

# Ang KATIPUNAN

October 16-31, 1973

Vol. 1, No. 2

15 cents

## LEYTE FOLK MASSACRED

TACLOBAN CITY — Reports just reached us that hundreds of PC soldiers invaded a small Leyte Barrio a few months ago, killing an undetermined number of people and burning down the houses of the barrio folk.

The massacre took place on May 22 in Barrio Usigan, Macarthur, Leyte. The province has been the object of an intensified campaign of repression in recent months.

Earlier, three PC soldiers led by a Sgt. Ponce of the Military Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) went to Usigan looking for activists. Finding none, they started harassing the barrio people.

However, the peasants resisted and killed three soldiers with bolos and hand-made guns. Then to avoid further harassment or retaliation from government soldiers, the menfolk left the barrio.

Learning of the incident, the PC provincial headquarters launched a mopping-up operation in the area, mobilizing 200 to 300 soldiers from various detachments. A commando force was also sent after the menfolk of Usigan.

Failing to get their quarry, the PC soldiers unleashed themselves on those left behind. Among those they shot down were a 70-year-old peasant; two women aged 35 and 60; a 22 year-old youth and several children. A 60-year-old peasant was kicked in the face before he was shot, according to witnesses.

Before leaving the barrio, the troops seized the chickens, pigs, and valuables of the residents and then burned down their houses.

### Leyte Witch Hunt

In the neighboring barrios of Lanawan, Kabukawon, Sta. Isabel, San Vicente and San Antonio, the state troopers conducted a "sanitation" drive. They herded the people into six-by-six trucks and brought them to Tacloban, forcing them to leave untended their crops and work animals.

On the road to Tacloban, the PC soldiers fired indiscriminately into the countryside, apparently still trying to flush out the menfolk of Usigan. They were heard vowing to take 10 lives for every PC soldier killed.

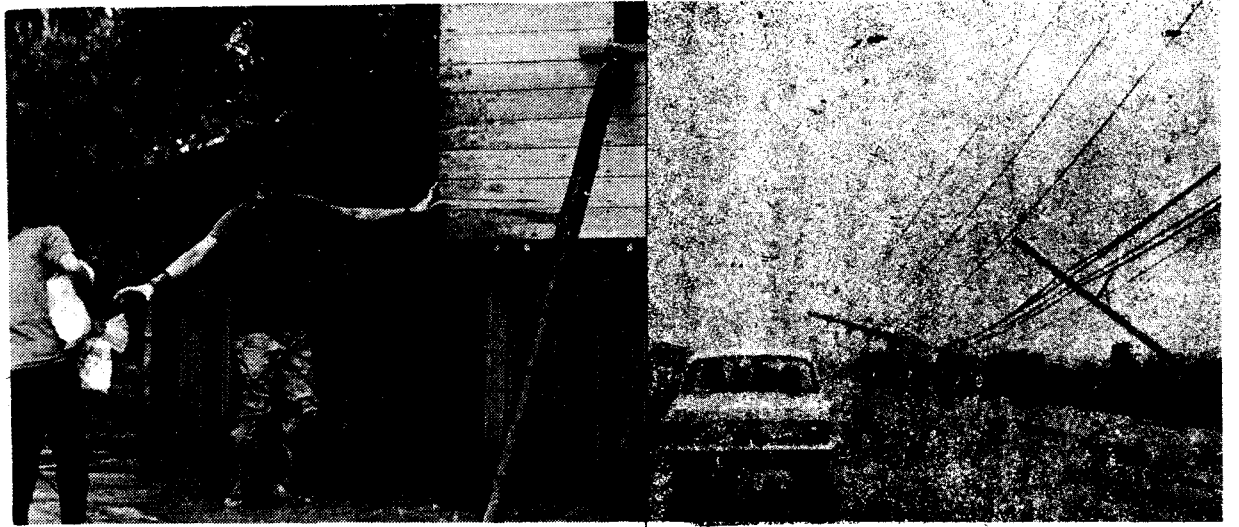
Mass arrests of suspected activists and peaceful citizens are being stepped up in Leyte. Prisoners were reported to be thrown into dungeons, tortured and kept without food.

The "witchhunt" in Leyte reached its peak towards the end of June, when President and Mrs. Marcos arrived with numerous guests for the Tacloban town fiesta on June 29. The occasion was the inauguration of the "Marcos bridge" over the San Juancino strait and Mrs. Marcos' birthday on July 2.

For weeks, the bridge was kept off-limits to the public by a heavy military guard, because of a rumor that the resistance forces were going to blow it up.

During the inauguration, the military saturated the area with troops and secret service men. Frogmen combed the strait for explosive devices. The main street of Tacloban were cordoned off by soldiers and "sanitized" for the passage of the Marcos party.

Ma.F.S.



Typhoon Narsing ravaged the Central Luzon and Nueva Ecija regions. Floods are high in Manila, as usual.

## Typhoon Takes Its Toll

Typhoon Narsing left several Luzon provinces heavily damaged and claimed nine lives with 36 persons missing. Hardest hit was Nueva Ecija, where the San Isidro Bridge collapsed, washing away at least 40 persons who were feared drowned. An estimated 25 barrios and 8 towns are under water in this province.

Other provinces affected were Pampanga, Baguio, Sorsogon, Quezon, Cabanatuan, and Rizal.

In Pampanga, the Pampanga River overflowed causing the Arnedo dike to break in several places.

In Metropolitan Manila, the lowest areas were flooded as usual — Laong-daan, Sta. Mesa, San Andres Bukid, Lealtad, Dimasalang, to name a few. In other parts of Greater Manila, people living by rivers and creeks had to be evacuated as torrents of water drowned and destroyed their homes.

Among those areas were Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Pasay City, Barrio Gumamela, Quezon City where the Diliman creek flows, barrios in San Juan, Rizal where the San Juan River flows, and some barrios along the Pasig river. A total of 3,620 families and persons were dislocated and evacuated to schoolhouses and other temporary shelters.

### Damage Could Be Minimized!

Typhoon Narsing is just one of the annual typhoons that cause so much misery and destruction to the Philippines. While the natural causes of typhoons certainly cannot yet be controlled, the damage it wrought through floods could be minimized in this day and age.

The annual floods in Central Luzon have

caused so much damage in recent years because there is little forest left to hold back the water. If, especially in the mountains there is little or no forestry, the rain runs down unrestrained from the mountainside, flooding the lowlands.

During the '40s and '50s, the heavy logging industries of Japanese and American businesses depleted most of the forestry in Central Luzon. This rate of depletion has increased in the past two decades, such that the Philippines has now the most rapid rate of deforestation in the world.

This situation could be remedied through conservation and reforestation, but as usual, profits come before people.

The flooding in the city of Manila is caused by antiquated draining and sewerage systems. In the slums of Manila, estuaries (esteros) date back to Spanish rule, and are still being used

(continued on page 2)

## 'BALIKBAYAN' or Revenue Racket ?

Operation "Balikbayan" — the new program launched by the Marcos government, designed to attract Filipinos abroad to visit the Philippines, has begun its build-up activities in the U.S.

In the past month, the Bayanihan Dance Troupe has been touring the United States, especially the areas where the Filipino population is dense.

Making appearances with the troupe are actors Lita Guitierrez and Oscar Obligacion, who do the build-up part of the show by extolling the virtues of the "new society."

Operation "Balikbayan" or Homecoming, is projected by the Marcos government to reach a momentum during the Christmas season. The government projects that at the most 200,000 Filipinos are expected to return home to visit. The government also projects that if such a number materializes, revenue from taxes of Filipinos abroad could reach up to P2 million.

