

Preparations for Protests to Go On:

FM Visit 'Re-Set' for Early Next Year

Marcos Lines Up With Reagan in Cancun

Ferdinand Marcos' propagandists said that he would serve as the spokesperson for the underdeveloped South in confrontation with the developed North at the Cancun Summit.

But the Cancun Summit represented, if anything, an impasse. The meet of 22 heads of state at the Mexican island resort October 23-24 was an extravagant flop and Marcos remained well out of the limelight.

What little the Philippine President was heard to say placed him staunchly in the camp of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Aside from a brief quote claiming that the Summit represented "progress," Marcos most distinguished himself by holding a press conference and treating the media to 45 minutes of waterskiing. Throughout the performance, helicopters bearing cameramen circled above immortalizing the event for Philippine T.V.

Mexican President and Conference host Jose Lopez Portillo tried his best to make it appear as if the meeting was a success. A



Marcos water-skiing in Cancun. (AP)

consensus had been reached, he said, about the need for "global negotiations" on economic development and other measures to solve world hunger and poverty.

'IT'S NOT HOPELESS'—TRUDEAU

But an embarrassed conference

Continued on page 4



COMV press conference in L.A. with Maria Abadesco, Greg Santillan, Blase Bonpane and Leonard Weinglass. Stir over F.M. visit spread to several cities.

By NANCY ROCAMORA
Staff Writer

After endless hints, innuendoes and indirect clues from the State Department and Philippine Consulates, a U.S. state visit by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was finally announced.

But the date is set sometime in early 1982, not after the Cancun Summit this month as had been predicted by the *Far Eastern*

Economic Review and other sources.

On Oct. 23, Imelda Marcos told the Manila press, U. S. President Ronald Reagan extended a formal invitation to her husband to visit Washington next year. Mrs. Marcos' comments were confirmed by the U. S. State Department.

"We're grateful to have had a dry run on the visit," commented Walden Bello, Co-Coordinator of the Committee to Oppose the Marcos Visit.

"The added time between now and 'early next year' is precisely what we need to broaden and deepen our preparations against the visit," Bello added.

COMV—AN EXPANDING NETWORK

The U. S.-based anti-Marcos movement, relying on constantly shifting information had prepared a massive "welcome" for the dictator in case the October timing proved correct.

At the center of the campaign was the Committee to Oppose the Marcos Visit, a continually expanding network of over 100 organizations and prominent individuals poised to coordinate "peaceful protest against the Reagan administration's official reception of a dictator."

The Committee includes, among others, U. S. Representatives Walter Fauntroy, Ron Dellums, and Harold Washington; Harvey Cox, theologian from Harvard University; Nobel Prize laureate George Wald; actor Ed Asner;

Isabelle Letelier, human rights activist; Philippine ex-Senator Benigno Aquino; former U. S. Congressman Fr. Robert Drinan and Paul O'Dwyer, former president of the New York City Council.

The Committee not only disapproves of the Marcos regime, but opposes the Reagan administration's foreign policy as well.

MASSIVE PROTESTS PLANNED

One day before Marcos' scheduled arrival in Honolulu prior to the Cancun Summit, on Oct. 15, members of the COMV held a press conference in Washington.

Explaining their criticisms of Marcos and Reagan were Committee members Bello; former U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Stephen Cohen, former Assistant Director of the U. S. State Department Office for Human Rights; Ramon Cardona, a U.S. spokesperson of the Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador and Philip Wheaton, Director of the Ecumenical Program for Inter-American Communication and Action. They also announced plans for massive protests should Marcos visit Washington.

Committee members in other cities busied themselves organizing opposition to the pending visit.

VISIT AROUSES LOCAL CONTROVERSIES

In San Francisco, Committee members seized on every issue concerning the Philippines to build opposition to the visit.

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Pro-, Anti-Groups Trade Chants

Marcos Boomed at Honolulu Airport

Special to the AK

A noisy protest marred President Marcos' arrival at the Honolulu International Airport as he stopped over for a two-day visit on his way to the Cancun Summit Conference in Mexico.

Welcomed by a cheering throng of some 500 supporters who came in chartered buses, Marcos was visibly startled by ear-splitting chants of "Marcos, Hitler, Diktador, Tuta!" by members of the Hawaii Committee Against the Marcos Visit.

Bombarded by a cacophony of loud chants coming from both pro

and anti-groups, Marcos delivered a short speech and introduced members of his entourage, consisting of his daughter Imee, Prime Minister Cesar Virata, Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin and Central Governor Jaime Laya.

The airport crowd barely heard Marcos as his speech was drowned out by shouts of "Marcos is a running dog, down with Marcos," countered by Marcos supporters yelling "We want Marcos."

"You could see Marcos and his daughter Imee were annoyed by the protest," said Sorcy Rocamora, spokesperson of the anti-Marcos group. "This dictator has

not experienced having demonstrators shouting at him from only 25 yards away since he declared martial law."

Noting the strength of the nationwide coalition against the Marcos visit, Rocamora remarked: "We will pull the red carpet from under his nose anywhere he sets foot in the United States."

Observers also said Marcos appeared tense, delivering his speech in straight English "as opposed to last year's very cool and relaxed delivery interspersed with a variety of Pilipino dialects."

Rocamora observed that as in

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Marcos supporters and antis slug it out with banners upon his arrival in Honolulu.

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EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

The Straight-Talking Sheriff of Cancun

The recently concluded Cancun meeting of 22 nations proved that a "new international economic order" cannot be built through such empty dialogues. The meeting was supposed to look for solutions to world hunger and poverty. It was supposed to look for ways of bridging the gap between the rich and poor nations. Instead the meeting showed that the U.S. and the rich capitalist nations are not really interested in the problem.

Aware that quite a few poor nations point to economic domination of developed capitalist countries as the source of Third World underdevelopment, many observers saw the possibility of a confrontation in Cancun. But the United States managed to put a lid on all that. No wonder an ecstatic Alexander Haig was quick to call Cancun a success.

More, the highlight of the meeting was the "straight talk" from Ronald Reagan. That the U.S. dominated Cancun shows that in the polarization between the rich and the poor, the U.S. is the center of the rich pole and is the one who calls the shots. Reagan's straight talk also bares the U.S.' view of the world: other nations exist to serve America's needs.

To the call for more help for poor nations, Reagan essentially said, "Let them eat more of the same." Instead of more equitable trade terms for poor nations, Reagan wants them to facilitate more favorable trade terms for the rich capitalist nations. Straight talk.

Most Third World economies have become captives of big capitalist (particularly U.S.) market and investments. This is essentially the cause of their underdevelopment. As to how such underdevelopment might be alleviated, Reagan wants the poor nations "to do more to facilitate U.S. investments." To end underdevelopment, they must give the rich capitalist nations better chances to penetrate and plunder their economies. More straight talk.

Many Third World nations have long wanted to turn over trade, energy, and other development negotiations to the UN General Assembly—away from the U.S.-dominated World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Reagan of course, opposed such a move.

In other words, Reagan's message was that the U.S. is willing to do nothing, and if the poor nations did not like it, they could leave Cancun by sundown. Imperialism could not have found a better sheriff.

Cancun showed that the U.S. and other developed capitalist nations do not want a new international economic order because the present one serves them just fine. The very source of their wealth is the present order where the Third World gets the short end of the stick. If the people of poor nations want a new international economic order, they will have to gain genuine political-economic independence and break free from the international capitalist orbit, just as the Vietnamese, Angolans, Cubans, and Nicaraguans have done. But to such undertaking Washington will definitely respond not with mere straight talk in some tourist paradise like Cancun but with bullets, bombs, and intervention. That is how interested the U.S. is in exterminating poverty in the Third World. □

... And His Loyal Side-Kick

Ferdinand Marcos left for Cancun amidst a blast of self-orchestrated praise. His controlled media tripped all over itself in ceremoniously announcing the great role the dictator will play in Cancun. "He will be speaking on behalf of the Asean Nations." He will champion the interests of the poor nations, and so on. They stopped short of saying Marcos is ready to challenge Reagan and all the rich rancheros of the West to a showdown.

But Marcos was a sorry sight in Cancun. He was as quiet as a just-branded calf. At one point even, when Reagan arrived late for a session, Marcos broke from the delegates' sullen reception by being the only leader to stand up and subserviently usher Reagan to his seat.

