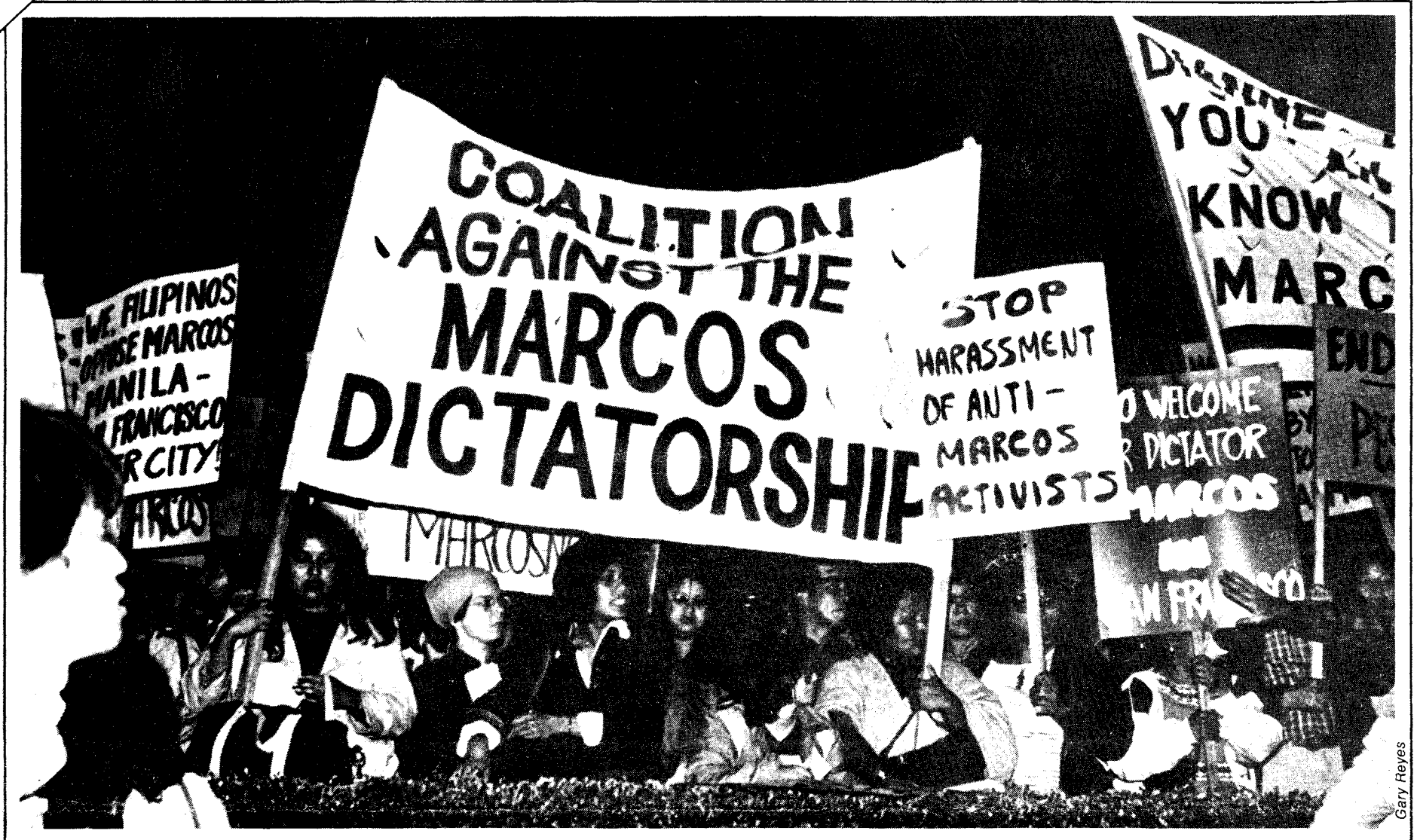


# Ang Katipunan

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NATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE OF THE  
UNION OF DEMOCRATIC FILIPINOS (KDP)



Gary Reyes

## THE STATE VISIT: A GRAND FLOP

By NANCY F. ROCAMORA

On balance, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos lost more than he gained on his first state visit to the U.S. in 16 years.

Marcos had two goals for the visit: to consolidate Ronald Reagan's newly articulated support for his regime, and to spruce up his image. In part, this image change was to be achieved by projecting the dictator as a beloved leader of the Filipino community in the U.S.

Marcos' four days in Washington surrounded by all the pomp and circumstance the U.S. state can muster left no question in anyone's mind of Reagan's support. In this regard, the visit was a resounding success.

But with regard to goal two, the visit flopped miserably. The Philippine dictator was awash in controversy from the moment he deplaned Sept. 14 at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu. In his two

weeks of touring the United States, more Americans came to know Ferdinand Marcos as a dictator than ever before. And the Filipino community, despite the offer of free lunches, bus and plane tickets to Washington and New York, parties and general hoopla, chose not to be used to legitimize his rule.

### SYMBOLIC AFFIRMATION

In terms of concrete accomplishments, Marcos, who at times postures as a nationalist, affirmed his "American Boy" status. Reagan and Marcos agreed to reopen negotiations on the U.S. bases in the Philippines with Marcos assuring Reagan continued and unrestricted use of the bases for projecting U.S. military power up to the Middle East.

Eximbank pledged \$204.5 million in loan guarantees for completion of the Bataan nuclear reactor. Ministerial level meetings on finance and defense were set for next month. Minor treaties were

signed on double taxation and air travel. Marcos made little headway in some areas. Pleas for more favorable treatment for Philippine exports fell on deaf ears.

But, as one State Department official insisted, "We don't discuss state visits in terms of issues. . . . This is a symbolic affirmation of the relationship between allies."

And symbolism there was. From the official White House reception marked by a 21-gun salute and a white-wigged fife and drum corps playing "Yankee Doodle," to a Pentagon award ceremony where he received a case of World War II medals from Defense chief Caspar Weinberger, Ferdinand Marcos was accorded full honors. He was feted by Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Schultz, the House Foreign Affairs and the Senate Foreign Relations Committees.

Marcos and Reagan lavished praise upon one another. During the White

House ceremonies, Reagan called Marcos "a respected voice for reason and moderation in national forums" and praised his "progress" in the area of human rights.

Marcos responded even more effusively saying of Reagan, "The future is being born depending upon the man who is in the White House. . . and the man who is in the White House is certainly creating a new future for our world."

### RAISING HIS STOCK

Reagan's backing was apparent even before Marcos deplaned in Manila. Successive visits by then U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Vice President George Bush and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger had already made it clear that Reagan looked on Marcos as a key ally.

But the dictator hoped to use the state visit to raise his stock at home and im-

*Continued on page 11*



### INSIDE

- **Nationwide Protests Ruin Visit** p. 3
- **Public Relations Build-Up Sunk** p.4
- **FM Loses on the Media Front** p.5
- **Activists Braved Threats, Black Propaganda** p.8
- **Inside Jabs** pp. 3/4

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# Editorials

## The U.S. Bases: The Real Obstacles to Human Rights

Marcos and repression are synonymous—this was what got established during the dictator's state visit, a victory for the anti-Marcos movement. The storm of indignation and controversy that dogged Marcos forced even his friends in the White House to an extremely defensive posture: "He may have a lot of problems with human rights, but he's the best ally we've got," was the only explanation the Reaganites could offer for their lavish reception.

And why is he "the best ally"? The White House made it very clear: Marcos plays landlord to huge military bases that Washington considers a key pillar in its strategy for maintaining global hegemony. Through these bases, the U.S. can train its guns and nuclear arms on the revolutionary movements in the Philippines, the Middle East and on the socialist countries in Asia. Marcos let Reagan know he will not stand in the way should the U.S. use these bases against other nations. Thus, in the course of the visit, Washington made it very clear that these bases must be maintained even at the expense of the Filipino people's human and democratic rights.

In a very important sense, this is also a victory for the anti-Marcos movement. The U.S. ruling circle was forced to drop its pretensions and was forced to expose its class interest in maintaining Marcos. This gives the movement the opportunity to show even more sharply the hypocrisy of the White House's commitment to "democratic principles and processes." It makes the U.S. public squarely face the fact that the U.S. interests

in the Philippines—the U.S. bases—are the ultimate obstacles to freedom, justice and progress in the Philippines. And this was the real underlying controversy surrounding the visit.

While liberals focused on human rights Reagan saw defeat on that issue, skirted it, and chose to use the one remaining ace up his sleeve. That is, to propose to the American people that the U.S. interests in the Philippines, the continuance of the bases—and hence Marcos—are synonymous to their interests. The liberals, while doing an excellent job in criticizing Marcos' human rights violations fared poorly on the issue of U.S. interests. The reason: they share Reagan's belief that the bases must stay. "Marcos is a terrible tyrant; can't the U.S. government do something short of endangering our security interests?" was the essential position of the critical media and the critical voices in Congress.

Here then is the challenge facing the opposition and the progressive movement in this country. The American people must be made to realize that their interests and the "U.S. security interests" in the Philippines are not one and the same. In this regard, the visit showed that little help may be expected from liberals whose human rights advocacy weakens with their inability to break with the interests of the ruling class, or with their unwillingness to call for the dismantling of the very obstacles to human rights.

The American people must begin distinguishing their interests from those of the U.S. ruling circles. The time will come when the national liberation movement in the Philippines will be in a position to cause the overthrow of the Marcos regime. At that point Washington will contemplate direct military intervention in the name of protecting "U.S. national security interests." Whether the American people will go along with this proposal or not, will have profound implications not only for the Filipino people, but for the peoples of Asia and the Middle East as well. □

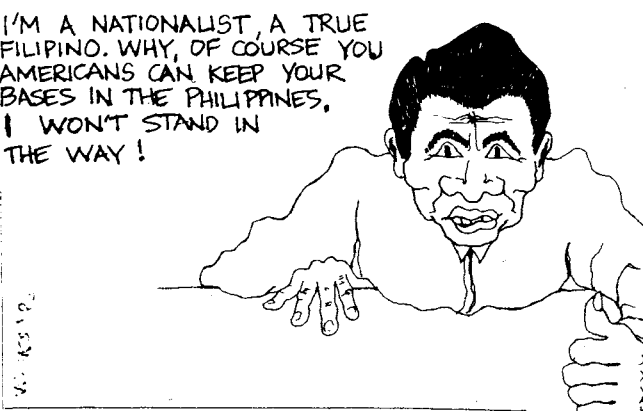
## Zionism Runs Its Bloody Course

Even as bodies are still being uncovered from the massacres of Palestinians in refugee camps, Lebanon's summer of horror is far from over. Christian Phalangists vow to drive out more refugees. Although the Phalangists may have pulled the trigger—the international community has become convinced that Israel should be held responsible for these inhuman acts. Protests, even within Israel, are calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. These two however evidently insist the atrocities are a reasonable feature of defending Israel from the "terror" of the Palestinian people.

No, Zionism has not run amok. Eliminating Palestinians has been Zionism's policy since its very inception. Begin himself led a slaughter of civilian Palestinians in 1948 and at that time boldly proclaimed that without the massacre "there would be no Israel." Israel's course has not changed since that time. Its borders have grown, striking shamelessly into Arab territory, most recently bombing Syrian targets. Using racism and religion as its tenets for expansion, Israel's aggression has brought it to its present senseless disregard for human life.