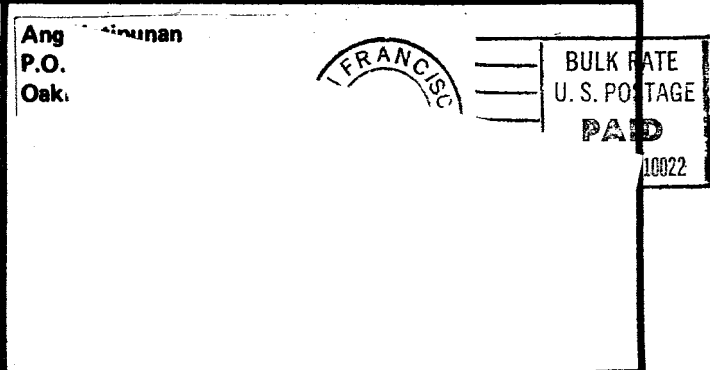
## "Warning To Marcos..."

MANILA (BMP) — A group claiming to have retired and active officers in its ranks has urged President Marcos to submit himself to a presidential election before December 30, 1973. Should Marcos fail to do so, the group warned, it will be compelled to take up arms and to "restore democracy" in the country.

Calling itself the "Filipino Freedom Fighters (FFF)" the group claims to have its "general headquarters" in Central Luzon and "Field Command No. 175" elsewhere in the islands.

In an open letter to Marcos dated Sept. 8, 1973, and circulated in Greater Manila, the FFF argued that Marcos is the duly-elected president of the Philippines only up to noon of Dec. 30, 1973. "After that date and time, the title and powers granted to you by the

(continued on page 3)



**Marcos Invites Foreign Capital**

**Filipino Business Loses Out**

**AIR MAC PHILIPPINES, INC.** **Dole BANANAS & Dole PINEAPPLE PRODUCTS FOR THE WORLD MARKETS**

**Mack TRUCKS**

**Del Monte**

**FORD PHILIPPINES** **Ford** **USIPHIL INC.**

In the island of Mindanao, southern Philippines, lies an expanse of cultivated lands from where Dole products for the world markets come. Fresh Hawaiian Variety Pineapple. Canned Pineapple Products. Cavendish Bananas. All sporting the world-famous Dole brand.

(Graphic reprinted from PHILIPPINES INFORMATION BULLETIN)

MANILA (BMP) — Filipino entrepreneurs, by and large, are just beginning to get the idea: the Marcos martial law regime is determined to pave the way for the takeover by foreign capitalists of Filipino-owned business and industrial firms, as well as of banking and financial institutions.

In the guise of promoting "progress" and "national development," the regime has in fact hoodwinked several Filipino entrepreneurs into supporting the systematic sellout of the country's enterprises and its patrimony to foreigners.

The scheme revolves around the policy of promoting "joint ventures" between domestic and foreign capital. (Between the sardine and the whale!—Ed.)

In the long run, the objective is to weaken or eliminate considerably the core of nationalist businessmen by inducing them, or forcing them, to become "compradors"; that is to become essentially instruments of foreign interests while promoting their own fortunes.

The regime's main instruments for this scheme are the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Central Bank of the Philippines (CB).

**Open Door Policy**

As an overall canopy, the regime has adopted an "open door policy" towards foreign investments by providing all possible incentives. Foremost among these incentives, is the freedom given to all foreign investors to repatriate (or take out of the country) all their capital and profits at any time.

Specifically the regime has taken the following steps:

Through the Board of Investments, it requires Filipino companies to enter into tieups (joint ventures) with large foreign firms

**Typhoon Narsing... (continued from front page)**

to drain wastes! The answer to this is an updated and efficient draining system.

**Marcos's Policy: Profits Before People**

With all the promises of the "New Society," Marcos has not concretized the answer to the misery of the people who are yearly victims of typhoon floods. The most

before they could be registered and allowed to enjoy incentives for expanding operations or initiating manufacturing projects.

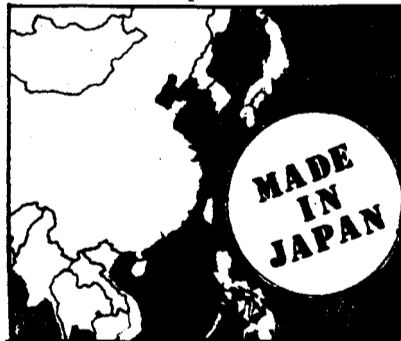
At the same time, foreign capitalists are encouraged to set up enterprises, totally controlled by themselves, in such key areas as mining, oil exploration, agriculture, manufacturing, and trade.

The most recent example of the measure cited above is the tieup of the Republic Flour Mills with Swift & Co. of the U.S. for the local manufacture of canned meat products. Earlier the BOI had required RFM Corporation to tie up with Gerber Products Co., also of the U.S., for the local manufacture of baby foods.

Until these tie-ups, the RFM was a 100% Filipino-owned corporation identified with Salvador Araneta, a consistent proponent of "nationalist industrialization." By the logic of the BOI, a Filipino company may expand and develop new lines if it adopts foreign-named brands and ties up with foreign manufacturers. By another logic, however, the BOI policy simply serves to promote the sales of foreign brands in the country assuring them of substantial market.

The following companies are examples of Filipino-owned businesses that had to tie up with foreign capital:

Precision Electronics (now controlled by Matsushita of Japan), Radiola (now



he has probably done is to put aside some funds for the Red Cross to help the flood victims in the year to come. While the Marcos government makes good its economic commitments to the U.S. and other foreign businesses, it ignores the sufferings of the Filipino people. It becomes clearer and clearer who the Marcos regime really serves. Ma.F.S.

controlled by Toshiba also of Japan), and Filoil Co. (formerly a refining company with stock mostly owned by Filipinos, now has sold out completely to Gulf Oil Co. of the U.S.).

The anti-nationalist policies of the Marcos regime dictated by foreign agencies like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, invariably leave the Filipino businessman with the crumbs, and has reduced them to mere "junior partners" of foreign capital.

These are just a few of the sad facts behind the "New Society" Economic boom.

**MORE INFLATION, RISING FOREIGN DEBT**

MANILA (BMP) — The World Bank foresees that increasing foreign debt, pressure to import consumer items like rice and rapid inflation will continue to restrain the growth of the Philippine economy.

Yet the World Bank stresses, if the economy is to get out of its present stagnation it must surge forward at the rate of 8% growth per year. The present rate is 5%. The study was presented and discussed in Paris last May 29-30 by the 11 nation consultative group organized by the World Bank to assist the Philippine economy.

The study points out some serious contradictions facing the Marcos martial law regime. For instance, the Philippines must acquire \$600 million in the next five years to fund projects designed to achieve "national self-sufficiency." The Marcos regime has utilized foreign borrowings to accelerate food production (crash programs), tourism, and infrastructure projects (road etc.).

But the study also points out that foreign borrowing also increases the external debt which is already \$2.2 billion. Repayments of these loans is staggered over 25 to 30 years. And these payments increase as new loans are contracted every year. In order to repay the loans the Philippines should set aside 27 cents for every dollar earned!

On the domestic front the World Bank predicts that inflation will continue at the rate of 6 to 7% per year. The WB traces the cause of inflation to the peso devaluation in 1970.

From 1970 to 1972, consumer prices have already risen by 50%. The study also points out that the pesos purchasing power has declined miserably since 1965 (as much as a 55% decrease). The study also recommends that economic growth should increase from its present rate of 5% and the gross national product should transcend its stagnated rate of \$200 a year.

**Correction**

In the last issue, a mistake was made in the layout of the cartoon on page 2. The meaning of the cartoon will be understood if number 2 is read first, number 1 is read second, and number 3 is read last. The correct sequence is 2, 1, 3.

Also, PC - NGA stands for Philippine Constabulary - National Grains Authority. The PC distributed the rice for the NGA and as the cartoon tells it, the PC often stirred up riots and disturbances by the way they treated the people who had been waiting many hours in line for their ration.

