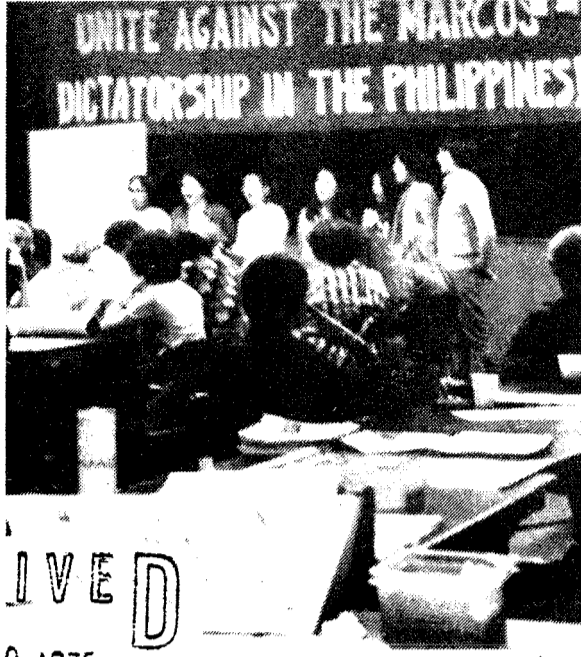


Nationwide Protests Mark September 22



Filipinos and Americans gather to protest continuation of martial law and sharply criticized the detention of Philippine political prisoners. The events pictured above were held in New York [l] and Chicago [r].

NCC PRESS RELEASE

The plight of the thousands of Filipino political prisoners was the focus of nationwide protests held over the September 22nd weekend to mark the beginning of the 4th year of martial law in the Philippines. These activities, set up by local alliances of anti martial law groups and coordinated by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) of the Anti Martial Law Movement, constituted one of the broadest and most successful mobilization of anti martial law energies ever to take place in the US.

In New York City, almost 200 people attended a benefit dinner and cultural presentation at Washington Square Church. The program featured songs from the national liberation movement in the Philippines and brief speeches by representatives of civil rights, community, and church groups. Mila de Guzman of the local Anti Martial Law Alliance delivered the statement of the NCC, noting that the number and variety of the political prisoners was an indication of the "depth and universality of opposition to the regime." Aimee Gibson, representing the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), underlined the importance of the political prisoners campaign to counter Marcos' efforts to "prettify itself in order to get more military aid from the US." Inday Refi of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) stressed the role of the US in propping up the Marcos regime and pointed to the leading role of the New People's Army and other national democratic forces in the Philippine liberation struggle. Phopol Cheng representing the Group of Khmer Residents in America asserted that "just like the Cambodians, the Filipino people, united as one, will win!" The event, which capped a month long campaign of house meetings and other preparatory activities, brought \$1,140 in donations for the Philippine Political Prisoners Fund.

That same evening in Chicago, 67 people attended a benefit dinner at St. Teresa's Church. Rev. Dick Solis of the Philippine American Ecumenical Church spoke on the tortures undergone by his fellow clergymen, Frs. Cesar Taguba and Edicio de la Torre, and appealed to the Filipino and American communities to combat indifference. Slides of Fr. Taguba and the activities of the Zone One Tondo Organization accompanied a talk given

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Amendment To Cut Aid To Repressive Regimes

Foreign aid to the Philippines could be cut next year due to recent congressional approval of a "human rights" amendment that will withhold aid from countries with repressive gov'ts. Deliberations on the amendment has gone through the entire House, while the issue must still undergo floor debate in the Senate.

HOUSE MAJORITY PASSES AMENDMENT

By a large majority, the US House of Representatives passed the landmark amendment attached to the economic portion of Pres. Ford's '76 foreign aid request (HR 9005 Internat'l Development and Food Assistance Act of 1975).

Rep. Thomas Harkin (D-Iowa), a former congressional aide who photographed the infamous Vietnam Tiger Cages in 1970, sponsored the amendment which passed by an unexpected wide margin (238-164). "The human rights amendment," a Washington source said, "was supported by a broad base of conservatives and liberals alike. Although the House is considered a more conservative body, Representatives are more directly an-

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Gov't Purges; REAL CRIMINALS REMAIN

By Ma. Flor Sepulveda

On the 3rd anniversary of martial law, Pres. Marcos launched a so-called plan to purge 6,000 "undesirable" elements from the gov't ranks. In an implied acknowledgement of the rampant corruption and ineptitude of his regime, Marcos ordered a "sweeping revamp" affecting some 2,000 government officials in the cabinet, civil service, judiciary, municipal offices, the military and more than 4,000 gov't employees.

The purge was a result of a performance audit conducted early this year on public officials and employees according to their implementation of marital law directives, "new society" goals and their financial statements before and after public service. This audit revealed corruption in high places and the names of the erring officials but not surprisingly omitted the names of the big time grafters, whose crimes are well known.

Despite the highly questionable results of the audit, Marcos has publicized the purge as a genuine step towards eliminating corruption and reforming his regime. "I have given everyone enough time to reform," he said, "but the contagion continues. Now is the time to cut off the New Society from the contagion." He also vowed to pursue the campaign even if this meant sacrificing his own friends and relatives.

ELIMINATING MARCOS' ENEMIES

In actuality the purges really target personal enemies of Marcos who threatened to undermine his regime by exercising too much autonomy from the central gov't. Marcos has executed his "purge" by phasing out certain

departments or commissions and putting his trusted minions in place of 21 bureau chiefs and commissioners whose loyalties are under question.

The case of Primitivo Mijares, chief propagandist of the regime before his falling out with Marcos comes to mind. Prior to his defection, Mijares received the "brush off" treatment from Malacanang. Under the pretense of "restoring the freedom of the press" Marcos created the Bureau of Print and Broadcast Media, thus setting the basis for abolishing Mijares' Media Advisory Committee which was empowered to censor domestic and internat'l news releases. To date the freedom of press is

continued on back page

Filipino M.D.'s Face Imminent Deportation

By Samuel P. Bayani

The Filipino community in the US is confronted with one of its most critical crisis, the outcome of which may have serious implications for the half a million Filipinos residing in the US. As of Jan. 1, 1976, thousands of Filipino and other foreign medical graduates currently practicing in the US under the exchange visitor program will be faced with imminent deportation according to a new immigration ruling. Called EVFMGs (exchange Visitor Foreign Medical Graduate), these doctors, mostly Filipinos and Indians, have come to the US for specialization.

In what is a flagrantly racial and national discriminatory attack on the Filipino and Indian doctors, the Dept of Immigration and Naturalization Services has ruled that all EVFMGs who have applied for permanent residency will lose their exchange visitor status and subject to deportation if a "permanent resident alien number is not available within 60 days." Since it normally takes 2-4 years to get an alien registration number, the ruling is tantamount to banning all EVFMGs from applying for permanent residency.

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HAVE YOU MOVED? PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR PROMPT SERVICE.

'a call to patriotic Filipinos' Stand Up For The Homeland

As the Philippines begins its 4th year under the heel of the martial law regime on 22 Sep, 1975, the **Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino** calls on all patriotic overseas Filipinos to take a united stand against the Marcos dictatorship, the most repressive gov't to ever rule in Philippine history.

While Marcos hailed his martial law rule since 1972 as a "new society" of economic prosperity, "revolutionary" land reform and "peace and order," the last 3 years have proven otherwise. Martial law has actually brought:

- mass unemployment, staggering inflation and increased the misery for the people;
- complete abolition of civil liberties, freedom and democracy;
- and terrorism by the Philippine military, which Marcos unleashes against the people to bomb, kill, rape and torture at will.

This situation, however, has been met with strong resistance, as thousands of the best sons and daughters of the Philippine nation have joined the armed resistance of the New People's Army and Bangsa Moro Army, or have participated in the dangerous urban underground organizing. A number of these patriots have been captured by the Marcos regime, and 15-20,000 persons are still detained without charge or trial and subjected to harassment, intimidation and sometimes the most brutal tortures imaginable.

Indeed, no amount of reform "promises" and propaganda gimmicks can hide the fact that the Marcos regime is unmistakably a fascist dictatorship.

* * * * *

As the resistance in the Philippines has grown, the substantial Filipino community here in the US has also developed as a base of overseas opposition to the Marcos regime. Since 1972, hundreds of forums, pickets, cultural events, dinners, speeches and publications across the country have opposed martial law and exposed its fascist character. In the course of such activities, KDP was formed within the Filipino community along with several other organizations to conduct anti martial law activities among our own people. Organizations among American friends and even groups in Canada and Europe have also been established to conduct support work on a broader international level. The collected efforts of all these groups have been essential in generating international opinion against the Marcos dictatorship and opposing US support for the regime.

Certainly the existence of such a sizeable Filipino population within the US has and can continue to play a critical role in exposing the Marcos regime and preventing the US gov't from turning our country into "another Vietnam." And yet, within our own community some respond: "that doesn't affect us here," or "don't we have enough problems here to worry about."

There is no question that Filipinos in the US have many problems and

suffer much hardship, especially discrimination because of national origin and even skin color. But this cannot be an excuse for us to divorce ourselves from the problems and needs of our homeland. Such attitudes are only a reflection of unpatriotic and selfish ideas. Because we were able to temporarily escape the dire poverty and oppression we faced in the Philippines, we should not ignore the conditions of our brothers and sisters who remain back home.

A more dangerous attitude prevalent in the community, however, has arisen from those opposing the discussion of martial law altogether, under the guise of being "too controversial." Where does such an idea arise from? Ever since the declaration of martial law, one after another of Marcos' fake reform programs have been exposed while his brutal crimes against the people have proven his one-man rule to be a fascist one. Even the handful of die-hard Marcos supporters have been unable to defend their pro martial law positions in public debate and discussion. Thus, if we look beneath the surface, we find these claimants of "too much controversy" are staunch Marcos supporters who are too cowardly to openly defend such a brazen dictatorship. Indeed, fascism is a "controversial" issue for any people, and it is precisely a controversy for the Filipino community in the US because a fascist dictatorship oppresses our 40 million kababayan in the Philippines.

Labeling any discussion of martial law as "too controversial" is a bullying tactic and an attempt to export martial law censorship here and gag any free expression and discussion of this issue.

In fact, in these last years of anti martial law work, we have seen many times over that Filipinos want to discuss this issue because their families are affected back home. As individuals, most Filipinos in the US maintain close ties with their relatives and send financial support because they know that living conditions have so deteriorated that most can barely afford to eat regularly. Also, many have received letters or visited as Balikbayans and witnessed the suppression of freedom, the abusive military rule that has replaced civilian control, and of course, the economic hardships that all must endure.

Therefore, all Filipinos must recognize that this is a time we must stand up for our Philippine homeland! All individuals and organizations who are committed to the interests of the Filipino people must closely unite and conduct even more intensive anti martial law campaigns to strike back at the fascist regime. As we enter this 4th year of martial law, KDP pledges to heighten our efforts and join with all others concerned to mobilize international opinion against the Marcos dictatorship and gather even more support for the heroic resistance being waged in our homeland. We urge all patriotic Filipinos here in the US to join us and the hundreds already involved in this noble struggle for a truly free and independent Philippines. □

National Executive Board of the
Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP)

MD's Plight...

continued from front page

What is additionally inequitable about the ruling is that it will be enacted retroactively, affecting EVFMGs who have applied for permanent residency as early as July 31, 1972. This means that a Filipino doctor in the US on an exchange program who applied for a change of status after July 31, 1972, and who has not received his alien registration number before Jan 31, 1976, will be considered an "illegal alien," cannot practice medicine and subject to deportation. Common practice before allowed an EVFMG to utilize the 5-yr. exchange visitor status to stay in the US and wait the 2-4 yr. long process to obtain an alien registration number. With this recent more stringent immigration ruling, the exchange visitor who applies for permanent residency automatically loses his exchange visitor status for all practical purposes. The ruling was actually passed in 1972, though unknown and never implemented until now.

A.M.A. SLURS FOREIGN DOCTORS

This move is essentially discriminatory and is a blatant attack on the democratic rights of the EVFMGs to choose to stay in the US. The AMA (American Medical Association) which pressured the State Dept and the INS to alter the policy, has simultaneously launched a vilification campaign against the foreign medical graduates in general. In a blatant slur on the FMG, the AMA has even questioned the competence and capability of these doctors to practice in the US.

In its journal (JAMA 10/28/74), the racist AMA expressed worry over two things: "First the rapidly increasing influx of alien physicians had come from

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"Ang Katipunan" is the national newspaper of the *Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP)*.

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.

KDP has chapters in most major cities where there are Filipino communities. Inquiries regarding KDP should be sent in care of *Ang Katipunan*.

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POLITICAL PRISONERS CONTINUE STRUGGLE

By Samuel P. Bayani

The issue of political prisoners is an ugly crack on the artfully decorated facade of the martial law regime, exposing its real features. For despite its sophisticated rhetoric projecting a "smiling and benevolent martial law," the dictator cannot satisfactorily explain the presence of thousands of prisoners in the numerous detention camps which sprouted all over the country after martial law. The illegal detention and torture of thousands of its opponents graphically illustrate the repressive nature of the military regime.

On the other hand, the growing number of political prisoners also speak to the ineffectiveness of the regime's standard tactic of repression to crush the opposition to its rule. Contrary to its goal of suppression and intimidation, the fascist methods of torture and incarceration which the isolated regime has to increasingly rely on, is achieving its very opposite. Ironically, the use of state violence and force has only served to further polarize the Filipino nation. More and more Filipinos are being politicized by the political and moral issue of political prisoners.

Similarly, in the world community, the martial law regime is increasingly becoming isolated for its violation of human rights. There has been mounting pressure on the US Congress to cut off aid to the Marcos regime because of its repressive character. Church groups like the World Council of Churches and international humanitarian bodies like Amnesty Int'l have rallied around the plight of political prisoners. Letters expressing outrage at the inhuman degradation of political prisoners like Sen Benigno Aquino and publisher Eugenio Lopez, Jr. have received wide-spread publicity in the int'l press.

However, there are thousands more less-publicized prisoners who languish in these concentration camps. The only crime of these Filipinos - workers, peasants, students, journalists, businessmen, members of the clergy - is their common opposition to the political and economic system which the Marcos regime represents.

52,000 DETAINED SINCE MARTIAL LAW

There are at present an estimated 6,000 political prisoners according to some religious authorities. In what is also an interesting expose, former Ambassador Amelito Mutuc has recently revealed that at least 52,000 persons have been detained for alleged political activities since the imposition of martial law. This shocking disclosure far exceeds the 20,000 figure estimated by the anti-martial law movement, which some pro-Marcos elements had initially charged as inaccurate and exaggerated by which now even appears to be a conservative estimate. In his testimony before the US House Subcommittee on Int'l Organizations, Mutuc said his source was a Filipino high official in the Dept. of Nat'l Defense, certainly a most knowledgeable source on the subject of prisoners. Mr. Mutuc himself is an avowed supporter of the martial law regime.

The physical and mental suffering brought about by this incarceration, both to the prisoner and his family, is incalculable. Cases of torture and maltreatment, even murder, are countless. The Assoc. of Major Religious Superiors have documented some of the more-known cases of torture. These have been compiled along with other documented cases in a booklet, "Political Prisoners in the Philippines" by the Nat'l Coordinating Committee of the Anti-Martial Law Movement in the US.

"TACTICAL INTERROGATION" A TERM FOR TORTURE

The method of extracting confession and information through pistol-whipping, application of electrodes to the genitals, forced drug-addiction, and use of hot flatirons on the feet are standard practice and not isolated cases of "over-zealousness" on some military officials part, as the regime is wont to excuse. Euphemistically termed "tactical interrogation," these torture techniques have been institutionalized and modernized with the assistance of the US AID Public Safety Program. To facilitate these operations, the military use "safe houses," which are private houses outside the camp and are therefore outside the



Political prisoners in Camp Crame yard

jurisdiction and responsibility of the military.

Many come out of this interrogation permanently crippled or maimed; worst, there are those who do not survive these brutal sessions, having been "interrogated" to death. Many families never hear of their relative again after being picked up by the military.

Francisco Portem was arrested on 12 Dec '74 and never heard of again. The military claims he escaped but surprisingly, no efforts were made to inform or contact the family about his escape. Julian Tabat, leader of the Subanon minority of Zamboanga del Norte was arrested on 10 June '74. His wife visited him in jail on 14 June '74 and saw burns all over his body. She never saw him again after that. It is believed, from initial investigations conducted by Sen. Diokno, that Tabat was shot by a soldier but the Philippine Constabulary have so far refused to show anyone his grave.

Entire families have been victims of this fascist terrorism. The Hilao family is an example. Lilosia Hilao, a student, was raped, tortured and murdered by the anti-narcotics unit of the military intelligence in 1973. Her family attempted to seek justice and publicized the incident. In response, in April '74, a sister, Josefina, was arrested. Several weeks later, a brother Wilfredo, and another sister, Amaryllis were arrested too. All 3 were tortured. Wilfredo was so badly beaten that his blood cell count dropped to half the normal because of hemorrhaging. No charges have been filed against them. All 3 are innocent of any crime, except apparently their relation to Lilosia. Lilosia her self was tortured to death for information on another brother whom the military suspects is an NPA member. An elder sister, Rizalina, has continued to fight for justice for her brother and sisters. In a letter dated 12 Nov '74 to the US Senate, she said: "I write to you so you may know what the military are doing to my family. I do not know for certain if our case is typical but I have reason to believe that many other families have suffered and are suffering as much as we are under the present government of our country."

