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## JANUARY 30 LOCAL ELECTIONS: POWER-BASE BUILDING



Marcos rejoicing after 1975 elections. Another "Lutong Macoy" is foreseen in the forthcoming January 30 local elections.

By ANITA BORJA

President Marcos is pulling off an obviously rigged nationwide local election on Jan. 30, with the pro-government KBL party practically running uncontested.

To create an appearance of a genuine election, Marcos has partially lifted martial law in order that "free discussions" on the candidates and issues can transpire.

Out of the litany of international and domestic problems Marcos habitually uses as excuses to prolong his regime, he cited the coming oil price increase as the main reason for the sudden decision to hold the long-promised local elections. "If we don't hold the elections and the (oil) crisis worsens, we won't be able to hold the elections for the next two years."

### IRREGULARITIES AS ORDERED

Even as the election plans unfold, a number of irregularities are noticeable.

Shortly after passing four election bills, Marcos fired 20 local officials in a matter of three days. No apparent reasons were given for the terminations. The banished local executives were immediately replaced by Marcos appointees who automatically became incumbents for the coming elections. Coincidentally, the provinces where the purges took place are areas where NPA activity is strong; these are Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and the Bataan Peninsula.

As ground rules for the elections were that municipal officials will run before barangay officials—a decision which

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## Marcos Moves Toward Aquino Release



Benigno Aquino: Has a deal been worked out for his release?

Asiaweek

Have Ferdinand Marcos and his arch political rival Benigno Aquino worked out a deal or haven't they?

On Jan. 9, Marcos offered Aquino, home from prison on a two-week "Christmas furlough," his freedom and a top advisory post on a "Council of Leaders." According to the *New York Times*, Aquino expressed willingness to accept the offer. Then, shortly after the new year, the former senator was abruptly returned to his cell leaving observers thoroughly confused.

Speculation concerning a change in status of the former presidential challenger began shortly before Christmas. At that time, Aquino, in prison since the declaration of martial law, was allowed to return home for two weeks. When the former senator packed all his belongings, including a stereo set and 1,000 books, observers began to suspect that the move might be a prelude to either house arrest or a journey into exile.

### U.S. PRESSURE DECISIVE

Local "Third Force" figures have alternated for years between pressure and negotiations in their efforts to free Aquino. The key figure in the Malacanang negotiations, former Senator Lorenzo Tanada, suggests that pressure from the U.S. was the decisive factor behind the initial liberalization of

Continued on page 12

## NAFL Denounces INS Collaborator

NEW YORK—Documents obtained through a Freedom of Information request revealed the collaboration of Mr. Gonzalo Policarpio, current president of a New York-based Filipino organization, with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), in its harassment and intimidation of the National Coordinator of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG).

The Freedom of Information request was filed by Ms. Aimee Cruz, NAFL-FNG National Coordinator, last Aug. 1979, in the wake of an illegal raid conducted by INS agents last May 2, 1979, at her home in Woodside, Queens.

Among the documents retrieved from the INS were two copies of a news article clipped from the *Filipino Reporter* (June

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Aimee Cruz, National Coordinator of the NAFL-FNG: A victim of collusion between the INS and Policarpio?

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

## Lessons from the 70's

## LOOKING AHEAD INTO THE 80'S

Philippine national hero, Jose Rizal, had a famous saying: "Ang hindi marinong lumigon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makakarating sa paroroonan." (Literally translated, this means, "those who do not know how to look back to their origin will not reach their destination.") This has been commonly taken to mean that those who do not know how to remember their humble past will not achieve success.

However, we believe this saying has broader social significance. It speaks to a very important lesson; and that is: those who do not learn from the past are bound to fail in the future. It is in this light that we would like to start the new decade of the '80s by reviewing the lessons of the '70s.

A microscopic look at the '70s reveals that it was a disastrous 10 years for U.S. imperialism. This past decade saw its devastating defeat in Indo-China; the unprecedented resignation of a U.S. president under the cloud of criminal misconduct; and the advent of an economic recession that raised speculations about a repeat of the depression of the 1930's.

It was in the international scene where U.S. imperialism received the most blows. In 1975, what was unthinkable happened: the Great and Mighty Nation, self-proclaimed "benevolent guardian" of the "free world" had been defeated by smaller but determined nations. All of its technological superiority which it unleashed on the population of Vietnam and Cambodia bombs and chemicals to kill, maim, deform even children yet unborn, lay barren the land for the next 50 years—all these proved futile in the face of a people determined to win its independence.

But Vietnam was just the beginning. Other countries were to seize the time to break off U.S. stranglehold. Two U.S. puppets suffered the same fate as their masters. The brutal and seemingly invincible reigns of Somoza of Nicaragua and the Shah of Iran were brought to an end by the Nicaraguan and Iranian people. As a result of the rising tide of wars of national liberation, U.S. imperialism had to dispense with the trappings of democracy in its client-states and resort to fascist rule. Thus, the 1970's brought us, through the courtesy of the CIA, the bloody coup in Chile, the martial law government in South Korea and, closer to home, the Marcos dictatorship.

Paralleling its international bankruptcy was another form of political bankruptcy domestically. Watergate did not just expose Richard Nixon, but the corruption of the American political system as well. But its biggest problem internally was the economy. The post-Vietnam War period saw a downturn in the economy from which it has yet to recover. The destabilization of the dollar, double-digit inflation, mass unem-

ployment were key features of this past decade.

What did all this mean for the American people? For many, the events of the 1970's had a politicizing effect. The Vietnam War in particular brought hundreds of thousands into the streets, demanding an end to the unjust war. It was a time of questioning of traditional assumptions and values—the role of U.S. government abroad; the American dream which was proving to be false and empty, unattainable by the majority of its people.

But for others, the frustration and anger brought about by the sense that something had gone askew in the "American way of life" found expression in anti-people activities. Thus, the economic pinch fueled sentiments against the "Welfare freeloaders"—that is, the minority communities; gave rise to such concepts as reverse discrimination and movements like the tax revolt. It was also in this troubled decade that the Ku Klux Klan was revitalized.

This was the backdrop for the development of the Filipino community in the last decade. The Vietnam War radicalized many of its youth. One U.S. foreign policy in particular had a polarizing effect on the community. The imposition of military rule by Ferdinand Marcos and the subsequent exposure of the U.S. hand in this takeover, dispelled many myths about U.S. role and interests in the Philippines.

On the domestic scene, the Filipino community in the U.S. felt the economic crunch. Being an unstable sector of the working class, like other minorities, it was most often unemployed or underemployed, the "last hired, first fired." For those who were lucky enough to be employed, on the job discrimination was becoming a fact of life in America. Teachers worked as aides, accountants as bookkeepers, lawyers as clerks. The immigrant sector of the community, which was the most vulnerable, was increasingly coming under attack, scapegoats for the failure of the U.S. economy. Foreign doctors and nurses were threatened with deportation, blamed for the low quality of the health care system in the U.S. Other immigrants, objectively barred from their professions because of discrimination, were hounded by the INS for "failure to practice their professions." An accountant working as a bookkeeper was therefore deportable for choosing to work rather than starve.

Thus, the 1970's saw a heightened consciousness among many Filipinos about what it meant to be a minority in the U.S. A progressive movement grew, a movement which challenged the American political system, a system that was just and equal only to the few who were white and "had long purses," and unjust and discriminatory to the many who were not. This movement led in uniting the community against racism and dis-

crimination.

At the heart of this movement was a revitalized and organized left-wing in the community. In 1973, the Union of Democratic Filipinos was formed, committed to mobilizing the Filipino community in defense of its rights and supporting the struggle of Filipinos in the homeland for genuine independence and democracy for the majority.

The decade then saw the rise of the "convention movement" of which the Far West Convention was the prototype, where Filipinos from all over the West Coast came together to discuss the issues confronting the community. Filipinos began forming organizations, not around social ties, but based on common points of unity around issues. The NAFL-FNG was one such organization that, in the span of its short existence, has addressed the problems of the Filipino nurses in the U.S. A broader organization to take up the defense of the immigrants is in its germination, born out of the present anti-alien trend.

Nationwide, Filipinos rallied around victims of injustice. Thus, the community rose to the task of defending Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez and Dr. Bienvenido Alona from a racist frame-up, and in the process, learned valuable lessons regarding the nature of the U.S. judicial system.

It was also this decade that a cultural movement to foster pride in our heritage through the accurate portrayal of the Filipino-American experience was launched. Textbooks were challenged for their racist overtones and misrepresentation of Filipino-American history. Moreover, June 12's in the past years became Philippine National Days, important occasions to mark the Filipino contribution to the building of this country, as well as to note the present struggle for independence in the homeland.

The same progressive movement did not just address the issues facing Filipinos here, but also the problems of 40 million Filipinos in the homeland. It helped educate the Filipino community and the American public regarding the brutality of the Marcos dictatorship and the growing resistance to it as well as the U.S. role in shoring up this unpopular regime. Thus, this decade saw the formation of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) and the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP).

But this overall trend to break from the model minority mold of acquiescence and subservience was not without obstacles. There were those who persisted in restraining the community from "biting the hand that feeds us." They were the ones who insisted racism and discrimination were isolated cases.

Then there were those who opposed anything political in community events and would have the Filipino community escape their problems through expen-

sive grand terno balls and beauty contests. They were the ones who refused to talk about martial law and accused those who did of "airing our dirty linen in public" and "disuniting" the community. Leading this pack were representatives of the Martial Law Government to whose master's interest it was to avoid talking about martial law and exposing its legion of crimes against the people.

Still there were others who were not only content to claim the peoples' victories as their own, but attacked and vilified those who were in the forefront of the fight for the community's rights by labeling them as manipulators. Yet these so-called community leaders were nowhere to be found when the hard and painstaking work of organizing and mobilizing the community had to be done. This was typified by the *Philippine News* who launched a crusade against the "spectre of the KDP" in the community.

What is in store for the Filipino community in the 1980's?

The crisis of U.S. imperialism will continue to deepen. To bolster its declining influence, it will not hesitate to use direct armed intervention.

The economic crisis will worsen, the main brunt of which will be borne by minority communities. What little concessions it has won in the past through hard struggle will come under attack. With the tightening economic opportunities, anti-immigrant sentiments will escalate.

To keep the resulting unrest in check, there will be increased political repression, leaving cracks in the democratic facade.

In short, in the next decade we can expect a systematic assault on the people's rights and freedoms.

What will the Filipino community's response be?

The progressive movement will continue to organize the community to fight for its rights, knowing full well that the only deterrent for a rising fascism is a militant people's movement.

But there will be those who will lead the community down the path of surrender and compromise, admonishing those who resist for "inviting more attacks."

There will also be those who will continue to offer the community glittering socials and extravagant circuses, giving the people cake when they have no bread.

Still others will proclaim from their comfortable offices that they speak for the people's interests while maligning those who work hard and prove in action they uphold these interests.

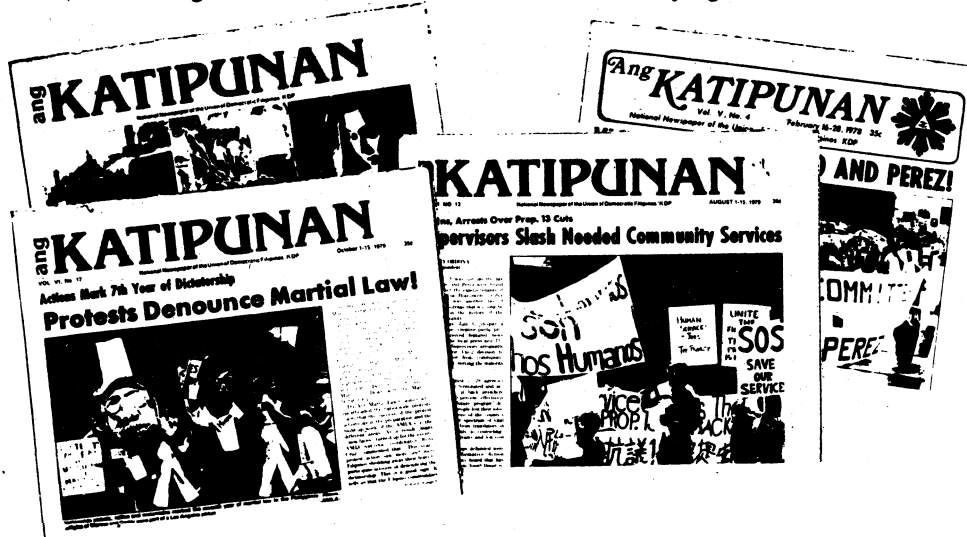
Whether the community is disarmed or prepared for the coming decade will depend on this battle of ideas in the community. One does not need a crystal ball to predict which is the correct road. One need only look back to the lessons of the past as a guidepost for the future. □

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# FM Prettifies; “Moderates” Strategize; Psinakis Talks Through His Hat

By RENE CRUZ

Marcos sets up local elections January 30—the usual, rigged variety where his KBL party has no real opponents. Then he gives Aquino a three-week furlough, invites him to join a “council of leaders,” then puts him back in jail. What’s all this about?

It’s simply the dictator going for his annual face-lift for the benefit of the international public. Its annual character is for the particular benefit of the U.S. Congress which begins discussing foreign aid at this time of the year.

