

Int'l Law Expert Blasts Treaty in Congress

Special to the AK

WASH. D.C.—A prominent authority on international law denounced the proposed U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty in congressional hearings January 26, and strongly urged the treaty's rejection before the Crime Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee.

Testifying on behalf of the recently-formed National Committee to Oppose the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty, Richard Falk, professor of international law at Princeton University, asserted:

"One has to view with a certain alarm the negotiations of treaties

such as the pending U.S.-Philippine Extradition Treaty because here, we have a situation where a foreign government has consistently manipulated its domestic law to fabricate charges... that makes therefore a mockery of the showing of 'probable cause' in our own courts..."

"It is inappropriate," Falk continued in his testimony, "as a matter of constitutional and human rights policy, to establish an extradition treaty with such a government and is inconsistent with our own values and traditions."

MARCOS PAVES WAY

Falk informed the Committee

that the Marcos regime had already filed charges in Manila against its U.S.-based opponents among whom include ex-senators Benigno Aquino, Raul Manglapus, Jovito Salonga and AK editor, Rene Cruz, in anticipation of the treaty's Senate ratification.

To underline the dangers of such treaties with repressive regimes, Falk cited the controversial case of Abu Eain, a Palestinian who was extradited to Israel about three months ago.

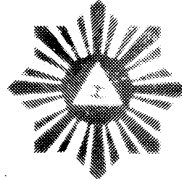
Falk pointed out that the evidence of probable cause against Eain, which the Israeli government brought to U.S. authorities "rested

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Zhogby (left), Falk (center), and Bello at D.C. press conference after Congress hearings on extradition.

ang KATIPUNAN



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Anti-Treaty Drive Reaches Capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A fast-paced opposition movement organized by the National Committee to Oppose the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty, may be dampening the Reagan administration's hopes for a "swift ratification of the treaty."

In launching various campaigns demanding the treaty's rejection, the National Committee sparked enough controversy in Congress, prompting a key Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffperson to acknowledge that "ratification of the treaty is not a foregone conclusion."

According to Walden Bello, the National Committee's interim coordinator, the State Department has not yet submitted the proposed treaty to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for ratification.

Instead, State Department officials are caucusing with individual senators working with the Senate Committee, "trying to iron out their particular concerns on the proposed treaty."

"They're worried about the treaty becoming too controversial," Bello remarked. "They know they can't just get away with it by simply submitting the treaty to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As it is, the opposition is already being felt in Congress."

Bello added that some representatives are "gravely concerned" about current efforts to revise the existing U.S. extradition laws, particularly the issue of vesting authority for determining what are political offenses away from

the courts to the Secretary of State.

As early as August last year, Secretary of State Alexander Haig hailed Senate Bill 1639—one of the bills pushing to empower the Secretary of State in deciding whether a specific political offense is extraditable—as "tremendously important" in enabling the U.S. to carry out extradition "more effectively."

"It is clear that the United States' effort to enter an agreement with Marcos is part of a broader plan," Bello noted. "Therefore, our campaign to oppose ratification of the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty must go hand in hand with efforts to oppose these repressive measures."

Provisions of the pending senate

bills—which will make the procedures for extradition more expedient and in conformity with U.S. foreign policy—are already incorporated in the proposed U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty.

CAMPAIGNS DEEMED 'EFFECTIVE'

Among the activities immediately launched by the National Committee was a nationwide letter-writing campaign that "swamped" Congress with letters demanding the treaty's rejection.

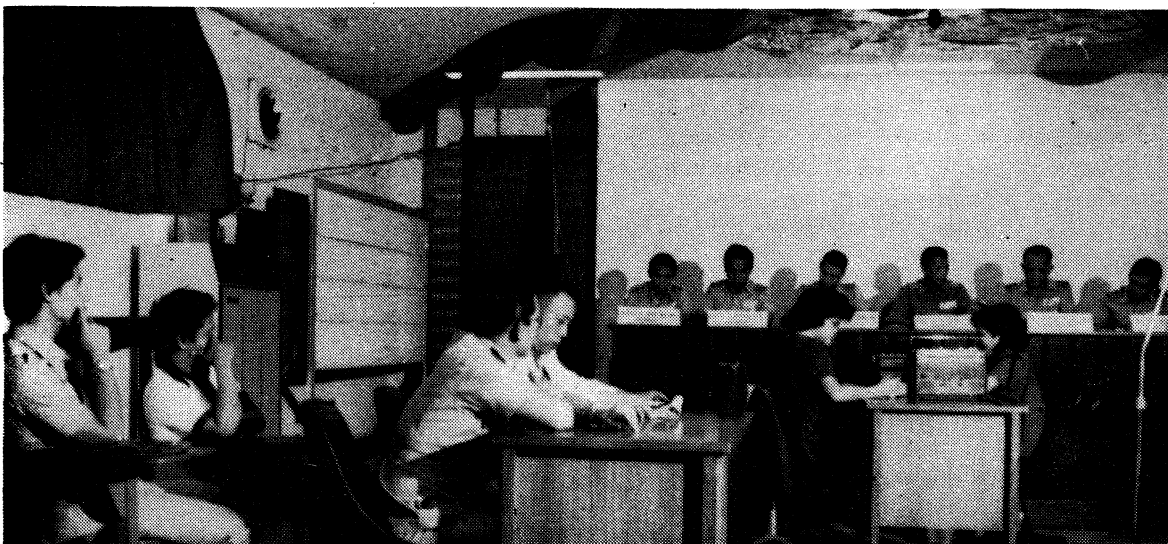
Bello stated that "according to some members of the Sub-Committee on Crime (House Judiciary Committee), the volume of mail that they received on the issue of extradition was the largest they've

received on any single issue."

Twenty representatives of major church agencies who attended "Canada-U.S. Church Consultation on Human Rights" held in New York early February, wrote letters to Senators Percy and Thurmond, urging the rejection of the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty. They also denounced the proposed Extradition Act of 1981, vesting significant powers to the Secretary of State in determining extraditable crimes.

Among those who sent letters were William Wipfler, head of the Human Rights Office of the National Council of Churches; Ruth Harris of the United Methodist

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RP military tribunal: to try FM's extradition targets.

AK File

Regime Wavers on Trials in Absentia

The Marcos regime announced early this month that it will not try five U.S.-based opposition figures in absentia.

The decision reverses an earlier announcement that the regime planned to try the first five of 40 oppositionists indicted January 5 before the Quezon City Court of First Instance on charges of subversion (see AK, Vol. IX, No. 1).

The five included Steve Psinakis of the Movement for a Free Philippines, and ex-Senators Benigno Aquino and Jovito Salonga.

Number six on the list of 40 is Ang Katipunan editor Rene Cruz.

Government sources explained that the trial in absentia was off because subversion cases could only be tried in military courts.

Upon the indictment last January, the regime announced its intentions of filing extradition proceedings against those of the 40 currently residing in the U.S.

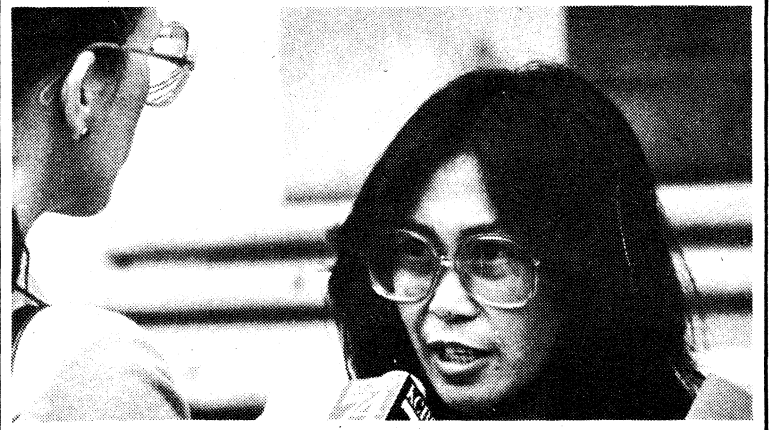
Opposition figures here see the January 5 indictment as a test case of the R.P.-U.S. extradition treaty now pending before the U.S. Senate. □

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War is on His Mind..... page 10



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EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

A Call to Action on El Salvador

It does not take too much to see that the Reagan administration wants to go to war in El Salvador, and wants it badly. All this talk about "leaving all options open" is nothing but an attempt to condition the public mind to the eventuality of direct U.S. troop involvement in la Vietnam.

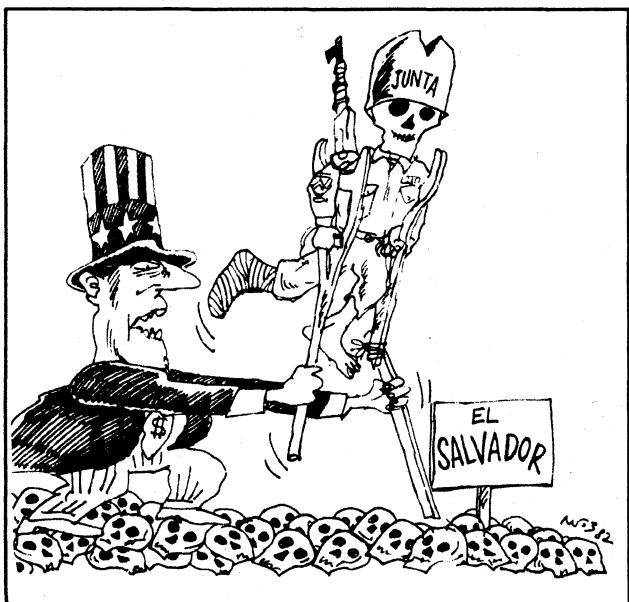
Worse, as the White House displays its utter contempt for public sentiments against U.S. involvement, it is sounding more and more like the dictatorial junta it is propping up. Public opposition to war, Secretary Haig says, is the "lowest common denominator" the U.S. should not make the mistake of basing its policy on.

There are a lot of good things to be said about this "lowest common denominator." Beyond the limited expressions of opposition by Congress liberals (welcome as they are), it signifies that the public memory of the horrors, lies and injustice that accompanied U.S. aggression in Vietnam has not completely faded. Small wonder why Reagan gets tongue-tied whenever he tries to escape the comparisons made with that era.

There are indeed a lot of comparisons we are being asked to forget. As in Vietnam, we are being asked to support a "democratic" government whose murderous excesses "pale" in comparison to the "bleak alternative." We are being asked to believe that the revolutionary forces in El Salvador are not reflective of its people's sentiments, that these are mere puppets of Soviet and Cuban tyranny. In sum, Reagan is trying to convince us that we have to save the Salvadorans from themselves.

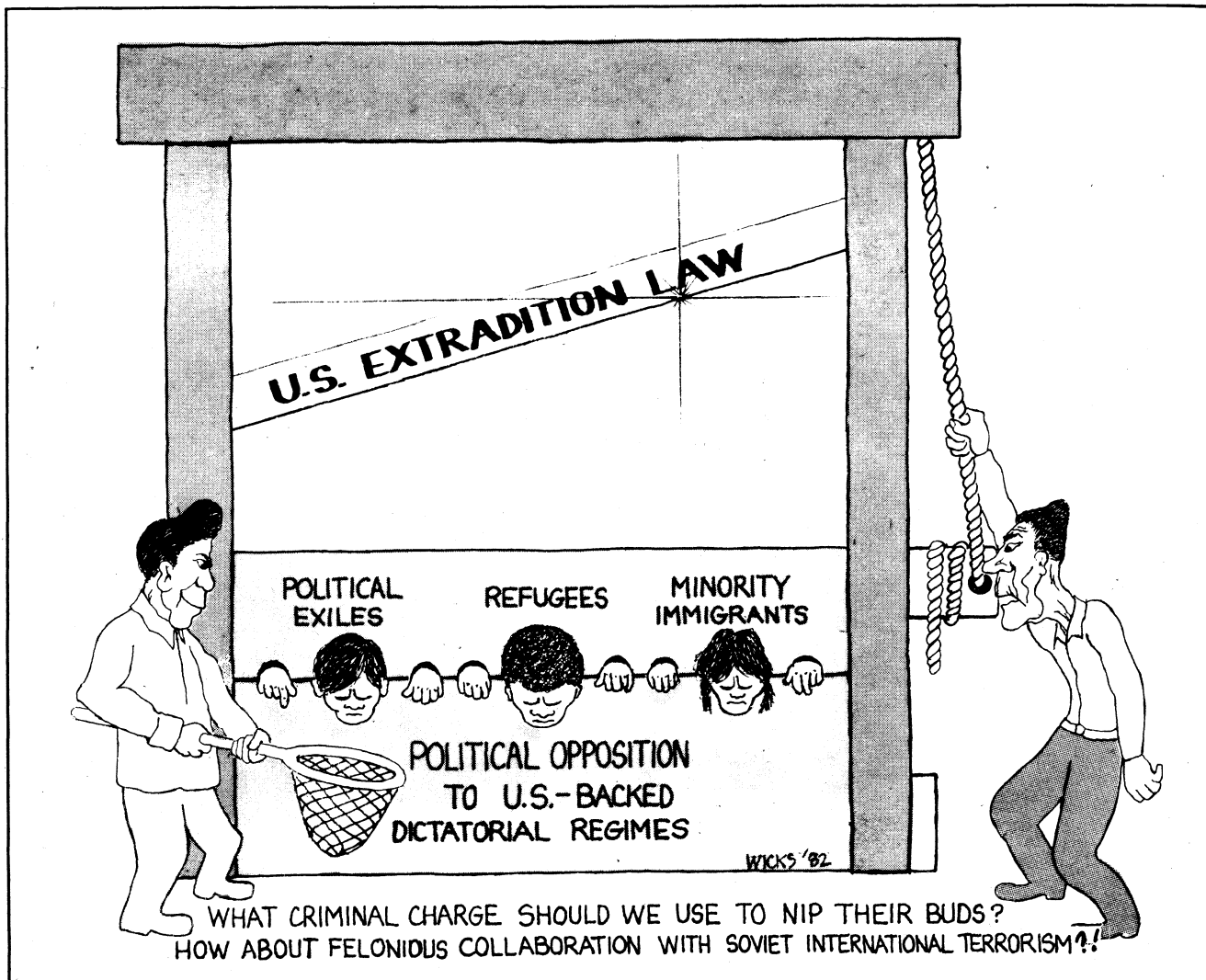
We are being asked to ignore incontrovertible historical facts. The fact that the Salvadorans have struggled desperately for decades to free themselves of parasitic classes and their foreign allies. The fact that it is U.S. not "Soviet intervention" that has left a trail of blood in Latin America—from the CIA coup in Guatemala (1955) and Chile (1971) to the invasion of Santo Domingo (1965) and Cuba (1961). We are being asked to identify our interests with that of the backward and repressive regimes it supports in the Philippines, South Korea, South Africa, and elsewhere.

