

# Ang Katipunan

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Newsmagazine of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



## DON'T STAB ME IN THE BACK!

One U.S. source said: "We want to get things going without appearing to steer the ship."

By NANCY F. ROCAMORA

**T**he government should brace itself against an all-out destabilization offensive by anti-Marcos cliques in the U.S. State Department and the CIA," warned columnist R. Logarta.

"[Marcos] must know that 'on-the-ground operations' for his overthrow are being directed out of the United States Embassy in Manila, and that the final move for his ouster is projected in eight to nine months," added Jesus Bigornia.

"A Washington weekly... said that the American State Department has been trying to destabilize the Philippine Government for some time now... by using blackmail... by building up opposition and by doing other things..." insisted Teodoro Valencia.

It was late August and the pro-Marcos columnist were once again spouting their incomparable brand of anti-U.S. petulance. Copy brimmed with dire warnings and the word at the tip of everyone's ballpoint was "destabilization."

### 'MARCOS IS A PROBLEM'

Observers initially disregarded it as just another round of calculated hysteria in the ongoing exchange of signals between Ferdinand Marcos and a chief backer whose

support had slackened noticeably.

But for once the president's cheering squad was more or less on the money. It had picked up what other observers have known for some time: important policy shifts were going on in Washington. (See "Reagan Fine Tunes Philippine Policy," *AK*, March 1985; "Perfecting Democracy U.S.-Marcos Style," *AK*, July 1984.)

"There is an understanding now that Marcos is a problem," explained Richard Kessler of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Nobody in the administration is beating the drum for Marcos anymore," one administration source told *San Francisco Examiner's* Phil Bronstein last month, "and no one thinks it does us any good to have him there."

As to "destabilization," according to one intelligence analyst, "Different people at different meetings have brought it up... but I don't think anyone sees it as a viable option."

The mere fact that it was being discussed, however, and in the highest policymaking circles in Washington, was enough to chill Marcos down to the very marrow.

### 'THE END OF OUR ROPE'

Recent scoops in two California newspapers reveal that members of the Reagan administration's intelligence community and Philippine experts are now seriously

examining their options in an effort to withdraw U.S. support from Marcos. *San Jose Mercury News's* Katherine Ellison exposed the regular, classified meetings being held by defense and intelligence specialists over the past few months to discuss "hard choices."

Those regular meetings were supplemented last August, according to *Examiner's* Bronstein, by a two-day conference of 50 representatives of the Pentagon, State Department, CIA, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of Strategic Assessment, the academe, and the financial community.

Meeting at the U.S. War College from August 1-3, this high-powered group discussed everything from leaking a National Security Council report stating that U.S. policy was to seek Marcos' ouster to abandoning the military bases in the Philippines; from a foreign policy speech by President Reagan denouncing Marcos to a coup.

It was, insisted one participant, "far more extensive than anything in the past on the Philippines."

"There was a feeling that we've come to the end of our rope," one source told Bronstein. "We hope the Filipinos find a way to get rid of him and then we'll help the one who succeeds him. We want to get things going without appearing to steer the ship."

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Guest Editorial

## The Quest for Popular Democracy After 13 Years of Tyranny

After 20 years of the Marcos regime, of which exactly 13 have been under a dictatorship, we are at last beginning to see the end of a government that has tyrannized this country.

The struggle, however, is far from over. The regime has launched a military and economic counteroffensive, with the prodding of U.S. imperialism, that is destroying our people's lives.

Peasants and workers, students and teachers, church people and journalists, and doctors and lawyers have become the central targets of a state terrorism which styles itself as a crusade against communism.

In compliance with IMF orders, this mendicant regime has proceeded to crush our people's livelihood, and to exact from them burdensome taxes to be used to service its debts and to subsidize its military expenditures.

Our people have had enough of these. They are fighting back. And they will prevail.

But periods of transition like the one we are going through are full of traps. Instead of leading us safely to the end of a dark tunnel, the transition may bring us straight into an abyss. It may also lead us to a dead-end, or into a circle which, though it may at first give us the illusion of new surroundings, returns us to the same spot we came from.

The challenge that we must consciously confront is the ever-present danger that our people's struggle for change may once more be diverted from its original path, and become instead the vehicle for a new elite-led American-sponsored government which will maintain essentially the same anti-people structures and the same subservience to foreign powers.

There are always elements from the old system that

refuse to die with the system. They frantically differentiate themselves from the system, and even assume the rhetoric of the new politics in the hope of eventually capturing its leadership and diverting its direction. In a period of rapid change, they offer a reassuring bridge between the familiar and the uncertain. They prey upon the temerity of the many, the general impatience for change and the ambiguous fear of anything radical. They are the predators of the transition.

Our people saw them at work on the eve of the defeat of the Spaniards nearly a century ago, when they self-righteously claimed the leadership of the revolution and proudly displayed what they had erroneously assumed to be the unselfish support of the United States of America. It was, of course, too late when they realized that Mother America would not let them rule their own people.

The ghosts of these *politicos* are once more stalking the political landscape, riding on the back of mass disenchantment. They have defined our national malaise as stemming basically from the corruption of the present leadership, its immorality, its wastefulness and its incompetence.

They see nothing wrong in a way of life which supports the opulence of a few while consigning the vast majority to a life of poverty and degradation.

They see nothing wrong in a system which legalizes the plunder of the country's natural resources by foreign capitalists in collaboration with domestic dummies.

They see nothing wrong in a system which sanctifies the use of large land areas surrounded by populous communities in our country to stockpile nuclear weapons, as launching pads for international aggression, and as the homes of thousands of American troops who may intervene anytime in our affairs.

And lastly, they see nothing wrong in an international economic system which allows a few powerful capitalist countries to control the value of our currency, the value of our exports, and the interest rates to be paid on borrowed money.

Therefore, on September 21, 1985, as we mark the anniversary of the inauguration of tyranny in our country, we must remember that the decline of an old order is not always followed by the advent of the new. Old orders can and do recycle themselves. As we

prepare ourselves for the long struggle ahead—the struggle to dismantle the last ramparts of the Marcos dictatorship and to combat U.S. intervention—let us, even now, guard against the determined attempts of some groups to limit the horizon of the democratic movement in the name of “moderation.” For this is nothing but conservatism. Let us not allow the imminence of the dictator's defeat to overshadow our quest for a truly new and better society for all.

Our country is in a critical state, its problems demand heroic solutions.

21 September 1985 / Movement for Philippine Sovereignty and Democracy —Kilusan ng Kapangyarihan at Karapatan ng Bayan (KAAKBAY)

Antonio U. Miranda, Sr. Christine Tan, Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., Edmundo Garcia, Dennis Arroyo, Jose B.L. Reyes, Mita Pardo de Tavera, Francisco Nemenzo, Randolph David, Ma. Serena Diokno—Directors

## Save Bilingual Education, No to Bennett's Plan

Ignoring the well-established fact that bilingual education or the use of native language instruction is an effective building block toward English proficiency, the Reagan administration recently announced plans to shift the emphasis of bilingual programs to intensive English classes. A bilingual education expert described the plans as “a throwback to earlier years of ‘sink or swim’ programs—either you make it or you won't.”

Education Secretary William Bennett also proposed deregulating bilingual education and letting school districts decide on the method of instruction. At the same time, Bennett let fly this ill-informed and xenophobic barb: “Too many children have failed to become fluent in English. After 17 years of federal involvement and \$1.7 billion, we have no evidence that the children whom we sought to help . . . have benefited.” This sounds like the old bigot who constantly complains that “you don't hear English spoken in this neighborhood anymore.” More, Bennett's message to local school districts runs like this: we'll let you decide how

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### Ang Katipunan

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## LETTERS

Enclosed please find a check for initiation of my subscription to *Ang Katipunan*. It will also cover a \$25 contribution to your organization. I am a Filipino-American college student attending school here at Oberlin, traditionally a very active place in terms of politics and social causes. My Fil-Am comrades here will benefit from your paper as well. It is very encouraging to see the presence of your paper and your organization. Salamat po and long live Ninoy!

Antonio J. Ramos III  
Oberlin, OH

wrongdoing is actually committed he can already deny that the President had anything to do with it.”

A lot of KBL members of parliament can communicate with the dead. (“Especially those who vote for them during local elections.”)

You can only get a “No comment” from the president's executive secretary Juan Tuvera because he insists on using only “mental telepathy” in communicating with the public.

As to the President's miraculous staying power, Madame SubRosa believes that Marcos got huge loans from the devil but now he's got old Beelzebub by the tail. The devil, she thinks, gave President Marcos lots of special drawing rights and moratoriums which brought him out of the hospital bed but now is afraid that the President might default on his soul. If that happens and everyone else defaults, the devil will have a worldwide spiritual crisis in his hands.

This is why the voices say “stay on but prepare your graceful exit” but she thinks the President is stretching his own interpretation. (She is entitled to her opinion here.) Nevertheless, those voices she assures me are on the whole friendly. They're probably the same ones who told President William McKinley to go ahead and colonize the Philippines. And we know what would have happened if he hadn't listened. Marcos would not be what he is, I wouldn't be where I am and therefore, where would Philippine journalism be today? □



## Litter from Manila

### Voices We Have Heard on High



By INIDORO DELIHENCIA

President Marcos said voices told him to stay on, that now is not the time to abdicate. As expected, the biased, racist, drunken, one-bath-a-week, disgusting foreign media is giggling about this. But what's so bad about hearing voices from the twilight zone? Especially if they add another dimension to the art of running the state?

Madame SubRosa, palmist, tarot card reader and idol of Malacañang's spiritist-in-residence Jun Labo, tells me foreigners don't realize that many of our government officials are natural born psychics. When she said our ministers usually encounter paranormal occurrences in the course of their daily work, my hair stood on end.

The First Lady, it turns out, has an out-of-body experience everytime she has an interview or a press

conference. “Her mind leaves her body and just sort of wanders around,” swore Madame SubRosa.

“There's a poltergeist in Cabinet meetings,” Madame SubRosa whispered. “Everytime the government suffers very bad publicity and the meeting is waiting for the President to arrive, you should see how blame gets mysteriously thrown all over the place.”

“Sometimes in the half-light of dusk, you can look at goings-on in the *Batasang Pambansa* and see that in its previous existence it was Dante's Inferno, then a zoo and then, more respectably, a house of ill-repute.”

Many of our officials actually use psychic powers in their daily work. Here they are according to Madame SubRosa:

Gen. Ver practices levitation. (“How else can he jump from any floor when the President orders him to jump, and still be around today?”) It figures.

Prime Minister Virata can become invisible at will. (“Can anyone tell where he is now?”)

Tourism minister Jose Aspiras does astral travel. (“Give him a press call regarding the latest scandal in his ministry and right away ‘he's out of the country’ his secretary will tell you.”)

The Supreme Court justices, except one, all have crystal balls. (“They break everytime the President asks for a decision, get it?”)

Information minister Greg Cendaña is something else with his extrasensory perception. (“Even before a

# Troops Attack September Protests



Cory Aquino addressing Manila September 21 demo.

N.Y. Times

President Ferdinand Marcos' troops blocked columns of marchers from reaching his palace, and elsewhere charged into crowds or fired into them as 100,000 Filipinos joined in nationwide demonstrations against his 20-year-old rule on September 21, the 13th anniversary of the declaration of martial law. The government officially commemorates the anniversary as the "Day of Thanksgiving." When the streets emptied, the arrest list was up to 200 and the death toll placed at 23. At least three people were wounded in shooting incidents in Manila and 80 protesters were detained as police suppressed angry crowds.

Tension was highest in the cauldrons of rural unrest. In Escalante, Negros Oriental, the day before, 14 demonstrators were mowed down by gunfire, when 15,000 protesters clashed with police.

Manila came to a virtual standstill when over 40,000 demonstrators marching in two separate columns converged on Malacañang. Street congestion forced President Marcos to cancel the official celebration of "Barangay Day" at the nearby Folk Arts Center, a victory for the demonstrators.

"Yellows," denoting the moderate opposition, rallied behind Corazon Aquino, and banners urging her candidacy for the 1987 presidential race were everywhere to be seen. In another column of marchers, "reds" led by BAYAN, the major left-led alliance, raised their oft-heard battlecry "Dismantle the U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship!" Both "yellow" and "red" columns, however, met at the common symbol of opposition

hatred: Malacañang Palace, where effigies of Marcos and Reagan were burned.

## TERROR PLOT

Earlier, build-up actions all over the country focused on specific sectoral demands. Some 200 people were hurt on September 10 when paramilitary and constabulary forces broke up an anti-government demonstration in San Fernando, Pampanga. In front of the Education Ministry, constabulary troops hosed down a crowd of 700 students with powerful blasts from firehouses. The students were protesting compulsory military training.

On September 11, 200 priests and nuns denounced repression of the clergy in front of the U.S. Embassy. The marchers bore 49 large crosses to symbolize 13 "church martyrs" and 36 imprisoned, tortured or executed lay workers. On September 11, President Marcos' birthday, some 500 marchers, mostly students, burned a mock American flag in front of the U.S. embassy. The students protested U.S. support for Marcos and legislation that would make patriotism courses mandatory.

The nationally-coordinated September 21 protests decried the "real state of the nation" as Marcos, in his birthday address, renewed his call for national reconciliation. He warned the opposition "not to ride the tiger" of communist insurgency. Opposition forces, however, charged that terrorism, not the spirit of national reconciliation prevails.

"Mr. Marcos, if he wants to reconcile with the people, should resign," former

senator and BAYAN president Ambrosio Padilla said. "There can be no reconciliation when you have inhumanity." BAYAN claimed that a terror plot which is now "in full operation to quell the growing protest movement" has been unleashed by Marcos.

Sister Marianni Dimaranan, head of the Task Force Detainees, said her group has documented 35 massacres, 29 summary executions, cases of 110 people missing or abducted; 341 tortures of political prisoners from January to June 1985; and at least 2,351 new political arrests for the first half of 1985.

## PEOPLE'S STRIKES

If the most recent reports of political violence are any indication, the last half of the year will be even more tense.

In Davao, where BAYAN organized a "People's Strike," seven people were killed by military authorities as 600 people marched downtown to lend support to a transportation shutdown. In a separate incident, Randolph Sunico, managing editor of the *Southern Chronicle*, was murdered, adding to the growing roster of provincial journalists assassinated.

Human rights workers are now apparently favorite targets of the military. Provincial chapters of the Task Force Detainees are being closely watched and harassed, according to the group's Manila office.

Tomas de los Santos, a TFDP worker in Davao was shot September 12, sustaining leg and head wounds. TFDP-Baguio came under heavy military surveillance September 17, while in Pangasinan three TFDP

workers were issued Preventive Detention Action orders. One TFDP worker, Albert Enrique, is missing and two others, Leonore Sevilla and Ed de Luna, face subversion charges.

Dr. Josephine Tan, member of the Medical Action Group-Southern Tagalog, and Susan Ladlad, former head of *Bik-tima*, an organization of relatives of victims of militarization, were picked up September 5 at Lucena City and detained at Camp Nakar.

Meanwhile, Fr. Nilo Valero, SVD, Cristeta Fernandez Aguinaldo and an unidentified woman were killed by government operatives in Bakun, Benguet late August. Their gunfire-shattered and decapitated bodies were found in a shallow grave.

## TENSIONS IN NEGROS

In various towns of Negros, the tense military situation did not prevent planned protests from being carried out. Thousands of protesters blocked major streets in Bacolod City on September 18 and schools and businesses staged sympathy close-downs at the start of a three-day "people's strike" against the Marcos regime.

A BAYAN statement said that the strike was aimed at "Dismantling the U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship." Bacolod came to a virtual standstill when some 10,000 protesters formed "human barricades" in major streets to enforce the strike. Four youths were arrested in nearby Hinigaran, for distributing anti-government leaflets.

Similar actions are expected to increase in the sugar-growing province where nearly 400,000 plantation and mill workers have been laid off since May of this year. Plummeting sugar prices have forced planters to drastically cut production.