Regarding U.S. aid, Marcos of course should have nothing to worry about. The U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreement assures him of \$.5 billion for the next five years—his fee for being a dutiful security guard for U.S. interests in the country.

But of course, why risk annoying Capitol Hill by appearing smug and unconcerned about your less-than-pleasant attributes? A face-lift wouldn’t hurt. Anyway, it’s not that difficult to arrange a circus of an election for that “free and democratic look.” And for that “benevolent-even-to-his-enemies” profile, toying with a jailed opponent is a cinch. As they say, *Diktador si Papa, First Lady si Mama*.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The most interesting item in this recent episode was Marcos’ invitation to Aquino to join a proposed “council of leaders,” a sort of government advisory body. Marcos says this body is Aquino’s own proposal, which is true. As for the proposal’s other features, such as free press and national elections, Marcos claims he “will study them.”

Aquino’s proposal reflects some of the inner thoughts of the elite opposition (the “moderates”) loosely grouped in the NUFD. In fact, Salonga authored a similar one. Both schemes center on the formation of a central body (caretaker government or council of leaders representing both Marcos and his opponents) which will lay the groundwork for “national elections” under conditions of a “free press and restored democratic rights.” Anything as important as the “inner thoughts” of the elite opposition deserves some examination or else, we might carelessly adopt them as our guide to patriotic action.

Implicit in the “moderates” call for national elections is their hope that Marcos, as an old acquaintance in the traditional politics of backroom negotiations, can still be convinced to loosen up and allow them a fair shot at the national government.

What bolsters this illusion is that Marcos still shows some “gameness” to talk some things over with them, as opposed to simply throwing them all in jail. For example, they can still negotiate for Aquino’s release, are allowed to speak before this or that chamber of commerce, or travel abroad, play some role in a few Marcos-sponsored hearings, etc. If only they can talk Marcos into holding free elections, they are confident of winning by virtue of Marcos’ unpopularity.

No one will disagree with Aquino and friends that were conditions fair and free, Marcos could not win the Quiapo Stargazers Club presidency. But past plebiscites and the outrageous 1978 polls should have taught them that no genuine elections are possible under one-man rule. Otherwise, it would cease to be one-man rule. In addition, it is starkly clear to most everyone that no dictator will agree to dismantle his own regime especially if it has been a generous source of his personal wealth. To expect Marcos to agree to set the electoral stage for his own political demise is sheer fantasy.

Although Aquino, Salonga, et al. also say this publicly, they still seem to mistake Marcos’ willingness to grant them an audience from time to time as something more significant than what it really is—the playful graciousness of an all-powerful king to his powerless petitioners. How else to explain their serious efforts at submitting electoral blueprints to Marcos?

Our moderates can be expected to increase their lobbying especially now the word is out that Marcos is sick. Physically sick, that is. This development has triggered more intense in-fighting within Marcos’

camp, with everyone eyeing the resulting power vacuum should he breathe his last. This is also not lost to our “moderates” who will start hoping that the U.S., the real mover of Philippine politics, might decide to rearrange things when it becomes much clearer that Marcos won’t be able to arrest Death on charges of subversion.

But our moderates should seriously assess their own strength before building their hopes too high. They are seriously mistaken if they think they can easily break up Marcos’ well-organized, though divided, camp. just because the headman is seriously indisposed. They need an entire machine to even have a fighting chance. As they are banking on the U.S., they should also know that it couldn’t care less if the Marcos machine is teeming with snakes. If the “moderates” cannot show a power base, the U.S. will be inclined to continue sponsoring Marcos loyalists for as long as they can advance and protect U.S. economic interests.

What machinery do they have to challenge Marcos’ and to offer the U.S.? As far as we can see, they have nothing but their disorganized selves. Even if our moderates also talk of ousting Marcos by force, they are not referring to any sizeable popular contingent that they have organized or intend to organize. They are merely talking of waiting for the U.S. to sponsor a military coup and put them in Marcos’ place as new caretakers of U.S. interests. Even though some of their sympathizers, known only to Steve Psinakis as “Democratic Revolutionary Forces” are clumsily toying with assassination plots and urban terrorist scenarios, these too are not meant to organize masses of people but merely to ripen conditions for that hoped-for coup.

Alas, here is the sad saga of our elite opposition. By virtue of their “big names” they presume to be the true leaders of the liberation movement, and bill themselves as the “alternative” to “godless leftists.” But what they have to offer by way of political vision is too pathetic to be amusing: waiting in the wings hoping their own enemy will throw them a bone of an election, and counting on the good graces of a self-serving imperialist power which does not give anything for nothing.

This political strategy reflects their own narrow view of liberation: how to get back the power that Marcos grabbed but keep the system that breeds elite privilege intact. The singers may change but the song remains the same.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MFP honcho and Lopez spokesman Steve Psinakis found a way to fill his *Philippine News* column by printing slanders against the New People’s Army and the Moro National Liberation Front.

He claims the NPA and the MNLF are not serious threats to Marcos but that his “moderate” Democratic Revolutionary Forces are. I suppose these moderates are such a threat that they can walk around freely without being liquidated. Some of the bigger names can even travel abroad to court the U.S. State Department. Boy! They must have Marcos scared out of his wits! Perhaps Psinakis thinks Marcos treats leftists with kid gloves when he reserves for them either outright murder or the most brutal torture. Marcos thinks Jose Ma. Sison is so harmless that he has kept the nation’s leading leftist in solitary confinement for the last four years.

Psinakis still has to explain to us why Marcos would pour half the Armed Forces of the Philippines into Mindanao to conduct genocidal rampages if the MNLF were only a nuisance. Or why the regime sent 10,000 troops to Samar, ordered the encirclement of Cagayan Valley, and is mobilizing a 600,000-man army if the NPA, which operates in more than 40 provinces, is a mere pain-in-the-neck. Uhh, Steve, it’s still all Greek to us.

The MNLF is not a threat, according to Psinakis, because they do not intend to topple Marcos and that they’d stop fighting once Marcos grants them autonomy. It never occurred to him that Marcos can never grant the MNLF autonomy because the Moro areas are where U.S. imperialist agribusiness has its most lucrative holdings in the country, and protecting U.S.

interests is what Marcos is there for. Thus, autonomy is only possible with the overthrow of Marcos and the destruction of U.S. imperialist tentacles in the Philippines. Therefore, Steve, the MNLF will not stop fighting until Marcos is overthrown. If this is not a serious threat to Marcos, then it’s all Greek to me.

In a dazzling display of demagoguery, Psinakis contends the NPA will not liberate the people because it only wants to set up a dictatorship of the left in place of Marcos. In comparison, his moderates “truly represent” the interests of the majority. This is a common tactic of spreading anti-communist fears by playing on people’s lack of understanding of the content of the Marxist-led anti-imperialist revolutions currently sweeping the world. This charge therefore, deserves a more lengthy treatment in the coming issue of this paper.

Suffice it to say, meanwhile, that the left has displayed its capacity to represent the interests of the majority by fighting (and dying) for a comprehensive program of social re-organization: the eradication of U.S. imperialist domination and the construction of a self-sufficient, industrialized economy; the abolition of the irrational and parasitic landlord system of land ownership and the establishment of a truly representative and democratic system of government.

The NPA is gaining influence because its program matches the deep-seated aspirations of the majority. Not because people are led to support it by force of circumstance as Psinakis claims. He and his moderates are also oppressed by martial law but have not been forced by circumstance to support the NPA—mainly because they fear the implications of its goals on their status of privilege.

On the other hand, what have our moderates displayed to back up their claim of representing the majority? A refusal to call for an end to U.S. domination because their businesses are too tied up with imperialist interests. A refusal to make clear a position on genuine land reform because their *haciendas* are at stake. A refusal to organize and arm the masses for fear the latter might face them with the above-mentioned demands. Also, for fear the masses might give them a plow or a hammer and make them work. If they represent anything at all, it is mainly their sugarlands or their import-export businesses, or their ambitions for political office.

For Psinakis’ comfort, however, he should know that the left has always been frank about its intention once in power. It will set up a dictatorship alright—over the tiny oligarchy (.01 percent of the population) who has always and will continue obstructing social reform, who insist on a system where the rich get richer at the expense of the impoverished majority. Who this .01 percent are is not all Greek to Psinakis.

Lastly, Psinakis claims the NPA and Marcos have struck up an “unholy alliance.” The NPA, he says, wants martial law so it can increase its influence, and Marcos wants the NPA around as an excuse to prolong martial law.

The NPA wants martial law like a political prisoner wants more torture. The whole damned thing was imposed to eliminate them politically and physically. It hasn’t struck Psinakis that the death or imprisonment of hundreds of the NPA’s fighters and supporters might be too high a price to pay for this alleged alliance. It is all too easy for Psinakis to denigrate the NPA’s sacrifices and contributions. What price have his moderates paid in the fight against martial law? The loss of political positions, TV and radio stations, power plants, etc.—these pale in comparison to the loss of some of the nation’s finest sons and daughters.

Marcos has indeed, used the existence of the NPA as a political excuse to continue martial law. But to attack the NPA for this is like blaming the heroic Chilean revolutionaries for Pinochet’s continued repression. Psinakis should know that Marcos has also used the economic crisis and worldwide recession as an excuse to prolong martial law. Aha! They, too must be in an unholy alliance with Marcos. Holy Aristophanes! Even the most minor ancient philosophers would blush in their graves at Psinakis’ logic. It would ALL BE GREEK TO THEM. □

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

BUOD NG MGA BALITA  
BUOD NG MGA BALITAFARMERS, FISHERMEN  
DENOUNCE CONTINUING  
POLLUTION

Fishermen and farmers from different towns in Pampanga have joined together to lodge a protest against the Pampanga Sugar Development Co. (PASUDECO) and the National Pollution Control Commission (NPCC). Charging both with "manipulation of facts," the group denounced the continuing pollution of the San Fernando River.

PASUDECO was ordered closed last April because continuous pressure forced the NPCC to act against the polluting firm. The NPCC allowed the sugar central to resume milling operations last November 5 because PASUDECO had allegedly construct a 2.6 hectare lagoon to contain waste-water and had installed anti-pollution devices.

Those devices, alleged the group headed by Edilberto M. Sandico, Jr., baranggay captain of San Juan, San Fernando, were clearly not operational. The river, he noted, had turned jet black once again and dead fish had begun to float, belly-up, in the filthy waters. Sandico also complained about air pollution from the plant and said that fishing grounds in four towns had been affected and that *palay* production in areas irrigated by the river had declined. □

POPE'S VISIT FOR  
FEBRUARY "DEFINITE"

Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, recently returned from a meet of the college of Cardinals, reports that the Pope's Manila visit for February is "definite." The visit, according to Vatican spokesmen will be of a pastoral, not a state character. The Pope will be visiting in his capacity as Church leader not as Vatican chief of state.

This subtlety settles to some degree a controversy, raging since the Pope was initially invited, as to who would be his official host. Sin claimed that, as chief of the Philippine church, it was his duty and that of the country's bishops to act as the Pope's host. The Marcos family, on the other hand, insisted that, since the Pope was a chief of state, he must be hosted by the first family.

This apparently trivial quarrel has been fraught with political overtones because of Cardinal Sin's increasingly open, critical position toward martial law and the Marcos regime. The dispute was so serious as to have caused the Vatican to postpone the trip, initially planned for late last year.

Though the Vatican's announcement seems to favor Sin this does not mean that the holy father, once in the Philippines, will reinforce the position of Sin or the far more radical base-level clergy. Pope John Paul II, has taken consistently reactionary positions on a wide range of issues and there is no reason to expect him to change during his Philippine visit. □

REFUGEES SUCCUMB TO  
DEATH IN CAMPS

While President Marcos makes a show of aiding Southeast Asian refugees, the mortality rate in starkly-neglected Mindanao refugee camps climbs. Most afflicted are Muslims and their children who pass away as disease and hunger devastate them.

In two refugee camps in barrios Canatan and San Vicente, six more children reportedly died last month. The two camps are congested with 500 Muslim families who were dislocated by the armed fighting in North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

Sultan Sinsuat, Jr., secretary-general of the Asuncion Muslim Association, blamed the unsanitary conditions of the camps as one of the major causes of infestation and spread of disease.

In Samar, refugee camps too continue to grow under the same conditions of government neglect and unsanitary facilities. Many of these people left their homes and livelihood due to government military operations. □

IRANIAN ENROLLEES  
PROHIBITED IN  
R.P. SCHOOLS

Iranian students will not be admitted in schools, universities or other educational institutions in the Philippines effective next school year. Philippine Minister of Education and Culture Onofre Corpuz issued this notice, denying it had anything to do with the recent rise in Iranian student demonstrations in the Philippines which led to deportation threats by President Marcos. Corpuz said there will be a general roll-back in the number of foreign students to be admitted in Philippine institutions of learning, and Iranians make up the largest group of foreign students, followed by the Thais.