As the war in El Salvador becomes the centerpiece of U.S. politics, we who are aware of these facts and comparisons should reiterate them endlessly. There is more at stake in opposing U.S. intervention than who can make political capital out of it in the Democratic-Republican electoral contests. There is a far more important drama unfolding than the dilemma of presidential hopefuls like Sen. Alan Cranston who are not sure whether being part of the "lowest common denominator" will help their ambitions. What is at stake is whether the Reagan administration will succeed in unleashing the mightiest power in the world against a



people whose only desire is to carve a just future for themselves—and whether this administration will successfully establish a precedent for similar bloody adventures elsewhere.

The month of March will be marked by hunger strikes and marches against the threat of heightened U.S. intervention in El Salvador. Supporters of the Salvadoran people will be holding nationwide demonstrations March 27 in major U.S. cities to expose the junta-sponsored election. We call on all progressive Filipinos to be part of these political initiatives. Opposition to U.S. wars in Central America and elsewhere is the consensus the Reagan administration must be forced to confront, Secretary Haig's contempt for it notwithstanding. It is what must be developed as the most common of all denominators in these times of renewed U.S. aggressiveness abroad. □



WHAT CRIMINAL CHARGE SHOULD WE USE TO NIP THEIR BUDS?
HOW ABOUT FELONIOUS COLLABORATION WITH SOVIET INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM?!

LETTERS

You Got Me

I am a self-confessed victim of "Consumerism, Filipino Style," but I am one hundred percent sure I am not alone. Your article made a few thought-provoking observations but I am sure more can be said about the subject. Will you say more? It is really a deadly bug.

Teck Bitog
Silver Springs, MD

you, you have no right because we Filipinos are better off for being in the greatest country in the world. We should show our appreciation to America. In the next war Filipinos should form a battalion who will fight for this country. We will be treated better.

Unsigned,
San Jose, CA

Disappointed

I was disappointed by this year's KDP calendar but I bought one anyway. It has nice colors but it's not very practical. Will be waiting for next year's which I hope will be much better.

Sol Reyes
Inglewood, CA

America, Forever

How dare you attack the United States government for its foreign policy and whatever policy. It does not matter if it's Reagan or Carter or what have

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Extradition and the Rightwing Consensus

Keeping Marcos, a friendly dictator, as stable as possible is definitely one major reason the Reagan administration is pushing for the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty and for the revision of the U.S. Extradition Law. But the White House has another reason for wanting to make extradition a handy political tool.

Reagan is now faced with the task of congealing a patriotic consensus for his program of military incursions in foreign shores. In this regard, he can find ready help in the White, flag-waving rightwing movements now rearing their heads in the mainstream of U.S. politics.

However, U.S.-based movements in support of liberation movements and in opposition to U.S.-backed dictatorships have helped keep the Vietnam era aversion to

U.S. military intervention alive within the U.S. population. They are therefore a hindrance to the consolidation of the rightwing patriotic consensus much sought after by the U.S. rulers.

Extradition is aimed at putting these support movements on the defensive. There is no doubt that the White House has calculated it can get away with this form of repression with hardly any public outcry because its targets are principally foreign-born and non-white. The Reagan administration clearly has as much direct interest as Marcos has in this whole extradition affair. When we said U.S. imperialism is on the offensive, we were not trying to be hysterical. □

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1982 RP Human Rights Report:

U.S. Does Balancing Act on Rights

By NANCY F. ROCAMORA

Vice President George Bush may have loved Ferdinand E. Marcos' "commitment to democratic principles and processes." And Alexander Haig may have praised the Philippine President as a champion of the "Free World."

But when it comes to any serious discussion of life under the Marcos dictatorship, even the U.S. State Department is forced to admit that it includes torture, arbitrary arrest, prolonged detention without trial, disappearances, and "salvaging" or summary execution.

NOT A WHITEWASH

The State Department's 1982 human rights report on the Philippines, released February 5, does not attempt to whitewash the Marcos regime.

Its 13 detailed pages present evidence accumulated by a number of respectable sources which document inescapably widespread violations of human rights. Sources cited include the Association of Major Religious Superiors and its Task Force Detainees, Amnesty International, the International Red Cross, and the International Commission of Jurists.

The 1982 report thus comes as something of a surprise to observers of the Marcos-Reagan rapprochement.

Other spokespersons for the Reagan administration speaking on human rights in the Philip-

pines have whitewashed the dictatorship. Assistant Deputy Secretary of State for East Asia Thomas O'Donahue painted a rosy picture of the regime in his testimony last October before the House Subcommittee on South Asia-Pacific Affairs. Michael Armacost, appointee for U.S. Ambassador, in his confirmation hearings before the Senate Sub-Committee for Pacific Affairs last month tried to avoid the issue as much as possible. (See story this page.)

EVIDENCE VS. RATIONALIZATION

This year's report does not attempt to ignore the mass of convincing data accumulated by its respected sources. Instead it plays off Philippine government rationalization against carefully documented evidence. This process, in itself, reveals its pro-regime bias.

For example:

"... According to the Task Force Detainees, victims continue to be beaten and sometimes murdered after interrogation about alleged connections with Muslim or communist guerrillas

"The government is attempting to improve military discipline through a variety of steps. The Barbero Committee . . . conducted several inquiries in 1981. The government indicated that the results of hearings held in 1981 include the dismissal, demotion, transfer or reassignment of military personnel"

The balancing act continues throughout the length of the report,

suggesting that careful diplomacy has dictated the placement of every sentence.

DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

One former State Department employee under the Carter administration told a gathering of Asia scholars two years ago just how the report is constructed. State Department researchers, he explained, carefully comb through the data from all sources. The report they assemble reveals inescapably that the Marcos regime is a serious human rights violator.

"Then the report goes to the higher-ups," he told them, "and that's where the fireworks begin." Every point then becomes the subject of exhausting debate. What emerges is highly sanitized.

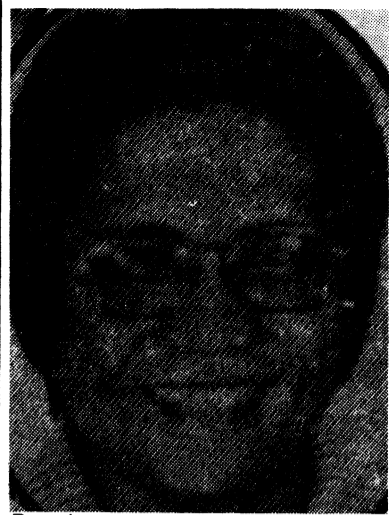
That process is clearly evident in the 1982 report.

BOOSTING MARCOS' 'NORMALIZATION'

The Philippine government, no doubt, would have preferred a whitewash.

Yet, in the long run, the State Department has done the Marcos regime a tremendous favor. The dictatorship has by now become so infamous that an outright denial of its character by "professionals" would not be convincing.

The subtle implications of steady improvement in this year's report instead suggest that the Marcos regime's "normalization" scheme is genuine. It thus reinforces the regime's claims that it is making every effort to end all human rights violations. □



Rondon



Kalaw

Rondon, Kalaw Arrested

Agents of the Manila Metrocom arrested former Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw and Constitutional Convention delegate Ernesto Rondon last February 12.

The two were arrested on charges dating back over two years for conspiring to attack armed forces headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo and kidnap then AFP Chief of Staff Romeo Espino. Espino was allegedly to be held hostage to force Marcos to grant certain demands.

Also arrested February 12 in connection with the alleged plot were two other co-accused, Ernesto Granada and Constabulary Cpl. Danilo P. Sanchez. Twenty-three other Metrocom teams were reportedly dispatched to arrest the remaining 23 co-accused.

Kalaw and Rondon are among the more progressive members of the elite opposition. Both participated actively in last year's boycott movement. □

Nominated as U.S. Envoy to R.P.

Armacost Defends FM on Human Rights

By WALDEN BELLO

Michael Armacost, the Reagan administration's nominee to serve as ambassador to the Philippines, easily hurdled the confirmation hearings held by the Subcommittee on Asia-Pacific Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee February 8.

The appointee is a State Department career officer who served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia during the Carter administration. A scion of a wealthy Maryland family, Armacost is the older brother of Samuel Armacost, new President of the Bank of America. The B of A holds vast financial interests in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Subjected to sympathetic questioning by the conservative S.I. Hayakawa, subcommittee Chairman, Armacost presented a favorable picture of the human rights situation in the Philippines. According to him, "There have been a number of developments offering wider scope for the exercise of political and civil liberties."

Concern for human rights, the nominee claimed, is "integral" to the administration's posture toward the Philippines, but is "one of different competing aims" of U.S. diplomacy which include the protection of "our security interests and access to bases necessary for the efficient projection of our military concerns into Southeast Asia, Indonesia, and the Indian Ocean."

He also pointed to the existence of a significant American economic stake in the Philippines, where "we have about \$1.5 billion in investments."

Armacost painted a picture of political stability in the Philippines. Although he conceded that "the New People's Army has extended its operations to new geographic areas," he downgraded this development by claiming that "its armed regulars are few, a few thousand at most, and they don't pose a near-term threat to the stability of the Marcos government."

Armacost termed as "positive" the recent cosmetic moves of the Marcos regime to improve its image abroad, including "the referendum on constitutional changes, the elections, the lifting of restrictions on the press, the restoration of habeas corpus in some parts of the country, the transfer of criminal

cases to civilian courts, and the lifting of the ban on strikes."

DEFENDING EXTRADITION TREATY

The appointee dealt cautiously with the current extradition treaty now awaiting ratification by the Senate. He stressed that its most controversial provision—reserving for the executive branch the power

to determine whether a request for extradition is based on valid criminal or political grounds—has also been incorporated into three other treaties, those with Mexico, Colombia, and the Netherlands.

Armacost's testimony generally fell in line with the assessment of the human rights situation contained in the State Department's annual human rights report on the Philippines released February 5. "The exercise of civil and political rights," claims the report, "has improved somewhat since the lifting of martial law, although some restrictions remain."

However, the same reports states: "Abuses of civilians by some military personnel, including killings and summary executions,



"Salvaging" victim.

AK File

Round III in Coconut Conflict: Marcos Alters Levy Once More

By: NANCY F. ROCAMORA

Much to his distress, Ferdinand Marcos is finding that the coconut commotion is one of those problems that just won't go away.

During his January 19 State of the Nation address, Marcos once again altered the controversial coconut levy to a floating percentage from 11% to 23%.

The pronouncement thus modified his own presidential decree of late September fixing the levy at P50 per 100 kilos of copra.

The President added that, when the international coconut oil price falls below 20¢ per pound, the levy will not be collected at all. Current prices have hovered at around 26¢ per pound for the past several months.

ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN

The President's announcement signalled Round III in a continuing battle which has wracked the nation's number one export industry for the past six months.

It all began in September when, at the recommendation of Prime

Minister and technocrat Cesar Virata, Marcos ordered the eight-year-old levy of P76 per 100 kilos of copra dropped. Three weeks later, after the entire industry had ground to a halt, Marcos by presidential decree, ordered it reinstated at a lower level of P50 per 100 kilos of copra.

The uproar did not stop there, however. Vocal opposition to the levy continued, led by former Sen. Emmanuel Pelaez allegedly speaking for the farmers who ultimately shoulder the cost of the levy.

