

MARTIAL LAW TO BE LIFTED?

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By **JUAN CRISOSTOMO**
Special to the Ang Katipunan

Reports from the Philippines indicate that within a couple of weeks, President Ferdinand E. Marcos is going to lift martial

law. One might think that the event, long awaited by millions of Filipinos, would be anticipated with anxious enthusiasm. Instead, people from all walks of life face the event with studied disinterest.

In the past month, Marcos and his lieutenants have gradually revealed what the "lifting" of martial law means to them. The more they have explained, the less interested people have be-

come. It has become evident in fact that this "lifting" of martial law means very little indeed.

After martial law is lifted:

- Political prisoners will remain in jail without trial; arrests

will continue to be made without warrants;

- Travel abroad will continue to be restricted;

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Ang KATIPUNAN

National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)

VOLUME VII, Number 1

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BENGUET MINERS WALK OUT SEE PAGE 3



Igorot mineworker drills for gold in Benguet's tunnels—2,000 feet underground.

(Fortune)

75th Anniversary of Hawaiian-Filipinos:

IMELDA BACKS OUT OF OPENING CEREMONY

By **DEAN ALEGADO**
AK Correspondent

Honolulu, HI—Imelda Marcos failed to show up for the opening ceremony of the 75th anniversary celebration of Filipino immigration to Hawaii. This constitutes a big victory for the anti-martial law movement as well as other members of the Hawaii Filipino community here who campaigned actively against her participation.

A few days before the December 20th opening ceremony the Philippine Consulate announced that Mrs. Marcos had decided not to come. No doubt, Imelda's no-show was forced by the sharp controversy which broke out over her invitation by the 75th Anniversary Commission to be the "special guest of honor" at the ceremony.

Various community groups and individuals led by the Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP) and the KDP, opposed the invitation saying that Imelda's presence and the active role of the Marcos government in the community celebration would "undermine and make a mockery of the aims of the year-long festivities." They also accused the Marcos government and its local supporters of attempting to use the 75th anniversary events to promote the "New Society" in Hawaii.

The movement against Imelda's visit was organized by two

groups, one based in the Filipino community called the Concerned Filipinos for the 75th Anniversary, and another, a coalition including non-Filipino community groups, called the Coalition Against Imelda's Visit.

These two groups were able to rally substantial community support in demanding that the 75th Anniversary Commission reconsider its invitation to Imelda and to make the recognition of Filipino contributions and heritage in Hawaii as the highlight of the statewide celebrations. The two groups attended meetings of the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC), held press conferences, distributed thousands of leaflets, sent letters to the daily newspapers, and directly confronted the Commission.

Pro-Marcos Forces Frustrated

The controversy over Imelda Marcos' visit became such a big issue in the Filipino and broader Hawaii community that the two largest Honolulu newspapers printed editorials supporting the concerns raised by the Coalition Against Imelda's Visit and the Concerned Filipinos.

Imelda's cancellation was a big disappointment for the local pro-Marcos forces who lost an opportunity to conduct a high-volume pro-martial law propaganda in Hawaii.

To members of the 7th Anniversary...
Continued on page 5

Racist Violence Increases

Attacks Move Next Door to Pinoys

By **ANITA BORJA**

Contra Costa, CA - Ten separate incidents of racial violence against three Black families in West Contra Costa County have spread an atmosphere of tension and outrage in this part of Northern California that threatens to engulf numerous Filipino families here.

The families - the Irelands, the Handys and the Presleys - are living with the anxiety over what might come next from the racist vandals who have attacked their homes.

The lawns of all three families are scorched from crosses burned on them. The shrubs around the Handy house were put on fire. A pick-up truck rammed into the wall of the Ireland house, smashing a window. Rocks, garbage, and stinkbombs were hurled on their property. Even more frequently, racist taunts and physical threats are barraged on the residents.

Willie, the Irelands' 15-year-old son had to be sent out of state for his safety. The unmistakable Ku Klux Klan initials were scrawled on walls and cars of the victims as the incidents occurred.

Continued on page 7

Filipino Student Mauled by Racists

By **LENI MARIN**
AK Correspondent

"After having gone through such a brutal racist experience, I now feel so paranoid for being a minority more than ever before," stated Dionnie Dionisio, a Filipino student who was recently beaten up by six white males.

On Dec. 5, around 11:30 p.m., Dionnie, Roberto Samson and Jun Bermudez boarded an elevator at the 4th floor of Terry Hall, a dormitory inside the University of Washington (UW) campus. Roberto was smoking a cigarette as they entered the elevator and they were joined by a group of six white men.

Inside the elevator one of the white men started to make nasty comments at Roberto's smoking—how foreigners "are uncivilized," "do not have good manners," and other racist slurs.

Insulted by this verbal abuse, the Filipinos responded that the man should have asked Roberto to put out the cigarette instead of making all those comments. Suddenly, the white man jumped on Roberto, to the surprise of Dionnie and Jun.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

WATCH OUT FOR THE "NEW RIGHT"

Ronald Reagan's inauguration takes place against a backdrop of rising racist crimes against non-whites and increasing amplification of neo-fascist ideas among a wide section of the U.S. population.

The newspapers are getting filled with reports of Klan attacks and fortunately, more and more progressive political forces are taking steps to counteract such racist violence. Combatting the Klan and the nazis however, is necessary not just because the specific crimes and injustices they commit have to be stopped. Fighting these fascist groups has broader political importance.

For example, the extremism displayed by the Klan in calling for the elimination of blacks and non-whites makes the "moderate racism" and "dignified" bigotry of other right-wing forces appear acceptable and legitimate. The Klan's atrociousness can obscure the inherent racism and national chauvinism of the Right-to-Lifers and the Moral Majority, not to mention Reagan's cabinet. Even now, these forces can openly profess that they are indeed "of the Right" but not of "the far Right" as if an essential distinction exists.

This goes to show that both the armed and uniformed "far Right" and the business-suited "moderate rightists" have to be checked with equal militance. Their open agitation taken as a whole has an impact on the public consciousness that cannot be underestimated.

Right-wing propaganda is insidious. It manipulates the insecurities produced by the crisis of U.S. capitalism itself among the white sectors of the working class and turns them against imaginary enemies.

At the root of right-wing propaganda is the ideology of nascent American neo-fascism. This ideology asserts that the U.S. is the "greatest nation on earth and no two-bit colored nation better mess with us." That Americans are white, English-speaking, god-fearing and patriotic. That these hardworking white people need no welfare. That they live as loving families where the man is the master and the woman knows her place.

This ideology is often packaged in demagogic demands that strike a sympathetic chord among many white workers.

For example, anti-ERA campaigners conjure up the catastrophic dissolution of the "American family" should equal rights for women be legislated. With this simple stroke what is obscured is the fact that families have long been disintegrating, not due to women's gains but due to the ravages of the capitalist system itself.

Or when the Right cries "defend our neighborhoods!" it provokes in the popular imagination a Norman Rockwell vision of a non-existent flock of loving, good white neighbors living along tree-shaded lanes, under the watchful gaze of a church steeple - with no blacks in sight. What better way to rally support for the exclusion of non-whites than by depicting an "American Dream" under siege by aliens or coloreds trying to move in?

Severe economic and social upheaval caused by the defeat of U.S. imperialism abroad, the resulting perceived loss of "national pride," competition from other capitalist countries, inflation, social dislocation and unemployment make the white sectors receptive to right-wing "explanations" that the blacks, foreigners and the godless international communists are the "cause of it all." The Right reinforces deepseated fears and prejudices and heightens unrealistic popular aspirations at the expense of non-whites, the foreign born and other nations.

If unchecked, the Right's campaign for "white rights" and American supremacy in the world can dramatically influence the social psychology to the extent that a political climate can emerge that is hostile to the exercise of civil liberties, equal rights for minorities, and supportive of imperialist aggression against countries seeking their independence.

In a relatively short period, the Right has gained a considerable amount of legitimacy and noticeable success in affecting the political atmosphere. Reagan's election for one, signifies the foothold it has gained within the Republican Party giving it the opportunity to gradually turn its ideology into governmental policies that openly promote racism and imperialist wars. This just underscores the looming danger left and progressive forces have to confront for the sake of the U.S. people themselves and the world at large. □



"Ennoww, I will lift martial law . . ."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Manila is not the Philippines

Your article on Leyte and some of the problems of the people there is very interesting. Could you do similar articles on other provinces and how they are doing under the present government? There is a tendency for Filipino newspapers here and the foreign media to focus only on events in Metro-Manila. While it is the political and economic center of the country, it is not the whole Philippines. I am sure the situation in other parts of the country is much worse although it is not being reported as much as happenings in Manila are.