Families of other political prisoners have been similarly terrorized. Objectively too, these families are economically crippled by the arrest of their kin, who in most cases are the bread-winners.

MISERABLE CONDITIONS IN CAMPS

Those who are lucky enough to survive the initial torture are herded into 'rehabilitation centers,' another prettified name for detention camps. There, they have to contend with poorly-ventilated and congested cells, dirty toilets and rusty water. The unsanitary and subhuman conditions in the camps have resulted in a break-out of disease and infection. In a recent visit at the Ipil Reception Center in Ft. Bonifacio, the Phil. Tuberculosis Society discovered 10 out of 30 detainees had contracted the disease. In the Constabulary Security Unit stockade in Camp Crame, almost every detainee have had bouts with various respiratory diseases.

These diseases have also been caused by malnutrition. The prisoners daily diet consists of rotten fish.

Far from subduing resistance, imprisonment stimulates further resistance. The cold-blooded process of dehumanization which the regime calculatedly inflicts on the detainees to break their will only serves to harden their fighting will. The high spirit of resistance and defiance continue to smoulder in the detention

camps, proving that prison walls cannot snuff out the revolutionary spirit.

PRISONERS CONTINUE RESISTANCE

The prisoners continue to fight back and outwit their captors. There are many inspiring stories. On 21 Sept '73, the 1st anniversary of martial law, prisoners utilized the Open House to show their resistance by singing the Internationale and posting revolutionary slogans in the camp. Visitors to the Open House and the prisoners formed informal discussion groups and talked about the true meaning of martial law. 15 male prisoners shaved their heads in protest. In the women's detention camp, the prisoners put a scarecrow clothed in black to symbolize the death of civil liberties. The prisoners also issued a statement reaffirming their militant determination to pursue the struggle.

On 12 Dec '72, the prisoners in one detention camp celebrated the 4th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Communist Party by pretending it was the birthday of one of them.

The detainees have also used various forms of protests like hunger strikes to publicize the cruelty of the military and win tactical concessions. On prisoner, Fr. Ed de la Torre went on a hunger strike last Dec to focus attention on the torture of his fellow detainees. The pressure by the Church forced the regime to promise an investigation of these tortures, thus temporarily calling a halt to the tortures.

The strong resolve and high morale of the prisoners can be attributed to their collectivity and discipline. The detainees band together into secret groups to study and discuss current

continued on page 5

Filipinos, Americans Denounce Martial Law

On 22 Sept. 1975 the Filipino people will complete their 3rd year of existence under one of the most repressive systems of political domination which they have had to suffer in their long history as a nation. For 3 years they have managed to survive in a state without the protective guarantees of law, deprived of fundamental civil liberties and subject to arbitrary questioning, arrest, and imprisonment. In justifying his imposition of martial law, Marcos told the people that they were exchanging political freedom for economic development. It is now clear that the worst of all possible worlds has dawned on them with the coexistence of political dictatorship and economic misery.

ECONOMIC DISASTER UNDER MARTIAL LAW

This condition of economic stagnation, galloping inflation, and permanent recession is not accidental nor due to the "difficulties of economic development," as the apologists of the regime put it, but has been created by the policies of the regime itself. The basic right to strike has been abolished and the right to unionize severely regulated in the attempt to make the country the source of the cheapest labor in Asia for the foreign corporations; and the already highly unequal distribution of income has been rendered even more unequal by the bureaucratic corruption and piratical business methods of the Marcos faction of the oligarchy. To deflect the people's attention from the magnitude of the disaster induced by its

MUSLIM REBELS ENJOY POPULAR SUPPORT

Contrary to Marcos's claims that the Muslim insurgency is simply a war instigated and propped up by a foreign power, the Muslim rebellion exists and endures because it is based on the broad support of the people. This picture emerges from several news articles by foreign correspondents.

For instance, it is apparent that the guerillas are not a band of isolated terrorists but are loved and viewed with affection by the inhabitants of the south. Fox Butterfield of the New York Times (9/11/75) wrote:

Twenty guerillas - they are spoken of with affection by the people here as "the children" - stood guard in the palm trees ringing the little house where the meeting was held.

Also:

One of the clearest indications of the guerillas support is that the muslims here, members of the Maranao tribe, call them "the children," rather than "the rebels."



Soldiers of the Moro Nat'l Liberation Front (MNLF)

From Guam, Susan Guffey reported in the 8/17/75 issue of the Sunday Times:

As dawn hovered, a single file of heavily-armed men emerged from the jungle skirting the tiny, thatched farmhouse. An invitation was extended from the old farmer inspecting his copra, and the rebels followed their commander into the shelter of the old man's hut. Water to wash and steaming hot native coffee is offered.

The guerillas are supported not just by the Muslim population but also by the Chinese and Christian population.

Guffey reported further:

Like the old man offering hospitality in his hut, the entire countryside in the areas in which the BMA (Bangsa Moro Army - Ed) operate - Moslems, Christians, Chinese and pagan hill tribes alike - are supporting the revolution.

Civilians freely offered their homes, food, use of their vehicles and boats. Many of the rebels' firearms have been donated by civilians, who take every opportunity to purchase them from gov't soldiers.

That the guerillas' cause has struck a responsive chord not only with the Muslims but Christians alike is evident in Gaffey's article:

The gov't has issued an order throughout Mindanao that no bandaging materials or any

medication for wounds - not even the simplest disinfectant - may be sold by any pharmacy without a prescription. While we were housed in a small barrio, a Christian woman, a member of the Medical Section of the MNLF Women's Bureau, came to confer with the commander of the province. She left shortly thereafter to a predominately Christian city, where she would pick up medical supplies being collected by Christian sympathizers of the MNLF.

And:

...the fishermen raised their hands in greeting. One playfully raced his boat in a circle around ours, and I was told by our commander he was a Christian who had evacuated from Cotobato as the soldiers looted and raped.

In contrast, the gov't soldiers are despised by the people, not without good reason. Butterfield writes:

The Philippine Army, poorly trained and poorly disciplined, is in many ways the rebels



best ally...Frightened soldiers, often with only two or three weeks training, seldom patrol outside their own encampments, close to the cities...Drunken or otherwise abusive soldiers regularly antagonize local Moslems by beating up civilians or molesting women.

The abuse of power and graft and corruption is perpetrated in all levels of the military.

The regional army commander, Gen. Pedro Zafre, has been accused by Moslems and Christians alike of extorting money from local residents and of seizing valuable land for army use. (Butterfield NY Times 9/11)

It is rumored that Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon, commander of South West Command (SOWESCOM) has earned millions of pesos from smuggling, peddling his influence and selling civilian positions for corrupt purposes. (Phil. News 9/27-113)

On the other hand, the BMA army is well-disciplined and politically-motivated.

All MNLF members are unsalaried...Discipline is strict: the death penalty for rape, extortion or looting...Morale is so high among the rebels that...(they) laugh away their lack of supplies, saying they have only one uniform which they've already worn out or saving for the Independence Day parade...The BMA forces

laugh at the idea of surrender.

In fact, the influence of the MNLF is so widespread that it has supporters even within the ranks of the gov't troops.

It was a mark of the casual, sometimes haphazard nature of this war and of the popular support the rebels seem to enjoy that the truck that brought the visiting participants out from nearby Marawi City was not stopped once at army checkpoints along the way. As the truck was being loaded in Marawi City with fresh bread for the guerillas, a military police jeep pulled up and an officer in it chatted amiably with a youthful rebel. "No need to worry," the rebel explained. "This is a people's war and everyone contributes in his own way. That's my brother."

Gaffey had this to say:

One afternoon, our commander decided that instead of continuing through the jungle, we would cover the last leg of a hard day's travel to our destination on the highway. A risk. A passenger jeepney was flagged down and the driver cheerfully accepted the heavily armed passengers. A few minutes later, we passed a local police checkpoint on the road and stopped. A police officer jumped on and we sped off. "We have to have the proper escort," our commander laughed.

Again, despite the regime's propaganda to the contrary, the financial support of the guerillas come primarily from the people themselves.

Alonto, the front's vice chairman, says that the rebels' main source of income is the local people. "They provide us with the money and we buy our guns from the army," he said with a grin. There is no way to substantiate his statement, but many guerillas do carry American made M-16 rifles, the main weapon of the Philippine army. (butterfield, NY TIMES)

Gaffey's article describes the people's material support more explicitly:

...the bulk of the funds supporting the revolution is filtering from the people in the barrios up, and not from the CC (Central Committee of the MNLF -ed) down. A military commander receiving orders from a network of command via the CC, might find the need for money in a planned operation, perhaps for transportation. Informing the barrio committee in detail of the operation and need, the barrio committee would accept contributions from the barrio's residents.

The barrio committees also contribute a percentage of monthly contributions to the municipal level committees. These municipal committees give a percentage of their income to the district, who in turn contributes to the zone level. A percentage of all zone contributions go to the provincial committees, which in turn contribute to the CC.

Some BMA companies are managing copra plantations for owners residing in the cities. These are the sole source of income for some units in areas with no civilians. Other units are also professional fishermen.

In spite of Marcos's attempts to whitewash the truth, the facts above clearly show that the Muslim rebellion enjoys the popular support of the people, for the justness of its cause. □

'Ceasefire'

continued from back page

complete independence" to the Muslims. The plan for virtual autonomy included dividing the south into 4 regions and appointing commissioners to manage these regions. The bankruptcy of the "virtual autonomy" plan is apparent. The process of appointing commissioners (who are personally chosen by Marcos and will report directly to him) exposes the essence of this so-called "autonomy" where the governed are powerless to choose their own representative. By calling "the gov't practically representing the nat'l gov't in the region," Marcos has made it clear that they are extensions of his dictatorial powers and are singularly functioning bodies unaided by popular support.

Characteristically, while talking of peace, Marcos has initiated a massive militarization program that will increase the Armed Forces of the Philippines from 100,000 to 250,000. About 60% of the AFP is already deployed in the Mindanao area. The talks of ceasefire and autonomy become a convenient smokescreen for the dictator as he stalls for time to beef-up his military and prepare for a military offensive.

Furthermore, Marcos' scheme of dividing

the south into 4 regions falls neatly into the plan of increased militarization and fascization. By dividing the region into smaller, more manageable areas, Marcos can increase his control over the troubled south. Marcos hopes too that by doing so he will break up the unity of the inhabitants and inhibit effective organizing.

The Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers rejected this regionalization and "autonomy" scheme devised by Marcos, stating "it does not represent the true aspirations and feelings of the Filipino Muslims."

CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION

Earlier this year, the MNLF had modified its initial demand from complete secession to statehood. Statehood or real autonomy according to the MNLF proposal would mean an independent and sovereign Mindanao Region, maintaining order within the limits of its definite territory but administered by a federal gov't.

The MNLF's demand for autonomy has to be viewed in the light of centuries-old history of cultural oppression and economic deprivation of the Muslim minorities in the Philippines. The history of the Filipino Muslims include the gov't-directed massacre during the 1900's and the systematic dispossession of their ancestral land. Abetted by the Manila

gov't, christian landlords evicted the Muslims from their farms and homes. This mass land-grabbing in the '60s was facilitated by the Muslims' concept of communal property and the absence of legal titles to their land. This process of dislocation intensified under martial law with the onslaught of multinationals and foreign investors into the area. Under the guise of economic development, the Muslim minorities were driven off their land to make way for BF Goodrich and Dole plantations. Other nat'l minorities in the north like the Bontoc-Kalingas in the Mountain Province have been subjected to the same abuse. The gov't agency PANAMIN (Presidential Assistance on Nat'l Minorities) was particularly instrumental in uprooting and relocating the nat'l minorities from their rich lands to barren and unproductive lands.

Cheap ploys like the ceasefire and "virtual autonomy" do not blur the very real effects of centuries of neglect and underdevelopment. The Muslim minorities, like the rest of the Filipino people, know that it is impossible for Marcos to effect any solution that will take the people's interest first and foremost. Only a truly independent and democratic Philippines will realize the Muslim people's long cherished demand for self-determination and genuine autonomy. □

Pagbabalikwas



BONTOCS, KALINGAS CELEBRATE "TEMPORARY VICTORY" WITH VIGILANCE

The people of Bontoc and Kalinga had week-long victory festivities (3 July-5 Aug) after Ex. Sec. Alejandro Melchor indefinitely suspended all work on the Chico River Dam Project (see AK vol. 2,6). The celebration was highlighted by the unveiling and blessing of 3 stone markers and thanksgiving liturgical services. The markers are intended to serve as reminders to the people of the threat posed by the Chico River basin development project and also to symbolize the strong unity that the Kalingas and Bontocs had shown in opposing the dam project.

After the presentation of markers, festivities followed in the barrios of Anabel, Bituagan, Bugnay, and Liglig, Tanglad. On hand to witness and participate in the people's celebration were representatives from various support groups in Manila and Kalinga-Apayao. The supporters hiked some 15 mountains and crossed the Chico River several times to reach the Kalinga and Bontoc barrios.

One supporter, a priest, summed up the valuable experiences and lessons learned from the national minority tribesmen:

"After snaking for 10 hrs. around the mountains of Benguet and Bontoc, we reached Anabel. It was drizzling but the Bontocs looked happy, for them rain is a good omen and it had not rained for 2 weeks. Fr. Roman blessed the marker which read: 'Curse be on anyone who desecrates this stone.' Then an old warrior danced, chanted, and spat on the marker, thanking Kabunian (native God) for the temporary victory, exhorting the Bontocs to stronger resolve and firmer unity. Reminding them that the marker symbolizes their struggle, anyone who desecrates it will bring upon himself the vengeance of the Bontocs."

"... Memorable at Bituagan was the speech of Apo Gayaman. Apo Gayaman has considerable influence among the Bontocs, is respected and loved by his people, and commands their ready support. He pointed to the high mountains surrounding Bituagan and said the gov't men told him, that once the area was dammed, the people would be transferred to the top of the mountains.

How could he and his people survive when even the pine trees find it difficult to survive there? How could they allow their ancestral lands, the dust and bones of their ancestors, their very identity as Bontocs, to be submerged under the dammed waters? 'I wanted to die of old

age. But if the gov't persists with the project, I will have to forego my wish. I and my people would rather die as men, as warriors."

"... Fr. Andrews, a CICM missionary, celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass. His homily dwelt on the goodness of Kabunian who gave their rich ancestral lands and who has always seen to it that they reap abundant harvests. With the temporary victory, they can afford to sleep peacefully but not too soundly for vigilance must always be maintained."

(AMSRP, Various Reports, 22 Aug. '75)

40,000 PEOPLE ATTEND RALLY IN BACOLOD CITY

An estimated 40,000 people attended a rally last June at the Paglaum Stadium, Bacolod City to celebrate the true meaning of the Holy Year Jubilee and expose the plight of sugar workers. During the rally a battery of speakers including the city mayor and Negros Occidental's provincial governor spoke against the exploitation of the sugar workers and demanded social justice.

The hacenderos (sugar barons) did everything they could to prevent the rally. They staged a counter-demonstration and even tried to invite movie superstars Nora Aunor and Victor Wood to draw crowds. Their program, however, was poorly attended and failed as a tactic to sabotage the sugar workers rally.

The rally represented a major blow against the Sugar Planters Association's repeated efforts to discredit the clergy and undermine its support for the sugar workers' struggle. It is also the largest rally that has been reported to have taken place under martial law.

Earlier, Jose Varela, spokesman for the National Federation of Sugar Planters, lambasted the clergy during a TV program for carrying out "pernicious attacks against our society." He urged Catholics not to support the Holy Year Rally as "it is intended to divide, foment hatred for one class by another class."

Varela ended his speech with an appeal to the planters: "Let us not be masochists. You see the sound system in the cathedral has been paid for by planters' money... and how it is abused! We were attacked in three pulpits last Sunday." □

REGIME ATTEMPTS TO INTERVENE IN CAMPUS CONTROVERSY

New tactics are being employed by the Marcos regime to thwart the gains of the University of the Philippines (UP) studentry to win back their democratic rights. Gov't-backed fraternities have

provoked a series of violent rumbles which have led to the suspension of progressive fraternities that have been active in the campus struggle. The coverage of these rumbles, however, were grossly exaggerated to promote the impression that the campus is crime-ridden and warrants the intervention of the military. It is no coincidence that these rumbles occurred just as the 12 September Student Conference neared.

The Student Conference which was originally designed by the administration to replace the student council, was transformed into its opposite when the students popularized it as a means to obtain concessions from the administration.

Since the declaration of martial law the UP studentry have persisted in their efforts to restore their abolished rights, mainly, the student council, representation on the board of regents, and student control of the Philippine Collegian, the university's official organ.

With the replacement of SP Lopez with



When will we have a student council?

