

KBL SWEEP: FRAUD, TERROR MARK LOCAL ELECTIONS

To no one's great surprise, results of the Philippine's first nationwide local elections since Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972, reveal a clean sweep for Marcos' Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan (KBL—New Society Party).

The KBL ran virtually unopposed in elections whose haste allowed no time for long-dormant political machines to be re-established. The minimal opposition was based in strongholds of the country's traditional political personalities. Although this group attempted to forge itself into a united opposition, Ferdinand Marcos, whose power as president and prime minister allows him to alter policies by simple decree, managed to thwart it every step of the way.

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC), forbade the hastily pulled together National Union for Liberation (NUL) to campaign for block votes. Only parties which had run in the 1978 elections for the Interim Batasang Pambansa, declared COMELEC, were to be considered eligible.

When this decision seemed to eliminate the opposition altogether, Marcos allowed his former party, the Nacionalistas, (NP) to run. Four days later, he declared he would challenge the elections of any Nacionalista candidate and insisted that the party had been dismantled in 1978 (see story page 4). Then shortly before the elections, the COMELEC disenfranchised the Mindanao Alliance, which had fielded a number of anti-Marcos candidates in the South.

The voting was marked by a number of serious irregularities:

- Marcos issued arrest orders for six people in his home province of Ilocos Norte, including the opposition candidates for governor and mayor. He claimed that they were engaged in vote-buying. But observers pointed out that the KBL standard bearers here were Marcos' own sister and son.
- An opposition candidate for mayor in Tarlac was arrested.
- Citizens of Bataan and Nueva Ecija



Another "Lutong Macoy"—the January 30 local elections.

charged members of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) with politicking while Batangas folk charged them with terrorizing the voters.

- Citizens of Muntinlupa and Pasay City converged on COMELEC offices to demand a suspension of voting because of terrorism and vote fraud. Voting was allowed to con-

tinue.

In spite of Marcos' maneuvers and reports of violence on voting day, which claimed at least five lives, opposition figures managed to win isolated victories. In Zamboanga City, the feisty Cesar Climaco was elected mayor. In Batangas, where the Laurel family backed

a slate of Nacionalistas, ballot boxes were impounded as the possibility of their victory loomed. The same happened in Pampanga where ex-president Diosdado Macapagal ran for governor. National democratic forces reportedly urged a nationwide boycott of the fraudulent elections. □



NRC CLEARS REACTOR EXPORT TO R.P.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission ruled last Jan. 29, that it will not try to block the sale of a controversial \$1.1 billion nuclear reactor to the Philippines, despite a report from its office of policy evaluation acknowledging the dangers of constructing a nuclear plant in an area known for volcanic and seismic activity.

In making its decision, the NRC skirted the issues raised by Philippine and U.S. environmental groups, and instead ruled that

it is not qualified to make decisions involving the internal affairs of the Philippines.

The NRC alleged that it would only block a reactor sale if the disputed site is located in the "global commons" or the high seas that are beyond international jurisdiction.

The NRC ruling clears the path for the issuing of a license to Westinghouse Corporation by mid-February.

Ang Katipunan
P.O. Box 23644
Oakland, CA 94623

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3383
Oakland, CA

U.S. READIES WAR PREPARATIONS

See pages 2 and 10

EDITORIAL PAGE

OPPOSE U.S. WAR PREPARATIONS

By the NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

In recent weeks, the people of the U.S. and the world have been subjected to a steady stream of "war talk" coming from U.S. government leaders. To hear President Carter talk, the pressure of Soviet troops in Afghanistan constitutes "the greatest threat to world peace since World War II." Carter's personal emissary to India blatantly declared last week that if the Soviet Union decides to move closer to the Persian Gulf, "that means war." The newspapers are replete with stories about the need to use tactical nuclear weapons to stop a Soviet drive in Iran or Pakistan, posing the possibility of escalation into World War III.

On the home front, public opinion is being whipped up into a war hysteria to give all-out support for U.S. war preparedness. Carter's defense budget of \$114 billion is the highest in peace-time period, and Congress is in the mood to give him every penny of it and more.

Carter's proposal to register 18-26 year old men (and possibly women too) in preparation for restoring the draft has scored well in early public opinion polls. Taking full advantage of this new public mood, Carter is seeking to lift whatever restraints have been placed on the CIA in recent years, and also to lift the ban on aid to Pakistan, which was imposed because of President Zia's internal repression and determination to build a nuclear bomb.

MANIPULATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

The present world situation and accompanying U.S. moves confront the U.S. public with a difficult challenge to understand what is happening and figure out what to do about it. At present, the main feeling is a fear that world peace is threatened and major war may be "just around the corner."

Carter is skillfully converting this fear into support for U.S. war preparation with the slogan "A strong U.S. is the surest guarantee of world peace." The enemies of world peace are identified as firstly an aggressive Soviet Union and secondly the Islamic militants in Iran.

This explanation conforms to the surface phenomena of world events reported in U.S. newspapers—the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the taking of hostages at the U.S. embassy in Iran. It also conforms with everything we have always been taught about the U.S. role in the world as the benevolent defender of peace, freedom and civilization against the barbarism of non-Western countries and the subversion of the communists. It is a very easy explanation for the U.S. public to accept, for it paints the U.S. in a very noble light and inspires great "pride in our country."

However, the challenge confronting the U.S. public is to examine Carter's explanation more closely and be prepared to surrender these "comfortable notions" if they do not conform to the facts. For surely if Carter is right about any-

thing, it is that there is indeed a threat to world peace—but unless we identify accurately what the source of this threat is, how can we hope to direct our energies effectively against it?

U.S. IMPERIALISM—REAL THREAT TO WORLD PEACE

Upon closer examination, the "grave threat" posed to world peace by Soviet actions in Afghanistan appears grossly over-stated. The Soviet Union intervened to support one side of a civil war internal to Afghan society. Afghanistan is a country that has long been relegated by U.S. strategists to the "Soviet sphere of influence"—dating back to the early 1950's when the hawkish John Foster Dulles "drew the line" for Soviet expansion at Iran and Pakistan—leaving Afghanistan on the "Soviet side." Whatever we may think of the Soviet intervention, it clearly does not constitute "the greatest threat to world peace since World War II."

But, Carter will protest, the real threat to world peace is the threat of Soviet intervention in Iran or Palestine—and Afghanistan is just the stepping-stone to this. Such intervention would put the Soviets in control of the Persian Gulf

The real challenge is for the U.S. to understand that the principal threat to peace comes from their own leaders.

and the vital "oil lifeline" of the West.

Does Carter really expect the Soviet Army to invade Iran or Pakistan? Close reading of U.S. statements reveal that no such thing is envisioned. The real fear of the U.S. policy-makers is that, through "internal subversion," revolutionary parties opposed to U.S. interests and, by implication, "friendly to the Soviets" will politically triumph in one or the other of these countries. Iran under Khomeini's theocratic rule is clearly in chaos, and the Iranian left has broad support among workers and students to make the transition to socialism. Meanwhile, the Pakistan dictator, Zia, enjoys virtually no mass base at all among his own people. His political position can best be described as "sitting on top of a volcano."

This then is the real U.S. predicament. U.S. economic and strategic interests in the Persian Gulf area are threatened not by "Soviet expansion" but by the political struggles of the people in these countries to free themselves from foreign; i.e., U.S., domination. U.S. tough talk about war with the Soviets is hinged on the logic that the revolutionary movements in Iran and Pakistan are really just frontpieces for Soviet aggression. According to this self-serving logic, Iran with its oilfields and Pakistan with its strategic location are permanently within the "U.S. sphere of influence," reserved for the exclusive economic and military use of the U.S. Any challenge to these "vital interests"—even if by the people of these countries themselves—will be

met by force. This is the real meaning of the "tough talk" coming out of Washington.

SOURCE OF WAR—CRISIS OF U.S.

It follows then that the "crisis" Carter is talking about is not in itself a crisis of world peace. Rather it is a crisis of the U.S. imperialist system, threatening its domination of the strategic oil-rich Persian Gulf region. It becomes a crisis of world peace only by the blustering threats of the world's most powerful country—the U.S.—to go to war to protect its interests in the area.

This should not surprise people familiar with the workings of the imperialist system, as are the great majority of people in the underdeveloped world from their own bitter experience. Imperialism to them means political domination, economic exploitation, and the ever-present threat of war as the imperialists fight to defend their interests against the peoples of the world.

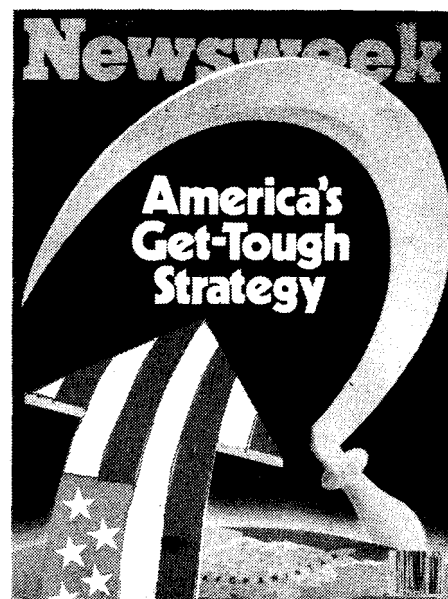
Unfortunately, the true workings of this imperialist system have been cleverly hidden from the U.S. people by a torrent of chauvinistic propaganda against "Iranian terrorists," "communist subversion" etc. The real challenge is for the

U.S. people to understand that the principal threat to peace comes from their own leaders.

This crisis of the imperialist system has made these leaders more desperate and therefore more dangerous. Since 1975, areas of the underdeveloped world have been freed of imperialist domination by popular national revolutionary movements. The territory open to imperialist exploitation is thus shrinking fast. This directly threatens the imperialist system which depends upon the export of capital to these countries to buy up industrial raw materials and exploit the cheap labor. Of course, the profits from these ventures return to the U.S., as illustrated by the U.S. relation to the Philippines where over \$5 million in profit are returned for every \$1 million invested. It is this kind of imperialist profits and control that Carter is trying to protect with his war talk.

WHO BENEFITS FROM WAR MONGERING?

Of course, Carter tries to present these interests as those of the entire U.S. people. The "loss of Iran" will mean a shortage of oil and higher gasoline prices, he warns. In reality however, the "loss" is only to the profits of those U.S. oil companies exploiting the cheap, high-quality Iranian oil while less profitable U.S. fields remain untapped. In addition, the loss of the Iranian fields actually represents yet another blow to U.S. monopoly control over world oil supplies overall.



Contrary to Carter's claim, the people of the U.S. are paying a dear price for these imperialist adventures—and the price just took a stiff jump last week. The cost of the empire includes: footing the bill for the military budget, which is expected to total \$1 trillion (a million millions) between 1980-1985; grappling with double-digit inflation, which is principally fueled by this military spending; coping with a real unemployment rate of over 10 percent due to the export of capital and workshops to the cheaper labor areas of the empire; and finally, being prepared to fight and die in the periodic wars necessary to defend the empire from the peoples exploited by it.

CARTER DOCTRINE

The new "Carter Doctrine" actually represents a setback to the imperialists from its predecessor, the "Nixon Doctrine." Nixon sought to have our allies or puppet armies do the fighting for us. The collapse of the vaunted Shah of Iran's regime showed how hopeless was this prospect. The "Carter Doctrine" calls for direct U.S. intervention as the only viable alternative.

For the moment, Carter's popularity as the "leader taking charge" is assured. His war-like stance has considerably boosted his public opinion poll ratings and greatly enhanced his chances for reelection in this election year. He is skillfully taking advantage of the present fears of the U.S. public to push through many programs necessary to mobilize U.S. society on a war footing. Just like Lyndon Johnson with the Tonkin Gulf Resolution on Vietnam, Carter knows he must "strike while the iron is hot" to gain his blank check for war preparedness.

In the current wave of war hysteria and jingoism—reminiscent of the early days of the Korean and Vietnam wars—opposition to war preparedness is certainly not a popular thing. Yet the opposition of the people of the U.S. is potentially one of the most vital elements in a position to check what is today the most serious threat to all the peoples of the world. That threat is U.S. imperialism, made more warlike by its growing crisis. It is in the interests of the people of the U.S. and the entire world that these war preparations be opposed, and it is our responsibility to world peace and progress to urgently take up this struggle. □

Mail this Coupon Now

Yes, I would like to take advantage of your special subscription rate.

