



Official Defects To National Democratic Front

Horacio (Boy) Morales, 34, did not show up at the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the year festivities where he was slated to receive the Public Administration award. Instead, he sent a statement explaining his absence. In it, the Executive Vice President of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) announced that, having been an official for almost 10 years of "the Marcos reactionary government . . . serving a ruling system that has brought so much suffering and misery to the broad masses of the Filipino people" he had had enough.

Detailing his decision to go underground and join the National Democratic Front (NDF), Morales said that his experience made it "very clear to me that the system cannot be reformed from within, that there is no choice but to dismantle the entire machinery and smash it completely . . . I see that this evil regime must be overthrown and destroyed . . . I refuse to take any more part in this. I have had enough of this regime's treachery, greed, and brutality, its exploitation and oppression of the people."

Morales, as DAP Executive Vice President, was in a position to know a good deal about efforts to "reform the system from within." DAP is Marcos braintrust charged with the responsibility of devising programs to keep the lid on the simmering pot

(continued on page 6)

4-H Trainees Demand Reforms In Training Program



4-H trainees assigned to the California area talking to their fellow trainees from the South East — "We will strengthen our unity . . . Our problems are basically the same nationwide." [AK photo]

FLASH! [RALEIGH, N.C., JAN. 15]—After a three-month long campaign, public pressure finally forced the national 4-H Council and the Philippine Agricultural Training Council to meet with the representatives of the 4-H trainees.

The 4-H national council agreed to study and consider the three demands put forward by the trainees. These are: 1] reduce the work schedule to 48 hours a week; 2] provide an accounting of each trainee's finances semi-annually; 3] define the prevailing wage and identify guidelines in determining wages.

The day long meeting substantially discussed the grievances and problems of the trainees which were mainly around the lack of training, long working hours, and bad living conditions. The trainees hope that the meeting will start negotiations which will reform the program. The 4-H council has thus far maintained that the trainees misunderstood the program which they felt is sufficient in meeting its objectives.

OAKLAND, CA.—Charging the 4-H Training Program with injustices and irregularities, a group of concerned Americans from North Carolina are demanding an immediate meeting with the 4-H Foundation in order to negotiate for badly needed program reforms.

The Concerned Citizens Investigation Team lodged formal protest with the National 4-H Foundation on behalf of 70 Filipino trainees presently working on farms throughout the Southeast United States. Currently the trainees and their American and Filipino community sponsors are awaiting a response from the 4-H to a proposed meeting date of January 13th to discuss the program's irregularities.

The investigation team is composed of representatives of the trainees along with Sadie Hughly, Vice President of North Carolina Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Reverend Bill Finlater, Chairman of the North Carolina Advisory Board to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission; Sister Evelyn Mattern, Ministry for Peace and Justice Diocese of Raleigh; Jean Wagner, American Civil Liberties Union; Attorney James Rowan, National Law-

yers Guild; and Tim McGloin and Belinda Adriano of the Durham community.

Over the past couple of months, these Americans have constituted themselves into an investigating team and looked directly into the conditions facing the Filipino trainees. After numerous interviews and direct visits to the farms, the team reached the conclusion that the complaints of the trainees are fully justified.

'REAL SITUATION' EXPOSED

The protest was originally initiated by the trainees themselves. On Oct. 17, 54 gathered together in Raleigh, North Carolina and after discussing their common experiences, drew up a comprehensive criticism of the program which they entitled the "Real situation." Adding weight to the protest, 70 out of the 73 trainees in the Southeast region agreed to sign the statement.

The major points of the statement are:

1. "The nature of this program is not one of training as the title implies, but actually a labor program. We have not received any advanced instruction or training in our areas of interest or specialty, and we would not be returning home better equipped to share knowledge and understanding of improved methods of agriculture with our fellow countrymen.

2. "Our working hours reflect and bespeak the true nature of this program. We see ourselves now serving as a 'cheap labor' pool (to borrow the words of one host farmer). There are some trainees who work seven days a week, 12-14 hours per day. Some of us have not had a day off for three months . . . we shovel manure, load pets, count eggs, clear farmlands, construct farm buildings, mow lawns, pick grapes, and other activities which require little training, and we do this all day long, throughout our stay.

3. "For some trainees, the living conditions are far less than adequate. Some live in old trailers without screens or adequate ventilation. Others stay in warehouse offices converted into bedrooms.

(continued on page 9)

Narciso-Perez Victory Celebrated Nationwide



Hundreds of Narciso and Perez supporters in numerous cities nationwide celebrated the victory of the two nurses in getting a new trial. Supporters are also gearing up for the fight ahead to win justice for Narciso and Perez. See the guest editorial, page 2, and the article on page 7.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Regime Escalates Terrorism.....	page 4
Blue Cross Strike Settled	page 9
Imutan Charged with Corruption	page 7
U.S. Miners Strike Nationwide	page 10
New Restrictions on Marcos Borrowings	page 3

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Editorial

More Work Ahead

NARCISO, PEREZ WIN NEW TRIAL



Oct. 11, 1977 rally for Narciso and Perez in New York city.

[AK photo]

Guest Editorial by BAY AREA DEFENSE COMMITTEE FOR NARCISO AND PEREZ

When Judge Philip Pratt granted Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez a new trial Dec. 19, 1977, thousands of Filipinos and Americans here in the Bay Area applauded this long awaited decision. Since July 13—the day they were convicted—nationwide protests from 33 major cities in the U.S., Guam, and Canada voiced the demand for a new trial. It was only after massive demonstrations, mailgrams, letters and 30,000 signatures from petitions directed to the judge that the nurses' legal defense won its motion for a new trial.

This struggle has inspired many people to rise up against all odds to uphold our rights and fight this injustice. Together, we were able to educate and organize an overwhelming mass support to win Narciso and Perez a new trial.

VALUABLE LESSON FOR THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY

The Filipino community, in particular, has learned a very valuable lesson in the process of the defense movement: we must fight discrimination and stand up for our democratic rights. The discrimination so evident in this case has rudely reminded us that the history of the Filipino people in this country was always marked by racist and chauvinist attacks. In the '20s and '30s, discriminatory laws and practices were widespread. At its height, vigilante groups hunted down Filipinos in many parts of California and attacked them brutally. The worst attack was the "Watsonville Riot" when a meeting of Filipino farmworkers was shot at and a Filipino, Fermin Tobera, was killed.

Today, Filipino immigrants continue to be hard hit by racism and national chauvinism and the Narciso and Perez case is symbolic of the many discriminatory incidents still experienced by Filipinos here in the U.S.

WE CANNOT REST ON OUR LAURELS . . . THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Now that we have this new trial—which Narciso and Perez were rightfully granted—we should not rest on our laurels. The fight is not yet over; in fact, we have seen how the flimsy evidence, irregularities of the prosecution and the "marathon conviction" already framed-up Narciso and Perez. We do not want a repeat of this in the upcoming trial!

We must work even harder to maintain our public support to the legal defense and make sure that the nurses receive a fair trial.

Our movement must therefore be more organized and prepared to undertake higher levels of support work.

**WE DEMAND JUSTICE!
FREE NARCISO AND PEREZ!**

COMMENTARY:

'Opposition'—Real Threat To Marcos?

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

The "opposition"—former politicians disenfranchised by martial law—is finally getting the undivided attention of the Marcos ruling clique. Long ignored by the Marcos controlled press perhaps because they were considered too insignificant a force to warrant coverage, the opposition suddenly captured front page news.

This new development first became evident during the referendum debates last month, when the opposition—pursuing their usual boycott strategy—made more public appearances to underscore the farcical nature of the referendum ritual. Taking a sharp departure from his usual tolerant, bemused stance, Marcos suddenly unleashed a fury of attacks on his political rivals. This baffling move is perhaps an indication that the seemingly innocuous opposition is no longer a minor irritant to the regime, but a growing threat.

These dramatic attacks began last November when Marcos challenged the opposition to free discussions and debate. Rebuffing the invitation, former senators Gerardo Roxas and Jovito Salonga denounced the referendum as "a futile and expensive exercise while martial law is still in effect." In their speeches, the opposition called for free elections from the presidency on down to local posts and even challenged Marcos to resubmit himself to a presidential race.

Marcos responded by leading his various mouthpieces to attack the opposition as "elitist . . . regressives . . . and regrettably childish."

Fueling the controversy, former president Diosdado Macapagal made his oft-repeated plea for a U.S. aid cutoff to Marcos. This received scathing denunciations from Presidential Assistant Jacobo Clave and Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile, who accused the former president of "denying Filipino soldiers the means to defend themselves."

(continued on page 6)

Letters

January 3, 1978

Dear Editor:

I have come across your newspaper, *Ang Katipunan*, and I found it enlightening. I wish to know more about the conditions in the Philippines and that is why I would like to enter my name in the list of subscribers.

Please bill me on a year's subscription.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
R. de Leon
Daly City, California

The ANG KATIPUNAN encourages you to comment on issues of the day, particularly those affecting the Philippines and the Filipino community in the U.S.

Letters should be brief, double spaced, and with generous margins. Names are withheld only if requested and deemed necessary. Write to: Letters to the Editor, ANG KATIPUNAN, P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.

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Buod ng mga Balita

[NEWS SUMMARIES]

Major Split In R.P. Labor Front

The Marcos regime's strategy for establishing tight controls over the country's trade unions, suffered another blow with the pullout of 13 labor federations from the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), the official representative of Philippine labor. The split, headed by the National Mines and Allied Workers, Federation of Free Workers and Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services, signifies a major rift in the officially recognized labor movement and an open challenge to Marcos' labor policies.

Speaking on behalf of the 13 federations, the three groups charged the TUCP and the Dept. of Labor with intervening in the affairs of labor unions and handpicking union officials. The source of the conflict stems from the labor department's attempts to implement the one-industry-one-union scheme. Under such a plan, only one labor federation has the exclusive right to organize workers of a particular industry. If implemented, most unions would be increasingly subject to government manipulation with the majority of labor federations already under tight government control.

The one-union conflict reached the Supreme Court early December with petitioning labor groups asking the high court to nullify all proceedings to restructure the labor movement along this scheme. The petition charged that the scheme violates the constitutional rights to self-organization, collective bargaining, freedom of association, and equal protection under the laws. □

Blacklist Bars 1,500 Students From School

[BMP] — Students from different universities and colleges are being refused enrollment by school administrators for alleged involvement in numerous protest demonstrations which have shaken Metro Manila during the past few months. Informed sources told BMP that the number of "blacklisted" students in 26 academic institutions numbered close to 1,500. The blacklist is an attempt by the regime to contain the protests against the sharp increase in tuition fees by school authorities.

In a statement released last week, the National League of Filipino Students (NLFS) scored the inability of the school administrators and the Dept. of Education and Culture (DEC) to stop the tuition increases, "and yet they are quick to bar student leaders from entering their campuses." The NLFS also disclosed that around 300 students of the University of the East and 37 from Araneta University have been prohibited from entering campus. Five were dismissed officially, a number suspended and one expelled. Twenty-three students from the University of Santo Tomas, Feati University, Philippine College of Commerce, Manuel L. Quezon University, and Far Eastern University were denied registration by school administrations, NLFS said, with a still undetermined number for the University of the Philippines.

School authorities on the other hand, have not admitted to the "blacklisting" practice. "If there were students refused admission," they said, "they must be students who failed in their grades last semester, or who were caught drunk on campus, or involved in fraternity rumbles." Meanwhile, school administrators are strictly implementing the DEC regulation to demand police clearances from students arrested for joining demonstrations. □

Farmers Arrested In Davao Land Struggle

Sixty four farmers in South Bienvenida, Kapalong, Davao del Norte were issued warrants of arrest last Sept. 14, 1977.