L. Desierto
Los Angeles, CA

Our Days are Numbered . . .

Congratulations for a wonderful "People's Calendar." I bought a few to give to friends. As they look at the days and months they can be reminded of the actual life of the Filipino community here. I hope you will do this every year.

L. G.
New York, NY

Thanks Ross . . .

Enclosed is a \$20.00 donation to the

Ang Katipunan. Merry Christmas to you all.

Ross Brillantes
Houston, TX

Act Now or Pay Later

Now that Ronald Reagan is president will this mean Marcos is going to stay forever? Reagan has gone on record saying the U.S. should help regimes fighting leftist movements. Is this a blank check for Marcos so that he can be even more repressive than he is now? Filipinos should really start being active now because I think it will get worse in the Philippines.

R.N. Capuli
Providence, RI

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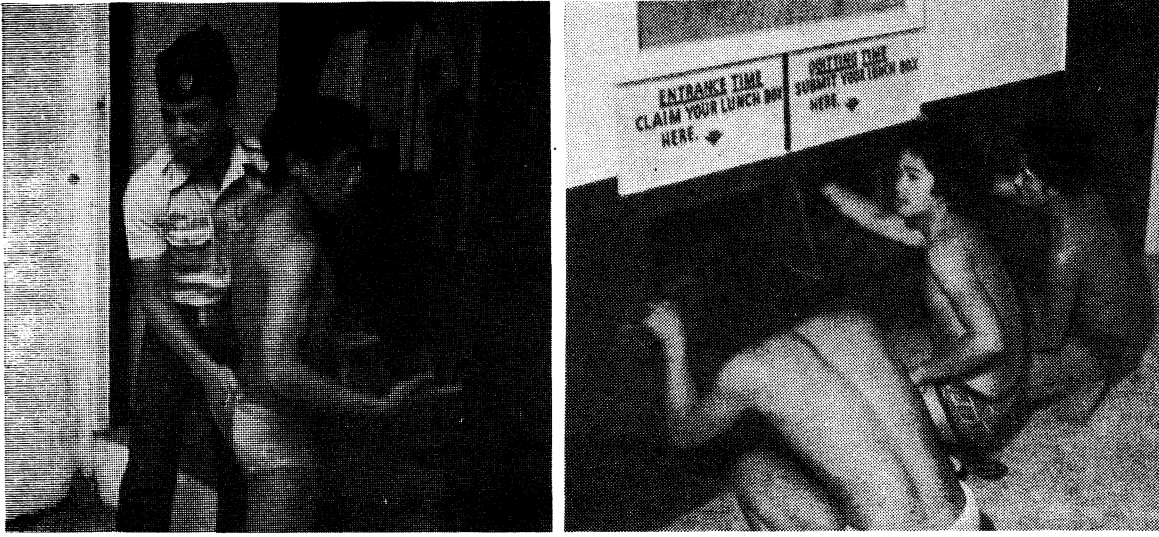
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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Benguet Miners Walk Out



Miners are strip-searched for stolen ore (left). Awaiting their carefully searched lunch boxes (right).

In one of the largest labor actions since the declaration of martial law, close to 6,000 mine-workers walked off their jobs at Benguet Consolidated, Inc. (BCI), the Philippines' largest gold mine last January 5.

The action is the culmination of 10 frustrating months of bargaining between labor and management in an effort to arrive at a three-year collective bargaining agreement.

It also occurred at a particularly sensitive time for the regime. For only a week earlier President Marcos had announced that, in spite of the "lifting" of martial law this month, the current ban on strikes will remain in effect.

The issues at stake in the Benguet controversy include wages, housing allowances, seniority pay and optional retirement. Key among these is wages.

40¢ Controversy

The Benguet miners, working in dark, damp and hot tunnels deep within the Cordillera highlands earn ₱12 (\$1.60) per day. Since February of last year, the workers' union has been pushing for a ₱5 (\$.67) daily raise for 1980-82.

Management, an American

banking firm, New York Investments, whose partner is Ayala Investment and Development Corp., has offered only ₱2 (\$.27). The miners' union finds this offer unacceptable and bases its rejection on a thoroughgoing study of the mine's operations and profits.

The 5,897 workers at BCI produced ₱191 million worth of gold from January to June of 1980. Of this, only ₱30.3 million, or 15.8% went to pay the workers' wages while the American banking firm and Ayala Corp. pocketed the remaining ₱158.7 million.

Union computations reveal that each worker produces ₱23.47 worth of raw material per hour spent in the mine's dark tunnels. Of this, he receives ₱3.97 while the owner receives ₱19.50.

Bribes, Harassment

According to the union, management attempted to bribe the union leadership into accepting the ₱2 wage increase by offering them ₱200,000 with promises of higher wages and promotions.

Their refusal was followed by varying forms of harassment.

Some union members were accused of collecting gold dust and criminal charges were filed. Others were given longer working hours and forced onto leave without pay.

Union meetings were prohibited in the mining camps and many were forced to work overtime or on days off. Workers were beaten up by security guards and goons.

Observers here still do not know what finally provoked the strike after 10 months of bargaining. But they are studying the development with keen interest.

The reason is Marcos has drawn a good deal of both domestic and international attention with his recent promises of normalization and lifting martial law while at the same time assuring foreign investors that their interests will remain protected.

Should Marcos give in to the strike's pressure, his foreign investors would not be very happy. Treating the strikers with iron gloves, however, would erode even more the credibility of his already dubious normalization promises. A day after the strike, the government ordered the strikers to go back to work. □

Buod ng mga Balita

April 6 Movement Urges Japanese Prime Minister to Cancel RP Trip

The "April 6th Liberation Movement (A6LM)" has once again threatened to turn a significant international event into an opportunity to publicize its opposition to the Marcos regime.

In an open letter to Japan's Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki dated December 23, the group, which claims credit for the recent spate of Manila bombings, begged Suzuki to cancel his Philippine visit scheduled for January 8.

The group threatened both Japanese tourists and multinationals saying, "It is quite possible that the extreme security measures which the Marcos regime will take, particularly in view of this appeal, may succeed in guaranteeing your own personal safety. But your disregard will place in jeopardy the safety of every Japanese multinational and every Japanese tourist who may stay in our country after you have gone."

ASTA Bombing

The most sensational of the bombings claimed by the April 6th Liberation Movement occurred during the opening session of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) Manila convention last October 20 and injured 12. Marcos had just addressed the crowd and was seated 20 rows from the blast.

In response to the bombing, Marcos issued an arrest list and ordered a major crackdown. The movement insists, however, in spite of Marcos' claims to have caught them all, that the bulk of them remain free and ready to strike again. □

Opposition Figure Slain

In a clear-cut case of political assassination, former Congressman and Pampanga Governor Jose B. Lingad was shot down while waiting for his tires to be checked last December 16.

Lingad, member of the National Union for Liberation (NUL), ran for Pampanga Governor against President Marcos' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) candidate in last year's scandal-charged local elections. When the KBL candidate was declared winner, Lingad presented a formal electoral protest to the Supreme Court. The Commission on Elections declared his protest moot.

Lingad pulled up before a vulcanizing shop in Pampanga early in the morning of the 16th. While the shop owner checked his tires, a white delivery truck stopped nearby. A man in his mid-20s got out, approached Lingad, fired three shots, and drove off.

At press time, no suspects have been charged in the case despite the presence of witnesses.

Political opposition figures, who have joined together to form the United Democratic Opposition (UNIDO), such as former President Diosdado Macapagal and Senator Gerardo Roxas, expressed outrage over the killing. "We hope that the cold-blooded killing of Congressman Lingad is not a pattern to terrorize the opposition because we will not be terrorized . . ." commented UNIDO leaders. □

IAFP-Canada Protests Slated Trudeau Visit to R.P.



Trudeau with Filipino community leader.

