

## The Verdict is In Two Guilty of Seattle Union Murders!

Special to the A.K.

SEATTLE—Jaime Bulosan Ramil and Pompeyo Benito Guloy were found guilty September 24 of the cold-blooded June murders of union leaders Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes.

Both men were convicted of two counts each of aggravated first-degree murder, meaning killing for hire or as a result of conspiracy.

Under a new state law, the automatic penalty for conviction on such a charge is life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Judge Lloyd Bever of King County Superior Court stated he had "little latitude under the state law to render any other sentence." No sentencing date has been set.

The seven-week trial, publicized as one of the most spectacular trials in Seattle, came to an emotional end as family members of the defendants and the slain men burst into tears when the verdict was read.

"My reaction is one of relief," said Ade Domingo, mother of Silme Domingo. "But nothing can be done to bring my son back."

Guloy's mother arrived outside the courtroom moments after her son and his co-defendant were led away by deputies. Informed of the verdict, Mrs. Guloy collapsed.

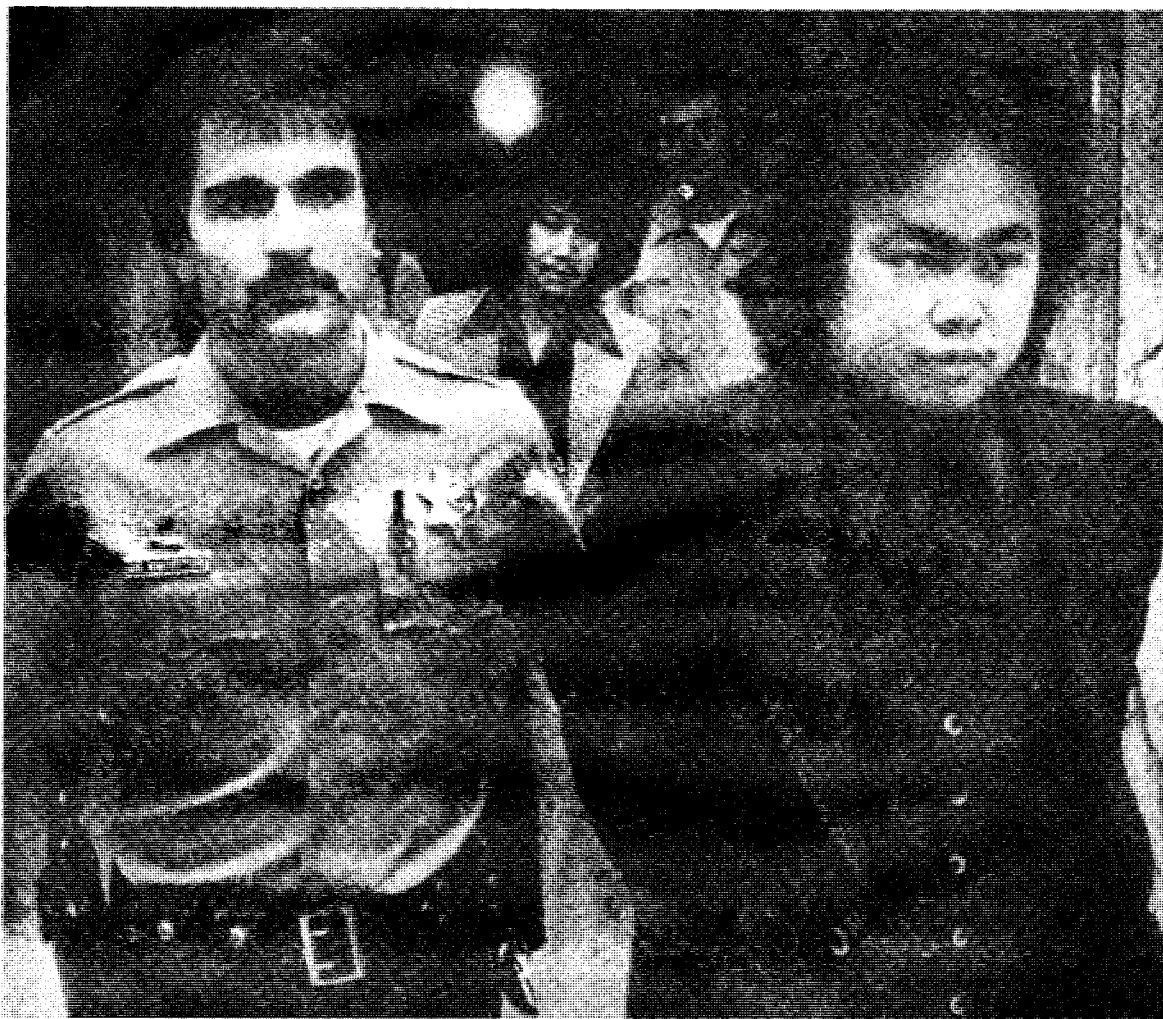
The state contended Domingo, secretary-treasurer of the Alaska Cannery Workers' Union ILWU local 37 and Viernes, union dispatcher, were gunned down because their efforts to reform the union's hiring practices interfered with gambling interests.

### CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE BEHIND KILLINGS

Deputy Prosecutor Joanne Maida reiterated in her closing statement that this criminal enterprise thrived from the complicity of three interlocking interests: corrupt union officials, security and protection from gangster elements, and profits from the gambling itself.

"Gene Viernes and his fair dispatch system in local 37 threatened the smooth operation of this criminal enterprise," Maida stated. "On June 1, the enforcers of this enterprise—the Tulisan gang—implemented a plan that later became irreversible: the murders

*Continued on page 6*



Ramil (center) and Guloy (foreground) are led away by deputies after hearing the guilty verdict.

### Students Fight Police With Stones

## 16,000 Protest ML Anniversary

16,000 demonstrators rallying in Manila and Baguio marked the anniversary of the Marcos dictatorship on September 18.

The demonstrators chose September 18, a school day, rather than September 21, the actual anniversary of martial law declaration which has been declared a "working holiday." This means business offices were open but schools were closed, a tactic observers say was meant to discourage student protests on the anniversary of martial law. Marcos has declared September 22 "a

day of thanksgiving." The protests were the culmination of a campaign marked by class boycotts and marches which began with the opening of schools in August.

### REAGAN, MARCOS HIT

The principal participants in the Manila and Baguio rallies were students protesting tuition hikes of 10 to 20%, the continued suppression of student activities and "insidious acts of school authorities in collusion with state officials."

Workers and teachers in government schools were strongly represented as well. Organizers claimed support for their campaign from Dagupan, Cebu and Davao City.

Six thousand marchers in Manila converged on the Liwasang Bonifacio from different directions for the rally. Students came from the University of the Philippines, Manuel L. Quezon University, the University of the East, Far Eastern University, Adamson University, and the

*Continued on page 4*

## Nat'l Group Against FM Visit Formed

More than 50 groups, political and civil rights leaders have endorsed the formation of the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit, the committee's interim coordinators Walden Bello and Rene Cruz announced recently.

In a statement released to the press, the committee denounced Marcos' U.S. visit, slated sometime in October, as "another step in the consolidations of a (U.S.) foreign policy that consistently tramples on the human and democratic rights of the people of the third world by supporting "friendly" dictatorships like the murderous junta in El Salvador."

The committee called on supporters to participate in the militant protests it is preparing "to give Marcos the welcome he deserves."

Among the political figures who have joined the committee are: Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general; Benigno Aquino, Rep. Harold Washington (D-IL), Rep. Walter Fauntroy (D-Washington, D.C.), Gus Newport, Berkeley mayor; Frances Moore Lappe, Institute for Food and Development Policies; Harvey Cox, Harvard Divinity School; and Diane Passmore, Network in Solidarity with Nicaragua.

Some of the groups joining the committee are: the Chicago American Friends Service Committee; Moslem Student Society (Iran), Church Committee for Human Rights in Asia, South Africa Organizing Committee, People's Anti-War Mobilization, and the National Anti-Imperialist Activist Network. Bello and Cruz

*Continued on page 5*



Some of the 6,000 demonstrating in Manila: part of the first nationally coordinated student protest since 1972. (N.Y. Times Photo)

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## EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

## The Misleaders Who Will Welcome FM

As Jose Napoleon Duarte, head of El Salvador's repressive junta spoke at a banquet in a San Francisco hotel in September, 4,000 demonstrators including Salvadoran refugees marched outside, shouting, chanting protests and briefly clashing with the police. At the banquet itself, however, Duarte was cheered by 500 "patriotic" Salvadorans—well-dressed "community leaders" who are used to "speaking for the Salvadoran community" from the comfort of their suburban homes and successful business enterprises. They organized the banquet for the strongman who, together with the chief of his national police, visited his patron, Ronald Reagan.

Duarte was obviously delighted by the reception given by the so-called representatives of the Salvadoran community as it supposedly proves his regime has the support of his countrymen. There is a parallel to be drawn here. Duarte's utilization of purported representatives of the Salvadoran community is a foretaste of what will happen when his fellow tyrant Ferdinand Marcos makes his visit to their common patron in October.

