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Protest Anti-Labor Decree RALLIES ROCK MANILA



The biggest demonstration held under martial law was staged in Plaza Miranda last Dec. 6, with workers, students and religious chanting, "Lift Ban on Strikes!" and "Down with Martial Law!"
Ang Katipunan Photo

FLASH!—On Wednesday, Dec 17, Pres. Marcos under mass pressure, lifted his recent total ban on strikes. The lifting of the strike ban was prompted by massive rallies and protests successfully staged by workers, students, clergy, and concerned citizens.

By Samuel P. Bayani

MANILA—The recent anti-labor Presidential Decree 823 has unleashed a storm of protest. The decree, which outlaws all strikes and other forms of workers protest explicitly prohibits the religious from assisting in labor causes, drew strong mass opposition.

Workers, students, urban poor, clergy and concerned citizens staged a huge demonstration against the decree last Nov 23. Despite the martial law ban on demonstrations, a crowd of 4,000 took
continued on page 12

FORD VISIT CEMENTS US-RP COLLUSION

By Ma. Flor Sepulveda

Pres. Ford's visit to the Philippines last Nov. 6 was a confirmation of US support and approval for the unpopular and repressive Marcos regime. What once was tacit is now explicit approval of martial law, restoring Marcos' confidence in the US.

Since US defeat in Indochina last April, Marcos has questioned the ability of the US to "honor its commitments to its Asian allies" (US News & World Report, 5/19/75). This however was provoked by the dictator's fear that he would similarly be abandoned like his fellow Asian dictators, Thieu and Lon Nol.

Whatever misgivings Marcos claimed about the US was not reflected in the profuse puppetry he displayed during Ford's weekend visit. Just to impress Ford and the US delegation, Marcos ordered a repeat performance of the "Kasaysayan ng Lahi" (History of the People), a 20,000-person parade Imelda has assembled last July, 1974, for the Miss Universe pageant.
continued on page 3

**PEOPLE'S DEMAND:
LIFT MARTIAL LAW,
HOLD IMMEDIATE ELECTIONS**

Page 2

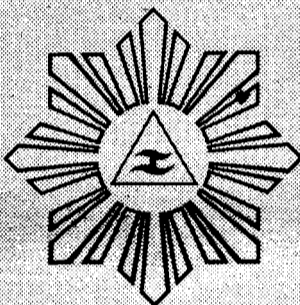
**NPA ACTIVITIES IN BICOL
AND SAMAR** Page 3

**TOTAL BAN ON STRIKES
DECREEED** Page 4

**FILIPINO STUDENTS FORM
NEW ORGANIZATION** Page 6

**S-1 BILL ASSAULTS
BASIC FREEDOMS** Page 10

Ang
KATIPUNAN
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF KDP
VOLUME 2 NUMBER 9 DECEMBER 19, 1975 25 CENTS



Groups Plan Political Prisoners Campaign, Jan. 1st Protest

By Sherry Valparaiso

Two major projects will be launched by the Anti Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) during the holiday season. One will be a fundraising campaign for Philippines political prisoners through door to door caroling, and protest activities around Jan. 1 to demand that Marcos "lift martial law and hold immediate elections."

Walden Bello of the Coalition announced the plans for implementation Nov. 18 explaining that "through these campaigns we hope to further heighten the public's awareness of the undemocratic and illegal character of the Marcos regime. The Christmas caroling for instance will consist of a repertoire of Christmas carols as well as songs with direct relevance to the plight of political prisoners. In addition, brief presentations on the conditions of political prisoners will be made to those families being entertained."

Local mobilizations for the Christmas caroling are already underway in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, S.F. Bay Area, Seattle and Hawaii. In San Francisco I attended the first meeting for the Christmas caroling campaign Dec. 8 where several singing teams were formed and guidelines provided by the local committee.

Loy Apalisok of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) explained why we should raise funds for political prisoners and their families, despite the hard times we are facing in the US. "Right now there are about 10,000 political prisoners in the Philippines many of whom are the head of a family, the breadwinner. When they are detained, the family's income is cut off."

"These are political prisoners, not common criminals as Marcos would have us believe," another person added, "and the Marcos gov't is unpopular because it does not benefit the majority of the people. When martial law was declared, those that had opposed the corrupt regime were imprisoned. They are students, teachers, clergy, journalists, ex-senators, peasants and workers—everyday citizens, most of whom are detained without formal charges or trial."

Apalisok continued, "The Political Prisoners Fund will not only be used to aid the families, but it is also

for the prisoners themselves. The conditions in the prisons are extremely poor. There is widespread malnutrition among the prisoners and there is a serious lack of medical attention."

When asked how the funds would reach the prisoners, the Committee explained that arrangements had been made to send money through the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines and the National Council of Churches of the Philippines. These groups are well known and have established church committees to work closely with the prisoners and their families. It was also announced
continued on page 7

FMG Issue Gathers Support

By Sherry Valparaiso

The campaign to defend the Filipino Exchange Visitors Foreign Medical Graduates (EV-FMGs), who face deportation due to a recent State Dept. and Immigration ruling, is taking a nationwide scope and plans are being made to overturn the ruling.

In New York the National Steering Committee of the Emergency Defense Committee for FMGs is stepping up its work in the legal and congressional areas. In light of the closeness to the January 1 effective date, possible ways are being planned to have the State Dept. ruling suspended and subject it to Congressional review. In addition, guidelines are being prepared by the legal sub-committee to assist FMGs to appeal the ruling upon receipt of their deportation notices from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Adhoc-defense committees in Philadelphia and Chicago are currently being established to provide backup to the national campaign through forums, fundraising, petitioning and letters to Congress drives. Supporters of the EV-FMGs in Philadelphia have set Jan. 10, 1976 for a community meeting to organize a defense committee there. In Chicago, where the issue is also of growing popular concern, a meeting has been set for Sunday, Dec.

21, 1975 at 4 p.m. at the Cook County Nurses Residence, 750 S. Wolcott.

CHICAGO FILIPINOS RESPOND

According to our Ang Katipunan correspondent in Chicago, we were able to obtain vivid details of the local organizing work thus far.

Nena Hernandez and Dr. Lito Kabatay, members of the Ad Hoc Working Group that is forming the committee, strongly protested the retroactiveness of the ruling "because the INS has been inconsistent in applying the law. In the past it encouraged the EV-FMGs to apply and gave them
continued on page 7

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EDITORIAL

FILIPINO PEOPLE'S DEMAND: LIFT MARTIAL LAW, HOLD ELECTIONS

Last week during Pres. Ford's visit to the Philippines, 9,000 Filipinos boldly demonstrated at Plaza Miranda and called for an end to martial law. This was the largest protest gathering since the military regime was imposed three years ago. As this demonstration shows, the people's movement has not been broken despite martial law repression. Increasingly, all sectors of Philippine society -- students, workers, peasants, clergy, etc. -- are being united in a broad, anti-fascist united front and raising the common demand to lift martial law, restore democratic rights and hold elections. Thousands of people are being mobilized to openly fight for these demands.

For too long, the Filipino people have lived without basic freedom and human liberties and a massive campaign is mounting to pressure Marcos to let the people, and not one man, decide the future of the Philippines. These sentiments have been most clearly vocalized by the Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front (NDF) which recently put forward the slogan, "Lift Martial Law, Hold Immediate Elections!" in a LIBERATION editorial last Sept. 22, 1975.

The editorial reads in part, "The US-Marcos dictatorship is afraid of the growing strength of the people. To maintain its rule, it will escalate the armed counter-revolution in the countryside. On the other hand, it will continue to hold off elections to deny the people any opportunity to express their

collective will...In the past, the people's will could easily be manipulated during elections because they had no organizations and lacked revolutionary experience. Not any more...they can no longer be deceived and will refuse to participate in any more mockeries of democracy like the past three referendums."

Already, these ideas are "catching fire" and sweeping across the country. This is because the NDF's slogan accurately sums up the popular democratic aspirations of the vast majority of the Filipino people. It challenges Marcos to prove his claim that he rules through the "mandate of the people" by restoring basic freedoms and holding elections.

This slogan exposes Marcos' greatest vulnerability -- that he is hated by the people. Marcos knows that allowing free speech and assembly and holding immediate elections would unleash forces that are so powerful that it could lead to his downfall.

Philippine revolutionaries, however, have no illusion that an election of itself will solve the country's basic problems. The ills of Philippine society -- concentration of the country's wealth into the few hands of landlords and corrupt politicians, unequal treaties, domination of the economy by foreign corporations, etc. -- can be cured only through a revolutionary struggle to overthrow the present exploitative system. Therefore, whether

the elections are held or not, the armed struggle will continue, the NPA will expand the areas of revolutionary land reform in the provinces, and the struggle for a complete end to imperialist domination and feudal oppression will not be surrendered.

However, in this period, "Lift Martial Law, Hold Immediate Elections!" is an important demand because it focuses in on the fascist character of the regime and points out the immediate and concrete steps to be taken in breaking Marcos' hold on the country.

As the months go by and increasing numbers of people take up this demand, Marcos will be trapped -- if he concedes to the pressure, the people can force his hand. The press and media will be free to tell the truth again and the people can speak their ideas without fear of arrest or retaliation. If instead Marcos increases fascist repression in the face of such a reasonable demand for basic freedom and liberty, then he will further isolate his regime at home and abroad. In both cases, his dictatorship is weakened and the day of his eventual overthrow grows closer.

Here in the US, the progressive and democratic sectors of the Filipino community must also take up this slogan. We should join with our brothers and sisters in the Philippines in demanding, "Lift Martial Law, Hold Immediate Elections!" □

KDP National Executive Board

MFP... 'A Convention of Action'? Let's Hope So

Last month, the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP) led by ex-senator Raul Manglapus, held its third annual convention, labeled a "Convention of Action." We of the KDP are more than prepared to give our friends in the MFP the "benefit of the doubt," however unfortunately our observations over the past year is that the MFP has been anything but active and cooperative with other anti-Marcos forces.

For the record, a brief review of MFP's participation (or lack of it) in the major joint anti martial law campaigns of 1975 is in order;

- The petition campaign to the US Congress calling for an end to military aid to Marcos; it was a highly successful drive gathering 40,000 signatures in only a few months, though the MFP's overall participation was very minimal and token.

- The joint research and preparations for the Congressional hearings last spring which resulted in the landmark study "Logistics of Repression" documenting the repressive use by Marcos of US military aid. In this campaign the MFP proved extremely uncooperative, refused to participate at all in the joint preparations, and insisted on submitting a completely separate list of witnesses.

- In Los Angeles where the campaign to raise funds for Filipino political prisoners and their families is centered, the local MFP refused to lend any concrete assistance whatsoever to the research and documentation work about conditions of political prisoners.

- And in the joint community dinners and other

activities held this past Sept. 22 in 10 different cities to raise funds for families of political prisoners, the MFP members throughout the country (with the exception of MFP Honolulu) also refused to take an active role. Over \$5,000 was raised -- no thanks to the close cooperation of the MFP.

- To top it all off, Raul Manglapus refused to even issue a joint statement with all the other anti martial law groups in the country condemning the Marcos dictatorship on its third anniversary!

With this poor performance record as a backdrop, MFP's high-sounding calls for "unity and action" can not help but ring hollow and empty in the ears of those who have remained active in the movement of opposition to Marcos. This is because of what we have seen over the past year, the MFP has been relatively inactive and uncooperative... often times refusing outright to join in anti martial law activities, or at best, showing up for the first meetings "to observe," but disappearing when it comes to the difficult work of the campaign.

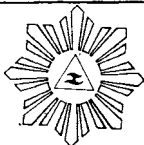
What excuses does MFP have for such behavior at a time when our strength lies mainly in our joint activities against the dictatorship?

One MFP excuse is that there are "major political and ideological differences among the anti martial law groups" (in particular between MFP and KDP). Of course there are differences! If there were no political differences there would be no need for separate organizations. Our main difference with the MFP is in our assessment of the

role of the US government and Big Business in the Philippines. We maintain that the active US backing for the Marcos dictatorship is not a "mistake," but a calculated move to maintain and increase US economic and political control over the Philippines and her people, which has gone on now for more than 75 years. The KDP maintains that the long and harsh suffering of the Filipino people is deeply rooted in the imperialist domination of the economy; unequal treaties with the US; big land lordism; and the stranglehold of corrupt capitalist politicians like Marcos. While we agree with the MFP and others that the Marcos dictatorship is the worst evil in the Philippines today, unlike the MFP, we do not think simply that the Marcos regime is the "root of all evil." Rather we maintain that the basic problems of the Philippines must be traced back to the generations of US imperialist domination and control of the country.

These political differences in analysis have never been kept a secret (and should not be) but we do not feel that they provide MFP with sufficient excuse for non-cooperation with other anti-Marcos forces. The very fact that we are all united in our determination to help topple the Marcos dictatorship, means that we can set some of our political differences aside and find numerous areas of agreement and joint activity. Certainly the MFP is not opposed in principle to ending military aid to the Marcos regime, nor opposed to raising funds for political prisoners and political refugees displaced by the "new society." And we see no reason why the MFP can not actively join with all the other anti martial law forces in the demand "Lift martial law, hold immediate elections."

continued on page 9



Ang
KATIPUNAN

Published By
Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino
(KDP) — Union of Democratic Filipinos —

KDP is a mass organization based in the US and is committed primarily to the struggle for the basic and long-term needs of the Filipino people, both in the Philippines and here in America.