"Indeed the Filipino people will be very honored to receive a visit from the Prime Minister of Canada but not if it means, or could be taken for, an endorsement of a hated regime," commented a spokesperson for the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP) in a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

The IAFP, along with a number of human rights organizations has launched a vigorous protest against the planned visit, announced in a Vancouver newspaper last October 30. Trudeau was reported to have accepted an invitation extended by First Lady Imelda Marcos. Dates for the visit have not yet been announced.

"Such a visit will be seen by some in Canada as a support for the Marcos government," said a letter to the Prime Minister from the Division of World Outreach of the United Church of Canada. Other Canadian church groups announced their intentions to write letters of protest as well.

The IAFP added that the projected visit, seen as a means to develop political support for the Prime Minister among the 80,000 Filipino-Canadians could easily backfire given the opposition to martial rule among the silent majority of Filipino Canadians. □

LABOR SEEKS INT'L SUPPORT

Philippine labor leader Felixberto Olalia issued an "open letter to the workers of the world" seeking support for their Filipino counter-parts, December 12.

Speaking for the *Kilusang Mayo Uno*, (KMU, May 1st Movement), Olalia, 77, asked international labor groups to pressure the Philippine government into releasing some 30 labor leaders currently under detention.

At the same press conference, he criticized the United Nation's International Labor Organization (ILO) for holding its Asian regional conference in Manila "without even touching on urgent labor matters, particularly the continued detention of labor leaders."

The KMU spokesman, discussing the conditions of Filipino workers under the Marcos regime, told the press that more than 40 labor organizers had been massacred or reported missing as a result of their union activities.

Militant Force on Labor Scene

The KMU is the newest and most militant of Philippine labor organizations. Coming into being only last May 1st with a rally attracting 30,000 workers, the KMU has targetted foreign monopoly control over the Philippine

economy as the source of workers' woes.

Much to the consternation of the regime, the KMU has, in this short time, become the dominant force on the labor scene, particularly in Metro-Manila.

The KMU's strong advocacy of workers' rights has a distinct appeal to Filipino workers at a time of acute economic pressure. Philippine Labor Minister Blas Ople himself last month admitted that over 56,000 workers had lost their jobs in an eight-month period, a figure which many observers consider modest.

Marcos—A New Promise

It thus came as somewhat less than a surprise when, two days after Olalia's appeal, Marcos boldly announced that, by presidential decree, workers' cost-of-living allowances are to be integrated into their base pay.

Cost-of-living allowances have long been a sore point among Filipino workers. In response to continuous agitation for higher wages since the declaration of martial law, Marcos has held the minimum wage down to ₱14 (roughly \$2) and offered instead occasional cost-of-living adjustments.

If implemented, the adjustments would bring their pay to ₱26.34 (\$3.85). But, claim the

workers, few, if any, ever see them. Meanwhile, overtime and bonuses continue to be calculated on the basis of their meager wage.

Observers of the Philippine labor scene are not overly optimistic about the president's pledge. Although he promised a January 1 implementation of the decree, "I'll believe it when I see it," commented one. "Each time he promises a wage increase, he waits for two years before he implements it."

Foreign Investors—Displeasure Likely

Others cited the likely displeasure of foreign investors, whom Marcos has so eagerly tempted with the promise of cheap labor, at the prospect of an abrupt change. And, they point out, the recent announcement that strikes will continue to be banned even after the lifting of martial law, leaves the workers with few legal options to demand fulfillment of the decree.

"It may be a hollow promise," commented Rene Cruz of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition, "but the very fact that Marcos felt obliged to make it indicates that he is afraid of the growing militance of Filipino labor—and he has good reason to be." □

Worsening the Divisions Within the Philippine Clergy

By VICTORIA LUNA

The forthcoming February visit of Pope John Paul II to Manila, does not represent an endorsement of the Marcos regime, Jaime Cardinal Sin, head of the Philippine Catholic Church announced late last month.

In an effort to deny the political character of the Pope's visit, Sin told the Manila Rotary Club that the visit was aimed instead at "fortifying the people of Asia in their opposition to communism."

Both Sin's denial and his anti-communist assertion point to the controversy surrounding the pontiff's week-long visit, scheduled to begin on February 17.

A Politicized Clergy

Much of the Philippine clergy has been rapidly politicized in the years since the declaration of martial law. Many, particularly parish priests and nuns who work in close contact with the poor, support the National Democratic Front and the New People's Army. Some have even joined the Communist Party of the Philippines.

They are thus likely to resent Sin's characterization of communists before the Rotary Club as those "who sugarcoat their Godlessness and their malevolent intentions with sanctimonious



Pope John Paul II

assertions of nationalism and nation-building."

John Paul II—Reactionary Views

Pope John Paul II has already enunciated his position on the need of clergy to stay away from politics—particularly progressive politics.

He made that point before a gathering of clergy from all over Latin America in Puebla, Mexico in 1979. The fact that the continent is the home of the popular "theology of liberation" was not lost on observers.

In other visits, the pontiff seemed to be consciously undoing some of the progressive

steps taken following Vatican II under Pope John XXIII. For example, he has urged nuns to return to wearing their habits.

Catholic and non-Catholic women alike were shocked by his observations during his 1980 visit to the United States. He not only reaffirmed his opposition to family planning but he also essentially defined women's role as one more appropriate to the Middle Ages than to the 20th century.

Polarization Possible

Pope John Paul II is proceeding to the Philippines despite appeals by Philippine support groups, and religious organizations in Belgium, Holland, England, Ireland, France, and Italy that he cancel the trip.

For all of Cardinal Sin's denial of political implications to the visit, religious progressives look toward it with a degree of concern. The potential benefit that Marcos can reap from the visit is one thing. But statements like those made in Puebla could aggravate already serious divisions between the Philippine church hierarchy and the politicized among its rank and file, resulting in a sharp polarization which both Sin and the Pope might ultimately come to regret. □

Filipinas Face Expulsion from England

London—Two hundred seventy-seven workers, mostly women from the Philippines, currently face "removal" from this country by the British Home Office.

All are charged with entering the country holding invalid resident work permits. Britain's immigration Act of 1971 states that an entry certificate is invalid if the immigrant is deemed to have entered the country by deception.

They Had Children

According to British authorities the "deception" committed by the workers was that they failed to declare they had children. Evidence shows that the majority of the women involved were unaware that their having children had anything to do with their work status.

Regulations imposed by the British Department of Employment limit work permits to applicants who do not have children under 16. This regulation was imposed principally to prevent resident domestic workers from bringing children over to live in accommodations provided by their employers.

In November 1979, a test case led to the ruling that "non-declaration of children" in visa application constituted deception. A later case subsequently established that concealment of a material fact, even if the visa applicant was *unaware* it was relevant, made them illegal.

Implementation of this rein-

terpretation of the law has since resulted in the deportation of 43 workers and the review of the residing status of 50 more—close to 200 more are nervously waiting for the Home Office to zero in on them.

Trade Unions to the Defense

British trade unions have taken up active concern over the fate of these women, holding demonstrations at places where the women work.

Delegations from various labor groups have met with Timothy Raison, Minister of Immigration, demanding "compassion" for the women who had been recruited to take up difficult domestic work in private homes, and seriously understaffed hospitals and hotels.

Recruiters Untouched

Raison dismissed the explanation that in most cases the deception is carried out by the recruitment agencies and not by the workers themselves. He also ignored pleas that "the punishment" is grossly out of proportion especially in light of this fact. Raison repeatedly stated that the courts have decided he is merely implementing the law.

Labor groups, however, mention a positive side to the situation. Commented one: "The Filipino community in Britain, unaccustomed to collective protest and hesitant to confront the British authorities, has united to face this threat." □

Fifth in a Series:

The Real Alternative: National Democracy

5. Support a genuine land reform program that can liberate the peasant masses from feudal and semi-feudal exploitation and raise agricultural production through cooperation.

Seventy-five percent of the Philippine population, producers of 70% of all the country's exports, till the land they do not and cannot ever own under the present system. For these producers this condition has changed little in over 400 years.

Feudal relations, already in existence in the sultanates of Mindanao, were instituted throughout the archipelago by the Spanish colonialists. They continue to this day.

Present-day hacenderos exact high rents, menial servitude and tributes from their land's sharecroppers.

Practices such as usury and price manipulation further increase peasant exploitation. It is not uncommon for unborn generations to be bound to the land tilled by their great grandfathers.

