

## 200 Arrested

# Filipino Muslims Protest U.S. Position On The Shah



Filipino Muslim demonstrators run from water hoses turned on them by Marcos' troops as they attempt to march on U.S. Embassy. The demonstrators were demanding that the U.S. return the Shah to Iran and that Philippine bases not be used in the Iran confrontation.

Two hundred Muslim Filipinos were arrested in Manila November 30 as they marched toward the U.S. Embassy protesting the U.S. position in Iran. An additional 100 or more protesters escaped arrest.

The 300 Muslims, mostly students, chose the occasion of a particularly solemn holy day to demand that the U.S. return the Shah to Iran and that Philippine bases not be used as "jumping boards for intervention" in the Iran crisis. They referred in particular to the large U.S. naval fleet, headed by the

carrier Kitty Hawk, which had been dispatched to the Persian Gulf from Subic Naval Base as part of the American show of force in the region.

The group gathered in Rizal Park following prayers in Manila's downtown mosque to mark the martyrdom of the prophet Hussein, an occasion particularly meaningful to the Shi'ite Muslims who predominate in Iran. From the park they attempted to march to the nearby U.S. Embassy, chanting and bearing placards.

Riot police, on alert since the takeover

of the Tehran embassy, stopped the crowd well before it reached its destination. Police and Constabulary troops used U.S.-donated water cannons to halt the protesters.

The Philippine action corresponded with attacks on U.S. Embassies elsewhere in the world. The same Muslim holy day saw a series of bombs explode in the Embassy compound in Bangkok, Thailand, and a large march on the Embassy in Kuwait. A demonstration was apparently planned by Muslims in Moscow but Soviet officials, learning of

it in advance, "suppressed" the action, according to reports.

Two weeks ago, 400 Iranian students held a demonstration denouncing the U.S. inside the Iranian Embassy in Manila. But the action of November 30 seems to have been carried out solely by Muslim Filipinos. If so, this marks the first time Filipino Muslims, most of whom support the Moro National Liberation Front in its struggle for autonomy in the Muslim south, have taken an open stand opposing the U.S. and the use of its bases on Philippine soil. □

## AMLC Carolers Raise Funds

The Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) last week announced the launching of a Christmas caroling campaign to raise funds for 50,000 refugees in Samar. The campaign will reach 12 cities in the U.S. and Canada where teams of carolers will comb the Filipino community in a well-organized drive to inform Filipinos abroad "of the wave of terror" the martial law regime is inflicting on Samarinos.

Recent reports from church sources reveal that 45,000 refugees are from Northern Samar alone. Most of them are farming families driven from their homes by military operations in the area. The reports said that several battalions of the PC and the Philippine Army have converted 80 villages into "free-fire zones" where anyone left behind is assumed to be a member or sympathizer of the New People's Army (NPA) and can be killed on sight. Strafing and bombing of villages have caused their inhabitants to flee for their lives.

Bishop Angel Hobayen reports that refugees live in "Vietnam War-style camps." With no jobs or lands to farm, they try to survive on meager and irregular government hand-outs. Government attention is negligible and Church workers who try to help are reportedly harassed by

government troops.

Samar is probably the most economically depressed spot in the country. As a result, the NPA has gained tremendous support from the population. Afraid of losing control of the island where U.S. and other foreign corporations have extensive mining interests, Marcos ordered 10,000 troops to occupy the island. The troops conduct "base denial operations" to deprive the NPA of its mass base of support.

The funds raised by AMLC carolers will go directly to the Barongan-Catarman-Palo-Calbayog (BCPC) Justice and Peace Commission. The commission is known internationally for its newsletter Ley-Sam (Leyte-Samar) Human Rights Notes. Checks should be made out to the "Samar Refugee Fund" and sent to the local AMLC chapters or to the Sacramento AMLA, 2108 57th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95822.

For information on the caroling campaign, contact: New York—638-2026; Washington, D.C.—933-5239; Chicago—989-4566; Toronto—366-0170; Los Angeles—687-3578; San Diego—477-5050; Seattle—725-4368; Sacramento—428-7856; Vancouver—325-0408; Montreal—271-4856; Honolulu—841-6429. □

## Favorable Ruling for Foreign-trained Nurses

SAN FRANCISCO—The recent decision crediting the work experience in the Philippines of Norma Rupisan Watson, is an important victory for 2,800 foreign-trained nurses.

This precedent-setting case which potentially has nationwide implications, was the outcome of a labor arbitration between the California Nurses Association and the San Francisco Affiliated Hospitals. Such decision will give longer vacations and higher rank and pay for foreign-trained nurses in the Bay Area.

Watson contended that her employer, St. Mary's Help Hospital of Daly City, discriminatorily disregarded her work experience in the Philippines.

Consequently, she was paid at a salary level Step 1, entry level for those with limited experience, instead of the appropriate level of Step 5. (See AK, August 1-



Norma Watson.

15, 1979.)

"I'm very happy," Watson declared in an interview with the *S.F. Chronicle*, November 30. "It's a matter of fighting for your rights. It means a lot to other Filipino nurses." □

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# Oppose the Anti-Iranian Hysteria!

The recent wave of anti-Iranian hysteria which has swept America can only have serious and grave implications for all peace- and justice-minded people of this country.

Instances of this disturbing anti-Iranian racism barrage the newspapers, radio and television everyday. In cities and colleges across the country, anti-Iranian rallies reveal the ugly features of a U.S. prejudice and chauvinism which has been dormant for many years. It now blossoms as a particular form of "patriotism" which can only be described as dangerous and thoroughly reactionary in character.

Today a whole people are being targeted for discriminatory and abusive actions and policies with serious implications for all minority and immigrant peoples in this country. From the individual acts of harassment which have seen Iranians singled out for physical and verbal assaults, to the national policies of the Carter administration, which is using the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) to threaten Iranian students with deportation, the current upsurge of anti-Iranian hysteria is again targeting a minority in this country for racial and national discrimination.

The wholesale violation and deprivation of a people's rights have been recounted numerous times in U.S. history. In one way or another, all minority people suffered in some form from policies which reflected an ugly tradition of U.S. racism. For Filipinos, it was the anti-Filipino riots of the 1920's. For the Japanese, it was the incarceration into concentration camps during World War II. For blacks it was slavery and then the hated Jim Crow laws. For Native Americans, it was the systematic policy of genocide and expropriation of land.

In all these instances of racial and national discrimination, the violation of rights harmed the common interests of all justice-loving people. Today, the anti-Iranian hysteria borders on an ominous jingoism which prepares the national consciousness for accepting and supporting some form of military intervention into Iran. Such intervention, under the cover of American patriotism, "defending U.S. honor and dignity," can only harm the genuine interests of the American people.



Anti-Iranian protesters jeer demonstrators demanding the return of the shah to Iran.

This is not to condone the seizure of the U.S. embassy and the taking of hostages in Iran. Yet, there is ample evidence that the policy makers in Washington knew well in advance that the very act of allowing the shah into the U.S. would have serious ramifications in Iran, with the possibility of hostage-taking a very real threat.

In addition, while Washington deplors the embassy incident as a violation of accepted diplomatic norms, Iranians are quick to point out that the U.S. hardly observed such norms when it used its embassy in 1953 to help the CIA stage a military coup which overthrew the popular, nationalist government of Mohammed Mossadegh.

Recent revelations by the Iranian embassy occupiers also underscore that the embassy was hardly a "neutral" force on Iranian territory. The

U.S. State Department has admitted that, with the mass exodus of U.S. citizens from Iran in January of this year, the main purpose of the embassy was to "monitor" the Iranian situation. There has been evidence admitted to by embassy personnel that U.S. actions in Iran—always hostile to the revolution which overthrew the shah—might have included various forms of destabilization, including the flooding of the economy with counterfeit U.S. dollars and Iranian currency.

Given the machinations of Washington in years past, where covert actions were part and parcel of larger policies to promote U.S. interests at the expense of popular and indigenous sentiment, the Iranian claims are not only plausible, but highly credible. Most significantly, their demand for a return of the shah, the single person who must be held responsible for the years of repression which saw from 50,000 to 100,000 people killed, must be heeded. Not for the sake of the embassy personnel now being held, but for the single reason that deposed tyrants, who often pillage the national treasuries before fleeing, must face the justice of the people whom they lorded over with such abuse.

In the current anti-Iranian hysteria, it is Washington which is reaping the political and ideological benefits. Obscuring the long history of military and economic support for the brutal dictatorship of the Shah, Washington has wrapped itself in the flag of "patriotism" and "national honor" while taking steps to prepare for some form of aggression against the Iranian people.

Here in the U.S., attacks against Iranians are an abhorrent and despicable manifestation of this national chauvinism. Defense of Iranian rights, both here and abroad, is the watchword for all peace- and justice-minded peoples.

We should see that an attack on Iranians here is an attack on all. Similarly, any form of aggression, military or economic, would not be in the interest of the American people and would only benefit those forces in this country advocating militarism and intervention.

Finally, the demand of the Iranian people, while obscured by the controversy surrounding the embassy hostages, must be heeded. The Shah must be returned to Iran! □

