

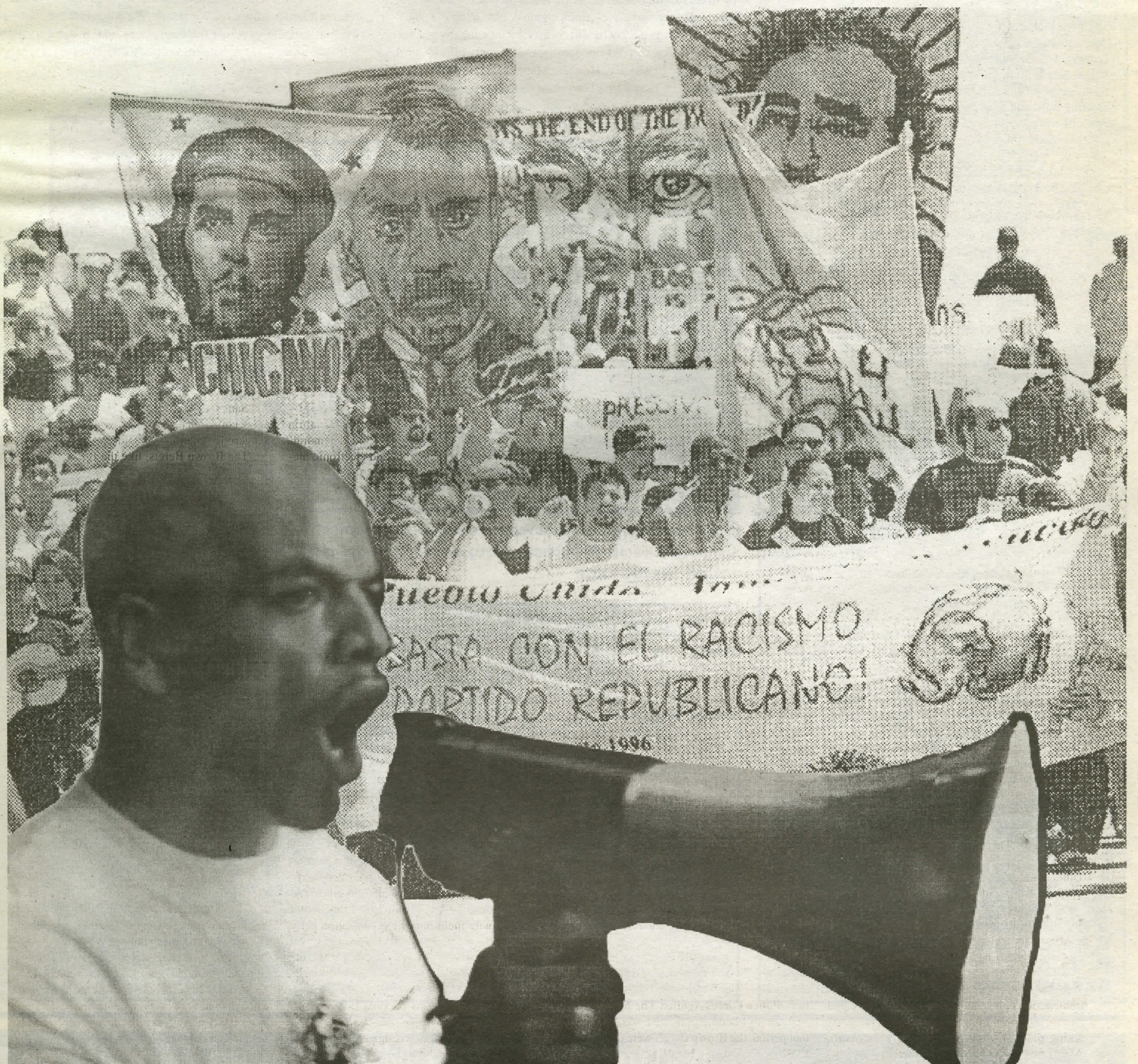
JOURNAL OF THE CHICANO PRESS ASSOCIATION AND  
**GUERRILLEROS**



THE NATIONAL CHICANO MORATORIUM COMMITTEE  
**DE LA PLUMA**

OCTOBER 1996

# **¡Se Vé, Se Siente, *La Raza* Está Presente!**







## National Chicano Moratorium Committee

### NCMC Mesa Directiva

Pablo Aceves - Coordinator

José Moreno - Secretary

Jaime Cruz - Treasurer

Nicolás Crisosto - Member-at-Large Region Building

Christian Ramirez - Member-at-Large Security

Elba Alvarez - Member-at-Large Historian

The NCMC is united under the principles of Chicano Mexican self-determination and independence from government/corporate funding or control. The National Chicano Moratorium Committee has regions in El Paso, TX, Los Angeles, CA, Oxnard, CA, Riverside/San Bernardino, CA, San Diego, CA, and San José, CA. The work of the NCMC is centered on the following program/demands:

- Full employment with union jobs and wages for all;
- Quality education for all our children;
- Affordable healthcare for our families;
- Decent affordable housing for all;
- Community control of the police and sheriffs;
- Abolishment of the racist Border Patrol;
- De-militarization of the Mexico/U.S. border;
- End drug trafficking in our barrios;
- End barrio violence;
- U.S. out of Latin America.

If you can unite with these fundamental demands... then join the NCMC! For information about joining the NCMC or creating a region in your area, write or call any of the following regions:

#### Congreso Chicano de la Comunidad

##### NCMC El Paso Region

P.O. Box 22156

El Paso, TX 79913

(915) 532-4148

##### NCMC-Los Angeles

1131 N. Hazard Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90063

(213) 261-2286

##### NCMC-Oxnard

P.O. Box 20411

Oxnard, CA 93034-0411

(805) 655-6524

##### NCMC-Riverside/San Bernardino

3385 N. Stoddard

San Bernardino, CA 92405

(909) 882-4422

##### Raza Rights Coalition

##### NCMC San Diego Region

P.O. Box 620095

San Diego, CA 92162

(619) 280-8361

MagonBros@aol.com

##### NCMC-San José

P.O. Box 1523

San José, CA 95109

(408) 223-0938



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**Chicano Press Association**

c/s 1996 Chicano Press Association  
National Chicano Moratorium Committee

## From the Editor of Guerrilleros de la Pluma

The organizing efforts of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee has been the most consistent activism that the movement has seen in years. The August 11 and 12 events held in San Diego in opposition to the frontal attacks led by the Republican Party, such as: Prop. 187, English Only, Three Strikes Laws, etc. had the true spirit of Chicano Power. Not only did the NCMC march in opposition to the Republicans, but also took a stand against the Democratic Party and their vendido pimps that have put more chota on our streets to harass our gente, militarized the border, and recommitted its efforts to lock up more of our youth.

The NCMC has written a page in our people's history that will always show our struggle as one for the self-determination of our pueblo. The events that took place in San Diego - the National Raza Unity Conference and National Raza March Against the Republican Party - was important to our gente precisely because we are living in one of the most anti-Mexicano periods that our people have seen in years. It is for this reason that we fight for our dignity, justice, and our absolute right to determine our own future.

It is necessary to note that if we don't start organizing, the problems like: poverty, hunger, disease, police/migrator, barrio violence, and every imaginable human right violation will continue to be committed against our people, precisely because we become vulnerable to the gringo system that say's we have no 'right to be here' on land that was once México. This is important because we know that U.S. laws have been created to maintain us in the misery that our people find themselves in, because they know that if we were to organize, that we shall take back what rightfully belongs to us and they will no longer have the luxury of having us to blame when their screwed up system fails. The constant violations against our people's right to decent housing, decent health care, relevant education, a decent wage in which to feed our families, a decent right to work, a decent place in which to live, and our right as a dignified people has driven us to say ¡Ya Basta con todos los abusos!

We cannot stand by with our arms crossed looking at our Raza get beaten down, and this is why the efforts of every

Raza organization that participated in the National Raza Unity Conference is applauded, because from this we can only build our Movement that will someday achieve true self-determination.

This issue of *Guerrilleros de la Pluma* is important because it is an actual working document that has printed in it the Resolutions that came out of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee's National Raza Unity Conference held at San Diego City College on Sunday August 11, 1996.

The NCMC would like to express the necessity of those participants of the Conference to follow up with the work that we agreed to at the conference. This is also an invitation to all those who were unable to attend the Raza Unity Conference, but who would like to participate in the building process - of a National Movement - to do so by contacting the nearest region in your area. See the addresses listed on the left hand side of this page.

Another important part of this issue of *Guerrilleros de la Pluma* is the lead in which the Chicano Press Association has taken up to build that Center of Communication that is outlined by the resolution that came out of one of the workshops. The CPA will commit itself to creating a Raza news wire service that our movement needs. We must constantly be in touch with what is happening throughout our pueblo. Whether it is in the barrios, the fields, the pintos, or at the universities... the CPA and our Movement needs to be there! If you work with a Raza paper (or want to create one), a Raza radio/TV/video program, if you have a pro-Raza Web page or you work with any other type of mass media and you can unite with the righteous demands of the NCMC... then join the CPA.

The NCMC shall continue to organize in order to realize a better future for our gente. We would like to thank all the participants who had the courage to take a stand for Raza self-determination and who committed themselves to the struggle to advance our pueblo.

¡Hasta La Victoria - Siempre!

