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US-AID in Bicol Page 6	International Hotel Low Cost Housing Bill Defeated Page 11	Continued US Intervention in Angola Exposed Page 14

POLITICAL PRISONERS STAGE HUNGER STRIKE

By Ma Flor Sepulveda

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Fourteen political prisoners in this military camp have been on a hunger strike since Jan. 3 to protest the stepped-up harassment of prison authorities against them. The fasting prisoners are the defendants in the "PP vs. de la Torre et al" case, charged by the martial law regime with conspiracy to commit rebellion. Incarcerated since Dec. 1974, they include Fr. Edicio de la Torre, an activist priest, Cenon Zembrano, Reynaldo Ila, Julius Giron, Armando Teng, Santiago Alonzo, Mr. and Mrs. Reynaldo Guillermo, Eddie Cinense, Agaton Topcio, Francisco Vergara, and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Quinto.

The prisoners are protesting their arbitrary transfer from Ft. Bonifacio, Rizal to Camp Olivas Pampanga, which they claim is a divisive tactic to

isolate them from their relatives, defense counsels, and supporters who are predominantly from Manila. They are also staging the hunger strike to dramatize their demands for the restoration of the right to bail and for two prisoners who are nursing mothers to be spared the inconveniences of prison and be placed under house arrest instead.

In a letter to Amnesty International dated 1/11/75, the detainees declared: "We are totally convinced of the justness of these issues and are determined to carry on the hunger strike until the demands are granted by the gov't and military authorities."

OLIVAS DETAINEES: HISTORY OF PERSECUTION AND RESISTANCE

The case of these 14 prisoners first achieved *continued on page 5*

Labor Leaders Nabbed GOVT CRACKS DOWN ON OPPOSITION

MANILA—A wave of mass arrests targeting members of various resistance sectors, netted 41 patriots on Friday, Jan. 23. Among those arrested were Roger Posadas, a former physics professor and alleged head of the "explosives Movement" of the Communist Party of the Philippines, along with 5 suspected party members; 9 labor and slum organizers; and 3 faculty members and 5 students of the University of the Philippines.

The mass arrests came in the wake of increased urban unrest, particularly from the labor and urban poor sectors. The past 2 months alone witnessed the largest demonstration ever held under martial law demanding the repealing of a strike ban decree; numerous labor strikes; mass actions against the eviction of squatters; and the resurgence of student activism on campuses.

The crackdown took place three days before the international "Group of 77" Conference held in Manila on Jan. 26. The "Group of 77" is the unofficial title of non-aligned third world nations in the UN.

It is likely that Marcos feared the repetition of the incident during Ford's visit, when the resistance took advantage of Ford's presence as well as 150 foreign correspondents and launched a 12,000 strong demonstration against the martial law dictatorship. What is ironic is that as Marcos hosts a progressive Third World conference which is set to discuss the economic interests of underdevelop-

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FORD SIGNS HUMAN RIGHTS BILL

by Sherry Valparaiso

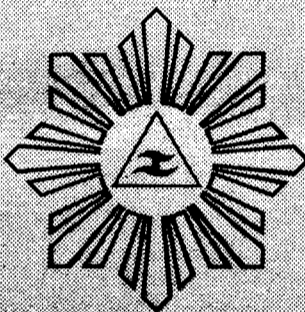
WASHINGTON—A significant victory was won in the "Stop Aid to Marcos" campaign Dec. 20, 1975 when Pres. Ford signed into law the Human Rights Amendment, withholding economic aid to countries engaged in gross violations of human rights.

The news of Ford signing the amendment did not come as a surprise to anti martial law forces in Washington who had earlier reported that the "State Dept. probably won't try to counterlobby the amendment because of the overwhelming support it has received." However, what is surprising is the conspicuous lack of reporting in major newspapers about the passage of a bill which has such major implications not only for the Philippines but for other countries with repressive gov'ts.

When contacted for comment, Severina Rivera of the FFP Congress Education Project stressed the need to continue pressure on the Congress to pass a similar amendment for military aid, to introduce amendments specific to the Philippines, and to ensure implementation of the amendments.

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Ang
KATIPUNAN
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF KDP
VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 25 - FEBRUARY 25, 1976 25¢



Delegates Violently Manhandled JAN 1 PICKETS HIT PHILIPPINE CONSULATES



A delegate from the Anti Martial Law Coalition being punched by a Philippine Consulate person (L). Pickets were held nationally in 6 cities, such as San Francisco (R). See page 7 for complete coverage.



FMG Dinner-forum IMMIGRANT DISCRIMINATION DENOUNCED

By Gabriel M. Rodrigo
AK Correspondent

NEW YORK—In an effort to rally the support of various sectors of the Filipino Community to the defense of Filipino doctors facing imminent deportation, the Emergency Defense Committee for the Foreign Medical Graduates (EDC-FMG) sponsored a successful dinner/forum last Sat, Jan. 17 at the Washington Square Methodist Church in NYC.

With banners announcing the theme "Unite to defend the FMGs, Uphold our democratic rights, Build unity in the Filipino community," the program consisted of speeches from Filipino doctors and community persons involved in the National Steering Committee of the EDC-FMG, and Mr. Murray Gordon, legal counsel for the Committee for Interns and Residents and Physicians National

Housestaff Association. It also featured a slide show on the history of Filipino immigration and songs from the KDP singers.

Dr. Roberto Cunanan, President of the Philippine Medical Association in America (PMAA) opened the program with a welcome address and a brief summary of the FMG problem. Dr. Cunanan aptly summed up the reason why Filipinos should unite to fight the deportation of Filipino FMGs. He said: "This is only a first step of organized medicine to cut off the integration of Filipino FMGs into the mainstream of American health care institutions. If we don't fight this organized medicine now, the deadly tentacles of organized medicine will strongly strangle the rest of the FMGs, nurses, medical technicians and others. The deadly tentacles will extend to other sectors of the community

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Ang Katipunan
P.O. Box 23644
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Ang KATIPUNAN

National Newspaper of
the Katipunan ng Mga Demokratikong Pilipino
(KDP) Union of Democratic Filipinos

KDP is a mass organization based in the US and is committed primarily to the struggle for the basic and long-term needs of the Filipino people, both in the Philippines and here in America.

Because of this, KDP supports the struggle of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship and pledges to help build a broad-based movement among Filipinos in the US to oppose martial law.

However, KDP sees that the root cause of all the misery and poverty in the Philippines is the imperialist control, exercised principally by the U.S., over the economy and politics of the country. The Filipino people can solve this basic problem only through long and difficult revolutionary struggle for a truly genuine democratic and independent Philippines.

Here in the US, KDP is committed to struggling for the democratic rights of the Filipino minority. Katipunan views the racial and national discrimination experienced by the Filipino people, as part of and stemming from, the monopoly capitalist system in the US. KDP members understand that the US government is in fact, not democratic, but in the hands of a tiny minority of monopoly industrialists and bankers.

KDP sees that the people of the U.S. also need fundamental, revolutionary change to solve the basic ills that plague American society. The Katipunan understands that the working class must firmly control the government before it can rightfully be termed a government "of the people and for the people."

KDP sees that greater numbers of Filipinos are coming to these same political understandings. KDP is an organization open to all who agree with our political programme. In addition, KDP is committed to working in close cooperation with all progressive Filipinos to build a strong Filipino people's movement in America.

KATIPUNAN NG
MGA DEMOKRATIKONG PILIPINO

PUBLISHER

TRINITY ORDONA

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POLLY PARKS

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

NEW YORK, CHICAGO, PHILADELPHIA,
SEATTLE, BAY AREA, LOS ANGELES,
SAN DIEGO, and HAWAII

Published in Oakland, California

Bulk Rate Postage Paid in Oakland

The ANG KATIPUNAN is your newspaper

It speaks of the Filipino People's
problems and demands

It fights for the interests of
the Filipino Community

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EDITORIAL

THE BICENTENNIAL COVER-UP

By KDP National Executive Board

After all the fanfare and publicity buildup, America's big 200th birthday is here. Over the next 12 months, millions and millions of our tax dollars will be spent on extravagant Bicentennial celebrations in attempts to quietly hide the current problems facing the American people with a mantle of "red, white and blue!"

The Bicentennial is shaping up as one of the biggest public relations stunts engineered by the government in a long time. The scheme is to attempt to restore "hope in the future" through glorifying the past two hundred years. This is a timely move on the part of the US ruling class, in light of a recent public opinion survey conducted by the People's Bicentennial Commission which reaffirmed that the people are rapidly losing faith in the American monopoly capitalist system. The poll discovered that: 33% believe the capitalist economic system has reached its peak and is on the decline; 49% are convinced that Big Business is ultimately responsible for the economic problems facing working people; 57% agree that there is no basic difference between the Democratic and Republican parties—they both serve Big Business interests; and 56% would favor more workers' control over the operations and profits of the giant corporations.

UNEMPLOYMENT, CUTBACKS FOR '76

Is there any wonder where the working class gets such ideas? Just look around us. On the average, wage increases are trailing 5.3% behind the inflation rate. While company "speed-ups" and "efficiency drives" have increased labor producti-

vity by 8% over the last few years (i.e. more work for the same wages). Government statistics peg unemployment at 8.2% of the work force, the highest in 30 years! While among Black and other minority sectors, unemployment is running over 30%. In the face of this Ford has recently announced his intention to further cut back federal spending this year somewhere between \$40 to \$50 billion in badly needed social service areas, like education, health, veterans' benefits, federally sponsored employment programs. Is this the government's idea of a Bicentennial "gift" to the American people?

Meanwhile the president tells us that military expenditures "for fiscal year 1977 will show an essential increase over the current year." In addition, hundreds of millions of dollars continue to be spent propping up repressive regimes like the Marcos dictatorship. Such US aid is not meant to help the peoples of these countries, but is really intended to protect the investments of US multinational corporation, like IT&T, Standard Oil, Dole, etc.

GROWING DISCONTENT IN AMERICA

These are some of the harsh realities at the base of people's growing discontent. 200 years of capitalism has not been able to solve many basic needs of a civilized society. Employment, housing, medical care, schooling, malnutrition...these are not only big problems, but growing problems, in the America of 1976. Add to this the Watergate, FBI, and CIA scandals which hit the news almost every week, and it becomes clear that the

continued on page 6

Mailbag:

S.C., Washington, DC: Brothers and Sisters; Enclosed please find a check of \$5 for a one-year individual subscription to your paper. Also, please give me more information about any posters or other material you might have available relating to the present struggle of Filipino people. In my community (the D.C. area) there are many Filipinos, but unfortunately the majority of them do not understand the present struggle against martial law in the Philippines or the exploitative presence of the United States there. I hope to change this. Maybe you could help me. In Struggle...

Thank you for your letter. It is always inspiring to hear from someone who is interested in the struggle.

The following materials are available: "People's War in the Philippines," which explains the Program for National Democracy as well as the NPA's Program for Agrarian Revolution. This is published by KDP and costs \$0.50.

We also have materials produced by the national Anti Martial Law Coalition. These are: "Logistics of Repression," an excellent expose on the role of US aid in propping up the Marcos dictatorship; "Political Prisoners Pamphlet," a documentation of torture in the Marcos camps. Both cost \$1.00.

ON MFP

Steve & Presy Psinakis, San Francisco: The December 19 issue of this newspaper included a lengthy article on the accomplishments of the Movement for a Free Philip-

We have been observing the hard work and accomplishments of all the Anti-Martial law groups; we have been admiring their dedication and praising their success. In addition to our admiration and praise for others, we have also been actively sup-

porting in our modest way the efforts of all groups or even individuals who are struggling for truth, justice and freedom in the Philippines.

We have been and will continue to help and support every person and every group which is motivated by the principles of justice, dignity and respect of the basic human rights of the Filipino people. We do not feel, however, that it serves any useful purpose to compare the efforts and successes of each group and criticize those groups which may be less successful than others or which may be working independently for their own good reasons.

Until recently, we have been working as independent individuals trying to do our share in bringing the truth to the world, particularly in the United States, about the present conditions in the Philippines. Last November we decided to join the Movement for a Free Philippines. We believe that the MFP has been doing its share and contributing a great deal to the common cause of the restoration of freedom and human rights in the Philippines.

We suggest that all of us, be it organizations or individuals, should concentrate our efforts in increasing our own contribution and be proud of our accomplishments no matter how small they may be or may appear to be, without criticizing others who, in our opinion, may not be accomplishing as much or may choose to work independently.

Unity does not necessarily mean that everyone must be doing the same thing at the same time and at the same place. Unity to us also means A COMMON CAUSE to which everyone contributes in his own way individually and/or collectively. The important thing to know and understand is the common cause. The common cause should be the restoration of human rights of the Filipino people and the right to choose their form of Government and their leaders through free and honest elections representing the wish of the majority of the people. □

Thank you for your observations. We would like to state, however,

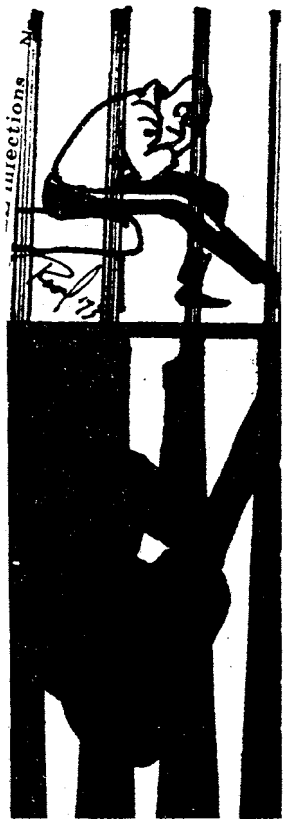
that the main point of our editorial was not to compare the achievements of different groups, but to criticize the lack of cooperation and anti-unity stand of MFP, which we believe has been detrimental to the "common cause" of the fight for freedom and democracy in the Philippines.

In fact, your phrase, "working independently for their own good reasons," reinforces our suspicion that the MFP has seemingly adopted an explicit policy of non-cooperation with the other anti-martial law groups. But we are still awaiting a reply from some MFP official who is willing to admit that such a policy exists and explain in the first place, exactly what the "good reasons" are behind this stand of non-cooperation.

Secondly, there has never been any opposition to independent work by various groups in the anti-martial law movement. KDP, along with the Friends of the Filipino People, Filipinos for National Democracy, National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines, and the Philippine Information Bulletin, all members of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines), conduct our own independent work outside of the joint projects that were mentioned in the last AK editorial. What we do oppose, however, is the apparent adoption of a policy of non-cooperation by the Movement for a Free Philippines on numerous different projects to assist the political prisoners, to stop US military aid to Marcos, and to demand the lifting of martial law and holding of immediate elections—all of which seem to be well within the principles for which the MFP says it stands.

Although "unity does not necessarily mean that everyone must be doing the same thing at the same time and at the same place," as you stated, we see no legitimate reason why all of the different anti-martial law groups, including the MFP, cannot work together on some things, especially this year's campaigns projected by the AMLC.

It is the UNITY OF ACTION and not words which is most feared by the Marcos dictatorship. —Editor



JUSTICE FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

We join the ranks of concerned Filipinos in their petition before the martial law regime to accord justice to hundreds of political prisoners.

For more than three years now, hundreds of Filipinos have been languishing in prison camps allegedly for "political reasons." However, only a few have notion, often vague, as to why they are incarcerated; still, very few have stood trial which is often obscured by partiality, extending beyond the period of what should be a speedy trial. Furthermore, cases of torture have been reported to have been perpetrated upon the persons of the political detainees.

Against these odds, and still many untold ones, the detainees are helpless. They have been denied the right to know the charges for which they are held, the right to be humanely treated inside detention camps. Thus, it is no extraordinary case that a Filipino has been in camp for years without having known why, for not even an arraignment has ever been conducted.

The present dispensation constitutes no valid justification because pronouncements have been made by the authorities that in practically all cases, "martial law no longer exists." Defense

officials have time and again assured us that everything is under control. Yet, the military still detains so many hundreds of political prisoners, as if to indicate that by doing so, national security is totally ensured.

With all these in consideration, we reiterate our call for justice to the political prisoners. For us out here, this is one immediate action we can take. During this Christmas, we enjoin authorities to do well to grant the detainees their due right to post bail in order to spend the season with their loved ones. We further enjoin them to initiate the review of political cases, institute speedy trial and look into reported cases of torture. Although for the political prisoners:

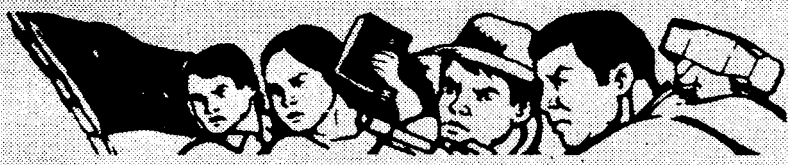
For years we have nurtured
Our love for our native land
And we shall neither expect
Nor miss their leniency.

