQUIRANA VALLEY; NEAR THE PERUVIAN FRONTIER; UNTIL THEY WERE CONTACTED BY THE PETROBRAS OFFICIALS.

THE FLIGHT OF THE MAYURUNAS IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THAT WHICH HAS BEFALLEN BRAZIL'S PRIMITIVE INDIANS; ESTIMATED TO NUMBER BETWEEN 50,000 AND 180,000.

CAUGHT UP IN THE COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE RESOURCES OF THE JUNGLE; THE STONE-AGE TRIBES ARE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE WITH THE 20TH CENTURY; ENTERING INTO FREQUENT CONFLICT WITH SETTLERS AND PROSPECTORS.*

REUTER 2130

SEP 22 1976

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R 14171)1BYL75BRYL

INDIANS

RY MICHAEL ARKUS

RIO DE JANEIRO, SEP 22, REUTER - A REMOTE AMAZON TRIBE IS KILLING ITS OWN CHILDREN AS A FINAL ACT OF DESPAIR AT THE WHITE MAN'S ENCRoACHMENT ON ITS LANDS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING HERE.

THE REPORTS SAID THE MAYURUNA INDIANS, ONCE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL MASSACRES OF WHITE RUBBER TAPPERS, HAD BEEN DRIVEN BACK FROM THE JAVARI-CURUCA REGION OF THE AMAZON TO A VALLEY NEAR THE PERUVIAN BORDER.

SOME HAD FLED INTO PERU, WHILE OTHERS HAD DIED OF DISEASES CONTRACTED FROM THE WHITE MAN, SUCH AS MEASLES AND INFLUENZA FOR WHICH THE PRIMITIVE INDIANS HAVE NOT FORMED ANTI-BODIES.

THE REPORTS, BASED ON A STUDY BY RESEARCH SCHOLAR PAULO LUCENA AND PUBLISHED IN A GLOBO NEWSPAPER YESTERDAY, SAID THE NUMBER OF MAYURUNAS HAD DROPPED IN THREE YEARS FROM 2,000 TO 400.

"DESPERATE AND FEELING THEY HAVE NOWHERE TO GO, THEY HAVE DECIDED TO DIE IN ORDER NOT TO SURRENDER AND TO ESCAPE FROM HUNGER," MR. LUCENA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

MORE 0217

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R 14176)1BYLZ5BZYR

INDIANS 2 RIO DE JANEIRO

THE MAYURUNAS HAD SOMETIMES KILLED YOUNG GIRLS IN THE PAST TO ENSURE AN EVEN BALANCE OF THE SEXES, MR. LUCENA SAID, "BUT NOW THEY ARE SUMMARILY EXECUTING MALE CHILDREN AS WELL."

HE SAID THE REASON WHY THE WHOLE TRIBE HAD NOT FLED INTO PERU WAS "VENERATION FOR THE LAND WHICH THEY INHABIT."

THE MAYURUNAS, ONCE CONSIDERED THE SCOURGE OF THE JAVARI-CURUCA VALLEY, KILLED MANY RUBBER TAPPERS AND LUMBERJACKS AND ABDUCTED THEIR WOMEN IN THE 1950s.

PROSPECTORS OF THE STATE OIL MONOPOLY PETROBRAS, WHO MADE CONTACT WITH THE TRIBE IN 1972, FOUND SOME OF THESE WOMEN LIVING IN TOTAL INTEGRATION WITH THE MAYURUNAS, MR. LUCENA SAID.

THE FLIGHT OF THE MAYURUNAS IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE FATE OF BRAZIL'S STONE AGE INDIANS WHO ARE NOW ESTIMATED TO TOTAL BETWEEN 50,000 AND 100,000.

THE TRIBES, CAUGHT UP IN THE COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE RESOURCES OF THE JUNGLE, NOW FIND THEMSELVES IN FREQUENT CONTACT AND CONFLICT WITH SETTLERS AND PROSPECTORS.

REUTER 0219