Charged for violating Presidential Decree No. 772 which makes squatting illegal, 64 farmers in South Bienvenida, Kapalong, Davao del Norte, were issued warrants of arrest last Sept. 14, 1977. Thirty three of them, including one woman, are now being held at the Tagum Provincial Jail, having been arrested by local authorities. Their case stems from the allegation of Jorge Marquez, an absentee landlord of some 500 hectares of land in the area, who charged the farmers with illegal squatting. These charges came after Marquez leased his land to L.S. Sarmiento Industries in 1976 for the Corporate Farming Program of the government.

Most of the farmers evicted are rice and corn planters who have been cultivating the land and have made it productive for years. Their coconut trees, bananas, coffee plants, corn fields, even their houses and their chapel have been bulldozed by the company.

From their congested cells in Tagum, the 33 farmers have continued their struggle for justice. Calling on the free citizens of Tagum to appeal their case before the Presidential Assistant on Housing Authority (PAHA), the farmers have generated a telegram and petition drive on their behalf. As a result L.S. Sarmiento has retaliated by keeping the farmers' families virtually hostage on the land. Sympathizers and visitors have been treated as "trespassers," thus isolating the homeless families. □

IMF-WB TIGHTEN NOOSE ON R.P. LOANS

The Marcos regime suffered a setback to its economic plans early December 1977 when the consultative group of foreign leaders headed by the World Bank advised the regime to cut its planned foreign borrowing in 1978 by half. Marcos regime technocrats, headed by Finance Secretary Cesar Virata had presented a new 5-year economic plan calling for \$1.4 billion in loans annually to the consultative group meeting in Tokyo. The restrictions will force the regime to limit its borrowings in 1978 to approximately 750 million.

The restrictions imposed by the consultative group makes it almost certain that the IMF will renew similar restrictions imposed in 1977. Negotiations between the Marcos regime and the IMF are scheduled this month at the end of the 13.5 month period starting in November 1976 when the IMF imposed an \$860 million ceiling on Philippine borrowing.

Although S. Shahid Husain, regional vice president of the World Bank, who chaired the consultative group meeting la-

ter denied that a debt ceiling had been imposed, reports from the Philippines indicate that the group had indeed called for restrictions. Manila's controlled press had quoted the \$1.4 billion figure for 1978 borrowings prior to the meeting. Afterwards, this figure was described as applying to a two year period.

PHENOMINAL RISE IN FOREIGN DEBT

Concern over Philippine debt levels among foreign lenders began after 1976 when the Philippine debt jumped by a phenomenal 48 per cent. Debt service payments of \$774.2 million in 1977 are expected to rise to \$910.3 million in 1978. To make these payments, the government has had to borrow heavily in the short-term market. The World Bank has put the current debt-service ratio at 19 per cent only one percentage point below the legal limit.

Official government figures put the ratio at 16 per cent but World Bank economists say that this lower figure is the result of accounting methods

that omit the interest on revolving credit and loans of less than one-year maturity from the debt calculations. The Philippines also makes the ratio look more favorable by counting the proceeds from foreign loans as receipts.

The implications of this new development remain to be seen. But by limiting commercial loans and multi-lateral agency loans as sources of funds for the Marcos regime, the demand for direct assistance from the regime's backers will almost certainly increase. It is in this context that base rental payments from the U.S. could work to bail out the Marcos regime from an increasingly difficult financial situation.

Internally, the effect on the population is already clear. The *Asian Wall Street Journal* story (Dec. 5, 1977) which broke the news of the borrowing curbs also pointed out that Sec. Virata said, "The government would try to dampen the effects of the recommended cutback by raising more money from internal tax collections." □

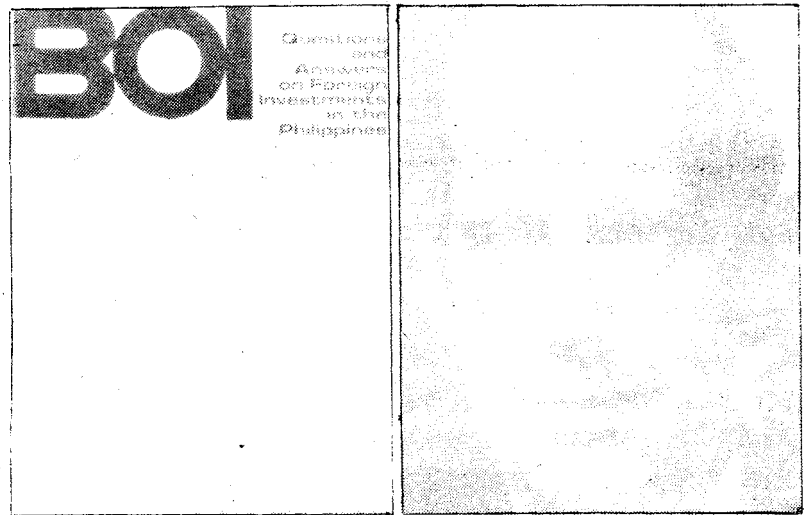
U.S.-R.P. Trade Agreement Distant

On and off discussions between the Marcos regime and the Carter administration on a treaty to replace the expired Laurel-Langley Agreement have finally broken down altogether. Newly-appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, David Newsom, revealed in a December *Asian Wall Street Journal* interview that a new commercial agreement in the near future was unlikely.

Key issues in the discussion centered around the U.S. demand for investment guarantee on the one hand and Philippine demands for tariff preferences on the other. American businessmen in the Philippines are intent upon an agreement which will assure them that investment rules will not change once they have started operations. A particularly sore point in the eyes of U.S. executives is a new rule requiring foreign companies to limit their borrowings of local currency according to a formula based on their debt-equity ratios.

This rule essentially limits the amount of money a foreign firm can borrow in pesos to nine times its initial investment capital. It is a move calculated to protect access of local businessmen, whose smaller resources vis-a-vis the multinationals place them in a poor competitive position for local credit. Marcos similarly hopes through this move to force the multinationals to bring more foreign money into the Philippine economy.

Another complaint of U.S. businessmen is the terms under which they were compelled to dispose of their landholdings after they lost their owning privileges with the



Board of Investments primer on foreign business (left), outlining the various incentives and breaks for foreign corporations in the R.P. U.S. Ambassador David Newsom (right). [AK file photos]

expiration of parity rights in 1974. They are demanding that they be allowed to use a formula devised by Caltex-Philippines whereby control of landholdings is retained through a 50-year lease agreement at token rental rates with a nominally Filipino company set up for this purpose.

PROTEST DISCRIMINATION TARIFFS

The Marcos regime, on the other hand, wants to insure that tariff rates which discriminate against Philippine coconut oil and plywood exports to the U.S. be removed. These Philippine products are charged tariffs which are not charged to similar products from other countries.

Despite these irritants, Ambassador Newsom noted that the two countries have maintained relatively "healthy" economic relations in the past few years. "It would not appear at this moment, that there is a pressing need for a new economic agreement," Newsom said.

Newsom's optimism is bas-

ed on the fact that the Marcos regime has repeatedly made exceptions to its own rules to accommodate the U.S. multinational giants which dominate the Philippine economy. Local borrowing restrictions, for example, were relaxed for these American multinationals — Ford, General Motors, and Caltex — late last year.

Outgoing Caltex and American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines President William Dunning, moreover pointed out in an interview last December that the government position on the land question is probably being used as a bargaining ploy in the ongoing bases negotiations and is likely to be relaxed.

While the Marcos regime is busily making concessions to American investors right and left, there are no indications that the Carter administration which at this point has relatively little need of Philippine plywood or coconut oil, is willing to remove discriminatory tariffs on Philippine exports to the U.S. □

REGIME ESCALATES TERRORISM

SAMAR MASSES FIGHT MASSACRE POLICY

The Marcos regime's latest atrocity in the reign of terror it has unleashed on the three Samar provinces is the massacre of a peasant family in Barrio Can-ilay, Can-avid, Eastern Samar. The victims were identified as the wife and three children of Fruto Caratay. One other child is still missing.

A hand grenade thrown into the house of Caratay killed some of the victims instantly. According to reports, the others were bayoneted. The military brought some of the head of the victims to their headquarters in Dolores, proclaiming that they were the heads of the New People's Army (NPA) commanders.

Although the masses of Eastern Samar reacted with outrage, the massacre of the Caratay family is just one in a series of murders and vicious acts of repression perpetrated by the military in the Samar provinces over the last three years. A revolutionary mass newspaper, *Larab* (Spark), published in the Eastern Visayas, enumerated some of the most recent in its August-September issue. These include:

- The murder of 12 peasants in Eastern Samar following the successful NPA ambush of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) troops near the Dolores River last March 16. Most atrocious of these was the torture and massacre of six peasants in sitio Kagkakalaw, Salvacion, Can-avid.

- The murder of at least seven people by liquidation squads of the military in Oras, Eastern Samar.

- The murder of brothers Doroy and Maning Solayao, during a counter-revolutionary campaign by Task Force "Leysam" in Barrio Tagacay, Villareal, Western Samar.

- The murder of Celang Ameno, peasant, in Pinamugnong, Basey, Western Samar.

- The frequent strafing by helicopters of areas in the island's interior.

COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY DRIVE

In addition to outright murder and vicious torture, the regime has adopted other harshly repressive measures in Samar. Military authorities require every resident over seven years in areas classified as "critical" to secure police and PC clearances and "safe conduct passes." These cost residents both time and money.

In its intense counter-revolutionary drive, the military has forcibly enlisted the help of mayors, chiefs of police, barrio captains, and teachers. Meetings among them are called frequently in areas the military considers sensitive in the three Samar provinces. One of these regions is the town of Arteche in Eastern Samar, which the NPA peacefully occupied for two days last June, conducting open educational and propaganda work among the masses before it quietly withdrew appropriating much of the town's communications equipment.

According to *Larab*, the regime has followed an escalating policy in Samar of murder, rape, torture, forced relocation, and destruction of property, beginning as early as 1974. It has attempted to camouflage its latest counter-insurgency drive behind a "civic action" campaign drummed up by Pres. Marcos one month after the Arteche incident. *Larab* brands the military's "civil action" a hypocritical effort to show that the regime is "concerned" for the masses.

RESISTANCE GROWS

But the masses of Samar have no illusions about the regime's "concern" for their well-being. The Samar reign of terror has deepened the mass support for the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA, its military arm. Precisely because of this staunch support, the CPP and the NPA have continued to expand and undertake military operations despite these oppressive conditions.

In one such encounter reported by *Larab*, NPA fighters attacked a detachment of Task Force "Leysam" in San Pascual, Sta. Rita, Western Samar last July 3. The NPA killed a lieutenant, two soldiers, and a PC informer, wounding another informer. They also managed to confiscate a precious M-16 rifle. □

Agusan Del Sur:

PRIEST EXPOSES MILITARY ATROCITIES



Civilian Home Defense Forces attempt to terrorize the population by displaying the decapitated head of an NPA fighter.

The Philippine military, in yet another example of its utter disregard for the lives of the Filipino people, has once more gone on a rampage of terror, torture, and murder, this time in the province of Agusan del Sur. The most outrageous of the deeds of the Philippine Constabulary's (PC) 542nd Ranger Company, stationed in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur, has been the outright murder of a peasant, Vicente Bacaro, 40 years old and the father of six children.

A letter from Fr. Pio Eugenio, SVD, parish priest of Sta. Josefa to Gen. Fidel Ramos, Chief of Staff of the Constabulary, dated Sept. 11, 1977, documents Bacaro's death.

Early in the morning of Sunday, Sept. 4, 1977, Bacaro was summoned to the PC barracks. Upon his arrival, he was brutally tortured. Meanwhile, a team under the leadership of Lt. J. Cataluna, CHDF member Sinot Sacarias and a certain "Nardo," allegedly a former rebel turned informer, after being tortured, was dispatched to search his house supposedly for hidden weapons.