## JUST OFF THE PRESS:

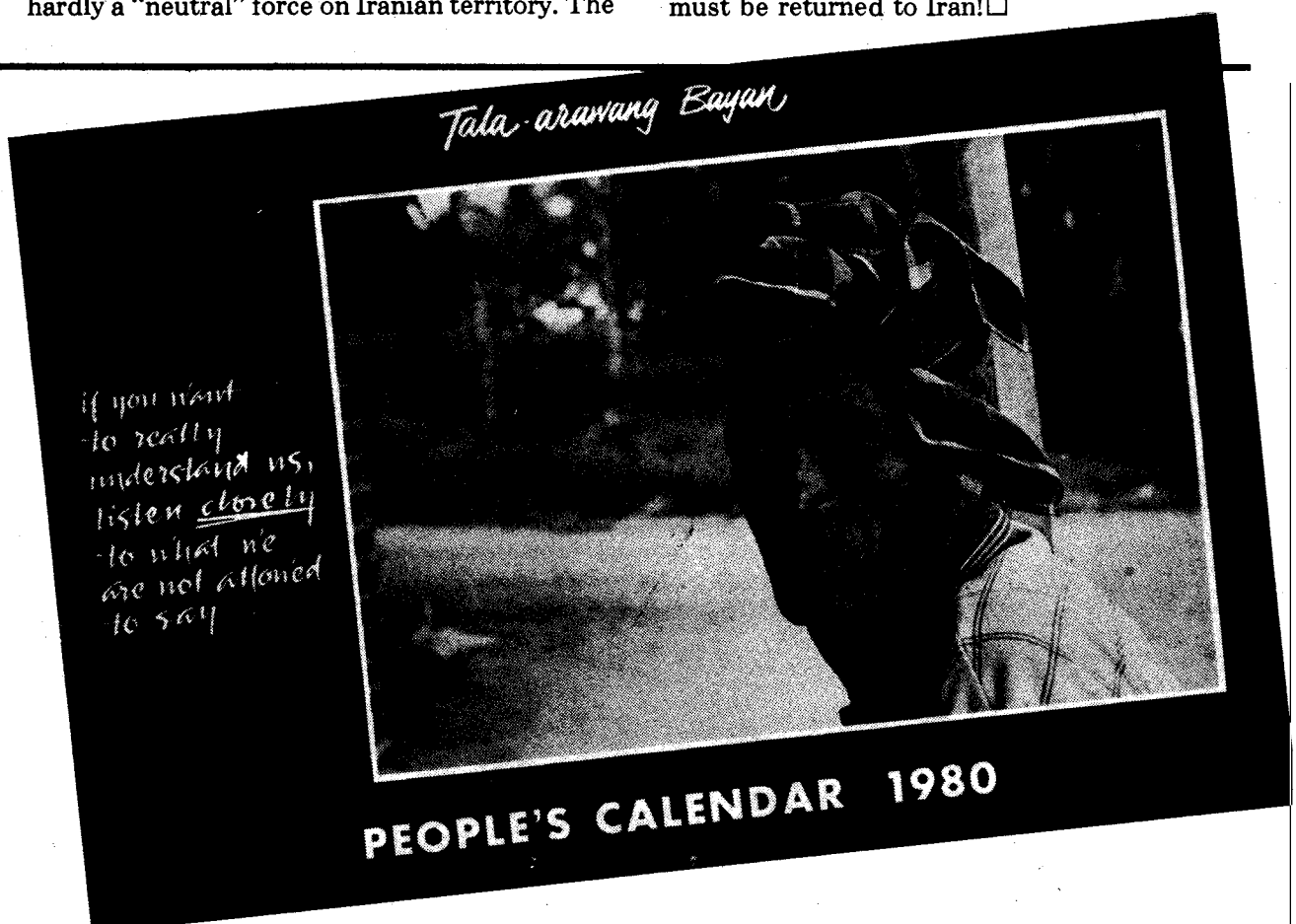
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rily the Filipino community in the U.S. Published bi-weekly except in January and July when monthly, the AK is produced cooperatively by the AK staff. Basic subscription rates are: \$7.50 yearly for the U.S.

and Canada and \$10.00 overseas. Application for second-class postage is pending at Oakland, CA. Editorial offices are located at 3600 Lincoln Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602, (415) 482-3400. Send subscriptions and cor-

respondence to P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623. Postmaster, send address corrections to P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.

# Beauty Contests: An Exercise in Irrelevance

The Magandang Filipina U.S.A. beauty pageant was undoubtedly the most celebrated in pomp, glamor and expense. The quest for the most beautiful Filipina this side of the world, involved the time, energy and money of some 80 participants, required eight semi-final regional competitions, and much publicity on the part of the pageant's sponsor, **Philippine News (PN)**.

For eight months the Filipino community watched as the **Philippine News** beckoned young women to step forward and participate. Indeed Magandang Filipina U.S.A. was designed to upstage the more traditional coronations observed by the community like Miss Rizal Day, Miss Philippine-American Friendship Day, Miss Cavite, Miss Circulo Pampangueno, etc.

But now that the winner has been crowned, the bottles of champagne emptied, the last bouquet of flowers wilted, and the contestants (and audience) back to the daily routine of going to school or making a living, the question which needs to be asked is: "What has the community gained from this beauty pageant?"

## GLAMORIZED SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE

The pageant's sponsor, **Philippine News** and its management claim that the contest was meant to promote Philippine heritage and unity. Anyone in the audience however, would surely agree that there was neither a performance nor presentation that evening which vaguely resembled Philippine culture or heritage. As for unity, it is hard to imagine a beauty contest would foster anything but unity. Most likely, the pageant exacerbated all the petty jealousies and competitiveness inherent in such an undertaking.

Despite the glamorous embellishments and the pretenses at promoting unity and heritage, **Miss Magandang Filipina** was really a financial venture to benefit **Philippine News**. Clearly there was no other beneficiary than PN publisher Alex Esclamado himself. The contestants were not simply eager aspirants to a coveted title, they were foremost unwitting business agents of **Philippine News**. One wonders therefore whether winning had less to do with beauty and talent and more with ability to peddle subscriptions. Word has it, that one contestant's parents even bought \$1,000 worth of subscriptions. Not surprisingly, she emerged a finalist!

What a way to win!

No, the Magandang Filipina pageant was not an innocent competition, a meeting of the community's "best and beautiful." Rather it was a masked business venture which exploited the contestants and sections of the community.

It exploited the contestants' zeal to win which in the final analysis meant the zeal to sell **Philippine News**.



And it exploited the false values still prevalent in the community; values which attach great importance to such passing fancies as beauty, glamor, glittering social functions, and so forth.

## IRRELEVANT

The Magandang Filipina pageant would not have been as broad and grand as it was had there been a more critical attitude toward it.

The appeal it held for many young women, the captivating and exciting atmosphere it generated among some sections of the community shows that such mundane concerns as beauty contests still occupy a central position in community affairs. Obviously, Esclamado would not have invested in such a "product" if he were not convinced of a "market."

At a time when the economic recession is fanning inflation, cutting down our purchasing power, and aggravating racism and national discrimination, the Filipino community has far more graver problems to deal with than ever before. A beauty contest does little to hide these problems, much less solve them.

Herein lies the disservice of the Magandang Filipina Pageant.

Like grand terno balls, cocktail parties and other expensive forms of social activities, the beauty contest diverts our attention from more pressing concerns. Stated differently, if we expended the same amount of money, energy and time on a fund raiser for some community cause or for the political refugee problem caused by martial law in the Philippines, we could justifiably claim that our efforts were progressive, positive

and productive. A beauty contest can hardly claim the same.

Second, even if beauty contests, grand terno balls, or cocktail parties were conceived as a means to socialize among friends and be relieved from the pressures of this dog-eat-dog society, the fact remains there are more popular forms of recreation and relaxation than these activities.

The truth is these activities promote competition, petty jealousies, showmanship, elitism, snobbery, escapism and other attitudes antithetical to the building of a united and progressive community. Many members of the community unable to afford the cost of such functions are effectively excluded from participation.

In short, beauty contests, judged on the basis of the community's realities and the types of attitudes the contests perpetuate, are irrelevant.

## BEAUTY CONTESTS DETESTABLE

In particular, however, beauty contests are detestable because of the sexist image it promotes of women. Sexism is the social disease which relegates women to the role of pleasurable or ornamental objects.

Because beauty contests have such a long tradition in Philippine and American culture and certainly in the U.S. Filipino community, this point will probably be denied. Some, for example, will argue that beauty contests celebrate all the wonderful "attributes" of women and puts them on a pedestal.

Flattery aside, the reason why beauty contests are popular is because of the notion that women's worth as human beings are to be judge by such "objective" standards as hip and bust measurement, facial features, gracefulness, and other "feminine" qualities.

Thus, it is no surprise that the swim suit portion of the Magandang Filipina contest drew the loudest and most appreciative applause, rather than the talent or question-and-answer section. Physical appearance in the skimpiest of clothing is the highlight of any beauty contest.

Finally, because many young Filipina women are joining the labor force and proving themselves competent in endeavors which were formerly male preserves, beauty contests are fast becoming an institution of the past. Women in general and Filipinas in particular are fast discovering that their abilities and potentials as human beings are far greater than the socially-imposed standards of physical beauty, motherhood and good homemaking.

With this development and with more critical community opinion towards beauty contests, we, the community can be rid of one less obstacle to progress and unity, in general and the advancement of women in particular. □

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS

### BUOD NG MGA BALITA BUOD NG MGA BALITA

#### MOLESTED POLITICAL DETAINEES FORCED TO SERVITUDE

Two young women captured along with five others in Gamay, Northern Samar, were repeatedly raped and have been forced into servitude by their Philippine Constabulary captors. Elvira Asebar, 13 years old, and Edna Roncales, 16 years old, two of the seven detainees, are suspected of affiliating with, or being NPA members. Both are from poor peasant backgrounds.

The multi-rape participated in by several PC soldiers was rationalized as punishment for the detainees' subversive activities. They were temporarily released, only to serve as housemaids for a certain Tomas Gunda, as arranged by the PC. □

#### PHILIPPINE FACES CREDIT CRUNCH

Manila bankers have been talking for months about a coming "credit crunch." It may already have arrived. In an unusual move, Chase Manhattan Bank recently raised interest rates on its \$75 million loan to the Philippine National Bank. A \$60 million loan managed by Lloyd's Bank International for the shipping group Philippine National Lines is also being renegotiated.

According to the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (November 16, 1979), "Both Chase and Lloyd's attribute the 'rethinking' on their part to the tightening credit market, but also admit that in the past few months, the political and economic image of the Philippines has slipped somewhat." □

#### ANOTHER SCANDAL AMONG GOV'T EMPLOYEES REVEALED

Several employees of the Philippine Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) were arrested shortly after an expose of their widely-practiced extortion in conducting government board examinations.

For examinees, it has meant paying P4,000 to P5,000 to the PRC to insure their passing, especially for architecture and engineering examinations.

A cool P20,000 was required to make a topnotcher, and a P19,000 payment rated a number 2, and so on down the line. At least P11,000 was needed to be number 10 of the top 10.

The Presidential Security Command has booked 15 suspects and are presently hunting 11 others.

A reviewee, Ms. Virginia Briones emerged as a key witness in revealing the illegal operations of Engineers Emilio Bono and Optaciano Boo, who ran the Engineering Review Center in Manila. In fact, Bono was set up for capture as he accepted marked cash from Ms. Briones. His associates in this racket, along with checks, cash and a master list of examinees who fell prey to this operation were disclosed after his confessions.

Malversation through falsification of public documents and other irregularities were uncovered during the investigations of the PRC cashier's division. Original receipts issued to examinees and duplicate receipts kept by the cashier's office showed starkly different amounts. For instance, when official receipts were issued for P100 their duplicates show only P2. □

#### JURISDICTION DISPUTE RECURS WITH NEW CRIMINAL CASE

As Capt. Charles K. Baker of the U.S. military stationed at Clark Air Force Base, faces charges of homicide due to reckless imprudence, his superiors have granted him a duty certificate effectively snatching him from Philippine local courts' jurisdiction. This reopens an old bitter battle over jurisdiction on criminal acts committed by U.S. military personnel against Filipinos in the Philippines.