Imperialists Strengthen Feudalism

With the coming of the U.S. imperialists, feudalism and semi-feudalism were retained. The resulting economic backwardness has ensured that the Philippines remains a source of raw materials such as sugar, hemp, coconut and other agricultural products for U.S. imperialism. Later, legislation passed by Filipino landed bureaucrats spurred the growth of U.S.-owned agribusiness. Many tenant farmers, unable to subsist on their share, were forced off the land into wage farming. Mostly nonunionized, farm workers often are reduced to wage slavery, and prey to seasonal labor.

Marcos Land Reform—A Failure

One month after the declaration of martial law, in an attempt to defuse peasant dissatisfac-

tion, President Marcos laid the "cornerstone of the New Society." Issuing Presidential Decree No. 27, he promised "land to the landless." Of course, he never intended to wipe out feudalism, being a big landlord himself.

Even as a palliative, the New Society's land reform program quickly proved ineffective. Land transfers, limited to certain farm lands, affected little over 1% of landless peasants in the country. Actually very few of these farmers will be able to pay the 15 annual installments, at prices set by their landlords, to gain title to "their" lands.

Technological innovations remain financially beyond the reach of a farmer barely sustaining his family on the government-imposed 1.5 hectare plot. The production methods enforced, while suitable for large-scale farming, are inappropriate here.

The plight of farm laborers is conveniently ignored by Marcos' "land reform." Restrictions on union organizing and the ban on strikes leave these workers with no channel to voice their concerns.

The National Democratic Alternative

The National Democratic movement sees the land question as a crucial part of its program. Stating that "the solution of the land problem is the main content of a truly democratic revolution," the NDF's program advocates:

- The complete destruction of feudalism towards the genuine distribution of land to the landless;

- Nationalization of all imperialist agribusiness holdings;

These goals however can only be completed when the movement seizes political power and actually runs the country. Meanwhile, these goals are already being partially implemented through:

- A policy of rent reduction and elimination of usury as realistic steps towards the eman-

ipation of the peasantry;

- Organizing trade unions for farm workers in agribusinesses that would demand better working and living conditions; and peasant associations for farm workers in large haciendas to fight for fair wages. These organizations are also to fight for genuine land reform.

- Raising agricultural productivity through simple exchange of labor, mutual aid and cooperatives. Fair prices arranged between peasants and merchants.

The step-by-step implementation of this agrarian revolutionary program is in the main carried out by the New People's Army. The piece-by-piece erosion of landlord economic dominance serves to gradually destroy the political dominance of this class in the countryside. Arming the peasant masses is important if they are to protect any of their short-term gains from the landlord's attempts to recover their losses.

Not surprisingly, the only parts of the country in which the revolutionary land reform program has been implemented with *full success* are those already liberated. Political and military control of the New People's Army (NPA) in these areas allows peasants who have freed themselves from the economic control of their landlords to begin to build a new life—one designed to satisfy their own needs.

At the same time, the strong support of the rural population is essential for the success of the protracted guerrilla war waged by the NPA in the countryside. This war will eventually enable the national democratic movement to seize state power which will in turn enable it to complete the destruction of the exploitative and oppressive system of feudalism and semi-feudalism. In its stead, a cooperative effort to transform agriculture from backward to progressive can be systematically launched. □

NPA: Destroying Marcos' Army Piece by Piece



A 21-man patrol was wiped out by members of the New People's Army (NPA) early last December, military reports said.

The patrol, which included two policemen, 12 Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) members, and six civilians, was pursuing the NPA in Asuncion, Davao del Norte. The NPA had earlier conducted a revolutionary trial and executed an accused town official.

The people's army then took possession of the patrol's 13 long firearms and two revolvers.

Other Military Victories

Meanwhile, belated reports from the Philippine underground include various NPA military victories in the past months.

- **Cagayan**—Five troopers of the 514th PC Company died in an NPA attack July 2. The NPA unit confiscated an M-60 machine gun, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, an armalite, three gre-

nades, uniforms and military documents.

- **Pampanga**—Thirteen carbines and lots of ammunition were seized during simultaneous raids on CHDF units in two sitios in one barrio in Mabalacat. Catching the government militia unprepared, the NPAs quickly disarmed them. The Red Fighters then withdrew safely without firing a single shot.

- **Albay**—An August raid on a PC-CHDF detachment in Guinobatan added five rifles to an NPA team's fire power. The government forces ran helter-skelter, leaving their guns, when the NPA started firing.

The NPA's successes in all cases were made possible with the close assistance of the residents of the areas. Acting as the "eyes and ears" of the liberation fighters, the masses reported detailed government troop movements enabling the NPA to plan accordingly. □

Blue Shield Workers Stand Firm

Strike: Make or Break for Clerks' Union

By JESSICA ORDONA
AK Correspondent

San Francisco—"Our very existence as organized workers is at stake in this strike. Through the union, we have made gains to help us support our families and cope with the cost of living... we're striking to maintain those gains!" exclaimed Barbara Pottgen, union steward at Blue Shield and member of the Negotiating Committee representing the Office and Professional Employees Union (OPEIU) Local 3.

Already a month old, the strike is seen as significant in that 80% of Blue Shield workers are women, and two-thirds of the labor force are minorities. Filipino workers, 360 of them, comprise one-third of the work force.

In addition, Blue Shield is the only unionized insurance company in San Francisco, where clerical work is one of the largest sources of employment.

Filipinos Join Picket Lines

Filipinos have been visibly participating in the strike. They have joined picket lines and brought members of their families for support.

They can also be seen exchanging shouts with scabs, many of whom were activated by Blue Shield from application rosters.



Blue Shield strikers on picket line.

(AK Photo)

A Filipina worker, Helen Cuya, laid down in front of a forklift truck to stop it from making a delivery two days after the strike began.

Several strikers expressed their concerns at a recent meeting with members of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), Bay Area Chapter of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization, and the Filipino People's Far West Convention — organizations who are actively providing support to the strike.

"We need to let people know about the issues at Blue Shield," commented an active union member who wishes to remain unnamed. "We want to organize

more, and strengthen our workers here to take up the work needed to win the strike."

Other strikers decried the upping of production standards, where workers are pressured to "process 400 claims per day or 50 per hour per person."

They are also demanding that the company be held accountable for the health and safety of workers, "especially the computer operators who are exposed to radiation from the computer terminals." Over half of Blue Shield employees work on cathode ray tubes or computer terminals. The computers enable management to count the work done and check errors.

Scabs Hit

A Filipino union member also denounced Filipino workers who turned scabs. "There is a rumor that after the holidays, there will be more Filipinos going back to work. As of now, 71 have turned to scabbing. But there are more of us outside on strike."

Nonie Espiritu of the KDP decried the practice of scabbing as a "divisive tactic used by management against workers."

"Immigrant labor is very important to business. It is looked at as a more controllable labor force because most immigrants are ignorant of their rights and are therefore hesitant to fight back. All immigrants must there-

fore realize that they have to join unions for their protection—and not just to allow themselves to be used as divisive tools, as scabs," explained Espiritu. "In the long run, these scabs also stand to lose if the union is defeated. On the other hand, they will also reap the benefits should the union win the struggle."

"Scabs—regardless of whether they are Filipinos or not—should be condemned for their individualistic and self-serving motives," continued Espiritu.

Strikers are given weekly benefit checks from the union and material support is being actively solicited from the community. Presently, a core of active Filipino strikers are organizing to rally the Filipino community's support.

Campaigns Launched

The union is launching campaigns to win broader support from the public.

A boycott of the insurance company has already won support from Charles Lamb, head of the Restaurant and Bartenders Union, Local 2 and the United Auto Workers, Local 560.

The union is also launching a public pressure campaign aimed at involving the city of San Francisco in the strike. Union officials will bring the issue directly to the city's Board of Supervisors.

(For information and contributions, call the OPEIU strike headquarters: 415-673-3353.)

Filipino Student Mauled . . .

Continued from front page

Meanwhile, the automatic doors of the elevator opened and Roberto and Jun, who were close to it, stepped out.

Before Dionnie realized what was happening, the elevator door closed to leave him with the white men. The six started to shower him with heavy blows, mostly in the face. "It was useless to fight back, so I had to bear all the physical assault," said Dionnie.