Although the team found no weapons, it did find and keep P106, which was held by Bacaro's daughter as treasurer of the local Christian community. Bacaro's eldest son, a 15-year old, was tortured. The search team ordered him to bite a bullet, after which he was struck on the chin, causing permanent damage to his teeth.

That evening, the poblacion residents heard shots ring out in the night. Vicente Bacaro had been shot, "while attempting to escape." PC Ranger Abad, the Officer in Charge of the barracks, is believed by townspeople to be the murderer.

Bacaro was hastily buried the following day. His family was not informed. Two days later, Ranger Abad left town for "special schooling" elsewhere. The terrified Bacaro family had not, as of Fr.

Eugenio's writing, summoned up the courage to go visit the grave.

Bacaro's crime, according to his widow, was to have allowed a group of armed men to sleep overnight in his house sometime in 1976. Apparently Ranger Abad and his cohorts felt that such a crime warranted the death sentence and chose to save the state time and money by doing it themselves.

PATTERN OF ABUSE

Although the residents of Sta. Josefa reacted to Bacaro's death with fear and anger, they were not overly surprised. The 542nd Ranger Co., which arrived in town last June supposedly to stabilize the peace and order situation, has engaged in a steady pattern of abuse against the local residents from the very beginning. At the time of Bacaro's death, according to the pastor, the people's observation on the behavior of the military was, "They only give orders, but no peace."

Among the abuses the pastor enumerates forcing people to eat their expired cedula (residence certificates), beating and mauling suspects, torturing suspects by forcing them to eat sand or placing bullets between their fingers and then squeezing them together, getting drunk and firing their armalites into the air in the middle of the night, and ordering stores to stay open during curfew hours — Para mag-inum (in order to drink liquor).

Bacaro's death was followed by the disappearance of two more people: Camilo Aga and Zoilo Monson of Barrio Awao. These two were picked up by PC Rangers and "taken somewhere." Fr. Eugenio, writing six days later, reveals that their relatives still have had no word of their whereabouts.

(continued on page 6)

AFP Singles Out Non-Combatants

2 MUSLIMS BRUTALLY MURDERED



For Hadji Tanggo, a survivor of the 1976 Wao massacre, severed ears are a constant reminder of that brutal event. Such atrocities, perpetuated by Army and PC officials, are common in the South.

Army officials stationed at Dulawan, Maguindanao, murdered two Muslim non-combatants, and then horribly disfigured their corpses. The victims, Abubakar Guiapal, a rice dealer, and a gas station attendant named Sot, were on their

way to Buluan when military men accosted them. The two, who were travelling with friends, were singled out for interrogation at a military checkpoint simply because officials disliked the way they looked.

Abubaka, a big and stout man was accused by soldiers of having falsified his age, in his cedula (residence certificate), because he appeared older than his registered age. Sot was simply picked on for bearing a dirty cedula. These "defects" earned them a trip to army headquarters for questioning, and on the following day the two were murdered.

A lieutenant claims that the two Muslims were killed because they were "Black Shirts" (bandits) and Abubakar was wielding a gun. Few of the local residents believed any of the accusations. The victims' ears were cut off, their faces horribly disfigured and their bodies cut and slashed in numerous places. No one was allowed to remove their bodies until one man was sent by the owners of the Dulawar Bus Co. on behalf of the victims' relatives. Their companions, in order to reach their destination, had to seek a police escort to protect them from the army troops. □

Political Prisoners Defy Oppression

"The political prisoners are packed like sardines in tiny, smelly cells with no sunlight or fresh air. At the MISG (Military Intelligence and Security Group) cell, overcrowding is so bad that many detainees are forced to sleep in a crouching position, their heads resting on their knees. Often a piece of paper is the only protection against the cold of the cement floor. In fair weather, the heat is intolerable; in rainy weather, water leaks from the roof."

The above findings come from a recent report that is the most comprehensive to date on conditions in the prisons of the Marcos dictatorship as reported in a recent issue of *Ang Bayan*. The report covers both prisons in the Metro-Manila area such as the 5th Constabulary Unit (CSU), the Military Intelligence and Security Group (MISG), and Bicutan Rehabilitation Center, and provincial detention centers on Panay Island, the Third PC Zone's Lahug Detention Center in Cebu City and Camp Upi in Gamu, Isabela.

The report found that food in the Marcos prisons is never enough and almost unfit to eat. Political detainees at Lahug have to catch stray frogs, dogs, cats, and even rats to ward off hunger. Not surprisingly, the prisoners suffer various ailments, the most common ones being tuberculosis, ulcers, skin diseases, and other illnesses caused by malnutrition.

MILITARY GUARDS ABUSE PRISONERS, FAMILIES

The troops guarding military prisons steal cigarettes, medicine, food, radios, or anything they fancy. A newly arrested prisoner may find his captors already sporting his watch, shoes, or belt. Packages brought by visitors are intercepted and picked over for choice items.

The military guards beat up political prisoners whenever the mood strikes them—particularly when drunk. Units of Task Force Mananabang in Panay take out their frustration on political prisoners every time they come back empty-handed from sorties against the New People's Army.

A political prisoner's life is always at stake. According to an ex-detainee who was imprisoned at Camp Upi, "In that faraway place, detainees have to constantly combat the nagging thought of a possible rub-out."

In almost all the prisons, the soldiers make their own arrangements to peep at women detainees using the bathroom. And not a few of the women



Despite oppressive prison conditions, political detainees, like those above undergoing "rehabilitation" sessions, continue to demand their rights. [AK file photo]

have had late-night visits to their cells by amorous officers who get violent when rejected.

The military abuses not only the political prisoners but also their families and others concerned for their welfare. When a political prisoner is detained far from home, family visits are likely to be rare because of the high cost of transportation. In spite of this, visits are often suspended at short notice, causing loss of time and money for the working people wishing to be with their relatives however briefly.

PRISONERS STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

The political prisoners courageously carry on the fight for their democratic rights in the dungeons of the regime. Through their persistence, they have won the right, in some detention centers, to supervise their own meals. They have fought for the right to have sunshine. They have set up their own libraries. They have learned to treat simple illnesses, and put up their own clinics. They supplement the meager income of their families by making various handicraft items, and their diet by gardening.

On the whole, according to the report, conditions at the Bicutan Rehabilitation Center are far better than in other prisons, especially those in the provinces. Bicutan is the regime's showcase where prisoners are proudly displayed to visitors.

The report adds, however, that all the rights enjoyed today by the Bicutan prisoners represent hard-won victories resulting from a series of hunger strikes by the detainees in 1976. These gains can be

reversed any time the military chooses and many improvements are still needed at Bicutan.

Political prisoners in a number of other detention centers have launched hunger strikes to demand better treatment and defend their rights. Among these actions were one in Lahug in 1973, at 5th CSU in 1975, and at Camp Olivas, Pampanga, in 1975-76.

PRISONERS ESCAPE TO REJOIN STRUGGLE

Other political prisoners have escaped in their desire to rejoin the struggle for national democracy. One of the most recent incidents was reported in *Daba-Daba*, a revolutionary newspaper in Aklan and Northern Antique. A married couple who had been imprisoned for three years in Fort Delgado, Iloilo City, and had previously been allowed to do errands outside the gate, simply walked out under the eyes of the local PC commander and never returned.

Daba-Daba also related the escape of six political prisoners from the PC stockade in Kamingawan, Negros Occidental, last February. Taking advantage of a sudden brownout, the prisoners grabbed the rifle of a guard and dashed to freedom.

The political prisoners of the Philippines have learned that even the smallest concession toward humane treatment can only be won through intense struggle from the regime which deprives them and their countrymen outside the prison walls of their democratic rights. In their determination to protect their rights even in prison, the detainees' stand shoulder to shoulder with the Filipino people rising up against all exploitation and oppression. □

Mindanao Update

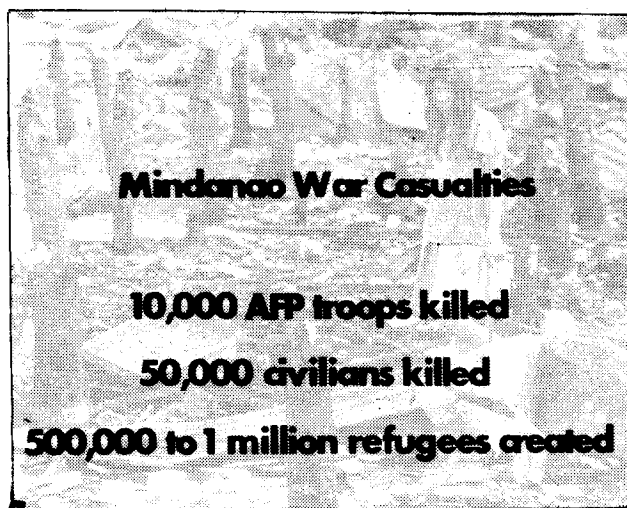
98,000 Refugees Face Worsened Conditions

(BMP)—The refugee situation in southwestern Mindanao has worsened with hunger and disease now reported widespread in jampacked evacuation centers all over the region in the wake of heightened fighting between Marcos troops and Moro rebel forces.

Reports from friendly sources said 98,000 refugees, both Christian and Muslim, have swelled evacuation centers in at least two cities and four provinces since mid-October when the regime's troops launched massive attacks against Bangsa Moro Army positions in retaliation for the Patikul ambush of an Army general and five colonels.

As the refugee crisis deteriorated, the sultan of Sulu, Mohammed Mahakuttah Kiram, sounded an urgent appeal "to the Filipino people" in Manila to help the victims of war in Mindanao "who are Christians and Muslims." The refugees are reportedly to be heavily concentrated in civic centers in Basilan City, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Sulu and Tawi-tawi.

The majority of them, it was learned, do not want to go back to their homes for fear of reprisal from rampaging government troops. It may be recalled that at least 400 civilians—men, women, and children—fleeing from Patikul were massacred by avenging troops who were combing the area for the BMA group that killed Tabak Division Commander Brig. Gen. Teodulfo Bautista and 35 of his men.



About 1,000 Muslim civilians, mostly women and children, were reportedly stranded without food and medicine in a remote evacuation center near Tictapul, a coastal barrio 104 kilometers northeast of Zamboanga City. Tictapul was the scene of recent heavy fighting between Moro National Liberation Front men and government troops who staged a combined air, land, and sea operations in securing the area.

Zamboanga City mayor Joaquin Enriquez, Jr., who "requested" the military to help the refugees, said most of them were reluctant to return to their homes because the military might classify them as either supporters or relatives of MNLF rebels and take punitive action against them.

An unconfirmed report reaching BMP said about 1,000 more Muslim refugees had taken shelter in Sonoropa Vitali, on the city's east coast and were in dire straits. □

PC-Army Clash In Zamboanga

A clash between two divisions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) over contraband cigarettes in the southern city of Zamboanga overshadowed the hostilities between the AFP and the Moro National Liberation Front early this month. The fighting between detachments of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) and the Philippine Army last Jan. 4 left seven constabulary men and one soldier dead.

The constabulary unit had been sent to the waterfront to investigate a report that smugglers were bringing contraband cigarettes ashore, an extremely lucrative object of trade. On their way back to the headquarters in a jeep loaded with smuggled cigarettes, they passed an army checkpoint where the fighting broke out.

Two army colonels were relieved of their responsibilities as a result of the incident, while Brig. Gen. Pedro Abangan took over command of the city's civilian militia. Renewed firing broke out on Jan. 5 and on the following day, a band of PC troopers had to be restrained by their officers from storming an army outpost.

This is not the first time that hostilities between the two services, which have a long history of rivalry, have erupted bloodily. Last November they fought a three-hour gunbattle, though no one was killed at that time. □

Marcos Relative Recipient**Westinghouse
Bribery Scandal
Breaks**

Faced with rising allegations of corruption, Pres. Marcos announced Jan. 13, plans to cancel \$1.1 billion contract with Westinghouse Electric for a nuclear power plant project already underway in Bataan, the Dec. 14, 1977 *New York Times* reported.