The case in question started last August in Moncada, Tarlac, when Capt. Baker rammed his vehicle into another car occupied by three people: Aquilino Valino, who was driving; his wife; and another passenger. Mrs. Valino died immediately, while her husband and the other passenger suffered injuries.

Witnesses testified against Baker, describing his driving as "reckless, with wanton disregard for life and property."

Upon hearing of the duty certificate, Minister Ricardo Puno wrote Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo a letter requesting that representations be made with the U.S. Embassy to discuss the validity of the duty certificate.

"Such negligent act is clearly beyond the scope of Baker's alleged performance of specific military duty at the time of the accident," Puno said.

Baker himself claimed he was performing a specific military duty at the time of the accident and said he had documents to prove his claim.

The question of jurisdiction has been a sensitive issue since U.S. bases were installed in the Philippines. President Marcos used the issue to drum up a pseudo-nationalist posture before the signing of the new bases treaty of January 1979. However, the said U.S.-R.P. military bases treaty avoids the subject completely. □

## Marcos Suspends Reactor Construction

Responding to growing mass pressure against the nuclear reactor under construction in Morong, Bataan, President Ferdinand E. Marcos last month suspended construction, called the plant unsafe and demanded that Westinghouse redesign the plant.

At the same time, Marcos requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), scheduled to complete hearings on whether or not the U.S. agency should have jurisdiction to rule on the safety of exported reactors, postpone hearings long enough to hear testimony presented by the regime.

Testimony calling for U.S. jurisdiction over the safety of exported reactors has already been submitted by the Friends of the Filipino People, the Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines, the Philippine Movement for Environmental Protection and the Concerned Citizens of Bataan. Although the hearings closed November 19, it is still unknown if the regime proceeded with its plan to present testimony.

#### PLAYING IT SMART

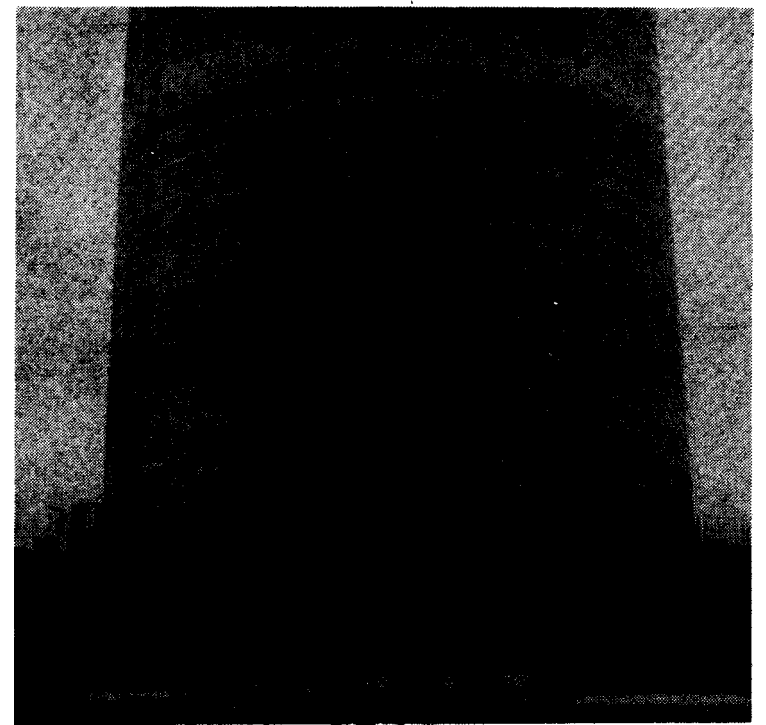
The NRC is expected to rule within 30 days on this round of hearings. If it finds that the U.S. has jurisdiction over exported reactor safety, a second round will open in January. If it rules negatively, Westinghouse will be granted an export license.

Many observers here feel that Marcos, who appears to be acting out of concern for Filipinos, is actually playing a very smart game. They point out that the hearings conducted by the Philippine Commission on Nuclear Power Plants, which allegedly sparked this response, were so farcical as to have caused nuclear oppositionist Lorenzo Tadena to stalk out in disgust.

They deduce that, in fact, Marcos is simply beating the NRC to the only position it can take on the Philippine plant.

#### NRC PRESSURES

For the NRC is under pres-



The shell of the Morong reactor: Mass pressure has forced even Marcos to appear concerned about the reactor safety.

sure itself. In the wake of the Three Mile Island incident, it has lost credibility as a regulatory body. A ruling that it has no jurisdiction over reactor exports coming now would simply reinforce that impression.

It is thus in the interest of the NRC to exert its authority in the Philippine case. It is highly unlikely, however, given the pressure it is under from the nuclear industry, that it will ban the plant altogether. It is much more likely to find the plant unsafe to withstand the seismic pressures of the location and to demand structural improvements and reinforcement. This is, in fact, precisely what Marcos has already demanded.

#### "IF HE WERE SANE . . ."

In this light it is interesting to note that the Philippine government, early in the hearings, submitted a memorandum asking that the question of site not be considered, but that hearings be limited to questions of the generic safety of reactors and the particulars of this Westinghouse model.

In fact, site has always been

the most controversial aspect of this reactor. The construction has proceeded on the slope of a volcano and within range of several others, all of which form part of what is popularly known as the "Pacific Ring of Fire." In addition, an earthquake fault lies only a few miles away offshore.

If, however, questions of site were to be considered, the siting situation would necessitate cancellation of the reactor export license. Limiting testimony to the safety of reactors per se allows for a decision to reinforce the current structure.

"If he were sane," says Peter Hayes of the Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines, "Marcos would simply opt for retrofitting of the plant—making use of the existing facilities for a coal or oil-fired plant. He thus would choose something safe without sacrificing a \$1.1 billion investment. At most the redesign would cost \$100 million which he could force Westinghouse to pick up."

"But then," he added, "we don't know if he's sane, do we?" □

## Marcos Returns Criminal Cases To Military

President Ferdinand Marcos officially returned jurisdiction over all crimes involving the use of firearms to military tribunals last month. As part of normalization last year, Marcos solemnly announced the transfer of all criminal cases to civil courts.

According to the newly-promulgated Letter of Instruction No. 947, after an offender is taken into custody by an Arrest, Search and Seizure Order (AS-SO) he/she cannot be released, even temporarily on bail.

Marcos cited the high crime rate particularly homicides involving firearms as the reason for the switch in jurisdiction. Government sources say "criminal elements" have become bolder since civil courts took over criminal cases.



Military tribunals try civilians in a 1977 hearing

But having civilians tried by military tribunal is only one in a series of moves to remilitarize or increase militarization of the whole country. Other recent de-

velopments have been the creation of civilian para-military units and penetration of military personnel into business and government affairs. □

## Synod Condemns Martial Law



Energy demands lifting of martial law in 1975. Recent Synod repeated the demand.

On October 28, the Manila Synod '79 capped its eight-day meeting with a resolution asking President Ferdinand Marcos to lift martial law as early as possible. One-hundred-twenty-nine delegates from the Catholic Church deliberated through 15 hours of the eight-day marathon session just on the issue of martial law. Although the resolution was not passed without dissension from some, the majority supported it.

Strong reaction immediately followed from defenders of the martial law government. During a privilege speech before the Interim Batasang Pambansa, Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador charged the Synod with po-

litical interference. He said that "Synod is becoming more interested in partisan politics as they have timed their political activity after the President's announcement of holding of local elections."

He stressed that spiritual leaders of Synod should adhere to the principle of Church and state separation.

Countering accusations hurled against Synod's position, Msgr. Leonardo Legaspi, O.P. auxiliary bishop of Manila and Synod spokesperson said "We are not entering into the subject from the perspective of partisan politics but considering it as answering a moral question; it falls within the competence and judgement of the church."

Meanwhile, members of the Pambansang Katipunan ng Baranggay (PKB) and Kabataang Baranggay (KB), both government-created organizations asked Marcos to ignore the Synod's resolution and instead give attention to a four-point manifesto drafted to criticize the Synod's position.

This is not the first time the government has reacted to or ignored demands for the lifting of martial law.

The fact that the Church is now the target of this reaction shows the deepening rift between the church and state, making the coming of the Pope the Philippines all the more tense. □

## R.P. Gov't Reduces Passport Validity For Nurses

The Philippine government recently announced that nurses seeking entry to the U.S. to fulfill work contracts with American hospitals and other medical institutions will be restricted to a two-year passports.

Philippine officials, by adopting this stringent regulation, hope to satisfy the anti-alien sentiments which have caused

the American consulate to impose new restrictions on departing nurses. The American officials are particularly anxious to insure that the nurses return to the Philippines once their work period ends.

Nurses are recruited in large numbers by agents of the Overseas Placement Association of the Philippines (OPAP), a li-

censed labor-exporting firm. Most of the placements are made in the U.S.

While in the U.S., the nurses face great difficulties passing the American Nursing board exams as a requirement for working as bonafide nurses. Often they are threatened with deportation. □

### Fact Or Fiction-

## Rumors Claim Marcos Sick

Once again the rumors have begun suggesting that President Marcos is not in the best of health. Furthermore, the inside information claims, he plans to come to the United States to seek treatment for his illness—if he is not here already.

Rumors of the president's ill-health were rampant shortly before the seventh anniversary of martial law last September 22. At the time, Marcos went out of his way to deny and disprove the allegations, announcing that he had recently recovered from a suspiciously protracted four-week bout of flu.

November's rumors, however, were far more specific than the vague speculations of September. Marcos, they claimed, was suffering from *lupus*, skin tuberculosis which has severe implications for the kidneys and planned to seek treatment for it at

Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto, California.

### CONFLICTING STORIES

Beyond that, however, the rumors disintegrated into a mass of contradictory detail. Though one nurse at the Stanford medical facility confirmed the fact that Marcos was expected, another later told representatives of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition that he was not registered at the hospital nor was he expected. A check with the State Department produced another denial.

While a number of people in the Philippines believe the President to be sick, the origin of the rumor within the United States was traced to certain members of the elite opposition here represented by the Movement for a Free Philippines.

### SUCCESSION CRISIS

Any talk of a serious illness

for the dictator, true or not, provokes consideration of the succession problem. An actual illness automatically weakens him as potential rivals, some of them his own men, see an opportunity for them to act on their own ambitions. This helps to set the conditions for a *coup d'etat* which has been the consistent and barely-veiled goal of the elite opposition for the past several years.