- ☐ NEW SUBSCRIBERS \$5.00
☐ CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS \$4.00
 (1 Year extension of present subscription)

Name _____

Address _____

Ang Katipunan (AK) is the national newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and is published as a non-profit educational and informational service geared towards covering issues affecting primarily the Filipino community in the U.S. Published bi-weekly except in January and July when monthly, the AK is produced cooperatively by the AK staff. Basic sub-

ANG KATIPUNAN
P.O. Box 23644
Oakland, CA 94623

scription rates are: \$7.50 yearly for the U.S. and Canada and \$10.00 overseas. Application for second-class postage is pending at Oakland, CA. Editorial offices are located at 3600 Lincoln Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602, (415) 482-3400. Send subscriptions and correspondence to P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623. Postmaster, send address corrections to P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.

CPP ADVANCES INTO 12th YEAR OF STRUGGLE

There are many reasons for us to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines on December 26, 1968. For more than a decade before that time, the left forces were deprived of the leadership of a communist party because of the degeneration of the old party towards a revisionist line. The re-establishment of the Party in 1968 meant the return of the Party to its vanguard role; it meant the re-orientation of the Philippine revolution towards the correct line. The rectification of the general line of the Philippine revolution is summarized by Chairman Amado Guerrero in the following manner:

"The character of the revolution is determined by its essential task, which is to liberate the people from foreign and feudal domination and establish an independent and democratic Philippines. Such a task can be accomplished only by waging armed struggle as the main form of revolutionary struggle and developing the broadest possible united front among the motive forces to isolate and destroy the target or enemy."

"At the helm of the motive force is the proletariat. It takes on as its main ally, the peasantry whose demand for land is the main content of the people's democratic revolution and from which the main contingents of the people's army can be drawn. The basic alliance of the toiling masses of workers and peasants is the solid foundation for the united front which must win over the urban petty bourgeoisie firstly and the national bourgeoisie secondly."

"The perspective of the people's democratic revolution is socialism. The socialist revolution must begin upon the completion of the people's democratic revolution. Though we are ready to give concessions to the petty bourgeoisie and national bourgeoisie in a period of transition, we shall no longer pass through a full stage of capitalist development as in the case of the old democratic revolutions before the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution."

The correctness of this general line can be seen in the continued growth of the subjective forces of the revolution—the party, the people's army, the mass organization and the local organs of political power. Membership in the party greatly expanded between 1968 and the eve of martial law in 1972.

RECTIFY ERRORS

However, a considerable slowdown was experienced after that. The Third Plenum of the CPP Central Committee in 1975 identified a number of problems related to this. Among them was the tendency to over-estimate the conditions of repression under martial law. Some party cadres failed to grasp that this has been more than compensated for by the deep going hatred and growing resistance of the broad masses of the people. This led to another error of in-

adequately attending to the training and recruitment of mass members of the Party from the ranks of workers and peasants. For example, there was the seemingly simple problem of having cumbersome party curriculum. It was easy for candidates of petty bourgeois class origin to study, but difficult for those of worker or peasant background. A program for correcting these pro-

The CPP is a tough and resilient plant that grows by surmounting contradictions.

blems was launched the following year with the release of a major Party document entitled "Our Urgent Tasks." By 1979, the program had been implemented with enough success that the Party leadership now confidently says that the pace of growth in the Party has once again accelerated. It is quite an accomplishment that the vast majority of Party members today come from peasant and worker backgrounds.

In the ideological field, the party targeted for rectification dogmatist tendencies carried by some cadres of petty bourgeois origin which has become more prominent than empiricist tendencies. "Instead of making concrete investigations and analyses in linking with the masses, there are some of us who would rather rest content with parallelisms, analogies, quotations, and phrasemongering. There is even the notion that we do not deserve to be called revolutionaries if we cannot copy a successful revolution abroad." Greater effort has been devoted to raising the theoretical level of those whom the Party refer to as "cadres who remain immersed in their own narrow and limited experience either because they are given no chance of developing ideologically or are merely browbeaten, or who systematically react to the dogmatists with avoidance of theoretical study." A program is currently being undertaken to popularize the important works of Marx, Lenin and Mao putting importance to the work of translating them in the national language.

In the military field, the targeting of left, adventurist errors in the work of some units in the countryside has yielded significant results for the people's army. The NPA last year successfully surmounted two large encirclement and suppression campaigns by the Marcos military, one in the island of Samar, and another in Cagayan Valley, northeastern part of Luzon. Hard-earned lessons in the past year of allowing military actions to outpace painstaking political and organizational work with the masses have been well learned. For example in the Southern Tagalog region, serious setbacks were suffered when the people's army engaged enemy troops in military

action. Because of shallow and narrow base in the barrios, NPA fighters did not know where to go when enemy reaction rose and caught up with them. Learning the lesson, in June last year, the NPA flawlessly executed an ambush in Tagkawayan, Quezon. The NPA successfully evaded the inevitable retaliatory military operation by disappearing into their well-organized barrios within the

guerrilla zone. A major achievement of the NPA's work in the past two years has been the consolidation of 20 small guerrilla fronts into 13 larger and more secure fronts. These larger and more secure fronts have enabled regional leadership of the Party to meet more often. Given the availability of more territories under the influence of the Party and the NPA, greater nationwide coordination has been reached. Compared to past years when central bodies or national committees found it severely difficult to meet, more regular central leadership meetings are now possible.

HIGHER LEVEL OF STRUGGLE

The Party has set the goal of moving our people's war from the early sub-stage of the strategic defensive phase to the next higher sub-stage. Features of this sub-stage have been identified by the Party as follows: the gradual separation of military and organizational work in the countryside, massive party-building within the ranks of peasant organizations, and of course the necessary increase in rifle strength to expand regular formations. In most regions around the country, conditions are being laid to prepare for more sustained tactical offensives that can go as far as propaganda takeovers of town centers.

The Party is devoting a lot of attention to the work of consolidation in the basic mass organizations for peasants, workers, women, youth, children, and cultural activists, organizing and mobilizing them to ensure all-rounded mass support for the revolution. In Samar, for example, some 400,000 people out of the island's 1.2 million population have been organized into active support for the revolution in the countryside. Communist cadres have rooted themselves in nearly all the social sectors and groups which have an objective interest in opposing imperialism and fascism. Communists today work with church forces and national bourgeois figures in a variety of semi-legal, civil and human rights associations. Communists are in the vanguard of illegal workers' unions, the self-defense associations of the urban poor, and the re-activated student movement.

Communists are deeply rooted in the countryside, functioning not only in the NPA, but also in a variety of legal and semi-legal peasant associations.

In Manila and other urban areas this past year, greater efforts are given to consolidating party units after a period of reassessment. This period of reassessment partly explains the absence of large mass actions in the past year. The primary problem was identified in *Our Urgent Tasks* where the Party points out a "left opportunist" notion prevalent among those in error that there can be no revolutionary struggle when there are no strikes, demonstrations and other conspicuous mass protest actions. The Party sees this as a mistake of not recognizing that it is perfectly revolutionary work to lay down the foundation for these higher forms of political action by doing solid organizational and political work among the masses.

1979—A YEAR OF CONSOLIDATION

1979 was a year of consolidation for the Communist Party of the Philippines. There were no dramatic mass actions, no sudden increase in the number of armed encounters. Instead, in farms and factories, slums and schools, party cadres worked hard to consolidate the gains from the preceding years. The decade of the seventies saw many cadres fall in battle or into the clutches of Marcos' torturers. Many of the founders of the CPP now languish in prison. It is a tribute to the care with which they prepared others to take their place that not one step has been missed in the steady march of the Philippine revolution. The new leadership has clearly proven itself capable of guiding not just the continued growth of revolutionary forces, but also their consolidation into a solid base for faster and more sustained expansion in the future.

The Communist Party of the Philippines faces its twelfth year and the new decade armed with the knowledge and confidence that it has set firm roots among the masses throughout the country. Keenly aware of itself as the most advanced embodiment and the principal instrument of the revolutionary leadership of the Filipino proletariat, the Communist party of the Philippines strives to fulfill its historic mission.

The CPP is a tough and resilient plant that thrives in crises and grows by surmounting contradictions. We are confident that through the many twists and turns which our struggle will take—as long as the Communist Party of the Philippines stands on its present ideological, political and organizational foundations, we can certainly look forward to the time when we shall successfully seize power from U.S. imperialism and determine our own destiny.

**LONG LIVE THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF
THE PHILIPPINES!**



We report the news that's important for a progressive and unified Filipino community: The armed resistance to martial law in the Philippines; the people's struggle for democratic rights in the United States.

From the Moro National Liberation Front and the New People's Army, the urban workers movement and the peasant fight for land, the ANG KATIPUNAN consistently covers the struggle for National Democracy. And in the Filipino communities from San Diego to Seattle, from Honolulu to New York City, the fight against racial and national discrimination continues.

Read the Filipino community's consistently progressive and partisan newspaper, ANG KATIPUNAN

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Buod ng mga Balita

SOVIET MEDAL
FOR IMELDA

The Soviet Union smells tension in the air in relations between Marcos and the Carter administration. In quick succession, the Soviet Union recently moved to improve ties with the Marcos regime.

On December 7, 1979, First Lady Imelda Marcos was awarded the Order of Friendship Among Peoples by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The award was presented by Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Valerian Mikhaylov at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Flattered by the award, Mrs. Marcos, explained that it recognizes her role in paving the way for diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Soviet Union.

A month later, Imelda's family newspaper, *Manila Journal* reported that the Soviet Union has offered to participate in Marcos' program to build basic industries. The Soviet Union, the *Journal* reported, initially want to bid on a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant planned in Central Luzon. Soviet initiatives are clearly related to U.S. refusal to back Marcos' ambitious industrialization program. More than two years ago, Imelda reported that the Soviet Union offered to build a nuclear power plant for the regime to replace the trouble-plagued Westinghouse nuclear plants. □

MARCOS ORDERS
GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY
ON MEAT IMPORTS

President Marcos decreed last month that purchases of meat and livestock from Australia and New Zealand be transacted through the government's Bureau of Animal Industry. The order effectively monopolizes the meat imports to the Philippines and takes the trade away from private business.

Reactions from local and foreign businessmen quickly followed. The European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines and the Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers have asked President Marcos to delay implementation of the plan.

The Queensland Meat Exporters Association in Australia countered the order by calling for a change in national laws to forbid meat exports to any agency "owned wholly or partly by any foreign government."

Responding for the government, Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Salvador Escudero III said the new plan was meant "to protect local livestock raisers from the fluctuating prices of meat from overseas." He also explained that the present set-up of having meat imports pass through several middlemen is responsible for the high cost of imported meat. He said that eliminating the middlemen system seemed the best way to "reduce or at least moderate and stabilize" the cost of imported meat.

Meat imports to the Philippines come mostly from Australia, while some "choice cuts" for expensive outlets like hotels and restaurants come from the U.S.

The order was to initially affect the "Oceania" region or Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Marcos will base his newly created agency called PHIL-BAI International Pty., Ltd. in Sydney. PHIL-BAI will serve as the government firm transacting the import of meat to the Philippines. If PHIL-BAI is successful, Escudero said the program may be extended to cover meat imports from other countries.

The trend of monopolizing imports has not been exclusive to meat. The government already controls sugar, grain and most petroleum imports. A government-sponsored cartel is also taking over exports of coconut oil.

The sugar monopoly is monitored by big-time businessman Roberto Benedicto, while the coconut industry is under Enrile's watch. Who will Marcos entrust the imported meat monopoly to? □

NEGRITOS DEPRIVED
OF LIVELIHOOD

Three hundred Negrito families in barangay New Cabalan have repeated an appeal to PANAMIN (Presidential Assistant on National Minorities) for a solution to their unemployment problem.