Because of this, KDP supports the struggle of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship and pledges to help build a broad-based movement among Filipinos in the US to oppose martial law.

However, KDP sees that the root cause of all the misery and poverty in the Philippines is the imperialist control, exercised principally by the U.S., over the economy and politics of the country. The Filipino people can solve this basic

problem only through long and difficult revolutionary struggle for a truly genuine democratic and independent Philippines.

Here in the US, KDP is committed to struggling for the democratic rights of the Filipino minority. Katipunan views the racial and national discrimination experienced by the Filipino people, as part of and stemming from, the monopoly capitalist system in the US. KDP members understand that the US government is in fact, not democratic, but in the hands of a tiny minority of monopoly industrialists and bankers.

KDP sees that the people of the U.S. also need fundamental, revolutionary change to solve the basic ills that plague American society. The Katipunan understands that the working class must firmly control the government before it can rightfully be termed a government "of the people and for the people."

KDP sees that greater numbers of Filipinos are coming to these same political understandings. KDP is an organization open to all who agree with

our political programme. In addition, KDP is committed to working in close cooperation with all progressive Filipinos to build a strong Filipino people's movement in America.

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FORD VISIT...

continued from front page

The weekend "festivities" entailed a wide-scale clean-up of Manila including the mass ejection of squatters to eliminate all visible signs of poverty. The 20,000 govt employees and army troops recruited for the parade feverishly rehearsed for three days. Elaborate security measures were undertaken with a 15,000 security force assigned to Ford. Even children there to greet Ford were bribed with promises of free shoes and clothes to wear for the occasion! The end result of these preparations was a spectacular, ostentatious and well-rehearsed welcome which according to an American journalist "was worthy of a multi-million dollar Hollywood production."

Taking advantage of the 150 foreign correspondents following Ford's Asia tour, Marcos launched a hard-sell public relations campaign and presented each with generous gifts and stacks of martial law documents. Noted one New York Times correspondent (Dec 7): "And in what seemed an excess of customary Filipino hospitality in a nation with an average annual income of \$330, each of the reporters and 50 presidential aides were presented with an embroidered "barong Tagalog" shirt dress, \$30 worth of cigars in a mahogany humidor box, stationary and matchbooks with the individuals name embossed in gold leaf, a necklace, an assortment of softdrinks accompanied by a pint of Philippine rum... Each was given a 2-ft. high stack of bound volumes, briefing papers and other material extolling and explaining Mr. Marcos' "new society."

The highlight of the visit, however, was the issuing of a joint communique outlining the new defense relationship between the two countries. As to be expected, this new defense relationship was not substantially different from its predecessor. Although it was more carefully worded, making it appear that the Philippines is now more



Ford and Marcos pledged to preserve US presence in Western Pacific.

independent and self-reliant, US control is still intact but more carefully disguised. The two leaders strongly agreed that US presence in Asia (and therefore in the Philippines) had to be preserved but accommodated to the changed political relations in the region.

With this in mind, the two leaders developed guidelines for the forthcoming revision of US-RP military and economic treaties. These guidelines, however, only removed the blatant manifestations of Philippine subservience to the US evident in the treaties.

U.S. AID TO BE FUNNELED DISCREETLY

The US-RP Military Assistance Pact will most likely be scrapped in favor of a more covert arrangement of assistance. The new arrangement will provide for the US to finance and equip the Philippine Army with multi-million grants and defense materials. Though US military aid is being threatened by the current mood in Congress to cut foreign assistance to repressive regimes such as Marcos', more discreet forms of assistance will be provided instead. Low-interest loans and technological assistance, for example, will be made available to "help" the Philippines achieve military self-reliance." In fact the US has already given the Philippines a \$16-M grant to build an M-16 rifle factory to produce its own arms.

BASES TO REMAIN UNDER U.S. CONTROL

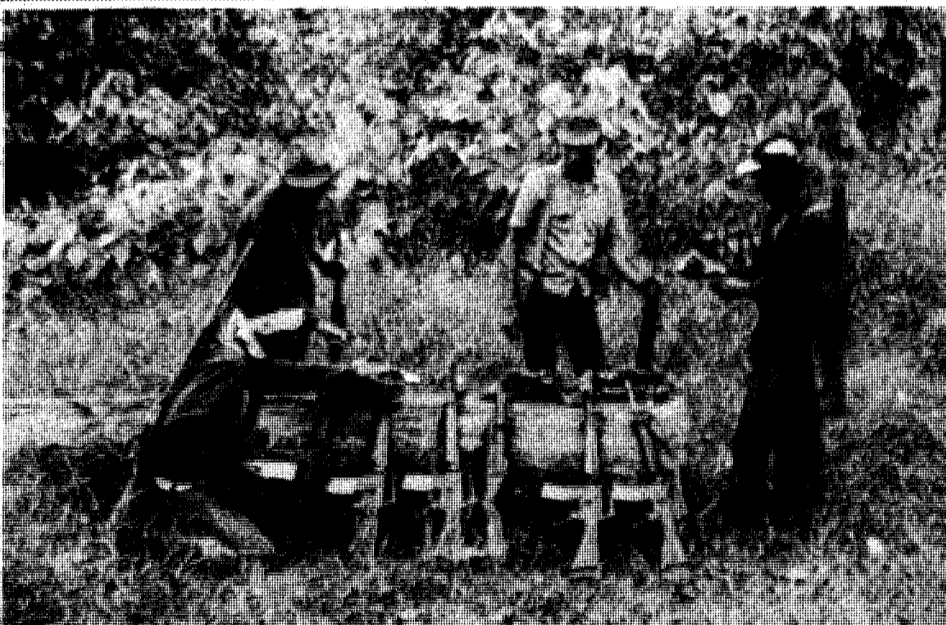
As to be expected, Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base will remain in the country and the US govt will continue to exercise full control over them. Top US officials have firmly expressed that the US govt will not concede to Marcos' demands for Philippine jurisdiction over the bases.

According to the New York Times (Dec 7, 1975): "The US regards the two bases as crucial from the aspect of security, that if the US did not have these the next comparable base was Hawaii." Clark and Subic comprise the US most strategic bases in the Western Pacific. Their value has acquired even more importance now that the Philippines is on the front line of America's Pacific defense. Should the US relinquish control over these bases, it would be tantamount to voluntarily weakening US position in Asia.

However, in the same Dec 7 NY Times report, senior members of Mr. Ford's party said the US could accept new terms to lower the American flag at the base to give Mr. Marcos what one official called a "cosmetic form of sovereignty that would improve his standing among Third World nations of Asia."

continued on page 5

Pagbabalikwas (In revolt)



Guerrillas of the New Peoples Army examine weapons captured from enemy (Free Philippines News Service)

NPA Active in Bicol and Samar

While the censored media continues its news blackout on the resistance, the armed struggle led by the NPA is growing strong and is broadening throughout the Philippine countryside. The NPA now operates in Northeast, Northwest, and Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Eastern and Western Visayas, and Mindanao.

The following article on NPA activities in Samar and Bicol exemplifies the NPA's practice throughout the country today and shows how the NPA is able to weather all kinds of attacks from Marcos' army and expand at the same time.

This report was made available by Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (Free Philippines News Service), an underground news service for int'l. distribution which was recently revived. BMP was discontinued last year after the regime raided its headquarters. — Editor

DONSOL, SORSOGON—Two abusive "encargados" (overseers) were punished by the New People's Army (NPA) in Bicol during two separate incidents last Aug 23 and 24.

Tried and punished were Epifanio Muyo, overseer of landlord Domingo Imperial's vast tracts of lands here and Jose Borjal, an overseer of land-grabber Isidro Espartinez of Agol, Pio Duran, Albay.

Upon the insistent demands of the peasants who were victimized by the two men, the NPA arrested Muyo and Borjal. The duo were responsible for driving out the peasants from their lands, cheating in the expropriation of the harvest, unjustly raising land rents, conscripting labor for the hacienda without pay, assisting the PC in

the demolition of the peasants' houses, informing the PC about the whereabouts of the NPA, intimidating innocent civilians, raping barrio women, and other anti-people activities. After a just trial, the two were meted out the death sentence for their crimes.

The NPA confiscated a .22 caliber revolver and three carabaos from Muyo and 18 sacks of copra and a stolen carabao from Borjal. The NPA then butchered the carabao equally among the people. The NPA also sold the copra and proceeds were divided fairly among the peasants working in the adjoining plantations. More than 150 families of poor peasants benefited from the NPA operation.

In the adjoining provinces of Camarines Sur and Albay:

- Two AFP units figured in a mistake encounter during the 3rd week of August in Bo. Maonun, Ligao, Albay. A considerable number of gov't soldiers were killed.

- AFP psy-war experts have been spreading rumors that there are Muslim rebels in Libon, Albay who have been ambushing gov't soldiers. The townspeople, however, realize that this is nothing but a ploy to scare the people and justify the "encirclement and suppression" campaigns against the people's army.

- An NPA unit punished a "demonyo" (enemy informer) by the name of Sgt. Bismonte during the first week of October in the Balatan area in Camarines Sur. The NPA unit also confiscated four firearms from Bismonte. In retaliation, the military imposed a 6 p.m. curfew and patrolled the area, though only during the daytime for fear of night ambush.

- The people of the Tinambac area in Camarines Sur believe that their place is going to be made a site for a secret military base (naval and air).

Many AFP trucks and PAF jets were seen in the area.

- Landgrabbing is now rampant in the Partido area of Camarines Sur. Observers noted that the frontmen for Marcos are doing the job. The most notorious among them is a certain Romeo Santos, who owns the 5,000 hectares of Hacienda Magdalena. This hacienda which is spread out in three barrios of Tigaon, one barrio of Sagnay and one barrio of Goa, is to be planted mainly with sugar. The hacienda like many others are lands grabbed with the collaboration of the PC.

- Several months ago, farmers in Hacienda Veneracion in Pasacao, Camarines Sur, burned the landlord's irrigation pump in protest against the unfair sharing arrangement. □

NPA WIPES OUT PC UNIT IN 1ST EASTERN SAMAR AMBUSH

CATARMAN, EASTERN SAMAR—Four PC soldiers were killed and three others were seriously wounded when their unit was ambushed by the New People's Army in Las Navas and Lapinig, Eastern Samar on Aug 28. According to reports received by the PAKIGBISOG, a revolutionary newspaper serving the people of Eastern and Central Visayas, this was the 1st ambush made by NPA guerrillas in Eastern Samar. The three seriously wounded troopers were taken to the Northern Catarman Hospital.

According to reports, their chances of survival are 50-50. The hospital was closed and guarded to keep the ambush secret. The next day, Aug 29, the PC launched a massive search-and-destroy operation against the NPA. Helicopters were also in the search. But because the NPA has established close ties with the peasants of the area, the gov't troopers failed to find even a single guerrilla fighter. □

Support for Labor Prohibited

TOTAL BAN ON STRIKES DECREED

By Francisco Ocampo

MANILA—A new strike ban was decreed by Pres. Ferdinand Marcos after a rash of massive strikes were staged almost simultaneously in various companies in the Greater Manila Area.

Reinforcing General Order No. 5, issued at the onset of martial law which prohibits strikes only in "certain vital industries," Presidential Decree No. 823 bans all strikes, slowdowns, and all other forms of workers struggle.

Furthermore, the new decree also prohibits all persons and organizations to give any donation or assistance to any labor organizations or group of workers. This includes all aliens and foreign organizations engaging directly or indirectly in all forms of trade union activities and assisting "all organizations of farm workers, rural workers, and the like."

EVERYTHING BANNED

The effects of this decree are devastating. Before this decree was issued, workers at least had some leverage in pressing their demands to management through mediation and protest forms such as slowdowns, lockouts and sitdowns. Now, this new decree bans everything, leaving what the dictator calls "compulsory arbitration" as the method for settling labor-management disputes.

This method, however, has been proven to be biased against workers' interests and takes a very long time, usually months and sometimes even years. An example is the recent La Tondena distillery strike which took 30 hearings since 1971. Only after a recent strike were the workers able to have their dispute partially resolved. Secondly, arbitration proceedings also requires exorbitant fees that workers, who are already underpaid, can

seldom afford.

ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED

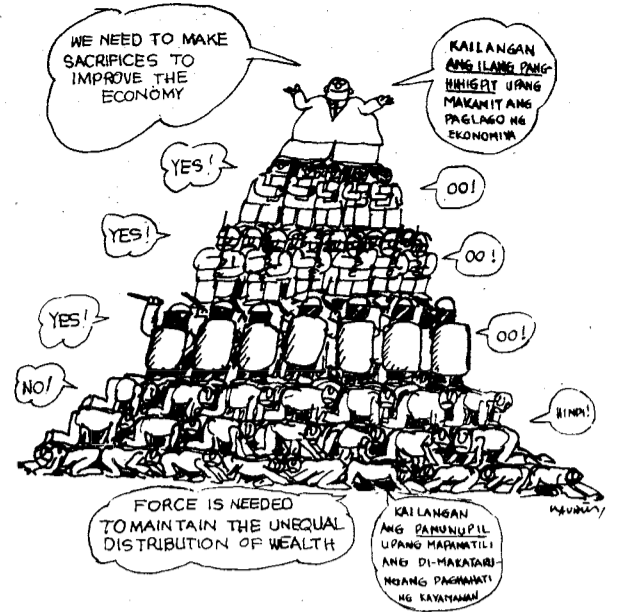
Aggravating the exploited conditions of the workers further, all forms of assistance are now prohibited unless prior permission is received from the Secretary of Labor. In the past, material support has tremendously assisted the workers and their families, especially during times of layoffs or long periods of arbitration. With aid restricted, the chances for the workers to survive is very slim.

To this, Archbishop Sin of Manila commented in his letter of protest to Pres. Marcos: "If a group of workers are dismissed, and their families are starving, and if they come to us for help, must we first rush to the Dept of Labor before we can give them a few centavos so they can buy food?" In other words, even minimal acts of charity must be previously licensed.

"For the first time in the Philippines, the practice of private charity is submitted to governmental restrictions, contrary to the basic tenets of Christianity and, in fact, of all religions," pointed out former Supreme Court Justice J.B.L. Reyes.

FOREIGN RELIGIOUS ATTACKED

The additional prohibition against assistance from alien organizations was triggered by what the dictatorial gov't called "intervention" by Italian priests and nuns from the Vatican's Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions during the La Tondena strike (see AK, Vol. 2, #8). As if the workers needed convincing, the gov't charged the said religious of "agitating" the workers to strike. Secretary of Labor Blas Ople declared that foreigners who engaged in trade union activities are "usurping political rights reserved exclusively for



citizens of the Philippines" (sic). Archbishop Sin countered by saying that PD 823 stopped the Church from "performing our Christian and human duty to help the poor and suffering."

Another letter of protest signed by 3,000 priests and nuns pointed out that "the rights to concerted action necessary to obtain justice, including the right to strike, is human and Christian. This is supported by the Catholic Church (Vatican II: Gaudium et Spes) and the United Nations (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)...every Christian, be he Filipino or foreigner, has a duty to support the oppressed workers and farmers in their organizations and action for justice..."

"The decree is discriminatory," noted former Justice Reyes, "It denies to labor the constitutional and basic rights to equal protection of the laws. For while aliens are strictly forbidden from engaging in any and all forms of trade union activities (even if purely educational), no similar prohibition is imposed on management or capital, which can receive foreign assistance and training by alien experts."

Moreover, PD 823 does not impose fixed penalties for violations of its provisions. Instead, it prescribes detention without trial, which denies due process and imposes cruel and unusual punishment not only on those who are arrested but also on his family.

WORKERS CONDITIONS WORSEN

In the survey of urban workers commissioned by the Church Social Action Secretariat and Archbishop Sin to find out "how the Church might help," it was revealed that workers wages are below subsistence levels. The study also concluded that martial law and the workers loss of the right to strike have favored management. Under martial law the workers wages have steadily declined so that even a committee of gov't and private economists said the present minimum wage of P8.00 is "antiquated." What is more interesting is the radical proposal of the committee endorsing the right to strike as "a weapon of labor to bargain with management." The committee's conclusion is that the ban on strikes should be lifted.

With PD 823, not only has Marcos further deprived the workers of their democratic rights by prohibiting all forms of workers resistance, but along with this, also outlawing any support to the workers. This comprehensive attack on the Filipino working class has drawn widespread opposition within the population. Militant demonstrations and rallies were staged against the repressive decree. (See article on demonstrations, this issue.) □

5 STRIKES HIT MANILA AREA

GREATER MANILA AREA — In a massive display of solidarity and strength, five major strikes were staged almost simultaneously in different factories in the central part of the country. The largest distillery, two textile factories, the largest rubber sandal factory, and a *bihon* (noodle) factory were besieged by workers demanding reasonable wages, better working conditions and their democratic rights.

Defying reprisals and threats of jail from the dictatorship, the workers went on strike out of their desperation from their *isang kcyod, isang tuka* (hand to mouth) existence.

Seven hundred seventy-seven striking workers of the La Tondena Distillery successfully reinstated 300 casuals who will be hired as regular employees (see Distillery Workers Strike Ban, *Ang Katipunan*, Nov. 20, 1975, page 12). Under pressure from the panic-stricken dictatorial gov't, the management was also told to open negotiations with the remaining casuals. The strikers were joined by squatter community organizations, Catholic religious (Italian and Filipino priests and nuns), and sympathizers.

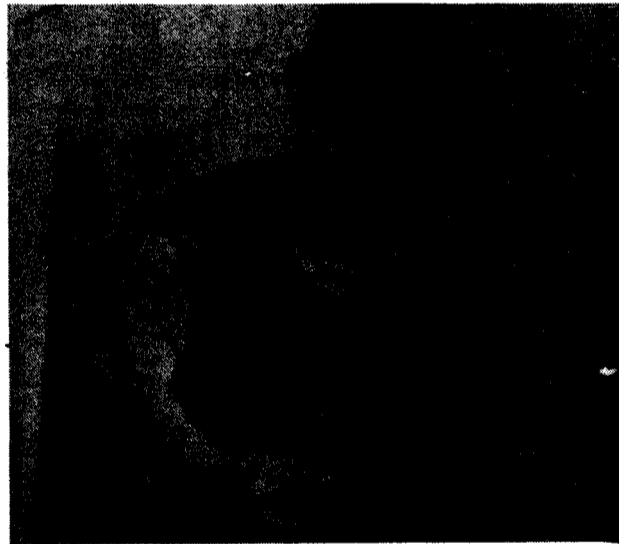
Meanwhile, one of the biggest mills in the country, Eastern Textile was crippled by a slowdown that lasted for over a week last Sept. which saw production plummet down by more than 60% of total output. Huge quantities of textiles, dyes and machineries were also destroyed.

A spokesperson for the workers explained that their action was carried out because management refused to abide by the Labor Dept's order to grant the worker's demands. Instead of complying, the employers even held up the long overdue benefits.

In a related development, workers organizing a union in another textile mill were arrested and detained in Camp Olivas, Pampanga, last August, while others were laid off or threatened with lay-offs.

Grand Textile Mills in Marilao, Bulacan, is owned by Luciano Salazar, a known crony of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile. Salazar also owns Imperial Textiles in Bocaue, but residents of this province strongly suspect that Salazar is just a dummy of the First Couple, the Marcoses themselves.

Still on the labor front, some fifty workers of Northern Foods, a *bihon* (noodle) factory in Bulacan marched to the Dept. of Labor on Sept. 17 to protest a ruling of the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) cancelling the registration of their union—the *Sama-*



The workers loss of the right to strike has made management more abusive

han ng Manggagawa sa Northern Foods (Union of Workers in Northern Foods).

The BLR last Aug. 5 had ruled that the SMNF no longer represented the workers at Northern Foods, and instead recognized the TUPAS labor federation as the bargaining unit for the workers. Labor relations official Francisco Jose claimed the SMNF had not sought a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with management, and added that the latter had already signed a CBA with TUBAS.

The workers appealed the BLR decision, and a hearing was set for Sept. 17. At the BLR hearing, the labor arbitrator sought to defend his bureau's decision by saying that the SMNF had no worker-members, but only officials.

To belie the arbitrator's claim, the workers who were all SMNF members, crowded the BLR office and shouted that he was lying. Other union representatives joined the SMNF workers in denouncing the BLR-TUPAS management collusion. The tense situation was pacified somewhat when the arbitrator promised that he would personally investigate the case at the factory before pronouncing a decision. He also appealed to the workers to refrain from shouting.

A week after, 27 workers were "invited" by the Office of Civil Relations (OCR) in Camp Aguinaldo. In a display of solidarity, the workers' wives and children went along to the OCR.

Upon arrival, the workers and their families were dumbfounded to see three *bultos* (bundles) of *bihon* sent by the Northern Foods management as a gift to

a certain Maj. Romeo Cruz. Muttered a worker, "Anak ng puta, pati *bihon* ay tinatanggap na pala dito sa kampo." (Son of a bitch, even noodles are already accepted as bribes by the camp.)

Cruz accused the workers of violating Gen. Order No. 5 (forbidding strikes in export-oriented industries). The workers retorted that they were not striking, and had only informed management about their demands which were refused.

Instead of lending an ear to their version of the story, Cruz threatened to imprison the workers and their legal counsel. When the atmosphere grew more tense and the workers' children started crying, Cruz backed down and let the workers go promising not to call them again to the OCR without a definite reason.

The *Far Eastern Economic Review*, (Nov. 14, 1975) reported that another strike took place in the largest rubber sandal factory of the country, the particulars of which cannot be determined as of press time because of the news censorship. □

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT: '9,000 People Calling for Struggle'

The following letter, sent by a *Balibkayan*, is a first hand account of the Dec 6 Plaza Miranda demonstration.

8 Dec 75

Kasamas,

This is just my eighth day here, yet I feel like writing a novel already. My mind is full of experiences that I have to share with you. Although time and events have kept me from writing it all, I will try hard to tell you the most important "happenings" that I encountered in our homeland.

From Manila International Airport, through the main roads and Roxas Blvd leading to Malacanang Palace, the streets were lined with lavish decorations intended for the coming visit of Pres. Ford of the USA. And, as expected, the visitor (Ford) came. Together with Dictator Marcos, they went through the streets greeted by people who were promised free pairs of shoes and uniforms and hundreds of school children with free dreams but with no hope for a future under Marcos.

On the other side of the route, while the two leaders passed through enormous Christmas lights and decorations along the sidewalk and the middle of the streets, more than two thousand workers, students, and religious (both foreign and Filipino) kept singing *Ang Bayan Ko* while holding lighted candles. Priests in their white robes were holding each others' hands while surrounding the demonstrators to keep intruders from getting into the ranks.

Someone in the crowd explained it more clearly: "The sheep (the people) are being guarded by their shepherds (the priests) from the wolves (the police and provocateurs) who bring violence and will sabotage the peaceful rally."

Representatives from the workers and the students took turns in speaking, crying for struggle. Women stood up and shouted for equality. While this was going on, children were passing more candles.

Then came one of the most crucial point in the rally. The demonstrators were now shouting, *Malacanang! Malacanang! Malacanang!* They started to rise and formed a line with the banners in the front. The leaders started the march and priests surrounded them again.

As usual, the police was alerted. They blocked roads and every opening with their jeeps and further barricaded the demonstrators with truncheon-carrying policemen with their guns ready in the holsters.

The situation was imminent!
The shouts started again, *Welga! Welga! Welga! Malacanang! Malacanang! Malacanang!*
As more policemen came, the shouts grew louder



The clergy was very active in the mass rally.

and louder. The barricades prevented the people from getting to Malacanang so the march stopped. Sympathizers were kept by the police from joining, but more were able to join. Then invigorating speeches started and lasted for two hours. Afterwards, it was time to march again but all the roads were heavily blocked.

I was with Margie and two other kasamas. We were always on the alert and kept moving in different locations. After a while, we decided to leave because we assessed that the march cannot continue because of the blockades. But we left feeling we won! Martial law cannot stop us, more strikes will come in the future!

However what happened after we left we regretted not witnessing. We retired thinking that it was a "stalemate" because of the blockade. But the demonstrators found an opening so they were able to continue. They found a route that led all the way to Plaza Miranda. While singing revolutionary songs and shouting "Lift Martial Law," more students, workers, women and vendors joined in. They were also shouting *Ibaba ang presyo ng bilihin!* (Lower the prices of goods!) The number swelled to 9,000!

9,000 people calling for struggle! More struggle!
We were told that they have decided to have more of this "happening" before the demonstrators dispersed. The struggle must go on!

Kasamas, we are very proud that we witnessed another struggle. Tell the kasamas that victory is coming closer!

Sa pakikibaka,
(In struggle)

Kasamang Ramon

Part II WORKERS RESIST EXPLOITATION

The following is the last part of last month's article. "Workers Hit Hard by Economic Crisis." - Editor

By Ma. Flor Sepulveda

For this, the US-backed Marcos regime has earned for itself the deepest hatred of the working class. In many factories all over the country today they are renewing their struggle and organizing themselves into unions truly representing their interest.

Although strikes are prohibited, workers still launch wildcat strikes and utilize creative forms like slow-downs, sabotage of production, boycott of overtime work and mass leaves of absence to protest their working conditions.

The workers' struggle to assert and defend their rights continues to gain the strong support of other patriotic and progressive sectors especially among the youth and religious. This spirit of struggle is best captured by a woman worker who recently related her experiences in a union struggle to Various Reports (Oct. 10, 1975):

"... Another election was held, one the workers had been waiting for a long time. In this election we were able to choose a federation. The federation we supported won but again the management found new ways to stop its recognition. Inside the factory they have also tried and are still trying to break the workers spirit by rotation, temporary lay-offs, transfers to other departments and threats to turn the workers into piece workers.