If Marcos is ill, it is in the regime's interest to keep the information a deep, dark secret. At the same time, it is in the interest of the elite opposition to set the stage for a *coup* by spreading such reports. For this reason, it is still too early to determine whether the story reflects an actual illness or whether it is part of a giant *palabas* designed to confuse the Filipino people and weaken the regime. □

Malacanang Zarzuela  
Malacanang Zarzuela

## It's Election Time Again?

By VICTORIA LUNA

The name of the game is normalization. And once again the Marcos regime is playing it with a vengeance—at least for now. Once again the regime has announced the imminent holding of local elections for provincial officials, an on-again-off-again project which Marcos tends to announce every time he feels the need to look legitimate.

This time his promise to hold elections within 18 months may, repeat may, be a bit more serious than the previous occasions, though, as usual, he has provided himself with an ample array of escape hatches. "Depending on the national situation, the worldwide economy," etc. But his cronies in what passes for a ruling political party, the *Kilusang Bagong Lipunan*, his coalition which "swept" the elections for the Interim Batasang Pambansa in 1977 are gearing up their election motors in preparation for the big event. And all the little provincial opportunists, to hear the Marcos' newspapers tell it, are crawling out from under their rocks.

In what appears to be a lesson learned from neighbor Suharto of Indonesia who legitimizes his dictatorship through Golkar, "a political party" with regional and provincial branches, and other rulers of a similar stripe, the KBL is busy establishing local chapter in cities, towns and municipalities all over the country in preparation for the promised exercise. Of course there is nothing to stop Marcos from calling the whole thing off once more as he has done before or simply letting the subject quietly drop.

Such is the standard fate of "normalization" projects. Like the transfer of all civil legal cases away from military tribunals to civilian courts, part of the grand effort at demilitarization. But what's normalized today can be abnormalized tomorrow. Thus Marcos just returned an entire category of civil cases to military courts. (See story page 4.)

### REMEMBER THE CONSTITUTION?

One of the more confusing aspects of the normalization process was Marcos' recent generous decree that the Interim Batasang Pambansa may, if it wishes, amend the 1973 Constitution under which it holds limited, temporary constitutional power. This in spite of the fact that the Constitution itself says that it may be amended only by the Constituent Assembly which has not yet come to being.

Readers may remember that infamous Constitution which has already been altered so many times by plebiscites that few can remember what the law of the land is actually supposed to be these days. It all began when Ferdinand arrested all members of the Constitutional Convention who opposed his plans immediately after declaring martial law. After over a year of arguing over substantive issues, the newly-purged group was miraculously able to agree upon a constitution within a mere matter of days. That constitution was then quickly subjected to a "plebiscite" during which military buses stood ready to carry off all those opposed to detention centers scattered conveniently around the country. The Constitution was, not too surprisingly, overwhelmingly approved.

After a number of changes, each subject to a similar plebiscite, each of them proclaimed overwhelmingly in favor of whatever changes the President proposed, Marcos now decrees that this august document may be altered by his pals in the IBP.

So much hustle and bustle over a document which has never yet been implemented! Really why go to all the trouble when all you have to do is ask buddy Ferdinand to decree a change, call a plebiscite and create an overwhelming approval? The process saves time, money and is just as credible as all those *Barong Tagalog*-clad puffer pigeons with their polished nails, pomaded hair and well-shined shoes playing out their pompous roles as parliamentarians. □

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## Case Study In Bureaucrat Capitalism

# Has Marcos Overplayed His Hand?

Last issue we presented Part I of a study of bureaucrat-capitalism adapted from the *Philippine Liberation Courier*. That portion examined for the first time in detail the Marcos take-over of the country's coconut industry via his crony, Juan Ponce Enrile. This issue we will present the second and concluding portion. —Editor

### THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

If Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile was Marcos' instrument for taking over the coconut industry this year, former Ambassador to Japan, Roberto Benedicto was Marcos' instrument for taking over the sugar industry several years ago. Although the end result has been identical in both industries—Marcos' control of a whole industry for his and his cronies' profit—the take-over process in sugar was different enough to make its examination a useful illustration of the range of techniques that Marcos has availed of.

The story of Marcos' take-over of the sugar industry began in 1974. It was at that time that the export of Philippine sugar to the U.S. at premium prices ended, and the government assumed monopoly control over the export of sugar through the Philippine Exchange Corp. (PHILEX). The establishment of PHILEX was justified in terms of the need to organize the search for new markets with the end of the protected marketing relationship with the U.S. In reality, the move was a key step in Marcos' bid to take over the industry. It was also the first step in the industry's slide to disaster.

In 1974, world prices for sugar skyrocketed to \$65 a pound, some 500% more than the normal price level of U.S. \$1.2 a pound. In October of that year, Marcos ordered PHILEX to stop sugar sales in a bid to further increase world prices. Instead, the sugar market crashed and has not recovered since. When PHILEX resumed sales in February 1975, prices were already going down fast and, of more serious consequence to the industry, there were no buyers to be found. While sugar export receipts had been \$785 million in 1974, earnings declined to \$615 million in 1975 and to an even lower \$427 million in 1976.

For the sugar planters and millers, these developments were an unmitigated disaster. Unsold sugar stocks quickly overwhelmed existing storage capacity and spilled over into tennis courts and entire swimming pools. Large loans for increased hectareage and for expanded milling capacity incurred at that time in expectation of a continuing boom in the sugar market had to be defaulted. Planters and millers did not even benefit from the short-lived boom because PHILEX in early 1974 bought their sugar for only P134 per picul at a time when it was selling abroad for P470 a picul.

The planters and millers and the country as a whole is estimated to have lost \$250 million as a result of Marcos' attempt to manipulate world prices in 1974. At a profit of P336 per picul, however, PHILEX managed to earn profits estimated at \$700.5 million from that sugar crop. A local banker said that Benedicto deposited around \$500 million of those profits in foreign banks. More importantly, with planters and millers weakened by PHILEX mismanagement, Benedicto quickly moved in and bought up unprofitable mills and plantations.

Although Benedicto keeps his holdings of sugar mills and plantations a secret, industry sources estimate that his holding company directly owns or controls some 15 sugar mills. If those



owned or controlled by Marcos' relatives and other front men are added to Benedicto's holdings, Marcos now controls more than half of the industry's milling capacity.

In 1977, Benedicto's hold on the industry was further strengthened when he was made the head of the newly created Philippine Sugar Commission (PHILSUCOM). The new agency not only took over the marketing functions of PHILEX, it was also empowered to "assume control over any sugar mill or refinery which fails to meet its financial and other contracted obligations for two years or has become inefficient in its operation." In 1978, PHILSUCOM set up the Republic Planters Bank to take over the crop loan functions of the Philippine National Bank. Benedicto now controlled all important aspects of the industry.

### PROFITS WITHOUT PRODUCTION

PHILEX mismanagement of sugar exports in 1974 was a badly calculated risk. The building of five new sugar centrals after the collapse of the world market in 1975 was criminally irresponsible. Each of these mills cost \$40 to \$45 million, with an additional \$25 million thrown in for infrastructure, land preparation and agricultural equipment. Because all of these centrals are financed with loans guaranteed and eventually carried by the government, some \$350 million in government money has been wasted for unused and at best underutilized milling capacity.

Why then were these mills built? The fact that three of these mills are owned or controlled by Benedicto, and the remaining two by Marcos' mother and by a retired general does not provide sufficient explanation. How do these Marcos relatives and cronies expect to make any profit?

The answer is that they are not making any profit in the normal business sense of the word. Most observers of the industry say that even under non-crisis conditions, the owners of the new mills could not possibly turn a profit on their operations within the next 10 years. The catch is that they make their profit even before the mills are assembled through kickbacks from overpriced equipment. Japanese business sources say, for

example, that in the case of the three Japanese-built mills, the kickback averaged 12% of the total project cost or around \$6 million for each mill.

Most of the new sugar mills are Japanese-built not because they are superior to or cheaper than any others, but because Benedicto, as Philippine Ambassador to Japan, developed close business relations with Japanese firms, in particular, the giant Zaibatsu Marubeni. Other Japanese firms, jealous of Marubeni's ties with Benedicto, took to calling him "Maru 'benedicto" years ago.

Although the extent of Benedicto's profit-taking as a result of his now almost total control of the sugar industry is not yet fully known, a few other tidbits of information indicate that his money-grabbing enters into all aspects of the industry. All engineering and construction contracts for the new mills, for example, went to Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP), the giant construction firm of Rudy Cuenca, another Marcos front man. All the sugar that goes to the U.S. is shipped through Benedicto's firm, Southern Shipping Lines.

### OTHER INDUSTRIES, OTHER CRONIES

Enrile and Benedicto control the largest and most lucrative sectors of the economy for Marcos. Other relatives and cronies own or control large chunks of other industrial sectors. CDCP's Cuenca, for example, shares the government-controlled overseas shipping contracts with Benedicto apart from monopolizing government infrastructure construction. The United Coconut Planters Bank's Eduardo Cojuangco also controls the largest telephone company in the country, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and large chunks of Central Luzon bus transport. Imelda Marcos' relatives, the Romualdezes, control Manila Electric Co. (MERALCO) which generates some 75% of the country's electricity. Tony Florendo uses prison labor in his 5,000 hectare banana plantation. Herminio Disini's (Herdis Corp.) role in the controversial nuclear plant and in the wood processing industry in northern Luzon is already well known.

Although not much is publicly known

about how various industries, contracts and other ventures are allocated among Marcos' relatives and business associates, there are indications that competition is getting fierce. As more and more sectors of the economy are carved into private preserve of one or another of Marcos' relatives or cronies and as the initial thrust of martial-law-promoted growth wears out, competition among Marcos' greedy cronies has increased and is coming more and more into the open.

One recent example is the fight over who gets to build a diesel engine plant in the Philippines among four different groups of cronies and their respective foreign partners. In the first round of the fight early this year, the Silverio-M.A.N. (Maschinen Fabriken Augsburg of Germany) and the Herdis-Perkins (an English company) combined edged out the Martel-British Feyland group and Isuzu Motors. Although MAN's bid was uncontested because it alone proposed to make engines in the 90-150 horsepower class, the selection of Perkins was controversial. Manila business circles felt that British Leyland's bid was in fact superior.

At that time, Isuzu Motors was not even a serious contender because its Filipino partner, Francisco Motors, is not part of the magic circle of Marcos cronies. "About three weeks ago," *Far Eastern Economic Review* (Oct. 26, 1979) reports, "columnist Teodoro F. Valencia, known to be a friend of Herdis Group owner Herminio Disini, started denouncing an alleged plot in the investment board to ditch Perkins in favor of Isuzu—either, he said, by revoking the award given to Perkins or revising the rules in such a way as to force the British diesel engine maker to withdraw."