¡Que Viva La Raza!



Raza from throughout Aztlán came to San Diego to protest against the racist Republican party and their campaign against nuestra Raza.

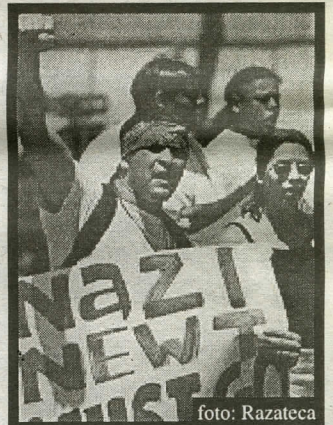


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#### CHICANO PRESS ASSOCIATION

The primary objective of the Chicano Press Association (CPA) is to advance the struggle for Chicano Mexican self-determination by promoting and unifying the progressive Chicano press/media. Essential to this process is confronting stereotypes espoused by the U.S. bourgeois media.

The Chicano Press Association holds the position that Raza are a colonized, indigenous people and that the so-called "Southwest U.S." is in fact Aztlán, part of the Mexican nation, stolen in the U.S. expansionist/imperialist war of 1846-1848.

Furthermore the CPA will commit itself to combating all manifestations of oppression and exploitation. Central to putting into effect our objectives the CPA membership will actively get involved in the day-to-day struggles being waged by our movement and by our people. As part of this movement activism, the CPA will commit itself to organizing study sessions, forums, give presentations and disseminate information/literature/publications to our communities to help raise the political consciousness of nuestro pueblo.

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. To establish a Raza news-wire service.
2. Create a network of progressive Raza press.
3. Hold on-going workshops/conferences to advance Chicano Mexican journalism.
4. Establish an editorial board to oversee joint publications.
5. To pool existing resources to assist publications and to establish new ones.
6. That a "collection" of periodicals, past and current, be established.

#### CHICANO PRESS ASSOCIATION ADDRESSES:

##### La Verdad Publications

P.O. Box 620095

San Diego, CA 92162

(619) 280-8361

MagonBros@aol.com

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P.O. Box 1842

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Oxnard, CA 93030

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August 11-12, 1996 San Diego, Califaztlán

## Raza Come to San Diego to Create a National Movimiento and to Protest the Racist Republican Party Convention

By Consuelo Manríquez, Coordinator of the Raza Rights Coalition  
[An edited version of this article appears in the Sept./Oct. 1996 issue of *Razateca* magazine.]

On August 11, 1996, the National Chicano Moratorium Committee (NMC) organized the National Raza Unity Conference: A Conference which carried the Revolutionary Spirit of Our Heroes like, Zapata, Che, and Las Soldaderas, that was organized and lead by Raza, that was created by the conditions the Republican and Democratic Parties have put on our Raza. A conference that, by the end of the day had inspired all Raza to unite, struggle, and build/join organizations within our Movimiento.

The Conference took place at San Diego City College. The Unity Conference was only open to organizations. More than 20 organizations from all over Aztlán were present. More than 200 Raza attended this conference which carried the banner of Self-determination for the Chicano Mexican People. This conference was the first part of a two day event. On the second day the NCMC organized the Raza Marcha Against the Republican Party Convention.

### Objectives Of The Raza Unity Conference

The objectives of the Raza Unity Conference were 1) to bring together progressive

sor at Cal State Northridge (CSUN) and author of *Occupied America*; Raúl Ruiz former editor of *La Raza* magazine and Professor at CSUN; and Alurista, the Chicano poet laureate of Aztlán as well as one of the original writers of El Plan de Aztlán, who presented several of his inspiring poems that carried a message of true Chicanismo.

During lunch there was an "Organizational Teach-in" where several organizations spoke about their organizations and what they are doing for la Raza. One of the main reasons why this system has been able to come out with many racist laws geared toward our Raza (like Prop. 187, 209, and the English Only Laws) has been because we are not organized at a national level. The NCMC sees this as a major contradiction in Aztlán because the racist laws will continue coming and we are not prepared to struggle against them.

### Conference Workshops

After lunch, the main body broke into the following five workshops: 1) **Building a National Movement for Raza Self-Determination**, the speakers were: Ernesto Bustillos from Unión del Barrio, Jaime Cruz from Los Angeles NCMC, José Moreno from Oxnard NCMC, Armando Navarro from the Tomás Rivera Research Center at U.C. Riverside and Xenaro Ayala from La Raza Unida Party. 2) **Grassroots/Barrio Organizing**, the speakers were: Elba Alvarez

from Riverside/San Bernardino NCMC, Ismael Avilez and Hector Muro from Mexicano Unidos en Defensa del Pueblo, Seferino García from the Brown Berets de Aztlán, and Eric Gonzalez from Unión del Barrio. 3) **Youth, Women, and Prisoners: Working with Key Sectors of Nuestra Raza**, the speakers were: Ericka Zamora from Unión del Barrio's Comité de Mujeres Patricia Marín, Adriana Jasso from Oxnard NCMC, Jesus Alvarado from UTEP M.E.Ch.A., Harry Barra from Somos Raza and Tony Rodríguez from Unión del Barrio's Chicano Mexican Prison Project. 4) **La Lucha En México: EZLN, EPR, FAC-MLN and other struggles of Raza South of the Militarily Imposed Border**, the speakers were Pablo Aceves National Coordinator of the NCMC and Judith Galarza from the Frente Amplio para la Construcción del Movimiento de Liberación Nacional, Ciudad Juárez, México. 5) **Critical Issues Facing La Raza**, the speakers were: Rudy Acuña from CSUN, Consuelo Manríquez from Unión del Barrio, Roberto Martínez from the U.S./Mexico Border Project, Francisco Romero from Oxnard NCMC, and Nicolás Crisosto from the Barrio Defense Committee.

The main body reconvened and Omali

Yeshitela, from the African People's Socialist Party, gave a solidarity statement to the participants of the conference. Compañero Omali gave an electrifying speech that made the audience respond with a standing ovation and with our Raza chanting ¡Que Viva Africa! He congratulated us for holding a very historic meeting where the banner of Self-determination had been raised high.

The final presentations were from people that facilitated the workshops. They presented resolutions that came out of each workshop. The resolutions targeted the importance of Unity among Raza organizations and they ranged from supporting the 4th Annual Youth Liberation Conference in November of this year in Oxnard, Califas to creating new regions of the NCMC.

The conference was a very historical event for many reasons. First, it represented where our people are at. "The Movimiento was speaking during this conference", said Ernesto Bustillos, Chairman of Unión del Barrio. Second, it showed a tremendous kind Unity among serious progressive organizations. Third, it showed that with organization we can accomplish many things, like this Unity conference, and the Raza March. By the end of the day, the participants of the Conference were ready to march the next day with their minds filled with pride of Chicana and Chicano Power.

### National Raza Marcha Against the Republican Party Convention

The National Raza Marcha Against the Republican Party Convention took place the following day, August 12, 1996, at Chicano Park. This March was also organized by the NCMC and it was a tremendous and necessary task to take on. This Raza March provided us with an opportunity to expose to the world the oppression and racism faced by the great majority of our people. It enabled us to educate and raise the consciousness of our community to the many issues which confront us, like Prop. 187, English Only Laws, migra/police violence, etc. This Raza March allowed us to raise the question of self-determination as the primary question facing La Raza and to challenge the Hispanic-Vendidos who want to sell-out our community to assimilationist, pacifist, and Democratic Party politics.

The M.C.'s at the rally were Pablo Aceves and Adrianna Jasso, both from the NCMC. All of the speakers at the rally gave one clear message: Self-determination for the Chicano Mexican People. The speakers at the rally before the march were, Consuelo Manríquez on behalf of Unión del Barrio, Omali Yeshitela from the African People's Socialist Party, David Rico and Seferino García of the Brown Berets de Aztlán, Judith Galarza from the FAC-MLN, a compañera from the Mexican Political Association (MPA) and Maria Ortiz from the San José NCMC region/Barrio Defense Committee.

During the entire rally preceding the marcha, Chicano Park was decorated with mili-

tant signs saying "this is our land", "the Doles are illegal", "Que Viva La Raza," etc. The Mexican flag dominated the whole Marcha as well as banners flying high with orgullo with the faces of Zapata, Che, and Fidel (painted by Chicano artista Mario Torero of the Chicano Park Artists Task Force). The banner that headed the Marcha stated "El Pueblo Unido, Jamás Será Vencido/La Raza Marcha Contra el Partido Republicano" and the banner that closed up the marcha depicted a hooded Klan member with blue eyes showing the California Civil Rights Initiative as a racist piece of legislation (both banners were created by Chicano artista Victor Ochoa of the Centro Cultural de la Raza). It was clear that this Marcha was about self-determination for la Raza by la Raza.

### Marchers Take To The Streets Of San Diego

The marchers took to the streets of Barrio Logan (without permits or the approval from the Police) and marched through the Mexican community. Raza outside their houses, applauded and many joined the marcha. The marchers chanted with mucho ánimo throughout the whole march. The Marcha started at Chicano Park and went through Logan to Downtown, San Diego. It passed the infamous "protest site" (that the police and city established as a way of manufacturing dissent) and mocked those that govern the City of San Diego by taking to the streets and not fearing their threats of shutting us down. La Raza marched on our own land, on our own terms.