The problem surfaced when the nearby U.S. Subic Naval Base started a recycling project in New Cabalan which has been the dumping ground of the Base for several years. Previously, 500 Negrito families made a livelihood of gathering and selling scraps. The recycling project, in effect, pushes the families out of business.

Presented with the problem, PANAMIN formed a Negrito Labor Association and its 150 registered members are the only ones allowed to work on the recycling project. The majority who depend on the same kind of livelihood are prohibited from working on the project.

The Negritos of New Cabalan represent the population that originally dwelt in the area now occupied by the base. Their land was exchanged for the privilege of scavenging through the base's garbage. □

moving?

Don't miss the next issues of the ANG KATIPUNAN. Let us know your new address.

Third class mail is not automatically forwarded by the post office. To insure that you keep receiving the ANG KATIPUNAN, send your new address and PLEASE include the MAILING LABEL from your ANG KATIPUNAN with all correspondence. Notify us three weeks prior to the move, and mail to: P.O. Box 23644, Oakland CA 94623.

AQUINO LOSES THIS ROUND

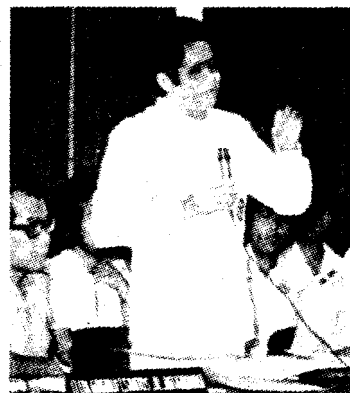
As Benigno Aquino began to make himself at home once more in a prison cell in suburban Fort Bonifacio, reports trickling out of the Philippines revealed that the former senator had emerged a loser indeed from his latest skirmish with Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos sent Aquino back to prison denouncing the cagey oppositionist's proposal for a transition to end martial law as a "booby trap." The plan, claimed the dictator, was riddled with "planted explosives." "The offer of an advisory council may not have been all that generous," Marcos claimed, "if it is based on the allegation that I am dying."

Marcos succeeded not only in ridiculing Aquino's three-year plan for a transition to "normalcy," he managed along the way to isolate Aquino from his cohorts among the anti-Marcos reactionaries. Response among the most prominent figures in this group ranged from lukewarm to outright displeasure. The only figure to endorse the plan was Jaime Cardinal Sin, archbishop of Manila.

"MORAL DILUTION"

For others, former senator Lorenzo Tañada, chairman of the National Union for Freedom and Democracy, Rogaciano Mercado, Chairman of the recently formed National Union for Liberation, and former senator Jovito Salonga, Aquino's



Aquino speaks at his court martial hearing: This round goes to Marcos. (PNA Photo)

willingness to conciliate was extremely disturbing. Tañada went so far as to suggest that Aquino, after seven years in prison, might have become "morally diluted." The controversy finally became so heated that Aquino felt forced to call a press conference, defying the terms of his furlough, to defend himself from charges of his colleagues.

What was it about the proposal that caused so much controversy? Essentially, Aquino called for a gradual lifting of restrictions, the formation of a "Council of Elders" to advise the president, and the final lifting of martial law by 1983.

What enraged his colleagues was the fact that Aquino was willing to cooperate within a framework which would allow three more years of martial law.

Why, ask observers, would Aquino, an obvious victim of martial law and the New Society,

be so willing to conciliate with his sworn enemy? Some commentators, reports Shielah Ocampo of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, insist that the entire thing was staged, a pre-arranged performance in response to U.S. pressure for Aquino's release.

MORE CLEVER THAN
IT APPEARS

Other observers suggest that Aquino may, in fact, be far more clever than his cohorts. If Marcos is ill as has been recently claimed, (see story on page 1), he is vulnerable for the first time to pressures from ambitious factions within his own regime and from the U.S. to step aside. But Marcos, sick or well, may be unwilling to do so, in which case he can strengthen himself by living up with the foremost of the anti-Marcos reactionaries.

If that indeed was Aquino's gambit, it didn't work—this time. Marcos still sees a free Aquino as a greater threat to his security than any of the factions forming within his regime.

But, for all of Ferdinand Marcos' denunciation, he left the door open for further cooperation with the jailed senator, holding forth the prospect of a post-election meeting. If he chooses to meet and cooperate with Benigno Aquino at that time, he will be dealing with a man whose stature he has significantly diminished, at least for the present. □

MARCOS FIRES
CABINET MINISTER

Francisco "Kit" Tatad.

In the course of the January 30 local election period, Marcos' bitterest battle turned out to be with his own propagandist of 11 years, Francisco (Kit) Tatad. Labling Tatad a "spoiled boy in the cabinet," Marcos read a letter he wrote the ex-Minister in front of a news conference. Essentially, he asked Tatad to take a leave of absence until Jan. 30, then resign from his post. Charges of insubordination and enrichment while in office accompany Tatad's ousting.

Director of the National Media Production Center Gregorio Cendaña was promptly appointed to replace Tatad as acting Minister of Public Information.

TATAD HARBORS
AMBITIONS

Just what had Tatad done to stir Marcos' wrath?

Tatad fielded provincial and municipal candidates for the Jan. 30 local election under the Nacionalista Party (NP) banner and assumed NP leadership for the Bicol region. He presumed that since he came out first among KBL candidates in Bicol during the 1978 IBP elections, that made him KBL leader of the region.

But when Marcos gave the KBL leadership to the politically powerful Alberto family of Bicol for this local poll, Tatad wrote a strong letter criticizing Marcos for ignoring his leadership.

Tatad organized his NP slate rationalizing that within the bounds of law, he could not change political parties, and claimed he was always an NP even when he ran under the KBL umbrella during the IBP elections.

Professing to be titular head of both the NP and KBL, Marcos said in his letter to Tatad, "I am amazed that you can publicly state that I have allowed you, through Sen. Jose Roy, to organize the so-called genuine supporters of the New Society under the Nacionalista Party."

Later, in another event, Marcos said that if NP candidates ran and won, the KBL would lead in questioning "the election of Nacionalista candidates before the COMELEC and the Supreme Court to stop them

from taking their oaths of office because they are disqualified." The disqualification is based on Marcos' position that the NP has been dismantled since the formation of KBL as a political party in 1978.

TATAD'S BIG MISTAKE

Marcos also accused Tatad of illegally using Ministry facilities for his political campaign. But Marcos was especially enraged when Tatad stopped using the facilities for KBL's end—particularly when he kept Marcos' KBL speech off the air throughout the Bicol region.

MARCOS FURY WARNS
OTHERS

In his letter, Marcos went so far as to ridicule Tatad for his performance in office saying "... There were charges of serious inefficiency and repeated failure in your department as well as allegations of arrogance, oppressiveness, dishonesty, illegal and unexplained wealth, as well as specific cases of corruption ..."

As a disciple of Marcos' *lutong-Macoy* style, Tatad failed to see that he should not cross Marcos' well-controlled plans, especially when they concern something as significant as building a power base.

Marcos used Tatad's dismissal as a warning that "other heads may roll." □

Reactor Claims Second Victim

With the fate of the Westinghouse reactor export hanging in the balance, the Marcos regime has stepped up repression in Morong, Bataan. Residents of the town report that security forces have killed another townsman suspected of being an anti-nuclear activist. The victim, Diosdado Dimaano, was the second resident to suffer this fate. Ernesto Nazareno, a young construction worker, disappeared in June 1978 while under the custody of the military and is presumed to be dead.

MANHUNT

Dimaano was shot to death by Constabulary troops seeking key leaders of the Movement of Concerned Citizens of

Bataan. Warned of the manhunt, most of them were able to elude the military in time. According to Romeo Villanueva, one of the founders of the movement who is presently on a speaking tour of the United States, "Dimaano was not even an organizer. He was merely a sympathizer, like most of the people of Morong." Villanueva added that his own grandfather has been harassed by Constabulary troops looking for him.

The wave of repression renders questionable the government's public posture on the reactor export. On Nov. 14, Marcos declared that the plant was adequately prepared for seismic and volcanic events but warned Westinghouse that unless it made "fundamental

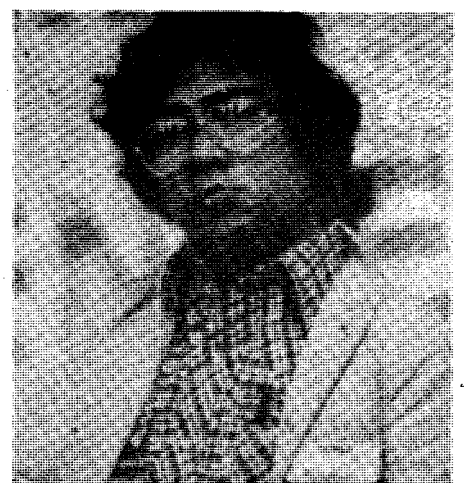
changes in design," he would not allow construction to proceed. According to the government's special commission on the reactor, one of these modifications is the installation of an "adequate emergency core-cooling system."

ANOTHER MARCOS PLOY?

Observers feel that the Marcos move is an attempt to influence the actions of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission which is presently determining whether or not it has jurisdiction over health and safety issues associated with the reactor export.

"Marcos apparently wants the NRC

Continued on page 12



Anti-nuclear activist Romy Villanueva.

ILLNESS RUMORS INTENSIFY:

SUCCESSION STRUGGLE LOOMS?

By VICTORIA LUNA

"If the rash of rumors claiming Ferdinand Marcos to be seriously ill prove, in fact, to be true," said a spokesperson for the Anti-Martial Law Coalition recently, "a number of pieces would begin to fall into place."

What exactly are those pieces?

- A rushed election in which Ferdinand Marcos' party, the KBL, runs virtually unopposed.

- Indications of a renewed Imelda-for-Deputy Prime Minister campaign.

- Squabbles within the ranks of loyal Marcos supporters resulting in the expulsion of one cabinet member and rumors that others are to follow.

- An expressed willingness by Marcos to deal with members of the anti-Marcos reactionaries, in particular jailed opponent Benigno Aquino. Though Aquino appears to have lost the latest political jousting to the President, Marcos has deliberately left open the possibility of a future meeting between the two following the elections.

- A mood of exaggerated self-confidence among anti-Marcos reactionaries in the United States.

EVIDENCE MOUNTS

Rumors alleging that the Philippine dictator was seriously ill began to fly around Manila as early as last August. Marcos responded by asserting his good health and challenging reporters to a boxing match during his speech on the anniversary of martial law. At that time, many observers presumed the rumors to be the doing of the Third Force which had already acknowledged responsibility for a rash of explosions and bomb threats in Manila.

But an increasing volume of "soft" evidence begins to make the rumors more and more credible.

Free-lance journalist Arthur Zich, writing for the *L.A. Times*, has uncovered evidence that Marcos was visited at least once last year by noted kidney specialist, George Schreiner. While Schreiner's office refuses either to confirm or deny a Manila visit, Zich located a former college pal of the doctor, currently a priest in Quezon City, who saw his old friend last year and insists he stayed at Malacañang.

Shielah Ocampo, *Far Eastern Economic Review's* Manila correspondent, reports that Marcos told U.S. Ambassador Richard Murphy of an urgent need for a major operation. Through U.S. Embassy assistance, she adds, a room was reserved for Marcos at the Stanford Medical Research Center in Palo Alto, California with an open date.

Ang Katipunan reporters visited the Stanford Center last November in response to information that Marcos was actually there. They were told by one nurse that he was expected any time.

A serious illness for Ferdinand Mar-

cos carries with it a wide range of implications for increased political shifts, tensions and realignments. It forces the question of succession to the forefront of any discussion of Philippine politics. This means that all of the characters on the Philippine political stage can soon be expected to get into the act—members of the current regime, anti-Marcos reactionaries, the U.S. government, and of course, Ferdinand Marcos himself.

Thus it comes as no surprise that Imelda, hoping to succeed her husband, is currently gearing up for the Imelda-for-Deputy Prime Minister campaign. Two organizations of New Society officials and their wives have already gone on record calling for her appointment to the position. Shielah Ocampo warns readers to expect the campaign to take off following the January 30 elections.