INDUSTRY CONTROL AT STAKE

Though Pelaez spoke eloquently about the welfare of the farmers, it was clear that something else was at stake in this sometimes raucous controversy. In fact, the struggle represented a contest for control of the entire industry.

The coconut levy was proposed as a cushion for coconut farmers who constitute one third of the Philippine population. It was to

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are a continuing problem in insurgency areas."

Asked to comment on the Armacost appointment, Geline Avila, national co-coordinator of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD), asserted "Armacost might appear clean, but what we have here is an appointee who is expected to more than faithfully execute Reagan's policy of closely supporting Marcos and who is, at the same time, brother of the head of America's largest bank with vast interests in the Philippines. Aside from a career, it seems he has personal financial stakes in this appointment. This combination will make him a good friend of Malacañang, and a danger to the regime's opponents." □

Buod ng mga Balita

By EMIL DE GUZMAN

Enrile Linked to Sag-od Massacre

Belated reports from Manila have linked Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to the mass slaughter at Sag-od, Navas, Northern Samar, last September 18.

In the morning of September 18, Special Warfare Brigade (SWaB) forces of the Philippine Army rounded up and herded together the barrio people of Sag-od. All barrio men were quickly killed. Women and children were marched one kilometer away into the forest and many were mowed down by gunfire. A total of 45 died. (See *AK*, Vol. VIII, No. 21.)

Liberation, official organ of the National Democratic Front, reveals that Sag-od rests in the midst of the San Jose Timber Concession, a 100,000 hectare forest. The concession is held by Enrile. According to *Liberation*, the massacre was part of the military's effort to drive out the peasants from Enrile's concession which encompasses 11 towns in Northern, Western, and Eastern Samar.

SWaB—CONVICTED CRIMINALS

The SWaB is a highly feared group with direct links to Enrile. They wear civilian clothes, beards, and long hair. Many are criminals or have pending cases before the military. Some were recruited directly from the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

Though regular members of the Philippine Armed Forces, the SWaB reports directly to Enrile in Manila and coordinates with the AFP's Eastern Command based in Samar.

Outrage over the Sag-od massacre has made the Philippine government call for an investigation. Samar folks may have little hope, however, since the investigation was ordered by Enrile himself. □

'Kidnapped' Manotoc Reappears

President Marcos' missing son-in-law Tomas "Tommy" Manotoc surfaced in Manila February 8 claiming to have been kidnapped and held by communists for 42 days. Observers, however, questioned the identity of his captors or if, indeed, he had been kidnapped at all.

Rescued from a rebel stronghold after an alleged skirmish 55 miles east of Manila, Manotoc named the New People's Army (NPA) as his abductors. He said, however, that he never saw his kidnappers because he was blindfolded most of the time.

A spokeswoman for the Philippine Communist Party phoned the Associated Press in Manila shortly after Manotoc's announced accusations. She denied any communist involvement in the disappearance and countercharged that Marcos was demonstrating his "whimsical and arrogant power."

Adrian Cristobal, official presidential spokesman, called a press conference a week before Manotoc's reappearance and said he was "100 percent certain that Manotoc is alive." □

NPA Raids Iloilo Municipality

Thirty NPA fighters reportedly conducted a highly successful raid last month in the municipality of Igaras, 40 kilometers west of Iloilo City, Iloilo.

The group struck the municipal building, surprising the three policemen on guard who offered no resistance. The policemen were then marched into the town jail.

The raid took 40 minutes as the NPA confiscated guns, office equipment and supplies, and a radio. There were no casualties. □

RP Planes Attack Japanese Vessel

Three days after a mid-January attack, the Philippine government has finally admitted that its planes strafed a Japanese tanker carrying dangerously flammable chemicals on January 26.

Cruising about 25 kilometers east of Mindanao en route to Pusan, South Korea from Libya, the 5,307-ton vessel *Hegg* was fired upon with about 100 bullets in a 15-minute episode. Seven holes were punched on the sides and a Korean cook was seriously wounded. The boat, however, was not disabled.

Hideo Takakuwea, captain of the *Hegg* stated that no warning was given before the two T-28 propeller planes attacked. Philippine sources, however, claim that the *Hegg* was ordered to stop first via a warning flashed from a Philippine Navy vessel and later through warning shots from the T-28s.

The Philippine government justified the attack by charging the Japanese vessel with supplying guerrilla fighters war materiel to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) from Libya.

Though the Japanese and Philippine governments continue to exchange harsh words over the incident, the Japanese have not to date filed a formal protest.

Some observers suspect that this is due to some irregularities concerning the *Hegg*. Its owner has turned out to be a dummy company and its crew, according to *Asiaweek* of January 29, was hired "through highly unorthodox if not illegal means." □



Like the infiltrator's victim, many join the NPA at the peak of their youth.

NPA Fighter Slain by Infiltrator

Ismael "Jun" Quimpo, 24, was felled by seven bullets—all fired from behind.

Six years ago, Jun stopped being a folk singer and decided to give up his studies to follow his three older brothers. They had taken to the hills—members of the underground movement.

Jun left behind five sisters, his eldest brother, a wife Tina, and their small son. They knew that one day a call would come telling them of Jun's death.

That phone call came to Emilie Quimpo on December 18. Emilie tracked down Jun's body to the town of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija. There she learned that when the local undertaker collected the body, the military had to first take pictures of Jun. A gun had been placed in his hands.

Emilie admitted that Jun had

taken up the armed struggle and that he would normally carry a gun. But she believes that Jun was unarmed when he was killed.

Jun's comrades had told Emilie that Jun had called an outdoor meeting with Juan Simon on December 14. Simon, they suspect, was a government infiltrator and Jun wanted to check this out. Jun, they said, was eating when he was hit by the bullets.

CONFESSED KILLER

The day Emilie received the phone call, the government-controlled *Times Journal* ran an article on Juan Simon. Simon had given himself up to the authorities after killing his "chieftain."

The chief, identified as Ismael Ferrer, was planning a raid on Muñoz, the paper quoted Simon as saying.

Emilie believes that Ismael Ferrer is her brother Jun and that Simon had killed him. Jun's sisters have hired a Manila lawyer to see if murder charges can be brought against Simon.

"It's the way he was killed, shot from behind," Emilie said. "It's murder. Whether he was fighting for a cause or not doesn't alter the fact that there should be justice." Emilie wrote two major Philippine papers decrying the heroic praises given to Simon's action.

But Emilie does not have much hope of success since the military is involved. "I just want to open my little mouth," she said, "so that it won't happen again."

Juan Simon is reportedly being held for "further questioning" by the authorities. □

Imelda's Film Fest:

'Splendor in the Crass'

First Lady Imelda R. Marcos' Manila International Film Festival, billed as the "Cannes of the East," drew to a close January 29 in a blaze of glory and controversy.

The festival's film palace, another of the First Lady's rush projects, made the headlines last November when the roof collapsed killing two dozen workers. The collapse was directly linked to the 24-hour-a-day schedule the First Lady had demanded in order to have the project, a replica of Greece' ancient Parthenon, finished in time for the festival. (See *AK*, Vol VIII, No. 20.)

At the time, numerous observers condemned the First Lady and called for a cancellation of the project. Mrs. Marcos angrily denounced her critics and proceeded.

But the atmosphere of controversy continued to hang over the event. Actress Jeanne Moreau spearheaded a group of French actors and actresses who placed



Mrs. Marcos

an advertisement in a French magazine headlined "No to the Manila Film Festival!"

Others in the cinema world, such as Charlton Heston, and the 20th Century Fox chief, Sherry Lansing, cancelled out citing security concerns. A number, Faye Dunaway and Christopher Reeve included, simply failed to show up.

But the event proceeded in Imelda's inimitable style. Three hundred people were invited to Malacanang to nibble on beef roasted whole on turning spits and drink from \$100 bottles of French champagne.

At 16th century Fort Santiago, Mrs. Marcos presided over a medieval pageant under high-powered movie lights dressed in a white terno with multi-carat diamond earrings, three diamond-studded bracelets and a two-foot diamond necklace. Dancers, beauty queens and religious floats entertained two thousand guests over an extravagant dinner and fireworks.

Commenting on the appropriateness of the festival site in Manila, Mrs. Marcos, at one of the many press conferences, gushed, "The Philippines is in a strategic position."

"It is both East and West, right and left, rich and poor," she added. "We are neither here nor there." □

Davao Folk Forced Into 'Strategic Hamlets'

By NENE OJEDA

The 2,500 government troops—Philippine Constabulary, Airborne, Marines, and Scout Rangers—descending on the town of Laac, San Vicente, Davao del Norte, on October 1981, had orders to carry out.

Immediately, farming families in the outlying areas were forced to move to the *sitios* (small villages).

The Philippine military called these *sitios* "hamlet sectors." The term differed very little from what the U.S. used in Vietnam—"strategic hamlets."

One month after the first move, whole *sitios* were moved to the *barrios* (subdistricts of a town). Over 30,000 people were dislocated. Within little over a month, the whole town of Laac had been hamletted. A reported 1,500 soldiers remain behind to police the area.

A LONG WALK TO THE FARMS

The forced evacuation has made it difficult for farmers to tend their land. In some cases farmers have to travel 10 to 15 kilometers to their farms. Because of a nightfall to daybreak curfew, many can only work for four hours before heading back to the *barrios*.

Rice and corn crops have been lost to wild boars. Even banana



Laac residents; victims of hamletting and forced labor.

AK Photo

and cacao trees have been damaged by wild animals because farmers were not there to protect their trees.

MOCK SURRENDER STAGED

On November 27, people were called to the Laac town center for "registration." There the military staged a rally, making the people carry placards denouncing the New People's Army (NPA).

The people were made to swear allegiance to the Philippine government. Helicopters circled the town

center during the ceremonies.

Guns, directed at the people, came out of the helicopters' windows. Pictures were taken of the rally.

Several days later, local and national papers claimed a total of 7,000 rebels had "surrendered" in Laac.

STARVATION AND DEATH

Many farms now lie fallow. Farmers of Laac do not have the time or energy to continue their livelihood.

There is not enough food to feed the people of Laac. There is fear of famine by February.

Diseases have reached epidemic proportions. Townspeople are concentrated in areas where there is no source of clean water. Sanitation is nonexistent.

Hardest hit are the children. An average of two children die per day, according to church reports.

Cases of military abuse—arrests, torture and salvaging—have been reported as a result of the con-

tinued military presence.

As in Vietnam, strategic hamletting of Laac is an effort to "weed out" areas where rebels are suspected to operate.

The effectiveness of this policy will mean expansion. Already the nearby town of Asuncion is slated for hamletting.

A CASE OF LANDGRABBING

Many, however, see the strategic hamletting of Laac as a case of landgrabbing.

Large hectares in three Laac barrios—San Antonio, Aspawid, and Inacayan—will be transformed into a plantation of rubber and *ipil-ipil*. (*Ipil-ipil* is a fast growing tree used for pulp and is a source of the growing and lucrative alternative energy industry.)

This project will be funded by the KKK (*Kilusang Kaunlaran at Kabuhayan*) Livelihood program. The KKK, the New Republic's latest economic development scheme, has been trying to set up

an industrial tree plantation program.

To manage the tree plantation is Col. Alejandro Cruz. Cruz is head of the 37th Infantry Battalion and overall Field Commander of the Laac operation.

All the men of the barrio will have to work one day a week for the plantation. They will not be paid but will be given food on the day they work. They will supposedly share in the profits from the trees when they are harvested in five years. Any man who refuses will be considered a rebel supporter.

LAAC FOLK APPEAL FOR MILITARY WITHDRAWAL

Concerned church people, led by Bishop Pedro Dian of Tagum, recently held a dialogue with local military and government officials.

It was held at the home of Antonio Floirendo, well known crony of President Ferdinand Marcos and head of several timber concerns in Mindanao.

Observers suspect that he may have a more than superficial involvement with the *ipil-ipil* plantation.

At the dialogue, military officers claimed that they did not initiate the hamletting policy. It was the request of local government officials, they claimed, who were concerned with protecting their people from the NPA.

The military also denied using force and maintained that people were cooperating voluntarily.

The people of Laac, however, say otherwise. In a letter to Ferdinand Marcos on December 14, they appealed:

"We the people of Laac suffer from intense hardship here because of heavy militarization in our barrios . . . We humbly ask you to allow us to return to our farms and our traditional way of life. We also ask you to order the immediate withdrawal of the army from our barrios." □

Gov't Forcing Farmers to Sign Loyalty Oaths

By EARL MARTIN

DAVAO DEL NORTE—"I will bear true faith and allegiance to, and recognize and accept the supreme authority of the Republic of the Philippines."

So reads the Pledge of Allegiance which farmers in "critical areas" of the Philippines are forced to sign. "Critical areas" are those where the Philippine military battles the growing resistance to the Marcos regime led by the New People's Army (NPA).

Filipino farmers in these areas further commit themselves to "defend the constitution" and "obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities."

