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WESTINGHOUSE PAYMENTS OF \$5 TO \$35 MILLION

Disini Scandal Rocks Marcos Regime

By VICTORIA LUNA

A series of exposes highlighting gross irregularities in the purchase by the Philippine government of a \$1.1 billion nuclear reactor from Westinghouse, Inc. (the largest single transaction in the country's history) rocked the Marcos regime from mid-December through the month of January. As correspondents from the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal* rushed to outcoop each other on stories of corruption under

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the Marcos regime, new scandals continued to come to light. President Ferdinand E. Marcos scrambled to preserve his international reputation, while Westinghouse geared up for an investigation by the United States Department of Justice on illegal payments to Philippine nationals in connection with the reactor deal.

At the center of the scandal, first exposed by the *Philippine Liberation Courier* last October, was the

(continued on page 4)

Tribute To A Manong



Sebastian Sahagon, a farmworker and UFW organizer, recently died at age 72 in Delano, California. For story, see page 9.

AFTER CORRUPT ELECTION

IMELDA INVITED TO FACLA EVENT

The new set of FACLA officers whose elections are still under protest has moved swiftly to consolidate their own positions in the biggest Fil-Am community organization in the U.S.

On two Board of Trustees meetings and on the general assembly meeting of January 15, 1978, San Jose and his henchman, Buddy Paja, re-elected chairman of the contested Board of Trustees, set their inaugural ball for Friday, Feb. 24th and have boldly announced and sought the approval of the membership to invite Mrs. Imelda Marcos as the main guest speaker. Employing his usual tactic San Jose filled the meeting with his supporters. As expected, the move passed without any problems and in fact received applause when presented. Noticeable was the absence of many FACLA members which included supporters of the opposition who did not show up as a continuing sign of protest against San Jose's election. For them, attendance meant recognition of the new administration.

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FILIPINOS AND THE BAKKE CASE

See editorial on page 6



Above, Filipinos join the Oct. 8 National Day of Protest Against the Bakke Decision in Oakland, Ca. For more information, see the KDP commentary on page 6. [AK photo]

Marcos to Stage 'National Elections' See Page 2

Political Prisoners Stage Successful Hunger Strike See page 3

Trainees Hit 4-H Program At Raleigh Meeting See Page 8

H-1 Nurses Still Face Harrassment See Page 8

Carter's State Of The Union Address: More Empty Promises See Page 10

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Buod ng mga Balita

[NEWS SUMMARIES]

Farmers Rounded Up In Macu, Davao

A mass round-up of farmers in Macu, Davao del Norte on suspicion of being NPA sympathizers is being conducted by the local constabulary. No Arrest, Search and Seizure Order (ASSO) or Warrant of Arrest are being served the farmers, who are oftentimes arbitrarily picked up along roads. Seven have reportedly been incarcerated at the Tagum PC Stockade for varying lengths of time, among them, a certain Artiaga, Alejandro Cabuneta, and Delfin Senajon who were subsequently released for insufficient evidence.

The military operation, headed by Chief Chung together with the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) headed by Ben Rimando, followed the killing of a Macu policeman Jimmy Bueno last May. The killing was attributed to the NPA, as punishment for Bueno's abuses against the people.

The first to be apprehended was Artiaga, a farmer picked up by Rimando. When asked by the military why he was feeding the NPA, Artiaga said they were polite, besides being armed. Around the same time, Delfin Senajon was brought to the Station Commanders Office where he was pinpointed by a groomed witness, as a killer of Bueno. Cabuneta was arrested in August and like the two others, was subsequently released when no evidence could be pinned on him. □

PC Rapped For Civilian Abuses

The Philippine Constabulary (PC) has the unique distinction of having a police force where cops and robbers are one and the same. This all too well-known fact seems to have suddenly dawned on Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile who recently convened a top level meeting of the Integrated National Police officials to discuss mounting public criticism of police abuses. Enrile reportedly expressed alarm over the daily stream of complaints on police misconduct that are being coursed through various government offices.

Police conduct has become so outrageous that on two occasions Enrile had to intervene in local police matters. In Marikina, the Philippine Constabulary (PC) was ordered to disarm some of its members for conniving with hoodlums. While in Lian, Batangas, authorities were ordered to investigate the release of a self-confessed killer by police there.

Despite the Enrile warnings, it is unlikely that police abuses will altogether stop. Even after civilian authority was restored over local police at the insistence of municipal officials, there has been no decline in the incidence of police abuses. National Police Force head Teodulo Natividad in the meantime claimed, that only six per cent of the police force had bad records, while the majority still stood for public protection. This six per cent must be an extremely active minority to attract daily press coverage of its crimes, notably extortion, thievery, and drunken behavior. □

NPA Actions Escalate

As Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile gleefully told the graduating class of the Military Flying School that "the government has succeeded in defusing the communist threat," encounters with New People's Army guerrillas occurred in three separate parts of the country. In Dinalupihan, Bataan, and Davao del Norte, two clashes were reported on Dec. 17. Three days earlier, the NPA stepped up its attacks in Eastern Samar, Tarlac, and Palawan province killing six soldiers. In Eastern Samar, an army patrol was ambushed killing four soldiers and wounding four others. On the same day, an NPA band opened fire on a paramilitary civilian patrol in Tarlac, killing a patrol member. While in Palawan Island, a new fighting front for the NPA, guerrillas fired on a constabulary patrol killing a soldier. Defense Department authorities in Manila said all three ambushes were carried out in broad daylight. No casualties were reported on the NPA side. □

Electoral Fraud In Lanao

Revelations of fraud in the last referendum surfaced late December when election supervisor Jaime Ballesta of Lanao del Norte province asked the Commission on Elections to nullify the results in five southern towns. Ballesta said the near 100 per cent sweep of votes favoring Marcos' continued rule in the five Lanao towns was "statistically incredible" and tainted with "fraud."

In Caromatan town, yes votes totaled 11,612 while no votes tallied only 64 or less than one per cent. In the four other towns, Ballesta added, not a single negative vote was cast. □

MARCOS MOVES TOWARD 'POLITICAL NORMALCY'

National Assembly Elections Set



Filipinos will 'vote' again, this time on April 2, to choose their favorite Marcos candidate to sit on the National Assembly.

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

Still euphoric over his "overwhelming mandate" in last month's referendum, Pres. Marcos is taking his next step towards achieving what he calls "political normalcy." Addressing the Philippine Constitutional Association on Jan. 17, Marcos set April 2 as the date for national elections to the 120 seats in the interim National Assembly.

As is the case with all of his political maneuvers, this latest gimmick is being carefully planned from beginning to end to achieve Mr. Marcos' desired results—the landslide victory of his handpicked candidates in an election that has an appearance of credibility.

Although Marcos has declared that "... Everyone should be permitted to file his certificate as candidate," the scheduled elections will most likely be nothing more than a contest among his loyalists over a few coveted positions in the assembly. In fact, despite Marcos' claims about returning to political normalcy, forthcoming elections is hardly an indication that democratic processes are about to be restored.

PATENT FARCE

In the first place, the much ballyhoed interim national assembly is now almost entirely different from its original version in the 1973 constitution. By virtue of the transitory provisions in the 1973 constitution and the results of four referenda on martial law rule, Marcos has drastically altered the functions of the interim national assembly to suit his purposes. Originally conceived as a parliament, and therefore, a more effective check and balance to executive power, the national assembly now is little more than a lameduck legislature which rubberstamps executive orders.

Previously, the incumbent president (Marcos) was to merely serve a titular role in parliament, second only in rank to the prime minister who was to be elected at large by the assembly. Now, Marcos, by virtue of the Dec. 17th "mandate" will fill in the shoes of both president and prime minister. The assembly members were to be originally drawn from the defunct Congress, Senate, and Constitutional Convention. Now, they are to be elected after passing a selection process which would logically narrow down the choice to pro-Marcos candidates.

According to the ground rules drafted in 1975, nominations will be made by local baranggays otherwise known as the regimes "grassroots councils." Should this tightly regulated selection process even fail, Marcos reserves the right to nullify the election of a candidate and replace him with an appointee.

Capping these series of schemes is the provision of the 1976 plebiscite which allows the dictator to override the assembly's decisions at anytime and can even dismantle the entire set-up should it violate its rubber stamp role.

OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATE

Despite the clearly farcical nature of the upcoming elections and the interim assembly itself, the opposition has announced its willingness to participate in the April race. Sen Jovito Salonga announced, however, that the opposition's participation will depend upon Marcos' compliance with a list of terms that they submitted earlier this month. The opposition is also waiting for the release of the candidacy procedure and other ground rules for the elections.

Meanwhile, imprisoned Marcos rival, former Sen. Benigno Aquino is reportedly

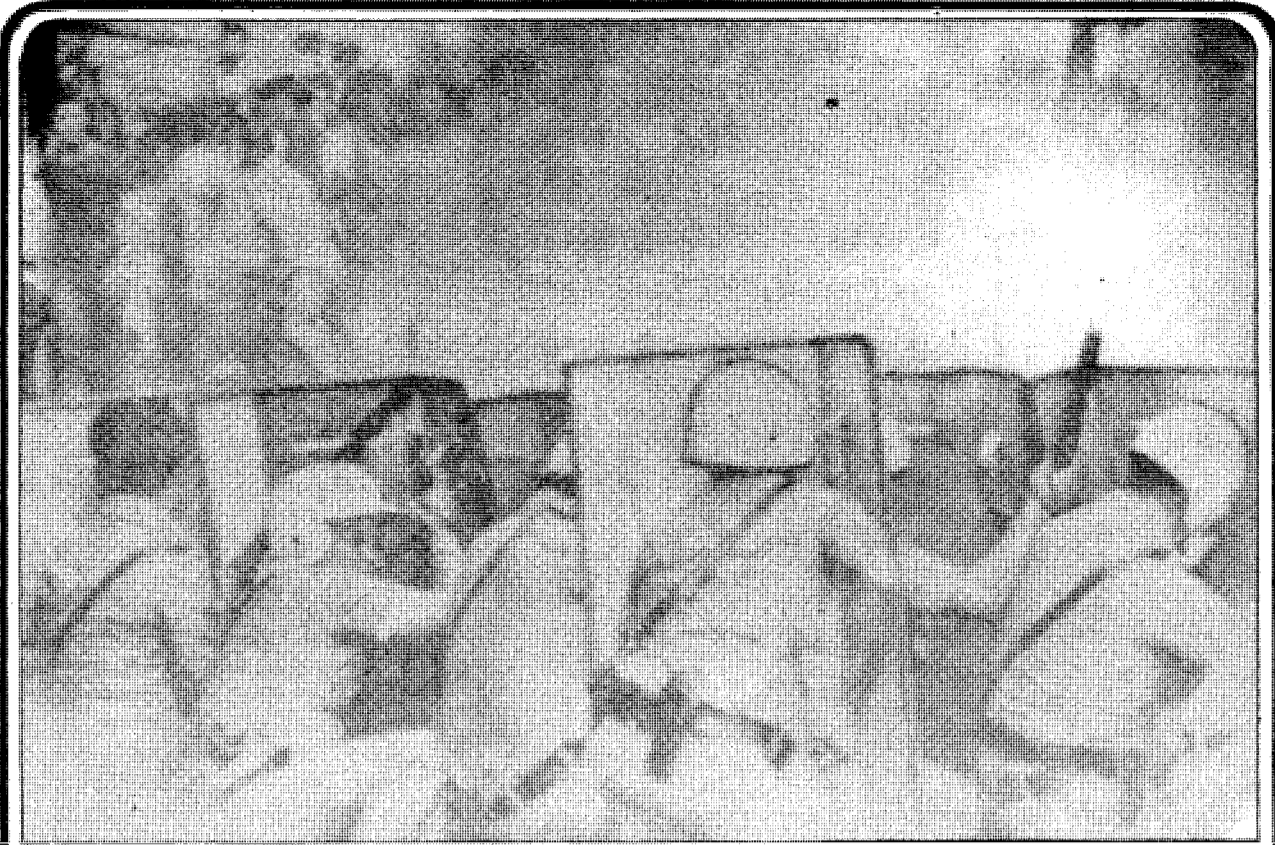
in favor of the fielding of as many opposition candidates as possible. Only former president Diosdado Macapagal has refused participation in the upcoming vote.