In the midst of the scandal is Herminio Desini and in-law and close associate of the president who reportedly received a fee of \$4.5 million from the American corporation. The fee was "for assistance in obtaining the contract and for implementation of services," according to a Westinghouse spokesperson. A banker privy to the deal claimed that the fee was to be paid in a percentage basis and could amount to as much as \$35 million.

Rumours of an under-the-table deal between Westinghouse and the Desini-owned Herdis Management and Investment Corp., were rife since September of last year. According to the Philippine Liberation Courier (Oct. 1976), suspicions were roused when Westinghouse landed the contract despite the lower bids and better financing terms offered by West German and French firms. The explanations for this seemingly irrational decision soon became clear when Desini's involvement in the project and his relationship to Westinghouse was divulged.

According to the Oct. Courier, "In late 1975, the Herdis conglomerate acquired ownership of Asia Industries, Inc., a Westinghouse controlled Philippine distributor of Westinghouse products plus those of other internationally known equipment manufacturers such as ITT. Asia Industries' biggest project is the nuclear plant in Bataan. Another Herdis company, Power Consultants Group, will provide special engineering and construction management for the nuclear venture. Finally, a Summa Insurance Corp., a small non-life insurance company acquired by Herdis in 1974, has concluded a juicy arrangement to handle 50 per cent of the all-risk builders' risk coverage of the nuclear project. The sum insured is \$100 million, making it the largest single risk in the history of the Philippine Insurance industry."

The Desini scandal is the second such incident involving multi-national corporation pay-off's to Marcos cronies. In late 1976, the Philippine Long Distance and Telegraph Company was embroiled in a Security and Exchange Commission (U.S.) investigation for receiving multi-million dollar fees from General Telephone and Electronics Corporation. Another Marcos man, Eduardo Cojuangco, had helped GTE land handsome government contracts. □

**ISLAMIC NATIONS
VOW ACTION IN
MINDANAO WAR**

[BMP] — "The Islamic Conference will not stand by with its arms folded in face of the war of extermination being waged by the Manila government against the Muslims in the Southern Philippines." This was the statement made by Amadou Karim Gaye, a Senegalese official and secretary-general of the Islamic Conference. Gaye was also chief mediator during the Tripoli talks between MNLF chairman Nur Misuari and the Marcos regime.

According to the Libyan News Agency, Gaye arrived for talks with the Libyan government on the Muslim struggle for autonomy in Mindanao. He was scheduled to confer with Libyan Foreign Minister Al Abdessalam Ali Trekki, chairman of this year's Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference. The news agency said Gaye would discuss resolutions, recommendations, and measures adopted by a mediation committee composed of Libya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and Somalia, which would look into the Philippine conflict. The talks would also take up a report made by a representative of the Moro National Liberation Front. □



Macapagal and Marcos in friendlier times.

Commentary...

(continued from page 2)

But more surprising was Marcos' own reaction. Suddenly, the much-berated opposition leader, long considered a "joke" in Manila's circles for his unsuccessful asylum caper in 1976, was blamed for the Mindanao war and the "leftist-rightist" conspiracy.

According to Marcos, his predecessor's administration was to assume historical guilt for the rise of the New People's Army, having armed warring Central Luzon rebel gangs, from which emerged Commander Dante (Bernabe Buscayno). As for the Mindanao war, Marcos said Macapagal started it all when he filed the Sabah claim, thus rupturing ties with Malaysia and leading the latter to support the Muslim insurgency.

On top of all these, a group of Constitutional Convention delegates in effect accused Macapagal for the declaration of martial law, since he allegedly knew about the plan months in advance and did nothing about it.

WASHINGTON PERFORMANCE?

The obvious question that emerges from this confusing chain of events is why Marcos should be so incensed by the statements of an opposition he clearly outpowers? Some observers believe that the anger is artificial, an attempt to bolster his claim that the last referendum was truly democratic — replete with the inflammatory speeches and free-wheeling attacks which characterized pre-martial law "democracy."

This argument is consistent with the belief that the Dec. 17 vote was a performance for Washington. Critics of Marcos contend that the regime needs a credible appearance of political normalcy if the pending U.S.-R.P. bases treaty is to meet the approval of the U.S. legislature. The Dec. 17 referendum, although an apparent farce, was meant to provide this window dressing of "government by popular will."

OPPOSITION ALLIANCE WITH U.S.?

Others, however, believe that there is more to Marcos' attacks than "window dressing." Marcos columnists have recently alluded to the pro-U.S. inclinations of the opposition. Macapagal, for example, was denounced as "a mendicant of a foreign power." There is also a reported disturbance among politicians close to Marcos over the seeming alliance between the oppositionists and the U.S. government. This suspicion is bolstered by the steady growth of the opposition. On August of last year, various anti-Marcos groups and politicians united around a "peoples alternative" platform to martial law.

AGUSAN DEL SUR ATROCITIES ...

(continued from page 4)

The campaign of terror is having a predictable effect on the residents of the area. Many have left. Others are preparing to do so, selling their few small possessions, their chickens, pigs, and household items. Some will join relatives living in other areas. Many more will simply swell the ranks of the refugees who have been uprooted from their homes by the military — either through harassment tactics or through a direct order to leave — in its effort to deprive the New People's Army (NPA) of its base of operation. Other will stay behind either because they have no place to go or because they refuse to be terrorized out of their homes by Marcos' goons.

GROWING LIST OF VICTIMS

Vicente Bacaro joins a growing list of Filipino peasants casually murdered by Marcos' military and para-military terror squads. On Sept. 7, 1974, Santiago Arce, a widely respected member of his community was also "shot while trying to escape," having been arrested and viciously tortured. The

More recently, various groups have coalesced under the leadership of Solonga's KABAKA (Katipunan ng Bayan para sa Kalayaan or Union for Freedom). Lately KABAKA seems to have been strengthened by the formal affiliation of the Movement for a Free Philippines, a U.S. based anti-Marcos group headed by former senator Raul Manglapus, another oppositionist closely identified with the U.S.

If indeed this reported alliance underlies Marcos' attacks, there is truly cause for him to worry. The U.S. after all, has a long tradition of replacing heads of states in countries where the political climate no longer serves their interests. And this ingredient, i.e., U.S. backing, more than compensates for the opposition's lack of a grassroots following in presenting a possible threat to Marcos' continued rule. □

MORALES DEFECTS...

(continued from front page)

of Philippine society. From land reform to squatter relocation to programs for national minorities deprived of their traditional livelihood, DAP's army of bright young technocrats attempts to devise projects to ease the pain and the pressure just enough to keep the pot from boiling over and sweeping away the Marcos regime.

DAP AND REPRESSION

Life at DAP also provided Morales with direct experience of Marcos' machinery for repression. As a research body charged with developing national policy, DAP is a sensitive institution with increasingly rigid security precautions. In an effort to cleanse its ranks of "dangerous" elements, in particular, people sympathetic to the National Democratic struggle, DAP early in 1976 initiated stringent screening of all current and prospective employees. In the ensuing purge, a number of employees, including ex-political prisoners, found themselves without a job.

DAP now has its own contingent of NISA (National Intelligence and Security Agency) agents permanently stationed on its grounds. They feel free to question employees at will without so much as notifying their superiors. In the past, they have periodically sealed off DAP premises to search the files for subversive materials.

Morales' choice to join the National Democratic Front will come as a bitter pill for dictator Marcos. If one of his brightest young technocrats can be won over to the people's struggle, who else among his entourage may be a secret supporter? Morales concluded his statement by calling on his colleagues in the government to sabotage anti-people projects and "join the armed struggle against the Marcos dictatorship." □

military even took a picture of him with a rifle shoved into his hand in order to prove their story. Unfortunately for them, their picture revealed a rifle being held backwards and exposed their lie. On Nov. 8, 1975, Generoso Sibay, a 48-year old peasant of Southern Leyte with 10 children, was tortured to death in the presence of one of his sons. In April 1976, Ben Pancovilla, a peasant of Maragusan, Davao del Norte, was tortured into insanity ultimately dying in an insane asylum. In Magballo, Bakidnon, in March 1977, a 60-year old man was shot and killed for owning a rusty old rifle which no longer worked.

While the Marcos goon squads have been temporarily successful in terrorizing some residents of Sta. Josefa and other places into silence, and forcing others to evacuate, they make a terrible mistake in thinking that they have succeeded in turning the people against the NPA. The Filipino masses have a long memory. Beneath their silence lurks a fiery anger. Arce, Sibay, Pancovilla, Bacaro, and all the others like them will not be forgotten. □

FILIPINO Community

HUNDREDS OF SUPPORTERS GATHER NATIONWIDE Narciso-Perez Victory Celebrated



Leonie [left] and P.I. [right], recently were granted a new trial by Judge Philip Pratt. Their victory is also a victory for the thousands of people who have overwhelmingly supported their case.

By **BOY ASIDAO**
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO — Thousands of Narciso-Perez supporters hailed the recent decision by Judge Philip Pratt granting a new trial for the embattled nurses.

Summing up P.I. and Leonie's two-year struggle for justice, Ms. Esther Simpson (Coordinator, Chicago Support Group for Narciso-Perez) declared: "The victory was achieved not only because of the courage of the two nurses and the commitment of the defense lawyer. It was also because of the vigorous support movement which generated strong pressure on Judge Pratt to grant a favorable decision."

Ms. Simpson continued, "The recent decision

represents the people's victory and anyone who participated in the support movement shares that victory."

The much-awaited decision came Dec. 19, 1977, six weeks after Judge Pratt heard arguments on the defense motions for a new trial, mistrial, and acquittal.

After the good news, numerous local support groups across the U.S., Canada, and Guam organized victory celebrations.

Chicago's local support group held a potluck dinner, Dec. 28, at the residence of Jun Narciso, P.I.'s younger brother. Sixty people came and pledged their continued support for the two nurses.

At the event's informal program, Mr. Narciso

(continued on page 8)

ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

Community Seeks Imutan's Ouster

By **GREG REYES**
AK Correspondent

STOCKTON — An ad hoc committee of concerned Filipinos met January 6 to discuss alleged abuses by the leadership of Pilipino Bayanihan, Inc., a Stockton-based community service agency.

Made up of about 100 community people, the committee seeks to unseat the executive director of the agency, Andrew G. Imutan. They contend that the primary objective of Pilipino Bayanihan to provide service for elderly Filipinos is not being met and that the leadership is not accountable to those they profess to serve.

The acting chairperson of the committee, Sister Reina Paz, a Maryknoll nun, has accused Imutan of manipulating the public and private foundation funds of the \$2 million a year agency for his own personal and political gains.

According to Sister Reina, there has been a long history of complaints and irregularities concerning Imutan's management of Bayanihan which have been brought to her attention by senior citizens, employees and clients. She said many Filipinos uphold the tradition of "utang na loob," (debt of gratitude) and they would not speak out.

"Because they were employed, they would do anything. One woman who got a job was so grateful, she would babysit, clean houses, do dishes . . . it is a type of psychological coercion. When a sophisticated mind exploits this, I mind it, I mind it very much."

Among the allegations against Imutan: that Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) trainees have been forced to return portions of their salaries to cover Bayanihan's share of their pay.

Misappropriation of the use of personnel by using Bayanihan employees to benefit an import shop owned by Imutan's wife.

That Bayanihan personnel and supplies were used to arrange an August trip to the Philippines by Imutan and Cesar Chavez, farmworker union leader.

That Filipinos who are known opponents of Marcos are ridiculed and harassed when they seek the services of Bayanihan.

That the leadership of Pilipino Bayanihan has abused and deceived the Filipino community by portraying themselves as providing services for elderly Filipinos when actually benefiting their own salaries and pursuing objectives other than what Pilipino Bayanihan was intended for.