Marcos' visit will definitely be greeted by protests. U.S. citizens who oppose their government's support for fascist dictators will march wherever Marcos makes an appearance. They will be joined by Filipinos who have shed their fears and who will voice the sentiment against Marcos which is undoubtedly widespread in the community. His visit will be marked by the biggest protests yet against his rule. But like Duarte, Marcos also has a phalanx of cheerleaders to rely on. He has used them before on his visit to Honolulu, he will use them again.

Everyone knows who they are. They are the so-called leaders who never tire of speaking for the Filipino community whose problems in America they have never really concerned themselves with. They are the titled, travel-agency-owning, self-awarding, Sheraton-inducting, consul-courting elite of Filipinos who believe they have made it. They are the same people who throw cocktail parties for every minor Marcos official who comes around. They are also the same "leaders" who believe Filipinos should be a model minority and keep mum about discrimination.

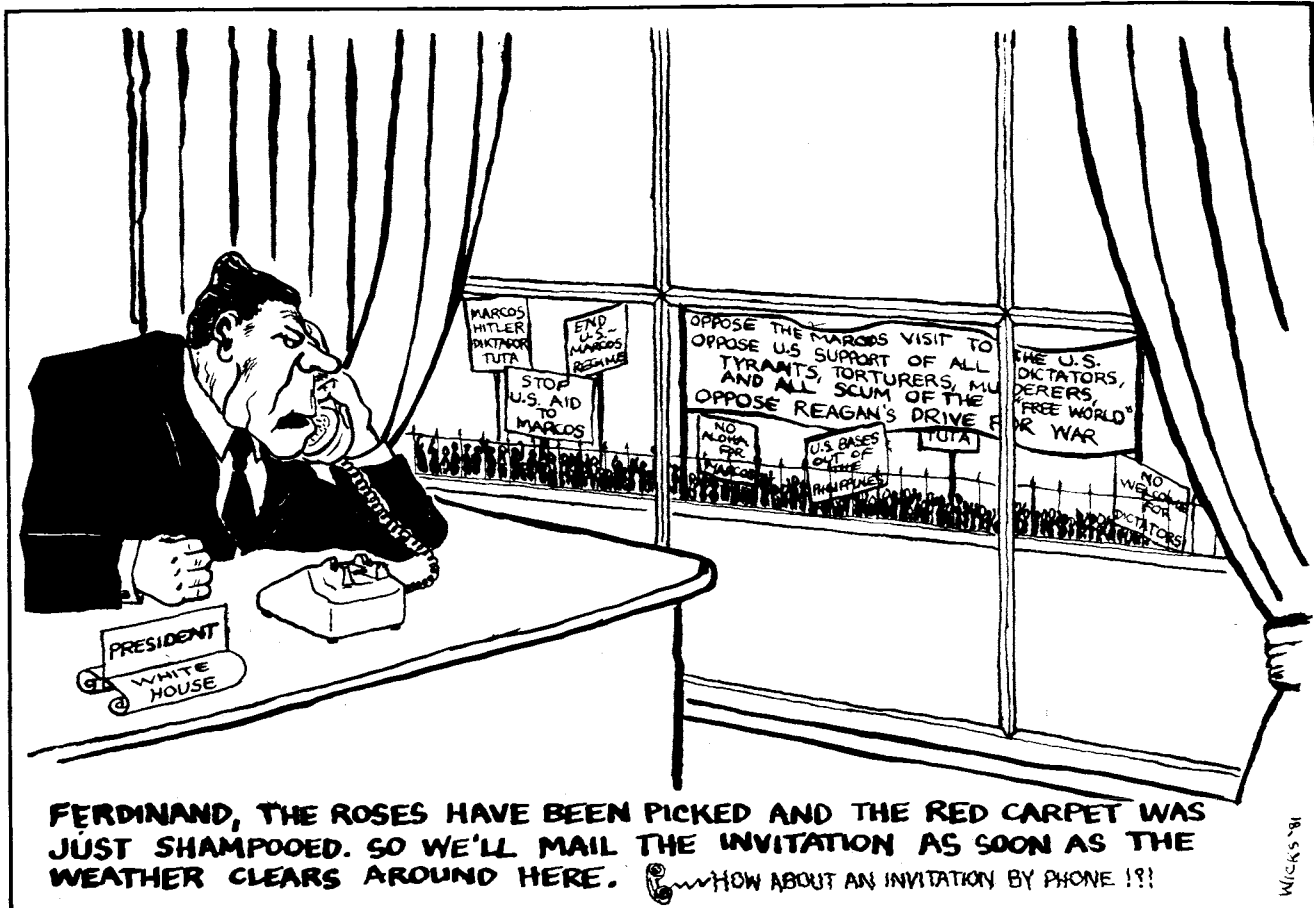
A group of 85 such "leaders" from Los Angeles has left for Manila to enjoy a tour organized by the consulate and the tourism ministry. Another group from San Francisco are accompanying Mayor Diane Feinstein to prepare for "sister city" celebrations here. We would not be surprised if part of the group's activities is to plan the receptions that will be given to Marcos in the name of the community. Marcos has an obvious interest in any such plans, even in financing them as he did in Honolulu. Aware of his unpopularity with the U.S. public, he can use such welcomes as proof that not only Vice President Bush "loves his adherence to democratic principles" but U.S. Filipinos as well.

The community must take no part in these forthcoming charades. The leaders gathered at the Filipino People's Far West Convention acted correctly in demarcating themselves from the misleaders by calling on the community "not to be used as Marcos' pawns" during his visit. Similar to the Duarte visit, there will be two camps drawn when Marcos comes: those who, decked in their fineries, will be applauding the dictator inside expensive hotel receptions; and those outside shaking their fists and speaking against him. The latter are the only ones who really deserve to be called Filipinos. □

## Guilty Verdict in Seattle: The Search for Justice Must Go On

We are extremely glad that the gunmen who killed two of our members, Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, have been found guilty by a Seattle court. We are not in the least sorry for Ben Guloy and Jimmy Ramil. As cold-blooded murderers, they deserve their punishment. But their conviction does not end the story behind the assassination of two highly respected trade union and community leaders. Guloy and Ramil are just the pus that covers a deeper rot.

In the course of their trial, the prosecution revealed that the gunmen were part of a larger conspiracy to kill Gene and Silme. The union reform movement that our activists were leading threatened gambling interests that involve interlocking circles of corrupt union officials, gambling operators, and gangsters—all of whom have long enriched themselves with the earnings of cannery workers in Alaska. Certainly, more people must have been involved in the plot to kill Gene and Silme, more than just Guloy and Ramil.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### How About God?

I am happy to get a copy of your newspaper from a friend because I think you are the only radical Filipino newspaper around. I may not subscribe to all your political views but I am glad somebody is willing to talk about things most Filipinos would rather just keep quiet about like politics, ideologies, discrimination. I think you should also write about religion and atheism and such. Good luck!

L. T.  
Jersey City, NJ

### Oh No, Not Nora!

Ronald Reagan reminds me of the actors-turned-politicians who zoomed into Philippine politics before another frustrated actor (remember his "war medals"?) took over the scene. At first the Rogelio de la Rosas and the Joseph Estradas were amusing, but as political leaders their antics became tiresome. I say you can fool people on screen but real life is something else. As an American citizen, I say that goest for Reagan too. By the way, there are rumors that Nora Aunor wants to run for the Batasang Pambansa. I say oh no, not another one!

Vel Canion  
Houston, TX

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Tony Dictado, reputed leader of the notorious Tulisan gang has been arrested as a suspected member of the conspiracy and still has to stand trial. Also, Tony Baruso, president of Local 37 has been implicated in the murders. The "interlocking circles" prosecutor Joanne Maida described are wide, and until all those who took part in the murder plot have been exposed, justice for Gene and Silme will not be complete.

But there are other nagging questions the search for justice has to address, questions that go beyond the role of gambling interests in the murders. There are other interests that have benefited from the murder of our two activists. Gene and Silme were on the verge of leading a major union organizing drive which cannery owners were certainly not happy about. In addition, a reformed Local 37 poses a threat to the cannery czars who are used to bargaining with a union made pliant by the corrupt officials who have traditionally led it.

Another quarter from which no tears for Gene and Silme can be expected is Malacanang. Both activists were militants who sought to mobilize the community and the union against the Marcos dictatorship. This stance was most vividly manifested when before their deaths, they swung the ILWU International convention to a sympathetic position towards the Filipino labor movement which is choking under the regime's repressive

policies. It is also common knowledge that the circles immediately threatened by their reforms are led by known pro-Marcos figures, Dictado being one of them. Baruso has also openly endorsed the regime and made known his frequent visits with Marcos himself.

No wonder the Seattle press has persistently raised the involvement of the cannery industry and the Marcos regime (both no strangers to underhanded tactics) as plausible angles in the murders. Have Marcos and the canneries been more than just passive beneficiaries in the deaths of Gene and Silme? This is the bigger question the search for justice must sufficiently answer.