"In answer to these actions by management, the workers have launched petitions. We have gone in delegations to the office of company officials to air our demands. The management asked us who wanted to talk to the manager and we said that we all did because we knew they just wanted to find out who the leaders of our delegation were. They were finally forced to give in to our demands after repeated daily delegations. I felt very happy because we were able to win through our unity in action. We are still continuing our struggle with management, with our petitions and other actions. More workers are joining and this makes me very happy. I feel that with this trend we are near a real victory." □

FORD-MARCOS COLLUSION...

continued from page 3

Marcos, who used the US bases as an initial bargaining leverage for more US backing, will most likely accede to US official's suggestion. Now that he has received America's assurances of continued support, all he needs is a "cosmetic form of sovereignty" that would neutralize the irritating effects of the base's presence on Philippine soil on his so-called "nationalist and self-reliant" image.

THREAT OF U.S. INTERVENTION REMAINS

The US-RP Mutual Defense Pact will also remain intact. It allows the US to interfere with its own aggressor troops in the internal affairs of the Philippines under the pretext of securing "peace" and "mutual security."

Despite Marcos' earlier statement that American footsoldiers will only be called in as a last resort, 76,000 American military personnel are still in the country prepared to suppress any "internal threat." Already US Special Forces Green Beret teams have been dispatched to conduct counter-insurgency operations. The prospect of direct US intervention is therefore very possible, especially in light of US Ambassador William Sullivan's statement that the "Muslim secession is considered a threat to US presence."

The agreements reached by Marcos and Ford are mutually advantageous not only in serving their strategic interests but in cloaking US involvement in the Philippines. Marcos' attempts to appear self-reliant and progressive will be enhanced now that US assistance to his regime will be less obvious. If he is indeed granted "cosmetic sovereignty" over the bases, it will add credibility to his claims that he is steering the country towards a "non-aligned" path.

Furthermore, the Manila accords are consistent with the Ford administration's Pacific Doctrine, a more sophisticated adaptation of the infamous Nixon Doctrine. This Pacific-Asia policy aims to preserve American allies in Asia and help these allies achieve economic, military and political self-reliance through transfers of technological know-how, instead of "outright economic aid" (SF

MASS EVICTION UNDERWAY...

continued from back page

make way for a World Bank financed interport and industrial zone. While they have been promised a relocation site at nearby Dagat-dagatan, the Tondo folk know that once the interport is built, the corresponding increase in real estate value will force them out again.

To conceal the profit motive of this scheme Marcos has promised "constructing more housing units and providing employment and public utilities at the relocation sites."

The truth is no jobs are being provided and no alternative housing is being built. The much-flaunted "model communities" of Sapang Palay, Bulacan and Carmona, Cavite are monuments to this big lie. The situation is so destitute, that even Mrs. Marcos admitted that Carmona and Sapang Palay were mere dumping grounds for the squatters. Furthermore, these centers are like prisons with outlying areas off-limits to the squatters. The military strictly prohibits squatters from moving into nearby towns to seek employment.

Another testament to the regime's deception is the plight of the Pantabangan settlers who moved to their relocation site with promises of free land to till.

Chronicle, 12/9/75). Since the US can no longer overtly govern the affairs of Asia since its defeat in Indochina, the US has to employ more subtle forms of control.

In this context, "self-reliance" is actually covert collusion; while promoting an impression that America's client states are becoming independent.

Whatever euphemism the US employs to disguise its control of the Philippines, nothing can really obscure its formidable economic and military presence there. □

To date the "promised land" remains untitled because it is situated miles away from the relocation site.

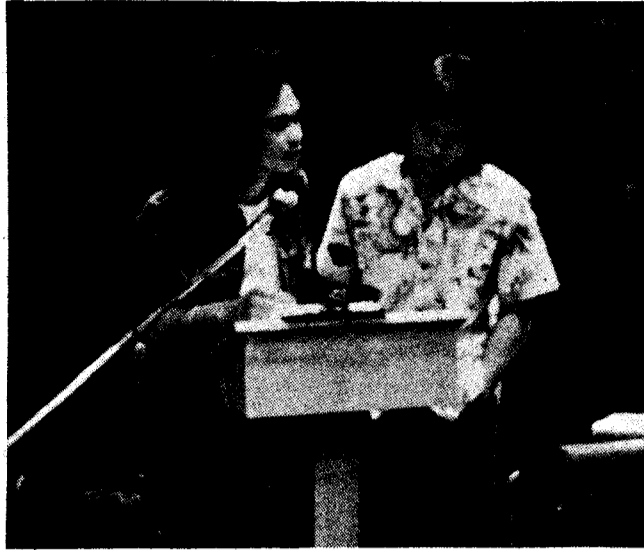
"SQUATTERS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY"

This massive relocation scheme however, is being resisted and exposed. The urban poor are forming community organizations to stop demolition efforts. The people of the Tondo Foreshoreland in particular have waged an unremitting struggle to gain legal title over their land.

The plight and struggle of the urban poor is best summed up in a statement of the Alliance of Tondo Foreshoreland Organizations during an ecumenical service held last June:

"To be free from being unsheltered, to be free from hunger, to be free from nakedness—these are the freedoms that we squatters do not enjoy... Hence for us who society has called squatters in our own country, we are confused about the gov'ts understanding of human rights. Our minds wonder how the words justice and freedom can be thrown about by the gov't so easily when we do not see the shadow of justice and freedom in our surrounding. But we have learned that justice and freedom must be continuously fought for..." □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY



LOS ANGELES - Filipinos from San Diego and Los Angeles (left) attended the 1st S. California conference of the newly formed student confederation. Similar meetings were held in San Francisco and Seattle. The conference included speakers, (center) Amado David of Los Angeles and Herb Tuyay of San Diego. Cultural presentations included a skit (right) on "Filipino Stereotypes" by students from San Diego. Ang Katipunan Photo.

FILIPINO STUDENTS FORM CONFEDERATION

By Teresita Bautista

Over 200 Filipino students launched the West Coast Confederation of Filipino Students (WCCFS) last weekend, Dec. 6-7, after three Confederation conferences were held in Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Regional councils were formed afterwards in the Pacific Northwest and Northern and Southern California to implement the resolutions passed in each respective area.

The Confederation is based on the principles of uniting Filipino students to: 1) fight against racial and national discrimination and 2) develop and strengthen an understanding of the true conditions in the Philippines.

The purpose of the conferences was to share experiences, sum up campus struggles and formulate regional plans for the upcoming semester. All three areas conducted workshops that spoke to general issues such as student organizing, Filipino Studies, students and the community and forging unity among all Filipino students.

Workshop discussions and resolutions varied according to the different regions, though the problems of all Filipino students in obtaining a

quality education was a common theme throughout. A good example of this came from Northern California where 100 students gathered Dec. 7 at SF State for the day long affair.

"UNITE AND ORGANIZE!"

Sponsored by PACE (Filipino-American Collegiate Endeavor), students throughout the Bay Area came together under the banner, "Unite and Organize! Build the WC Student Confederation!" An exciting highlight was the lunchtime cultural presentation of skits by various campus groups.

Utilizing the conference's theme, one performance by the Sacramento City College depicted the typical college bureaucracy which students must "hurdle." The skit went then to portray how student clubs can help in adjusting to college life and provide a meeting place for American and Philippine born Filipinos.

In another skit by Sacramento State College, it was shown how Filipino Studies must reflect the genuine history of the Filipino people and that student clubs are instrumental in demanding relevant courses and good teachers.

Inspired by the rousing presentations, the afternoon workshops produced resolutions on building student organizations and supporting the April performance of "Isuda Ti Imuna." ("Isuda" is a play which portrays the struggles of the first Filipinos in America and was staged at the last Far West Convention; it will be performed again to raise money to clear the final debt owed by the Convention. — Editor).

"EOP & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION"

"Pagsamama" (Coming Together), the regional conference in So. California, was sponsored by the

Filipino-American Coalition of Long Beach State and brought together 60 students from nine campuses.

After a full day of workshop discussions and speakers, conference delegates passed action resolutions calling for better support services, like EOP, admissions and financial aid; re-establishment of Filipino Studies, which have all but been eliminated except on one campus; involvement in local community issues and support for the Seattle FWC; intercampus sports; and a regional cultural day.

STUDENT ORGANIZING — A FIRST

The conference in Seattle brought together Filipino students there for the first time. Thirty-five Filipinos from college and high school campuses met at the University of Washington for the day long meeting.

Keynote speaker Jane Flor of the Filipino Student Association (FSA), best summed up the enthusiasm, thoughts, and feelings of the students: "This conference must be seen as a good thing. This represents a sign, a sign that students will begin to organize and use their education to serve the community."

The largest attended workshop was "Developing Unity Among Filipino Students," where the social, cultural and national differences of American and immigrant Filipino students were examined. The student confederation was also seen here as key in launching cultural, social and recreational activities as educational tools to help bridge these differences. □

Congress Plans Cut on Military Aid to Repressive Gov'ts

Congress is planning another "human rights" amendment to stop military aid to countries with repressive gov'ts and Washington sources feel confident it will pass. Of the 35 nations designated for US military aid, the Philippines, along with S. Korea and Brazil have been the most consistently mentioned as human rights violators. \$55.5-M has been requested by Ford for the Philippines, its highest allocation since the declaration of martial law.

The 1976 military aid package is presently under Congressional deliberation, though no major decisions will be made until the 2nd Session on Jan 26, 1976. Similar to the one attached to the Economic Aid package (see AK, Vol. 2 #8), the proposed amendment would cut-off aid to countries engaged in "gross violations of human rights."

The Ford Administration, however, has said it will "refuse to comply with such a mandate." Already, Sec. of State Henry Kissinger has refused to release pertinent data which is required by the amendment in order to make a country-by-country analysis regarding human rights problems and security requirements.

The Anti Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) who has been working on a Stop-Aid to Marcos campaign in Congress, recently issued a call to support the amendment and write letters to key legislators such as Rep. Fraser and Sen. McGovern. A Washington source reported "This is vital in achieving an important tactic (i.e., "human rights" amendment) in the struggle to cut US aid to Marcos, the lifeline to the martial law dictatorship." □

U.S. GROUPS DENOUNCE FORD'S PHILIPPINE VISIT

Pres. Ford's recent trip to the Philippines was met by strong opposition here in the US by anti-martial law groups.

The Anti Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) denounced the visit as a "reaffirmation of US support for the illegal, undemocratic and repressive regime of Ferdinand Marcos." The Coalition was especially critical as the visit also coincided with Ford's recent proposal to increase US military aid to the martial law gov't by 75%. A budget of \$55.6-M for FY 1976 has been allocated, compared to the previous FY 1975 allotment of \$32.2-M.

Both these moves are "especially brazen," said the Coalition, since the "House Subcommittee on Int'l Organizations quite clearly established in its hearings last July that the Marcos regime is a repressive gov't." The Philippines is thus disqualified from American assistance, the group said, and noted that Section 502-B of the 1973 Foreign Assistance Act asserts that "it is the sense of Congress that US aid be withheld from such regimes."

Then recalling how martial law has negatively affected the country, the Coalition described the Phil-

ippines as a "muzzled country" where basic democratic rights have been "replaced by the rule of the bayonet" made possible by the \$119-M US military aid over the past three years.

The Coalition concluded with a demand to end martial law and hold immediate elections, pledging to "redouble its efforts to expose to the American people the continuing complicity of the US gov't in the repression exercised by the Marcos dictatorship."

The statement was released Nov 28 and signed by eight anti martial law organizations, thus representing the broadest united effort against the Philippines dictatorship. Signatories were: Filipinos for National Democracy (PPD), Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines (NCRCLP), Philippine Information Bulletin, Progressive Filipinos of Quebec (PPQ) and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP).

The Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP) also opposed Ford's Philippine trip as it would indicate formal American support for Marcos' repressive tactics. □

Hawaiï Chinatown Residents Fight Eviction

By Russell Valparaiso
AK Correspondent

HONOLULU—Angry residents of the city's Chinatown area are uniting to fight the latest eviction efforts of the Dept of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

For 3 years the city has been trying to "redevelop" Chinatown by tearing down existing structures to build expensive condominiums, shopping malls and parking lots. Having only limited success with earlier attempts to move residents with promises of "relocation benefits," the DHCD is now attempting to use "code enforcement" to condemn Chinatown dwellings and evict the tenants.

Chinatown residents have staunchly refused to comply with eviction orders, charging DHCD's "code enforcement efforts are totally arbitrary."

"Why the sudden concern with code violations?" asked one angry Filipino. "These buildings have been run down for years!"

"Besides," added another resident, "the city owns these buildings. They should just fix up existing structures instead of spending millions to build expensive condominiums we can't afford!"