Hunger and widespread malnutrition are now the foremost concerns of the island's idled workers. No relief is in sight as many planters have even refused to allow the cultivation of food crops on their plantations. Instead, some landlords have posted heavily armed guards and hired private armies to protect their properties.

*Agence France Presse* reported last August that a number of Israeli soldiers are moonlighting as security guards for Philippine government officials, wealthy businessmen and sugar barons. The Israelis reportedly introduced the extensive use of the Israeli-made Uzi machinegun, and are training private armies. □ CA

## Foes Shadow Box, FM Mulls Options

Leaders of the opposition National Unification Council recently announced plans to form a "shadow cabinet" that would conduct a "parliamentary war" to dethrone Marcos.

The announcement was apparently calculated to project an image of opposition unity and readiness to challenge President Marcos in any election at any time. Many observers, however, aware of the deep divisions wracking the opposition, greeted the announcement with a yawn.

Marcos, in late August, scrapped the possibility of snap or early presidential polls after a hastily called survey among the ruling *Kilusang Bagong Lipunan's* 42,000 barangay leaders.

Social Democratic Party president Francisco Tatad, who authored the shadow cabinet proposal adopted by the NUC, offered it as an initial move in preparation for a post-Marcos government.

Should the opposition candidate defeat Marcos in the presidential elections, the new cabinet would be in place, with designated departments for national defense, trade, foreign affairs, education, infrastructure, natural resources and Moslem

affairs.

The 20 members of the shadow cabinet would be chosen from the different opposition parties and cause-oriented groups by a special committee to be finally approved by a "Committee of Seven." The committee will be composed of the most influential opposition figures.

Corazon Aquino and former Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma are the most likely candidates to head the Committee of Seven.

Whether the proposal will lead to anything beyond a mere "shadow" of the opposition's intentions depends on the healing of divisions among the moderates and between the moderates and the left.

So far, the left-led BAYAN has not declared its position on a possible snap election or on the NUC shadow cabinet proposal. It appears to be taking a cautious approach towards a process that it views with deep skepticism.

## ONLY IN MANILA

However, BAYAN and National Democratic Front spokespersons have declared earlier this year that their organizations

will field or support candidates on a "selective basis" for the May 1986 local elections. They also did not absolutely foreclose the possibility of cooperation between the left and moderate opposition forces in the electoral arena.

Within the electoral opposition, Salvador Laurel is currently perceived as the front-runner among presidential hopefuls. Following the Aquino assassination, Laurel devoted full-time to forging his political and financial machinery and promoting his candidacy.

Such an advantage over other contenders, however, is unlikely to offset Laurel's stained reputation as a pro-U.S. oppositionist who was a member of Marcos' KBL party up until merely three years ago. "It will be damaging for any candidate to get U.S. support," said oppositionist Reuben Canoy.

Jovito Salonga may be a more acceptable candidate to the different opposition parties given his stated nationalist positions. Unlike Laurel, he has not yet declared his intention to run but appears more than open to accepting such an offer.

Corazon Aquino, however, is being touted as the only compromise candidate

that can command the funds, votes and prestige needed to unseat Marcos in a presidential contest.

## MARCOS' OPTIONS?

After a period of reluctance to even consider the question, Mrs. Aquino has finally opened the possibility of her running, if only to overcome a deadlock. Should she face the challenge, Mrs. Aquino will then have to come to terms with the left if her campaign is to acquire significant organization and nationwide impact.

Meanwhile, Marcos may still dangle the prospects of early local polls, sometime before the May 1986 local polls and the 1987 presidential elections. Insiders reported that he is also contemplating other options.

One is to declare a limited state of emergency under which he could intensify efforts to isolate the left and thwart its growing influence among moderate mainstream oppositionists. This scenario reportedly includes the arrest of the most militant labor leaders and the bolstering of arbitrary powers in hotspots such as Mindanao.

Another alternative, which in the past has been successfully engineered to achieve the desired results, is a national referendum calling for "renewed support" for Marcos. With such a mandate, he can pursue what he deems are the required combination of responses—including the manipulation of election rules and schedules and the reimposition of martial law. □ WG

Ver Acquittal Still Sure

# Autopsy Photos Rip Military's Aquino Tale

Even as the Marcos-appointed *Sandiganbayan* grinds inexorably toward an acquittal of Gen. Fabian Ver, more explosive evidence is emerging to support the popular belief that government foul play was behind the Aquino assassination. The evidence also indicates that the on-going "trial" of suspected military conspirators involves foul play as well.

*San Francisco Examiner's* Phil Bronstein reported September 22 that unreleased photographs of Benigno Aquino's autopsy shows that the bullet that killed the senator appeared to travel downward through his skull, contradicting the report of the government's chief coroner, Dr. Bienvenido Muñoz.

[FLASH! A series of cables sent just before the murder of Aquino reveals that at least one Philippine ministry knew what plane Aquino would be on and even the alias he was using, the *Examiner* reported September 29. See story below.]

Some 40 pictures in the *Examiner's* possession dispute the government's claim that Aquino was shot from below by Rolando Galman. The photos would indicate that Aquino was shot from above, and the only people above him when he was killed in 1983 were members of a military escort.

Aquino's autopsy was performed at the Loyola Memorial chapel morgue in Manila nine hours after his death. One of the pictures shows an assistant of Muñoz inserting a metal probe into the wound behind Aquino's ear. The metal rod travels down and out Aquino's chin, indicating that the bullet's path did not stray.

Muñoz had claimed in his report that the bullet entered behind the left ear in an upward trajectory, hit a bone in the skull and deflected downward into Aquino's chin. Eyewitnesses told Bronstein that Muñoz tried to block pictures of the autopsy and was more interested in probing "Aquino's old heart bypass operation."

## LACK OF SINCERITY

Andres Narvasa, chief counsel for the defunct Agrava investigating board and

main author of the report pointing to the military as the conspirators, said the new evidence "confirms our findings, based on other evidence, that Aquino was shot on the stairway."

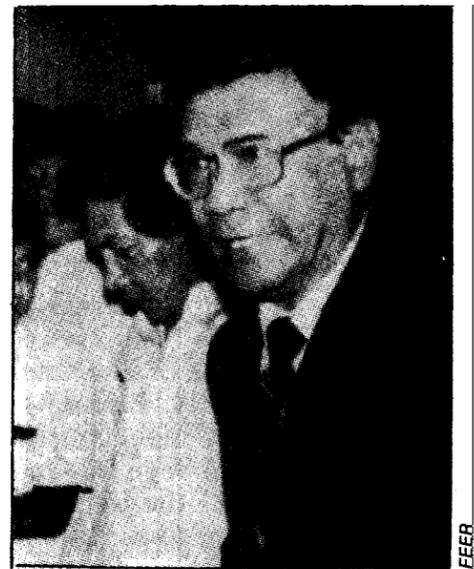
"It also indicates Muñoz was lying," he said. "The question is, why would he lie and who told him to lie?"

Meanwhile, U.S. officials expressed displeasure at the apparent lack of sincerity of the Marcos-appointed prosecution. Issuing a statement September 16, the State

Department, reiterated its "consistent position" that "the murder probe be thorough and impartial."

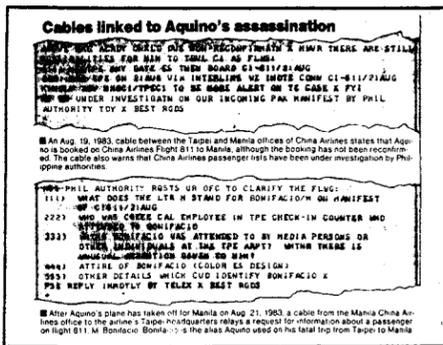
The statement came in the wake of prosecution chief Bernardo Fernandez's dismissal of fresh evidence furnished by the U.S. Defense Department that support the theory that the military was behind the conspiracy to execute Aquino and cover-up his murder.

U.S. authorities recently supplied the  
*Continued on page 14*



Fernandez

# Ministry Knew Ninoy Was On Flight



By PHIL BRONSTEIN  
Excerpted from the *San Francisco Examiner*

A series of cables sent just before the murder of Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino reveals that at least one Philippine government ministry knew what plane Aquino would take to Manila and even the alias he was using, the *Examiner* has learned.

The government has said repeatedly that no officials knew when or how Aquino would be arriving in Manila. He was assassinated as he stepped off a China Airlines flight from Taipei.

But the information contained in the cables apparently proves that Aquino's plans were known at the highest levels of the Marcos government—the Ministry of Tourism headed by President Ferdinand

Marcos' close ally, Jose Aspiras.

The cables provide the first evidence linking plans surrounding Aquino's arrival to a member of Marcos' inner circle.

An attorney charged last year with investigating the killing says the cables provide "very, very important and relevant new evidence that confirms government knowledge" of Aquino's movements just before his death.

The information was never turned over to last year's official assassination fact-finding board in spite of a blanket request to government agencies for all such communications and assurances from Marcos' executive secretary that everything pertinent has been disclosed.

"Their whole security plan (approved by Ver for Aquino's arrival) was based on the theory that they didn't know what plane Aquino was arriving on," said Andres Narvasa, chief attorney for the investigating board. "If they did know, the plan was a farce and all those involved are guilty."

The cables were sent to offices of China Airlines in Manila and Taipei relaying instructions and demands from the Philippine Ministry of Tourism. They show that the government had zeroed in on China Airlines Flight 811 in its search for Aquino before the plane—on which Aquino was flying—had left the ground in Taipei for Manila the morning of August 21, 1983.

Copies of the cables were obtained by *The Examiner* last week and authenticated

by a China Airlines source on the condition that he not be identified.

The Philippine Ministry of Tourism had warned China Airlines as early as August 18 not to book passenger Benigno S. Aquino on any flight to Manila. The warning was ordered by Tourism Minister Aspiras, according to sources familiar with the communication.

A secretary in Aspiras' office Friday said the minister was "out of the country" and could not be reached.

Aquino was "scheduled to arrive Manila noon, 21 August," China Airlines cabled its offices on the morning of August 19, based on information supplied by the Philippine government.

On the afternoon of the 19th, China Airlines' Taiwan headquarters cabled its Manila office that Aquino—under his real name—had shown up on their booking charts, scheduled to take Flight 811 from Taipei to Manila on August 21. However, the cable noted, "booking already cancelled due to non-reconfirmation."

But, the cable went on, "there are still possibilities for him to travel on [Flight 811]" by taking a variety of connecting flights. It suggests the airline offices "be more alert on this case."

The cable also added "for your information" that the incoming flight passenger manifest have "been under investigation

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# Odds and Ends

**FANTASY ISLAND.** Ever since the Marcoses set eyes on Borocay's pristine beaches, lush forests, clear blue waters, stately palms, and rustic nipa huts in 1978, the government has claimed ownership of the island—despite the fact that its inhabitants have been there for more than six generations. The Borocayans, all 4,000 of them are up in arms. Apparently, they are not alone. Nasty little dwarfs, according to a chastened Manilaña, will attack anyone who threatens the forests where they frolic. Lotty Green told the *South China Morning Post* that when she built her vacation home on the island, cutting limbs from a nearby tree to use for lumber, nine dwarfs attacked her party. "They froze us in our beds and threatened to kill us. So we called a faith healer... and finally the dwarfs left. Now just imagine what will happen when they bulldoze the jungle and put in 5,000 feet of runway. The government just does not know that the island is enchanted," Green warned.

In other words, should the government decide to airlift troops to fantasy island the defense will be organized by militant dwarfs who will shout, "The plaane, the plaane!"

**BEATING THE BIG 'C'.** Former senator Jose Diokno is recovering well and is catching up on his favorite indulgence—reading—after undergoing a successful operation for a malignant brain tumor early September at the University of California—San Francisco Medical Center, his wife Nena Diokno reported.

In May last year, Diokno was successfully treated for lung cancer at the Stanford Medical Center. After

chemotherapy, he was pronounced "spotless." Despite his infirmity, Diokno has not curtailed his political activities. Suffering from the side effects of radiation therapy the senator still managed to put in inspiring appearances at many rallies and demonstrations.

## RESCUING A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.

Labor Minister Blas Ople and MP Wenceslao Lagumbay defended the First Lady's acquisition of a \$4M building in New York City. Ople, considered a nuisance by the First Couple for his cavalier criticisms of the regime and his vocal ambitions for the presidency, said September 9 that the First Lady purchased the building for the government, not for her personal use.

Meanwhile, New York investor Pablo Figueroa dropped a suit against the First Lady, following an undisclosed out-of-court settlement. Figueroa co-financed the purchase of Lindenmere Estate on Long Island with Imelda Marcos, but was not repaid his initial investment when the First Lady scuttled the deal.

**DISAPPEARING ACT.** Rodolfo, Henry and Jose Martel are rich, famous, and well-connected. They also owe the government a lot of money. Rodolfo, married to the First Lady's sister Aleta, heads up what remains of the Martel family empire. These included majority shares in the Century Plaza Sheraton; Marsteel, a major steel manufacturer and the Kubota Agricultural Machinery distributorship.

But hard times struck—tight credit and low sales forced the brothers to give up their shares in the jointly-owned enterprises. Now, the government wants to collect at least ₱22.8M in import duties the brothers owe for goods they ordered from 1969-1976.

This is not their first brush with customs, however. Once, customs authorities impounded Marsteel imports for failure to pay back taxes. Mysteriously, the good disappeared from the government-bonded warehouses.

**ACTING CHIEF ACTS UP.** Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, acting AFP chief of staff, said that an article published in the United States claiming that he is being groomed as the leader of a new civilian-military junta is "grossly inaccurate and devoid of truth." The article, "Plotting the Fall of an American Ally," written by Linda de Hoyos in the August 16, 1985 issue of the *Executive Intelligence Review*, said "[Ambassador Stephen] Bosworth now meets up to two hours every day... Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos... whom the United States is attempting to groom as a leader of a new civilian-military junta, despite his loyalty to President Marcos."

Ramos said: "How can I meet with Ambassador Bosworth up to two hours every day when my association with him is limited to occasional courtesy calls, social functions, and briefings related to the visits of U.S. officials and dignitaries accompanied by the ambassador?"

**HEARING VOICES?** What did President Marcos get for his 68th birthday last September 11? First, 50,000 palace-organized well-wishers gathered at a downtown park to listen to his 75-minute speech. Second, a mass was celebrated in his honor by Jaime Cardinal Sin, who not only joined him in calling for "national reconciliation" but hugged him in the nationally-televised special broadcast. And last, but not least, Marcos said he heard "voices"—"and these voices tell me this is not the time to leave the presidency."

The president didn't say where the voices came from. The only other voices the well-wishers heard were those of 500 demonstrators gathered outside the palace to protest slayings and abductions of several church leaders. Delusions or Divine Grace? This is not the first time heaven harkened to Ferdinand. Some weeks after the declaration of martial law in 1972, Marcos claimed Divine Guidance in the decision to impose the unpopular edict. □

# Dousing Revolution by Scorching the Earth

By WICKS GEAGA

In a remote area in the Cordillera mountains, a battalion of AFP troopers wielding M-16 rifles and M79 grenade launchers herd a group of old men, women and children several kilometers away from their barrio into an elevated clearing—their new home. The operation—called strategic hamletting by military planners—is passed off by the government as one of its civic action programs.

Introduced by U.S. military advisers trained in the counterinsurgency campaigns of the Vietnam War, hamletting involves the forced evacuation of whole communities into military controlled zones in order to deprive the New People's Army of its bases of support.

In Davao City, a prominent journalist is abducted by four unidentified heavily-armed men in military uniform. The radio commentator is handcuffed, gagged and whisked away to a secluded "safehouse"—never to be heard from again.

Across the island, a widely-respected Italian missionary is brutally murdered and mutilated by the Ilagas—one of numerous fanatic religious sects spreading terror in Mindanao with arms and training from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

These seemingly isolated events in disparate parts of the country are, at closer scrutiny, actions that can be traced to the military establishment. All the victims, as diverse as the regions that separate them, have one thing in common: they are alleged supporters of the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines, with many just remotely suspected of sympathizing with the rebel cause.