What happened? Isuzu Motors, quick to learn the rules of Marcos' economic game, had taken on an additional partner, this time the powerful Rudy Cuenca of CDCP. Although the latest reports from Manila say that no final decision has been made on this conflict, Cuenca at least put Isuzu into contention. Now it is up to Marcos to decide.

### BUREAUCRAT-CAPITALISM AND THE ECONOMY

Bureaucrat-Capitalism is not a matter of greed or corruption. It is a structural characteristic of Philippine society. The difference between pre-Marcos bureaucrat capitalists and today's crowd is quantitative. But the impact of this quantitative difference on the economy is important nonetheless. It has, for example, clearly played havoc on the fancy economic development plans of Marcos' technocrats. It has also been a factor in preventing foreign investors from being at ease about investing in the Philippines. "The (takeover of the coconut industry)" the *Asian Wall Street Journal* (Sept. 6, 1979) reported, "has dismayed some foreign businessmen, who say the government urged them a few years ago to build the coconut oil mills that they are now forced to sell."

Foreign investors' concern over Marcos' machinations is, in a way, poetic justice. For the source of bureaucrat capitalism in the Philippines and other neo-colonial countries is foreign control of their economies. Because economic growth in both the colonial and neo-colonial period has meant foreign control over key sectors of the Philippine economy, local businessmen have had to resort to government loans and other forms of government-derived advantages to advance their interests.

This is not to say that bureaucrat capitalism is in fundamental contradic-

Continued on page 12

## THE RESISTANCE ABROAD

### Bukluran To AMLC:

# Patriotic Support Of U.S. Filipinos-Boon To Workers

The following are excerpts from a solidarity statement sent by the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino to the AMLC's 6th Annual Conference, signifying their appreciation of the funds sent them from last year's Christmas caroling drive—Editor.

Dear Compatriots,

We would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation for the generous support you have given to us, the Filipino working class. Surely, this would go a long way in boosting our struggle for the advancement of the Filipino working class and for a truly democratic Philippine society.

It is truly inspiring for us Filipino workers to realize that though they are thousands of miles away, our fellow Filipinos and compatriots in the United States and Canada remain concerned with and continue to support the struggle of the Filipino people against foreign and local tyranny and exploitation.

The plight of the Filipino working class and masses has become extremely unbearable. Never has the Filipino working class in particular and the Filipino people in general, experienced since the the Japanese occupation, such untold suffering and suppression as today, especially during the last six and a half years of martial rule.

With complete callousness, the Marcos regime has been proclaiming throughout the world that it has succeeded in keeping Philippine labor cheap for foreign investors to exploit. Indeed, the stunted growth of the Philippine economy as a result of foreign domination in major Philippine sectors, has so preserved the 'backward conditions of the country' that there is an abundance of the unemployed or reserve labor. Now



under martial law, labor power is made even cheaper than ever before.

Nonetheless, we workers have our number, unity, determination and what is decisive—a just cause. Through the years, more and more among our ranks are fast awakening to the rights and inherent power of workers to control the conditions which determine their lot. At present, our struggle is embodied in our four main demands:

1. Restore the right to strike and to free self-organization.
2. Institute just and fair wages and lower the prices of all commodities.
3. Ensure job security.
4. Improve living conditions.

On the basis of these four main demands, we were able to mobilize tens of

thousands of workers to petition, strike and launch mass protest actions. In addition, mass educational campaigns have been undertaken to discuss various issues affecting the working class in particular and the Filipino people in general and raise the level of class and social consciousness of the Filipino working class. We have won many small victories and have also lost a few ones. But we have learned valuable lessons in struggle. Our realization of our gains and shortcomings have equipped us with a better insight into the twists and turns of our long-term struggle.

But the struggle of the working class as embodied in our four main demands should never be isolated from the struggle of the whole Filipino people for

national liberation and social emancipation. In fact, these demands are rooted in the character of Philippine society ruled by a fascist dictatorial regime under the aegis, support and direction of foreign interests, particularly that of the United States, and the local ruling elite. It is then important that the working class and its leading elements must integrate and be one with the masses particularly the more numerous peasant class, understand their problems and lead them to a broad national and democratic movement to uproot the ills affecting Philippine society.

It is in this context that we look forward to support from our compatriots abroad particularly those in America—the heartland of U.S. imperialism, the principal enemy of the Filipino people. The material and moral support you have given to us, and will extend in the future, will enhance our capacity to struggle for a just, free and prosperous community. We also ask you to help in the fight against direct or indirect intervention of the U.S. imperialist government against the Filipino people in its own homebase.

Our workers and our people may still have a long way to go in the struggle for justice and freedom. But the trials and lessons of the journey have made us stronger both in numbers and in determination. We will struggle on, no matter how long it takes or what it costs until we establish a just community of free men and women in our country, deciding together, working and striving together.

We are confident that we shall finally win. More so, when we are assured of the patriotic support of Filipinos everywhere. In the end, we shall have lost nothing but our chains.

Once again, thank you and *Mabuhay!*

## Greetings Of Solidarity To AMLC

Dear brothers and sisters in a common struggle,

In the name of all political prisoners in the Philippines, we greet you on your 6th Annual Conference. *Mabuhay kayo!*

The Marcos martial law regime has recently announced a new list of 260 "subversives" it intends to arrest in Metro-Manila. At least two dozens of these have already been taken in, usually through midnight raids on their houses. In the provinces, the Task Force Detainees reports continuing arrests, torture and outright "salvaging." The extent and brutality of military repression has so escalated that even conservative church people have openly protested and various church-related agencies have recently banded together to expose and oppose militarization.

What are we to make of these events? On the one hand, they are but the latest revelations of the basically anti-people nature of the martial law regime. On the other hand, they are signs of the widening and deepening level of the Filipino people's struggle for national liberation and democracy.

As one of our prison songs declares, prison is itself already a reaction, indicating that a people is struggling against oppression:

*Masdan mo ang piitan  
Alambreng tinik  
Ito ang kasangkapan  
Ng mga manlulupig  
Upang patahimikin  
Ang mga diwa't tinig  
Ng sinuil na bayang  
Lumalaban, lumalaban  
(This is what a prison is  
Barbed wire*



Tool of oppressors  
Who would silence  
The spirit and voices  
Of an oppressed people  
Who struggle)

In our people's struggle here in the Philippines, we look to our compatriots abroad and other people of goodwill for solidarity. The basic dependence of the Marcos' "New Society" on foreign big business interests make it vulnerable to pressures from abroad, but also makes your participation in this struggle essential.

We appreciate AMLC's leadership in the movement against martial law in the U.S. and Canada, especially its deepening critique of U.S. complicity. While the broadest movement here in the Philippines focuses directly on martial law and militarization, more and more see clearly the role of U.S. and other foreign big business interests. Thus they prepare for even as they seek to oppose by all means possible, and with your help,

further and more direct foreign intervention.

The people's struggle here in the Philippines is reflected in the composition of political prisoners. While some "personalities do draw greater attention, the majority of political prisoners are ordinary "nameless" peasants, workers, slum dwellers, fishermen, and national minorities. True to its anti-people nature, the martial law regime would have us believe that the resistance is merely a conspiracy of a few leaders, but the current large-scale evacuations of peasants and massive arrests in various provinces and Metro-Manila point to the truth—that the strength and justice of the anti-martial law resistance lie in its being a people's movement, a truly democratic movement.

This is why we have confidence too, in the AMLC's continuing effectiveness. It has the same orientation of developing a movement of "ordinary" people, unifying the democratic sentiments of Filipinos and other peoples in the U.S. and Canada. We do not belittle the role of leaders and "personalities," for they can either hasten or delay the progress of struggle. But we believe that leaders will rise from the ranks, forged in the midst of the people's struggle.

Another deepening insight among Filipinos involved in the resistance is that our struggle, though just and therefore certain of victory, will travel a long and tortuous road. There are possibilities of shortcut solutions, but these do not address the more basic problems we face. Besides, there is distinct value in involving as many people as possible in their own liberation, and this takes time. Hence the call to us and to AMLC is to

persevere in a protracted process with the same consistency and dedication you have shown these past seven years.

We are happy to note that the AMLC has managed to preserve and strengthen its unity in the face of divisions that constantly threaten any effective and strong national movement.

We end this message with the second part of the prison song we quoted earlier. As political prisoners, our first duty is to get out of prison to join the people's struggle outside these walls and bars. But while still inside, we have to wage a continuing struggle too, to hold fast to our principles against the "hard and soft" assaults of those who would break our spirit. In this task, we draw strength from knowing that people outside prison continually advance our common struggle which will eventually break down not just our own prison walls but the bigger and thicker barriers that imprison our country and people.

*Masdan mo ang detenido  
Taas pa rin ang kamao  
Ang diwa niya't prinsipyo  
Ay hindi nanlulumo  
Kanyang nalalamang.  
Ang sulo ng himagsikan  
Sa labas ay tulong-tulong  
Na sinusulong, sinusulong.  
(Here are the prisoners  
Raised fists  
Unflagging spirits  
and principles  
Because they know  
That outside the walls  
A united people  
Carry forward  
The torch of the struggle.)  
Mabuhay ang AMLC!*

Political Prisoners  
Camp Bagong Diwa  
Bicutan, Metro-Manila

# NAFL Concludes Successful National Confab



The recent NAFL-FNG National Conference helped solidify nurses' unity.  
By EDDIE ESCULTURA  
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO—Seventy-five nurses around the United States successfully concluded the third national conference of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) November 17-18.

In the wake of increasing threats of deportation, the Conference devoted itself to such pressing issues as: unfair licensure practices, exclusionary policies of the American Nurses Association (ANA), harassment by the INS, poor working conditions in hospitals, racism and national discrimination, union organizing, and the need for the relevant and viable nurses' organizations.

For many participants, the topics discussed provided a sharp contrast to the recent convention of the Philippine Nurses Association of Chicago (PNAC). At that gathering, topics like "Nursing in the Space Age" were discussed, and other irrelevant issues that hardly concern INS-harrassed nurses.

## QUALITY OF DISCUSSION NOTED

There was a marked quality to the deliberations at the NAFL confab. The issues were not viewed in isolation from each other, and were linked directly to the problems the community faces in U.S. society in general, and the medical industry in particular.

Nurses focused on the role of the INS in the fluctuating needs of U.S. business; the role played by the ANA, the National League of Nurses, and the Nursing State Boards in aggravating the nurses' plight.

"Such broad discussion was necessary," according to Aimee Cruz, the National Coordinator of the NAFL-FNG. In her keynote speech, Cruz remarked that "the path towards equality and justice for FNGs will be rough, but if we thoroughly understand our problems and the forces we are up against, we have a good chance of achieving victories."