In one instance when Marcos could comment to the press, he chose to echo Reagan's claim that "much progress has been made" at the summit. He even backed up Haig's boast that "Reagan has done a good job." Champion of Third World interests indeed.

All this goes to show that while Marcos always tries to pay lip service to the common concerns of Third World nations in order to gain legitimacy among other world leaders, in the end he knows well enough where his bread is being buttered. In the White House.

He knows that his political fortune depends almost solely on Reagan's backing. Thus, when push comes to shove, he readily abandons his elaborate attempts at gaining a better reputation among other Third World leaders and becomes his real self: the compleat U.S. puppet. □



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Loyal Fan

I am a loyal *Sining Bayan* fan. Their "War Brides" play a year ago was a touching portrayal of the travails of the Filipino women who came here after the second world war. I took my parents to the play in Sacramento and both of them said "That is our story." Now I hear that *Sining Bayan* is performing in Hawaii with "Ti Mangyuna" which I hear is a portrayal of the lives of the early Filipinos in the islands. Is "Ti Mangyuna" going to be shown in mainland cities? Will it be going to Sacramento?

J. Q.
Sacramento, CA

(We would like to show *Ti Mangyuna* elsewhere but we are not certain due to the financial burdens such a tour would involve. The play is being supported by the ILWU and other community groups in Hawaii—Ed.)

Filipino Domestic

Your September 16-30 issue reported on the sad experiences of Filipino domestics in Canada. It is lamentable that some Filipinos themselves exploit their domestics. Not only that they also bring with them the

habit of oppressing their maids as if they were still back home and as if their domestics are not human beings. The Canadian government has always prided itself as not being racist — always comparing itself to the United States. But their preferential treatment of white European domestics shows there is really no difference. There are also many domestics in Italy, some of them former schoolteachers. They also suffer abuse from their employers and neglect by the consulates. The increase in Filipino domestics abroad shows the worsening conditions in the Philippines.

C. V. Ong
Los Angeles, CA

Psst!

According to unassailable sources, the new chief of Marcos' armed forces, Gen. Fabian Ver is travelling in the U.S. and stopping in Washington, D.C. sometime during the third week of October. I personally hate this goon and master spy. A protest is in order if your people manage to track him down. You will be hearing from me from time to time with useful information. Just call me . . .

"The General"
Bronx, NY

Stagnant

Congratulations on your supplement on the 9th anniversary of Marcos' rule. It was comprehensive and accurately points the political tensions unfolding behind "the clean streets and new buildings." I just came back from a visit and know that the stagnancy of the kababayans' economic and social life is overpowering.

R. L.
New York, NY

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Activists Disrupt Virata Talk

NEW YORK—Philippine Prime Minister Cesar Virata was visibly shaken when 11 members of the anti-Marcos movement disrupted his talk before New York's Asia Society October 26.

Virata was 15 minutes into his talk "After Cancun: The View from the South," when opposition forces stood up and called out, "How can you pretend to speak for the Third World when you're a stooge of the Americans?"

"Why don't you talk about repression in the Philippines?" called out representatives of the Committee Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD), Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN), and the Committee to Oppose the Marcos Visit (COMV).

"Asia Society is legitimizing a repressive regime by allowing this fellow a forum!" they added.

AUDIENCE DISTURBED

The disruption lasted for 20 to 25 minutes while Philippine

Levy Restored

Cronies 1, Technocrats 0 in Fight Over Coconuts

By Nancy Rocamora
Staff Writer

Economic observers watching a raging behind-the-scenes battle between the Philippine Technocrats and Marcos cronies gave Round 1 to the cronies as of October 2.

Coconut barons Eduardo Cojuangco and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile scored a knock-down against Prime Minister Cesar Virata when Marcos decreed the return of the coconut levy only three weeks after having suspended it.

The government levy of 76 centavos per kilo of copra was suspended at Virata's insistence as part of a program to give "free market forces" a chance to regulate prices. Virata himself is under pressure from the Intermonetary Fund and World Bank to remove tariffs, levies and other government "restraints" on the economy.

SUBSIDIZING THE FARMER TO PAY THE LEVY

The 76 centavo levy came out of the pocket of the 15 million coconut farmers throughout the country and allegedly went into government coffers.

At the time of the suspension, copra was selling at ₱2 per kilo. A portion of this however, came from the government in the form of a subsidy per kilo of copra.

The subsidy was needed to keep the market price of coconut above production costs for farmers forced to hand over 76 centavos to the government for every kilo sold.

The Sept. 9 removal of the levy did away with the subsidy as well. The new price of ₱1.40 per kilo was commensurate with prevailing world market prices and left coconut farmers better off by 16 centavos per kilo.

PRICES PLUNGE

Virata hoped that the new lo-



Prime Minister Cesar Virata.

Consulate officials and members of Virata's party remained stunned.

Asia Society officials finally ejected the group. But the action had had a powerful effect on both speakers and audience.

Leonard Silk, *New York Times* columnist invited to comment on the speech, noted, "Clearly the U.S. has to put its house in order and so must Third World coun-

tries. The question raised by the protestors tonight have to trouble us."

SERVING NOTICE TO MARCOS

Both Virata and Asia Society were placed on the defensive. "We had to prevent the tyranny of the minority over the majority," concluded an Asia Society spokesperson in an effort to explain throwing out the protestors.

There was little applause at the end of the program. Guests exited to be greeted by the protestors bolstered by an additional 30 militant picketers. "Virata is a U.S. puppet; Down with Virata!" they shouted.

"This very successful protest should serve notice to Virata that he can no longer go around the U.S. unchallenged while speaking for the dictatorship," said Geline Avila of CAMD.

Added Avila, "This should also serve notice to Marcos on what to expect when he comes here." □

wer prices would stimulate the ailing coconut industry, prompting increased trade and, ultimately, higher prices. Instead prices plummeted to as low as 30 centavos per kilo.

Since all coconut oil mills in the country are under either the direct or indirect control of UNICOM (United Coconut Oil Mills), all eyes turned toward this coconut monopoly as the force behind the price plunge. Prices were being forced down, sources said, because UNICOM refused to buy copra without the levy.

Why should a private company be so protective of government revenues?

WHO IS UNICOM ?

UNICOM is not just any private company. Presided over by Enrile as Board Chairman and President respectively, it is widely regarded as Marcos' own mechanism for

wielding personal control over the industry. And Marcos apparently maintains the authority, in spite of the "lifting" of martial law, to decree whatever the monopoly may require.

The main beneficiary of the coconut levy, in fact, has historically been UNICOM.

The supposed purpose of the government is to subsidize either mass consumption of coconut-based products such as cooking oil or the buying of copra when market prices slide below production costs. But industry sources estimate that less than 20 percent of the fund has actually been used for these purposes.

The bulk of levy funds, totalling more than \$1 billion in nine years of collection, has been deposited with the United Coconut Planters Bank, presided over by Enrile. A large portion of these funds has

Continued on page 4



Copra drying in the sun; price dictated by F.M. cronies.

Buod ng mga Balita

By EMIL DE GUZMAN

CLERGYMEN ARRESTED, TORTURED

In a renewed drive against church dissent, Father Pepito Bernardo, diocesan priest from Nueva Ecija, was once again arrested and tortured by Philippine military on August 10, 1981.

Fr. Pites, as he is commonly called, had just arrived in Baler, Quezon when he was accosted by the Integrated National Police (INP). Just one year ago in September 1980, he was arrested and detained for three months at Camp Bagong Diwa.

The clergyman was interrogated for almost two sleepless days and nights and then transferred to Camp Olivas in Pampanga. Eleven days after the arrest, Fr. Pites was shown a copy of a "Presidential Commitment Order" charging him with subversion. He demanded to see the original order but was refused by military authorities. He is still serving time in Camp Olivas.

In a related development, Pastor Romeo Obedencio Buenavides of the United Church of Christ (UCCP) was arrested by a barrio of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines (UCCP) was arrested by a barrio captain in Bangonay Jabonga, Agusan del Norte. The barrio official pulled a pistol on him and dragged him by the collar 20 meters from a group of lother UCCP ministers on a public street.