The whole world was exposed to the militancy of la Raza in Aztlán. The media inundated our streets covering this historic period in our people's quest for self-determination. Media representatives from all over the world came to cover this event. This Marcha was a great success because it showed the organization, dedication, and militancy of our Pueblo Mexicano. By the end of the Marcha there were between 800 to 1000 compañeras y compañeros marching proudly through the streets of San Diego and back to our little piece of liberated land, Chicano Park.

The NCMC will follow up with the resolutions that came out of the Raza Unity Conference. It is clear that we need to continue organizing on a national level to accomplish our goals of Justicia y Libertad for our gente. The message for all la Raza is to join an organization or create one under the banner of Raza Self-determination and independence from government funding or control. As the next step in advancing our movement the NCMC will co-sponsor and be a key player in organizing for the 4th Annual Raza Youth Liberation Conference on November 16, 1996 in Oxnard, Califas.

For more information on the NCMC write to: NCMC P.O. Box 620095, San Diego, CA 92162 or call (619) 280-8361.

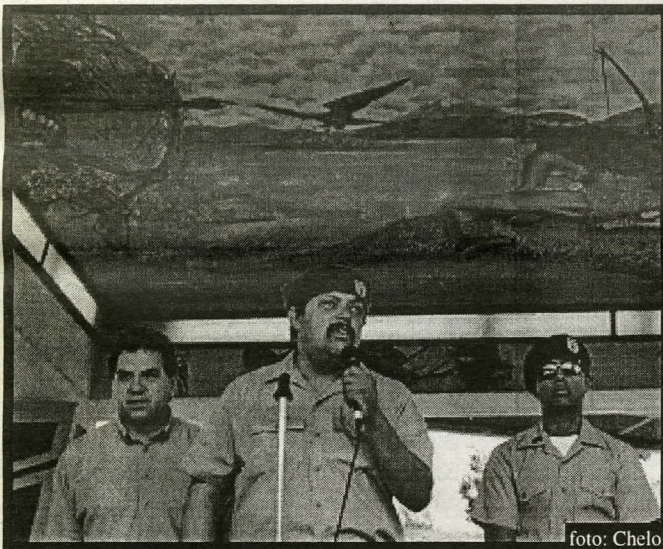


foto: Chelo

Movimiento forces to discuss and share perspectives on the burning issues facing nuestro pueblo and what needs to be done to resolve them; 2) to form a network among movement organizations - as a way of more effectively working in the future; 3) to develop a joint "Declaración de Lucha" that will outline key issues and how to concretely address them; and lastly 4) to advance organizational building of activists within the struggle for Raza Self-Determination.

The Conference started with chants like "Somos Un Pueblo, Sin Fronteras" y "¡Que Viva La Raza!" The audience responded with very energetic voices. Presentations were made by activists of historical significance to the Movimiento. All speakers delivered very strong and inspiring messages to la Raza: from the importance of knowing our true history to recognizing Chicano activists that have continued organizing. The speakers were Xenaro Ayala from La Raza Unida Party; Antonio Marín from El Congreso Chicano de la Comunidad - El Paso region of the NCMC; María Ortiz former CASA member, and presently with the NCMC San José region and Unión del Barrio; David Rico from the Brown Berets de Aztlán; Rudy Acuña Chicano Studies Profes-



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# Guerrilleros de la Pluma

David Rico, Chairman of the Brown Berets de Aztlán:

## Each One of You Has the Right to Be a Soldier, Each and Every One of You Has a Right to Be a Brown Beret de Aztlán

*The following speech was given by compañero David Rico at the Raza Unity Conference hosted by The National Chicano Moratorium Committee on Sunday August 11, 1996 at San Diego City College. David Rico has been involved in the Chicano Movement for over 20 years. He was a member of the Brown Berets during the Chicano Power Period. He is currently Chairman of the Brown Berets de Aztlán.*

We need a few more Berets, maybe everybody out there, because we have an idea that we have a responsibility. We have a responsibility to take back our land. And since you have that responsibility to take back our land - and see, I know you have that responsibility - because that's why you're here. You have that responsibility to take back our land and you have the right to be a soldier, to defend our Raza, and get our land back. So each one of you has the right to be a soldier, each and every one of you have a right to be a Brown Beret de Aztlán. But whatever you decide, you could be a soldier with: La Raza Unida Party, the National Chicano Moratorium Committee or you be a soldier with Unión del Barrio, but make your decision, make your decision and do it! Again, you can always form your own organization, and that organization - I hope - is based on the principle to be free, and to get our land back.

I want to take a moment to talk about the brothers and sisters we have here. Some of them are Ministers, some of them are soldiers, but they're all equal, and I also want to take another thing into consideration. You notice that everybody here is not perfect, some have brown pants that are a little different shade than others [Laughter], some people have long sleeve shirts, some short one's, some of us don't have Berets on, some of us don't have fancy boots. But we do our best. We're a poor organization, because our people are poor. So we're representative of our people. But the uniform is important in that it's a symbol of being a soldier, and fighting for what is really right, and what is ours.

The gringo took our land, and said, "were going to treat you good", so they gave us welfare, and when we took the welfare, he got mad at us for taking the welfare. He criticized our people by attacking our young women who use welfare, yet we didn't create it. They created it! They created it, then they turn around and jam us up for being on it. "Oh, you're nothing but a bunch of welfare motherfuckers!" "We're going to take it away!"

Another thing I wanted to press upon you, right now, is that our enemies are very strong, but they're weakening, and they're afraid of us. If they were not afraid of us they wouldn't do anything. They wouldn't worry about anyone crossing the border they put up. They wouldn't worry about infiltrating anybody. They wouldn't worry about taking up arms. They wouldn't be worrying about building up the police departments, they wouldn't be worried about any of those things.

They're afraid of us because they know that we can take our land back. Because they're weakening and they're afraid of us. That's why they have the "Three Strikes" law, the "English Only" - like those laws are going to keep us from growing! You know? We do a good job of populating the area. We're mass producing - we're like rabbits - [Laughter] and you know what? Keep that going, because all those people is just what we need for the revolution.

We're Revolutionaries! And you're Revolutionaries, you've got to make a decision, you just can't sit on the fence! You have to join an organization, because we have to be

organized! They're going to try and divide us.

I know it's real hard to talk about unity - we have our own problems with that too. Sometimes when we're looking at our enemy, we have to look behind our back. There are those out there that say they're Revolutionaries, but they're not. We're going to make an effort to unite all Raza.

I want to press upon you, again, our enemies are weakening, and they're afraid of us. Because they know that they're going to lose. As long as we have in our hearts that we want our land back, we want our freedom, we want our liberation, we want Aztlán. They can't defeat us.

They tried to defeat us in the 60's and the 70's with their infiltrators, and the government tried to figure out a way to destroy us. At that time we didn't have a lot of veteranos in the movimiento, we were kind of crazy out there, doing things with our corazon and our fists - every way we could do it - and in the process did a lot of mistakes. The hope here is that we don't make the same mistakes. And one of the mistakes we committed was, that we did not leave young people to take over the spots. We didn't educate our gente, and therefore for many years we had some lost children. But, I don't know - it's probably luck - but some of the veteranos that came up and spoke today made it! I don't know how in the hell they made it, but they did! [Laughter] I guess they were just lucky.

Now we realize that mistake, and we're not making that mistake again. Your education, right now, is to get our land back. So, I just educated you. So you want your high school diplomas? Just line up! [Laughter] You want your Ph.D. line up. You just got it right now! I got your lecture. We want our land back. We want to be free, because with out that, any education you get is just going to be fed into the system. If you want to be part of the system, then you're going to have to be our enemies! You have to be clear, because this is the death of the Hispanic! This is the clue, when they start saying Hispanic, that's the group you're not suppose to be going to. Maybe they need to be educated?

We need to defend ourselves, they're arming themselves against us, and we need to arm ourselves as well. I know that's dangerous talk, but so fucking what! What are they going to do? We've been talking that way for a long time, but it's still the truth. And I'm not with the attitude that our young people in high school and junior high school are not warriors, because they are the warriors! If you notice our history, throughout the world our youth has been the warriors. In Nicaragua, and other places - and not only that - don't get the idea that the women - the young women - in the high school are not warriors. They can pull the trigger just as easily as anybody else. [Applause]

Our message today is very simple, I want you to join our ranks. I'm giving you an invitation to do that. Join our ranks and become a soldier/soldada, to fight for our land. That's what we're about, that's our platform. However in between that time, we have to build up, we have to be organized, in between that time we have to also service our people, in that they're taking a lot of social services away. That's all right! They can dangle that in front of us. But we have to be organized to fill those needs. We have to build things for clothing, food, housing, but with a revolutionary mente! In that we're not just building these things to help ourselves. We're building this to help our future - we want our land back! We want our land back! This is our tierra. They've been treating us like shit for 500 years, we can not

allow that to happen anymore!