THE UP STUDENT CONFERENCE

13 December 1975

(Reprinted UP Philippine Collegian—Dec. 18, 1975)

Pagbabalikwas (In revolt)



NPA Gains Steady Support From Peasantry

(The following reports are condensations from news releases of the Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (Free Philippines News Service). These reports of NPA activities in various parts of the country show the nationwide scope and character of the present struggle. It also belies the military's claim that the revolutionary movement in the countryside has been crushed. These reports prove otherwise, and illustrates the resiliency and dogged perseverance of revolutionary cadres and the Filipino people—Editor)

NPA, PEASANT MASSES REGISTER GAINS IN PANAY

PANAY-Hunger came early to the "sacadas" (landless agricultural labor) and the peasants of Panay this year. Unharvested rice and other crops including camote and cassava were plagued by rat infestations, making the food supply run low.

But the infestation did not bring as much suffering, though, as the problem of raising the money to repay the loans for "Masagana 99." The meager harvest has left very little for sale so that many farmers under PC threats, were forced to sell their carabaos in order to repay the loans. To cope with the uncertainty of their incomes, many "sacadas" joined friends and relatives in working on open subsistence "kaingin" plots; these in turn have fostered cooperation among the peasants and farmworkers.

The government, meanwhile, has done little to help the suffering masses. Instead of assisting in the creation of mutual aid teams, they encouraged competition by organizing rat-killing contests among other diversionary activities. The military is even more active in discouraging barrio organizations outside of the gov't-run SAMAHANG NAYON because of their fear that these would come under NPA influence.

The PC has also intensified barrio problems by demanding food from the people, when they go on patrol, by organizing local goons into CHDF units, and by using carabao rustlers and thieves as spies. This has directly increased the occurrence of rape, carabao rustling, and other crimes. Such gov't military activities has inadvertently helped the NPA expand. Discouraged farmers have set up Barrio Organizing Committees (BOC) and local people's militia. With the help of the NPA, they have eliminated some of the worst criminal elements in the barrios.

For example, in Barrio Mina, Ibayaj, Aklan, the local NPA, which is known to the people as the BAG-ONG HANGAWAY SANG BANWA, ambushed and killed a notorious CHDF member, a certain "Alok-Alok" Suguilon, who was personally responsible for the burning of houses and the torture of peasants when-

ever he accompanied PC "search and destroy" operations.

The NPA has also been active in purging the barrios of Tupaz, Capiz, of local informers. "Iyong" Catedral and the notorious gangster, "Pinoy" Parcon were both meted the death penalty. Virgilio Berniso, CHDF head of Barrio Rizal Sur, Tupaz and collector of rice for export by state traders, was killed in an ambush.

The deaths of these notorious informers and extortionists have demoralized the CHDF. Upon Berniso's death, the CHDF unit of this barrio surrendered their weapons to the NPA. In other barrios in Tupaz, a general call for the destruction of CHDF has been carried out successfully. In Barrio Pan-ay, 6 CHDFs surrendered and asked forgiveness from the people, claiming they were forced to join the enemy militia against their will.

Gangsters in other parts of Panay have been apprehended and sentenced by people's courts. In Barrio Manhanip, Malinao, Aklan, 2 carabao rustlers were executed. One Bernardo Galagate, a provincial jail escapee and notorious thief who killed an infant in one robbery, was sentenced to death.

These activities were initiated and actively involved the barrio people themselves through the BOC and barrio militia. The elimination of spies and carabao rustlers from their barrios now make it possible for them to continue their organizational work and perform their economic activities without hindrance.

These recent victories provided valuable lessons to the masses of Panay and strengthened their trust in the NPA. It is now clear that their freedom from exploitation can only be achieved through self-reliance and armed struggle. □

PEOPLE'S ARMY WIPES OUT 52 ENEMY TROOPERS IN 8-MONTH CAMPAIGN

BARONGAN, EASTERN SAMAR—The New People's Army in this impoverished province has wiped out 52 troopers belonging to the infamous Task Force Bulig and wounded several others during an 8-month campaign. The operation, which began in February and lasted thru September 1975 also executed some 40 criminal elements—spies, traitors, cattle rustlers, and robbers—after the townspeople held trials and passed just verdicts.

This operation is the people's army's response to the massive, brutal "encirclement and suppression" campaign of the enemy which mobilized about 1000 troops (600 Task Force Bulig regulars and 400 Civil Home Defense Forces (CHDF) from several barrios).

The fascist army shoots suspects on sight, makes arbitrary arrests, tortures and maltreats suspected NPA supporters

and sympathizers, and confiscates domestic animals for their own consumption. To date 18 peasants have been confirmed murdered.

In another incident, a mentally deranged woman was shot to death by a CHDF right in the town plaza when she ran away after being challenged by the latter. A

Many have joined the NPA while others are fighting the enemies on their own. It is widely believed that the death of a PC marauder in Barrio Magsaysay, Dolores, was due to an ambush by the barrio folks: two soldiers were also killed in the same area earlier. □



NPA fighters in battle practice. (Free Philippines News Service Photo)

man was fatally shot under similar circumstances in another barrio. The military-CHDF patrols have been reported to shoot and kill innocent farmers whose only fault was running away at their sight; they also return from their patrols with their victims' heads, ears, and sexual organs which they display in municipal buildings, claiming that these represent NPA casualties. As a result, thousands of refugees have been fleeing from the barbarism of the AFP military machine. On the other hand, these barbaric acts, instead of intimidating the peasants into submission, accomplish its exact opposite and create more converts to the NPA.

The people while biding their time to seek revenge on the AFP goons, are getting organized into Barrio Organizing Committees, mass organizations of peasants, youth and women, and local guerrilla and militia units.

Meanwhile, the NPA's have the decisive advantage over the gov't troops. They are widely regarded as the people's friends and protectors. The revolutionary fighters help the people in their farm and household chores, at the same time, protecting them from PC-AFP assaults.

CHDF MEMBER BOLTS, JOIN NPA

OAS, ALBAY—A civilian CHDF member in Maulad, Jovellar, this province, recently bolted to join the NPA, bringing with him his M-1 carbine and four magazines of ammunition. Identified as Jesus Navares, he took advantage of his companions' absence when, out of fear, they decided to abandon their posts. Navares, seizing this chance, left to realize his long-nurtured ambition to join the peoples army.

The new NPA fighter had, even before crossing over to the people's side, understood the NPA goals. Forcibly conscripted into the CHDF, he experienced the sadistic behavior of AFP officers when meting out discipline to homeguards like himself. His decision to defect came when he saw the mauling to death of an innocent peasant by another CHDF member, a former thief under the protection of the PC.

"My escape is a protest of the peasant masses against the regime's moves to divide us and make us fight each other. But instead, we are uniting and will steadfastly fight for our rights until victory," declared Navares in a statement to Balita Ng Malayang Pilipinas. □

STRIKES...

continued from page 16

company memorandum and trampled on it. Others shouted "Welga! Welga!" (Strike! Strike!) in unison. At this point, management was forced to grant conversion allowances to the workers.

The more than 1,000 workers of Eastern Textile Mills in Meycauyan, Bulacan effectively staged their second production slowdown Dec 8-11. The first time the Eastern workers resorted to this form of protest was on Sept 28-Oct 8, when they succeeded in forcing management to relent. The Dec 8 slowdown, however, was more daring and the



Symposium on workers held in the University of the Philippines on Dec. 6. Battery of speakers included secotral representatives from the Movement to Repeal PD823.

workers were more unified and determined to win over management in a shorter span of time than before. Management tried to stop the slowdown by calling a general meeting and threatening workers that the PC (Philippine Constabulary) would arrest them for violating PD 823. The workers retorted that they were not afraid of the PC, and that they would have to arrest them all. Factory supervisors and foremen supporting management then ordered the workers to get back to work, even starting up the machines themselves. The slowdown was on its third day when management finally relented. It called an emergency meeting and promised to grant the workers' demands—full

payment of their sick and vacation leaves and the annual bonus in one package.

A 2-day sit-down strike beginning Dec. 18 was launched by workers at the Riverside Mills in Rosario, Pasig when management refused to grant their conversion allowance, unused sick leaves and other benefits accumulated within a year. 500 workers from Spinning A department began their strike in the morning, followed by another 500 from Spinning B in the afternoon. When management refused to give in, the workers decided on more drastic measures. When they told management that they would walk out if their demands were not satisfied, the strikers were given their held-up conversion allowances at the end of the day.



Inspired by the spinners, the weaving department workers staged their own sit-down strike on Dec 19 to get their conversion allowance. The next day, management ordered the cashier to grant the 250 weavers their long-overdue allowances.

In Malabon, 1,000 workers at the Lirag Textile Mills walked out on Dec 23 when they were given X'mas bonuses instead of their wages. Marching through the factory belt of Malabon on their way to Malacanang Palace, the strikers were stopped by the police at the Bonifacio monument in Caloocan. 800 were kept from proceeding any further. The remaining 200, who slipped through the cordon took buses to Malacanang where they were once

more stopped. When asked for their leader, the answer was a resounding "We are all leaders!"

Other textile workers who struck in December were those of Artex in Malabon, Litton Mills in Pasig, Syntex in Mandaluyong and Crispa-Floro T-shirt makers.

BAN ON TRANSPORTATION STRIKES DEFIED

Despite the strict ban in the vital transportation industry, 800 drivers and employees of MD-CAM Transit in Cubao, Quezon City went on strike on Dec 20 to force management to give them their emergency allowances. The day before, the MD-CAM drivers had decided to boycott their routes from 4-7:30 a.m., hoping to make their employers grant at least partial payment of their allowances. The strikers proceeded to the Dept. of Labor and confronted the company's general management. On Dec. 20, the drivers, conductresses and mechanics successfully went on strike, partially winning P204 each in overdue allowance.

Previous to their strike, MD-CAM had repeatedly violated a presidential decree making compulsory the granting of living allowances to employees receiving less than P500/month. The immediate concession of management to the workers demands is not surprising given the strategic importance of the transportation industry. Twice in 1971, the country was paralyzed by general strikes staged by transportation workers which forced Malacanang to the negotiating table.

BASE WORKERS WIN OVER U.S. AUTHORITIES

In Clark and Subic bases, 2800 workers succeeded in forcing base authorities to sign a collective bargaining agreement favoring the workers' interests. The new CBA grants workers improved retirement benefits, cash credit for unused sick leaves upon retirement and full pay for 6 weeks maternity leave. The bases also agreed to increase the health insurance by 70% according more liberal hospitalization benefits for the workers.

Initially, base workers threatened to go on strike if base authorities continued to stall talks on the new CBA begun in June. Fearing the prospect of a general strike that could paralyze the 2 most strategic US bases in the Western Pacific, the Pacific Command represented by Rear Adm. T.J. Kline, finally submitted to the workers demands.

SLOWDOWNS, WALKOUTS CRIPPLE MORE FIRMS

Other companies were not immune from these rash of workers strikes and mass actions. 800 workers of Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific's Punta, Mandaluyong, Tanyag and Farola plants walked out on Dec 23, crippling the first plant and closing down the second. The AG&P strikers were protesting the failure of the union certification elections to take place because of a Supreme Court injunction to that effect. Instead of reporting for duty at their shops, the workers marched en masse to the Supreme Court to attend hearings on the injunction. The strikers demanded that the court rescind its injunction, attacking AG&P's sell-out labor leaders whom they hold responsible for the restraining order. As a result of the workers collective action, the Supreme Court promised to reconsider its action on Jan 2nd.

In San Pedro, Laguna, 500 factory workers of Mayon ceramics went on a slowdown strike on Dec 23rd when management held up their X'mas bonuses. According to the workers, Mayon was about to give a bonus equivalent to one month's pay, but using a loophole in the presidential decree regarding bonuses, management just granted a 15 day bonus. 15 workers immediately walked out. The rest of the workers staged a slowdown and have threatened to similarly walk out if management does not relent.

Other strikes that transpired in December included employees of JBS Steel, Royal, Foremost Farms, Rizal Cement, and Republic Cement. Meanwhile, workers at PEMCO, a lightbulb firm are threatening to go on strike if a P10 increase is not remitted by management. The latter is willing to concede P8 but the workers will not settle for less than P10.

WORKERS UNREST REFLECTS COUNTRY'S MOOD

The resurgence of militant labor strikes and mass actions, reminiscent of the popular dissent that marked the early '70s, forecasts stormy times ahead for the Marcos dictatorship. Hardest hit by the intensified economic crisis under the martial law regime, the workers have become bolder in their defiance of the fascist regime. What is more frightening to the dictatorship is the fact that the restiveness of the workers is a reflection of the prevailing mood in the country. Marcos is confronted with a torrent of protest and dissent from all sectors, that is increasingly challenging his fascist rule of the country. □

Demand Relocation Guaranteee SQUATTERS DEFY EVICTON ORDERS

NAVOTAS, RIZAL—Squatter communities along the northern beaches of Manila Bay have refused to move until the gov't guarantees them land, low rents and a livelihood in the relocation areas. This decision is embodied in a statement issued by the Alyansa ng Taga-Komunidad Laban sa Demolisyon (Community Alliance Against Demolition), a grouping composed of shantytown dwellers in various barrios of Navotas, Malabon and Caloocan City.

In defying the gov't ultimatum for them to move by the end of January, the squatters cite the pioneering example of the Tondo slum dwellers, whose militant unity has checked the Manila gov't's moves to remove them from their bayside slum areas.

Presently the regime is undertaking full-scale demolition operations in north bay. A few weeks ago, a joint Metrocom-Dept. of Public Works team demolished some 100 shacks in Barrio Tanza, Navotas. Earlier in Dec. 21, families were forced away from their shacks in the adjoining barrio of Tangos, with 200 other families facing the same fate in the days to come. In barrio Paltok, about 50 houses have been demolished to date. Metrocom troopers in Barrio Bangkulasi, Navotas forced squatters to sign a blank sheet of paper which was later affixed to a statement declaring that the signatories were willing to leave their homes by Jan 30 even without a guarantee of relocation.

The demolitions are part of the regime's scheme to "decongest and beautify" Metropolitan Manila. To date, the "decongestion" project has evicted 33,000 families with 22,000 more targetted for relocation. These families are being dumped in relocation sites (numbering 33 at present), that are sorely lacking in facilities.

The gov't advances 3 reasons for its slum-demolition program:

First, the riverside slums supposedly hamper water flow, thereby creating floods. This is belied by the Navotas squatters; flooding only started when a Japanese land reclamation outfit started dredging mud and dumping it along the river

banks. Previous to this, no floods occurred in this area for the last 50 years.

Second, the squatters stand in the way of such "development" projects as the Tondo Foreshoreland Development Plan, the Dagat-Dagatan Reclamation Project and the Marcos highway.

The squatters point out the anti-people, anti-Filipino implications of these "developmental"



Squatters are forced to demolish their homes, considered "eyesores" by the New Society.

projects. These foreign-financed projects are geared to accommodate more foreign investments and expand foreign holdings in the country. The gov't favors these foreign-financed constructions which mean nothing but added taxes for the people but more profits for foreign companies.

Third, the squatters shanties are "eyesores." To this the squatters indignantly retort—"so we are looked upon as garbage fit to be thrown in Carmona, Dasmariñas, or Sapang Palay!"

Terming the regime's Balik-Bukid ("back to the countryside") campaign, Balik-hirap ("back to hardship") instead, the squatters point out that once in the relocation centers, which lack housing, water, and electricity, they are once again faced with the same lack of economic opportunities which they originally fled from. □

Hunger Strike...

continued from page 1

prominence when they staged their first hunger strike Dec. 1974 to protest the tortures inflicted upon them by the military. Documented accounts of these tortures were smuggled out of prison, listing atrocities such as electrocution of sexual organs, burning with cigarette butts, repeated beatings, injection of truth serums, sexual abuse and dunking in toilet bowls. These tortures, which did not spare four pregnant women, caused the detainees serious physical injuries like fractured bones, perforated eardrums, hemorrhaging internal organs, bruises and lacerations and severe emotional and mental distress.

Revelations of the tortures sparked an outpour of national and international indignation which took the form of protest letters and telegrams, prayer vigils, petitions and sympathy hunger strikes. The impact of these protests pressured the regime to suspend all tortures temporarily. At the same time, the protests confirmed the widespread use of torture in Philippine prisons, a claim previously denied by the regime.