Thus, while we extend our thanks to the people who courageously stepped forward with information and testimonies that led to the gunmen's conviction, we ask them and others to continue helping the Seattle community in bringing to light the full extent of the conspiracy behind these political murders. We also thank those whose time, money and energy helped counteract the climate of fear that gangster elements have actively fanned in their effort to make this case end up among the list of unsolved crimes they have committed in the community. But to these friends, we ask more and continued support, because as we close in on the circle of conspiracy, we may find larger and more powerful enemies lurking in the shadows. □



## PHILIPPINE NEWS

News Analysis

## What's Behind Slanders on Sison



Sison debates legal point with counsel Juan T. David; also present, Bernabe Buscayno (second from right). (Asiaweek)

By NANCY ROCAMORA  
Staff Writer

Is Jose Ma. Sison willing to collaborate with Ferdinand Marcos?

A Manila magazine called *We* certainly gave the impression that he is. The *We* article was later reprinted by the San Francisco-based *Philippine News* with a bold front page headline "Communist, Marcos Deal?" The *Philippine News* is close to the Movement for a Free Philippines, headed by ex-Sen. Raul Manglapus.

The *We* article based its allegation on a brief courtroom interview with Sison by Antonio Lopez of *Asiaweek*, a weekly Hong Kong magazine.

A close reading of Lopez' interview however, reveals that the *We* report of Sison's "willingness to cooperate" with Marcos has gone out of its way to take Sison's statements out of context. It also shows that the *Philippine News* was a bit overeager in implying that Sison is ready to collaborate with the dictator.

#### WILL THIS HAPPEN?

*Asiaweek* asked Sison, "Would you accept an amnesty from Marcos?" Sison answered, "Yes, under honorable conditions." This Sison defined as "a permanent release with no requirement to renounce (his) political beliefs." He added that he would never request amnesty.

"Would Sison join a coalition government of national unity?" asked *Asiaweek*.

Again the answer was "Yes"—but under even more stringent conditions. "If there is a respectable position for the National Democratic Movement, why not?" retorted Sison, as long as "prin-

ciples of national independence and democracy are upheld." Sison also posed a second difficult condition: the removal of U.S. bases from Philippine soil. If Marcos meets such conditions, he said, "there is no reason why we cannot be considered a worthy ally."

#### MARCOS HAS TO BECOME ANTI-U.S.

Such an arrangement would mean "a congregation of independent organizations," with the National Democratic movement "treated as one among equals." Under such an arrangement, the various organizations must be assured of the right to project their own views.

Essentially, Sison's conditions for joining Marcos would require the dictator to become a democrat and a nationalistic anti-imperialist who would reject U.S. presence in the Philippines. "But do you really think this will happen?" asked Sison, underscoring the impossibility of his demands.

#### NO ROOM FOR THE RIGHT

The context of Sison's statements clear, why would publications sympathetic to the elite opposition to Marcos bend such a straight-forward series of questions and answers into a suggestion of collaborationism? The answer is some elite opposition leaders identified with UNIDO are themselves facing growing criticisms for tendencies of "collaborationism with Marcos."

Earlier this year, Benigno Aquino issued a proposal to Marcos for "reconciliation." This proposal, criticized by some UNIDO members themselves, was treated light-

ly by elite opposition publications.

It is also no secret that leaders like Salvador Laurel considered, to the last minute, participating in the discredited presidential election. They were discouraged mainly by a left-initiated boycott movement which convinced elite oppositionists not to give legitimacy to the election.

The going observation is that Reagan's outright support for Marcos has left no room for his traditional rivals. The only avenue open to them is either Marcos or the national democratic left. There are persistent reports that some opposition leaders have not given up hopes that "critical collaboration" can be arranged with Marcos.

But the tremendous success of the recent boycott movement has generated a strong anti-collaborationist current which acts as a pressure against these "hopefuls." Any opportunity to throw the charge of collaborationism back at the left is thus jumped upon gladly. More, if the national democrats can be portrayed as being open to collaboration themselves, it would legitimize the collaborationists' search for "dialogue" with Marcos.

#### THE REAL NEWS

Meanwhile, throughout the Sison episode, the more newsworthy developments have been downplayed. Sison made his rare public appearance at one of the controversial hearings on the Karagatan/Andrea case. Also present were Sison's wife, Juliet, Bernabe Buscayno and others accused in the case. The hearings themselves are not parts of a trial. The trial *per se* has been halted by a Supreme Court restraining order. Having suddenly resumed in July, after the presidential election, these hearings are considered part of a renewed crackdown against the national democratic movement.

#### RIDDLED WITH IRREGULARITIES

The military-led proceedings are labeled "perpetuation of testimony," the idea being to record the testimony of witnesses "lest anything happen to them." They are riddled with irregularities.

One government witness, originally among the accused but granted amnesty, told the court he did not know he had been granted amnesty until told so in court.

Members of the military panel hearing the case cannot cite pertinent laws because they have not yet been published.

One witness based his testimony about the CPP transporting arms from "Red China" on a flag he saw in the "foreign country" to which he sailed. But the flag he describes is that of the Soviet Union.

In spite of the irregularities, objections by the defense are consistently overruled.

In its effort to wipe out the Left, the Marcos government is building a case which would be laughable if only it did not threaten the lives of Jose Ma. Sison, Juliet Sison, Bernabe Buscayno and 91 others. □

## Buod ng mga Balita

By EMIL DE GUZMAN

## 100 NPA Said to Have Taken Over Southern Village



An NPA member at rest.

Alihani

Reports trickling out of the south claim that a hundred New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas took over a Southern Mindanao village and held over 60 residents for six hours.

Local officials in Langam Bagong Bayan in Sultan Kudarat province reportedly negotiated after six hours for the release of 58. The attack in a company-sized formation reflects the growing ranks of the NPA and a new stage in their still essentially defensive strategy. The incident is part of the NPA's campaign to acquire more firearms and ammunition in its drive against the government armed forces.

The attack appears to be a first for the NPA in the province of Sultan Kudarat which has traditionally been Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) territory. This suggests a higher level of NPA-MNLF cooperation and has prompted Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to talk of a link-up between the two.

There is no confirmation from either NPA or MNLF sources. □

## Anti-FM Politician a Turncoat?

Belated reports reveal that the first serious split in the elite opposition to the Marcos regime flared up last month in southern Philippines.

Governor Homobono Adaza, chairman of the Mindanao Alliance, was denounced in a secret meeting for collaborating with President Marcos. Leveling the charges, Assemblyman Reuben Canoy said that Adaza was rewarded an all-expense-paid trip to the U.S. to handle a mission for Marcos.

The Alliance, based in the conflict-ridden South, gained national recognition for defeating Marcos candidates in the 1980 local elections. Most are young and popular, promising leaders in the region.

Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Aquilino Pimentel responded to Canoy's accusation by stating that if the charges were true, he would disassociate himself from Governor Adaza.

Pimentel also criticized the elite opposition for its lack of energy. He demanded that members take vigorous action in establishing a national political machine in the wake of the June elections.

The Cagayan mayor recently made news in the U.S. when he stunned World Bank officials by arguing against a Marcos-endorsed bank project. While in Washington, D.C. on a Philippine mayors' tour, he engaged in a shouting match with bank officials to release Cagayan de Oro from any obligation to finance a \$60 million costly slum-dwellers housing.

Pimentel promised to discuss Canoy's charges with Adaza on the latter's U.S. trip. The outcome of the discussions is not yet known. □

## Filipino Businessmen Are Gripping

Jaime Ongpin, president of Benguet Mining Corporation, received a spontaneous standing ovation when he entered a Philippine Manufacturers Association meeting in Manila last month.

Ongpin has been a highly popular figure in the business world ever since he wrote a letter to the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, criticizing the Marcos government for pumping millions of dollars into the Marcos government for companies owned by President Marcos' friends. In addition, he criticized the inadequate controls that government agencies will have on these companies.

High officials of the president's cabinet contend that these companies needed help because their debts were threatening the entire financial system.

Mr. Ongpin and other critics reflect the growing disenchantment among Filipino businessmen over how Marcos governs. What they want is an end to cronyism.

Their resentment over public money going to the president's friends, comes at a time when most businessmen face problems of high oil prices and tight money arising from high interest rates. □

## Supposedly Ended by ML Lifting ONE-MAN DECREES KEEP COMING

By NANCY ROCAMORA  
Staff Writer

Issuing one-man decrees is a ~~task~~ Ferdinand Marcos has found difficult to break.

With the lifting of martial law and "normalization," the Philippine President supposedly forfeited the power to legislate by decree. Legislation formally became the province of the *Batasnan Pambansa* (National Assembly).

In addition, a 1976 constitutional amendment, supposedly enables the President to issue decrees only whenever "in his opinion" there is an emergency "or threat or imminence thereof."