OD Corpuz as university president, more stringent measures were adopted to clamp down on the resurging student movement. As a result, some of the students' hard-fought gains, such as reviving the progressive tradition of the Philippine Collegian, have been threatened. OD Corpuz has already appointed a new Collegian advisor who is now empowered with the sole authority to censor articles and suspend staff members. □

CHURCH TORN OVER ITS ROLE

The rift between Church hierarchy and the rank-and-file clergy over the church's role under martial law is widening. The progressive-leaning re-

ligions represented by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines believes that the Church should be active in the political, social and economic concerns of the people. The hierarchy represented by the Catholic Bishops Conference advocates a "safe, spiritual role" for the church and shuns social action.

This long-standing difference was formally taken up during the Catholic Bishops Conference last July, and ongoing debate has established that AMRSP's position enjoys popular support. Even as the CBC has endorsed what amounts to "prayer over problems," the bishops themselves are torn over the issue, disproving the so-called unanimous position of the CBC.

According to Bishop Francisco Claver of Malaybalay, Bukidnon: "The issue of the Church's involvement in politics has been a nagging question since the imposition of martial law on the entire country in 1972. We, the Bishops have tried at various times and in various ways to come to grips with it. The Religious Superiors too as a body, and the fault, it seems, it that they have often taken the Bishops' words at face value and tried putting them into action. But this perhaps is precisely the moot question. Would it be possible to come to some common understanding in this all important matter of interpretation? Cardinal Tabera faults the Religious Superiors for 'an almost exclusively socio-political emphasis.' But whether he is right or wrong does not matter one bit. The burden is on us to decide for ourselves. Towards this very end, the following questions must be posed, answers sought to them:

"When a churchman praises martial law as good, even as the will of God for the people, that is not politics? (I use the word politics here in the disparaging way it is often used among us.) When another Churchman criticizes the conduct of martial law as subversive of human rights, that is politics? ..."

The AMRSP, which is composed of various religious orders that run convent schools and community centers, has closer contact with the people. It has forfeited the religious' privilege of immunity from harassment and incarceration by risking involvement in sensitive issues such as the plight of political prisoners, dislocation of squatters, boycotting of the past referendums, etc. On the other hand, the hierarchy, composed of 84 bishops, while claiming titular leadership over the country's 32 million Catholics, has frequently chosen as a body, to be indifferent to their pressing concerns. □

TONDO PLAN OPPOSED

Manila—"Distribute and sell to us the land in the Tondo Foreshoreland area!

This was the cry of about 1,500 representatives of the Tondo Foreshoreland people in a public meeting held 8 July at the Don Bosco basketball gym, Tondo. The people opposed the Tondo Foreshoreland Development Authority's (TFDA) plan to lease and distribute Tondo land to the public because it disregarded their "rights and dignity as citizens to be able to own" their own land.

In a position paper distributed during the meeting, the people's organization, Ugnayan ng mga Samahan ng mga Mamayan sa Tondo Foreshoreland, said that the leasehold system is a violation of Republic Act 1597 (as amended by Republic Act 2439) which gives the people of Tondo the right to buy and own a piece of land at P5.00 per square meter. It is also contrary to Pres. Marcos' promise that "the land in the Tondo Foreshore shall be divided among the residents of Tondo."

The position paper said that under the leasehold system, the people would rent the land forever. In other words, it would be a

lifetime burden for the people and they could be evicted by the gov't anytime the latter wants to use the land.

"It is clear that under such a system," the Ugnayan said, "we, the poor, have no more hope to be emancipated from being squatters, a status which may be passed on to our children and grandchildren." The people of Tondo demanded that Republic Act 1597 be implemented by the TDFA. They also demanded that "the distribution, sale or ownership should be based on the concept of collective or communal ownership under the administration of a people's cooperative."

The Ugnayan added that under such a system, the people would have control over their communities or zones through cooperatives whose leaders are to be chosen by them.

Political Prisoners

continued from page 3

political conditions. "Subversive" literature like Chairman Mao's Quotations and Amado Guerrero's "Philippine Society and Revolution" circulate among all prisoners even those in death row. Activist prisoners have even managed to politicize the lumpen elements in the camp (members of the notorious OXO and Sigue-Sigue gang), much to the dismay of the military who first planted the thugs to foment discord and violence. The prisoners also

discuss prison conditions and relations between detainees, making decisions after mass democratic discussion. Displaying self-reliance, the prisoners have also set up committees to take charge of vegetable gardens, prison sanitation.

PRISON WALLS ARE "PAPER WALLS"

The determination to rejoin the revolutionary forces is underscored by the successful escapes from the fascist camps. After months of planning, 3 NPA fighters and 2 youth activists managed to bolt from Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna. Two women prisoners successfully scaled prison walls in Benguet, Mt. Province. Jorge Labande, former Phil. Military Academy cadet and regional head of the NPA in Eastern Visayas escaped from the maximum security cell in Ft. Bonifacio, marking his third escape from the hands of the fascist troops.

Driven into further frenzy by the unrelenting resistance, the Marcos regime desperately responds with increased violence. However, as the political prisoners have proven (a historical lesson which continues to escape dictators like Marcos) sharpened repression breeds intensified resistance.

The political prisoners continue their commitment to the revolution. Even in prison they contribute their share to the advancement of the people's liberation struggle. □

R.P. DEBT RISES TO \$3.5-B

By Samuel P. Bayani

The Philippine economy is deeper into debt after 3 yrs. of martial law. As of 3 Aug. the country's foreign loans amounted to \$3.5-B, representing an 11% or \$361-M increase over the 1974 level of \$3.14-M. The US was the biggest lender accounting for 41% of the loans.

In addition to this staggering foreign debt, this month the Marcos gov't announced another \$1-B in new foreign loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This rapidly mounting debt load has become necessary to tide the country over its worsening balance of payments crisis; \$950-M deficit has been projected for this year alone.

In order to continue importing finished products and "restructure" its old debts (paying interests on old loans) the Marcos gov't literally begs for more loans from the US and US-controlled international financing institutions like the IMF and World Bank. However, these loans are acquired under such onerous terms, like an extremely high interest rate, that the country is pushed into further penury.

For instance, in 1970, the interest payments alone on their foreign loans consumed half the dollar earnings of Philippine raw material exports. And in 1972, close to 30% of the Philippine government spending was allocated to pay the interest on the country's \$2.18-B foreign debt.

This 'balancing act'—securing more loans to artificially stabilize the economy—is characteristic of Marcos' "fiscal sleight-of-hand" policy. Escalating inflation and further peso devaluation has been the only "consistent result" of such loan practices. In addition, US companies in the Philippines are the main beneficiaries of gov't loans and assistance. At the same time, they consume most of the country's dollar reserves through unlimited profit remittances and heavy importation of capital goods necessary for their local operations.

MARCOS SPENDING—TAXPAYER'S BURDEN

To generate more gov't revenue, the regime

is revising the tax schedule, calling for a more "equalized tax treatment."

The burden of this "equalized" tax treatment is being passed on to already overburdened Filipino taxpayers. A typical case (cited in the Manila Journal) is a Filipino homeowner whose property tax increased 300 times, from P135 to P5,000. Simultaneously, a gov't crackdown on so-called tax evaders has been launched. Stiffer penalties on tax delinquents have been imposed and evaders now face both a fine and jail term.

THE REAL TAX EVADERS AND PROFIT LOOTERS

Meanwhile, the real tax evaders, the foreign corporations, go free through tax loopholes. As part of the martial law policy favoring foreign investors, Marcos has granted them huge tax privileges, like exemptions on capital gains tax and tax credits on stock dividends, sales and imported capital equipment.

Although Marcos recently announced that some of these tax privileges might be modified, he has exempted from tax review all privileges covered by the Constitution, any granted under Presidential decrees bearing on Export Processing Zone authority, and all Board of Investment registered industries, multinational corporations and service contracts on oil exploration. All the above exemptions favor the foreign investors who have been given free rein in penetrating the economy.

A good case in point is the Free Trade Zone concept. These free trade zones like the Marivelles port and are nothing but economic enclaves where multinational corporations like Ford and General Motors are tax-exempt, and therefore beyond Philippine tax laws. Two more free trade zones are being planned by the martial law regime.

Under the regime, the country has been mortgaged to US businesses, who use these loans as a leverage to further preserve and enlarge its economic privileges in the country. □

Marcos Woos 'Balik-Scientists'

By Ma Flor Sepulveda

The regime has come up with a counter-braindrain stopgap measure—a catchy gimmick called Balik-Scientist (Returning Scientists). This project will seek the return of highly skilled Filipino professionals to put their talents at the disposition of the dictatorship. Budgeted for P3.7 million and under the auspices of the National Science Development Board and the Dept. of Tourism, the program will encompass a 5 year period before its projected goals are met.

Its two-fold aims are 1) "to boost the scientific and technological manpower in the areas of agriculture, manufacturing and services"; and 2) "to augment the research capability of private and public agencies and the academic staff of educational institutions engaged in agriculture, fisheries and forestry."

While it sounds very appealing, it is only "nationalist" bait to obtain scientists and technologists for his regime and foreign corporations in the Philippines. In fact a few months after the declaration of martial law, Marcos launched Operation Think-Tank which had the same aims. However, the malignant source of the braindrain lies not with the thousands of Filipino overseas professionals who were compelled to seek work abroad. The lack of opportunities is still a serious problem as the dictatorship spends millions of peso on propaganda gimmickry but does nothing about the swelling ranks of unemployed college graduates who will soon join the mass exodus as a last recourse. Meanwhile, overseas Filipinos who are naive enough to fall for Marcos's scheme, will only find themselves with false promises and at

the service of the fascist dictatorship and multinational corporations.

A commentary by Agham-Bayan (Science for the People), an underground publication produced by patriotic scientists, best sums up the futility of the Balik-Scientist program and adds a more accurate account for the braindrain problem:

"... We know one Ph.D. who wants to become a Balik-Scientist—in the opposite direction, that is—'Balik-USA.' Disgusted over the poor pay and miserable research conditions here he wants to leave the country. He says he is in danger of stagnating here professionally and becoming a 'Bulok-Scientist' (Rotten Scientist) like many of his colleagues." □

FR. ED, 17 OTHERS CONVICTED

The military investigative panel designated by Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile to look into charges against Frs. Edicio de la Torre and 34 others concluded their charade of justice by convicting de la Torre and 17 others with conspiracy to commit rebellion. The accused were specifically charged with violating PD No. 33 (publication, circulation, and possession of subversive materials). Meanwhile, 16 others, including Fr. Manuel Lahoz were acquitted.

To those familiar with the case of Fr. Ed (as he is popularly known), the conviction came as no surprise. (AK, vol. 2, Nos. 2&3). Previous to his arrest, Fr. Ed was instrumental in forging unity among the different underground resist-

Philippines Opens Ties With Cuba

By Ma. Flor Sepulveda

Hoping to boost credentials for greater int'l acceptance, the Marcos regime opened diplomatic ties with Cuba during ceremonies in Havana late Aug. The Philippine representative was none other than "Kissinger's counter-part in the East," Mrs. Imelda Marcos, who stopped first in Cuba during a series of diplomatic engagements in Latin America.

Among the significant items discussed by Premier Fidel Castro and the Philippine delegation was the int'l sugar market—sugar being the common principal export of the 2 countries. The Philippines is seeking active af-



filiation with a newly formed association of sugar producing and exporting countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The development of a sugar lobby will assist in regulating the world price of sugar, which has fluctuated in the past year due to the artificial crisis conjured by sugar companies and commodity future speculators.

Meanwhile, the Marcos regime is playing up the RP-Cuba ties to its diplomatic advantage. Recognizing the growing prestige of China and the strength wielded by socialist countries in the int'l community, Marcos is trying to attach himself to the "socialist bandwagon," hoping that somehow their prestige would rub off onto him. Eager to be called a "revolutionary" (as cover for his true title, dictator), Marcos has spouted quite a bit of progressive verbiage in the past few months. He has been making anti-US pot shots, fiery nationalist rhetoric and promises for "radical" reforms.

Of course, the term "revolutionary" could never apply to Marcos. The genuine Filipino revolutionaries are in the hills and cities, unfolding numerous ways to resist his repressive regime. □

ance forces against the dictatorship and was captured in Nov. '74 while undertaking this work. Upon detention however, Fr. Ed lost no time in continuing his protest within prison walls, and staged a hunger strike to call special attention to the tortures inflicted on his co-detainees. As a result, local and int'l indignation was aroused, forcing the military to suspend all tortures and convict the "overzealous" military officials who administered the abuses. Moreover, popular demand forced the military to arrange a "just and speedy" trial for Frs. Ed de la Torre, Lahoz, and 34 others.

But when a military tribunal was designated to handle the case, the outcome of the trial became a foregone conclusion. Fr. Ed, however, had already resigned himself to his eventual conviction, knowing the fascist nature of the regime. The possibility of languishing in jail for years or facing stiffer penalties has not shaken his conviction. In a letter to his superior, Fr. Ed wrote that freedom to him "means not just the release of political detainees" but the liberation of the entire Filipino people from brutal exploitation and oppression. □

P.C. LAUNCH TERROR CAMPAIGN IN DAVAO

Editor's note: The following is a condensation of reports from the HABAGAT, an underground newspaper in Mindanao.

Since April this year, the martial law gov't has been conducting a campaign of "encirclement and suppression" which has affected not only the countryside of Davao provinces but the cities and towns as well. This campaign reached its peak in June, and by all standards of sanity we can describe the events of June with nothing less than these terrible words: wide-scale kidnapping and terrorism.

In the month of April, 2 Davao logging magnates by the name of Angala and Maglana got together with the dictator Marcos to plan a campaign of "encirclement and suppression" involving certain barrios in the province Davao Oriental.

By May, 35 or so soldiers and officers from 4 services (Philippine Constabulary, Army, Air Force and Marines) under the command of Col. Hermilo Ahorro of Task Force Pagkakaisa were sent on a special 1-month mission to Davao City itself.

Families, relatives and friends of activists were rounded up. One such case was the family of Nelia Sancho, 1971 Queen of the Pacific who had become an activist and is presently in the hills. On May 8, the house of the family of Nelia Sancho was raided. Taken in were Nelia's father, mother, brother, sisters, maid, drivers, family friend, brother-in-law, and brother-in-law's friend. On 16 June, the 22-yr. old sister Agnes was kidnapped by the military on her way to school. She is not with the underground; she was not an activist in the first place. She was taken to a military "safe-house" where she was kept for 22 days. It was only after her father had successfully traced her (the military feigned ignorance over her disappearance) and under mounting public protest that she was returned home.

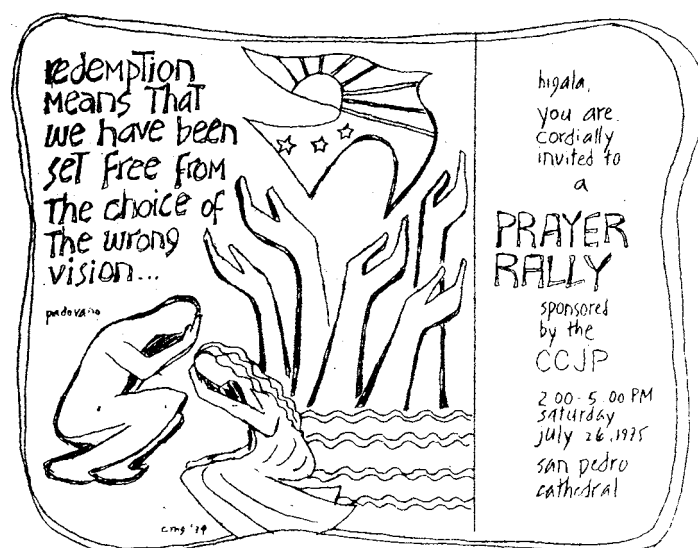
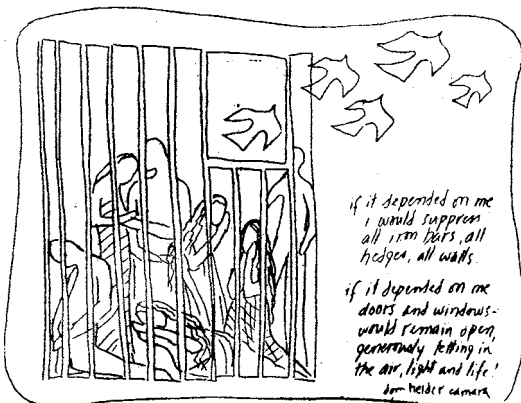
Another activist's family and friends suffered the same fate. Cecilio Reyes, a graduate of the distinguished Philippine Science High School and former political detainee, is being hunted on "shoot-to-kill" orders. The man-hunt for Cecilio included the kidnapping and torture of his girlfriend, his friends, his cousins and an aunt. About 20 youths disappeared and about 10 houses were raided in Davao City alone. All these youths and houses were in some vague way or other connected with Cecilio Reyes. Those who have visited the PC barracks report that the youths brought there look badly-battered, pale and teary-eyed. One of these youths saw drops of blood in his feces after being treated with blows of a thick piece of lumber on the stomach. It is considered "standard operating procedure" by the Central Intelligence Service (CIS) to use physical brutality on their victims.

The only crime of the poor people involved in these raids and arrests is that they are related to an activist.