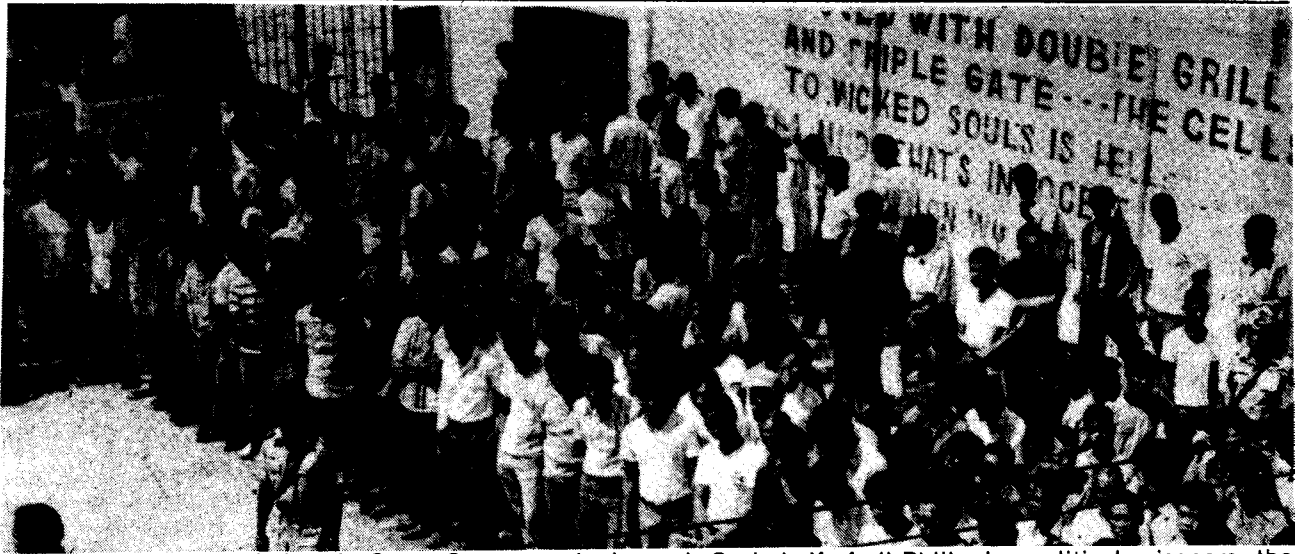
Realizing that it can no longer silence the detainees through torture, the military is in a haste to try and execute the prisoners. Prosecution proceedings began in Jan. '75, right after the torture revelations. The underlying vindictiveness of this move was admitted by the prison warden, Major Joseph Patalinhug, who told the detainees that the charges were "In answer to your torture expose."

The hearings are obviously nothing more than a mere formality to make the impending sentencing of the detainees appear legal. This farce is clearly exposed in the fact that while only preliminary hearings were held on Jan. 25, 1975, and March 15, 1975, the detainees were charged on July 25, 1975, in absentia!

TURNING ODDS INTO ADVANTAGES

Despite the odds against them, the detainees and their defense counsels have fought an uphill court battle against the regime, availing of the limited "legal" loopholes in the Marcos-conjured constitution.

The defense counsels of the detainees headed up by ex-Sen. Jose Diokno, a former political prisoner himself, are presently seeking to overturn the subversion charges. They are contesting the evidence presented by the military to support its charges as "evidence under duress", obtained through the use of torture to exact self-incriminatory statements from the detainees and through forcing them to sign falsified affidavits. Secondly, they are questioning the "justice" which a



Detainees are rounded up in Camp Crame stockade yard. On behalf of all Philippine political prisoners, the Camp Olivas detainees have appealed for international support.

military tribunal can render. This irony is best explained by the detainees: "How can detainees like us defend ourselves when the accuser is the military court, the hearing court is a military court, and we are under captivity and custody of the military?" For the immediate relief of their clients, the defense panel is also pressing for the restoration of the right of bail, which even under the Marcos constitution, is supposed to be guaranteed.

So far, the defense has succeeded in petitioning the Supreme Court to issue a restraining order preventing future trials, until otherwise ordered by the High Court.

STRUGGLE TO FREE PRISONERS ESCALATES

The plight of the Camp Olivas detainees typifies the conditions faced by some 10,000 political detainees all over the country. While the length of their detention is as indefinite as the illegal rule of the Marcos regime, prison bars and torture have not succeeded in breaking their will and spirit. Their dogged perseverance to secure their release and expose the injustices perpetrated against them has meant battling for every inch of leverage against the regime.

Recently this battle has taken a more concerted form. The Camp Olivas hunger strike in fact caps a series of prison protest over the past months. Earlier on Dec. 4, 5,000 detainees in various Luzon camps staged a week-long hunger strike which coincided with US Pres. Ford's Philippine visit. The detainees protested their prolonged and indefinite incarceration, the brutalities and atrocities perpetrated by interrogators and jailers, and the intolerable prison conditions.

In sympathy with the fasting detainees, a mass attended by 4,000 workers, students, and relatives of prisoners, was held on Dec. 14 at the Sacred

Heart Parish, Quezon City. Articulating their incarcerated relatives' concerns, families of political prisoners have issued a manifesto seeking support for the following demands:

1. Immediate release of political prisoners who have not been formally charged.
2. Grant the right to bail.
3. Stop the use of "safehouse" as torture chambers and secret jails for unidentified prisoners.
4. Stop the use of torture, isolation cells, and truth serum.
5. Stop the arbitrary transfers of political detainees from one camp to another.

APPEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Recognizing the limitations of their efforts in forcing the regime to concede to their demands, the Camp Olivas detainees, on behalf of all Philippine political detainees, have appealed for international support. Citing the invaluable assistance given by sympathizer abroad during their first hunger strike, the detainees wrote Amnesty International: "Our appeal to your organization and to all other groups and individuals concerned is for your support in generating pressure on the Philippine gov't and military and also in bringing our plight to the widest audience of sympathetic peoples of the world."

"We are also conveying our deep appreciation of all efforts your organization has exerted in support and sympathy for us oppressed political detainees in the Philippines."

Concretely, patriotic Filipinos and concerned Americans can: 1) Cable or write Pres. Marcos or local consulates expressing support for the detainees demands; and 2) Ventilate as widely as possible the conditions of Philippine political prisoners. □

SANGGUNIAN BAYAN...

regime finds itself besieged from all sides by the resistance movement. The last half of 1975 in particular, has been marked by an upsurge of bold and unified protests from labor, the urban poor,



"Kabataang Barangay" members promote the "New Society" - Marcos' attempt to replace militant youth organizations like KM, with pro-Martial Law youth.

political prisoners, the clergy, civil libertarian groups, the studentry—each pressing their particular demands but rallying behind the general slogan "Lift martial law and hold immediate elections." The emergence of this slogan and its widespread acceptance is premised upon the popular view that martial law, in the 3 years of its existence, has failed to achieve its stated goals, but instead has worsened the conditions of the Filipino people. Hence, the resurgence of militant opposition, invoked by the intensified economic hardship and the political bankruptcy of the Marcos regime, with its continued denial of basic human rights, has the Marcos regime worried. The regime will attempt to quell this movement through its standard method of more repression. Simultaneously, however, it is compelled to offer a substitute to the "Lift Martial Law" demand, which would at least project an outward appearance of democracy.

Hence the SB is a clever tactic designed to mislead the people into thinking that certain freedoms have been restored and conjure the illusion that they could now redress their grievances through their "representatives."

The logic of this diversionary tactic is best articulated by a Manila Journal columnist, a Marcos mouthpiece: "This political innovation, although still experimental in nature . . . is expected to dampen any lingering enthusiasm for elections. For will the citizenry argue against their own participation (sic)?"

The Filipino people, however, can no longer be fooled into believing that the Sangguniang Bayan or any other Marcos creation is the forum of their free expression. As long as martial law remains, the genuine forums of the people's free will shall be the streets, Plaza Miranda, workplaces, campuses and other ingenious vehicles of protest which the people have learned to use under fascism. □

RP Military Doubts Muslim "Surrenderes"

Philippine military officials have expressed misgivings over the exodus of Muslim rebels into the "folds of the law." According to the Far Eastern Economic Review of 1/9/'76, Rear Adm. Romeo Espaldon fears that the more than 15,000 Moro National Liberation Front "surrenderes" plan to temporarily lull the gov't into a false sense of security . . . with the intentions of rising up as soon as it is most opportune to do so."

The martial law gov't also fears that the surrenderes called "balikbayans" are infiltrating urban areas for future attacks since many of the commanders who surrendered have threatened to resume fighting if Marcos will not honor his promise of "utmost autonomy" to the Muslim regions.

Most of the top commanders who "surrendered" have been given positions as peace officers in the battle areas, assistants in the AFP Southwest Command staff, and many more have been integrated into the army. Many of these commanders still maintain control over their MNLF subordinates who remain armed—a condition the regime had to agree to before the rebels surrendered.

The regime's insecurity is founded on the fact that its "ceasefire plan" is merely a stop-gap measure to halt the fighting in Mindanao. While the regime is not genuinely interested in solving the main issues of the Muslim conflict, like economic displacement of the Filipino Muslims by the landgrabbing landlords and foreign agribusiness, the ground remains fertile for the continued rebellion in the South. □

Bicentennial Cover-up...

continued from page 2

government's planned response to this popular discontent and protest is repression and more repression. While the mafia, top government officials and big trade union bureaucrats openly travel in the same "social circles," the country's "intelligence agencies" busy themselves trying to defame and intimidate the late Martin Luther King; bug and infiltrate progressive organizations; plot the overthrow of "unfriendly foreign governments," plan a few assassinations, and who knows what else! Meanwhile, the American Nazi Party and the Klu Klux Klan are permitted to openly organize a racist terror campaign against the Black students of Boston and Louisville in attempts to defend the reactionary principle of racially segregated schools.

Will a year of Bicentennial celebrations, parades and fireworks solve these present problems of American society? No, of course not. But intentions are to flood us with enough "patriotic" rhetoric in order to create a false sense of optimism—to artificially "cosmeticize" America's past and present and convince people that the USA is still the

10 years with untold suffering to the Filipino people; the destructive war in Korea (1950), surpassed in brutality only by the Indochina war. Shouldn't these "episodes" be included in the Bicentennial history?

While the Bicentennial glorifies American Independence, the US government shows no signs of giving up its imperialist designs on the rest of the world. This can be evidenced today by the strengthening of the US economic and political foothold in the Philippines through the repressive regime of its legal puppet Marcos; US interference in reversing the revolutionary processes taking place in countries like Chile and Portugal; and most recently, US war threats to try to prevent a Marxist-oriented government from asserting the independence of Angola after 400 years of Portuguese rule. But perhaps the most glaring hypocrisy is the fact that while going over board to celebrate its own independence, the US maintains direct colonial control over Puerto Rico, whose people have repeatedly demanded independence.

In short, the official Bicentennial amounts to a cheap trick to get everyone in the country to celebrate two hundred years of US capitalism and imperialism! The government is hopeful that the working people in the US will blindly "re-dedicate

Counter-insurgency Operations US-AID Role in Civic Projects Exposed

(BMP) NAGA, CAMARINES SUR—The counter-insurgent nature of the Bicol River Basin Development Program (BPRP), a regional project jointly sponsored by the martial law regime and the USAID (United States Agency for International Development), can no longer be concealed. The program affecting three Bicol provinces—Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, and Albay—was selected in 1972 as the first of the gov'ts river-basin programs ostensibly "to increase the per-capita income in the base area." Gov't planners state that this program will lead to "increased agricultural productivity, increased employment opportunities, land reform and the development of agribusiness and industrial enterprises."

In actuality, the project seeks to deny the NPA, which has been active since the early '70s, a rural base among the peasantry. This is being implemented by offering palliatives to farmers and tenants like "upgrading the productive efficiency of existent agricultural property systems" as a substitute for the NPA's program of genuine redistribution of land. To disperse guerrilla movement, a \$10-M rural road building project, which will rehabilitate 200 feeder roads to isolated areas, is underway. Also, the Social Survey Research Unit has been commissioned by the USAID to research the "behavioral patterns" of the peasants in order to develop methods to quell agrarian unrest. This particular tactic directly parallels the counter-insurgent use of behavioral sciences by anthropologists and political scientists in Vietnam during the early '60s.

The true character of the project is further exposed by the budget allocations of the USAID which reveal that funds are not being used to develop the region but to beef up the counter-insurgency research of USAID's staff. The Naga Times of Sept. 9, 1975 admits that as of June 30, 1975, "total USAID assistance since 1974 amounted to \$911,000 of which 70% is for US-based personnel and consultants, 10% for training of Filipino technicians in US institutions, and 15% for used 'excess property' vehicles and new technical equipment."

This counter-insurgency scheme, euphemistically dubbed "the integrated area development approach," is being institutionalized and reproduced in other parts of the country. In Cagayan Valley, another NPA stronghold, the Japanese-backed Cagayan Valley Integrated Development Project is now being launched with the same avowed purpose of "building infrastructure and social development projects."

In Mindoro, the Mindoro Integrated Rural Development Project is slated to receive \$25-M from the International Bank on Reconstruction and Development.

Should the "integrated development approach" be successful, USAID official G.S. Jacobson said it will be replicated in other underdeveloped countries of the world, notably Southeast Asian and African countries. □



"greatest country on the face of the earth."

EQUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD?

But a thoughtful observer will easily see through the hypocrisy of the Bicentennial theme:

•To sing the praises of "equality and brotherhood...and yet to gloss over the near genocidal destruction of the Native American peoples, the brutal enslavement of the masses of Black people, the Watsonville-type riots against Filipinos in the 20's and 30's...and the racial discrimination that we still witness today in employment, schooling and housing.

•To speak of the country's wealth and ingenuity...and yet to give only token reference to America's workers, without whom nothing could have been accomplished. To hide the history of struggle between the working class and capitalists which runs like a bright red thread through every page of this country's history. To cloud over the fact that every gain and right the working people have today, has been gotten through hard struggle against profit-hungry capitalists, and none of it came "easily guaranteed" through the Bill of Rights. In fact we have to thank millions of workers in unmarked graves who shed their blood and gave their lives to establish the right to strike and unionize, the 8 hour work day, unemployment and social security benefits, etc...and today in the Bicentennial year, this same class antagonism is still at the heart of American society.

•And for those who would say, "yes, but it's not so harsh anymore," we need only to look at the thousands of families who have been forced out on strike for months at a time, or the 50 workers from the Kapone chemical factory in Virginia who are dying from a nerve disease because the lack of any safety precautions...and whose to blame, the deliberate negligence of the "parent" corporation Allied Chemical.

A BICENTENNIAL WITHOUT COLONIES

And how can the American government glorify the "Spirit of 76" and the war of independence from England...and yet not deal squarely with the growth of the US into the biggest imperialist power in the history of the world? With the "Monroe Doctrine" of 1823 the US "laid claim" to the whole of Latin America; the Spanish-American war (1898) in which the US outrightly colonized Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines; the US colonial war of suppression in the Philippines raged for over

ourselves" to the defense and perpetuation of this exploitive system. However, in this gamble they are bound to lose. Already there are substantial "counter-currents" among the American people determined to expose and reverse this "Bicentennial Cover Up." Alternative educational activities are being planned, which we of the KDP encourage and we hope to make some contribution to this democratic counter movement.

There are certainly many things to "communicate" at this 200 year juncture. The working masses of the US have accumulated a rich history of struggle, much of which is hidden from us. We should uncover this history and learn from it. There is also a basis to "rededicate" ourselves to the difficult, but inevitable, revolutionary struggle to transform this country and put an end to US monopoly capitalism and imperialism, which has been a heavy burden on the back of the American working masses and a curse to the peoples of the world. □

Down With US Imperialism!
Long Live the American People!

MASSIVE ARRESTS...

continued from page 1

ed countries, he is simultaneously launching a merciless terror campaign against the Filipino people.

Reprisals against workers and slum dwellers have also been reported in the Dec. 26, 1975 issue of the "Sign of the Times," a weekly publication of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP). Due to the militant mass actions, meetings, and symposiums recently held in various parts of Manila against the ban on strikes and the massive evictions of squatters, the Metropolitan Police Force have "launched separate operations targeting leaders and particular individuals in an attempt to foil similar actions in the future."

La Tondena workers and labor leaders in particular have been targeted for harassment. For example, Salvador Parcos a former detainee of Magsaysay Village was arrested Dec. 12 on suspicion that he was helping workers at La Tondena Distillery. The home of union leaders Elsie Estares, Ernesto Magat and Juanito Reario Jr. were raided on Dec. 13.

The headquarters of the Zone One Tondo Organization (ZOTO) has been paid repeated

"visits" by the Metropolitan Police Force and its local military agents. ZOTO officers have been questioned regarding the Nov. 27 anniversary celebration of "Alay-Lakad '74," a march by the urban poor to Malacanang Palace in 1974, protesting squatter evictions. The stepped-up harassment was also due to the staunch support the ZOTO gave to various labor struggles and their direct participation in the Dec. 6 mass demonstration.