The *Ang Katipunan* interviewed one of the Bayanihan employees who asked to remain anonymous. She said, "I don't know if all the charges concerning misuse of funds are true, because nobody except Imutan and his handpicked people are kept informed. All I know is it is a one-man rule. When we try to raise criticisms or problems, he says he won't hear them. I think for the good of the organization, he should get out."

Imutan, who is reportedly in the Philippines on "vacation," was not available for comment. However, he has been quoted as saying that the charges are only a result of "personal jealousies."

The allegations by the committee coincide with the current investigation of the management of Pilipino Bayanihan by District Attorney Joseph Baker which began in early November. The investigation was made at the request of the Grand Jury and the Board of Supervisors. The Internal Revenue Service, Manpower Agency of Stockton, and County, and Customs are also involved in the investigation since federal funds are involved. These government agencies did not actively begin investigating Pilipino Bayanihan until late December when the ad hoc committee began voicing their complaints about Imutan and his management of Pilipino Bayanihan.

During the January 6 meeting, the ad hoc committee proposed the creation of an interim management team to operate Pilipino Bayanihan until the investigation is complete.

The ad hoc committee is also united on the point that Pilipino Bayanihan, Inc. should not be disbanded, but should sincerely service the public, with no ulterior motives. □

NEW EXAM RULING FOR MINORITY NURSE' AIDES

SACRAMENTO — The State Department of Health recently announced a new ruling concerning certification examinations for nursing aides.

The new ruling mandates translation of the examination, oral or written, in the language that the examinee speaks and writes. This ruling will affect minorities — Chinese, Filipinos, Latinos — who comprise the majority of examinees for the nurse's aide certification.

Most of the estimated 50,000 nurse's aides working in California recovery homes are minorities. They top the failing list in the examination, and language has been cited as the major cause of this.

Through the help of San Francisco Assemblyman Art Agnos, the concerned minorities succeeded in having the State Health Department establish the new regulation.

Foreign Nurse Graduates (FNG's) who are required to pass the State Board examinations likewise face a similar high failure rate. The National Alliance for Fair Licensure for FNG's (NAFL-FNG) has also cited that language is a serious problem among FNG's in obtaining their licenses to practice. This organization is currently working on ways to resolve this problem.

It will certainly benefit the Filipinos, Koreans, Indians, other Asians and Latino FNG's if a similar regulation is passed in the near future. □

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE: WHAT IT MEANS

Beginning January 1 of this year, the federal minimum wage will be increased to \$2.65 an hour from the previous \$2.50 an hour.

The new federal standards, however, only pertain to those workers in industries regulated by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Other workers who are not protected by federal regulations must await decisions of their State Industrial Relations agencies whether the minimum wage will be raised respectively on their state level. For example, in California, the 15 per cent increase is not expected to be implemented until early April, following a review of the California standard.

Does this mean that the standard of living in the U.S. has risen or that employers are becoming benevolent and are giving workers higher wages in order to purchase more necessities in life?

"This certainly is not the case," said Madge Bello of Asian Law Caucus in Oakland, CA, "the government has to set a minimum wage standard in order to assure that workers are able to survive, but even with these provisions, workers' survival and decent living is still not guaranteed. Because of the soaring cost of living, the small increase in wages has not meant any substantial changes in the workers' buying power.

"Moreover, it is only through the workers' own initiative that such provisions are met. This is shown in the many strikes that occurred before the eight-hour work day was instituted and the many strikes that are happening today, where workers assert their right and are demanding wage increases in order to cope with the many problems that they face."

Asian Law Caucus, Inc. has also produced a series of excellent pamphlets for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the laws regarding Wages and Hours, Unemployment Benefits, Evictions, Workers' Rights, etc. All copies are free of charge, and are available in several Asian languages. To obtain copies contact: Madge Bello, Employment/Labor Project-Community Education Program, Asian Law Caucus, Inc., 1608 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, CA 94612; (415) 835-1474. □

Full Victory For H-1 Nurses

NAFL-INS AGREEMENT FORMULATED



INS Commissioner Leonel J. Castillo at a recent meeting with the NAFL-FNG. The INS has agreed not to immediately deport H-1 nurses who failed to pass licensure exams. [AK photos]

The National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has reached a final agreement regarding the granting of a *deferred voluntary departure* (DVD) status to H-1 nurses facing deportation actions due to their failure in nursing licensure examinations.

In a letter dated December 28, 1977, signed by INS Commissioner Leonel J. Castillo, the 11 points agreement, which would henceforth govern the documentation of H-1 nurses in the U.S., were spelled out: (See boxed article).

Due to differences between the two parties on *how long* the DVD status would be effective (Point No. 5), the finalization of this agreement was stalled for a while. The NAFL-FNG originally asked that the DVD status be granted for an 18-month period from the date of the nurse's application for such status. However, the NAFL-FNG later agreed to the INS proposal to base the duration of the status on *three years from date of entry* provided that the INS would review some isolated cases of nurses who may have been staying in the U.S. in excess of three years and consider these on a "hardship basis."

The agreement is a significant victory for H-1 nurses and a tribute to the solid and unified support from many Filipino community organizations and concerned individuals. Commenting on this accom-

plishment, Ms. Aimee Cruz, National Coordinator, said: "We attribute this victory to two key factors: the firm determination and commitment of NAFL members coupled with the overwhelming support given by many Filipino community organizations and concerned individuals. This problem seemed too difficult and insurmountable at the start, but with community backing and firm conviction, we were able to do it."

The NAFL-FNG launched a nationwide petition campaign demanding the reprieve for H-1 nurses which garnered over 10,000 signatures from Filipinos as well as from the American public. These petitions were presented to Commissioner Castillo at the first meeting between the NAFL and the INS last September 26, 1977. In addition, several letterwriting and telegram campaigns were systematically launched at crucial times. All these campaigns received the consistent support from community organizations and individuals.

VICTORY CELEBRATION PLANNED NATIONWIDE

Victory celebrations are being planned by NAFL Committees in their respective cities. In these celebrations, NAFL members will be at hand to discuss the terms of the agreement in more detail and answer more particular questions. More information and details on the celebrations in each city will be announced soon.

For more information call Ms. Aimee Cruz, (212) 458-6369/Christine Hing (212) 677-2509 (evenings), or Ms. Normita Amorado (201) 473-8570. □

DEPORTATION OF FNG NURSE STOPPED

On December 8, 1977, the Philadelphia Committee of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) stopped deportation proceedings against a Filipino nurse who was previously on a H-1 visa. This action was a concrete and direct result of the recent victory of the NAFL-FNG in formalizing an agreement with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to grant a deferred-voluntary-departure (DVD) status to all foreign nurse graduates on H-1 visas who have become "illegal aliens" due to their failure in passing the State Board licensure examination.

In this particular case, the nurse had been status-less since May of 1977. Since then, she claims to have "tried everything," including hiring a lawyer who informed her that absolutely nothing could be done to regain a valid status and allow her to stay in the United States. However, due to the efforts of the NAFL-FNG, the INS dropped deportation proceedings and granted her a 90-day extension to give the nurse a chance to re-take the State Board examination scheduled on the first week of February. If she passes the examination, the INS promised to reinstate her H-1 visa immediately. If she is unsuccessful, according to the points of agreement between the NAFL-FNG and INS Commissioner Leonel Castillo, the nurse will be entitled to stay to take the licensure examinations again so long that her stay here in the United States does not exceed three years.

This dramatic case was echoed in other parts of the country, where other nurses were receiving deportation notices from the INS. This victory is a result of the nationwide petition campaign the NAFL-FNG launched last June 1977.

Many of the active NAFL-FNG members and community supporters are heartened and encouraged by this victory. It is once more concrete proof that people can unite and work together for a cause and win. However, the Philadelphia NAFL has more work to do. Already, there are signs of more harrassments on Filipino nurses by the INS, particularly those on H-1 visas. Presently, the NAFL is looking into a case of a nurse on H-1 visa, already a licensed Registered Nurse, who is facing deportation proceedings.

For further information about the NAFL-FNG in Philadelphia area, call (215) 474-2405 or (215) SH7-4970. □

CONDITIONS FOR THE GRANT OF VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE [DEFERRED DEPARTURE] TO THE OUT-OF-STATUS H-1 NURSE, IN ORDER TO AFFORD FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE AND PASS THE LICENSURE EXAMINATION

1. The nurse's lack of lawful immigration status shall be due only to the nurse's having changed employer without authority, or to his/her having failed the licensure examination. Refusal to take any such examination will be disqualifying for grant of voluntary departure.

2. The nurse must have taken the first available licensure examination after arrival in the United States, and have taken consecutively each such examination thereafter.

3. The nurse must show evidence (e.g., a cancelled check) that he/she has been registered to take the next licensure examination offered by the State.

4. A prior change of employer without INS authorization shall not disqualify the nurse from the grant of voluntary departure.

5. The nurse who meets the above conditions shall be given voluntary departure (deferred departure) status in six-month increments up to a total that does not exceed three years from date of arrival in the United States.

6. The nurse already in the United States in excess of three years who meets the above conditions shall be given a further six-month period of voluntary departure for the purpose of again taking the licensure examination.

7. During any period of authorized voluntary departure, the nurse shall be permitted to work in a lesser capacity than professional nurse.

8. The nurse who is successful in passing the examination, and is issued a license to practice professional nursing, may upon the approval by INS of an H-1 visa petition filed by an employer, be restored to H-1 nonimmigrant status.

9. The National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates for the benefit of intending applicants for H-1 visas in the future, will undertake to publicize to foreign nurse graduates abroad the information that they must pass State licensure examinations in the United States, and that they may not work as professional nurses after failing such examinations.

10. The nurse already under deportation proceedings shall be eligible for deferred departure as provided above, if those proceedings are based on grounds which arose solely by reason of the nurse's having changed employer without authorization, or to his/her previous inability to pass the licensing examination. If such nurse is successful thereafter in passing the examination and achieving licensure, the Service (INS) will move to terminate the deportation proceeding with a view to restoring him/her to lawful H-1 status as provided above.

11. The period during which the out-of-status nurse may take application for the above benefit shall expire December 31, 1978.

NARCISO - PEREZ VICTORY...

(continued from page 7)

expressed thanks and admiration for those who devoted their time and efforts to campaign for justice.

Ms. Simpson also read the local support group's statement on Pratt's decision. "[His] decision is a clear rebuke to the VA Administration, the FBI, and the government prosecution. They assumed that public opinion could be manipulated against the two nurses. . . ."

The statement furthermore asserted that "The U.S. judicial system is not always fair and infallible. As an institution, it is not always exempt from the influences of political and social pressures; racial and class prejudices. . . ."

PRATT: 'OVERWHELMING PREJUDICE'

Judge Pratt's decision was based on "the overwhelming prejudice to the defendants arising from the government's persistent misconduct" and many other anomalies that have arisen in the course of the trial.

Such anomalies included: the prosecution's withholding and deletion of evidences partial to the defense; alteration of evidences; improper suggestion of fact and law to the jury and withholding and alteration of witnesses' list which hampered the defense's preparation.

An example of an improper suggestion was the misleading instruction to consider the prosecution's

belief that "the defense failed to prove the innocence of the accused." Clearly, this is a flagrant violation of the main premise of the American judicial system that a person is innocent unless proven otherwise.

Because Pratt had failed to assert his responsibility to insure that all jury instructions conformed with proper legal and judicial procedure, many supporters have strongly criticized him as a contributing factor to the mistrial.

In addition, many supporters wondered why the ruling took as long as it did, costing the defendants much time and personal suffering.

The massive support movement behind the two innocent nurses were clearly a factor in Judge Pratt's decision to change his opinion. He received petitions for a new trial signed by 30,000 supporters along with telegrams and letters demanding justice for the nurses. He was the target of scores of demonstrations across the U.S., Guam, and Canada.