In blindly striking out against the growing insurgency, government and military strategists are more concerned with "running the rebels to the ground" than preventing indiscriminate civilian casualties.

## HEAVY AFP LOSSES

If developments over the last few years are any indication, however, the AFP will have to perform miraculous feats on the battlefield just to contain the NPA at its present level of operation.

According to NPA spokesmen, the rebel army has killed 6,000 soldiers and paramilitary troops in the last three years while suffering 800 casualties of its own. Its offensives now number around 10 a week, up from two to three weekly in 1982 when Marcos declared the NPA a serious threat to national security.

With 12,000 full-time guerillas and a militia of 18,000, the NPA has skillfully executed a guerilla strategy that inflicts proportionally much heavier losses on the AFP.

NPA strategists, however, have no illusions about the present superiority of the 200,000-strong AFP. They forecast rough parity and stalemate with the AFP in three to five years.

Having anchored 59 guerilla fronts in 63 of the country's 73 provinces, and without a standing army to crisscross the archipelago, the NPA—its spokesman say—is now on the threshold of launching major campaigns in the cities. While it is already staging small-scale actions in such urban areas as Davao City, the NPA is reportedly setting its sights on Metro Manila, Marcos' seat of power.

## 'CLEARING OPERATIONS'

Following the recent conclusion of U.S. Congress deliberations on economic and military aid to the Philippines for fiscal year 1986, the military began to pull out all the stops on its counterinsurgency campaign against the NPA.

No longer fettered by the constraints of U.S. congressional opinion, the AFP is intensifying its militarization of reputed NPA strongholds: the Cordillera provinces in Northern Luzon; Samar-Leyte and Negros-Panay in the Visayas; and Bukidnon-Surigao and the Davao provinces in Mindanao.

Human rights groups and investigative agencies report increasing cases of military "clearing operations."

\* In the Davao City area, raids and zoning operations of suspected rebel-influenced communities are becoming an almost daily occurrence. Typically, soldiers go door-to-door, ransacking homes in search of arms and any resistance-related literature, and leaving in their wake a cloud of terror and resentment.

In the extremely impoverished and restive provinces of the Visayas, "strategic hamletting" is occurring at an alarming rate.

Already, thousands of families have been forcibly relocated, while thousands more have fled in fear to



AFP tank: "Destroying enemy's will to resist."

nearby urban centers, further inflating the local refugee populations.

## EMBATTLED REGIONS

Throughout the different embattled regions, the AFP is flanking its ground operations with air and naval bombardment. Accordingly, the civilian death toll and physical destruction of villages and farmland are on the rise.

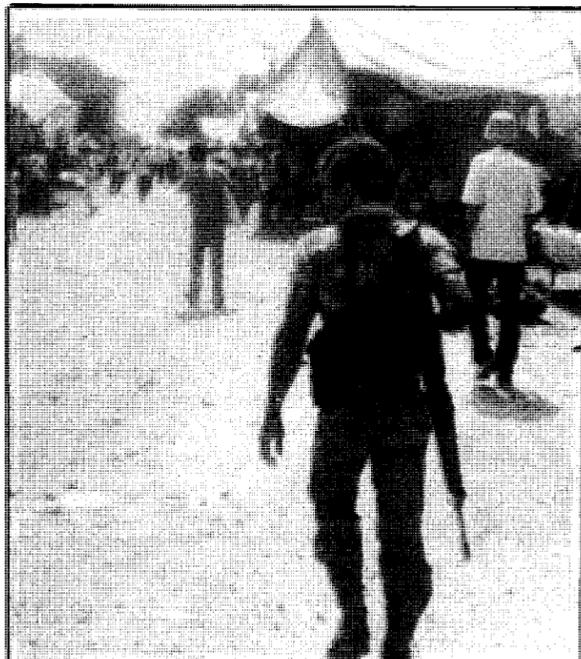
According to the latest available statistics released by the Task Force Detainees Project (Visayas), during the first months of 1985 alone 271 persons from Samar, Leyte, Bohol, Cebu, Negros, and Panay were detained. Ten persons disappeared; there were 48 hamletting operations and 18 military-suspected arson incidents; 20 people were salvaged and 15 tortured; 111 were killed and 15 wounded in strafing incidents; and 15 were killed and seven wounded in two massacre cases.

The same report cites the following troop mobilizations to the Visayas earlier this year: 35 Philippine Constabulary Companies; seven Philippine Army battalions, two army brigades, a Philippine Navy squadron, and a field artillery battalion.

The National Democratic Front's international publication *Liberation* claims that Marcos plans to activate 25 more combat battalions to reinforce the 75 currently fielded against the NPA.

To further buttress its outmaneuvered forces in the remote hinterlands of Mindanao, the AFP is arming and training bands of fanatic religious cults and fielding them in operations against the NPA.

About 38 such cults with a combined force of nearly 30,000 mercenaries have been recruited by the AFP into its counterinsurgency drives. Often, however, the victims of these roaming bands of quasi-Christian zealots are not NPA fighters but unarmed farmers and missionaries suspected of aiding the rebels.



Keeping a watchful eye.

Over the last year, Marcos has also sought to thwart mounting urban "insurgency." Among his main targets are human rights lawyers, outspoken journalists and progressive clergy. So far, three lawyers from FLAG (Free Legal Assistance Group), 24 journalists in different cities nationwide, and six prominent clergymen have been murdered. In most cases, witnesses have identified military men as the assassins. A number of outspoken activists are under detention, while many more face the threat of imminent arrest from Marcos-authorized PDAs (Preventive Detention Actions).

On the ideological front, the opposition press is gradually uncovering a consistent pattern of government counterinsurgency activity within the church, suggesting its use of "the Banzer Plan." Developed by former Bolivian president Hugo Banzer, the Banzer Plan maps out a strategy to infiltrate the church and isolate its progressive wing.

According to Marcos himself, one of the measures recently undertaken by the government to insure the success of its anti-insurgency campaign is the maintenance of "closer and better liaison" with the church, "not only on the parish level, but all the way up to Jaime Cardinal Sin."

## PSY-WAR

Another major component of the government's ideological offensive is the isolation of the left within the influential electoral opposition. In early August, the military launched a series of meetings with selected anti-Marcos professionals, businessmen and moderate opposition leaders warning them to stay clear of any alliances with the left.

According to *Business Day*, a group of retired generals met with moderate opposition heads and dangled the threat of "drastic U.S. actions" should they contribute to furthering the leftist insurgency. These maneuvers have no doubt helped to exacerbate the divisions between the left and the moderates.

In an attempt to renovate the military's seriously deteriorated image, Deputy Defense Minister Jose Crisol pledged to resort to any and all means of psychological warfare against the insurgents.

The military will "disseminate ideas, facts, allegations, rumor and half-truths" in its "psycho-war by symbols" against the insurgents, said Crisol, in order "to enhance one's will to win and destroy the enemy's will to resist."

Employing this strategy, the Defense Ministry and the President's Center for Special Studies released last May a comprehensive "white paper" on the communist-led resistance.

Through "psycho-war symbols," the paper paints a totally discredited picture of the CPP and the NPA. Special attention is paid toward inventing a list of NPA atrocities and other illicit activities—including brutal and wanton execution (through beheading or burning live victims), extortion, kidnapping and even marijuana cultivation.

The influence of the revolutionaries is grossly understated: the CPP-NPA mass base is placed at "less than

Continued on page 14

# Unionism is a Risky Business

"I would say all union leaders risk losing their lives everyday," said Roberto Ortaliz of the 500,000-member *Kilusang Mayo Uno* to the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, September 13. Ortaliz and Meynardo Palarca, secretary general of the Center for Nationalist Trade Unions in Mindanao are currently touring the U.S. and Canada to seek support for the Philippine trade union movement.

The statistics of labor repression bear out Ortaliz' statement: nine workers killed during the first quarter of 1985; 42 workers and labor leaders killed since 1982; 77 workers and labor leaders arrested between 1983-85; and 31 workers and labor leaders remain incarcerated.

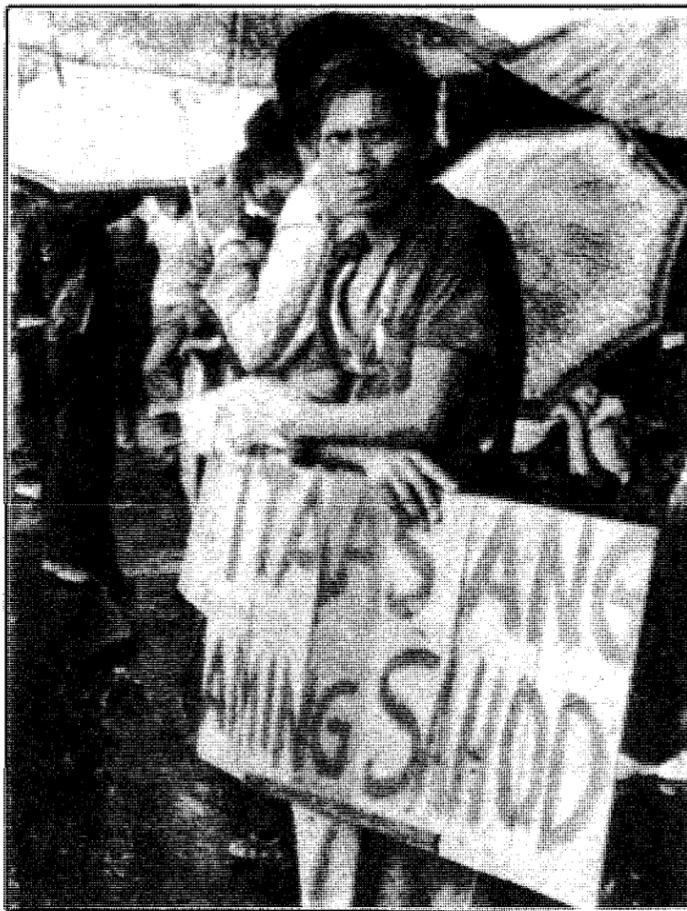
Palarca's story on the other hand, brings the figures to life. Since May, he has avoided his family and moved from city to city doing union work and dodging arrest.

"In Davao City," Palarca continued, "there were more than 700 deaths due to gunshot wounds . . . our chief legal counsel was shot in his house. Two of our staff are missing. In Mindanao, there are instances of massacres everyday."

Yet amidst the repression, the militant KMU, formed in May 1980, continues to organize. And the increasingly beleaguered workforce provides fertile grounds for its organizing initiatives.

But credit for the restiveness of the labor force falls squarely on the lap of the Marcos regime, its IMF-backers and multinational corporations. When the economy went into a slump in 1983, the incidences of strikes leaped. By 1984, there was a total of 282 strikes recorded by the Ministry of Labor, the largest number for any one year.

Retrenchment (shortening the work day and laying off workers) became management's favored tactic to cope with sluggish demand and inflationary pressures. In short, the workforce was supposed to pay for IMF-imposed restraints on the economy. And, if Marcos had his way, the



Ortaliz



Palarca

workforce for the remainder of 1985 and throughout 1986, will pay through the nose for the country's economic woes.

Last August, Marcos promised ominously that "industrial peace" will be the cornerstone of the regime's economic recovery programme.

## 'WELGANG BAYAN'

In response to the squeeze placed on labor, the compliance of "yellow" unions, and the increasing reliance on goon/police

violence instead of arbitration, KMU and affiliated unions have introduced a potent weapon called "the people's strike."

First staged late last year, the people's strike paralysed sections of Davao and parts of the Greater Manila area for varying lengths of time.

In the aftermath of the September 21 protests, Davao and Bacolod, under the sponsorship of BAYAN, staged people's strikes which led to a virtual standstill as schools and businesses closed as a gesture

of sympathy. The *Kilusang Mambubukid ng Pilipinas* recently announced plans to mobilize farmworkers and landless sugarworkers in another people's strike in the economically depressed province of Negros Oriental.

"There are no more alternatives left of us than to be militant," concluded Ortaliz.

Ortaliz and Palarca want U.S. and Canadian labor unions to recognize the KMU as the legitimate representative of the Philippine labor movement. □ CA

## Buod ng mga Balita

### REGIME HAS 751 POLITICAL PRISONERS

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines recently revealed in its latest report that there are 751 political prisoners still languishing in over 108 military camps, prisons and a military hospital all over the country.

Of the total, 66 are being held in Metro Manila, 23 of whom have been "sentenced." ("Sentenced political prisoners," according to TFDP, are those convicted of political offenses such as subversion or rebellion. "Un-sentenced political detainees" are those not yet charged, those being tried in civil or military courts, or have been acquitted, or whose cases have been dismissed but who are still in detention.)

The other political detainees are in Luzon (146), outside of Metro Manila; 259 in the Visayas; 280 in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Many of them claim to have been subjected to torture and sexual abuse by their military captors. One hundred-six of the total are women, 31 of whom are mothers. According to TFDP, the average age of political detainees is 30. The oldest, who is 66, is detained in Camp Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center in Cebu City, while the youngest, a boy of 10, is held at the Inopacan Municipal Jail in Leyte Island.

Farmers and workers, who bear the brunt of economic exploitation, comprise the majority of those still in detention. Four hundred-seven (or 72% of the total) are farmers; 67 are workers. The third largest number, according to TFDP's report, are professionals, 28, with student detainees coming next, 21. There are at least 171 long-held detainees in jail for over a year now. The longest-held detainee, Renato Arao, has been in detention for ten years.

The TFDP also reported that the 23 long-term political prisoners are serving their sentences at the New Bilibid Prisons and the Women's Correctional. Among the longest-held political detainees are Victor Corpus, a former lieutenant in the Philippine Constabulary (9 years and six months) and Bernabe Buscayno (9 years) whom the military says was the New People's Army head before his arrest in 1976.

University professor and poet Jose Ma. Sison, alleged chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was arrested in November 1977. Sison is presently detained at the Maximum Security Unit, Fort Bonifacio. He spent roughly half of his time in detention under solitary confinement. □ PNF

### BASE WORKERS COMPLAIN OF CANCER RISKS

Filipino workers employed at the Subic Naval and Clark Air Force bases suffer from poor working conditions and are paid lower salary rates compared to counterparts in Japan, South Korea and Australia. Moreover, according to Roberto Flores of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association, an alliance of base workers unions, many workers have been exposed to radiation and asbestos poisoning for the past 15 years. Already, a total of 29 workers have died due to cancer caused by radiation emitted by radar and communication satellites and asbestos contamination.

Of the 29 deaths, 21 of the victims were dockworkers, while 8 were security guards. All died within the last three years.

The FFCEA is demanding that medical tests be performed on some 4,000 dockworkers who are at high risk when they unload nuclear-fueled planes and ships, and some 295 security guards.

The FFCEA is also pressing for higher wages, claiming that the average ₱100.46 daily pay of the baseworker is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of a family with an average size of six. Flores said that low wages was the reason why workers and their families compete with each other for such sidelines as scavenging for scrap iron at the bases' target shooting areas. With the upcoming Bases Labor Agreement, the FFCEA is seeking a 35% increase in pay, housing, transportation, and education allowances, as well as nuclear risk and facility attack bonuses given the hazardous working conditions. □

### 'REFORMIST MNLF' CONVENES

The Moro National Liberation Front-Reformist recently released a communique spelling out its formula for achieving peace in the Mindanao region. The communique was the outcome of a conference attended by some "7,000 delegates to the First Moro National Conference, held in Buldon, Maguindanao, July 20-30, 1985."

The resolutions reassert the provisions of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement:

- The establishment of one autonomous region which will comprise 13 provinces;
- The establishment of a regional security force composed of 15,000 "solid" MNLF-Reformist members. After the establishment of an autonomous government, the security force will demand the apportionment of 50% of the current logistical (firearms and war equipment) outlays of the Philippine Army.
- The establishment of an Educational, Administrative and Financial systems.

The conference called for a transition period of ten years during which time no regional or local election results will be recognized by the conference leadership.