She further emphasized, "The FNGs came to answer a call for their services; it is the responsibility of the government to meet their needs," Cruz declared. "If we grasp we are not simply guests in this country, that we play a vital role in the health delivery system, then we will be more firm in demanding justice."

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

The participants had no difficulty in integrating into the discussions, both in the plenary sessions and the workshops. Since the discussion focused on bread and butter issues, everyone had something to say.

As it turned out, problems faced by nurses are shared by the rest of the community.

Al Bondoc, President of the Philippine Engineers and Scientists Organization, related similar problems faced by community people in their profession. Other participating organizations were Damayan, Philippine Certified Public Accountants, Anti-Martial Law Coalition, Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), and the Korean Nurses Association.

There was a marked absence of the PNAC leadership at the NAFL conference. Someone noted that it only served to highlight the irrelevance of that organization. It was discovered that the PNAC is currently preparing for a grand induction ball.

## ANA POLICIES HIT

In the course of the conference, various speakers denounced the exclusionary policies of the ANA. (It sponsors the State Board Test Pool Examination in which 87 per cent of FNGs fail.) The Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing School and the ANA 1985 proposal require continued education for RN's to keep their licenses and legitimate visas. However, they have not provided review courses for these foreign trained nurses.

In 1974, the ANA presented at its convention a resolution which sought to label FNG's incompetent. Public pressure blocked this action. In 1976, the ANA and the PNAC refused to support the nurses on strike against Cook County. Filipino nurses were active in that strike.

## EXPLOITATION OF NURSES HEIGHTENS

Mayee Asidao, local Chicago NAFL Coordinator, described the severe exploitation nurses undergo today. "While in the 1800's and early 1900's the medical field was mainly a humanitarian effort," Asidao asserted, "it has in

recent decades transformed into a giant profit-making industry." She explained that along with this transformation comes the routinization of nursing tasks and hence, "the transition of nurses into bread and butter workers."

"Although the nurses' concern to care for the patient remains valid," Asidao declared, "the medical industry's drive for profits hampers its realization."

Thus, she continued, "like other hospital workers, the nurse must fight to keep whatever benefits she still has; i.e., sick leave and vacations, insurance coverage, social security and other benefits and occupational security and safety protection. She must cope with understaffing and overloads. She must worry about the annual contract which determines her economic security. What comes out of this is an overworked, underpaid and not having even time for herself, a socially alienated nurse. For foreign nursing graduates, the situation is compounded by racial and national discrimination through licensure and other exclusionary policies by the nursing establishment."

Asidao remarked that this development accounts for the emerging trend towards unionization within the nursing sector.

## CONFAB ISSUE DEMANDS

Another speaker, Ester Simpson, dis-

cussed the need for relevant and viable nurses organizations. She decried the inadequacy and irrelevance of Philippine Nurses Associations nationwide. She said "What we need are organizations that would bring us together not only to eat, drink, dance and enjoy, but also to fight for our rights."

Simpson criticized those who caution against "rocking the boat" or "biting the hand that feeds" for their insensitivity towards the needs of the FNGs and for being concerned mainly with protecting their privileges.

Brenda Eduarte of the Chicago NAFL chapter discussed the campaign to make the Deferred Voluntary Departure (DVD) a continuing policy of the INS as long as the situation of H-1 nurses has not changed.

Normita Amorado-Hayes from New York stressed the need for government-funded review programs and criticized the refusal of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) to provide funds. The conference noted the anti-people priorities of this government which provides \$125 billion a year for the military but has no funds for review programs. The NAFL will conduct a more persuasive campaign for such programs.

"The informational efforts of the NAFL must continue if we are to generate public pressure for our campaigns," stressed Shirley Chan, one of the speakers. The NAFL has published several pamphlets on the FNGs, their problems and their rights.

## COMPAGNS LINED UP

This coming year, the NAFL will initiate or continue the compaigns towards:

- 1) Adoption of the DVD by the INS as a continuing policy;
- 2) Government-funded review programs for H-1 nurses;
- 3) Support for the Gibbon's Bill which would allow examinees to obtain more information on the administration of government exams; and
- 4) More educational activities for the NAFL.

The conference vowed to continually expose the SBTPE as culturally biased and unfair to FNGs. It assessed that the exam failed with respect to content validity, predictive validity and norming. The conference also passed resolutions to support union organizing efforts among nurses and the formation of relevant and viable nurses organizations. □

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# Molokai: An Island Victim Of Runaway Plantations

The island of Molokai is in transition—from a community dominated by pineapple plantations, to one facing severe employment problems and the controversial developments of tourism.

The changes are coming rapidly because the pineapple growers have decided to phase out of their half-century-old plantations on Molokai.

Located just southeast of Oahu, the main island in Hawaii, Molokai is one of the "least developed" islands. The population of 16,000 is about 33 per cent Filipino, 45 per cent Hawaiian, and a smattering of other ethnic groups.

Kalaupapa, the old leprosy community, is located here on the isolated northshore. It can be reached by a mule ride down the steep mountains bordering it.

In the late 1800's, foreign investors made plans to grow sugar here. But they found Molokai had only 20 inches of rainfall each year. In addition, the salty water from the wells quickly ruined sugar's future on Molokai.

The Hawaiians continued their subsistence farming, but they also had a rough time. In 1920, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act found 43,000 acres on non-plantation land on Molokai to provide for the decimated Hawaiian population. But the land is some of the worst in the island chain.

Soon after, however, pineapple was discovered as a plantation crop, and in 1923, Libby, McNeil and Dole opened their pineapple operations on Molokai. Others followed.

## 'PINES' PROLIFERATE

The development of the "pines" (local term for pineapple plantations) pulled many of the Hawaiians away from their small farms to become plantation workers. But as the industry grew, Filipinos were recruited by the thousands. (Filipinos had first come to work in Hawaii's sugar in 1906, following the recruitment of several other ethnic groups as cheap labor.)

Libby built a plantation camp for its workers at Maunaloa, located on the west end of the island. This camp was marked with racial segregation. White employees, mainly supervisors, lived in homes at the top of the hill; Japanese lived in the camp just below them, and Filipinos lived still further down.

Today, the Filipino community is still clustered in the old plantation camps. The communities look almost the same as those of other islands. Rows of small, wooden houses, painted gray or a fading green. A small store, gas station, post office with rows of boxes, a community hall, a chapel and a school.

During the earlier years of labor protests, striking Filipinos were kicked out of the plantation houses and had to move to another community. Today, this area is still called "Manila Camp."

For almost 50 years, the "pines" were the main source of livelihood on Molokai. The entire economy of the island revolved around them. Unlike other islands, Molokai had been spared the tourist development because of its colder, dryer weather and limited beaches.

## CLOSURES BECOME PATTERN

In 1969, Libby closed its operation in Molokai and closed its cannery in Honolulu, following the trend of other companies.

Dole acquired the Libby operations in Maunaloa for \$9 million. It improved the irrigation system and built some new facilities for seasonal workers. Dole was determined to reverse Libby's "ill fortune."

But just three years later, Dole announced its plans to close Maunaloa



Dole plantation can exploit Filipinos more in the Philippines than in Hawaii. Above, a plantation family in Molokai.

at the end of 1975—a decision which would affect some 500 workers and their families.

Shortly afterwards, Del Monte, which operated for 46 years on Molokai, announced that it, too, would close the same time as Dole.

The companies have complained that pineapple growing is just too costly. After years of growing, production yield is low, transportation costs from Molokai are high, irrigation needs are extensive.

## QUEST FOR BIGGER PROFITS

But what is actually breaking them, they claim, are the wages. According to the Pineapple Companies of Hawaii report on the phaseout, the problem is "how the pineapple companies can pay the wages needed to live in Hawaii and still remain competitive."

So the answer is easy for companies like Dole and Del Monte. They simply close their operations in Hawaii, displace thousands of worker and their families, and move to a more profitable location—such as the Philippines. Here, they can pay workers 28¢ an hour as opposed to the \$4.58 they must pay on Molokai.

Today, Del Monte is still functioning, although its future is uncertain. The possibility of another crop replacing pineapple is slim. Experimental crops—particularly corn for seed—can be seen all over, but these employ only a small number of regular and seasonal workers, usually women.

## TOURISM PREVAILS

Extensive plans for development of the tourist industry have been discussed for many years and are still the source of controversy for the island's "master plan." Sheraton Hotels, however, which has seven hotels in Waikiki, won approval of its project and is currently operating a luxury hotel on the beach with acres of golfing greens.

Located just below Maunaloa, the Sheraton was seen—and promised—as a source of local employment. The ILWU, which managed the pineapple workers, negotiated for a training program for local residents who could then make the transition to hotel jobs after years on the plantation.

## EMPLOYMENT REMAINS A SERIOUS PROBLEM

When the actual hiring was done, however, local residents were disappointed. Some local Hawaiians were hired in the more "visible" jobs, but most personnel were brought in from the mainland or recruited from other islands. The gardeners though, are Filipinos. According to the hotel construction manager, "It's the kind of work they

enjoy doing."

When the Dole phaseout occurred, Del Monte hired some of the former Dole workers. Some people simply left the island for other jobs. The older workers, especially those close to retirement, stopped working altogether, or just took on part-time or temporary work.

For Filipinos in Molokai, employment is a definite problem, forcing many of the young people to seek employment elsewhere.

Even for the Hawaiian community, the plantations have had an adverse effect. Some of the lands provided to the homesteaders have been ruined by years of pineapple growing. Bleached of minerals and soaked with various chemicals, the land simply cannot yield enough produce for a family's livelihood. Thus, employment is also a problem.

Aside from the bleak employment picture, residents at Maunaloa also face a possible housing crisis. Most stayed on in their old homes after Dole left. They pay a rent of about \$35 a month. But the lease expires at the end of 1980, and residents are fearful that the rents will be greatly increased.

The ILWU helped to get the government to agree to subsidize some low-cost housing in the area. Homes would cost around \$40,000 each and buyers could secure low interest loans—ex-plantation workers would have priority in buying the homes. But the houses are still on the drawing board, and the projected cost today is rumored at \$56,000. This is low compared to the average \$120,000 for homes in Hawaii, but is still a long ways from the income of retired pineapple workers.

The community itself is also changing. In Maunaloa, there are now several young white families who work at the hotel. Tourist buses drive through the streets regularly, showing tourists a "genuine" old plantation community. Rental Toyotas are frequently seen, often stopping off at the new bar and Italian restaurant just up the road from the old community hall and neighborhood hang-out in Maunaloa.