With continued community support, both Narciso and Perez are confident that their battle for freedom will be won. As Ms. Simpson put it, "It was not just an injustice that Narciso and Perez were falsely convicted, but an injustice that they were brought to trial in the first place. We will not quit until P.I. and Leonie are free and their names are cleared." □

Workers OK Three-Year Contract

Blue Cross Strike Ends



Blue Cross employees vote to return to work after a 94-day strike.

[The 29er photo]

OAKLAND — The 94-day old strike at Blue Cross Insurance, Co. ended January 7, when striking employees ratified their first union contract with the management.

At a meeting in Oakland Coliseum, the workers voted 446 to 32 for the three-year contract.

The contract will give workers an automatic progression in wage increases. In the first year, Blue Cross employees will get a 6.5 per cent increase and a minimum of five per cent in 1979 and in 1980.

According to a striking employee, wage increase in the past depended on favoritism and on a workers satisfaction of a production quota. With this automatic increase, employees hope that this unjust practice would be rectified.

Moreover, the contract will eliminate management's old practice of penalizing workers who utilize their one sick-day a month benefit. This unfair practice had cost the job of a former Filipino employee who was terminated for what management claimed as "absenteeism."

A majority of Blue Cross employees felt that the agreement is the most decent and fair among the other previous management offers. The only thorn in the settlement is the management's no-amnesty position on twelve of their co-workers.

These 12 strikers were reportedly involved in the "violence" that had occurred on the picket line during the strike period.

The amnesty clause had been discussed the longest prior to the settlement. The management wanted the 12 strikers terminated but the striking employees demanded firmly that their case be handled by an arbitration panel. On January 24,

hearing of the case of the 12 will begin.

Blue Cross Insurance, Co. employs 60 per cent minorities, including Blacks, Latinos, Chinese, Filipinos and other Asians. The workers' strike began October 6 following breakdown in negotiations between management and Local 29 negotiators.

Local 29 (Office and Professional Employees International Union-AFL-CIO) has represented the Blue Cross employees in the bargaining table.

Throughout the strike period, management had employed various strike-breaking methods. Over 300 scabs and 200 temporary helpers were brought in everyday to continue the insurance work, the main bulk of which is insurance claims processing. The strikebreakers worked an average of 10 hours a day to alleviate the serious backlogs.

Management spokesperson Bryant King attempted to deny the hundreds of unprocessed insurance claims. He claimed that despite the lack of personnel, Blue Cross had been able to catch up with the processing operation.

Local 29 representative David Selvin, however, rejected the management's statement. Selvin said, "We suspect Blue Cross may be paying off big claims without even reviewing them, and the employees will have to audit and adjust them when they return to work."

The striking employees are expected to return to work beginning January 12, with work for the estimated 1200 workers to return to normal by the third week of January.

Glad that the strike is over, a worker said: "Management unsuccessfully tried to break our backbone. But we survived the onslaughts." □

4-H Trainees...

(continued from front page)

4. "There is no detailed accounting of how much is spent for exactly what in this program. We do not know how the \$275 (earned by the trainees each month) that the host farmer contributes to the 4-H Council is spent. Therefore, there is no explanation why the majority of trainees who work here almost two years, return to the Philippines with only a few hundred dollars."

Other issues raised in the "Real Situation" statement include lack of health care, lack of grievance procedures and rights as trainees and lack of cultural exchange programs.

4-H WHITEWASH

The 73 trainees in the South are part of a large program. The Filipino trainees have been coming to the U.S. on the 4-H Exchange Program since 1974. However, it was not until the second group began to summarize their experiences that the poor conditions and injustices began to surface.

On June 2, 1977, the scandal of the 4-H program broke out in the headlines of the *Oakland Tribune*. Interviews with the Group B trainees exposed the injustices before they embarked to return to the Philippines. One trainee, Leonardo Dinggal, while expecting to bring more than \$1,000 to his family, received a check for \$135.80 with no detailed accounting from the 4-H. Another trainee, Hermie Cabegon, told of his having to live in a converted chicken coop with no hot water or toilet facilities. When Cabegon complained, he was told that a 4-H official had told his host farmer, "They live in the same conditions in the Philippines."

Although this news splash caused some initial flurry of protest, the 4-H by and large denied that there were any serious problems with the program. No reforms were undertaken.

In August 1977, the President and Vice President of the third group of trainees along with Filipino community supporters from California, attempted to open up negotiations with the 4-H in Washington, D.C. to seek the necessary reforms. The 4-H refused to conduct any meaningful negotiations and went so far as to imply in a threatening manner that any further public controversy might result in their decision to terminate the program altogether.

Next, the trainees contacted the Philippine 4-H Council which organized the training program from Manila. The Council was then conducting their annual inspection tour to evaluate the program. Unfortunately, the representative of the Philippine 4-H failed to even meet with the spokespersons for the trainees to discuss their plight. Instead, they conducted their tour in a routine manner and submitted a sanitized report which stated in part, "trainees visited in the U.S. enthusiastically endorsed continuation to the training program. Most were well satisfied with their on-the-job training experience, living conditions, and cultural exchange opportunities." This report was submitted at the end of August along with a few suggestions for minor reforms.

The apparent inaccuracy of the official report supported the charge by a number of trainees that the Philippine 4-H officials were attempting to cover-up the serious problems of the program and are showing very little concern for the fact that the trainees are being maltreated here in America.

SUPPORT NEEDED TO PREVENT ANOTHER COVERUP

To prevent another coverup by the 4-H, the trainees are making a strong appeal for support and assistance from progressive Americans and the Filipino community in the U.S.

The trainees only hold J-1 visas and therefore run the risk of termination from the program and deportation, as well as possible reprimand from the Philippine 4-H and government when they return home. Despite the risk, the trainees have spoken out in hopes of realizing the badly needed reforms in the program.

Their intention is to save what could potentially be a sound and meaningful Agricultural Exchange program not only for the 201 trainees currently placed in farms throughout the country, but for other groups in the future.

For more information, contact: Support Committee for the Filipino 4-H Trainees, 516 16th Street, Oakland, CA 94612; (415) 465-9876. □

'Let us uphold the revolutionary tradition'

BONIFACIO'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

SAN FRANCISCO — On December 17, 1977, this city's Filipino community marked the 114th birthday of the Philippine's national hero, Andres Bonifacio.

In the hearts of the Filipino people, Bonifacio is remembered as "The Father of the Revolutionary Tradition." He founded and led the first revolutionary organization, the *Kataastaasang Bagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan* (KKK) which aimed to carry out the Philippine Revolution of 1896 against Spanish colonialism.

The event was sponsored by the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). Attended by some sixty people, the commemoration featured a premier showing of the film "This Bloody Blundering Business." The 30-minute film documents the Philippine-American War that occurred shortly after the Filipino revolutionary forces won independence from Spain. It also exposes the brutal crimes committed by U.S. troops against the Filipino people and the expansionist nature of U.S. involvement in the Philippines. (See Review in AK, Vol. IV, No. 21.)

Highlighting the commemoration was a

speech by Ms. Sorcy Rocamora, a member of the KDP Bay Area Regional Executive Board. In her opening remarks, Ms. Rocamora commented on the premier movie: "Seeing the atrocities of the war shocked me. I never realized that (these atrocities) had happened and it made me wonder why this period in our history has been covered up!"

Responding to Ms. Rocamora's comments, those in the audience said that they knew little of what had actually happened during U.S. occupation of the Philippines, noting that most Philippine history books covered little, if not eliminated, this historical period.

Concluding the event, Ms. Rocamora said that the commemoration of Andres Bonifacio was one step towards re-educating the Filipino community about Philippine history. Andres Bonifacio's role in the Philippine Revolution of 1896 was crucial but the distorted history that most Filipinos have learned has downplayed his role.

The commemoration was held at the Bessie Carmichael School of this city's South of Market district. Similar commemorations were also held in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Hawaii. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

ISSUES: RIGHT TO STRIKE, BENEFITS

U.S. COAL MINERS STRIKE NATIONWIDE

By JEANETTE LAZAM

In 1974, after a 42 day strike by the United Mine Workers of America (UMW), against the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), the bargaining arm of the coal industry, UMW was able to secure in their contract, a grievance procedure and a re-affirmation of the 1954 health coverage plan for all miners and their families.

However, on Dec. 5, 1977, that contract expired and the coal barons of U.S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, and the Rockefeller empire launched yet another attack on the UMW that proposed to wipe out the Five Step Grievance Procedure and dismantle the health coverage plan.

Even before UMW President Arnold Miller made official the strike, miners in the coal producing regions of the U.S. took to wildcat walkouts.

On Dec. 6, 1977, the strike was made official and 160,000 miners and mine construction workers went on strike in six mid-western, eastern and southern states demanding the restoration of the health plan and a provision granting them the local right to strike to enforce the contract.

"These are two things people just aren't gonna budge on," said a rank-and-file miner in the union's District 29. "we have to have our health cards back, and we have to have a grievance procedure that doesn't allow the companies to rip the guts out of our right to strike."

The UMW represents close to 240,000 members, three quarters of whom are active in the mines while the remaining are retired. The UMW miners



Over 160,000 UMW members have struck the nation's coal fields.

[LNS photo]

produce about one half of the nation's soft coal that sells on the market for \$22 a ton. Metallurgical coal used in steel making and some other high grade low sulfur coal sells for \$32.50 a ton. At present, coal miners make an average of \$153. a week, with an average miner producing 10 tons of coal per shift.

Since the strike, all health and welfare benefits have been cut off, and strikers are receiving nothing in the form of strike benefits from the union.

With the strike moving into its fourth week, the coal fields have remained idle, but talk among miners about the negotiations in Washington has spurred some reaction.

According to media reports and Washington observers, the leaders of the UMW have reportedly agreed to contract provisions that would forbid locals from striking over grievances, penalize miners who engage in wildcat strikes, allow the firing of miners who picket other mines, set up a stricter system to punish absenteeism, and make permanent a cut back in the health benefits. Also threatened is the pension fund, which supports an approximate 80,000 retired miners. The coal companies have threatened to cut off all payments beginning Feb. 1, if a contract is not signed in early January.

Union negotiators, when asked about the reported agreement, mentioned that these demands from

the coal companies were merely "compromises" since they (coal companies), could not get the union to agree on a "no-strike clause."

But the wide-spread discontent over the reported agreement by UMW officials and BCOA is increasing to such an extent that many doubt that the new contract will be ratified by the rank-and-file. Ratification was expected in the earlier part of January, but most observers are now uncertain to the length and duration of contract talks.

THE STRIKE CONTINUES

Amidst the negotiations in Washington, the strike of 160,000 miners still continues effectively crippling the nation's coal industry.

The Bureau of Mines reported a 40 per cent drop in total U.S. coal production the week the strike began, aggravated by the increased and extensive picketing of non-union mines by UMW members that have forced them to shut down.

In both the western and eastern coal producing regions, UMW members and their sympathizers were able to shut down more than a dozen non-union mines.

Referring to the proposed cuts in miner benefits and safety procedures, one president of a 700-member local in southern West Virginia put it, "It'll be a cold day in hell before anything in that contract gets ratified."

Dawson Five Win Their Freedom

DAWSON, Georgia — "It's all over with. These men are free. They're free!" exclaimed Millard Farmer, attorney for the Dawson Five. On Dec. 19th murder charges against the five black youths were dropped.

The decision on the rural Georgia case came nearly two years after the youths were thrown in jail on trumped up charges of murdering a white farmhand, Gordon Howell, in an alleged January 1976 hold-up of a grocery store frequented by the youths.

The prosecution's decision to drop the charges followed a Dec. 14th ruling by Georgia Superior Court Judge Walter Geer, that the confessions obtained from the defendants could not be used in court.

