

# Pima Water Rights

The Pima Indians of Arizona are fighting a last desperate battle for enough water to survive as a people. The immediate crisis stems from a decision made by former Secretary of Interior Rogers C.B. Morton on April 15, 1975 sharply limiting the amount of water the Pimas and other affected tribes would received from the controversial Central Arizona Project (CAP).

The proposed water allocations, if allowed to stand, threaten the Pimas — whose agricultural economy flourished for a millennium — with destitution by the turn of the century.

The Pimas are asking the American public to join them in the appeal to:

1. Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Committee of Interior and Insular

Affairs, to hold hearings into water rights of the central Arizona tribes and Interior's proposed allocation of CAP water for Indian irrigation use; and

2. Stanley K. Hathaway, the new Secretary of the Interior, to postpone any action on making the allocation of Central Arizona Project water for Indian irrigation use final until he has the benefit of the Interior Committee's findings and recommendations and until the rights of the tribes have been protected.

The enclosed Indian Affairs explains in detail what may be impending disaster for the Pimas. The Pimas are hoping that strong public concern will help them win a hearing — the same concern that made it possible for the Havasupai to regain their lands.