ANOTHER WASHINGTON PERFORMANCE

With the foreseeable outcome of the April elections, Marcos can expect another favorable nod from the Carter administration. The upcoming elections, like the previous referenda, are part of a series of political maneuvers to improve Marcos' human rights record abroad. Hence it is noteworthy, that Marcos first announced his intention to hold elections before a group of visiting American legislators last month.

These calculated maneuvers are designed to get firmer U.S. backing, specifically to win the U.S. legislature's approval of the forthcoming U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreement. With an elected legislature, Marcos can now legitimize his claim that his martial law regime has finally "spread the power around." The absence of a legislature, a provision for presidential succession, and local and national elections has for some time been the main criticism of U.S. government officials. Marcos, it appears, has been gradually complying with these conditions in an attempt to strengthen his claim that the Philippines is returning to political normalcy.

These window-dressing moves, however, have long been discredited internally, and the upcoming elections is hardly causing a stir among the poll weary Filipinos. Thus, whatever political mileage Marcos hopes to get out of the April vote, could only be assessed insofar as it improves his international image. And if the upcoming elections is a huge success in improving Marcos' credibility, only Washington would be applauding.



PEOPLE VS. POLICE

Philippine riot police were forced to take cover behind shields when they attempted to destroy a number of condemned shanties in San Juan, a suburb of Manila. Residents of the shanties attacked the police with rocks, determined to prevent the destruction of their homes. Nearly 20 policemen were injured in the confrontation which raged for several hours. [AP photo, Jan. 12, 1978]

Release Won For 31

PRISONERS RESIST REPRESSION

Filipino political prisoners met mounting repression with mounting resistance over the last several months according to recent reports from Manila. While the Task Force on Detainees presented new and horrifying statistics on prisoners who have disappeared and are presumed dead for the period of September to December 1977, a group of 35 prisoners in Camp Crame stockade staged a successful hunger strike. As a result, 31 of them were released while four others were promised transfer to more comfortable quarters in Bicutan Rehabilitation Center.

The Task Force on Detainees charged the Marcos regime with meting out "unofficial death sentences" to 126 prisoners "in order to eliminate information regarding the use of torture from reaching the international public." The documentation group adds that continuing reports of the use of military "safehouses," torture and prolonged detention without trial have seriously undermined the regime's public relations drive designed to improve its human rights image.

Among the 126 prisoners feared eliminated are 64 Muslim Filipinos whose arrest was earlier confirmed by the government. All are believed to have been members or supporters of the Moro National Liberation Front or its military arm, the Bangsa Moro Army. Forty more of the prisoners are peasants from northeastern Samar who were arrested last July and have since disappeared. Samar, one of the most economically depressed areas of the country, has been a strong center of support for the New People's Army (NPA). Among those believed executed are peasant leaders, landless tenants, and rural youths.

The remaining "disappeared" prisoners include labor organizers, student leaders, professors, and journalists. Many of those missing were leading organizers of popular movements in the cities and countryside. A number were cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA or activists of the National Democratic Front.

PRISONERS' MILITANCE INCREASES

The prisoners in Marcos' jails have not been cowed by these brutal acts of the regime; instead their militance has increased. Last December, detainees in the Camp Crame stockade staged a 10-day successful hunger strike. They demanded release of those among them who had not yet been brought to trial; the privilege of cooking their own meals; an increase in their food budget from P4 to P6 per detainee per day; liberalization of rules on visitation; improvement of the stockade's facilities; and welfare assistance to the dependents of indigent detainees.

On the third day of the hunger strike, 13 of the detainees were released. Unsatisfied, the remaining 22 prisoners proceeded with their strike. After 10 more days, they were promised further releases



by officials of the Command for the Administration of Detainees. Several days after Christmas, 18 more were released. The remaining four prisoners, Alexander Galang, Dr. Roger Posadas, Francisco Vergara, and Ato Yogyog, were offered the option of transfer to Bicutan.

Philippine political prisoners have learned that the only way to receive even half-way decent treatment from the repressive Marcos regime is through militant struggle. While detainees, supported by the Filipino people outside the prison walls, feel deeply concerned for their fellow-prisoners who have received "unofficial death sentences," they also take heart from the recent victory in Camp Crame which proves that the regime can, if pushed hard enough, be forced to afford them better treatment. □

DAVAO RESIDENTS RAP MILITARY ABUSES

The Davao City Coastguard, known for its perverse penchant for barbarities has continued its outrages against the city's residents. According to five Davao City residents who were detained from June 3 to July 4, 1977, by the coastguard detachment at Mabila, Balut Island, seven members of a coastguard team took turns torturing and inflicting all sorts of indignities on them.

In an affidavit filed on Aug. 29, the five men identified Lt. Rodyo Malhamad, a certain Magat, Guerrero, Arevalo, Alvaro, and CHDF members Vic Europa and Michael Paras as their tormentors. One unidentified victim said his ear was severed with a bayonet and given to him to eat. Another detainee, Gonzalo Ogdiman of Guinhulugan, Negros Occidental, was made to perform degrading sexual acts with coastguard Guerrero. A third, Joe Pakal Guimaani, a Muslim, was forced to eat pork meat and dog meat by coastguards Magat and Arevalo, a practice considered repugnant by the Muslim religion.

Two other victims, Tumandan and Inuncio Magdwin were subjected to similar degradations. The detainees claim the torture continued even when they were already in the Coastguard Division Headquarters of Davao City where they are still detained.

At least two other incidents citing similar barbarities involving the Davao Coastguard were reported last year. □

NUN DENOUNCES DECEPTIONS OF 'SOCIALISTS'

A religious sister of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL) recently denounced a handful of persons calling themselves the United Philippine Democratic Socialist Party (UPDSP) for sowing intrigues and confusion among progressive forces opposing the Marcos dictatorship. These self-proclaimed "socialists" are actually anti-communist diehards whose actions run counter to their professed ideology, socialism.

Speaking at a CNL conference the sister said, "The propaganda and activities of this so-called party sidetrack the main issue . . . which is the fascist dictatorial regime of the U.S.-Marcos clique. (They) attempt to sow confusion among the patriotic and democratic forces fighting fascism, imperialism, and all forms of reaction."

Evidence supporting the CNL representatives' allegations surfaced with the UPDSP's release of a position paper denouncing the Moro people's struggle for self-determination. The statement which appeared in the group's newsletter *Sandigan*, said: "The central government cannot afford to tolerate secessionist movements, because to do so would . . . weaken our precarious economic situation." Justifying the Marcos regime's genocidal war in the South, UPDSP added: "the present central government is morally correct in striving to keep intact the political and economic unity of the Republic."

The UPDSP's assertions are inconsistent with their claim that "the fascist dictatorship epitomizes all forms of oppressions" By denouncing the regime as the "epitome of oppression" and yet readily condemning the long-oppressed Moro people's fight for self-rule, they expose their hypocrisy and their actual pro-Marcos sympathies. As the CNL representative put it: "The ringleaders of the UPDSP are definitely rendering a special service to the fascist dictatorship." □

REGIME'S SCANDALS RAMPANT**Corruption in R.P. Grain Dealings Revealed**

A short month after the Herdis-Westinghouse corruption scandal sent the Marcos regime reeling (see related story, page 1), the Philippine government has been rocked by another expose of shady dealings in high places. As disenchantment with the regime loosened the tongues of government officials and Philippine businessmen, sources among the country's flour millers and within the U.S. Embassy revealed to the *New York Times* reporter, Fox Butterfield, that the Marcos regime has earned approximately \$100 million by keeping the prices of imported U.S. wheat artificially high at the U.S.D.A.'s expense. Butterfield's sources further suggested that at least a portion of these funds has ended up in the pockets of government officials.

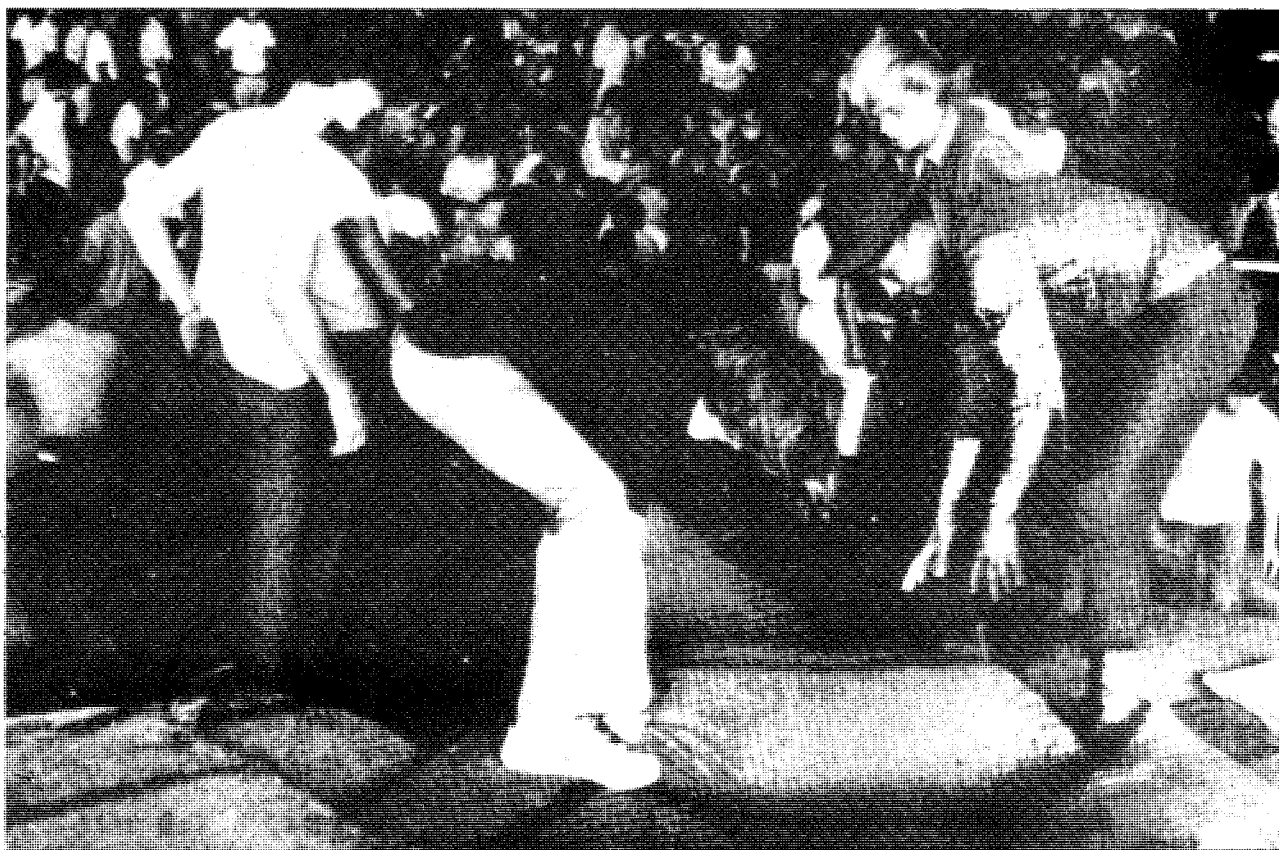
All imports of wheat since 1974 have taken place under the supervision of the National Grains Authority (NGA), which monopolizes the trade. The NGA, under the leadership of Jesus Tanchanco, was granted the monopoly in 1974, when wheat prices were at a record high. At that time, the NGA subsidized bread consumers by selling the wheat to millers for less than it cost in the U.S.