They sign and swear to the statement—written in English which they often do not understand—before an administering officer. At the bottom of the form is space for left and right thumbmarks and a complete set of fingerprints.

'CAPTIVE (), SUSPECT (), OTHER ()

Details of the form vary in different places, but the reverse side of one form used in Mindanao consisted of an "NPA Mass Base Interrogation Record." Military interrogators not only fill out personal family data for each person, but the form also calls for the names and addresses of "Relatives Working for Enemy."

Likewise under a rubric of "Source Classification," the interrogators check whether the person

is "Captive (), Suspect (), Surrendered (), Criminal (), Other ()."

In some cases farmers resist signing such forms because they resent the implication that prior to the signing they were "rebels." More often, however, the farmers are hesitant to oppose the military pressure to sign.

"We figured that if we signed, the soldiers would go away and not bother us," explained one farmer in Mindanao's Bukidnon province.

MILITARY P.R. TECHNIQUE

Mass signing of such loyalty pledges sometimes provides the basis for military press releases in national newspapers announcing the mass surrender of "NPA rebels." Such "surrenders" in turn have been cited as cause for promotion in rank of the responsible military officers.

In the San Vicente district of Mindanao's Davao del Norte province where NPA guerrillas have been active for seven years, a battalion of the Philippine Army moved in several months ago.

On November 27, 1981 they staged a large rally with a banner on the grandstand reading, "Mass Oath of Allegiance of the Surrendered." Thousands of ordinary farmers followed military directives and signed their pledges of allegiance.

Days later, Manila's leading daily reported the news that "7,951 rebel surrenderers returned to the fold of the law." □

Coconut Levy . . .

Continued from page 3 provide life insurance, college education, new hybrid seed nuts for replanting for the farmers as well as act as a subsidy during periods of low international prices for coconut oil.

In fact, the subsidy has been used to build an immense monopoly, UNICOM, or United Coconut Oil Mills Inc., which controls 95 percent of the nation's milling and processing capacity. UNICOM and the United Coconut Planter's Bank, where levy funds are deposited, are under the control of millionaire businessman Eduardo Cojuangco and Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile.

UNICOM has acted, not surprisingly, as the levy's chief defender. When Marcos suspended the levy in September, UNICOM simply stopped buying copra, freezing the entire industry.

COJUANGCO-ENRILE VS. ROMUALDEZ CLAN

But the conflict was more than a matter of technocrats vs. cronies. Pelaez' stirring statements on

behalf of farmers disguised yet another power anxious to disrupt the Cojuangco-Enrile hold over the industry. Most observers, based on educated guesswork, pointed toward the Romualdez faction, the family of First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

Ang Bayan, newspaper of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in its recent report on the



Laborer husking coconuts.

coconut crisis, confirms that speculation.

A controversial White Paper circulated by the Bank of the Philippine Islands last year, in fact, reports that the Romualdez clan put in a bid for control of the industry long before it was parcelled out to the Cojuangco-Enrile axis. That bit of information was conveniently dropped when the Marcos-controlled press reported on the White Paper last year.

NO ROOM FOR JARGON; POWER'S AT STAKE

There is no guarantee that Round III of the coconut conflict will be the last. Government policy, reflecting continuing pressure from two powerful financial factions, has been in a state of vacillation regarding this key export for six months. There is no reason to expect that pressure to drop.

Meanwhile Virata, with all his talk of "free market forces" and "rationalizing the industry," watches the fray as a helpless bystander.

He and his supporters in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have had a graphic lesson in just how much impact Harvard-bred notions can have when it comes down to the nitty-gritty battle for economic power in the Philippines. □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS



Sherry Bockwinkel/P.I. Photo

Dictado with lawyer, John Henry Brown.

Dictado Loses Pre-Trial Motions

Special to the AK.

SEATTLE—A Superior Court judge ruled that testimony delivered by Fortunato "Tony" Dictado in the Ramil/Guloy murder trial can be admitted as evidence in Dictado's upcoming April trial.

Tony Dictado, alleged Filipino gang leader, is the third person charged with the June murders of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, union officials of Seattle's Local 37, ILWU. Last September, Pompeyo Benito Guloy, Jr. and Jimmy Bulosan Ramil were found guilty of the murders and are now serving life sentences without the possibility of parole.

Dictado's lawyer, John Henry Brown, filed motions to suppress both Dictado's trial testimony and a June 16 interview between Seattle police detectives and Dictado. While Dictado denied any involvement with the murders on both occasions, Brown stated that he made the request for tactical reasons.

NO VIOLATIONS OF DICTADO'S RIGHTS

Brown claimed that on both occasions, there was no proof Dictado had been informed of his Miranda rights.

He added that even if Dictado has read his rights, it was questionable if Dictado understood what those rights were.

In his decision, Judge Howard ruled that since Dictado was not under arrest or a suspect in the murders at the time of the police interview, police were not required to advise him of his rights.

The Judge also stated that Dictado was aware of his rights during his court testimony since his lawyer, James Grubb, was present in the courtroom. He added that Dictado had no choice but to

appear in court since he was under a material witness warrant.

SETBACK FOR DICTADO

Judge Howard's ruling that Dictado's statement supporting Ramil and Guloy's alibis must stand may pose a problem for Dictado, Elaine Ko, Co-chair of the Committee for Justice said.

Dictado testified in support of Ramil's and Guloy's alibis by claiming that the two were at a gambling house at the International District at the time of the murders.

"Obviously, with Ramil and Guloy's convictions," Ko said, "the previous jury didn't believe the alibis and this could be a problem in establishing Dictado's credibility and innocence."

Dictado was arrested September 1, 1981, less than two weeks after he took the stand in the Ramil/Guloy trial. Throughout the trial Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Joanne Maida contended that the Tulisan and possibly Tony Baruso, past president of Local 37 were responsible for the dual murders.

Maida stated in her closing statements from the last trial that Ramil and Guloy acted on orders from Dictado, as "soldiers" of the Tulisan in carrying out the "execution style murders."

The murders, she said, were a message to those involved in reforming the union, threatening the smooth running of gambling operations in the Alaska canneries.

Last August, while under cross examination by Maida, Dictado admitted being a member of the Tulisan. Although Dictado claimed the Tulisan was just a group of four friends who "did nothing," he was very hesitant in revealing the identities of his fellow Tulisan friends. □

Freed from Prison:

Lovely Changes Mind, Testifies

By: V. Villapando

Victor Burns Lovely, an alleged terrorist who previously refused to testify against fellow bombing conspirators, was released from jail and appeared February 22 before a federal grand jury investigating the activities of U.S.-based opponents of the Marcos regime.

Also called to testify were Dr. Gaston Ortigas and Fluellen Ortigas, San Francisco residents who were granted political asylum for anti-Marcos activities in the Philippines. While their appearances before the grand jury probe were postponed, sources close to the two men—who are not related—indicated both will take the Fifth Amendment.

Jennifer Morgan, 26, was also called to testify but refused after being told her fiance, Charlie Avila, was also a target of the probe.

Lovely, who was secretly brought here from the Philippines by federal agents in September last year, is considered a key witness in the investigation.

TO TELL THE TRUTH

"The man is completely, physically and mentally exhausted," said Jose Lauchengco, Lovely's legal counsel. "His continued incarceration could have led to his derangement or death, or at least the loss of his remaining eyesight." Lovely lost an arm, an eye and most of his hearing in a Manila hotel bomb explosion.

"Mr. Lovely will tell the truth, nothing more, nothing less," Lauchengco revealed. "If the truth happens to be in favor of Mr. Marcos, so be it. If the truth happens to be against Marcos, so be it."

Hawaii's Sugar Shutdown:

By: Davianna McGregor Alegado & Helen Toribio

HAWAII—Hawaii's sugar industry is threatening to shut down its operations due to severe profit losses. Hawaii's sugar workforce, predominantly Filipinos, is understandably worried.

Organized into the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), these sugar workers are faced with the serious challenge of defending their jobs, hard-won wages, benefits and rights during this new crisis.

The dumping of sugar on the world market in 1981, pushed its price to the lowest point in recent years, creating a crisis in profits for U.S. sugar growers. Various companies owned by Hawaii's big-Five (AMFAC, Castle and Cooke, Theo H. Davis, C. Brewer, Alexander and Baldwin) announced cutbacks and shutdowns of plantations late in 1981.

Last October, the Oahu-based Waiialua Sugar Company owned by Castle and Cooke, announced

In an interview with this reporter, Steven Psinakis, a Marcos opponent and target of the grand jury probe, appeared to be both sympathetic and worried.

"I'm happy that the poor fellow is out of jail. I think he suffered enough in the Philippines to be put in jail here in the States.

"My only concern is if he has contact with or knows people in the underground from any organization. . . I hope such names will not become public in the grand jury or otherwise, because that will endanger their lives and subject them to the danger of torture and imprisonment in the Philippines."

CHANGE OF MIND

Lovely's recent change of mind is a sharp and embarrassing contrast to his original position. Just before serving his prison term, he said, "I would be prostituting myself if I were to participate in the (grand jury) proceedings."

In a press statement released before he entered the federal penitentiary at Terminal Island in



Victor Burns Lovely

Massive Job Losses Loom in the Islands

a two-week shutdown to save on labor costs.

In November, AMFAC's Oahu Sugar company in Waipahu, announced a possible shutdown if cheaper methods to cut down production costs and prevent profit losses are not found. Already, Oahu Sugar Co. is planning a power plant run on rubbish and bagasse (a sugar by-product) as an alternative source of energy.

To top off these announcements AMFAC announced that its Puna plantation on the island of Hawaii may shut down by 1984.

When this happens, 500 workers will join the swelling ranks of the unemployed. Most of the workers are heads of households, therefore more than just the 500 people will be affected by the layoffs.

INDUSTRY BLAMES COMPETITION

Hawaii sugar producers blame their sugar losses on foreign competition and the rise of cane sugar alternatives such as beet sugar and high fructose corn sy-

rup, a corn by-product.

In addition, producers are protesting the lack of Federal sugar subsidies. Their foreign competitors are subsidized by their respective governments and are allowed to sell their sugar in the U.S.

Observers say that the Reagan administration supports sugar growth in politically unstable third world countries, such as the Philippines, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, as a form of indirect aid to foreign regimes.

The plight of the sugar industry is similar to that faced by the auto, steel and rubber industries which have scaled down their operations. This merely signifies the recessionary trend in U.S. capitalism from which no industry or sector is immune.

"I would never be a traitor to my people who are sacrificing their lives to bring freedom and justice to my countrymen." A few days after making these statements, Lovely abruptly changed his mind

Psinakis, who Lovely said trained him in the use of explosives at his San Francisco home, told this reporter:

"I stand by my activities and beliefs. If I get indicted, I'm sure that the truth will come out, and that the conspiracy between the Reagan administration and Marcos will surface during the hearings." □

AMFAC: EXAMPLE OF SUGAR DECLINE

The sugar producers are also feeling a lot of pressure from powerful stockholders who want



Bitter veteran Gil Panti.

T.ROCAMORA/AK Photo

Filipino Veterans' Benefits Axed

By V. VILLAPANDO

SAN JOSE—"Being a faithful servant of Uncle Sam doesn't always pay," now says a group of Filipino veterans who are angry and frustrated over the nonpayment of their educational benefits by the Veterans Administration.

Many of them are 20-year veterans who literally "served" in the U.S. Navy as stewards, cooks, or in other demeaning duties especially "meant" for Filipino recruits. They faithfully washed and scraped for the Navy, dreaming of the day they could sit back, enjoy their retirement benefits, and "tell each other sea stories." Today, they are embittered. They are not sure when their benefit checks will arrive, if they will ever arrive.

In an emotion-filled interview, each had his own gripe to tell and some explanation as to why they are being denied benefits due them.

"It's discrimination," explained Rudy Campos, president of the newly-formed Bay Area Filipino-American Veterans Association.

"It's Reaganomics, Reagan wants to cut us out," said Vic Muñoz, an outspoken vet who enlisted in the Navy together with his townmate Gil Panti.

THE ISSUE

Prior to their separation from the service, veterans are briefed on the benefits available to them.

Among these are educational and training benefits which include basic skills or high school refresher classes. Initially, the Veterans Administration (VA) defined these as "English or classes in which the veteran has a test score under the 12th grade level."

Upon completion of their high school diploma or its equivalent, veterans are then entitled to pursue college degrees or courses of their choice.

Proof of enrollment in any recognized high school or college program entitles veterans to educational payments on a regular monthly basis, for as long as 45 months. Payments vary, depending on the number of classes and hours they carry per semester.

On November 31, 1981, the VA arbitrarily lowered the test score requirement to the 9th grade level in an obvious effort to limit the number of qualified vets.

Some 56 veterans, who attended an entire semester "in good faith," were denied benefit payments. Implicit in this was that they met the new grade level requirement and thus have no more need to take refresher courses.

In addition, over 100 veterans

were notified that their payments were being terminated effective November 30, despite previous VA notices informing them they will be paid through January 22, 1982.

The VA apparently used other tactics to dissuade veterans from continuing on with their classes.