The brand of white terror which the martial law gov't has tried to foist in Davao, not only were youths kidnapped but bystanders were shot down and peasants murdered.

WIDESCALE TERRORISM

Other terroristic incidents that have occurred in the Davao province are the following:



—In the barrios around Mati, peasants and fishermen have been forced out of their dwellings and brought to schoolhouses in the town of Mati, "Viet Nam war" style; those who have persisted in going back to their only means of livelihood have been shot dead.

In Banay-Banay, the place where 2 prominent youths, who had joined the NPA, were killed; shoot to kill orders have been issued on anyone walking between the barrios. According to confidential sources, Banay-Banay may be one of 2 places scheduled for aerial bombing with napalm.

In June, the enemy "encirclement and annihilation" campaign having failed, the enemy sent 11 trucks of soldiers to the hillside barrios to shoot incoming and outgoing peasants on sight and terrorize ex-detainees and persons vaguely suspected as sympathizers.

While there is no apparent rhyme or reason to the white terror recently sowed by the military in the Davao provinces (that is, as to why this or that person was taken in or killed), there are certainly concrete economic and political reasons as why it been waged at this particular time, and on this scale.

IMPORTANCE OF DAVAO TO THE REGIME

Davao City is to Mindanao as Manila is to Luzon and the whole Philippines. It is a center of gov'tal and military operations. All nat'l agencies and offices have branches in Davao city. From the ranks of the city's unemployed come the young recruits who become "cannon fodder" in the gov't's war in Cotabato and elsewhere in Mindanao. In its bosom are born most of the military and gov'tal plans that affect the whole of Mindanao. From its womb come most of the war material used by the military in its suppression drives throughout Mindanao. This is the political and military significance of Davao City.

Economically, Davao is important to the ruling elite for its logging and banana plantations owned or controlled by US and Japanese corporations. Aside from being a center for agro-industry, Davao City is also seen as a profitable industrial site. Sasa, a district north of the city center, is being groomed as the site of a military-industrial complex. The naval yard is located there, together with the airport. Already, 2,000 families living within 200

meters of the airport perimeter are being driven out to give way to a protective shield of military housing and installations to protect US and Japanese factories soon to be set up in Sasa. Aside from US and Japanese corporations, the dictator Marcos himself has a big stake on Davao City and the Davao provinces. Marcos owns sugar haciendas, banana plantations and logging companies there. Besides these economic, political and military considerations, another important reason for the government's intensive repression is the existence of a strong resistance movement and armed struggle that is being waged there. The NPA has been active in Davao since 1972 and has unfolded fighting fronts in the northeastern, northwestern and southwestern regions of Mindanao.

PEOPLE REFUSE TO BE COWED

It is worthy to note that though the intent of all these kidnappings, murders and arrests is obviously to terrorize the people of Davao City into silence and inaction, the people have merely become more incensed than ever with the martial law gov't. The efforts to locate the kidnapped youths have also taken organized form, despite attempts to silence the relatives and friends of those kidnapped. On 30 June, the Citizens Committee on Justice and Peace, an organization of religious and civic leaders, agreed to protest the disappearance and mauling of Davao youths. On 1 July, 126 people signed a "Statement on Military Arrests and Tortures."

In part the statement read: "We denounce the existence of 'safe houses' where the suspects are detained which are outside the official military detention centers; we denounce and protest the inhuman practices and torture inflicted on both men and women during the so-called 'tactical interrogations' which are considered standard operating procedures." On 27 July, a prayer rally was held at the San Pedro Cathedral in protest against the continuing military abuses in the city.

The abuse, kidnapping, arrest and torture of ordinary, innocent citizens has not stopped the people's resistance against the fascist Marcos regime. On the contrary, such tactics have merely provided the masses with their most concrete lessons on fascism. Stifled dissent can only lead to outright rebellion. □

MORE YOUNG FILIPINOS DRAFTED INTO MARCOS ARMY

A massive military buildup from 100,000 to 256,000 troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is underway. Registration for military training of various types, aimed at inducting men, women and youth into active duty, is the main thrust of the extensive conscription program being undertaken.

The flow of events indicating the extent of this conscription program has been described in *Various Reports* (20 June 1975) published by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, Manila, which says:

"1. On 10 March 1975, Pres. Marcos ordered the registration of all male Filipinos born in 1957 for military training. Basic ROTC graduates are not exempt from registration. Though this is a yearly affair, it is now being done more diligently.

"2. ROTC training has been shifted from the usual drills and lectures to antiguerrilla warfare.

"3. Citizens's Army Training has been introduced to boys and girls in high school while the Women's Auxiliary Training Corps (WATC) has been started for women in college.

"4. Unemployed out-of-school youth from various areas such as Constitution Hill, are invited or "hauled" to summer military training camps, such as Camp Capinpin and Camp Evangelista.

"5. Government employees in Bohol had to undergo combat training for 25 consecutive Sundays, otherwise their previously submitted resignations would be accepted.

"6. A 15-minute movie produced by the Nat'l

Media Production Center glamorizing the training of an AFP soldier is being shown in moviehouses.

"7. A special mid-decade census to account for every Filipino is being implemented this May with an allocation of P19-M.

"8. By presidential decree no. 183, all students must present their birth certificates upon enrollment.

"9. Some new recruits being sent to Mindanao are told not to lose heart since many others from 18 to 25 years old will be drafted and will join them in the Mindanao war.

"10. All barangays in the country are organizing the Filipino youth whose ages range from 15-17 into the "Kabataang Barangay" to prepare the minds of the youth for their role in the New Society.

"11. Pres. Marcos ordered the release of substantial amount to speed up the military self-reliance program of the AFP. (cf. *Bulletin Today*, 21 May 1975)

"With these turn of events we cannot help but conclude that a planned conscription of our youth is just around the corner.

MARCOS GROWING DESPERATE

"The following facts add further weight to our conclusion:

1. Shortly after the President imposed Martial Law and a few weeks ago according to a public newscast, FM said he intended to raise the number of his troops to 250,000. Even after the integration of all police forces under the Philippine Constabulary

he has only 100,000 troops, most of whom are concentrated in the Greater Manila Area.

"2. The reluctance of the US to grant increased military aid to what they consider to be dictatorial and oppressive governments as well as the growing threat of a spread of the liberation movements in SE Asia (cf. Vietnam, Cambodia) leaves the President no other option but to build up a self-sufficient military defense in the country.

"3. Meanwhile, the strength of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Bangsa Moro Army is estimated to be composed of 60,000-70,000 troops (cf. *Various Reports*, pp 23-25, 2 May). It must not be forgotten however that a ratio of 10:1 of gov't troops are needed to contain an organized guerrilla insurgency.

"4. From reports received, it appears that the morale and determination of MNLF insurgents are much higher than that of AFP troops, many of whom are hastily trained and fighting in unfamiliar territory.

"5. The recent peace talks with Muslim "insurgent leaders" particularly in Zamboanga and Marawi City did not appear to have borne much fruit, despite some newspaper reports to the contrary. The real rebel leaders did not attend the talks. One wonders how genuine the peace talks really were.

"The stage is now set for pushing through the planned conscription of Filipino youth. It seems that many of these will be sent to Mindanao to fight the Muslim rebels in a protracted war." □

HUNDREDS DECRY DISCRIMINATIO

By Sherry Valparaiso

BERKELEY—Some 600 active members of the Filipino community came together at the 1975 Filipino People's Far West Convention 29-31 Aug., united with the intent to bring about change and progress for the Filipinos in the US and in the Philippines.

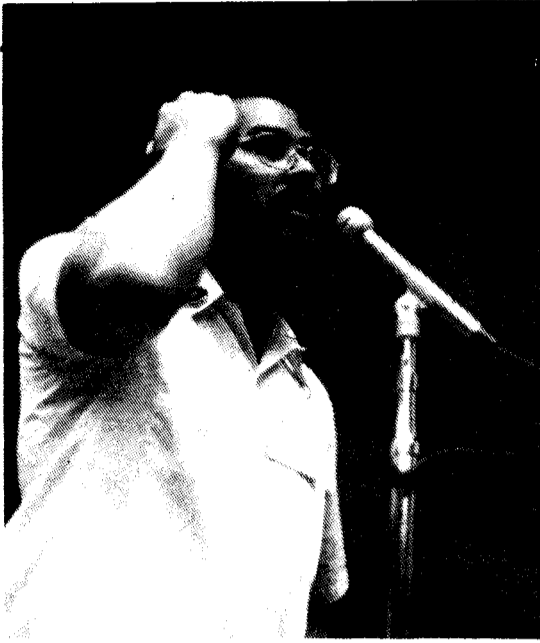
The 3-day affair began Friday with day-long registration and a cultural program that evening of Filipino dances and songs while delegates arrived from as far away as Seattle, San Diego and Hawaii. Quite noticeable were a number of "older Filipinos" of families and manongs which dispelled the myth of it being only a "youth convention."

At the general assembly Sat. morning, co-chairperson Rod Santos made the opening remarks by reflecting on America's colonization of the Philippines and its effects on Filipinos today. He pointed out that by examining these effects, we can determine what we need and how to best accomplish these goals for ourselves.

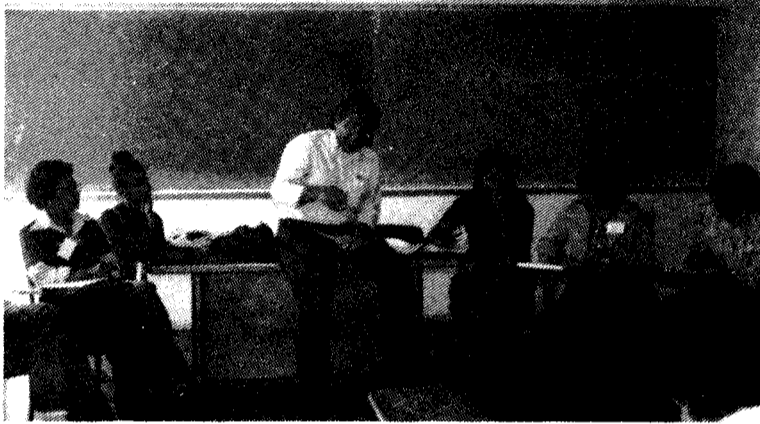
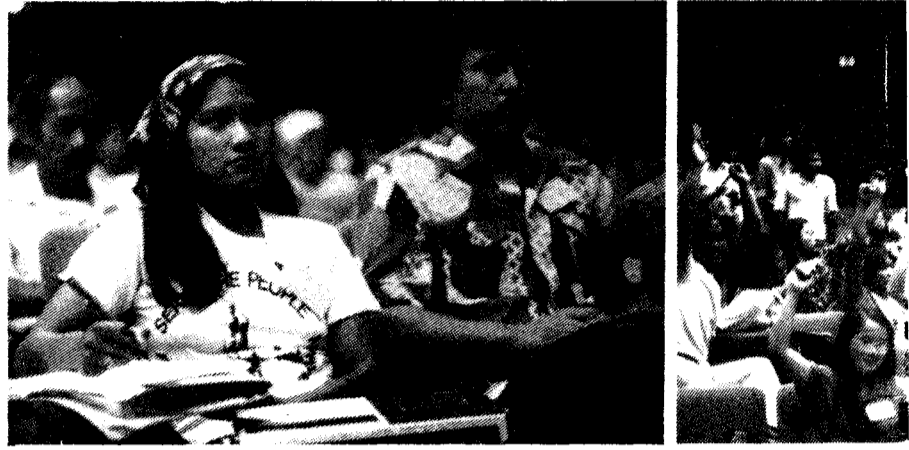
The keynote speaker, Jessica Ordon-Hill, a SF educator, spoke to the goals of this year's convention. Directing herself to the theme "Paglingkuran ang Sambayanan" (Serve the People), she explained that as a minority in the US, Filipinos function in an atmosphere of racial and national discrimination in every aspect of their lives. Emphasizing the need for unity, she said, "therefore, in order for Filipinos to progress as a people, to gain our basic human rights, we must take the work seriously and collectively, despite political, regional or age differences. The Far West Convention is a collective response, which strengthens our capacity to fight and is a vital weapon in serving the needs of our people."

In addition, Mrs. Hill spoke to the second point of unity of the convention saying, "we must not sever our ties with the Philippines through apathy and ignorance. Whether recent immigrants or children of earlier immigrants, we were forced here by the lack of opportunity in the Philippines; whether in the US or in the Philippines, we are all Filipinos—we are all products of the same economic/feudal conditions."

Following the keynote speech, Cathi Tactaquin, the other co-chairperson, explained that the slide show originally



1975 PILIPINO PEOPLE'S FAR WEST CONVENTION August



planned to compliment the address had not been finished in time. Though they had worked through the night, the presentation did not adequately reflect all the major points needed to be explained. "It's not that there aren't a lot of slides of the Filipino community," she said, "but there was a lack of slides of particular areas such as health, labor and education. The problem is that much of the work in these areas is not consolidated, which will be our task in the next two days," she added.

In its place, "Pagbabalikwas," the KDP cultural group from Seattle, performed two songs, "Ang Bayan Ko" and "Ang Masa," and gave an English rendition of Amado V. Hernandez' poem,

"Weep, My Native Country." Their performance was well received by the audience and effectively captured the spirit of the theme—SERVE THE PEOPLE!

WORKSHOPS

With this perspective in mind, delegates broke up into workshops in areas of housing, education, youth, students, labor/employment, and conditions in the Philippines. Though it was the first time many delegates had a chance to meet, most workshop discussions were interesting, honest and lively.

Workshop facilitators were prepared beforehand, and presented delegates with

packets of summary materials for sectoral conferences. Sectoral conferences had brought a cross-section of people in each area, the basic working relationship of already been established workshops to focus discussions and had enough time to prepare

PLENARY SESSION

As a result, the actions presented at the session were clearly a success of the "working convention. The resolu-

continued from page 2

MD's Plight...

the Far East and Middle East where barriers of language and customs made difficult their adjustment to US ways. Second, amendments to the immigration laws in 1965 and 1970 opened wide the doors to immigrant physicians and permitted them to stay regardless of their facility with the English language and regardless of certification by the ECFMG."

The ECFMG or Educational Commission for Foreign Medical graduates administers a compulsory test for foreign medical graduates on an exchange visitor program. The journal also cited a study made by a certain Weiss that lamented the fact that FMGs working in the health field were often functioning independently and in unsupervised settings, a "sad state of affairs" which the author derogatorily termed the "medical underground."

The authors of this study went as far as to imply that because of these FMGs, serious problems exist in the quality of care provided in the US health care system. The FMG problem, noted a similar racist study, poses a "threat to any serious and meaningful re-organization of the health care system in the US."

FOREIGN DOCTORS EXPLOITED

What are the facts behind these charges and attacks? First, the foreign medical graduates have long been exploited in the US. These FMGs who have entered the US as physicians (most of whom had already established their competence in their homeland) will still have to pass exams for licen-

continued on page 12

EDUCATORS, STUDENTS FORM

By Teresita Buatista

The Far West Task Force on Education and West Coast Conference of Filipino Students, concrete products of the 1975 Filipino People's Far West Convention, are now "joint actions" that promise to create far-reaching effects in providing better education for Filipino students.

In the past, these same ideas had been raised but previous conventions were not prepared to concretize them. This year, the Education and Student Workshop organizers synthesized organizational proposals that were presented and accepted by workshop delegates. Given existing Filipino student clubs and educators active in Filipino/Ethnic Studies, many recognized the conditions were favorable to better organize students and educators. Especially important was that delegates in both fields were able to reach a common understanding of the problems and some goals to accomplish in the next year ahead.

EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Education Workshop gathered the expertise of about 70 teachers, parents and students from the SF Bay Area, San Diego, Los Angeles and Seattle. The weekend was spent discussing problems and solutions in the areas of curriculum development, bilingual/bicultural educa-

tion, and student and parent involvement. Almost all the delegates cited examples of how Filipino students experience discrimination in school due to skin color and national origin.

To give only a few examples, most school curricula contain very little about the Philippines and the Filipino people, and thus ignorance and sometimes lies are perpetuated about Filipinos. Filipino immigrants, because of an accent and a foreign education, are often penalized and sent back a grade and required to take an endless string of remedial classes. Lack of relevant courses for Filipino students (like "Filipino Pride" type of courses) and an insensitive school environment can easily lead to a lack of motivation and poor academic work; this can become a pattern easily leading to chronic truancy and eventually dropping out.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Delegates shared that individual attempts to meet the needs of Filipino students have occurred in some school districts, but that it was time that the "scattered efforts of many people be communicated and shared among all concerned with resolving the problems that face Filipinos in the schools."

The concept of a "task force" was viewed as a step in developing a working network among the various people who

want to affect a change in the education of Filipino students. A voluntary body drawing on the experience of teachers, parents and other community persons will be the Education Task Force would go to the local school district and West Coast basis. Before the Convention, the Bay Area Task Force will be the central place and responsible for the meetings to launch the task force.

Last 28 Sep., the first meeting of the task force and another is planned for October to refine the organization. In this meeting of the task force, everyone felt it important to have a major project that could be implemented and have important effects on the curriculum, bilingual/bicultural education and student and parent involvement. The general thrust of the task force is a review of the curriculum (science, history) and to identify resources to document and correct negative portrayals of Filipinos, either by accident or omission.