World wheat prices have since plummeted. The NGA, however, continues to sell its imported wheat to millers at the old price, realizing a profit of between \$70 and \$90 per ton and keeping the price of bread artificially high. American officials estimate that the Philippine government has made \$70 to \$80 million this way since 1973.

RELENDING FOR PROFIT

The additional \$25 to \$30 million has come from the government's unconventional use of cheap credit supplied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through its Commodity Credit Corporation. This government corporation provides loans to foreign millers at eight per cent interest repayable over a three-year period.

The Philippine government, however, requires local millers to pay in full for the wheat within a mere five months. It then takes the loan money, deposits it in the Philippine National Bank and relends it at 16 per cent interest. By the time the



U.S. Department of Agriculture credit was used for profit making venture by the National Grain Authority. Above, American G.I.'s unload donated grain.

government repays the USDA, it has realized an eight per cent profit.

U.S. DENIES IRREGULARITIES

The USDA has denied any irregularities in Philippine wheat purchases and embassy officials deny having accused officials of skimming funds into their own pockets. Nonetheless, embassy personnel have kept the story alive by admitting to having pressured Marcos to lower wheat prices.

This they say, would keep down the consumer price of bread, promote more wheat sales, and avoid allegations of impropriety on the Philippine side.

The NGA expose has added significantly to the damage caused by the Herdis-Westinghouse revelations. This new scandal, coming so quickly on the heels of the reactor incident, has created an overwhelming impression that corruption under the Marcos regime is not the exception but the rule. □

WESTINGHOUSE-DISINI SCANDAL...

(continued from front page)

figure of Herminio T. Disini, an industrialist with a \$200 million corporate empire, who, at the imposition of martial law in 1972, was a small manufacturer of cigarette filters. Disini, married to Dr. Inday Escolin, first cousin and personal physician of Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, and, at one time, governess to the Marcos children, is a frequent golfing partner of the president. He is also well-known in financial circles as one of the president's favorite front men.

Disini ranked as the most widely discussed of Marcos' cronies in 1976 for his role in what is now

known as the Seafont Scandal, a blatant case of stockmarket manipulation which capped the speculative oil boom that year. Pres. Marcos himself collaborated in driving the price of stock in drilling companies skyhigh by creating the impression that the Philippines was on the verge of striking oil.

But the Seafont Scandal was small time compared with the Westinghouse caper, in which Disini played a key role as the corporation's agent. In 1974, the Philippine government, having decided to build a reactor, was leaning strongly toward General Electric. G.E. had proposed to build two 500 megawatt reactors for \$700 million. At this

point, Jesus Vergara, president of Asia Industries, the local Westinghouse distributor, brought Disini into the picture. Two years later, the contract went to Westinghouse — one reactor for \$1.1 billion — in a deal which Marcos' Secretary for Industry, Vicente Paterno, called "one reactor for the price of two."

Disini was richly rewarded for his efforts. Disini's holding company, Herdis, Inc., was allowed to purchase Asia Industries and its four subsidiaries several months before the reactor deal was formally announced.

Shortly before this transaction, Asia Industries, together with three other construction firms, formed a consortium, Power Contractors. With the purchase of Asia Industries, Herdis acquired controlling interest in the consortium. After the deal between the Marcos government and Westinghouse was finalized, Power Contractors without bidding, received the contract for building the reactor.

Tambuli Communications and Technosphere Consulting, both Herdis owned firms, and International Telephone and Telegraph, whose local distributorship is owned by Herdis, were awarded contracts for the reactor's communications system and additional construction.

A small Herdis-owned insurance company, Summa, Inc. 89th out of 106 in the country in net assets, was chosen to put together a \$688 million builder's risk insurance policy. This is the biggest insurance package ever assembled in the Philippines. The tiny Summa was forced to bring in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to cover its liability, but received a \$10 million premium for its efforts.

As if all this were not enough, Westinghouse is reputed to have paid Disini a commission ranging anywhere from \$5 million up to \$35 million or more

REGIME OFFICIALS DISENCHANTED

Even Marcos insiders were stunned at the magnitude of corruption in the Westinghouse deal, creating disenchantment within government in circles. Regime officials, who have remained mum about previous dirty doings, have proved to be willing informants for the foreign correspondents.

(continued on page 5)



Marcos and Disini after golf match: "We leave it to Herminio to play golf with Marcos" — Disini associate.

(M.J. photo)

REGIME CRACKSDOWN ON DAP

Morales: 'Today I Join The National Democratic Front'

Five top officials of the Development Academy of the Philippines have been detained following the defection of an outstanding young technocrat, Horacio Morales, to the National Democratic Front. Police sources said that among the five was a former Dominican priest who left the church to join the Development Agency.

Morales, an alternate Philippine delegate to the recent United Nations General Assembly and executive vice-president of the DAP defected to the Front early this month, the evening he was slated to receive a citation for government service in the 1977 Ten Outstanding Young Men Awards. Instead, his mother read his defection statement to a stunned audience. The statement is reprinted in part below:

"Today, I am joining the National Democratic Front.

"For almost ten years, I have been an official in the reactionary government, serving the Marcos dictatorship and all that it stands for, serving a ruling system that has brought so much suffering and misery to the broad masses of the Filipino people. I refuse to take any more part in this. I have had enough of this regime's tyranny and treachery, greed and brutality, exploitation and oppression of the people. I commit myself to the national democratic revolution now being waged to liberate the Filipino people from the foreign and local oppression from which they have suffered for so long and which has worsened unbearably under martial rule.

"When the people have thrown the present dictatorship and its foreign and local backers off their backs, they can create the society they want. They can produce enough and even much more for their needs; they can build the decent and human lives they seek; they can stand with dignity and assurance in the world.

"I used to believe that all these could be achieved by working for reforms within the system, that all that was needed was to place good competent men in the government. Many of my colleagues and I sought to undertake reforms within the government such as in education, agrarian relations, rural industrialization, cooperatives, and programs to broaden the people's participation in the management of their affairs. All our well-meaning efforts were in vain. What, in fact, happened was that these 'reforms' were used to deceive the people, to cover the nature and intent of the Marcos dictatorship, and in many cases, even to further entrench the foreign and local vested interests we wanted to remove.

"We came face to face with the real character of the Marcos dictatorship.

REFORM PROJECTS—DISMAL FAILURES

"The 'land reform project' claimed to be the



Marcos addresses government officials. The Morales defection revealed the growing dissatisfaction of even these persons with the New Society regime.

cornerstone of the 'new society' has been a dismal failure. It actually favors the big landlords and gives them the right to extract such a high price for the lands tilled by the peasants for years. The heavy amortizations, burdens and risks imposed on the peasants only worsen their conditions, particularly those who have barely enough to meet their basic needs.

"The main purpose of the regime's 'land reform' is not at all to 'free the peasantry from 'feudal bondage.' Actually it is an attempt to lull them, to defuse their growing discontent and resistance.

"The dictatorship's 'development programs' have failed not because of the ignorance of government leaders and decision makers. . . They have failed because they are designed to serve the interests of a few—the big foreign and local capitalists, the big landlords, those in high offices and their relatives and cronies. 'Development programs' have been turned into a 'development industry' from which these few can reap huge profits. The most rapacious among them are the dictator himself and his closest relatives.

"The people who are supposed to benefit from these 'development programs' are restricted from any participation in the planning and implementation of these. In a sense, 'development' in inflicted upon them. In its name, national minorities are driven off their lands; urban poor communities are harassed and demolished without any consideration for their welfare; our natural resources are polluted and depleted; peasant lands are grabbed.

"No wonder the hidden side of the regime's development programs is the brutal suppression of the people's struggles to assert their rights. If the development planners and technocrats are the left hand of Marcos, the military and its guns are the right. Massacres, looting, extortion, forced mass evacuations, kidnapping, torture, arbitrary arrests, and detention are the natural consequences of the regimes development policies.

"It became very clear to me that the system can never be reformed from within, that there is no choice but to dismantle the entire machinery and smash it completely.

NATIONAL DEMOCRACY—THE SOLUTION

"Thus I have decided to join the National Democratic Front and take part in the armed revolution against the Marcos dictatorship and all that it serves. I see that this evil regime must be overthrown and destroyed. I see that the national democratic program is the correct, real and lasting answer to our people's deepest needs and highest aspirations.

"In its ten-point program, the National Democratic Front calls for the replacement of the present dictatorship with a coalition government of a national democratic form. The NDF stands firmly for the total dismantling of all foreign, particularly U.S. control of the economy and other aspects of our national life; for a genuine agrarian revolution, in the countryside, and for the reestablishment of the people's democratic rights.

"The courageous spirit of sacrifice, style of plain living and love for the people of those with whom I work in the National Democratic Front, makes me believe all the more in the justness of the cause. What a great contrast they are to the corruption, venality, brutality, and greed of the tools and puppets of the regime in the reactionary government! In rejecting my position and part in the reactionary government, I am glad to be finally free of being a servant of foreign and local vested interests. I am happy to be fighting side by side with the people.

"I call upon all honest and patriotic officials in the reactionary government to join the struggle of the Filipino people for national independence and democracy.

"While within the government, they can perform such work for the revolution as gathering information to expose the deceptions and crimes of the dictatorship and its agents; neutralizing or sabotaging anti-people government projects; and organizing other sincere elements to support the underground and armed resistance.

"They can also give up their government positions and directly take part in the armed revolution, in the people's struggles in the factories, communities, and countryside.

"The Marcos dictatorship will not last long. It is extremely isolated from and deeply hated by the people. On the other hand, the national democratic revolution is bound to win because it enjoys the support of the broad masses of the Filipino peoples.

"Let us give all our will, strength, and skill for the liberation of our people!" □

DISINI SCANDAL EXPOSED...

(continued from page 4)

working on the story. The Disini scandal seemed to open a Pandora's box as informants piled one tale of corruption upon another.

Even U.S. Embassy officials came forth with new items concerning government profiteering on purchases of U.S. wheat (see related story, this page).

The exposés come at an extremely bad time for the Marcos regime. In preparation for a favorable conclusion to the U.S.-R.P. bases talks, Marcos is busy cleaning up his international image in order to

"In the Philippines, everything is relative. You have to be related."—a Filipino politician.

get large military aid appropriations for the Philippines past the U.S. Congress. The corruption charges will minimize the credibility of his recent "normalization" campaign.

MARCOS LAUNCHES ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

In response to the Westinghouse expose, Marcos immediately launched into a blustery anti-corruption drive. He began late in December by threatening to terminate all copper, sugar, copra, and Progressive Car Manufacturing Program

(PCMP) contracts at the least sign of corruption.

On Jan. 13, in an interview with New York Times correspondent Fox Butterfield, he turned his self-righteous wrath on Westinghouse: "Westinghouse had better look out—they may be responsible for an illegal act in the Philippines." He even claimed to be considering cancellation of the Westinghouse contract, although he admitted it might be "a little bit messy" at this late date.

Several days later, Marcos ordered Herdis to divest itself of four firms: Cellophil, Cellophane Film Corp., Herditex, and a yet-to-be-built petrochemical firm. These corporations are to be sold to regional government cooperatives and the Philippines Veterans Investment and Development Co. (PHILVIDEC), both known as semi-government Marcos fronts.