Gil Panti said the VA sent him a letter telling him he no longer qualified—complete with test scores indicating he passed the 9th grade level. "I'm flabbergasted because they sent me scores for tests I never took in the first place!"

One vet said his payment was terminated because the VA claimed that he stopped going to school.

"I sent them proofs that I was still enrolled, but they insisted their records showed that I quit," said the frustrated vet.

Mariano Federico, a postal worker said "I just want an explanation why the VA allows us to take classes, and later informs us they're not paying because we weren't supposed to be taking those classes."

RACISM IN THE VA?

"There is no doubt Filipino veterans are getting the royal shaft," said Ann Burns, Director of Guidance at the Metropolitan Adult Education Program. "Non-Filipino vets have no difficulty receiving their monthly payments on a regular and timely basis."

According to Burns, "There's some real hostility towards Filipino veterans in Washington, and it's filtering down to the state level."

When she called a high-ranking VA official to inquire about the non-payments, the answer she got was "Everybody knows about the Manila Syndrome (laziness).

"That's the undercurrent, the prejudice, I get out of working with these people at the San Francisco VA office," Burns said. "They know that if they 'wash' them out of high school, and with the success rate of college students so low, then that's going to be the end of their benefits."

VETS NEED ADULT ED

Burns has counseled hundreds of Filipino veterans enrolled at Independence High School where evening adult classes are held.

Based on her counseling experience, she strongly feels Filipino veterans require high school refresher classes or "they cannot compete in the college market today."

"These are men who went to public high schools in the Philippines and got through the 10th grade level (fourth year high school). I test these guys and the average

Pinoys Speak Out:

Reaganomics Doesn't Spell Relief

SAN FRANCISCO—Federal spending for social programs and services for human needs are being blasted to smithereens by the Reagan administration.

Reagan's "New Federalism" will shift to the state governments the burden of administering 40 social programs, giving them only federal block grant monies to finance these services.

California, already worried about revenue losses caused by Proposition 13's property tax cuts, is one state that's in for big trouble. State officials predict that California will suffer a budget deficit of up to \$600 million under Reagan's plan.

These deficits will surely be felt by all, but they will be felt most sharply by minorities who

rely on social programs to keep up with educational, medical, and other needs.

How aware is the Filipino community of the social impact of Reagan's economic plan?

The following are candid comments by Bay Area Filipinos on Reaganomics.



LLORETTE TAMAYO, Social Worker, International Institute of San Francisco

With the budget cuts, I don't think we can develop further programs for immigrants. People in need of these services will lose out.

Immigrants need a great deal of assistance in their cultural and social adjustment. With the budget cuts, referral services, bilingual counseling and legal assistance will be sorely lacking.

At our agency, 30% of our calls, approximately 300 cases, are related to pressing immigration problems that require legal consultation.

In the past, we had the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance and Mission Neighborhood Legal Assistance agencies. Programs at these agencies have closed down due to lack of funding. Now people have to do without professional legal advice that they can afford.



SONIA DEL MUNDO, Employee, Michael Bros. Manufacturing Co.

Small businesses are barely surviving. Big corporations are making the profits. The American working class has less and less money.

Filipinos know there is an economic crunch. I think there are

Filipinos conscious of what Reagan is doing. But most Filipinos just want to survive. They are not aware of the overall problems. What they see is that companies are laying people off.

In reaction, Filipinos will grab any opportunity to work. They will even fight one another and compete to keep their job. They may even relocate to get a job with more pay or to get an extra job.

Two jobs means the car gets paid and there is another \$200 to put in savings. They will deal with the economic problem by just trying to get 16-hour jobs to get more money. They say it is better than nothing.



HELEN CATUBIG, Classroom Teacher, Balboa High School

In the schools we are directly affected by Reagan's budget cuts. San Francisco Unified School District will be cut back \$5 million. That will mean 345 teachers will be laid off next year.

With fewer teachers, there will be more discipline problems, more truancy and absenteeism. Classes will probably be consolidated. We have a high enrollment, 58,000 students total and almost 90% are minorities.

I'm funded by the bilingual program. About 59 bilingual teachers will be affected. One-third of the school population knows limited English. There are no more Title VII monies, which were the funding for bilingual education. We are using Title I monies, which are for compensatory education. However, under Reagan our funds are being replaced by the Economic Impact Aid federal block grant for consolidated programs.

But even with the block grant the State still has a \$200 million

deficit for education. That is why we are facing a \$5 million cutback.

We will not be able to provide good education for our children and young people. Already there are too many needs in the classroom. Students need individualized attention. It is impossible for one teacher to do everything for a class of 37 to 40 students. I find it very frustrating. □

LILLIAN GALEDO, Director, Filipino Immigrant Services

With the general decline in the economy, we get more clients looking for employment. It is hard for immigrants who are trying to make a transition to get any stable kind of job. People get part-time or temporary work.

Also, with the budget cuts there is a declining availability of social services, and fewer places for immigrants to go for assistance.

Now people get fewer benefits and even harassment in keeping one's SSI (Supplemental Security Insurance) and their medical benefits. Also, there are stricter regulations being proposed around Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

In immigration, Reagan's budget cuts have affected the staffing of the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service). This means that people are going to have to wait longer to have papers processed, and wait longer to settle their problems.

Reagan's immigration policy means less money and attention given to resolving problems through due process, and more money—an additional \$40 million for border stations, police personnel, and equipment.

Reaganomics reflects political priorities because, although there is less money for services, there is more for law enforcement and the military.



test score they get in reading, spelling, vocabulary, speaking, and grammar is anywhere from the 5th grade level."

Burns indicated that 95% of veterans applying for benefits out of the San Francisco VA office, are Filipinos.

She also disclosed that the office has its special Filipino Unit. "With a director plus a staff of eight

people, I don't see why they have a hard time straightening out the veterans' documents, unless the unit was created for some other reason . . ."

Burns calculated that non-payment of Filipino veterans in her program alone within a six-month period, amounts to about half a million dollars worth of benefit payments. "For sure, economics

is also a big factor in this issue," she added.

EMPLOYERS 'FREAK OUT'

Employers of veterans have also been dragged into the controversy. Imposing an additional requirement, the VA demanded letters from employers proving that

Continued on page 8

Nurses Fall Victim to Hospital 'Sting'

By ARMIN ALFORQUE
Correspondent

NEW YORK—"I thought I would be attending seminars and getting educated on advanced techniques. I guess I was wrong."

Marina Reyes might as well be speaking for most professional nurses who come to the U.S. from underdeveloped countries.

In this particular case, she was echoing the faded hopes of 30 other Filipino H-1 nurses facing an uncertain future at St. Luke's Hospital—some of whom have notifications that they must leave the country.

Their tales of woe began when the nurses, recruited directly from the Philippines by the hospital, arrived in New York in February last year just after the season's last blistering snowstorm.

That, and their introduction to the ghetto streets of Harlem where St. Luke's is located were their initiation to the "Big Apple."

Then, in rapid succession, the newly-arrived nurses were shown their quarters, given a brief orientation, informed of their permanent night duties, and then placed in their respective units and wards.

"It happened so fast we didn't have time to ponder and think," said Norma Perez. "We got stuck here—eat, sleep, work. There is no time for in-service training even if available. It's doubtful that we'll get what we expected."

Arranging an interview with Marina, Norma and three other nurses wasn't an easy task. With all of them working nights, their daily routine consists of working, sleeping until dinner time, and then catching a few more hours of sleep before going to work again.

"I was personally restless in the Philippines," laments Norma. "We worked hard there but we couldn't see anything good come out of it. Nurses are still horribly underpaid and overworked over there.

We thought the solution would be found here in the U.S."

"But here, although the pay is better, the working conditions are equally bad," Marina added. But poor working conditions are not even their principal concern right now.

Uppermost on their minds now is the simple question of whether they will be able to remain in the U.S. at all. Because the nurses are on H-1 visas, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) required them to take the first available state board exam for registered nurses to maintain their status.

Having missed last year's February exam, they were supposed to take the one scheduled for July last year.

But hospital authorities dissuaded them, urging them to take the February 1982 exam instead. With the hospital assuring them that necessary arrangements would be made with the INS—and also reasoning that they would have all the time to review—all but one nurse postponed taking the exam.

In the meantime, they applied for, and received, limited permits extending their stay for a year. Feeling secure, the nurses dutifully took up their assignments.

Looking forward to this year's exam, they hoped a license would give them the freedom to seek better working conditions elsewhere.

But a week before they were to take this year's February exam, strange things started to happen. They began receiving notices urging them to leave the U.S.

The notices came several days apart, had different suggested departure dates and, although they all had identical statuses, not all of them received the notices.

Immediately turning to the hospital for help, the nurses were told not to worry and that a lawyer would be called. The lawyer, as it turned out, was charging them a fee of \$500 each.



TROCAMORA/PAK PHOTO

The confused and angry nurses gradually realized that the hospital did not really care for their welfare. It merely wanted to be assured of one year's service from all of them.

Their suspicions were confirmed when St. Luke's suddenly did an about-face and decided to pay all the lawyers' fees. The hospital had learned that the Health and Hospitals Corporation, operators of New York City's municipal hospitals, was interested in hiring them.

Now, informed that the INS has a new ruling giving them up to ten days of stay after the exam results are out, the nurses feel a little more relaxed, but still anxious.

Norma recalled that they had looked forward to the period after the exam when they could go out and "celebrate." Feeling they had to study and pass the exam, they also denied themselves such recreational activities.

"Now, I feel more insecure than ever," Norma remarked bitterly. Already, most of them are planning to transfer to other hospitals if they pass the exam. "This place is unhealthy for our growth."

Despite this realization, most of them still prefer to stay in the U.S.

As Norma sums it up: "The future is bleak because of the conditions in the Philippines . . . that's why I still intend to stay." □

Veterans . . .

Continued from page 7

jobs offered to vets require a high school diploma or its equivalent.

After the employers complied, the VA challenged 19 of those employer letters, Burns recalled, and some of them "started freaking out."

"Employers felt like somewhere along the line, the feds are going to retaliate either on income tax or audit, especially if they have some kind of federal funding coming into their office."

Ernie Santa Ana is perplexed why the VA wanted to know from employers the salaries or the positions the vets hold in these companies. "These are immaterial questions. As far as I know, I'm entitled to these benefits and the VA has no business asking additional information from my employer, when the questions are irrelevant to my enjoying the benefits due me!"

'PING PONG' TAKES TOLL

The whole affair is taking its toll on the veterans.

Of the 220 veterans initially enrolled in high school refresher classes, Burns claims that more than 100 quit "out of frustration." Of the 30 vets in the college level, only 10 are still enrolled.

"I call it my chess match with

the San Francisco VA office," she said. "They make a move requiring employer letters, we counter it. They make another move, we counter it again."

"It's like a ping pong game . . . no other vet has had to play ping pong with his benefits."

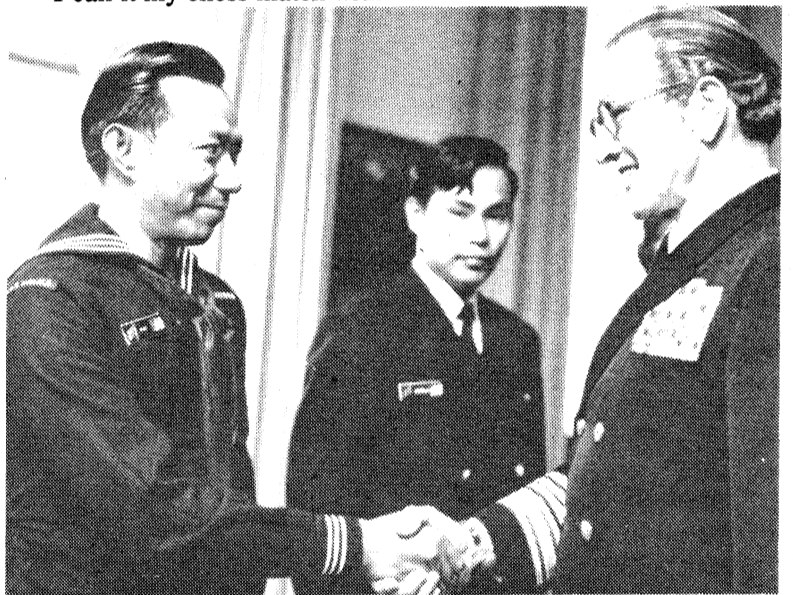
For many veterans who cannot rely solely on their pensions, the cutback in educational benefits affects their ability to make ends meet.

"With the high cost of living, the mortgage we have to pay, kids growing up . . . every benefit counts," said Gil who works full-time for Intel Corporation, an electronics plant in San Jose.

He noted that he is luckier than other vets who cannot find jobs. "There are folks who are more desperate."

Vic explained that "with Reagan cutting back on just about everything, it won't be long when these benefits will be totally gone. We have to fight for these benefits now."

The veterans are "itching" for action. Some have contacted their senators and congressmen for help, but to no avail. Others are talking about staging a rally in front of the VA office. □



Veteran Panti being congratulated for a "job well done" while still in the Navy.

Anti-Extradition . . .