Specifically, only 750 enrollment slots will be given to foreign students in the coming school year. Priority will be given to students from ASEAN countries who will get half the foreign student slots. □

BANGSA MORO ARMY SINKS  
PHILIPPINE NAVAL BOAT

TRIPOLI—Crack teams of the Bangsa Moro Army's marine commandos sank a Philippine naval boat, *RPS Laguna* No. PN52, in the Sulu Sea on December 7, 1979 at around 8:00 in the morning.

This achievement was a "first" made by Bangsa Moro freedom fighters on the Philippine Navy since the inception of the present armed struggle waged by the Bangsa Moro people in southern Philippines against Philippine colonialism.

Reports received by the MNLF's office in Tripoli did not state by what means was the enemy vessel sunk beyond saying that the incident occurred near the international boundary between the Sulu Sea and the east coast of Sabah (Malaysia, off Tambisan Island) where the Philippine Navy is blocking Moro traders doing business with



Bangsa Moro troops drill: Recent reports of BMA sinking a Philippine Naval boat represents a first in the southern struggle. L. Johnson Photo

Sabah.

The war in south Philippines is intensifying in magnitude and severity as the Bangsa Moro Army, military arm of the Moro

National Liberation Front continue to confront the Philippine colonial armed forces in battle in all parts of the Bangsa Moro homeland. □

IMF-WORLD BANK RAISE  
R.P. LOAN CEILINGS

Reprinted from the  
Philippine Liberation  
Courier

Marcos finally knows what the IMF and the World Bank got him for Christmas. It is not quite what he wanted. But it should enable him to go through 1980 until it is time to ask the World Bank and the IMF for 1981 allotments.

A few months back, (see *AK*, Vol. VI, No. 22), Marcos asked the IMF to lift restrictions on Philippine commercial borrowing altogether. His technocrats even talked of abolishing the 20 percent debt-service ceiling. The day before Christmas, Central Bank Governor Gregorio Licares announced that the IMF has raised the Philippine borrowing limit from \$975 million in 1979 to \$1.2 billion for 1980. The new IMF rules, Licares added, also

substantially reduce pressure to seek longer-term loans and make it theoretically possible to fill up the whole \$1.2 billion quota with borrowings of less than six years maturity.

In the same week, the World Bank announced that the Consultative Group of Philippine creditors, which it heads, has allotted \$1 billion in low-cost development loans to the Marcos regime for 1980. Marcos had asked for \$1.8 billion, so once again the regime was in for a disappointment. The decision was made after a two-day meeting in Washington, D.C. by representatives of the World Bank, the U.S., Japan, Britain, France, Belgium, West Germany, Australia, and Canada, the Philippines' main sources of development loans.

The total of \$2.2 billion in allowable loans for 1980 should

permit Marcos to pay the estimated \$500 million 1979 balance of payments deficit plus continue the program of infrastructure construction necessary for the export-oriented industrialization program favored by the IMF and the World Bank. It will not allow Marcos to push his basic industry construction program unless he can persuade enough foreign investors to make the huge investments required with long-term loans which are expensive and increasingly hard to get.

The IMF and the World Bank, U.S. imperialism's key financial agencies for keeping the Third World in line, have allotted Marcos enough loans to keep his head above water, but not enough to reduce his dependence upon them—or upon the U.S. □

PRIEST DETAINED FOR  
EXPOSING ABUSES

In the morning of Dec. 20, 1979, Father Restituto Cardenas, Diocesan Justice and Peace Coordinator, was "invited" twice to see the provincial army commander, Lt. Col. Mariano. Both times he was told that the commander was not in the PC Headquarters. The second visit however, Fr. Cardenas was whisked off to jail after being presented with a warrant of arrest.

The sudden arrest of Fr. Cardenas in December and the deceptive manner in which he was taken into custody has stirred protests in the Catarman Diocese and other parishes in Samar and Leyte. At present, most churches have suspended the celebration of mass and all sacraments until such a time that Fr. Cardenas is released. Protest services such as prayer vigils and processions, however,

have been resorted to underscore the people's anger at the detention of the respected priest.

Meanwhile, clergymen of the Diocese of Borongan, Catarman, Palo, and Calbayog gathered in a BCPC pastoral conference to raise the matter to President Marcos. The BCPC clergymen demanded:

1. The immediate and unconditional release of Fr. Restituto Cardenas.
2. The punishment of military personnel instrumental in the illegal arrest.
3. The withdrawal of all combat troops from Samar and the total demilitarization of the island.
4. An end to the systematic harassment and persecution of the church in Samar.

Fr. Cardenas' troubles with the military began last October when he forgot a package of church newsletters at the Tacloban Port Authority. Shortly afterwards he was interrogated and subsequently dismissed.

Two months later the military chose to revive the case by claiming that the newsletters in Cardenas' possession were subversive. The fact that the newsletter, called "Event and Reprints," regularly reprinted articles from the national newspapers did not affect the military's judgement of "Events and Reprints" as subversives.

For the community of Catarman, however, the real reason for Fr. Cardenas' incarceration is because of his fearless attempts to expose military abuses in Samar. □



# Anti-Government Plot Uncovered, Regime Claims

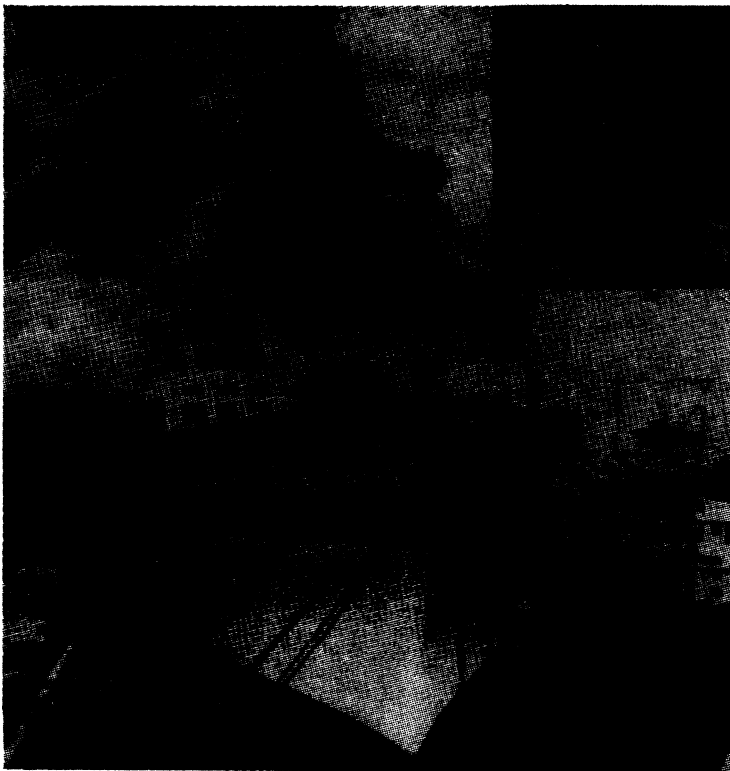
Claiming to have foiled a "revolutionary plot," the Marcos regime arrested 15 prominent Manila residents and a naturalized U.S. *balikbayan*. The group according to Manila media sources, was involved in a plan to bomb key offices and assassinate government officials between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.

The alleged plot began to unravel when a pack of cigarettes fell out of a pocket of Ben Z. Lim, a *balikbayan* returning to Manila International Airport on Dec. 13 to claim his luggage. It was found, officials claim, to contain blasting caps, while the rest of his luggage included explosive devices, a manual on demolition and a copy of an article entitled "The Poor Man's James Bond." Upon interrogation, Lim allegedly told investigators that the explosives and manuals were sent by Steve Psinakis, California businessman and son-in-law of the late Eugenio Lopez, Sr.

Lim was not immediately arrested, but instead was followed. The major sweep of the remaining 15 suspects occurred several days later. Among those arrested were Eduardo Olaguer, president of Business Day Information System and Services and parttime professor at the Asian Institute of Management; Othoniel Jimenez, administrative manager of the Pacific Memorial Plan; Mrs. Ester Jimenez; Magdalena de los Santos Jimenez; Reynaldo Maclang; Carlos M. Lazaro; Gertudes V. Dingal; Miguel Panuginaan; Sergio Martinez; Rene Marciano; Danny Ocampo; Deogracias Arellano; Illuminada Arellano; and Lim.

Manila newspaper accounts claim that Lazaro pointed to Olaguer and Jimenez as the key strategists and planners of the group. He also allegedly confessed to having planted an incendiary device in the Sulu Hotel which burned to the ground last October 7, at the Harrison Plaza Cinema I and at the grandstand of the University of the Philippines. He is said to have admitted to having planted still another bomb at Rustan's Department Store in Quezon City accompanied by Maclang and Jimenez.

Psinakis has revealed in the column he writes for both the



Floating casino burns in Manila harbor, allegedly the work of the "democratic opposition." Inset: Steve Psinakis.

San Francisco-based *Philippine News* and the Chicago-based *Philippine Times* that the "Democratic Revolutionary Forces" in the Philippines claim credit for these incidents as well as for the bombing of the Floating Casino on Manila Bay. The Olaguer group has been charged for all of the bombings.

Philippine authorities claim, however, that the group had far greater plans. According to their key piece of evidence—a scrap of paper rescued from a clogged toilet and reconstructed, the Olaguer group intended to assassinate government officials including Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Information Minister Francisco Tatad, Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz, Highways Minister Vicente Paterno, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo C. Espino, and Chief of the Presidential Guard Gen. Fabian Ver. In addition, they planned to bomb key media establishments and other business offices.

The group was arrested by Lt. Col. Rolando Abadilla, renowned as one of the most brutal of the regime's torturers. Olaguer has gone on a hunger strike to protest both torture and denial of his legal rights.

Psinakis has denied any involvement in the smuggling of explosives. In a statement published in the *Philippine News*, he

acknowledges being a long-standing anti-Marcos lobbyist and having participated in a complex plot to spring his brother-in-law Eugenio Lopez, Jr. and cellmate Sergio Osmena from a military prison and smuggle them into the U.S.

Mr. Psinakis is a leading member of the Movement for a Free Philippines which at its last congress proclaimed its support for an armed overthrow of the Marcos regime. Members began to collect money to send arms to the "Democratic Revolutionary Forces" about which Psinakis has written with increasing enthusiasm in his column over the past few months. Each member was asked to donate the cost of one armalite.

One of Psinakis' recent columns documents a two-day visit to a training camp of the "democratic revolutionary forces." He quotes one trainee, "If we wanted to down Marcos at any cost, we can easily paralyze the whole country by blowing up every government building, every industrial plant, every essential public service—electricity, water, communications—and even blow up Malacanang itself. The problem is that if we do this indiscriminately, thousands more of our people would die . . . ." □

Malacanang Zarzuela  
Malacanang Zarzuela

## Two More Marcoses on the Stage

By VICTORIA LUNA

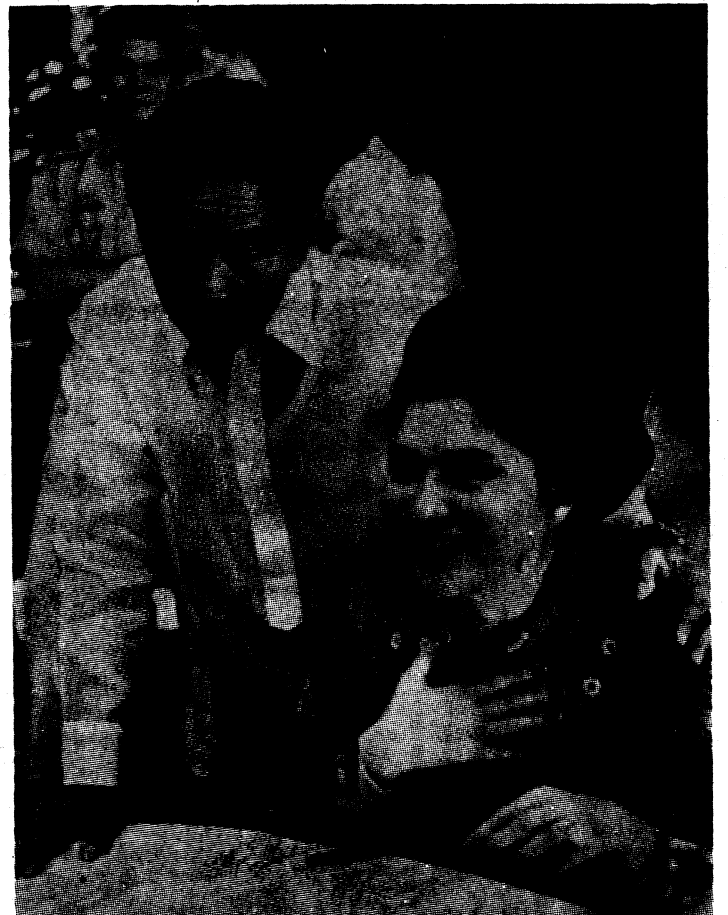
The news from Ilocos Norte at last explains the need for the Philippine local elections to be held on January 30. While the elections last year for the Interim Batasang Pambansa ensconced Madame Marcos in an elective position and ultimately a cabinet post, two Marcoses in government is just not enough, even if a third (Imee) is head of the *Kabataang Baranggay*, the New Society version of the Hitler Youth. What about poor Bongbong? Surely a niche needs to be carved out for the only male offspring of the awesome head couple, even if he is only 21.