However, a series of important decrees dated January 16, the day before the lifting of martial law, have been appearing recently in Philippine ministries. Then on September 20, Marcos exer-

Continued on page 4

## Leprosarium Suffers Neglect

# TENSION BUILDS IN TALA

Adapted from NASSA News

When Pope John Paul II agreed to a pastoral visit to the Philippines in February, a stop at the Central Luzon Leprosarium was scheduled.

Tala Leprosarium, as it is commonly called, was abuzz upon orders of health officers to spruce up the place. The 10-hectare institute in Calocan was transformed overnight into a clean and beautiful Hansenite community.

But the whitewash hastily splashed on the administrative buildings, hospital, cottages, tree trunks, and even on the stones lining the roads did not go over well with Tala's own occupants. The officials' efforts to impress the Pope only fanned the seething discontent of the patients. The patients immediately made plans to use the pontiff's visit to Tala as a chance to air out their grievances beyond the leprosarium's walls.

Government authorities however, got wind of the brewing protest and scrapped the visit a few days before the Pope arrived in Manila. Their reason: "national security." This is the story behind the sudden change in the pontiff's itinerary. But the story also provokes the question "What is going on at Tala Leprosarium? What is happening to the thousands of

people in it who society hardly talks about?

Fear of contamination and loathing for the disfigurement that accompanies the advanced stages of leprosy have long ago forced the social segregation of Hansenites. Leprosariums have become sanctuaries for many ostracized sufferers—a place where they can escape an ignorant public's prejudices. These facilities however were meant to provide opportunities for patients to lead productive lives while they can, under medical supervision, recover from their now thoroughly curable disease.

But curing a disease, even one responsive to modern drugs, and creating an environment in which people can build meaningful lives means placing human needs at the top of a government's priority list. It means allocating sufficient money and accumulating the necessary resources. From what has happened at Tala, its occupants have the right to be bitter not only at the leprosarium's administrators but at the government itself.

### NEAR STARVATION

Most of the leprosarium's 2,500 patients have complained of near starvation. Under hospital procedures, bed patients are served food daily while outpatients are

given raw rations which they cook. Food is not only inadequate but food rations are often abruptly terminated. In one instance, food for 150 patients was cancelled without notice. Food provisions are often hours late. The week of the papal visit, patients did not get rice at all.

With a meager ₱5.60 daily food allowances, outpatients are oftentimes given just one can of



sardines to stretch for two days. Spoiled food is not uncommon.

### NO MEDICINE

Poor medical services and lack of medicine also aggravate the patients' conditions. Although Tala has 11 doctors and 56 nurses, a much higher doctor-patient ratio than the rest of the country, medi-

cal facilities are sorely inadequate.

Patients lament that doctors give prescriptions which cannot be procured from the hospital's pharmacy. Drugs are constantly in short supply and are often missing from the pharmacy counters.

### ONLY SERIOUS CONDITIONS

Tala Hospital also has a peculiar

are harassed.

### PATIENTS ORGANIZE

In response to deteriorating medical and social services, Tala patients began organizing to protest. Petitions, position papers and rosary sessions were used to voice their demands. Legal suits were filed against certain hospital officials. Yet the administration took no action to alleviate the situation.

## More Heat Put On Clergy

Yet another Maryknoll priest has been expelled from the Philippines on charges of subversion.

Fr. Ralph Kroes, returning to Davao after a three-month leave of absence, was denied re-entry at the Manila International Airport the morning of August 30. He was held under guard at the airport and placed aboard a return flight to the U.S. that afternoon.

The Philippine government charged that Fr. Kroes was "politically dangerous." Fr. Kroes was

the diocesan representative and spokesperson for a government-church committee investigating military abuses in Davao.

Responding to the government's charge, Fr. Kroes stated that his involvement with the committee was from a religious standpoint. He added that standing up against the military atrocities he had witnessed is a right he chose to exercise.

Three other Maryknoll priests have been deported from the Philippines and a fourth denied

re-entry since martial law was declared.

A Maryknoll statement released in June this year after Fr. Edward Shellito's deportation decried government charges of "subversion" and subsequent actions against the priest as "ridiculous on its face."

Fr. James Noonan, head of Maryknoll criticized the Philippine government for its treatment of the religious. "Unless they [Marcos officials] can prove otherwise, it is just a case of harassment of religious leaders." □

## One-Man Decrees . . .

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cised his "emergency powers" to issue a decree granting amnesty to tax evaders.

### THE LONGEST DAY

Decrees dated January 16 actually began popping up as early as February. With this latest spate of January decrees, observers of the regime are exchanging knowing glances: it is "the longest day" routine once again.

The reference is to an earlier "myterious episode." In 1978, when the Batasan Pambansa — at that time described as an "interim" body—was elected, Marcos claimed that all legislative functions had passed to the IBP.

The IBP took office on June 12 and for months decrees dated June 11 continued to appear. Local cynics dubbed June 11 "the longest day." Finally Marcos dropped all pretense and began dating decrees after June 12.

### MORE TO COME?

The decrees dated January 16

which have appeared in the past month significantly broaden the already vast powers of the President. One series grants him sweeping powers to amend government contracts and franchises. A second bars Philippine courts from restraining government projects in key areas.

These include infrastructure projects, mines, fishery and forestry projects. The controversial Bataan nuclear power plant is thus protected from all interference.

Observers note that the latest decrees are numbered up to 1,820. Those previously issued are numbered up to 1,770's and 1,780's, suggesting that there are still a significant number of as yet unpublished "January 16" decrees.

### EMERGENCY?

Embarrassment at the cynical response to the "January 16" decrees may have prompted the President to use his "emergency powers" for the tax legislation on September 20.

The decree is part of a campaign to collect back taxes cheaply. In exchange for 20% of what is owed, the government agrees to drop pending investigation of a tax evader.

A presidential spokesman described the decree as "necessary legislation" and pointed out that the Batasan is in recess until November. Observers questioned whether the situation is appropriately labeled an "emergency."

During the April plebiscite drive to amend the constitution, government supporters pledged, "President Marcos has said that he won't use his emergency powers without first giving the Batasan a chance to meet the crisis and without first getting the consent of the Batasan and the party in power."

Opposition members of the Batasan claim that Marcos' party, the *Kilusang Bagong Lipunan*, has never raised before the body as a whole the question of Marcos using his emergency powers. □

ward admission policy. Only patients in "serious condition" can be confined. A patient, Mang Kiko, related his harrowing experience.

"One day I went to the hospital because of a severe stomach ache. I was already doubled up in pain but the nurse said I cannot be confined because I had no fever. If my appendicitis had not burst, I would not have been examined by a doctor and confined in the ward."

Other conditions deplored by Tala patients include unpotable drinking water during the rainy season, weak sources of electricity, and low wages given to working patients in the leprosarium.

Patients also complain that those who dare speak their grievances

The residents' protests reached a climax shortly after the Pope's cancelled visit. On March 1, Tala patients marched after a mass to dramatize their plight.

Radio Veritas, a religious station, gave coverage of the mass and march. Protestors went to other radio stations and wrote newspapers of their suffering.

### VOW TO CONTINUE FIGHT

Tala residents are determined to continue their fight for a better leprosarium. One patient, Lando, pledged: "We will march to the Ministry of Health. And if need be, we will march to Malacanang."

Enteng, another patient, added: "Our skin may be in a sorry state, but we still have our dignity and we will fight to keep it." □

## Protest . . .

Continued from page 1

Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Speakers scored Reagan's support for the Marcos dictatorship and the regime's continuing violation of human rights. They also called for Marcos' resignation.

### KALAW DENOUNCES IMF-WORLD BANK

In addition to student leaders, former Senators Salvador Laurel and Eva Estrada Kalaw addressed the Manila group. Kalaw charged the government with mortgaging future generations of Filipinos and placing the economy under the control of the IMF and World Bank through constant foreign borrowing.

She also denounced the latest round of tax increases which, she said, benefit the military while education is neglected. "Let us not kill our youth with guns bought with our own money," she exhorted the cheering crowd.

Some U.S. television networks and at least one news wire service reported that violence broke out at the Manila protest when police charged the demonstrators. Four were badly beaten and one arrested. The protestors reportedly fought back with bottles and stones.

Ten thousand student protes-

tors in Baguio demanded a freeze in a 15% tuition hike. The demonstration occurred as student representatives met with school administrators and representatives of the Ministry of Education.

School officials decided to implement the hike in spite of the demonstration.

### 600 TEACHERS WALK OUT

Prior to September 18 student boycotts and rallies and walk-outs by teachers demanding higher salaries occurred in Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, and Iloilo.

A teachers' walkout which began in Bacolod in August spread to 13 public high schools in Negros Occidental involving 600 teachers. Thirty thousand parents gave their support for the teachers and kept their children home from school.

The regime's new labor law, signed in late August, makes such strikes by government employees illegal.