Marcos can do little more than bluster on the subject of corruption. His own wealth is so intimately tied up with the very contract holders he has threatened, that there is little he can do against them without slicing into his own vast holdings. The Herdis case is a striking example of his dilemma. The loss of four minor corporations will not undermine the Herdis corporate empire. Marcos cannot, even for the sake of cleaning up his reputation at home and abroad, dismantle Herdis. In doing so, he would be dismantling his own fortune. □

Editorial

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EDITOR
Thelma De Guzman
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Victor Uno

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Filipino Community Must Join An

By MELINDA PARAS
KDP National Executive Board

Over the past year, the Bakke decision has become a household word in America. In response to the Supreme Court's hearing of the Bakke case, an organized mass movement has arisen very rapidly across the country. Over 10,000 people across the country were mobilized in a "National Day of Protest" last Oct. 8. And these numbers are still growing in preparation for anti-Bakke demonstrations this spring.

Despite this upsurge, the tremendous significance of the Bakke decision has yet to be fully understood within the Filipino community and the broader U.S. working class. In fact, the media has so thoroughly distorted the issue of Bakke, that many find themselves sympathizing with Bakke as an unfortunate victim who didn't get a chance to go to medical school. There are others who think that Bakke is just an isolated legal issue.

The Bakke decision however is more than a mere legal case. It is a pressing social issue with dangerous implications for the nation's minorities and working people. Based on the insidious concept of "reverse discrimination," the Bakke decision represents a sophisticated attack on the nation's minorities, an attack which must be carefully analysed within the context of the historical development of white supremacy and racism in the U.S.

DEVELOPMENT OF RACISM IN THE U.S.

Throughout U.S. history, racism has been used in various forms to rationalize the exploitation of minorities within the labor force according to the needs of each economic period.

During the period of slavery in the South, black people were considered as a sub-human species, the property of the plantation owner. This enslavement of black Africans was due to the requirements of a large labor force necessary to sustain the agricultural economy. Color became the dividing line between slavery and free labor.

After the Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, the rising Northern industrialists fell far short of their professed commitment to equality for the newly freed slaves. The black masses were relegated to a racially defined subordinate labor status in southern agricultural production, sharecropping, and were kept out of skilled trades and independent farming. Non-whites had no political rights with the justification that, though blacks and non-whites are human, they were inferior type of human being.

Meanwhile, the native white workers obtained the more stable positions in the expanded U.S. labor force. And while immigrants from Europe suffered an initial period of national oppression—that is discrimination based largely on language and culture—the deeply embedded color line was decisive in determining a people's status in future generations.

As the U.S. rapidly became more industrialized and urbanized, the labor force developed into a highly stratified class with divisions between skilled and unskilled, unionized and non-unionized sectors, and the expansion of services, clerical and other "white collar" jobs. Racism and sexism played a major role in determining the distribution of the population into the various strata, relegating blacks and other minorities to the more unstable, unemployed, and less desirable strata of the labor force.

These conditions of unstable employment have obviously resulted in the extreme conditions of poverty and oppressive living conditions faced by minorities in the U.S. today.

'REVERSE DISCRIMINATION' — ANOTHER FORM OF RACISM

It is clear that the various forms of racism have been historically redefined to correspond to existing political, economic and social trends of the period. Today it is arising in the more subtle racist concept of 'reverse discrimination,' reflected in the controversy surrounding the Bakke decision. The 'reverse discrimination' myth is based on the rationalization that minorities are being over-compensated for past discrimination; that discrimination no longer exists and that minorities can compete "equally" for jobs and education with no special programs or consideration; and that if minorities still remain in lower positions, it must be because they are "culturally inferior," less intelligent and less capable.

But the contemporary reality of minorities experience in this country does not match these arguments. Despite the civil rights legislation stemming from the mass movements of the 50's and 60's ending some forms of legalized and blatant discrimination, minorities continue to find themselves in the lowest paying and least desirable jobs, receiving poorer education and relegated to bad and substandard housing conditions. In addition, the general instability of the economy has forced minorities into the pool of unemployed workers in proportions far greater than the overall percentage of the population.

In the case of the Filipino community, many Filipina nurses are used for cheap labor as nurses aides, kept unstable by discriminatory licensure requirements and a shaky immigrant status. Furthermore, second and third generation Filipinos on the whole can be found in unskilled factory jobs, farm labor, and low-paying clerical jobs, unable to break the racial barriers.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court in taking up the Bakke decision, will rule on whether or not racial discrimination will be "officially recognized" as existing and whether or not any legal remedies to past or continuing discrimination need to be continued. If the Bakke decision is upheld, the concept of "reverse discrimination" will become the "law of the land," and the immediate implications will be sweeping.

All programs which develop quotas or goals for minority hiring, promotion, or job classification could thus be ruled illegal. Social services programs in housing, health, and education which are geared to alleviate the oppressing conditions minorities face could also be ruled illegal. Special admissions for minority students in medical and law school will most likely be ruled illegal immediately. Under the same arguments, all similar programs for women can also fall under the "reverse discrimination" ax.

BAKKE THREATENS WORKER'S UNITY

From the broader political perspective, the implications of the Bakke case is the consolidation of the current racist resurgence which deepens the already existing racial divisions within the working class.

The myth of "reverse discrimination" has quickly taken root in the more stable predominately white, sectors of the labor force and is beginning to experience increased appeal from the recent recession and economic slowdown of the last few years. As the economic crisis increases and workers are forced to fight for fewer and fewer jobs and educational opportunities, the stiff "dog eat dog" competition fosters a rise in racist ideology.

COMMENTARY

Filipino People Ultimate Victims Of



Benedicto and Cuenca are cronies and front men for Marcos.

By VICTORIA LUNA

The Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and the Washington Post have just discovered what most Filipinos have known for a long time: Ferdinand E. Marcos and an assortment of multinational corporations have been playing an extremely profitable little game. In the process, selected frontmen and cronies—both his and hers—along with the president and his wife, have become very rich. Just about any resident of Manila can easily reel off the names of this New Society oligarchy: Roberto Benedicto, Ricardo Silverio, Benjamin [Kokoy] Romualdez, Rodolfo Cuenca, and, of course, Herminio Disini.

Much of the wealth of the New Society oligarchy has been gained, it is true, at the expense of the old wealthy families. But the real victim of these shananigans has been not the big wealthy families of old, but the Filipino people.

The Filipino people have been hurt in a number of ways—both directly and indirectly—through the financial dealings of Herminio T. Disini and his ilk in company with Ferdinand Marcos and a nuber of multinational corporations.

The \$921 million borrowed from international banking sources for the nuclear reactor project is a full 14 per cent of the country's current immense \$6.4 billion external debt. If the borrowings for a mere four additional Herdis enterprises out of his total of 35 are added to this, the percentage rises to 17 per cent of the country's foreign debt. This does not take into account the remaining 31 corporations under the Herdis mantle.

HOW DOES A HEAVY FOREIGN DEBT HURT THE FILIPINO PEOPLE?

The condition of heavy indebtedness has bound the Philippine economy to the dictates of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund [IMF] and its sister organization, the World Bank [WB]. The IMF-WB represent a consortium of all lending countries. They therefore control allotments of funds and can determine how and under what conditions they should be spent.

The control wielded by the IMF-WB results in the insidious pattern of dependence on the economies of the advanced capitalist countries, perpetuating poverty and economic stagnation in the Philippines. The IMF-WB promotes this economic underdevelopment by discouraging investment in local production of basic manufacture. They would rather see the Philippines continue to import these from the developed countries. Instead, IMF-WB loans are expended on infrastructure projects to facilitate production and transportation of primary export goods. This means that export-oriented industries flourish at the expense of the consumer goods sector which remains stagnant.

Meantime, with loans flowing into the country the money supply increases. With the number of consumer goods in circulation limited but the money supply growing, prices take off and inflation soars sky high. For the average Filipino this simply means that the more the country borrows, the greater their real wages shrink [or approximately 47 per cent since 1972].

PUBLIC SUBSIDIZES DEBT

The country's debt situation has finally become so acute that the IMF has exercised sanctions against the country, ordering the Philippines to cut back on its foreign borrowings. The Philippine economy, however, has become so dependent on huge doses of capital that it must find a substitute for the reduced loan income. R.P. financial czar, Cesar Virata, has blithely indicated that the regime will make up the loss by simply taxing the Filipino people more heavily.

One of the more vicious ways in which ventures like those of Herdis hurt the Filipino people is Marcos' use of funds from sources like the Government Service Insurance System [GSIS] to cover the domestic component of large multinational investments initiated by his cronies. GSIS has willingly bought stock in Herdis ventures like Cellophil and covered the liability of Summa Insurance, which was much too small to insure the construction of the nuclear reactor on its own.

The source of GSIS funds is the paychecks of government employees from which a sizable chunk is deducted every month to pay into GSIS. This means that every poorly paid public school teacher or janitor in a government building who may earn P400 per month or less pays a portion of his or her income into GSIS. In return, GSIS is supposed to provide security and cheap loans for government employees. Getting a loan, however, is no easy matter. The waiting list is long; sometimes one waits for years. And no wonder! The people's money is all tied up helping out Marcos' dummies in their financial wheeling and dealing.

NUCLEAR REACTOR — WHO BENEFITS?

The Filipino people pay a high price for Disini's \$35 million payoff from Westinghouse,

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Midgio Galicia

PRODUCTION MANAGERS:

Wicks Geaga, Polly Parks

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

Chicago, Guam, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York,
Philadelphia, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco-
Bay Area, Seattle, Washington, D.C.

The ANG KATIPUNAN encourages you to comment on issues of the day, particularly those affecting the Philippines and the Filipino community in the U.S.

Letters should be brief, double spaced, and with generous margins. Names are withheld only if requested and deemed necessary. Write to: Letters to the Editor, ANG KATIPUNAN, P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.

Letters

ti-Bakke Fight



San Antonio Residents marched against the Bakke decision last Oct. 8, joining an estimated 10,000 persons nationwide. [NCOBD]

The danger here is the continued relegation of minority peoples into the more unstable sectors of the working class, forcing non-white workers to act as a "shock absorber" for the economic crisis. Minorities will continue to bear the brunt of the massive unemployment and substandard living conditions, while the white majority is relatively less shaken politically and socially by the instability of the capitalist system.

Racism therefore prevents a clear vision of this economic crisis as a hardship faced by the whole working class and can seriously divert the anger of the people, preventing any effective unity against the escalating attacks on living and working conditions of all workers. Instead it tends to be viewed only a problem of the minorities and their own fault at that!

However, the potential setback to the rights of minorities to equal economic rights represented in the Bakke issue, can be countered and in fact transformed into its opposite, representing an advance for the entire working class struggle. The decisive factor is the generation of a powerful anti-racist movement to defend the rights of minorities and challenge the material basis of racial oppression in the U.S.

As a minority in this country and as part of the working class, the Filipino community has an obligation as well as a direct interest in actively opposing the Bakke decision and participating in the overall movement for equal economic rights. The upcoming activities of the National Committee To Overturn the Bakke Decision this spring in preparation for the Supreme Court ruling, provide an excellent opportunity to contribute to this historic movement. □

arcos Corruption

higher still given the dubious value of nuclear reactors themselves. Numerous questions have been raised as to the viability of this project and complaints have already been registered!

- The nuclear plant has not even been finished and yet the citizens of Bataan and surrounding provinces have already complained that the construction has polluted their fishponds, the source of their livelihood.

- No satisfactory site for the disposal of nuclear wastes has yet been found anywhere in the world, making nuclear energy the most questionable of energy sources. The danger of contamination from either wastes or the reactor itself is magnified in the Philippines, a country beset by earthquakes. It is hardly reassuring that the plant site is within 20 kilometers of two volcanos, neither of which has been proven to be totally extinct.

- Nuclear energy is still the most expensive sort of energy in the world. Some Philippine economists have already speculated that the rising cost of uranium will obliterate the \$100 million per year that the Bataan plant is supposed to save in oil imports.