Continued from front page

Board for Global Ministries; Rev. Tom Marti of the Maryknoll Peace and Justice Office; and Joanne Kagiwada of the International Affairs Program of the Christian Church.

The National Committee also conducted teach-ins on the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty and the proposed U.S. Extradition Act of 1981 which will make current extradition laws "more repressive and more expedient."

These teach-ins, aimed at bringing the extradition issue to the grassroots level all over the country, were launched in February in the following cities: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Seattle, Chicago, Sacramento, New York, and Washington, D.C.

Bello stated that the National Committee's work with the press media has been "very encouraging."

"The Boston Globe and the Asian Wall Street Journal published major articles on the treaty, and the Oakland Tribune wrote a stinging editorial entitled 'Justice on Blinkers.'"

"Our recent survey also indicated that many letters to the editors were printed in various newspapers nationwide, denouncing the proposed extradition treaty," added Bello.

No date has been set when the State Department will formally present the treaty for ratification before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Bello predicted that public hearings will be held upon its presentation to the Committee, "perhaps sometime in April." The National Committee has already lined up its speakers to testify before these hearings, he noted. (Prof. Richard Falk already testified before the Sub-Committee on Crime, House Judiciary Committee January 26 on behalf of the National Committee, see story on page 1.)

"We are now preparing for protest demonstrations in the event the Senate Foreign Relations Committee begins its hearings on the treaty ratification," Bello announced. □

on the most dubious foundation."

Falk noted that Israel is thought to have a reasonably high level of constitutional order yet clearly fabricated a showing of probable cause in the Eain case. Falk further warned that "the dangers of abuse would even be greater with regimes like the Marcos government which does not have an independent judiciary."

JUDICIAL PROCESS NIXED

Falk also attacked the proposed Extradition Act of 1981 which will shift to the executive branch the legal right to determine the "political offense exception," that is—to decide whether extradition requests are based on political motivations or on valid criminal grounds.

Extradition for political reasons is banned by current U.S. extradition law.

"To lack faith in the overall commitment to judicial process in this kind of setting," Falk stressed, "is tantamount to lack-

ing faith in democracy itself."

Falk claimed that the intent of Senate Bills 1630, 1639, and 1940—entrusting discretion in these circumstances to the Secretary of State—"tends to reinforce a more general foreign policy that the U.S. has been pursuing."

The Extradition Act of 1981 will help repressive regimes "stabilize their political environment in relation to their opponents," Falk asserted.

"Extradition enables governments to reach out into our territory, and to put forward charges of alleged complicity in terrorism or non-excludable activities as the basis for extending their repressive reach extraterritorially."

According to Falk, a government like the Marcos regime could easily prepare a "sophisticated allegation of probable cause" for the commission of common crimes as a smokescreen for political motivation.

After the congressional hearing, the National Committee sponsored a bag lunch with congressional

aides and representatives of church and human rights organizations.

This was followed by a press conference featuring Falk; Walden Bello; Addin Jabbar, lawyer of Abu Eain; Jim Zoghby, director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and Patricia Perillie, executive director of the Central American Refugee Center.

AN ASSAULT ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

In addressing the media representatives, Zoghby decried the recent moves to make extradition legislation more repressive:

"The recent attacks on the rights of vulnerable minorities like Arab-Americans, Filipinos and Central Americans, represented by the attempts to revise the (current) extradition law, must be viewed with concern by all Americans, since they will be inevitably extended into an assault on the basic civil liberties of everyone." □

Expert . . .

Continue from front page

Paying A Lot for Helping Pay the Bills

By ANNATESS ARANETA

Elena Carbonel, 36, came to the U.S. with her husband and two young children in 1969. When they bought a house and the children started school, Elena started helping her husband pay the bills by taking on a job as an inventory clerk.

And they lived happily ever after? Well, the ever after is not all that smooth as the Filipino women Elena typifies are finding out.

More and more Filipino mothers are joining the workforce as their family's "secondary" breadwinner. This trend is not new.

The 1970 Census indicated 46% of all married Filipino women were in the labor force as opposed to 9% in 1960.

Joining the workforce certainly helps the family income and accelerates the immigrant women's integration into the "mainstream." But it also becomes the source of new tensions—rather, old tensions

laid bare by new conditions. They usually start at home.

"Of course, I am the one who does everything at home," says Elena. "I don't get any help. I try to teach my children but they always go out with their friends. Sometimes I come home so tired . . . I just want to serve a can of corned beef for dinner. But my husband will never settle for that."

Brenda Arroyo, 40, says, "My husband is the same as he was in the Philippines. He doesn't lift a finger. He just sits there waiting to be served, as though he has already vegetated."

Unless they happen to have helpful husbands and children, women carry the full burden of maintaining a home life reminiscent of the one in the Philippines.

NEW INDEPENDENCE, NEW WORRIES

The inertia of the traditional family hierarchy and mores imposes itself and does not disappear in the new environment.

Most Filipino working women feel the pressure but are probably resigned to it. Especially as the kids, the spouse, the in-laws and other relatives expect them to continue their roles.

Some Filipino women entering the work force for the first time feel a certain amount of freedom and broadening of their world. Many derive a sense of self-worth from being able to work.

"I never worked in the Philippines," said Dolores Cagampang, 33. "You can't imagine how happy I was when I got a job as a production assembler. Now I earn my own money."

This new-found freedom and the satisfaction of contributing to the family coffers do not always meet with approval.

Vener Lontoc, 24, married for over a year, relates, "My husband wanted me to stop working after we settled down. He is old-fashioned in that way. But we have so many expenses, so I continued to work. Now he does not say anything about my working, but he wants to dictate where the money goes."

BRUISING MALE EGOS

Working immigrant women, already drained by the tedious workday routines often have to face the even more draining task of nursing their husbands' bruised egos.

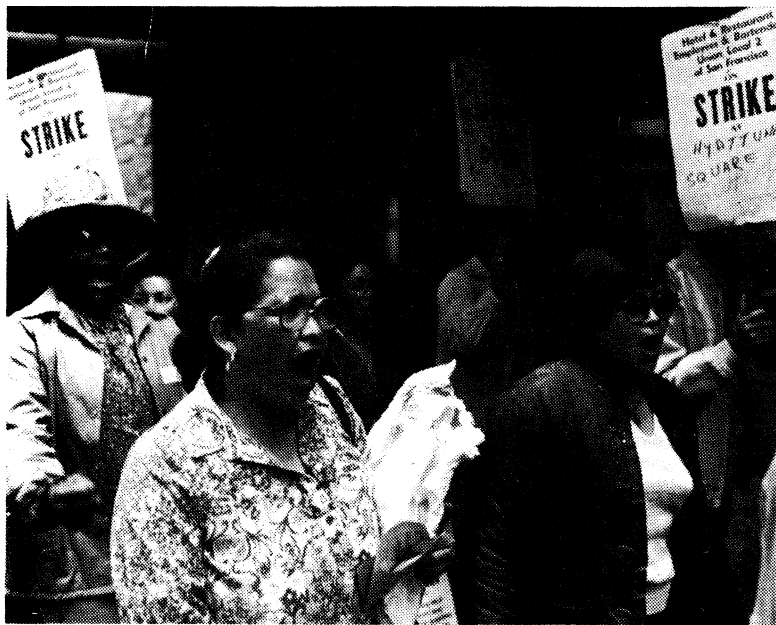
The job market slightly favors immigrant women to immigrant men. Women often immediately get hired as clerks and secretaries, assemblers or seamstresses. The racist view of Asian women as meticulous, hard workers cut out for tedious yet highly productive routines usually mark them as prime targets for low-paying but non-competitive jobs.

Immigrant men on the other



Filipino working women: facing pressures at home . . .

T.ROCAMORA/AK Photo



. . . and in the workplace.

T.ROCAMORA/AK Photo

hand, usually have a tougher time. Professionals find that re-entry into their fields requires retraining due to fierce competition. Discrimination is another barrier in the areas of licensure and job promotions. Many immigrant men land unskilled jobs as bellhops, busboys, janitors or parking lot attendants.

When Filipino women become the primary breadwinners, traditional male roles are significantly threatened, often resulting in marital tensions.

A case in point is that of a man who took to heavy drinking after many unsuccessful attempts to find a job. His wife, on the other hand, had a secure job in a bank. After she received a promotion, her husband was enraged. He suspected her of having an affair

with her boss to get the promotion.

Of course, despite the new freedom and self-worth that comes with being able to "bring home the rice," immigrant women in general are exploited as workers, and even more so as minority women. For minorities, on-the-job pressures lead to a considerable amount of insecurity and tension, too.

"Suffering in silence," the supposed Filipina virtue that merely expresses her lack of options in a feudal society, becomes a double curse when practiced in an advanced capitalist environment.

At work, this "virtue" leads to being taken advantage of. At home, which is also like being "at work," silence may lead to marital peace but it is an uneasy, gnawing, corrosive kind of peace. □

Massive Job Losses Loom . . .

Continued from page 6

them to unload the unprofitable business.

AMFAC, Hawaii's biggest sugar producer, is a good example. This major corporation is being pushed by new stockholders to phase out its longest established operation.

Producing about 33% of Hawaii's total sugar output, AMFAC's profits dropped drastically from \$130 million in 1974 to an average \$30 million loss from 1976 through 1979.

Temporary relief came in 1980 with a \$60 million in profit. However, projected losses for 1981 will be between \$35 to \$40 million. Henry Walker Jr., AMFAC president and chairman of the board, says his company is currently losing \$5 million in sugar. Walker says the losses are sustainable for the time being, by AMFAC's more profitable operations which include retail stores, resorts and financial institutions. AMFAC's diversified operations, most of which are on the mainland

total \$2 billion in profit. Although a \$35 million loss is a small percentage of \$2 billion, it is enough to invite pressure from stockholders such as Gulf Western Industries which owns one-quarter of AMFAC.

WORKER'S TO BEAR BRUNT OF LOSSES

Since market prices are uncontrollable, producers look to cutting production altogether as AMFAC plans to do in Puna.

Major production costs marked for axing are the wages and benefits of workers. These are costs which are not fixed, but based on the bargaining strength of the worker's union.

While AMFAC and other sugar producers have other profitable operations to fall back on, Hawaii's sugar workers have only their organized strength, in the ILWU.

Thus far, the union's position has been to cooperate, but not to the extent of conceding to all of the industry demands. Recently,

sugar companies sought the deferment of already-negotiated wage increases, and asked for a 150% rent increase for plantation tenants' homes.

The ILWU agreed to defer only half of the 10% increase for

a period of only six months, provided the industry makes a lump-sum adjustment to sugar workers in August, when sugar price increases are anticipated. The union agreed to only a \$5.00 increase in rent.

Sugar has been the basis of Hawaii's economy for over a hundred years. The outcome of this crisis will seriously affect the rural communities of Oahu and neighboring islands. □



Sugar mills such as this one are threatened with closure, as Hawaii's sugar industry loses profitability.

AK Photo

Reagan and El Salvador: War is on His Mind

By VINCE REYES

With bolder proclamations, the Reagan administration appears to be preparing the ground for direct U.S. troop involvement in the violent political struggle in El Salvador. Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr. warned the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on February 2 that Washington would do "whatever is necessary" to defeat leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

"We are considering a whole range of options—political, economic and security—in response to Cuban intervention in this hemisphere," Haig said. When asked if the options included the direct intervention of U.S. troops Haig replied, "We have not ruled out anything."

On February 18, President Reagan stated that "There are no plans to send American troops into action any place in the world." However, he remained ambiguous, if not secretive over just what "political, economic and security" options meant. Reagan said, "I just don't believe that you discuss those options or what you may or may not do in advance of doing any of those things . . ."

The Reagan administration's interests in Central America do not stop in El Salvador. Thomas O. Enders, Assistant Secretary of State told a House subcommittee that "There is no mistaking that a decisive battle for Central America is under way in El Salvador. If after Nicaragua, El Salvador is captured by a violent minority . . . how long would it be before major strategic interests—the Panama Canal, sea lanes, oil supplies, were at risk?"

Also Reagan is not merely paying lip-service to a tough stance on El Salvador. It is paying out enormous amounts of U.S. taxpayers' dollars to the military junta of Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Military aid for the current fiscal year stands at \$135 million, and because of Duarte's supposed effort to improve the human rights situation, military aid will increase by \$25 million and economic aid by \$40 million. The total aid package request for fiscal year 1983 which begins next October is in excess of \$300 million.

REIGN OF TERROR

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Army is escalating its abuses and acts of murder against the civilian population in their attempt to smash the national liberation forces led by the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR).

An example took place in the province of Mozote, where between December 8 and 21 a total of 926 people were killed by government troops. Witnesses and survivors told of how soldiers murdered a man and his nine children along with a mother and five children.

The *Washington Post* reported an account by a survivor, Rufina Amaya, 38, who said troops entered her village in Morazan Province one morning, divided the men from the women and children, and shot them.



Family members mourning over the bodies of relatives killed by government troops in San Antonio Abad, a suburb of San Salvador.