The conference was held under the auspices of the Dimas Pundato-Macapanton Abbas wing of the MNLF that has openly characterized itself as "reformist." The wing claims it is the ascendant majority in the MNLF and that because of chairman Nur Misuari's association with Libyan President Muammar Khaddafi, the faction decided to break-off and reorganize remnants of the 13-year rebellion. □

At least one other faction of the MNLF is undertaking armed struggle against Southern troops. From a jungle stronghold three hours away from Marawi City, Commander Narra Abdul Jabar and 60 men vowed to continue fighting despite the factionalism and defections which have weakened the organization since 1978.

"I'm not discouraged about the situation. This is common to every revolution . . . only those whose Islamic ideology is weak are discouraged." Narra disassociates himself from the Salamat faction Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the MNLF-Reformist, which both call for autonomy within the framework of the current central government. □

# U.S. is the Main Threat in Asia—N.D.F.



U.S. officials, military strategists, and editorial writers justify American military presence in the Philippines as a necessary counterweight to "the Soviet threat" in Southeast Asia. The National Democratic Front's international publication, *Liberation*, disputes this thesis with an article we have reprinted below. The article was originally entitled "Southeast Asia: U.S.—Main Source of Instability, Danger to Peace" and appeared in *Liberation's* July-August 1985 issue. Subheads have been added.

Remember the "Domino Theory?" It predicted that the victory of the Vietnamese revolution will trigger the fall, in successive order, of the countries in Southeast Asia into the hands of "communists." The theory, a rehash of the worn-out argument that revolution can be exported, was used by U.S. imperialism as one justification for its intervention during the Vietnam war years.

The Indochinese people defeated U.S. imperialism and the world saw that Southeast Asia did not in any way resemble the domino game. Today, ten years after that war, Washington propagandists have buried the domino theory. But in its place, the U.S. now tries to portray Southeast Asia as a part of a new game—the seesaw.

In the so-called game of "power-balance" between the U.S. and the USSR in the Far East, Southeast Asia is pictured as the current vital point of contention, control of which would serve as the weight that would decisively tilt the seesaw to one side.

Consider a few of the many statements issued by the U.S. military establishment to the international press:

In an interview in Hawaii quoted in the *International Herald Tribune*, Adm. Sylvester R. Foley, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet said that the Russians posed a "threat" not only in the northern Pacific but along the entire Pacific rim and extending into the South Pacific and Indian Ocean. He linked the "threat" to new naval and air bases at Cam Ranh Bay and Danang in Vietnam.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff issued a warning to the effect that over the last decade the "unfavorable balance" of forces in the region "continues to deteriorate."

An unnamed U.S. navy officer told the *Far Eastern Economic Review*: "Both sides are now concentrating on control of a closed sea (South China Sea) which commands access to the oceans that flank it." Following up this statement, Rear Adm. Louis Chatham, commander of the 7th Battle Fleet said to the same magazine, "To move out of Subic [U.S. naval base in the Philippines] would abdicate South China Sea to the Soviets."

In almost all the statements, the most frequently cited case is the situation in the South China Sea where Cam Ranh Bay sits across the waters facing U.S. bases in the Philippines. The U.S. has five military installations, excluding associated sites, in the Philippines, the biggest among which are Subic Naval base and Clark Air base in Central Luzon.

## SEESAW GAME?

Depicting the situation as a seesaw game, U.S. imperialism has mainly its precarious position in the Philippines in mind. Revolutionary forces in the country are growing rapidly, threatening the entire imperialist rule of the U.S. over the islands including its bases. Like the seesaw, where the absence of one player leads to all the weight going on one side, the explicit message is that without continued U.S. presence, Southeast Asia and possibly the entire Far East will be at the mercy of the Soviet Union.

The "serious and destabilizing consequences of U.S. absence" is not the only "danger" that U.S. propaganda has drummed up. American officials have also tried to conjure up the image that U.S. military forces

have already been surpassed by Soviet naval strength. Referring to Russian naval forces in the region, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield told the press, "They have three times the tonnage of the U.S. 7th Fleet."

A number of the major events in the Far East, such as New Zealand's ban on U.S. nuclear ship visits and developments in Sino-Soviet relations, have been projected along the simplistic framework of a seesaw tilting unfavorably for the U.S.

But like in the case of the domino theory, the realities in this part of the globe cannot be reduced to a game of balance between the U.S. and the USSR.

The conflict between the two powers is obviously not imaginary. On this point, however, there is strong evidence that contrary to what the U.S. shows, it remains the more superior military power in the region. In naval strength for instance, it is deceptive of the U.S. to project itself outnumbered three to one.

In terms of the total number of ships, the ratio can indeed be almost three to one. A Japanese defense analyst, however, has estimated that only 30% of Soviet ships are operational. The rest are under repair or obsolete. Moreover, the U.S. is ahead of the Soviets in the most important categories. For one, in the key category of aircraft carriers, the U.S. has six compared to two on the Soviet side.

## AMERICAN LAKE

In the South China Sea, U.S. bases in the Philippines are far more developed and ideal for military use than their counterpart in Vietnam. Comparing Cam Ranh Bay and Subic, the former reportedly supports 30 ships, 8 reconnaissance aircrafts, 16 bombers, and a squadron of fighters. The latter is used for approximately two-thirds of the support functions for the U.S. 7th Fleet. The Fleet has 90 ships, 550 aircrafts and

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**'The myth of the seesaw lies not only in the distortion of the comparative military strength of the U.S. and the USSR in Asia and the Pacific. It also presents the U.S. conflicts with the USSR as the main problem of the region.'**

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70,000 troops. Also, unlike Subic, the base in Cam Ranh Bay cannot be resupplied by land.

Checking Soviet forces and activity in the Far East is not the main objective of U.S. presence in the region, particularly Southeast Asia. Rather, contention with the USSR only serves the greater U.S. objective of maintaining imperialist domination in Asia, as well as in preserving the Pacific Ocean as an "American Lake."

History provides ample proof of U.S. intentions. The record of U.S. military installations in the Philippines is an illustrative case.

As early as 1900, the Philippines has been the staging area for U.S. contingents that participated in the suppression of the Boxer Rebellion in China to guarantee an "open door" for U.S. trade. In 1918 to 1920, U.S. troops from the bases intervened in Soviet Siberia. In 1927, U.S. forces were sent to China to protect a Western settlement in Shanghai. In 1950 Clark Air Base dispatched U.S. planes to the Korean War. In 1958, the airbase launched planes which bombed Sumatra during the Indonesian army rebellion as well as to drop supplies to rightwing rebels with arms and ammunition. The bases were used also in the same year to deploy U.S. forces in the Quemoy-Matsu area of the Taiwan Strait.

During U.S. imperialism's adventure in Indochina, U.S. bases in the Philippines were used as a staging area and an essential logistical hub for U.S. forces. Filled with personnel and cargo, close to 50 huge transports flew out of Clark daily. A good share of the tons and tons of bombs and ammunition used in the war came from the Naval Magazine at Subic. These were regularly delivered by six aircraft attack carriers and other warships.

More recently, both the Subic and Clark have served as logistical center for U.S. air and naval deployments to Diego Garcia, the Persian Gulf-Arabian Sea area and East Africa.

## FOREMOST EXPLOITER

Ironically, while U.S. military bases and facilities have figured in many wars of aggression in Asia since the start of the century, these have failed to check Japanese fascist occupation in the Philippines and expansion in Southeast Asia during the Second World War.

It is neither defense of the Philippines nor that of the region but for use in U.S. wars of aggression and intervention that has been the record of the bases.

As in the past, current U.S. military presence and projection in Southeast Asia serves no other interest but its own economic and political interests.

Today, U.S. imperialism remains to be one of the biggest, if not the foremost exploiter of the peoples of Asia-Pacific. Through trade, investments and loans, U.S. big business together with Japanese capital plunder the region's natural and human resources.

U.S. trade with Asia and the Pacific is now bigger than its trade with Western Europe. U.S. trade (amounting to more than \$174 billion last year) takes advantage of the region's abundant supply of raw materials, cheap labor, and high average growth rate compared to that of Western Europe. U.S. economic planners project an increase of U.S. trade with Asia and the Pacific region from current levels to \$5,000 billion in 10 years.

In the six ASEAN countries of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Brunei, the U.S. is still a leading investor, surpassed only by Japan. A major portion too of these countries' foreign debt is with U.S. lending institutions.

Politically, U.S. influence and control in Asia was greatly weakened after its defeat in Indochina. American imperialism desperately seeks to prevent any further decline in its position and hopes to recover its previous sphere of influence.

It is in pursuance of these interests that the U.S. wants not simply continued presence but continued superiority over any power in Asia and the Pacific.

The exploitative and completely self-serving interest of U.S. imperialism underscores the point that it is not here to "defend" the countries and peoples of Southeast Asia.

In a similar way, U.S. imperialism's drive to maintain and widen its lead over the Soviet Union only means that there can never be a "proper and stable balance of power" between the U.S. and the USSR in the region. There can only be an escalation of the race. And as more warships move about in Asian waters, tension and danger to the people in the region increases.

## ZONE OF NEUTRALITY

The myth of the seesaw lies not only in the distortion of the comparative military strength of the U.S. and the USSR in Asia and the Pacific. The more basic deceptive angle of this view is that it presents U.S. conflict with the USSR as the main problem of the region. In truth, it is U.S. imperialism's conflict with the peoples of Asia-Pacific that constitutes the main problem of the region.

U.S. imperialism is the number one enemy and the biggest danger to the peoples and countries in Asia as in most parts of the world.

In Southeast Asia, the aspiration to build the region as a zone of peace and neutrality, free from interference of any imperialist power and free of foreign military bases and nuclear weapons is a growing cause.

The factors resulting from imperialist exploitation and oppression, from wars of aggression, from bullying and interference as well as from big power rivalry and tension are the very conditions pushing the peoples and countries in the region to work for such cause.

In the Philippines, the revolutionary forces are striving hard to end U.S. imperialist rule in the country. While carrying on this struggle, Filipino revolutionaries link their efforts to the cause of neutrality and peace in Southeast Asia. The reason for this link is clear: the Filipino people can only harvest the fruits of their struggle and contribute to world progress in a setting of harmony in the region.

In other countries in the region, the struggle for independence and self-determination goes on. The advance in one country inspires the struggles of others.

Time will come when the countries in the region and the entire Southeast Asia cannot anymore be utilized by any imperialist power. The region then will play an important role to world peace. Connecting the Middle East with the Far East, the Indian with the Pacific Ocean, the region may perhaps serve as a gate—a gate of peace. □



## Don't Stab Me in the Back!

Continued from front page

Much discussion was devoted to the U.S. military bases in the Philippines, long seen as "irreplaceable" and vital to U.S. security. This time they were looked at as points of vulnerability.

### SACRIFICE THE BASES?

U.S. citizens on the bases are "not secure," according to intelligence and counterintelligence specialists and sooner or later will become "targets of terrorism."

Pentagon analysts surprised participants by claiming that, in the post-Marcos era, "If the choice was between having a Philippines friendly to the U.S. or our bases, we'd choose a friendly Philippines and sacrifice the bases."

Numerous alternative sites were examined. The possibility of pulling out U.S. dependents was discussed, both as a way of protecting them and as a means of sending Marcos a message of no-confidence.

Most controversial of the options proposed was direct involvement in the Philippine government's war against the New People's Army. Not surprisingly, it was CIA officials on top of Philippine affairs who advocated the sending of trainers directly into the field. The Defense Department opposed the idea.

Military officials were quick to add, however, that "the plans exist" if direct military intervention in the Philippines is ever called for.

### EMBARASSING REVELATIONS

One State Department source described the War College conference as "just mind-stretching." But others viewed it as far more significant—an indication that the steadily forming sentiment in Washington that Marcos is a liability has jelled into national policy.

Indeed the signs have been visible for some time now. To begin with, a series of highly embarrassing revelations about the Marcos regime have originated from the U.S. press over the last six months.

The Amworld scandal, in which high-level military personnel including Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver, were accused of diverting military aid funds to their own use, first appeared in the *New York Times*.

The *Mercury News* broke the story on dollar-salting in the U.S. by Marcos cronies and the Marcos family itself. The story made tremendous waves in Manila and led to an impeachment effort by the opposition in the *Batasan Pambansa*.

Marcos was forced to promise action against the culprits, allowing U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Bosworth to coyly offer American help in tracking them down via the Securities and Exchange Commission and state and local sources—to Malacañang's chagrin.

### DAMNING EVIDENCE

Finally, the story of the Philippine military's jet scrambling efforts on the day of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino's return

home emerged last July in the *Examiner*.

At a point when the trial of Gen. Ver and 25 others in the Aquino assassination was leading to an obvious acquittal of Ver, Bronstein's exposé generated new controversy and damning evidence that the Philippine government was fully aware of Aquino's actions on the day of his death.

Ver and Marcos insist that they had no notion of Aquino's plans for his return. The fact that teams of Philippine Air Force personnel took over radar scopes at the jointly-run Wallace and Villamor Air Bases to divert Aquino's incoming plane on August 21, 1983, suggests that the government was fully aware of the senator's moves and may have had more than one plan to eliminate him.

### 'WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON'

The U.S. government professed shock at the *Examiner's* revelations and proceeded to milk them for what they were worth. Once again Bosworth graciously offered to help.

Military and State Department officials claimed to have heard nothing of the scrambling incident in the nearly two years following the Aquino assassination. But former Air Force Major Paul Townsend, director of operations and second in command at Wallace in August of 1983, found that most unlikely.

Townsend told Bronstein that he called a Col. Lewis at Clark Air Base on August 21 to report the takeover and was told, "We think we know what's going on." Lewis, who, according to Townsend, served directly under the two-star general commanding the 13th Air Force, reportedly never passed the information on to his superiors.

But, claims Townsend, "He would have told his boss, and his boss would have told somebody else . . . No one can convince me that people in positions of responsibility didn't put two and two together and figured out [the assassination] and [the jet scrambling] were connected."

### PUBLIC CONDEMNATION

Interestingly, as the U.S. rushed to provide unwelcome assistance in the Ver trial, the one figure that failed to emerge was the crucial Col. Lewis. Some suspect he never will.

Meanwhile, U.S. authorities summoned six airmen to Washington to be deposed on the Wallace events. Their testimony was offered to the prosecution as evidence in the trial.

Never missing a beat, when the Marcos-appointed prosecution rejected their sworn affidavits as "hearsay information," the U.S. State Department in a statement issued both in Manila and Washington, deplored the decision to ignore the documents. It was the Reagan administration's first public criticism of the way Marcos has been handling the trial.

From the outset, Reagan administration officials have maintained pressure for a "credible" trial. The U.S. would like to see Ver removed from the position of Chief of Staff and replaced by Acting Chief Fidel Ramos. As Marcos has become increasingly stubborn, the pressure has escalated.

### BASES SECURITY 'LAX'

U.S. officials have also made no bones about the fact that they would like to see the 1987 presidential elections held earlier.

Marcos once again announced last September 12, following a caucus of his *Kilusang Bagong Lipunan* (New Society Party) on his 68th birthday, that he had decided, at least for the present, against holding "snap elections." This was interpreted by the pro-Marcos columnists as a deliberate snub at the U.S. The world of diplomacy is indeed full of signals—and signals of all sorts have been flying between Washington and Manila recently.

Early last month, *Newsweek* reported that Reagan planned to send former National Security Adviser William Clark to Manila to tell Marcos directly of his displeasure over the regime's failure to shape up. Clark apparently never went, but the message was out.

On the military front, a report from a Senate subcommittee sent to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger last August called security at Clark and Subic Naval Base "lax." An NPA unit had been detected inside the Subic perimeter, it claimed, within a mile and a half of an ammunition magazine.

### OOPS, WRONG GENERAL

"Clark and Subic are the United States' Achilles heel in the Philippines," the report claimed. Though Clark was cited as the greater problem, the committee noted that U.S. Marines had been sent to patrol the perimeter of Subic to compensate for the lax Philippine military.

The key problem, the report claimed, was the tight budget and poor organization of the Philippine military. "The potential for U.S. troops and NPA guerillas to become engaged in violent confrontation is all too apparent."

Finally, in the most transparent of moves, Weinberger's office invited the "wrong general" to a Washington event, then promptly—and publicly—retracted the invitation.