Israel's main backer the United States is now in a quagmire because it is becoming increasingly more difficult to justify support for a criminal regime. Reagan's feeble peace plan which mirrors the Camp David accords is falling apart at the seams. Reagan and company are now scrambling without much success to keep their main Middle East ally in line.

Without Israel, the U.S. has to depend upon volatile Arab countries to safeguard its military and economic interests—a situation that the U.S. has found too tenuous. The U.S. has never had to squeeze concessions from Israel. Now the picture may change as anti-Israeli sentiments grow and the Palestinians and their struggle for their homeland are gaining sympathy and recognition. Indeed, Zionism and imperialism will be paying dearly for the blood they have exacted from the peoples of the Middle East. □



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## Letters My Choice

The LA consulate always says the resistance movement in the Philippines is Communist-led, and so is the movement here. But between the brutal and repressive Marcos government and the resistance movement which is defending the Filipino people against the government's repression, I and millions of other Filipinos I'm sure will support the resistance movement. Enclosed is a donation.

A. Molina  
Los Angeles, CA

## An Open Letter to Friends and Supporters

The battle lines were drawn long before the Marcos state visit began.

From Malacañang Palace to the Embassy in Washington, D.C., elaborate preparations were made by the regime. A million bucks for glossy press kits packed in roomy new Philippine-made attache cases. Another million for fiestas in five U.S. cities. Three million for the presidential entourage, advance team and security. Then there were the T-shirts, flags, banners, and bumper stickers "Long Live Reagan and Marcos." An estimated \$18 million for Marcos to "roll out his own red carpet."

From our tiny office in Oakland to living rooms and meeting halls in Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, and across the U.S., CAMD and PSN activists made our own plans for the visit. Supported only by generous donations from our supporters in the community, and the debts of our members, we produced and distributed tens of thousands of special tabloids, fact sheets, brochures, press releases, and *Talibas*. We organized nationwide protests, won the support of hundreds of organizations and individuals for the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit. Our spokespeople appeared in all the major newspapers and network

news, and we even enlisted five Congressmen to call on Reagan to cancel the visit.

Our thick sheaf of press clippings from all around the country is testimony to the fact that though the dictator outspent us at more than 100,000 to one—it was *our* message that got across. Because of our efforts, all of his millions could not bury the truth—the truth of his oppressive rule in the Philippines, the truth of his reactionary alliance with Reagan, the truth that his is a dictatorship that is hated and condemned by the people of the Philippines and of the U.S.

But our efforts cost money too. Operating on a shoestring, we are now facing a debt of several thousand dollars to pay for the phone calls, the plane fares, the hall rentals and the printing—all of the necessary expenses to carry out our successful nationwide campaign.

Our chapters are now involved in major fundraising activities. Not only to pay off the debt, but to ensure that we can continue with added strength to carry on our work. And there is a lot more work to do.

Won't you—our closest friends and supporters—reach one more time into your pockets to make sure that we can continue our fight?

If you look at our record, we're sure you'll agree that you get a good return on your investment.

Geline Avila CAMD, Nat'l Coordinator  
Elaine Elinson PSN, Nat'l Coordinator

-CLIP AND MAIL TO-  
Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship  
P.O. Box 173 • Oakland, CA 94668

I joined the people's opposition to the Marcos State Visit and now I want to help CAMD and PSN continue the fight against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$5  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to your national mailing list.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EDITOR'S NOTE: Inidoro Delihencia, our intrepid insider, is trying to recover from a whopping state visit migraine. The doctor's diagnosis: the malady is a result of hangovers collected from coast-to-coast after-hours carousing aggravated by coast-to-coast hourly scoldings from Da Apo for the bad press he was getting. This lethal combination ("Swollenhead-Rollinghead Syndrome") is known to affect only members of the Marcos entourage. The only cure doctors recommend: a month-long therapeutic Contribute-Apology session with the President himself. Inidoro will be back next issue. □

# Nationwide Protests Ruin Visit



Protesters waiting for Marcos at Los Angeles Sports Arena September 26.

Florante Ibanez

By ANNATESS ARANETA

While Ferdinand Marcos' official appearance in Washington DC and New York made those cities the sites of the opposition's most important protests, coordinated demonstrations in various cities showed the extent of the dictator's unpopularity.

From the moment he set foot on U.S. soil in Honolulu, until the climax of his visit to San Francisco, Marcos was hounded by protest actions coordinated by the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit.

Prior to Marcos' arrival, teach-ins, informational pickets, leafletting and press conferences in various U.S. cities laid the ground for a national day of protest on September 16, the day of his meeting with Ronald Reagan in Washington, D.C.

Chapters of the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN) and the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD) spearheaded the Committee's activities.

## HONOLULU

In Honolulu, the Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP) organized a picket of 70 people at the gate of Hickam Air Force Base where Marcos' plane landed on September 14.

Reporters from all the major newspapers and TV stations who were prohibited from entering the base focused their attention on the protest at the gate. Huge banners and chants of "Marcos is a U.S. Puppet, Down with Marcos!" challenged the several

hundred "greeters" bused in by the consulate. The greeters were later treated to a free chicken lunch.

The Honolulu media welcomed Marcos with critical editorials and gave extensive coverage to the anti-Marcos activities.

The demonstrators followed Marcos to the Ilikai Hotel, where he rested before flying to Washington, D.C. The strongman stopped in Honolulu again on his way home and once more, was greeted by pickets.

## SAN FRANCISCO

A spirited noontime demonstration of 250 people denounced Marcos in front of the Federal Building. Speakers from church, labor, anti-intervention and El Salvador, Palestine and Iran support groups bolstered the event. Protest statements from Mayor Gus Newport of Berkeley and Congressman Ron Dellums were read before the crowd.

Christine Araneta of the CAMD warned that the Marcos visit "has far reaching implications not only to the Filipino people but also for the rest of the world." Marcos she said "is coming to the U.S. in the midst of an aggressive effort to reestablish U.S. political and military dominance internationally."

Delegations from San Jose and Sacramento joined San Francisco's demonstration, although separate protest activities took place in those cities as well.

Marcos stopped in San Francisco on the last leg of his visit only to be greeted by the largest demonstration he en-

countered on this visit. (See center spread). Media coverage generated by the earlier protest polarized the city so that before Marcos finally stopped over on September 26 the impending protest was at the top of the news.

## CHICAGO

In Chicago, 120 people participated in a National Day of Protest demonstration in front of the Philippine consulate.

Tall dummies of Marcos and Reagan dramatized the "collusion of the two heads of state." Demonstrators noted the swarms of Marcos agents, but there were no untoward incidents.

Speakers including Linda Turner of the United States Anti-Imperialist League and representatives of the Committee for a Democratic Palestine and Casa El Salvador compared Marcos to other U.S.-backed leaders such as Menachem Begin and Roberto D'Aubuisson.

Media coverage of the activity was described by an organizer as "generous." The editorial of the *Chicago Times* read "No Cheers For A Tyrant," while *Reader* newsmagazine gave full page coverage to the opposition.

## LOS ANGELES

One hundred and fifty protesters clogged the sidewalk in front of the Philippine consulate at noon on Sept. 16. Filipinos were joined by Palestinians, Iranians and Salvadorans at the noisy picket line as TV cameras and reporters took statements from protest spokespeople.

Consulate Press Officer Luis Ople was seen scurrying after reporters saying "I

don't know what these people are so angry about." Someone spotted Consul Armando Fernandez and he was given a loud boo and taunts of "Tuta! Tuta!"

Greg Santillan, CAMD local coordinator, called for an end to U.S. aid and for the dismantling of the U.S. bases, "the greatest hindrances to human rights in the Philippines."

## SACRAMENTO

On September 17, CAMD in Sacramento set up a human billboard during the afternoon commuter hours.

Protesters hung streamers at an overpass overlooking a freeway that was clogged bumper to bumper with traffic. Several motorists honked and raised peace signs in support of the slogans which read "Oppose the Marcos State Visit"; "Oppose U.S. Support of Dictatorships"; and "Oppose U.S.-Marcos Attacks on the Opposition Movement."

## EVEN IN CANADA

Filipinos in Canada and their supporters, flanked their U.S. counterparts by staging protests in two cities across the border. Forty people mobilized by Toronto CAMD picketed the U.S. Embassy on Sept. 16 and voiced their denunciations of Reagan and Marcos to the TV and newspaper reporters who gave ample coverage of the action.

In Vancouver, the CAMD chapter held a teach-in, showing the BBC film, on Sept. 25. The teach-in followed the activists' well-publicized exposure of the Pacific National Exhibit as a glorification of Imelda Marcos' projects. The exposure so embroiled the exhibit in controversy and notoriety that Marcos agents, with the aid of the local police, unsuccessfully tried to frame-up two CAMD leaders as "terrorists." □



## Inside Jabs

### At the Ballroom

One of our reporters managed to sneak into the well-orchestrated San Francisco "community reception" for the visiting First Couple. What went on typified the "community welcomes" consular officials staged for the Marcoses in D.C., New York, and Los Angeles. Here is her report.

One commentator on Philippine events has at last realized a long-held dream: she heard Imelda warble *Dahil Sa Iyo*—a little off-key, it's true, but it was the real thing at last.

The occasion was that night to remember, September 26, in the posh but stuffy ballroom of the St. Francis, at the heart of San Francisco. Admirers of the Philippine First Couple began filtering in by 3:00 p.m. and by 4:00 it was packed. Mr. and Mrs. Marcos were supposed to arrive at 5:00.

Manny Cruz and the Cruzettes, the Philippine Gospels and assorted comedians provided entertainment while the admirers nibbled on pizza and stuffed mushrooms. "You can tell that the Philip-

pinos is a wealthy country," commented one photographer to a dumbfounded reporter. "When Duarte spoke to the Salvadoran community, it was very simple."

"Perhaps he just had more sense," came the reply.

By 6:00 Manny had begun to wear thin. But still no First Couple. The Gospels warbled, "When you walk through a storm, keep your chin up high . . ." But nothing could keep part of the restless crowd from moving toward the doors.

"I have a babysitter," grumbled one woman on her way out. "I've been waiting since 2:00," complained an exasperated man behind her. Some supporters, these. Shortly after that, the doors were closed.

A worried Angelo Castro, Consulate press aide, bounced to the stage to put the crowd through a few *Mabuhays*—practice, he said. Meanwhile, the Secret Service was telling reporters that Marcos' plane had not yet left Los Angeles.

Shortly after 6:30, the locked doors were opened and more admirers were ushered into the already packed ballroom.

It would look better to the *Pangulo* and the TV cameras. Flags were distributed and Castro gave waving lessons.

Finally, at 6:58, Imelda arrived, resplendent in museum-piece pink. She launched into a crowd-warming act with her theme song. The audience applauded wildly and reporters new to the Marcos travelling road show gazed on in disbelief.

At last, 25 minutes later, the President himself showed, accompanied by Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Cyril Magnin and a flying wedge of security men. Feinstein welcomed him heartily. Revealing the limitations of her experience as mayor, she praised Mrs. Marcos as "one of the most intelligent women I have ever met."

Mrs. Marcos delivered an impassioned 20-minute speech in Tagalog—"because I don't want the Americans to understand." She accused demonstrators outside of asking Americans to solve Filipino problems and emphasized the need for Filipinos to solve their own problems without outside help. Strange for a first lady whose husband had just told Ronald Reagan "without

America, the world is lost."