In his ruling on the confessions, Geer said "The evidence taken as a whole showed that the statements were not freely, voluntarily and intelligently made." He also criticized the transportation of defendant Roosevelt Watson to Americus, Ga., where he was given a lie detector test "in an environment strange to the defendant."

In pre-trial hearings this last August, worldwide attention was focused on the case, which was based on confessions extracted under torture. A nationwide mass movement demanding the youth's release was generated as facts in the racist frame-up became known.

One defendant, Roosevelt Watson, was threatened with castration, while the others confessed to the murder only after Terrell County authorities literally held loaded guns to their heads.

With the trial slated for Dec. 27th, the prosecution was unable to produce a shred of evidence against the five. The only other possible evidence that the prosecution had was that of storeowner Linward (Tiny) Denton, whose testimony was so unreliable that it was characterized as "full of discrepancies."

When the confessions were thrown out of court, the prosecution was left with two options — to bow out, or continue with a jury trial and further expose the deep-seated racism of Southern justice. □

Parity To Cover Costs Demanded

Farmers Strike Over Growing Debts

By JEANETTE LAZAM

On December 14, 1977, thousands of farmers took to the nation's highways, forming convoys of tractors signaling a nationwide strike of farmers demanding full parity for all agricultural commodities.

Farmers are in trouble this year. An estimated 100,000 bankruptcies are expected and farmers are being driven off their land as the price of agricultural commodities like corn, wheat, and soybean continue to go down, while the cost of production, fertilizer, storage, and farm machinery skyrocket.

According to the American Agricultural Movement (AAM), an organization representing as many as 800,000 family farmers in 41 states, and sponsor of the nationwide strike, the problem arose in 1972.

At that time then secretary of agriculture Earl Butz, gave farmers the impression that a new era of farm prosperity had arrived. He told them to plant "fence row to fence row" because there would be plenty of demand for full production at high prices.

Also at that time, the Soviet Union began to import heavily, especially corn and wheat, from the U.S. making the cost of grain turn sharply upward.

There began a tendency among farmers to buy more land and purchase more machinery to meet the growing demand for food. During this period, banks granted huge loans to farmers and large farm machinery corporations, like John Deere and International Harvester, extended large credit purchases on machinery.

But that new era of farm prosperity was only temporary. From 1973 to the present, farm income saw a steady decline from \$33 billion in 1973 to \$20 billion in 1977.

Encouraged by agricultural experts predicting that between 1973-1975 there would be permanent world food

shortages, the American farmers are now drowning in a sea of over-extended credit to the banks and farm machinery corporations, while over-production has created a "glut" of agricultural produce on the world market driving farm prices to rock bottom levels.

THE DEMAND FOR PARITY

The concept of "parity" was developed during the depression of the 1930's, but was scrapped by Congress during the 1960's. The idea was to pick a period in which farmers had relative prosperity and compare current farm prices, costs and profits with that base period. Farmers would then be assured a living wage, when necessary, through government subsidies in the form of price supports that would bring them up to the base period.

As it now stands, the official parity ratio for all crops was at 64 at the end of October — the lowest level since 1933. In terms of dollars, this means that farmers are getting 64 cents for every crop dollar they invested in the based year or years, depending on the crop.

The demand for full parity would mean that the government guarantee a probable \$15 billion or more against an already \$2 billion in subsidies this year.

LITTLE RESPONSE FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION

President Carter, who campaigned as the small "peanut farmer" from rural Georgia, has literally turned his back on the American farmer.

His 1977 Farm Bill, which was debated in Congress for nearly nine months, gave slight increases to price supports, but does not nearly provide the assistance necessary for farmers to meet their costs of production.

Carter and Agricultural Secretary Bob Bergland insist that the present price supports make it possible for

(continued on page 11)

Israeli Withdrawal, Palestinians Main Issues

SADAT-BEGIN TALKS STALL

By VICTOR UNO

"We do have problems," conceded Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman after a Jan. 11 meeting with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Cairo. Weizman, in Egypt as head of the Israeli military delegation to discuss Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, thus affirmed what most observers have noted since Sadat's highly acclaimed visit to Tel Aviv last November—that with dramatic trips aside, fundamental problems exist between the Arabs and Israel that limit any quick conclusion of the Sadat-initiated peace talks.

Events following Sadat's Nov. visit have only served to confirm this view. Israeli Prime Minister Manachem Begin's Christmas summit with Sadat in Ismailia, Egypt, was again a case of bold dramatics without any substance as that meeting stalled over the question of the Palestinians and failed to produce a "joint declaration of principles" as expected. While the two heads of state tried to display an atmosphere of optimism and progress, the summit was limited by a universal Arab-world boycott of the talks as well as the displaying of growing internal differences between Egypt and Israel.

The two countries were only able to reach agreement to continue their talks, and two committees were established to pursue the Israeli-Egyptian rapprochement. A military committee, which was the reason for Israeli Defense Minister's Weizman's presence in Cairo, was formed to map out Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai. The two countries also agreed to the formation of a political committee which will attempt to resolve the status of the occupied West Bank and Gaza territories.

Even while agreeing to further talks, recent pronouncements from both the Israeli and Egyptian regimes have indicated some of the serious differences that currently exist between the two countries. While it appears that Israel has agreed in principle to a withdrawal from the Sinai, the nature and scope of the withdrawal have been under contention by both governments.

Shortly after the Dec. 25-26 Ismailia meeting, Israel's Begin issued his plan for Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai. The plan included demilitarization of the Sinai, with the Egyptian army limiting its movements not beyond the Gidi and Mitla line.

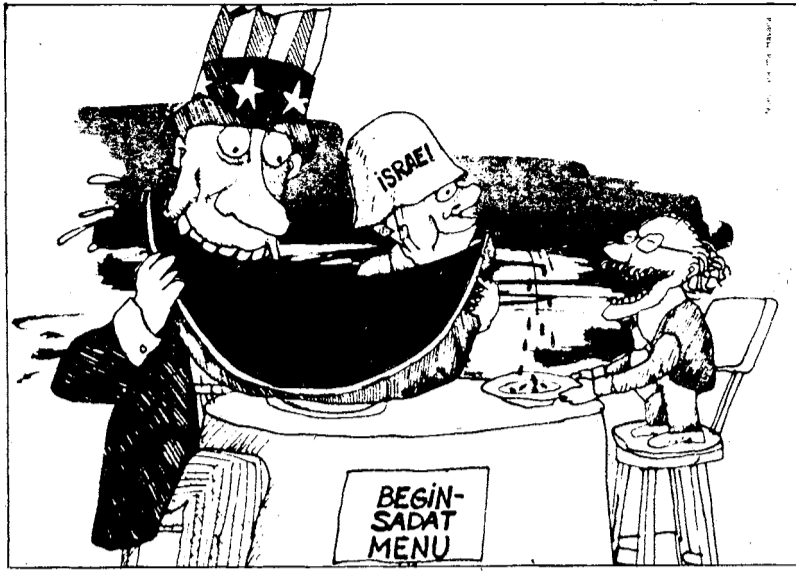
Israeli settlements in the Sinai would remain and would be "linked to Israeli administration and law" as well as "be defended by an Israeli force." The proposed withdrawal would take place over a period of "a few years" during which time Israeli armed forces would "hold a defense line in the middle of (the) Sinai and maintain air bases . . . until the withdrawal of (Israel's) forces."

The terms of the Israeli withdrawal were hardly the "concessions" Sadat expected, and if the Egyptian President had accepted the terms it would have been more of an Egyptian surrender than a rapprochement. Sadat was therefore quick to reject the terms of the plan, saying that "We do not accept the limitations of movement of Egyptian troops on Egyptian soil. No one can tolerate the movement of a country's troops to be dictated by another country on its sovereign soil."

BEGIN'S 'SELF-RULE' PLAN REJECTED

It has been Begin's announced "self-rule" plan for the occupied West Bank and Gaza territories which have drawn the loudest and most unified rejection from the Arab world. In a 26-point plan released Dec. 28, Begin detailed Israel's terms for a settlement in the territories.

Israel's military government over the territories would be "abolished," according to the first point in the Israel proposal. This point is perhaps the only Israeli "concession" in the proposal for what follows is a detailed plan to continue Israel's military occupation and rule over an estimated one million Palestinians in the territories as well as mechanisms to prevent an additional 1.5 million



Palestinian refugees in other Arab countries from ever returning to Palestine.

While nominally abolishing Israel's military administration, Israel's military occupation would continue. According to the plan, "security and public order . . . will be Israel's responsibility."

In place of the Israeli military administration, a proposed "administrative council" would be elected, but would only attend to affairs of Arab residents. Israeli residents would continue to be responsible only to Israel. Thus in any legal disputes, Israeli citizens would not be bound by decisions or laws of the council, and the Israeli residents would have the force of Israel's military presence to back them.

To review existing laws in the territories, a joint committee of Israel, Jordan and the administrative council is proposed. The committee would make decisions only by unanimous decision, however, and Israel would thus maintain a powerful veto over the body. In addition, the committee would "determine the norms whereby Arab refugees (Palestinians) . . . will be permitted to immigrate to those areas." Again, Israel would have the veto to determine what "norms" would be applied to the numbers of returning Palestinians.

While limiting the return of the Palestinians, however, the Israeli proposal would permit the existence of Israeli settlements and would not limit continued Israeli immigration to the occupied lands. "Residents of Israel will be entitled to acquire land and settle in the areas . . ." without any restrictions of a committee or other channels than contain an Arab voice.

Rejection of Israel's "self-rule" plan by Arab nations and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was universal, and Egyptian President Sadat was forced by Arab-world pressure as well as the harsh terms of the Israeli proposal to reject the Begin plan. Mayors on the occupied West Bank, seen by Israel and even conservative Arab leaders as an alternative to the PLO, uniformly rejected the Israeli plan as a carbon copy of one rejected 10 years ago.

The Palestinians, key to any lasting mideast settlement have also closed ranks to denounce the Israeli plan and Sadat's maneuverings. Overcoming various internal splits which have characterized the PLO since its formation, the liberation organization was able to hold a Jan. 1 rally in Beirut, Lebanon, to reject the plan and Sadat's initiative.

Despite almost universal Arab-world condemnation, Egypt has continued to pursue a go-it-alone course in its efforts to conclude a peace pact with Israel. Thus far, substantive concessions from Israel have been lacking and Israel's proposals have made it increasingly more difficult for Sadat to save face over the talks. Efforts by the U.S. to draw other Arab states into the talks — mainly Jordan and Saudi Arabia — have met with only limited success, and Egypt's hope that the U.S. would be able to pressure Israel into accepting some concessions has yet to be realized.

For Israel, it is clear that it is Sadat who has the most to lose in their joint talks, and that it is now too late for the Egyptian president to gracefully withdraw from the negotiations without inviting serious threat to his continued rule. Even with the prolongation of the joint talks, Israel stands to gain as it continues to strengthen its existing settlements in the occupied lands. □

World in Focus

Chilean Masses Denounce Junta

Hundreds of Chileans took to the streets of Santiago during numerous protests the week of Dec. 31 to protest the continued rule of Gen. Augusto Pinochet and the junta's announced Jan. 4 plebiscite to sanitize its rule. The demonstrations were the first large-scale protests in Chile since the junta seized power in 1973. The protests, involving hundreds of Chileans marching through the streets of Santiago, rang with chants of "Chile yes! Junta no!" and "Vote no!"

The plebiscite, announced on Dec. 22 by Pinochet, sought to legitimize the junta's rule by asking Chileans to vote "yes" or "no" on a ballot against "international aggression" and supporting the junta. The "yes" box appeared next to a Chilean flag, while a black flag appeared next to the "no" box. Opponents of the junta, from the conservative Christian Democrats to the Chilean Communist Party and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), uniformly denounced the vote as a cosmetic maneuver by the junta to improve its image abroad, especially in the wake of recent U.N. condemnation.