I know many of your parents or other people saying; "hey, you can't do that" and you know, I understand where they're coming from. They've been so beaten down and so oppressed and so divided, that they think they're alone in their oppression. They're not alone in their oppression! All you have to do is go to any city where Mexicans live and ask the question, "where are the Mexicans?" And I don't mean Mr. Gonzales who has the big house over here on the west side or the north side. I don't mean them. There's a few here and there. I want to know where the Mexicans are? And they'll say there over there, and when you find over there, you're going to find the drugs, poverty, the cucarachas, and everything else. But those aren't our homes, we don't even own them. We're renters and usually the owner is some pelon gabacho collecting his rent - they all look the same to me. They come over and everyone say's; "hey that vato must be a landlord." [Laughter] Gabacho pelon and he has a golf shirt on, he must be coming to collect the rent. We're laughing because we know it's true. I'm not telling you something you don't already know! I'm not teaching you anything! [Applause]

The problem of the message is not to teach somebody something we already know, but to do a couple of things; one is to organize ourselves to do something about it. And these women and men that are standing up here, are not here to look pretty, but to make an impression. They're not here to protect me, because I'm among my people and my friends. They're here to make an impression, that you can be a soldier for your Raza, and for our land, and we can do it, because they're afraid of us.

They're afraid of us - when a government or a system starts getting more oppressive, that's when they're shaking, that's when they're breaking down, that's when they're about to lose and they know it. So they bring the first thing that they know, and that's the police department, the prisons, all of those kind of things. Right now is a very important time to be a Chicano and a Chicana, because right now is the time to make a difference. It's a time to make a difference and to advance, and to get closer to getting our ultimate goal, and that's to get our land back, and to get our freedom back, and to build an Aztlán - you heard of an Aztlán, we want an Aztlán - we know that México, that land is also ours, but there's a lot of Mexicanos down there, and they have a responsibility to the government - that's our government, whether it's fucked up, upside down or whatever [Laughter] that's still our government. There are a lot of Mexicanos there, it is their responsibility to deal with them, and to deal with them and overthrow them or whatever, in order to end the poverty in México, that's their responsibility.

We have a responsibility too. We got to get back - I have to say it again, because the word "the land", "tierra", "tierra", that's what it's about. Liberation, freedom, that's what it's about. We're tired of this guy on our back, and he's going to be on our back, tomorrow, next week and forever if we don't do something about it. We've got the people and the power, but we don't have the organization. This is the



David Rico y los Brown Berets de Aztlán giving a strong militant (and sometimes humorous) presentation.

attempt of these people right here and each one of them - Seferino Garcia, who's the minister of defense, he'll be at some of the workshops, and he knows what I'm talking about.

I'm really proud to be here, because anyone who gets an opportunity to speak in front of their people and give a message, is an honor, and I think you all should have that same honor, because you have something to say to. You have feelings, you have experiences, that you need to express, because you're not alone, because whatever you experience and the suffering that you have with you and your familia, and people in prison, strung out, and people in gangs, people being harassed by the migra and the pigs and by everybody else, shit even the god damn janitors are fucking bugging us. [Laughter]

We have to say, "Ya Basta" and "Chale" to that. So my message is to join one of the organizations - hopefully you see yourselves as a Brown Beret de Aztlán - and I'm going to end with these words. I'm very serious about these words, because I've been using them for a long time, and I'll continue to use them until they put a fucking bullet in my head. But you know what? I'll be proud, because it's better to die with a bullet in me than to die from AIDS, tubes up my ass, and in my ears or dying from a heart attack, because I'm worried about my income tax or I'm worried about loosing my job or whatever it is. If you're going to go, go with honor. You're not going to live for ever anyways! [Applause]

Zapata's words were correct when he said; "It's better to die standing up." We're going to have to be brave, but we're already brave, but we're going to have to be united and focused as to where we're going. We have to be Revolutionaries, and that's the way we feel. I'm going to invite all of you to be a Brown Beret de Aztlán or join one of the organizations that are present here today. Do one of those things, or form an even more firme organization.

With that I'm going to end it. You know how we say out loud viva this viva that? Well there's a couple of alive people here I'd like to say viva to! We have Ernesto Bustillos who's the Chairman of Union del Barrio [Applause], Paul Aceves, Xenaro Ayala, Raul Ruiz, Antonio Marin, everybody here, because we're alive. My dedication is to them and to keep up the Revolutionary work. You guys are going to have to take over. You're going to have to take over our leadership, I don't know if it's leadership - I hope it is - but at least our direction. What we want is really simple - I'll say it again, for the hundredth time, so it sticks to your head - we want our land back!

We want our freedom!  
We want Aztlán!

¡Que Viva Aztlán! ...

¡Y Que Vivan Los Brown Berets de Aztlán!



**Maria Ortiz, former member of CASA and current member of Unión del Barrio:**

## In Reality The Real Welfare Mother Is The U.S. Government

*The following is a presentation given by Maria Ortiz, a former member of CASA and a current member of Unión del Barrio-San José, at the National Raza Unity Conference; organized by the National Chicano Moratorium Committee. The Conference was held at San Diego City College on Sunday August 11, 1996.*

Primeramente,

De parte de la organización, The Barrio Defence Committee- San José, quisiera darle las gracias, a la Coalición Pro-Derechos por haber organizado esta conferencia tan importante. Queremos dar un saludo a todos los compañeros, de Lucha, presentes, queremos dar un saludo en especial, a las organizaciones que están presente hoy día!

Porque se trata de una lucha, que ha seguido por 500 años. La lucha por la auto-determinación; La lucha por nuestra tierra, porque sin la tierra no podemos vivir. Y también debemos de entender que esta no es una lucha de nadamás no tener nada que hacer. Se trata de una lucha de producir, seres humanos, de defender nuestra familia, de defender a nuestros hijos. De eso se trata la lucha por la liberación. Y la tierra nos ha dado como nosotros hemos visto, hace 500 años, todo lo que nosotros hemos necesitado para poder producir, crear y vivir. Esa es la lucha principal.

Before I continue, I would like to read to you a letter, from a compañero, of the thousands of compañeros, probably millions . . . of our Raza that are being held down in the prisons of hell, by the U.S. colonialist-imperialist state that was born out of the massacre and stolen land of our people. This comes from Eddie Soria, from Pelican Bay prison, and he writes; "In Salute of the Anti-Republican Mobilization" and this is what he says:

"I know you're busy preparing for the demonstration so I'll be brief. I just want to say I'll be there in faith for I do have it in my gente, and I do hope that the movida will be effective. I believe in this and my heart

goes out to you, brothers and sisters of the barrios of Aztlán. Let our gente rise and demonstrate the freedom that is so rightously ours, to take back the dignity that on which the gabas raped from us. Let this demonstration be a success and a step to our future."

That is a letter from Eddie Soria held down by the U.S. imperialist government.

I want to let you know and give you a few experiences that I've had in this struggle that must continue on until our people have taken back our land. The Chicano movement of the 60's showed us many things. One of the things was that we were fighting for self-determination. We were fighting to control our barrios, our streets, the institution, and to take back what's ours. And we formed organizations - strong organizations - one of the organizations was CASA [Centro de Acción Social Autónoma]. That clarified that we are one people. Because the U.S. government put a lot of labels on us, which they continue to do. And that's when they started to call us immigrants, undocumented workers, illegal alien, and all to divide our people, because they knew - and they know - that a united force and an organized force, would go towards that end result of taking back our land.

And so it was necessary for the U.S. military to come down on us hard, and beat down on us, and incarcerate us, and put us in prisons, and fill our communities with the poisons of the drugs, and all this to pacify us - stupefy us - so that we cannot organize and build a strong movement. And they attacked us fiercely. They infiltrated our organizations, they infiltrated our organizations with vendidos, that we thought they were doing something good, but they turned around and stabbed us in the back. We have to learn from that. We have to be prepared in the next step of struggle of the Chicano movement. We also have to learn that in this struggle - after the military beat us down - the white left came in, and took another stab at us. [Applause]

When they stabbed us - and we have to understand

who the white left is - those forces that supposedly come in and gave charity work, through their poverty pimp agencies, and all kinds of institutions saying they are there for la Raza, but never had raised the flag of self-determination. [Applause] . . . Because if they do, they have to give up this land . . . and that's what they don't want to do. That's Right! And we have to identify them and expose them. If they're down for La Raza, then they have to raise the flag of self-determination, the flag - of the liberation of Raza - to take back Aztlán, and I'm talking about - not only here in the occupied territories - but throughout the continent. [Applause]

They come in different colors and different forms, and we have to - it is a principle - they have to raise that criticism: Because the white left - the white settlers - are here because they have stolen our land and everything they have is stolen. That's why they live so well. They live off our exploitation, they turn around and say, that we're illegal aliens, when in reality they are the illegal aliens. They are the illegal aliens and they are the one's that are ripping off, every day, our resources through the exploitation of our people. Making us work slave salaries, paying us bits and pieces. Don't tell me about unions that are fighting for Raza at six dollars an hour, give me a break! Who's going to be living off of six dollars an hour?

They're calling us "welfare mothers", - and I'm talking about the Democratic Party and the Republican Party - the main forces that have been attacking Raza. [Applause] When in reality the welfare mother is the U.S. government. [Applause] The welfare mother (the U.S. government) has been living off of Raza labor and land, and resources, and we've got to turn it around, because they have programmed us even for Raza - our own Raza - to attack our people.

Even our people voted for 187 saying that we were illegal aliens. They call our children gang bangers, not letting our children walk on the streets, go to school, just walk them into prison. And why is it that they've



**Maria Ortiz of Unión del Barrio-San José at the Unity Conference.**

been targeting Raza youth? Because the majority of our Raza are twenty years or younger - of 25 million Raza in the occupied territories. And so they have to incarcerate our people; taking our youth. That's why we're seeing uniforms in the schools, because they have to program our children, that this is how they're going to be dressed for the rest of their life.