Top star Ferdinand, surrounded by 35 security men, took over, approaching the crowd like a cross between an elementary school history teacher and a revivalist preacher. After drilling the crowd on the dates of the last few elections—including his own in which he ran unopposed—it was time for testimonials.

Up the podium went the converts who have seen the light of the New Society and been born again: Luis Taruc, former leader of the Hukbalahap, and Nilo Tayag, once spokesperson for the *Kabataang Makabayan*.

"This is a regular dog-and-pony show," remarked one reporter, making no distinction as to which one was which.

Halfway through Taruc's 10-minute tirade, the crowd began to thin. By the time Marcos regained the mike, the background buzz of a bored and chatting audience had grown louder. They came to see celebrities, not to listen to them. They came to eat *merienda* and it was well past supper-time.

Certain reporters sympathized with the crowd. They allowed themselves to be pulled with the tide moving toward the door before the main attraction could finish.

Anyway, we already heard Imelda sing. How much more could we take in a single evening? □





AK Photo

FM's Millions vs. CAMD's Tenacity

## FM's Costly Public Relations Build-Up Sunk

By NANCY ROCAMORA

It all began last June when Kokoy Romualdez blew into town.

Ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, Governor of Leyte province and brother of the Philippine First Lady, is renowned within Philippine diplomatic circles as the ultimate practitioner of food-and-drink diplomacy.

Thus when the date was set for Ferdinand Marcos' historic U.S. state visit, Kokoy was quickly dispatched to act as frontman for the Marcos traveling road show, a role he has competently filled time and again.

Romualdez launched a two-pronged \$15 million blitz. One target was the U.S.-based Filipino community. Another target were the "opinion-makers" of all stripes—particularly the media.

Unfortunately for Marcos, Kokoy's campaign backfired.

A financially-strapped but determined opposition in the U.S., Marcos' arbitrary and repressive behavior at home prior to the visit, and the very lavishness of the Embassy's preparations combined to create an image of the Marcoses as cynical despots eager to buy support. Comparisons to the late Shah of Iran were being made by chanting demonstrators, congressmen, jaded TV cameramen and even by cops assigned to protect him. Most devastatingly for Marcos, these criticisms were being amplified by newspapers, national and local TV and radio.

### SONG, DANCE AND LECHON

The Embassy's community events be-

gan with June 12, Philippine National Day. Huge picnics and parties offering free lechon, bangus, assorted delicacies and drinks were held all over the country from then on. The political pitch was low-keyed and broad, but always ended with the need to support Marcos: "We need unity; we are proud of our origins; therefore, we must welcome the President."

Free T-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Ako'y Pilipino . . . Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa" were distributed. The Kalipayan Dance Troupe, movie star Boots Anson-Roa, visiting *rondallas*, singers and comedians provided entertainment. Even religious figures joined in with Mrs. Marcos' confidant, Julio Cardinal Rosales, making a five-city swing urging a welcome for the dictator in the name of God and national unity. A community leader told the *Washington Post* that the Embassy spent \$1,902,499 on this part of the build-up alone.

The week before the visit itself, Embassy officials deluged community leaders with near-daily phone calls exhorting them to bring people out for Marcos' welcome. People were offered a four-day stay at Washington's Shoreham Hotel with all expenses paid and a \$30 *per diem* to act as a mobile cheering squad for the dictator.

### THE MEDIA BLITZ

Three nights per week, the Embassy had "open house" for opinion makers such as Congressional aides, diplomats, scientists and of course, reporters.

Two dozen media specialists including 11 advertising executives were brought in from Manila to join the Embassy staff

later to be bolstered by four additional ambassadors.

Literally volumes of background material were distributed to the press, including Marcos' ghost-written, four-volume history of the Philippines, two hardbacks by him, his biography and eight glossy brochures.

### INVADING THE HALLS OF ACADEME

In a special effort to win the hearts and minds of academics, Marcos' own President's Center for Strategic Studies, together with the U.S. Embassy in Manila and two U.S.-based institutions known for their right-wing politics, arranged a special conference on U.S.-Philippine relations four days before the visit.

A. James McGregor of U.C. Berkeley's Institute for International Studies and former CIA regional chief Ray Cline of Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) made the arrangements on the U.S. side.

While a few participants in the one-day, by-invitation only conference "criticized" Marcos mildly, others painted him and his policies as historically imperative. During a session on relations between the two countries, Alvin Cotrell of the CSIS urged friendship with Ferdinand Marcos at all costs to insure continuing access to the U.S. bases.

Challenging this formidable public relations blitz was a financially poor but well organized nationwide opposition network.

The National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit (NCOMSV), an informal grouping of organizations and individuals, first formed when rumors spread that Marcos might visit in 1981.

Centered by the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD) and the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN), working out of the PSN/CAMD's Congressional Task Force office in Washington, it swung quickly into action once this year's visit was confirmed.

At its opening shot, CAMD/PSN held a press conference making available a leaked secret State Dept. cable admitting the serious problems plaguing Marcos. The wide press coverage threw U.S. and Philippine officials into a tizzy.

To insure that the Filipino community did not welcome the dictator, the NCOMSV regularly handed out leaflets at community events urging opposition to the visit. Quiet housemeetings of five to ten people were held. A great asset to the Committee was the controversial film "To Sing Our Own Song", a devastating exposure of the Marcos regime produced by the British Broadcasting Company, for which Marcos has threatened to sue.

Similarly, CAMD and PSN activists in various parts of the country took the BBC film around and leafletted the consulates' build-up events including the U.S. Department-sponsored speaking tour of University of the Philippines President Eduardo Angara. The activists received significant amounts in donations from Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike who were reached by house-meetings and teach-ins.

### COUP IN GEORGETOWN

NCOMSV members leafletted and brought their protest banners to Embassy functions, usually provoking extreme reactions. On one occasion, seven police cars answered a frantic Embassy summons. A group of eight NCOMSV members was already surrounded by 15 Embassy security agents, and several secret service officers.

Painstaking congressional lobbying following Marcos' August crackdown on labor resulted in a strongly worded letter from eight Congressmen demanding that Reagan retract the invitation. Five senators produced a milder protest urging Reagan to speak to Marcos about his human rights violations.

In solidarity with the Committee's efforts and in opposition to the CSIS conference, 25 Philippine specialists, Georgetown University scholars and human rights activists wrote to Georgetown President Fr. Timothy Healey. They urged him to "intervene and stop this conference from taking place." CSIS formally dissociated itself from the conference two days before it occurred. The controversial publicity it received in DC deflated the conference's effectiveness.

### COUNTERING THE MEDIA BLITZ

Most impressive of the NCOMSV's efforts, however, was its work with the media. Staff members carefully compiled numerous fact sheets and brochures on topics ranging from human rights in the Philippines to the country's legal system to the U.S. military bases.

The reaction to NCOMSV press conferences and literature was even more favorable than the group had hoped. Opposition plans and positions received wide coverage in newspapers, magazines and wire services. The Marcos visit became highly controversial even before the dictator left the Philippines. Press coverage was at best lukewarm in spite of the Embassy blitz. The wining and dining of the media, in fact, became an embarrassment that many reporters proceeded to expose.

The opposition took no one to lunch, fed dinner to no one. Many members had to borrow to feed themselves. It brought no comedians, no song-and-dance companies to entertain the community.

But its unadorned fact sheets clearly outweighed the regime's heavy hard-bounds and glossy brochures. Asked what has been the most useful weapon to the campaign, Geline Avila, CAMD coordinator replied, "Well, of course, the hard work of dedicated activists was indispensable."

"But when it comes to devastating weapons, there's really nothing like the truth. When you've got that on your side, you're already a step ahead of even the most well-financed machinery of deception." □

## Inside Jabs II

### Prime Cuts

In Washington, D.C., Ferdinand E. Marcos made a number of appearances after his official meeting with President Reagan. There were also "build-up" events staged by his officials prior to his arrival there. Again, our reporter sneaked into a few of these functions to give us a peek.

Inside the entourage. There was pomp and circumstance, there were cloying speeches, red tape and heavy security to insure his survival.

There were cops on horseback or motorcycle, in cars or helicopters, behind bomb-sniffing dogs, or just on foot. Even the rookies were commandeered. Like the new young gentleman who did such a fine job securing the entrance to the State Department for Marcos' luncheon that he turned

away the Israeli ambassador and the Secretary of Agriculture. They didn't have the right credentials.

Of course, it's much more fun when the dictator is Ferdinand Marcos because he travels with such an amusing entourage. Such as the editor of a major Manila daily who tried to amuse a reporter by explaining why Ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez avoided the press. "The Ambassador," he said, "is unable to carry on a serious conversation." A family trait?

Some of Marcos' admirers were also amusing, specially when they bungled. One scholar who delivered a paper at the Malacañang-sponsored September 11 academic conference, Mr. Alvin Cotrell of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, referred matter-of-factly

to "the much-hated Imelda Marcos."

He then proceeded to advocate all-out support for Marcos because of the significance of the U.S. bases. He insisted that the U.S. pay the price, even if Marcos doubled the current \$100 million per year ante.

Citing somewhat irrelevantly the astronomical costs Britain incurred for the Falklands War, he thundered, "I think the Philippines is cheap at that price!" He was no doubt flattering the Filipino scholars and officials gathered at the occasion. They uttered nary a peep. "I think we should pay," he insisted.

"Come on now, Al," coyly smiled Ray Cline, organizer of the event and former CIA station chief. "You're giving away our hand!" □

# Marcos Loses on the Media Front



Walden Bello being interviewed by radio reporters: the opposition had improved access to the media.

AK Photo

By NANCY F. ROCAMORA

One of the key battlegrounds during the Marcos state visit was the media, a fact recognized well in advance by both Marcos and his opponents. One of the dictator's key goals was to prettify his image, while that of his opposition was to expose him.

In the headline battle, Marcos emerged a loser. Coverage of the visit was thorough enough. He had no cause to complain about that. But as far as opinion of the Philippine dictator, it was lukewarm at best and often highly negative.

Marcos can thank himself, in part, for his defeat. His advance team approached the American media a month or two before the visit asking that Philippine events be highlighted. Readers were thus treated to ample coverage of the August crackdown and mass arrests in the Philippines.

Reports on send-off protests in Manila and the plans of the U.S. opposition for the visit were also given much more prominence than they might have been otherwise.

## CREATING THEIR OWN BAD PRESS

Much of the reportage of Marcos' two-week stay was far from flattering. Most papers, as well as radio and TV gave ample coverage to the highly unfavorable Amnesty International report on the Philippines. The *Washington Post* published a

breakdown of the millions spent by the Philippine Embassy in preparation for the visit. Reuters and *Newsweek* allowed Mrs. Marcos to create her own bad press by quoting her verbatim. Examples:

"I hope to find someone strong to be president and hopefully eventually he will be beautifully strong and then he will have a first lady who will be strongly beautiful."—Reuters

"My role is to be 'S and S'—star and slave. To star so the people have some standard to reach for and to slave so everybody becomes a star."—*Newsweek*

The *Washington Post* reported on the Marcoses' party for the Reagans: "As a greeting to her husband [who just arrived at the party] Mrs. Marcos seized a microphone. While her husband watched, she sang. The song was 'Feelings.'"

## THE ONLY ONE WE'VE GOT

Marcos appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," ABC's "Nightline," and the CBS "Morning News." In each case, he was questioned on human rights, the Philippine economy and his authoritarian rule. His evasive responses and tendency to ramble did him little good and ABC's Ted Koppel was forced to interrupt him once after ten minutes of spewing statistics.