Ver was invited to a "retirement party" for Gen. John Vessey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After the invitation had been publicly acknowledged and Philippine newspapers had commented that Ver would probably go, Weinberger's office announced that the invitation was meant

for Ramos. No Philippine general had ever been invited to such an event before.

### OFFERING SUPPORT AND CASH

Meanwhile, the U.S. is wooing the moderate opposition at the same time attempting to drive a wedge between them and the left. "The U.S. State Department has actively made contact with the opposition to Marcos and considers it an acceptable alternative to Marcos, something they hesitated to do when Ninoy was alive," reported former Senator Ernesto Maceda at an Aquino memorial last August.

Working closely with the reform wing of the Philippine military, U.S. embassy officials have reportedly offered support and cash to certain oppositionists and young businessmen to organize outside of left-leaning BAYAN. Members of the National Democratic Front also reported that the embassy has offered to aid conservative bishops, particularly in Mindanao, as part of a counterinsurgency campaign.

### WAS DOROY RIGHT?

Reagan's policy shift and focus on the Philippines has made for renewed interest in Congress as well. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee may hold hearings this fall. Meanwhile, at least three senators hope to visit the Philippines during the December break.

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) has proposed strengthening the non-binding resolution which accompanied the foreign aid bill. The resolution, passed by a large majority of the Senate, threatened to cut back seriously on future aid if Marcos failed to enact significant reforms.

Washington observers report a new surge of interest in the House as well, provoking one to predict a high profile for Philippine matters in the coming period.

So for once, it appears that the likes of Teodoro Valencia may actually be right. Though the Reagan administration is hardly ready to instigate a violent coup it has made up its mind more firmly that Ferdinand Marcos has outlived his usefulness.

Usually the Reagan White House directs its energies at destabilizing popular, revolutionary governments, following the maxim that the more chaos ensues, the better it is for U.S. interests. But how to weaken and replace a now useless ally without upsetting the whole shebang is not only a unique task, it is also like walking on eggs. For the nationalist opposition this could be a golden opportunity for exacerbating the crisis of the ruling system if it could sustain a broad and unified mass movement for genuine democratization, not simple de-Marcosization. □

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# September 21 Marked Here Too



By VICKY PEREZ

As thousands of Filipinos took to the streets in the Philippines to protest the 13th anniversary of the imposition of martial law last September 21, their counterparts here demonstrated concern and solidarity by sponsoring pickets and marches, and forums across the U.S. and Canada.

"Stop U.S. Aid to Marcos," "U.S. Bases Out of the Philippines," "Justice for Aquino, Justice for All," and "Free All Political Prisoners" were the common themes of these actions.

In Washington, D.C., 100 spirited protestors marched from the World Bank to Lafayette Park across the White House. President Ferdinand Marcos and Uncle Sam, mimicked by street theatre actors, attracted loud boos from people on street corners along the march route. The event was sponsored by the September 20 Committee composed of Washington Forum, Philippine Support Committee, Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship/Philippine Solidarity Network, Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, Friends of the Filipino People, Institute for Policy Studies, and the People's Anti-War Mobilization.

On September 16, five activists were arrested for unlawful entry at the Philippine Embassy after attempting to deliver a set of political demands to Philippine Ambassador Kokoy Romualdez that included a stop to the murder of journalists, the disclosure of the whereabouts of Fr. Rudy Romano, an end to Marcos' rule by decree, and the removal of Gen. Fabian Ver as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Those arrested were Richard Grossman, executive director of Greenpeace; Joy Hackel, freelance journalist; Gloria Bouis; Edgardo Rodriguez; and Remo de la Peña.

## MARCHES AND ROASTS

On September 22, Richard Falk, professor of International Law, delivered a lecture organized by the Philippine Support Committee at Georgetown University entitled "U.S. National Security in the Philippines—A Critical View."

Acclaimed film producer Lino Brocka was the guest speaker at the premier showing on September 21 of "Bayan Ko," sponsored by the American University Center for Campus Ministries and CAMD/PSN. Brocka expounded on the theme of "Artists in a Society of Crisis." He was also the guest at a forum in Toronto where "Bayan Ko" was shown by the Ninoy Aquino Memorial Institute,

Movement for a Free Philippines, and CAMD/PSN.

Also in Toronto, a picket held by the Philippine Human Rights Congress, CAMD/PSN and MFP drew the attention of several TV stations.

A forum on "U.S. Maneuvers in the Philippines" held September 20 in Montreal by the CAMD/PSN drew a lively audience. Filipinos, Canadians and other members of the solidarity movement viewed displays on the political prisoners and international issues.

The September 21 Philippine Committee in Montreal picketed the Complex

was held at the Los Angeles Unitarian Church and sponsored by the Alliance for Philippine Concerns. On the same day, NAM and CAMD/PSN supporters picketed the Philippine Consulate.

Imelda Marcos' Crown Building, located in Manhattan's posh 5th Avenue section became a target of protest when activists unfurled huge banners in front of it denouncing the Marcos regime. Many passing motorists honked and waved their fists in solidarity while long lines formed to sign petitions demanding the release of political prisoners.

In San Francisco, 150 mobilized by



KMU's Bob Ortaliz speaking before a Honolulu audience.

Desjardines which houses the consulate September 23. The action was endorsed by the Quebec Philippine Solidarity Committee, CAMD/PSN, Center for Philippine Concerns, Philippine Information Committee, IPANA, and community leaders.

In Los Angeles, the Philippine American Press Club of Los Angeles sponsored a "Gridiron Night" on September 20 which coincided with recent exposures of financial corruption in the consulate. The event featured a "roast" of prominent Filipino community leaders and a satirical skit poking fun at the Marcos family.

Also on September 21, the Sanlahi Cultural Group performed the play "Karanasan ni Julian Balibayan" which depicted a Filipino immigrant's exposure to the conditions of his homeland. The play

NAM, MFP, CAMD/PSN and Philippine Action Network demonstrated in front of the Philippine Consulate, chanting loudly and displaying banners before a rush-hour traffic.

An evening of cultural performances was held by PAN featuring slides and poetry from the Philippines, songs performed by Jose Maliga and interpretive dances by Aleluia Panis.

## KMU LEADERS TOUR

In Sacramento, Cleofe Villanueva, sister of recently disappeared priest Fr. Rudy Romano, appealed to the Filipino community to press President Marcos for her brother's whereabouts. Some 40 people came to the CAMD/PSN-sponsored gathering and viewed the film "A Philippine

Diary" produced by the Maryknoll Fathers.

Roberto Ortaliz and Meynardo Palarca, representatives of the 500,000-member *Kilusang Mayo Uno* spoke in several West Coast cities and Hawaii. Ortaliz and Palarca addressed rallies and community events marking September 21 as a part of their effort to develop relations with the U.S. labor movement and to gather support for the KMU. Their tour was sponsored by groups affiliated with the Philippine Labor Campaign Committee.

In Hawaii, however, Ortaliz gave the keynote remarks at a September 23 forum jointly sponsored by the Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, Philippine Workers Support Committee, Friends of the Filipino People, Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), the Catholic Diocese Task Force on the Philippines. Earlier, the groups also staged a September 21 protest demonstration.

Fr. Ed Saguin, former president of the National Federation of Sugar Workers, which Ortaliz now heads, also gave an address. Sister Annie McAnany who recently returned from the Philippines gave a report on the conditions in Mindanao. A film on Philippine labor highlighting the role of the KMU was also shown.

Ortaliz also appealed to the ILWU at their national convention being held in Honolulu to give support to Philippine sugar workers. Local 142, the largest ILWU local with the largest number of Filipinos warmly received Ortaliz' requests. Teri Mast, president of the ILWU Local 37 Seattle, was also present.

In San Francisco, Palarca described the worsening conditions of Filipino workers, the KMU's unionizing efforts and the need for democratic change in the Philippines during a reception on September 19 sponsored by the Philippine Labor Campaign Committee. On September 23, Palarca met with Restaurant Employees Union Local 2 officials, San Francisco General Hospital employees and later with several of the city's top union leaders at a reception sponsored by the San Francisco Labor Council. Palarca also met with farm and cannery workers of ILWU Local 37 in Stockton.

In Seattle, Palarca addressed over 140 workers and supporters in a forum sponsored by the Task Force on Philippine Labor, Local 37, the American Postal Workers, and the Filipino Association for Community Education. Palarca also met with members of the ILWU National Board, the secretary-treasurer of the Inland Boatmen's Union, and the Washington State Labor Council.

A forum was held in Portland, Oregon September 26 by the Task Force on Philippine Labor and the Labor Committee for Central America. A meeting with the Portland Democratic Party Caucus successfully resulted in the passing of a resolution recognizing the KMU as a genuine trade union federation. □

# Fit-Am Press Club Roast Sizzles



Los Angeles press clubbers lampooning the Marcoses.

If you can't stand the heat, don't come to the gridiron. In the Second Annual Gridiron held by the Filipino American Press Club of Los Angeles September 21 at the Hollywood Holiday Inn, media folk and artists took on the enjoyable task of revealing through satire the verities that lie behind controversies in the Filipino community. This year's Gridiron consisted of a skit lampooning Philippine Consul Armando Fernandez and the Marcoses. It was written and directed by Ben Aniceto.

Following the skit, seven prominent Filipinos including Dr. Ramon Sison, Edgar O. Yap, president of the FASGI-Filipino Town Project and Joe Abella of CONPUSO were roasted.

The skit entitled "I Weakness News" anchor reports the formation of yet another umbrella organization called "Facuso," (or FACLA/CONPUSO) due to L.A.'s "unpredictable rains." It goes on to ridicule Dr. Ted Kabado (Fred Quevedo, CONPUSO president) and Gorio de la Cruz's (Greg Cruz, FACLA president) loyalty to the Consul and President Marcos ("More Cash").

Thanksgiving Celebration at Maglagay-diyon Palace anchor person Rather Than reports on More-cash and Meldita spending a typical day accounting monies skimmed from IMF and World Bank loans. Irene's son is groomed as the First Mayor of the Filipino Town Project in L.A. Of course, the gathering is incomplete without Co-

mang-ako (Cojuangco) reporting on the status of his holdings, Sarile (Enrile) concocting ideas about "piece and order," and Verdugo (Ver) who is just this trigger-happy guy. Last but not least, a close encounter with the Reagans end up with a resentful More-cash and Meldita who, in a fit of rage, buy the White House.

The skit did not spare the Philippine opposition playing Jack-n-Poy in a meeting in Hongkong, Julito Salonpas (Salonga), Salvador Oregano (Laurel), Batch Pipino (Butz Aquino), and Evita Kalawang (Kalaw), negotiated among themselves as to who is going to represent what. There's the LP or Long Playing Party, for example.

During the roast Dr. Ramon Sison, who happens to be the brother of Jose Ma. Sison, the reputed chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines who is now in Marcos' prison, stood up quite well to the grilling. Dr. Sison is a jazz pianist, a movie actor, a pathologist, and lives in Beverly Hills. How can he live a life of leisure while his brother languishes in jail? "Is it because you chose the better path in life?" he is asked. Sison responds: "I can't exactly say I chose the better path."

Gridiron 1985 was not only humorous, it was often on target. But as Cecile Ochoa, President of the Fil-Am Press Club said, a roast "indicates the maturity and confidence of those involved, particularly those at the receiving end." □

Wilma Cadorna

## People's Mass Held for Missing Priest

The 45th birthday of Fr. Rudy Romano was celebrated September 28 in a completely different form and setting. A special "Misa ng Bayan" (People's Mass) was held in San Francisco not only to mark his birthday, but to call attention to the continued refusal of the Marcos government to reveal his whereabouts and to produce him. He has been missing since July 11 of this year.

The Misa was also special because part of its theme was focused on the plight of the political prisoners in the Philippines, who until now, the 13th year of the Marcos dictatorship, continue to be unjustly detained and persecuted.

More than 50 people attended the mass which was organized by the combined efforts of Fr. Rey Culaba, co-pastor of the St. Paul of the Shipwreck and who officiated the mass; Cleofe Villanueva, Fr. Romano's sister; Tessie Palacios, Shirley Ando and Rafael Orpilla, members of the Political Prisoners Project of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship/Philippine Solidarity Network; and by Lily Dacanay, a lay leader of the parish.

Misa ng Bayan departed from traditional

liturgy and boldly condemned the suffering and oppression of the Filipino people as "un-Christian." It put the blame right on the "oppressive structures of government" and challenged the Filipino community here to be more aware, and to engage in more activities of "conscientization." In his liturgy, Fr. Culaba said, "To be in solidarity is to see that we here could and must do something on behalf of the oppressed in our country and in other countries where such conditions exist, such as South Africa, El Salvador and Chile."

Cleofe Villanueva recounted the circumstances of her brother's abduction and the subsequent campaign to press the regime on his whereabouts. She reported the tremendous outpouring of support which to date includes a special plea from the Pope himself, a resolution from the European Economic Community threatening to cut-off aid and trade with the Marcos regime if Romano is not produced immediately, and an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 letters and telegrams already sent to the regime from all over the world.

Daz Lamparas, an ex-detainee, also shared his experience of fear and terror when he was abducted and detained by the



"Misa ng Bayan": Where is Father Romano?

Marcos military. The mass ended with a moving "candle ceremony" with a single lighted candle, symbolizing "the peace, justice and unity under Christ" passed around to a congregation singing "We Shall Overcome."

Misa received such appreciative response that Fr. Culaba and the organizers have proposed "doing something similar every month for as long as Fr. Rudy is still missing, and for as long as there exists one

political prisoner in the country." The congregation touched by the Misa responded very enthusiastically to the proposal.

For more information about Fr. Rudy Romano, and the Misa, please contact Fr. Rey Culaba at St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church, (415) 467-0660; or the Political Prisoners Project, CAMD/PSN, P.O. Box 40072, San Francisco, CA 94140, (415) 387-1674. □

## Filipino Students Show High Drop Out Rate

Filipino community groups appealed to the Los Angeles School Board last August to appoint a Filipino-American advisor to address the high drop out rate of Filipino American high school students.

The appeal was triggered by a research project done by Filipino students at the University of California at Los Angeles that showed a high percentage of Filipino students dropping out of school before the 12th grade. The Asian-Pacific Education Commission of the L.A. Unified School District, Pilipino American Community Committee on Education and Search to Involve Pilipino Americans submitted the appeal. In addition, a rise in gang activity has begun to worry the community.

Studies have shown that within the last five years the Filipino enrollment in the LAUSD has increased by 15%. For example, Filipinos constitute a large number in three major schools: Virgil Jr. High and

Carson High both have 10% Filipino enrollment and Belmont High has approximately 5%.

However, during the 1978-80 school year, 33% of Filipinos in the 12th grade dropped out before graduation, and during the 1981-82 school year 25% dropped out. This is a high level that is becoming a growing concern among the community.

Helen Brown, a PACCOE founder, and other APEC commissioners said that "the LAUSD sometimes fails to recognize the diversity of groups under the category 'Asian American.'"

"Concerned that the stereotype of Asian Americans as a 'model minority' with the highest educational attainment among all groups is causing the local school district to neglect the educational needs of Filipino students, we have been meeting with school district officials since 1971 to seek equal educational opportunities for our school children. We have not yet seen

any visible gains," their statement read.

Gerald Gubatan, a Filipino graduate from Belmont High and UCLA said: "The community can join in a letter writing campaign to the board of education but must also become more aware what their children are doing and to take more interest."

Filipinos are not a "model Asian-American group," PACCOE members assert. Filipinos, compared to other Asian-Americans, have lower educational achievement. The school enrollment rates of college age Filipinos in the U.S. are closer to that of Blacks and Hispanics.

The quality of education differs widely depending on the community or district students fall in. Public schools with a large minority population most usually do not have the needed specialized programs for minorities such as bilingual programs. More funds are usually provided for the more stable and well-established communities. □

Rose Ibañez

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'Worst Version Yet'

# Senate Passes Tough Immigration Bill

By VINCE REYES

After seven days of debate the Senate overwhelmingly passed September 19 the latest version of Republican Senator Alan K. Simpson's anti-immigrant legislation under the guise of reforming existing immigration laws for the first time in 20 years.