Pastor Romeo, a former detainee, was brought to the baranggay captain's house and was beaten with an armalite butt and slapped in the face. His ₱330 was confiscated and he was further tortured during an interrogation by soldiers who jumped on his thighs while he sat crosslegged.

Under threats of having his fingers cut off, Pastor Romeo signed a confession containing false accusations.

For several days, other UCCP pastors, family and friends pressured the provincial commanders. They filed a writ of *habeas corpus* and were granted a court hearing the next day that ordered the military to release the churchman.

On August 7 at an ecumenical prayer rally attended by 300 people denouncing his torture, Pastor Romeo arrived with his lawyer.

In an eloquent speech, the Pastor told the group, "What happened to me is an example of the struggle for the poor and oppressed. The fruits will be realized by the next generation who will bear witness to our resistance. Remain steadfast in face of future challenges." □

NEARLY 200,000 WORKERS LAID-OFF

The Philippine government released statistics in September revealing that 189,561 workers were laid-off during the first half of 1981.

Given the government tendency to understate such figures, observers noted that factory shutdowns and cutbacks in production may have taken a much higher toll on Filipino workers.

The hard-hit industries were textiles and garment manufacturing, with metals and mining slightly behind. The largest workforce lay-off was in the agricultural sector due to price slumps in coconut and sugar.

Observers from this paper and elsewhere had predicted massive lay-offs in the textile industry when World Bank pressures forced the government to remove tariffs on textiles and clothing imports (see *AK, Vol. VIII, No. 16, Special Supplement*). Local industries were no match for the cheaply made imports and began to buckle under the pressure of competition.

The price slumps in metals, sugar and coconut reflect both the international cutbacks in raw materials purchases and poor economic planning by the Philippine government.

As a temporary solution to the unemployment problem, authorities are seeking overseas employment for laid-off workers.

Overseas employment, however, has not been without headaches. Philippine press reports are filled with workers' tales of exploitation and cheating by unscrupulous recruiters and contractors, and bad working conditions. □

PC 'SALVAGES' TWO IN ZAMBALES

Two peasants, one an organizer, are presumed dead in separate incidents in Zambales province by Philippine Constabulary troops.

Twenty-eight year old Eduardo Fetalvero, a peasant organizer was shot and wounded by soldiers of the 162nd PC Company on September 10. He was brought to Ramon Magsaysay Hospital and later transferred to Camp Conrado Yap.

Eleven days after his apprehension, he was visited by relatives. On September 26, they were informed by the military that he was dead.

This is the second murder involving the notorious provincial commander Col. Tagacam. The first death was in June when Edilberto Añonuevo of Masinlunaos, Zambales was captured by the same PC company. He was brought to the same hospital as Fetalvero, but was missing when relatives tried to visit him. □

Filipino Students Demand Quality Education

By NENE OJEDA
Staff Writer

Students in the Philippines are once again marching in the streets, their banners held high.

Following the tradition of the tumultuous First Quarter Storm of 1970, student concerns are not just the annual rise of tuition fees and the continuing decline of academic standards.

The entire Philippine educational system is at stake, they claim. Drastic changes proposed by the Marcos regime will not only undermine the quality of education today, but threaten to place serious limitations on the capacities of future generations to analyze and solve their problems.

FOLLOWING WORLD BANK DICTATES

Today's students, like their older brothers and sisters some ten years ago, target a school system geared to serve foreign interests more than it benefits the country's youth. For underlying these proposed changes, they insist, is the desire to produce skilled labor needed to man the increasing number of foreign companies drawn to the country by President Ferdinand Marcos' economic policy of export-led growth.

The country's industrialization has been recommended and financed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Fully cooperating with these lending institutions, Philippine economic planners hope to entice foreign export-producing companies, notably American, to set up shop in the Philippines by providing ideal industrial sites and cheap skilled labor.

The resurgence in student unrest was spurred by a draft bill proposed to the National Assembly two summers ago.

Parliamentary Bill No. 524, authored by Minister of Education and Culture (MEC) Onofre D. Corpus, sought to place under the ministry's supervision all of the country's educational institutions. His measure, proponents claim, will facilitate the implementation of the country's economic development goals.

Popularly known as the Education Code of 1980, the bill's

centralization clause initially provoked the University of the Philippines' (UP) student and academic bodies.

ACADEMIC AUTONOMY THREATENED

Chartered universities and colleges such as UP and the Mindanao State University (MSU), exempted from any state educational regulation, have earned academic reputations as leading schools of higher learning. Both have also earned the reputation of being the bastions of campus militancy.

Under the new code, all chartered universities and colleges will lose their autonomy.

EXPANSION OF MEC AUTHORITY

Still pending before the Batasang Pambansa (National Assembly), the bill calls for the MEC to draft and submit to the Batasan an annual plan for education at all levels. The MEC will then formulate rules and regulations for the full implementation of the approved programs, and activities.

The centralization clause, contend the bill's opponents, expands the MEC's authority to:

- *determine the number and kind of educational institutions it will establish or allow to operate;
- *choose both academic and technical courses to be instituted;
- *regulate the number of stu-

dents at a given time to be enrolled in a given course at a given institution;

*subject instructors to review for approval or disapproval by an "academic body" whose expertise and background need not be similar to those of the instructors.

Students remain hardest hit. The MEC, under another clause in the bill, reserves the right to choose graduates of state universities and colleges to work for government posts or any other position it decides as necessary.

PSCPE: EDUCATION TO SUIT MULTI-NATIONALS

Opponents of the bill point to its origins in the pre-Martial Law Presidential Committee to Study Philippine Education (PSCPE), a body established in 1969 with funds from the Ford Foundation.

In 1970, the PSCPE released its startling finding: the Philippines produced too many college graduates, one-third of them were unable to find stable employment.

The PCSPE thus proposed drastic reorientation of the country's school system. PCSPE proponents insisted that this was needed to suit the country's national development goals.

Why not, asked students of the seventies, demand the creation of more jobs for educated adults? The PSCPE recommendation, they insisted, was a mere scheme to prepare more skilled workers to man projected U.S. factories.

Confronted by militant opposition, the PSCPE proponents shelved the plan—at least temporarily until conditions were more favorable.

TRACKING STUDENTS TO VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

With the imposition of martial law, the PCSPE's plans reappeared under the guise of Presidential Decree 6-A, the Educational Development Plan.

The first step in reorienting the Philippine educational system occurred with the introduction of the National College Entrance Exam (NCEE). Although proposed as a means of promoting higher academic standards, the NCEE actually served to track prospective college applicants into vocational training.

NCEE opponents cynically commented on the NCEE's right timing: the class of 1974 high school graduates, first to take the NCEE, finished vocational training just as the first export-processing zone opened its doors for employment.

SKILLED LABOR TRAINED

Through World Bank loans totalling some \$80 million, various projects studied alternatives to the training of more skilled labor through formal and non-formal means.

A presidential order was released to shift the focus of high school curriculum to vocational training.

High school graduates, the order said, should be guaranteed marketable skills even without higher learning.

Ten Regional Manpower Training Centers were established to meet this need. The RMTC's are conveniently located in major industrial regions where export processing zones are or will be established.

POOL OF TRAINED LABOR

Upon receipt of a \$100 million loan from the World Bank, Minister Corpus presented in return a ten-year elementary school reform program.

This program proposes an answer to the World Bank's call to equal access to elementary education to "create a labor pool receptive to training."

To open up elementary school training, the MEC will cut down the number of elementary school subjects from eight to three for the first three grades with an additional course to be added for the last three years.

Critics see this as a deliberate watering down of education. By removing the physical and social sciences from the elementary school curriculum, the plan insures that young children will not be taught to think analytically or to be socially aware.

This proposed elementary school reform will, however, meet the minimum goal of producing a literate society able to follow instructions and become skilled craftsmen.

FUTURE AT STAKE

The redirection of Philippine education to become a mill cranking out a skilled literate labor force is not yet complete.

The Education Code remains a bill and the elementary school program will not be implemented until next year.

But the students and educators themselves long ago realized the far reaching effects of the bills and proposals to reorient Philippine education.

Filipino students and educators have begun to fight for the future that is theirs. And in the face of open brutality they will continue to fight for their future at stake. □



Resurgent student activists; fighting neo-colonial education.

Cancun . . .

Continued from page 1

co-chairman, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, conceded that no date, site, agenda or preparatory steps for the "negotiations" had been decided.

