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C. NEW RUINS OPEN DOOR ON HISTORY OF INCAS

CHOHFI: So Machu Picchu can now be viewed as the center of a large city that had little satellite communities.

EDITOR: New ruins discovered near Machu Picchu provide clues to the ancient Incas. This is the Science Editor, Sasha Futran, with a report from the University of California, Los Angeles. It's been seventy-five years since Machu Picchu was discovered in the Peruvian Andes by American explorer Hiram Bingham. But not much has been known about the lost civilization perched high upon a rock between two sharp mountain peaks. Now, with the use of aerial photographs, a UCLA graduate student has unearthed the remains of a large settlement near Machu Picchu. Reynaldo Chohfi, a native of Brazil, knew he had something when he kept noticing straight lines on the old black and white photographs.

CHOHFI: There are several lines in the photograph. There's actually a boundary, and then there are other lines running within that boundary which are agricultural terraces. Then there's a major wall that runs up the middle of the city and goes up the mountain.

EDITOR: Chohfi confirmed his findings by travelling to the site, which he and his colleague Octavio Fernandez named "Maran Pampa". "Maran" means mortar and "pampa" means level surface. Chohfi says the site is fairly level, probably used for farming, and he found a lot of mortars, or grinding stones, there. It's obvious to Chohfi that Maran Pampa was a farming community because it has the best soils in the area, an abundance of water, and is comprised of agricultural terraces. Plus, it's twice the acreage of Machu Picchu with less living space. Previously, Machu Picchu was viewed as an independent community, isolated in the Andes.

CHOHFI: So where did they get the products for maintaining the city and exchanging with other products from higher and lower altitudes which they didn't have at Machu Picchu? They had to have a different settlement nearby where they could get these things from--and that, I think, is what Maran Pampa is. It's like an outpost.

EDITOR: You may be wondering why this agricultural suburb of Machu Picchu wasn't discovered sooner. Chohfi believes it's partly because the technology to pinpoint archaeological ruins from photographs wasn't available to the Peruvian government; and people in the scientific community were under the impression that the area had been researched more thoroughly than it was. Chohfi says the value of the discovery is that we will know more about life at Machu Picchu.

CHOHFI: Now we can see a working community--the way they manage their natural environment, the way they explored specific ecological niches to obtain products that they could find only there, and the way the city was organized and social aspects of the city.

Office of University Relations
Berkeley, California 94720
(415) 642-4811