Editorials and commentary were nearly all unfavorable. A very few ultra-conservatives toed the Marcos line. These included William Randolph Hearst who called anti-Marcos forces "Soviet stooges." *Human*

*Events*, taking a cue from the Marcos papers, attacked the Philippine Solidarity Network and the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship as "terrorists." The Moonie-owned *Washington Times*, to the surprise of no one, praised Reagan for inviting Marcos.

A few publications, such as the prestigious *Wall Street Journal*, took the "he's the only one we've got" approach. The businessman's bible admitted that Marcos was controversial, but insisted that the U.S. bases in the Philippines were so important that he must be treated as an ally.

## "BENEVOLENT CROCODILISM"

But by far the majority of the editorials were critical of the Marcos regime, minimally advising Reagan to "take Mr. Marcos aside for a friendly chat" on loosening his authoritarian grip (*Washington Post*). Some urged Reagan to make a distinction between the interests of the Filipino people and Ferdinand Marcos (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*) or urged that the U.S. "distance itself" from Marcos (*Baltimore Sun*).

The *New York Times* called the Marcoses "useful but embarrassing allies," while the *Los Angeles Times* criticized Reagan for taking too "pragmatic" an approach toward the Philippine dictator. The *San Francisco Chronicle* condemned Marcos' "bland and general denial" on human rights. The *Chicago Sun-Times* translated Marcos' "constitutional autho-

ritariansim" into "benevolent crocodilism."

## ATTACKING "QUIET DIPLOMACY"

A few went farther still. *The Nation* editorialized on the current succession crisis in Manila and proceeded to condemn the U.S.-Philippine extradition treaty currently pending in Congress.

In a scathing attack on Reagan's "quiet diplomacy," *Washington Post* columnist Mary McGrory discussed Marcos' human rights violations in depth. Comparing the Philippine dictator to the Shah of Iran, "another dictator who was lavishly praised by another American president, Jimmy Carter," she talked of harassment and intimidation in the Filipino community. She cited as an example the murders in Seattle of two young anti-Marcos labor union reformers.

CBS' John Chancellor discussed the U.S. dilemma of being dependent upon a dictator "doomed by his people's hatred." A *New York Times* op-ed by Cornell Professor George McT. Kahin condemned Reagan's view of the U.S. bases in the Philippines as "shortsighted" and advocated a transfer of U.S. forward bases in the southwest Pacific to "terrain that is politically safer than the Philippines."

## DOWNPLAYING THE OPPOSITION

But while almost all were willing to criticize Marcos strongly on the human rights issue, only Kahin—an academic, not a newspaperman—was at all willing to question the importance of the U.S. bases.

The opposition, however, was attacking much more than human rights violations. Condemning Marcos as a mere agent of U.S. interests in Asia, one of its main slogans was "U.S. Bases Out of the Philippines."

Thus, while the U.S. press is unsympathetic to Marcos, it is still sympathetic to the role that he plays in securing the U.S. military bases. One result of this was its tendency to downplay the significance of opposition activities.

One writer told the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit of submitting a story on the White House protest by "250-300 demonstrators." Her editor changed the figure to "almost 100." The *New York Times* reduced the 500 demonstrating at the Waldorf Astoria to 100. San Francisco newspapers cut the 1,500 in that city to 800.

Those in the opposition were not altogether surprised. On the whole, according to Geline Avila, CAMD coordinator, they were pleased with the media coverage. "To some extent our efforts were short-changed," she noted. "But the position we advocate is not popular with those who own or control the U.S. media."

"Until such time as a far broader segment of the U.S. working class unites with us against the U.S. bases in the Philippines, this tendency to downplay our role will continue." She paused. "But there will come a time when our significance can no longer be ignored." □



Samples of newspapers' posture toward visiting dictator.





# THE OPPOSITE

## SF, Seattle Were the During

By VENNY VILLAPANDO

A huge and militant demonstration rocked the city of San Francisco as Ferdinand Marcos stopped there on his way home, while Seattle witnessed the biggest anti-Marcos demonstration ever held in that city.

### SAN FRANCISCO

Thronged of placard-bearing demonstrators organized by the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit marched in Union Square September 26 chanting in unison "Hey Marcos, Smile While You Can—Remember What Happened to the Shah of Iran!"

The sound of 1,500 shouting demonstrators amplified by stadium-sized concert loudspeakers pierced through the plush St. Francis Hotel—where Marcos spoke before 4,000 "supporters"—and reverberated through several blocks.

Some 200 of "San Francisco's Finest" including sharpshooters perched on rooftops, kept close watch of the militant but peaceful rally. What reporters described as "the tightest security" they have ever seen was augmented by 300 of the dictator's own security agents.

"San Francisco was Marcos' last



"Marcos" and "Reagan" lead 650 Seattle demonstrators

ditch attempt to cover up the dirty tracks he left behind in his visit," said Cathi Tactaquin, committee spokesperson.

"Despite all their efforts to ensure a warm welcome for the dictator, this demonstration—unquestionably the biggest in the whole country—clearly represented the real sentiment of the Filipino community," said Tactaquin.

Room rentals and banquet costs alone were estimated at \$200,000, not including the 15 giant TV screens in various rooms that beamed the entire event, as well as thousands of free T-shirts, and bus rides.

An ear-piercing "Yes!" boomed from the well-organized picketlines as a chant leader asked: "Will we stick it out here to let Marcos know what we really think of him?"

At the moment of the First Couple's arrival, demonstrators surged closer to the hotel shouting: "Marcos, Hitler, Diktador, Tuta!"

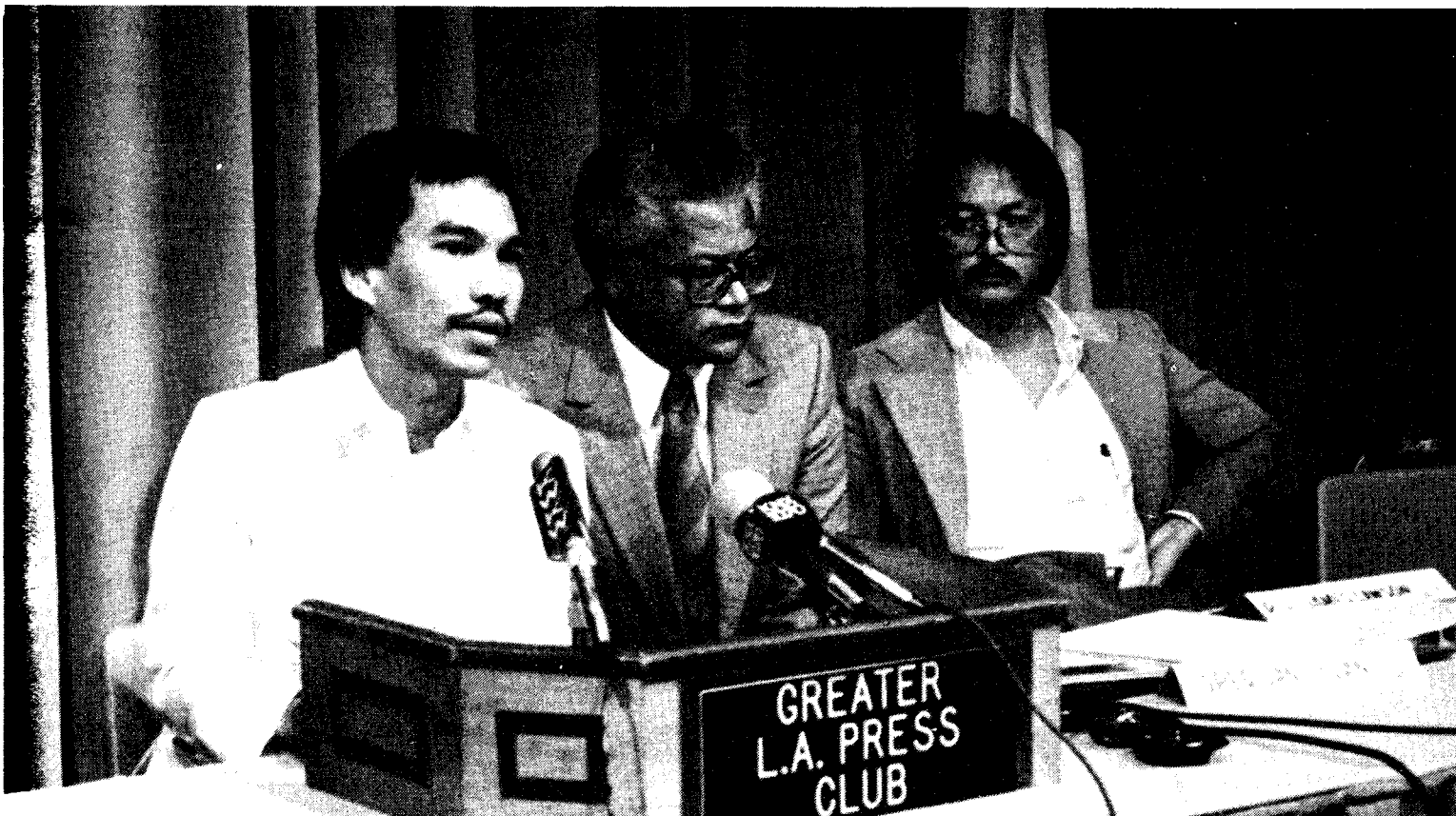
The angry demonstration which made the square teem with banners and colorful placards forced the Marcoses to slip into a back entrance at the hotel.

The demonstrators also denounced Dianne Feinstein who gave the



Bay Area Filipinos take stand and give dictator a hot goodbye.

Gary Reyes



Denouncing Marcos at a Los Angeles press conference (l-r): Greg Santillan, local CAMD coordinator; Rev. James Lawson, an official of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Rene Cruz, Ang Katipunan editor.

Florante Ibanez



Honolulu protesters fire opening shot; the dictator arrived there September 14.

Totoy Rocamora



# ON IN ACTION

## The Demos Largest Visit

Marcos an effusive welcome.  
A major citywide controversy had erupted when Feinstein insisted on giving an official welcome despite the fact that seven city supervisors issued a statement calling for a denial of any official greetings.

Feinstein then claimed she was merely respecting protocol and promised to tell Marcos "something about human rights." Instead, she gave the dictator the key to the city. After the visit, the mayor reeled from a barrage of public criticism.

### SEATTLE

Meanwhile, the biggest anti-Marcos demonstration was witnessed by this city as 650 people marched from the Federal Courthouse to the Philippine Consulate on September 18.

The rally, part of the National Day of Protest, featured 8-foot effigies of Reagan and Marcos. "Reagan," garbed in a cowboy suit, intermittently revealed his "war machine" under his 10-gallon hat. The Marcos effigy wore a Superman costume, with a cape labeled "U.S. Strongman in Asia."

Led by a huge banner that read "Oppose U.S. Support for Dictator Marcos," the protestors marched through downtown Seattle, catching the at-



Protestors; trailed by puppets. AK Photo

attention of noontime shoppers who reached out for leaflets.

Arriving in front of the Philippine Consulate, the marchers quickly set up a picketline, where a rally of speakers denounced the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

Cindy Domingo, representing the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes, lashed out at the Marcos regime which is currently the target of a civil suit on behalf of the victims' families.