And carved it shall be. For Bongbong, little Bongbong, out of whom barely a squeak has been heard since the latest hushed-up murmurings of his misadventures with firearms, is running for office. Nothing big, mind you. Nothing like provincial governor or mayor of a big city. But Bongbong, born and bred in Manila, is running for Vice-Governor of Ilocos Norte. One is Ilocano, apparently, by heredity. Mere details such as place of residence are irrelevant.

To cushion the youngster's arrival on the political scene, his first campaign adventure is being conducted, so to speak, in the bosom of the family. For his running mate is none other than Auntie Liz, Elizabeth Marcos-Rocka, incumbent governor and sister of his papa. Since Auntie and Bongbong are running on Papa's KBL (*Kilusang Bagong Lipunan*) slate and since the only effective opposition to the regime is either underground or locked away in prison, no doubt Auntie and Bongbong will be a real shoo-in.

### QUALIFIED MARCOSES

For his admirers, this latest development in the younger Marcos' career proves a bit of a disappointment. Some of us were rooting for an appointment as chief of the Integrated National Police given the young man's intimate acquaintance with the subject of crime. However, we are



The Marcoses pose cosily during last year's effort to seize the DPM position for Imelda.

FEER Photo

encouraged by the fact that another equally qualified young Marcos stands ready to fill the position if called upon. Cousin Andres Avelino Barba's experiences are even fresher and the young man is, as yet, uncommitted to electoral politics.

Madame Marcos, the appointive Governor of Metro-Manila, is sitting this one out, in spite of the fact that all of the other governors appointed or elected, are running. One Marcos per election seems to be the unstated rule. Anyway, the First Lady is busy with much graver matters and has no time for the mundane hustle and bustle of local politics. Like a sweet young thing on the eve of her debut, she wants every detail to be perfect for the big day, sometime after the election, when she launches (or demurely has her admirers launch) the campaign to name her Deputy Prime Minister.

### COMMAND PERFORMANCE

And then her duties as a mother are so demanding. With almost the entire family taken up in some sort of political activity, there has been no space in Malacanang for Art, Beauty or Culture. Until Mama turned her attentions to her youngest, the 17-year-old Irene. Determined that at least one member of the family follow in the footsteps that she once abandoned, she hired her former singing master to train Irene's delicate voice. A recent private concert by the youngest Marcos stunned a select audience of bigwigs and artistes. Naturally that Mama experienced performer, could not resist racing to the stage to join Irene in a duet.

For her next step, Mama must arrange a grand recital at the Cultural Center of the Philippines to a full house. It is to be, we are told, a command performance. In other words, Imelda commands her audience to attend. In the interest of the health and safety of those invited, they had better do so. □

## WORLD BANK APPROVES SAMAR LOAN

The World Bank last month approved a loan of \$27 million to build 230 kilometers of Samar island roads and to rehabilitate the port of Catbalogan, the capital of Eastern Samar. In the process, the World Bank once again revealed its willingness to participate actively in the repression of resistance to the Marcos regime.

Samar has borne the brunt of a major Marcos military counter-insurgency drive since the middle of 1979. One of the obstacles faced by Marcos' military in the island has been the inad-

equacy of its roads and port facilities.

The project, which has a total cost of \$45 million, is part of the Marcos regime's Samar Integrated Development Plan, and complements separate projects funded by the governments of Australia and Japan. Although the World Bank press release on the project emphasizes its contribution to interisland trade, transport and communications within the island, the timing is clearly related to the regime's ongoing counter-insurgency drive.

The project also provides for a feasibility study of the Catubig valley in Northern Samar, the site of the largest concentration of Marcos government troops. In the past six months of operations, Marcos' military has generated over 50,000 refugees almost all of them from Northern Samar.

The loan is for 20 years, including a five-year grace period, at 7.95 percent per annum interest, making it in effect a grant given the high rate of inflation. □

# Marcos Sets Sham Elections . . .

Continued from page 1

established, KBL arbitrarily decided should logically be made by a government body, not a partisan group. As in the IBP elections of 1977, block voting will again be used (or waiting on the basis of a party slate instead of individual candidates).

## ELECTION DATE LONG SET

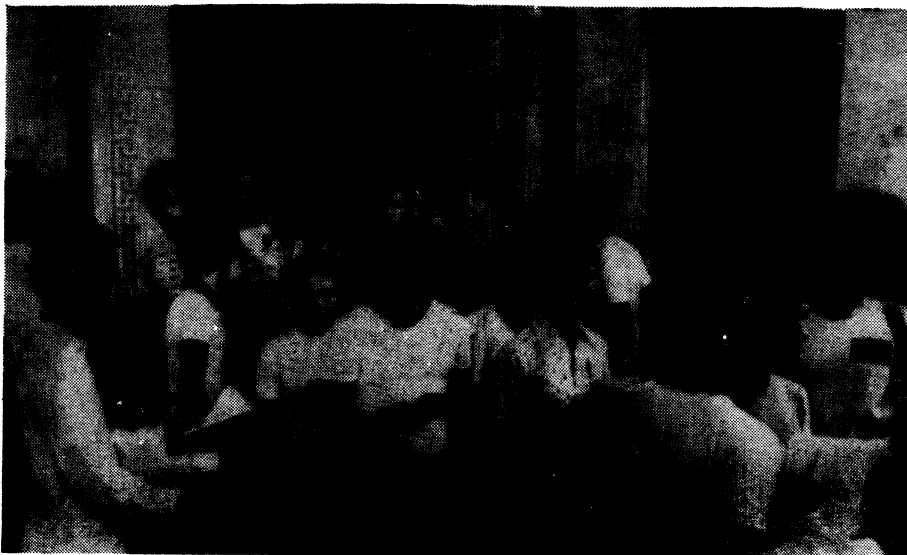
Though the opposition appeared surprised by the announcement of the election date, government preparations have long been underway. As soon as Marcos announced the possibility of holding elections within 18 months last October, the Commission on Elections, (COMELEC) started up the election machinery. The KBL, which was aware of the secret election date, had a head-start in preparing.

Reactions quickly followed the election go-signal.

Ex-Senator and LABAN (Lakas ng Bayan) spokesperson Lorenzo Tanada said the decision to railroad the elections in such a short time "is apparently designed to deprive the opposition of a chance to unite and organize."

Later, in an interview with Agence France Presse, Tanada stated that the United Opposition, made up of LABAN, Pusyon Bisayas, Philippine Alliance, and Concerned Citizens Aggregation in Mindanao and Sulu, may boycott the election unless the important effects of martial law are lifted and the election period extended to 45 days."

If the boycott pursues, a faction of the



Voters in 1975 plebiscite line up to cast their ballots.

Nationalista Party (remnant of the pre-martial law two-party system to which Marcos belonged) is left to provide a semblance of an opposing slate. Nationalista Party president, Jose Roy is a known loyalist of Mr. Marcos.

It's a guaranteed landslide for the KBL and incumbent appointees. Ninety-five candidates, mostly incumbents have been proclaimed. Among them is 21-year old son of the president, Bongbong Marcos, who will be his aunt's, incumbent Gov. Elizabeth Marcos Rocka's running mate in Ilocos Norte, Marcos' hometown. Meanwhile, Mrs. Imelda Marcos, governor of metro-Manila, is exempted from running this

time, going on the strength of her "appointee" status. Only mayors and vice-mayors of cities under her domain will run.

In Pampanga, the home province of opposition stalwart Diosdado Macapagal, a cabinet member, Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza is running for governor. He is so far the only cabinet member running for a local post.

Meanwhile, big-time businessman and Marcos cohort, Roberto Benedicto claims the vice-chairmanship of KBL in Negros Occidental.

## ANOTHER LUTONG MACOY

Aside from the "Lutong Macoy" features of this election, it smacks of

dynasty-building and harnessing of Marcos loyalists on the base level. For Marcos' purposes, this election will have to go the way of all the other fraudulent plebiscites, referendums, and IBP elections of the past.

## WHY THE HASTE?

There is some truth to Marcos' rationalization that the oil crisis compels him to call the elections. Marcos and his KBL followers are so unpopular among the inflation weary people, that another oil price increase can trigger a new rise in the national temper. Sure enough, Marcos anticipates another oil price increase to make its impact on the Filipino people by March or April. Before that comes, Marcos has to have the question of local political power settled.

But the audience Marcos intends this *palabas* for is in Washington. Watchful of the fact that presidential elections are drawing near in the U.S., Marcos is vulnerable to policy shifts. He was apparently sensitive to statements made by Senator and presidential candidate, Edward Kennedy demanding the restoration of democracy in the Philippines.

By bogarding this "democratic spectacle" and claiming this is "the second to the last step towards normalization," Marcos may be appeasing his ambitious local followers and redeem himself before some elements in Washington, but he isn't fooling anybody...certainly not the masses of Filipino people. □

# REGIME STAGES CANAO FOR TOURIST ATTRACTION



Kalinga tribefolk perform traditional dance at Canao festival.

ALIHANI

By VICTORIA LUNA

Last December witnessed the degradation of yet another Filipino folk ritual. Not content with having converted the *Ati-atihan* of Aklan and the Moriones festival of Marinduque into major tourist attractions, President and Mrs. Marcos presented the "weird but colorful rituals," according to the *Manila Journal*, of the Igorot *Canao* to an audience of Raguio vacationers late last year.

Participants in the "Second Grand Canao" from Benguet, Mountain Province, Ifugao, and Kalinga-Apayao were invited to perform their "colorful traditions" upon a great stage set up in the middle of Burnham Park in this prime resort city of the Philippines.

## RITUAL AFFIRMATION OF UNITY

The various peoples of northern Luzon observe the *Canao*, an integral part

of their cultures, upon all occasions, joyful or solemn, when it is necessary to affirm the unity of a tribe or a village. This may be the birth of a child, a death in the tribe, the signing of a peace pact, the construction of communal facilities or a declaration of war.

While the *Canao* is characterized by feasting, song and dancing, its heart is a prediction of the community's future. This is performed by community seers who read omens in the entrails of ritually slaughtered animals. The omens warn of drought, famine, war, or disease. Whatever the omens foretell, the community emerges from the ceremony with greater determination to unite and struggle on through the hardships of a rugged mountain life.

The Burnham Park *Canao* did not mark an event of particular importance to any group of Igorot people. It was designed for foreign consumption. As such, "So weird is the *Canao* ritual,"

said the *Manila Journal*, "that the gory part of butchering pigs or cattles (sic) was almost phased out . . ." It was only through the opposition of a number of Igorots that the "gory" part, the heart of the ritual, was retained.

## EXPLOITING PEOPLE'S CULTURE

The regime's treatment of the *Canao*—attempting to retain its charm and color for the sake of a foreign audience while removing any offensive trace of real meaning—typifies its attitude toward Filipino people's culture generally. The *Ati-atihan* was physically transported to the streets of Ermita, the tourist district, to provide tourists unwilling to fly to Aklan with a charming and quaint Mardi Gras experience. The folk-Christian Moriones festival has been increasingly used to draw tourists to Marinduque.

But the regime's grossest exploita-

tion of people's culture was the *Kasaysayan ng Lahi*, the huge parade of Philippine history organized in 1975 to entertain delegates to the Miss Univers pageant and the accompanying media. Tribal Filipinos from all over the country, many of whom had never before left their mountain homes, were flown to Manila to march in their finest ritual clothing performing traditional music and dance along Roxas Boulevard before a reviewing stand filled with visiting dignitaries.

## PROGRESSIVE CHARACTER OF RITUAL

This attitude toward culture stands in sharp contrast to that of national democrats involved in the struggles of minority peoples against the regime. Most prominent of these struggles has been the Bontoc and Kalinga people's fierce resistance to the flooding of their ancestral lands through the Chico River Dams project. Their struggle has won wide support among lowlanders who have either journeyed to the mountains to express their support or invited the Kalingas and Bontocs to Manila to discuss a united opposition to the dams.

Like the Marcos government, national democrats have encouraged the Kalingas and Bontocs to hold the *Canao*, but for vastly differing reasons. Recognizing the essentially progressive and unifying character of the ritual, supporters have helped them to transform the ceremonies into an inter-tribal affirmation of unity under seige.