But Reagan is attempting to certify that the Duarte regime is bringing "an end to the indiscriminate torture and murder of Salvadoran citizens" by the armed forces. He claims that the government is making admirable strides in its human rights policy, using the prosecution of six army members accused of killing four U.S. church-workers last year as an example of this effort.

The U.S. Embassy in San Salvador claims that the level of violence has declined over the past year from about 600 to 800 civilian deaths a month to 200 to 300 a month. It says that 6,900 civilians died from September 1980 to September 1981.

Critics dispute the embassy's reports and cite other figures such as those provided by Msgr. Arturo Rivera y Damas, acting head of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador.

The bishop reported that 11,723 civilians were killed in 1981. Typically, the Reagan administration cited embassy figures of no more than 300 people killed during the government sweep in Morazan province, cited earlier. American correspondents were told by survivors that more than 900 civilians were killed.

PINCHING THE VIETNAM NERVE

"There's something fishy with the embassy's numbers," said Representative Stephen Solarz, (D-Brooklyn). "It's like the estimates in Vietnam. These figures have such an implication for policy that the officials who compile them can't give an honest estimate."

Despite the controversial twisting of facts and figures, Reagan, in a televised news conference on February 18, was asked if he saw

any parallels between Vietnam and El Salvador. He gave an incoherent account of how the U.S. became involved in Southeast Asia and concluded by saying, "I don't think there's any parallel."

Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.), Thomas R. Harkin (D-Iowa), and James K. Coyne (R-Pa.) publicized their opinions the very next day. After a four-day visit to El Salvador, where they met with survivors of government raids, the representatives are convinced Reagan had no basis to tell Congress recently that the Salvadoran junta was making progress in improving its human rights record.

In addition, 26 members of the U.S. Congress have filed a suit against Reagan, Haig, and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to block aid to the junta. The suit cites the Reagan administration's violation of the War Powers Resolution which restricts the sending of U.S. troops overseas to engage in military activities without Congressional approval. The suit also charges Reagan with violating the Foreign Assistance Act which prohibits aid to countries engaged in gross human rights violations, the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights and the Foreign Military Assistance Act.

PEACEFUL ELECTIONS?

Washington is now backing elections scheduled for March 28, claiming the process will bring about a peaceful solution to the problems in El Salvador.

Administration officials contend the elections is a middle course between direct intervention, which the U.S. public would not support, and non-involvement which is

not an option open to them because they fear the victory of the Left.

The leftist and progressive forces are boycotting the elections pointing to the fact that they exclude major political opposition forces.

The opposition has long offered to negotiate with the government but the junta has resisted, contending elections are a better solution. Under the current conditions of army terror, the Left says that no election can be truly democratic. It renewed its call for a negotiated end to the war.

Salvadoran Bishop Jesus Delgado stated in January that the elections would only promote more pogroms and violence. Delgado said that only when peace is achieved can there be genuine elections. The Bishop's statement is seen as the most definitive opposition yet by the Salvadoran Catholic Church to the Duarte regime.

U.S. IS CLOSER TO WAR

The FMLN and FDR are making tremendous gains in the countryside having established liberated zones in various provinces. They launched a highly successful guerrilla attack on Llonpan Air Base and destroyed half of the Junta's U.S.-supplied helicopters and airplanes.

Soon followed a series of tactical offensives that shook Washington. In a matter of days Reagan sent an additional \$55 million in aid to make up for lost war equipment.

Even U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Dean R. Hinton was recently quoted saying that elections would "not end the war" and there might be no other alternative for the U.S. but to seek a military victory.

Already the U.S. seems to be moving in that direction. U.S.

military advisors have been seen piloting Huey helicopters during military strikes, and in mid-February the Cabled News Network showed a film of U.S. military "advisors" carrying M-16 rifles. Under criticism, Reagan immediately came to their defense saying the guns were being carried for protection, and immediately advanced a more liberal weapons carrying policy for overseas advisors.

PUBLIC OPINION BE DAMNED

Haig stated that domestic opposition would not necessarily be a factor on whether U.S. troops are sent to El Salvador. "If we were to determine our foreign policy based on the lowest common denominator of the national mood, I think we would be on very fallacious ground," he said February 18 on the PBS MacNeil-Lehrer Report.

Haig's contempt for American public opinion is consistent with the aggressive content of Reagan's foreign policy. The White House has also repeatedly pointed to "solid evidence" of Soviet and Cuban involvement in Central America but when pressed could offer no proof.

"Haig and company really believe that what is happening in El Salvador is the result of decisions made in Moscow rather than the revolutionary conditions in El Salvador," commented Rep. Gerry E. Studds (D-Mass.).

"Any policy that is based on that kind of logic is doomed to failure."

Nevertheless, the Reagan White House appears determined to place war on the American people's agenda, whether they like it or not. □



CARLOS BULOSAN 1913-1956

Excerpt from "America is in the Heart"

ready for the big can in the alley. While the manager was eating, I went to my room through the back door, picking up the box of sandwiches on my way. Up in the room, sitting morosely on my bed, was my brother, waiting for the food. He was going to pieces fast, because he had started drinking, too; and a chasm was opening between us, widening each time he committed a crime.

I was transferred to the bakery department of Opal Cafe at fourteen dollars a week, an increase of four dollars from my former salary. Men of influence came now and then to the back room where I was scrubbing pans, and cast malicious glances at me. Once a local businessman came into the back room with a bottle of whisky. He sarcastically said to me:

"Mr. Opal tells me that you are reading books. Is it true?"

"Yes, sir." But realizing that my tone had a challenging note in it, I said immediately: "Well, sir, there is nothing else to do after working hours. I hate to go to the Mexican quarters because, as you know, gambling and prostitution are going on there all the time. And I'm a little tired of the phonograph in my room, playing the same records over and over. I find escape in books, and also discovery of a world I had not known before . . ."

I had not been looking at him, because my words came in a rush.

"Well, you bring it upon yourself," he said tonelessly. "I mean prostitution and gambling."

"I don't know what you really mean," I said. "But the gambling and the prostitution are operated by three of this town's most respectable citizens. As a matter of fact, I can tell you their names—"

"Watch your yellow tongue, googoo!" he shouted at me, hurling the half-filled bottle in his hands.

I ducked too late, and the bottle hit the back of my head. I fell on the floor on all fours. When I saw him rushing at me with an empty pan, I jumped to my feet and grabbed a butcher knife which was lying on a table and met him. Slowly he backed away, escaped through the door to the dining room, and came back with the manager.

"What is this?" Mr. Opal asked. "This barbarian wants to murder me," the man said.

Something snapped inside of me, and my whole vision darkened. I lunged at the man with the knife in my hand, wanting to murder him. He ran behind Mr. Opal, shouting to the waitresses in the dining room to call for the police.

"You are fired!" he shouted, crossing his hands in front of his face, as though he could ward me off with them.

You are fired! How many times did I hear those words? Why did they pursue me down the years, across oceans and continents? A nameless anger filled me, and before I knew it I was screaming:

"I'll kill you, you white men!"

There was a crash, as though lightning had struck the building. Then silence. I looked up. I was hiding in the alley where I had hidden my box of sandwiches many times before. I groped my way in the dark, feeling the warm blood on my face.

I had struck at the white world, at last; and I felt free. Was my complete freedom to be fought for violently? Was murder necessary? And hate? God forbid! My distrust of white men grew, and drove me blindly into the midst of my own people; together we hid cynically behind our mounting fears, hating the broad white universe

at our door. A movement of the hand, and it was there—yet it could not be touched, could not be attained ever. I tried to find a justification for my sudden rebellion—why it was so sudden, and black, and hateful. Was it possible that, coming to America with certain illusions of equality, I had slowly succumbed to the hypnotic effects of racial fear?

It was about this time that I received a letter from the Philippines, from my cousin Panfilo, telling me of my father's death. It seemed that he had gone back to Mangusmana to plant rice in a strip of land belonging to one of our relatives. He was better then—much better than when I saw him for the last time in San Manuel harvesting *mongo* with my mother and sisters. But he did not realize that he was sick, that he was dying. And he died a lonely death; he had been dead for five days when his neighbors found him. My cousin wrote that he must have been eating when he died because there was still rice in his mouth and untouched plates were scattered around him. He died alone in the place where he had been born.

My father's death was the turning point of my life. I had tried to keep my faith in America, but now I could no longer. It was broken, trampled upon, driving me out into the dark nights with a gun in my hand. In the senseless days, in the tragic hours, I held tightly to the gun and stared at the world, hating it with all my power. And hating made me lonely, lonely for love, love that could resuscitate beauty and goodness. For it was life I aspired for, a life of goodness and beauty.

But I found only violence and hate, living in a corrupt corner of America. I found it in a small Filipino who appeared in town from nowhere and, strangely enough, called himself Max Smith. Max pretended to be bold and fearless, but his bravado was only a shield to protect himself, to keep the secret of his cowardice.

"Have you a gun?" Max asked me one night.

"Yes," I said.

"Give it to me," he said.

"Go to hell!" I told him.

"Give it to me!" He was trembling, not with anger but excitement.

I gave him the gun.

"Follow me," Max said, ducking into an alley.

I followed him down the block. He stopped near a small truck and told me to hide behind a tree. A Japanese appeared in the alley, walking toward the truck as though he were dancing. He wobbled a little and his breath was heavy with liquor. Max leaped from the darkness and hit him on the head with the butt of the gun, feeling him instantly. Waving the gun at me, Max began searching the victim's pockets. I jumped from behind the tree and bent over the Japanese, my legs shaking. Max jumped to his feet, motioned to me to follow him, and ran up the alley toward the town jail.

Robbery? It was something I had never done before—but it was a desperate year. Anything could happen, even in Lompoc. Max procured another gun somewhere, and I got back mine. I roamed the streets at night, following Max, banging at the doors of prostitutes when he wanted whisky. Then a tremendous idea came to my mind, driving me like a marijuana addict when it seized my imagination.

"What is it?" Max asked.

"The bank," I whispered. "Let's rob the bank."

He seized my hand, thought deeply for

a moment. "It could be done!"

"Yes!" I said. "Now here is what we will do. Remember there is only one night watchman. We will stop him in the street and force him to go to the house of the president of the bank and—presto!—the large safe where all the bills are kept." I stopped to catch my breath, so great was the idea, so breathtaking and courageous! "Then, Max, we will drive them to the mountain. We will tie them to the car, set fire to the car, and plunge it into the deep ravine below the highway. There will be no trace of them! And perhaps the fire will turn the mountain and this town into ashes! Let's do it tonight!"

Max held my hand tightly, looking from side to side. "We'll make it our last act in this damned town!"

It was settled. We would rob the bank and run away. I was standing in front of the Chinese gambling house when Max went inside and came out running, ducking into the dark alley with a bag of money. The excited proprietor came out with a gun, followed by other Chinese, chattering in singsong voices. I pointed in the other direction when they asked where Max went, cursing them in my dialect so that the Filipino gamblers would understand, and go away.

I knew where Max was hiding: the local jail. It was the safest place to hide because it was always empty, and the sheriff never bothered to investigate it. When the streets were clear, I went to the jailhouse. Max was waiting with my share of the loot.

"Let's go to San Luis Obispo and have fun," he said. "We will come back tomorrow for the bank. The grand finale!"

"Okay, Max," I said.

"Wait for me at the bus station," he said.

"Right." I went to the station and bought our tickets. Then Max came back with a bottle of whisky, his hand on the pocket where the gun was hidden. He jumped into the bus and took his seat beside me.

He began to get drunk. I watched him close his eyes and go sound asleep. I looked out the window. Night was gathering fast. The sky was dark and boundless.

In San Luis Obispo, walking in Chinatown, Max pointed to a house in a corner. "This is where my wife lives," he said.

"Your wife?" I did not know he was married.

"Yeah," he murmured. "The bitch!"

I walked silently. Then I *knew!* Max was trembling. He looked tranced, like a gamecock before it is thrown into the arena. He put his hand where the gun was hidden.

"Wait for me here," he said.

I saw him cross the street toward the house. In a little while he came running out, the gun still hot in his hand. I rushed to meet him.

"What happened?" I asked.

"I shot him!" he said. "I killed the white bastard who lives with my wife!" He shoved some money into my pockets. "Go away! Now!"

"How about you, Max?" I could not leave him alone.

He pointed the gun at me. "Go!" he screamed.

I leaped to my feet and ran down the street. I stopped at a corner and looked back. Max was crossing the street toward the house again. There was no time to lose. I ran to the bus and bought a ticket for Los Angeles, I tried to reach my brother Macario by phone, but he was busy in the garden. He was still working in the big house in the hills above Hollywood.

I took a train to New Mexico. But the farther I went away, the more the thought of the crime possessed me. □

"DANGER: EXTRADITION"—

a recent publication by the National Committee to Oppose the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty, presents an analysis of the recent political attacks on those who oppose Reagan's foreign policy.

Learn the whole story behind the extradition treaty. . .

Send for your copy of "Danger: Extradition" now!