Behind her stood a huge banner that read "We Want Justice for Domingo and Viernes."

A colorful skit was also performed featuring "Marcos" and "Reagan" doing a song-and-dance act to the tune of "Side by Side." Lyrics were changed, with the two proclaiming "they will always be side by side" to collude on repression and oppression.

The rally was joined by big contingents from the labor community, and included the Alaska Cannery Workers Union Local 37, ILWU Local 15, Shipscalers Union and Postal Workers Union.

International support groups like the General Union of Palestinian Students and CISPES (El Salvador) bolstered the demonstration with sizeable contingents.



Armin Alforque, N.Y. CAMD head (l) joins chant leaders in jeering at Marcos in front of the United Nations building in New York.

AK Photo



Geline Avila answers reporters at Washington, D.C. "Counter-Forum" with Benigno Aquino (to her left), Romeo Capulong, and Raul Manglapus.

AK



Angry crowd awaits First Couple's arrival at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

Totoy Rocamora

# Activists Braved Threats from Agents

"The Marcos people are getting desperate," noted Washington, D.C. CAMD activist Odette Taverna on her way back from a demonstration. "It looks like they're pulling out all the stops."

Taverna was referring to the harassment, both subtle and direct, of activists involved in the campaign to oppose the Marcos state visit.

Most visible were the bands of photographers, numbering anywhere from five up,



Hired muscleman shadows demo.

who dogged picketers, leafletters and demonstrators beginning several weeks before Marcos arrived. No ordinary photographers, these shutterbugs swarmed about their subjects, shoving cameras directly in their faces, pushing and jostling.

"We know the Marcos regime has files on each of us this thick," CAMD Coordinator Geline Avila commented acidly. "They don't need photos; they just want to provoke us."

The sheer number of Marcos' security

men was a factor in itself. Two hundred of the Philippine president's advance party were allegedly security agents, while another 300 accompanied him. There was plenty to spare.

## PURSUIT BY THE "BODYBUILDERS"

On one occasion, eight CAMD members leafletting at an Embassy picnic in Oxon Hill, found themselves tightly encircled by 25 to 30 agents. "They suddenly appeared all around us—popping out of the hedges, from behind cars," recalls Avila. "You could see they were carrying guns in their clutch-bags or under their shirts."

Clearer of the direct threats were what activists came to call the "bodybuilders." These three muscular young Latin men in dark glasses first made their appearance at the Congress Task Force Office where one asked to participate in the activities.

That same evening, "bodybuilders," showed up at the Maryland home of a CAMD member claiming to be from New York and asking for CTF Director Walden Bello. One night later, they came looking for Bello at the Virginia home of ex-Senator Raul Manglapus.

During the Sept. 11 protest of the Malacanang/CSIS conference, the "bodybuilders" appeared along with the shutterbug contingent and five Cambodian refugees dressed in "Ako'y Pilipino" T-shirts.

The Cambodians, unable to converse with the demonstrators in either English or Pilipino had been hired to pass out crude leaflets attacking individual protesters.

## D.C. POLICE TURN MEAN

Washington CAMD members consider a sudden dramatic transformation in the behavior of local police as the doing of the Embassy as well. Prior to the visit, the police had remained approachable, fre-

quently acting as a buffer between demonstrators and Marcos agents.

That was before Marcos' arrival on Sept. 15, when, under orders from the State Department, the Washington "Special Operations" squad took over.

"They would not bother to deal with our spokesperson," claims Taverna. "They just barked orders at all of us and kept coming up with new rules and regulations." At one point, an activist who wasn't moving fast enough was grabbed by the neck and told he had 15 seconds to get out: "one, two three..."

## HIT SQUAD ASSEMBLING?

"It's clear the Embassy told the State Department that Marcos needed protection from a bunch of terrorists," explains Avila. "And that's how we were treated."

Several activists on the West Coast found their homes under constant surveillance by Filipino agents posted at nearby street corners.

CAMD members in New York reported to police a 2:00 AM call from someone who claimed to be with the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC). Upon ascertaining that he had reached



D.C. CAMD member hurt after an unprovoked attack by "bum" earlier seen talking to Marcos agents.



Marcos agent keeps cool.

# FM's Poison Pens Worked Hard

By VINCE REYES

Malacañang's strategists tried to cover all their bases for the visit. It became obvious that while secret agents were brought in to harass U.S.-based critics, hacks were also deployed to counter the opposition with propaganda of their own. Black propaganda, that is.

At times enlisting the services of local pro-Marcos sympathizers (mainly for their signatures), the strongmen's literary hitmen produced leaflets ranging from personal attacks on activists to fractured rhetorical denunciations of the groups organizing the protests.

Never before heard of groups such as the "Guardians of Philippine Democracy" and the "Friends of Democracy in the Philippines," suddenly emerged to sling labels such as "communists" and "terrorists" at Marcos' opponents.

At a number of East Coast protest actions, a leaflet entitled "Balita" suddenly appeared as a direct play to the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship's

own "Taliba." One issue was headlined "Who is Walden Bello?" and depicted him as a madman. Another "issue" had cartoon caricatures of Bello and his co-coordinator in CAMD, Geline Avila, shouting curses in Pilipino.

Consistent with Marcos' excuse for domestic problems and with Ronald Reagan's rightwing posture in international politics, the black propaganda charged that anti-Marcos forces are "Soviet-inspired," and that the Philippines is in dire danger of becoming victim to "Marxist Hegemony" if the "communists" are not stopped.

Glossing over Marcos' role in the economic and political problems that are fueling unrest in the Philippines, the pro-Marcos leaflets focused on outside agitation and U.S.-based "plots" and "terroristic training camps" as the cause of the disturbances. Without these everything would be fine, the GNP is fine, people are not hungry, etc., etc.

The black propaganda was aimed directly at the U.S. Filipino community and made

strident appeals to nationalism by arguing that anti-Marcos sentiments are tantamount to being anti-Filipino.

The Combined International Philippine-American Association and the "Concerned Filipinos in America" concluded that "radicals" who were trying to "embarrass" Marcos will "render a gross injustice to numerous other Filipinos in the U.S. who are prepared to extend Mr. Marcos and his party a big and warm welcome." Marcos' visit, they said, not only honors him, but honors the Filipino people as well.

Other pieces of literature defended the neo-colonial relationship of the Philippines to the U.S. and specifically defended the presence of U.S. bases there.

Oppositionists were also branded as "anti-American" who have "abused the hospitality of the U.S. government" being that U.S. Filipinos are "merely guests in this country." They apparently earned their sobriquet for their criticisms of Reagan's militarist foreign policy and for their opposition to the U.S. bases. Bruce Ri-

someone "who was opposing the Marcos visit," the caller threatened to launch "Operation Mop-Up" and talked of "putting people in the hospital."

As if the overt acts of intimidation were not enough, indirect threats and rumors emanating from the Marcos camp compounded the situation. The "grapevine" informed Avila that the Ambassador had offered a reward to anyone who could "produce" her. Another source claimed that a "hit squad" was being assembled in New York to "neutralize" Bello.

## JUST LIKE THE SHAH

"The extent to which the Embassy is willing to harass us," remarked Avila, "is an indication of our success in this campaign and their desperation. People's jobs depend on pulling off an extravaganza that will please Marcos and impress the world. And we're getting in the way."

Congressman Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), in a statement of concern, called for an investigation by law enforcement authorities. "We cannot countenance any acts which curtail or threaten this basic constitutional right [of political protests], especially if they are committed by agents of a foreign country," he insisted.

How seriously did the anti-Marcos movement take the threats? "Look," answers Avila, "two of our people have been murdered in Seattle. We can't afford to take it lightly. But try as they may, they can't stop us." □

chards, a New York demonstrator commented, "I guess that makes me and a whole lot of other people opposed to Reagan anti-American Americans."

One leaflet took note of large numbers of non-Filipino anti-Marcos demonstrators and claimed that they were "hacks of the Filipino radicals, they are well-funded lackeys." The leaflet betrayed the Marcos camp's approach to getting support when it accused the non-Filipinos of being "mercenaries" who were paid "\$50 each" to demonstrate because "the Filipino anarchists would be hard put to stage a decent rally." Apparently, the Marcos pens-for-hire believed that anti-Marcos Filipinos "are in the minority and are disowned by the majority of the Filipino-Americans."

The smear campaign also launched in Manila. There, cartoons and editorials in the government-controlled newspapers focused their ire on the CAMD and the Philippine Solidarity Network. The *Manila Times-Journal*, for example, ran an editorial that all but called for the suppression of anti-Marcos activism in the U.S. where "Filipino leftists can only become a nuisance and, worst, a threat to peace and order."

Noting diehard rightwinger Rep. Larry MacDonald's not too subtle call for a crackdown in the U.S., the editorial stated, "Finally, some Americans are waking up to the reality that radical Filipino elements in the U.S. have become potential threats to public safety and could be possible causes for public disorders in the immediate future." Lauding MacDonald's call, the *Times-Journal* said, "A fresh breeze may be sweeping across the American heartland."

Edwin Batongbacal, a San Francisco activist remarked, "It seems that Manila is suggesting that Ronald Reagan should himself impose martial law here. Marcos, after all, has said several times that the U.S. can learn from the Philippines." □



Marcos hirelings peddle Embassy's black propaganda in Washington, D.C.

AK Photo



# New Book Hits World Bank

TORONTO—As 3,000 World Bank and IMF officials converged in this city September 6-9 to discuss lending strategies for the developing world, a new study revealed that \$3 billion in World Bank aid to the Philippines "has left the majority of its people living in greater poverty, and under heavier repression than before."

The book, *Development Debacle: The World Bank in the Philippines*, was appropriately "premiered" before a conference on the Global Impact of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) held at the University of Toronto with the IMF/WB annual meeting. The book is based on 6,000 pages of confidential documents leaked from the two lending institutions.

"Because the Philippines is a 'country of concentration' for testing World Bank development strategies, the revelations of our study reach far beyond its borders," stated Elaine Elinson, co-author of the study and national coordinator of the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN).

The book's co-authors are PSN's Walden Bello and David Kinley, and was co-published by the San Francisco-based Institute for Food and Development Policy and the PSN.

Described at the University of Toronto-based conference by internationally known economist Gabriel Kolko as "the most insightful analysis of World Bank strategy," the book documents how billions of dollars' worth of multilateral development assistance was pumped into the notorious regime of Philippine President Marcos, who is now facing the most serious economic crisis ever in the country's history.

Elinson, featured at the Toronto conference's "Case Study: The Philippines" workshop, revealed the book's assertion

that the "role of the Bank and the IMF has been aimed primarily at integrating the Philippines into the world capitalist system dominated by the U.S."

She charged that the U.S.-controlled lending agencies have used their tremendous economic leverage to "virtually take full control of Philippine national economic planning," and that "... in acting in the interests of the U.S. and against the interests of the majority of Filipinos, the Bank strategy has a thoroughly repressive character."

"The Bank's 'Basic Needs' policy promised that a major portion of its projects would serve the interests of the poorest Filipinos," Elinson asserted.

"But the harsh reality has been lowered urban wages, increased rural poverty and landlessness, economic instability for Philippine-based industry, and uncontrollable foreign debt."

While the Bank continues to promote the Philippines as a model of export-led development throughout the Third World, Elinson charged that *Development Debacle* smashes the "myth of the Philippine 'economic miracle' once and for all."

