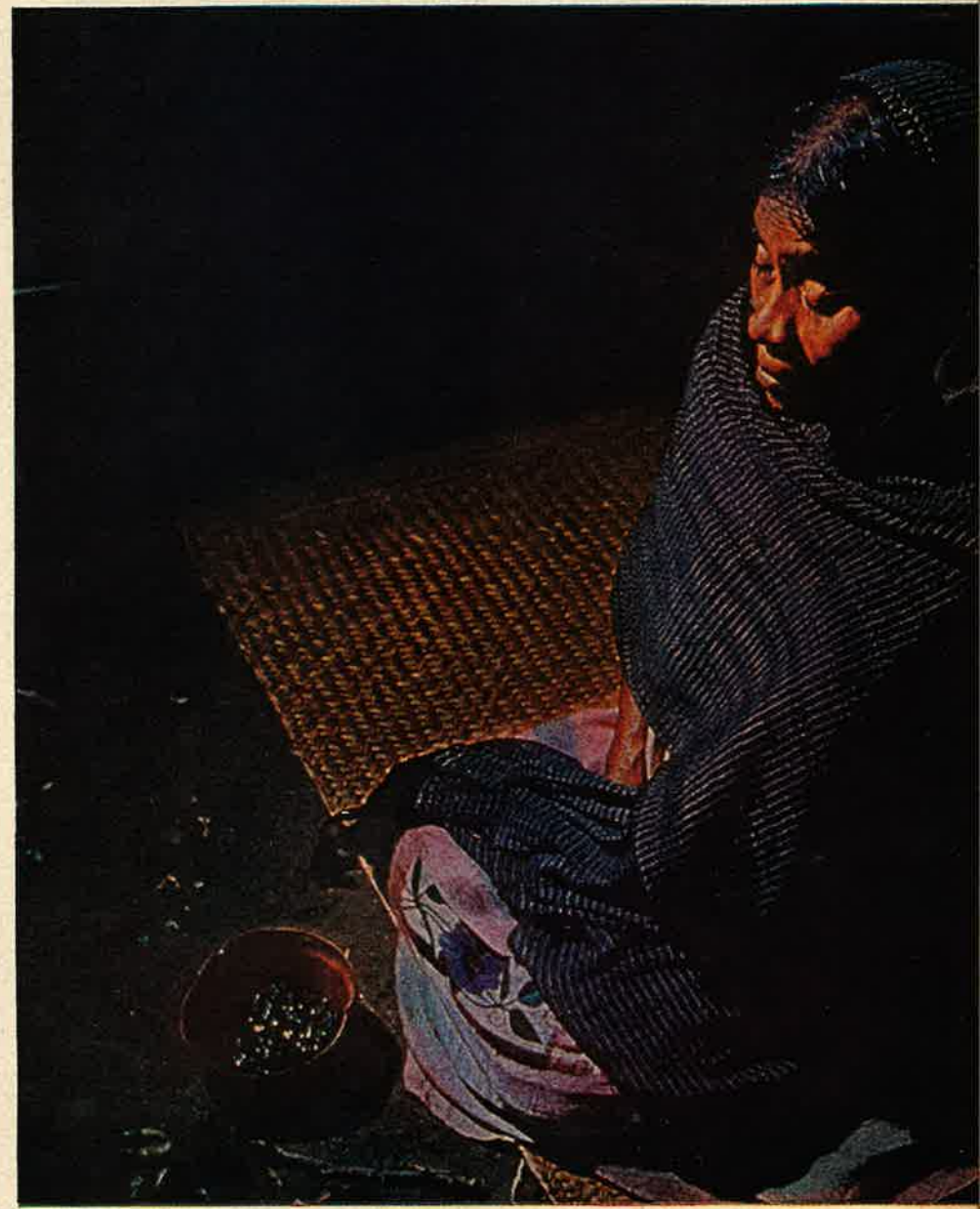




at right, perhaps soothed by the rhythm of the chanting, is sleeping quietly through the ritual. About a dozen Indians remained in the 20 by 20 foot room throughout the night. A few of them sat up but most lay on reed mats.



CHANTING early in the night, Eva Mendez lists her qualifications: "Am I not good? I am a creator woman, a star woman, a moon woman, a cross woman, a woman of heaven. I am a cloud person, a dew-on-the-grass person."



MEDITATING silently, Eva Mendez sits before her mushroom bowl. Though she ate twice as many mushrooms as the rest, she stayed calm and dignified, often lyrical in her exhortations, sometimes impatient when spirits did not come.

CONTINUED