BRIBERY: NAME OF THE GAME

Westinghouse, whose behavior in the Philippines is now coming under some scrutiny has done nothing new in bribing a greedy president — through a frontman — to purchase an overpriced product of questionable value to the Filipino people. It has merely followed the hallowed traditions observed by multinational corporations in the Philippines since the early days of the colonial regime.

Buying politicians has been a fact of life, not just in the Philippines, as the Lockheed scandal in Japan taught us, but everywhere multinationals see a chance to make a profit. Why else, except because of bribery, would a country's leaders legislate benefits to the big corporations into law at the expense of the Filipino people? Or how else could a country's president be persuaded to violate his own laws except through payoffs? When Pres. Macapagal in 1962 decided to bend the law in order to allow Castle and Cook [Dole] to purchase a larger tract of land than was legally permissible, it was not the first time a Philippine president had decided to accommodate a multinational corporation at the expense of the Filipino people. And it was hardly the last. That same corporation had found it wise to retain as its attorney Sec. of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile. It cannot help but be a profitable arrangement for them both — his power as a channel for their influence. No one can deny that Sec. Enrile, under martial law, has become a much wealthier man.

No amount of divestment or reform is going to change this cozy arrangement between multinational corporations and officials of the regime and the corresponding suffering it causes among the Filipino people. Even throwing Marcos and his gang out to replace them with a new cast of characters will alter the situation only superficially.

As long as the Philippine economy remains a satellite of U.S. imperialism, the multinationals will be waiting in the wings with their rewards and greedy bureaucrats will be eager to do their bidding. Corruption is here to stay in the Philippines — until the Filipino people wrest control of their economy from the imperialist powers and run it according to their own needs. □

(In the January 15-31, 1978 issue of the AK, we printed an article from the *Philippine Liberation Courier* on the U.S.-R.P. Bases Treaty Negotiations. The following is a letter of apology from the editor of the *Philippine Liberation Courier* for certain inaccuracies contained in the article.)

The article entitled "Confrontation Building Over U.S.-R.P. Bases Treaty" which appeared in the January 15-31, 1978 issue of the *Ang Katipunan* contained two major inaccuracies which should be corrected as follows:

1. No hearings have been scheduled or planned by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the U.S. bases in the Philippines in March. Such hearings, we are informed by the Washington office of the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) will normally not occur until after a bases agreement is presented to Congress. When this will occur is uncertain but it is not expected until long after March.

2. No Blue Ribbon Panel has been formed. Moreover, the naming of certain individuals as comprising it was totally inaccurate, as was, of course, the opinion attributed to such a panel. The *Courier* would like to apologize to those individuals, the FFP Washington office, *Ang Katipunan*, and its readers for whatever confusion these inaccuracies may have created.

Juan Crisotimo
Editor

Philippine Liberation Courier

Dear Editor:

Allow us to share with you, in connection with your item on the civilians massacred by the Marcos military in Jolo (AK, Dec. 1-15, 1977, p. 6), some details recently furnished by the underground workers in Mindanao.

As you correctly reported, our informants confirm the truth that aside from several hundred Muslims killed by Gen. Bautista's forces, Commander Usman Sali's son was horribly beheaded and his head displayed on a

stake in the plaza or marketplace months before the incident. His daughter had also been brutally raped by a soldier under Gen. Bautista.

Under the dictator Marcos' orders, Gen. Bautista was assigned to kill Usman Sali. Marcos didn't care a bit about the truce or peace agreement. Using all kinds of deception and tricks, Gen. Bautista pretended to welcome negotiations, luring Usman Sali's group into a trap. When the Muslims confronted Gen. Bautista, our contact reports: "Col Feria under Gen. Bautista's command made the first move, drawing his gun to kill Usman Sali and his men." Of course, the Muslim freedom-fighters saw the trick and retaliated. Several Muslim guerrillas and civilians were killed in the ensuing battle. Later on, as your *New Asia News* correspondent related, the MNLF raided Gen. Bautista's headquarters and wiped out more officers and troops.

The above clarification falls in line with Marcos' general policy of killing anyone opposed to his regime, burying them — "three bodies in one hole" — instead of imprisoning and torturing them. Marcos believes that this will save him the international embarrassment of having thousands of political prisoners in military stockades, as verified by Amnesty International, International Commission of Jurists, and other organizations.

Our informant also conveys to us the news that though Jose Maria Sison's capture produced a temporary setback in the revolutionary struggle, the mass movement remains steadfast, in fact is growing stronger everyday, and generating capable and militant leaders and organizers who can sum up the experiences and lessons of the past in order to bring the struggle into a higher, more advanced level.

UNITE TO OVERTHROW THE
U.S.-MARCOS DICTATORSHIP!
MAKIBAKA

In solidarity,
Felix Razon
Editorial Collective
Philippines Research Center
Brooklyn, N.Y.



**Campaign
to Sustain!
Sustain
the Campaign!**

Help sustain our efforts to continue bringing the most up to date and important news coverage about developments in the Philippines and in the Filipino community here in the U.S.

Become a KATIPUNAN sustainer by pledging a monthly contribution to our modest effort to fight the Marcos dictatorship and defend the democratic rights of Filipinos in this country. Our bills are many and our resources are few, and we depend on our readership to continue publication.

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Sustainers receive a year's subscription in addition to a 10% discount on PANDAYAN materials.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY



Tim McGloin, member of the Concerned Citizens Investigation Team points out discrepancies in the 4-H program to members of the 4-H Foundation during recent negotiations in Raleigh, No. Carolina.

4-H TRAINING PROGRAM

Negotiations For Changes Begin

By HELEN SALAMANCA
Support Committee for the Filipino 4-H Trainees

NORTH CAROLINA — The long, often frustrating efforts on behalf of Filipino agricultural trainees and their community supporters to seek reforms for their 4-H sponsored program may have taken its first major step forward.

On January 15, an all-day meeting occurred in Raleigh among 4-H Council national and regional officials, 25 Filipino trainees from the southeast region, a number of host farmers from the area and community representatives who formed a support group for the trainees.

Discussed in the meeting were some of the trainees concrete problems and grievances about the 4-H program. A major complaint is the disparity between the trainees expectations of

what they were promised for training and what they are actually doing in their host farms. A number of trainees aired their frustrations over what 4-H officials claim is a "practical training program" which simply includes "picking eggs, cleaning pig stys, mowing lawns, or shoveling manure."

4-H officials, however, rejected these grievances. Mr. Pressley, Managing Director, maintained flatly that 4-H official interpretation of "training" is "on-the-job training" and that participants should expect "to learn through the work" assigned by the host farmers.

Also discussed at the meeting were a few specific proposals for immediate reform of the program. These included: lowering of the required number of work hours per week to 48; a detailed accounting of each trainees expenses every six months with each trainee receiving a copy of the

statement; opening of the 4-H books to trainees for auditing; and clarification of what "prevailing wage" means as basis for computing the trainees' pay.

Although 4-H officials made no commitments at the meeting, they did agree to consider some of the proposals. They said that they would discuss with host farmers the number of working hours. They agreed to the semi-annual individual accounting of trainees expenses but hedged a bit on the trainees right to audit the books. They also said that they would consult their legal counsels concerning other proposals.

TRAINEES, SUPPORTERS OPTIMISTIC

While a number of unsettled and outstanding problems still exist, trainees and the supporters feel that there is now basis for some guarded optimism. The fact that serious negotiations as to the re-evaluation and reform of the 4-H program have begun is an encouraging sign.

Last year, several attempts by the trainees and their supporters to seriously talk with 4-H officials failed. The latter adamantly refused to admit the anomalies in the program, closed their ears to the trainees grievances and rejected all suggestions to even meet with concerned people over the issue.

The 4-H officials "change of heart" no doubt is a result of the mounting public pressure sparked by the trainees themselves in the southeast region and their community supporters.

Prior to the meeting, 70 of the 73 trainees in the region signed a "Real Situation" assessment. The Raleigh Support Committee then undertook a direct investigation of the host farms and extensively interviewed the trainees to verify the "Real Situation" report. The Committee's investigation revealed the validity of the trainees' complaints. The *New York Times* exposed the issue on Jan. 10, and Cong. Harkin (Dem.-Iowa) began making inquiries.

What the participants and the support committee are waiting for now is a favorable response from 4-H officials to the recent negotiations. When that comes, the program would really be a more meaningful mechanism to increase mutual understanding and friendship between the American and Filipino people for which purpose it was originally designed. □

DESPITE INS RULING

H-1 NURSES STILL FACE DIFFICULTIES

By MAYEE ASIDAO
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO — Despite official word from the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) that all deportation proceedings against H-1 nurses who failed State Board licensure exams would be halted and that these nurses would be granted a Deferred Voluntary Departure (DVD) status for three years beginning entry date, numerous cases still demonstrate that the H-1 nurse's battle is far from settlement.

INS violations of its own new ruling include not only harassment and/or deportation threat of the H-1 nurse, as in the case of a Filipina nurse in Philadelphia who would have been deported in December last year, had the local chapter of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) not intervened. These violations also include trapping the nurse in the web of INS bureaucracy.

"Dealing with the INS is like talking to a brick wall. Talking to an INS official on the phone is like talking to the wind. You spend precious time off work, spend half a day at the INS office to see an immigration official. Yet after all that, no positive result comes about." So complained Mr. Bill Simpson, member of the local FNG Alliance, who has made countless trips to the INS office on behalf of H-1 nurses.

LONG MONTHS OF WAITING

A classic case is that of a Filipina H-1 nurse who has been trying to secure a temporary work permit for nine months now. A first visit to the Department of Registration and Education (DRE) in Springfield, Illinois which issues the work permit, was fruitless. DRE informed her that an INS

written consent confirming her legal status was needed to grant her a work permit. Wasting no time, she wrote the INS to immediately send the DRE the required certification. Months passed, yet no work permit arrived. Two more long trips to Springfield produced nothing.

Angry and frustrated, the nurse approached the local FNG Alliance for assistance. Together with Mr. Simpson, she discussed the problem with an INS official who promised immediate action. Three weeks of no result signaled another trip to the INS where this time another official vowed to mail the certification.

Another month passed; DRE denied receiving anything; the INS insisted it had mailed the required item a long time ago. Meanwhile the nurse's visa had already expired. Unable to secure a work permit, she was forced to work as a nurse's aide in a convalescent home. Now too busy preparing for the approaching Feb. licensure exam, she had to set aside her frustration with the INS.

HOSPITALS: UNAWARE OF NEW RULING

Numerous hospitals in Illinois recruit FNGs to ease their understaffing problem. Yet these hospitals have been inconsiderate to H-1 nurses and are even unaware of the new INS ruling. It may be a negligence on INS' part not to have informed these hospitals, but the latter, as FNG recruiters, should have had some current information on new INS policies.

A clear cut case of a hospital's ignorance in dealing with FNG's involves a small white community hospital in Southern Illinois. Three Filipina H-1 nurses in their early 20's joined the hospital limited staff for \$4.50 per hour pay in Jan. 1977.

They worked as charged nurses on rotation in the difficult units — the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the Coronary Care Unit (CCU).

When their work permits expired, they were demoted to nurse's aides, earning \$3 per hour and still worked on rotating shift at the same units.

Two months later, the results of the licensure exams were released. Unfortunately, all three failed. Shortly after, their H-1 visas expired and were never renewed due to INS bureaucracy.

When two of the nurses received deportation notices, the hospital found itself employing "illegals." Avoiding unnecessary entanglements with the law, the administration started pressuring the nurses to resign and leave the U.S. But the three sought the aid of Mr. Simpson who drove 300 miles from Chicago to meet with the nursing directors.