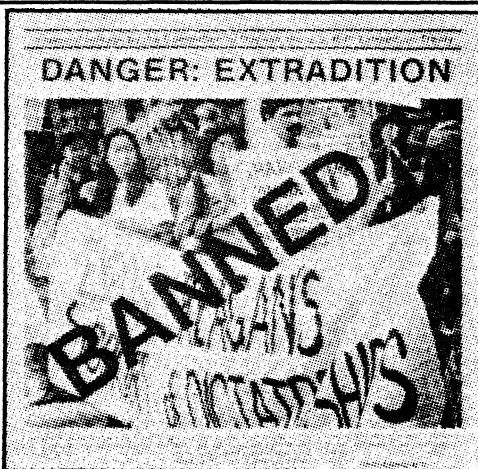
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Make checks to: **CAMD**, P. O. Box 173, Oakland, CA 94668 or for tax exemption make checks to **Southeast Asia Resource Center**, earmark: Extradition Treaty Campaign.

Fishing in RP's Troubled Waters

By NENE OJEDA

The abundant Philippine waters, covering six times the country's land area, have long been a source of food and livelihood for its people.

The country's recent fish production has been tremendous. The Bureau of Fisheries claimed that for the year 1980 alone, the total catch could feed each Filipino some 85.6 kilos of fish per day. Total production earnings were enough to provide the country's fishermen with approximately ₱1,388 monthly.

Yet more and more Filipinos, many of them fishing folk, cannot afford to put fish on their tables. Fish, if eaten at all, is imported from Japan as canned mackerel or sardines. More often they can only afford the smaller and cheaper dried *dilis*.

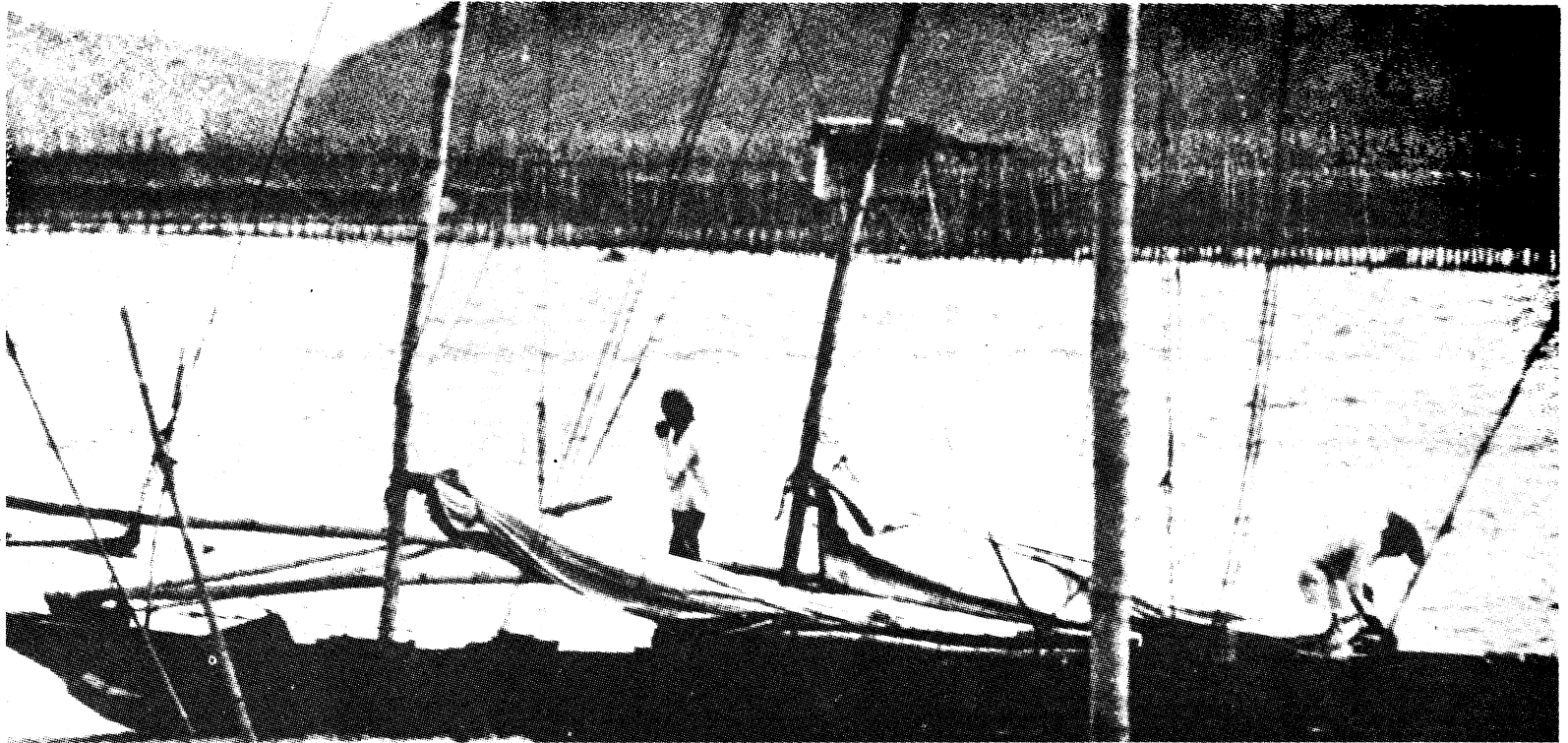
Many small fishermen are finding it hard to make ends meet as their catches grow smaller and smaller. The areas they traditionally fish have been shrinking. Much of the public waters have been subdivided into fish corrals and are now privately owned.

Despite the record catch, all 27 of the country's fish canning plants had to close operations temporarily because there was no fish to process. The 17 companies that have since resumed operations have asked the government to import fish for processing.

AUCTIONING OFF THE OCEAN

Philippine government policy however, is far from curbing this threat to the country's valuable resource. In fact it encourages foreign fishing and exportation of fish products under an overall economic development scheme.

Presidential Decree No. 43, released shortly after the declaration of martial law, allowed local and foreign capitalists to acquire and exploit public fishing grounds. Through "public auctions," thousands of square kilometers of communal and municipal seas



Filipino fishermen: hemmed in by Marcos' decrees, sealordism and Japanese intrusion.

AK File

were transferred to the exclusive use of these concessionaires.

Fishermen who have traditionally fished these seas now have to pay to fish the waters. In Western Samar, fishermen pay ₱200 per 21 day fishing rights. Others pay ₱150 tribute for a three-month fishing period in a small fish corral.

The Fishing Act of 1975 (PD 704) allowed the entry of predominantly foreign companies to fish and export produce from Philippine waters.

Largely Japanese, fishing trawlers comb the deeper waters, using modern technology such as radars and echosounders. Smaller, young fish caught by their massive, fine-meshed nets are not returned to the sea. Huge factory ships process and can the fish at sea—ready for delivery to Japan.

FISHERMAN-SEALORD RELATIONS

Not content with the catch from the deeper seas, these trawlers follow the fish to the shallower waters. Small fishermen with simple *bancas* are often run

aground, or worse, capsized and destroyed by the larger boats.

Fishermen who venture to the deeper waters not only risk their lives but also usually come back to shore faced with mounting debts. Deep water fishing requires motorized boats and larger nets, financing for which are available only from local capitalists.

Many fishermen have entered into share systems with these capitalists not unlike those of tenant-farmers and landlords.

Fishermen returning with their catch are required to sell all their fish to the capitalist who weighs and grades the catch. He also determines the price for the fish.

From these returns the capitalist gets 60% for rent of the boat and net. Fuel and maintenance costs are shouldered by the fishermen.

With all these deductions a fisherman ends up earning only ₱150 to ₱200 a month. Because fishing is dependent on weather, a fisherman may work only a total of five months a year.

BRINGING IN THE TROOPS

Compounding the fishermen's

woes is government terrorism. Philippine Constabulary (PC) troops have been recruited to ensure the implementation of government decrees and projects.

In Mindanao, PC troops guard a 2,000-hectare fish farm reportedly owned by Ferdinand Marcos and Ali Dimaporo, appointed head of an autonomous Moro region.

Plainclothesmen and hirelings of fishpond concessionaires last year threatened, beat, arrested, and shot at fishermen and duck raisers who were protesting the erection of fences around the traditional fishing area and adjoining marshlands of Laguna de Bay not far from Manila.

Government soldiers also guard 3,000-hectare fishery in Samar owned by the Romualdezes. The PC are there "to clean up the area," said one Imelda kin.

ORGANIZING TO RESIST

But the country's fishermen are beginning to resist the private acquisition and exploitation of the country's seas. Step by step they are changing the unequal share system and challenging usurious practices.

Since 1978, Laguna de Bay fishermen and duck raisers have been unrelentingly petitioning against the establishment of private fish corrals. Their protests stopped only in 1980 when the government stopped granting concessions and reopened large areas for public fishing.

From 1977 to 1980, fishermen led by the *Kapunungan nan Gudtinga Parupangisda han Samar* (Association of Small Fishermen of Samar) held a series of confrontations with local officials protesting the implementation of PD 704.

Their organized protests prompted Ferdinand Marcos to issue local letters of instructions which countered his earlier decrees. Big trawlers and purse-seining are prohibited in the municipal waters of Samar and Leyte.

'OPERASYON SUKOT'

In one case, 17 Western Samar fishermen successfully negotiated a 60-40 share system in their favor with the local capitalist. The boat owner, a rich fisherman, agreed after hearing the fishermen's demands.

In another case, the boat owners were forced to lower boat rent by

24% and increase the price of the fishermen's catch by 20%. "Lower the rent and raise the price of our catch, then we'll fish again," was the cry of fishermen in several barrios who simultaneously stopped fishing.

In cases where such negotiations are impossible, fishermen resort to "*Operasyon Sukot*." First used by tenant farmers against despotic landlords, Samar fishermen have started reducing the boat owner's share of the catch by hiding part of their catch.

Some Camarines Sur fishermen were much bolder. With the aid of several red fighters of the New People's Army, they boarded and temporarily gained control of the fish trawler *MV Enrico*.

After confiscating the trawler's catch, the fishermen explained their plight to the crew. They also warned the boat's captain not to fish the shallow waters again.

PART OF A LARGER STRUGGLE

The struggles of Filipino fishermen are leading them to a deeper understanding of the roots of their ills.

In Quezon and Lanao del Sur, fishermen are in the ranks of the peasants fighting the government's militarization drives and military abuses.

Panay and Negros Island fishermen have been supporting each other against a common target: the local landlords who often are marshland grabbers and have the monopoly on fishing boats and equipment.

Bataan and Zambales fishermen are among those seeking the removal of U.S. military bases. They are not only protesting the presence of the nuclear weapons stockpiled in those bases but are also trying to stop the construction of a nuclear reactor.

More and more fishermen are also turning to armed struggle. NPA raids on government forces on Zumaranga island and in the coastal town of San Sebastian were carried out with the fishermen's motorized bancas. The fishing folk also provided food and aided in the surveillance of government troop movements.

It may be making Japanese big fishing business and local capitalists happy, but the trend shows the Marcos government is alienating another large sector of the rural population. □

New Anti-FM Coalition Formed

A new coalition of elite Marcos oppositionists is seeking to head off the increasingly left-leaning anti-Marcos movement.

"We are racing against time, hoping to provide a third force between Marcos' dictatorship and Communism," said ex-senator Salvador Laurel, a coalition leader.

The yet unnamed coalition was formed after a series of meetings between Laurel and Benigno Aquino, former senator and ex-detainee now living in Boston.

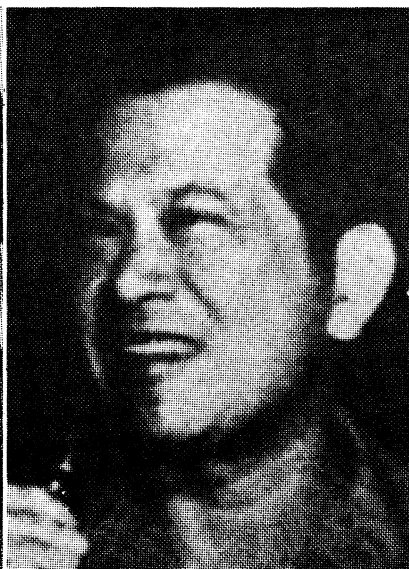
Two other former senators, Gerardo Roxas and the U.S.-based Raul Manglapus have also joined the coalition.

The formation of the new grouping came at a time when Ferdinand Marcos, in his campaign to promote a semblance of normalization, has been encouraging opposition party formations.

The Philippine Democratic Party (PDP), a recently formed grouping led by Jose Luis and Aquilino Pimentel, is reportedly



Aquino



FEER Laurel

AP

a member of the new coalition.

The PDP enjoys the support of UNIDO, an opposition grouping active during last year's boycott movement, and the Philippine Christian Democratic movement.

The coalition, with 2,800 members, is also seen as the alternative

to the Social Democratic Party of the Philippines (SDP).

Led by Reuben Canoy and Francisco "Kit" Tatad, both members of the *Batasang Pambansa* (National Assembly), the SDP has been denounced as a "loyalist opposition party." □