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GUARANI INDIANS ON THE EVE OF INTEGRATION



EVALUATION OF PYM'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT PASO CADENA, PARAGUAY

Report to PYM (The Norwegian Pentecostal Mission) and NORAD,
August 1988.

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PREFACE

The following is an evaluation of the development project of the Norwegian Pentecostal Mission (PYM) among the Ava-Chiripá Indians of Paso Cadena, Paraguay. The evaluation was carried out in the month of August, 1988 by a team consisting of Jan-Åke Alvarsson, cultural anthropologist from the University of Uppsala, Sweden, Kristian Larsen, deacon from the Norwegian Missionary Alliance and Leonardo Alderete, a Paraguayan writer from Asunción. All three had experience from missionary work in Latin America and were acquainted with the work of the Norwegian Pentecostal Mission in Paraguay. None of the three is employed by or connected to this mission, however.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a brief summary of the conclusions and the recommendations of the evaluation team. Note that these are further explained in the text and that a more elaborate set of recommendations are presented in section 9.

1.1. Evaluative Remarks

The team concluded that the PYM project at Paso Cadena has been initiated, supervised and developed by missionaries of a rather remarkable quality, especially in the question of attitudes and respect towards the indigenous population. This cultural relativistic attitude has created a trust among the target group that has been the primary base of all efforts up to this date, and that will remain a solid foundation for future missionary attempts by the mission. However, the team has decided to suggest the following alterations and additions to the present programme:

1.2. Overall Recommendations

- * The formation a pre-project committee that opens up a dialogue with the Ava-Chiripá leaders of Paso Cadena;
- * The elaboration of project plans - including an outspoken and readily defined project strategy;
- * The definition of the main target group, making clear that the Ava-Chiripá constitute the main target group (not excluding other categories);
- * The engagement of especially devoted expatriate personell, contracted on a long-term basis.
- * The promotion of immediate indigenization of the Paso Cadena project with the handing over of decision making to the Paso Cadena Indian community;
- * The promotion of bilingual education that includes training in Guaraní as well as in Spanish.
- * The extension of the present health care programme;