Most likely to be presented at the June for action to the State Boards of Education, could force high-level officials to delete from state curriculum derogatory portrayals

ON AGAINST FILIPINOS

FAR WEST

29 - 31



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lished working principles to be imple-
mented according to the particularities of
each local area.

In workshops such as Education and
Students, where the Filipino community
had an extensive amount of experience
and resources, joint actions, calling for the
formation of the Far West Education Task
Force and the West Coast Student
Confederation were proposed (see related
article below).

The most controversial resolution came
from the Conditions in the Philippines
workshop which sharply criticized the
Marcos dictatorship for its suppression of

civil liberties and atrocities committed on
the Filipino people. The resolution called
for continued opposition to US military aid
and military-related economic programs
to the Marcos dictatorship; support of
local actions of the National Coordinating
Committee in protesting Sep. 22, the
anniversary of martial law; and the
building of int'l moral and material
support for Philippine political prisoners.

The controversy centered around the
fact that some feared a vote on this
resolution would mean repercussions from
the Marcos regime, either for themselves
or relatives back home. It was pointed out
however, that the very apprehension to
voicing their opinions was testimony to
the repressive and vicious nature of the
Marcos dictatorship.

After some discussion, everyone agreed
to take a hand count, respecting those that
were still fearful. The resolution over-
whelmingly passed with 119 in favor, 15 in
opposition, and 19 abstentions recorded.

Running only 1 hour over the planned
schedule, the chair opened the session to
other resolutions from the floor. A
delegate from Seattle suggested the site
of the 1976 FWC to be in Seattle which
was passed unanimously with much ap-
plause. It was also raised and passed that
sectoral conferences, having had such a
positive affect on the convention, be
continued in preparation for the next
convention. Lastly, delegates agreed to
follow up on documentation of the 1975
FWC just as Los Angeles had provided a
well-written, comprehensive pamphlet of
last year's Sulong convention.

BEYOND IDENTITY

Overall, the Convention was a great
success and many things were accom-
plished. the 1975 Pilipino People's Far
West Convention has been an important
tool in building the unity of Filipino people
into a viable force who have and will
continue to make contributions to Amer-
ican society. A growing stage has been
passed in the struggle of Filipino people
for pride and self-respect. It has advanced
to the point where the Filipino people
have stood up to support the people's
struggle in the Philippines, actively
fight against racial and national discrim-
ination, and transform America's tradi-
tional institutions to serve the needs of
the people! □

'Isuda Ti Imuna'

HISTORY OF STRUGGLES RELIVED

By Teresita Bautista
and Sherry Valparaiso

BERKELEY - "Isuda Ti Imuna," (Ilocano for
They Who Were First), the major cultural
presentation for the FWC, came back to life
last 30 Aug for its 2nd Bay Area performance
at UC's Zellerbach Auditorium before an
audience of over 1,000 people.

Involving the efforts of about 100 people, the
play was chosen because the history of the 1st
Filipinos in the US it portrays also spoke
vividly to the FWC's uniting points -
opposition to racial and nat'l discrimination.
This 3 hr. long play chronicles the sharp racial
antagonism and many events in the Philip-
pines and the US that shaped the lives of the
thousands of our Filipino pioneers.

LEARNING FROM HISTORY

Because most of this history is unknown or
distorted, many Filipino-Americans and immi-
grants are ignorant of the hardships, suffer-
ings, struggles and victories of our "ma-
nongs." This is the theme of the opening
scene where Lisa, a young Filipino-American
active in a project for Filipino Senior Citizens,
tries to convince her family the old times
cannot be "blamed" for their present condi-
tions. It is the hardships and racism they
experienced that is the cause.

As the play then unfolds, the story of the
leading characters, 3 Filipino brothers, comes
to life. Through these men, "Isuda" recounts
the many moments in our history when
Filipinos showed both strength and weakness
in their struggle to survive in the US.

The brothers, Jun, Emilio and young Carlos,
all leave their family one after the other during
the 20s and 30s to seek their fortune in
America, clutching their "dream" of someday
returning and helping out their loved ones.
Depicting the actual experience of most during
that period, the brothers arrive in Hawaii only
to find their hopes quickly dashed by the
meager wages and brutal treatment they
recieve from the profit-hungry sugar planters.
This struggle saw thousands of Filipinos shut
down over 40 plantations in an 8-mo. strike for
better wages and working conditions. But it
was tragically ended in 1924 with the
Hanapepe Massacre in which 16 striking
Pinoys were slaughtered.

EXPLOITATION, RACIST ATTACKS

As the brothers then migrate to the
mainland to work in California's farm valleys,
they find themselves in the middle of the
"Great Depression," as millions of American
workers are thrown out of work, lose their
homes and are forced to live from hand-to-
mouth. Filipinos find the same capitalist
exploitation, but racists soon target them for
blatant attack as the new "scapegoat," an
"explanation" for the depressed conditions
and lack of jobs in California. Economically
exploited and socially isolated, Filipinos find
the rundown cardrooms and dancehalls their
only source of temporary escape. "Isuda's"
excellent portrayal of a "Taxi Dance Hall"
provided the audience with deep insight into
the loneliness and disillusionment which
compelled many to gamble away their hard
earned wages.

This depressing, but revealing scene is
followed by another important part of Filipino
history in America. Jun, a politically conscious
labor organizer, stresses to his compadres to
overcome their own narrow racial "stereo-
types" of Mexicans and to unite with them as
brother workers in an important strike against
the growers. This scene, along with the
preceding interpretive dance dramatizing the
Depression, speaks to the capitalist root of the
problems and injustices in America and the
need to recognize this as the common
oppression that all working people face under
this profit-first system.

The economy is salvaged by Roosevelt's
"New Deal" policy but war enters the scene
next. With Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor
and invasion of the Philippines in 1942,
Filipinos are thrown into the midst of another
reshuffle of destinies. Many Pinoys enlist,
hoping to be part of the liberation force to free
the Philippines from Japan, while others stay
to man the homefront instead. WWII however,
marked a turning point in the US and in the
lives of the Filipinos here and with this scene
the play ends, closing the chapter on one of the
most difficult, tragic and sometimes valiant
period in our struggle here in the US. □

WEST COAST ORGANIZATIONS

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addition, it could also force the inclusion
of "missing chapters" from US history
that are related to Filipino experience (i.e.
the Filipino-American War, Filipinos in
the US in the '20s and '30s, etc.).

The Bay Area will remain the center of
the Task Force while plans include other
regions to be drawn into several important
stages of the review and assessment work.
Though plans are still in the developing
stage, there is much enthusiasm to define
the Task Force's work and move it in a
concrete, forward direction.

STUDENT WORKSHOP

College students from throughout the
Far West focused their discussion on the
formation of a Student Confederation to
join the different campuses in the struggle
to build meaningful Filipino student or-
ganizations.

The Student Confederation was formed to:

- 1) establish, maintain and improve Fili-
pino courses and studies programs; fight
against various economic material and
political cutbacks; and struggle to meet
the educational, social, cultural and
recreational needs of students.

- 2) develop and strengthen an under-
standing of the true conditions in the
Philippines.

These points of unity came out of the
workshop discussion which explained first

that due to poor high school preparation,
many Filipinos are not able to go on to
higher education. So at the college level,
the few Filipino students who have the
academic record must contend with other
problems. Though financial aid and other
special programs like EOP (Educational
Opportunity Program) enable those Fili-
pinos to attend college, the programs are
being decreased or eliminated. Also,
Ethnic Studies, which reflects the struggle
of TW college students for relevant, com-
munity-related education, is also menaced
by administrative decisions to dissolve the
existing programs. Their intent is to
parcel out the different parts of Ethnic
Studies into History, Anthropology, etc.,
and divert it from the community base
which Ethnic Studies was created to
serve.

The Student Confederation, which has
an interim Steering Committee of 3 reps.
from each region (Washington, Northern
and Southern California) will be launched
soon, now that the school year has started.
The interim committee is planning to in-
itiate interest on the various campuses in
their region and build up to a regional
plan and formalize a regional council.
Once this foundation is laid, it is likely
that the Confederation will be able to grow
and develop into a viable West Coast
student organization. □

Thousands Condemn Plight of Political Prisoners



Seattle demonstration



Seattle community dinner



Oakland fundraiser

continued from front page

by Rev. Peothig. Rev. McPherson of Chicago Church Committee for Human Rights in Asia drew parallels between the condition of political prisoners in Korea and the Philippines, and Geline Avila of KDP called attention to the overwhelming popular origins of the majority of the political prisoners, an indication, she said, of the heightening mass character of the struggle against Marcos. Finally, John Fowler of FFP exposed the role of the multi-national corporations in supporting Marcos and his imposition of martial law. The program also featured a KDP photo-exhibit on the armed struggle in the Philippine countryside.

The next day, the afternoon program of anti-martial law groups in Honolulu drew about 200 people to Aala Park near the Chinatown. Speeches were delivered by Reps. Ben Cayetano and Neil Abercrombie of the State Legislature, Melinda Kerkvliet of FFP, Prof. Robert Stauffer of the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP), and Dean Alegado of the KDP. A resolution from the International Longshoremen's Union was also read that condemned the Marcos regime for suppressing the rights of unions to strike, atrocities in Mindanao, successful activity against the dictatorship ever held which included skits on the sham land reform and other aspects of the Marcos regime, was the most successful activity against the dictatorship ever held in the Filipino community in Hawaii.

Seattle also witnessed the biggest anti martial law event thus far in that city, when 200 people attended the political prisoners fundraising affair that evening. Jointly set up by the September 22 Committee and the KDP, the event included speeches, songs, poems, and creative dances, and gathered over 50 letters to Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) protesting US aid to the dictatorship. In conjunction with the dinner, 100 people picketed the Philippine Consulate the following day in protest to the "anniversary of martial law in the Philippines."

Also that night, 300 people in the SF Bay Area, mainly from the Filipino community, flocked to a benefit dinner and cultural presentation in Oakland, Calif. The program included songs by the Sining Bayan, the KDP cultural group, and was highlighted by a taped message from the mother of a political detainee. She described the abuses inflicted on her daughter by the military and appealed to Filipinos and Americans in the US to continue the struggle to restore freedom and democracy to the Philippines. The affair netted at least \$600 for the Political Prisoners Fund and collected 100 letters written that evening to Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) protesting the continuation of US aid to the Marcos regime.

In San Diego, the September 22 Coalition sponsored a benefit dinner at Ship's Beef Inn on 22 Sep

itself. The affair was attended by about 35 people from the Filipino community and included a program of speeches and songs. A woman who had been to the Philippines three times since martial law was

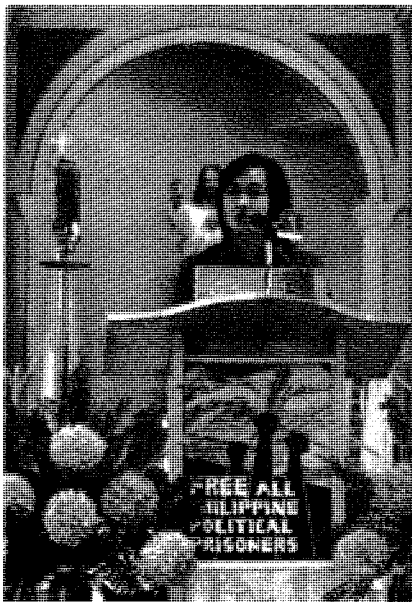
declared in 1972 attested to the extreme poverty and poor health of the peasants while Marcos spent millions of dollars on propaganda extravaganzas like the Miss Universe contest. Over \$70 was raised for the Philippine political prisoners and the community felt enthusiastic in continuing anti martial law work.

In Los Angeles over 70 people attended the Political Prisoners Dinner held at Channing Hall, 27 Sep, sponsored by a local anti martial law coalition. The program featured a slide show by recent Balikbayans contrasting the tremendous wealth of the ruling elite with the poverty facing the vast majority of people. Fr. Bruno Hicks, a former Philippine political prisoner, spoke of his personal experiences and added there are more than just 20,000 political prisoners in the Philippines; under martial law, everyone is a political prisoner. The event not only raised \$200 for the Political Prisoner Fund, but almost everyone who attended wrote letters to Congress asking an end to US aid to the Philippines. An educational forum was also held 20 Sep at the Filipino-American Community Center as a build up for the dinner.

A cultural program called "Bayan Ko" (My Country) depicting the Philippines after three years of martial law was presented by the Progressive Filipinos in Quebec (PPQ) on Sep. 20 in Montreal.

The plight of some 15,000 to 20,000 political prisoners in the Marcos concentration camps highlighted the program which included a slide-show lecture on the history of martial law and its aftermath, five patriotic songs, and three poems written by Filipino political prisoners. The Progressive Filipinos in Quebec (PPQ) is primarily committed to supporting the national democratic struggle in the Philippines. For information, write P.O. Box 2, Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Canada.

Other activities organized for the September 22nd weekend took place in Philadelphia, Washington, DC, San Jose, Sacramento, and Oxnard, Calif. The Philadelphia event was an ecumenical service in honor of political prisoners attended by 30 persons. Some 25 individuals connected with civil rights groups, church groups, Congress, and gov't agencies attended a presentation of the FFP slide show in Washington, DC. Both events discussed the situation of the political prisoners and the role that the US Congress could play in alleviating their plight. In San Jose, Sacramento and Oxnard, Calif., pot luck dinners and forums were held on Philippine political prisoners. This was the first activity in these cities in response to the NCC's call to protest the continuation of martial law. □



Philadelphia



Los Angeles



Oakland

Racial Violence... cont fr p.13

schools. Desegregation is widely seen by many as a way towards obtaining a better education for their children and breaking down racial barriers.

Said one Black parent in Louisville, "If there was a better way of bringing about racial equality in the schools, we'd go for it, but there doesn't seem to be." Noting that the struggle

for civil rights has always carried the threat of violence, she added further, "If busing is going to mean a long struggle, then so be it," she said, "We're 20 years late . . ."

WHITE BOYCOTT FAILING?

As the violence which marked the first week of school subsided, it appeared that the white boycott in both cities was waning. School attendance in Louisville increased to 60% and Boston's attendance had risen from last year's

48% average to 68.4%; most parents saw that only the children and the community suffered from the boycott.

But the relative peace which reigns in both cities is an uneasy calm. The "armed camp" atmosphere generated by the presence of national guard troops and police cannot mask deep underlying tensions and the threat of future racial violence. Warned one white woman in Louisville, "after the Guard leaves, all hell is going to break loose." □

Amendment...

continued from front page

serable to their constituents. It appears that they are responding to public pressure about 'human rights'."

The amendment reads, "No assistance may be provided to the gov't of any country which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internat'lly recognized human rights (including torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of punishment), prolonged detention without charges, or other flagrant denials of the right of life, liberty, and the security of people..." The amendment goes on to by pass this restriction if he specifies how this assistance will benefit that country's needy people.

SENATE - STILL IN DEBATE

Deliberation on the economic package in the Senate is taking more time. At press time, a similar measure had passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. George McGovern, dissatisfied with the "watered down" Senate amendment on "human rights," included a supplemental view which was published along with HR 9005. His version directly specifies, "...the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Internat'l Relations Committee may require the Administration...to submit in writing, information demonstrating...the gov't of such country is not engaging in a consistent pattern of gross violations on internat'lly recognized human rights."

Sen. McGovern's version also provides Congress more explicit initiative and primary responsibility in overseeing administrative compliance to the human rights section. In addition, section 617 of this act stipulates that Congress, by concurrent resolution, is able to terminate aid to a country it deems repressive.

PHILIPPINES VIOLATES "HUMAN RIGHTS"

These moves to disqualify economic assistance to repressive gov'ts will certainly affect the Philippines. In June, several eyewitness testimonies before Rep. Donald Fraser's Subcommittee on International Organizations revealed that the Philippines has a repressive gov't. Also, State Dept's Philip Habib, Asst. Sec. of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, officially acknowledged before Fraser's Subcommittee the "ongoing repression and violation of civil rights" under martial law in the Philippines.

If successfully passed by Congress without Presidential veto, the "human rights" amendment will cut off millions of US dollars in foreign aid, the lifeline of Marcos' martial law dictatorship.

Since the declaration of martial law in 1972, much military-related economic assistance has already reached Marcos. The Documentation Staff of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) of the Anti Martial Law Movement cites in their *Logistics of Repression* that more than \$50-M in military-related funds, though called "economic assistance," was issued in the last year to the Philippines. Hidden military aid was contained in such programs as Food for Peace, Internat'l Narcotics Control, and Rural Roads.

In light of these exciting developments it is encouraging that the educational work in Congress of the NCC has had some affect. Other sources in Washington say, "For the last two years, the question of human rights has become more of a concern. This was the first year that a special Office on Human Rights was established in the State Dept."

MILITARY AID - YET TO BE INTRODUCED

This turn in the balance of forces creates a favorable climate for a similar amendment to accompany the military package. The Administration has not yet presented the military portion of the foreign aid measure and discussion will most likely occur after the end of the congressional recess 25 Oct. Although the military aid expired in September, the heightened concern of more legislators about "human rights" will dampen attempts to pass a continuing resolution that would maintain foreign aid allocations at the same level as last year.