We see these attacks on us by the U.S. government - whether it's Democrats or Republicans - because in the end they're the same monster; and we've got to take it on. But we've got to take it on in an organized manner. We have to come together and this is what it's all about. This is no fad, this is for our life, for our children's life, and every struggle that we take on is a struggle for Raza self-determination, and the liberation of Aztlán, is our goal.

In the streets, in the prisons, everywhere we're at, that is what we have to struggle for. This is what I've learned from the Chicano movement, and I hope that this historic struggle will go forward and advance the step towards liberation.

¡La Raza Unida, Jamas Sera Vencida!

Thank You

**Rudy Acuña, Chicano Studies professor, Cal State Northridge and author of Occupied America**

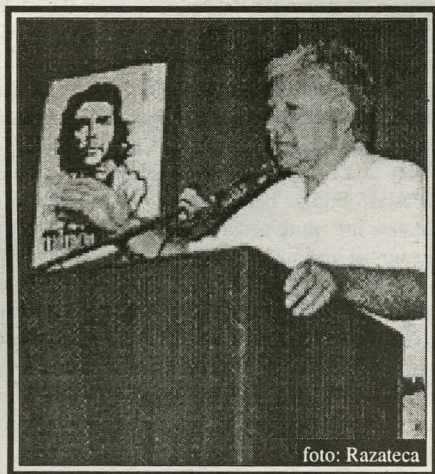
## With People of Color Coming Into the Universities, You See a Rise in Tuition to the Point Where Affirmative Action Becomes a Moot Subject

*The following presentation was given by compañero Rodolfo Acuña at the Raza Unity Conference hosted by the National Chicano Moratorium Committee at San Diego City College on Sunday August 11, 1996. He is the author of Occupied America and is currently a professor at CSUN.*

Today I'm not going to give a speech, I'm just going to make a couple of remarks. Nothing happens by accident, I think that we can look at the consequences of not organizing. Today, for example, Chicano studies as we know it, is an endangered species. Chicanos at the universities are an endangered species. This is no accident. Alurista remembers, as many of us here remember, for example, when I started at Cal State Los Angeles, the tuition there was six dollars and fifty cents a semester. The tuition was very low in most of the universities throughout the nation.

However, as soon as you start to get people of color coming into the Universities, you see a rise in tuition, to the point where affirmative action, becomes a moot subject, because what has happened is that the people can't afford to go to school any longer. People can't afford to be active in the movement, because they have two or three jobs while they're in school. This didn't happen by accident.

What's happening right now with the immigration issue is not an accident. In 1965 they passed the Immigration Act of 1965, which was implemented in 1968. That law went away



**Rudy Acuña, professor and author of Occupied America.**

from national origins, the whole concept of national origins would keep a cap on the number of people of color. The people from Eastern Europe would only let in the Nordic people. They gave preference to the Nordic people. However, they thought that the people from Europe were going to continue to come. They didn't continue to come, and you had the third worlds coming to the United States.

Today the United States has changed. It's no longer the country that they envisioned. It's no longer white, and people are up tight. So you see right now that there are laws that give preference to people from Western Europe coming into the United States, because they said, that they were the people that historically did not use their quota. So you see that right

now it is a drive, a very subtle drive, to go back to national origins. To go back and limit the number of people that are coming in from outside. As well as to drive other people out.

This is why you have a criminalization of the last two decades on Mexicans. That is why you have people calling us "illegal aliens". What is an "alien"? The body snatchers, this is the image you have that the Hollywood movies create, where you have the pods coming over and taking over your bodies. This is what? An alien, that's going to gobble you up. An alien is something that is threatening to you. Illegal is criminal, these people are criminals, they're aliens, they're dangerous. Right now this attack has translated into all of us.

If we don't organize, and if we don't unite under certain basic principles, we're not going to be able to criticize Chicano Studies, we're not going to have Chicano Studies anymore, because we're not going to have any students. You see a drop in the number of students in every University. The enrollment, we've seen in the last years where we have less students coming in from deprived neighborhoods. You have more of them coming in from that upper twenty percent, you have more of them coming in from catholic schools they should be coming in. The barrio kids should also be coming in. And why? The tuition.

Affirmative Action, has never been a threat to the University population. When you have less than one percent of the graduate students that are Chicano, in the University of California, and at the same time which account

for over fifty percent of the Chicano Ph.D's throughout the nation, less than one percent are Chicano/as. Then you're not doing to well. You're never going to have them in a pipe line, you're never going to have them in a University system. You have two percent who are Chicanos, in general, so consequently it builds up that myth so you can drive out the rest. They keep control of that elite system.

If we don't unite, we're going to be jodidos until the year 2050. Self-determination? There's no self-determination in higher education. We don't have self-determination, no matter how much gains individuals make. We don't have gains. In the immigration issue, right now, it's going to get brutal, it's going to get worse, we're going to be more generalized. Right now they're not going to give certain benefits to people who were born in this country. It's always been a principle that if a person was born in this country, they were a citizen. They're going to take that away. It is a gimmick. But what is the purpose? The purpose is to keep the country white. To keep the country Anglo-Saxon. If we don't organize and put aside our differences, we're all going to be in the same bed.

I do think, right now, we can unite under certain principles. We can unite under the principle of self-determination, and leave our individuality aside. Those principles - we can fight on everything else, but those principles - should never be subverted.

Thank you very much.



## Solidarity Statement by Chairman Omali Yeshitela of the African Peoples Socialist Party There could be no U.S. imperialism without the theft of this land and without the domination of Indio Mexicano peoples

The following is a solidarity statement given by Chairman Omali Yeshitela, of the African Peoples Socialist Party, at the National Raza Unity Conference; organized by the National Chicano Moratorium Committee. The Conference was held at San Diego City College on Sunday August 11, 1996

Uhuru [Freedom]  
Compañeros y compañeras

To the conveners of this important conference I would like to express a deep and profound appreciation for being able to share this meeting with you.

From the Central Committee of the African Peoples Socialist Party, I'm able to say that we think that this meeting happening here today is the most important gathering that is occurring in this country right now, and because of that, possibly, it is one of the most important gatherings happening in the world today. And I do not say this lightly, because we understand that United States (U.S. imperialism) is responsible for the suffering and poverty, of all the people's everywhere on the planet earth. And if we are doing something here today to challenge the ability of imperialism to starve and brutalize the people, then here - in the belly of the beast - we have to say that this must be the most important meeting happening in the world. [Applause]

Compañeros y Compañeras

It is very easy for us - in the African Peoples Socialist Party - to unite with this conference - to offer our solidarity - because from our perspective, the foundation of U.S. imperialism, has been the exploitation and the oppression of our peoples. That until the 17th century there was no such thing as "Europe" or the "European." There was no such thing as; the "white man," if you will. But Europe, the Europeans have their origin from an area, where there was just a land of warring tribes and kingdoms to become the power that Europe has become. They have done this by uniting their people as a part of a process of genocide and colonization, rape and plunder of the planet!

Compañeras y compañeros

We recognize that this land is the land of the indigenous peoples, of the Mexicano Indio peoples [Applause] . . . We recognize that there could be no U.S. imperialism without the theft of this land, without the domination of Indio Mexicano peoples, we understand that the political economy of the world - not only of America, but of the world - has its origin both in the theft of the land of the Indio Mexicano people here, the enslavement of Africans, the so called slave trade and the domination of the other peoples around the world. Therefore, we can state that we have absolute solidarity with this meeting in opposition to the Republican Party Convention. But more than that we stand with you in opposition to the Democratic Party. (Applause) More than that, we stand with you in opposition to U.S. imperialism and white power. Here and throughout the world, we recognize that U.S. imperialism must

be defeated! [Applause]

I understand there was another meeting - I think on yesterday - according to a local reactionary publication that I saw here, having to do with the Republican Convention. It is associated with another meeting that will be occurring in Chicago as well, where the Democratic Party will be having its get together. And from what I read, this meeting expressed some concern - and there was a lot of African forces at this meeting, some of whom you know by name - expressed concern, because the Republican Party doesn't demonstrate an appreciation for multi-culturalism?! [Laughter] And of course, people in this room understand that the whole concept of Multi-culturalism is a fall back - a defensive fall back by white power - who recognize that the Mexicans and the African people are coming to take back our land and to take back our resources. [Applause]

So I'm told that these organizations want to put together some demands and take them to the Republican Party and to the Democratic Party, and while in general there is nothing wrong with taking the demands to the Republicans or the Democrats, this meeting has impressed us precisely, because there are groups of us that have come to understand that our fate does not lie with the Democratic or the Republican Party, but with the oppressed peoples of the world, and therefore, our responsibility is to organize our people. [Applause]

Compañeros y Compañeras

We can stand here in solidarity with you because we know that you understand - just as we have come to understand - that imperialism, that the struggle we have with the schools, with 187, with the various other attacks at the border and what have you, are simply manifestations - profound manifestations - of the loss of self-determination by our people. That our solution does not lie in simply solving the problem at the border, in simply getting 187 repealed - although we should struggle against it - but in the final analysis there shall be no peace, until we have self-determination - until we are self-governing people once again. [Roaring Applause]