Meanwhile, the sudden firing of Information Minister Francisco Tatad indicates that all is not peace and harmony with the Marcos camp. The Tatad incident may, in fact, be only the tip of the iceberg. The former Information Minister was known to be thoroughly disliked by the First Lady.

FACTIONS FORMING

Shielah Ocampo reports that two distinct factions have already formed within New Society ranks. The first is led, predictably, by Imelda and backed by Gen. Fabian Ver, chief of the Presidential Guards and NISA (National Intelligence and Security Agency). The second, "and as yet unclear conglomerate of political figures both within and without Marcos' camp" is led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Constabulary chief Fidel Ramos.

Another slight hint of a rift involving Enrile and Ver is reported by a Manila source. Enrile's powers have recently been cut back, he notes. The Defense Minister is no longer allowed to sign release forms for political prisoners. All such forms must now be countersigned by Ver.

Enrile, long-time friend of Marcos and co-architect of martial law, has, over the last seven years, become a powerful figure. The only one of Marcos' financial cronies to hold public office aside from the First Lady, he has amassed a huge fortune and come to dominate the entire coconut industry. Like that of Marcos, his financial empire is thoroughly entwined with U.S. capital. Enrile is the only major bureaucrat-capitalist independent of the Marcos family in the Philippines today. On top of this, he is firmly rooted in the nation's military.

INTERESTED PARTIES

But New Society officials are not the only figures involved in the delicate question of succession. Among the other interested parties, the most influential is

the U.S. government. Ever concerned with the stability of its puppets, the U.S. can be expected to exert whatever influence is necessary to insure a peaceful transition. This may mean stepped-up insistence on "normalization," pressure on Ferdinand Marcos to step down, or even efforts to install the successor most friendly to U.S. interests.

Also interested in developments is the pro-U.S. Third Force which hope to replace Marcos with one of its own. Representatives of this group can be expected to curry favor in Washington in hopes of emerging as the U.S. favorite, or to build alliances with the anti-Imelda faction among regime officials. Currently the most attractive figure within this group is jailed former Senator Benigno Aquino who has long-standing ties with the U.S. and a fairly high level of popular support.

If this group senses that Marcos is feeling too much pressure to step down—either from a New Society faction or from the U.S.—and is not yet willing to do so, it might even decide to conciliate with the dictator himself. Aquino recently made serious overtures in this direction. (See story on page 4.)

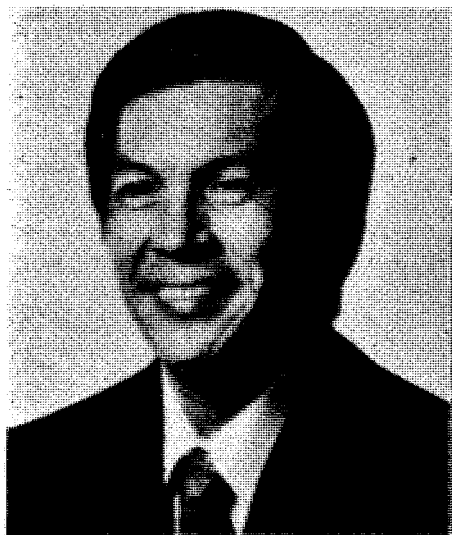
And then there is Ferdinand Marcos himself. Depending on how sick he is and how committed he is to perpetuating his family in power, Marcos can move in a variety of ways. The recent election, which provides him with a nationwide base of local "elected" officials, strengthens his position in case he must battle pressures to step down.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATS PURSUE GENUINE LIBERATION

For the National Democratic movement, the prospect of Marcos' illness and eventual death holds forth the promise of removal of the most oppressive ruler in Philippine history. But it is by no means the end of the struggle.

Marcos' illness is a factor which will warrant serious consideration and analysis by national democratic forces for it will have an undeniable effect upon the Filipino people. The shifts and realignments will be thoroughly assessed to determine in what way the new situation can best be used to the advantage of the National Democratic Revolution. For a mere change in faces will not alter the status of the country as a neo-colony of U.S. imperialism with all of the injustice such status implies. Achieving genuine liberation for the country will not happen next year, five years from now, perhaps not even ten years from now. Genuine liberation will occur only through painstakingly organized protracted people's war.

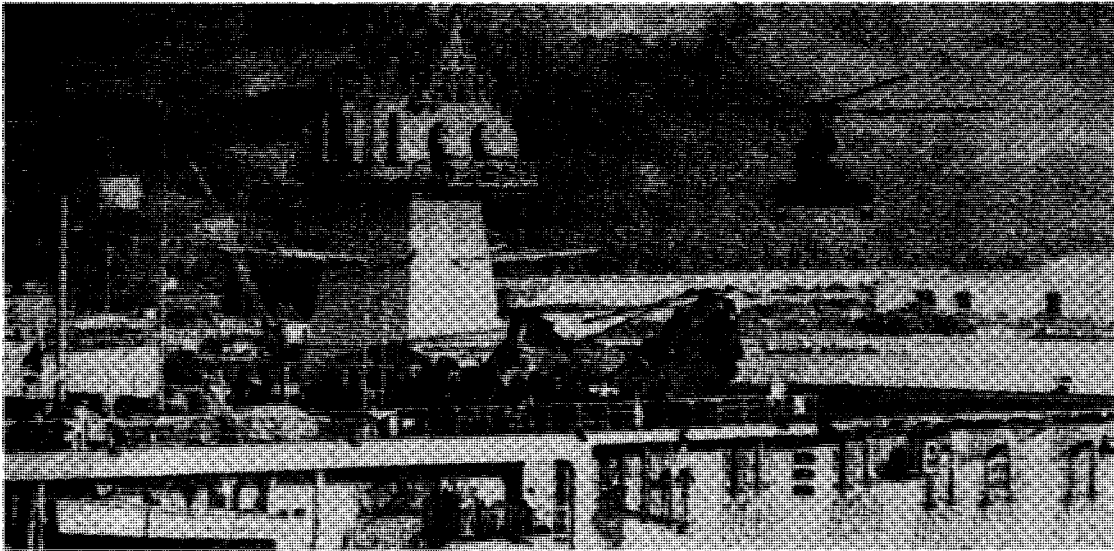
For national democrats, the analyzing and assessing accomplished, it will be back once more to the hard work of organizing. □



Enrile, Ver, Imelda, Aquino—interested parties in the succession issue.

CLUP STATEMENT:

The Lessons and Relevance of Iran



U.S. naval ship at Subic Bay Naval Base: CLUP warns of danger to R.P. from presence of U.S. nuclear weapons.

Below we publish excerpts of a statement issued by the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines on December 1979, on the U.S.-Iran conflict and its implications for the Philippines—Editor.

Whether or not Iranians are justified in holding as hostages in Tehran, the Americans whom they accuse of spying on their country, the Philippines has been dragged into the orbit of a conflict.

Why? All because, not having learned the lesson of December 8, 1941, the martial law government has foolishly permitted America's nuclear presence in bases in the Philippines, in exchange for a handful of gold that goes down the drain, owing to outrageous extravagances and waste, as soon as we lay hands on it.

And yet, what has the Philippines to do with Khomeini's quarrel with the U.S. over the Shah? It was the U.S. which permitted the Shah into its borders after his violent expulsion from Iran; it is the U.S. diplomatic personnel whom Iranians accuse

of committing the provocation of espionage. Why should the Philippines and we Filipinos be exposed to a nuclear war and the horrible prospect of extinction because of U.S. adventurism in that far away region?

AMERICAN NEO-COLONIALISM IS FATHER TO SHAHS AND DICTATORS

But the U.S.-Iran conflict has lessons and relevance that go beyond military implications—lessons and relevance that should not be lost on our people or the martial law government. That conflict is a clear lesson in the political processes of American neo-colonialism.

Iran is in violent turmoil today because of the Shah; and, behind the Shah, American neo-colonialism. For 40 years the Iranian people were brutalized, oppressed, plundered, and dehumanized by a local dictator installed by American power and preserved by American power. The violence that now engulfs that strife-torn country reflects the outpouring of a people's rage. This is the aspect of the Iranian crisis that we, the

Filipino people should bear in mind as we labor under a similar dictatorship installed and maintained by American power for similar ends. Mr. Marcos is the American shah in the Philippines

The signs ahead are clear enough, however. Sooner or later, in view of the growing discontent with the repression of martial law, with its gargantuan corruption, and with its obvious incapacity to deal with our worsening economic situation . . . even the U.S. government will have to withdraw both overt and covert support for the Marcos dictatorship. In the ultimate analysis, the imperialism that installed it, will become its own nemesis, as its attempts to install other and more credible puppets.

These are the thoughts which the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines would urge on both our people and the martial law government as the nation recalls that fateful day of our involvement in the last world war, even as we agonize over the developments in Iran."□

Peso Devaluation Predicted

Speculations about a possible devaluation of the peso has revived recently in the wake of the devaluation of the South Korean *won*. The Korean devaluation will make that country's exports cheaper and thus increase their competitive edge over Philippine goods.

The two countries compete over exports of garments, textile yarns and fabrics, electronics, plywood and other wood manufactures. They also compete for the construction market in the Middle East.

Foreign bankers do not think that devaluation is imminent. They point out that the Philippine government's recent addition of the Japanese *yen* and the West German *deutschmark* to the U.S. dollar, what the government calls a "basket of currencies" for determining the peso's value, is likely to mark the extent of official action concerning the peso's value for now.

Other observers point out,

however, that the Marcos government will have to do something drastic to spur exports. Although the value of Philippine exports increased impressively in 1979, the volume barely budged from the 1978 figure.

EXPORT OUTLOOK GRIM

The deepening recession in the West will make the 1980 export picture even bleaker. With prices of Philippine imports, especially oil, rising faster than the prices of exports, Marcos will be forced to act soon.

Devaluation, while lowering the prices of Philippine exports abroad, will automatically jack up prices at home. Coming on top of inflation modestly estimated at 25 percent, the move will wreak havoc on already unstable middle- and low-income groups.

CENTRAL BANK PAYS HIGHER FEES ON LOAN

A second indication of eco-

nomie instability surfaced last month in Manila as the Central Bank prepared to finalize arrangements for its first major borrowing of the year. The loan involves 11 foreign banks, each of which is loaning approximately \$10 million to the Philippines.

Central Bank officials have agreed to pay a higher management fee than on any of its previous loans. The management fee is the flat amount paid bankers upon completion of the loan—supposedly in exchange for the trouble of arranging it.

The hike to .625 percent of the total loan, up from .5 percent was seen as a way to entice investors jittery over the Philippines' increasing foreign debt and balance-of-payments deficit. The move is less controversial than raising interest rates but has objectively the same results of paying investors more for loaning money to the country.□

Malacañang Zarzuela

Will the Real Opposition Please Stand Up?

By VICTORIA LUNA

Searchers for an "opposition" in the Philippine election extravaganza, a high-powered show which has to be the briefest campaign in anyone's history, have sent in a preliminary report. They say they may have detected a small opposition pocket on one of the lesser islands off southern Luzon but are not sure and are still looking.

The rules and regulations governing this election have made the opposition somewhat difficult to find. First the remnants of the LABAN Party which ran candidates for the Interim *Batasang Pambansa* (IBP) in Manila last year, partially in response to the hurried nature of the campaign, nobly declared it was boycotting the elections as did the National Union for Democracy and Freedom (NUDF). Like a true loyal opposition, however, a number of the members of the two groups decided to run anyway and joined together in a loose coalition with other "opposition" groups calling themselves the National Union for Liberation (NUL).

Then COMELEC—the Commission on Elections—published its rules stipulating that only parties which had run in the 1978 IBP election could put forward slates of candidates. So much for the NUL. And LABAN had already declared its intentions to stay out. Where was the opposition to come from?

But what is a rule if it can't be bent? Ferdinand Marcos, in a show of loyalty to the political party which initially put him in office, decided that, even though it had not run candidates in the 1978 election, the Nationalista Party (NP) should be allowed to participate this time around. "If the opposition parties do not get together," he sensibly noted, "it would be best if the NP becomes the opposition party." An opposition had been found, even if it was the president's own party, and loyal *tuta*, Jose Roy, Chairman of what many have presumed to be the defunct NP beamed with satisfaction.