The bill introduced by Simpson (R-Wyo.), chief sponsor of all immigration bills in the last three years, won by a vote of 69 to 30. It was supported by 41 Republicans and 28 Democrats and opposed by 19 Democrats and 11 Republicans. The drama now shifts to the House where a similar package is coming up for deliberations.

The Senate passed similar bills by more than four to one in 1982 and 1983 but the fragile alliance of interest groups and differences between the Senate and House of Representatives version have always prevented bills from becoming law.

The new bill would prohibit employers from hiring undocumented workers by imposing sanctions carrying stiff penalties, provide more money for enforcement at the border, and offer legal status to undocumented persons who entered the U.S. before January 1, 1980 and have lived here continuously. It would let in 350,000 temporary foreign workers for growers of perishable crops, but penalize those who would harbor or transport undocumented persons.

More streamlined in language than its predecessors, Simpson's bill incorporates what many believe to be very repressive measures against the undocumented which would literally strip them of any civil rights and public benefits.

## 'REAGAN WILL BE HAPPY'

During the Senate debates, the only real controversy came with an amendment by Senator Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) to establish a new program that would bring in 350,000 foreign workers to help harvest highly perishable crops. Some senators argued that the amendment would take jobs away from Americans and endanger the chances for the bill's passage in the House. California growers, however, argued

that they needed a pool of foreign workers to harvest their crops which would rot if not harvested at the proper times.

Wilson's amendment won by 51 to 44. Simpson claimed that the farmworker program would make the bill more attractive to President Reagan who earlier already indicated his support for the legislation.

"The President will be very pleased when he sees what is in there," he told the *New York Times*. "His California constituents have been taken care of."

## RODINO'S BILL

In the House, Rep. Peter W. Rodino, Jr. (D-N.J.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee introduced his version of immigration legislation to the House last July 25 along with Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-Ky.) His bill follows the main outlines of its Senate counterpart and if passed, will make compromise in the House-Senate Conference Committee easier.

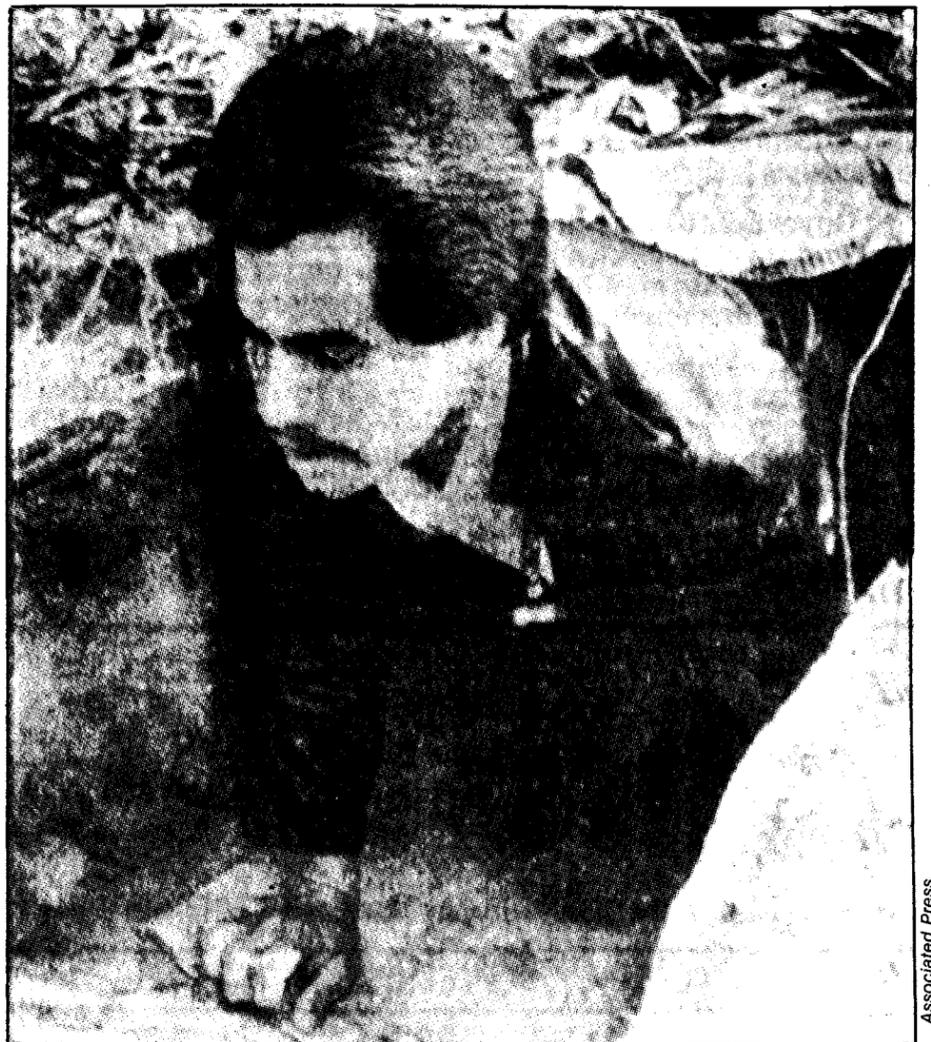
Rodino claims his bill is more "humane" and "fair" although it hardly differs from the Simpson bill. The Rodino-Mazzoli bill wants a higher budget for the INS and mirrors the temporary workers provisions of the Senate bill. It would also deny public benefits even after temporary residency is granted.

Rodino-Mazzoli calls for slightly lower penalties for employer sanctions violations and unlike Simpson, addresses discrimination by providing a grievance mechanism although only U.S. citizens or people planning to become citizens can file for claims. The Rodino bill also extends the cut-off date for legalization to January 1, 1982.

## FAR TO THE RIGHT

Nevertheless, most immigrant rights activist groups see a dim future for immigrants under the provisions of both bills.

Richard Fajardo of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund said of Simpson's bill: "Overall, this is the worst version since it was first introduced. It is very contradictory. On the one hand, there are provisions for employer sanctions and strict control over the border yet on the other hand it has provisions to import



Undocumented field worker crawling out of hole he has to live in.

workers in numbers up to 350,000."

Bill Tamayo of the Committee to Defend Immigrant and Refugee Rights concurred with Fajardo, "The Simpson bill is far to the right of the previous bills. For one thing, legalization will be put 'on hold' for three years—which essentially means that a lesser number of people will become eligible for legalization."

In the meantime, he said, the federal government could implement a massive crackdown on "exposed" immigrants and refugees and deport thousands to reduce

the numbers of those who could become legal.

Opponents of the bill have long criticized the inherent pro-business features of the legislation. "The government's desire to control the flow of the workforce is clearly seen in the provisions to allow 350,000 temporary workers to enter each year," explained Tamayo. "Farmers, growers and manufacturers will still have access to a cheap labor force."

Continued on page 14

## The Bill's Major Provisions

The major provisions of the Senate immigration bill are as follows:

**EMPLOYER SANCTIONS:** Employers would be fined from \$100 to \$2,000 for each undocumented worker hired. If a "pattern or practice" of violations existed, the employer could pay penalties of \$3,000 to \$10,000 for each undocumented worker hired. Repeat offenders could face criminal punishment such as jail sentences.

**LEGALIZATION OF STATUS:** Legal status would be offered to undocumented workers who entered the U.S. before January 1, 1980 and have lived here continuously. Undocumented persons who gain legal status would first have to become temporary residents and after two and a half years could become permanent residents if they prove a knowledge of English, American history and civics. After five years as permanent residents they would be eligible for citizenship.

**ENFORCEMENT:** Increased funds for the Border Patrol and other Immigration and Naturalization Service enforcement activities in the sum of \$840 million will be granted for fiscal year 1987. This represents an increase of 44% over the current fiscal year.

**AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROVISIONS:** Farmers would be allowed to bring in up to 350,000 undocumented workers to harvest perishable fruits and vegetables. Workers could stay for up to nine months a year and could move

from one farm to another within the designated region. The program has a three-year lifespan at which time Congress will have to approve it again.

**TRANSITIONAL AGRICULTURAL LABOR PROGRAM:** Farmers have three years to end the employment of undocumented aliens as seasonal workers but have to reduce the number by one-third each year.

**ARRESTS:** Federal law-enforcement officers have to obtain a warrant before entering open fields to search for undocumented workers.

**BENEFITS:** Undocumented persons who obtain legal status under the bill cannot receive federal welfare, Medicaid or food stamp benefits for six years. States would be required to check the status of aliens applying for welfare, food stamps, Medicaid and other benefits to make sure they are not undocumented. The applicant's "alien registration number" would be checked against INS computer records.

They might qualify, however, for benefits under state programs. The federal government would reimburse the states for the cost of such assistance, providing \$300 million in each of the first two years, then \$600 million in each of the next four years.

**HARBORING AND TRANSPORTING OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS:** Violators providing shelter or transporting individuals for the purposes of finding work will face stiff criminal penalties.

## Day of Justice for Immigrants and Refugees

Preparations are now underway around the country for a series of marches, rallies, pickets, forums and vigils on October 19, the National Day of Justice for Immigrants and Refugees. The coordinated actions, endorsed by over 200 immigrant rights, church, minority, labor, and civil liberties organizations and activists, are designed to protest increasing INS attacks on and legislation directed against immigrants and refugees. The Day of Justice arose from the National Consultation for Immigrants and Refugee Rights held last April in Los Angeles; local coalitions have formed since to sponsor activities in Boston, New York, Miami, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Merced (California), Santa Cruz/Watsonville (California), San Francisco, the Yakima Valley (Washington State), and Honolulu.

The October 19 actions are intended to draw national attention to the con-

tinuing contributions of immigrants to the U.S. economy and culture; the heightened ferocity and number of attacks on undocumented people and on Latinos, Blacks and Asian whom INS agents mistakenly judge to be undocumented; and the iron determination of the U.S. government to silence refugees from Central America as well as the church sanctuary movement that has publicized their plight.

Region by region, organizers for the National Day of Justice are also carrying out a "Know Your Rights" campaign designed to inform immigrants of the rights they are guaranteed by laws which shield them from excessive use of force and intimidation by U.S. authorities.

For information on the Day of Justice, contact your local coalition or the National Day of Justice for Immigrants and Refugees, National Office, 3174 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; phone: (415) 826-6688. □

'Discriminatory to White Males'

# Reagan Set to Junk Minority Hiring Quotas

By MADGE BELLO

Attorney General Edwin Meese's recent tirades against affirmative action as the modern version of "slavery" were not empty noises. The Reagan administration, it was revealed, is preparing an executive order that would no longer make it a requirement for companies with federal government contracts to implement affirmative action provisions for minorities and women.

A White House draft executive order which was leaked to the press August 14, claimed affirmative action regulations have not helped Blacks or other minorities in low income jobs. Instead, the draft claimed, these rules have encouraged employers to discriminate against *white men* who also imposed a costly compliance burden on employers.

If signed by the president, the executive order would eliminate provisions that require government contractors to set numerical goals and timetables for hiring minorities and women.

It would also prohibit the Department of Labor from using statistical evidence to gauge a contractor's compliance with anti-discrimination laws, reversing an 18-year-old practice by the department. The statistics have been used to support employment discrimination lawsuits filed under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Civil Rights groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Chinese for Affirmative Action have denounced the administration's latest moves. They describe the attempt as the most far-reaching attack on affirmative action programs thus far.

## SWEEPING EFFECT

The proposed changes threaten existing programs affecting about a fourth of the nation's workforce. More than 73,000 offices, plants, colleges and industries, employing close to 35 million workers that have contracts with the federal government are required to have affirmative action programs.

In 1980 federal contractors employed 19% more minorities and 15% more women than they did six years earlier. Private industries not subjected to the federal guidelines meanwhile showed slower gains with only an increase of 12% minority and 2% women hiring in the same period.

The current regulation, which was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965, requires all federal contractors to set goals and timetables to prompt the achievement of full and equal employment

business enterprises to assure a truly affirmative step in equalizing opportunities for minorities.

A Filipino representative in the Hawaii State Legislature, Rep. Al Lardizabal, warned that if the executive order is put into effect, it will have a devastating impact on minorities. "It will exacerbate existing problems of discrimination."

CAA director Henry Der believes Reagan's proposal will not only undercut equal opportunities for minorities and women in employment but eventually affect minority- and women-run business enterprises as well.

"The negative impact of amending EO 11246 will extend far beyond the employment arena. It will eventually influence the ability of minorities and the poor to receive equal access to publicly funded educational and social services."

Although minorities make up 30.25% of California's workforce, only 18.11% were employed in managerial and professional jobs, while 55.52% were employed in farms; 47.7% were laborers and about 40% were clerks, secretaries and typists, according to an April 1985 "Labor Market Information for Affirmative Action," report issued by the California Employment Development Department.

"We've found that many contractors such as Pacific Bell, PG&E, Chevron, EBMUD, Mare Island Naval Repairs, continue to underutilize Asians," asserted Tse Ming Teng of CAA, a San Francisco-based civil rights agency.

In the building trades, for example, which have traditionally excluded minorities, he continued, class action suits were filed against unions, apprenticeship programs, and some companies to open jobs up to minorities. "Managerial and law enforcement jobs within the city are notoriously scant in Asian hiring." Out of over 1,000 positions in San Francisco, 47 are filled by Asians.

## TOUGHER FOR SUITS

"Even with anti-discriminatory laws in effect, job inequalities and discrimination based on skin color or national origins continue to exist in very subtle forms," said Lillian Galedo, director of the Filipino Immigrant Services in Oakland.

"When we try to place Filipinos with five to 10 years of experience in accounting or secretarial skills, companies would always find excuses not to hire them, often stating that they lack local experience and even their years of education are not credited."

Companies have learned to be skillful in how they discriminate, she reported.

Apart from voluntary or court-ordered



1970s. Moreover, the courts are becoming more conservative in their findings of discrimination and in creating remedies."

Discrimination complaints in California, for example, drastically dropped in the years 1980-85. Complaints registered with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, a state agency monitoring discrimination complaints, for 1980-81 numbered 3,417. By 1984-85, there were only 2,713. Filipinos averaged only 100 for the five fiscal years while other Asians averaged 110, Blacks registered the most complaints with 2,000 and Hispanics filed 850.

## FLEXIBLE ALTERNATIVE?

Due to widespread opposition from civil rights, labor and business organizations, the executive order is undergoing revisions. So-called moderates within the Reagan administration, including Labor Secretary William Brock, are advocating the retention of affirmative action programs but are for making enforcement "flexible" or compliance on a "voluntary" basis.

But the National Association of Manufacturers, one of the nation's leading business organizations with some 13,600 members, fears that the proposed alternative of voluntary affirmative action programs would give firms no legal protection and "only open the floodgates to suits by people claiming companies had practiced reverse discrimination."

Ultraconservatives within the administration, including William Bradford Reynolds, assistant attorney general with the Civil

in an attempt to gather public support, conducted hearings on the changes it wanted to see in affirmative action programs.

Some of the changes included the elimination of backpay to employees of firms found guilty of discrimination; reducing the filing of affirmative action programs from once every year to once every five years; requiring only those with 250 or more employees and holding at least \$1 million in government contracts to file affirmative action programs.

## "IDEOLOGICAL AND CLASS INTERESTS"

In a broader attack on civil rights, Clarence Pendleton, chairman of the Civil Rights Commission, recently proposed the elimination of the Commission itself by 1989, stating that since racism has been already eliminated, the body has outlived its usefulness. He proposed that the government contract out to the private sector the task of the enforcing and expanding civil rights.

Another Black Reagan appointee, Clarence Thomas, head of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, is seeking major changes in federally established employee selection guidelines for all private and public sectors. The guidelines currently recognize that statistical disparity in employment can be indications of race or sex discrimination. Thomas wants the 1978 regulation amended to say that statistical disparity is *not* tantamount to discrimination.

In addition to weakening the instruments of civil rights enforcements, the administration is now attempting to reinterpret the meaning of civil rights.