Mr. Simpson explained that INS Commissioner Castillo promised deportation cancellations for all H-1 nurses who failed the licensing exams, and that it was not illegal to employ the three concerned nurses as they would be granted a Deferred Voluntary Departure (DVD) status. The nursing director immediately conceded to reinstate the nurses and employ them until April when the Feb. test results will be released. A week later, however, the director retracted her earlier decision and pressured the nurses to resign again. She said, "Nothing can be done about their case . . . It is better for them to leave the country."

Thus forced to resign, the three nurses came to Chicago and have applied for DVD.

The NAFL-FNG who was instrumental in winning the H-1 victory, is trying to pressure the INS to enforce the agreement. For more information, call Ms. Aimee Cruz (212) 458-6369. □

Sebastian Sahagon, 'Farmworker, Organizer'**TRIBUTE TO A MANONG**

Sebastian [far left] stands proudly with his fellow farmworkers as the village neared completion. [photo courtesy of Barbara Morita]

By POLLY PARKS

"Brothers, Sisters, would you stand over here next to work you have completed building our beautiful home? I want to take a picture, I am making a picture history of the Agbayani Village."

Sebastian Sahagon, the indomitable photographer of the Agbayani Village and one of the original strikers in the 1965 grape strike, died Dec. 26, 1977 in Delano, California. At the time of his death, Sebastian was a resident of the Village, a 60-unit retirement center built at the United Farm Workers "40 Acres" in Delano.

Born in 1904 in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, he was a member of the first wave of Filipino immigrants to the U.S. Once arriving in San Francisco he was forced to seek employment in San Francisco as a waiter. He never married. Many years later he went to work doing back breaking labor for the growers in the San Joaquin Valley.

In 1965, Sebastian along with the rest of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee of

the AFL-CIO, which was predominantly Filipino, went on strike for better wages and working conditions. Within months, the National Farmworkers Association headed by Cesar Chavez formally linked up with the striking Filipinos and the five year grape boycott began. So Sebastian went to the cities along with many of the other manongs to spread the message to boycott grapes. Without the help of those like him, who put in years on the picket line, organizing house meetings, there would have been no grape contracts in 1970.

After the strike, Manong Sebastian could at last retire and await his new home, the Agbayani Village. The Village was to be a monument of a new kind, a monument to the spirit of the manongs and their selfless sacrifice during the strike. Paulo Agbayani was a farmworker at Perilli-Minetti who died on the picket line from a heart attack in the middle of the strike. The manongs had been on strike for two years and had no money for a headstone. A meeting was called and it was promised by the union that the Village would be built instead.

However, retirement for the manongs who

would someday live in the Village was not your ordinary retirement. Living in a rented labor camp, Schenley Camp, or cramped apartments or houses in Delano, they continued work, a new work. When construction finally began on the Agbayani Village in Feb. of 1973, the manongs eagerly took up new tasks . . . construction, guard duty, books at the rented camp, cooking . . . and Sebastian took pictures. The Village took shape and the manongs undertook organization. Meetings were held and future policy at the Village was hammered out in lively meetings.

Hundreds of volunteers came to Delano to help build the retirement center. Sebastian took up all the walls in the dining hall at Schenley with his pictures of the work at progress. Some were a little fuzzy, because he had cataracts in his eyes, but everybody could recognize themselves and friends pounding nails, spreading concrete, installing plumbing or tiling the roof.

During construction period, the manongs, union personnel and volunteers would spend evenings in front of the Thrifty store, boycotting grapes, lettuce and Gallo wine, because in 1973 the growers forfeited their contracts and another strike was on.

In the summer of 1975 the Village was formally opened. Sebastian was there taking more pictures. Once he moved in, he took on some of the administrative tasks, as much as his health would allow. But his health got worse, his eyes got worse and the picture taking was forced to stop. Last Thanksgiving he was taken to the Delano Hospital.

Sebastian was a contributor to the *Ang Katipunan*. He sent pictures and stories of the building of the 60-unit retirement center that demonstrated the spirit of cooperation and unity necessary to use volunteer, basically unskilled labor to build a project of that size.

Sebastian gave his life in struggle. He fought for the recognition of the worth of his and his fellow workers labor. It was not easy work. The fruits of his labor and that of all the manongs who helped in the gigantic struggle in the fields is yet to be fully realized. Sebastian, with his patience, his selflessness, embodied the best of our manongs. □

FACLA CONTROVERSY CONTINUES...

(continued from front page)

The latest FACLA elections were wracked with irregularities including confusing and corrupt procedures resulting in San Jose [above right] proclaiming himself the winner.

[P. Times photo]



Jaime Geaga, a known critic of the San Jose administration, rose to point out the danger of this resolution to the unity that has so far eluded the FACLA. He recommended that the motion be withdrawn which he said will certainly anger the numerous FACLA members who are against the interference of any outside government bodies in the affairs of FACLA and certainly will "incense the FACLA members who refuse to recognize the martial law regime of Marcos."

As usual, his arguments were given only token attention and no action was proposed by the chair around this very valid concern.

Other moves taken up during this meeting was consistent with the all out move by San Jose to grab power in FACLA at all cost. These included:

1. A move to silence the clamor for investigation in the Queen Contest Anomalies by having his

newly accepted auditor approve the controversial treasurer's report.

2. A motion to threaten all members who criticize his administration by accusing them of "dividing the community" and ordering an investigation of the people who he charged of passing out "black propaganda." San Jose was referring to the FACLA Report published by the Committee of Concerned FACLA Members (CCFM) which has actively reported and exposed the anomalies and irregularities that has plagued FACLA under his administration.

The lawsuit filed by FACLA members has now been accepted in court and is scheduled for a hearing on the 26th of January.

In a separate development, the local Alliance Against Martial Law vowed to stage protest actions in the event of Mrs. Marcos visit to Los Angeles. □

NARCISO-PEREZ SUPPORTERS DEMAND CHARGES BE DROPPED

Supporters of Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, two Filipina nurses who were recently granted a retrial after their conviction in July 1977, are pressing the government prosecution to drop the charges against the nurses.

Supporters in the 33 cities of the U.S., Guam, and Canada have been sending U.S. Attorney James Robinson letters asking him not to pursue a retrial of the innocent nurses. The letters urge the government to reopen a new investigation into the other possible causes of the respiratory arrests that occurred in the Ann Arbor VA Hospital in the summer of 1975 which resulted in the deaths of 12 patients.

Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, who worked in that hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) where the breathing failures occurred, became primary suspects of the FBI's one-and-half year of investigation. In early 1977, they were brought to trial and subsequently in July 1977, were found "guilty" despite the prosecution's circumstantial evidence against them.

However, massive pressure from the nurses' supporters forced presiding Judge Pratt to invalidate the previous trial. Citing "overwhelming prejudice to the defendants arising from the government's persistent misconduct," Judge Pratt, on Dec. 19, 1977, granted the Filipina nurses a new trial.

Readers and all those concerned for justice are urged likewise to write U.S. Attorney James Robinson. Letters are to be sent to: The Federal Building, 231 West Lafayette, Detroit, Michigan 48236. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

STATE OF UNION ADDRESS

Carter: More Promises, No Solutions

By JEANETTE LAZAM

Amidst a crowded House chamber filled with congressmen, foreign diplomats, capital hill personalities, and the press, Pres. Carter delivered his first State of the Union Message Jan. 19, reaching an estimated one million television viewers and radio listeners.

The speech — one of the most important yearly addresses for any president — was thus not heard by the vast majority of the American people, and if rated by the media's Neilsen agency, it was a rather poorly viewed event. Such a dismal reception by the American people indicated that Carter's "southern style" rhetoric may be wearing a bit thin for a people faced with problems of unemployment and inflation.

Indeed, Carter's State of the Union Message was a continuation of the administration's past practice of offering the nation more "trust and confidence" in place of concrete solutions for the nation's ills.

'NO CRISIS OR TURMOIL'

Carter set the tone of the speech by describing the nation as basically sound politically, militarily, economically, and spiritually. "For the first time in a generation," Carter proclaimed, "we are not haunted by a major international crisis or by a domestic turmoil." In Carter's eyes, the U.S. is a nation revived, almost reborn, struggling from the depths of such embarrassing scandals as Watergate, the Vietnam War debacle, and a multitude of domestic and international problems that have plagued the nation in the recent past.

Nevertheless, Carter found it necessary to "address the persistent problems which burden us as a nation and which became quietly and steadily worse over the years." For Carter, these problems were manifest in the failure of Congress to pass an energy bill — the provisions of which threaten existing mineral rights of Native American lands and lack of "coordinated economic program" aimed at stimulating a sluggish U.S. economy.

Provisions of Carter's economic plan calls for limited tax reductions for most Americans, an almost empty gesture given the government's recent social security withholding increases. More revealing was the president's call for a \$6.4 billion reduction in business taxes. Carter thus made it clear that a strong priority is to pay his political debts to his strongest financial backers.

LIPSERVICE ON UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION

Almost incredibly, Carter was able to proclaim that "last year was a good one for the United States. We reached our major economic goals for 1977." If Carter's goals were an increase of the nation's inflation rate to six per cent annually, and the maintenance of an army of unemployed numbering seven million, then he clearly succeeded.

It was these two persistent and perhaps most important national problems which Carter failed to adequately address. When briefly mentioning these problems, the president could only admit ignorance to a solution, suggesting only that the people must try harder. "I have no simple answers except to say that the nation must make a maximum effort, because if we do not aim for the best, we are likely to achieve very little."

For the nation's unemployed, and for working people struggling to survive with increased inflation, the president's words are hardly reassuring. Especially, for the nation's black population, where the unofficial unemployment ratio between black and white workers increased, the president's message was a virtual insult, failing to address most urgent problem.

Black unemployment now stands at more than double the nation's average, and unemployment among black teenagers stands at a staggering 40 per cent. Problems such as these were glossed over in the speech, and the plight of the nation's black people warranted a mere paragraph of mention in Carter's list of priorities.



"This year we gotta get organized."

INCREASED DOMESTIC TURMOIL

With the nation almost knee-deep in unemployment coupled with an inflation rate that increased by two per cent, Carter in his best "southern smile" failed to mention the fact that the nation is experiencing some of the worst trouble in the area of labor.

Within the last month and a half, the U.S. has had to face three major strikes in steel, coal, and agriculture. For the nation's small farmers increasingly faced with the prospect of bankruptcy, the president offered only sympathy. But while the President referred to them as "my fellow farmers," he offered nothing new to ease their economic burdens.

The problems of the nation's coal and steel workers did not even warrant mention by Carter, despite the fact that more than one million workers are affected by the coal strike and the shutdowns in steel. Concern for the nation's workers clearly took a backseat in Carter's address.

FOREIGN POLICY LAUDED

In his State of the Union Address, Carter also used the occasion to inflate the administration's foreign policy record, one which the president claimed had "restored a moral basis" to the government's conduct abroad. According to Carter, U.S. pressure had resulted in the freeing of "thousands" of foreign political prisoners and the achievement of "significant movement toward greater freedom and humanity in several parts of the world."

Which parts of the world, one asks? Well, Carter conveniently left out any mention of those countries where human rights had greatly improved due to U.S. pressure. It was clear to most observers that the president was obviously not talking about countries like Chile, Iran, South Korea, or the Philippines, all countries which receive substantial U.S. aid and which have been condemned internationally for their repressive rule.

On other international issues, the president stressed the need to conclude the SALT talks with the Soviet Union, and the need for the Senate to pass the Panama Canal treaties. Trying to rescue the shattered image of the U.S. in the wake of the Indochina war, Carter urged the Senate to ratify the treaty so as to "demonstrate our good faith to the world, discourage the spread of hostile ideologies in this hemisphere, and directly contribute to the economic well being and security of the United States."