"SHADOW BOXING"

But that was before Ferdinand Marcos got angry at his former Minister of Information who had dared to back NP candidates instead of candidates of the Marcos *Kilusang Bagong Lipunan* (KBL). Suddenly claiming to be titular head of the NP, Mr. Marcos insisted that the group had been dismantled in 1978 and ordered a legal challenge questioning the accreditation of the NP to be filed with COMELEC.

Our observers are thus still scouring the scene for an opposition. However they indicate the direction of their research through a quote from well-known New Society expert Teodoro "Doroy" Valencia. "This election," says Doroy, "is like shadow boxing. Only the KBL doesn't know it's shadow boxing."

Our observer team notes that loyal oppositionists generally seem to be having a hard time playing their roles these days, elections or no elections. Benigno Aquino, for years an arch enemy of the New Society, recently requested a meeting with President Marcos to discuss a proposal to be sweet and cooperative as a pussycat and work together with his once-hated enemy to bring the country together. For his efforts, he was rewarded with a return trip to his cell in Fort Bonifacio.

HIKING OPPOSITION BLOOD PRESSURE

Speaking of opposition, a recent development in Cebu City has hearts melting and eyes dripping. It concerns the selfless First Lady of the land who, during her mad campaign visit to that city, managed to squeeze in a visit to the hospital room of IBP member Natalio Bacalso of the *Pusyon Bisaya* who is suffering from an advanced case of cancer.

Imelda sneaked away from the campaign festivities to gladden the heart of her critic and rival through a private visit to his hospital room. In honor of the intimate nature of the visit, she brought only three newsmen with her to record the thoughtful gesture. But Imelda has a special knack for walking into photogenic "spontaneous" situations. By fortunate accident, she was greeted as she whisked through the hospital backdoor by a wheelchair-ridden youth whom the ever-gracious First Lady had helped with a major heart operation. The grateful young man presented her with a single long-stemmed red rose before the misty eyes of Imelda's journalistic entourage.

The First Lady surpassed herself in generosity, offering to send Bacalso to the U.S. for treatment. The ailing man, not known for his affection for the First Lady, was deeply moved. In fact, so moved that the nurses attending him detected a noticeable rise in his blood pressure.

The press dutifully noted the rise in blood pressure as evidence of profound gratitude. But sources close to Bacalso, aware of that gentleman's feelings for the First Lady suggest that it may have been stimulated by quite a different emotion. In fact, they suggested that Imelda may be far more cagey in her efforts at eliminating the opposition than she has been given credit for. *Cariño, brutal, daw.* □



RESISTANCE ABROAD

New Zealand Students Stage Anti-Martial Law Protest

Students of the Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, picketed the Philippine Embassy in Wellington on Nov. 9 to protest the arrest of Filipino student leaders during a massive crack-down on Philippine campuses recently. The picket, organized by the Progressive Student Alliance, was the first anti-martial law demonstration in New Zealand.

Referring to the arrests, Virginia Adams of the Progressive Student Alliance said: "A new wave of arrests, raids and other forms of suppression is being launched by the Philippine Military to intimidate the students and the people into silence and passivity."

The arrested students were mainly connected with the newly organized League of Filipino Students which has been spearheading the democratization movement on Manila campuses. They have since been released in mid-December following wide international and local outcry against government repression of renewed student activism.

Supporting the picket, the New Zealand University Students' Association issued a statement accusing the New Zealand press of ignoring recent campus crackdowns in Manila so as not to jeopardize New Zealand's very favorable trade relations with the Philippines. It claimed that the Philippines gets the biggest chunk of New Zealand's aid (\$3 million in 1979) to Asia for a multi-million dollar geo-thermal power development project on Leyte Island which was originally intended for rural electrification. Since it is now expected that there will be a huge surplus of power with no way of channeling it to the rest of the country, the building of a smelter is now being considered by the Philippine government to mop up the excesses, the statement said.

(Reprinted from *La Solidaridad II*)



November 9, 1979 marked the first anti-martial law protest in front of the Philippine Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand.

N.Y. AMLA Sponsors Forum on Militarization

Various aspects of the growing militarization of the Philippines was discussed in a forum last Jan. 13 in New York City, sponsored by the Anti-Martial Law Alliance (AMLA) and the Friends of the Filipino People. The forum was the culminating event of the Samar refugee fund campaign in New York.

Setting the tone for the event, the New York AMLA gave an analysis of recent trends in the Philippines showing the alarming increase in the role the military is playing in Philippine society. Citing the atrocities being committed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the island of Samar, the AMLA presentation pointed out that the "growing resistance movement has brought fear and desperation to the Marcos dictatorship," and that in response "it is instituting a policy of open and escalating military suppression of the people throughout the whole country." Also noted was the increased penetration of civilian institutions by the military such as schools, courts, and business enterprises. The formation of barangay brigades was especially mentioned as a vehicle for "development and promotion of a new fascist culture under the guise of instilling discipline and unity through nationalism."

The forum also sponsored a slide presentation by Dorothy Friesen, a volunteer of the Mennonite Central Committee to the research and documentation desk of the Mindanao Sulu Pastoral Conference. The slide show, entitled "Tenants in Our Own Land," focused on

the role of multinational corporations in the Philippines. Friesen pointed out how militarization in the Philippines directly benefitted U.S. corporations by securing the areas where they operate so they can continue unhindered with their exploitative practices. In particular, she cited the use of Civilian Home Defense personnel as security guards for Dole plantations in Mindanao.

A speech by the KDP further deepened the analysis given by the AMLA and Friesen, by pointing out that in fact, it is the domination of Philippine society by U.S. business interests that is at the root of problems of the Filipino people. Call-

ing for an end to this domination, the KDP noted that the people of Samar are actively involved in this struggle against foreign domination through participation in and support of the New People's Army and the National Democratic Revolution which it is waging.

The Friends of the Filipino People then rounded up the formal presentations by speaking on the role the U.S. government is playing in militarization of the Philippines. The FFP speech noted the dramatic rise of U.S. military aid since martial law was declared and particularly since the signing of the new U.S.-RP Military Bases Agreement on

January 1979.

Tracing the historic military involvement of the U.S. in Philippine affairs, the FFP pointed out the disturbing parallels between Vietnam and the Philippines stating that "the Philippines already is another Vietnam for the U.S." Also recalling the use of similar terminology and tactics such as "free fire zones" and "base denial operations" the FFP remarked that "some of the earlier stages of U.S. interference in Vietnam have been duplicated in the Philippines..." There is massive and escalating support of an unpopular, repressive dictator (remember Ngo Dinh Diem) facing widespread popular resistance, some of it armed."

With the current economic crisis in the U.S. and the growing war hysteria being spread by the media over Iran and Afghanistan, the FFP warned that "the possibility of a new U.S. war based on a secret decision and lies to the taxpayers is real."

A lively discussion followed presentations with points ranging from the resurgence of the old ruling elite in local elections in the Philippines to the lack of a strong progressive leadership in the U.S. being raised. All in all, everyone in attendance felt that the entire forum was a very educational experience. It was noted that the presentations of various aspects of one central issue, the growing militarization of the Philippines, is a particularly effective way to raise the level of consciousness of the people. □

11th CPP ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

Over one hundred Filipinos and Americans gathered at the Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco last Jan. 26 to observe the 11th Anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The program and reception was sponsored by the International Association of Filipino Patriots and the Union of Democratic Filipinos. Geline Avila of the IAFP delivered the keynote speech during which she addressed the important role of communists and their political parties in leading the struggle of the working class against capital. In particular she related how the struggle of the Philippine

proletariat was set on the correct path after the rectification and re-establishment of the CPP. Inday Refi of the IAFP gave a recent update of the CPP and the revolutionary movement. The brief but lively occasion was interspersed with songs performed by the National Cultural Group of the KDP and appropriately concluded with a rousing rendition of the "Internationale" which was joined in by the audience.

Underscoring the spirit of solidarity which prevailed the event, quite a few donations and long-term monetary pledges for the New People's Army were collected. □

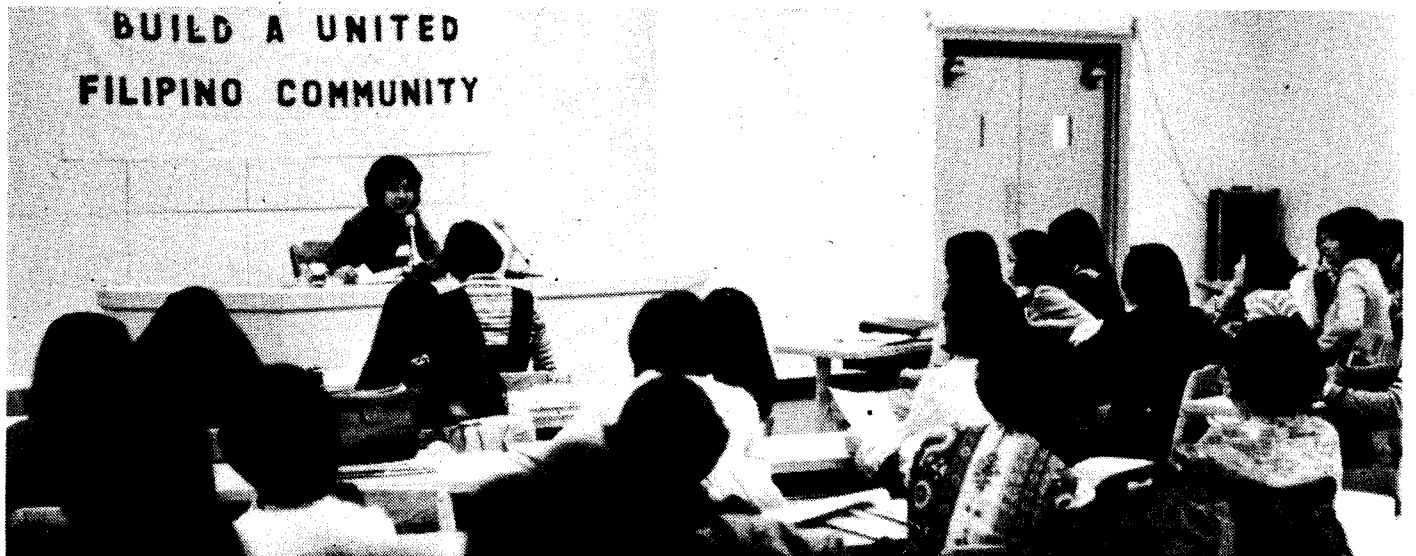
FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

NAFL-FNG TESTIFIES IN HEARINGS

NEW YORK—In the wake of the recent rejection by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to further stay the deportation of foreign nurses on H-1 visas, the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) has decided to bring the case of the H-1 nurses to the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy. The NAFL-FNG testified in the hearing held by the Select Commission last Jan. 21, 1980 in New York City.

The NAFL-FNG submitted a summary, detailing the facts of the problem of nurses on H-1 visas. It described how U.S. hospitals have actively recruited foreign nurses, (85-90 percent of which are Filipinos) in the past 10 years to fill the chronic nursing shortage in U.S. hospitals through the H-1 program. Testimonies of nurses have shown that nurse recruitment has become a lucrative business for travel agencies and individual recruiters both in the Philippines and in the United States, with hospitals willing to pay up to \$1,000 per nurse. Chartered planes, carrying batches of nurses have been leaving Manila with regularity and increasing frequency.

The NAFL explained the injustice of such rampant recruitment, pointing to the unfavorable conditions that face these nurses upon their arrival. Once here, the nurses are forced to take the first available state board examination for nursing without adequate adjustment and review opportunities, and therefore an overwhelming rate of 87 percent consistently fail in this examination. Failure in the examination almost always means deportation.



The NAFL-FNG, which has championed nurses' rights since its founding, continues to fight deportations of H-1 nurses.

In an effort to alleviate the injustices against foreign nurse graduates, the NAFL-FNG succeeded in obtaining an agreement with the INS last Dec. 1977, to grant H-1 nurses a temporary stay of three years from their date of arrival. This agreement, however, expired last Dec. 31, 1979. Recently, acting INS Commissioner David Crossland rejected the NAFL's request for an extension of the agreement despite the rapid escalation of H-1 nurses movement in the U.S.