"The unprecedented split in the foreign aid package," state Washington sources, "may be due to the Administration's indecision about overall military allocations. The Executive branch is in a dilemma to comply with section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act 1974 requiring a justification before Congress of the

Groups Plan New Anti-Marcos Campaigns

By Teresita Bautista

The leadership of active anti-martial law groups within the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) of the Anti Martial Law Movement will meet in New York the beginning of November to plan new campaigns that will deal more concerted blows against the Marcos dictatorship.

In addition, the conference will sum up the joint work in the last 9 months and assess its organizational structure. New anti martial law groups formed in the last year will also be invited to attend.

The struggle against the Marcos martial law regime has seen many victories since the formation of the NCC in Chicago last December, 1974. This formation has effectively combined the energies and resources of a variety of anti martial law groups into a strong "working unity."

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS

In a relatively short period, the NCC successfully launched a number of significant nationally coordinated campaigns, the major ones being the "Campaign to End US Aid to Marcos" and the "Political Prisoners Campaign."

These united efforts have had invaluable impact in Congress. The NCC prepared eyewitness testimonies at congressional hearings on the fascist nature of the Marcos rule before Rep. Donald Fraser's House Subcommittee on International Organizations. These testimonies were documented by two comprehensive studies prepared also by the NCC: *The Logistics of Repression: A Report on the Volume, Forms, and Functions of U.S. Military Assistance to the Martial Law Regime in the Philippines* and *Political Prisoners in the Philippines*. As one State Dept. official admitted during the hearings, "You (the Anti Martial Law Movement) are forcing me to act as a

grant of military assistance to gov'ts engaged in violations of internat'lly recognized human rights. Besides, the longer the delay, the easier to push through the entire foreign aid measure at the closing stages of Congress deliberations. This leaves very little time to organize an opposition campaign." □

Martial Law Groups

continued from page 3

domestic economic policies, the regime has launched what have been billed as "bold" foreign policy initiatives. These actions, however, have been swiftly exposed either as panicky, overdue moves to come to terms with long-established realities or as gestures of cosmetic nationalism.

RESISTANCE MOUNTS

The Filipino people, however, have not only survived but resisted. Resistance has taken many forms. The New People's Army (NPA) and the Bangsa Moro Army (BMA) have spear-headed the armed opposition in the countryside. The urban underground continues to flourish in spite of increasing Constabulary crackdowns. The churches have, especially in the past year, become centers of vocal resistance to the regime.

The extent of the resistance is indicated by the fact that the regime now holds 20,000 political prisoners in military stockades throughout the country. These individuals, who have dared to speak out for basic precepts of justice and freedom, are drawn from all walks of life. They are workers and students; peasants and priests; professionals, socially conscious businessmen, and major political figures. Their variety manifests the depth and universality of the opposition to the regime. We are all familiar with the arbitrary manner in which the regime has sought to bring Sen. Benigno Aquino to a kangaroo court. The international community is less familiar with the treatment that lesser known figures such as Nilo Tayag, Fr. Edicio de la

gadfly in the department. You keep posing these questions that can't be answered well. Your political prisoners study was very effective."

BROAD PUBLIC OUTREACH

Of more long range importance, the NCC also undertook education and mobilization campaigns directed to the Filipino community and American public. The realities of repression and suffering in the Philippines were well exposed by informative leaflets and petitions to Congress to cut off military appropriations to the Marcos dictatorship. Over 21,000 signatures were gathered in an intense period of 3 months. As well, militant demonstrations across the country last June demanded the termination of aid.

Numerous teach-ins and forums in cities throughout the nation also revealed the plight of the Philippine political prisoners. This year's 22 Sept. events firmly underscored the "Political Prisoners" theme and called for letters to Congress to stop aid to the Marcos dictatorship, since it supplies the basis for "torture, bombing and other terror techniques."

It is very evident that the movement here in the US to end martial law in the Philippines is reaching thousands of the Filipino and American people. Thus far, the active cooperation of forces opposed to the Marcos regime has resulted in stronger unity and more effective anti-Marcos campaigns. The upcoming year looks very favorable for continuing the successful course of anti martial law unity, as new plans will call for more strides in the fight against the Marcos dictatorship. □

ACTION ALERT:

Harris and Gallup Polls show that the American public is strongly opposed to any more aid to repressive regimes. Now is the time to write your congressmen to cut off aid to Marcos. Send your letters immediately!

Torre, Fortunato Bayotlang, Perla Somonod, and Lilia Hilao have received from the military authorities. Drugging, physical and psychological torture, and arbitrary sentencing are institutional realities in Marcos' prison camps, and the brunt of the application of the techniques of repression falls on the unknown, unpublicized dissenters.

PLIGHT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

The National Coordinating Committee has made the international exposure of the plight of these unknown, faceless but heroic thousands, as well as that of the better known ones, the principal focus of the campaign we have launched to mark the 3rd anniversary of the imposition of fascism in the Philippines. We demand their release, but we do not appeal to any humanitarian sentiments on the part of the dictatorship. We address ourselves to international public opinion, with the realization that the latter can to some extent stay the arbitrary hand of a regime that continually worries that critical public opinion, especially in the US, might influence the US Congress to reduce the levels of military aid—the drug that has sustained it in power for the past 3 years.

The nationwide campaign to expose the plight of the political prisoners is built on the patient educational and agitational spadework which all anti-martial law groups have performed over the last 3 years. The current level of critical awareness on the part of the Filipino and American publics regarding the repressive character of the Marcos regime and the role of the US in propping it up is in great part due to the complimentary efforts of these groups. As we look ahead we can say that the cause of the political prisoners and the anti-martial law struggle in general can only profit from our efforts to continually elevate our unity to ever higher levels. □

The National Coordinating Committee of the Anti-Martial Law Movement (Philippines)
22 September, 1975

ELDERLY COMMUNITY LEADERS PASS AWAY

By Emidgio Galicia and
Emil De Guzman

The Filipino community in the SF Bay Area deeply mourned the recent deaths of 2 elderly community leaders, Benny Flores and Joaquin Legaspi. Both were very active in fighting for better living conditions and social services for Filipino senior citizens. Through their hard work, dedication and profound sense of responsibility to the Filipino people, these men made many contributions during their lives to the Filipino community and their memory will remain in the hearts of many.

"MANONG BENNY"

Benny Flores, otherwise known as "Manong Benny" to the many people who worked with him at Oakland's Project Manong Hotel, died of a sudden heart attack on 14 Sep at the age of 68. His death was not foreseen as he was up and around during the days immediately preceding. As with all senior citizens, though, his health had deteriorated in the past few years and he suffered from diabetes, high blood pressure and a weak heart.

Benny was an organizer and worked with other manongs and youth to start "Project Manong" to provide decent and low-cost housing for elderly in the Oakland downtown area. In this capacity, Manong Benny made numerous speaking engagements to raise funds in the community and deepen people's awareness of the conditions and needs of the elderly Filipinos.

Though Manong Benny lived most of his life in the US, coming here in the 20's, he never severed his ties with the Philippines, his homeland. Recognizing that his fellow countrymen were suffering under the repressive Marcos regime, last year he was an active member of the Bay Area September 22nd Coalition against the continuation of martial law.

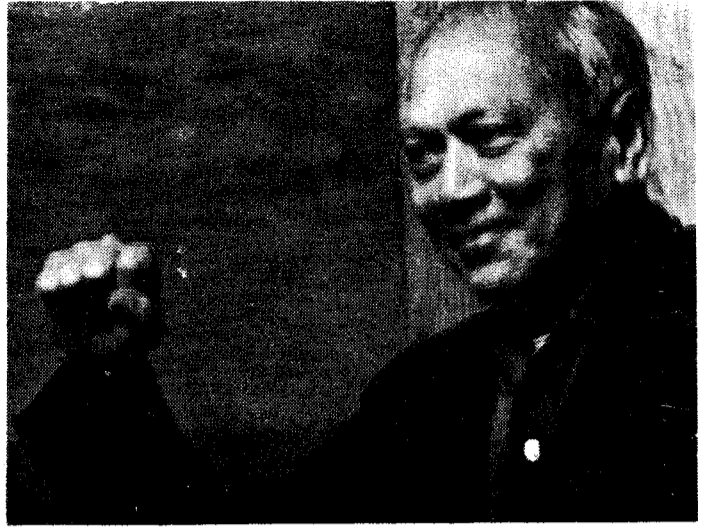
Even up to his last days, Manong Benny continued to actively participate in issues and problems affecting the Filipino people. In the 1975 Filipino People's Far West Convention held in the Bay Area, he was one of the key people in the Food Committee which planned, prepared and served meals to the 600 delegates. He did this not only because he liked to cook, but because he supported the Convention and knew it was an important event for the Filipino communities here on the West Coast.

JOAQUIN LEGASPI

Joaquin Legaspi, a poet, artist and long-time fighter for the rights of Filipino people died 18 Sep, after being ill for some weeks.



Benny Flores



Joaquin Legaspi

Legaspi was a very talented man who painted, sculpted and wrote poetry reflecting the rich experiences of the Manongs. Coming to the US at age 21, he worked in the canneries of Alaska, the farm valleys of the West Coast and later as an electrician for many years.

He was very generous in sharing his time and experiences to young people who were interested in the Manongs history and the conditions of the Manilatown community. His involvement in the community was demonstrated by his leading role in the fight to save the International Hotel (an hotel in S.F. renovated in '68 by community volunteers to provide decent low cost housing for the Manongs) and the formation of the United Filipino Association which represented the residents of Manilatown in the first stage of this fight.

Though in his late 70s, Legaspi was a social worker and gave service and assistance to the manongs and other Asian immigrants in the SF Manilatown area. His spirit to work in behalf of the people was widely known and he exemplified the kind of initiative that many can learn from.

RICH, PROUD HERITAGE

Benny Flores and Joaquin Legaspi were part of the first wave of Filipinos who came to the US in the 20s and 30s with dreams of finding vast opportunities and returning home with their riches. But like the rest of their counterparts they became victim of capitalist exploitation, inequality and injustice.

This was the time of the "Great Depression" and American agri-business and other industries

like the Alaskan canneries saw Filipinos as a source of cheap labor to exploit and abuse. Racist laws were passed in which Filipinos could not own land or property nor marry outside their race. Because of the colonial status of the Philippines at that time, Filipinos also could not obtain US citizenship. As a result, the Manongs have gone through life as propertyless and family-less men and today, many still live in substandard housing and lack adequate medical care, food and social contact. Most are barely able to survive as they have only a small monthly pension or social security to live on.

However, the history of our Manongs here in the US was not a passive one. They participated in many strikes and struggles to fight against oppression and exploitation of Filipinos and all working people. Organizing through unions they led asparagus, lettuce and grape strikes to gain the right of collective bargaining. They withstood racist vigilante attacks such as the Stockton bombings and the Watsonville riot. It was on the hard work and sacrifice of the first Filipinos and millions of others like them that built this country.

What we should learn from the lives of Benny Flores and Joaquin Legaspi is that all Filipinos have one and the same struggle for justice, equality and freedom and it has not yet ended. We should take on their example of determination and sacrifice to continue the struggle. As Manong Benny put it, "What we need is unity and active participation of our people to make changes for the good of our community." □

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MD's Plight...

sure in the state they wish to practice. In other words, this means that a Filipino doctor who practiced medicine in the Philippines for 10 years will again have to prove his "competence" as a doctor through this exam.

The test itself is very difficult and many fail, which leads to the common phenomena of full-fledged doctors unable to practice as physicians. In these cases, they often work as medical aides or technicians. This situation is in fact very advantageous to the hospitals because the level of pay for these doctors is much less than what they deserve as physicians. Dr. Barnes, president of the APPPA (Association of Philippine Practicing Physicians in America) denounced this exploitative practice in a speech in the 4th convention of Fil-AM doctors. He said: "These hospitals are getting expert professional labor at an orderly's pay."

The exchange visitor's program has in the same way perpetuated the abuse and exploitation of foreign medical graduates. Under the guise of "training," Filipino doctors man understaffed general hospitals and perform duties of a licensed physician and yet are paid less.

The presence of FMGs in the medical system is not the problem, and is in fact a convenient "red-herring" drawn by the AMA to confuse the real issue.

HEALTH CARE FOR PROFIT

The real issue in the medical care system in the US today is its underpinnings of profit motivations and view of health care as a commodity. The AMA which control the medical care system in the US has deliberately kept the supply of American doctors at a low level. Working on the basis of the capitalist law of supply and demand, the AMA has calculated the supply of doctors in the US to obtain the highest

profit returns based on the high demand for health service. This is why the medical system as it exists today is a lucrative field. Thus, the number of medical students is deliberately kept to the barest minimum despite the obvious need for more medical personnel, sadly at the expense of the American people. Medicine in the US has become a big money making business with little concern for the people's health.

In times of an explosive health crisis, the AMA relied on the FMG through EV programs or liberalized immigration laws to temporarily ease the heightening contradiction between the American people and the inadequate medical system. Thus, it is not surprising to know that more than 15% of the approximately 380,000 physicians in the US are foreign medical graduates.

the medical care system in this country has rapidly deteriorated because of its anti-people perspective. In response to the mounting criticism of the inadequate medical care, AMA is conveniently using the FMGs as scapegoats, pinpointing them as the culprits of the inadequate health system. This devious move also serves another purpose. AMA has been increasingly threatened by the entry and competition of FMGs in private practice, hitherto a sacred domain of the elitist and racist AMA. AMA feels the FMGs are good enough to staff general hospitals, which are geared more towards the working people, but not good enough for private practice!

WHY FILIPINO DOCTORS IN THE U.S.?

The AMA has justified its anti-FMG hysteria by righteously stating that America is robbing other countries of their doctors and should therefore repatriate these doctors to their home country. The moralistic tone is a sudden turn-about on its previous stance of encouraging the immigration of FMGs when it was obviously the needed palliative to the American medical crisis. This opportunistic reversal of its policy, cloaked in a seeming "concern" for the health care of other countries, reeks of hypocrisy.

Again, what are the realities? It is a fact that the present medical care system in the Philippines is inadequate. But it is not simply because the country

needs more of its doctors and nurses and other medical professionals. The trend of exodus of its skilled labor force from the Philippines is based on its semifeudal and semicolonial character. As such, it is unable to utilize fully these skills. Concretely, what does this mean for the medical professionals? It means an appalling absence of medical facilities in the country. Whatever facilities are available are concentrated in the cities and are basically available for the rich only. These unfavorable working conditions have also effectively discouraged the distribution of the Filipino doctors in the rural areas. Instead, the Filipino doctors are congested in the cities (95%), by force of more favorable medical facilities they practice.

The underdevelopment of the Philippine economy, because of its domination by US multinationals and local ruling elite, is the biggest obstacle to the positive repatriation of Filipino doctors to the homeland. Only a truly economically and politically independent and developing Philippines can best utilize these human resources.

Understanding this historical truth, the question of immediate repatriation of Filipino doctors through the deportation of EVFMGs is an artificial solution to the health problems of the Filipino people, which is intricately tied to its basic problems of underdevelopment. We can therefore see the hypocritical move of the AMA as basically stemming from racial and national discrimination—pure and simple. The present threat of mass deportation of EVFMGs is only the first step in this racist campaign. All Filipinos should unite in fighting these attacks on the democratic rights of the EVFMGs to choose to remain here.

These discriminatory attacks are otherwise unchecked and can move quickly on to other sectors. Other medical professionals here in the US on exchange status like nurses, pharmacists, medical technicians, etc. will necessarily be affected by this precedent-setting attack on EV doctors. Similarly, the racial and national slurs on Filipino FMGs will further extend and encompass the Filipino community as a whole. It is therefore necessary to see that an attack on a part is an attack on the whole. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

Racial Violence Rips Boston, Louisville Schools

By Victor Uno

As school children returned to classes across the nation this fall, Boston, Mass. and Louisville, Ky. became the focus of violent racist attacks against desegregation through busing. In both of these cities, Blacks demanding their right to decent education and schools became the target of the racial violence. Only a massive show of police strength stopped major rioting and temporarily quelled the violence that rocked both cities.

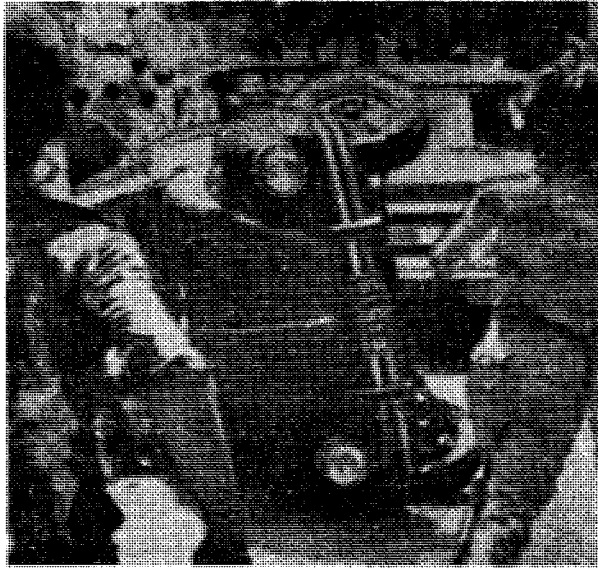
Louisville was the scene of the most violent confrontations between police and "anti-busing" forces as 10,000 rioters invaded school areas 5 Sep., stoning and setting buses on fire. Other clashes saw over 400 arrested and 100 injured as Kentucky's Gov. Julian Carrol was forced to call out 1,000 National Guard and 200 State Troopers 6 Sept. to restore order. By the end of the following week, racist violence subsided as each of 470 school buses carried 4 armed guards and gatherings of more than 3 people along bus routes were banned.