Like Carter's domestic policies, the president only promised to continue efforts towards improving the international image of the U.S., but stopped short of offering fundamental changes in U.S. relations with other countries that would be a

genuine benefit to the people of those countries. The Carter administration's foreign policy, as exemplified in its dealings with Iran, Chile, and the Philippines, has always been to promote U.S. relations with repressive dictatorships to further U.S. political and economic ambitions, despite Carter's utterances about human rights.

KEEPING THE LID ON

President Carter, speaking before what has generally been described as a "hostile" Congress, received a generally warm response from his audience, a recognition perhaps that this administration has survived its first year without any "serious" problems and in spite of the fact that it had failed to achieve any major accomplishments.

The single accomplishment of Carter's first year — and the most important one — was that the administration was able to keep the lid on all the fundamental problems of the U.S. system — unemployment, inflation, trade deficits, a decline in international influence. By promoting the image of a concerned, honest and hard working president, Carter managed to avoid some of the massive social unrest which plagued previous administrations. But the problems exist and are seething in a pot ready to boil over once Carter's promises and false expectations give way to existing problems which even the Carter smile can't hide. □

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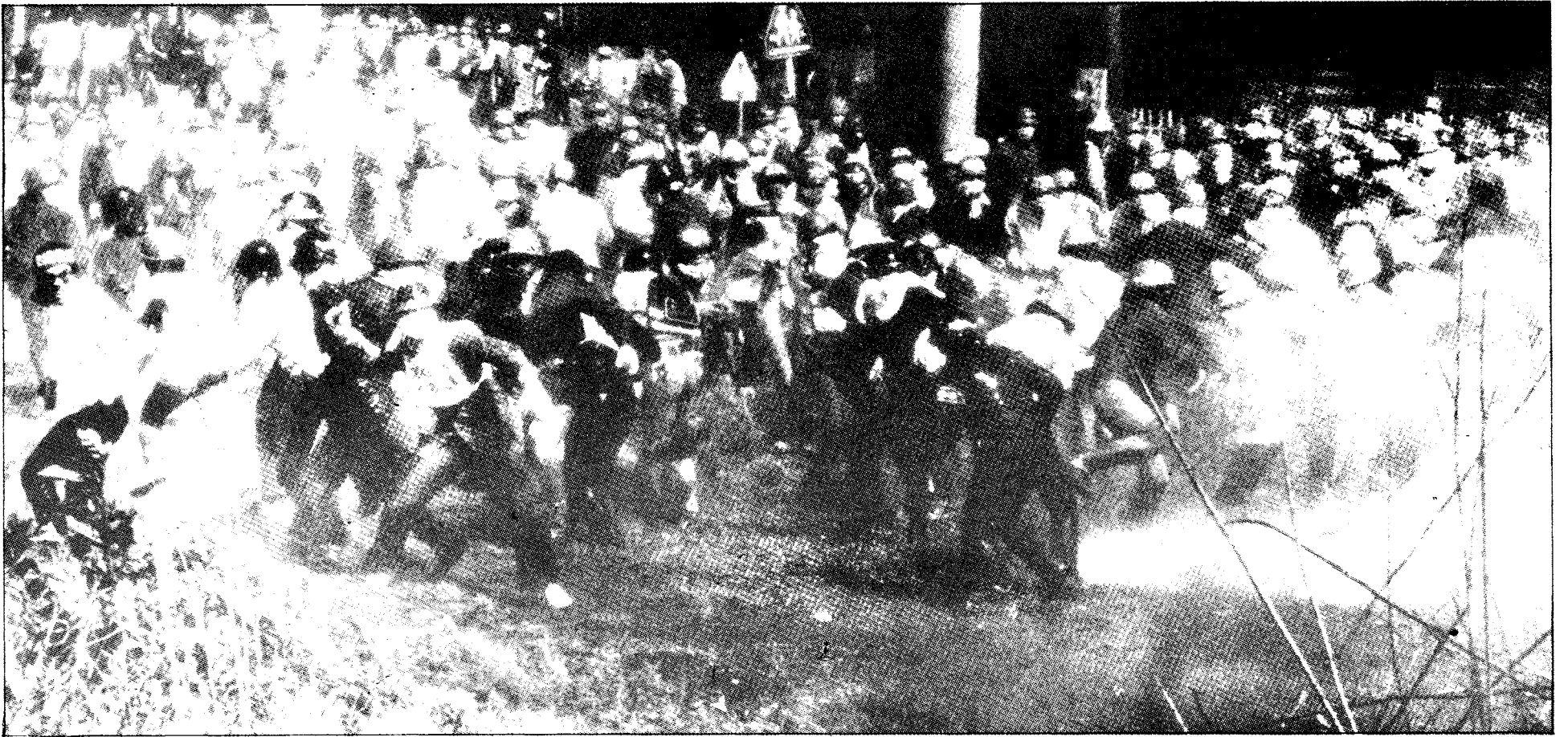
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SANRIZUKA STRUGGLE IN 12th YEAR

JAPANESE FARMERS FIGHT FOR THEIR LANDS



The struggle of the Sanrizuka farmers has rallied support from people throughout Japan. Above, unarmed supporters battle police.

[AMPO photo]

Adopted from AMPO

For 12 years the Japanese farmers of Sanrizuka have been fighting government attempts to evict them and erect a sprawling New Tokyo International Airport.

Since 1966, when the Sato government abruptly and arbitrarily announced the confiscation of the Sanrizuka land, the farmers have battled three successive governments to stop the airport, forcing the postponement of the airport's opening six times.

The Sanrizuka struggle has rallied tens of thousands of supporters throughout Japan and some stubborn leaders of the Sanrizuka fight have often been evoked against the government's anti-farmer attacks.

Now, as the Sanrizuka struggle enters its 12th year, the present Fukuda government has again announced plans to open the airport by March 30 of this year. In response, the Sanrizuka farmers and their supporters have renewed their determination to stop the government's plans and halt the airports opening.

FARMER'S vs. GOVERNMENT

The struggle began in June, 1966, when Sanrizuka farmers awoke to morning papers announcing the government's decision to build a new airport complex on their lands.

The proposed airport was conceived as part of a government industrialization plan to turn the entire Hokusio Plateau, one of the richest farming areas in Japan into an "industrial area" linked with coastal petrochemical complexes. In addition, the airport was seen as a further expansion of Japanese capitalism into the area at the expense of agriculture, turning the area into a large commercial zone with hotels, bars and other speculative enterprises.

In order to implement the proposed plans, the Sato government formed the New Tokyo International Airport Commission, setting April 1971 as the target opening date. The government also threatened, then later used the Special Land Expropriation Law which legalized confiscation of the farmers' land.

To the local residents, who were never consulted in the matter, the arbitrary and unilateral action of the government came as a complete surprise. Surprise quickly gave way to outrage, and on June 28, 1966, some 3,000 local Sanrizuka residents held a demonstration denouncing the government decision. Soon a Sanrizuka Airport Opposition League was formed, encompassing 560 households and comprised of 1,500 members.

Caught unprepared by the sudden resistance, the government and the Airport Commission sought to undermine the farmers by offering huge sums of money and pressuring residents to leave their land "for the sake of the nation." Some farmers succumbed to the government offers, but those that remained strengthened the Opposition League and formed a close-knit community to oppose the government's plans.

POLICE BATTLE FARMERS

Exasperated by its failure to persuade opposition farmers to leave their lands, the government and the Airport Commission finally called out 2,000 riot police on Oct. 10, 1967 to forcibly carry out land surveying in Sanrizuka.

The Opposition League, organized into groups such as the Old People's Brigade, the Women's Brigade, the Youth Brigade, and the Children's Brigade, clashed head-on in open confrontation with the police in what was to be only the first of many battles with the Japanese state over their lands.

Since the initial Oct. 10, 1967 clash, numerous battles between Sanrizuka farmers and the police have been fought over the land as the state carried out a series of land expropriations and evictions in order to survey and build on the land.

In the course of the state's actions, farmers and their supporters built huge wooden towers and barricades in an effort to stop the evictions. Forming human barricades thousands strong, farmers and supporters, often armed only with bamboo poles or chained to trees and houses, clashed with thousands of riot police equipped

with bulldozers, cranes and full riot gear.

In the course of the 12 year struggle, five people have died, 7,000 have been wounded, and more than 3,000 have been arrested. A total of half a million riot police have been used to brutally attack the farmers and their supporters with clubs and shields. Yet, the proposed April 1971 opening date was postponed and the airport has yet to open its runways to any commercial flights.

FARMERS FIGHT FOR LIVELIHOODS

Challenging the government's oppressive concept of "development" which in post-World War II Japan meant rapid and extensive industrialization at the expense of people's livelihoods and living conditions, the Sanrizuka farmers are locked in a battle with Japan's massive urban corporate industry.

In the 15 years from 1960 to 1975, the agricultural population in Japan dropped from 12 to 5.9 million. The number of farming families in the same period decreased from 6 to 5 million. Farm families living exclusively on agriculture decreased from 34 per cent of all farm families in 1960 to only 12 per cent in 1975.

These figures reflect the role of Japan's corporate elite, which together with the government, has systematically demolished rural communities to create cheap labor for urban factories and the strengthening of a social structure supporting industrialization.

Most farmers are now forced to make a massive exodus to the cities to work there for half a year as construction workers, seasonal workers in auto plants or steel mills or other odd jobs. As a result, a decrease in farm lands has occurred, and from 1960 to 1975, Japan's food self-sufficiency rate dropped from 90 per cent to 74 per cent.

The government's confiscating land in Sanrizuka for the new airport is part of the government's agriculture-scraping strategy, where only a few rich farmers have been able to survive the government attacks.

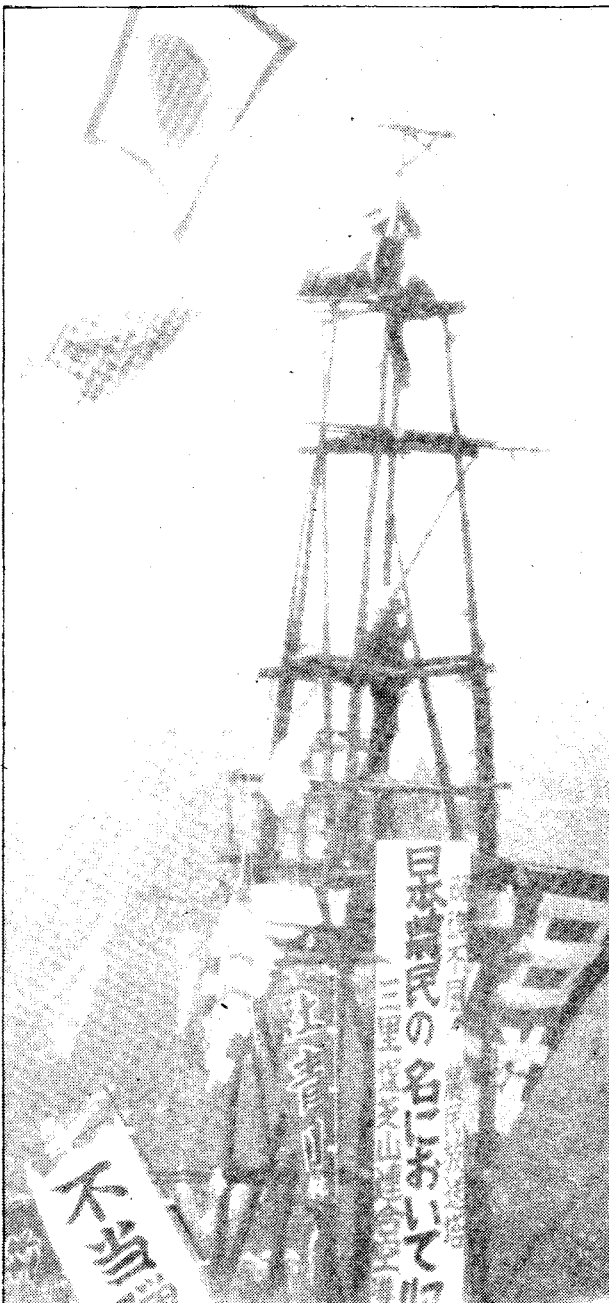
SANRIZUKA INSPIRES PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS

The struggle of the Sanrizuka farmers has inspired people's movements all over Japan and brought together the finest elements of the radical labor, the Buraku (Japanese outcast) Liberation Movement, community struggles to resist industrial development and oppose pollution, consumer protection movements and farmers' struggles to protect agriculture.