Predictably, the messages of the seers have altered. In 1975, a three-day conference in Manila on strategies for opposing the dams concluded with the traditional festivities. As usual, a seer read the entrails of the slaughtered animals to foretell the future. His message prepared the mountain people for the difficulties ahead: "The struggle will be a protracted one," he told them. "But the people will triumph in the end." □



# Christmas Carolling Fund Drive A Success

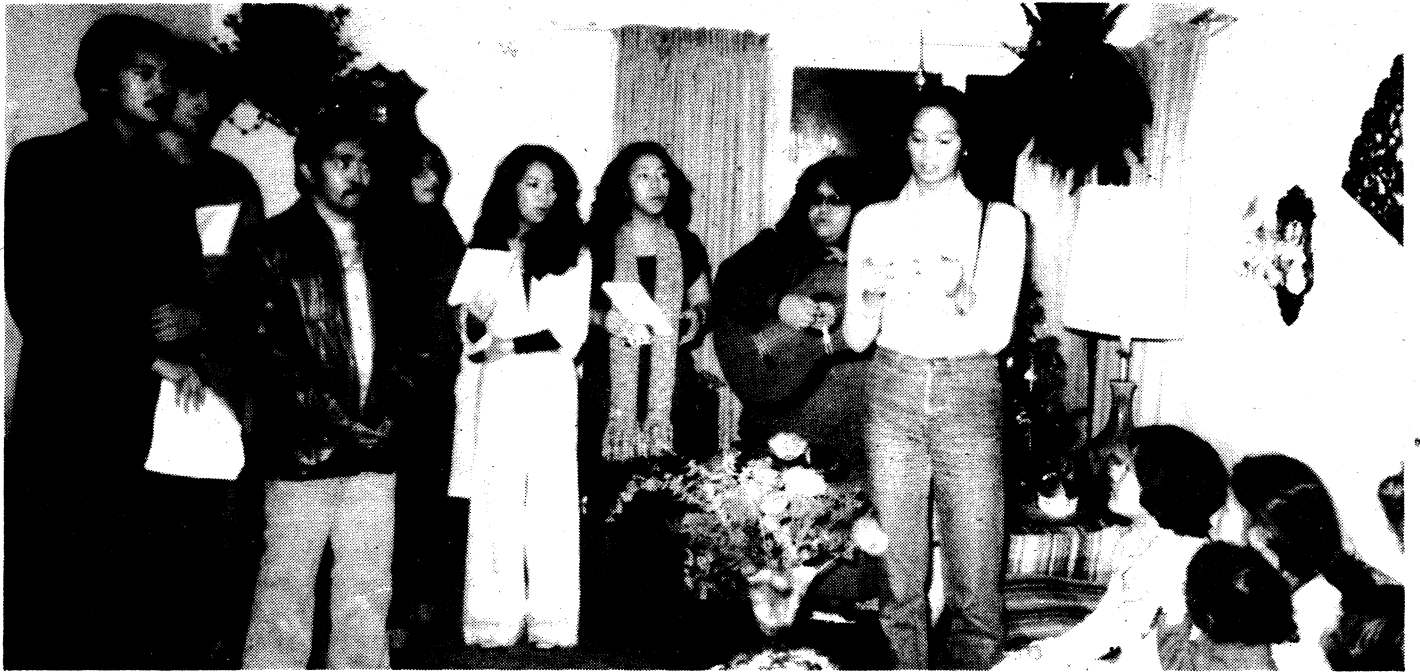
The Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) earlier this month, wound up a four-week long U.S. and Canadian Christmas carolling campaign that raised \$6,000 in contributions for refugee victims of government military operations in the Philippine province of Samar. The funds were raised by carolling teams who visited 400 families in 13 cities where AMLC chapters operate, to publicize the dramatic escalation in the militarization of the Philippine countryside by President Ferdinand Marcos.

The campaign involved carolling community organizations, parties and even staging impromptu "concerts" in front of Filipino stores. Some teams used slideshow depicting the conditions in Samar, making the carolling campaign an educational as well as entertaining event.

Overall, the campaign was a financial success considering the fact that the campaign got off to a late start this year. It was also a political success in that the AMLC's met new people who expressed an interest in getting involved in AMLC activities. This receptive response attests to the widespread anti-martial law sentiments in the community and proof of the willingness of many U.S. Filipinos to help their less fortunate *kabayans* in the Philippines.

## MILITARIZATION A GROWING TREND

The AMLC carolling campaign is conducted annually to raise martial law issues in communities abroad and to generate material support for workers, political prisoners, resistance activists,



San Francisco AMLC carollers raise monies for Samar refugees.

and other oppressed sectors in the Philippines. Funds this year will be sent to the Borongan-Calbayog-Palo-Catarman (BCPC) Justice and Peace Commission, a church body providing relief to Samar refugees.

Reports from religious groups in Samar indicate that 10,000 troops have been actively evacuating and strafing entire villages since last year, forcing 50,000 people to flee their homes. Numerous military abuses including looting, rape, torture, murder, and the public beheading of more than 50 civilians have also been documented.

The growing military build-up is observed to be occurring all over the archipelago particularly on the southern island of Mindanao where two-thirds of the

Philippine Army is said to be actively occupied in civil war with Muslim rebels. As part of the government drive, military and para-military training in educational and community institutions have been intensified mainly to develop a huge base for Marcos' so-called New Society and foster a cult-like atmosphere.

This trend which contradicts repeated assurances made by Marcos since 1972 to "normalize" the country is seen as a direct result of the massive military aid that is now being funded to the Marcos government through the amended U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreement signed in January last by Marcos and Pres. Jimmy Carter. The treaty called for \$500 million in military aid to the Philippines over a period of five years because of the

historically deep involvement of the U.S. in the Philippines. Samar and similar areas are being militarily likened to Vietnam in the 60s.

## DONATIONS STILL REQUESTED

According to Sonny Alforque, this year's national coordinator for the Samar drive, donations are still welcome, and greatly needed. Donors can send checks to the

Samar Refugee Fund  
c/o Mr. Sonny Alforque  
2241 Arliss Way  
Sacramento, CA 95822

or:

Rene Cruz  
AMLC National Coordinator  
P.O. Box 19045  
Oakland, CA 94619

# "FREE FATHER ED" CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM

Efforts to gain the release of Fr. Edicio de la Torre are gaining ground with the step-up of pressure by church agencies, senators and congressmen on the U.S. State Department to intercede in the case. Fr. de la Torre, a noted theologian and church activist has been under the custody of the Marcos military for over five years.

At least sixty senatorial and congressional offices expressed concern and made inquiries to the State Department about Fr. de la Torre and a meeting between concerned legislators and Secretary Vance about the case is reportedly in the offing.

Spearheading the campaign which began in August of last year is the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries (UCBHM). Recently, the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and the U.S. Catholic Conference have joined the campaign to free Fr. Ed.

According to the UCBHM: "Fr. de la Torre has now served longer than what would have been his minimum sentence if he had been brought to trial and found guilty . . . Pressure is now building with the Congress and the Administration for the martial law regime of Philippine President Marcos to release Fr. de la Torre. But more pressure is necessary if this is to happen."

Thus far, the State Department has only succeeded in obtaining updates on de la Torre's physical condition from Philippine authorities. It claims that the Philippine government's position on the case "has so far been consistently rigid." However, because of inquiries from ranking U.S. officials including former

## Who is Father Ed?

Fr. Edicio de la Torre, age 36, is a Roman Catholic priest belonging to the order of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). Known nationally and internationally, Fr. Ed—as he is popularly called—is a nationalist, a poet, painter, and theologian. Within ecumenical circles in Asia, Fr. Ed is an acknowledged theologian, comparable to Dom Helder Camara of Latin America. In the Philippines he is held in great affection by the urban poor and farmers in rural areas, not to mention his co-religious. Fr. Ed has an equally large following among the youth, particularly from the Roman Catholic colleges and the University of the Philippines. He has worked as chaplain of Rhi Rho, a student organization and the Federation of Free Farmers. One of the first few who ventured into ecumenical work, he was quite active in the Student Christian Movement. In 1971, de la Torre's ecumenical involvements brought him into contact with an internationally renowned "slum squatter" organization, the Zone One Tondo Organization (ZOTO). The latter became a channel through which he could work out his concern for the landless,

low-income urban dwellers in terms of justice, empowerment and liberation.

On December 13, 1974, Fr. Edicio de la Torre was arrested in Manila. At the time of his arrest, he was manhandled. Two days later while shackled to his bed, Fr. Ed was subjected to further physical abuses. To protest this action and the deplorable conditions of other political prisoners, Fr. Ed staged a hunger strike which lasted for 14 days. This exposed nationally, and more important internationally, the cases of torture of political prisoners in the Philippines. As punishment, de la Torre was kept in solitary confinement for almost one year and ten months.

In 1976, de la Torre was transferred to a prison showcase in Camp Bicutan. Within a short time Fr. Ed was involved in a 15-day hunger strike with 112 other political detainees to obtain the release of two nursing mothers. This effective and highly publicized hunger strike earned him another reprisal—forcible transfer and segregation in another section of the Camp.

De la Torre was the principal respondent in the case *Filipino People vs. Edi-*

*cio de la Torre, et al.* For the last four years under detention, he has had only three hearings. All appeals and efforts even for temporary release made by his family, friends, religious superiors have been denied. Similar requests by other prisoners have been granted.

Fr. de la Torre was born on July 11, 1943 in Mindoro. Orphaned at an early age by the loss of his father, de la Torre was raised by his mother, a catechist instructor. From high school, he went directly into the seminary and graduated *summa cum laude* with a masters in philosophy.

His mother, Romualda de la Torre visits with Fr. Ed everyday: "Just to make sure he is there." Mommy de la Torre as she is fondly called in the Philippines, spends approximately four hours commuting round-trip by public transportation. Daily she goes from the city to the prison which holds her son for reasons she cannot understand nor much less accept. The most difficult part of the day comes at 5:00 p.m. Together with the families of other political prisoners she must depart.

behalf.

The sympathetic responses of ranking U.S. officials however, are largely due to the grassroots concerns in the Philippines and internationally, over Fr. de la Torre's plight. □

UN Ambassador Andrew Young, Philippine authorities are compelled to ensure the well-being of de la Torre while under their custody.

Furthermore, the campaign has succeeded in drawing the participation of

the Philippine hierarchy. Jaime Cardinal Sin who previously maintained a respectable distance from Fr. Ed (regarded by many as the symbol of the progressive clergy), has reportedly agreed to intercede on Fr. de la Torre's

## FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

# A "MAKAPILI" REBORN

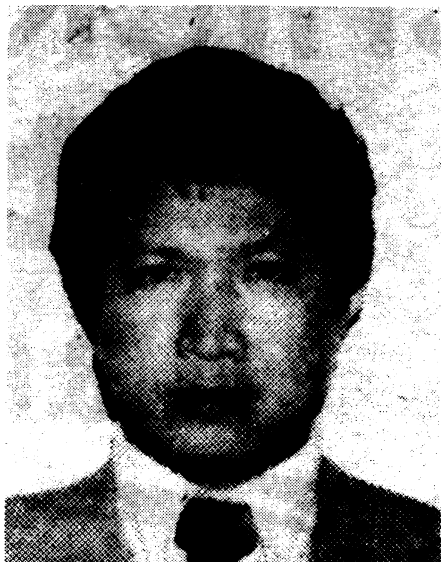
### Regional Executive Board East Coast

During our people's heroic resistance against the Japanese fascist invaders in the Philippines, there were those among our people who stood on the side of the enemy. They assisted the Japanese fascist occupiers by gathering information and assisting in tracking down the leaders and members of the anti-Japanese patriotic front. They were called "makapilis" and they earned the hatred and contempt of our people for their traitorous collaboration with the Japanese fascists.

Today we have a *makapili* reborn in our midst. Gonzalo Policarpio has been exposed as a collaborator with the INS in their surveillance, harassment and intimidation activities against the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG).

Who is Gonzalo Policarpio? Who is this man who boldly attaches his business card on the information he provides for the INS? Who are the forces who back him? What is the danger which he poses to the Filipino community?

Many of us may have encountered Policarpio as he moves about our community selling life insurance for Metropolitan Life. His advertisements for his insurance service have regularly appeared in the *Filipino Reporter*, the New York-based mouthpiece of the Marcos martial law regime (see box). Or some of us may have seen photos of Policarpio publicized by the *Filipino Reporter*, showing him engaged in various activi-



Gonzalo Policarpio: Collaborating with the INS.

ties in our community. Policarpio himself, however, has made known his credentials as a former intelligence officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines, and frequently brags about his military background.

Yes, Mr. Policarpio circulates a lot within our community. And yes, he has declared himself to be a "community leader" and an exponent of "non-political" "civic-mindedness". For this reason, he is vile and dangerous and must be thoroughly exposed.

#### POLICARPIO'S RECORD

The "community leader" connives with the INS in harassing and intimidating the NAFL-FNG, the only organization

known to have fearlessly stood in defense of the rights of H-1 nurses who have been arbitrarily subject to deportation by the INS.

This "non-political community leader" actively plotted with agents of the Philippine government in their scheme to sabotage the united celebration of Philippine National Day in New York in 1979. Together with Mr. Dondi Romualdez, the "Marcos Man" in the staff of the *Filipino Reporter*, Policarpio engaged in dirty tricks to carry out their mission. First they posed as representatives of the PND Committee before the Park authorities in order to grab the park permit. When refused, they resorted to slandering and attacking the membership and leadership of the PND. Determined to pursue their schemes of sabotage and intrigue, Policarpio proceeded to unleash a virulent campaign of underhanded attacks, with the end in view of creating a mass hysteria against the involvement of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition in the Philippine National Day activities. Though miserably failing in the end, Policarpio attempted to divide the attendance of PND by holding a separate celebration of his own. All these attacks and intrigues against the "leftists" of course enjoyed full coverage and play-up in the *Filipino Reporter*. PND press releases, on the other hand, suffered gross mutilations and deliberate deletions, if not completely ignored by the *Filipino Reporter*.