Assistant attorney general Reynolds claimed that there is "a national consensus that racial classification is wrong—morally wrong," and that its use has led to "a kind of racial spoils system."

Referring to the use of DOL statistics, Paul Kamenar, executive director of the conservative Washington Legal Foundation, asserted that it has been used as "a club which forces employers to engage in discrimination by following these race-conscious remedies or risk losing government contracts."

But Congressman John Conyers of Detroit, Michigan said that the attacks against affirmative action have to be viewed against the backdrop of "a coherent set of tax, fiscal and budget policies over the past two years" that has made life difficult for the poor.

"If anything the administration's campaign against affirmative action is an admission that there simply are not enough jobs to go around."

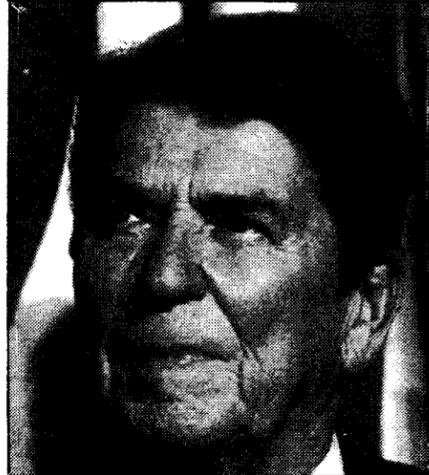
The administration's moral claims against affirmative action, he continued, "serve to camouflage policies that are basically rooted in ideology and class interests." □



Meese



Reynolds



Reagan

opportunities, wherever deficiencies have been found. The rules also cover all of the companies' policies, even if government contracts reflect only a small portion of their business.

However, despite Johnson's Executive Order 11246, not all contractors necessarily complied with federal requirements, Amado Cabezas, professor of Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, said. Some cities, such as San Francisco, have had to strengthen affirmative action by allocating 10% of city contracts to minority

affirmative action programs, minorities in the past were able to utilize Title VII lawsuits effectively to fight discrimination in their workplace, noted Bill Tamayo, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus.

But since Reagan came to office, cuts in budget and staffing have already made the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, the watchdog against job discrimination, ineffective, Tamayo charged.

"It has not been able to actively investigate and litigate discrimination complaints as it did in the early and mid-

Rights Division of the Justice Department, and Attorney General Meese, of course, favor the signing of the executive order.

Because it has become such a controversial issue, Steve Owyang, Executive and Legal Affairs Secretary of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission, is optimistic that Reagan will not sign the executive order.

The proposed executive order is not the first time the administration has attempted to eliminate affirmative action programs. As early as 1981, the Reagan administration,





Soldier monitors tribal folk.

## Scorching

Continued from page 5

one percent of the country's entire population." Of the estimated 12,000 full-time guerilla fighters, "few are committed communists . . . some are plain criminals, local bandits or bored young people seeking adventure." AFP forces on the other hand are portrayed as the guardians of law and order, occasionally driven to violence by communist-terrorist elements.

Under U.S. prodding, the AFP is also attempting to project a process of "reform from within" under the direction of Acting Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos. With the imminent reinstatement of Gen. Fabian Ver, however, the reforms—some of which call for the abolition of Ver's patronage system—may not proceed much further.

Finally, as a direct counterweight to NPA influence within rural communities, the AFP is also promoting itself as a socially responsible force in the countryside

purportedly involved in the implementation of civic action programs.

### U.S. HELP

The Marcos regime is clearly not taking on the insurgency single-handedly. Just as alarmed by the dramatic advances made by the resistance, Washington is keeping the lifeline to Marcos secure even while it is figuring out the best ways to ease out a no-longer-effective partner from the scene.

This year, Marcos will receive a total of \$140 million in economic aid and \$42 million in military assistance. In a compromise with the White House, Congress nearly doubled what Marcos is now getting in military aid by granting him \$70 million for the coming year—despite the acknowledgment of unmitigated human rights violations in the country.

The U.S. has counterinsurgency efforts of its own, in addition to those being undertaken by the regime.

Over the last few months, U.S. embassy officials in Manila have been busy making contact with friendly opposition leaders. Threatened by attempts to cohere the different opposition parties into a unified

these officials have reportedly convinced certain opposition leaders—with offers of generous financial backing—to stay away from alliances with the left.

On the military front, the U.S. is reportedly deploying "secret American commando units" to aid the counterinsurgency efforts in the Philippines.

According to the NDF's *Liberation*, "Special Operations Forces are in the country for future use in combat against guerillas of the NPA." While admitting that SOFs have been present in Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base since 1978, the U.S. embassy denies that they are involved in any counterinsurgency activity.

### CIA LINKS

U.S. military publications show that SOFs are the most heavily used U.S. military forces today, especially since Reagan took office. Making up about 35% of all U.S. military training teams abroad, SOFs are well-funded (\$500 million last year) and highly trained in counterinsurgency operations.

*Liberation* also reported that NPA fighters have repeatedly sighted U.S. military advisers actively directing counterinsurgency maneuvers in Mindanao, the Cordillera mountains and the Bicol region.

Revelations of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency meddling are also becoming more frequent. Former head of the National Economic Council, Hilario Henares, recently exposed CIA links to the ultra-conservative Roman Catholic order Opus Dei, an international church network closely allied with the Vatican and which has reportedly replaced the Jesuit order as "the most powerful organization in the church today."

In the Philippines, Henares said, some Opus Dei members occupy crucial government and private posts in the economic sectors. According to Henares, the Opus Dei network figures prominently in a possible "CIA scenario to install a permanent military dictatorship in place of the present government."

Equally disturbing are reports of the CIA channelling \$4 million to the conservative Asian American Free Labor Institute for counterrevolutionary activities, as well as reports of U.S. embassy officials offering financial aid to conservative bishops in Mindanao. □

## Immigration

Continued from page 11

According to Cathi Tactaquin, also of the CDIRR, both the Simpson and Rodino bills amount to "a multi-faceted program aimed at limiting the rights of immigrants and at the same time insuring that they can be exploited mercilessly."

### DAY OF JUSTICE

The Simpson bill passes at a time of rising anti-alien sentiments. New detention centers for immigrants are being built in states like Louisiana and there is an increase in raids on workplaces and neighborhoods. There is also a marked increase in incidents involving violence perpetrated by border patrols.

More refugees escaping political violence and repression in Central American countries are being denied asylum and it is no coincidence that the Senate bill wants to beef up policing and enforcement mechanisms against "feet people" streaming across the border.

With the strong possibility that the House may pass a new law this year, Tamayo called on immigrant and refugee rights advocates "to oppose any piece of legislation that would further legitimize abuses against the undocumented and refugees." Congress, he said, must be held accountable "for the racist and repressive framework bills such as the Simpson and Rodino/Mazzoli bills are built on."

Opposition to the bills is slowly making itself felt as various groups and minority leaders try to pull together a movement. Immigrant rights advocates in over 20 cities across the U.S. are preparing for a "National Day of Justice" protest on October 19.

According to Ramon Sevilla, member of the CDIRR National Committee and Executive Director of La Raza Information Center in San Francisco, a broad coalition of church, service agencies, lobbies, legal, labor, solidarity and non-intervention groups are organizing the National Day of Justice as part of an educational campaign to "dispel the myths attributed to refugees and immigrants." (See box on page 11.)

Sevilla said minority communities and progressive organizations must become a strong lobbying force against any legislation that threatens the rights of immigrants. □

## Flight

Continued from page 4

by Philippine authorities today."

Then, on August 21, beginning in the morning, there were urgent cables from Manila to China Airlines in Taipei. "Please [send] flight list [for China Airlines] 811 transit passengers." Then another that said "please rush" the 811 passenger list.

The requests for the lists, according to sources familiar with the situation, came from the Ministry of Tourism. Finally, the last two cables on that day, both sent after Flight 811 was in the air, read:

"Philippine authorities request our office to clarify the following," the Manila China Airlines office cabled its Taipei headquarters. "What does the M stand for [on] Bonifacio/M on Manifest of [Flight] 811? Who was [China Airlines] employee who attended to Bonifacio? Whether Bonifacio was attended to by media persons at the Taipei airport. Whether there is unusual attention given to him. Attire of Bonifacio [color and design]. Other details which could identify [him]. Reply immediately."

Marcial Bonifacio was the alias Aquino used.

The Taipei office replied that they did not know what the initial "M" stood for, they did not remember the color of Bonifacio's clothing, and there wasn't anything "conspicuous or suspicious."

The cable adds that "only [the name] Benigno Aquino" was given by the Philippine government as the person who was "non grata."

The information relayed between the China Airlines offices from the 19th to the 21st was all passed on to the Philippine government, according to China Airlines sources.

When his investigating board began its inquiry early last year, Narvasa said, a "blanket request for all cables, letter and calls" relating to Aquino's return to the Philippines was sent to Marcos' executive secretary, Juan Tuvera.

Tuvera handed over a thick file of documents, all of them diplomatic cables about Aquino, which ended with the August 19 Singapore communication. "Tuvera said these were the only ones," Narvasa recalled.

The name of Aspiras, one of Marcos' most trusted and loyal cabinet ministers, has surfaced before in testimony about the

assassination.

The tourism minister was at Villamor Air Base, a Philippine air force installation two minutes' drive from Manila airport, for three hours before the shooting, along with Information Minister Gregorio Cendaña, another Marcos confidant, according to testimony before the Agrava board. The two men rushed to the airport minutes after Aquino was shot. □

## Autopsy

Continued from page 4

prosecution with documents indicating that the Philippine military had advance knowledge of Aquino's itinerary. This information would refute the claim of Ver and his 24 co-accused that ignorance of Aquino's arrival plans precluded the military's playing a part in any assassination conspiracy.

Among the documents were statements from six American servicemen who claim that a "full battle staff of Filipinos entered the radar room at Wallace [Air Station] on the morning of August 21, 1983 . . ." for the purpose of diverting Aquino's jet to Basa Air Base. A U.S. Air Force logbook recorded the takeover and the servicemen reported Philippine Air Force jets were scrambled to intercept Aquino's flight.

Fernandez dismissed the U.S. materials as "irrelevant and immaterial" and "hearsay." Acting on instructions from what some sources on the prosecution panel called "higher ups," Fernandez pressured prosecutor Manuel Herrera, not to use the new evidence.

### 'A MOVIE THRILLER'

Fernandez's activities apparently have not been limited to suggesting inaction. He "usually gives a copy [of prosecution documents] to Manuel Lazaro [Marcos' presidential legal adviser] who passes it on to the defense," even though he often does not show documents to the prosecution, another source in the prosecution panel complained.

Comparing the trial to "a movie thriller in which one knows the conclusion," Herrera was quoted as saying, "I can more or less sense the ending already so I may as well leave the movie house." Although Marcos appointed Herrera to his post, no one in Malacañang will be disappointed when he tries "to inactivate"

himself.

Earlier the Supreme Court, led by Marcos loyalist Justice Felix Makasiar, disallowed the use of Ver's testimony before the Agrava Commission as trial evidence because it was "self-incriminating." However, even with a strongly worded dissenting opinion from Justice Claudio Teehankee (who Marcos passed over when appointing Makasiar as Chief Justice), the prosecution has not appealed the high court's decision.

### VERY WEAK CASE

Teehankee opined that "the majority's position is based on erroneous premises . . . none of the respondents has indicated the specific portion of their testimony that they had been 'oppressively compelled' to give in alleged violation of their privilege against self-incrimination."

"The reason for this is that they all testified voluntarily and eagerly to support the military report and version that Galman felled Senator Aquino."

With the Agrava Commission testimony ruled inadmissible and U.S.-supplied evidence rejected, the prosecution has a very weak case.

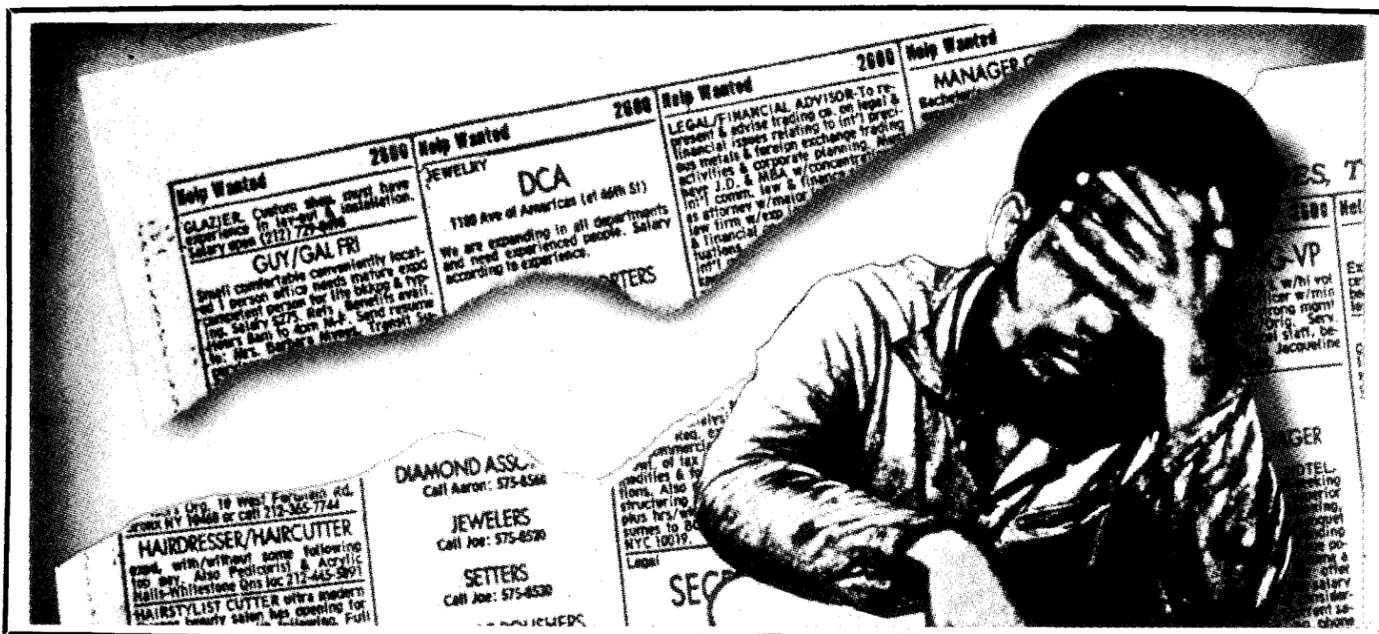
[The trial of 25 soldiers and one civilian charged in connection with the killing of opposition leader Benigno Aquino ended September 27 as prosecutors gave up their right to call rebuttal witnesses.]

More used to pulling the strings on a compliant puppet, the U.S. is obviously irked at how Marcos is manipulating the trial. A "thorough and impartial" investigation of Aquino's murder leading to punishment of those judged responsible from Washington's point of view, is part of the housecleaning it wants Marcos to undertake.

The U.S., deeply concerned over the political isolation of the regime and the growing military strength of the New People's Army, sees replacing Ver with a respected professional soldier as Commander-in-Chief as a crucial step towards raising the credibility and military capacity of the AFP.

Since Marcos has openly declared that Ver will be reinstated to his post as AFP chief of staff upon his by-now-certain acquittal, it is no wonder that the U.S. is revitalizing the prosecution by suddenly supplying damning evidence which it obviously possessed for the past two years—eight months into the trial. □

# 'Workfare' Passes in California



By JACK FLETCHER

In a stunning victory for Governor George Deukmejian, the California legislature on September 13 passed a sweeping and precedent-setting welfare reform bill commonly known as workfare. The law will require 170,000 people to find work, education or job training in exchange for their welfare checks.

The measure was rammed through several senate committees in a matter of hours on the final day of the 1985 session, after Deukmejian and Democratic leader David Roberti agreed to \$115.5 million in child care funding as part of the package.

State Senator Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles), chair of the Health and Human Services Committee was unable to stall the bill and commented in exasperation, "Who are you trying to fool to think that there are millions of jobs for people who have never worked?"