According to Amor Vinluan, a community organizer and wife of a former pineapple worker, bringing people together is much harder now. "Before, when the union was here, the ILWU, it was easy to call a meeting any everyone would show up." Now, however, people are scattered at different jobs. More women are working, and spend their evenings with housework and children.

One of the unchanging features of the community, however, is the terno ball. Sponsored recently by the Molokai Filipino Community Council, it was attended by over 500 persons. The local newspaper claimed it was the biggest social event of the year on Molokai.

Unlike the pretentious balls in most Filipino communities, where tickets are \$20, Molokai's cost only \$3.00 a person, ensuring that the whole community could participate. A Del Monte pineapple worker won the "best terno" category.

The Saturday cockfight, promoted as a major gambling event, is still a regular in the community. Food is sold by local entrepreneurs and the carefully-guarded betting takes place before each fight. Rows of pens housing the fighting cocks can be found in or nearby every plantation community.

But these traditions are just minor concerns here; employment and the future use of the land are still major issues confronting the local residents.

The tourist industry is continually criticized for its apparent free hand in developing almost any area without regard to its environmental or social impact. But as the major employer in the state, the tourist industry pretty much has its way—or can buy its way.

## TOURISM—BANE OR BOON?

The projected hotels, condominiums and shopping areas on Molokai, which would certainly provide much-needed employment, can also be the ruin of Molokai.

For example, water use is a major issue here. Already the golf course at the Sheraton requires one million gallons of water a day for watering. The allocation of water for the whole island, however, is only about 24 million gallons. Expanded development, to be kept lush and green with the image of the "Hawaiian paradise" would sharply cut into the total water supply. Over-drilling has already clogged some systems with brackish, salted water.

While appearing as isolated from the mainstream of Hawaii and the rest of the U.S., Molokai is today experiencing the growing pains felt by company towns on the mainland, dependent on certain industries which decide to close down or move away.

Filipinos and Hawaiians in Molokai are victims of the profit-minded plantations' "runaway shops." Dole can exploit the Filipinos more in the Philippines than in Hawaii.

While the people need employment, they must also fight against the indiscriminate development of the tourist industry—Hawaii's "new plantations"—which could potentially destroy the natural resources of the small island and bring in more residents to compete over fewer jobs.

For the people of the island of Molokai, as elsewhere, there is simply not any justice when the motivations of profit, of capitalism, control the wheels of change. □

## DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# Anti-Iranian Hysteria Sweeps U.S.

A wave of racist anti-Iranian hysteria has swept across the U.S. in response to the embassy take-over and the seizure of 62 American hostages by Iranian students.

When news of the take-over became public, spontaneous protests erupted throughout the U.S. The common injustices and harassments usually experienced by minorities became more focused at Iranians in the U.S.

Encouraged by a mood of vindictive nationalism, mobs of Americans have self-righteously expressed their "concern" for the American hostages by directing their anger at Iranian students and workers in the U.S. This anger has taken the form of numerous acts of violence.

● At the University of Southern California, Iranians being interviewed about their status under threat of deportation were subjected to being photographed for mug shots by INS agents. This is a process normally withheld until after one has been arrested for a crime. In this case, the crime was being Iranian.

● In Houston, Texas, the windows in the office of the Iranian consulate were smashed by an anti-Iranian mob.

● At the San Onofre Nuclear Plant, 200 Bechtel employees demonstrated against the presence of five Iranian employees. A company spokesman said the five were given a paid leave of absence and would be sent to other office locations "as a matter of prudence and to maintain calm at the job site."

● Officials in Glendale, California are refusing to admit to school the children of Iranian refugees—in defiance of state law.

● James Le Fante, head of the Hudson County Bus Owners Association in New Jersey, called six drivers into his office and fired them because they are Iranian. Le Fante is now urging "every merchant, every restaurant owner in Jersey City to let their Iranians go and fly the American flag."

## PRESS DISTORTIONS

The press has contributed to the anti-Iranian hysteria with biased and sen-



*Iranian imprisoned by INS agents in New York City. Anti-Iranian racism has swept major U.S. cities, with deportation threatened against Iranian students.*

sationalized reporting. Students who seized the embassy have been described as "a band of revolutionary renegades" with dramatic headlines reading "American Hostages Abused" despite eye-witness reports to the contrary.

While each outburst of anti-Iranian racism gets portrayed as an "understandable" patriotic reaction, the fact that the constitutional rights of innocent Iranians have been violated is virtually ignored.

Also unspoken to is the fact that the U.S. government installed the shah by means of a coup and heavily backed him in financial and military aid to be used against the Iranian people in order to maintain the shah's stability. The government has been attempting to reduce the issue to a purely medical concern, saying that the shah is just an unfortunate, cancer-ridden man who needs help.

Despite the knowledge that a seizure of the embassy and the taking of hos-

tages was highly probable, the U.S. government, after considering the risks, chose to act in the interest of the shah over the interests of the American citizens in the embassy, thus granting the shah admittance into the country.

Turning a deaf ear to the concerns of Iranian representatives, President Carter at first projected an air of caution but has increasingly taken a hard line stance on the issue. He has pleaded for an attitude of national calm and reserve while at the same time flexing the U.S. military muscle and stating that the U.S. "will not succumb to blackmail." With the current rise in American nationalism, such statements have been well received by the American public.

## IRANIAN RIGHTS DEFENDED

All Americans, however, have not been swept up in the current wave of anti-Iranian hysteria—most notably those who have themselves been victims

of national chauvinism and racism. The National Black Pastors Conference, made up of 1,200 black ministers and representing some 15 million black Christians, demanded the deportation of the shah and an end to the harassment of Iranians in America.

A spokesman for the World War II Japanese-American concentration camp victims also decried any government-issued call for an investigation of any certain sector based solely on race or nationality. The Japanese-American Citizens' League said such actions were a violation of the constitution and therefore illegal, setting a dangerous precedent for disregarding the rights of any race, nationality or religious group.

In the Bay Area, various white and minority groups and individuals have formed the Emergency Coalition to Support the Iranian People. This coalition also demands the deportation of the shah and an end to the harassment of Iranians in the U.S. □

# Hawaii Workers Settle Strike

HONOLULU — After heated debate within the union, a contract agreement in the six-week-old United Public Workers strike was ratified by the general members of the blue collar unit.

Many leaders and rank and file members were vocally dissatisfied with the package made public just before Thanksgiving. Many targeted Henry Epstein, director of the union, with selling out the members in "secret meetings" with Governor Ariyoshi.

The union represents almost 8,000 blue collar public workers who range from sewer cleaners to school cafeteria workers.

The new agreement will give all workers a \$100 monthly raise in both the first and second years of their contracts. "Essential" workers, whom the State tried to coerce into returning to work during the strike, would receive an additional \$15 a month during the second year.

The workers had originally demanded a \$175 monthly raise in each of the two years. The cost of living in Hawaii is 25% higher than the cost of living in the main-



*Striking Filipino custodial and cafeteria workers picket a school in Kalihi, where many Filipino immigrants live. This strike of public blue collar workers was recently settled.*

land, while wages are 8% lower.

According to some sources, controversial strikes like this one are brewing all over Hawaii, as more rights of work-

ers are denied. Some members of the State legislature are now hinting that they might take away or challenge the right of public workers to collective bar-

gaining, a right that Hawaii workers won in 1970. If this is the case, the State will once again be locked into a critical labor debate with Hawaii's public workers. □

# Washington Threatens Military Action Against Iran

The entrance of the Shah of Iran into the U.S. last month and the subsequent seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran has sparked an international crisis of dangerous proportions.

The embassy occupiers, with the Ayatollah Khomeini's backing, want the shah returned to Iran to stand trial for crimes committed during his three decades of bloody rule. The Carter administration refuses to extradite the shah, demanding that the embassy personnel held in Tehran be released. At present, it is a standoff with the U.S. raising the stakes involved in the crisis with each passing day.

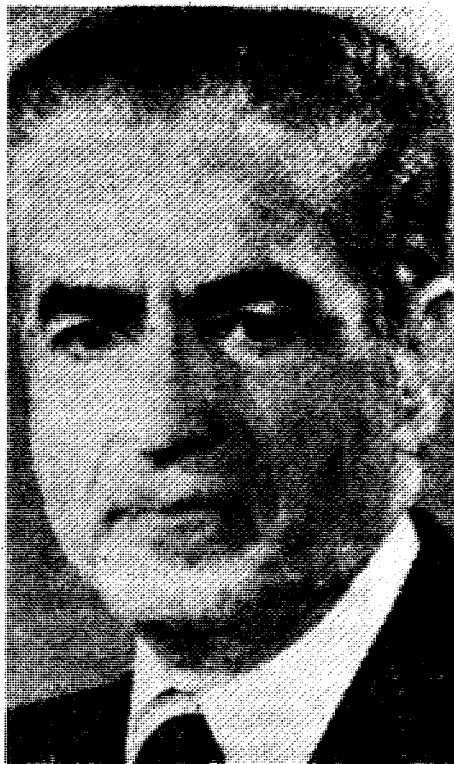
The clearest danger is some form of U.S. military intervention. Since the embassy take-over, the U.S. has assembled a huge flotilla of Navy ships in the seas around Iran. Three separate naval task forces of some 19 ships now occupy the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea and Indian Ocean. It is the largest U.S. naval force in the area since World War II, and can only be explained as part of U.S. plans for some form of military action or intimidation.

The naval armada represents the awesome military power of the U.S. Included in the flotilla are the aircraft carriers Midway and Kittyhawk, the latter having been called from Subic Bay in the Philippines. Fighter bombers on the carriers are capable of launching devastating airstrikes against Iran's oil fields and population.

Plans for such a military action were recently reported by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. In his November 26 column, Anderson revealed portions of top-secret contingency plans which call for the bombing of Iran's main oil port, Kharg, in the Persian Gulf. Other portions of his report also called for the use of Israel as a staging area for U.S. paratroopers who would seize Iran's oil fields.

## ECONOMIC SANCTIONS INVOLVED

As the U.S. has been raising the specter of military intervention, a virtual economic war has unfolded over Iranian assets and oil. These maneuvers have involved not only the U.S. but most Western nations which are tied in one



Tehran protest in front of U.S. Embassy (right) demands a return of the Shah (left).



way or another to either the deposed Shah or Iran and its oil.

Shortly after the embassy seizure on November 5, the U.S. announced it was halting imports of Iranian oil. Washington followed this by freezing all Iranian assets in the country.