<p><b>Ang KATIPUNAN</b></p> <p>4704 Shattuck Avenue Oakland, California 94609</p> <p>published twice monthly by: Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP)</p>	<p><b>EDITORIAL STAFF:</b> Pio Matanglawin, Bruce Occena, Trinity Ordon, Ma. Flor Sepulveda, J. Tolero</p> <p><b>CORRESPONDENTS IN:</b> San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago</p> <p>Mailing Address: P.O. Box 23644 Oakland, CA 94623</p>	<p><b>SUBSCRIPTION RATES:</b></p> <p>1 year/24 issues: (individuals) ..... \$5 (institutions) ..... \$7 (outside U.S./Canada) ..... \$10</p> <p>Make check or money order payable to KATIPUNAN NEWSPAPER.</p> <p>Application to mail at 2nd class postage is pending at Oakland, Calif. 94623.</p>
--	--	--

# 25,000 GOV'T. EMPLOYEES LAID-OFF



Gov't. employees on strike in 1972. Now -- 25,000 have been laid off, and of course higher wages is out of the question!

25,000 government employees were laid-off between August 15 and 31 in accordance with the government reorganization plan of the Marcos martial law regime. This is in addition

to the 25,000 government officials and employees already dismissed since September 1972, according to sources at the reorganization commission. Malacanang disclosed last May 25, however, that there were already 60,000 government officials and employees laid off, when Pres. Marcos ordered the "re-accomodation" of these dismissed personnel on or before Dec. 31, 1973.

This "re-accomodation order" does not cover those laid-off by virtue of presidential order which includes most of those already dismissed. The government reorganization plan has been under implementation since the declaration of Martial Law last year. It was suspended "indefinitely" just before the "referendum" of July 27-28 this year.

On July 13, Budget Commissioner Faustino Sychangco publicly announced that those scheduled to be laid off on July 15 should continue to work "indefinitely." At the same time, he gave oral orders to department heads to proceed with the dismissals starting Aug. 15.

Reliable sources at the reorganization commission said that one third of the entire

government bureaucracy - or close to 200,000 officials and employees - will be laid off "to achieve economy" in government operations. Critical observers noted, however, that the reorganization plan is aimed not to "achieve economy" but to rechannel as much funds as possible to military expenditures and to "new society" propaganda campaigns.

Those who were dismissed are still waiting to be paid the terminal benefits they are entitled to, including gratuity pay and unused accumulated sick & vacation leave benefits. Payments for these benefits are withheld since they are subject to the "availability of funds."

On the other hand, those who are retained find their salaries drastically reduced, in some cases, as much as 30%. This because under the reorganization plan, the present government wage standardization rule would be uniformly applied to all employees of all government offices.

The mass lay-off would aggravate the already high unemployment rate in the country, and make it much more difficult for the employees concerned and their families to cope with the spiralling prices of rice and other prime commodities. -BMP

## Marcos Takes Over Lopez Firms

MANILA (BMP) - President Marcos business clique is set to take over completely all the holdings of the Lopez family in the Philippines, principally the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO), and its allied interests.

The Lopez family is one of the richest families in the Philippines whose business interests are invested mostly in public utilities and the sugar business. Fernando Lopez, was the vice-president of the Philippines before the declaration of martial law and ceases to operate in that function now. The Lopezes own 35 percent or about P315 million of the total book value of the Meralco group of firms estimated at more than P900 million.

### Lopez Newspapers, Telephone, Television and Radio - Taken Over

During the past year of martial law the Marcos regime has managed to take over the following interests of the Lopez family, notably the public facilities they operate:



Vice-President Lopez during happier days. With Eugenio Lopez Jr. (Lopez's nephew and publisher of Manila Chronicle) jailed under martial law, Marcos can "persuade" the Lopezes to sell their holdings - P280 million worth!

1. The building and printing facilities of the hard hitting, Lopez owned Manila Chronicle, was taken over by the government controlled Times Journal under the management of the president's brother-in-law, Benjamin Romualdez.

2. The government seized the operations of the Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (PT&T), which operates on extensive microwave backbone and nationwide telex system. Using the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (POTC), a quasi-government entity, managed by Marcos men, the government succeeded in taking over the Lopez owned PT&T.

3. The government also took over the nationwide Lopez owned ABS-CBN, the most extensive and sophisticated television and radio network in the Philippines. The

government, after failing to negotiate with Don Eugenio Lopez for the sale of ABS-CBN, resorted to other more devious schemes to facilitate the take-over. Marcos henchmen burned down the Kanlaon Broadcasting Systems (KBS) studios which has a fraternal contract with ABS-CBN, that KBS could use the facilities of ABS-CBN in the occasion of "fortuitous events."

### P280 Million for Lopez Jr.'s Freedom

These are only the major Lopez holdings that Marcos has managed to take over by decree. It is disclosed by reliable sources that Lopez is out to lose P280 million because of concessions he has made for the release of his son, Eugenio Lopez, Jr. Lopez Jr. was arrested in connection with financing a so-called plot to assassinate the Marcos family and has remained in jail for almost a year now.

The Marcos controlled press has spread lies that the "take over" of Lopez companies was a gesture on Lopez's part to support the "new society." What overwhelming generosity! Meralco and its allied enterprises, ranks third among the largest 200 companies in the Philippines, an entity no Filipino businessman would like to give up in light of the competition between local and foreign businesses.

Meanwhile, Marcos has been moving towards the acquisition of other Lopez owned businesses, represented by Roberto S. Benedicto (pres. of KBS) and Ricardo C. Silverio (head of the Silverio group of companies). The power-hungry, money-mad Marcos utilizing his martial law powers, is out maneuvering the influential Lopezes, in their long-standing economic and political feud. - Ma.F.S.

## FFF Warning... (continued from front page)

people shall automatically cease," the FFF declared. "Should you persist in continuing in office and imposing your will on the Filipino people, you can only do so unlawfully as a usurper and a dictator."

### FFF's Conditions for Elections

The group then suggested the following steps for the proposed elections:

1. Martial law must be lifted to give all candidates and the electorate ample opportunity to discuss the issues. The opposition should be allowed unlimited freedom of speech and of the press, freedom of discussion and movement, and freedom to criticize Marcos and his policies.

2. "Notoriously partisan" officials in the Commission on Elections and in the Armed

Forces should be replaced with independently willed individuals whose integrity and political color cannot be questioned.

Given this condition, the FFF said, the AFP under the direct supervision of the Comelac and working under the "basic rules of fair play and the Election Code," could be depended upon to ensure the people's will is respected.

3. Simultaneously, the people should be asked to vote on an amendment to the constitution allowing the president to seek a third term, with a vote for Marcos being taken as a vote for the amendment.

### Marcos Warned

In the letter, Marcos was warned:

"You might be misled by reports that the people are happy and content with the

present regime. Publicly, most will proclaim and laud the system but in intimate conversations there are grumblings and serious undertones. You could very well succeed but as we fall, others will carry on the fight, for there can be no peace without freedom and if freedom is lost, it cannot be regained through peaceful means."

Before issuing the open letter, the FFF had already disseminated several statements on their political position. In Dec. of 1972, a Major Antonio Luna representing the FFF "Counter Propaganda Corps" denounced Marcos for setting up a dictatorship. Later, a statement issued by a Capt. Jose LLanera representing "Field Command No. 175" called for unity among Filipinos in the struggle to restore freedom and democracy to the country.

# Mula sa atin...

## TOUR OF RIZAL?

Returning Rizalenos will be given a tour of Rizal under the auspices of "Operation Balikbayan." They will be hosted by Gov. and Mrs. Isidoro Rodriguez of Rizal.

"The itinerary of their tour: begins at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila, drive around fashionable Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village, optional visit to one of Forbe's mansions art collections, sight-seeing drive of factories along South Super Highway and a short visit to the Toyota, Delta Car Factory in Parañaque."