The Select Commission is a special body created by the U.S. Congress empowered by law to study and evaluate existing laws, policies and procedures, governing the admission of immigrants and refugees to the U.S.

According to Mr. John M. Jones, special aide of the New York City hear-

ing, "the H-1 nurses issue fits right in with the Commission's concern about the exploitation of foreign workers in this country." Representative Elizabeth Holtzman (NY-D) who chaired the New York hearing on Jan. 21, noted the high hospitalization cost in New York. She added, "the unnecessary deportation of H-1 nurses who are vital in health care delivery in inner city hospital aggravates the cost of maintaining stable medical personnel."

Amy Besa, who spoke on behalf of the NAFL-FNG, stated: "The issue of the H-1 nurse is only a chapter in the history of racism and labor laws in this country!" She noted that studies have shown that INS policies have always been changed depending upon the labor needs and economic conditions of America. As the

economic conditions are worsening, the INS becomes tighter in its regulations and procedures.

She further added: "Look at the case of the SSI recipients for example. Why have they singled out Filipino elderly for harassment? Isn't that a way to justify their closing of petitions for parents?"

According to the Select Commission, similar hearings will be conducted in other cities. NAFL chapters in Chicago and Los Angeles will also participate in the hearings scheduled in their respective cities.

For further information, the regional contacts are: for East Coast (N.Y. City) (212) 424-5181; for Mid West (Chicago) (312) 989-4566; for West Coast (Los Angeles) (213) 613-1520. □

Filipino Reporter's Red Scare Won't Work

By the EAST COAST REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

In the banner headline and lead story of its December 29-January 3 issue, the local mouthpiece of the Marcos dictatorship, the *Filipino Reporter*, charged the KDP with spying on the Filipino community and of "soliciting donations for the reds." Suffering from an acute lack of worthwhile reportage, the *Filipino Reporter* sunk to cheap sensationalism by maligning KDP in an effort to deflect attention from its own shameless defense of the Marcos regime.

Let us examine the charges and compare them with the facts. First, the *Reporter* says that the KDP is "conducting espionage and political propaganda activities in the Filipino-American communities." This charge is so ridiculous that it need not be dignified with a response. The fact is, if anyone is conducting espionage and political propaganda activities in the community, it is the *Filipino Reporter* and other mouthpieces of the Marcos regime, who don't come out openly and state what interest they represent.

For instance, why are people afraid when anti-martial law issues are discussed in the community? If anything, they are afraid because Marcos agents may be lurking around to report them and thus either endanger their relatives in the Philippines or prevent them from going back. "Baka hindi ako makabalik" is an often-heard comment. And when the likes of Philippine government agents like Gonzalo Policarpio are exposed for who they really are, who can blame them for their fears? (see article on Policarpio last issue.)

On the other hand, everyone knows

who the KDP activists and the Anti-Martial Law Alliance members are and what they stand for. They are seen and heard in public forums, on street corners openly passing out leaflets or selling their newspaper, *Ang Katipunan*, or in people's homes explaining the issues in the homeland and those confronting Filipinos in the U.S. So who's doing the spying? We challenge all those who work to defend the Marcos dictatorship, the staff of the *Filipino Reporter*, the officials of the Philippine Consulate and other apologists for the Marcos regime, to come out and engage us in open debate so the community will know who stands for what.

As for "political propaganda activities," why does the *Filipino Reporter* try to portray speaking in public forums, leafletting on street corners and going from house to house to expose the atrocities of martial law, as illegitimate activities? This only reveals that they consider these activities **criminal**, which they are; but only in dictatorships such as that in the Philippines. And does not the *Filipino Reporter* conduct "political propaganda activities" as well? Yes, but in defense of martial law. Under the guise of "news" reporting, it paints rosy pictures of a bankrupt regime and an oppressed country while making attacks on the anti-fascist movement. All the negative feelings about the word "propaganda" is a result of the anti-communist hysteria whipped up during the 1950's by U.S. Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Propaganda is not illegal nor immoral per se. It can be used to defend illegal and immoral things such as what the *Filipino Reporter* is doing for the Marcos dictatorship. Or, it can be used to bring about justice in an unjust situation or end

exploitation and oppression when these exist. And this is what KDP's propaganda is all about.

The second charge that the *Filipino Reporter* makes is not a charge at all, but the truth colored by red-scare tactics. Anyone familiar with the KDP is aware of its support for the New People's Army. Even the *Filipino Reporter* says that the KDP "has been openly soliciting contributions for the New People's Army (NPA)." This is in line with our support for the National Democratic Revolution which seeks to end the foreign domination of Philippine society to ensure the truly democratic participation of the Filipino masses in the building of our country. This cannot be achieved without a long, protracted armed struggle, as is being waged by the NPA, because the ruling elite in the Philippines, personified right now by Marcos, will not give up their power and personal wealth voluntarily.

WHY DO WE SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S ARMY?

The NPA has been the most militant and consistent defender of the people's interests in the Philippines. It has fearlessly taken up the armed resistance against the abusive Marcos military. Alongside this, they also conduct systematic educational campaigns which help our oppressed people understand the roots of their poverty and deprivation. They have brought health care, eradicated cattle rustlers and usurers, helped plow and harvest the fields, educate children and assist in the formation of cooperatives, peasant associations and barrio councils in all the areas where they operate. Because of this, they have earned the love and respect of our people

who willingly support them to the extent of joining them or sacrificing their own lives to protect them. The NPA has proven to be the true army of our people, for our people, and defended by our people.

By presenting terms like "dictatorship of the proletariat" and "military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)," the *Filipino Reporter* hopes to sow fear among Filipinos. Of course, without a full explanation of the meaning of these concepts, people can become intimidated and fearful, not necessarily because they reject it, but only because they have yet to understand it. Without going deeper into a full discussion of the historical and integral role which the CPP has played in the revolutionary movement in the Philippines, it is a known fact that through their leadership, courage and sacrifice, it is the CPP that has brought the national democratic movement through the steady advances it has made through the last ten years. Let us judge the CPP by its concrete actions and contributions to our movement, not by insidious speculation.

No amount of scare tactics, however, will deter the KDP from continuing its activities against the martial law regime in the Philippines. No amount of red-baiting will lead our community to support the Marcos regime. Ironical as it may seem, the Marcos regime, through its abuses and atrocities, is in fact, the greatest instructor on the need for revolutionary change in the Philippines. And may we inform the *Filipino Reporter* that it is rather late for them to resort to their dirty tactics. The KDP is here to stay and to hasten the downfall of the U.S.-Marcos regime. □

4-H Program Under Criticism

HONOLULU—Various campus programs and Filipino community groups have registered their criticisms of the controversial Filipino agricultural training program with University of Hawaii officials.

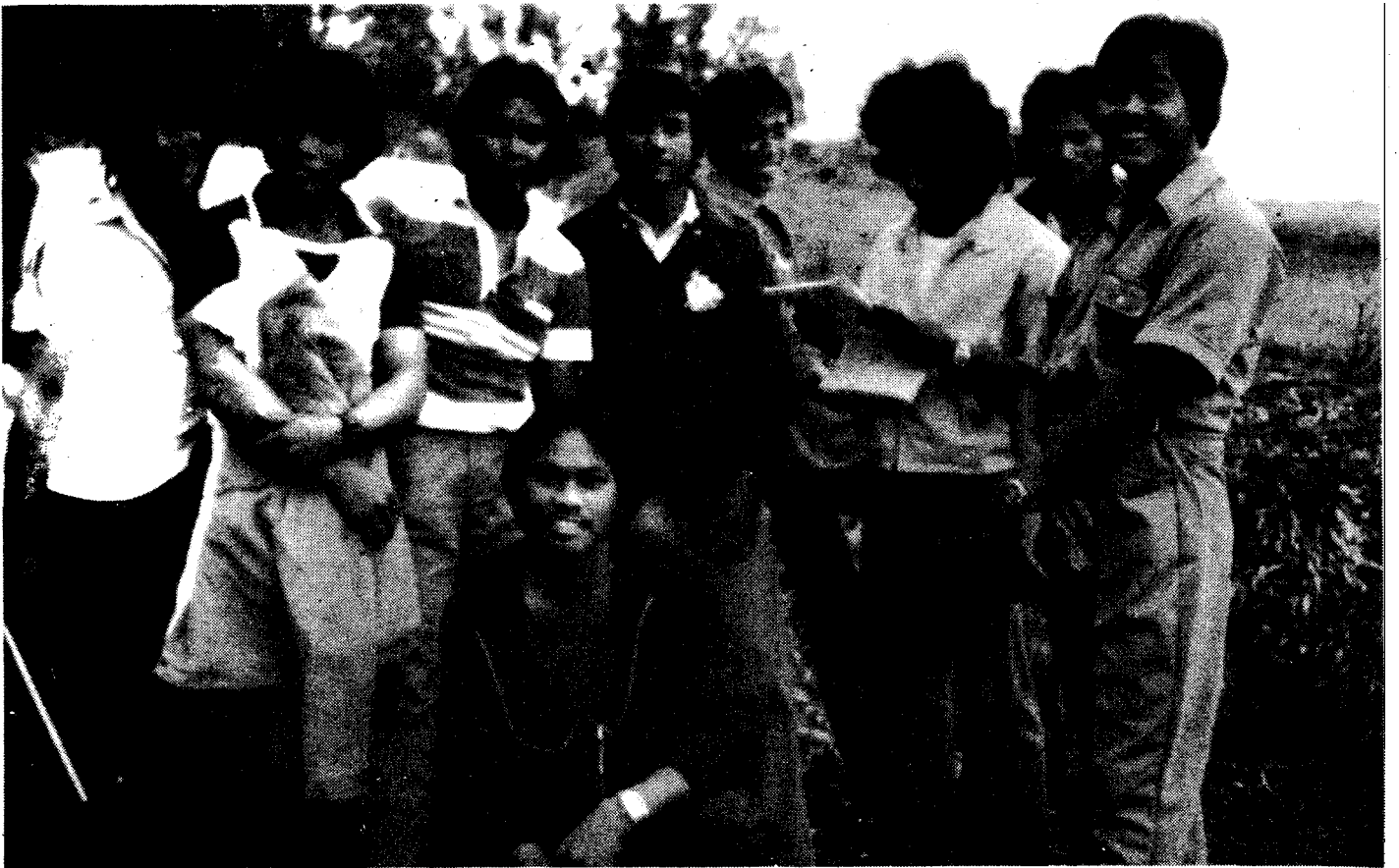
The extensive critique questions the terms of the agreement signed by the trainees ("a throw-back to the old plantation contracts"), and comments on the general trainees' complaints of program abuse and maltreatment.

The University is responsible for the training aspect of the program, which was the target of numerous complaints made public by 23 trainees on the island of Maui early in January.

On Jan. 15, the trainees met with program officials, host farmers and community members to discuss the complaints, which had been widely publicized in the local media. At that time, the University said it would investigate the complaints.

The trainees had cited lack of training, verbal abuse and lack of financial accountability among the many problems. These are the same as those registered by trainees on the mainland a few years ago. At that time, officials suspended the program rather than implement reforms.

The Hawaii Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrant Rights initiated the critique of the program, which was co-signed by several groups. These included representatives from Ethnic



4-H trainees lodged numerous complaints against the program.

Studies, Philippine Studies, Operation Manong, KDP, and the Filipino Tri-Media Council.

The groups want to meet with the Uni-

versity Chancellor, Durward Long, and the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture, William Furtick. They are further requesting that an impartial

committee, composed of representatives from the trainees, farmers, officials and the Filipino community, conduct the investigation of the complaints. □

NAFL-FNG SPONSORS REVIEW CLASSES

CHICAGO—An expert reviewer plus a minimal fee provided 30 local foreign nurses a first-rate review class, in preparation for the forthcoming State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE).

Sponsored by the NAFL-FNG, the review class was conducted Feb. 20 to familiarize nurses with the mechanics of test taking. The workshop aimed to brief participants on the SBTPE, how it is graded at the National League of Nursing (NLN) headquarters in New York, and what the test results have been over the past few years.