The bill's passage, long a dream of rightwing politicians convinced that welfare recipients don't really want to work, was a

major accomplishment for Deukmejian's otherwise lackluster legislative record and should significantly bolster his 1986 re-election campaign.

## LIBERALS' CAPITULATION

But it was not just conservatives who worked for the new law. In fact, workfare's key proponent was liberal Assemblyman and co-sponsor of the bill, Art Agnos. Upon its passage, Agnos optimistically declared, "Poor people will be the beneficiaries of the first sincere and meaningful program in the history of our state to help people get off welfare, out of poverty and into employment."

The bill was so popular in the legislature that the combined assembly and senate voted 91-10 in its favor with the only opposition coming from a core of progressive Democrats such as Maxine Waters of Los Angeles and Tom Bates of Oakland-Berkeley.

Of course the idea of workfare is hardly new. Governor Ronald Reagan attempted a pilot program in 1972 that met with such stiff opposition that it was never widely

implemented. The basic difference in California's new workfare law is that it provides a major education and job training component.

This educational feature, coupled with Roberti's child care legislation, answered most of the liberal criticisms of previous workfare proposals. Still as in previous workfare schemes, welfare recipients unable to find work after completing their training program and job search will be placed in workfare jobs and required to work off their checks at about \$5.00 an hour. The law applies to all able bodied recipients with children over six years old.

Another major source of opposition to workfare in the past came from unions. In this case, several California public employee unions participated in drafting language that attempts to guarantee that the law cannot be used to displace or adversely affect current workers.

But if welfare recipients are brought into entry-level jobs for public agencies as Agno's chief assistant Claude Everhart has suggested, then many problems will inevitably arise concerning salary differentials, union representation and membership, and displacement of other prospective job applicants.

Josh Bernstein of Californians for a Share has argued that as many as 60,000 public sector jobs will be jeopardized by workfare. And as Kevin Aslanian of the Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations

Critics are correct in calling Bennett's plans a part of the rightwing agenda. His "deregulation" plan fits handily with the conservative campaign for "less government." With less federal control, such rightwing causes as school segregation, creationism, school prayer, "English Only," and textbook censorship can be advanced through the manipulation of the presumably more manageable levers of local government. Aversion to tongues other than English is certainly a hallmark of the white, patriotic and xenophobic rightwing which forms Reaganism's base.

Bilingual education programs should be made more effective, instead of being thrown out. There are a good number of Filipino educators, bilingual experts and parents who feel strongly about this. They should help educate the community to join other communities in pressing for the preservation and expansion of bilingual school programs. In that way, they can strike a blow for racial and national equality and against the rightwing specter. □

observed, if the welfare recipients can't take regular jobs, then all that remains is "menial, mindless work" rather than "pre-employment preparation," the law's euphemism for workfare.

## NO JOBS

Perhaps the strongest appeal of the bill to liberals is that they can finally claim that they have taken positive action on welfare, an issue that sometimes leaves them vulnerable to rightwing attack. As long-time San Francisco welfare rights activist Helen Little put it, "[Welfare recipients] will have to go through the program to put on a show for the legislators, but it doesn't mean they will find jobs—there aren't any."

And lack of jobs is the crux of the problem. As Tom Bates argued, "people on welfare don't need threats, they need real jobs. Recently in my district in Oakland, the Post Office announced 400 job openings; 26,000 persons applied, many of them welfare recipients . . . Rather than blaming and scapegoating welfare recipients we should be developing new job opportunities."

What then will be the consequences of the workfare legislation? First the program will add just one more disappointment to the lives of many people who are desperately seeking to be self-supportive. Second, the law will create a new maze of bureaucratic entanglements—all of which will cost over \$250 million to administer. Projected savings from the program assume at least a 50% rate of job placement—a thoroughly unrealistic projection. There may be some long term savings as people are discouraged from applying for welfare by the demeaning prospect of workfare, but in the short run at least, experience has shown that workfare will result in increased welfare rolls as many people sign up with the false expectation of getting jobs. Ironically, if workfare is actually successful in finding jobs for any significant number of people, the welfare offices are likely to be swamped with job hopefuls.

Perhaps the most insidious aspect of the program is that the cycle of job search/workfare never stops for a welfare recipient. As Kevin Aslanian said, "This is forever. The program is like a leech that will never let you go." And if people don't meet their workfare obligations, they will be kicked off welfare. Aslanian charged that Agnos will be responsible for the suffering of children in such families, and that Agnos' law will in effect create welfare slaves.

Of course, in the several years it will take for these consequences to become clear, Deukmejian will most likely have been reelected and Art Agnos may well have become Mayor of San Francisco. In that time a lot of money will have been spent, a lot of poor people will have been shuffled around and discouraged, and the state will have a bureaucratic nightmare to straighten out. □

## Editorial

Continued from page 2

you handle students who have limited knowledge of English; if you decide not to have bilingual programs it's all right, it has not done anything good anyway.

The children who will be most affected by this are Hispanic and Chinese. But Filipinos too are going to suffer. The prevalent notion that all Filipinos are English speakers and need no bilingual programs underestimates the complexity of the third wave of immigration that has continued since 1965. By now, this wave is of diverse backgrounds, varying ages, educational levels, geographic and class origins, etc. The report of high drop out rates among Filipino high school students in Los Angeles is alarming. While there may be many other social factors causing this phenomenon, difficulties with the English language would certainly contribute to alienation from the educational process.

## AIDS

Continued from page 16

mean the demise of western civilization." He has been travelling around the country to promote a bill that would incarcerate homosexuals. His message is heard over dozens of radio stations across the nation.

The fallout from AIDS continues to hit the gay community. The American Council of Life Insurance which has 6,300 member companies and writes 95% of all policies in the U.S., is now seeking to require blood tests for insurance. This is bound to result in the denial of insurance to gay people. Job discrimination against gays is already widespread; fear of AIDS is now being used as a pretext to justify it.

Even some gay movie actors have lost work with the claim that getting AIDS could prevent them from finishing a movie or TV series. There has been a high incidence of denial of employment to those in AIDS' high-risk groups—including homosexuals and hemophiliacs. Additionally, AIDS-infected children are increasingly being barred from classrooms despite evi-

dence that casual contact with other children is not dangerous.

The gay community has organized to respond to this assault. In a statement January 11, a coalition of gay and lesbian organizations opposed indiscriminate blood testing not only because the current test is unreliable, but because it makes possible the use of the test results to justify denial of employment or other forms of discrimination. However, the coalition supports use of the test only in the context of screening existing and future blood donations, and as part of a research program that would guarantee strict confidentiality.

The New Right has clearly seized the initiative in using the AIDS issue to push further the repressive shift in the current political climate. Spurred by the lack of any governmental effort to combat AIDS, this push has gone beyond propaganda: legal and legislative maneuvers are already in motion to erode basic civil liberties. More repression looms on the horizon. Thus the task of educating the public about AIDS and actively defending the rights of the gay community have become crucial not only to allay public fears but to reverse the mounting tide of repression and anti-gay hysteria. □

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The newspaper, of course, not the assault rifle. For years now we have been giving free AK subscriptions to readers in the Philippines. They are mostly movement organizers, free or imprisoned human rights advocates, members of the opposition press, and personnel of educational institutions.

However, requests for free subscriptions are still coming in and in growing numbers. We understand these requests perfectly well. At 12 Philippine pesos to one U.S. dollar, it is simply close to impossible to buy an AK sub from the Philippines. But it costs us \$1.00 to mail a single copy, printed matter annual to the Philippines. Currently our mailing expenses to the Philippines amount to over \$2,000 a year.

We're beginning to feel the pinch in our already meager budget but we still don't have to rely on you and we're sure you, our readers here, will understand why. The Institute of Filipino Resources and Information has been helping us facilitate this free subscription program but we need more assistance.

Please help us give more free AK subs to Philippine readers. Send \$5, \$10, \$20 (or more) checks and money orders, payable to IFRI. Mark them "Free Philippines Subs" and send them to Ang Kapatiran, P.O. Box 2759, Oakland, CA 94602. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you very much.

# The Politics of AIDS

By EDDIE ESCULTURA

The threat of AIDS (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome) is rapidly spreading throughout U.S. society. But despite the very real danger posed by this immense public health crisis for all sectors of society, the U.S. government remains inert and ineffective in mobilizing a full assault on the killer disease and the fear and ignorance that surrounds it.

Certainly the U.S. health care system in general has never been noted for equal treatment for all members of society. But in the case of the AIDS outbreak, official inactivity is both caused by, and lends support to, the escalating hysteria surrounding AIDS—hysteria that most often takes the form of savage anti-gay (anti-homosexual) bigotry.

The list is long: Health workers refuse to treat patients; a fire brigade worries about mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; prison officials decline to move prisoners; Seattle police officers circulate an unauthorized and unverified list of "people with AIDS;" sanitation workers wear masks; morticians refuse to bury the dead; women change hairdressers, and a backstage theater staff shuns a gay play.

The hysteria has spilled over to the Filipino community. Four Filipino nurses together with other nurses at the San Francisco General Hospital filed a complaint contending they are being "exposed" to "highly infectious AIDS patients who are coughing, dripping secretions and expectorating into bed linens and clothing." The four have retained an attorney to represent them and are demanding that they be allowed to wear "protective masks and gloves" when treating AIDS patients.

AIDS is a deadly disease. Of the 13,000 cases reported in the U.S. since it was first diagnosed here in 1981, half of the victims have already died; no one has survived more than four years. The number of cases doubles every year.

Since the gay community has the largest percentage of victims (73%), it has become the principal target of the hysteria. But gay men are by far not the only victims. Intravenous drug users account for 17% of the AIDS cases in the U.S., caused by sharing infected needles. Another 10% contract the disease through hemophiliac-related blood transfusions, other blood transfusions, heterosexual contact, and transmission of AIDS to newborn children of infected mothers.

Caused by a virus known as HTLV-III, AIDS destroys a subgroup of white blood cells that play a major role in defending the body against certain infections and some cancers. Without these defenses, the body succumbs even to otherwise minor infections.

## SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGE

At the moment there is neither cure for nor vaccination against the disease. Even if some drug for AIDS were found, it would hardly help those whose immune system has already been seriously depressed. And because the AIDS virus constantly changes, the search for a preventive vaccine becomes an awesome problem. It would be difficult to develop one that would be effective for any length of time. And so the thrust of current research is to find an effective cure.

But aside from the governmental lethargy and the magnitude of the scientific challenge that stifle research interest on the part of pharmaceutical companies, the initial mistaken impression that AIDS is a "gay disease" and the resulting pattern of blaming the victim for the disease, contributed much to official apathy towards the problem.

The government's response has been slow and completely inadequate. After all, it is not the upstanding gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce that are affected; it is "only" the gay community. At the Center for Disease Control, for example, 70 AIDS-related research positions remained empty as recently as March of this year. A mere 4% of the 1984 federal AIDS appropriation was spent on educational projects. These were directed at scientists and health care professionals. Not a dime was spent on educating the population at risk.

Current federal appropriations for all of the AIDS research and other expenses stand at \$126 million. Present estimates place the cost of treating one person with AIDS for the duration of their illness at \$100,000 (\$1.3 billion for the 13,000 cases), far beyond the financial resources of most victims. Yet, a funding request by the Reagan administration for \$70 million more came only, according to the *San Francisco Examiner* (September 26, 1985) with the disclosure of a study that showed West German prostitutes have



San Francisco gays protest governmental apathy.

been communicating AIDS to heterosexual GIs. After all those years it was only last month that President Reagan made mention of AIDS in a public speech.

As if to demonstrate the callous disregard of government officials for the plight of AIDS victims already facing loss of friends, family, job, home, etc. as well as confronting inevitable death from the disease, Colorado Governor Richard Lamm announced his own AIDS prescription. "Either you're 'dying' or you're 'dead,'" Lamm said of AIDS patients. So "at some point treatment may become counterproductive, overtreatment," meaning, AIDS patients have the duty to die and get out of the way.

The cloud of ignorance, combined with government-endorsed inactivity and stubborn homophobia (the paranoia against gays) feeds the hysteria that has found its natural target: the gay community. Now it is the "gay plague" that "threatens our health and morality," just as the foreign-born supposedly take jobs "away from Americans."

## But to the New Right, AIDS is God-sent, and is one more club with which to bludgeon the gay community.

Given this climate of fear, education about the nature and origins of AIDS is crucial not only to calm public fear but, more importantly, to reverse the mounting tide of repressive legislation and mobilization fueled by this hysteria. While directed now at the gay community, this fascistic wind is bound to erode everyone's civil liberties.

### NOT A GAY DISEASE

Present theory about the disease suggests that it originated from the green monkeys of Central Africa. It found its way into humans, was brought to the Caribbean, probably by tourists, and spread to the U.S. which has the highest reported incidence of AIDS. Of the estimated 15,000 cases worldwide, 13,000 are in the U.S., 940 in Europe, 500 in Haiti and a significant number in Australia. There is as yet no major outbreak in Asia.

Much to the chagrin of those contemptuous of the gay lifestyle, AIDS is not a gay disease. The first 50 cases reported in the mid-1970s involved heterosexuals. In Africa it remains mainly a heterosexual disease. But who gets infected by the disease is determined not only by how it is contracted and which group got it first, but also by the boundaries of social and sexual interaction. Simply because AIDS found its first U.S. victims in the gay community, the disease naturally spreads mainly within that group.

### HARD TO CONTRACT

Despite the fear and paranoia about AIDS, it is not easy to contract. Present knowledge indicates that to transmit the disease, the virus must get directly into the blood stream of the recipient. Among health workers

who came in contact with secretions from AIDS victims, only 1% showed exposure to the disease, i.e., the presence of AIDS antibodies. Such exposure does not ensure illness. (Only 5-15% of some one million Americans exposed to AIDS will contract the disease and about 25% will suffer from AIDS-related complex or ARC, which is generally not fatal.)

It has been known for some time that it is not easy to contract AIDS. Yet the hysteria remains—understandably so. But to the New Right, AIDS is God-sent, and is one more club with which to bludgeon the gay community. Jerry Falwell announced that AIDS is God's punishment for immoral acts. As *Science for the People* noted, AIDS represents for politicians an opportunity to score political points with homosexuals and for the preachers to score moral points against them. It has been used to promote repressive and oppose progressive legislation involving civil rights for gay people.

### LEGAL MANEUVERS

In Houston, Texas, a citywide referendum January 19 rescinded 4-to-1 an ordinance that protected gay individuals against job discrimination in city employment and the keeping of files on municipal employees' sexual preferences.

The campaign was mounted by the anti-gay group, the Committee for Public Awareness, headed by Councilman John Gardner. The group collected 61,400 signatures—more than twice the 28,127 needed to reconsider an existing ordinance. Other cities that have suffered erosion of gay rights include Lincoln, Nebraska; Wichita, Kansas, and Eugene, Oregon. Homosexual acts are still illegal in 20 states in the U.S..

In California, Sen. H. L. Richardson used the AIDS hysteria to defeat Assembly Bill I which would have placed gay persons under the protection of the fair employment statutes by adding them to the list of minorities in the anti-discrimination codes.

Exploiting every opportunity to promote fascist politics, Phyllis Schlafly's publication, *The Eagle Forum*, wrote, "Were the ERA [Equal Rights Amendment] ratified, the American family would have no protection against AIDS."

Rep. Bill Ceverha worked on House Bill 2138 designed to prevent and deter homosexual conduct which could "destroy the public health of Texas" by causing the transmission of AIDS.

### NEW RIGHT OFFENSIVE

Indeed, the use of AIDS for anti-gay assault abounds. Prominent preachers in Indianapolis broadcast the names of gay individuals and proclaimed that they should be damned to everlasting hell. Six gay men were murdered in that city last year.

"The poor homosexuals," Pat Buchanan, now a top White House staffer, wrote in 1983, "they have declared war on nature, and now nature is exacting an awful retribution." Some big guns in the New Right, including Falwell, have even called for the quarantine of gays.

Said Paul Cameron of the rightwing Institute for Scientific Investigation of Sexuality: "Homosexuals are potential mass murderers [in] that AIDS could

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