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Indigenous Organization Calls For Demilitarization

by Deborah Tyroler

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On Oct. 11, at the close of a conference in Guatemala City, the Indigenous Parliament of America called for military force reductions throughout Central and Latin America, and requested that the governments of Central American nations develop demilitarization programs. Participants at the conference included tribal representatives from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Peru, Canada, Mexico and Venezuela. Conference spokespersons said that military forces in Central America are among the worst human rights violators world-wide. Resolutions criticized government sponsorship of civil defense patrols, paramilitary organizations and irregular forces, all of which violate with impunity the human rights of indigenous peoples. (Basic data from EFE, 10/11/90)

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