This "non-political community leader" has such an intense hatred for Aimee Cruz (and the KDP) because his masters

cannot tolerate the existence of a well-known opponent of martial law who, by hard work and devotion (not by dirty tricks), has earned respect as a defender of our community's democratic rights and a reputation as a leader in our community's various struggles against racism and discrimination.

Policarpio and his masters' hatred for leaders like Cruz knows no bounds. This revelation obtained through the Freedom of Information request shows the lengths to which the Marcos government will go in order to denigrate the role and influence of people known to be opponents of Marcos' repressive and isolated rule in the Philippines. It shows that even at the cost of sabotaging the work of an organization which was helping and defending the rights of a large number of Filipino nurses in the U.S., the Marcos regime will nonetheless employ their agents in the U.S. in order to abort the increasingly progressive trend that our community is taking.

A *makapili* among us has just been exposed. We call on the Filipino community to guard against this man who is now known to be conniving with our adversaries.

But as history has proven, the likes of Policarpio, who outrightly sell the leaders of a progressive movement out, together with the likes of the *Philippine News* who equally betray the peoples interest by spearheading such witch-hunts, will not succeed. They will suffer the same fate as the infamous *makapili* did. They will fall with the demise of the masters they serve.

agency whose function is to preserve interests other than that of the people's. What is clearly exposed is an agency whose sole function is that of a control valve for foreign labor. It facilitates the inflow and the corresponding expulsion of foreign labor whenever the U.S. feels it needs or no longer needs them. In such a situation, human considerations are certainly the least among priorities.

The flame on the torch of Liberty has once more been snuffed out...□

## INS REJECTS NAFL-FNG'S DEMAND TO EXTEND DVD STATUS TO H-1 NURSES

By the National Alliance for Fair  
Licensure of Foreign  
Nurse Graduates

Acting Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) David Crosland, has refused to extend the period in which out-of-status H-1 nurses may apply for a deferred-voluntary-departure (DVD) status. This arbitrary decision—made without justification last December 14, 1979—will again result in the deportation of large numbers of foreign nurses on H-1 visas. Once again, we shall be witness to the grave dislocation of hundreds of nurses who were actively recruited to serve the health needs of the American people.

Prior to this decision, the NAFL-FNG had won an agreement with the INS to stop deportation of H-1 nurses who had failed the State Board licensure examination for Nursing. A deferred-voluntary-departure (DVD) status was issued which provided these nurses relief from the anxieties of deportation threats. This status gave them additional time to adjust to a foreign environment, review and prepare for licensure examination, thereby increasing their chances of passing the examination.

Despite the great need and demand for nurses, foreign nurses are forced to undergo stiff requirements in order to successfully integrate into the U.S. nursing profession. Foreign nurses are required to take the first available exam upon arrival, depriving them of an adequate period for adjustment or of any review classes to prepare them for the licensure exam. To aggravate this problem, H-1 nurses take the exam under the debilitating threat of immediate deportation upon failure. Considering the high failure rate of foreign nurses in the licensure exam (87 percent), the DVD

status was the only humane and just measure the INS could implement to alleviate this serious problem.

However, while granting nurses the DVD status, the INS attached an expiration date on the period of application, indicating that by this date the H-1 program would be phased out and the problem would no longer exist. Its recent refusal to extend the DVD status to foreign nurses who have just been recruited to the U.S. will negate all the positive accomplishments of the past years. This INS decision goes against all logic and principles that it had agreed to when it first decided to grant the DVD status last Dec. 1977. The decision implies only two things: either the problem has been resolved and the need for the DVD status no longer exists; or the INS has just decided to close its eyes and ears to the needs of the foreign nurses.

Contrary to what the INS would have us believe, the reality is that the problem of the H-1 nurse still exists. The nursing shortage suffered by the health care system in the U.S. has escalated the recruitment of foreign nurses through the H-1 program. And while we see hundreds of young Filipino nurses flown into this country in batches ranging from 20 to 200 several times a year, more and more hurdles have been created for them preventing their smooth integration into the nursing profession. One such obstacle is the recently-created CGFNS examination which is meant only for foreign nurse graduates. Within a short period of a year, a great majority of these nurses will be told to leave the country by the INS.

We deplore this arbitrary and unjustified decision of the INS. We see no logic, no reason, no justice, no evenhandedness in such a decision. Nowhere can we

see any trace of concern for the human lives that have been uprooted from their home countries and brought here to participate in the U.S. health care system. It only unmasks the real nature of the INS even more as a government

### NAFL-FNG Denounces INS Collaborator . . .

*Continued from page 1*  
8-14 issue). One was a xeroxed copy with Policarpio's Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. business card stapled on it. The other was a xeroxed copy which showed an attempt to conceal Policarpio's card, by folding it over and then xeroxing the article. The copy bearing Policarpio's card was obviously meant to be disposed of, but must have been mistakenly retained in the pile of documents sent to Ms. Cruz by the INS.

Policarpio underlined a paragraph from the *Filipino Reporter* which was based on a story originally published by the *Philippine News*, a San Francisco-based newspaper. The *News* charged that the NAFL-FNG was a "paper organization" of the KDP (Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino), of which Ms. Cruz is a member. At that time, the NAFL-FNG sent a letter of protest to the *Philippine News*, calling its charges "irresponsible" and "traitorous", the NAFL stated: "Policarpio has clearly shown us that he can never be counted among the friends of the struggle of foreign nurses.

The viciousness of the *Phil News* act pales in comparison with Policarpio's. The viciousness of the *Phil. News* pales in comparison with Policarpio's vile act.

At a time when our entire community was firmly united and supportive of the efforts of the H-1 nurses, Policarpio instead actively and traitorously collaborated with the INS by submitting information which he believed could smear or could be used against the NAFL-FNG and its leaders. This is plain sabotage which we vigorously condemn."

Commenting on Policarpio's motivations, the NAFL statement noted: "Aside from her devotion to the struggle for justice for foreign nurses, the NAFL is completely aware of the fact that Cruz is also well known for her opposition to the martial law regime in the Philippines. In our view, Cruz's personal beliefs on the Philippines issue has no direct bearing, nor have these created adverse consequences for the NAFL's work. Policarpio, on the other hand, is well known for his support for the martial law regime in the Philippines. While he is likewise entitled to his personal beliefs, we cannot condone his eagerness to defend martial law at all cost, even at the of jeopardizing and sabotaging the work of the NAFL-FNG."

Policarpio is currently the president of the United Filipino Organization, Inc., a Queens-based neighborhood organization.

Cruz is presently examining all the documents submitted by the INS with the legal assistance of the Center for Constitutional Rights.



# Hitting Management With Something That Hurts: Rent Strike

By **EDDIE ESCULTURA**  
AK Correspondent

Uptown is an area in the northern part of Chicago with a concentration of minorities and low-income families. It is one of the depressed areas and has been hardest hit by Chicago Plan 21. Plan 21 is part of the Federal urban renewal program which aims to revitalize neighborhoods to bring back business into the city and attract the more affluent residents of the suburbs.

On paper, Plan 21 looks great. In practice, however, it means the massive eviction of low-income families. Since the residents are bound to resist and have done so, the vested interests involved, such as the real estate developers, found a convenient tactic: arson. Particularly for the residents along Wilson Avenue bounded by Clark and Broadway, the sound of the sirens of the fire trucks is as familiar as the sight of the ambulance from the nearby hospital.

Along with Plan 21 came the condominium boom. Apartment buildings were rapidly converted into more expensive, hence more profitable, condominiums. Others raised their rent rapidly, driving out many low-income families in the process. For those who remained, there still loomed the threat of arson.

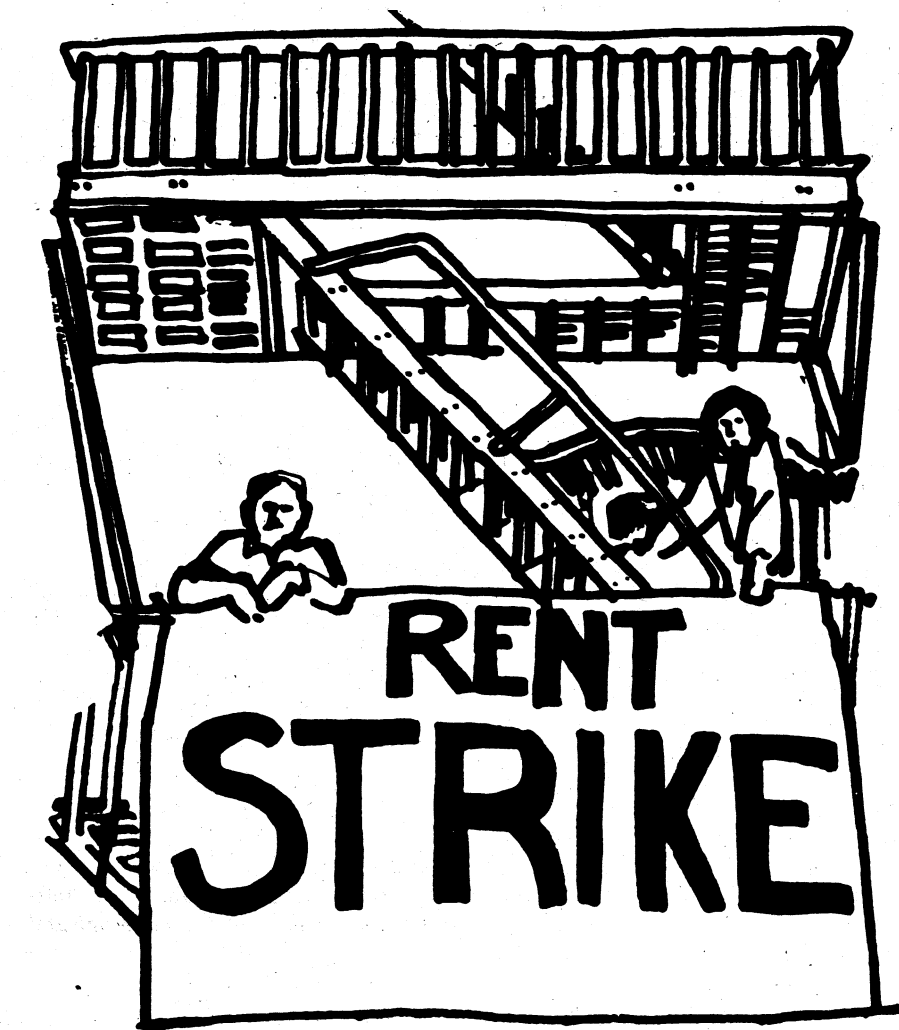
Then came tight credits, and the condominium business hit a snag. For those determined to get profits, however, there is always a way out. One is conversion to cooperatives. Again, on paper this seems harmless; it may even appear progressive. But there is always a catch, as we shall see later.

Take the case of the federally subsidized high rise apartment at 810 W. Grace near the heart of Uptown. Consisting of 259 units, most of the occupants are minorities, mainly foreign born. For a while, the rents were reasonable, but they have increased steadily during the last two years; and the frequency appears to be increasing, too.

Just last May the management raised the rents by \$42, \$31 and \$21 for 3-, 2- and 1-bedroom units, respectively. Then in August the management announced another rent increase for December. Worse, the building was to be converted into a cooperative under the ownership of Gil Park Cooperative. For the tenants of 810 W. Grace, this was the last straw. The need to organize and oppose the move became clear and they immediately proceeded to organize.

## EASE-OUT PLAN

First, let us examine what this move means for the tenants. Under Section 8 of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines regarding coopera-



tives, the maximum combined income of an individual or family to qualify as a tenant is as follows: \$12,100 for an individual, \$13,800 for a couple, \$15,550 for a family of three, \$17,300 for a family of four, \$18,350 for a family of five, and \$19,450 for a family of six. Under the old rental arrangement, the corresponding maximum incomes to qualify are, respectively, \$15,785, \$18,040, \$20,295, \$22,550, \$23,980 and \$25,400. As a result of this reclassification, many families will be forced to move out. Ironically, while the income requirement appears to be lower, the monthly charges would increase from \$191.00 to \$372.50 monthly for a 1-bedroom unit, \$238.00 to \$462.00 for a 2-bedroom and \$277.00 to \$546.50 for a 3-bedroom unit. For the owners of the building, this means increases in income from \$735,780 a year to \$1,378,488 a year, an increase of close to 100%.

Conversion to cooperative would also require the tenants to manage the building and take responsibility for maintenance. This seems to be the most objectionable feature to the tenants. HUD is supposed to make available \$2.5 million for initial repairs, but according to Mac Tenorio, President of the Tenant

Association, this is just a drop in the bucket, for the most serious problem is maintenance.

"The quality of workmanship in the construction of the building is so poor," Tenorio says that "the building is saddled with defects which are too expensive—if not impossible—to repair." He cited leaks in the ceiling during winter, water leaks in the 27th floor when it rains, rampant fungus infection, poor insulation that makes heating expensive, and the elevators that often fail to work. Worse, the building has been invaded by an army of roaches.

Tenorio feels that "the conversion to cooperative is the owner's scheme to wash his hands the responsibility for maintenance and pass it on to the tenants." The rent increases are supposed to cover the cost of repairs. "However," Tenorio said, "HUD approved the increases without an inspection or verification." He added: "I think HUD is dumb and stupid; there must be a deal under the table."