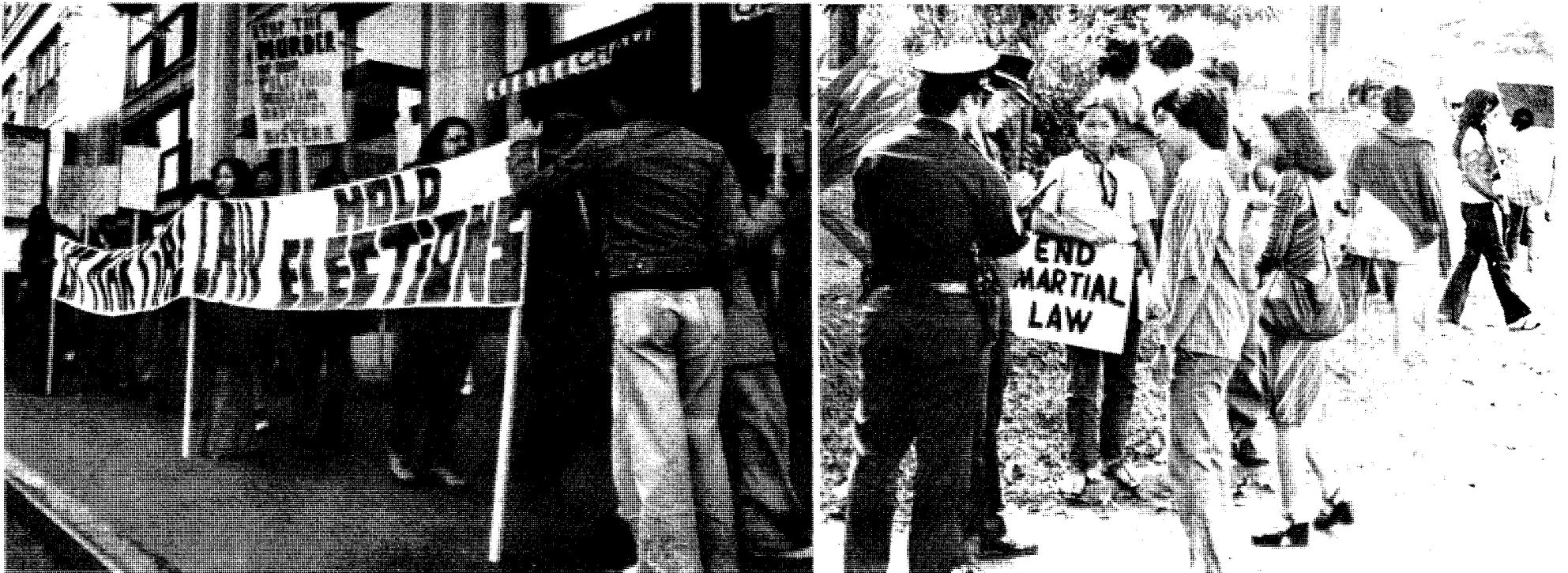
In Navotas, leaders of the blitlyos (fish haulers) were interrogated recently by the MPF, Northern Division in connection with their speaking engagements in labor-forums held in communities and schools and their involvement in worker-led mass actions.

Meanwhile in Paranaque, Gelmart Textile workers have been under surveillance by military agents. The Gelmart workers were among the first to organize against their exploitation under martial law.

What the regime fails to recognize, however, is that the more it launches terror campaigns against the people, it inadvertently creates more anti-fascist fighter among them.

Instead of striking fear into the peoples hearts, the regime's reprisals have only succeeded in fueling the peoples anger and resistance against its despotic rule. □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY



Militant demonstrations were held in front of the Philippine Consulates in Seattle (L) and Hawaii (R). AK Photo

"Lift Martial Law, Hold Immediate Elections" PICKETS HIT PHILIPPINE CONSULATES

Nat'l indignation continues to build up over the violent manhandling of a delegation of the Anti Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) in NYC and the arrest of two of its members on Dec. 29. In that incident, a 10 person delegation composed of Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Korean and American civic and religious leaders who tried to peacefully confer with Consul General Ernesto Pineda were physically thrown out of the Philippine Center at 5th Avenue by the consular staff.

In addition, two members of the delegation were roughly manhandled. These were Rev. James Sinnott, vicar-general Inchon Korea, and Mark Schnapp of KDP. Rev. Sinnott and Mr. Schnapp were arrested by the NYC Police after they were lured back into the center and detained by the consular staff.

In a court hearing Jan. 8 the two were formally charged with "criminal trespassing in the 3rd degree" which carries a maximum penalty of 1 year in prison and a \$2500 fine. The next court hearing is set for Feb. 26.

The consulate incident caused an uproar and was immediately denounced by the Anti Martial Law Coalition and other concerned groups. Severina Rivera, Washington liaison for the Anti Martial Law Coalition reported, "Many people in Washington have been extremely upset by the violent treatment of the delegation." She added that several religious leaders, civic figures and gov't officials were "amazed at the flagrant violation of normal diplomatic rules."

OPEN LETTER OF PROTEST

An open letter of protest has been sent to the Philippine ambassador to the US, Eduardo Romauldez, by a number of religious, civic and academic leaders. Among the signatories of the letter are Dr. Herman Will, Assoc. Gen. Sect. of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society; Rev. Phillip Berrigan and Sister Elizabeth McAlister, well-known Christian activists in the anti Vietnam War movement; Dr. Daniel B. Schirmer of Goddard Cambridge University; and Dr. Arthur Waskow of the Institute of Policy Studies.

The letter demanded the withdrawal of the charge of "criminal trespass" against Fr. Sinnott and Mr. Schnapp and the "dismissal of all the consular officials involved in the violence, including and especially Mr. Umali." In addition, they reiterated the coalition's basic demands for the lifting of martial law and holding of immediate elections in the Philippines.

The coalition has requested a meeting with Amb. Romauldez to discuss these demands. If their demands are not met, the coalition has said it will hold a sit-in at the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. on Jan. 26.

Following this well-publicized mauling of the international delegation from the coalition in NYC, militant pickets were held in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hawaii, and Chicago. The pickets were accompanied by attempts of various Coalition delegations to meet with and confront consular officials with the demand, "Lift Martial Law, Hold

Immediate Elections."

"AID SCANDAL"

Some 100 picketers converged on the Philippine Consulate in downtown SF at 12 noon on Dec. 31. A short while before, a delegation from the Coalition entered the consulate and held a meeting with consular officials, who had previously refused its request for a formal appointment.

The delegation composed of Rev. Roy Sano, Anates Araneta, Pete Fernandez, Jane Sarmiento, and Cynthia Maglaya, read the Coalition's statement to Attache Occampo which denounced the conditions in the Philippines under the Marcos regime. One of the issues brought out by the delegation was the treatment of political prisoners, with Rev. Sano stating that "Int'l investigating teams have confirmed that the treatment accorded Filipino political prisoners is appalling and that for the US to be giving \$55.6-M in aid to such a regime is a scandal."

Before the delegation left the consulate, it was able to extract a promise from the attache to transmit the coalition's demand to Malacanang Palace for a "return of democratic processes." The picket lasted until 1:30 P.M.

SEATTLE, L.A.—"ARMED FORTRESS"

Similar protests in Seattle and Los Angeles were met by an unprecedented amount of police forces. Some 50 people appeared for a militant picket in front of the Philippine consulate in Seattle, which Dale Borgeson of the Anti Martial Law Coalition said was "ringed by policemen from the Seattle police tactical squad and resembled an armed fortress."

An attempt by a delegation to see Seattle Consul General Julia Palarca was prevented by the SWAT team who also informed the delegates that they were "representing" the consul general and would handle all communications between the delegation and Ms. Palarca. The delegation however refused to communicate to Palarca through the police and rejoined the protest. The picket drew a significant degree of community and press interest, with several radio and television stations giving it coverage.

Full scale police presence also confronted an energetic picket in front of the building housing the Philippine consulate in Los Angeles on Jan. 2. According to a representative of the coalition, 6 patrol cars surrounded the building with numerous plainclothesmen and uniformed policemen stationed on various floors, particularly on the 35th floor, where the consular offices are located.

The Coalition was, however, able to convince vice-consul Orlando Santos to accede to a meeting with one of its representatives. Chris Braga, who was designated to see Santos, posed the coalition's demands before the vice-consul and demanded that they be communicated to Pres. Marcos.

AMERICANS BARRED

On Jan. 5, 35 people picketed in front of the

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HUMAN RIGHTS BILL SIGNED...

continued from front page

"Despite the passage of the Human Rights Amendment," she said, "it would take at least a year of hearings, resolutions, and a termination period (8 mos.) before the amendment could be implemented. "In the meantime," Ms. Rivera warned, "\$55.6-M in military aid will fall into the hands of Marcos."

US military aid is the main lifeline to the Marcos dictatorship. As of Dec, a Human Rights amendment to the military aid package was introduced in the House and Senate, which is still in the subcommittee stage. Though these amendments are viewed as substantial victories by anti martial law groups, work is also being done to correct a major omission which excludes military assistance and advisory group monies (MAAG's) from the proposed list of affected military aid.

Letters are urgently needed in support of the human rights amendment for military aid to ensure its passage and should be sent to Senators Cranston, Abouresk and McGovern, and Congressmen Fraser and Solarz.

In order to ensure immediate implementation of the Human Rights amendment, efforts are also being made to have a specific amendment on the Philippines introduced in the House Appropriations Committee which is responsible for allotting aid to countries within the ceiling figure set in Congress. It is urged that letters supporting such an amendment be sent to key members within this committee (Foreign Operations Subcommittee). They are: Clarence Long - D, Maryland; David Obey - D, Wisconsin; Edward Roush - D, Indiana; Edward Koch - D, N.Y.; Silvio Conte - R, Mass.; and Lawrence Coughlin - R, Penn. Address letters to: Congressman _____, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515.

Much of the credit for the passage of the Human Rights Amendment is due to the joint efforts of the Anti Martial Law Coalition composed of Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), Filipinos for National Democracy (PPD), National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines (NCRCLP), Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), and Philippine Information Bulletin (PIB). The coalition was responsible for the production of two important documents, "Logistics of Repression," and the "political Prisoners Pamphlet," which aided in the drafting of the amendment. In addition, 40,000 signatures were gathered in a Stop Aid to Marcos petition drive, which helped to demonstrate the sentiments of the American public against giving aid to repressive gov'ts. □

Chronicles FMG Plight

Pamphlet Ready for Nationwide Distribution

The National Steering Committee of the New York Emergency Defense Committee of the Foreign Medical Graduates (EDC-FMG) has announced the production of a pamphlet entitled, "Foreign Medical Graduates: A Case of Retributive Justice." The well documented pamphlet provides a historical presentation of the FMG problem, tracing the series of changes and inconsistent congressional legislation and administrative policies which have so far been enacted on the Exchange Visitors Program. The pamphlet then points out why EV-FMGs who apply for permanent residence status should not be penalized by a retroactive policy such as the present State Dept. ruling which calls for the immediate repatriation of EV-FMG's who've applied for permanent residence status but have not received their alien numbers.

A section entitled, "Who 'violated' sec. 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act?" (section which stipulates foreign residence for EV-FMGs) enumerates the diverse regulations which have governed the exchange program in the last 20 years, revealing that from 1972 to the present, the non-implementation of sec. 101 was in the first place the responsibility of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the State Dept. and the Education Commission for the FMGs. It states: "What we face now are the complications which have arisen out of the INS', State Dept's and ECFMG's own inconsistent practice in implementation of sec.101 when they needed the FMGs; they decided to strictly implement it (like at present) when they feel that the US does not need them anymore." In this light, legal status for all EV-FMGs who applied for permanent residence status in the period 1970-1975 is being sought by the EV-FMG committee.

A detailed analysis of the crucial role which FMGs play in the administration of patient care is also given in the pamphlet. It proves that an overwhelming majority of FMGs are found "performing valuable services especially in areas devoted to general or primary care." A statistical table shows that the highest percentage of FMGs are in hospital based practice either as interns or residents or as full time housestaff.

Another table shows that the effects on patient care administration will be felt most seriously on the East coast, in particular in NY, Philadelphia and Chicago where hospitals are substantially



Filipino Foreign Medical Graduates such as those above will be the hardest hit by the new State ruling.

dependent on FMGs.

A thorough and critical analysis of the Exchange Visitors Program (EVP) is also made by the pamphlet, pointing to the program's failure to provide the quality training it promises to its participants. Tables prove that most FMGs on the Exchange Program are in hospitals where there are very limited or no teaching facilities at all. Most of them are found to be administering services rather than obtaining services. The Committee calls for the restoration of the EVP to its originally stated goals of providing training and opts for the creation of a national body composed of FMG associations, American organized medical groups and community persons to supervise the administration of the EVP in order to restore the program to its originally stated goals.

Citing the highly restrictive policies which govern admissions into US medical colleges as the main method of organized medicine to maintain medicine as a "closed shop," the pamphlet states: "While critically limiting the number of physicians drawn from domestic sources, a continuous inflow and outflow of hospital staff is ensured through the Exchange Visitors Program." The pamphlet calls for congressional action to liberalize admission policies into US medical colleges stating that "the development of domestic resources would not only benefit the American people (there would be more American physicians), it would also prevent the exploitation of the human resources of other nations through programs like the EVP."

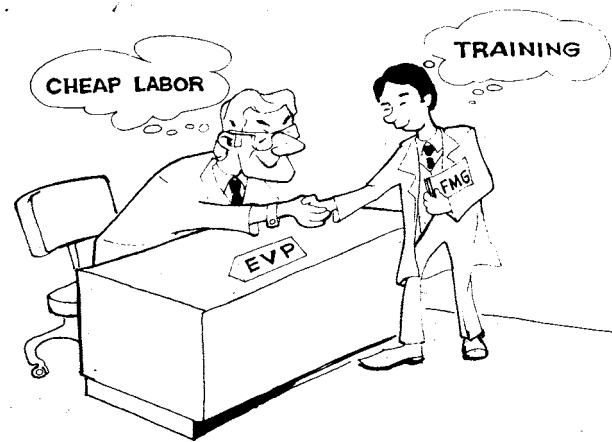
A special section in the pamphlet is devoted to the role of the Filipino community and American

public in support of FMGs. It invokes the Filipino community to recognize and militantly oppose a growing exclusionist campaign (in the form of the current State Dept. ruling) being mounted against the Filipino minority, in particular medical professionals and workers on the East Coast.

It further calls on the American public to stop the general anti-alien drive which is presently intensifying. It states: "To defend the rights of the foreign born is also to defend the rights of the native born." It quotes Thomas Jefferson, who said: "defendless aliens have been selected as the safest subject of a first experiment but the citizen will soon follow."

The pamphlet was produced by the NY Research and Documentation Committee of the EDC-FMG. It was a product of the joint research efforts of doctors, medical workers and community persons. Other medical groups like the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR) helped in providing much needed statistics.

The pamphlet has been lauded by many organizations who sent in formal endorsements of the campaign to defend FMGs when they were furnished text of the pamphlet in advance. Existing groups who work and write on health and medical issues in New York have commended the pamphlet as "very well thought out and highly organized in its argumentation." The pamphlet will be made available from Defense Committees in Chicago, Philadelphia, LA, Seattle, Hawaii and San Francisco. It can also be obtained directly upon request from the NY EDC-FMG 20 E. 25th Street #2B, NY, NY 10010. A donation of 75 cents is being asked for each copy. Orders outside NY would need an additional 25 cents. □



NY Forum on FMG's...

continued from page 1

like lawyers, clerks and others." He enjoined all Filipinos Americans, and Asians to fight this ruling.

"CHEAP LABOR"

Ms. Aimee Cruz, of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), presented a comprehensive analysis of the history of Filipino immigration to the US. Aided by slides, her speech evoked the harsh experience of the first Filipino immigrants in the lettuce and grape fields of California and the sugarcane plantations of Hawaii. Clearly used as cheap labor in the growing agri-business in the US at that time, these Filipino immigrants were blatantly discriminated upon on the basis of race and nationality through laws like the Anti Miscegenation Law (prohibiting persons of the Malay race to marry white persons) and Alien Land Acts divesting them of the right to own any agricultural land by purchase or inheritance.

Ms. Cruz gave a lucid analogy between the experiences of the first Filipino immigrants and the present experience of the Filipino doctors and other professionals who came here on the foreign exchange program.