### NEW LEFT PROMINENCE

The nationwide coordination of the protests and the participation of diverse sectors typify the new high level of organization and prominence of the national democratic left. Such coordination was first exhibited in the election boycott campaign which drew hundreds of thousands across the country. □

# FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

Rejected in Chicago

## Boys' Club Snubs Imelda



**HOW DARE THOSE  
LITTLE !\*★!!!!  
HUMILIATE ME  
LIKE THIS !!!**

Special to the AK

Hardly recovering from the royal snub she received from Prince Charles and Lady Diana's "Wedding of the Century," Imelda Marcos got another rejection.

Mrs. Marcos was slated to receive the prestigious Chicago Boys' Club equivalent of "Man

of the Year" award, when various groups and individuals registered their strong protests, forcing the club to withdraw its plans.

Chosen as the club's guest of honor at their December 3 annual fundraising bash, Imelda would have been the first woman bestowed with such an award.

"Instead," quipped Chicago

CAMD's Eddie Escultura, "she gained the distinction of being rejected!"

Chicago Tribune society columnist Aaron Gold got wind of the Boys Club's plans and announced the news in his "Tower Ticker" column in the September 8 issue of the Chicago daily.

"The phone has not stopped ringing since that article appeared," admitted Fred Lickerman, executive director of Chicago Boys Club.

"Mr. Gold jumped the gun," alleged Lickerman. He claimed Mrs. Marcos was only one of many considered for the award. The embarrassed club quickly made known the withdrawal of her name after the bombardment of phone calls.

A week later, Aaron Gold's column announced: "Cancel your plans to attend the December 3 Chicago Boys Club annual fundraiser if you're only planning to catch a glimpse of Imelda Marcos." A committee within the club is now scouting around for a new honoree.

The organizations that called Lickerman included the American Friends Service Committee, Chicago Peace Council, People's Anti-War Mobilization, Peace Justice Center, People's Resource Center. A total of 20 individuals called in their protests. They included: Tom Payton, a Maryknoll priest; John Zerolis, Dorothy McIntyre, Marsha Rotenberg, and anti-Marcos activists in Chicago.

But the First Lady never admits defeat. She will still be in Chicago on December 3, to party with Bonnie Swearingen, wife of the president of Standard Oil, Indiana. □



Feinstein and entourage meet the press at the San Francisco airport before going on her Asian tour. S.F. Chronicle

'No Politics,' Feinstein Claims

## S.F. Mayor to Visit FM

SAN FRANCISCO—Insisting her visit will skirt the issue of politics, Mayor Diane Feinstein embarked on a four-nation, 20-day trade mission in Asia September 21, with Malacanang Palace as one of her scheduled stops.

Prior to her departure however, Feinstein declined to meet with a joint Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN)-Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD) delegation, who wanted to brief the mayor on the "grave political and economic situation under the Marcos regime."

"More than likely," stated PSN spokesperson Hillary Crosby, "Marcos will exploit the mayor's visit by claiming her trip to the Philippines is a tacit approval of his dictatorship."

Feinstein's delegation will meet with businessmen and legislators in Japan, China, the Philippines and Hong Kong—countries all of which have formal "sister city" relationships with San Francisco. There is speculation that Feinstein might invite Marcos to stop in this city during his coming visit to the U.S.

The purpose of the trip is to make friends, the mayor said. "This is a people-to-people mission and it is a city enterprise to promote San Francisco as a gateway city and port."

San Francisco residents opposed

to the Marcos regime remained skeptical. "It's hard to believe Mayor Feinstein's trip to the Philippines is not political," remarked CAMD's Wilma Cadorna, "especially when reports indicated Marcos himself and Imelda will personally greet her at the airport."

In attempting to set up a meeting with Feinstein prior to her departure, Cardona felt the mayor should "take the opportunity to get the entire picture of the Philippines." Cardona emphasized that Filipinos are one of the largest minority groups in San Francisco with the majority opposed to the Marcos dictatorship.

In her letter to Feinstein, Cadorna suggested the mayor should visit not just tourist spots, but that she should also "visit prisons where many political prisoners are detained, or go to Tondo—the biggest slum area in the whole world."

"As mayor of San Francisco," Cadorna stated, "Feinstein should develop more sensitivity with the plight of the Filipino people, whose human rights are notoriously violated. When she comes back, it would be naive of the mayor to say everything Marcos wants her to say, without the Filipino community expressing their indignance." □

## Committee Against FM Visit ...

Continued from page 1

of the Philippine Solidarity Network and the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship said that more people and groups are joining "in response to Reagan's right-wing" policies.

### MARTIAL LAW ANNIVERSARY PROTESTED

Meanwhile, anti-dictatorship groups here and in Canada marked the ninth anniversary of the declaration of martial law in the Philippines September 22, with spirited demonstrations.

"Everybody knows it is still a dictatorship, one that was installed on that day nine years ago," a picketer in New York said.

The demonstrations targeted Philippine diplomatic offices in San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, New York City, and Washington, D.C. in the U.S., and Toronto and Vancouver in Canada.

The demonstrations were jointly organized by the CAMD and the PSN.

The protests were part of an ongoing PSN-CAMD campaign to mobilize opposition to Marcos' forthcoming visit to the U.S.

"The PSN-CAMD campaign against the Marcos visit must be

seen within a broad anti-interventionist framework," PSN National Coordinator Elaine Elinson said. "We cannot understand recent developments in U.S.-Philippine relations outside the context of the reactionary foreign policy of the Reagan administration as a whole."

Following this framework, the September 22 pickets and other recent CAMD-PSN activities have attacked Reagan's support not only for the Marcos dictatorship, but also for the Duarte government in El Salvador, the Botha regime in South Africa and the Chun government in South Korea.

In Washington, D.C., September 22, the PSN-CAMD joined forces with the CASA El Salvador to denounce both the Duarte and Marcos visits. Shouting "Marcos, Duarte You Can't Hide, We Charge You with Genocide," more than 200 demonstrators gathered at Farragut Square Park to listen to speeches and cultural presentations at a noon time rally.

Two other demonstrations against Duarte, one at the Senate Office Building in the morning and in front of the White House were held in the afternoon.

In Seattle, TV and press gave ample coverage to a demonstra-

tion by 120 people at the Philippine Consulate. Speculation linking the murders of two anti-Marcos union officials here to the Marcos regime has remained persistent.

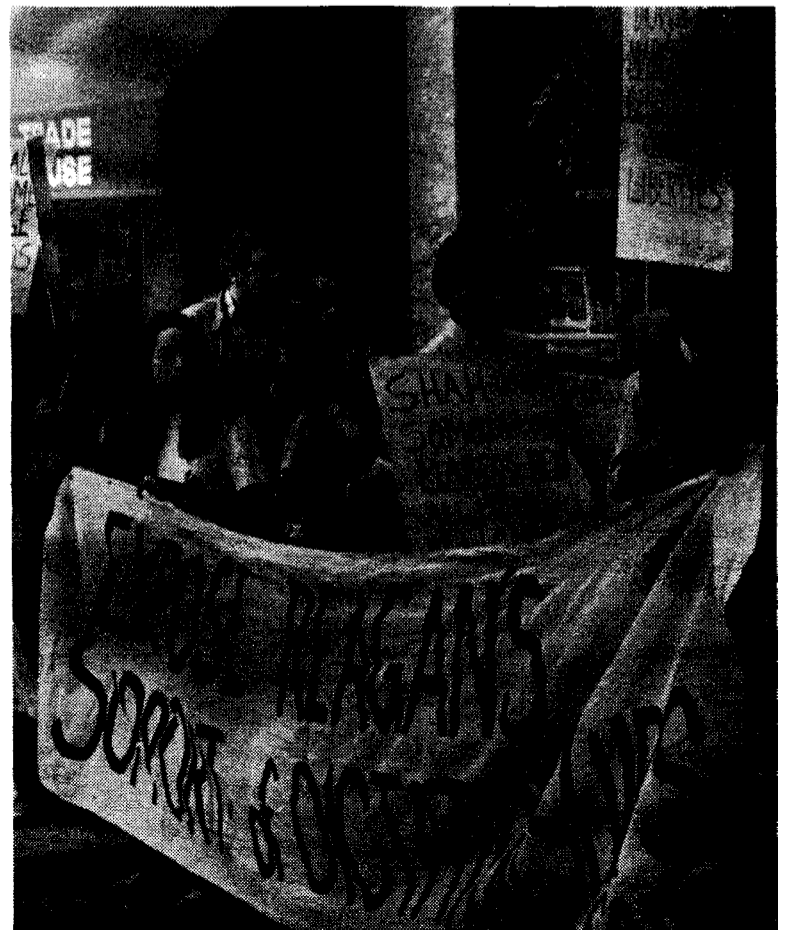
### TEACH-INS

The September 22 pickets were followed by teach-ins featuring speakers, slide shows, and cultural denouncing Reagan's "open embrace" of the Marcos dictatorship.