Iran responded by saying that it would no longer accept U.S. dollars in payment for its oil, a move which could seriously weaken the U.S. currency internationally. Then on November 23, Iran's acting foreign minister Bani-Sadr said that all foreign debts were repudiated, estimated at \$15 billion. Iran said the debts were incurred by the shah and that the present regime could not be held accountable for those loans. "How can we undertake to pay back debts that were taken by criminals from their accomplices and put back in the accomplices' bank?" said Bani-Sadr.

Widespread confusion over Iran's actions has resulted especially since there have been conflicting announcements, then denials between the foreign ministry and representatives of Iran's main banks. Also clouding the situation

has been the replacement of Iran's foreign minister two times since the crisis began.

Other countries are extremely anxious over the Washington-Tehran standoff and have also taken actions to safeguard their national interests. Mexico has recently refused to allow the shah back into its country, a move which caught the Carter administration by surprise. West German courts also recently approved the seizure of Iran's interests in the huge Krupp industrial firm.

## POLITICAL ISOLATION OF KHOMEINI GROWS

What has compounded the dilemma of the Khomeini regime in its support of the embassy seizure is the international outcry over the Iranian students' actions. Virtually every country, even Islamic countries viewed close to the Khomeini regime such as Libya, have urged a release of the embassy hostages.

A partial break in the crisis came November 18-20 when eight black men and five white women hostages were released. The remaining hostages, how-

ever, were still detained under charges of spying by the student occupiers.

While such charges have a foundation in the past history of U.S. actions in Iran, actions which saw Washington using its resources to train and equip the Shah's hated SAVAK secret police, the seizure of the embassy has clouded these charges, and the Carter administration has been able to hide this history behind a demagogic appeal for a defense of American honor and prestige.

Khomeini and the multitude of Iranians backing him have vowed to continue their demands for the shah's return, and to hold trial for the accused embassy personnel now being held on spying charges. In the meantime, Washington has escalated its diplomatic and economic war against Iran, and a military venture of some form cannot be ruled out. Indeed, there have even been calls for punitive actions against Iran even if the hostages are released.

The standoff shows no sign of abating in the near future, and the stakes involved in the crisis are at already dangerously high levels. □

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## Trawlers Destroy Fishing Grounds

# Fishermen Protest Destruction of Livelihood

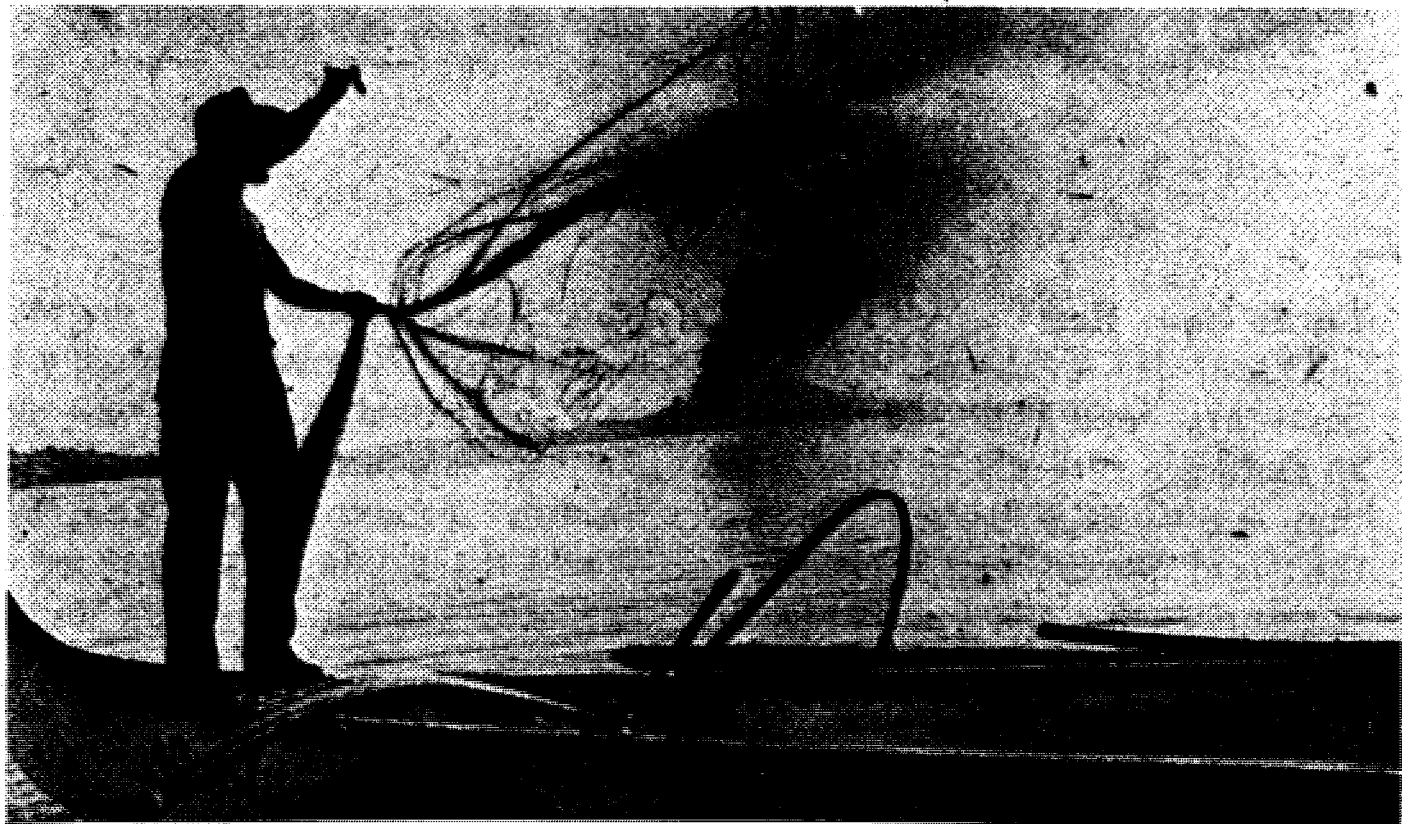
Minitrawlers off the Bataan coast provoked a mass protest among small fishermen last October 31. The trawlers have been destroying nets and overturning *bancas* without paying for the damage.

Twenty-three *bancas* filled with fishermen from Limay, Bataan were joined by seven others from barrios of towns as far as Balanga and Malabon as they systematically approached and boarded 15 minitrawlers fishing near the shore. Telling them not to be afraid, the small fishermen, numbering more than 80 in all, requested the crews of the trawlers to do their fishing further out in the sea so that they would not run into the nets and *bancas* of the small fishermen who could only fish near the shore. They further explained to the trawler crews that they all depended on fishing for a living and so they should understand their problems and cooperate. A single net costs at least P1,000 and, until it is replaced, the fisherman cannot work. They are often not compensated for their loss and are instead intimidated by the authorities when they complain.

The militant action of the small fishermen proved successful as all the minitrawlers moved further offshore and continued to do so in the following days. The fishermen remain vigilant however, as sightings of other minitrawlers have been reported. They believe, though, that these boats come from areas that may not have been informed of the recent action.

### LARGER SHIPS— GREATER DAMAGE

Damage from minitrawlers, however is only one of the major problems being



*Fishermen cast their nets: Small fishermen have been gradually deprived of their fishing rights by large and small trawlers.*

They have also complained about the destruction wrought on a larger scale by giant Japanese trawlers. These Japanese trawlers scrape the bottom of the sea, catching small fish and fish eggs, and destroying breeding grounds, thus depleting future fish harvests. They are often accompanied by Philippine Coast Guard personnel who fire upon smaller boats if they come near. The fish they catch is not consumed locally but is shipped to Japan for processing and export.

The small fishermen also complain about the pollution of the sea by numerous industrial plants in Bataan. Often fish cannot be sold because they smell and taste of oil and other industrial wastes. Also, small fishermen are harassed and subjected to extortion by the Philippine Coast Guard and other authorities when they apply for fishing permits. These permits are good for a varying number of days at the discretion of officials. Often the fishermen, who have much trouble traveling to town to get

the permit, don't bother and are later harassed for not having them when they complain about the minitrawlers. Fishermen are also victimized by heavily-armed pirates who force them to jump into the sea and then steal their *bancas*.

All these problems have caused the small fishermen to start organizing to defend their rights. They have vowed that their recent action is only the first. They are prepared to resort to more militant forms of protest if needed. □



*NPA practice ambush techniques*

## NPA Stage Successful Ambush

Belated reports from the Southern Tagalog region reveal the details of a successful ambush carried out by the New People's Army (NPA) against the Marcos military last June. All seven members of the Philippine military patrol were killed without a single casualty for the NPA, largely because of painstaking preparation by the unit. The people's army also confiscated eight *Armalites*, 25 magazines, a two-way radio, and other military equipment.

The red fighters carefully set a trap for their enemy. They timed the punish-

ment of three notorious criminal elements who had been terrorizing the barrio in order to provoke a patrol at a time when they would be prepared to do ambush it.

Four days later, on June 23, they took up positions at a pre-arranged ambush site. The following day, a weapons carrier loaded with the seven enemy troops arrived. As it passed, the people's fighters opened fire, killing all seven.

After collecting the weapons, the unit set fire to the vehicle to prevent its further use by the Marcos troops.

Concluded the report, "... Although in the whole country the New People's Army continues to be small and weak compared to the enemy, on certain occasions it can seize the initiative, wipe out an enemy force and confiscate their arms. In this way, people's army units in various parts of the country continue to gain strength, and the people gain more confidence in the correctness of launching protracted people's war against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism." □

## Capitalism...

*Continued from page 6*

tion to imperialism. While ambitious bureaucrat capitalists such as Marcos at times compete against particular foreign companies, Marcos himself knows that the whole economy—and therefore his own business interests—is dependent on continued U.S. support. As such, he can only go so far in using his political power to advance his business interests, especially when American firms are his competitors. Marcos has, in fact, retreated in the face of official American protests in the past. He has also tried his best to limit his cronies to areas where there are no strong American interests or where they can coexist with American firms in one sector.

The U.S., for its part, knows that local politicians who maintain "stability" and control over the population have to be allowed a cut in neo-colonial profits. As long as the Philippines' neo-colonial dependence on the U.S. remains, U.S. leaders know that they can always replace bureaucrat capitalists who become too greedy.

Marcos' recent moves have to be seen in this perspective. The increasing concentration of economic power in the Marcos regime has not only increased concern among individual American businessmen, it has also begun to threaten the cohesion of the ruling class itself. Marcos' moves have also meant an increasing number of individuals and groups in the Philippine elite who have either been squeezed out of certain businesses or denied access to new ones. As resentment builds up among these groups, the potential for more effective counter-elite opposition is increasing. Marcos may simply be playing the same old bureaucrat capitalist game. But it looks more and more as if he has come close to overplaying his hand. □