"Still, it's not hopeless," Trudeau concluded.

The embarrassed attempt to project "success" for the Cancun Summit barely concealed the differences between participants.

Third World countries have long pushed for the transfer of negotiations on international economic relations away from U.S.-controlled institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to the United Nations where each nation has one vote and the underdeveloped countries form the vast majority. Several western countries, including France and Canada, sup-

port the call.

At Cancun, Reagan could not directly oppose the proposal for "global negotiations" without courting isolation. But conceding on the general point and refusing to discuss the particulars, Reagan successfully defused the key issue. As one newspaper's headline put it: "U.S. Keeps the Lid on Cancun."

REAGAN PUSHES 'FREE TRADE'

In the months preceding the Cancun meeting, the Reagan administration issued a hardline position. Its core was the question of foreign aid versus foreign investment. The developing South, claimed Reagan and his spokespersons, should do more to facilitate foreign trade. "Free trade" was the best medicine to spur investment. Meanwhile aid from the North was to be cut back.

The talk of development via "free trade" represents the U.S. attempt to transfer the cost of crisis of western capitalism to the Third World. Its parallel lies in

Reagan's domestic cutback policy.

Many Third World leaders, however, insist that relying on investment for development purposes will distort their economies in the interests of the investor nations.

"Can we expect them to invest in irrigation systems?" asked an African leader.

MARCOS—REAGAN'S BOY ON THE WORLD STAGE

Cancun was hardly the "watershed in world history" that Ferdinand Marcos had predicted.

But the Summit provided Marcos both with an invitation for a U.S. state visit and an opportunity to express his staunch support for Ronald Reagan. "Progress" had been made, he said in spite of the obvious statement that Cancun represented.

For Marcos, this was a new step. While he had earlier shown his willingness to cooperate with the U.S. on a regional scale, at Cancun he was able to act as Reagan's boy on a global stage. □

Coconut Cronies . . .

Continued from page 3

in turn been used to buy most of the coconut mills in the country for UNICOM.

Only two mills remain outside of UNICOM's direct control and these were forced by direct presidential decree to "affiliate" with the monopoly. This private company thus controls all milling and all exports of one of the country's key products.

THE REAL LOSERS

The coconut monopoly has proven highly profitable for Marcos and company. A recent review by the Central Bank revealed that UNICOM was unable to account for \$40 million in subsidy funds.

For the 15 million Filipinos dependent on the industry, UNICOM has meant disaster. When the world market price for coconut

is high, the farmer's profit are drained off through a higher levy or low monopoly price. When world prices drop, UNICOM uses all manner of excuses for not providing the required subsidies.

On Oct. 2, Ferdinand Marcos restored the levy—now at only 50 centavos per kilo. UNICOM resumed its purchases at prevailing market prices. But the decree said nothing about restoring the subsidy.

Prior to Sept. 9, coconut farmers received ₱2 per kilo less the 76 centavo levy (₱1.24). Today, they receive ₱1.40 less the new 50 centavo levy (₱0.90).

The battle may thus have been between the technocrats and the cronies, but the real losers of Round 1 are the farmers. They now receive 34 centavos less for each kilo of copra than they did before the match began. □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

Conflict of Interest Charged

Lawyer Challenged in Dictado Trial

Special to the AK

Deputy Prosecutor Joanne Maida requested a court hearing October 22 to prevent Attorney James Grubb from defending alleged Filipino gangleader Fortunato (Tony) Dictado.

Citing conflict of interest on Grubb's part, Maida stated in court papers that Dictado "would be better off with an attorney who would be unaffected by divided loyalties."

Dictado is the third person charged with two counts of aggravated first degree murder in the June 1 slaying of cannery union officials Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes.

Dictado's trial was reset for November 30 at the King County Superior Court.

Grubb unsuccessfully defended Jaime Bulosan Ramil, one of the two men found guilty September 24 of the same charges, after a much-publicized trial that spanned seven weeks.

Ramil and his co-accused, Pompeyo Guloy are still waiting to be formally sentenced with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.



Fortunato "Tony" Dictado, murder conspiracy suspect.

Jesse Reyes Illustration

Maida asserted that due to certain positions Grubb maintained during Ramil's trial, Grubb could be inhibited from putting up the best defense for Dictado.

The prosecution attorney also noted Grubb is still representing Ramil in his appeal to overturn

the guilty verdict.

According to Maida, potential conflict could arise if the state decides to call Ramil as a prosecution witness in Dictado's trial.

Because Grubb is still representing Ramil at his sentencing and appeal, the defense attorney

would be in a position to cross examine his own client while trying to defend Dictado.

Maida closed her affidavit saying another lawyer with no prior involvement in the case might decide that Dictado's best defense is "to blame Ramil for the killings, and to claim that he (Dictado) was in no way involved."

The prosecution attorney charged Grubb could not put up that defense since he represents Ramil, and must therefore "assume a defense consistent with Ramil's," which in Maida's opinion, "may not be Dictado's best defense."

Thus, Maida contended, where "a possibility of a conflict of representation exists," the court can order Grubb off the case.

The court hearing on Maida's motion is scheduled for October 29 at the King County Superior Court.

At their trial, both Ramil and Guloy argued through their lawyers they had no ties with the Tulisan, a notorious Filipino gang purportedly led by Dictado.

The state contended Ramil and Guloy acted on orders from Dictado to execute Domingo and Viernes, whose tough union poli-

cies threatened the gang's gambling interests in Alaska canneries.

Guloy's lawyer, Anthony Meyers went as far as saying in his opening statement that Dictado "was the actual murderer," while Grubb stopped short of blaming Dictado for the slayings.

When Dictado took the stand as a prosecution witness at Ramil and Guloy's trial, Grubb revealed Tulisan gang-members bore a tattoo on their left shoulder.

Upon Grubb's request, Dictado displayed his tattoo confirming his membership with the Tulisan.

In his closing statement, Grubb argued there was no evidence Ramil had such a tattoo, and attempted to dissociate Ramil from the gang.

In addition, Grubb also failed to dispute testimony given in the previous murder trial concerning a suspected getaway car identified as a black Trans-Am owned by Dictado.

When called to the stand, Patricia Wilson, a sixteen-year old high school student positively identified Dictado's car as the vehicle seen speeding away from the murder scene immediately after the shooting. □

FM in Honolulu . . .

Continued from page 1

the previous Marcos visit last April when he spoke before the American Newspaper Association Convention in Waikiki, the welcome committee was again organized by the Philippine Consulate, pro-Marcos community leaders and travel agents who directly benefit from the Marcos regime.

BRIBING THE COMMUNITY?

"The arrival of Marcos in Honolulu exposes once again the manipulation that these people do to the community," said Moy Tacazon of the Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP).

"They promised people free lunches, movie entertainment and drinks if they came to meet Marcos," exposed Tacazon.

"They also threatened oppositionists with a planeload of security agents. Clearly, Marcos brings martial rule to Honolulu everytime he comes," fumed Tacazon.

LESS PEOPLE 'BOUGHT'

A Honolulu Star Bulletin report noted the pro-Marcos crowd was considerably smaller than the one that greeted him last year.

Then, an estimated 4,000 people, including Governor George Ariyoshi and former Secretary of State Dean Rusk welcomed him at the airport. The governor is currently in Japan.

"It was interesting to see their chartered buses coming from all over Oahu with only three, four, or ten people aboard," said Tacazon.

"They were mostly senior citizens and children. I think people have realized that they were used last year, so they did not allow themselves to be bought again," observed Tacazon.

In his speech, Marcos told the crowd he will be the only leader from Southeast Asia attending the Cancun meeting, thus making him the "unofficial spokesman of the region."

In addition, Marcos said several times that President Reagan would be seated next to him at the conference.

"If anything, the Cancun conference will again expose Marcos' puppetry to the U.S.," said Dean Alegado of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP).

"As third world countries in the conference are expected to decry the present capitalist economic order led by the U.S.," Alegado continued, "Marcos' role will be to defend Reagan who will always be a good provider of aid and support for small industrializing nations like the Philippines."

"In other words, Marcos will be expected to act as a self-imposed spokesperson for Asean whose principal task is to defend U.S. economic, military, and political interests in Southeast Asia."