DHCD 'CONCERNS' EXPOSED

Organized as People Against Chinatown Eviction (PACE), various tenant groups and small businesses joined together this past summer to fight the city's eviction plans. PACE has been active in exposing DHCD's two-faced policy of expressing "deep concern for the welfare of the present residents and small shopkeepers" while actively working for Big Business interests and pursuing the tenant's eviction.

"The city tells us that they are spending our taxes to serve us," charges a PACE leaflet. "But they continue to take action that serves the interests of the Downtown Improvement Agency (DIA)."

The DIA, comprised of land developers and finance businessmen has been actively pushing for the present redevelopment plans which call for demolishing existing buildings and expanding commercial tourism into Chinatown by building the expensive condominiums and shops. PACE has pointed out that proposed housing projects, such as the Smith Beretania North and Kukui Plaza already under construction are being built for people with incomes from \$13,000 to \$20,000 year.



HONOLULU - Chinatown residents and supporters organized several demonstrations like the one above, to protest impending eviction by city redevelopers.
(Photo: Honolulu Star Bulletin)

PACE has pointed out that the residents of Chinatown, many of them elderly pensioners or workers with families all on low or fixed income, cannot afford proposed rents (a studio would go for \$175 a month!). Demanding that the city build low-income units first, PACE has called on the city to repair existing units without increasing the rent.

DHCD officials have stated that they "lack funds" to begin work on low-income units and have offered to relocate the two dozen residents affected by the evictions to the Pauahi Hali (Pauahi House). But Pauahi Hali is a condemned building slated for demolition by DHCD in '77!

While the city has promised that 20% of any newly constructed houses would be designated for persons with low incomes, there are no guarantees the city will hold to its promise. "Besides," said PACE members, "many residents who moved out and tried to collect 'relocation benefits' have found it difficult because of the amount of red tape. In addition, relocation funds are limited and will eventually run out, and those people with

fixed incomes will not be able to pay the higher rents."

PACE CALLS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS

Members of PACE have continually met with city officials, from Mayor Fasi to DHCD Director Blackwell, to put forward the demands of the residents. Despite PACE's effort to meet and resolve differences with the DHCD, the city has gone ahead in its efforts to evict the residents. At present, three city owned buildings are targeted by the DHCD for demolition, and some two dozen residents have been served eviction notices.

A number of rallies have been called by PACE to protest the city's evictions. One demonstration Nov 24 rallied several hundred residents and supporters, and their subsequent occupation of DHCD offices drew widespread attention to the Chinatown struggle.

While the city's eviction efforts now affect only some of Chinatown's residents and buildings, PACE stressed the need for all Chinatown residents and supporters to fight the eviction proceedings.

"If we are united," states PACE steering committee member and small shopkeeper, Mrs. Tarampi, "we will win our fight!" □

Anti Martial Law Campaigns...



(OAKLAND)--Bay Area carolers rehearse for political prisoners fundraising campaign. Ang Katipunan Photo

continued from front page

that the money raised for political prisoners during the Sept 22 activities has already been sent.

The discussion generated a lot of enthusiasm and many offered suggestions of families and organizations who would be interested in the Christmas caroling.

JANUARY 1 PROTESTS

During the Christmas caroling campaign, leaflets will also be distributed to build up to the January 1st protests to demand an end to martial law. In the leaflet released by the Coalition, the question is raised that if the Marcos gov't is as popular as it claims, "Why then has Marcos refused to allow the restoration of such essential democratic rights as the freedom of speech, press and assembly? Why then, has Marcos refused to free the currently estimated 10,000 detainees held only for their political oppos-

ition to his regime? Why then, is Marcos so afraid to hold free elections in order to determine the people's opinion to his continued rule?"

This demand to "lift martial law and hold immediate elections" will be taken to the Philippine Consulates and Embassies as representatives of the Marcos dictatorship here in the US. Jan. 1 was chosen since Marcos' legal term in office expired Dec. 31, 1973. This date, therefore, represents the "beginning of the third year of illegal and illegitimate rule under martial law by the Marcos regime." In addition, the Coalition said they will continue their efforts to stop the extensive US aid to the Marcos regime until these just demands "have been acted upon by the Philippine gov't."

These nationwide campaigns will be undertaken by several anti martial law groups and are the result of joint action resolutions passed at the Coalition's 2nd Nat'l Conference last month in New York. □

Filipino War Vets Gain Citizenship

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal judge ruled Nov 13 that Filipino World War II Veterans are entitled to American citizenship, a decision affecting some 50,000 persons. The ruling immediately affects 61 Filipino veterans here in the Bay Area who filed suit after receiving notice from the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) that they were illegal aliens.

Under a wartime directive in 1942, Filipino war veterans were legally entitled to US citizenship, but the INS had arbitrarily stopped naturalization proceedings in Manila, thereby making American citizenship unavailable until the law lapsed in 1946. Unaware of this, an estimated 500 Filipino veterans who reside in the United States have thought themselves US citizens and have worked and raised families here for some 30 years. Despite the mix-up, the US Immigration Services was prepared to deport them.

US District Court Judge Charles Renfrew who made the ruling pointed out that the INS did not have the legal right to suspend and negate the will of Congress expressed under the Act. Further charging the INS with discriminatory practice, he said, "The gov't has not met its burden of justifying the discriminatory executive conduct here."

In reaction to Renfrew's ruling, the Director of the San Francisco Immigration District, David N. Ichert has said he will recommend to the Immigration Commissioner that the decision be appealed. The INS has 60 days to appeal the decision. □



HONOLULU - Marvey Tucson, speaking about the revolutionary spirit of Andres Bonifacio, called on everyone to "continue the unfinished revolution." Ang Katipunan Photo

Andres Bonifacio Day FILIPINOS HONOR HERO

Symbolic of the revolutionary traditions of the Filipino people, Andres Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan and hero in the revolution against Spain, was commemorated in community celebrations in Honolulu and Seattle. Both events linked the past to the present and called participants to "Continue the Struggle for Independence and Freedom... Finish the Unfinished Revolution."

On November 29, the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Filipino (KDP) of Honolulu sponsored a program at the Kalihi Kai Elementary school which discussed Andres Bonifacio and what he symbolizes in the present struggle for a truly free and independent Philippines.

Marvie Tucson spoke to the group of 60 youth and parents about this revolutionary hero saying, "Andres Bonifacio symbolizes the true aspiration and determination of the people for a free Philippines, free from foreign economic domination, free from greedy landlord exploitation of the Filipino peasantry," and that "this determination is being carried out today by the masses of Filipinos against the US-Marcos dictatorship which is responsible for martial law and the exploitation of the Philippine

nation."

The program consisted of a play dramatizing the peasants in the Philippines and whose life experiences of brutal exploitation convince them of the need for revolution in their country. An historical slide show was then shown picturing the tremendous wealth of the country in natural resources, though the majority of people live in poverty and misery under the Marcos dictatorship.

Dean Alegado spoke to the National Democratic Revolution currently being waged in the Philippines; the 10-point program of the National Democratic Front, and explained that the New People's Army is a leading force in carrying out the struggle.

The Seattle forum, also sponsored by the Katipunan Demokratikong Filipino (KDP) drew about 100 people including workers, youth, students and elderly. Through skits, songs and speeches those who attended commemorated Andres Bonifacio and the spirit of the Filipino people to fight for basic revolutionary change, not only in the 1896 Revolution against Spain, but the current struggle against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. □

FMG's... continued from front page

waivers as US hospitals were desperate for house staff. Now the FMGs are virtually trapped by this ruling through no fault of their own."

Questioning the exchange program itself, they added, "If they (INS) are to be consistent in applying the law, they should also become consistent in implementing the avowed intent of the exchange program upon which that law is based. As things stand now, the EV-FMGs are not getting the training they are supposed to get in the program, but are just used to do "scutwork" (i.e. night shifts, emergency ward care) in the hospitals.

ISSUE UNITES COMMUNITY

The members of the ad hoc working group stressed that efforts to defend the EV-FMGs is an important contribution to building unity within the Filipino community. Already several Chicago groups have endorsed the defense efforts: Fil-Am Senior Citizens Club, Batangas Club, Philippine Dental Association, Philippine Medical Association of Indiana, Philippine Aid Society, Philippine Study Group, Pilipino para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (PPD), and Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). The effort has also received the firm support of Dr. Vivencio Battung, President of the Philippine Medical Assoc. of Chicago and Dr. Benjamin Narajos, President of the Illinois Philippine Medical Society.

Ms. Hernandez of the ad hoc Working Group explained further that reactions from various people they've talked to about this issue ranged from mild shock to anger. A member of the Illinois Philippine Medical Society said, "We must look into organizing a legal panel to help EV-FMGs file suits against this ruling. Established doctors can afford their own legal expenses but the exchange doctors will have difficulty because the exchange program does not pay much, although they work a lot."

The general sentiments of the Filipino Community in Chicago were summed up by a dentist and known community leader: "We Filipinos have always patiently talked to those up there, but we are never listened to. I guess in this system you have to break things to be listened to. If that is what it takes, then that is what we must be ready to do. Long for the day when Filipinos strongly united will march in the thousands against discrimination." □

Sulong! (Forward in the Struggle!)

HOUSEKEEPERS FIGHT FOR ASYLUM
SEATTLE—The defense is mounting to stop the deportation of two Filipino housekeepers who ran away from "slave-like working conditions" under the Philippine Consul General Julia Palarca.

The "Committee to Defend the Rights and Liberties of Abuel and Almirante" was formed early Dec to conduct investigation, education and fundraising around the case. One of the major fights now is to gain political asylum for the women, as they anticipate persecution by the Marcos regime if they return to the Philippines.

Investigation work will include "intensive documentation to the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) to substantiate the women's grievances" and show that "if they are deported, (they) will surely be persecuted by the repressive Marcos gov't for their outspokenness."

In addition, the defense committee will try to persuade the Filipino Community Council of Seattle, Inc. to rescind its Oct resolution condemning the International Drop-in Center for its assistance to the two housekeepers. A committee spokesperson said "the leadership of FCC continues to be the main obstacle in the community to the efforts to defend the women's rights," and "misrepresents the sentiments of the Filipino community in Seattle."

Thus far, the women's public disclosure has greatly embarrassed the Philippine Consulate in Seattle. As a result, Palarca has been trying to quiet the women by offering settlements which Committee members say "would basically be the same type of working conditions." All offers have been firmly rejected by the two women. □

TASK FORCE REVIEWS SCHOOL BOOKS FOR RACIAL STEREOTYPES AND OMISSIONS

The Task Force on Education is going to challenge the negative portrayal of Filipinos and the Philippines in today's school textbooks. The group, formed as an outcome of the last Far West Convention, plans to review existing social studies materials (K-12 grades) for racial stereotypes or omissions of Filipinos and the Philippines in US history.

The impact of such a study has the potential to change the stereotypical impressions of Filipinos perpetuated in public education. Pertinent excerpts from the state schoolbooks will be examined for their historical accuracy and critiqued for any racist slurs found. In the event of grave omissions, supplementary sections of these "missing chapters" in US history will be included. This report will also serve as a valuable resource for accurate information on Filipinos and Philippine history.

The final report, after review by other Filipino teachers, students and parents, will be submitted to the California State Board of Education for review and action. The report is expected to be completed this summer.

Since its last general meeting in Nov, the TF is now in the midst of forming Review Committees in more than 8 school districts in the SF Bay Area, as well as others in the Central and Southern regions of California. These committees are also searching out learning aids used by teachers in the classroom, so that filmstrips and other media will be analyzed for their accuracy as well.

The TF is now reaching out to teachers, parents, and students to become involved

in Review Committees in local areas. For those interested, please write the Task Force on Education, P.O. Box 3364, Daly City, CA. 94015. □

MFP HOLDS 3RD CONVENTION

The Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP) held its third annual convention in Los Angeles last Nov 22, 1975.

The convention was divided into two parts: a closed door session in the day on questions internal to the organization, and an evening entertainment show open to the public.

About 60 to 70 delegates and observers from MFP chapters in the US and Canada participated in the closed-door session. The organizational discussion focused mainly on the proposed Radio Free Philippines network, a major project of the MFP since last year.

The evening show attended by 250 people (although 2,000 were originally expected) included dance and songs, climaxing with a speech given by Raul Manglapus, MFP president. In his speech, Manglapus called for a return to constitutional democracy. He said: "We stress that our proposal calls for the movement to exert non-violent pressure for the return of Philippine democracy. However, we recognize that the democratic movement in the Philippines may find a degree of violence necessary. . . . We further recognize that the degree of that violence will depend solely on how much and how long Marcos resists the will of the people." □

HOSPITAL WORKERS PREPARE FOR STRIKE

SEATTLE — Service workers at Providence Hospital here, many of whom are

Filipino immigrants, have filed a 30-day notice to strike and federal mediation has been brought in.

The workers won a union election for Service Employees Int'l Union (SEIU) Local 6, on April 18, 1975. Since then, the hospital management has taken a very hard-line position and no agreement is close on a contract. Management has not even conceded to current benefits the workers are already receiving.