These facts were taken from Philippines News (SF). But we ask, why not drive around fashionable Tondo, visit one of Tondo's garbage collections, proceed to poshy Paco, then to spectacular San Andres (Meadow?) Bukid, and wind up by romantic Guadalupe-by-the-Pasig?

## CORRUPTION EXTENSIVE IN THE ARMED FORCES

(BMP) — A thriving racket in unofficial fees for travel clearances for Filipinos wishing to go abroad, was exposed by Laging Una, a Los Angeles based Filipino newspaper.

"Under martial law, regulations promulgated by Marcos, require Filipinos going to obtain security clearances from the DND before they can be issued passports. The DND's, as they are called, are supposedly free. But to get one, the intending traveller must pay a hefty unofficial "fee." The fee varies according to the financial standing of the individual and can range from P1,000 to P5,000.

It further said: "I [the columnist] have spoken to tourists who have actually paid these sums to get clearances. Just a thousand clearances of say, P2,000 each, would yield a tidy sum of P2-M, quite a nice racket. We may be sure the money reaches a higher level than the pockets of an underpaid government clerk."

## DEPT. OF NATIONAL DEFENSE RACKET EXPOSED

QUEZON CITY (BMP) — The campaign of the Marcos martial law regime to arrest "backsliding" government officials and criminals may well evoke chuckles from the following high-ranking officials:

- Brig. Gen. Tomas P. Diaz, first PC zone commander, reportedly protects gambling and prostitution houses in Pampanga and other cities and provinces in Central Luzon.
- Brig. Gen. Luis Amor, III PC zone commander, overlords the smuggling and vice activities in Cebu and Eastern Visayas.

While Marcos has been hailing the Armed Forces of the Philippines as a model morality for the "new society," the AFP sets a standard of morality for itself different from that which it requires from others. These are two examples:

- Maj. Orlando Dulay, who was arrested prior to martial law on criminal and administrative charges, has been released. He is now provincial commander of Quirino province.
- Lt. Col. Tomas Dumpit, who figured prominently in the burning of barrios Ora Este and Ora West in Bantay, Ilocos Sur in 1969, has been released after five months in jail and is slated to be given the post of provincial commander.

## CLERGY MOUNTS PROTEST

# Marcos Represses Church

The facts from this article were condensed from the September 15 issue of *Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (BMP)* and the New York Times, October 18, entitled "Church in the Philippines, Becoming a Focus of Opposition to Marcos" written by Joseph Lelyveld — Ma. Flor Sepulveda.

The Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines has recently been the object of repression from the Marcos martial law regime. This new wave of repression is the government's response to the growing reputation of the Church as being an important force of resistance against the Marcos dictatorship.

Repression against the clergy has been expressed by the raiding of several convents and seminaries in the Visayas, and illegal searches, arrests, and detentions of nuns and priests.

In Bacolod, an officer of the Philippine Constabulary addressed the diocese of Bishop Antonio Fortich, Bishop of Bacolod City, and warned that the "privilege of the pulpit" (the priest's sermon) could be removed. The government has rationalized its actions by labeling the social action programs of the Church on behalf of peasants, plantation workers, and the urban squatters, as being potential sources of subversion.

### Cases of Repression

—In San Remigio, Antique, the parish priest, Fr. Henry van Eeden was arrested on July 24. He was suspected of protecting and associating with a group of students who clashed with local police earlier in the day, resulting in the death of one student and two policemen. The police charged that the students were subversives and were preparing to join the guerrilla movement. The search for Fr. van Eeden led to the search of Bishop de Wits house and the parish convent and the seminary and the Assumption Sisters school in San Pedro.

Fr. van Eeden was held incommunicado for several days and was detained in isolation.

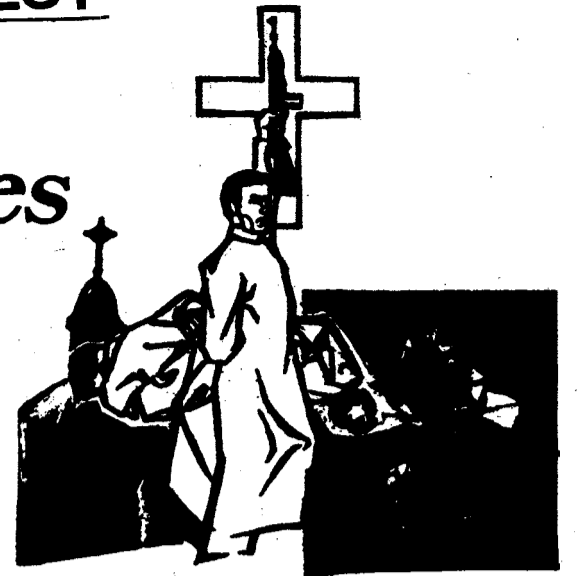
—In Tacloban, Leyte, two convents and one parish church are said to have been raided last month. One of the convents raided was the Order of the Oblate Sisters, known for their active support of the peasant movement. The sisters were ordered not to travel beyond the borders of the diocese.

—In Davao, Mindanao, agents of the National Intelligence Security Council Authority (NISA) raided the Convents of the Good Shepherd. In six hours, they searched not only the possessions of the nuns but the local chapel. This prompted the local clergy to denounce the acts as sacrilege.

### Protest Mounts

Pastoral letters issued by the church hierarchy have complained of "harassments" and suppression of human rights. Such statements have been ignored by the Marcos-controlled press. According to Jesuit priests, "The government doesn't want to meet the bishops head on but it would like to give them a real scare."

There are good reasons for the government to be concerned. Nearly 85 percent of all Filipinos are Catholic. President Marcos has passed a decree taxing all church lands and property which has enraged many members of the clergy. Many "practicing Catholics" have joined the ranks of the anti-fascist resistance movement, not only because of the repression they are subject to, but because they oppose the undemocratic foundations and policies of the Marcos martial law regime.



One such group, the Christians for National Liberation, is supporting and participating in the armed struggle to overthrow the Marcos dictatorship.

One dramatic example of resistance to the Marcos regime was carried by a full page article in the New York Times, October 18, entitled "Church in the Philippines Becoming a Focus of Opposition to Marcos." It was a case about a priest who joined the armed struggle. The priest, who operated under the name Bernie Lopez, was in reality Fr. Luis Jalandoni, a son of a wealthy Visayan sugar baron and widely known as one of the most brilliant young priests in the Philippines.

Fr. Jalandoni fought with the New Peoples Army (NPA) before he was captured and arrested. While inside jail, Fr. Jalandoni was able to release this statement to his fellow priests: "I have accepted the national democratic struggle as the Christian answer to the Philippine situation. I am freely and voluntarily a member of the Communist Party. I have taken a leading role in the movement."

Other priests have taken the same path that Fr. Jalandoni took, best known among them is Father Ed de la Torre. The NYT quotes him as saying, "Many Christians are subconsciously seeking martyrdom. They're willing to give their lives to make a moral protest, to make a witness. I'm not sold on that idea. I want to win."

The NYT reports that upon Jalandoni's capture, young priests in the Visayas issued a statement in his support. "No one can deny that Father Luis tried all the means that were then on hand: the law, the courts, the bureaucracies, the pulpit, persuasion and diplomacy, personal contacts and influence, even pressure methods like strikes and demonstrations." Despite his efforts, the situation had only worsened, the priests said. They could understand why he went underground, they said, because they felt the same "anguish and frustration..." the NYT reports.

## An Appeal For INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

The Zone One Tondo Organization (ZOTO), an organization supported by the World Council of Churches, is appealing for international attention to its plight since the Philippine military raided its offices on 900 Kagitingan St., Tondo Manila and arrested some of its leaders.

ZOTO is a community organization in Manila that is helping poor residents in the slum district of Tondo from being evicted by the Marcos regime in favor of a consortium of business interests, notably the Cement Association of the Philippines (CAP), which intends to build factories and warehouses there.