Boston, in its second year of busing desegregation, saw smaller confrontations than last year's riots, due mainly to the mobilization of 1,800 police and 100 US marshals to patrol bus routes and guard schools being desegregated. Even with the massive presence of police, however, sporadic violence at Charlestown and South Boston High saw over 100 people arrested by the end of the same weekend.

THE DESEGREGATION ORDERS

Boston and Louisville are only two cities out of a hundred where courts have issued desegregation orders, upholding the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 decision that the "separate but equal doctrine" was inherently racist. While many schools have since desegregated, Boston and Louisville were forced by Black civil rights groups to desegregate after stalling for 20 years.

Louisville, a city of 900,000, 52% of which are Black, maintained lower quality schools than the predominately white schools in nearby Jefferson County. Last July, Fed. Dist. Judge James F. Gordon issued a busing plan affecting 10% of the student population. The plan



Racists overturn cars in Boston riot, harrass Black school children in Louisville.

merged 165 city and county schools and called for "two-way busing" of 11,300 Black students to go to mainly white schools and an equal number of white students to attend mainly Black schools.

Boston's desegregation orders, issued last year by Judge Arthur Garrity on 21 June, ruled against the Boston School Committee which had long maintained policies racially gerrymandering school district boundaries to perpetuate segregated schools. Last year's Phase I called for busing 18,200 pupils out of the city's 94,000 student population and this year's Phase II had 26,000 students bused to 162 schools to achieve racial balance.

THE ISSUE IS RACISM

While busing has been cited as the problem by so-called white "anti-busing" forces, the fact that Blacks were violently attacked exposes they are really vehement anti-Black racists. Indeed, white supremacist groups have been functioning openly in these cities to foment racial hatred and sow the most backward ideas among the white communities affected by the busing desegregation.

In Louisville, the Ku Klux Klan was active in the riots, stoning buses carrying Black children

from schools and shouting "niggers go home!" The Klan's Grand Dragon, Philip Chopper was arrested and charged with conspiracy in the riots. Also active in the Louisville violence was the Boston based Restore Our Alienated Rights (ROAR) which sent a speaker to an "anti-busing" rally of 10,000 at the Kentucky state fair grounds on 3 Sep.

ROAR, leader of the white racist forces in Boston, has been active over the past year in drumming up a white boycott of Boston's newly integrated schools. Working with the KKK and the American Party (Nazi), ROAR rallied 8,000 whites outside city hall the day before schools opened to protest desegregation and continue the white boycott. The air of racial hysteria was also fomented at a Charleston High ROAR rally 8 Sept. where an effigy of a Black man was burned with the words "nigger beware" printed on the shirt amidst chants of "Niggers will die in Charlestown High."

BLACKS DEFEND RIGHTS

Despite the racially charged atmosphere and the ever present threat of physical violence, Black parents have been sending their children to the previously all-white schools to defend their right to decent education and better

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FARMWORKER ELECTION RESULTS DISPUTED

By Polly Parks

While California's new farmworker law set unprecedented guidelines for union elections for the state's 200,000 agricultural workers, the bill's implementation has suffered severe setbacks as the growers have maneuvered deceitfully to sabotage the voting and stop all unionization.

Utilizing secret contracts, vigilantes, firings, intimidation, and other forms of threats, the growers have mounted their largest anti-union campaign since the '40s to retain control over the workers. Particularly vicious attacks have been leveled at the United Farm Workers (UFW) by the growers and Teamsters Union, who fear the UFW's strength should they win the majority of ranches.

The conflict between the UFW and the grower-Teamster alliance goes back 10 yrs. ago to the UFW strike in Delano. The growers brought in the Teamster Union and signed backdoor contracts, wiping out 90% of the UFW contracts. Though the conflict was defined only as a "jurisdictional dispute" by the grower-Teamster interests, it was actually an attempt to force out the UFW. The dispute was the source of much antagonism, oftentimes resulting in violence and bloodshed, with the UFW generally taking a defensive posture.

In May '75, Calif. Gov. Brown marshalled the growers, Teamsters and UFW to support his

compromise bill, which created a governing body, the Calif. Agricultural Labor Relations Board (CALRB), to set up election procedures, settle jurisdictional disputes, and allow for elections at ranches currently under contract.

GROWERS SUBVERT ELECTIONS

The growers quickly found loopholes in the new law and launched a legal offensive which threatens to keep the UFW in long court battles for years. The first attack came 6 Aug as the UFW, after a difficult political fight with the CALRB, received permission to send organizers into the fields to organize during breaks and lunch.

The Delano Grape Growers Assoc. went straight to a Fresno court and got the ruling overturned, contending that their ranches were private property and off limits to "complete strangers" during work hours. This anti-labor ruling was later overturned by a higher court.

In another manipulation attempt, the Western Growers Assoc. (WGA) obtained a court order the day before the election, 4 Sep, and prevented the counting of ballots on the farms of its 140 members.

Finally, a key provision which allows strikers to vote is being undermined by a joint grower-Teamster effort. The result has seen 3 key votes of striking workers impounded and awaiting decision by the court—Gallo, largest winery in the US; Egg City, Calif.'s largest egg

processing plant; and Guimarra, largest Calif. individual grower.

In the fields, the harassment and intimidation of workers has also not halted. Incidents of growers going into the fields with arms and telling them how to vote have been reported. In Stockton, growers and labor contractors hired a white vigilante group, "posse Comitatus," to patrol its fields with rifles and shotguns and keep the UFW out. In collusion with the growers, rural sheriff depts. have also harassed UFW organizers. In early September, 12 UFW organizers in Delano were arrested for entering the fields during the break. The charges were dropped, but the next day, the same arrest procedure was repeated.

Even with election, the struggle between the growers, Teamsters and UFW does not end. Growers in the Delano area have filed suits challenging every election the UFW has won. At some ranches the growers have lowered wages pending outcome of the suits and where the UFW wins, generally pro-UFW workers are fired.

The UFW has charged election fraud and mounted a campaign to bring public attention to the gross violations and force some action from the CALRB or Gov. Brown.

At this point, the UFW has won the majority, but the victory is not yet official. The no-union drive and anti-UFW attacks of the growers have taken considerable toll on the organizing efforts in the fields. It could go one for some time, while court battles and physical assaults, intimidation and harassment continue without an end in the foreseeable future. □

MIDEAST PACT SELLS OUT PALESTINIANS

By Victor Uno

Even as Sec. of State Kissinger frantically shuttled between Egypt and Israel with promises of US dollars to get them to sign a disengagement pact, the prospects of a US imposed peace in the Mideast seem doomed as virtually every Arab nation denounced the resulting agreement. Indeed, commencements towards a peace in the Mideast cannot even begin until the Palestinian's demand for return of their homeland by Israel is resolved.

The Kissinger-engineered accord, signed by Egypt and Israel 4 Sep in Geneva, calls for Israel to relinquish 2,000 mi of Sinai Desert occupied since the October War and the return of the Abu Rudeis oil fields taken from Egypt. In return, Egypt will end hostilities against Israel, allow the UN Emergency Force to remain past its 24 July mandate, and let non-military cargo to or from Israel through the Suez Canal.

US COMMITMENTS

As guarantor of the pact, the US promised to pay Israel upwards of \$3.3-B in military and economic aid, including \$250-M yearly to compensate for the loss of the Abu Rudeis oil. The proposed \$3.3-B comes to over \$1,000 for every man, woman and child in Israel and exceeds the total amount of US aid to the rest of the world.

Key to the disengagement pact is a US pledge committing some 200 "non-military" personnel on both sides of a new "buffer zone" to supervise several Egyptian-Israeli surveillance facilities. This move has been sharply criticized as a repeat of the Vietnam war scenario where US advisors ultimately led to US troop intervention. It also sets a dangerous precedent which could lead to stationing US "observers" on all fronts between Israel and other Arab states, and thus deeper US involvement in the Mideast.

Finally, an aspect of the agreement not

publicly disclosed is a secret "understanding" between the US and Israel. Even as Kissinger and Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon disclaimed any such "understandings," syndicated columnist Jack Anderson revealed portions of a "secret pledge" by Washington which commits the US to "meet Israel's economic and military needs." Washington secretly promised to respond, "diplomatically or otherwise," to any threat to Israel's security, clearly raising the specter of direct US military intervention to assure Israel's survival.

The US also pledged that it "will not recognize or negotiate with" the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the representative of the Palestinians displaced by Israeli expansion. While this pledge is "merely codifying" what Washington has repeatedly said publicly, observers feel that such an agreement deepens Washington's ties with Israel.

FORD HAILS PACT

Trying to drum up Congressional approval for the agreement, Pres. Ford lauded the pact as a triumph for Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy." In his unique style, Ford attempted to argue that the agreement was a "great achievement, one of the most historic of this decade and perhaps in this century."

Arab reaction, however, was not so approving. Indeed Arab repudiation of the agreement was near unanimous, with Syria attacking the pact as a "serious setback" for the Arab struggle and Jordan and Libya making similar denunciations. Egypt's move towards a "separate peace" with Israel has been seen as a major break of Arab unity and Egyptian president Anwar Sadat has been sharply criticized for legitimizing Israel's Zionist aggression against all Arab states.

PALESTINIANS VOW FIGHT

It is the Palestinians, however, who are most affected by the agreement and who have most



vigorously attacked the settlement. The new pact makes no mention of the Palestinian's struggle to regain land taken by Israel, and the Egypt-Israel pledge of "non-recourse to force" to settle differences allows Israel to concentrate its military forces against Palestinian strongholds.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), recognized by 105 nations as the representative of over 2 million Palestinians displaced by Israeli expansion, vowed to fight the "American solution" and "liberate Palestine with our blood, bodies and souls." Yasir Arafat, leader of the PLO, attacked Kissinger's "step-by-step" negotiations as "sidesteps away from the central issue," the "rights of the Palestinian people."

He further stated that "the US is paying . . . too much . . . for a minimal Israeli withdrawal from a few miles of desert," and that "at this rate it will take . . . several more wars before we recover the territories, and America will be bankrupt long before."

KISSINGER'S SHUTTLE—WHERE?

Even Sec. of State Kissinger noted the limi-

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Dare to struggle . . .

NATIONWIDE— TEACHERS STRIKE

Over 130,000 teachers in a dozen states went on strike last month. The main issues centered around fighting massive budget cuts which have caused lay-offs, wage cuts, oversize classes and a general deterioration in quality of education and working conditions.

Most strikes resulted because negotiations by the respective Boards of Education were stalling, or there were flagrant violations of existing contracts. The violations have resulted in increased class size with a cut-back in number of teachers and a general attempt to erase previously won cost of living and wage increases.

The major cities affected include NY City, Chicago, Philadelphia and Berkeley, with important scattered strike actions in the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut and Delaware. In many cities where teachers struck, students and parents joined the picket lines to express solidarity with the actions taken. □

SAN QUENTIN 6: KEY PROSECUTION WITNESS REFUSES TESTIMONY

SAN FRANCISCO—A key prosecution witness, Allan Mancino, refused 17 Sep to testify on the State's behalf in the retrial of the San Quentin 6. The SQ6 are accused of aiding an alleged SQ Adjustment Center break 21 Aug '71 in which prison activist George Jackson was murdered by prison guards.

Mancino, described as a 'white racist' and 'snitch of snitches' by Defense Atty Michael Dufficy, announced his decision to take the 5th Amendment following a 16 Sep

guards. Mancino had one time been approached by prison authorities to murder George Jackson. Although Mancino refused and filed an affidavit testifying to it, he has since been held incommunicado; even his whereabouts are unknown at times. □

CHICANA IN ARGENTINAN JAIL FOR "SUBVERSION"

GILROY, Calif.—25 yr. old Chicana student Olga Talamantes, held without bail in an Argentine jail for a year, was sentenced last month for being in a house which contained "subversive materials."

Since her arrest 10 Nov '74, after which she underwent electric shock torture for 4 days, Olga's parents formed a defense comm. to pressure the US gov't to gain her release. Because of the political character of the arrest and the fact that Talamantes is Chicana, the US stalled giving any assistance. Finally the gov't. moved to have her deported following conviction. However, Talamantes refused, demanding to stay until vindicated of the frame-up charges against her.

Olga was arrested the 4th day of Argentine pres. Isabel Peron's declaration of a state of seige. All civil liberties were suspended and an estimated 3,000 political prisoners are now in jail. □

OUTRAGE AT KENT STATE ACQUITTAL

KENT STATE, OHIO—Plans for appeal are being made following the 27 Aug exoneration of Ohio Gov. James Rhodes, former Kent State pres. Robert White and 27 others from all responsibility of the May '70 murders of 4 students and wounding of 9 others during the Kent State

protest of the US invasion of Cambodia.

The 9-3 verdict came after a 36-hr. deliberation following a 15-week trial. Antiwar activists, liberals and other progressive forces immediately charged that the trial was "a mockery" and "justice was not served."

The plaintiff's case had literally destroyed gov't charges that a student sniper prompted the shootings and that students were charging and stoning the guardsmen.

Evidence was shown that Rhodes provoked the demonstrators by ordering Nat'l Guard to the campus, and that they were not endangered, but deliberately fired on the students as a conscious act of repression against the antiwar activities. □

RIGHTS FOR UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS GAINS SUPPORT

LOS ANGELES—A broad united front was recently formed of labor unions, CASA, Gen. Brotherhood of Workers and other individuals and organizations to stop the passage of the racist Rodino Bill, a proposed immigration law which would allow for the increased harassment and deportation of undocumented workers.

One of the main focuses of the campaign will be to refute the misconception that foreign workers take jobs from US workers, thus creating the present unemployment crisis. Rather it is corporations and the gov't that "control jobs, make jobs appear or disappear and cause prices to soar."

Antonio Rodriguez, nat'l coordinator of CASA, exposed the bill's enforcement through a proposed internal passport system as "reminiscent of a police state."

Another development in the fight

for undocumented workers rights is the United Farm Workers recent passage of a resolution calling upon Congress to grant amnesty to all undocumented workers in the US. The statement is a reversal of the union's previous position to deport undocumented workers. □

AMERICANS CELEBRATE CHINA FRIENDSHIP

Nationwide activities are scheduled for this month to celebrate China's revolution in the spirit of strengthening friendship between the Chinese and American people. The events will be hosted by a broad spectrum of various individuals and organizations. Generally the events will focus on China as a socialist country and its tremendous advances in political, economic and social fields since the Oct 1st founding of the People's Rep. of China in 1949.

Many of the world's people, especially in Third World countries, have been greatly inspired by the Chinese revolution against local and foreign imperialist oppression.

Since '71 with Nixon's visit to People's China, the US's cold war blockade has been lifted. Since then, however, millions of American people have been afforded the opportunity to view China more closely. Now through cultural, educational and sports exchanges, Americans are able to learn of China's socialist system and its people, history, present strides and future plans.

This popular interest in China was shown again recently this last summer in the display of the famous Archeological Findings of the PRC, which were seen by more people than any previous single art exhibit in the US. □

LAOS COMPLETES LIBERATION STRUGGLE

By Polly Parks

On 23 Aug at a mass rally of 300,000 people, Thao Moun, chairman of the seizure of power committee declared the old regime overthrown and the People's Revolutionary Administrative Committee (PRAC) of Vietiane Province and City established.

The declaration of the PRAC culminated a 4-mo. nationwide campaign by the Laotian people, under the guidance of the Pathet Lao (Lao Patriotic Front), to oust all remnants of the "reactionary old system" and form a "new people's administration."

The revolutionary committees had been instituted following a rapid change over in the coalition gov't, the Provisional Gov't of Nat'l Union. Top right-wing officials fled the country last May after failing in a CIA-backed coup attempt. While these officials had been in the coalition gov't, they had blocked all efforts to fully democratize the country and were deeply involved in graft and corruption.

CAMPAIGN TO OUST RIGHTISTS

The mass campaign to oust the rightists began several months ago during the country's 1st legal celebration of May Day. Thousands of demonstrating Laotians hailed slogans demanding an end to the war and removal of all officials opposing the full implementation of the '73 peace accords.

The following week, more demonstrations called for a corruption-less gov't and 6 leading rightists were specifically named who "must be ousted."

The days following saw the ultra-rightists intensify a last ditch military effort to oust the Pathet Lao and place themselves in complete power. The coup scheme crumbled, however, when the nat'l army refused to participate, forcing right-wing Defense Minister Champasak to resign. Days afterwards, he and the rest of the panic-stricken traitors fled to Thailand.

During the rest of May, massive protests forced the CIA and Agency for Int'l Development (AID) to also leave the country. AID had been a funnel for millions of dollars to the CIA to back the right-wing and retain use of Laos as a staging ground against SE Asian liberation struggles.