A slide show, "Mr. Marcos Goes to Washington," was a surprise hit in the teach-ins that took place nationwide the weekend of September 26. Complete with background music from the "Empire Strikes Back," the slides explained the implications of U.S. foreign policy.

In Chicago, noted civil rights activist Dr. Quentin Young joined Rep. Harold Washington, KDP's Eddie Escultura, Rev. Leo Constantino and Councilor Danny Davis at a teach-in panel.

Florence McDonald of the Berkeley City Council joined a representative from the El Salvador support group, PSN's Hillary Crosby, and Larry Johnson, journalist tortured in Columbia, at a teach-in in San Francisco. San Francisco. □



Reagan's role in supporting dictatorships attacked by demonstrators in front of the San Francisco Philippine Consulate office. AK Photo/V. Reyes



# 'Ti Mangyuna' Gets Ovations from ILWU

By DEAN ALEGADO

Hawaii Correspondent

HONOLULU—The theater production entitled *Ti Mangyuna* (Those Who Led the Way), premiered to standing ovations last September 20, at the Ilikai Hotel.

The play, based on the real story of the origins of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union in Hawaii, was hailed a fitting and powerful opening for the 15th biennial State Convention of ILWU Local 142. The convention's theme is "Building the Future on the Old Foundations."

"If the enthusiastic response from the 700-strong audience is any indication, the play's tour is certain to be a success!" said Helen Toribio, KDP member active in doing publicity for the play.

"The play was terrific," commented Haruo "Dyna" Nakamoto, Kauai Division Director of ILWU. "It really brought back a lot of memories. It is a great educational program for our members, especially for the younger



Scene from *Ti Mangyuna*.

guy and new immigrants."

Nakamoto also works in the Kauai Sponsor's Committee for the play's tour. Similar sponsoring committees headed by the ILWU were formed on each island to provide the touring Sining Bayan Performance Company with

lodging, publicity, and ticket distribution assistance.

## UNION INSPIRED, TRIBUTE TO FILIPINOS IN HAWAII

Local 142 is the largest local of the ILWU, consisting of 25,000

members. A number of ILWU veteran leaders are slated to retire following the convention, including Carl Damaso, president of the local for the past 17 years.

Several of the ILWU oldtimers were visibly moved by the performance. Nostalgic scenes of

labor battles recreated on stage brought tears to many.

Amidst repeated ovations, the performers were given leis at curtain call.

Ermena Vinluan, artistic director of Sining Bayan, and KDP member, said that *Ti Mangyuna* is especially meaningful because the state of Hawaii is observing the 75th anniversary of Filipino immigration to Hawaii this year 1981.

"Those 75 years have been a history of labor and it continues until today," said Vinluan.

"We found doing this play especially significant because many in our company are children of plantation workers," she added.

*Ti Mangyuna* will be shown for the Filipino community of Honolulu on October 3, at Farrington High School Auditorium. After October 3, the play will begin its five island tour with performances in Honokaa (October 10), Nalehu (October 11), and Hilo (October) on the island of Hawaii. □

Star-Bulletin/John Titchen

## Guilty In Seattle . . .

Continued from page 1

of Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo."

Maida fingered Ramil and Guloy as Tulisan "soldiers" who carried out the execution-style slayings.

### CONSPIRACY ANGLE UPHELD

Maida told the jury of six men and six women the murders "were not random killings, occurring in the heat of the moment."

These murders go beyond Ramil and Guloy," Maida declared. "They never would have acted alone. They acted on the orders of others."

The murder victims were taken by surprise, she said. "Viernes and Domingo were set up by people they knew, people they were familiar with. There was no cause for alarm when these two people walked into the office. And that is precisely why they were taken by surprise by the gunfire. The killings happened so quickly—so rapidly."

Maida indicated Viernes was hit first—shot in the back with two .45-calibre bullets as he dove to the floor when he saw one of the men pull a gun. Domingo then was shot in the side three times as he sat in his chair, she said.

"It was a fast, clean job," Maida stressed to the jurors. "The killers knew Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes. But it was nothing personal—it was strictly business."

The state based its case on three important testimonies:

\*Jaime Malabo, an 18-year old high school student who identified Ramil and Guloy near the scene of the crime moments after the shooting;

\*Frank Urpman, a Fire Department paramedic who aided Domingo right after the shooting and testified that Domingo told him three times Ramil and Guloy were the assailants; and

\*Silme Domingo's dying declaration naming Ramil and Guloy

as the gunmen.

Maida upheld Malabo's and Urpman's credibility by stating they had no interest in lying. "The facts are so clear," she said, "and only one so honest can be so consistent."

However it was Domingo's dying declaration that became the centerpiece of the prosecution's case.

As the defense insisted Domingo mis-identified his assailants, Maida stressed that the jurors "must reject what Silme Domingo said, or accept it."

"It is upon his strength, his honesty and his integrity that this case is built," she continued.

"It is on the truth that spilled out of the mouth of Silme Domingo that the state rests its case."

### DEFENSE DISPUTES CONSPIRACY ANGLE

Defense attorneys Anthony Meyers and James Grubb, in their closing statements, contended the prosecution failed to prove any conspiracy was involved in the murders, and was "scapegoating the Tulisan because she couldn't prove anything."

Meyers and Grubb built their defense mainly on 17 alibi witnesses called to the stand who placed Guloy and Ramil at a gambling house at the time of the shooting.

"It would take an absolute act of magic to corrupt that many people," Grubb told the jury. "If you believe just one alibi witness—just one—there's only one verdict. You march into that jury room and march out with a not guilty verdict."

During the trial however, Maida attacked the alibi witnesses' credibility. Several were friends of the defendants; one was identified by a witness as Ramil's relative and another admitted she borrowed money from Tulisan members at times.

The defense's first alibi witness was Fortunato (Tony) Dic-

tado, 28, who testified he was with Ramil and Guloy at a gambling house at the time of the shooting. Dictado, said to be the Tulisan leader, was later arrested and is being held on charges of two counts of aggravated murder for the same case. Along with Dictado, local 37 president Constantine Baruso has been implicated in the murders.

### STAR DEFENSE WITNESS 'PHONY'

During the final days of the trial, defense attorneys produced a last-minute witness, Le Wayne Forsythe, 58, who claimed he



Justice Committee's Elaine Ko.

talked to Domingo outside the union hall after the shooting.

Forsythe testified he asked Domingo if he knew who his assailants were, and Domingo allegedly responded: "I don't know who shot me, but I know who had them do it."

Maida told the jury she doubted whether Forsythe was even at the crime scene, and said his testimony was in such conflict with that of other witnesses that "he might have come from outer space."

"Mr. Forsythe is a martian," Maida said, calling Forsythe a "chronic publicity-seeker and a phony who has popped up elsewhere before in other trials."

Maida disclosed that Forsythe once swore under oath that he was the agent who delivered the late

billionnaire Howard Hughes's so-called Mormon will to Melvin Dummar, a service station operator in Utah.

That incident and the "Hughes will" were later declared a hoax perpetrated by Dummar. The movie "Melvin and Howard" was based on these incidents.

During their closing statements, the defense also implied that the KDP, to which both victims belonged, was a communist group. Maida responded emphatically, describing Viernes' and Domingo's organizing activities as efforts to improve the conditions of their fellow workers. She said the defense was merely trying to take advantage of any prejudices jury members might have about communism.

"You're going to have to make some difficult decisions about witness credibility and guilt or innocence," Maida told the jury in closing. "But in this courtroom, the defendants' cloak of innocence has long since fallen off."

Fourteen and a half hours later, the jury announced the guilty verdict.

### SEARCH FOR JUSTICE CONTINUES

Supporters of the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes were exuberant about the verdict.

Over 175 people gathered at the September 25 community meeting to share in the victory.

Ade Domingo opened the meeting by thanking the hundreds who have "dedicated their time and unrelenting efforts during the trial."

"It was only your strength and commitment," she said, "that kept me going through my moments of despair. The unity and momentum we have built together give me the confidence that Silme and Gene's work will continue. I know now they did not die in vain."

Elaine Ko, committee co-chairperson stressed that "while this is indeed a victory, this is just a first step down the long road to full justice."

"Our aim for the next period must be the continuation of the

search for justice," she stated.

"Throughout the trial, the prosecution has proven the murders were a result of a conspiracy involving more than those who were convicted.

"We have only touched the tip of an iceberg, and we must continue our efforts until all those behind these crimes have been brought to justice."

The committee will focus on three major developments which are related to the murders:

\*The trial of Dictado, set for October 26;

\*possible grand jury indictments on interstate gambling and racketeering involving Baruso and others and

\*possible perjury charges against LeWayne Forsythe.

"The next period will begin to hit at the intermediate level of the murder conspiracy. It will therefore be more complex," Ko said.

### BARUSO TAKES FIFTH—AGAIN

Meanwhile, newspaper reports revealed that local 37 union president Baruso was subpoenaed before a federal grand jury last September 23, but was excused after the U.S. Attorney was told Baruso would take the fifth amendment.