"Just like the first Filipino immigrants, the latter immigrant professionals also left the Philippines due to the serious lack of economic opportunities in our country. Just like the first Filipino immigrants the labor of recent immigrants is also underpaid: their brown color and their foreign education are used against them to limit their economic and social horizons. Just as an exclusion movement was mounted against Filipino migrants in 1930, an exclusion movement today, in the form of the present State Dept. ruling, is being mounted against Fili-

pino medical professionals."

In conclusion, Ms. Cruz emphasized the enormity of the tasks to unite in the face of such an attack on our basic democratic rights, stating: "No organization or individual can undertake these tasks single-handedly. Is a united Filipino community an impossible dream? No. For although we recognize differences among us, we can and should be broad-minded enough to be able to temporarily subjugate these differences when we are faced by a common problem!"

Mr. Anthony Khang of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) gave a message of solidarity from the Asian American Community and Ms. Rory Ragaza expressed the need for financial support for the campaign to stop the deportation of Filipino doctors. The KDP singers sang the inspiring "Ang Bayan Ko" and the spirited "Somos Asiaticos" (WE ARE ASIANS)—both songs asserting the Filipino heritage and the struggle of the Asian minority here in the U.S.

Mr. Murray Gordon, esq., opened his speech by citing a fitting parallel between the Filipino immigrants in the fields of California and the Slavs in the sweatshops in NY City. He said, "The slides showing the plight of the 1st Filipino migrants seemed to have been obtained from a family album. As a Slav, the pictures look like my family album too." Mr. Gordon also made some clarifications on the new developments in the case of the FMGs.

FMG ISSUE: A COMMUNITY ISSUE

A lively exchange of questions and answers ensued between the panel of speakers and the audience during the open forum. Dr. Danny Cannon asserted "The question is not whether we Filipino doctors are allowed to stay, but whether we are given the option to stay."

During the dinner portion of the affair, comments of support for the issue were expressed by a number of persons. One non-medical worker reiterated the fact that "the FMG issue is not merely

a doctor's issue. If one takes a closer look at the State Dept. ruling, it is obviously designed against the Filipino doctor. Why are we being singled out? This is enough reason for the Filipino community to get together before we are hit by another discriminatory ruling."

Two Filipino women who were also non-medical workers disclosed the fact that it was their first time to attend such a community affair. They said that they were impressed by the organization's efforts to forge unity in the Filipino community. Most of the audience's reaction to the slide show was one of extreme surprise and intense attention since the history of Filipino immigrants has never been revealed in textbooks. As one person put it, "I never knew of the experiences of the first Filipinos here in the US until today. When I came to NYC I was only aware of the so-called old-timers in California and nothing else. I am deeply touched to learn of the hardships they had to go through."

Because of the interest on the history of Filipino migration there was a request to reshoot the slides from the majority of individuals who still stayed on even after the dinner. A Filipino doctor voiced out his appreciation and gratefulness of the fact that non-medical workers are showing their support for the FMG issue. He said, "The participation of non-medical workers is really inspiring to us. It is good to know that we are not alone in this fight. Hopefully this desire to support the FMG issue will bridge the gap between sectors of our community."

The EV-FMG forum was a clear victory for the Filipino community in their determination to uphold the democratic rights of Filipino doctors. It marked the growing links between various sectors of the Filipino community. Definitely the affair is a good beginning in building a united Filipino community in NYC. An attendance of about 100 Filipinos affirmed the broad support of the FMG issue. One fourth were Filipino doctors and the rest were medical and non-medical workers concerned about the issue. □

Movie Review: "Dugo" Distorts History to Promote Martial Law

By Corazon Velasquez

If you haven't heard already, "Dugo at Pagibig sa Kapisang Lupa," (Blood and Love on a Piece of Land), is nothing short of a Marcos propaganda movie being promoted in the US to drum up support for martial law among Filipino communities here.

I could tell this even before I saw "Dugo," because a swarm of Marcos men followed it around and actively promoted it here in the Filipino community. For example, "Dugo" was shown in San Francisco's Mission District, home of thousands of Filipinos, and the "promoters" visited almost all the Filipino community centers and organizations before handing out tickets and handbills.

Needless to say, it was not worth the \$3.50 I paid to see it during one of its San Francisco showings (it played Dec 24-31, although the theater was empty most of the time.) At first it was exciting to see many famous Filipino movie stars and hear the dialogue in our own native language. But I was soon disappointed and later outraged at its content—a subtly cloaked, but unmistakable apology for martial law in the Philippines.

Purporting to chronicle Philippine history, it actually makes a mockery of our forebearers' glorious revolutionary tradition by actually concluding that "martial law is the continuation of the revolution," and explicitly, the solution to our country's historical problems.

DISTORTS HISTORY

Beware—the propaganda line is a sophisticated one because it appeals to a Filipino's sense of nationalism, patriotism and unity; but it also urges Filipinos to forget the differences that divide us and calls Filipinos to unite on the basis of blind brotherhood and the kind of "nationalism" that means support for Marcos' one-man rule of our country. If one falls into this line of "logic," one could easily remember that Marcos is a Filipino, but at the same time forget the Marcos' "filipinoness" has not stopped him from imprisoning his "fellow Filipino brothers" who opposed and criticized his government policies!

All this Marcos martial law propaganda is done through distortion and omission of important facts in Philippine history.

The most blatant historical omission is the fact that our near-successful Revolution against Spain in 1896 was later subverted by the invading Americans in 1898! (This is a very obvious "omission" because the Katipunan heroism of the 1896 Revolution ends and suddenly JUMPS AL-

MOST 50 YEARS to the Japanese occupation in 1942!) Why does "Dugo" skip this dark period in Philippine history when 600,000 patriotic Filipinos died in the infamous Filipino-American War (1898-1916)? What happened during the following decades in which the American colonizers robbed us of our national freedom while promoting the lie that Filipinos were "barbaric, savage, uncivilized," and "unfit for self-government?"

Is it because Marcos feared this historic truth would have stirred up anti-US sentiments among the audience??—a reaction that could easily lead to reminding Filipinos that the US still continues today to dominate Philippine economy, politics and military affairs.

CORRUPTION? WHAT ABOUT MARCOS?

While the postwar episodes that follow are good exposes on the rampant gangsterism, social injustices and political corruption in Philippine society, they are also part of the movie's propaganda ploy. Why? Because "Dugo" builds up a good case against corruption, but hypocritically "omits" any mention of one of the most notorious, corrupt politicians in Philippine history—Ferdinand E. Marcos! Marcos was once himself a young senator (and very much as ambitious and conniving as the movie's Sen. — — —) who became president through the very same means as all other big-time Philippine politicians—vote-buying, big financial backing, support of the military, and other corrupt "tools of the trade."

With all these distortions, omissions and hypocrisies peppered through three-fourths of the movie, it really did not surprise me to see the last episode on contemporary Philippine society so grossly distorted. I came to expect it after three hours of this hard-sell propaganda.

Sure enough, the movie blamed "irrational idealistic youth activists" for the chaos and anarchy that marked Marcos' violent term in office. Again relying on the perpetuation of lies typical of Marcos propaganda, "Dugo" never told the truth that Filipinos from all sectors—workers, peasants, youth and professionals—were all part of the upsurge of Philippine nationalism during the late 60s and early 70s. Otherwise, why are journalists, senators and clergy among the thousands of political prisoners rotting in Marcos' jails today?

PHILIPPINE NATIONALISM—OUTLAWED

Even more, this last episode so distorts this period that the audience is never told the issues that people were protesting, like an end to unequal treaties with the US and an end to landlord exploitation of the peasantry and an end to graft



and corruption, especially in the high offices of the government. It was over demands such as these that massive demonstrations of tens of thousands were peacefully held, and only disrupted by planted police-agents or outright attacks initiated by the PC or Metrocom. With this scene of "rioting" to complete his propagandized portrayal of "political lawlessness," Marcos finally comes into the picture—like a "savior"—to declare martial law. Then finally proving itself a Marcos mouthpiece, "Dugo" spends the last half hour towing a line of unadulterated support for martial law. The plugs are pulled and all the Marcos rhetoric comes out: "There is land for the landless," and "we are equals now" with a happy scene of people strolling in Luneta Park to end the movie.

Like Marcos' rigged referendums, this entire last episode is based completely on lies and fabrications, and not the truth of what's going on in the Philippines. Even those who are not vocal against martial law know repression exists—no basic freedoms, censored press, arbitrary arrest, political prisoners, and of course, a rapidly deteriorating economy.

For myself, as long as millions of Filipino taxes are spent on wasted overseas propaganda like this movie while massive unemployment, widespread poverty and soaring inflation plague the Philippines, there is nothing "new" about Marcos. He's still the buaya (crocodile) that he always was, except much bigger now—Philippine dictator and richest man in Asia, all in one.

Believe me, "Dugo" is not worth seeing. □

Sulong! (Forward in the Struggle!)

CLASS ACTION SUITS FILED AGAINST ALASKAN CANNERIES

SEATTLE—Class action suits filed on behalf of minority cannery workers in Alaska are now awaiting certification, the step leading to court proceedings. The slow progress of these cases is attributed, in part, to "local rule 23" within the US Federal Court in Western Wash., which makes it illegal for plaintiffs to discuss or build support around lawsuits.

The issues in the litigations are many. Minority workers get less wages for doing the more menial and undesirable jobs. They are forced to live apart from the white workers in sub-standard housing. They eat lower grade food in their own designated eating places. The history of such oppressive working and living conditions goes back as far as the mass influx of the Chinese, then the Japanese, and finally the Filipinos.

Lawsuits have been filed against the New England Fish Co., Nefco-Fidalgo Packing Co., and the Columbia Wards Fisheries. If successful, the outcome will improve the situation of all minority cannery workers and will signify some relief for the thousands of Asian workers who have suffered miserable conditions working in the Alaskan Salmon Industry since 1970.

Anyone interested in more information

about the class action suits can contact Alaskan Cannery Workers Association (ACWA), 416 8th Ave., South Seattle, WA. 98104; telephone 206 632-0690. □

DEFENSE COMMITTEES FORMED TO FIGHT FOR FMG'S

Following the lead of the Emergency Defense Committee for Foreign Medical Graduates (EDC-FMG) established in New York last October, similar Defense Committees have been formalized this past month in Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and will soon be set in San Francisco and Sacramento, California.

These Defense Committees are preparing to fight and block the deportation procedures of FMG's who become "illegal aliens" effective Jan. 1, 1976, due to a recent State Dept. ruling. This ruling targets FMG's who have applied for permanent residency since July 31, 1972, but who have not yet received their permanent residence cards.

Next week, the Nat'l EDC-FMG Steering Committee will begin coordinating a mass petition campaign directed to Congress, the State Dept., and the Exchange Visitors Program. The petition demands legal status for those FMG's who will now be regarded "illegal aliens."

Aimee Cruz, a member of the NY Nat'l Steering Committee, has scheduled

speaking engagements to coincide with Defense Committee meetings planned for certain areas in Calif. On Jan. 27, there will be a meeting in Los Angeles at the Filipino Community Center, 1740 W. Temple St., 7 pm. The following day, Jan. 28, a meeting is planned in Sacramento. Then, on Jan. 29, the SF Bay Area will



Aimee Cruz (L), of the EDC-FMG, has begun a national speaking tour to help the launching of local committees like the one above in Philadelphia.

hold its meeting at St. Patrick's Church, 756 Mission St., San Francisco, 7:30 pm.

Interested groups or individuals should contact Emergency Defense Committees in their local area. New York (212)889-2705; Chicago (312)327-2452; Philadelphia (215)259-8210; Los Angeles (213)386-5998; San Francisco (415)826-8784; Sacramento (916)925-8634. □

FILIPINO WWII VETS CONTINUE LEGAL FIGHT FOR CITIZENSHIP

SAN FRANCISCO—Filipino World War II Veterans continue the legal battle for their just right to US Citizenship. In a typical manner, the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) waited until the last day (Jan 9) to appeal a U.S. District Court decision, which granted 61 veterans immediate citizenship.

In response, Col. Onofre Mangibin, a war veteran directly affected by the case and a member of the newly formed Filipino Veterans League, shared his angry frustration with the Ang Katipunan. "We have already won the case! It is a constitutional right we are fighting for. Imagine, we sacrificed our lives for the Americans and their war. It is just blatant discrimination, where people of color again are subject to unjust treatment."

The veterans have taken another recourse outside of the courts and are requesting Congressman Philip Burton (D-Calif.) to reintroduce a bill that would award citizenship privilege. Support letters are vital at this time. Send them to Filipino Veterans League, 51 Russ Street, San Francisco 94103, or call (415) 626-7327. □

Celebrations Mark Philippine National Awakening



Special report: The students vs. the state, 1970

SHOWDOWN

NIGHT of Monday, January 26 was the night of the nightstick, but Friday, January 29 was the evening of the bullet. Gunfire, which was absent Monday during the nightmarish clubbing of demonstrating students by the police around Congress, cracked and tumbled four kids four days later.

'FIRST QUARTER STORM'

Tens of thousands of Filipinos openly expressed their opposition to the Marcos administration, US domination and landlord exploitation in massive protests in front of Congress in 1970—a period now called the First Quarter Storm. Photo—Manila Times, 1970.



In commemoration of the "First Quarter Storm," a historically dynamic period in the early part of 1970 that marked the heightening of a national awakening among the Filipino people, KDP chapters will hold cultural events that focus on the role of student activism in the national democratic struggle. The presentations will utilize revolutionary songs and skits to dramatize the spirit of that period.

At the University of Hawaii Jan 25 celebration, the documentary "Diliman Commune" will be shown. This film dramatically shows the students' heroic seige of the University of the Philippines, which they barricaded and occupied for a week and a half, establishing what has come to be known as the Diliman Commune. The students spontaneous action was in sympathy for the Jeepney Drivers strike during the oil price hike of 1971.

In the No. Calif. area, there will be three commemorations. On Jan 30, a program will be held at the Arena Theater of Sacramento State. One highlight will be a mime depicting the Filipino people's struggle against the evils of feudalism, US imperialism, and bureaucrat-capitalism. The next

evening, Jan 31, in UC Berkeley's Dwinelle Hall, the event will draw out in skit form the lessons learned by the patriotic sectors of the Filipino people in their struggle for national democracy. A week later, on Feb 6, another commemoration will be held in Thoroughfares at San Francisco State. It will feature a choral reading entitled "Manifesto of the Filipino People" which expresses the strength of the alliance among the students and other oppressed sectors of Philippine Society.

The First Quarter Storm signified a dramatic swing in the national democratic struggle and climaxed a year of massive protests against the corrupt Marcos gov't. Under the Marcos administration, which was characterized by its unparalleled graft and corruption and its blatant servility to US imperialism, the revolutionary mass movement rose to new heights. Workers went on strikes against the spiralling prices and frozen wages. Peasant organizations were formed, agitating for agrarian reforms. Students, youth, intellectuals launched a cultural movement, organizing sit-ins and forums, promoting a new national and demo-

cratic culture, free from feudal and imperialistic influence. Thousands of students, workers and peasants took to the streets clamoring for change; the very foundation of Philippine society was being rocked.

On Jan 26, 1970, a massive afternoon demonstration rally was staged in front of the Philippine Congress, denouncing Marcos as a US puppet. The peaceful demonstration turned into a bloody riot when police and armed forces wantonly clubbed demonstrators. Four days later, on Jan 30, a 50,000 strong protest against the fascist brutality of the state resulted in the death of 4 students. This confrontation between the police and the students marks the now-famous "Battle of Mendiola."

Today, even under martial law, which was Marcos' desperate response to this growing revolutionary movement, the impact of the First Quarter Storm is still felt. Martial law has not stilled the storm. In fact, three years after martial law, a storm far larger and stronger than the First Quarter Storm of 1970 is brewing which will soon be unleashed against the Marcos dictatorship. □

Pickets Confront Consulates...

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Philippine Consulate on Pali Highway in Oahu, Hawaii. According to Dean Alegado it was the "most heavily police-covered anti martial law action in Hawaii ever." Despite the police presence, the picketers boldly chanted "Lift Martial Law, Hold Immediate Elections," "Free all Political Prisoners," and "Restore Civil Liberties in the Philippines."

At the same time, there was an attempt to see Consul General Trinidad Q. Alconcel who has been transferred to Hawaii from San Francisco. Alconcel refused to meet on the grounds that the delegation had "Americans" in it and stated, "Americans should not interfere in Philippine affairs." Dean Alegado, however, met with Vice Consul John Cagampang confronting him with the demands of the coalition. Alegado also refuted the consulate's refusal to meet with the delegation saying, "Americans have the right to know where their tax dollars are going."

The spirited demonstration was covered by all Hawaii TV stations and received wide radio and newspaper coverage.