We know that this is a crucial time in history that we are living in, what a magnificent time to be alive. Look all about you, because this Democratic, this Republican and Democratic Party, here on one hand you have Clinton, an Arkansas Cracker, right?!, who is [Applause] . . . that's all he is, he's an Arkansas Cracker! With a Tennessee Cracker as the Vice-President, right?! - here you have them on the one hand, clearly, obviously attacking our peoples - and you know the Africans and the Mexicans are suppose to be Democrats, right?!, and then here's Clinton, it was Clinton who among other things made the attack that said he was going to put 100,000 new policeman in this country - and where were they going to be? In the colonies of the African communities and the Mexicano barrios, right?! It was Clinton who pushed forth the "Crime Bill" that

threatens our very existence and the freedom of our people and that threatens the African community, that by the turn of the century, the majority of child bearing men - of the African community - will be in prison, or tied to the prison system in some way or another. It was Clinton who put forth the notion that, after two years, women should be kicked off what they call "welfare." Of course you and I understand the slander, they talk about us being on welfare. Well, the truth of the matter is that white power, and white people have lived off the welfare of the Mexicans and the Africans for the last five hundred years. [Roaring Applause]

So here you have Clinton and the Democratic Party making these terrible attacks on the rights, and the life capacity of our people on the one hand, and then of course you have the Republican Party doing the same thing, but don't just talk about the Republican Party, because this is something that all of us have to face up to - that in 1994 in the mid-term election that overturned the congress that put in the Republicans, the Republicans didn't put themselves in power. Here you have every politician in the country who run their campaigns, against whom? Their campaigns were run against the Mexican; their campaigns were run against the African; the basic policy of the Clinton government has been an Anti-Mexican, Anti-African policy, and the Republicans have simply out done the Democrats in that capacity. [Applause] But how did they get in power? There was no coup in Washington D.C. The fact of the matter is that the Republican Congress is in power because white people voted them in power; because they were anti-Black, anti-Mexican and against all the oppressed peoples of the world. That is the truth of the matter. [Applause]

But, Compañeros y Compañeras

We can stand here in solidarity, with the certainty that our time has come. All you got to do is look around the world. It is clear that a page has been turned in human history. For the first time in more than fifty years look at Europe, for the first time you see white people killing, and shooting white people in what they call Eastern Europe, where they have more than two hundred and fifty thousand people kill each other. You don't see the bodies in the newspapers, you don't see the swollen dead bodies lying on the ground in the newspapers or the television, like you see if it was from Somalia, or like you'd see if it was from Rwanda - of course, because they'd show us pictures of Somalia and Rwanda and Mexico and places like that because they want to demoralize us and let the white people feel superior, so they don't show us all the dead people that died in Eastern Europe because they don't want to demoralize the white people, and they don't want to give up the idea that white people can die just like any goddamn body else! [Roaring Applause]

But its not just Eastern Europe. Look at Western Europe's profound, deep crisis. They were supposed to have created a European community in 1992, a United Europe, but they couldn't do it. Then they were suppose to - this year or last year, I think it was - suppose to have created a common currency, but they couldn't do it. And why couldn't they do it? Because they had made these restrictions about how low the budget deficit had to be before anybody could enter into this unity they wanted to make. Who had pushed this? Germany had pushed this, the so called engine - the economic engine of Europe. France had pushed this, but now the crisis is such that the political economy of Germany and France is so bad that even they don't qualify to be a part of the unity that they've been pushing for. That is the reality that we are talking about. [Applause]

How does this crisis manifest itself? It manifests itself in Europe just like it manifests itself here in North America. Why? They can't frighten us. It is they who are afraid. That's why they want tanks at the border, you don't have a confident compilation, you have some terrified whimps who are concerned with what's going to come out of the barrios and what's going to come out of the colonies. [Applause]

No more Africans from Haiti, no more Mexicans coming across an artificial border - there are too



foto: Chelo

**Chairman Omali Yeshitela, African revolutionary and supporter of Chicano Mexican self-determination.**

many of us already - and they know sooner or later our consciousness will catch up with the objective reality that we are living with, and we will rise up and destroy imperialism once and for all. [Loud cheers and Applause]

So Compañeras y compañeros

Again, I really want to express a deep appreciation for being able to be here. You know, we've gotten pretty good at being able to criticize imperialism, we can tell you everything that's wrong with imperialism. But today what we have to begin to do is to help the masses to visualize the future, and the future is not a future inside the Democratic or Republican parties, the future is not a future integrating into America, the future for our people has to be the total destruction of an imperialist white power that can only live by sucking the blood of our people, and a totally liberated Aztlán and México, and a totally liberated Africa and African peoples throughout the world.

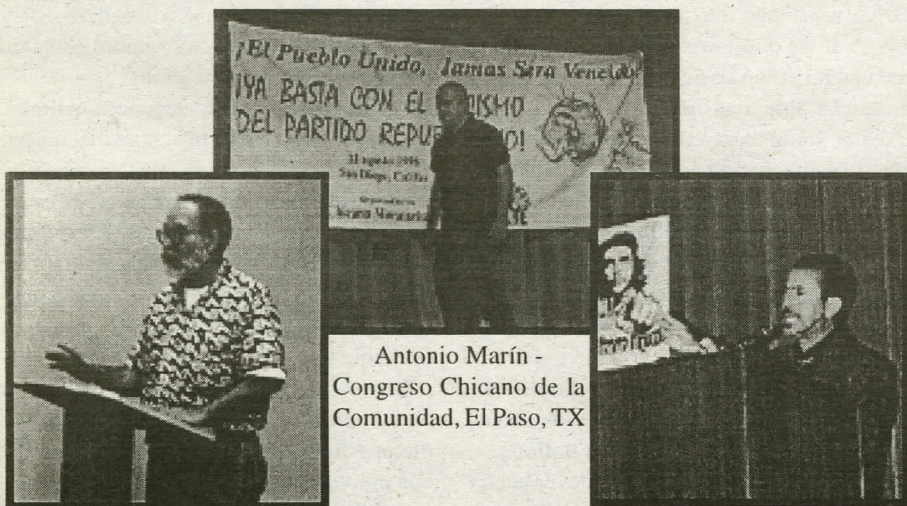
I just want to say that it's very important that we were here, I really have a deep profound appreciation for this meeting and listen, Compas; We come from a small organization and in many ways, the views that I hold today, are minority views - they haven't always been minority views, and next week they won't be a minority view, if not next week then next month, if not next month then next year, cause clearly the masses of African people shall wake up and we shall win!

But this is what I was saying; just being here and listening to compas - you know, as somebody from the outside - you know the colonial peoples, one of the things they do all the time to us, is they create, they crush our confidence and our own capacity in our own leadership, they destroy, they attack constantly our ability to even see ourselves as a free people, you know we haven't been free in so long that we don't even know what the hell it is to be free. Sometimes we're afraid of the idea, you know what I'm saying?! [Applause]

But listen, and I've listened to and heard the self criticism that happened inside of your conference and inside the meetings, the contradictions that people are experiencing - and just as an outsider, and not somebody who knows so much about many things, but as an outsider - I want to say that this is a profoundly important meeting. I think what my observations are that something very serious is happening in the Mexican community here, that imperialism - if it were wise - it would be quaking in its boots, because people will come to power, and this meeting is going to be one of the paths to liberation. **All Power to the people!**

**Chicano power to the Chicano people! Uhuru!**  
[Cheers and a Standing Ovation]

**The NCMC would like to thank all of the historical speakers and workshop panelists who gave presentations at the conferencia. We would have liked to print all of the presentations from the conference but space and time did not allow for that. Those presentations that we were unable to produce were by:**



Xenaro Ayala - National Chair  
Partido Nacional de la Raza Unida

Antonio Marín -  
Congreso Chicano de la  
Comunidad, El Paso, TX

Alurista - Chicano poet, professor,  
and writer of the Plan de Aztlán



# Guerrilleros de la Pluma

Raul Ruiz, Chicano Studies Professor, Cal State Northridge:

## Our History Has Been a History of Rejection, a History of Degradation, a History of Assaults and Brutalization Against Our People

The following speech was given by compañero Raul Ruiz at the Raza Unity Conference hosted by The National Chicano Moratorium Committee on Sunday August 11, 1996 at San Diego City College. Raul Ruiz was the editor of La Raza Magazine as well as a member of La Raza Unida Party. He is currently a professor at Cal State Northridge.

Le quiero dar unas gracias a Ernesto Bustillos y el Comité Nacional del Moratorio Chicano, a todos los grupos aquí en San Diego que hicieron el esfuerzo y el trabajo, que dieron su energía para organizar esta conferencia, por que no les damos un gran aplauso? [Applause]

I think it is important to recognize that there has been a struggle, so that young people that are here, and I would encourage all the young people, particularly the students, to participate dynamically within the workshops, to listen to each other, and even if you disagree, that's okay, as a matter of fact if there was always consensus you may not necessarily learn as much. Listen to other people's ideas, and other views, share your ideas, and if you have to, change them. It seems to me that this is an opportunity for all of us to learn from each other, and I think that this is why it is a good idea to have this type of a conference.