Tondo land is valuable because of its accessibility to Manila Bay's deep water port where foreign liners embark its cargo.

## FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE ORGANIZATION FOUNDED

## “ Our Duty As Americans .... ”

Special to  
ANG KATIPUNAN

Voicing fear of the “increasing threat of another Vietnam in the Philippines,” 85 persons from 10 East Coast cities met in Philadelphia, October 20, to found the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), a new national organization whose purposes include seeking an end to U.S. aid to the Martial Law regime of President Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines. The founding conference held at the Tabernacle Church in Philadelphia, adopted four points of unity upon which the work of the organization will be based:

1. We seek an end to U.S. support of the Marcos dictatorship
2. We seek an end to all U.S. military and political intervention in the Philippines.
3. We condemn the long standing domination of the Philippine economy by U.S. corporations which has been a major cause of the continued poverty and underdevelopment of the nation.
4. We support the Filipino people in their efforts to secure full independence and freedom in their country and social and economic justice in the United States.

#### American People Come Forward

The participants represented a broad cross section of American people — trade unionists, ministers, professors, students, and representatives from peace and social service organizations.

Some participants had lived and worked in the Philippines but most had grown concerned only recently with the situation in the Philippines through informational activities of Filipino groups in this country. “We all realize,” said one participant, “that it is our duty as Americans to expose the historical and current role of the U.S. government and corporations in the repression in the Philippines.”

The conference was opened with greetings of solidarity from several Filipino groups; Armin Alforque of the NCRCLP, Rene Cruz of the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP), Heherson Alvarez of the MFP, and Jean Murphy of the NAFUS. All welcomed the founding of the FFP and expressed their desire to work closely with the new group for common goals. Also, a representative from the United Farmworkers of America read a resolution of the UFW's support for the Filipino people in their struggle for justice against the Marcos regime, and FFP spokesman explained, “We hope to form links with all progressive Filipino groups in this country so that in our unity we will be stronger in working to end U.S. involvement in the Philippines and for the recognition of the Filipino peoples' right to true independence and freedom.”

An informational slide show prepared by the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars and the Philippine Information Bulletin was presented. The slide show traced the

resistance of the Filipino people against foreign tyranny from Lapu Lapu to Bonifacio to the present National Democratic Struggle. Slides depicting life in the urban slums of Manila and the flimsy shacks of the sugar plantation workers in the Visayas contrasted sharply with the pictures of the extravagance of Malacanang and the heavily guarded exclusive areas in Forbes Park. The focus of presentation was on present American

the Union Theological Seminary of the Philippines. Based on his experiences in the Philippines, Deats said that although Pres. Marcos “has been willing to use nationalist slogans” in his actual policies he has proven to be the opponent of nationalism, serving only to strengthen American interests and the pro-Marcos segment of the oligarchy. “Once again our nation is following the disastrous course it has set for itself repeatedly.” He cited the appointment of William H. Sullivan, who figured prominently in our disastrous policies in Indochina, to the post of ambassador to the Philippines as an ominous indication of the kinds of policies the U.S. government is undertaking.

#### FFP: Coordinate Educational Activities, Congressional Campaign Around Struggle in the Philippines

Participants in the conference then discussed and adopted a position paper, the political points of unity and an organizational structure that is envisioned to support nationwide organization. The FFP will have its first national convention in a year's time. A provisional representative council was elected to function as a policy-making body until the national convention. The FFP is opening its office in New York City at 235 East Street. The national office will serve to coordinate educational activities and congressional campaign around the country and to provide a resource center for information on the Philippines including literature, the slideshow, and video tapes. Regional headquarters will be set up in Philadelphia, Penn., Boston, Mass., Princeton, N.J., and Washington, D.C.

The FFP position paper states that “American military and business interests has an important stake in the survival of the Marcos regime or some other strong-man rule. As the Filipino people increase their opposition to the Marcos dictatorship, there is the real possibility that the U.S. Government may drag the American people into another war against the Asian people.”



“I am an anti-imperialist because I am opposed to having the eagle hook its talons into any other land”

Mark Twain

involvement; sprawling Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base from which the U.S. military launches the Indochina war were shown. Statistics of U.S. corporations' control of the Philippine economy was vividly depicted by a picture showing a Coke advertisement in the middle of a rice paddy. The FFP is planning to make copies of the slideshow available for showing around the country.

#### Keynote Address:

#### “Vietnam” Developments in the Philippines

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Richard Deats, director of the Interfaith Activities for the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Deats worked in the Philippines from 1960-1972 as a professor of Social Ethics at



The founding of the FFP is the expression that the American people are joining the Filipino people in their opposition to the Marcos dictatorship and to the U.S. government and the corporate powers behind them.

by Elaine Elinson

## Philippines Information Bulletin



Subscribe to PIB.  
Box 409  
West Somerville, Mass. 02144

Individual \$5.00  
 Institution \$10.00  
 Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

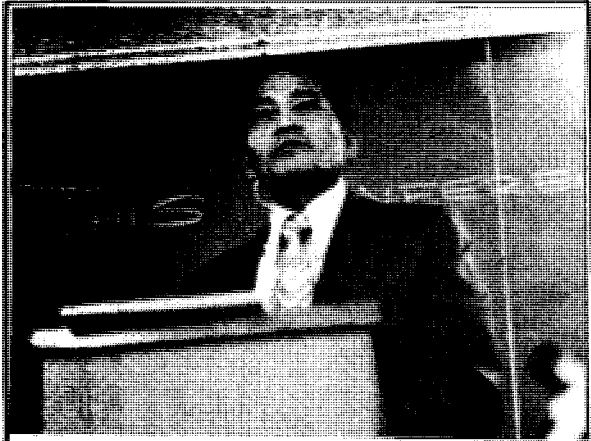
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

For excellent researched and documented articles and analyses of the current political, economic and military situation in the Philippines, read PHILIPPINES INFORMATION BULLETIN. It is an independent and non-profit bimonthly published in Cambridge, Mass.

Subscription rates are \$5.00 a year for individuals and \$10.00 a year for institutions and overseas subscribers. \$16.00 for airmail overseas subscribers. Single copies are available for 95 cents when ordered by mail. Checks should be made payable to PHILIPPINES INFORMATION BULLETIN. Address all mail to Box 409, West Somerville, Mass. 02144. Readers should feel free to reproduce these articles provided proper acknowledgements are made.

## Seattle Community Forum

# History of Struggle Reviewed



Ponce Torres (above), Vice-President of Alaska Cannery Workers' Union spoke to the Seattle Filipino Community at a recently held forum which reviewed the history of Filipinos in labor in the Northwest.

The militant trade union struggles of Filipinos in the Northwest was the dominant theme of a Filipino Community Forum held in Seattle, Washington on September 27. About 60 people attended the discussion which was sponsored by the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP), NCRCLP and numerous community organizations.

### Filipinos in Labor Struggles

Professor Trinidad Rojo, a former President of the Cannery & Agricultural Workers Union, ILWU Local 37, spoke about the struggle to organize the Alaska salmon canneries during the 1930s. From the late 1920s until now, Filipinos have constituted a major part of the cannery work force. Filipinos took the lead in the union organizing drives in the canneries and by the late '30s, the Seattle local of this CIO union had over 5,000 members. The union united Filipinos with other Asian workers and thus beat back attempts by employers to divide the workers along national lines.

Ponce Torres, Vice President of the Cannery Union, then described government and industry attempts to deport the union's leadership during the communist "witch-hunting" McCarthy era (1951-53). In ringing emotional tones, Torres denounced McCarthy as a vicious demagogue (a person who obtains power by passionately appealing to the fears

and prejudices of the people) bent on making a career out of terrorizing the people.