After the conference, the book was formally introduced by the Toronto chapter of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD) at a book launching and press conference on the University of Toronto campus.

Some 50 people—including prominent Canadian church and labor dignitaries—attended the book launching, replete with an elaborate photo display, cultural program and a question and answer period.

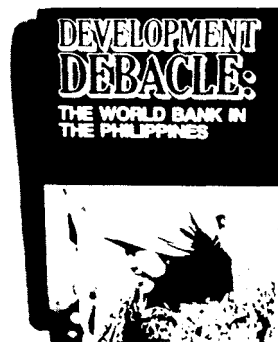
Elinson, who autographed books for buyers, reported that the first 50 copies of *Development Debacle* were sold at that book launching. □

"...punctures the illusion of the World Bank as an impartial, benevolent institution of economic development."

—Multinational Monitor

## Development Debacle: The World Bank in the Philippines

by Walden Bello, David Kinley and Elaine Elinson



"A detailed and not unfair account of the history of one of our most disastrous country programs. I am proud to have been of assistance to this project."

—World Bank officer,  
East Asia and Pacific  
Country Programs

"Makes the persuasive case that the World Bank has used its enormous power over Philippine economic policy in the primary service of Western economic interests, at the expense of the Philippine majority."

—Edward Herman,  
Professor of Finance,  
The Wharton School

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## FWC Wrestles With Issues of the Day



Enthusiastic delegates at Far West Convention in Los Angeles.

Vince Reyes

By VICKY PEREZ

LOS ANGELES—Some 150 delegates tackled an array of issues such as the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, abortion rights, nuclear disarmament, and the Marcos state visit in what some delegates described as "the most politically instructive Far West Convention ever."

The 12th Annual Convention was held September 3-5 at the California State University campus.

Speaking on the convention's theme "Respond to the Issues of the Day," FWC chairperson and keynote speaker Rose Ibañez remarked:

"One of the key issues the Filipino community must respond to is the attack

on the rights of immigrants... in its many forms," from the pending Simpson-Mazzoli Bill, to extradition, political asylum and refugee policy.

"The communities themselves must be prepared to demand and defend these rights," Ibañez said, noting other minority immigrant communities similarly face these threats.

Panelists gave presentations which included "Simpson-Mazzoli Bill: A Landmark Revision of U.S. Immigration Policy"; "U.S.-R.P. Relations Today: Extradition Treaty and U.S. Bases Agreement"; and "The International Movement for Disarmament and Peace."

"The presentations were insightful and a real learning experience for me," said San Francisco delegate Shirley Ando. "It

certainly opened my eyes to issues that go much beyond the Filipino community."

Workshops dealt with controversial issues like the Marcos State Visit, where Rene Cruz and Eddie Escultura of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) gave a preview of the nationally-coordinated plans sponsored by the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos Visit.

Participants were later treated to the West Coast "premiere showing" of the controversial BBC film documentary on the Philippines which was banned by the Marcos government.

Other workshops focused on minority students' access to education, women's rights and the struggle for safe and legal abortion, and El Salvador and the U.S.

government's involvement in that war.

A special presentation was made by Seattle delegate Cindy Domingo, who gave an update on the campaign for justice for Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, two FWC "veterans" and KDP members who were fatally gunned down in their Seattle union headquarters last year.

The convention was capped by resolutions endorsing the following:

- the planned activities of the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos Visit;
- the National Day of Protest scheduled for October 16 to denounce U.S. involvement in El Salvador;

- the civil suit against the assault on labor and community activists Domingo and Viernes, by high level Philippine and U.S. government officials;

- localized FWC conference to be held on a city-to-city level with the goal of expanding participation from each locality.

The last resolution provoked serious discussions with some delegates disapproving of "localizing the FWC" to various cities. While the majority voted to change the West Coast-wide character of the FWC, its trademark for the past 12 years, the decision was hailed by many as a "beginning of a new challenge."

"The idea and tradition of the FWC as a forum for tackling complex community issues, will certainly be kept alive and going," clarified Denise Palicte, Steering Committee member who introduced the resolution.

"What this resolution does is to introduce a new FWC format whereby each city will hold their own local conferences, with the view of maximizing the participation of local community residents," she added.

"FWC attendance has dwindled over the years due to the rising costs of sponsoring conventions, explained Palicte.

"The FWC has indeed played a valuable role in drawing Filipinos together in their fight against discrimination," explained one delegate. "The spirit of the convention certainly won't be changed once we go local." □

# Buod ng mga Balita

## MORE ARRESTS AND CHARGES OF SUBVERSION

A total of 81 people were formally charged with subversion September 3 and arrests continued in connection with what Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos called a plot to mount insurrection during his scheduled state visit to the United States.

The second series of arrests in late August and early September netted 29 more "plotters" since the conspiracy was revealed by Marcos himself August 8. Twenty-three labor leaders, including Bonifacio Tupas, president of the Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services (TUPAS), was apprehended in separate raids on September 1. Six were later released. An earlier series of raids netted alleged Communist Party members Isagani Serrano, Jocelyn de Guzman, Danilo Mallari, Richard Reyes, Rolando Cortes, and Tomas Laurel.

Military authorities filed the subversion suit with "evidence seized from raids conducted on militant labor unions." Among these were alleged plans to stage a paralyzing nationwide strike and documents of the outlawed Communist Party. Other "evidence" included sworn statements from unidentified witnesses. They also said that 39 of those charged have already been arrested and are now detained. The rest are now being sought on a Presidential Commitment Order which names so-called "conspirators" for arrest.

The plot, allegedly a series of bombings, assassinations, and nationwide strikes, was reportedly being hatched by a "conspiracy" of labor leaders, subversives, intellectuals, terrorists, and the elite opposition. The chaos and disruption that was to ensue, authorities claim, would have allowed the conspirators to take over the country while Marcos and most of his cabinet are in the U.S. in September.

Top leaders of the country's fast-growing progressive

labor movement, notably Felixberto Olalia and Crispin Beltran of the *Kilusang Mayo Uno* were arrested almost immediately after "discovery" of the plot was revealed. (See *AK, Vol. VIII, No. 9*.) A special 1,000-man secret police force, created as "pre-emptive action" rode shotgun on Metro-Manila's public transportation. Two weeks after Marcos' announcement of the plot and almost 50 dead "suspects" later, Marcos declared the conspiracy "aborted and dissipated... if it had existed at all."

But security measures continue to be enforced as Marcos and his entourage left for the U.S. September 14. Police checkpoints reportedly remain in many Metro-Manila thoroughfares. Commercial and government buildings are still heavily guarded and bags are routinely checked for weapons and explosives. Marcos also called upon the country's 1.25 million troops to thwart any attempt to remove his government from office.

Early in September, Brig. Gen. Edon T. Yap of the Army Reserve Command also placed the country's one million reservists on stand-by alert "in case of national emergency." Philippine Army reservists are trained to mobilize within 72 hours to "act as protective and strike forces." Already, reservists have been recruited to secure some 48 public utility companies including electrical power plants, national railways, water systems, food depots, and bus installations. □

## TOP U.S. OFFICIAL OK'd PHONE TAPPING OF MARCOS FOES

In a new twist in the San Francisco grand jury investigation of Marcos opponents, a top U.S. government official admitted that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) bugged the telephones of some of the probe's target.

U.S. Attorney General William French Smith admitted in his filed affidavit that Dr. Arturo Taca, a Philippine

citizen who was subpoenaed by the grand jury "has been overheard on electronic surveillance... conducted by the FBI."

Taca, a member of the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP), refused to testify on the grounds of "unreasonable government intrusion." Taca and a number of Marcos critics including Steve Psinakis, are being investigated for their alleged roles in the April 6 Liberation Movement's bombings in Manila two years ago.

The Attorney General's office claimed the wiretapping were legal and are based on the Foreign Intelligence Security Act (FISA). The Act legalizes surveillance of foreign intelligence and "groups engaged in international terrorism."

Observing this development, Eddie Escultura of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship commented, "The U.S. government is responsible for surveilling opponents of its allies is no revelation. In fact, we will see a lot more of these activities as the U.S. tries to give stronger backing for these dictators." □

## EX-STUDENT LEADER JOPSON KILLED

Former student leader Edgar Jopson was killed September 20 by government operatives in a raid in Skyline Subdivision, Mattina, Davao City. Four other people with Jopson, Bro. Orlando Tizon, Laura Cortez, Beatrice de Vera, and Nataniel Arnejo, were arrested and are now detained at Camp Catitipan, also in Davao City.

Jopson, a 35-year-old former chairman of the National Union of Students of the Philippines, was arrested June 14, 1979, but escaped two weeks later. After his short detention, Jopson released a detailed account of the CIA-sponsored intelligence training of the Philippine military. This rogues' gallery of the Marcos military was carefully pieced together from the marathon interrogation and torture sessions Jopson was subjected to. □

# The Commotion Over Succession

By NENE OJEDA

"Imelda will not be my successor," insisted Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos during his September 20 interview on NBC's "Meet the Press." He was responding to the oft-repeated question on the strong likelihood of the First Lady taking over when and where he leaves off before finishing his six-year term in office.

The uncertainty of life after Marcos nags many. And recent events only served to fuel anything from speculations on transition scenarios to bets on how much longer the strongman will live which are reportedly being placed in low-key neighborhood lotteries in Manila.

Marcos was admitted to the country's most modern government hospital for "a mild case of pneumonia." This did not help dispel rumors that he suffers from the debilitating and fatal lupus disease.

Finally, admitting that "nobody's impervious to misfortune," Marcos directed Political Affairs Minister Leonardo Perez to draft a bill reconciling hazy Constitutional provisions with the presidential decree creating the Executive Committee. The bill was passed unanimously and signed into law by Marcos on his birthday, September 11.

Marcos has also dropped hints of taking "a six-month leave" and letting the Ex-Com run the country. "I would like to see

though united in support for the Marcos government, remains largely fragmented by subloyalties and a patronage system.

The elite opposition in the Philippines, lacking the rallying force it once had in then detained ex-Senator Benigno Aquino, has become, as one member admits, "irrelevant" in Philippine political life.

The National Democratic movement, though continually gaining support and strength in the countryside, does not yet constitute an immediate threat to the Marcos government.

### FACTIONAL STRIFE

The crisis, Marcos noted in his memo to Ver, is more likely to come from members of the ruling coalition. The Ex-Com

by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to "rationalize the Philippine economy." Key technocrats—Finance Minister Cesar Virata, Trade and Industry Minister Roberto Ongpin, and Budget Minister Manuel Alba—represent the "rationalizing" wing in the Ex-Com. As Prime Minister, Virata chairs the Ex-Com in Marcos' absence.

Pitch battles have already erupted between economic experts and business cronies eager to make fast bucks. But the technocrats lack the political experience and stamina needed in a power struggle and may not choose to join one.

A figure to be watched is Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, another Ex-Com member. Enrile not only commands a following in the Philippine military but is a leading crony as well, dominating one-half of the coconut industry via presidential decree.

By naming his wife Imelda and an additional three Marcos loyalists to the Ex-Com, Marcos tips the balance to favor a grouping who, if given a chance, will faithfully continue his legacy of corrupt and repressive government.

Imelda, long an "unofficial emissary" of Marcos, denies presidential ambitions, equating it with a loss of femininity. But her active role in the September State Visit—meeting with key U.S. government officials—showed all intentions of just the opposite.