I think we should also recognize that there are some people, as it already has been said, that have given their lives on behalf of their people. People that have been in the struggle, and for that it seems to me that it should be noted. You saw Alurista, Alurista has been here, he is the embodiment of the creative spirit of our people, and for that reason I think we should give Alurista a big hand. [Applause]

Xenaro Ayala, toda la vida, toda su vida creando, militando dentro del Partido La Raza Unida. This is a man who has literally given his life in work, studies, hasn't been a person that shared the spot light. But he has been the one that has been working in La Raza Unida the most and for that reason, if there will ever be the time when our people will be united it will be because of people like Xenaro Ayala, Xenaro! [Applause] And your own, Ernesto Bustillos! Everybody knows el gran trabajo que ha hecho Ernesto. [Applause] Mi compadre Armando Navarro, el llevo las tropas a las montañas ayer. [Applause]

I think that it's important for us at this time to be here in San Diego, because you constantly hear in the newspapers, you constantly see on the television, how it is our people that has caused a decline, our people who has caused the problems, our people who simply take, our people who are never - necessarily - a positive force in this country. I think it is important for everybody including the rest of our community to know that our people have made and have given strength, have created the wealth of this nation. Con el gran trabajo que han hecho ellos, it was our people who are not only oppressed, but also are the work force of this nation and have been.

They have created wealth in agriculture, they have never given credit to us for the work our people have done in agriculture, but if agriculture has produced wealth in this nation, it is because of the great labor and people

that have worked in agriculture. And I think this is the reason why we should recognize that the strength - unfortunately has been turned against us - often it has been generated by the workers of this country but especially also the Chicanos/Latinos.



Raul Ruiz, former Raza Unida activist and editor of La Raza magazine.

Workers in el ferrocarril, my own grandfather, my father, who organized the machinist union in El Paso at the turn of the century, my own father who was a worker in el ferrocarril all of these people given their lives working for this country. In las fabricas, people have been working in the factories, producing for this country, everywhere our people have been working. Someone mentioned that they're going to take welfare away. That should not happen because there are people that need support, and people that need help should always have that. But remember that our people have hardly ever used any welfare, our people, for what little they had, se lo han ganado de el sudor de su trabajo. And we have never been recognized for that. [Applause]

We have worked for what little we have. We have worked for it, we have contributed to this nation, and have never been recognized, they have always criticized us. Since 1851, when Juanita, the first person that was hung in this state, Mexicana, because she stood up for her dignity, to Felix Longoria who gave his life in the Philippines for this nation, and then was refused burial, porque era Mexicano, in his home town in Three Rivers, to the many thousands of our people that have given, given, and have worked, and worked, and worked, and worked, and have never received anything.

It seems to me that we have to stand up for them and to say "YA BASTA", we have to tell people, that everything, everything, that we have been asking for, everything that is there, should have been ours a long time ago. After all people have been saying, "estas tierras, the land is ours". The land was taken from us by force, it is real. The Mexican-American war was an unjust imperialist war, and we know that it was. [Applause]

In World War II, close to one million Mexicanos participated in that war. Unfortunately, many of them sacrificed by losing their lives, and what did they get for their sacrifice? They got insults, in Los Angeles, and in San Diego, and in many cities, at that time the young men were losing their lives in the war, there were also race riots against the Mexicanos, the so called Zootsuit riots. And previous to that the massive deportation, ever in the history of this country, there was more people deported in the 30's under the so called "repatriation". That was nothing in comparison to the massive, more massive, deportation of the '50's under the so called "Operation Wetback."

So look at our history, it has been a history of rejection, a history of degradation, a history of assaults and brutalization against our people. They say now that they're going to take the education away from our youngsters. That our kids will not be able to go to school. They say that the old will not get any benefits. They say that the young people will not get to go to college, will not get the preparation. All of this is happening, and even if we disagree with each

other, and I'm sure that we do - every organization has different points of view - don't you see that there has been so much damage and trauma, against our population. We have a right! A right to stand up for ourselves, as human beings, as dignified men and women, to say we will not take this anymore, we will not. If this country is strong, it is because we have made it strong. [Applause]

We have a right to make claims against this country, we have a right. Our sweat, our labor, our blood has been shed for this country, and very few times do you hear anyone say a good word about a Mexican. Nadie lo dice. They insult us daily on a constant basis. In television, por que? Why? when you look at the history you see the contribution, you see the sacrifice, of a people that toil. My own grandmother and grandfather who the day he retired never made more than six thousand dollars. That was high pay, six thousand dollars a year. And that man gave forty years of his life to the Pacific Railroad.

Our labor has to count for something, our lives have to count for something, our families have to count for something, those that came before us have to count for something, and this is why we're here. This is why we do what we have to do, and sometimes, people don't necessarily support. Sometimes they reject and turn their backs on you, and do other things. But I think that we have to struggle. I think there are ways in which people can live, and I think a way is to accommodate, and agachar la cabeza - if you want to do that. But I think also we can also live with dignity, nobody gives you guarantees that you're going to win every struggle, or any struggle. Pero sin embargo, one struggle's because that is the responsibility of any person that considers themselves a man or a woman.

I think that this is the best time that we have to re-energize the Movement, because we did a lot, and it was an incredible time en los sesentas y en los setentas. Pero tambien ahora. And now more than ever. I used to say we were a generation of a people who struggled, that had no role models. Now this generation, this epoca, this time there is absolutely no reason, why we can not stand up and say, Ya Basta con los republicans and their platform and their policies against affirmative action, against immigration. You know, when they say they

don't want 'illegal aliens' or even 'legal immigrants' what they're really saying is they don't want Mexicans. That's what they're saying. [Applause]

Their war against affirmative action, in fact everything they have gained and benefited from has been through affirmative action. They are the ones that have received affirmative action. Then when they see a possibility for some of us from our community to benefit from the great contributions, of our people, of our work, don't give us anything for nothing. But you owe us so much for everything that we have done all our lives. This is what affirmative action is - debt that has to be paid to us. A debt unpaid. [Applause]

I think we should protest, should always protest, and I think the Republicans and the Democrats or any of those folks that have opposed the right of our people, to live as free, to live as people with dignity, we should protest against that, and never give up. This is why I'm proud, very proud, to have been a part of this conference, and the many conferences that have happened in the past. To see organizations like the Brown Berets de Aztlan, that have been there always. I think we should give a hand to the Brown Berets, a symbol de los soldados de la Raza. [Applause] A las mujeres que siempre han estado al frente del movimiento. [Applause] A los estudiantes, as somebody mentioned there would not have been a Movement if there would not have been a Chicano student movement. Un gran aplauso a los estudiantes. [Applause]

Finalmente, I would just like to give a thanks to all the people who are no longer here. They gave their lives, and in many ways, and in muchos barrios, we know their names, some of them were part of our families, friends, neighbors. Maybe unjustly treated by police or by any other agency that did wrong to our people, but of course also, Cesar Chavez, certainly a name that we shall not forget. Cuando dicimos dedicacion de toda la vida, we may not have agreed to everything that Cesar ever did. But it was a life of struggle, on behalf of our people, and I think those are the role models and I think that's part of the history that we should not forget.

Thank you very much, y mucho exito, y ¡Que Viva La Raza!

The NCMC would like to thank the following organizations for endorsing the National Raza Unity Conference and the National Raza March Against the Republican Party Convention: Union del Barrio • Brown Berets de Aztlan • Voz Fronteriza • La Raza Unida Party • Mexicanos Unidos en Defensa del Pueblo • S.D. Mesa College M.E.Ch.A. • S.D. City College M.E.Ch.A. • UT-San Antonio M.E.Ch.A. • Regeneracion • Chicano Press Association • African Peoples Socialist Party • Chicano Park Steering Committee • Chicano Park Artists Task Force • SDSU Mexican American Studies Dept. • National Peoples Democratic Uhuru Movement S.D. • Aztlan Underground • SDSU San Marcos M.E.Ch.A. • University of Michigan M.E.Ch.A. • Razateca Magazine • Michigan State University M.E.Ch.A. • Mexican Political Association • UNL M.E.Ch.A. • Coalition of Berachos Humanos Tucson • D Town Brown • Riverside CC M.E.Ch.A. • Estancia High M.E.Ch.A. • UTEP M.E.Ch.A. • Radio Chicano/a KPFF • San Patricio S.D. County • Southwest Workers Union • Aztlan Cultural Arts Foundation • Chicano Mexican Mexican Empowerment Committee • Teatro por la Gente • Voces Unidas • Nuestra America • El Andar • Voz de Berkeley • Co-Escucha.

The NCMC would also like to thank Raza artists Victor Ochoa (for designing the anti-Republican graphic and banner) and Masio Torrero (for bringing the banners of Zapata, Fidel, y Che), as well as all of the gente who helped organize and attend this historic conference and march.

¡La Raza Unida, Jamás Será Vencida!



## Resolutions and Positions: Raza Unity Conference San Diego City College August 11, 1996

Workshop on *Critical Issues Facing La Raza*;

Panelists were: **Rudy Acuña** (professor, author of *Occupied America*), **Consuelo Manríquez** (Raza Rights Coalition/Unión del Barrio), **Roberto Martínez** (U.S./México Border Project, San Diego), **Nicolás Crisosto** (Barrio Defense Committee, San Jose), and **Francisco Romero** (National Chicano Moratorium Committee-Oxnard).