When he was near unconsciousness, the six left him with the intentions of pursuing the two other Filipinos. Fortunately, another resident saw him on the floor and called the police.

Dionnie was hospitalized for three days with a broken nose, impaired eyesight and a near fractured cheekbone. His whole face was swollen for two days. Dionnie's sole means of financial support is his G.I. educational benefits and he was lucky he had some medical insurance coverage.

Racial Atmosphere on Campus

During the week of this incident there were noticeable activities of the Ku Klux Klan Youth Core on campus. Flyers headlined with "Bored with school or just uptight about niggers," were posted on dormitory bulletin boards, distributed in libraries and cafeterias.

The flyers also accused minority students of taking away educational privileges from white students and called for a "get tough policy" with all minorities. The flyer encouraged white students to join the KKK Youth Core.

These activities have been so rampant that all the major newspapers carried lengthy reports on them. However, the University of Washington administration has not made any moves against these racist activities.

Police Indifference

During the initial questioning by the police, Dionnie provided substantial descriptions of the six men. While still in the hospital, he was told by the police that they had no leads and they assumed that the six men were not UW students but outsiders.

A week later, a UW detective, Darrel Stuver, talked with Dionnie. The detective verified his statement but the last words he got from him was, "If you see those guys again, make sure to give me a call."

"I felt so frustrated and angry at this response. The detective literally shifted the burden to me in locating those people," commented Dionnie. He later found out that the UW police did not even take any steps in questioning dorm residents and staff.

Klan Actions Escalate

The Seattle area has witnessed a string of incidents indicative of the rising Klan activities:

- In May, Wardell Dixon, a black man was brutally beaten by a group of white men while waiting for a bus in West Seattle.

- KKK literature has been seen in industrial workplaces such as the Todd Shipyards, in taverns in Kent, Burien, Renton, and Tukwila.

- In November two cross burnings, only two weeks apart from each other, occurred in Seattle's Central District, a black

residential area, and on Beacon Hill where a good number of the residents are Filipinos, Chinese, and Japanese-Americans. A third cross was also attempted in West Seattle.

- In October, David Duke, former grand wizard of the KKK who has now founded his own organization, the National Association for the Advancement of White People (NAAWP) was in Seattle promoting his new group.

The most recent racist assault took place during the Christmas holidays.

While driving home, Ricky Polintan was stopped by another car with white male passengers. Ricky rolled down his window to hear what they were saying to him. Before Ricky knew it, his face was suddenly sprayed with a fire extinguisher, the chemicals stinging his eyes. The attackers then sped away.

Community Groups Respond

"I am fortunate to know some people doing anti-Klan and anti-racist work. Otherwise, my only recourse would be to hunt down those white guys with a gun. I feel much better now knowing that I am not alone," said Dionnie.

He brought his case to the AntiKlan Network, the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and the National Filipino Immigration Rights Organization of Seattle.

The groups immediately called a press conference and issued a letter of protest to UW President William Gerberding denouncing the incident. They are calling for a thorough investigation of the case and the arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators.

Imelda Backs Out . . .

Continued from front page

versary Commission and the Planning Committee such as Jake Manegdeg, Commission chairperson and Pete Ramos, president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH), Imelda would have brought "prestige" to the event, "attracted people to the opening ceremony," and "brought financial assistance" from the Marcos regime. These wishful thoughts became broken dreams when the bad publicity forced Imelda out and when only 400 people showed up at the opening ceremony on December 20.

Almost all of those who came to the event were members of the community "elite" who hold high government offices in the state and who are examples of those who "made it" in Hawaii. Clearly missing were Filipinos from the immigrant and working class districts of Kalihi, Waipahu, Ewa Beach, and Waiialua.

The only Marcos representatives at the event were the local Philippine Consulate officials. Apologizing for Imelda's absence, Consul Trinidad Alconcel opened his speech saying, "When the giants fail to come, the boys scouts have to take over..."

Added Embarrassments

Adding to the embarrassment of the 75th Commission and the Planning Committee, the 44-member Rizal Park Concert Band who were flown in from the Philippines found they had no housing, transportation or food accommodations. They were finally housed for a few days at the Fort Ruger Armoury near Waikiki and provided food by volunteers.

Meanwhile, four barrio-folks from San Fernando, Pampanga found themselves in a similar

situation. Brought in to build special 12-foot "parols" as Christmas display for the opening ceremony, the four were temporarily housed at the East-West Center without being informed where they were to eat or stay for the duration of their visit. They were promised \$3,000 to pay for the costs of building the giant Christmas lanterns and ended up with only \$300 to build one "parol."

Vigilance Urged

The Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP), warned that the Marcos regime may still try to use the year-round 75th anniversary activities to project the New Society and called on all concerned Filipinos to be vigilant and "to continue opposing any interference" by the Marcos regime in the internal affairs of the Hawaii Filipino community.

Moises Tacazon of the CHRP criticized the local Friends of the Filipino People chapter in Honolulu for turning down the invitation to participate in joint work in the "Coalition Against Imelda's Visit. While the FFP organized a successful press conference which featured two prominent local politicians, Senators Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie, their lack of cooperation tended to split the local anti-martial law movement and create confusion.

While events will be held in the state throughout 1981, the 75th Anniversary Commission has not been able to generate the support and interest it had hoped for from the Filipino community. A growing number of Filipino organizations are beginning to plan their activities independently of the Commission, considering this body more of a hindrance rather than a source of assistance.

Support for AMLC Carolers: "Tremendous!"

New York - As the holiday season comes to an end, the National Christmas caroling campaign of the AntiMartial Law Coalition (AMLC) winds down with its organizers "very proud of this year's accomplishments."

Over the past month, AMLC carolers in the cities of New York, Washington D.C., Chicago, Seattle, San Jose, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal "brought the message of freedom and justice" to over 250 Filipino homes directly reaching close to 2,000 people.

The more than \$7,000 collected nationally to fund the AMLC's work was proof of the enthusiastic support that can be harnessed by the antimartial law work within the Filipino community.

This enthusiastic response and popular community support made everything worthwhile for the caroling teams who braved freezing cold, long drives and late nights, trudging from home to home announcing the message: "have faith...the Christmas of our freedom will come!"

Their message was effective-



AMLC Christmas carolers gathered \$7,000 from their round of visits this year. (AK)

ly delivered through a choreographed program that won undivided attention from its audiences.

The Filipino Christmas songs brought back poignant memories of past holidays in the homeland. The unusual form of "balagtas" portrayed the sharp

contrast between the joys of the Christmas season, and the bitter reality faced by Filipinos under the Marcos regime.

The Filipino audiences could not help but relate to either of the two skit characters who acted out the struggle between the hatred for the Marcos dictator-

ship, and the fear that immobilizes most people. But it was the songs of struggle that brought tears to the eyes of men and women alike.

It was this program that moved audiences across the country - from a lone grandmother in a suburban living room, to a Manhattan office of a doctor, to a family reunion in someone's home, to a big hall where a community organization was having its annual Christmas party.

From coast to coast and as far as Hawaii, the same comments echoed night after night. "I wished I taped the presentation", "Balik kayo uli" (come again), were not uncommon. Almost everyone expressed how touched and impressed they were, and how they wished their friends and relatives could also have seen the presentation.

A lot of Filipinos visited did not stop at wishing. They organized parties among friends, invited the carolers to their gatherings and set other appointments for them. Some even went as far as joining the caroling.

In some areas, carolers were

treated to some pleasant surprises.

In Rockland County, a suburb of New York City with a sizeable concentration of Filipinos, the caroling presentation given at a party ended with community singing. The more than 50 people all joined hands and sang "Ang Bayan Ko", the whole house ringing with voices singing their love for their homeland.

In Oxon Hill, Maryland, the D.C. AMLA sang to the owners of a restaurant. Impressed by the presentation, the customers spontaneously passed the hat and gave their own donations.

Aimee Cruz, National Co-Coordinator of the AMLC and this year's coordinator of the Christmas campaign, commented: "This year, the anti-martial law sentiments of the community are expressed more openly. Because of the AMLC's consistent militancy in exposing the martial law regime, the fear and intimidation of the community are being overcome. From the campaign, we saw graphically that the day to day work of the AMLC is now paying off." □

The Elderly Immigrants

Long, Lonely Days in a Strange Land

By L. Marzan
AK Correspondent

The 10 o'clock Sunday Mass just finished. People streamed out of the small Catholic church on 14th Street in the heart of the Stuyvesant area of Manhattan. Among the crowd were a number of Filipino faces—some of the many Filipinos who live in the area. Many of them are nurses who work in one of the five hospitals nearby.