With Betty Check of the R.N. Tutoring Project charging only \$5 an hour, and the nurses paying a mere \$6 fee for the whole session, the four hour review class proved to be a real bargain. In comparison, commercially-sponsored classes charged \$90 per nurse, per subject.

The main feature of the test workshop was the simulation of a test in Psychiatric Nursing, using the NLN questionnaire. Familiarity of the U.S. culture is crucial in this particular subject. Since the U.S. is a highly industrialized society, socio-economic pressures give rise to illnesses that are not generally found in underdeveloped countries like the Philippines. Recently-arrived foreign nurses who are forced to take the exam without the benefit of a sufficient adjustment period and familiarity to U.S. society, find this subject the most difficult. Alcoholism, drug addiction, depression and suicide are not common place in their home country. Thus, this particular subject accounts for most failures in the licensure exam.

Prior to the test, nurses were asked to imagine that the review exam was real. It was noted by the workshop leader that these review classes were designed to augment and refresh one's knowledge of a subject matter; they do not give the "magic answers" nor are they supposed to be viewed as the "salvation" from



Nurses taking simulated nursing test at NAFL-sponsored review class.

(NAFL-FNG Photo)

failing the actual test.

These nurses, however, have valid reasons for such fears and anxieties. The majority of the participants will be taking the SBTPE for the second time. In light of the recent refusal of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to extend the Deferred Voluntary Departure (DVD) status to H-1 nurses, failure of the exam means deportation.

Participants were then asked what they thought of the workshop.

"Exhausting but very rewarding" was

how Bayani Legaspi, one of the proctors, summed up the day. Linda Lim, a nurse from Cuneo Hospital found the workshop "reassuring because now I know what areas I have to brush up on."

Bayani, a psychiatric in-service instructor at Chicago Reed Hospital and active in the Reform Movement of the Philippine Nurses Association of Chicago, could not help but comment:

"The PNAC has the money and organizational capacity to conduct review classes like this. There is an urgent need

for foreign nurses to be oriented to the licensure test. Unfortunately, our leaders' top priority seems to be the staging of fancy induction balls."

From this initial experience, nurses felt a lot could be done to improve future SBTPE. A lot of encouragement was given the NAFL to continue giving familiarization courses in the future. The NAFL plans to give a more comprehensive review workshop sometime in May. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS:

CARTER CALLS FOR STRONGER U.S. MILITARY

President Carter's State of the Union address on Jan. 23 signaled the beginning of a dangerously aggressive and hostile U.S. posture in world affairs.

Ignoring the domestic economic crises of double digit inflation and unemployment, Carter focused on the international issues of Iran and Afghanistan, calling for an increased U.S. military role in world affairs. The specter of a military confrontation with the Soviet Union was raised and specific steps to bolster the U.S. military machine, such as the re-introduction of draft registration, increased military spending and the strengthening of U.S. intelligence agencies, were proposed.

The main focus of Carter's speech to both houses of Congress and the nation was the Soviet Union, especially in relation to the Persian Gulf region and south west Asia. Emphasizing that the Persian Gulf and Middle East oil supplies were the "vital interests of the United States," Carter vowed that any threat to the region would "be repelled by use of any means necessary, including military force."

Advertised as a new "Carter Doctrine," the speech laid a U.S. claim to the oil-rich region, and lambasted the Soviet Union for its recent actions in Afghanistan, which Carter called a "grave threat" to the region. Appealing to a unity of the Western nations for joint action in that region, Carter made the following appeal:

"This situation demands careful thought, steady nerves and resolute action—not only for this year, but for many years to come. It demands collective efforts to meet this new threat to security in the Persian Gulf and southwest Asia. It demands the participation of those who rely on oil from the Middle East and are concerned with global peace and stability. And it demands consultation and close cooperation with countries in the area which might be threatened."

To implement this new "Carter Doctrine," a proposed increase in the U.S.



military budget was made. Bolstering military expenditures by 3.3 percent in real terms, defense spending will amount to a staggering \$142.7 billion next year. This \$15.3 billion increase over last year will be channeled for Rapid Deployment Forces to intervene in foreign countries, a stronger NATO force, bomber-launched missiles and doubling the funds for the MX mobile intercontinental ballistic missile system.

INCREASED MILITARY SPENDING, DRAFT REGISTRATION

Along with the increase in defense spending, Carter also proposed the means to man the military machine—a reintroduction of draft registration. "I am determined that the Selective Service System must now be revitalized," vowed Carter in his Jan. 23 speech. Such registration would be one step away from a full-fledged military draft.

Wall Street greeted Carter's moves with a general enthusiasm—trading in defense-related stocks were temporarily halted the next day due to an expected jump in prices. However, the average American worker had every reason to be both anxious and suspicious over this new Doctrine.

Increases in the military budget will be paid for by American workers, already hard pressed by inflation and recession. Besides shouldering the financial burden of increased military spending, the sons and daughters of the working class will be the ones forced to fight for perceived U.S. interests abroad. In the Vietnam War, these "national security interests" meant fighting and dying for a corrupt dictatorship, a war in which 50,000 U.S. soldiers died. Most importantly, it was from the minority communities—Black and Latino—that the bulk of combat soldiers were drafted.

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES UNLEASHED

Another important component of Carter's new Doctrine is the unleashing of U.S. intelligence agencies from present laws which restrict their activities. Carter stressed the "need to remove unwarranted restraints on our ability to collect intelligence..." Such lifting of even the limited checks which now exist would return the CIA and FBI to the "cloak and dagger" days when the CIA was embroiled in attempted assassinations of foreign leaders and the FBI undertook such notorious operations as the COIN-

TELPRO program.

Congressional action on Carter's CIA proposal came less than 24 hours after his address. Introduced into the Senate by Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-NY), the bill S 2216 would repeal the Hughes-Ryan Amendment which requires the reporting to Congress of all CIA non-intelligence-gathering activities. The bill would also invoke harsh criminal penalties aimed at CIA critics, investigators and journalists and repeal sections of the Freedom of Information Act applying to the CIA.

APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM

Focusing on the international situation and appealing to the country's sense of patriotism, Pres. Carter sidestepped the question of a domestic inflation rate of 14 percent and an unemployed work force of almost seven million people. Creating an air of cold war politics and siege mentality, Carter has appealed for national unity in the face of an alleged Soviet threat.

Such a call for nationalism has diverted many people's attention from the danger of militarization Carter is undertaking and increases the prospects for U.S. intervention in some area of the world.

In addition, and for Carter perhaps more importantly, his appeal for national unity has successfully bolstered his bid for re-election to the presidency in this year.

Just six months ago, his popularity was at a historic low for any president. Yet, the developments in Iran and Afghanistan have been successfully manipulated by Carter to his political benefit. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) can only bemoan the fact that Carter refuses to debate, claiming that to do so would negatively affect his handling of international affairs. For Carter, his new aggressive doctrine will not only reassure the Pentagon and armaments investors, but it may also assure his re-election this coming fall. □

FEBRUARY 2 COMMEMORATION

Thousands in Greensboro March Against the Klan

Despite a massive effort by local, state and federal authorities to stop the mobilization, over 7,500 demonstrators marched in the streets of Greensboro, North Carolina, to protest the recent upsurge of Klan activity.

Braving the cold weather and the presence of National Guardsmen and state troopers, the multi-racial grouping marched from the Greensboro Memorial Stadium along a four mile route to the city's coliseum where a spirited rally was held.

Along the march route, spirited anti-Klan chants rang through the assembly. At the rally site, protestors gathered to hear speeches from Rev. C.T. Vivian, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Rev. Ben Chavis, Anne Braden, Phil Gardiner, Tony Orindine, Nelson Johnson, and others who spoke about the 20 years of anti-racist struggle and the recent efforts to combat Klan activity.

The success of the event, which also coincided with the 20th anniversary of the historic Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins, was hailed by march organizers as a blow against racism and reaction. Efforts to halt the mobilization effort started from the day organizers made known their efforts to hold the event.

Greensboro officials, as well as state and federal agencies, made numerous

efforts to red-bait and harass the organizing effort.

In the final days of the organizing effort, a charter bus company which was contracted to shuttle march participants to and from local cities backed out of their contract after being contacted by agents of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI). Only after march organizers held a sit-in at the company facilities did the bus company relent, deciding to fulfill its original contract.

More ominously was the efforts of North Carolina's Gov. Hunt who declared a state of emergency, mobilizing the National Guard, in a brazen attempt to intimidate and harass march participants.

STATE, CITY TRY TO HALT MARCH

Efforts to hamper the Feb. 2 mobilization were mounted in recent weeks by numerous state and local agencies of North Carolina.

For almost a month, the city of Greensboro attempted to deny the marchers both a parade permit and access to the city's coliseum for a post-march rally. Claiming that the facility was already booked by a concert promoter, city officials continually stalled efforts of the march organizers to secure a parade permit and rally site.

Finally, after a threatened lawsuit by Feb. 2 organizers, the city relented on Jan. 25, issuing both a parade permit and use of the coliseum complex to the organizers. In addition, Greensboro's City Council tabled a strict parade permit ordinance which would have required march organizers to pay for additional police protection for the event.

Aside from Greensboro's attempts to stop the march, other agencies were actively working to undermine the event. At a Jan. 17 press conference, the Feb. 2 Mobilization Committee charged that the U.S. Department of Justice and the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) were harassing and discouraging people from attending the event.

"We have been informed that the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Department of Justice has been visiting our supporters here and in other cities discouraging them from taking part in the march," charged the committee. In addition, SBI agents were actively going to various college campuses in an effort to discourage student support and participation in the march.

Feb. 2 organizers also faced numerous other instances of harassment, ranging from cut phone lines and rocks thrown through office windows, to being constantly followed by unmarked police cars or vigilantes.

Despite these efforts to stop the march, however, the Feb. 2 mobilization Committee was able to gather endorsements from a broad spectrum of the black community, as well as the progressive and leftist groups and individuals.

SUPPORT BUILDS IN FINAL WEEKS

On Jan. 22, the National Black Leadership Forum, representing some 15 national civil rights groups, endorsed the march. Prominent among these groupings are Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Indiana, Vernon Jordan of the National Urban League, Dorothy Height of the National Conference of Negro Women, Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP and Joseph Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Mayor Marion Barry of Washington, D.C. also endorsed the event, as well as Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Parren Mitchell (D-Md.) and George Leland (D-Tex.).

Groups such as the Texas Farm Workers union, the state board of the National Organization for Women, anti-nuclear and pacifist groups as well as black student and professional organizations offered their endorsements. Some 35 mobilization committees were formed in 23 states to organize and agitate for the event. □

Nicaragua Pushes Land Reforms

By HARRY FRIED
Reprint from the Guardian

"Here is a building where one of the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie kept his horses," commented a regional director of the National Agrarian Reform Institute of Nicaragua (INRA).

"No peasant had a house like this. The horses of the bourgeoisie could live well, while the peasants didn't even have latrines. Often 10 or more children would have to crowd into a small room. The zinc roofs, cement walls and wide patios of the stables are far superior to the typical peasant dwelling."

Housing is one of many areas in which Nicaragua's Government of National Reconstruction has begun to carry out profound transformations in the months following the downfall of the Somoza dynasty.

FARMS WERE NEGLECTED

Landowners linked to the Somoza dictatorship—whose lands are now in the hands of the state—showed little concern for efficient production and none for the welfare of the workers, especially as the regime neared its end. An INRA official in Matagalpa commented that "apparently the dictatorship knew that the revolutionary movement would triumph; for the big farms were neglected and there were no concrete plans to raise production. The owners were only interested in removing their wealth."

More than any other single ministry, the work of INRA could be summarized as the transformation of the socioeconomic base on which Nicaraguan society is built.

The economy is based on agriculture, which employs half of the population. Historically Nicaragua was integrated into the world market as a dependent capitalist country through the production and export of various cash crops. The proliferation of coffee in the northern mountains around Jinotega and Matagalpa and the central hills of Carazo in the late 19th century, and later the development of cotton in the northwest departments of Leon and Chinandega in the 1950's and 1960's, generated capitalist relations of production as peasants were thrown off their lands.