Local 6 has filed unfair labor practice charges against the management for laying off or shortening the hours and failure to bargain in good faith. Discrimination charges are also being pressed with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission for racist practices in hiring, job classification, and language freedom. Filipino workers are not allowed to speak their nat'l language while at work.

Even before negotiations broke down, hospital administrator Richard Borsini issued a memorandum to dept heads laying out an anti-strike plan which fully documents the hospitals intention to break the upcoming strike. Included are provisions to: permanently replace all striking employees; to begin recruitment of a plentiful supply of scab (strike-breaking) labor including related gov't agency personnel; and a systematic plan to intimidate the (future) strikers with security guards and picture taking.

Meanwhile, the workers are organizing for a strike and concentrating on making sure all the service workers go out united. They are organizing a strike committee to meet their needs during a strike and to mobilize community support for the strike. Clerical workers at Providence are in the midst of an organizing drive for Local 6 as well. □

CONGRESS TO ACT SOON

S-1 BILL ASSAULTS BASIC FREEDOMS

By Victor Uno

A major attempt is underway in Congress to pass a bill attacking the basic democratic rights of the American people, raising the specter of another era of unprecedented political repression.

Officially entitled the "Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1975," or more commonly S-1, the massive 753-page bill will subvert a broad range of democratic rights. Constitutional freedoms of press, speech, assembly, petition and due process would all be severely restricted. In addition, penalties for convictions would be increased and capital punishment reinstated. While attacking people's democratic rights, powers of the police and gov't would be increased.

Provisions of the bill are numerous and detailed, carrying far reaching implications beyond the arena of criminal law. Major areas affected by S-1 would be:

WIRETAPPING: Despite public outcry over illegal massive CIA and FBI surveillance of citizens, S-1 affirms the already ambiguous Presidential authority to wiretap domestic activities when he deems there is a danger to the "structure" of the gov't. Such powers are broadened over existing statutes and telephone companies and landlords would be directed to cooperate "forthwith" and "unobtrusively" with the gov't.

PRESS FREEDOM: Provisions of S-1 hit especially hard at the press. Journalists who receive classified documents, such as the Pentagon Papers, would be required to immediately turn the information over to the gov't and the names of those persons who leaked the materials. Shield laws, which currently protect journalists and their sources from gov't prosecution, would be voided and a 7-year jail term and \$100,000 fine would be imposed.

Journalists would also be threatened under a section entitled "Impairing Military Effectiveness by Issuing a False Statement" which also calls for a 7-year prison term and \$100,000 fine if the military deems that the reporters accounts "aren't accurate" and therefore "aid the enemy."

GOV'T SECRETS: Establishing what amounts to an official Secrets Act, S-1 provides for penalties of at least 8 overlapping criminal statutes ranging from imprisonment to the death penalty for unauthorized

acquisition or publication of any "classified" or "national defense" information. Persons who leak such information would be subject to prosecution with sentences ranging from 7 years imprisonment to the death penalty, regardless of whether or not the documents were properly classified in the first place.

DEMONSTRATIONS: With ten overlapping statutes, virtually every form of demonstration would be limited or outlawed by S-1. Demonstrations near courtrooms or the residences of judges or the President would be felonies. Demonstrations which delay or obstruct in the "production, repair or delivery" of material deemed for "national defense" would also be felonies, thus effectively outlawing pickets by

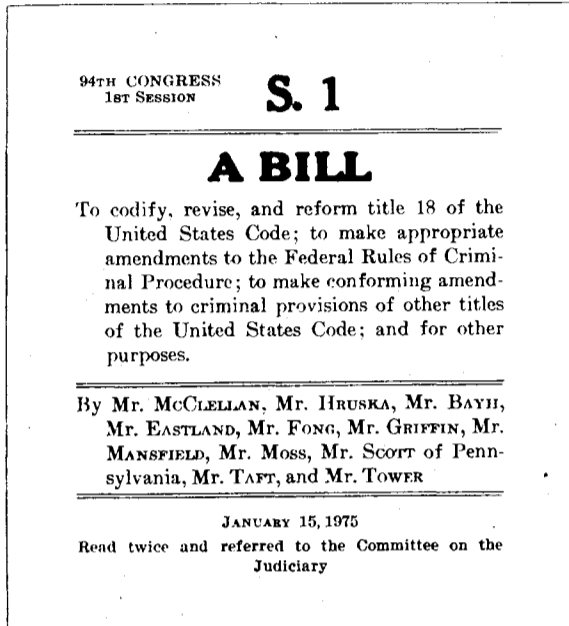
munist McCarthy period. Federal agents would be able to use "deadly force" in making arrests or preventing escape from arrest "even if his (the agent's) belief was mistaken." Entrapment would be legalized with the defense having to show that the defendant did not have a "predisposition" to commit a crime. Insanity pleas would be curtailed, contempt of court penalties would be increased and secret police interrogations to extract "voluntary" confessions would be allowed.

Drafting of the bill began 2 years ago under the auspices of the Nixon administration. Attorney Generals John Mitchell and Richard Kleindienst were responsible for much of the bill which was supposed to reform and codify the archaic 1909 US Criminal Code. Different committee hearings on the bill were held through Oct. '74 and Pres. Ford introduced S-1 to Congress Jan. 15, 1975.

Opponents of S-1, most notably the Nat'l Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL), have called for the defeat of S-1, pointing out that the bill "would establish what is essentially a police state." Prof. V. Countryman of the Harvard Law School points out that S-1 is "inherently unamendable" as the bill "contains too many chapters, sections, subsections, clauses, words and definitions that would have to be changed."

Many editorials in the US press have called for S-1's defeat. The LA Times said that the bill "should be junked" and editorials in the NY Times, Wall St. Journal, Chicago Tribune and Atlanta Journal attacked S-1 for its repressive character. Labor has also hit the bill; the United Steelworkers said that S-1 was "unamendable—it needs to be killed." The Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen called it a "monstrosity such as was ever introduced in the Congressional halls of our United States."

While S-1 is perhaps the most comprehensive piece of repressive legislation proposed in recent history, Congressional observers say the bill has a "50-50 chance" of passing. Presently before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the same sources note however, that the majority of the committee is "inclined to amend S-1 until it seems acceptable." While the bill has been coming under increasing attack by critics, its future is far from decided. A massive nat'l campaign has yet to be mounted before the tide can be decisively turned against S-1. Senate action on the bill is expected sometime this coming January. □



striking defense workers or pickets of draft boards and military installations.

DEATH PENALTY: S-1 would reinstate the death penalty overturning the 1972 Supreme Court decision that outlawed capital punishment as "cruel and unusual" because it was "so wantonly and freakishly imposed." In addition, the bill would increase penalties for felony convictions and mandatory minimum sentences would be established with no chance of parole in a number of cases.

OTHER PROVISIONS: Other provisions of S-1 would call for the reenactment of the infamous Smith Act which was used to jail and intimidate hundreds of progressives during the hysteria of the anticom-

Dare to struggle...



PRISONERS WIN DEMANDS AFTER TAKE-OVER

NEW YORK CITY—All demands were won, including amnesty from prosecution for all participants in a well-executed, bloodless 17 hr. inmate takeover Nov 24 here at Rikers Island Prison.

The inmates, protesting inhumane and crowded conditions, staged the takeover and negotiated a settlement with the city and prison officials. Demands won included reduction of inmate population, accountability of guards for the dealings with inmates, improved medical treatment and elimination of rats and roaches, and setting up a civilian review board to insure there are no reprisals.

Rikers is a literal hell hole for its nearly 2,000 inmates, 80% of which are Black and Puerto Rican. The jail is supposed to be a "holding" center for those awaiting trial but a "visit" generally ranges from 6 months to 2 years. Rikers' already bad conditions were recently aggravated by the closure of the infamous Tombs prison in Manhattan; the additional prison population greatly increased over crowded conditions, forcing pairs of inmates to spend 16-hr. a day in a 5' x 8' cell. □

VINDICATION FOR ROSENBERGS DEMANDED

The growing movement to vindicate Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, executed in 1951 for allegedly "leaking" the "secret" of the atomic bomb to the USSR, is run-

ning into gov't opposition. Convicted during the anti communist hysteria of the McCarthy period, the Rosenbergs always maintained their innocence, charging the gov't with their frame up.

Though the movement, led by their sons, Richard and Michael Meeropol, gained the release Dec 2 of 29,000 pages of gov't files connected to the case, the FBI is withholding 40,000-60,000 additional pages. The CIA, which also maintained a file is demanding \$20,000 for what the son's characterize as "ransom" for its files. The fee is for the trouble of searching for the files and "laundering" them before public release.

An earlier release of 1,000 pages of testimony has already revealed important new evidence. Exposed was the gov't blackmail attempt to use Ethel Rosenberg's arrest (on admittedly flimsy evidence) to pressure her husband into confessing. This outrage continued up to FBI's J. Edgar Hoover's last ditch and futile attempt to have Ethel executed first to wring an "11th hour" confession from Julius Rosenberg. □

FARMWORKERS WIN COCA-COLA CONTRACT

TAMPA, FLA. — Over 1,200 farmworkers gained a resounding victory with the signing of a UFW contract with Coca Cola for their subsidiary, Minute Maid, in Florida Nov 21.

The contract had been in limbo since Jan 3 when Coke, pleading declining profits, walked out of negotiations. The ensuing months saw the workers mount

pickets, marches, public fasts and community meetings to gain public favor and force Coke to abandon its union busting tactics.

Though the UFW had threatened a Coke boycott as early as Jan Coke ignored the warning till an Oct. Harris Poll showed 12% of the US population no longer bought UFW boycotted grapes. Within a month Coke was back at the negotiating table and making key concessions.

Major points in the 3-yr contract provide for yearly renegotiations of wages and benefits and automatic extension of the contract to any new acreage.

The Coca-Cola victory, representing the only UFW-held contract on the East Coast, will probably spark an organizing drive among the other several hundred thousand Black, Chicano, Filipino, Indian and white farmworkers in Florida. □

FBI LAUNCHES ARREST CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDIAN ACTIVISTS

Over 31 Native American activists have been arrested in the past month in an escalation of the FBI's current drive to suppress the Indian movement. Staging diverse raids in such areas as Seattle, LA and on S. Dakota reservations, FBI agents have also utilized para-military operations in the arrests to intimidate local populations from supporting the activists.

In one instance on the Rosebud Reservation in S. Dakota, all roads leading to a home of American Indian Movement members were blocked while 4 helicopters carrying jeeps flew overhead to make the arrests. The purpose of this was to serve 5

assault warrants on those inside.

Gov't attempts to harass Native Americans have increased in the past few months as AIM and other Indian groups have begun spirited campaigns to force the implementation of all existing treaties between the Indian peoples and US gov't. □

NYC WORKERS PROTESTS HIT CUTBACKS

NEW YORK CITY — Several thousand parents and day-care workers demonstrated Nov 24 in the latest of NYC protests against cutbacks in city services. The cutbacks, part of the federal gov'ts conditions for providing federally insured loans to NYC, are affecting thousands of the city's workers.

Braving bad weather, the demonstrators charged proposed cutbacks in day care will endanger the livelihood of thousands of 3rd world and working women dependent on the low-cost childcare.

The demonstration coincided with other militant demonstrations by 2,000 of the city colleges' students and teachers to protest hikes in student tuition and cutbacks that will affect class size and quality of services given.

CETA (Comprehensive Education and Training Act) workers also staged demonstrations in Nov to protest job layoffs that threaten another 31,000 persons.

The protests are escalating as the federal gov'ts \$2.4-B loan to bail out the city carries the stipulation that an additional "Christmas" layoff of 65,000 city workers must occur. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

SENATE HEARINGS: FBI Campaign Against King Revealed

By Victor Uno

A recent 2-day session of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has officially revealed that the FBI carried out a relentless 6-year campaign to discredit and destroy the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

The campaign, initiated by the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, included pressuring King to commit suicide as well as sending "anonymous" letters to media sources to damage King's reputation and leadership. As part of the FBI's Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) aimed at disrupting the antiwar and civil rights movements, the anti-King campaign stands as a stark example of the gov't's ruthless attempts to destroy the leadership of the people's movement.

'THERE IS BUT ONE WAY OUT FOR YOU'

The committee revealed that 8 wiretaps and 16 bugs were illegally placed on King, producing "thousands of hours of tape" on King's personal and civil rights activities. According to a 1964 memo to Hoover by counterintelligence officer William C. Sullivan, tapes purportedly of King's personal life were to be used by the agency to knock the leader "off his pedestal."

Over 25 such defamatory attempts were launched as two universities were secretly sent tapes to keep honorary degrees from King. Moves were made to stop King from his meeting with Pope Paul VI and numerous newspaper and media sources were given "leaks" of the tapes to discredit the civil rights leader.

Especially sinister was the note which accompanied a tape sent to King just 34 days before he was to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The recording, allegedly of a compromising incident, was interpreted by King as an effort to force him to commit suicide. "King, there is only one thing left for you to do," warned the letter. "You have just 34 days in which to do it. . . There is but one way out for you."

INVOLVEMENT IN KING'S ASSASSINATION?