PROMISES, PROMISES

To draw applause from the crowd, Marcos announced his constitutional amendment will allow overseas Filipinos to buy land in the Philippines.

"I don't care," quipped an old manong holding a Kentucky Fried Chicken box handed by a Marcos organizer.

"I have been here for more than 20 years, and I can buy any piece of property if I want to - if I had the money."

"The problem is I don't have it," he said as he sank his teeth on a chicken leg. "I only came to get this lunch because it is Sunday, and we don't have free meal programs on Sundays." □

Nurses to Get 1-Year Permit?

By ANNATESS ARANETA

SACRAMENTO—The State Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) passed a controversial resolution giving California nurses 12-month interim permits, in an effort to offset the discriminatory impact of the current nursing licensure test.

The board reached its decision at a meeting held October 23 at the Department of Consumer Affairs Office.

The year-long permit to practice nursing is viewed as a compromise at an earlier board proposal for a two-year interim permit was vehemently opposed by the elite California Nursing Association (CNA).

Patty Majchar, board chairperson, said of the resolution, "I feel sorry it couldn't be a longer period of time, but we had to go for the most realistic."

The resolution will have to be approved within 30 days by the Director of Consumer Affairs and Office of Administrative Law before it can be implemented.

"If it is approved," said Executive secretary Barbara Brusstar, "first-time examinees can apply for a year-long interim permit which I believe is not renewable, should the examinees fail the licensure exam."

Lillian Galedo of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO) commented, "The 12-month interim period is a concession we can support. Originally, we proposed an 18-month permit. Our concern was that foreign-trained nurses took the exam at a disadvantage, by not having enough time to study for it, acculturate, and still maintain the job contracts they hold.



The BRN at a session with student nurses.

"But the exam is still a problem because minority nurses fail it as well," Galedo emphasized.

FIRINGS, DEPORTATIONS

The day before the BRN meeting, the Board held an "open mike" session heavily attended by student nurses.

Luisa Blue of Service Employees International Union Local 400, and Bill Tamayo of the Asian Law Caucus testified against the licensure exam which they charged as still "unfair," despite BRN efforts to correct it.

"A bad exam is a bad exam, you cannot improve it," stated Luisa Blue, referring to the piecemeal efforts to eliminate biased questions from the exam, but not changing it.

Blue charged the exam still riminates on minority and foreign trained nurses, many of whom are losing their jobs as they fail the exam and their permits terminated.

Tamayo stressed deportations are still a real danger as H-1 nurses fail the exam and lose their interim permits.

Student nurses in the same

meeting equated the lowering of scores on test results with lowering of standards. They also feared lowered scores will prevent reciprocity with other states.

Majchar explained that eliminating biased questions from the exams correspondingly lowered the scores as there were less test items.

"But examinees get two scores," Majchar clarified, "one is the national score and the other is an adjusted California score."

She assured the students that the national score will be acknowledged for reciprocity with other states.

The students were visibly relieved and surprised. It was apparent that many of them were not even aware of the current exam's adverse impact on minority and foreign graduates.

At one point, Pat Norris, a BRN member asked California Nurses Association (CNA) representative Marilyn Chow if students were being informed correctly about the issues. A defensive Ms. Chow replied, "I think that is an unfair question." □

Long-Time Union Leader to Retire:

A Success Story of a Different Kind

By ANNATESS ARANETA
Staff Writer

The 14-year old boy from Zambales lied about his age and came to Hawaii on May 10, 1930, one of hundreds of nervous but very determined Filipino contract laborers recruited for the island's huge sugar plantations.

Being extraordinarily young, and a foreigner, Carl Damaso never imagined he would one day become president of the largest union local in the world.

For December this year, Damaso, 65, will retire as president of the International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 142, a post he kept for 17 years after being re-elected eight times as president.

When he arrived 51 years ago, Damaso found work at the Olaa Sugar Company, now called the Puna Sugar Company where he stayed for four years.

'WEANED' IN STRIKES

As a young worker, Damaso enthusiastically joined a 3-month strike in 1934, when company workers struck for higher wages, better working conditions, housing and hospitalization.

"I was a student before I got to Hawaii so I knew a little English. Because of this, my co-workers chose me as their spokesperson.

"I do not like the word 'illiterate' especially when it is said of Filipinos. But when people cannot read and write, they found it hard to stand up for their rights," Damaso explained.

Jose Figueras, a Philippine resident commissioner was dispatched to Hawaii to break up the strike. He offered some strikers jobs as camp police and soon everyone was rehired, with the exception of Damaso. Subsequent-

ly, he was blacklisted.

After Olaa, he left for Maui where he worked for a year at the Wailuku Sugar Company before he was fired for union activities.

For a whole year he was unable to find work. In late 1936, he was hired by the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S). But Damaso could not stay out of union activities.

"Conditions in the plantations and the respectability of workers are what kept me fighting for labor," he said.

LEADERSHIP ROLE TAPPED

He later became one of the leaders of Vibora Luviminda, a Filipino initiated union founded by Antonio Fagel. The organization's name was derived from Filipino revolutionary Gen. Artemio Ricarte's nom-de-guerre—"Vibora"— and the three main islands in the Philippines: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Although Damaso was deeply involved with the union, he disapproved of its exclusively Filipino composition, and he eventually parted with Fagel on this issue. "We cannot be concerned only about Filipinos without taking up the concerns of other workers," stressed Damaso who advocated Vibora's affiliation with AFL-CIO.

BLACKLISTED

When a labor-management dispute broke out over wages and working conditions in HC&S on April 20, 1937, one thousand Vibora Luviminda members and 2,000 Filipino supporters struck for three months, even after being evicted from the plantation only three days after the strike began.

A make-shift camp known as "Little Manila" was set up on

Kahului Beach, where the use of public buildings for strikers' meetings was prohibited, and no running water was made available.

Management recruited scabs from the Work Progress Administration and machine guns were stationed on top of a hill to keep strikers at bay.

"When the strikers saw the guns, they were determined to fight," Damaso recalls. "My idea was to call the boss' bluff. If they shoot, they can shoot, but we will not do anything to provoke them."

He along with eight other strike leaders arrested on a second-degree kidnapping charge.

"It's a long story, and I wouldn't exactly call it kidnapping. We just wanted to question one of management's boys. The bosses really made a big issue out of it to

get the leaders of the strike," Damaso related. Fagel was sent to prison for six months while Damaso and seven others were given suspended sentences with one year probation.

THE UNION: HIS CALLING

Later, Damaso worked for the Castle and Cooke terminals where a strike broke out in 1949. He was promptly appointed picket captain by the strikers.

Given the large number of Filipinos on strike, he also acted as interpreter for the well-known leftist, Harry Bridges, who was then the ILWU International president.

"Harry Bridges had a lot of political influence on me," Damaso revealed, "and I had a lot of influence on him too."

HIS RISE TO UNION LEADERSHIP

Damaso steadily rose to leadership within ILWU Local 142. In 1950 he was elected business agent for longshore units in Oahu. He stayed business agent for 10 years and from 1960 to 1963, he served as Oahu Division Director.

In 1964, Damaso became president of Local 142, which currently has some 20,000 Filipinos in its ranks.

"I am proud of the positions I held. If holding office means I could fight for labor better, then I accept the responsibility," he remarked.

On the eve of his retirement, members of his Local fondly observe that throughout his life in the labor movement, he has never forgotten that he is a product of the working class.

When asked about the future of the union Damaso said, "My intention is to let membership maintain unity and solidarity. They should make the officers work for them. This is especially important in negotiations."

LEARN FROM PAST STRUGGLES

"I will continue convincing young people to read the history of past struggles. What the young benefit from now, the oldtimers worked hard for. Had it not been for the struggles of my early days, I would not have developed my leadership."

Damaso's colleagues observe that he is counting the days and minutes as his term comes to a close. "Carl," they say, "wishes to prolong the moments." He wants to continue serving a union whose colorful history is matched by his own hard life as a worker and trade unionist. □



Carl Damaso, ILWU Local 142 president.

Filipino Electronics Workers

Afraid, Many are Exploited

Special to the AK

Several years ago, a booming electronics industry beckoned immigrants to Santa Clara, California. Of 150,000 workers that man the electronic companies, 20,000 are Filipinos. Three out of every four Filipino families in Santa Clara work in the industry. Some of these families moved from other cities for jobs in the "Silicon Valley".