CHICAGO CONFRONTATION

A meeting with the Consulate in Chicago Jan. 5 by a delegation of the local anti martial law coalition included Rev. Neil McPherson, Rev. Paul Wilson, Geline Avila (KDP), Boy Asidao (PPD) and Dave Komatsu (FFP).

When they confronted Consul General Rodulfo Sanchez with the coalition's demands and asked various questions on the situation in the Philip-

pines, the Consul General continually replied "No comment," in an antagonistic tone. They reminded him that as a representative of the Philippine gov't, he had a responsibility to answer their questions.

Rev. Paul Wilson from the National Council of Churches and former detainee in Marcos' prisons



In a meeting with the Chicago delegation of the Anti Martial Law Coalition, Consul General Rodulfo Sanchez continually skirted questions regarding the situation in the Philippines. Ang Katipunan Photo

confronted the consul general with the question "Why has Marcos prohibited the Church from assisting farmer's cooperatives and labor unions? The Consul said he will forward this question to the gov't but could not himself answer for Marcos.

The delegation then asked for the present official reason for the continuation of martial law and questioned the consul when the "temporary" measure of martial law will be lifted. Sanchez replied, "the reason is cited in proclamation 1081, I'll send

you a copy."

When questioned why Marcos is afraid to hold free elections since he claims the people support his New Society, the consul said, "I cannot give you an answer. You can't expect me to know everything that happens in Manila."

After the meeting, members of the delegation said, "the fact that this official of the consulate very carefully tried not to answer for the regime shows that martial law, being an unjust proposition, is very hard to defend."

MOVEMENT GAINS

The refusal of consular officials to either grant formal appointment to coalition delegations or see them at all, as well as their use of massive police presence to intimidate picketers was decried by Waldon Bello, coalition spokesperson. "The consulates' actions," he stated, "revealed the dictatorship's fear of popular opinion and its reliance on repressive force to quash even the slightest dissent." He asserted however that the fact that pickets were able to force the closing of some consulates and prevent the effective functioning of others testified to the growing effectiveness of the anti martial law movement in the US.

The series of pickets and visits to the Philippine consulates were coordinated by the Anti Martial Law Coalition demanding that Marcos prove his claim of popular support by "lifting martial law and holding immediate elections." Scheduled around Jan. 1, the pickets highlighted this date when Marcos should have stepped down from office two years ago in accordance with the 1935 Philippine Constitution.

The protest actions followed a highly successful Christmas Caroling Campaign in which 300 houses were visited and several thousand dollars raised for political prisoners in the Philippines. □

Providence Hospital Strike Imminent WORKERS REFUSE FINAL OFFER

By Silme Domingo
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE—By a 97% margin, service workers at Providence Hospital voted against a "final offer" contract. In two separate meetings last week, workers of both the day and night shifts voted 147-5 to reject the contract submitted by the Providence management. Initially, the workers had also approved a strike, if negotiations fail and resolutions could not be reached. One worker militantly stated, "We don't want to strike but if we are forced to, we will!"

The Contract Negotiations Committee, made up of rank and file workers and representatives from Service Employees Int'l Union (SEIU), Local 6, strongly urged the workers to reject the "sham" contract. The Negotiations Committee cited 19 points of disagreement.

Some of these points are management's continued refusal to accept the workers' demands for a union shop and its refusal to recognize shop stewards who carry on the day-to-day protection of workers on the job. Management has also insisted it will not comply with an arbitrator's decision, and that it will continue to negate seniority during layoffs and recalls. While decent wages was a major issue of contention, one member of the Negotiations Committee put forward, "Decent wages is not the only issue," and proceeded to discuss the importance of raising all issues of disagreement. On this, most workers enthusiastically agreed.

The Providence workers' united stance against

management's offer was forged out of their 3-year struggle to organize themselves and be represented by the union. Throughout this period, management intentionally tried to obstruct the organizing efforts. Even after the election to certify the union in April 1975, management refused to recognize the workers' union. The workers want the union to represent them and protect them from day-to-day abuses; to secure decent working conditions and wages, and to fight for their basic rights.

Providence Hospital is the second largest Seattle-area hospital to be organized and represented by a union. The organized workers at Providence already represent a victory for all hospital workers, and their future organizing efforts.

Many of the Providence workers are Filipinos who have contributed significantly to the organizing. There has been strong participation and support by these Filipinos, who realize that the only way to solve the problems that Filipinos and other workers face (i.e., abuse and harassment by the management and discrimination because of their race, culture, background, or language) is to unite and organize themselves.

When asked how the Filipino workers felt about the rejection of the contract and the possibilities of a strike, one young Filipino worker stated, "The Filipinos are some of the most organized workers at Providence. They know that a strike will be difficult, but they know they must be organized in order to fight back. I am confident that they will all support a strike, if management does not recognize our just demands." □

DOCUMENTATION on POLITICAL REFUGEES UNDERWAY

A Campaign to Expose the Plight of Political Refugees under the martial law regime is now being coordinated in Chicago by a committee of the Anti Martial Law Coalition (Phil).

One of the direct results of the policies of Marcos' Martial Law Dictatorship is the forced migration of thousands of families as they are displaced from their homes. Squatters in the cities are evicted to make room for Imelda Marcos' "beautification" drives. Land grabbing and "Progress for the New Society" projects affect the national minorities in Luzon. The war against the Muslims in Mindanao add to the number of Filipino political refugees now in the Philippines. The forced migration of these people has involved not only displacement from their homes but also the disruption of their livelihoods, the destruction or loss of their belongings, and the separation of families.

The committee, composed of individuals and representatives from the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), Pilipino para sa Pambangang Demokrasya (PPD), and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), will document the numbers, history and current situations of the different types of refugees. Once this has been compiled, the study will be used to publicize the plight of these refugees. The committee also plans to raise funds for the refugees.

Assistance is needed in gathering this vital information. Please send written materials, photos, and letters about the conditions of political refugees c/o Geline Avila, 3923 N. Pine Grove #20, Chicago, Illinois 60613. For more information, call Geline Avila (312) 327-2452 or Bill Simpson (312) 664-3753. □

Setback for International Hotel -

Low Cost Housing Bill Defeated

By Sherry Valparaiso

SAN FRANCISCO—A proposed city ordinance that would have required developers to provide comparable relocation housing before tearing down a rented multi-family (three or more units) structure, was voted down by the SF Board of Supervisors this month.

The ordinance, introduced by Supervisor John Molinari in March of 1975, came out of the long struggle of Filipino and Chinese residents at the International Hotel (I-Hotel Tenants Association) against eviction by former owner, Shorenstein, and current owner, Four Seas Corporation from Hong Kong. The ordinance, if successful, would have had city-wide ramifications and would have protected hundreds of low-income and minority people whose homes are destroyed each year by private land developers.

While the bill received active support by several dozen community organizations, including Consumer Action, La Raza Information Center, Nob Hill Neighbors, Citizens for a Representative Gov't, San Francisco Tomorrow, Self-Help for the Aging, and Pilipino Organizing Committee, it was not able to get past heated opposition from "private business" and several city agencies. The proponents of the bill testified that protective measures were needed for the city's low-income citizens.

PRIVATE BUSINESS BEHIND OPPOSITION

After months of delays, due to complaints from city agencies and other influential officials claiming they had not had a full chance to air their views, and after several amendments to weaken the ordinance, the Molinari bill was discussed at the Supervisors' Planning, Housing, and Development Committee, on October 21, 1975.

At that time, Arthur Goldberg, head of the City's Bureau of Building Inspection, complained it would cost his agency too much to enforce the ordinance. Arthur Evans, head of the Redevelopment Agency, admitted that it was not a simple matter to find decent housing. However, he concluded that this wasn't sufficient reason to "burden private developers in their quest for profits."

John Jacobs, head of the SF Planning and Urban Renewal Assn. (SPUR), put down the ordinance because it would "transfer rights from the owners to tenants." He wasn't defending the private market he said, it's just a "fact of life." SPUR's Associate Director, Michael McGill, also attacked

the bill's requirement that relocation housing be in a culturally similar area, saying it would lead to "reghettoization."

Following SPUR's lead, the general manager of the SF Hotel and the executive director of the Apartment House Association Consolidated attacked the ordinance saying it would "Stop progress!" A man from the SF Real Estate Board added, "You can't take a businessman's livelihood away from him... We are the taxpayers of this city."

On November 3, the day before Election Day, the bill was presented to the full Board of Supervisors. But to avoid a run-in with the influential business community as well as not wanting to alienate the two dozen community groups, the supervisors (8 of whom were running for office) voted 11-0 to send the ordinance back to the committee. Finally, earlier this month, the Molinari proposal was back in front of the board and was defeated.

HISTORY OF STRUGGLE

The history of the International Hotel tenants' struggle against eviction and the right for low-cost housing dates back to 1969. Located in the Chinatown-Manilatown area, the International Hotel is one of the few remaining low-cost hotels in the area. For years, it has provided low-income housing for hundreds of people, many of whom are elderly Filipino and Chinese men who are retired and live on small pensions. In the last few years, young people and some families have also settled there. The Hotel also houses offices for community groups who provide nutrition, education, and art and cultural programs for the community.

Because the Hotel is located on choice downtown property (one of the few sections which has not been usurped by the neighboring Financial District), the current landlord, Four Seas Investment Corporation, wants to make huge profits by replacing the Hotel with commercial offices. Methods used to force tenants from the Hotel include eviction notices and wilful neglect in keeping the Hotel up to building code standards.

The tenants and their supporters have continuously fought back with demonstrations, even doing their own refurbishing of the Hotel. A court injunction against the evictions has also been filed which is still pending in court. It is this strong determination of the tenants that will continue the struggle for low-cost housing despite the defeat of the Molinari ordinance and the failure of city gov't to live up to its responsibilities. □



With the defeat of the low-cost housing bill, the International Hotel Tenants Assoc. will continue their fight against eviction and demolition of their home. The picture above shows the Transamerica Pyramid behind the International Hotel, a graphic example of the usurpation of Chinatown-Manilatown by the influential Financial District. Philippine News Photo

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

BANKS STILL REAPING PROFITS

NYC Workers Suffer More Cutbacks



In the face of the severe budget cuts and job layoffs, numerous demonstrations by NYC workers and community persons have occurred. Here, demonstrators protest the proposed layoff of some 14,000 CETA workers. [see Dare to Struggle column]

Guardian photo by George Cohen

By Victor Uno

New York City's workers and residents will continue to suffer severe cutbacks in both jobs and social services, despite Pres. Ford's \$2.3-B loan to "save New York City."

Supposedly designed to help avoid some of the worst "horrors" of defaulting on the city's loan payments to Wall St. banks, the "Ford Plan" places the burden of the city's economic crisis on the backs of New York City's poor and working people. Meanwhile, the banks, main holders of the city's bonds and beneficiaries of the Federal loan, are assured of continued millions in tax-free interest payments.

In addition, control of the city has been taken from Mayor Beame and the city council and placed in the hands of the Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB), a business dominated finance board that has dictated most of the recent layoffs and budget cuts. The city is now run by banking interests, leading one New York City councilman to lament that the board has now "supplanted the traditional city government." Another newspaper called it the "great bank robbery of 1975."

BIG MAC AND THE EFCB

The subjugation of New York City to the banks was sparked last spring when 10 major banks, led

by David Rockefeller of Chase Manhattan, William T. Spencer of First National City and Ellmore C. Patterson of the Morgan Guaranty Trust, decided not to refinance the city's accumulated \$12.3-B debt of 40 years.

Calling themselves the Financial Community Liaison Group, the bankers called for the reorganization of the city's finances to "inspire investor confidence" in the selling of the city's bonds. The Liaison Group demanded, and got, the state legislature to create the Municipal Assistance Corporation (dubbed Big MAC) to handle city bond sales last June. The main demand of the bankers to MAC and the city was to cut back on spending and jobs to make the city more "solvent."

Most of the members of MAC are managers of Wall St. finance capital. Executive director of MAC, Hubert Elish, is director of First National City Bank. The NY Post dubbed him the "new and unselected mayor of New York." Another member, William Ellinghaus, is president of New York Bell Telephone Co. and is also tied to Morgan Banking interests. MAC's finance chairman, Felix Rohatyn, is a board member of International Telephone and Telegraph and is also the recognized spokesman for the banker's Liaison Group. Rohatyn also serves as a consultant for the influential Lazard-Freres in-

vestment house which handles millions as financial middleman for banks, corporations and the gov't.

While Big MAC was able to call for some cutbacks and layoffs, it had only limited success in "inspiring investor confidence," meaning the banks still balked at buying MAC bonds until further budget cuts were enacted. The Liaison Group then demanded the creation of another agency to oversee the city's financial reorganization. The state legislature again approved, and the members of MAC designed the Emergency Finance Control Board in Sept. when the city was on the brink of default. Comprised of Gov. Carey, Mayor Beame, two state comptrollers and three members of the "business community," the EFCB was empowered to enact the city worker's wage freeze and other drastic cuts deemed necessary to balance the city's budget. The corporate men on the Control Board—William Ellinghaus (also on MAC); David Margolis, pres. of Colt Industries; and Albert Casey, chairman of American Airlines—are all tied to Rohatyn's investment counseling firm, which in turn is tied to the banks which make up the Liaison Group.

BANKERS DICTATE CUTBACKS

Both MAC and the EFCB then began dictating the huge cutbacks of city workers and social services in the name of avoiding default. While the nation's press and financial institutions were whipping up an atmosphere of hysteria, warning of the pending "economic disaster" and the "disruption of vital services" should the city default, thousands of New York's workers were laid off their jobs and many programs serving the peoples' social needs were cut.

Technically, defaulting means not paying a bill when it's due. Millions of persons default when they don't pay their rent or utility bills on time. But for New York City, default meant the loss of millions of tax-free dollars for the banks. For New York bankers, hard hit by the recession and bad investments (such as the recent failure of W.T. Grant, second only to the collapse of the Penn Central) the decision not to refinance New York City's debt was in part because of their need for more cash reserves. Roughly 23 percent of the banks' equity capital, some \$1.25-B, is invested in the city bonds.

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UNDER FEDERAL RECEIVERSHIP

Ruling Hits Racist Boston School Committee



Only hours after the court ruling, Boston's NAACP office was firebombed by racist terrorists.

By Polly Parks

BOSTON, MASS.—Charging that the Boston School Committee had done everything possible to halt implementation of his desegregation order at racially charged South Boston High, US District Judge Arthur Garrity stripped the committee of its authority and placed the administration of the school under federal receivership Dec 9.

The School Committee appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court on the grounds that an appointed official had usurped power from elected office holders.

The Supreme Court has since upheld the ruling.

In his precedent-setting ruling, Judge Garrity placed the entire school administrative staff under the charge of Boston Asst. Superintendent of Schools, Joseph McDonough, with authority to pick new administrators and replace teachers as

he saw fit.

The action came after a week of hearings based on a motion submitted by the NAACP (Nat'l Assoc. for Advancement of Colored People) asking for the closure of South Boston High or its removal to a neutral site. The motion was based on NAACP's findings that it was an "educational hellhole...not safe for blacks or whites."

Garrity validated the charges, finding that the School Committee was negligent in implementing earlier orders for desegregation and that black students "are presently being subjected to discriminatory treatment...physical assaults...verbal abuse...by the predominantly white faculty and staff of that school..." and "more often than not, school and police authorities detain and suspend all the black students involved...but only one or 2 whites."

Garrity further charged that these incidents "are to a significant degree, the result of intentional conduct by organizations and individuals in south Boston," including the South Boston Home and School Association and the S. Boston Information Center.

The ruling provoked an immediate and vicious reaction from S. Boston's anti-busing forces. Within hours of the ruling the NAACP headquarters and the home of Rev. James Coleman, a prominent black religious leader, were firebombed.

Implicated in the bombing was the leading anti-segregationist organization ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights). A Nov 26 issue of the ROAR-controlled South Boston Tribune had carried an article by ROAR spokesperson Dan Yotts urging that the NAACP offices be "wiped out." Yotts is head of ROAR's marshalls, a paramilitary group responsible for several attacks on pro-busing organizations.

In addition, the day following Garrity's order white students began roaming S. Boston's corridors and attacking Black students. Two Blacks were injured and, as if to confirm Garrity's findings, three students were arrested, all Black.

Later in the week ROAR called for a city-wide boycott of all Boston schools to protest the rulings, asking sympathizers to wear black armbands in solidarity with the "day of mourning." However, only S. Boston and Charlestown high schools were able to muster support.

Though the Black community would rather have seen the school close down completely or moved to a neutral site, they feel the ruling underscores the right of Black and other Third World students to go to school anywhere in the city in safety. □

NINE IRANIAN PATRIOTS EXECUTED

Despite world-wide protests, nine Iranian patriots were executed by the Shah of Iran Jan. 24, exposing the regime's deepening fascist character and its increasing need to resort to brutal repression in an attempt to stem popular opposition.