Another objectionable feature of the scheme is that the tenants will be held collectively responsible to cover tenants in default.

I asked Mac about the strategy of the

tenants. "Our goal is to retain the rental system," he explained. "The tenants will exert vigorous opposition and will seek the support of outside organizations for public pressure to bear upon the management and HUD." Underscoring the determination of the tenants, he declared, "We will turn anger into power."

## TENANTS HARASSED

They are now on their third month of the rent strike. When it started last Nov., 75% of the tenants joined the rent strike. This declined to 50% in Dec. and 33% this January. The decline is due to intimidation and harassment by the management.

"Tenants receive verbal harassments every day; they are threatened that they will be thrown out; that their cars will be towed out of the parking lot." Even Mac's wife was told that if he does not stop, she would be raped, and the children kidnapped. Mac's mother-in-law's car was vandalized in the parking lot—the tires were punctured and the bumpers dented.

Despite these threats and the eviction proceeding against some tenants, however, a solid one-third of the tenants is determined to go on and fight the management. As one tenant put it: "Gil Park should better figure out how to pay its bills."

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT WIDENS

The issue has generated a lot of publicity and there has been a great deal of response from community organizations. Among them were the Carpenters Union, Tenants Associations from other HUD buildings, El Taller, Inc., United Church, Intercommunal Survival, Damayan, Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino, Samahan ng mga Makabayan Pilipino, Anti-Martial Law Coalition, Federal Housing Authority (FHA) Tenants United and several progressive organizations.

The Tenants Association at 810 W. Grace has affiliated itself with FHA Tenants United which does a lot of leg work and technical support for such struggles. The Association will send delegates to Washington on Jan. 23 to testify at a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee chaired by Sen. William Proxmire. They will also present the signed petitions on behalf of the tenants. Before that date, however, there will be a picket in front of the Gil Park Cooperative office at 810 W. Grace.

Asked what outside organizations and individuals can do, Tenorio replied: "lots of publicity, signatures for the petition, participation in the pickets and money."

For information call Mac Tenorio, (312) 348-8436. □

## Dateline Chicago

# DAMAYAN HOLDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

By **EDDIE ESCULTURA**  
AK Correspondent

A lively Christmas party greeted the *Damayan* members, their kids and friends at the Christian Fellowship Center last Dec. 29. Food, fun, entertainment and a bit of education were the order of the day.

About 60 people came to the event. There were no beauty queens or fancy dresses. There was certainly no need to pay \$17.50 to participate as most Filipino parties require—only voluntary donations of no more than \$5.00. And this amount already included gifts for the kids. There was no pretentiousness either. It was an occasion for simple folks; yet it was a wholesome activity. Lots of new folks were there—a big

boost for *Damayan*. Estela Yurac found the affair enjoyable and distinct from previous ones she attended. Quirino Esquerro who came to Chicago just two months ago, was impressed and wanted to join the organization.

In his remark, Vendo Capili of *Damayan* noted the common needs, problems and concerns faced by Filipinos. He said that coming to *Damayan* was a means to share and deal with them effectively.

In the short period of *Damayan's* existence, the organization has participated in dealing with such problems as those faced by the Filipino nurses and the case of Dr. Bien Alona who was unjustly accused of perjury by the District Attorney of Ventura County in California. *Damayan* has also been a major participant in the celebration of

Philippine National Day.

True to its objective of striving for relevance, *Damayan* made the occasion both a wholesome social event and an informative experience. The guest speaker was Mac Tenorio, President of the Tenants Association at 810 W. Grace, who spoke on the status of the struggle against their building management. "What is happening to us at Grace," Tenorio reminded his audience, "has implications for all those who rent apartments."

Another speaker was Esther Simpson of *Damayan* and the National Alliance for Fair Licensure. She discussed deportation cases involving Filipinos, and projected more of the same in the 1980's as the economic crunch worsens.

The 1980 Philippine National Day

Committee made a call for participation in the coming June 12 celebration, an event that not only popularizes our national heritage, but also highlights our important contributions to this nation.

The Christmas Party made clear the distinctive quality of *Damayan*. The spirit of sharing and concern for each other was obvious. Everyone participated in the preparation—putting up and set up. Boots Ualat and Emer Alcantara coordinated the program which, aside from the speeches, also included dance numbers by Tessie and Efrem Capili and Christmas carols by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition. The affair was highlighted with the distribution of gifts for the children. □

## DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## ANTI-KLAN MARCH PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 2

In a unanimous call to action, over 300 anti-Klan organizations and activists recently met and mapped out plans for a Feb. 2 march in Greensboro, N.C. to protest the recent upsurge of Nazi and Ku Klux Klan terrorism.

The call for the anti-Klan mobilization grew out of a Dec. 14-15 meeting of the National Anti-Klan Network held in Atlanta, G.A. The Network, a broad coalition of religious, left and progressive organizations, formed last year in response to the growing reactionary activities of the Klan and other racist groups.

Prominent in calling the Atlanta conference were the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organizations (IFCO). Held at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church where the martyred clergy Martin Luther King Jr. held services, the meeting gathered anti-racist activists from across the country to exchange experiences and plan activities.

Stressing the need to combat Klan activity, Network coordinator C.T. Vivian said that "The Klan is moving on every front because they have been allowed to...We need to struggle to maintain that for which we've been fighting for the last 20 years."

Another long-time fighter for civil rights, Anne Braden, underscored the danger of the Klan. "The Klan could become the stormtroopers of a police state in America," said Braden. "The South, before the civil rights movement,



Blacks sit-in at a Greensboro Woolworth lunch counter in 1960. Their action sparked a mass movement against racism and segregation.

was the closest thing this country has ever known to a police state—especially for Black people, but as many of us painfully learned, also for white people."

Throughout the conference, participants recounted numerous instances of local Klan activity. In recent years, open activities of the white-robed group have become noticeable, and their harassment of Blacks and other minorities has similarly become more pronounced. On the minds of all the conference participants was the recent murder of five anti-Klan protestors and reference to the Greensboro massacre was mentioned in the Network's call for the Feb. 2 demonstration:

"Conditions in the U.S. today demand

that we call on labor unions, churches, civil rights, human rights, political and social organizations who wish to express concern for the crisis issues which set the conditions for the Greensboro massacre, to come to Greensboro on Feb. 2, 1980, to commemorate the last 20 years of struggle and take part in launching this offensive."

"Entering the 1980's we find ourselves in a situation where even the limited gains achieved during the 1960's are under increasing attack. The Klan is part of that pattern. We will not return to the back of the bus nor should decent people desire it."

The choice of Feb. 2 as the date of the march was made to commemorate the

20th anniversary of the now-famous 1960 Woolworth lunch counter sit-in. It was on Feb. 1, 1960, that four Black students in Greensboro decided to challenge the racist Woolworth practice of not serving Blacks at their lunch counter. Sitting-in at the Greensboro Woolworth, the four sparked a mass movement which spread throughout the south. Blacks and whites began to sit-in and boycott any institution which practiced discrimination—restaurants, lunch counters, department stores, theaters, and schools.

In Greensboro, it took five and a half months of picketing and sitting-in before Woolworth finally began to serve Blacks. Soon other institutions followed suit, but only after tens of thousands of people participated in hundreds of similar protests. And while many whites supported the movement to desegregate public institutions, the Ku Klux Klan stood out prominently as a staunch opponent to desegregation, often provoking reactionary terror in a vain effort to stop the progressive movement.

The recent rise of Klan activity has alarmed the progressive-minded people in this country, and the Feb. 2 march has rallied a broad range of groups and individuals to oppose racist violence. Slogans for the march are "Unite! Stop Klan/Nazi terror," "Remember the Greensboro massacre," "Halt police/Klan complicity," "Greensboro 1960-1980: Join the national offensive," "We will never go back," and "In the USA and worldwide, stop the reactionary tide."

## 1980: THE YEAR OF UNEMPLOYMENT

(Reprint from the *Guardian*)

If 1979 was the year of inflation, 1980 may well be the year of unemployment.

With nearly every economic indicator pointing downward, many companies are preparing contingency plans for sharp cuts in employment. A recession is on the horizon; the only question is how deep and how long.

The Carter administration estimates that a "mild recession" will force unemployment up from its current 6% level to 7.5% by the end of the year. Other estimates are not so optimistic.

"Unemployment could go as high as 9%," says the Chase Econometric newsletter, a research publication of the Chase Manhattan Bank. It adds that 10% is not impossible.

Whether mild or severe, the recession will hit with a more powerful punch than many previous downturns. The reason is that unemployment is already at historically high levels. In the last three recessions, 1960-61, 1970-71 and 1974-75, unemployment had been between 3% and 5% at the beginning, as opposed to 6% today.

The impact is likely to be disproportionately felt by Blacks and women, as has been the case in all previous recessions. Black workers' unemployment is running at twice that of white workers—about 12% for 1979—and women's unemployment is around 7%.

## ADDING TO THE PROBLEM

Adding to the problem, the federal government last week instituted new unemployment compensation regulations that assure the immiseration of many more of the unemployed. Under the regulations, an estimated half million workers will lose their eligibility for extended unemployment payments.



Nuez

In most states, a laid off worker is guaranteed 26 weeks of compensation. If the states' unemployment is high enough, another 13 weeks of federal benefits are "triggered."

But on Jan. 4, Carter, using a complex formula, tightened the trigger formula. The change will save the government \$4-800 million a year, according to the Labor Department. And it will mean that one-third of those laid off in the coming year—who would have been eligible for the benefits—now won't get them.

In 1979, a nonrecession year, over 15% of the unemployed were out of work for longer than 26 weeks. During the last recession four years ago, that figure jumped to 45%, and more than a million

workers were unemployed for more than a year—long enough to have exhausted even the extended benefits. Economists speculate that it may be worse this time around.

The really big losers in a recession, however, would be women workers who for the first time gained jobs in the craft, manufacturing and construction sectors during the 1970's. With little seniority, they are now the most vulnerable section of the workforce in steel, auto, coal mining and numerous other traditionally male industries. Blacks will lose ground as well, but the effect on women will be devastating.

Government statistics show that while the huge number of women who entered the workforce in the 1970's went mostly

into "women's work"—jobs in the service and clerical sector (65%)—a significant number made it into the better paid occupations (35%). About 15% are in the factory, craft and truck driving occupations most susceptible to unemployment in a recession.

## FIGHTBACK PREPARED

Many of the inroads were made as a result of affirmative action demands. Women's groups are already preparing to defend those gains in the event of a recession.

"Women are more organized since the last recession," says Eleanor Smeal of the National Organization for Women (NOW). "We are going to fight layoffs in the courts as hard as we can."

Continued on page 11



# BRITAIN, S. AFRICA THREATEN ACCORDS; ZIMBABWE ENTERS CRUCIAL PERIOD

With the December 21 signing of the Lancaster House agreement, the struggle for an independent, majority-ruled Zimbabwe reached a crucial stage.

The agreement, signed by Patriotic Front leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe as well as the former prime minister Abel Muzorewa, formally ended the civil war and paved the way for free elections.

Zimbabwe, which had previously been under the rule of the illegal white-minority Ian Smith regime and then later the puppet Muzorewa government, reverted back to a colonial status under British mandate. It would now be up to the British, under Governor Lord Soames, to oversee the accords and ensure that the process of governmental transition ensured an independent and majority-ruled Zimbabwe.

## ZIMBABWE MASSES HAIL PATRIOTIC FRONT

Soon after the Lancaster signing, military commanders of the Patriotic Front flew into Salisbury's airport on December 26. There, thousands of joyous Zimbabweans tore down fences and braved police lines to greet the leaders of the guerrilla forces which had long opposed the Smith regime in open combat.

Filling the airport and lining the streets of the city, tens of thousands of people turned out for the event, far surpassing in numbers the earlier rallies for the Smith-supported Abel Muzorewa.

Rex Nhongo, a commander of Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army, and Lookout Masuku, a leader of Nkomo's Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army, were hailed by thousands of supporters as they passed through Salisbury on their way to guerrilla checkpoints established by the British. Similar throngs greeted Patriotic Front guerrilla checkpoints established by the British. Similar throngs greeted Patriotic Front guerrillas as they made the journey from base areas to the 16 Patriotic Front assembly areas located in various parts of the country.

## BRITISH MANEUVERS THREATEN ACCORDS

While the British were entrusted with overseeing the transition period as an essentially neutral body, their actions have threatened to undermine the accords and plunge that country once again into open armed conflict.



Thousands poured into the streets of Salisbury to welcome Patriotic Front guerrillas on December 26. UPI

During the 102 days of negotiations which led up to the peace agreement, the British often sided with the Muzorewa regime in putting forward unreasonable and unrealistic demands on the Patriotic Front in an effort to force the guerrillas from the negotiations. However, it was clear from the popularity of the Patriotic Front both within Zimbabwe and internationally that it was the white racist forces and the Muzorewa regime which were forced to the negotiating table in an effort to seek a peaceful and durable solution to the Zimbabwe situation.

While the British and Muzorewa forces attempted to get an agreement which would have the guerrillas isolated and neutralized, the negotiating efforts of the Patriotic Front won equal treatment of both armies in the period before elections. On this point, however, there have been indications that the British, South African and Muzorewa forces have been maneuvering to avoid the terms of the agreement.