Key issues discussed in this workshop were:

### 1) Media:

A thorough discussion on the role that the media plays in keeping our gente oppressed. It is understood that the media covers up the oppressive realities that our people are facing everyday; therefore it is important that we ourselves build, through our own sweat and sacrifice, a Raza mass media, in order to expose the truth and the realities that confront our pueblo. This will enable our people and the movimiento to speak for themselves and bring about liberation.

### 2) Police/Migra violence:

The police are the front line of the racist-colonial system and are used to incarcerate our people in mass numbers, violating our basic human rights, and keeping us from winning our liberation. The police/migra are the arm of the federal government which is designed to protect the interests of the rich. Hardly a day goes by, when we do not hear of the police/migra beating, arresting, or killing our gente.

### 3) Militia and Vigilante Racists:

The militias, KKK, skin heads are creations of the racist system which attempts to blame every problem facing U.S. society on Mexicanos and other oppressed people. Historically, these racist para-military organizations (since the 1800s) have been used to terrorize our gente and keeping us from struggling for civil rights, human rights, and self-determination. These racist formations, like the rest of the colonial system, are responsible for maintaining and upholding white supremacy and white power, and the oppression of non-white peoples.

### 4) Education:

The role of the U.S. colonial education is to maintain our people in a state of ignorance. Our youth are told that George Washington is our Father, and that Christopher Columbus "discovered" America, we know those are lies designed to cover up our Raza's long and glorious history, as well as the genocide and thousands of atrocities committed by the European settlers. A primary objective that our movement must struggle for is the development of a relevant education that tells the truth and helps build, empower and raise the consciousness of our people.

### 5) Institutionalized Attacks:

The political parties and their racist legislation are part of a plan designed to keep Raza from achieving self-determination. "Prop. 187 is an initiative that denies our gente an education for the purpose of keeping us ignorant and to force thousands from our own land (Aztlán); "English Only Laws" are geared to stripping us of our culture and break our ties with the rest of our Spanish speaking Raza; "Three Strikes Laws" have as their objective to imprison whole sections of our gente and continue the genocide of our people; "The Clinton Crime Bill" is putting more police/migra on our streets to beat, harass, rape, incarcerate, kill Raza, and destroy movement organizations; "The California Civil Rights Initiative" is an

attempt to deny Raza access to higher education and decent employment; "The Welfare Reform Bill" is designed to take the food out of our children's mouths and deny our gente access to medical care; and "The Anti-Terrorist Laws" are designed to destroy our struggle for justice, dignity and self-determination by calling and labeling our movement subversive or terrorist.

The suggestions that were developed at this workshop were:

A) Accountability is crucial and necessary if we are to continue to struggle. Organizational and monetary accountability are important because in this society, the way it's set up, we need financial resources to effectively struggle for self-determination (the printing of literature, the buying of equipment, the renting of halls, the hiring of lawyers, are very costly). We call on all regions of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee and other movimiento organizations to make them-

The items discussed in this workshop revealed that we must work for the following:

1) Campaign of actions must take place that will organize protests and demonstrations against the Mexican Consulates and wherever the PRI presence is found in Aztlán, this side of the military imposed border. We must expose U.S. role south of the "border" by challenging and exposing the U.S. covert war in México. It is a fact that the U.S. has advisors in Chiapas, DEA agents in Guerrero, U.S. tanks and guns are being provided to the PRI-neo-colonial army, hundreds of agents of the PRI have been trained at U.S. Military Academies and at the Military School of the Americas.

2) We need to organize a conference on the human rights of the Mexican people on both sides of the imposed border, with the objective of developing strategies on how to effectively defend all of La Raza.

3) We feel it's important that

Raza women. We therefore agree to build, support, and attend, the Raza Women's Liberation Conference to be held in San Diego on December 19, 1997.

2) Raza youth are under attack and we must fight against the criminalization of our youth and arm them with a true education for National Liberation. We also uphold that at all times our cultura must be told to Raza Youth. With this we agree to support and attend the 4th Annual National Raza Youth Liberation Conference to be held on November 16, 1996 in Oxnard California at Oxnard Community College.

3) All Raza must defend our families from the U.S. prison system, who is hauling our whole community into prisons. Through this the U.S. government is committing genocide against our gente. We will not turn our backs on Raza who are locked down in that we agree to support, build for and attend the National Conference in Defense of Raza Prisoners in the Occupied Territories.

Workshop on *Grassroots/Barrio Organizing*

Panelists were: **Elba Alvarez** (Riverside/San Bernardino NCMC), **Ismael Avilez** (Mexicanos Unidos en Defensa del Pueblo), **Eric Gonzalez** (Unión del Barrio), **Hector Muro** (Mexicanos Unidos en Defensa del Pueblo), **Seferino Garcia** (Brown Berets de Aztlán and SOLEVAR).

Those involved in this workshop recognized the importance of the following:

1) Working at the grassroots level is important, we therefore must support those currently working in the barrios, and do all we can to continue the process of building a movement.

2) We recognize that we have to be organized because our enemy is organized; without organization there can be no liberation.

3) We must be able to identify the key and crucial work that needs to be done, and in all instances we must direct our efforts to combat those that oppress us.

4) We understand that all the grassroots work is done because of the oppression felt by the large majority of our people, whether it is police/migra brutality, denial of a relevant education, lack of decent health care, etc.

5) We understand that part of organizing the community calls for dealing with its needs and realities.

6) In order to combat the enemy, we must be able to identify and confront who our true enemies is. It is the U.S. colonial system that is the enemy of

we build support and start raising the consciousness of our people here on this side of the frontera by building a region of the Frente Amplio para la Construcción del Movimiento de Liberación Nacional (FAC-MLN)

4) We must give support to the Ejército Popular Revolucionario (EPR), because we must understand that the struggle not only exist in Chiapas with the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN), but it also exists in Guerrero, Oaxaca, Tijuana, Los Angeles, Denver, and Santa Ana; it exists every where Mexicanos live because we are colonized and the only way to decolonize is to struggle.

5) We also support the Partido Democrático Revolucionario Popular as it is committed to taking power away from the PRI and establishing a government committed to the interests and needs of the Mexican masses.

Workshop on *Youth, Women, and Prisoners: Working With Key Sectors of Nuestra Raza*

Panelists were: **Erika Zamora** (Comité de Mujeres Patricia Marín/Unión del Barrio), **Adriana Jasso** (NCMC Oxnard Region), **Harry Simon** (Somos Raza), **Jesus Alvarado** (UTEP MEChA-El Paso, Tejas), and **Tony Rodriguez** (Chicano Mexican Prison Project)

We recognize that the U.S. government has launched a systematic attack on every sector of our community. As a group we unite around, not only defending ourselves against this vicious program, but also, uniting around liberating our people as a whole. We uphold the following points as central to our liberation.

1) Upholding internally and externally the active leadership and unequivocal equality of Raza women at every level. There can be no true self-determination without the liberation of

lar with the community that you work in.

8) We must recognize that the day-to-day work is the most important method of organizing the masses. We understand that we can talk all day as to what our problems are - but if we don't act on

these issues and problems then it means nothing. Therefore it is the day-to-day work that is the most important. Grassroots organizing in any movimiento and in any revolution is the most important.

Workshop on *Building a National Movement for Raza Self-determination*

Panelists were: **Ernesto Bustillos** (Chairman, Unión del Barrio), **Jaime Cruz** (Chair, Los Angeles NCMC), **Jose Moreno** (National Secretary, NCMC), **Armando Navarro** (Professor, Thomas Rivera Research Center.-UCR), **Xenaro Ayala** (La Raza Unida Party).

Nine key points that the panel thought to be important in creating a National Movement for Self-determination.

1) We want everybody here to unite with the importance of building a national movement. Without a National Movement all actions are in vain. We have to be organized and united on a national level, because as it has been said previously, "The enemy is well organized and if we're not organized we're never going to get anywhere." We therefore urge all participants of this conference to commit themselves to that process of building a national movement.

2) Part of building a National Movement is raising the question of organization everywhere we go. People who do not belong to an organization are urged to commit themselves to a national organization. Organization needs to be the primary objective of our movement at this particular time.

3) We should take our struggle in a very serious manner, which means, we are willing to sacrifice for our liberation. Only in a serious way can we approach building a national movement.

4) We understand that the work towards building a national movement is going to be a hard and difficult task; a task that will take many years and which many of us might not see in our lifetime. The importance here is to understand the difficult and hard work ahead of us.

5) We understand that the enemy is U.S. capitalism and it's two party system (both the Democratic and the Republican parties) and that we focus on who our enemy is.

6) That we expose those people who claim to be movement gente, but who are really sell-outs and pretenders, who go from conference to conference, workshop to workshop, but never do any practical work to build our movement. We must expose these type of people in any way that we can, as they are a cancer that will destroy our movement from within.

7) That we concentrate our work among the masses of our people and build bases in the barrio as a way of building a National Movement.

8) That we work at all times under the principle of self-determination, which means that Raza controls our movement, that our movement is for La Raza and by La Raza.

9) That as part of organizing and working with other groups, that we respect the differences under the context of Raza self-determination.

These are the resolutions that came out of the National Raza Unity Conference. We encourage all

Raza organizations to follow the resolutions that came out of the conferences. For more information on how you can get involved in building our movimiento call or write any of the NCMC regions on page two.

¡Hasta la Victoria!