The nine patriots were convicted by the regime for murdering three US military advisors as well as killing members of Iran's dreaded secret police, the SAVAK. Attempts by an international observer to attend court hearings were met with frustration as the observer was shuttled between various ministries but was never able to find the alleged trial taking place or see the prisoners. When the Shah announced the military tribunal's decision Jan. 22, there was much skepticism as to whether there was any trial at all.

The fact that one of the executed was a woman, virtually unheard of in an Islamic nation, further exploded the Shah's image as a "benevolent monarch." The regime has had to increasingly resort to intensified repression in an attempt to stifle growing popular opposition to his one-man, one-party rule. A recent edict by the Shah, requiring everyone to belong to his Nat'l Resurrection Party or face imprisonment, was met with wide-spread opposition among the country's 32 million workers, students and peasants. In brutally suppressing popular demonstrations against his rule, in these past few months alone over 37 workers and students were killed in Tehran and nine activists were tortured to death in prison by the SAVAK.

While one of the wealthiest oil-producing nations in the Mideast, Iran's people suffer a 72% illiteracy rate as well as an infant mortality rate near 60%. The average wage for an Iranian worker is 90 cents a day while food costs are comparable to food costs in New York City. In addition, there is only one doctor for every 50,000 people.

Despite the extremely harsh living conditions, the Shah has spent \$15-B for US armaments and plans to spend an additional \$10-B this year. While most of the arms are used for "policing" actions in the Arabian Gulf against the national liberation struggles in Oman and Yemen, much US aid and arms are used to bolster the 60,000 SAVAK secret police. Described as a "Gestapo-like organization," the SAVAK conducts mass arrests, tortures and oversees the imprisonment of Iran's 45,000 political prisoners. SAVAK training, mainly by some 2,000 US military advisors in Iran, is also carried out in Washington D.C.

Prior to the recent executions, international demonstrations, hunger strikes and vigils to save the nine patriots were mounted by the World Confederation of Iranian Students Associations (ISA). Members of the ISA, who face the death penalty for "subversion" if they return to Iran, mobilized hundreds in many European and US cities including Florence, Italy; Lund, Sweden; Montreal, Canada; Washington, D.C.; Houston, Texas; San Francisco, California and other cities. Despite the Shah's flagrantly criminal decision to continue with the executions, a spokesperson for the ISA vowed continued opposition to the regime, pointing out that "the lives of many more political prisoners are still in grave danger." □

Struggle for Puerto Rican Independence Grows



Over 10,000 people rallied for independence and socialism at the Puerto Rican Socialist Party's 2nd Congress.

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO—Over 10,000 Puerto Ricans and supporters rallied here Dec. 7 at the Puerto Rican Socialist Party's (PSP) second congress under the party's twin demands of "independence and socialism," reflecting the rising, militant aspirations of the Puerto Rican people for genuine freedom and national liberation.

The success of the PSP's congress, held despite repeated threats and attacks both by Washington and the colonial regime of Puerto Rican Gov. Hernandez Colon, underscored the rich tradition of struggle of the Puerto Rican masses for independence. Speaking to this rising demand for a free and socialist Puerto Rico, PSP's Secretary Gen. Juan Mari Bras said, "It is already too late for imperialism and capitalism to stop this process."

The island of Puerto Rico, seized by the US during the 1898 Spanish-American War along with Cuba and the Philippines, has long remained under US colonial rule. Washington has refused to, even nominally, recognize Puerto Rico's right to independence and is now moving to transform the island's "commonwealth" status to a "compact of permanent union" in an effort to bolster Washington's claim that Puerto Rico is "an internal affair."

People the world over have condemned US

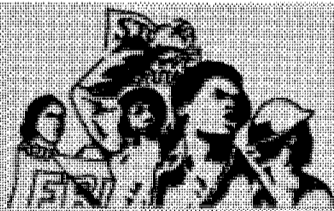
colonial subjugation of Puerto Rico, and even the United Nations has passed resolution condemning US rule, in support of Puerto Rico's right to self-determination.

For Puerto Rico's 2.5 million people, US domination has meant a staggering 40% unemployment rate, mass sterilization of over half the childbearing women, and massive impoverishment of the people forcing 70% of the population to resort to the Federal Food Stamp program in order to survive. For the American multi-national corporations, which have over \$14-B invested in the island nation, the colonial relations allow the capitalists to extract an average profit rate of 90%, towering over the "normal" return of 30-40% of every dollar invested.

In the US, supporters of Puerto Rican independence have raised the slogan "a bicentennial without colonies." The progressive and revolutionary sector of the American people are rallying around the call and support the Puerto Rican people's demand for genuine freedom. □

Beginning with the next issue, the Ang Katipunian will publish a series of articles on Puerto Rico. Written by an AK correspondent who attended the PSP congress, it will hopefully be a contribution towards a better understanding and support of "Puerto Rico Libre y Socialista!"

Dare to struggle...



CETA WORKERS FIGHT NYC CUTBACKS

NEW YORK CITY—CETA (Comprehensive Education Training Act) workers led a sit-in strike at US Labor Dept. offices Dec 30 to demand that 14,000 lay-offs be rescinded. Earlier, 250 persons gathered to burn effigies of Mayor Beame, Victor Gotbaum, head of District Council 37 of city workers union and several NY congresspersons who were not supporting the CETA workers.

The lay-offs, affecting 87% of NYC's CETA workers, was scheduled to occur within the next year as part of the Federal gov't's terms in the \$2.4-B bail-out to the city. NYC labor leaders had agreed to similar cut-backs of city workers with the stipulation these city workers be given the jobs which the CETA workers had. The CETA workers are primarily unemployed Third World workers who previously received welfare.

One black woman affected by the cut-backs angrily stated that she would now have to go back on welfare but "I'm still

fighting to get my job back. Where are all those people who say that Black people and welfare recipients are out of work because they won't take jobs?" □

PRISONERS WIN RIGHTS AT SQ ADJUSTMENT CENTER

TAMAL, CA.—The San Quentin 6 scored a victory for themselves and other prisoners when US Circuit Court Judge Alphonso Zerpalis ruled that San Quentin's notorious Adjustment Center (AC) constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment," and violates the 8th and 14th amendments.

Major points won are cessation of excessive use of shackles and chains; all AC inmates to be given at least 1 hour a day for outdoor exercise or recreation 5 days a week and that this privilege cannot be denied for more than 10 days; and immediate refraining from use of tear gas or other harmful chemical agents on inmates. In addition, the 5 remaining incarcerated activists were released into the general prison population.

The suit had been filed 2 years ago by the SQ 6, who are currently standing trial on frame-up charges arising out of the Aug. 21, 1971 assassination of Black Panther Field Marshal and prison activist, George Jackson by the prison guards. □

FEDERAL GOV'T HARASSES INDIAN LEADER

SIOUX FALLS, IOWA—With a 4-year sentence to serve for allegedly "rioting" in a courtroom, Russell Means, leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM) is facing four more trials that could conceivably send him to prison for 111 years.

The latest trial convicted Means of "rioting" April 30, 1974, when he and other spectators refused to rise when the presiding judge in a fellow AIM member's trial entered the courtroom. The police then violently attacked the crowd, beating them with clubs.

Other charges facing Means range from murder to disorderly conduct.

Means has charged these trials are occurring simply "because I'm a leader of AIM and my name is Russell Means." □

MARTIN SOSTRE WINS FREEDOM

NEW YORK CITY, NY—On Dec. 24, Martin Sostre, a Black Puerto Rican activist, was granted executive clemency by the NY State governor after eight years in prison.

While in prison, Sostre studied law and filed and won several suits on behalf of prisoners. Significant victories included precedents around censorship of mail, the right of prisoners to receive revolutionary literature, the right to religious practice, due process, and the restriction against rectal searches.

Sostre, 52, had been involved in struggles within the Black community in Buffalo, NY prior to a July 1967 arrest for selling \$15 worth of heroin, which later proved to be a frame-up. He was convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to 30-40 years.

Sostre, attributing his release to eight defense committees that kept up an unrelenting struggle on his behalf, vowed to continue the struggle for human rights after his release. □

WORLD IN FOCUS

INDONESIA INVADES E. TIMOR

DILI, E. TIMOR—Only seven days after declaring independence from 400 years of Portuguese rule, the People's Democratic Republic of East Timor was invaded by Indonesian troops Dec. 7, seizing the capital, Dili. FRETILIN, the popular liberation movement which proclaimed the republic, vowed to wage armed struggle against the Indonesian invasion and appealed for international condemnation of Indonesian aggression.

Prior to the invasion, FRETILIN has amassed overwhelming popular support for its program of independence, non-alignment and self-reliance in building E. Timor. In elections supervised by Portugal during the summer, FRETILIN won 90% of the popular vote. Two other parties that called for ceding E. Timor to Indonesia were thoroughly rejected in the vote.

Despite Indonesia's claims that there was no invasion, merely "volunteers" aiding the two pro-Indonesian parties and bringing "stability" to E. Timor, the UN Security Council voted unanimously to condemn Indonesia's aggression. It further called for the withdrawal of all Indonesian troops to allow the E. Timor people the right to self-determination. While voting for the resolution, the US appeared to have secret approval of the invasion, which used US-supplied arms and occurred only hours after Pres. Ford left Jakarta Dec. 6. □

GHANDI TO EXTEND "EMERGENCY" DECREE

NEW DELHI, INDIA—Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India is extending her six-month old "state of emergency" for at least another year. The proclamation, similar to martial law, has suspended civil liberties, instituted press censorship, prompted mass political arrests, and centralized state power into Gandhi's hands.

Gandhi is presently reconvening Parliament in an effort to give her regime a "democratic" image. Yet over 30 opposition leaders have been arrested since the declaration, leaving Gandhi's ruling Congress Party with a 3 to 1 parliamentary majority to approve the "emergency" extension. While lamely justifying the decree as necessary "discipline" for the implementation of "social reforms," opposition leaders have continued to condemn Gandhi's rule.

Earlier, Gandhi dropped all pretense for social reform and began using the death penalty in an effort to stop political opposition. Hanged Dec. 1 were two peasant leaders, Bhoomaiah and Kista Gowd, convicted of murder in the death of a landlord during a peasant rebellion in April 1970. While vocal and well-publicized mass movements had repeatedly stayed the executions prior to Gandhi's decree, final and unpublicized attempts for clemency failed.

According to the Far Eastern Economic Review (12/26/75), arguments that the two were political prisoners and thus subject to special consideration were rejected by India's Home Ministry because the peasant leaders were both "uneducated and illiterate," thus common criminals. □

LEBANON CRISIS HEIGHTENS

BEIRUT, LEBANON—The latest ceasefire between warring Christians, Moslems, Phalangists, and Palestinians in Lebanon's 9-month civil war will have to resolve the basic political and economic questions still at issue if the truce is to last.

At issue is the continued Christian refusal to concede any political equality or economic reforms demanded by the Moslems, who constitute the majority of the population. The Christian parties have refused to negotiate until Palestinian refugee camps are put under gov't control, in direct violation of a 1970 agreement which gave Palestinians autonomy over the camps.

The latest fighting, which broke the 22nd ceasefire since June, began with a Phalange blockade of food convoys to two Palestinian refugee camps, Tal Zaatar and Jisr al Pasha. When Palestinian and Moslem forces attempted to break the encirclement, Lebanon's army intervened, despite Moslem Prime Minister Karami's explicit orders. This forced Karami's resignation, which he withdrew with the latest ceasefire.

Throughout the 9-month conflict, Moslems and Palestinians have charged that much of the fighting is provoked by the Phalangists with the assistance and approval of the US. Supporting this charge was a US Senate Select Committee on Foreign Intelligence disclosure of a CIA-backed \$6-M arms shipment to Phalangist forces last June.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization's (PLO) UN representative Kaddoumi has charged that the US-supported Phalange attacks are aimed at provoking Palestinians to join the fighting, to lend credence to US charges the PLO are "terrorists" rather than a nat'l liberation organization. He further denounced the US claim that civil war in Lebanon "proves" that a democratic, secular state (which the PLO is demanding in Palestine) is unrealistic anywhere in the Middle East. □



Soldiers of the MPLA inspect US weapons covertly supplied to the FNLA. Ton of US weapons were seized when the MPLA overran the FNLA stronghold of Carmona. Note the U.S. AID symbol on the box, hands clasped in "friendship and cooperation."

U.S. Still Deep In Angola

By Victor Uno

Evidence of extensive and covert US intervention in Angola's civil war continues to mount.

Numerous press reports have revealed that covert CIA monies and arms are being channeled to the two pro-Western factions, the National Front (FNLA) and United Front (UNITA) armies in their common bid to defeat the Popular Movement (MPLA). It has also been charged that US military personal are actively flying supply, reconnaissance and tactical missions into Angola from neighboring Zaire. Furthermore, US mercenaries, recruited by the CIA, have reportedly been operating with the FNLA-UNITA alliance.

While there was limited knowledge of covert US activities before the recent press reports, the latest disclosures caused domestic and international protest against US intervention. Senate liberals, shocked over this largest military venture only eight months after the defeat of US policies in Indochina, voted Dec. 19 to cut off further covert monies to Angola. "If this is a CIA operation," said Sen. Tunney, author of the Senate bill, "it is further prelude to involvement in another Vietnam."

US—IN DEEPER THAN EXPECTED

While there had been increasing suspicion as to the extent of US involvement, figures reported in the press and even confirmed by the State Dept. showed that some \$32-M was spent equipping the FNLA-UNITA armies last year. Other sources claimed aid ran as high as \$100-M as US aid sent to neighboring Zaire found its way to FNLA-UNITA forces. (Zaire's Pres. Mobutu is brother-in-law to FNLA head Holden Roberto.)

In addition, the New York Times, quoting a gov't source, reported Dec. 12 that US pilots are active in the war, flying at least five US-supplied planes in and out of Angolan battle zones from bases in Zaire.

Other reports revealed that the CIA was actively recruiting US mercenaries to fight with the FNLA-UNITA alliance. Citing US intelligence sources, Newsday magazine reported Dec. 11 that CIA recruiting drives included efforts by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to enlist the help of black American military advisors. While CORE director Roy Innis denied he was on the CIA payroll, he did admit that he was looking for black veterans to serve in Angola as a "police force" or as "combat medics" on the side of the FNLA or UNITA.

"I'm looking for some good riflemen," said Innis to Newsday. "The key military adviser to the FNLA is a Portuguese colonel, but I think they need some black colonels."

Efforts to recruit US mercenaries were also reported by the San Diego Evening Tribune which charged that an organization called El Kamas Enterprises was part of the CIA drive. Newsweek magazine reported two Cuban exiles, Jose Prat and Pedro Castro, were also busy recruiting Cuban mercenaries in Miami.

The largest expose, however, was by the Christian Science Monitor which claimed Jan. 2 that the CIA had recruited 300 American ex-servicemen as mercenaries, trained them at Fort Benning, Ga., and sent them into Angola via South Africa. The Monitor charged that the US mercenaries were fighting with UNITA forces in southern Angola and with the FNLA army in the north. CIA funds were used towards their pay, and the agency also

provided them with light and heavy weaponry.

While US officials denied the story, Pres. Ford conceded in an NBC News interview that "we are working with other countries" to help the pro-Western FNLA-UNITA forces. This led to speculation that the CIA training and recruiting efforts were moved to Europe to avoid the public outcry.

US UNDERMINES ALVORE AGREEMENT

Contrary to US State Dept. claims that US aid to the FNLA-UNITA forces was only in response to Soviet and Cuban aid to the MPLA, the New York Times reported that the "40 committee" of the National Security Council approved secret aid as far back as Jan. '75 to undermine a UNITA-FNLA-MPLA agreement. (Chaired by Sec. of State Henry Kissinger and including CIA director Colby, Deputy Sec. of Defense William Clement and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. George Brown, the "40 committee" was also behind the "destabilization" campaigns which helped topple the Allende regime in Chile.)

During that month, the three groups signed the Alvore agreement that established a coalition gov't for the transfer of power when Portugal formally ended its colonial rule. The coalition subsequently fell apart that summer, as FNLA and UNITA armies launched a number of armed attacks against the MPLA. During this period in July, the "40 committee" again decided to "ship millions of dollars worth of supplies" to aid the FNLA and UNITA forces, according to a US official quoted in the Times account. The coalition was never reestablished, and when Portugal formally ended its colonial rule Nov. 11, the MPLA proclaimed the People's Republic of Angola, and the FNLA and UNITA forces established a military alliance to "drive the MPLA to the sea."