As the crowd started thinning, Mr. Santiago, a recently arrived elderly Filipino stepped out of the building. He paused at the top of the steps and took a deep breath as if to enjoy the fresh New York City air. To Mrs. Santiago, who emerged from the church right behind her husband, this could very well be the only chance she would get all week to breathe in any fresh air. But she was not interested in fresh air just then. All she wanted to do was to rush home and get out of the cold on this crisp December morning.

To Mr. and Mrs. Santiago their Sunday trip to church is one of the high points of their week. Intimidated by a city that is totally alien and unfamiliar to them, they are normally afraid to venture out on their own—afraid of the subways, afraid of the muggers, afraid of the derelicts who wander the streets in the area. The winter is particularly hard because, in addition to this general intimidation of The City, their fear of the cold keeps them home most of the time.

Home to the Santiagos is a tiny one-room studio apartment which they share with their daughter Linda, her husband and their two children. The elderly couple sleep on a sofa bed pushed against one side of the room, and the daughter and her family sleep on the other side. To divide the room, a kitchen table and four chairs sit in the middle of the room. Except for a few plants by the window, the apartment is completely devoid of any decorations. The kitchen area is no bigger than a large closet. The bathroom is cluttered

with toiletries and pampers for the younger child.

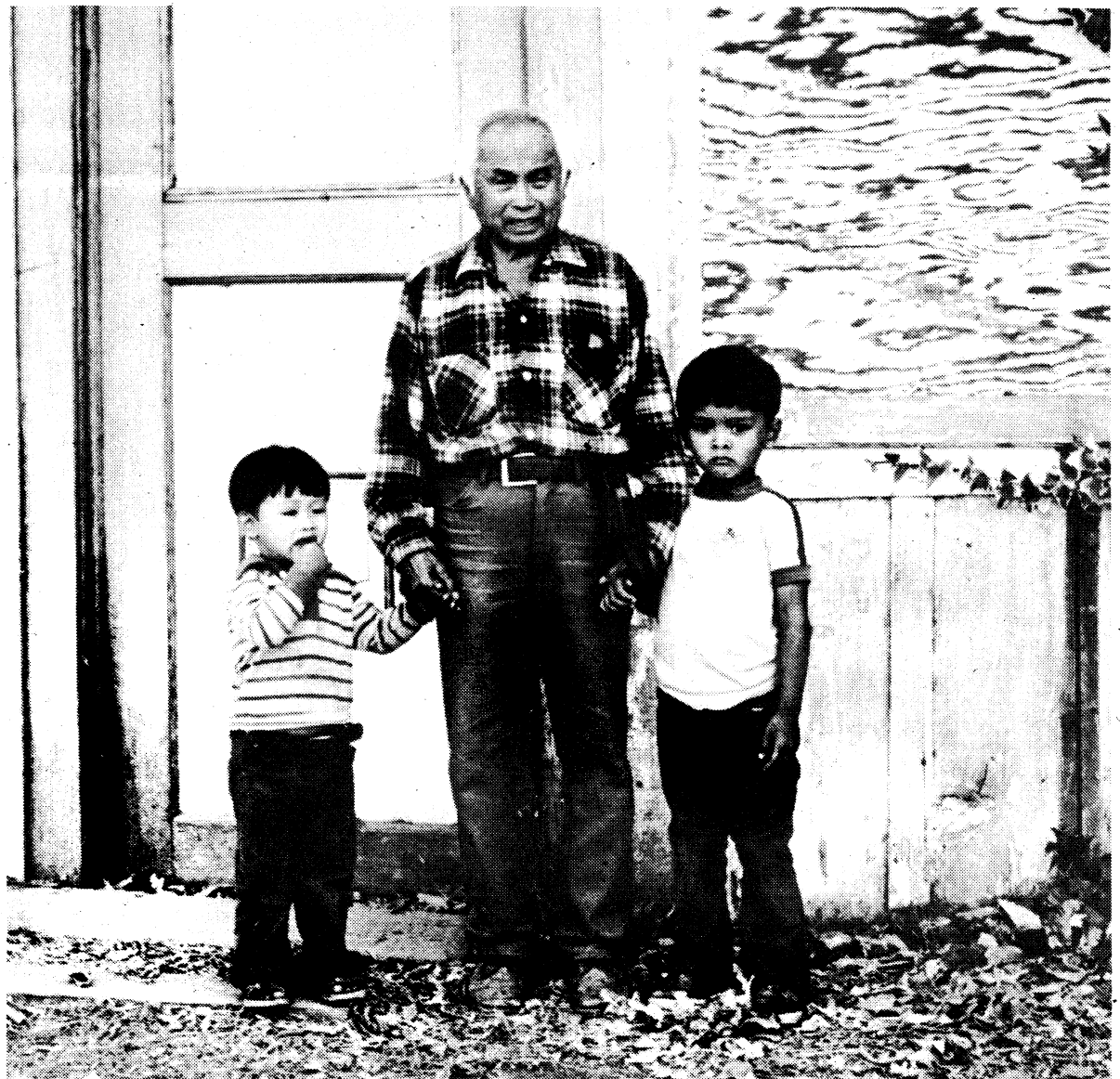
This is where Mr. and Mrs. Santiago spend their days babysitting their grandchildren while Linda and her husband go to work. Day in and day out they sit in the tiny apartment spending hours in front of the television set, the monotony broken only when Mrs. Santiago starts busying herself with lunch or dinner. The summer was a little better. When the weather was good, the elderly couple would bring their grandchildren to Stuyvesant Park. There they would meet other elderly Filipinos and reminisce about the good old days in the Philippines.

Why did Mr. and Mrs. Santiago leave the "good old days" in the Philippines?

Mr. and Mrs. Santiago are two of the increasing number of Filipino elderly who have immigrated to the U.S. recently. Every year thousands of elderly Filipinos decide to leave the Philippines and become the key link in the chain of Filipino migration to this country. In their desire to help their children escape the worsening economic conditions in the homeland, these elderly men and women decide to face unfamiliar places and loneliness.

The case of the Santiagos is typical. Eight years ago their daughter Linda had the opportunity to come to the U.S. as an H-1 nurse. In order to raise the plane fare for her trip, Mr. Santiago had to mortgage the small piece of land that he farmed for their livelihood. After two years Linda married a U.S. citizen and decided to stay and raise her family in the U.S. Before too long it became obvious to the Santiagos that there was no future for their other children in the Philippines. The rate of inflation had increased tenfold since Linda's departure, and opportunities for employment of new graduates was scarce. They could think of no other way to improve their lives but to go to America.

So, by early 1979, petition proceedings were underway to bring Mr. Santiago and his wife



Elderly Filipinos are reuniting with their families in large numbers.

to America. Two months after their arrival the following year, Mr. Santiago started to petition for his three unmarried sons. Thus began the long, lonely wait for the sons to receive their visas to come into the U.S.

But loneliness and monotony are not the only problems faced by these elderly Filipinos. Intimidated by an alien culture and a system that is not responsive to their needs, these elderly go through difficult adjustment periods unaware of their rights as immigrants in this country. Mr. and Mrs. Santiago, for example, have not applied for Supple-

mental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid. Although they are eligible for these benefits, they have not availed themselves of them because they are afraid that receiving them would jeopardize their petitions for their other children. Faced with no income and no form of medical insurance, the elderly Santiagos are forced to be financially dependent on their daughter and son-in-law. A dynamic of deference, loss of pride and resentment thus usually sets in between them.

The list can go on and on. The elderly, just like other immigrants, need to know their rights before

they can demand what are justifiably theirs.