He also told how the union leadership fought and won lengthy court battles against repeated government attempts to deport them. When asked what qualities were needed in today's Filipino Movement, Torres advocated more militancy and better leadership.

The next speaker was Juana Mangaang, daughter of the late Ernesto Mangaang, one of the most militant Filipino labor leaders who emerged out of the cannery struggles. She told how her father's commitment to serving the people led him to become a socialist. She called on Northwest Filipinos to continue in this tradition of militant struggle for the just rights of working people.

### Filipinos in Today's Politics

Tony Baruso, who was a candidate for the state legislature in the late '60s, then discussed lessons learned from his campaign. He spoke on current community issues and urged support of the recent candidate, Bob Santos, for the Washington State Legislature.

Addressing herself to the most common issue of concern to Filipinos in America, Julia Laranang, of Seattle NCRCLP, spoke on the present political situation in the Philippines. Laranang decried Marcos' suppression of civil liberties, described his land reform program as a cruel hoax, and traced U.S. military involvement in Marcos' martial law program. She called on all Filipinos to publicly oppose martial law.

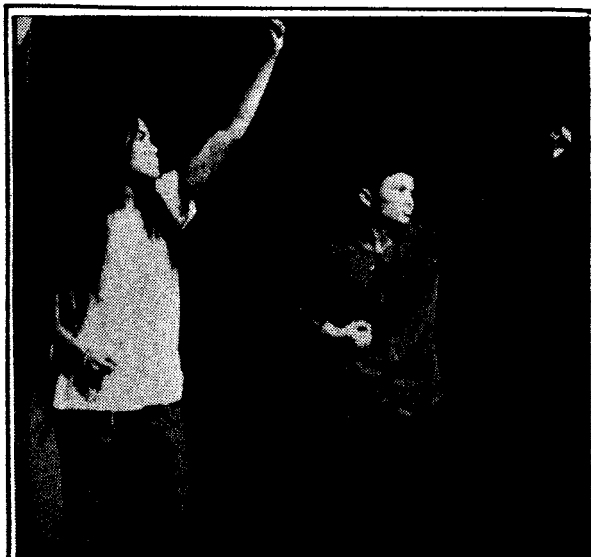
Frank Bolima, a colorful and progressive newspaperman who came here in 1906, concluded the program by calling on Northwest Filipinos to forget their tribal differences and unite to struggle against racism and inequality.

Filipinos attending the Forum agreed that more programs such as this should be held so that the young can learn from past struggles and develop a strong Filipino Movement in the Northwest.

— by Staff Correspondent

## Vietnam, Iran & Philippines

# A Question of Political Prisoners



"The prisoners have broken their chains," the last scene in a powerful dramatization of the common treatment of political prisoners.

BERKELEY, Calif. — A forum on the issue of political prisoners was held at U.C. Berkeley, October 25. This event entitled, "A question of Political Prisoners," was attended by more than 250 people, and was co-sponsored by the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S., the Iranian Students Association of Northern California, and the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP).

The event started with a skit caricaturing

the three dictators, the Shah of Iran and presidents Thieu and Marcos, together in Nixon's waiting room. While comparing their regimes, each strongly denied to the others that they had any political prisoners... only "common criminals" and "dope pushers." This was followed by a powerful dramatization of the common treatment of Vietnamese, Iranian and Filipino political prisoners and their determination to continue the resistance to tyranny (see picture).

Guest speaker Franz Schurman, author and professor of sociology at U.C. Berkeley, pointed out in his speech that the common denominator between the three dictatorships was their support by the U.S. government. The U.S. tactic being to equip and train highly sophisticated and efficient "local" armies.

The organizations' speakers pointed out: the Saigon administration still detains 200,000 political prisoners, ten months after the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement which calls for the release of ALL political prisoners. In Iran, after twenty years of dictatorial rule, the Shah keeps more than 20,000 opponents to his regime under detention and torture. And in the Philippines, there are more than 8,000 people still jailed after only one year of martial law.

# UNITY... Magkaisa!

### COMMUNITY AIRS FEELINGS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. — A community luncheon sponsored by the United Pilipinos for Equal Employment (UPEE) was given on October 7 at St. Michael's School. The purpose was to bring together Filipino workers to discuss racial discrimination and inform them of the case of Mrs. Emma Salazar, a Filipino nurse who recently filed a class action suit against California Blue Shield (CBS) for discriminatory employment and promotional practices.

About 100 persons attended the luncheon followed by a fashion show, guest speakers and singing. The program was informative and entertaining, especially the talk by Mrs. Salazar and the response of the audience to her case.

Mrs. Salazar gave her personal account: working for CBS for 4 years with an excellent work performance record; performing duties and tasks without receiving the appropriate salary and grade; complaining; being intimidated by CBS for speaking up; finally quitting after harassment became intolerable. But she will still fight, knowing that her situation is not isolated but the experience of many other Filipinos.

The response of the audience which followed was spontaneous and militant in spirit. Filipinos stood up and spoke of their experiences too. All said that Filipinos must unite and begin to fight together.

The program ended with singing and in high spirits. This was the first community event sponsored by UPEE and many agreed that others like it should follow. The donations received will be used for the legal expenses in Mrs. Salazar's case.

### LARGE TURNOUT FOR SAN DIEGO FORUM ON PHILIPPINES

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — A forum on "The Philippines, the Next Vietnam," was held on October 25 at San Diego State University. The evening affair was very successful and was co-sponsored by the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP), Associated Student Body of the San Diego State College and the NCRCLP.

The program featured guest speakers and a cultural and political presentation performed by Bagong Bayan, the KDP San Diego chapter's singing and theater group. The group combined folk dancing, skits and songs into a presentation that captured the enthusiasm and spirit of the audience.

The forum was well attended. 250 people came and many of them were Filipino parents, small children and young working adults.

The main thrust of the forum was to expose martial law in the Philippines as brutal suppression of national sovereignty and the people's basic democratic rights. Conditions prior to martial law such as high unemployment, extreme poverty, and cruel exploitation of peasants were brought out.

The economic and military role of the U.S. in supporting Marcos was also clearly presented, specifically noting the \$3 billion of U.S. investments in the Philippines, the protection they receive under Marcos, and the U.S. military aid Marcos receives in return.

Many agreed that the present struggle against the Martial Law Dictatorship is part of the broader struggle for real national democracy in the Philippines, a struggle that has the true interests of the people in mind.

# People Move For Nixon's Impeachment

By Bruce Occena

*"We believe the American people have had enough. More than enough. We therefore call on Richard Nixon, President of the United States, to resign . . . If Mr. Nixon does not resign, we call upon the House of Representatives forthwith to initiate impeachment proceedings against him." (Unanimous resolution from the 1973 AFL-CIO convention)*

With each passing day the president of the United States looks more and more like a dictator — defiant, "above the law," and answerable to no one. The full force of the arbitrary powers of the president recently jolted the people of this country . . . the chief Watergate investigator was fired without cause; the top two Attorney Generals were purged for insubordination; the Justice Department was closed down and occupied by FBI agents; U.S. military forces were put on "red alert" because of some "supposed" imminent war with the Soviet Union . . . all this in the matter of a few days! As an atmosphere of fascism descended on Washington, the people saw clearly, "it (fascism) could happen here!"

A spontaneous call rang throughout the country, "IMPEACH NIXON!" Overnight, a broad-based, anti-fascist coalition rallied around this slogan, stretching from congressmen to top labor union officials to revolutionary organizations.

Nixon had clearly miscalculated the people's response to his moves. He has since been forced to "back up" a little bit and make some concessions to the Congress in order to forestall impeachment and further governmental crisis. How successful he will be remains to be seen; the "credibility" of the government in the eyes of the people is at its lowest ebb since the 1930 depression years of the Calvin Coolidge administration.