On the day the pact was signed, Salisbury's white military commander Peter Walls ominously warned that a Patriotic Front election victory would lead to "immediate civil war." Muzorewa simi-

larly warned that a guerrilla victory would mean that "Zimbabwe would be finished economically and democratically."

While members of the guerrilla army made strenuous efforts to meet a January 4 deadline in getting to one of the 16 checkpoints, "auxiliary forces" controlled by Muzorewa bypassed any monitoring and were dispatched to the countryside where the guerrillas had been. These forces, estimated at 24,000 make up a private army which will threaten the legality of the upcoming February 27 elections.

Besides this armed force, Lord Soames violated the "equal treatment" clause of the peace accords by dispatching regular Rhodesian forces to "maintain law and order" in the country. This issue of "equal treatment" was the very reason why the Patriotic Front signed the peace agreements, and now Britain's actions have exposed the true motives of the Commonwealth.

## SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES PRESENT

Also ominous among the actions of the British was the announcement that a "not large" force of South African troops

would remain in Zimbabwe with the approval of Lord Soames. These soldiers will ostensibly be stationed on the Beit Bridge border area to "safeguard transport."

However, Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front charged that South Africa maintains "upwards of three or four battalions" in Zimbabwe. He said that this was a direct violation of the Lancaster House accords which mandated a full removal of the South African forces. Britain now denies that it agreed to such a provision.

According to Patriotic Front estimates, 15,000 South African and foreign mercenary troops are in the country. Added to their estimates that 150,000 of the 230,000 whites in the country are armed, the Patriotic Front maintains that a durable peace would have to take into account these forces.

## ELECTIONS PENDING

The three days of elections are supposed to begin February 27. There are reports that Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) will run different slates. The main contender with British and racist support is Abel Muzorewa, and monies from British multinationals and South Africa have gone towards his campaign efforts.

If the elections do take place, one of the Patriotic Front's biggest concerns is that the racist, pro-South African forces will stage a military coup to thwart a guerrilla victory. Given the number of South African forces and auxiliary troops, as well as other recent developments, such concerns are well founded. As one spokesperson for the Patriotic Front recently pointed out, "Victory was not won" at the London negotiations. "It will be won in a protracted process."

"We won't obtain total independence under this plan," said Callistus Ndelovu. "We have accepted what is unsatisfactory as a means toward achieving what we want. The Zimbabwean people will have to give themselves independence, even after the elections. Signing the agreement in London was not the termination of our struggle. We hope we can reach our goal without firing another shot. But if this is made impossible, we will take up the armed struggle once more as if nothing had happened." □

that would result in any whites or males being harmed by an affirmative action plan. Jim Balanoff, the dissident district director of the USW takes the same view. "The company must be made to bear the burden," says TDU, "not the workers."

## LAIED OFF AT ROUGE PLANT

But in any recession, workers inevitably do bear the pain—and minorities and women shoulder a disproportionate share of it. To a worker like Asneath KlingleSmith, a 38-year-old Black woman laid off from her craft apprenticeship job at Ford's giant Rouge plant in Michigan, the discriminatory effect of "last hired, first fired" is obvious.

After years of sporadic work on the fringes of the labor force—as a waitress, housekeeper and seamstress—she finally landed a job at the Ford plant. Affirmative action requirements got her both the original job and the promotion to apprentice tool-and-die maker. She was laid off in December, along with every other woman in the program, when Ford cut back on production.

"I'm all for unity to fight the company," she says, "but not if it means no Blacks and women are going to be left on the job when the fight's over." □

# UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE '80s . . .

Continued from page 10

A number of already filed suits demand that the proportion of women workers remain the same after the layoffs. This would require a "seniority override" since almost all women workers are recent arrivals to the male industries.

Since many craft, manufacturing and construction jobs are unionized, and nearly every union contract calls for layoffs by seniority, the suits are likely to target the unions as well as the companies.

The current state of women's and minorities' legal rights in the event of layoffs by seniority tends to favor the "last hired, first fired" philosophy. In 1977 the Supreme Court ruled that even if the effect of "last hired, first fired" is to perpetuate discrimination, the system is valid as long as its "original intent" was not discriminatory.

The federal enforcement agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission may be able to force seniority overrides in certain cases. But the overwhelming majority of minorities and

women hired in the last few years will be laid off as in past recessions.

The unions could intervene with a variety of mechanisms to protect minorities and women and still minimize the effects of joblessness on senior white workers. One current suit calls for "front pay"—that is retaining Blacks and women while paying laid off white workers their full wages. The suit is based on the theory that the company is responsible for discrimination and should pay the cost of rectifying it.

Other suits call for early retirement benefits and for special unemployment benefits for white workers forced out as a result of a "seniority override."

## UNION RESPONSE

But there is not a single union in the country that has voluntarily adopted such solutions to discriminatory layoffs.

"The policy of the United Auto Workers has always been last hired first fired," says Carl Mantyla, a spokesman for the 1.4 million-member union. "We

have no plans to change that policy now." The steelworkers and mineworkers unions take the same view.

That doesn't mean union policy makers couldn't change their views if enough pressure were applied. The United Steel Workers (USW), for example, originally opposed quotas, but in 1973 agreed to a quota for promoting Blacks and women to craft jobs in the steel and aluminum industries. The Weber case, decided by the Supreme Court in 1979, affirms the rights of unions to enter into such arrangements.

But the demand for any form of "seniority override" remains controversial. The rank and file movement is split on the question, with the more influential organizations opposing any tampering with seniority.

"That'll only create a (white) backlash," says Al Gardner, leader of the Independent Skilled Trades Council, the largest dissident organization in the UAW. The Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) opposes any layoff system

# Revolutionary Youth Organizations Grow in Countryside

Filipino youth constitute nearly half of the Philippine population. Yet this generation of Filipinos is condemned to a life of dietary and nutritional deficiency, semi-literacy and inadequate medical care. Death of children through slow starvation has risen to alarming proportions during the last seven years of martial law. The Asian Development Bank rates the country's per capita caloric intake as the lowest in Asia. And while the military is allocated a huge sum of the national budget, P5.5 billion, health care in general has been given only P1.5 billion.

The problems of the youth however, are only a reflection of the bigger problems plaguing Philippine society. Foreign control of the economy by big business gives rise to a distorted utilization of the country's natural and human resources resulting in widespread poverty.

Determined to eradicate the roots of the country's social and economic problems, the national democratic resistance is mobilizing all oppressed sectors to take part in this liberation process. In several regions around the country, the Communist Party of the Philippines is paying particular attention to the youth question.

The boundless energies and enthusiasm of the youth are being directed toward revolutionary action. Thus, while still impoverished and in physical want, the new generation that is being reared in guerrilla zones, is nonetheless rich in revolutionary zeal and dedication. It is these qualities which will secure for the youth of the Philippines, a brighter tomorrow. Below we reprint an article from the *Ang Bayan*, August 15, 1979, official organ of the Communist Party of the Philippines—Editor.

When the enemy suddenly arrived at the schoolhouse—21 of them, PC troops, policemen and CHDF members—the children were quick to act. Ka. Roel, the wounded NPA fighter who was being cared for in the barrio, had to be warned. Moreover, the enemy had to be kept ignorant of the activities in the barrio where all the people, except for a very few, were active in the revolutionary movement.

And so one child quietly slipped away to tell the news to Ka. Roel while the others furtively tore off pages from their notebooks. In their notebooks were the



Barrio youths participate in a community meeting performing a skit about local conditions.

BMP Photo

following inscriptions: "Let us go ahead and make more progress in our work.... Has the enemy been bothering you lately?... Revolutionary greetings to all the comrades." Secretly, the letters were torn up along with their favorite drawings of battles between the enemy and the people's fighters; then the paper was chewed up and swallowed. This was the reaction of some to the emergency situation in an effort to hide the incriminating evidence.

The children also led the enemy away from the well where everyone usually got their water, because it was near the house where the red fighter was resting. Instead, the enemy was directed to another well.

From that time on the Party organization had to be formed in that barrio, one of the region's pacesetters. With their parents already active in the revolutionary movement, the children had been spontaneously performing tasks for the mass movement in the village.

At first, seven or eight of them formed *Hagibis* (speed on) and in several months more and more had joined.

Guided by a comrade from the group of revolutionary youth, the children, aged 8 to 14, hold regular meetings to study, criticize each other and discuss ways of doing their work better. They have been assigned to carry letters and safeguard the secrets of the underground movement in the barrio.

Their meetings are marked by great

enthusiasm. The *Hagibis* members arrive early at the appointed place from their houses scattered over the mountainsides. Like their elders, the children come prepared with small notebooks and lunch bundles and greet each other with warm greetings and handshakes.

Often they are asked to sing or recite a poem at the cultural programs held in the barrio, because while they may sing off-key, their eagerness is always a delight to watch. Once, they presented a short play that dramatized the conflict between the desire to spend one's time playing, and the recognition of the need for revolutionary action.

In the southern Tagalog region, as in other regions of the country where the revolutionary movement is unfolding rapidly, many children have shown a surprising maturity and determination.

## AN OUTSTANDING CHILD

One of these outstanding children was Ka. Nilda, who died a martyr at the hands of the enemy in Tagkawayan, Quezon last June.

Born to a family of revolutionaries, Ka. Nilda insisted on working full-time for the movement at the age of nine. She was not old enough to handle a weapon, yet she was a great help to the people's army units to which she was assigned.

Lately, she was being trained to undertake the important task of typing documents and other reading materials needed for the advancement of the re-

volutionary work. The Party had noticed and set out to develop Ka. Nilda's uncommon ability to learn and understand revolutionary principles.

When the enemy attacked a barrio in Tagkawayan last June, they broke into a peasant's house and found there Ka. Nilda's backpack. Since she was so young, they did not suspect her.

However, when they beat up the peasant to force him to say who owned the pack, the child revolutionary could take it no more. Stepping forward, she declared: "Stop hurting him! The pack is mine. I am from the NPA."

Together with seven other people, Ka. Nilda was taken prisoner. Next day, when the enemy got news of their severe defeat in an ambush launched by the NPA, they took revenge on their defenseless captives. They took Ka. Nilda and the others to the Tagkawayan town center and gunned them all down.

Drawing out general lessons for all party organizations to follow, *Ang Bayan* concluded: "We are preparing the children today to assume many important tasks in the near future, as the national democratic movement marches forward. Afterwards, with the victory of the national democratic revolution, their generation will assume a big share in building socialism in the Philippines. We must pay attention to arousing, mobilizing and organizing our little children." □

some of Aquino's most stinging attacks prior to martial law.

## CO-OPTATION GAME

Ferdinand Marcos is no political innocent and knows his rival well. The "Council of Leaders" invitation is actually a response to a "normalization" proposal presented by Aquino himself.

Marcos must both keep a close watch on his old foe and discredit him as an position leader. He quickly recognized the potential of the Aquino proposal, transforming it to imply a form of collaboration with the regime. Aquino responded by reiterating proposals for a free press and national elections.

Somewhere it seems the deal has broken down—at least temporarily. But the pressure on Marcos from the U.S. remains. If he can devise a way to co-opt—or appear to co-opt—Aquino into his regime, he may be able to solve several key problems at once. He can remove an annoying source of pressure from the U.S., destroy the credibility of a key rival and, at the same time, preclude the consolidation of the "Third Force" as a political entity.

It is impossible at this point to predict which of these two equally crafty politicians will come out on top in the skirmishes ahead. But Aquino's potential presence on the scene opens a new range of political possibilities and signals an intensification of the struggle between Marcos and his right-wing opposition. □

## Aquino Release . . .

Continued from page 1

Aquino's conditions and his possible release.

A decision to release Aquino is a major one for the Marcos regime and entails a degree of risk. Despite his years in prison, Aquino retains both a wide following and a great deal of political savvy. His charisma and organizational abilities might provide the necessary spark to galvanize the reactionary opposition into a credible "Third Force."

This possibility lies behind the apparent government indecision over what to do with its internationally best-known political prisoner. According to Sheila Ocampo of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo does not want to see Aquino in exile to complicate the work of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, on the other hand, does not want him free in the Philippines for fear that any harm befalling him will be blamed on his ministry. The strong-willed Imelda Marcos, busy gearing up for a renewed Deputy Prime Minister campaign, does not want him freed at all. Mrs. Marcos was the butt of



## Women's Group Revives "Draft Imelda" Move

Shortly after Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine dictator, returned from her p to the U.S. last November, a pro-government women's organization launched a movement to draft Imelda for Deputy Prime Minister, eventually to become her husband's successor.

Mrs. Polly Cayetano, president of United Women for a New Society, recommended that President/Prime Minister Marcos name a reliable deputy. She continued to say that her group believed that the 50-year-old wife of the president merited such a post.

A year ago, various groups within government circles made similar proposals, but dropped their move quietly as allegations floated around that President Marcos was creating a dynasty.

Observers in the Philippines, according to Sheila Ocampo of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, suspect that the latest move is only the first step in a renewed campaign to place Imelda in the deputy position. They expect the full-blown campaign to begin after the January 30 elections. □