As the industry experiences a slump and companies threaten to move to other states, union organizers are worried about the displacement of the massive workforce.

AK correspondent, Becky Villones, talked to a Filipino whose family is made up entirely of electronics workers. The man talking in eloquent Tagalog, told Villones what he thinks of the working conditions, the attitude of Filipinos and the spectre of massive lay-offs.

Here in Sta. Clara Valley, the first thing newly-arrived immigrants think of is work—and any work that happens to be there, they grab. Most Filipinos in the Valley end up in the electronics industry. No matter what their background on profession, they

are all in the same bottom-level when hired.

From the onset of hiring, discrimination is apparent. There are various job classifications in the company. The lowest entry-level positions are reserved for minority workers such as Filipinos. So you see highly-educated Filipinos in the Wafer fabrication plant. In my place, there are doctors, nurses and one lawyer. In National Semi-Conductor where I work, a majority of Filipinos are in production assembly—swing shift. There are 2,000 of us there.

The average entry-level wage three years ago was \$3.00 an hour. Today, it is adjusted to \$4.00 per hour.

Worker's performance is reviewed every six months. If the review is favorable, they get 35¢ per hour increase. In one year, the worker's salary increases by 70¢ an hour.

The maximum wage for production technicians is \$7.00 per hour. When the maximum is reached, the increases stop and the salary stays fixed.

ARE THE FILIPINOS HAPPY?

Consider the Filipinos in the assembly line. Many of them are

women—either elderly, or housewives. These women are very grateful for their jobs.

They always compare their employment gain with their situation in the homeland where they were not earning anything at all, and where the economic conditions are relatively bad.

For them, it is the greatest break in their lives to be earning. You can clearly see how they are exploited for this mentality.

Standard labor law rules that companies should give workers a 15 minute break in the morning, a half-hour lunch and another 15 minute break in the afternoon. Filipinos usually go back to work before their lunch break is over. They don't even take their afternoon break at all, in order to reach their daily production quotas.

The Filipino workers try to surpass their quotas hoping to please the foreman. Seeing the increased capacity, the foreman raises the quotas, forcing all workers to work doubly hard for the same pay. Therefore, the company extracts more labor time from the workers.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODES VIOLATED

At National Semi-Conductors,

many of us work under unsafe conditions.

Sometimes the place is full of fumes from acids and other chemicals passing through the vent hoods. Chemicals such as aquaregent have destructive effects on the central nervous system.

A chemical called TCE causes cancer. It had to be banned from use. Workers are not informed of the dangers of the chemicals used. Filipinos do not complain, even when repelled by the nauseating odor.

Sometimes supervisors do something about the fumes. But sometimes, all they think about are production quotas that have to be met.

It is hard to make Filipinos join the union because of the type of people here. As mentioned earlier, many of those who work here are women who are working for the first time.

They never knew what a union was. Some of them have different notions of what the union is. They think the union is a rebel group organized against the company.

Because they feel a debt-of-gratitude towards the company, they shy away from the union. On the other hand, there are those who say they fully agree

with the union, but they don't get involved, and don't attend meetings.

RUNAWAY SHOPS AND COMPANY MANIPULATION

Filipinos do not feel the reality of runaway shops as of yet. Massive lay-offs seem distant to them.

My company, for instance, makes the workers believe the company does not lay-off people.

Some time ago, the company announced there was a slump in the market. The announcement was followed by a hiring freeze. Within the company, people were transferred around.

One shift suddenly closed, and the workers were distributed to other shifts or other work areas. As a result, workers developed problems with their carpools, childcare, class schedules—for those who go to school. The company orders them into quitting, and the workers think they quit voluntarily. I suspect more workers will lose their jobs. Many of the workers are in the same boat.

I continue to stay because I think the workers, especially Filipinos should join the union and do something about their working conditions. I personally think it will take a long time but it should be done. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

News Analysis

IRAN: A REVOLUTION DERAILED

By VINCE REYES
Staff Writer

Two-and-a-half years after the fiercely fought revolution which overthrew the notorious U.S.-backed Shah Mohammed Reza, Iran remains the most volatile country in the Mideast.

The face of authority has changed with the advent of the Ayatullah Roholla Khomeini but the ugly sneer of repression remains as steadfast as in the days of the Shah.

The political bombings and executions which dominate the news around Iran are only the phenomena of the deeply-rooted problems which mire Iranian politics both internally and internationally.

GEM OF THE MIDEAST

Iran is a country rich in both natural and human resources. Its oil reserves are the largest in the world next to Saudi Arabia. Even if there were no oil in the country its lands abundantly store valuable iron ores and also have the capacity for rich agricultural development.

These resources, combined with the largest human population in the Gulf region potentially make Iran a powerful nation.

Iran also has one of the oldest revolutionary traditions in the world. Having experienced mass uprisings in 1911, 1919, 1945, plus continuous rebellion against the Shah since 1953, the Iranian people are not one to shy away from political upheavals.

In the international arena, Iran is in a strategic political and military location which accounts for the deep interest in its future by the United States and other Western powers. Iran borders the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, and is also flanked by Turkey.

U.S. interest in Iran was of no small consequence when in the early 1950s a CIA-backed military coup moved against nationalist leader Dr. Mozzadegh to install the Shah.

The Shah insured complete diplomatic servitude to U.S. foreign policy and business interests, highlighting the neo-colonial control of the U.S. over Iran. The U.S. pumped billions of dollars into the country to create an important military power in the region as a watchdog against "Soviet expansion" but more importantly to protect its business holdings in oil.

Thus, when the revolutionary movement overthrew the Shah in 1978, the U.S. was visibly enraged and shaken.

Since that time America's bitterness over its "loss of Iran" has prompted it to build up its Rapid Deployment Forces for eventual intervention there and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The U.S. skillfully used the American hostage situation to get worldwide sympathy and to launch an "anti-terrorist" campaign which Reagan is now the international "marshall." The U.S.' recent maneuvers over Libya and dispatch of advisers to Egypt and the Sudan are also

part of its "get tough" act.

THE FORCES OF CHANGE

The 1978 Iranian revolution was the effort of a wide spectrum of political and religious forces.

There were the social democrats who were mainly the traditional opposition forces to the Shah. Secondly, there were the progressive leftists and communists who were represented by the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran and the Organization of Iranian People's Fedaii Guerrillas.

These groups were largely led by young workers and well-educated students who drew support from the Iranian working classes. The Majahedin and Fedaii consciously chose direct and violent confrontation with the Shah as the only means to rid

modern politics yet it was for that very reason they chose to oppose the Shah.

The Clerics aligned with the movement against U.S. domination, driven by the fear that multinational corporations and foreign influence were displacing the religious orders and changing the cultural and fundamentalist standards of Iran as a whole.

Repression by the Shah had always been fierce. He moved decisively against the people's movement. The leftists were either assassinated or driven out of the country.

There was not a unified trade union movement nor a strong, independent social democratic movement which had the organizational means to mobilize for revolution. In many ways, the bloody

Led by Khomeini who previously led an unsuccessful revolt in 1963, the Clerics came to power. Old and frail at 81 years of age, Khomeini is a charismatic leader who virtually embodies the Moslem religion in his every gesture.

Although his word is law, the technical aspects and day-to-day functioning of his regime is operated by other fundamentalists who have his blessings.

After the Shah was deposed, Khomeini formed the Islamic Republican Party. Because the mullahs do not recognize secular politics, much less the role of the Mojahedin and Fedaii, many of the forces who participated in the joint effort to overthrow the Shah were barred from the establishment of a new order.

war, is still consuming millions of dollars a day, and the cost in human life is high.

There is 40% unemployment, 15% inflation, severe housing, food and medicine shortages, and lack of educational and health services.

THE LEFT GROWS STRONGER

Such is the political atmosphere which is now enabling the more militant Mojahedin organization to become stronger. In recent months it had been actively recruiting new members even from the armed forces. It now claims 100,000 armed members and hundreds of thousands of supporters across the country.

But their efforts against Khomeini have been costly. Most of the recent executions are directed at members of the Mojahedin.