Public opinion already knows that the issue of the "presidential (secret) tapes" is only the tip of the iceberg . . . an iceberg of undemocratic maneuverings, lying, cheating, and corruption that is part and parcel of "politics" as we have come to know it within this capitalist system.



*"Executive privilege arguments aside, Mr. President, you really should have consulted me before deciding to swallow the tapes."*

Nixon's particular crisis is that he has three more long years to go and his administration cannot afford any more "exposure" at this time. This seems why the Watergate-Cox commission had to be eliminated, by any means necessary, because it was out to expose as much of the iceberg as possible.

## Watergate—Nixon's Waterloo

The dramatic political effect of Nixon's "landslide" victory over McGovern has been completely wiped away due to the Watergate scandal . . . the illegal break-in and bugging of Democratic headquarters; calculated "rumors" to discredit, politically and personally, opposition candidates; distorting public opinion polls through forged letters, etc. All this was directed by the president's closest domestic aids — Ehrlichman, Haldemann, Mitchell, et al.

UNTIL July, when it came out that Nixon had secret tape recordings of all his telephone and White House conversations. So in August, Watergate investigator Cox and Judge Sirica requested 9 of these tapes (different conversations Nixon had had with the

defendants Dean, Mitchell, Haldemann and Ehrlichman).

After months of official denials, the truth came out — guilty . . . Nixon was forced to "clean house." But everyone of the AIDES (except Dean) was willing to "take the punches" for the president. While Nixon maintained he knew "absolutely nothing" about the whole Watergate affair! People were suspicious that he was lying, but there was no way to prove it.

Nixon refused to turn over the tapes, using some fancy talk about "executive privilege



*"Why go into that? Impeachment of both the President and Vice President at the same time would never happen!"*

and national security." Sirica assured the president that anything endangering national security, he (Sirica) would edit out of the tapes . . . Nixon refused again. Sirica then got a federal court injunction. . . . Nixon still refused, thereby breaking the law. Cox was preparing to take the issue to the Supreme Court . . . still Nixon held his ground.

## Hot on Nixon's Trail

But by October the crisis deepened. Vice President Agnew, the "law and order" pillar of the Nixon administration, was caught red-handed and convicted of stealing. The Cox commission was hot on Nixon's trail; opening up whole new areas of investigation extending far beyond the original issue of "dirty election tricks." The latest scandal involves billionaire Howard Hughes and Nixon cohort, Bebe Rebozo. Reports are of campaign donations being diverted into an investment company owned by, none other than, Nixon, Mitchell, Ehrlichman, Haldemann and others of the Watergate fame.

Nixon wanted to finish up the Watergate affair quickly . . . he offered Cox a compromise. He would edit the tapes himself and then turn them over . . . Cox turned down the "deal." Then "heads began to roll" as Nixon began to fight for his political life (or what was left of it).

But Nixon's aids admitted that people responded faster and stronger than the president had calculated. A half million telegrams flooded Washington demanding impeachment; the next day the House was already discussing impeachment proceedings, and demonstrations were being planned throughout the country. By Tuesday (October 23), Nixon finally agreed to give up the tapes. But the latest bombshell is the November 1 announcement that 2 of the 9 tapes (including Nixon's most important discussion with John Dean) do NOT EXIST because of a "malfunction of the tape recorder!"

The Nixon administration crisis is far from over. But it serves to expose the deeper crisis that faces, not Richard Nixon, but the people of the United States. It is the problem of being saddled with a government that fails miserably to respond to the social needs of the majority of working people. This government is in the hands of Nixon-type politicians, at all levels, who "talk democracy" while serving their own interests and those of ITT, Bank of America, Agribusiness, etc. This is the basic problem that produces Watergate scandals, and events of recent years indicate that more and more people in America are becoming aware of this fact.

Certainly, such an unprecedented and popular movement as the present one to impeach the president is a further confirmation of the changing times.

# America In Turmoil

## FARMWORKER-TEAMSTER PACT STALLED

In October news of a Washington meeting where the main points of the long awaited UFW/Teamster agreement were hammered out. The agreement recognizes UFW jurisdiction in representing field workers and provides for the grape contracts to be returned immediately to the UFW. The pact would allow the Teamsters to keep the lettuce contracts until they expire, then they would be turned over to the UFWA. However, during the past few weeks the Teamsters have stalled on signing, which indicates opposition to the pact within the top Teamster circles.

At Filipino Hall in Delano an anti-union meeting was called recently by a group "Farm Workers for Democratic Action." About 200 people attended, most of them were contractors, growers, and workers who scabbed. The meeting condemned the national boycott of grapes.

The sad irony is that this same Filipino Hall had been the UFW base for the first 5 year long grade boycott! Over the years Filipinos in the area have developed complaints against the UFW union, some of them legitimate ones. Unfortunately, many Filipinos have chosen to leave the union rather than organize themselves to correct its mistakes. Therefore, they find themselves siding with the growers against their fellow workers.

## AMERICAN INDIAN LEADER KILLED BY GOV'T AGENT

In mid-October, Pedro Bissonette was shot dead by BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) police on the Oglala Sioux reservation in South Dakota.

This marks the 5th AIM (American Indian Movement) member murdered since the Wounded Knee occupation last spring. It seems part of a government plot to cripple the growing militant Indian movement through fascist harassment and murder. (Patrick Grey testified in the Watergate hearings that the White House ordered the FBI "to destroy AIM.")

BIA officials say the Bissonette murder was "in self defense." But eye witnesses say that Bissonette was unarmed. Agents stopped his car, while protesting, he was shot in the chest and then shot twice more at close range. AIM attorney, Mark Lane, saw the mutilated body and testifies to seeing powder burns.

Bissonette was scheduled as the key defense witness in the government's court case against seven Indian leaders stemming from the Wounded Knee occupation. Bissonette was one of the Oglala leaders who invited AIM to participate last year and could have disproved the government's claims of a "violent conspiracy." The cold-blooded murder of Bissonette right before the trial is scheduled to begin, raises the question as to whether or not it is in fact the U.S. government that is engaged in a "violent conspiracy" to destroy the Indian movement!

455 Native Americans were arrested and face criminal charges from Wounded Knee. Leading Indians are facing arbitrary and excessive bail and all kinds of "illegal" harassment.

But despite this, AIM will launch an educational movement calling for the abolition of the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs . . . Indian people can handle their own affairs!

**Zionism Incites**

**FOURTH MIDDLE EAST WAR**

By J. Tolero

On October 6, the 4th major Middle East war erupted between the Arabs and Israel. Fighting is concentrated on two fronts. One being in the Egyptian Sinai region; the other in the Golan Heights of Syria, both Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

It does not appear that the Israeli military will accomplish its arrogant pledge of "annihilating the Arabs." Militarily, the Arabs and Israelis seem more evenly matched than in earlier wars. The military invincibility of the Israelis is proving to be mythical.

A U.N. cease-fire is now in effect. The resolution was introduced by the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Both of the superpowers are pretending to be "peace-makers."

The hypocrisy is that the Israeli war of aggression would be impossible without U.S. military backing (U.S. has given Israel over \$15 billion in military aid). The U.S. views Israel as its political foothold for protecting its investment and influence in the oil-rich Middle East. (U.S. has over \$2.5 billion in oil investments there.)

Similarly, the Soviet Union, while giving military assistance to Arab countries, is primarily concerned with its own "sphere of influence" in the Middle East and securing for itself access to strategic oil reserves.

Neither the U.S. nor the U.S.S.R. have addressed themselves to the key question of Palestine. They are trying to maintain a "balance of power," a stalemate between "war and peace" ... all at the expense of the Palestinian and Arab peoples.

The American people are daily flooded with conflicting reports regarding the war. There are arguments that the Arabs want to drive the "Jews into the Sea." All this can become very confusing. Following are some basic questions and answers to help us keep a perspective on the news:

**Where is Palestine? What is its history?**

Today, the state of Israel occupies the land of Palestine. Palestine's recorded history stretches back to when the Hebrews first occupied the area thousands of years ago. With the rise of Mohammedanism in the 14th Century, the whole area took on a Muslim character, which it maintains until today.