According to the same Times account, Kissinger's Angola policies were met with sharp opposition within the State Dept., forcing the resignation of Nathaniel Davis, head of the African affairs bureau. Davis, who was, ironically, involved in the '72 coup in Chile as the US ambassador, called Kissinger's military approach "utterly wrong." "Neither Savimbi (UNITA) or Roberto (FNLA) are good fighters—in fact, they couldn't fight their way out of a paper bag," lamented Davis. "It's the wrong game and the players we got are losers."

MPLA SCORES GAINS

Recent reports on the fighting in Angola have largely confirmed Davis' assessment, although probably for different reasons. The FNLA-UNITA alliance, which launched a major offensive against the MPLA in Nov. with the aid of at least 1,000 South African and 4,000 Zaire troops, is now on the defensive, with the northern FNLA effort apparently defeated and in retreat. The MPLA, with aid from the Soviet Union and Cuba, has the initiative militarily, and has also scored tremendous diplomatic gains.

Over 40 countries presently recognize the gov't of the MPLA and over half of the countries of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) have diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of Angola. Not one country, not even Zaire, South Africa or the US, has yet recognized the FNLA or UNITA's claim to represent the Angolan people.

The oldest national liberation organization in Angola, the MPLA's political program calls for the

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IN COMMEMORATION : CHOU EN-LAI 1898-1976



Chou En-Lai, Premier of the People's Republic of China and Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, died of cancer last month on Jan. 8, 1976 after prolonged illness since 1972. In China, where communists are recognized as the most selfless servants of the people, Chou En-Lai was known as a loyal revolutionary fighter and an outstanding leader of the party and the state.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM:

Just as China has become an inspiring example by transforming itself from a weak and backward country to a strong nation, from a colonized and enslaved people to a liberated people building a prosperous socialist country, Chinese leaders have emerged who have inspired the masses of the world's people in their struggle against oppression and exploitation. Chou En-Lai was such a leader who led the Chinese people to overthrow the three mountains of Imperialism, Feudalism and Bureaucrat Capitalism which oppressed the Chinese people. In helping lead the Chinese Revolution to victory, Chou En-Lai helped further the cause of national liberation and the struggle of the laboring masses for their emancipation.

The Chinese revolution was possible because the Chinese leadership took to heart and implemented well this universal principle: "The

masses are the makers of history." That is, the masses of working people create the wealth of society, are the prime movers of society and have the power to overthrow all exploiters and determine their future. In the course of revolution, therefore, leaders emerge from the masses. These leaders are not born with an inherent gift to guide revolution, but develop through struggle and transform into revolutionaries with such qualities as hardwork, wholehearted commitment to struggle, and selfless service to the masses. Only then do revolutionary leaders earn the respect and trust of the people.

Chou En-Lai was such a leader. He was the son of a landlord from the old ruling class of China. But he renounced his class position and became a revolutionary because he saw the suffering and sacrifices of the Chinese people at the hands of imperialism and feudalism. He transformed himself and dedicated his life to the Chinese revolution and emerged as a leader in the Chinese Communist Party. He was a living example of one who became a revolutionary by ridding himself of narrow self-interests, learning to overcome all difficulties and fighting in the forefront for the people's interests. He was determined to struggle and work hard to bring the Chinese people to victory. He was a genuine leader whose respect has been earned by millions of people throughout the world. □

Angola...

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building of mass popular organizations based on antiracist, antitribal and anti-imperialist principals. The People's Republic of Angola has committed itself to a non-aligned foreign policy and to "develop natural resources to serve the needs of the Angolan people and not foreign interests."

Support for UNITA and the FNLA has come mainly from those quarters that would want to maintain Angola open to foreign economic penetration and dominance. FNLA head Holden Roberto has been on a \$10,000 a year fee from the CIA for over 10 years, while UNITA's Jonas Savimbi was quoted earlier this year as supporting "free enterprise for exploitation" and "economic cooperation with South Africa." Both groups have relied on using tribal differences to build their armies, and clashes between the two have occurred a number of times. Although both armies are well-equipped and trained, a leading French newspaper *Le Monde* noted that morale is low, due mainly to recruitment "by coercion."

KISSINGER VOWS CONTINUED AID

Despite mounting opposition to US involvement, Sec. of State Kissinger vowed to continue aid to the FNLA-UNITA forces. After the Senate vote to stop further covert aid, the New York Times quoted Kissinger as saying that at least \$9-M was "found" to continue US efforts. Another State Dept. official said that "We're going to keep it up . . . despite the Senate vote."

While harping on US "responsibilities" to "all countries whose security depends on the United States," Pres. Ford appealed to the Senate to reverse its vote. "Failure to do so will, in my judgement," warned Ford, "seriously damage the national interest of the United States."

Critics hit the appeal as "shades of the argument that got us into Vietnam," yet the Ford administration continues its efforts undeterred. The inability of a recent OAU conference to reach a resolution on Angola was due to Ford's diplomatic intervention. At that conference, the 46 member countries were evenly divided on two resolutions—one calling for recognition of the MPLA gov't and the other supported by the US, which called for the end of "all foreign intervention."

One African minister said that a factor in the OAU's inability to reach agreement was a letter from Ford to all the African ministers which warned of the "communist danger" if the MPLA were recognized. The Nigerians, which recognize the MPLA, charged Ford with "crude bullying and insulting logic."

Ford has also stated that he will continue to push for a lifting of the Senate ban. House action on the Senate vote is expected in early February. □

N.Y.C. CUTS...

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It wasn't as if the city did not have money—it was a question of where it all went. According to the Wall St. Journal, the city needed \$3.5-B between May 15 and July 1, 1975, to pay its bills. Of this amount, only \$6-M went for the city payroll, \$8-M for other social services, while \$2.1-B WENT FOR DEBT SERVICE. In 1974 alone, bank profits from New York City bonds amounted to over half a billion dollars. Tax free, too.

In controlling the financial reorganization of the city, there is little question who now runs the city. Mayor Beame, like a lame duck, sits quietly at Control Board meetings while the banking and finance managers run the show, dictating the huge cutbacks and attacks on New York City's population.

NEW YORK'S WORKING CLASS HIT

As an attack on the general living standard of most New York City dwellers, the cuts and layoffs that have already occurred run deep, cutting across broad sectors of the city's working class. Virtually no one has been spared—youth, elderly, sick and infirm, minority workers and women—all have been hit by the Control Board's "austerity measures."

During the past year, more than 45,000 jobs were cut in the name of avoiding default. The city's unemployment rate, according to the New York Times, now stands at 11.9% and is projected to reach 16% by the end of 1976. Black, Puerto Rican and other minority workers have been especially hard hit by layoffs and their unemployment rate is twice that of white workers.

The city's financial managers also enacted a 15-20% cut in hospital and health care expenditures. Six hospitals are targeted for closing in addition to cuts in chronic-care, rehabilitation and out-patient clinic services.

In education, seven schools were closed, with 13 more designated for closing. Class sizes were increased to 40-45 students and a 20% budget cut demands the layoff of 2,000 full-time teachers and 7,000 substitutes. Workloads for remaining teachers were increased by 25-33%. Three of 18 colleges will be closed, open admissions will end, and tuition will be charged.

Other areas of cutbacks closed down 28 day care centers, with 20 more designated to be cut; three senior citizen's centers will close; all city construction was halted. In addition, \$300-M in new taxes were enacted; a wage freeze imposed on remaining city workers; transit fares were increased from 35 to 50 cents; and the city decreased its contributions to the city worker's pension fund.

The only area of the city's budget not hit by cutbacks was the millions of dollars paid to the banks in debt and interest payments.

TRADITIONAL UNIONS KEEP CITY FROM DEFAULT

The response of thousands of rank and file city workers and residents of the city to the bank takeover has been one of anger and outrage. City unions responded militantly to the banker's takeover, calling a huge demonstration in the spring which attacked the bankers as "Public Enemy Number One," and during the summer, a number of strikes by city employees hit the city.

But by the end of the summer both the teachers and sanitation workers strikes ended in defeat, and buckling under threat of having their contracts voided if New York defaulted, the different union leaderships agreed to buy \$2.5-B in MAC bonds with worker's pension funds. Besides causing a financial loss to the worker's pension fund returns, the unions are now committed to keeping New York City financially solvent, while having no voice on the powerful Control Board. Already the city unions have agreed to massive layoffs, affecting thousands of mainly Third World workers, to keep New York solvent.

"CRISIS IS OVER"?

In announcing the Nov. 26 federal loan, Pres. Ford, New York Gov. Carey and New York City Mayor Beame all declared that the "financial crisis is over." But for the millions of New York City's poor and working people, already hit by the nation's economic crisis of recession and inflation, the crisis is just beginning.

The demands of the three year federally guaranteed loan stipulates the additional layoff of as many as 40,000 more city workers. The federal gov't also has the right to seize city revenues for repayment of loans before they can be used for city salaries, welfare, or other bills. Additional new taxes will be enacted, transit fares will increase to as much as 80 cents, more cutbacks in school and health services will occur and as many as 10,000 people will be ejected from the city's welfare rolls. In addition, all city contracts with the unions must be approved by the Control Board, further eroding the political power of the unions.

The grim reality confronting the masses of New York's people is a future of more layoffs and more cutbacks while the banks and Wall St. financiers are guaranteed continued millions in tax-free profits. The capitalist logic now running New York City is "what's good for Chase Manhattan is good for New York City." □

More Militant Year Ahead:**STRIKES
CONTINUE TO HIT
MANILA**

MANILA—Inspired by the massive Dec 6 demonstration against Presidential Decree (PD) No. 823 and in defiance of the Marcos regime's continued ban on strikes in "vital industries," thousands of workers in and around the Greater Manila area ended 1975 with a rash of strikes and mass actions, forecasting a more critical and militant year ahead. The successful Dec 6 demonstration against PD. 823 which imposed a total ban on strikes, forced Marcos to repeal the controversial decree and offer some concessions to labor including a compulsory order for management to pay workers a X'mas bonus equivalent to a month's pay in wages.

Some 20 strikes, slowdowns, walkouts, sabotages and other forms of workers' struggles took place in December alone. Hardest hit were the textile mills, an industry which by any standard definition falls under the category of a vital industry. Transportation was another sector covered by the presidential ban but affected by a strike just before X'mas.

In most cases, management gave in to the workers' demands, but not without first calling for military or police intervention. As a rule, the workers stood their ground, refusing to yield to the collusion between management and the gov't.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY BESIEGED

Among the first to assert their rights despite the strike ban were the workers of Solid Mills in Sukat, Paranaque, who sabotaged machinery and cut up yarns on Dec 11 in retaliation for management's refusal to grant the X'mas bonus they had been promised. The workers had been told that they would receive a bonus ranging from an equivalent of 15 days to one month's pay but were instead given one week's pay only. Those who had already used up their sick and vacation leaves did not get anything at all. Some of the workers tore down a

*continued on page 4***Extravagance in Face of Poverty****IMELDA HOSTS
SWINGERS PARTY**

While Marcos called on Filipinos to live austerely "without ostentation, without show" during his New Year's message, he and his infamously extravagant wife Imelda hosted a lavish New Year's Eve party aboard the \$4-M casino ship, the Philippine Tourist. The affair was attended by some 400 jetsetters including Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida, Bolivian tin king Atenor Patina, movie producer Franco Rosellini, and a smattering of starlets, models and businessmen.

Mrs. Marcos bedecked with diamonds and star sapphires opened the party by rolling the first dice



Gina Lollobrigida is flanked by First Couple and members of the "jet set," as she rolls dice aboard \$4-M casino ship, Philippine Tourist.

at the new crap table.

According to news reports, "Champagne flowed endlessly, flower-decked tables were laden with sumptuous dishes, and several bands played in relays while the Philippine Tourist floated like a garland in Manila Bay."

While the "beautiful people" and their infamous hosts celebrated in gay abandon, the Filipino people observed the passing of another hardship-filled year which featured 40% inflation, 35% unemployment, the highest TB mortality rate in Asia, rampant malnutrition, unbridled repression, and faced the prospect of an even bleaker "new" year under martial law. □

**"Sham Grassroots Democracy"****MARCOS FORM LOCAL
LEGISLATIVE BODIES**

By Ma Flor Sepulveda

To give his regime a semblance of "democratic participation from the masses," Marcos has created "Sangguniang Bayan," local legislative bodies replacing previously-elected municipal, city and provincial councils.

Lauded as a step towards the return of constitutional democracy, the formation of these bodies is Marcos' calculated response to dampen the growing demand to lift martial law and hold immediate elections.

Created by Presidential Decree 824, the Sangguniang Bayan (SB's) will exercise legislative and executive powers on the local level and will be composed of incumbent local officials, barangay heads, Kabataang Barangay chairmen, and elected sectoral representatives.

Its formation is being acclaimed by the Marcos Media as providing "grass roots democracy" for the masses and ushering a new crop of "unblemished and dedicated public officials." In reality, the functions, composition, and election procedures of the SB's has eliminated the possibilities for the masses to be genuinely represented.

The so-called legislative power that the SB's have is limited to making decisions on how Presidential Decrees, Letters of Instructions, and General Orders can be implemented on a local level. Insofar as affecting national policies, the SB's serve only as consultative councils whose opinions the regime can choose to accept or ignore.

Moreover, the so-called "representative" character of the SB's is belied by its limited membership which has assured the pro-Marcos nature of these councils from the onset. Even the few token positions accorded to representatives of private

sectors are being fought over by self-serving politicians.

In certain towns where elections have been held, local residents have already protested the rigged results of the Sanggunian elections. In Labo, Daet, Camarines Norte, for example, local civic organizations protested the election of an ex-Mayor, Felix Tenorio, and Atty. Luis Barcelona who posed as representatives of the agricultural labor and industrial sectors respectively. Elsewhere, in Magsaysay, Mindoro Occidental and Ormoc City, mayors Leonardo Jovenal and Larrabal are being accused of handpicking candidates and manipulating the elections.

The elections are rendered further meaningless since the final outcome is decided upon by Malacanang and the Dept. of Local Gov'ts and Community Development. This was best illustrated in Metropolitan Manila when Pres. and Mrs. Marcos personally reviewed the list of nominees submitted by the region's 1,832 barangays.

Like the previous stage-managed referendums, the Sangguniang Bayan is nothing short of a cheap propaganda ploy to credit the Marcos regime with receiving the "peoples mandate." But contrary to the regime's hopes, the Sangguniang Bayan cannot obscure the omnipresent realities of one-man rule nor will it legitimize his illegal stay in power.

However, beyond the purpose of image-dressing, the formation of the SB is significant because it is a gesture meant to placate the opposition which is increasingly demanding the lifting of martial law and the holding of immediate elections.

The formation of the SB comes at a time when the

*continued on page 5***Instead of Low-cost Housing:****Marcos Gives Priority to Hotels**

By Francisco Ocampo

Despite the Marcos regime's promises to give first priority to low-cost housing for the urban poor, millions of dollars in the form of gov't loans are being channeled instead into the construction of super-luxury hotels. To date, gov't agencies (Development Bank of the Philippines, Gov't Service Insurance System, and Social Security System) have pumped in more than two-thirds (P2.3-B) of the financing for 15 hotels being built in the Greater Manila area which will incur a total cost of P3.5-B. This unproductive and wantonly extravagant venture is proceeding full-scale despite the projection that its financing will not be recovered for many years and even as the already faltering Philippine economy has been worsened by the balance of payments and trade deficit crisis.

Aside from depleting available credit resources, this venture is also depleting foreign exchange earnings which will take several years to replace with tourism earnings. This is because costly construction materials had to be imported in the rush to finish the hotels in time for the World Bank-International Monetary Fund conference in October. Ironically, the IMF-WB conference will last for only two weeks and the projected sharp lag in tourism will bring only a 49% room occupancy rate for the hotels being built.

Despite the obvious unproductiveness of this venture, the Marcos regime still encourages the construction boom to "establish the Geneva of Asia where the world can meet and shake hands," "be the 14th country in which the Western International (a renowned hostelry conglomerate) manages 1st class hotels," and "give Manila's 1976 skyline a modern, soaring look comparable to Singapore's and Hongkong's but less cluttered."



Set to change Manila's skyline at the cost of P3.5-B, the hotel construction boom is expected to take its toll on the already faltering economy.

Meanwhile, the true meaning of Marcos' low-income housing promises is being felt by Manila's squatters who daily face threats of mass ejection. Only P6.7-M has been allocated to the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation for the building of low-cost housing units.

The irrational emphasis on hotel construction typifies the Marcos regime's lopsided priorities which emphasizes infrastructure over the real needs of the people. The inflationary spending on infrastructure is being shallowly justified since it will supposedly modernize and develop the country. In this sense, according to one observer, "development" under martial law has acquired the meaning of "whatever the rich can benefit from, let it be built." □