Besides the constant harassment, the FBI reportedly took actions which raised new questions about the possible role of the gov't in King's 1968 assassination. King, in Memphis to help build a boycott in support of striking garbage workers, became the target of FBI-authored letters. Clothed in Black nationalist language and sent "anonymously" to several newspapers, the letters attacked King for staying at the "white owned" Holiday Inn, implying the civil rights leader did not support the "true interests" of Blacks. When the allegations appeared in the press, King moved to the Black-owned Lorraine Hotel where he was gunned-down a few days later on April 4.

The Senate Committee revelations forced Pres. Ford to call the FBI's actions "abhorrent" and At-

torney General Edward Levi was ordered to investigate the charges. King's widow, Coretta, and other civil rights leaders have renewed their charge of a gov't conspiracy in King's murder, specifying that any new investigation should not include the FBI or the Justice Department due to the recent disclosures.

Observers have pointed out that just prior to his death, King was taking stronger domestic and international stands which further angered the gov't. Speaking out against the Viet Nam War and in Memphis to support the struggles of working people, King also criticized the FBI for not protecting civil rights workers from Ku Klux Klan attacks. Because of this, testimony revealed that Hoover's hatred of King bordered on near paranoia and he considered King "private enemy no. 1."

Following his assassination, a wave of angry protests swept numerous cities across the US, and indication of the mass popular support King had in the country. King's leadership was also recognized internationally and was the first Black man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in '64.

It is doubtful that Pres. Ford's call for an investigation into King's death will reveal anything new. Substantial charges have already implicated gov't involvement, not only in King's death, but in the assassinations of other Black leaders during the '60's. Malcolm X, Fred Hampton, George Jackson and other Black leaders died by police or assassin's bullets and were all targets of the FBI's COINTELPRO operations.

OTHER DISCLOSURES

Besides the FBI's campaign against King, congressional hearings have also disclosed long held suspicions of the agency's nefarious activities against popular domestic movements. COINTELPRO, which operated from 1956-71, mounted over 2,300 actions against hundreds of thousands of citizens who were active in the Black, anti war and women's movements.

Virtually every method possible was used by the FBI to sow intrigues and divisions and undermine organizations in these movements. It planted agents to gather information, created "left" front organizations to attack other groups, and wrote numerous "anonymous" letters to sow distrust, intrigues and split organizations.

The agency also told parents and employers of activists' involvement, hoping that family or economic pressure would curb a person's activity. Again through "anonymous" letters, the FBI even attempted to instigate a shooting war between the Black Panthers and Chicago's Blackstone Rangers, hoping that "some or all of the Panthers" would be shot.

In addition, ex-FBI informant Gary Rowe who worked with the racist Ku Klux Klan, testified before the committee. He confirmed King's charges



The late Dr. Martin Luther King (above) was a victim of a FBI harassment campaign to undermine his reputation.

that the FBI, despite previous knowledge of impending Klan attacks, did nothing to prevent the violence. Rowe also revealed that he gave the agency information on the infamous '63 Birmingham church bombing which claimed the lives of four Black girls, though the FBI never moved on the evidence. No arrests were ever made in the case.

CIA REPORT

While opening the hearings on the FBI, the Senate Select Committee officially closed its investigation into the CIA with a report on US-engineered assassination plots. The report largely confirms details of CIA assassination plots which the press has been leaking over the past year to the public.

The report however, characterizes the attempt plots as an "aberration," and justifies them as spawned at a time when "our country faced a monolithic enemy in communism." None of the death plots were successfully carried out, according to the report, although 4 of the 5 intended victims were killed when the CIA plots were active.

Targeted by the CIA were Dominican Republic leader Rafael Trujillo, South Viet Nam's Ngo Dinh Diem, Chilean Gen. Rene Schneider, Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba and Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro. All except Castro met violent deaths at the hands of groups supported and often armed by the CIA.

One observer noted that the report now "wipes the slate clean for restoring the CIA" and that "it is entirely probable the purpose of the Senate committee investigation of the CIA was to strengthen, not weaken, the spy agency." Indeed, even Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the select committee and characterized by the press as courageously persevering to expose CIA evils, has vowed that clandestine activities are necessary, citing Portugal as an example where U.S. objectives would be assisted by such secret actions.

Church's views seem to reflect a general attitude within Congress which views actions by the domestic spy agencies as "abhorrent" yet "necessary." In all probability the investigation into the FBI will not be any different. □

EDITORIAL...

continued from page 2

In short, political differences are not so overriding to prevent MFP's active participation in jointly carrying out such worthwhile campaigns as those planned for 1976 by the Anti Martial Law Coalition (see AK, last issue).

The second excuse used by MFP for its non-cooperation is because the KDP has, on more than one occasion, openly and publicly criticized the MFP. MFP members maintain that this criticism "causes disunity" and should not be allowed.

But the main criticism we have of MFP is precisely its bad track record of displaying little, if any, cooperation with other anti martial law forces! How can a criticism of MFP's anti-unity stand (which the facts bear out) be at the same time, a cause for creating disunity? Especially when the main purpose for the criticism is to encourage MFP to do more joint work with the rest of us in order to strengthen our movement against the dictatorship.

The KDP is not aware of any major anti martial law activity in the past two and a half years in

which the MFP has ever been shunned or not invited to participate. But instead the MFP behaves like a coy "Maria Clara," always expecting to be wooed into cooperation by other forces in the anti martial law movement. The KDP has always felt that the MFP should stop such silly behavior; there is too much hard work to be done and the MFP should stop stalling and get actively involved in it. This is what we really want to see, and when it occurs the KDP will be more than happy to end our public criticism of the MFP.

As far as any open disagreements or criticisms among anti martial law groups on other political questions (i.e. the tactic of coup d'etat with hopes of US State Department or CIA backing) is concerned, KDP does not think that openly airing our differences of opinion on such questions should weaken the anti-Marcos unity. In fact, we think that encouraging democratic discussion and debate on such key questions within the anti martial law movement is very healthy . . . so long as we do not allow our differences to overshadow our agreement right now to help topple the Marcos dictatorship. Certainly no one should be so naive as to think that Marcos would be "suprised to discover" the ex-senator Manglapus and the KDP

hold very different opinions in our respective analyses about the Philippine situation and future direction for the country. So we see no need to keep our debate "secret."

Actually, where Marcos and his U.S. State Department backers are looking to drive wedges and weaken our movement is not when we disagree politically, but rather when they discover that we are not working in close and active cooperation with each other — despite our differences! This then is what sounds the danger signal for all of us actively opposed to the Marcos dictatorship and this is the reason why the KDP has taken to open criticism of the MFP. We believe that, in the final analysis, disunity of action among anti-Marcos forces only objectively strengthens the Marcos dictatorship.

We sincerely hope our friends in the MFP take our criticism to heart, frankly review their lack of cooperation and actively with other anti martial law forces during the past year, and set out to correct this in the up-coming year. For the overall good of our cause to overthrow Marcos, the KDP looks forward to 1976 as a year of "action and cooperation" among all anti martial law forces.

KDP National Executive Board

SYRIA AND ISRAEL ON COLLISION COURSE



Part of the massive destruction by an Israeli air raid on Lebanon that left over 100 Palestinians dead, two-thirds of them women and children. Palestinians (r) display an unexploded bomb.

By Russell Stetler

Reprinted from the *International Bulletin* (12/5/75)

Israel's increasing isolation at the United Nations has hardened that country's attitude toward future negotiations, prompted massive reprisals against Palestinians in Lebanon, and sharply intensified the risk of a full-scale Israeli-Syrian confrontation in the months ahead. Little is new in the situation, but all the old intractable problems are more visible than ever.

No progress toward an overall settlement has been made since the second-stage Sinai disengagement pact was signed three months ago. At that time, only Egypt's President Anwar Sadat insisted that a comparable agreement on the Golan Heights would follow before the year's end. Syria denounced the Sinai pact as a sell-out. Israel proclaimed assurances that the U.S. would not force a Golan pact and vowed it would accept only "cosmetic" changes on the Syrian frontier. The Ford administration enjoyed momentary acclaim for Secretary Kissinger's success on the Sinai front, but expressed caution regarding the Golan. By November 25 the *New York Times* was reporting that Kissinger and his advisers had concluded that step-by-step diplomacy had "apparently run its course."

UN PLANS MIDEAST DEBATE

As the State Department searched for a new option in the Mideast, Israel suffered ever-escalating diplomatic isolation, culminating in last month's UN General Assembly vote branding Zionism a form of racism. As the expiration of the UN peacekeeping mandate in the Golan drew near, Syria's President Hafez Assad bluntly told UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim that he wanted some results before making the renewal automatic.

Assad argued that there has been no progress toward an overall Mideast settlement since his original Golan disengagement agreement signed in May 1974. He asked Waldheim for a full-scale Security Council debate of the whole Mideast problem—including the Palestine question—beginning January 12, 1976. Reminding Waldheim that General Assembly resolution 3375 called for the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in all Mideast peace talks, Assad also asked that the PLO participate in the Security Council debate.

After three days of round-the-clock private consultations, the UN Security Council found a compromise to accommodate Assad's stipulations to Waldheim. A resolution introduced by Cameroun, Guyana, Mauritania and Tanzania was approved 13 to 0, with China and Iraq not participating. The resolution renewed the Golan peacekeeping mandate for six months and asked Waldheim to continue his information-gathering. Its key clause obliged the Security Council "to reconvene on January 12, 1976, to continue the debate on the Middle East problem including the Palestine question, taking into account all relevant United Nations resolutions." The formula referring to "all relevant UN resolutions" cannot be interpreted to exclude General Assembly resolution 3375 giving the PLO authority to represent the Palestinians in all peace talks.

In addition, Security Council President Jacob Malik of the Soviet Union issued a separate statement indicating that it is "the understanding of the majority of the Security Council" that the PLO will be invited to participate in the January 1976 debate. John H. Trattner, speaking for the State De-

partment December 2, told reporters, "According to the rules of the Security Council, the question of who is to participate in a debate is a procedural question, not subject to the veto, subject only to agreement by any nine members of the council."

ISRAEL UPSET—RETALIATES

In Israel, there was a stunned reaction to the Security Council decision—often blaming the U.S. for complicity. Yedioth Aharonoth editorialized December 1, "The vote of the American government means American recognition of the PLO." Maariv commented the same day, "The U.S. could have upset the Syrian maneuver by casting a veto but decided not to do so." The same papers calmed down a day later, reporting assurances from Ford and Kissinger to Rabin and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon that U.S. policy toward the PLO was unchanged. (Kissinger reportedly invited Allon to Washington next month for "joint strategic coordination.")

After a six-and-a-half-hour cabinet meeting December 1, the Israeli government rejected the Security Council decision linking the renewal of the mandate to the Palestine debate, saying it would boycott the January talks. The cabinet also warned Syria that it would be held "totally responsible" for Palestinian guerrilla actions launched from Syrian territory. The government vowed to strengthen its defenses on the Syrian front and to step up Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights—rendering the area less negotiable than ever. On December 2, a ministerial committee announced that four new settlements on the Golan Heights had been authorized—two of which are to be set up in the next two weeks. Eighteen such settlements have been established since Israel occupied the Golan in 1967.

Israel's air strikes against Palestinian camps in Lebanon Dec. 2—the heaviest all year, with nearly 100 dead—were a direct warning to Syria. The targets were camps in northern Lebanon near the Syrian border and a district of southern Lebanon where the Syrian-backed Saiqu guerrilla movement is entrenched.

OVERALL SETTLEMENT NEEDED

Syria remains adamant that only an overall Mideast settlement—including the PLO—can resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Soviet Union backs Syria in proposing a reconvened Geneva peace conference with the participation of the PLO. This proposal was formally sent to the State Department on November 9. In a reply December 1 the State Department suggested "bilateral talks" with the Soviet Union to prepare for reconvening the Geneva conference, but ruled out PLO participation without the approval of all the original Geneva participants—including Israel, which categorically rejects talks with the PLO.

The non-aligned nations are reportedly planning yet another UN resolution—this one imposing an embargo on arms sales to Israel. Although the practical effect of such a resolution may be small, it will mean further isolation of the United States and Israel at a time when the risk of Mideast war is great. It is impossible to say what advice Washington is sending to Tel Aviv at this stage, but Israel may not wait for unwanted advice. Some policymakers in Israel, fearing vacillation at the State Department, may decide that only a military showdown with Syria will bring the degree of U.S. support they consider vital to their survival in the Middle East. □

WORLD IN FOCUS

ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR ESCALATES

Flagrant US intervention in Angola escalated with massive arms airlifts late Nov to the Nat'l Front (FNLA) and Nat'l Union (UNITA) in an effort to crush the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

According to official military and intelligence sources in Washington DC, the US has been airlifting at least \$20-M worth of arms, including rifles, machine guns, mortars, military vehicles, rocket launchers and small caliber artillery. The arms are flown in aboard US Air Force C-141 Starlifters routed through the Azores and landed secretly in Zaire (*SF Chron* 12/4/75). From Zaire the arms are given to the FNLA and UNITA forces.