Unlike in Europe, small Jewish communities always existed in Palestine, *in harmony* with the Muslim population. In the late 1800s the Jewish population was 24,000 (or 5%) of a total population of 500,000 Muslim inhabitants in Palestine.

At the end of WWI, the Muslim Ottoman Empire (which Palestine was a part of) was dismembered by France and Great Britain. Palestine came under the colonial rule of Britain and it was under this rule that the differences between the Muslims and Jews became antagonistic.

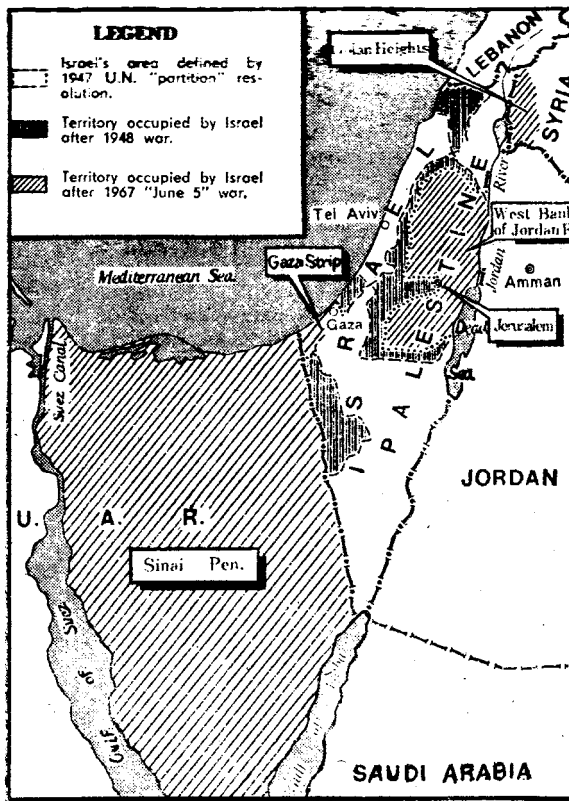
**What is Zionism? How did it develop? What is its relationship to the Jewish religion?**

Zionism is *not the same* as the Jewish religion. The ideology of Zionism can be traced back to an Austrian journalist, Theodor Herzl. In 1896, he wrote a book called "A Jewish State." In it, Herzl stated that the Jewish people were a group that could not be assimilated, that they constituted a "nation."

Herzl's idea was a reaction to the Anti-Semitic persecutions that European Jews had faced for hundreds of years. Herzl rationalized that for the Jews to free themselves they had to establish a purely Jewish homeland. This idea came to be known as Zionism.

The next question, where should that homeland be? Palestine, due to its biblical and traditional identity with Judaism, was considered as the best site.

From the beginning, Zionism disregarded the Palestinian people (over 90% of whom



The map shows the area of conflict in the Middle East and the territories taken over by Israel since 1948.

were Muslims) who had occupied the area for thousands of years! Zionism considered Arab people "barbarians."

Within Jewish religious circles there was a fierce debate over this question. Most Jewish scholars opposed Zionism. They maintained that the Jews were a religious and cultural community and that the Scriptures did *not* direct Jews to establish a "Jewish Political State."

Zionism would have never taken deep root in the Jewish community if it had not been for the active backing of imperialism. The British Balfour Declaration of 1917 promised to establish a Jewish "homeland" in Palestine. So, under British protection, began the wholesale expropriation of Arab lands and the mass immigration of Jews from all over Europe. From 60,000 at the end of WWI, the number of Jews in Palestine rose to 700,000 in 1948, or 30% of Palestinian population.

**How did the State of Israel come into being?**

In 1947, the British announced its withdrawal from Palestine, and turned over its responsibility to the United Nations. (The U.N. at this period was firmly under U.S. influence.) The U.N. passed a resolution prescribing that Palestine be divided into three sectors: Arab, Jewish, and international section in Jerusalem. This was done "over the heads" of the Arabs. The U.N. did not even attempt a plebiscite to determine the feelings of the Palestinians!

The Zionists accepted the Jewish state and saw it only as a "foothold" for future expansion. The Palestinians rejected the U.N. resolution as an imperialist attempt to colonize their homeland.

Still the U.N. declared Israel a state on May 14, 1948. In the months prior to the declaration, close to 400,000 Palestinians were driven from their ancestral homes into refugee camps. It is important to realize that 25 years later the Palestinians are still living in these camps! It's this type of brutality upon the Palestinians, that rallied all the neighboring Arab peoples against Israel and this is the root cause of the current Middle East war.

The Palestinian people are not opposed to the Jewish religion nor the Jewish people. They are opposed to Zionism, which states that Jews from "all over the world" have the "right" to colonize Palestine. This violates the national rights of Palestinians!

The just solution is a difficult one: the Zionist state of Israel must be dismantled and replaced by an independent, democratic and secular state of Palestine; guaranteeing its people freedom of worship and freedom from imperialist control.

**World in Focus**

**NEW AFRICAN REPUBLIC OF GUINEA BISSAU PROCLAIMED**

On September 26, the National Peoples Assembly of Guinea Bissau unilaterally announced its independence from Portuguese colonialism. This historic event followed over 10 years of hard fighting on the part of the people in this small West African country. As a result, they reached a point where they controlled over 80% of the territory and operate their own schools, hospitals and government.

Guinea Bissau is the smallest of three remaining Portuguese colonies in Africa. National liberation struggles are raging in the other two as well (Angola and Mozambique). Portugal has refused to recognize the new Republic of Guinea Bissau, but Portugal no longer controls neither the land nor the air space over most of the country, so Portugal's forced recognition is only a matter of time.

Meanwhile, a 15-member Council of State was elected by 77,000 voters in the liberated areas to head the country and a 16-member Council of Commissioners will act as cabinet. Over 80 countries are expected to recognize the new Republic and already Guinea-Bissau is exchanging state and diplomatic envoys.

**THAILAND'S JUNTA DEPOSED**

In early October, Thai students led mass demonstrations in Bangkok, involving hundreds of thousands of people. The scope and intensity of the demonstrations created a crisis which toppled and forced into exile the right-wing military junta, which has been in power since 1971.

Reports say that at the height of the uprising, the military had lost control over the capital city. Fighting went on for days, leaving 200-400 dead, and thousands wounded. The demands of the National Student Association were: (1) the restoration of parliamentary and constitutional rule (Thailand has been under martial law since 1971); (2) the withdrawal of American troops and the shutting down of U.S. bases (the U.S. has 40,000 troops and seven air force bases in Thailand).

Forced into exile were the most hated men in Thailand. Marshal Kittikachorn, Premier; Marshal Charusathiara, Deputy Premier and, Minister of the interior and police, the army colonel who is also the son of Charusathiara.

To replace them, the king of Thailand appointed Thammasak, a liberal scholar and former supreme court judge, as the new civilian premier. He has promised a return to civilian rule and a drafting of a new constitution within six months.

The outcome of this student-led uprising is difficult to predict. On lower levels of government, the military and police still have a firm hold. (The U.S. has trained and equipped Thai police to the tune of \$53 million. In 1972 alone, the U.S. gave the military junta \$120 million in military "aid.")

Thailand has strategic military and political importance to U.S. imperialism in this war-torn southeast Asian peninsula. It is certain the U.S. will oppose any genuine nationalist and neutralist movement on the part of the new government. Besides, both U.S. and Japanese firms have to protect over \$1 billion in lucrative investments in the country.

Meanwhile, the roots of the peoples unrest remain — the vast majority of rural and urban masses are impoverished. Guerrilla warfare is spreading in the northern provinces led by the Thai Patriotic Front.