Imelda, too, has been known to change her mind "if and when consensus dictates." Her appointment to the Ex-Com, according to Marcos, was "demanded" by the dominant party in the *Batasang Pambansa*—his own *Kilusang Bagong Lipunan*. And the choice of ROTC graduate Ver over West Point-trained Gen. Fidel Ramos to head the Philippine armed forces early this year has driven two Marcos loyalists into different camps. Ver is known to favor Imelda while Ramos could align himself with Enrile. Marcos himself does not deny Imelda's key role in the next president's success.

Who succeeds Marcos will mean little change for the majority of the people who in the last sixteen years saw the worst in Philippine politics and economy. Only the U.S. militarists and financiers can rest assured that at least for some time, their interests in the Philippines will be safe. □



Juan Ponce Enrile



Imelda Marcos



Cesar Virata

First and probably most significant was the sudden August 7 appointment of First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez Marcos to the Executive Committee. The Ex-Com, now working with the president on day-to-day administrative functions, will act as a collective successor should he die, become incapacitated, or resign, until a new president is chosen. Imelda was not among those initially selected when the Ex-Com was created by Marcos last year.

Days later, after announcing over nationwide TV that he just passed his annual physical examination with flying colors,

whether my supposed successors can really operate the government without causing a crisis," he explained.

### FEAR OF CRISIS

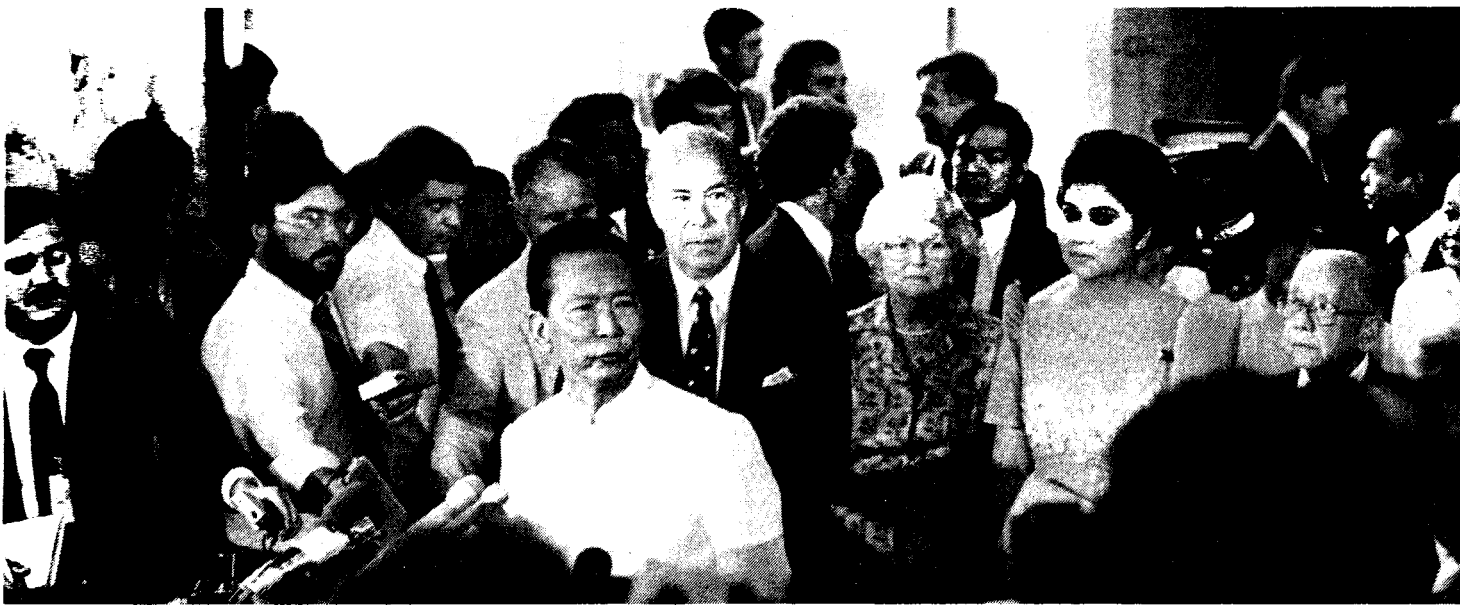
This crisis Marcos fears will apparently not come from the military. While the controversial memorandum on succession Marcos left with Chief of Staff Fabian Ver when he went off to Saudi Arabia for a state visit early this year did give the military an option to "take preventive action," it was only to do so if the Ex-Com is prevented from fulfilling its role in transition. And the Philippine armed forces,

represents a marriage of convenience, a motley group of Marcos supporters including technocrats, cronies, loyalists and a handful of old-style politicians.

The Ex-Com was created last year to insure continued favorable policies to foreign, particularly American, investments even after Marcos is gone. American financial institutions were especially concerned since the Philippines still owes it some \$15 billion in loans.

At U.S. prodding, the cabinet was reorganized to include U.S. favorites—economic experts—who might insure faithful implementations of changes suggested





Marcos and Imelda at State Department after lunching with Sec. George Schultz.

Nancy Rocamora

## A Grand Flop . . . .

Continued from front page

prove his image internationally.

To that end, Marcos brought along an army of 200 media personnel to beam back all aspects of his visit (the entourage was estimated at 800 to 1,000 including 300 security agents). A Washington-based satellite company transmitted the arrival, the White House lawn ceremony, luncheon at the National Press Club and dinner at the Waldorf Astoria live to Manila.

But even the U.S. government was forced to admit Marcos' unpopularity. "I've seen 'em all," remarked one government limousine driver, "Duarte, Begin, Sharon—but I've never seen security this tight."

There were policemen on foot, horseback and motorcycles. Canine squads sniffed for bombs and police helicopters droned overhead. "You have to understand," explained a Secret Service agent, "President Marcos is a pretty controversial figure."

"I ask myself," drawled Rep. George W. Crockett, Jr. (D-Mich.) during Marcos' meeting with the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "If there is observance of civil rights in the Philippines, why am I surrounded by such armed forces when I come to his morning's reception?"

It was only one of many embarrassing questions which dogged Marcos as determinedly as the bands of demonstrators.

### U.S. SECURITY ABOVE ALL

Most annoying of the issues emerging before the House and Senate, during press conferences and on TV news shows was the human rights question. Marcos was clearly irked by the release of Amnesty International's report on the Philippines which indicated that arrests without warrant, torture and murder of political opponents continue.

"Amnesty International isn't exactly the most objective observer," Marcos told House questioners. "They didn't even come to the Philippines," he added, provoking a detailed account by Amnesty of its 17-day visit last November.

"Anyway, these communists, whenever they're arrested, they cry torture," he told the National Press Club. "It was sloppy reporting," he responded on *Meet the Press*.

When questioned by reporters as to whether Marcos didn't have "a long way to go" on human rights, Ronald Reagan could only offer a weak, "We all do." He continually emphasized the importance of the U.S. bases in the Philippines.

It was clearly a question of placing U.S. strategic interest above all else. John Chancellor of NBC cited the U.S. dilemma as succinctly as anyone. Comparing Marcos to the late Shah of Iran, he called him an ally "needed for U.S. interests but doomed by his people's hatred."

### DOGGING MARCOS' HEELS

The U.S.-based anti-Marcos movement played a decisive role in the visit's failure. The National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit vowed to

protest Marcos at every stop along the way and kept its word.

Between 250 and 300 protestors picketed the White House Sept. 16 during Reagan's formal reception for the dictator. It was the largest and liveliest anti-Marcos picket in that city ever. Huge banners demanded "U.S. Bases Out of the Philippines" and accused the Philippine president of complicity in the Seattle murders of two anti-Marcos labor union reformers. Placards proclaimed, "Marcos: U.S. Hitman in Asia" and demanded "No Welcome for Marcos!"

Activists showed up at each of Marcos' official stops. A "welcoming committee" insured an opposition presence at the Washington Mall arrival ceremony and at Marcos' hotel. Angry groups met him at

Marcos declared martial law, he met with American businessmen from the PACC and told them, "Tell me what you want and I'll write the laws you need," Bello said. He added that the PACC has lobbied for tighter controls on labor which in part led to the recent crackdown on the sector.

### INCOHERENT AT THE U.N.

Two days later, 75 demonstrators in front of the U.N. chanted, "Marcos is a U.S. puppet, Down with Marcos!" His film crew reportedly could not use footage of his arrival as the protesters' noise cannot be edited out. Inside, Ferdinand Marcos addressed a half-empty General Assembly.

The strongman left observers confused by calling for the destruction of nuclear



Demonstrators massing before the White House on September 16.

AK Photo

the House, the Senate, the National Press Club and the Corcoran Art Gallery where the Philippine Embassy gave a lavish party for the Reagans.

### FM AND PROTEST MOVE TO N.Y.

The Marcos group was particularly irritated to find pickets waiting when the president showed up for private engagements. Two groups of chanting activists took Philippine security off guard when they showed up at NBC for Marcos' *Meet the Press* appearance. They picketed the offices of the *Washington Post* while Marcos conferred with senior editors. When the dictator attended church on his last day in D.C., tenants and children in the Latino neighborhood joined the chanting.

Activists in New York picked up where the Washington group left off. Marcos arrived at La Guardia airport on Sept. 20 to find a dozen demonstrators chanting "Down with Marcos," completely drowning out the timid 300 or so "supporters" bused by the Philippine Consulate.

The biggest New York action occurred that evening. Four hundred picketed the Waldorf Astoria where Marcos dined as guest of honor at a banquet given by the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce (PACC). Demonstration leaders pointed out that the event was symbolically almost as significant as the White House reception.

"The PACC wields not only economic, but political clout in the Philippines," noted Walden Bello of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship. "After

weapons on the ground through "science and technology." Experts at the U.N. told reporters that this is like calling for "the destruction of nuclear arms by nuclear arms" or MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction).

The opposition in New York proved just as dogged as their Washington counterparts, greeting Marcos as he arrived at the *New York Times* for a meeting with

editors. Officials of the Council on Foreign Relations were visibly miffed when pickets showed up for the group's off-the-record meeting with Marcos.

### EMBASSY'S DISMAL FEW

The campaign to prove Marcos' popularity in the Filipino community hinged on embassy plans to bring out mobs to meet the president. Ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez had promised 5,000 would turn out to welcome Marcos to Washington. But, though buses were chartered from as far away as New York and New Jersey, only a few hundred showed up.

"If even ten percent of the Filipino community dislikes my regime, I'll quit my job," Marcos told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Geline Avila, CAMD Coordinator, suggested that it might be quitting time. "Marcos' popularity can't be measured by how many Filipinos attend protest rallies," she told the press. "Our community is highly intimidated by the regime. Ask instead how many people are willing to come out to welcome the dictator."

### NATIONAL BETRAYAL

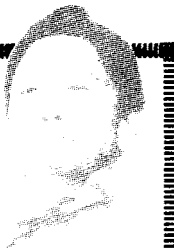
Back in the Philippines, Marcos' grand U.S. tour merely added credence to the opposition's charges of puppetry. "Unable to deceive their people anymore, the Marcoses will spend the tenth anniversary of their dictatorship in the land of their sponsors to report on a "job well done,"" Cagayan de Oro Mayor Aquilino Pimentel told the press on Sept. 22.