Since the beginning of 1977, the anti-airport struggle has rapidly expanded in scope, enlisting the fresh support of anti-pollution, anti-nuclear power and anti-"regional development" movements all over Japan. For 22 days beginning last Sept. 18, 1977, people from all over Japan marched over 300 miles from Osaka through Tokyo to Sanrizuka to express their solidarity with the farmers. Over 20,000 people from all over the country rallied in Sanrizuka Oct. 9 to show their support.

Presently the government has been able to complete one of the three proposed runways for the new airport, and has set the end of April for its official opening. Sanrizuka farmers have remained undaunted by the government actions and have vowed to continue their fight. As the Opposition's League Chairman Tomura Issaku recently said:

"Our Vietnamese friends won victory by fighting for 30 years. The Opposition League is in its twelfth year. We shall win final victory by fighting 20 years, 30 years, or 30 more years." □



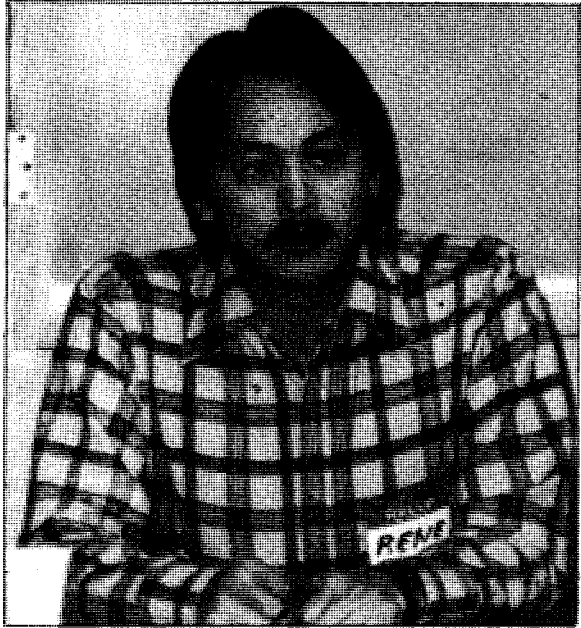
One of the many towers built to stop airport construction.

[AMPO photo]

Anti-Martial Law Front

Berkeley Meeting

REGIONAL AMLC CONFERENCE HELD



[AK photo]

Rene Cruz, AMLC National Coordinator, addresses Berkeley meeting of local Alliance.

BERKELEY — "While the Anti-Martial Law Coalition may not be able to claim credit in the future for its small contributions to the inevitable approaching downfall of the Marcos regime, I am confident to say, at this point, that the enemy would have slept better without us." Thus impassionately proclaimed Mr. Rene Cruz, national coordinator of the AMLC (Philippines) before a captive audience of some 30 people Jan. 28.

Mr. Cruz was keynote speaker at the Northern California Founding Conference of Anti-Martial Law Alliances. The conference, held at the Student Union Bldg., Berkeley, was the last on a list of speaking engagements that included San Diego, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

Summing up the current Philippine situation, Mr. Cruz noted that "the Marcos dictatorship is facing increased instability." He cited the touch Mindanao situation as a big drain on the regime both in terms of money and manpower.

Mr. Cruz pointed out that the Marcos regime faces a serious economic crisis, evidenced by the mounting external, as well as internal, debt. This debt repayment will be born by the already hard pressed Filipino people through the imposition of higher taxes.

"How can this crisis cause instability to the dictatorship?" Mr. Cruz asked, "It can cause instability because it translates into political unrest among the people." Overwhelmed by the expanding opposition, Cruz added, the Marcos regime will consequently resort to vicious deception and heavier repression.

The national coordinator likewise spoke of the various creative ways by which AMLC supporters could participate in the anti-martial law movement. Through leafletting, house meetings, or regular contributions, people could concretely express their support.

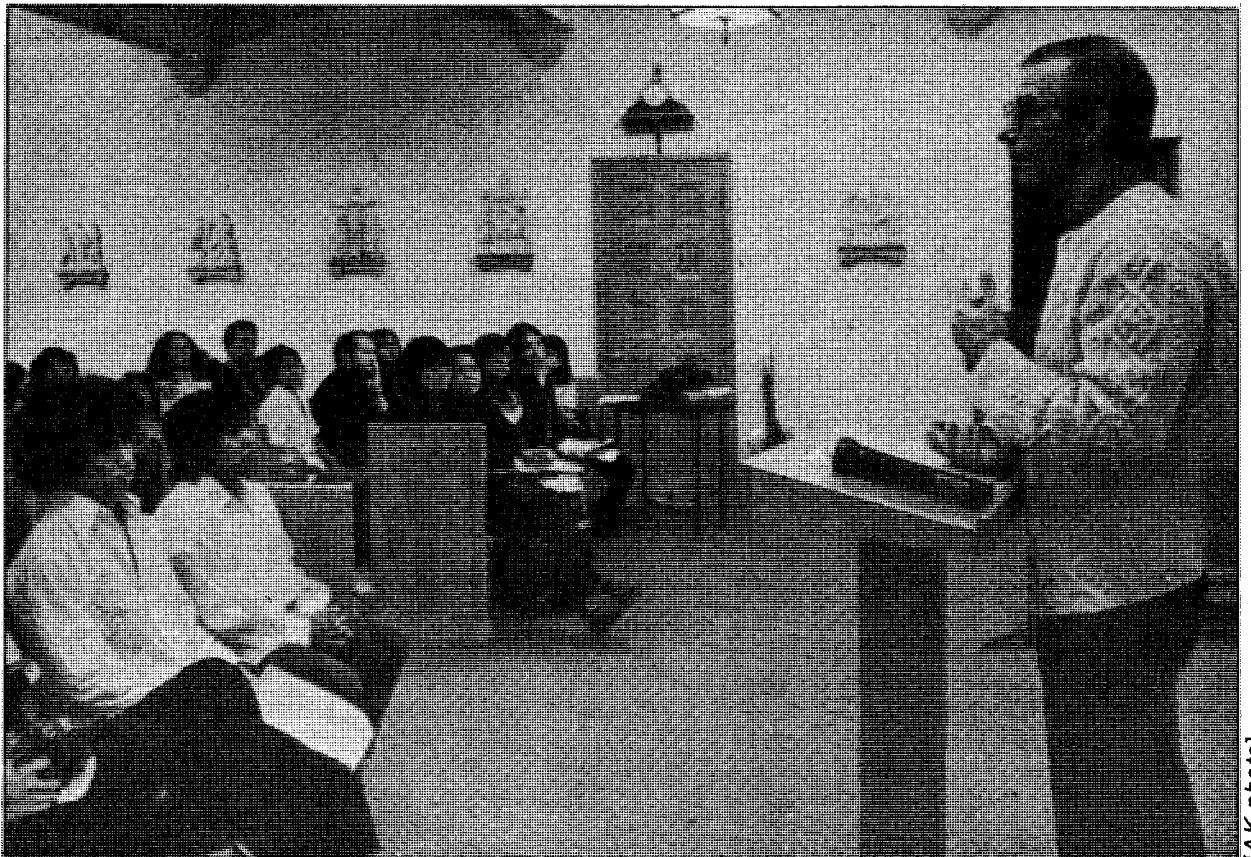
Mr. Cruz's speaking tour was sponsored by the AMLC. Its purpose was to assist local West Coast anti-martial law alliances in expanding their support network. Speaking engagements are also planned in the near future for other cities with local AMLAs. As Mr. Cruz declared: "Forty-two million Filipinos back home are gagged. One-half million of us in the U.S. have relative freedom and it would be a waste not to use these freedoms to speak for and support our compatriots back home." □

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OVER \$7,000 RAISED

CAROLING CAMPAIGN AIDS POLITICAL PRISONERS



[AK photo]

Fr. Gerlock, a former political prisoner, conducted the ecumenical service in Sacramento as part of the Christmas Caroling campaign.

OAKLAND, CA — The Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) concluded its third successful Christmas Caroling Campaign last month, raising over \$7,000 for Philippine political prisoners and their families.

"The tremendous success of the campaign shows the never-ending concern of the Filipino community here in the U.S. about the repressive character of the Marcos dictatorship and the support for the political prisoners who are some of the most dedicated patriots to the cause of justice and freedom," said Ruby Howing of the Bay Area Anti-Martial Law Alliance.

Over 350 homes were visited nationwide with local alliances raising \$700 in New York, \$400 in Philadelphia, \$592 in Chicago, \$476 in Seattle, \$700 in Los Angeles, \$350 in San Deigo, \$350 in Hawaii, and over \$1500 in No. California, and \$7000 in Canada and Guam.

Utilizing a repertoire of Filipino Christmas carols and songs of the resistance, the Anti-Martial Law Alliance caroling teams enabled families and their friends to reflect on the conditions in the homeland. News of recent developments in the Philippines were discussed, with the announced death sentences of three well-known political prisoners, Bernabe Buscayno, Victor Corpuz, and ex-senator Benigno Aquino cited as a clear demonstration of the persecution of opponents of the dictatorship.

Hundreds of copies of the publication, "Political Detainees, Book II" by the Association of Major Religious Superiors were distributed as further documentation of the wanton violation of human rights in the Philippines.

Other issues, such as Marcos' latest sham referendum on Dec. 17, 1977, military abuses in Mindanao and economic problems were also discussed.

The caroling campaign culminated with ecumenical services and Catholic masses. The solemn services drew together the many people who had, at one point, participated in the campaign. In the East Bay alone, over 150 people attended the mass.

In summing up the campaign, Ms. Howing expressed appreciation to the many who had donated time and money to help the plight of the political prisoners in the Philippines. "This money will be used to help the political prisoners obtain legal assistance to pursue their case in court; get enough medical attention since most are suffering from malnutrition and

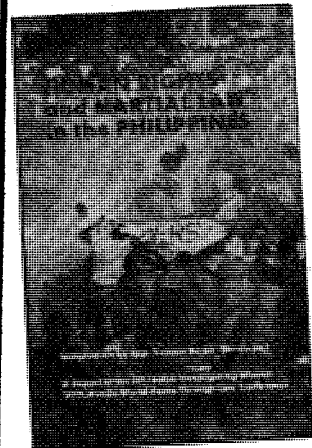
diseases; and to assist their families to subsist on their limited incomes." The money will be sent through the Assoc. of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines Task Force on Detainees.

"Although they are in jail, many of the political prisoners are courageously fighting to correct the bad conditions in the prisons," she added.

A year ago, the AMLC caroling campaign raised funds for the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino who was able to utilize it for conferences and seminars for over 40 factories in the Greater Manila area. As a result, they were able to coordinate strikes in the factories and mass actions against the dictatorship. \$5,000 was raised for the Bukluran.

Coordinated by the Bay Area Anti-Martial Law Alliance, the entire campaign was initiated by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC). AMLC National Coordinator, Rene Cruz, commented: "We have again demonstrated the strength of the AMLC in aiding our compatriots back home in their fight against the corrupt and vicious Marcos dictatorship." □

NEW RELEASE



Human Rights And Martial Law

A report of the FFP/AMLC Investigating Mission to the 1977 Manila World Peace Through Law Conference.

Introduction by Rep. Yvonne Burke [Dem.-Ca.]

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