Despite US efforts, the MPLA has apparently stopped the rapid advance of a joint FNLA/UNITA movement to close in on the MPLA-held capital of Luanda. Entering Angola from the S. African colony of Namibia Oct 23, a southern FNLA/UNITA column moved rapidly northward, taking 625 miles of the Angolan coast in a month before being stopped. The northern attack was a FNLA effort halted just 12 miles from Luanda.

In a related development, the Central African Foreign Ministers' Conference, held Nov 16-19 in Libreville, Gabon, issued a communique on Angola. It pointed out that the "extremely grave situation in Angola directly menaces peace and security in Central Africa in particular and in Africa as a whole." It concluded: "In view of this situation, the conference strongly condemned all aggression against the fraternal Angolan people and asked all those interfering in Angola's internal affairs to refrain from doing so hereafter so that the sovereign Angolan people may settle their problems by themselves." □

PORTUGAL'S LEFT UNDER ATTACK

Moderate and conservative officers of Portugal's ruling Council of the Revolution are consolidating their power in the wake of a Nov 25 rebellion by leftist paratroopers. The uprising succeeded in occupying a number of military and communication installations in Lisbon before being crushed by armored units loyal to the Council.

Charging the revolt was part of a leftist "military-political coup" plot, moderate and conservative military leaders proceeded to suppress the left. Over 100 leftist officers have been arrested and three left-leaning members on the Council of the Revolution—Generals Otelo de Carvalho and Carlos Fabiao, and Adm. Rosa Coutinho—have been removed. Besides purges in the military, the Council has carried out a campaign against leftists in the media, dismissing many from the state news agency and state-owned newspapers.

While the gov't purges have been carried out under the "coup" charge, observers note that the paratroopers were not leading left units—the same troops had participated in an abortive right wing coup plot only last March. In addition, the left parties, which had amassed popular demonstrations of 100,000 the week prior to the revolt, did not carry on any mobilization in support of the paratroopers.

Until the aborted revolt, Portugal's gov't had been unable to enforce its anti-left policies. Often the gov't found that troops sent to take over a leftist radio station would instead end up fraternizing with the leftist broadcasters. By blaming the rebellion on the entire left however, rightists in the gov't have seized the initiative, leading one observer to remark that Portugal's left is now "suffering its biggest defeat since the April 1974 coup which ended fascist rule in Portugal." □

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS ESTABLISHED

In a bloodless and peaceful transition to power, the coalition gov't in Laos was dissolved, the monarchy abolished and the People's Democratic Republic of Laos (PDRL) proclaimed Dec. 1.

The action, taken by the first Nat'l Congress of People's Representatives, was announced following a week of nationwide demonstrations calling for an end to the coalition. Members of the monarchy expressed full support for the transfer of power. King Savang Vatthana and Prince Souvanna Phouma were given posts as advisers in the new gov't.

The Nat'l Congress was comprised of representatives of the popularly elected revolutionary administrative committees. The committees, initiated in a nationwide campaign of the Pathet Lao (Lao Patriotic Front) last spring, have been effectively governing the country at local levels.

The PDRL has called for the building of a democratic, independent and neutral Laos. The program to accomplish this includes the implementation of a comprehensive land reform program and development of a socialist economy. It will also begin campaigns to abolish illiteracy and "decadent culture" remaining from Western domination. □

Purge Backfires: TOP AIDE FIRED

by Francisco Ocampo

The well-publicized purge undertaken by the martial law regime has proven to be a disastrous failure, backfiring on its chief architect, Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, who has been dismissed from his post. Moreover, the so-called "purged" officials have quietly resumed their posts, or new positions have been created for them.

The purge, executed Sept. 29, was designed by Exec. Sec. Melchor to weed out inefficiency and graft in the martial law gov't. Melchor, called the "little president" before his ousting, was an efficiency-conscious, Annapolis trained technocrat who managed various planning staffs which devised policies for gov't organizations and monitored major gov't activities and projects.

MILITARY - BASTION OF CORRUPTION

The military, which has a notorious reputation for inefficiency and corruption, was one of the major targets of Melchor's purge. The undisciplined military, for example, has caused considerable setbacks in the gov't economic development program in Mindanao which Melchor coordinated.

With its new powers under the martial law gov't, the opportunity for graft in the military is especially great. Military officers have been managing quasi-public companies that include shipping, insurance, real estate and other transportation enterprises, aside from the gov't agencies they oversee. Military excesses have become particularly rampant in the South where about three-fourths of the armed forces are deployed to suppress the Muslim rebellion. There have been disclosures of military officers selling guns and ammunition to the rebels. High-ranking officers have amassed so much wealth that even Marcos has ordered some of them to explain the finances which they "accumulated beyond their means."

Besides this unbridled corruption, inter-service

MASSIVE RALLIES...

continued from front page

to the streets shouting "welga, welga, welga" ("strike, strike, strike").

The rally was preceded by a service at Sta. Cruz Church, a downtown church in Manila. During the mass, the workers made an offering of chains to symbolize their oppression. From the pulpit, three workers spoke of their exploitation by their employers and pro-management gov't labor agencies. The workers concluded by saying: "In the face of a military regime continuously promoting the interests of the wealthy few at the expense of the poor, all urban and rural workers together with the toiling masses in general should unite and fight for justice and their democratic rights."

After the service, the spirited crowd marched to Plaza Miranda where they were joined by another contingent that came from San Sebastian Church. The rally at Plaza Miranda lasted for 3 hours and was punctuated by revolutionary songs and militant speeches that attacked the military regime's discriminatory and oppressive policies against the workers and the poor. One of the speakers was Archbishop of Manila, Jaime Sin, who pledged the Church's support for the just cause of the laborers and the poor in fighting for their rights.

"DOWN WITH MARTIAL LAW"

A second rally, the largest since martial law was declared was held last Dec 6, timed to coincide with Ford's visit to Manila. Like the first demonstration, this one began with a Church service where the workers burned a copy of the Presidential Decree 823 as a sign of protest against the decree (see article on "Total Ban on Strikes," this issue). The crowd of laborers, nuns, priests and students then attempted to march to Malacanang Palace where Ford was conferring with Marcos. Scores of truncheon-armed police forces, however, blocked the marchers way. The protestors then decided to proceed to Plaza Miranda instead, marching through the university belt area and the busy shopping center in the heart of the city. Carrying candles and banners that read "Restore the right to strike," the protestors urged the onlookers to join the march to Plaza Miranda. The militant crowd boldly shouted "Down with martial law!"

By the time the demonstrators arrived at Plaza

and factional rivalries wrack the military, Philippine Constabulary units have clashed on at least two occasions with the Marines and the Army in the Cotabato area of Central Mindanao and in Zamboanga, headquarters of the Southwest Mindanao Command. Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Espino made this disclosure in a recent speech in General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The clashes between rival elements in the Philippine Armed Forces have become so serious that a campaign to restore discipline in the service is being considered.

MELCHOR VS. MILITARY

Thus, Melchor launched a massive purge of the military. Foreign Correspondent Bernard Wideman in his article "Politics of the Purge" (reprinted in AK Nov issue) said rumors had it that Melchor wanted to include Enrile on the purge list but had to settle for Defense Undersecretary, Manuel Salientes, who was purged for "anomalies in arms procurement."

The purge infuriated the military. Defense Sec. Enrile angrily said "the military has not reached a stage where a purge is necessary," and led a mass resignation of 49 generals. This walkout pressured Marcos to concede that the "military can purge itself," cutting short Melchor's military purge.

Not only did Melchor's calculated move against

Thousands Affected Squatters Face Mass Ejection

Squatters in the Greater Manila area are being systematically evicted from their homes with bulldozers and guns as part of Imelda Marcos's plan to "beautify and decongest" Metropolitan Manila. The relocation scheme called **Balik-Bukid** (Back to the Provinces) will affect some 655,180 "squatters" mostly semi-employed workers, itinerant peddlers, and scavengers who people Manila's shantytowns.

Hardest hit by this scheme, are thousands of families occupying stilt homes erected over esteros (waterways), who, according to the regime, are responsible for the perennial flooding of Manila since they "clog up the waterways." The widescale demolition of their homes is being heralded as the "solution to the flood problem" but the gov't has made no mention of where they are to be relocated and whether they will be compensated for the loss of their homes.

The **Balik-Bukid** scheme however, is just part of a national relocation plan to evict the urban poor and rural settlers who farm choice lands which could be lucratively developed by private business. This scheme, claimed to be in the interests of national development, will actually deprive thousands, maybe millions of Filipinos of their homes without alternative housing provided.

THOUSANDS EVICTED ALREADY

For example, in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, 18,000 families were ejected to make way for the Pantabangan Dam. While claiming that hydroelectric

Miranda, the crowd had swelled to 9,000. After listening to speeches attacking the decree, the crowd peacefully dispersed, thus ending the 6-hour demonstration. No arrests were made. (It is likely that the regime wished to avoid creating any incidence that would highlight the protest and mar Ford's visit.)

3,000 SIGNS LETTER OF PROTEST

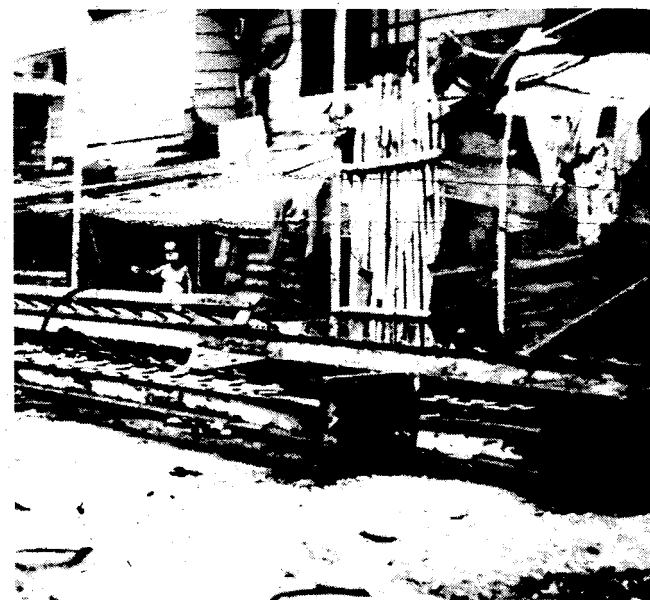
These demonstrations capped a successive wave of protest precipitated by the latest anti-labor decree. Immediately after its issuance, Archbishop Sin, who had recently taken a more cautious stance towards the regime, broke his silence and issued a stong letter of protest to Marcos. Another resolution denouncing the decree was signed by 3,000 priests and nuns. During Ford's visit, 30 American priests circulated a letter they wrote to Ford protesting the decree, which further stated that "the military and economic support of the US gov't justifies the oppressive Marcos regime." Prominent champion of civil rights and former president of the Integrated Bar, ex-Supreme Court Justice J.B. Reyes, released a memorandum

the military backfire, he also antagonized Mrs. Marcos' power bloc. By dismissing Internal Revenue Commissioner Misael Vera, a protege of Madame Marcos, he came into conflict with the First Lady herself. There were also other differences between Mrs. Marcos and Melchor. Wideman reports (Far Eastern Economic Review, Dec. 12) that Melchor feared Mrs. Marcos' recent appointment as the Governor of Metropolitan Manila would divert funds to the city and Mrs. Marcos' pet projects, and away from Melchor's vital economic projects.

Thus, to appease powerful military allies vital to his power base, and to pacify Imelda's band of politicians, Marcos had to accede to the strong pressure to fire Melchor.

Melchor's dismissal also opened the opportunity for Marcos to abolish the Executive Secretary post and create five new positions in its place. The Executive Secretary's functions were so extensive that it permeated all vital gov't operations, posing a threat to Marcos himself. As Wideman put it, "Marcos' move was prompted by a suspicion that the position of Executive Secretary was getting too powerful."

Melchor's downfall confirms that Marcos, who depends on the military and influential politicians to prop up his regime, cannot undertake any genuine cleansing of his ranks without undermining his own stay in power. □



The urban poor, considered "eyesores" by the regime, are being evicted. Ang Katipunan Photo

power and irrigation will be provided by the dam, it will actually service the vast tracts of land owned by the Marcos-Romualdez and Puzon families. Three other dams are being constructed nearby which will similarly affect some 15,000 Kalinga and Bontoc people.

In Tondo, some 170,000 persons face eviction to

continued on page 5

attacking the decree as "unconstitutional and void."

The legal struggle in the city against the martial law gov't has reached a new peak in the recent months. Initial vague misgivings about the military regime are now crystallizing with the worsening economic conditions and underlying discontent, which sporadically erupted in the past is fast gaining momentum. Martial law has failed to bring any substantial benefits but has instead brought more hardship for the majority of the Filipino people, according to two recent studies by the Civil Liberties Union document and the Message of Hope Statement signed by prominent religious and nationalists.

The general sentiments are strongly for the lifting of martial law. The Preparatory Commission for a National Democratic Front has launched a movement to lift martial law and hold immediate elections.

The intensifying opposition in the cities is signal to a bigger storm, a tempest that will rock the very foundations of the military regime. □