In the wake of the Jan. 4 plebiscite, the junta claimed an overwhelming mandate for its continued rule. Since the military controlled all election machinery, in addition to all the media, the vote was anticlimactic. Lack of an independent observer group to the vote added to the vote's farcical character. □

Protests Hit Somoza Regime

In the wake of the murder of anti-government critic Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, an estimated 30,000 Nicaraguans took to the streets of Managua in protest Jan. 12. Chamorro, a staunch opponent of the Somoza regime, was murdered in his home by rightist assailants Jan. 10.

Troops of the Nicaraguan dictator assailed the protestors, killing at least one person and injuring 20. The funeral procession of Chamorro's family also came under attack by the military and Chamorro's wife and family were forced to seek refuge in nearby buildings to escape the troops and tear gas.

Businesses and offices alleged to be owned by the Somoza dynasty became objects of attack by the numerous protestors. A textile plant, shoe factory, customs house, several banks and office buildings were sacked by the outraged Nicaraguans.

Recently, the Somoza dictatorship has come under increasing opposition, both from the clandestine Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) as well as a coalition of businessmen and politicians. The coalition, called the Democratic Union of Liberation, was headed by Pedro Chamorro who also published the nation's leading newspaper. An estimated 90 per cent of the country's two million population oppose the 41-year-old Somoza dictatorship. □

Smith's 'Internal Settlement' Rejected

The white-minority regime of Ian Smith has been running into increasing difficulty at it attempts to sell its "internal settlement" to black Zimbabweans and the international community. Most recently, the five black-rule "frontline states" of Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, and Angola, announced their rejection of the Smith plan and reaffirmed their support for the Patriotic Front. The two leaders of the Patriotic Front, Robert Mugabe of ZANU and Joshua Nkomo of ZAPU, also voiced their opposition by intensifying the armed struggle against the Smith regime.

The Smith plan, disclosed last November, had been advertised in the Western press as a huge concession by the white-minority government to the concept of "one man, one vote." However, Smith recently revealed that one-third of the seats in parliament would be reserved for the country's 220,000 whites, thus assuring the white population an automatic veto over any important legislation. In addition, the plan called for whites to maintain control of the nation's police, army, and civil service bureaucracy.

Efforts by the Smith regime to sell the plan to black Zimbabweans has been met with limited success as only a few largely discredited black leaders emerged to endorse the plan. The Patriotic Front, in rejecting the plan, escalated its attacks against the Smith government, and in recent weeks the white-minority regime has imposed a government censorship of outgoing press releases, indicative of the escalating battle conflicts. □

Farmers Strike Over Parity...

(continued from page 10)

farmers to meet the cost of production. They have repeatedly accused the farmers of demanding price increases that are so high that the American consumer could not afford to buy as much.

American farmers, however, have noted that it is the large monopoly "middlemen" who are cheating both the farmers and the U.S. worker at the supermarket. For 1977, U.S. farmers will receive about 40 per cent of the U.S. dollar while the monopoly middleman will get 60 per cent.

THE STRIKE CONTINUES

As the strike moves into its fourth week, the

American farmers have promised that if their demands aren't met they will continue to withhold their products from the markets, refuse to buy anything except the bare necessities and refuse to produce at the next planting season.

"This nation is going to go hungry if we don't plant our crops next year, but right now we have no choice because we can't afford to produce," said AAM spokesperson Gene Schroder.

"We've reached the point in this country where farmers can't continue on this way, we can't sit back and do nothing. Either we go out on strike or sell out to the big corporations." □

Anti-Martial Law Front

U.S. SENATE RATIFICATION HEARINGS

Confrontation Building Over U.S.-R.P. Bases Treaty

Adopted from the Philippine Liberation Courier, Jan. 15, 1978

As the Marcos regime and the U.S. State Department are concluding negotiations on a new treaty governing the status of the 20 U.S. military bases in the Philippines, a number of groups and individuals in the United States have begun to mobilize public opinion around the demand to withdraw the bases.

The battle is expected to come to a head in March in the arena of the U.S. Senate, which will debate whether or not to ratify the revised treaty.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL

Currently preparing to give testimony advocating base withdrawal before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is a distinguished Blue Ribbon panel of defense and Philippine experts. Members of the panel include Dr. Edwin Reischauer, former U.S. ambassador to Japan and currently professor of government at Harvard University; Admiral (ret.) Gene LaRocque of Washington, D.C.'s Institute for Defense Analysis; Prof. Peter Stanley of Harvard's history department; and Dr. Frank Golay, professor of economics at Cornell University.

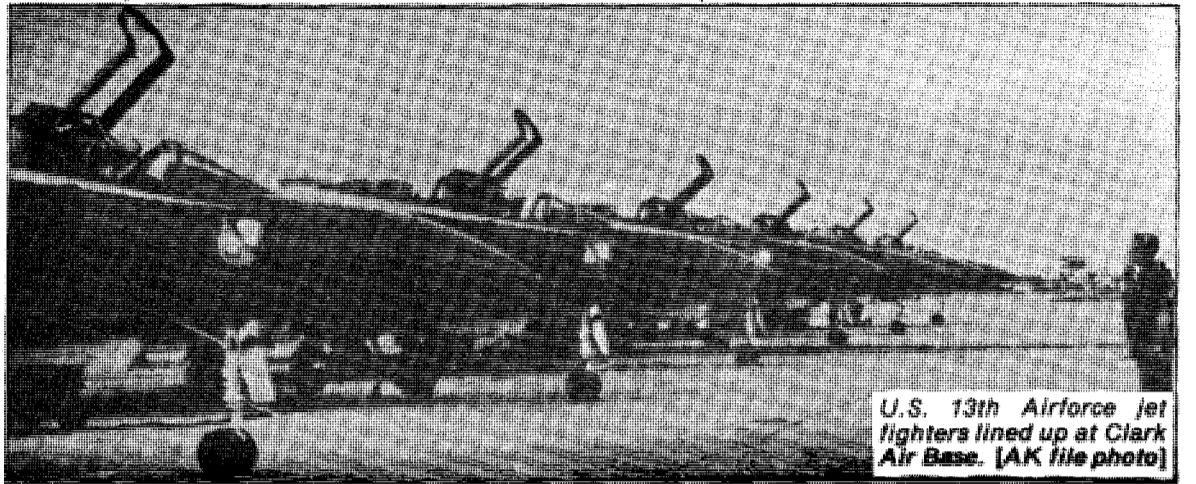
THE LAST LAP

Among the points on which Marcos and the U.S. are agreed in the current talks, is the designation of Filipinos as nominal base commanders and the flying of the Philippine flag over the bases and other U.S. military installations. The U.S. easily conceded to these of Marcos' demands on "symbolic Philippine sovereignty."

Reports also indicate that the Philippine government has granted the U.S. two more bases in return for "internal security guarantees." If true, then the negotiations will end by giving Marcos some cosmetic sovereignty and the U.S. more substantial military control over the Philippines.

A QUESTION OF RENT

The major outstanding issues are those of criminal jurisdiction over U.S. servicemen and the amount of base rent to be paid by the U.S. Before the departure of the Ford administration in late 1975, Marcos had demanded as rental \$1 billion in military aid over a five-year period and an unspecified amount of economic aid. Observers agree that the Carter administration will probably grant much less than this amount to Marcos, whose ability to pose as the best guarantee for the stability



of U.S. interests in the Philippines has in the last year, been severely eroded by internal resistance and negative internal public opinion.

The form in which the "rent" might be paid could pose problems for Marcos. According to some State Department insiders, Carter plans to funnel it to Marcos in the form of official military aid. If so, congressional critics of Carter's policy toward Marcos could prevent any further increase in aid by invoking the Human Rights Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act, which prohibits military assistance to violations of human and civil rights.

Rep. Yvonne Burke, (Dem.-Ca.), leader of last year's successful effort to cut \$3.5 million from the military aid package to Marcos, has already warned in a recent statement that, "... the U.S. bases must not be used as an excuse to massively fund a dictatorship under assault from growing forces of internal resistance."

THE PENTAGON POSITION

Administration policy appears to have fully consolidated around the Department of Defense's position that the military bases continue to be of "major importance to U.S. global security interests." A dissenting faction within the State Department whose opinions surfaced in a well-publicized secret report by William Underhill, U.S. ambassador to Malaysia, appears to have been quashed. Underhill argued in early 1977 that in the post-Vietnam era, the Philippine bases had little military significance. Likewise, a suggestion by the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the U.S. could afford to give up Clark Air Base also appears to have been smashed by a Pentagon counteroffensive painting Clark Base as critical to

the U.S.' ability to intervene in the Korean peninsula, in the Mid-East, and interestingly, even in Southern Africa.

COUNTERING THE PENTAGON

Against the Pentagon defense, the Blue Ribbon panel is expected to argue that the Philippine bases are relics of a foreign policy based on seeking military hegemony in Southeast Asia, a policy rendered obsolete by the U.S. disaster in Vietnam and its withdrawal from mainland Southeast Asia. Retaining the Philippine bases would mean retaining the assumptions of a Cold War foreign policy.

Aside from supporting the Blue Ribbon panel, the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) have launched a nationwide mass petition campaign to withdraw the bases. As of Dec. 31, 1977, 5000 signatures had been gathered out of a projected 25,000 in cities such as Boston, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition, a letter to Carter advocating base withdrawal has already been signed by 95 prominent individuals, including anti-war activists Noam Chomsky and Tom Hayden; progressive scholars Garbiel Kolko of York University, Howard Zinonf of Boston University, and George Wald of Harvard; and concerned church people such as Rev. Herbert White of the United Church of Christ and Fr. Thomas Marti of the Maryknoll Peace and Justice Office. Projected to gather some 300-400 signatures by mid-March, the letter is planned for publication in the *New York Times*.

"The current invisibility of the bases issue to large sectors of the public," notes Jim Regan, FFP national coordinator, "helps Marcos and Carter. But by mid-March, we shall have made the issue a highly visible, highly politically charged issue nationwide. We'll give them a run for their money." □

PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION

Human Rights and Martial Law in the Philippines is the title of a publication recently released by the newly formed National Resource Center on Political Prisoners in the Philippines. The 40 page pamphlet is the report of the Human Rights Investigating Mission to the Philippines headed by former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark in August 1977, a trip sponsored by the Anti-Martial Coalition and the Friends of the Filipino People.

Contributing to the volume are Mission members John Caughlan, a prominent civil rights attorney from Seattle; Don Luce of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC), formerly a leading critic of U.S. involvement in Vietnam; Deborah Kaufman, chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the World Association of Law Students (WALS); Tom Miller, deputy director of the San Francisco office of California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA); and Peter Weiss, member of the governing boards of New York's Center for Constitutional Rights and Washington, D.C.'s Institute for Policy Studies.

Providing the introduction to the report is Rep. Yvonne Burke (Dem.-CA), who led the successful fight in the U.S. Congress to delete \$3.5 million from the Fiscal Year 1978 military assistance allocation for the repressive Marcos

government.

The report sums up the varied experiences of the Mission in their two-week stay in the Philippines, including their observations of the acquittal of the torturers of community leader Trinidad Herrera by a military tribunal; interviews with victims of torture; a surprise visit to a government "safehouse" or torture chamber; a community-guided tour of Tondo; and their participation in a violently dispersed rally for human rights on August 25, 1977.

The publisher of the book, the National Resource Center on Political Prisoners, was formed during the Anti-Martial Law Coalition's annual conference in Chicago in late October 1977. Its functions include the regular dissemination of information on the conditions and whereabouts of political detainees, and providing advice on telegram, letter-writing, and prisoner-adoption campaigns for a variety of interested groups. Staffed by Mission member Deborah Kaufman and others, it will soon be releasing a monthly bulletin.

Copies of the publication can be obtained by writing to the following address, enclosing a cheque for \$1.00: National Resource Center on Political Prisoners in the Philippines, P.O. Box 24707, Oakland, CA 94623. □

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