"This country is not good for old folks to live in." This appears to be a popular observation among Filipino senior citizens. "Either you fend for yourself and wait to die alone in some cheap hotel or you end up in a profit-motivated nursing home. In a sense, families get broken up because your children cannot really take care of you anymore, and the government does not provide for the elderly's well-being," many American seniors would themselves observe about their plight. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A Long Night's Watch Against Racism

By WALTER YONN

Log entry dated 2 Jan 81:
 12:30 a.m.—Sheriff's car east on Dolan, turning south
 1:00 a.m.—Sheriff's car west on Dolan
 1:30 a.m.—Early model foreign 4-door sedan (with broken window?); four white men shout at the house: "Get out 'coons'" (a derogatory remark against blacks—Ed.)
 1:40 a.m.—Sheriff's car east on Dolan

Contra Costa, CA—One more cup of lukewarm, oversweetened coffee and casual conversation with my partner . . . so the early morning passes on this volunteer citizens' watch against the Klan and other racists who have been violently attacking the homes of two Black families.

The watch, initiated by a small group of activists, is a heartening response to the harassment of the Handy and Ireland families. For these families, who had lost confidence in the sheriff's willingness to protect them, the presence of volunteers in their homes and outside in cars means being able to sleep again.

My partner, Ernest, a retired teacher, and I sit peering out the frosted windshield. In the darkened car the only light comes from the CB radio on the dashboard.

"Hello, D-1 to B-1. Did you catch that car? Over."

"B-1 here. Sorry, just heard them. Over."

Those were our counterparts in the house—a faceless voice from behind a dimly lit curtain.

The early watches were not as calm. Evenings were filled with screeching cars speeding on collision course, volunteers being followed home by unidentified men, and other incidents that resulted in official complaints lodged with police authorities.

For me, being here brings life and intimacy to a story I had

followed in the pages of the newspapers. The neighborhood, comfortable new homes with well-kept lawns, does not seem so ominous even in the rainy dark. But tonight I become even more sharply aware of the hundreds of Filipino and Filipino-American families living in this suburb. As a Filipino-American myself, I wonder how they are taking all this. Are they as concerned as the other non-white residents here?

Rob, our monitor this evening, tells us.

"Around 20% of the neighbors are truly concerned . . . they want to help. Another 20% are openly antagonistic, they'd like to see us get out of their neighborhood. The majority? Well, they don't care one way or the other."

The concerned 20% are apparently the ones who gave \$60, new shrubs, and some of their time to fix the Handy's yard that was scorched by gasoline fire.

For the volunteer group, being a Good Samaritan has grown to be an enormous project. The round-the-clock, seven-day-a-week operation can require up to 160 people. Over 250 people have participated in the project so far.

The mathematics however are obvious. It is impossible to protect even a small portion of the population in this way, indefinitely. Just think, incidents of racist harassment of Blacks, other non-whites and Jews are erupting all over the county nowadays.

Inside the Irelands' at 2:30 I meet the friendly voices over the radio, the two of them peering out the window into the street. A relative of the family snores on the couch in the living room, an ironing board quickly used this morning before rushing off to work still stands in the hallway, a half-opened bedroom door reveals a lighted blank TV screen, on a table a picture of a son sent to relatives far away because of



threats. The profound racial problems of our society seems to have fallen on this family's shoulders all at one time, and now their home is under siege.

Three a.m., back outside, a car pulls behind us and turns out its lights. There is a brief moment of anxiety . . . but it is only the team that has come to relieve us. Time to go home.

I am finally home and a light rain has started again. Putting my thermos on the kitchen counter, I notice two small stories in the morning paper. A white youth has been arrested in the Handy and Ireland case, more arrests expected to follow. The other story is about a Black family in San Leandro, another suburb in the San Francisco-Bay Area. There has been a cross burned on their lawn and a hammer thrown through a window, much too ambitious for it to be the handiwork of "mischievous children." The Ku Klux Klan, murderers of children, bombers of churches, self-appointed hangmen and torturers of Blacks especially in the south, have left their calling card once again . . . in Northern California, U.S.A. □

Attacks Move Closer . . .

Continued from front page

What brought this on?

On the surface, it seemed as though a feud between black and white youth gangs was running its course of revenge-motivated, fights. However, the Black families whom the vandals have targeted with hostility have nothing to do with a black-white fight, which sent a white teenager to the hospital last November.

The fight occurred in front of the Handys' house and witnessed by the Handy children who had no role whatsoever in the exchange of blows.

Upon close examination, the Handys, the Irelands and the Presleys, who have absolutely no relationship to the incident, are targeted mainly for being Blacks who moved into a predominantly white neighborhood.

The police, up until recently, was slow to apprehend suspected offenders for "lack of sufficient evidence." Neither have they provided any protection for the victims.

Yet, a little sleuthing through the grapevine of high schoolers will reveal that the vandals' identities are common knowledge. Police authorities have also acknowledged the presence of the Ku Klux Klan in the county.

Racism Prevalent

Racial tension has historically permeated the air in this semi-rural community of Tara Hills and its neighboring towns. As a long-time Filipino Pinole resident puts it: "There have been rednecks in the place making slurs at us long before the Klan came into the picture."

Over the years, minorities including Filipinos have bought homes in Pinole, Rodeo, El Sobrante, Hercules, and San Pablo. In the beginning there was just a few clusters of minorities co-existing in the same neighborhoods with whites. Even then intermingling was not popular.

As Black families started to settle in, racist whites openly showed displeasure, with white youth unabashedly amplifying prevailing racial prejudices. An *Oakland Tribune* article of December 21, 1980, quoted one white 17-year-old involved in the

Tara Hills incidents as saying: "I think they should move the niggers out of town. We're not going to stop bugging them until they do move out."

But the young are not born with inherent racist attitudes. In the same *Tribune* article, a 16-year-old was quoted as saying "her mother won't even allow her to touch a black person. Another teenager attested to seeing Ku Klux Klan membership cards being circulated on Pinole Valley High campus.

Filipinos: Sitting Through It All?

Filipinos, who are numerous in the mentioned areas, have so far felt a disquieting comfort regarding the race-related occurrences. Many seem to view the incidents as "just involving the Blacks anyway!"

One Filipino youth from Pinole Valley High who did not wish to be identified, said they were not directly affected and they have friends from all groups.

However, they admit to having heard of racial conflicts among youth gangs in their school and have seen epithets such as "Flips Die," "Sink the Boat People," and similar slurs against Iranians scribbled on the walls of the school.

Tony Punla, another Filipino who was interviewed by the *Oakland Tribune* says the racial tension has always been there. "Almost everyday somebody [referring to white youth] will challenge us or threaten us. Everytime we leave school or go into school, we see these guys in the street."

According to authorities at Pinole Valley High, a bigger and ongoing Filipino-white problem predates the Black-white problem.

Klan's Resurgence Widespread

The Klan's resurgence was felt some five years ago in the Bay Area. Communities like West Contra Costa that are predominantly white, bordering the semi-rural, and suburban areas are where the Klan establishes its base.

The upswing in Klan organizing and racial violence can be seen against a backdrop of growing conservatism, and a worsening economy.

The Klan's solution of scapegoating minorities only obscures the real causes of the economic and social problems that beset both whites and minorities alike. □



Klan recruits and grooms the young in racial bigotry.

Martial Law to be Lifted?

Continued from front page

- Marcos will continue to legislate by decree, his Interim National Assembly will not be replaced by a regular legislature until 1984;
- The writ of habeas corpus will remain suspended in "sensitive areas";
- Restrictions on press freedom will remain, Marcos' Print Media Council will continue to have the power to license newspapers and magazines;
- Demonstrations will continue to be banned;
- Strikes in "vital" industries will remain prohibited;
- Marcos will retain sole treaty-making powers.

If the whole repressive apparatus of the dictatorship will remain in effect without being called martial law—why go through the motions of lifting it?

The move is firstly, a propaganda ploy, one timed to coincide with the visit of Pope John Paul II in February, and the inauguration of the Reagan administration in the U.S. By presenting the Pope with, at least, the appearance of democracy, Marcos hopes to overcome the strong anti-dictatorship sentiments of large segments of the Catholic Church in the country. In the process, Marcos is probably calculating, the Pope's strong anti-communist tendencies will result in some form of endorsement of his regime.

Similar considerations are involved as far as the Reagan administration is concerned. Marcos assumes that by formally lifting martial law he will make it easier for the conservative Reagan administration to openly endorse his regime. Marcos must know that Reagan and his advisers will see through the charade. But he is probably confident that Reagan will at least go along with it.