Terri Mast, local 37 executive boardmember, commented that "Tony Baruso has continued to hide behind the fifth amendment. His ability to function as president of our union becomes more questionable as each day passes. As a result of this, the Executive Board, in its September 9th meeting, took a 'no confidence' vote against Baruso."

Meanwhile, the union trial of Baruso and Abe Cruz on charges of election fraud will take place on October 3. Both are accused of faking a local election for positions in the ILWU's international leadership.

In addition, the recall petition initiated by the Rank and File Committee of local 37 has already gathered the 100 signatures necessary to put the recall proceedings against Baruso into motion. □

## DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Interview with Writer Tortured in Colombia

## 17 Days in Hell Courtesy of His Own Gov't

Larry Johnson, a freelance journalist whose articles have appeared in such publications as *Mother Jones*, *Inquiry* and the *S.F. Examiner* was recently spotlighted in the news when he was arrested while on assignment in Colombia. He was charged with aiding the guerilla movement and tortured by the Colombian military. Public outcry from the U.S. and a massive telegram campaign to the Colombian government demanded his release. After 17 days, Johnson was finally granted his freedom.

Johnson had done similar assignments in the Philippines and Chile reporting on the socio-economic problems and the resistance movements there. In the Philippines, he met with the NPA and his stories appeared in the U.S. in 1979. The following is an interview with Johnson shortly after his return from Colombia:

**What did you find in Colombia?**

I'd been hearing for a year before I went down that in the Southern provinces there was warfare on almost a daily basis and that throughout the

### My torturers told me, "Look, the Reagan Administration doesn't care about human rights!"

country the guerilla movement was getting very powerful. The economic conditions were very bad. I heard this from human rights organizations and groups in solidarity with Colombia but I couldn't read anything about it in the newspapers. So I went down to find out for myself. I found economic conditions for 85% of the people are very bad with 25% unemployment and the majority of the people suffering from malnutrition. In fact, a United Nations study compared Colombia's malnutrition rate to Bangladesh. It was really shocking because I didn't think of Colombia that way. I thought of it producing coffee, a nice country. I think the image people have of Colombia is that it is a democratic country, but the reality is completely different. Something like 25 families rule the country, three of those financial groups are U.S.-based—Rockefeller, Morgan and First National City Bank.

**How far along were you in your investigation? Who did you talk to?**

When I was arrested I'd completed everything. I'd spent three months talking with all the legal opposition and the four largest and most powerful guerilla movements.

**What was the exact date of your arrest and why did they say you were being arrested?**

It was August 6. In fact, I was at the airport getting ready to leave the country. Two men came up, took me by the arm and brought me into an office. They stopped the plane, removed my luggage and sent the plane on its way. They claimed they were looking for drugs but when they searched my luggage they only went through things that looked photographic.

I'd only taken photographs of members of a guerilla unit the day before and this was at the insistence of the guerilla unit itself. I'd been trying to get photos all the time. At first they would not allow it but I finally talked one group into doing it—the Popular Liberation Army.

**What happened then?**

The DAS, the FBI of Colombia, took me to their headquarters in Bogota.

They still hadn't found the photos because I had them plus a detailed interview with the Central Committee in my coat pocket. At the station, they said, "empty your pockets" that's when they got the photos. Then they said, "You're going to prison—you're obviously in league with the guerillas" and put me in jail.

The next afternoon they came in and said, "you're not our problem—you're a political problem. We're transferring you over to the military." Under Colombia, it's like a 'state of seige', the military handles all suspected subversives. They took me to the Military Institute Brigade, (BIM), which is notorious for torture. Just about anyone who goes up there is tortured. I was surprised I was being taken there. I kept saying, "I'm a journalist, a U.S. citizen"—they weren't too concerned.

They started interrogation procedures that lasted three days. They would ask me over and over where I had been and what I had been doing. For 72 hours they didn't let me sleep or have any food. They gave me coffee to keep me awake.

They found articles I did on the Philippines and Chile and said, "It's obvious to us that you're using a shield as a journalist to make contact with guerilla movements. You're probably delivering money to them. We think you're an international liaison for subversive groups—international terrorism. If you don't tell us by this hour we're going to kill you. No one knows you're here." They were very confident about that especially toward the end of those three days because no one had made any inquiries about me.

Each night they would stop the interrogation and then these guys would come in with their UZI machine guns from Israel and say, "We are going to take you up in the mountains and kill you now."

**So they repeatedly threatened you?**

Everyday, at least once. After the third day, they took me outside and had me stand all night. Next morning they took me down to the stables. This particular unit is the cavalry and use horses. The old stables had bars over the window and doors. They were the jails—actually, torture chambers. They took me down there and put a mask over my head and at that point they started to torture me. It was the same interrogators, I could recognize their voices. I'd seen their faces before, but now they were wearing black masks. For about 2 days they would come in 4 or 5 at a time and beat me, slam me against the wall and hold me while others beat me.

They concentrated on hitting me on

the chest and the side, and kidneys and back and they didn't go beyond that so I was thinking, they were worried about leaving marks.

They didn't ask me anything except "Give us names, we don't think the PLA is the only one."

But at this point too, they told me they had a friend of mine—his only crime was to let me stay with him for the last several days I was in Colombia. They brought this man in, an anthropologist with absolutely no political connections. He is a Colombian citizen and they weren't concerned at all how they treated him. He was tortured with probably every form of torture they had for 48 hours straight. During the same two days that I was being beaten they used electric shock on him and stuck his head in the horses water trough. I could hear him screaming. A couple of times they brought him in, took my mask off and beat him in front of me. They had him plead with me to give names. About the second time he was brought in they had him say things like, "You bastard, it's all your fault that I'm being tortured! Now they've got my family here, my mother, and father and they are going to torture them, you son-of-a-bitch. Why don't you just tell them the names!" I had a mask on but could tell from the sound of his voice that he had turned to the door and said, "what else do you want me to say?" Then I heard them take him outside, bringing him back to plead with me again. But by indicating to me he was being forced to say those things, he was signalling that it was up to me what I wanted to do. So at that point, I figured if this man, who is not involved politically had the strength to

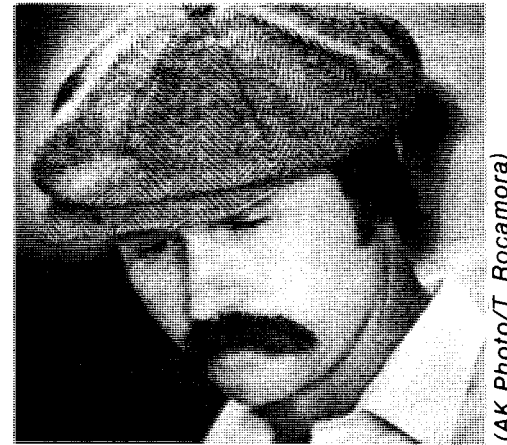
### "Your government, your taxpayers, paid our salary—and they also trained us. Your people are the best torturers in the world!" they bragged.

do this, then I can get through whatever they are going to do to me.

**It's interesting they paid no regard to your U.S. citizenship or journalist credentials.**

The bragged about it! My torturers told me 'Look, the Reagan administration doesn't care about human rights. We know your government is not concerned about human rights. It is concerned with security measures. We think you are a guerrilla so it's a security violation. We can do anything we want to.'

All of my interrogators bragged that they had been trained in Panama. They laughingly said, 'Your government, your



Larry Johnson

taxpayers paid our salary—and they also trained us. Your people are the best torturers in the world!' They were bragging about that!

**How did you feel at that point?**

I was angry, infuriated at them. They probably are trained in Panama. I'd heard reports of this before. And we are going to send \$125 million for fiscal year 1982 directly to the Colombian military—the people who do most of the torturing.

It's just so hard to accept that we're paying for these people—that the Reagan administration doesn't really care that much about these kind of things. The support we're giving them is keeping these torturers going.

**How was it you were released?**

By this time Mother Jones, Pacific News Service and professional and social journalist organizations like the Press Club and Authors Guild had sent telegrams to the Presidential Palace asking for my release.

After five days they "decided" that I was a journalist. But they still tried to dig up a crime. So they said I came in on a tourist visa but worked instead. So they held me in the stables for another week then transferred me back to the DAS and started processing me out of the country. After a total of 17 days, they expelled me from the country. The charges were visa violations.

**After this ordeal, what do you see as some similarities between the Philippines, Colombia and Chile?**

I think the biggest similarity is the U.S. involvement. It's very large in terms of aiding the military. The other is the presence of a large number of multi-nationals, many of which are the same throughout these countries. Also, the economic conditions are very bad and the majority of people are living at the poverty level.

**What are your concerns now, toward your treatment in Colombia?**

I think there's an unfortunate aspect of the whole thing. First, there was a lot of publicity about my arrest but the only reason there was any kind of public outcry was because I was a U.S. citizen and a journalist.