And, just in case Marcos and Reagan failed to get the message, 5,000 protesters turned out October 1, the day of Marcos' return, to tell them just what they thought of the visit.

Unfurling huge banners reading "Dis-mantle U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship" and "Expose U.S.-Marcos Talks As An Act of National Betrayal," they chanted precisely the same slogans heard on the streets of Washington, New York and several other U.S. cities.

Then they splashed gasoline on effigies of Ferdinand Marcos and Ronald Reagan and struck a match. □

## Give This Man a Headache SUBSCRIBE!



If our reports on the state visit have more substance and detail than any other Filipino community newspaper, it is because our activists were in the thick of organizing against it all over the country. They were always just a few yards away from the dictator himself, trading blows with his apologists.

Our reporters were there too, recording everything firsthand, going "undercover" to give our readers a peek into Marcos' entourage, and making sure the truth is not buried by the regime's \$18 million-public relations blitzkrieg.

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Special to the AK

# Suit Accuses FM of Killing KDP Activists

SEATTLE—The Marcos government, with the complicity of U.S. government agencies and officials, is responsible for the murders of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, charged a civil suit filed in this city's U.S. District Court September 14.

In press conferences held the same day here and in Washington, D.C., spokespersons from the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes claimed the victims were slain because Marcos believed they were assisting the militant labor movement in the Philippines whose leaders were recently arrested for "conspiring to overthrow" the strongman.

The suit also claimed that the deaths of the union reformers and KDP activists were a direct result of an "on-going conspiracy to silence and intimidate the anti-Marcos opposition in the U.S."

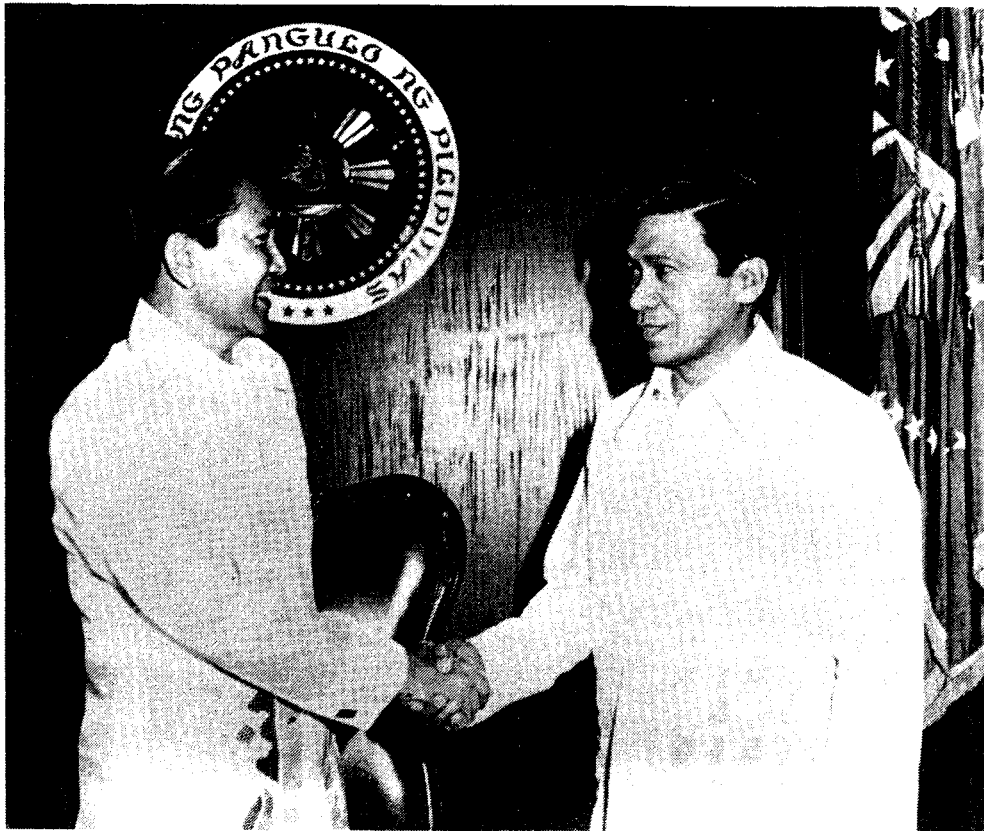
Cited as evidence of this conspiracy was a 1979 Senate Foreign Relations Committee secret report revelation of a "Philippine infiltration plan," as reported by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

The suit's plaintiffs are the estates of Domingo and Viernes which are seeking \$30 million in damages for the deaths.

Prominent anti-Marcos activists Rene Cruz, editor of *Ang Katipunan* and David Della, an official of Local 37 ILWU, are also plaintiffs asking for an injunction to stop the harassment of the U.S.-based anti-Marcos movement by both the Philippine and U.S. governments.

## MARCOS, HAIG, BARUSO, ET AL.

Included in the long list of defendants were: President Ferdinand Marcos, Imelda Marcos, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, U.S. Attorney William French Smith; heads of the FBI and the naval intelligence; members of the Tulisan gang; as well as private individuals who acted as agents of these governments including former Local 37 president Constantine "Tony" Baruso.



Prime suspect Baruso greeted by Marcos in 1972 meeting.

AK File Photo

Citing Domingo, Viernes, Cruz, and Della a part of a class of people consisting of "persons of Philippine ancestry in the U.S. who oppose the Marcos regime," the suit contended that the U.S. and Philippine governments violated the civil rights of this class in carrying out this conspiracy.

## INFILTRATION PLAN

The suit was based on the 1871 Civil Rights Law known as the "Ku Klux Klan

Act," which was used to prosecute suspected murderers of civil rights workers in the South.

The plaintiffs charged that in an attempt to silence U.S. opponents, the Marcos regime embarked on a broad conspiracy to infiltrate and recruit agents to destroy the opposition. These agents were instructed to collect information on anti-Marcos individuals, obtain documents, plans, membership lists of anti-Marcos organi-

zations in order to "disrupt, interfere with, harass and cause disruption and division within such organizations." This conspiracy, the suit claimed, has been in operation since 1973, and authorized the use of physical violence and assassination.

Furthermore, the suit contended that "the named U.S. government defendants have agreed to allow agents of the Philippines to violate the law of the U.S. in order to carry out the illegal objectives of the conspiracy without obstruction."

## BARUSO IS KEY LINK

The suit also charged that Baruso, as an active participant of the conspiracy against the anti-Marcos movement, provided intelligence information to both Philippine and U.S. intelligence agencies, including information regarding the murder victims' political activities.

Baruso has remained a prime suspect in the murders of Domingo and Viernes, and according to the Prosecuting Attorney, Norm Maleng, the case is still under investigation.

Baruso's gun, a Mac 10 .45 calibre, surfaced as the murder weapon weeks after the assassinations.

Testimony during the trial of convicted murderer and Tulisan gang leader Fortunato "Tony" Dictado, revealed that Baruso put out a \$5,000 contract for the murders of Domingo and Viernes.

Baruso, under service of a summons, is being asked in the civil suit to answer 36 questions regarding his gun, as well as his relationship with the Philippine government and various U.S. intelligence agencies and operations. Baruso is a close associate of Marcos who gave him an award for "outstanding service to the Filipino community" six months after the murders.

Another defendant, Paul Liam, has also been tagged as an agent of the Marcos government. Liam, a Seattle resident, infiltrated the KDP and supplied information regarding its activities for a number of years. □

By LENI MARIN

SEATTLE—Reformers gained complete control of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union, ILWU Local 37, by winning all of its elective posts in an election tabulated September 30.

The entire slate of the Local 37 Rank and File Committee won handily over all of its "old guard" opponents, a landmark in the union's history. The union also elected its first woman president.

Terri Mast won the President-Business Agent post with 391 votes, as opposed to Emma Lawsin who garnered merely 135 votes.

Leo Lorenzo, who ran for vice-president against two other contenders drew 320 votes.

David Della gained the Secretary-Treasurer post, defeating a former secretary-treasurer who was recalled from office in 1979 "for inefficiency."

Other officers elected from the Reform Slate were: Glenn Suson, for Dispatcher; Emma Catague, Nemesio Domingo Sr., and Bernard Taclay as Trustees; Myrna Bumanlag, Lynn Domingo, Angel Doniego, Ricardo Fariñas, John Foz, Rich Gurtiza, Sylvia Jones, Sharon Lind, and Emily Van Bronkhorst for members-at-large (Executive Board).

Silvestre Tangalan, current president of the Filipino Community Council who ran under Lawsin's slate, failed to gather enough votes to garner a slot in the Members-at-Large post.

Well over 500 members cast their votes in an election that gave a clean cut mandate for union reforms.

## BITTERSWEET VICTORY

Only over a year and a half ago, the reform efforts of the Rank and File Committee suffered a major blow when two of its leading members, Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, were murdered in cold-blood inside the union headquarters at Pioneer Square in this city.

Domingo and Viernes, elected as Secretary-Treasurer and Dispatcher in the 1980 union election, launched sweeping reforms, including enforcement of the fair

# Reform Slate Sweeps Union Elections



Huge Local 37 contingent at anti-Marcos demo. Inset: Terri Mast(r), David Della (l).

AK Photo

dispatch system and shop steward training.

However, the murders only strengthened the commitment of the union rank and file, who vowed to continue the much-needed reforms.

Della admitted that in the course of the year, the Rank and File Committee faced obstacles in their work, like the 25-year legacy of backward policies and practices of corrupt officials who had basically "sold out" to the cannery industry.

Foremost of those was Constantine "Tony" Baruso who was eventually recalled from the union presidency by the membership in December last year.

"Our winning is the result of the tremendous work done in past years," said Della, "and Gene and Silme were two

great factors in our reform drive."

## FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

With the victory of the Reform Slate, Terri Mast becomes the first woman president/business agent of the union in its entire history.

"The support for a woman president is a clear gauge that the members are open to changes that will further represent their interest and composition," said Mast.

The Rank and File Committee candidates represented the general membership of the union—senior pioneers of the union, immigrant and American-born Filipinos, and white women workers.

Within the last fifteen years, the predominantly Filipino character of the union altered as more and more white

women workers were integrated into the cannery industry.

Today, one-third of the total membership of 1,200 are white women workers.

"The fact that the members voted straight slate, meant that they voted for the Rank and File platform and program," said Mast.

"Our program concretely outlines our tasks at hand, which will continue to move the union away from the bickering and confusion that the old leadership fostered."

## NEW PRIORITIES

The priorities of the new administration is to "proceed to make their reform program come to life," added Mast.

One of their top priorities is to expand their membership to further bolster the union. The new officers hoped to map out a membership drive through an organizing committee which will implement the initial work.

The other priority is to continue to strengthen the rank and file through regular education work and broader participation in the affairs of the union.

Another crucial area that the reform members are tackling is contract enforcement.

"Our main obstacle at this point in our work is the cannery industry," said Della. "Being hard hit by the overall recession, the industry is undergoing an economic crisis. Consequently, it comes down harder on contract negotiations. Provisions like pay guarantee for the season may be taken back."

Della contends that it is a strong membership that can really challenge this union-busting tactic.

As the new Local 37 leadership prepares for an inauguration and their formal installation, the Rank and File Committee is very much aware of its tasks at hand, and certainly of the difficulties that they may encounter.

On the other hand, the election has given the reform effort a vote of confidence.

"It is competent leadership and a strong and supportive membership that will push the work forward," exclaimed Mast. □