The June 28 explosion at IRP headquarters which killed at least 74 IRP members including Chief Justice Ayatullah Mohammed Beheshti has been the Mojahedin's most dramatic answer to Khomeini's theocratic state by far. The rash of bombings and assassinations against the IRP are still continuing and many factions quickly take credit for them.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The future of Iran cannot be predicted with any great precision. There appear to be a number of possibilities. But the fact that Khomeini's regime has not been able to stabilize the economy and its unbridled attacks on anything that smacks of modernity insure continued opposition to his rule.

The Mojahedin has allied with ousted President Abolhassan Bani-sadr. The combination of Iran's most organized militant force and Bani-sadr's own following will prove to be a potent force.

On another front there is also a war with the Kurds who were a contributing force to the overthrow of the Shah and who Khomeini has now turned his back on.

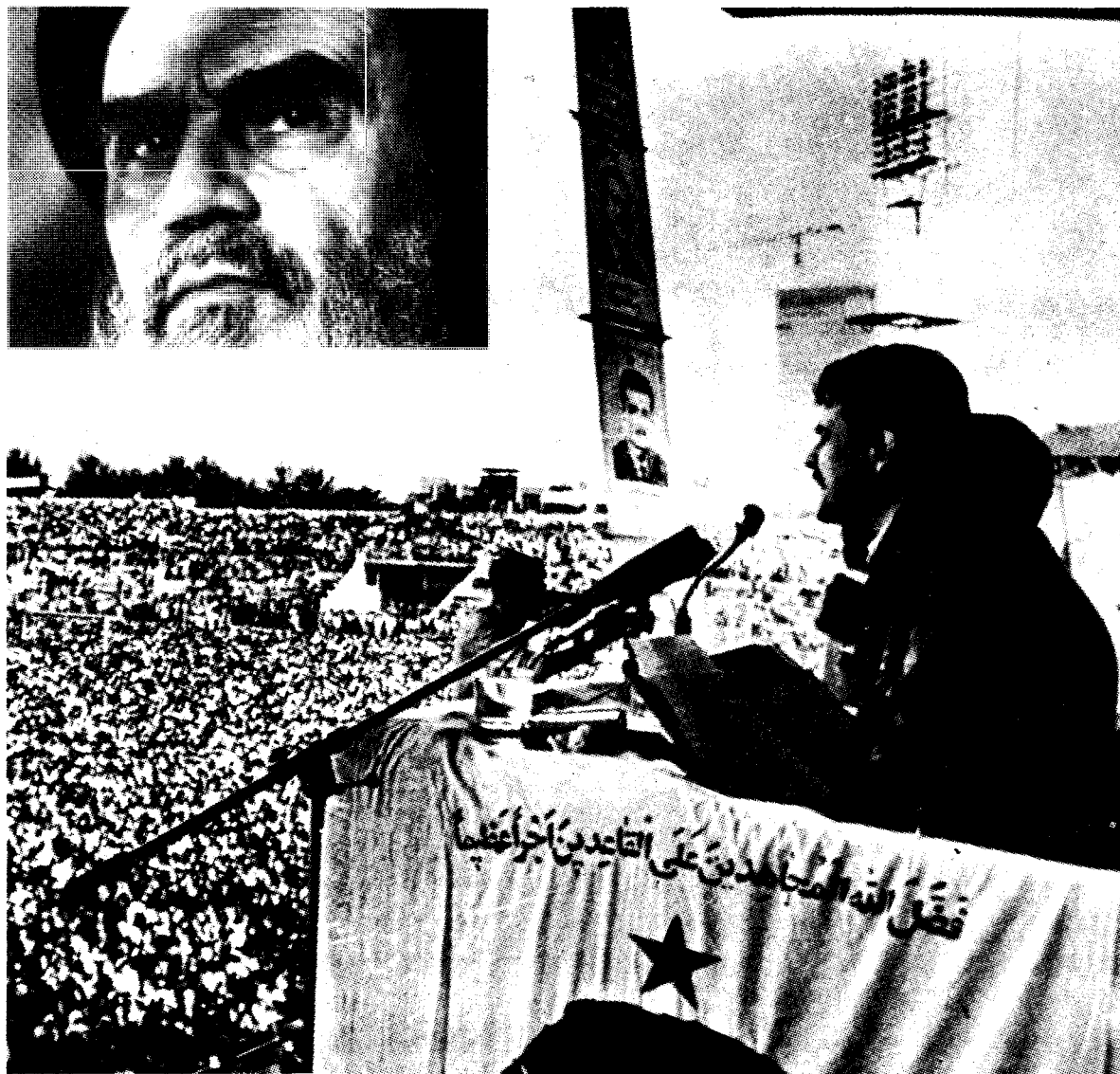
Still lurking in Iran is a sizeable number of pro-imperialist and pro-Shah elements centered within the military.

At this time they appear out-distanced by the strong-arm measures of the IRP and the efficient resistance by the growing Mojahedin and Fedaii.

More likely, these pro-U.S. forces would want to see the leftist alliances and the IRP engage in an all out war and cancel each other out. Under the consequent chaos, they could then make their bid for power and re-install U.S. control of Iran.

Whatever the outcome in Iran the world is intently watching. Not only is the future of the Iranians at stake, the balance of power in the Middle East will be directly affected. They United States in particular is itching to regain its lost access to Iranian oil. It is dying to get its hands back on an extremely important imperialist military outpost.

But the Mojahedin and Fedaii organizations are standing firm in completing the Iranian revolution to its finish—to have the Iranian people themselves determine their own future. □



Mas'ud Rajavi of the Mojahedin, adversary of the unstable and repressive regime of the Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini (inset).

the country of foreign domination and local corruption.

In addition there were the nationalist Moslems who were essentially technocrats who had been educated in the U.S. and Europe. Although the nationalists did not have a large following, their skills made them useful elements in the political movement.

Lastly, there was the Clerical establishment or mullah of which Khomeini was a part. The Clerics stand by traditional Moslem ideas, which by 20th Century standards were practically medieval. For them, women were subservient, secular knowledge dangerous, and only the Fahih, the men of religious orders, had the right to rule.

CLERICS COME TO POWER

Of all the opposition sectors the Shah probably did not think the clerics would pose a serious challenge. Their outmoded and traditionalist character had appeared to set them apart from

work of the dreaded SAVAK, the Shah's secret military counter-insurgency forces contributed to the weaknesses of the movement.

Yet with or without efficient organization, the Iranian people's hatred for the Shah was uncontainable. Millions of people poured into the streets to overthrow American control of their economy and the Shah himself.

In the disturbances that ensued, the Clerics emerged as the most powerful force in the opposition. With their network of mosques, the clerics had the extensive structures to provide medical aid, hide-outs, burial grounds, and so forth. The Clerics had the capacity to keep pace with the lightning fast spontaneous actions of the Iranian masses.

Thus, with an anti-foreign and pro-revolution stance that legitimized them within the popular resistance front, the Clerics began to dominate the opposition and ultimately determined its political direction.

Today, any expression of opposition to Khomeini is met with arrest, torture or execution. Peaceful demonstrations organized by revolutionaries, students and workers are wantonly fired upon by the military.

Over 2,000 Iranians have been killed by Khomeini's regime in the past three months and there are over 14,000 political prisoners undergoing mental and physical tortures facing execution without trial. Even doctors and nurses attending to injured demonstrators are labelled as counterrevolutionaries and are treated harshly.

In addition, after two-and-a-half years the Khomeini regime is so incoherent that it has not provided any major social and economic changes. Thus, even those who want to maintain an Islamic regime are growing dissatisfied with Khomeini.

Khomeini and the Clerics are faced with other pressures. The war with Iraq, although a limited

Update on Cagayan Valley

Rebels Gaining in Enrile's Own Turf

Special to the AK

(This is a first-hand report by a KDP activist who went on a 3-month visit to Cagayan Valley this year.)

It is time to "wipe out every single NPA in the area," warned National Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

With that, he launched a new and vicious counter-insurgency drive in Cagayan Valley shortly after the January "lifting" of martial law. Within a mere two months, 11 residents were "salvaged" or secretly murdered, and hundreds of families were forced to evacuate.

That government atrocities have rapidly become an everyday fact of life for the people of Cagayan Valley comes from a unique combination of circumstances. It is both one of the two most advanced areas of the resistance movement and it is Enrile's "home turf".

NPA ADVANCES

Cagayan Valley is a vast expanse of 2,773,748 hectares comprising the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Batanes and Quirino. It has a combined population of 1,633,000.