That's great for me, I'm very appreciative of all the work that was done. But everyday there are dozens, perhaps hundreds throughout Colombia, the Philippines, Chile, of people who are being arrested, tortured and we never hear about them. And when we do hear about them, people are unable to get a story about them in the press or mobilize people to send telegrams.

The other thing is that I think the Reagan administration's policy towards repressive governments, which is solely concerned with strategic and security problems and ignores human rights, will result in more people getting tortured and imprisoned. □



Larry Johnson, second from left, meeting with friends after his release.

AK Photo/V. Reyes

## Political Prisoners Under 'Normalization':

# TREATED AS COMMON CRIMINALS

By **NANCY ROCAMORA**  
Staff Writer

"We have no political prisoners." Mouthed by Philippine officials from Marcos himself to defense boss Enrile, this official denial has gone over in the international media like Nixon's "I am not a crook."

The January 17 "lifting" of martial law therefore had to address the controversial issue of political prisoners in one way or another. Seeking to go around this thorn in the side of his normalization promises, Marcos announced henceforth, all political sins were to be treated as civilian crimes.

But political prisoners were not exactly overjoyed by this policy announcement. They knew that treating political offenses as civilian offenses simply meant treating political prisoners as common criminals—the same policy for which Irish hunger strikers have been fighting their British jailers.

Little known to most everyone, a number of political prisoners charged as common criminals, tried, convicted and sentenced, have long occupied jails. Looking at these sentenced "subversives" the hundreds of political detainees still awaiting formal charges have reason to be afraid of being treated as "common criminals." Being a political offender under "normalization" may yet turn out to be worse than being one under martial law.

The sentenced prisoners have been charged with crimes ranging from illegal possession of firearms to murder. Almost all were severely tortured upon arrest. "Confessions" extracted in this manner were used against them in court.

Many of the trials were hasty affairs. Some witnesses were them-



selves tortured and coerced into testifying for the government. Few prisoners could afford lawyers.

Sentences range from six years to death. In all cases, the maximum sentence for the crime was imposed. But not a few remain in prison long after the sentence has formally ended.

### MIXED WITH COMMON CRIMINALS

A number of these forgotten

prisoners have already served shockingly long sentences. Benjamin Cunanan, a field commander for the *Hukbong Magpapalaya ng Bayan* (HMB, People's Liberation Army), was arrested in 1962.

He was sentenced to six years for rebellion. When Ferdinand Marcos issued an amnesty to all HMB members in 1969, Cunanan's name was somehow missing from the list. To date he has spent

19 years in prison.

Mixed with common criminals in provincial prisons and the National Penitentiary at Muntinlupa, sentenced political prisoners are subject to often erratic prison rules and to the whims and brutality of prison guards.

They are fed the often inedible prison diet resulting in serious malnutrition for some. The threat of being mauled, raped, or even murdered by hardened criminals is always present.

### PRISONERS DEMAND BETTER TREATMENT

Late in July of this year, the political prisoners in the National Penitentiary decided they had had enough. They issued six demands to the Justice Ministry and the prison administration:

1. To be recognized as political prisoners;
2. To be transferred together to a common building;
3. To be allowed daily visits;
4. To be granted a ₱6/day food budget with permission to cook their own meals;
5. To be allowed cooking equipment and electricity 24 hours a day;
6. An end to inhuman treatment like being chained and placed in isolation.

In response to the demands, the Ministry of Justice ordered five prisoners—Manuel Dimatulac, Oscar Santiago, Alfonso Sabilano, Alfredo Celestino, and Sebastian del Monte—transferred to separate quarters on July 30.

But the five quickly discovered that their new quarters had no bunks, water or light, and that the toilet would not work. On August

4, they launched a hunger strike to demand improvements and to petition for the transfer of nine more political prisoners to join them.

The next day, prison guards severely mauled all five. Dimatulac and Santiago were hospitalized. The other three were placed in the "bartolina"—solitary confinement.

### TFD LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN

The Task Force on Detainees (TFD) has thrown itself behind the sentenced political prisoners' cause.

"Political dissenters should be tried on political charges and not on charges of common crimes," writes TFD. "They should not be punished like people who have done harm to fellow citizens and to society when all they have done is to join in the struggle for their rights and true justice and freedom."

TFD has launched an international campaign urging all who support the rights of prisoners to write President Marcos, Justice Minister Ricardo Puno and Penitentiary Director Araya.

It is demanding the release of all sentenced political prisoners. Minimally, TFD hopes authorities will transfer the prisoners to a detention center where they can be part of a community of other political prisoners.

The Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD) is backing the TFD's campaign. "After all," points out Geline Avila of the CAMD national staff, "under 'normalization,' all political prisoners may face the same treatment. By fighting for the rights of those now in Muntinlupa, we are fighting for the rights of all political prisoners, today and in the future." □

## Profiles of Sentenced Political Prisoners

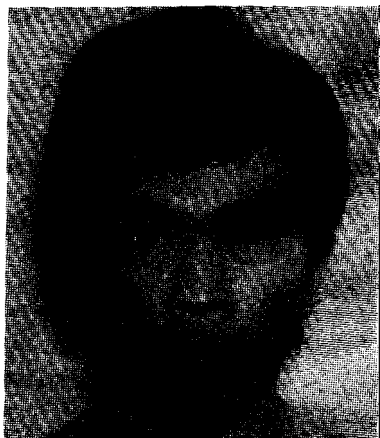
### Alfredo Celestino

Alfredo Celestino, 38 years old, is a farmer from Tarlac. He is married with two children aged 13 and 9.

Celestino was arrested in August 1975 by a combined force of Philippine Constabulary (PC) and Integrated National Police (INP). His interrogation involved conventional tortures such as water cure and electric shock treatment.

He was convicted of murder and of violating RA 1700, the anti-subversion law and sentenced to death. He could not afford a lawyer and feels the court-appointed lawyer did not defend him fully.

On September 1, 1981, he was once more scheduled for electrocution—for the seventh time. The previous six times, he was issued reprieves. TFD asks that supporters urge President Marcos to commute his sentence to life imprisonment.



Jose M. Ardan (TDF)

### Jose M. Ardan

Jose is a fisherman from Cagayan. He is 33 years old, married and has two children, ages 10 and 8. While in prison he was severely tortured that he nearly died.

Notwithstanding this, he joined a hunger strike demanding better food. He was imprisoned at the PC Camp and Provincial Jail of Aparri, and the Provincial Jail of Tuguegarao before being transferred to Muntinlupa. He was charged with murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment by the CFI, Branch 2, Aparri, Cagayan. He has been in jail for more than eight years now.

### Alfonso Sabilano

Alfonso, 30 years old and from a middle-class family, was arrested Brook Point, Palawan, in 1970. He was charged with double murder.

During the process of his arrest, Sabilano was shot in the foot. He was severely tortured by his captors who forced him to eat excreta and pepper, made him lie on ice, hung him up for four hours while water was poured over him and gave him shock treatment.

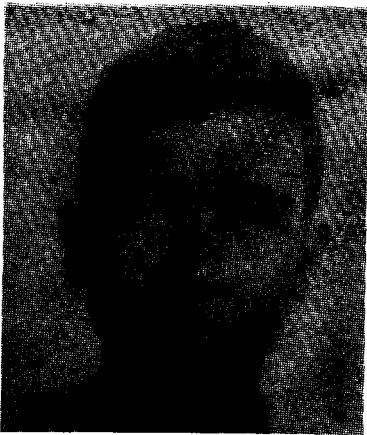
Sabilano was convicted by the Manila Civil Court and transferred to Death Row at the National Penitentiary where he has been for the past 11 years.

### Patria Andal

Patria Andal is a 53-year-old market vendor from Mindoro. Several years ago, members of the local PC found a rusty Springfield rifle in her house. They

arrested her and asked her to convince her son—allegedly an NPA member—to surrender.

When Mrs. Andal refused, she was imprisoned and charged with illegal possession of firearms. A hastily arranged trial found her guilty. She was sentenced to 20 years, the maximum penalty for her alleged crime.



Andres A. Manglallon (TDF)

### Andres A. Manglallon

Andres is 37 years old and is a farmer from Cagayan Valley. He was arrested in December 1977.

He was threatened by the PC men during interrogation. He was not allowed to eat and was only allowed to take a bath once a week while in prison at the Aparri Extension Jail and Provincial Jail in Tuguegarao. He was charged with murder and multiple murder and sentenced to two terms of life imprisonment by the CFI, Branch 2 of Aparri, Cagayan. He has appealed the murder charge against him but no action was made on this regard. He has been in prison for more than eight years now.

### Manuel Dimatulac

Manuel Dimatulac, known as Commander Ligaya of the NPA, was arrested on July 10, 1970. Dimatulac was a farmer before his arrest. He is 44 years old and has four children, all in their teens.

Dimatulac was charged with violating RA 1700 but this was later dismissed. A subpoena was then issued for murder and frustrated murder. The Tarlac Court of First Instance found him guilty. He was subsequently transferred to Death Row at Muntinlupa.