Marcos himself has not been reticent about revealing the PR motivations of his projected move. In an interview published in the *Washington Post* December 13, Marcos explained away his regime's bad international image as the result of the use of the phrase "martial law." "Americans not trained in the fine subtlety of the laws," Marcos said, equate the phrase "martial law" with total and arbitrary rule. The solution then is to eliminate the phrase to make it easier for his U.S. backers to continue pouring in aid.

By maintaining his apparatus of repression, however, Marcos is limiting the potential propaganda impact of the lifting of martial law. As such, it will not serve one of the main requirements of "normalization"—the rebuilding of the regime's rather tawdry international image. It is also now clear that Marcos has no intentions of serving the second requirement of "normalization"—repairing the rift in the Philippine ruling class by sharing power with the elite opposition.

Opposition Unimpressed

Elite opposition leaders have remained unimpressed. In a particularly apt turn-of-phrase, former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino said that the regime will remain "the same mad dog with a different collar." In Manila, former Senator Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo said that even if martial law is lifted "the country would still remain under a dictatorship."

It is easy to see why the elite opposition is disappointed. Even after martial law is lifted, Marcos will retain the power to issue decrees whenever a "grave

emergency" exists or the Interim National Assembly (IBP) is "unable to act adequately." Marcos, of course, is the sole judge of when an "emergency" exists.

Since the IBP was carefully crafted to be "inadequate," with its own members admitting it is a rubber stamp, Marcos will continue to issue decrees as he has in the two years of the IBP's existence. As an IBP member quoted by the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (January 2, 1981) said: "The president can lift martial law now because the state of emergency is over, but will use his emergency powers because a state of emergency has just begun."

At the end of 1980, Marcos dangled the possibility of a presidential election before the opposition. The Marcos scenario at that time called for the IBP to propose a series of constitutional amendments to be approved in a referendum, after which martial law would be lifted and an election held. The key amendment would have provided for an interim president elected in 1981 and holding power until 1984 when a new national assembly would be elected.

Marcos was initially interested in the election not only as a way of renewing his "mandate" but also because the amendment would have empowered him to extend his term unilaterally until 1987. As it turned out, Marcos eventually decided against an election because he did not want to risk running against Aquino, and any other opponent would have made the election "look funny" as Marcos himself put it.

Although Marcos would surely have arranged the election in such a way as to assure his victory, it would have provided the opposition with an occasion to use its most potent weapon, Marcos' unpopularity. Without an election, the elite opposition is left with only a meaningless lifting of martial law, and the promise of an election for the regular national assembly in 1984.

Given Marcos' record on fulfilling promises, the elite opposition is left with nothing. They will again have to start considering the precious few options open to them.

They cannot and will not do any mass organizing. It is not yet certain whether the urban terrorism supported by some elite oppositionists can be renewed. Without instruments for destabilizing the regime, the elite opposition cannot persuade the U.S. to replace Marcos. It is back to square one.

Demonstrations Set

FLASH—If Marcos lifts martial law on January 17, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) will hold nationwide demonstrations in front of the Philippine Consulates on January 19 to denounce it as a fake.

For more information, call the local Anti-Martial Law Alliances. Denounce the fake lifting of martial law. Fight for genuine democratic rights. Down with the Marcos dictatorship!

Anti-Martial Law Coalition

Why Lift Martial Law?

If it is any consolation to the elite opposition, Marcos does not get much from the recent political maneuvering either. Whatever propaganda gains Marcos makes from the lifting of martial law, and it is unlikely he will get very much, none of it will have any impact on his basic political problems.

Marcos' declining popularity on the one hand and the increasing popularity of the National Democratic Front (NDF) on the other derive, in part, from the Philippines' deepening economic crisis. The problem for Marcos is that this year's economic prospects are no better than those of 1979 or 1980. In effect he faces the negative political impact of three straight years of economic deterioration.

The country's deteriorating economy is only partly the result of worldwide recession and mismanagement. It is, most importantly, the inevitable outcome of structural defects in the economy, of the semi-feudal, and neo-colonial character of Philippine society. This means that all of the economic tinkering of Marcos' technocrats will have no impact on the basic trend of increasing impoverishment for more and more of the country's population. And increasing impoverishment surely means increasing popular dissatisfaction with his regime.

Marcos' second problem is the elite opposition. For the first few years after the declaration of martial law in 1972, Marcos held them off with promises of elections and a share of power in the national assembly. As the promises wore thin and frustrations heightened, more and more elite personalities risked open criticism of the regime. Although they have been unable to mount a serious challenge, their opposition provides high media visibility to anti-Marcos forces, in the process exacerbating Marcos' international image problems.

Marcos cannot solve this problem by sharing power with the elite opposition. He may be a dictator, but his political position remains inherently weak. He has not managed to institutionalize control in the way that Indonesia's Suharto or Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew has. Instead of building a halfway credible democratic facade anchored on stable instruments of control, Marcos has to constantly keep his elite opposition off balance with carrot-and-stick tactics.

By lifting martial law, Marcos hopes to let off some of the political pressure generated by the deteriorating economic conditions and by the increasing frustration of the elite opposition. But he must ensure that the opening will not be big enough to blow the repressive lid wide open. Despite its seeming significance, Marcos has limited the potential impact of his much-publicized gesture to the point that it hardly looks like much of an opening at all. Marcos himself is back at square one, but it is a narrow, corner square.

The U.S. Connection

The U.S. shares some of Marcos' concerns. But its interests in the Philippines do not necessarily require the maintenance of Marcos in power. In order to ensure the long-run stability of its security and economic interests in the Philippines, the U.S. has to think in terms of the Philippine ruling class as a whole. Recent trends have given the U.S. cause for added concern.

The widening split in the Philippine ruling class worries the U.S. for two reasons. The more frustrated elite oppositionists become over being shut off from the centers of power—centers which are maintained by U.S. loans and aid—the more likely they are to resort to nationalistic postures especially now that nationalism is gaining wide currency as a result of the Philip-

pine left's growing influence among the people. This is a problem not only because it poses a threat to U.S. interests but also because it serves to strengthen the NDF, the U.S.' nemesis. A second and related reason is that a divided ruling class is a weak and unstable class which will not be able to counter a growing revolutionary movement determined to wipe out U.S. domination over the Philippines.

Marcos and the Carter administration clearly disagreed over the dangers presented by the elite opposition, a disagreement manifested in gentle U.S. pressure on Marcos to "normalize." As the recently revealed World Bank analysis of the Marcos regime showed, however, the U.S. is concerned that the rift in the Philippine ruling class may now have reached a point where any significant Marcos opening to the elite opposition would serve to weaken and not strengthen the Marcos regime. It is now too late for a reconciliation between Marcos and his elite opponents, the World Bank seems to be saying.

While the World Bank analysis overestimates the elite opposition's potential for nationalism, Marcos' insecurity continues to prevent reconciliation. The U.S. therefore is being pushed into a situation where it has to make a clear-cut choice between Marcos and his elite opponents. It is a choice that is fraught with danger.

If the U.S. chooses to go "all the way" with Marcos, its interests could sink with his regime should he be eventually overthrown by a popular revolutionary movement which will surely flourish. Should the U.S. choose the elite opposition, removing Marcos could prove to be "messy" and could endanger the whole neo-colonial political structure. In any case, choosing the elite opposition will only be a respite for the U.S. as this too would eventually face a popular anti-imperialist revolutionary movement.

Restore True Democracy

Two and a half years ago, when Marcos first began to talk about lifting martial law, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) published a pamphlet entitled "Marcos' Plan to Lift Martial Law—Democracy in Form, Dictatorship in Substance." Although much has happened since the pamphlet came out, its conclusions remain appropriate.

After asking what a genuine lifting of martial law should mean, the pamphlet said:

"... it should mean the complete abolition of Marcos' dictatorial powers and the complete negation of all of the oppressive effects of martial law... all of Marcos' one-man decrees and orders should be repealed... freedom of speech, expression, assembly, association, the freedom of the press, and the right to strike should be completely restored. There must be genuine elections with all political parties being allowed to participate. All agreements and treaties entered into by Marcos should be publicly reviewed... all those who have claims and complaints against... any member of the martial law regime must be allowed to bring their cases to free and impartial courts. The people's demands must be heard. This, of course, includes the overwhelming demand for the dictator's resignation. In short, the fullest democracy must be allowed to reign." □

When MARCOS "lifts" Martial Law