Beginning in the early 70's when the rapid expansion of the New People's Army (NPA) in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela broke into the headlines, the regime has classified the region as a "critical area".

Both the democratic opposition to military and government abuse and the revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and NPA have made great strides in the area. The only comparable region is Samar.



NPA relaxing; success in Cagayan Valley wounds Enrile's pride.

The pressure applied by the military on the region has been severe and relentless.

STEPPED-UP MILITARY CONTROL

In the past few years, five major military operations have been launched in Cagayan Valley. The biggest, "Operation Tagraw," began in 1974 and lasted three years.

This was followed by "Operation Aurora Borealis" in 1979 which lasted four months. These prolonged operations involved combined forces of the 21st Infantry Battalion (IB) of the Philippine Army and several companies of the Philippine Constabulary (PC).

In July 1979, upon Enrile's prodding, President Marcos placed the region, particularly Cagayan,

under strict military control, designating certain towns and barrios "free-fire zones." Shoot-to-kill orders were issued for anyone found in these zones.

This year, one month before the Presidential elections in June, the PC 51st IB was replaced by the 17th Mobile IB of the Philippine Army to carry out a stricter enforcement against the NPA-backed boycott movement in the provinces.

SALVAGINGS, BURNINGS, CROP DESTRUCTION

These operations take the form of massive dislocations, forced evacuation of barrios, savage random killings, molestations of women and children, detentions, arbitrary burning of homes and destruction of crops and animals.

Their human toll is appalling.

Last February, the military dropped bombs in the hills and barrios surrounding the town of Gattaran. Between March and June alone, 14 people were "salvaged" by the military in the towns of Amulong and Baggao. Three of the victims, a 17-year old student, a farmer and a former barrio captain were savagely stabbed to death with their almost headless bodies intentionally left for the residents of barrio Ibulo, Baggao to see.

In barrio Dalen, Baggao, a certain Major Lantod of the 51st IB ordered the burning of 18 homes last April for no apparent reason. In one demonstration against the rise of militarism in the province, 897 of the 5,000 people who marched to Tuguegarao were detained.

ENRILE TURF

While the level of CPP and NPA organizing in the area is advanced, the brutality of the government response betrays the vengefulness of a warlord who feels that his personal turf has been threatened by a rival gang. In this case, the warlord is none other than the Minister of National Defense himself who has a highly personal stake in the area.

In his weekly radio broadcasts to the people of the valley as well as public statements in Manila rallying the people to support him and the government, Enrile has made it abundantly clear that his pride is at stake in the battle for control over this fertile region.

But Enrile has far more at stake than his pride. He and a few other elite families own the entire valley.

Enrile, Dupaya, Cojuangco, Dy and 11 other big landlord and capitalist families own up to 7,000 hectares each of Cagayan Valley's vast agricultural land. This includes huge logging concessions and mineral deposits. Even the abundant water resources and fishing industry are the monopoly of these 15 families.

With Enrile as the head of the country's entire military apparatus, the Valley's inhabitants struggle to better their lives becomes specially hard.

GOVERNMENT REFORMS—AT BEST IRRELEVANT

The age-old peasant exploi-

tation affecting 67% of the region's population is as ugly as it has ever been. The misery suffered by a small but significant worker population concentrated in logging firms, sawmills, ranches and transportation companies has worsened.

Independent studies reveal that while the total volume of mineral production in 1973 alone reached 946,664,081 pesos, (\$13,523,772) malnutrition stemming from extreme poverty is still the main cause of infant mortality in the area. One out of ten children die before reaching their third birthday. In some places, malaria and dysentery run rampant and unchecked.

Government reforms and development programs have failed miserably. Most of these programs are also irrelevant to the fundamental needs of the inhabitants. The \$42 million Cagayan Valley Electrification Project, funded by a Japanese loan directly benefits only a handful of industries owned by the few elite families.

At worst, government programs are further stumbling blocks to genuine ownership and control of lands by the landless peasants who till them. The notorious Masagana 99 has put farmers deeper into debt.

ORGANIZATION BRINGS BETTER LIVES

The only alternative that makes any sense to the people, both for the immediate and the long term is that posed by the NPA.

What the government labels "rebel-infested areas" are in actuality clusters of barrios and towns which have achieved or are in the process of achieving an extremely high level of social and political organization.

Associations of peasants, workers, women and youth have established loan, food and labor cooperatives. Some have been highly successful in eliminating abusive practices of middlemen, loan sharks and sawmill owners in their barrios. Labor exchange programs are already operative in many barrios.

Some of these associations are able to provide literacy classes, give medical services and training to local barrio folk and conduct health and recreational programs for youth and children. Revolutionary cultural activities are provided by mobile cultural/theater groups which tour the different barrios.

Most importantly, these associations provide much-needed political education for the masses to gain a broader understanding of their history and their oppression as well as that of the whole country. The various organizations have become important weapons against political abuse and harassment.

In short, there is today in Cagayan Valley, a positive phenomenon of a people laying the foundation for fundamental improvement in their lives.

Given the tremendous potential released by CPP-NPA organizing work, Enrile may find that, for all his command of the country's military apparatus, he himself is up against very serious odds when he attempts to purge his home turf of the people's army and the people's movement.

FM Visit 'Reset' . . .

Continued from page 1

Protests against an AID-sponsored seminar for 22 Philippine mayors at the University of California, Berkeley, and the trip of San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein to Manila drew substantial attention from the local press.

San Francisco City Councilman Harry Britt joined the committee and expressed willingness to participate in any activities.

IMELDA CANCELS VISIT

The controversy created by the committee in Los Angeles might have been too much for at least one member of the Marcos family.

Imelda Marcos, scheduled to speak before the Los Angeles World Affairs Council Oct. 29, backed out abruptly on Oct. 16.

The reason given by the local Consulate was that Mrs. Marcos had been asked by her husband to stay behind while he went to Cancun.

The L. A. committee had laid the groundwork for effective protest well before the announcement of Imelda's visit. Dr. Santillan, Co-Coordinator of the Committee with Maria Abadesco, appeared on two segments of a local radio program debating Luis Ople, Information Representative of the Philippine Consulate. Ms. Abadesco guested on a local T.V. show as well. The L.A. Times devoted a feature on the attitude of the

Filipino community based on the committee's activities.

CITY COUNCIL HEARS RESOLUTION ON VISIT

One of many rumors concerning the visit suggested that Marcos would appear in San Jose, where many regime supporters reside. Here Becky Villones of the CAMD, and members of the Palo Alto PSN joined with local union leaders in bringing the issue of the visit into city politics.

The group asked the council for a resolution to the City declaring Marcos unwelcome because of his human rights violations. Though the resolution was tabled, it gained press mileage within the city.

FOUNDATIONS FOR PROTESTS LAID

The Chicago area committee formed a solid network of support groups and individuals, drawing in prominent local officials such as City Alderman Danny Davis and Dr. Quintin Young of the Committee to Save Cook County.

In Seattle, where the principal issue in the Filipino community remains the murder of union activists Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, Committee members nonetheless distributed literature surrounding the visit.

"The possible hand of the Marcos regime in the murders is still alive in the minds of many people here," said Ia Rodriguez of the CAMD. "It will be quite

something if Marcos stops over."

Visit preparations in Washington, D. C. included a cultural night which drew the largest crowd to date to any Philippine-related event. 150 showed up for a showing of the Free the Army film, made in the Philippines before martial law. A phone tree established by the local COMV included more than 300 ready at any time to come out and protest the dictator.

The network prepared by COMV members in New York involved roughly 50 organizations ready for an action should the dictator visit the city.

POTENTIAL FOR BROADER SUPPORT

"With the State Department confirmation of the visit next year," said Hilary Crosby of the PSN San Francisco Chapter. "We should be able to mobilize far more people. After all, it's not that easy to get people to promise just to sit by their phones and wait for your call."

"We went to numerous different groups to make our presentations," said another member of the Committee, "and each time the first question after we finished was 'What can we do to help?'"

"People were grateful to us for placing the issue in the overall context of U. S. foreign policy," said Crosby. "There are a lot of people out there who don't like Reagan's foreign policy - and all of them are potential supporters of this campaign. We're looking forward to the visit early next year." □