PURGES, RE-EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

With the final departure of the ultra-rightists, CIA and AID, the Laotian people took up

a mass movement to cleanup the gov't and purge all corrupt officials. Lower level functionaries who had ties to the old regime were given an opportunity to rehabilitate. Taking re education classes for a month, the officials learned the history of the patriotic struggles of Laos, policies of the Pathet Lao and the importance of officials to serve the people, and not their pockets.

Though the campaign was initiated in Vientiane, the summer saw the spread of the cleanup and reorientation movement to all provincial and district levels and nat'l bodies.

LIBERATION COMPLETED

With Vientiane remaining the only area lacking people's rule, the establishment of revolutionary committee there last 23 Aug was



Crowds welcome Pathet Lao soldiers

the natural culmination of the deep working ties and political unity that had been built among the Laotian people. The Pathet Lao, which had consistently led the patriotic people's struggle against US intervention, defended the people's right to demonstrate and cleanse the gov't to better serve the needs of the country.

The problems now facing the fully liberated country are not small - economic and social problems have been deeply aggravated by a century of foreign domination, intervention and aggression. But while the tasks of reconstruction are enormous, the Laotian people are approaching it with the same spirit of determination and sacrifice that enabled them to win their national liberation. □

Portugal: 'Moderate' Gov't Installed

LISBON - The strife-ridden gov't of Prem. Vasco Goncalves resigned 7 Sep under intense pressure from the ruling Armed Forces Movement (AFM) and the country's Socialist and Popular Democrat parties. Sworn in only last 8 Aug, the Goncalves gov't lasted only a month as Portugal's fifth government since the overthrow of the fascist Caetano dictatorship last year in April.

The movement to force out Goncalves came about because of his pro-Portuguese Communist Party policies which were interpreted as conducive to Soviet interference. Forces in the AFM pressured Pres. Gomes to appoint moderate Vice-Admiral Jose Pinheiro de Azevedo as prime minister 29 Aug. Goncalves was then appointed chief of general staff of the armed forces.

While Azevedo's appointment was accepted by all parties, Goncalves' reappointment to the reigns of gov't was met with swift opposition and some AFM commanders began troop maneuvers, an act seen as preparations for a military showdown. The AFM subsequently met 5 Sep under the leadership of Pres. Gomes and a new 21-member revolutionary council was formed without Goncalves.

While the formation of the Azevedo gov't was met with general approval by Portugal's major political parties, internat'l reaction reflects some of the sharp struggle between the US and USSR who are both exerting pressure to influence Portugal's future.

US Sec of State Kissinger on 9 Sep called the change "encouraging," and stated that a reduction of pro-Soviet influence in Portuguese politics would "certainly influence our judgement" on a \$25-M proposal to aid Portugal's ailing economy. Besides exerting economic blackmail, the US has also been active fomenting social upheavals through the CIA which newspapers revealed is financed at \$2-M a month.

Soviet reaction was bitter towards the change, their official newspaper Pravda attacked the US for "interference in Portuguese internal affairs." Even while making this charge, the USSR has been active funneling millions of dollars into the pro-Soviet Portuguese Communist Party in an attempt to gain stronger influence over Portuguese politics. □

BITTER CIVIL WAR ERUPTS IN ANGOLA

By Polly Parks

10,000 lives have been lost since bitter fighting between Angola's 3 liberation movements escalated to civil war.

The 2 largest organizations, Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), show no inclination of abandoning the military struggle between them. Vowing to "run the MPLA out of the country," the FNLA has relaunched an offensive on the capital city of Luanda, an MPLA-stronghold.

The 3rd movement, UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), proclaimed a ceasefire with the MPLA in mid-Sept. Reversing an earlier declaration of war last month, the implementation of the this latest truce and promise of cooperation remains to be seen.

Further adding to the conflict S. Africa recently launched an excursionary force of 800 army regulars and mercenaries into southern Angola to secure the Luacana Falls hydroelectric dam which provides power to the apartheid regime. Only simultaneous military actions by the MPLA and UNITA were able to stabilize the situation.

INTERFERENCE BY THE US & USSR

The factional fighting however, is not entirely based on internal differences. Angola's abundance of natural resources, making it the richest of Portugal's colonies, has made it the object for outside interference from the US

and USSR. Through subtle and blatant forms of manipulation these gov'ts are having an increasing hand in trying to determine the outcome of the fighting.

The FNLA has received substantial amounts of arms from the CIA through Zaire's pres. Mobutu, brother-in-law to FNLA head Holden Roberto. The US recently negotiated a \$60-M grant to Zaire that is regarded as linked to support for Roberto.

The MPLA is receiving military aid from the Soviet Union and was recently charged with having Soviet military "advisors" participate in their military maneuvers. However, the accusation of being an auxiliary of the USSR's foreign policy is vigorously disclaimed by the MPLA.

UNITA's head, Jonus Savimbi, is regarded as a "middle-force" by Angola's white business interests. Currently the smallest military force, UNITA is negotiating with the West German Christian Democratic Party for aid.

PORTUGAL RE-ENTERS SCENE

With the civil war preventing the formation of any viable body to turn over state power, Portugal, 29 Aug, suspended the Jan peace agreement, which set 11 Nov as Angola's independence date.

The action has not yet been disputed by any of the liberation movements and whether Portugal intends to leave and remove all troops as scheduled Jan 76 remains to be seen.

PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS?

A move is now afoot to "internationalize" the civil strife by sending in "peace-keeping" troops. The Org. of African Unity (OAU) and the UN have already sent out feelers on this prospect. However, the movements have rejected such offers, maintaining the struggle is an internal question. UNITA representative, Fernando Wilson, spelled out the general apprehension, "We are afraid of the internationalization of the Angolan problem," Wilson said, expressing concern that "a new Biafra," the bloody '69 secessionist war in Nigeria, might be recreated in Angola. □

MIDEAST...

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tations of the pact, remarking that the "settlement will not end the problem," but only "buys time." His "shuttle diplomacy" and "step-by-step" negotiations, which ended in dismal failure just last April, have been renewed in an effort to divide Arab unity, hoping that in time the PLO will be weakened by internal fighting and Syria and Jordan will follow Egypt's lead of liquidating the Palestinian question.

Kissinger's efforts, however, seem destined for failure as world wide support for the Palestinians continues to mount. Indeed a dramatic showdown this fall in the UN seems imminent as Arab nations mount their efforts to oust Israel. Kissinger's highly acclaimed "triumph" may soon be short lived. □

MNLF Exposes 'Sham Ceasefire' Ali-Frazier Fight a \$4-M Loss

By Francisco Ocampo

The "ceasefire agreement" between the Moro National Liberation Front and the Marcos gov't was denounced by the Front's chairman, Nur Misuari, and its Central Committee through news agencies in Cairo, Sabah, and Tripoli. The denunciations were made in response to an announcement by Marcos, 15 Aug, that 350 rebels surrendered and accepted a ceasefire agreement that provides for "virtual autonomy" to the Muslims in the southern Philippines.

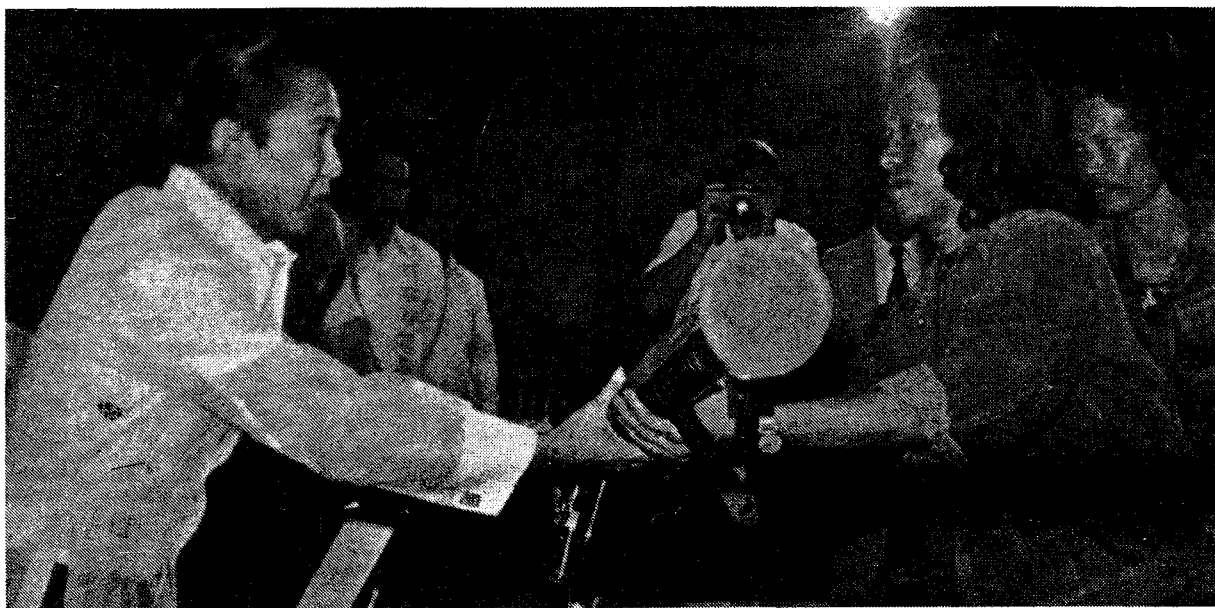
Among the surrenderees are Abdul Lukman, who claims to represent the MNLF and with whom the ceasefire agreement was negotiated, and Al-Hussein Kaluang, supposedly the second highest ranking member of the MNLF in the Philippines. They were also denounced in the news releases saying, "Lukman is an

Hadji Hudan Abubakar who came forward to talk with Marcos but "has not rejoined the fold of the gov't.")

In return for their "service," Lukman and Kaluang were awarded commissionerships to 2 of the 4 regions created with a P1.3-M operating budget each.

CEASEFIRE: PLOY TO DIVIDE

Meanwhile, Abur Khair Alonto, the 2nd highest ranking member of the MNLF in the Philippines, responded to the agreement: "There is no ceasefire, it is only a ploy by Marcos to divide us." The MNLF also said: "...if the meeting took place (referring to the ceasefire negotiation) then it violates decisions taken early this year by the Islamic Conference that recommended any negotiations should be carried out under its auspices." To disprove the authenticity of the ceasefire, Alonto



Al-Hussein Kaluang, MNLF defector surrenders to Marcos in exchange for high government position.

impostor and usurper and was completely without authority to speak on behalf of the movement."

Lukman, a former Jolo judge, came to be associated with the MNLF by accident. One time he went to the hills to visit his daughter who had joined the MNLF. His absence was noticed and a gov't search for him revealed his whereabouts. This discovery forced Lukman to stay with the rebels for fear of being apprehended as an insurgent. His affiliation with the MNLF is therefore not based on any political unity.

Al-Hussein Kaluang, Lukman's son-in-law, was chief of a 118-rebel security forces, which incidentally, he was promised he may retain after his defection. Pictures showing Kaluang turning over his rifle as an act of surrender has been well publicized in the press. He is also purported to be the head of the Basilan Revolutionary Committee of the MNLF, a 2,000-strong group, about a fifth of the MNLF's regular force. (The real head of the BRG is

ordered a mortar shelling of a Philippine Constabulary camp in Iligan City.

All facts point to the reality that the ceasefire is another farce Marcos has trumped up. It is a calculated fraud meant to give the impression that the rebellion is under control. Marcos is anxious to allay the fears of the foreign investors who are being lured into the region. The manner in which he has dealt with the Muslim insurgency is typical of the dictator's tactics in "solving" the problems of the country. Relying primarily on propaganda gimmicks and double-talk, Marcos has even designed a "virtual autonomy" scheme in response to the MNLF's demand for autonomy.

AUTONOMY PLAN — SMOKESCREEN FOR MILITARIZATION

At the conclusion of the gov't staged Zamboanga talks last July, Marcos announced he was granting "virtual autonomy short of

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The recently concluded Ali-Frazier fight in Manila last 1 Oct, which the Philippine gov't underwrote for \$4-M, was the latest of the regime's multimillion dollar propaganda stunts.

Adding to the regime's long list of expensive extravaganzas, the much-ballyhooed boxing match exemplified the regime's profligate spending as well as its lopsided priorities.

Although the Marcos gov't was expected to fall short of recouping its \$4-M investment (TIME 9/29/75), the regime reaped what it wanted - a lot of publicity and exposure. A 15-minute film on Philippine trade, tourism, and foreign investments was shown together with the fight which was televised internationally via satellite. The film undoubtedly trumpeted the imagined successes of the image-conscious dictatorship.

The extremely lavish circus - ringside seats cost P2,500 and Presidential banquets for 2 sparring gladiators - was a luxury the impoverished country cannot really afford. The external debt of the country has risen to \$3.5-B, 78% of Filipino children suffer from malnutrition, per capita income has declined, with 70% of the population earning less than \$133 yearly. In Manila alone, where the fight was held, only 25% of the populace's income is above the poverty line.

Marcos's penchant for spectacular publicity events serve to further deplete the gov't treasury. The Miss Universe contest last July cost the Filipino people \$30-M.

Through these million dollar public-relations show, Marcos hopes to prettify his tarnished image abroad but the regime's shameless spending in the face of the country's poverty, only further exposes its bankruptcy. □

Enrile on Leave of Absence

Def. Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile has just requested a leave of absence in light of the investigation being conducted on the slaying incident involving his son. Enrile's 15-yr. old son was involved in the fatal shooting of another youth during a party. In his letter to Pres. Marcos, Enrile stated he was leaving the country for an undisclosed place so that his presence would not be prejudicial to the investigating team's findings. The investigative panel was formed by Marcos to determine if charges would be filed against young Enrile.

Prior to this development, Enrile had been less effusive in his praise of the "new society." He recently admonished the press to be more critical of the regime. This has been taken by some as a sign that all is not well between the dictator and his defense secretary.

There are 3 factions in the military contending for the dictator's favor: Ramos, chief of the Armed Forces; Ver, head of the Presidential Guard; and Enrile, Defense Sec.

Def. Undersec. Salientes has just been dismissed in charges of corruption, possibly a signal of the deepening tensions and intrigues in the military regime.

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Gov't Purge...

still denied, but Marcos' clever tactic expelled Mijares and replaced him with competing minions - Teodoro Valencia and Hans Menzi. The same tactic is being applied with the phaseout of certain bureaus or placing them under the Office of the President which is euphemistically called "streamlined re-organization."

To further sensationalize his anti-corruption drive Marcos has accorded prominent publicity to the resignations of 6 cabinet members. In reality, 4 of the 6 officials, Clemente Gatmaitan, Juan Manuels, Balthazar Aquino, and Faustino Sychangco resigned because they were about to retire. In another attempt to add credibility to his anti-corruption drive, Marcos has highlighted the resignation of Audit Commissioner Ismael Mathay and his three sons, who are allegedly serving under their fathers' commission, thus inferring nepotism. The truth is Mathay is well past retirement age and his 2 sons are serving in other departments.

REAL CULPRITS SPARED

Meanwhile, the so-called "true public"

servants who have accumulated millions of pesos through graft and corruption remain in Marcos' good graces. Rear Admiral Romeo Espaldon, for example, heads up the regime's campaign against the Muslims in the South has earned millions of pesos from smuggling sugar out of the country. Presidential Guard Battalion Chief Fabian Ver is known to receive a big cut from proprietors of gambling joints and nightclubs in Manila and Baguio for "protecting their businesses." Officials at the Dept. of Nat'l Defense run a lucrative racket thru collecting unofficial fees from Filipinos who wish to get "speedy travel clearances" to go abroad. These are just a few of the desirables who remain within the fold.

Contrary to the regime's claim, the purges were not spurred by any honest desire for change. Nor was it intended to eliminate corruption. Rather it is Marcos' calculated response to the crisis he faces - internal splits corroding his base of support.

In the 3 years of martial law, power struggles and subsequent loyalty checks have ensued. Generals, aides, and cabinet members are in frenzied competition to earn the trust and favor of the dictator. These men have no other incentive in serving the regime other than to fulfill their ambitions and greed. Their services

in turn are amply rewarded with wealth and power. To keep their loyalty to him intact, Marcos has pitted one faction against the other. When their drive for power and wealth poses a direct threat to Marcos himself, the "good king" naturally has to purge his greedy vassals. Such was the fate of Primitivo Mijares and Gen. Rafael Ilete, former trusted aides of Marcos.

REGIME - SURVIVES ON CORRUPTION

The irony of it all is that the regime could only survive through corruption - maintaining a power base that is sustained with bribes. Even an ordinary soldier of the AFP could not be motivated to carry out the anti-people deeds of the regime without promises of promotion and better pay. Likewise, if Marcos' minions are not amply compensated and if he does not maintain a loyalty check on his men from time to time, the chances for him to remain in power are slim.

Being a true expert on the subject, Marcos' statement that "corruption is like a contagion" is so true. Like a malignant disease, it thrives and is nurtured by a gov't that is in power to precisely serve its own interests. Thus, an occasional "bloodletting" (purge) will not arrest the growth of corruption since its chief perpetuator is Marcos himself. □