CHANGING SOCIAL RELATIONS

Dependent capitalist development responded to the interests of foreign and local capital, not only those of the peasants and workers. This resulted in concentration of land ownership and profits; financial and technical dependence; uneven levels of technology and productivity, and a large seasonal and migratory work force with a trend toward increasing rural unemployment.

The revolutionary Sandinista government views agriculture as the potential basis for developing an independent and egalitarian social and economic system. According to INRA, "the strategic objective" of agrarian reform in Nicaragua is "the transformation of the prevalent social relations of production in agriculture, which concretely means the abolition of relations of exploitation and the creation of relations of cooperation in which exploitation of man by man disappears."

Confiscated large farms constitute 40 percent of all productive lands and small plots 26 percent. The rest is still in the hands of medium and large private landowners. Unlike other land reforms in Latin America, Nicaragua does not plan to redistribute individual plots to peasants. Redistribution of lands has generally failed miserably, according to government planners—either peasants are eventually forced to sell their lands to



wealthier landowners or plots are too small to provide for subsistence. Rather, collective forms of production are being promoted, while other forms continue.

The development of state farms constitutes INRA's main thrust. These farms are owned by the state, administered by INRA directly, and are thus closely integrated into rational economic planning. Each state farm has an administrator and a "responsible," whose role is parallel to that of a foreman but who promotes collective forms of work.

In Granada, Antonio Lugo Quintana, an older peasant who is the responsible on a cattle farm, explained that "before I would have been called the boss. But as responsible, I work together with the other peasants. Now when there's work to be done or a problem to be solved, it's not a question of giving orders. Rather, it's 'let's go' or 'let's see what we can do about this.'"

ATTACHED TO LAND

Other forms of landholding are not as socially advanced. As in most areas of the revolution, the Government of National Reconstruction and the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) take as a point of departure the actual political, economic and cultural development of the masses. Cultivation of small plots is recognized as an objectively backward and petty bourgeois form of production. Nonetheless many peasants are still attached to having their own land.

Thus, INRA begins by organizing the small producers into the technical and credit assistance cooperatives, gradually allowing the peasants to discover for themselves the advantages of collectivization. The ultimate goal in such cases is to organize collective production as well.

The state also controls idle lands four to five times the size of the productive lands. There are virgin areas mostly in the Atlantic Coast region and the northern mountains. These relatively depopulated areas constitute a tremendous but as yet undeveloped productive potential. Nicaragua does not have a land problem because there is enough total land. Rather, the problem, which is another product of the dependent capitalist development, is a maldistribution of the population.

Along with implementing land reform and increasing production, INRA is making provision of ample social services a top priority. Housing, health and education have been poor throughout Nicaragua and worse in the countryside during the 45 years of imperialist dictatorship. Of every thousand children born in the countryside, 200 die in their first year and another 200 die before their fifth birthday. Eight out of 10 peasants are illiterate.

"Under Somoza, we were completely neglected and treated like animals or even worse than animals," summed up one peasant from Grenada.

One of INRA's first major expenditures was the purchase of a fleet of mobile medical units to bring health care to the rural areas and to bring the

sick to hospitals in the cities. Many are receiving medical treatment for the first time.

Other health programs include instruction in hygiene—virtually absent during the dictatorship—and a minimum of one glass of milk a day for children to combat the high rate of malnutrition.

INRA will also be cooperating with the Ministry of Education and various mass organizations in the national literacy crusade. On March 24, over 160,000 literacy teachers will go into the countryside for four to five months to eradicate illiteracy and help with production.

STUDENTS HELP HARVEST COFFEE

Many students had their first experience with agricultural work this past month helping with the coffee harvest. Heavy rains have caused the crop to mature early. Given the insufficient labor supply, INRA called on the local population to help with the harvest so as not to lose the badly needed foreign exchange generated by the cash crop. Thousands of students, as well as brigades organized by the Nicaraguan Women's Assoc., responded enthusiastically.

Peasants and agricultural workers are organizing in the Agricultural Worker's Assoc. (ATC). Promoted by the FSLN, the ATC was formed in 1976 to defend the interests of the agricultural proletariat and, later, to combat the dictatorship. Since the Government of National Reconstruction has been in power, the ATC has grown impressively. From 5,000 members in four departments last July the ATC now includes over 57,000 members in 14 departments.

The principal task is to organize and politically educate so as to increase the power and participation of the workers themselves. The ATC has created five schools of political education where 300 peasant organizers receive political training each month. According to ATC organizers in Matagalpa, one of the major achievements "has been the incorporation of a large sector of the small producers" into the association. They were earlier unorganized or in the Central Coffee-Growers Cooperative, which was manipulated by the former bourgeoisie.

On state farms run by INRA, ATC will have a growing voice in administration as cadre develop politically and technically. On large private holdings, neither seizures nor strikes are encouraged, given the priority of production for domestic consumption and foreign exchange.

PRODUCTIVE LANDS CONFISCATED

A government decree has demanded that private landowners grant the same wages and working conditions as provided on state lands. In some cases, agricultural workers simply boycott private farms where improvements have not been made. Also INRA has declared that private lands not put to productive use will be confiscated.

In structural terms, INRA and ATC are complementary—the former being a branch of the state and the latter a mass organization that explicitly recognizes the FSLN as the vanguard of the revolutionary process. The director of INRA is Jaime Wheelock, one of the 9-member Sandinista National Directorate.

It is difficult to overemphasize the enormity of the tasks involved in transforming capitalist relations of production in Nicaraguan agriculture. Nicaragua is a small country of 2.5 million people in an area the size of Michigan with a wealth of revolutionary experience. On the other hand, 45 years of the

British Manuevers Undermine Peace Accords

By DEBY ARMANDO
AK Correspondent

Despite the supposed neutrality of the existing monitoring force in Zimbabwe, Britain's blatant violations to the recently signed peace accord continue to mount unrestrained. The Front Line states—Mozambique, Botswana, Tanzania, Angola, and Zambia—have strongly condemned these violations and are moving toward calling a meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

Foremost among the concerns is the demand that Britain immediately withdraw South African troops from Zimbabwe. This was a condition which the Patriotic Front firmly demanded before agreement on the accord could be reached.

Since that time, however, the British have indicated no intentions of honoring the agreement. On the contrary, they have:

- not withdrawn South African troops from Zimbabwe, and have in fact disbursed more troops under orders to hunt down Patriotic Front fighters and supporters;

- allowed former puppet Muzorewa's army and auxiliary forces to invade and surround liberated zones where they terrorize the local population;

- harassed the Patriotic Front and its supporters in an effort to halt the Patriotic Front's election campaign by impounding campaign literature;

- continued to hold 15,000 political prisoners in racist Rhodesian jails;

- jailed civilian and children refugees who were to be granted unhindered access to enter Zimbabwe.

In addition, a number of citizens have been arbitrarily arrested and have subsequently "disappeared" while in custody.

In response to such blatant violations, Lord Soames, the appointed "neutral" administrator of the monitoring force, has threatened to disqualify the ZANU Patriotic Front forces from the upcoming elections.

Central to this campaign of terrorism is an all-out effort to somehow wrench the inevitable election victory from the Patriotic Front. In the face of such overwhelming Patriotic Front mass support, such a task is clearly unattainable by fair or legal means.

While all possible police and military methods are freely used to hinder the Patriotic Front's election campaign, unceasing Western and Rhodesian finance continues to swamp the country with campaign materials for the puppet Abel Muzorewa.

With all these developments, there is growing skepticism about the fairness of the upcoming elections. There is also much concern about what actions the Patriotic Front opponents will take in the event that their attempts to sway the elections fail.

Under existing conditions, the prospects for maintaining the accord are growing dim; and hopes for a peaceful transition even dimmer. □

imperialist Somoza dictatorship has left its mark ideologically as well as materially. In the words of Juan Quiroz, secretary general of the ATC in Leon: "The revolution has hardly begun. The revolution is not the war that we just experienced; rather, the revolution is the process of change that we must bring about in our country." □

Export Workers:

Second Largest Dollar Earners for R.P.

Last December, 21 Filipina women found themselves in a Brussels prison, victims of an international employment racket. The women were among 8,000 who were promised placement as domestic servants of "honourable and devoted families" in Italy, France, and West Germany.

After paying their flight tickets, passports, medical certificates, and gambling their future in foreign countries, the women landed in cheaply-paid jobs as maids and prostitutes.

The racket was started by an employee of the Mauritanian Embassy in Belgium.

The disillusioned women now wait for an opportunity to return to their homeland.

Over the last year, Philippine newspapers flashed similar stories: "We were Treated Like Pigs" (Sept. 29, 1979 *Daily Express*); "Twenty-two Workers Return with Sad Tales on Abu Dhabi Jail Life"; (Sept. 29, 1979, *Times Journal*) "Five Thousand Workers are in Trouble in Italy" (*Bulletin Today*, Jan. 1979).

Yet, the age-old business once called "slave trade" now named "man-power export" at the "overseas labor market" continues as one of the most profitable, and greatest source of foreign exchange revenues for the martial law government.

IDEAL EXPORTS

Salvador Bigay, director of Overseas Employment Development Board (OEDB) said "Developed and developing countries abroad have learned to rely on Filipinos to meet labor scarcities in progressively higher sectors of their national economies."

Describing the Filipino worker like an export commodity, Bigay says: "He is the ideal recruit for overseas employment."

As a source of foreign exchange revenues, exported Filipino labor has become the number two dollar earner for the



Filipino scientists at work in Australia: Their wage remittances form the second largest dollar-earner in country.

country, ranking next to the coconut industry. In 1978, export manpower raked in \$384.3 million for the Philippines.

An article entitled "Current Trends in External Migration" published in a 1977 issue of *Philippine Labor Review* reports the following:

- Overseas labor market has become a very significant absorber of Filipino manpower.

- 169,321 workers, excluding perma-

nent emigrants were absorbed from Jan. 1972 to Dec. 1976.

- The better-educated, more skilled and experienced workers landed overseas jobs (16.5% were professional and technical workers against 5.6% of the labor force who belong to this category).

- Filipino workers are generally willing to accept jobs overseas requiring less education than what they possess because of the promise of higher wages. Most recruited workers go to America.

The total from 1975 to 1978 was 1,112,577. The Middle East comes next absorbing 159,730 people. Others are fielded out to Asia, Europe, Africa and other parts of the world. A total of 1.5 million Filipinos were placed in jobs abroad from 1975 to 1978, according to government sources. About half of them are covered by government contracts.

The adventures of those who are lured by promises of high-paying jobs abroad have not always been fortunate. Many fall prey to illegal recruiters, then find themselves in jail. Others experience violations against their contracts and find themselves doing work other than what they had signed up for. Job insecurity and discrimination are other grievances they face in their jobs abroad.

The trends in the export of Philippine labor show the breadth and depth of the unemployment situation. For highly trained workers to accept jobs below their training for higher wages abroad, reflects how the Philippine government has failed to satisfy even the minimum subsistence requirements of its labor force.

While the brain drain used to be a curse for an economy in need of technological know-how, it has now become a boon. The government hopes to even increase manpower exports to diffuse the pressures of a volatile unemployment situation. However despite the government's reliance on the export labor escape-valve, the huge army of reserve labor which is yearly enlarged by displaced peasants, is hardly addressed by the overseas employment program. And when the costs of overseas employment such as shortages of skilled labor are weighed against the supposed benefits such as huge dollar remittances, the policy to export labor is a questionable palliative to the unemployment situation and the worsening trade standing of the Philippines. □

Reactor Claims Second Victim...

Continued from page 6

to get Westinghouse to make the changes he wants," noted a spokesperson for the Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines (CNFP). "Then he can wave this around as a certificate of good health to oppose public opinion and move on with the project. The problem is the modifications he wants do not address the major issues, the volcanic and earthquake hazards."

Nucleonics Week (Dec. 13, 1979), the authoritative trade journal of the nuclear industry, confirmed this analysis when it said "Philippine officials are obviously planning to resume construction of the nation's first nuclear plant in the near future." Westinghouse and Marcos regime officials, *Nucleonics Week* reported, met last month to discuss the additional safety devices requested by the regime. These devices are estimated to cost only \$3-5 million, a minuscule amount compared to the plant's \$1.1 billion total cost.

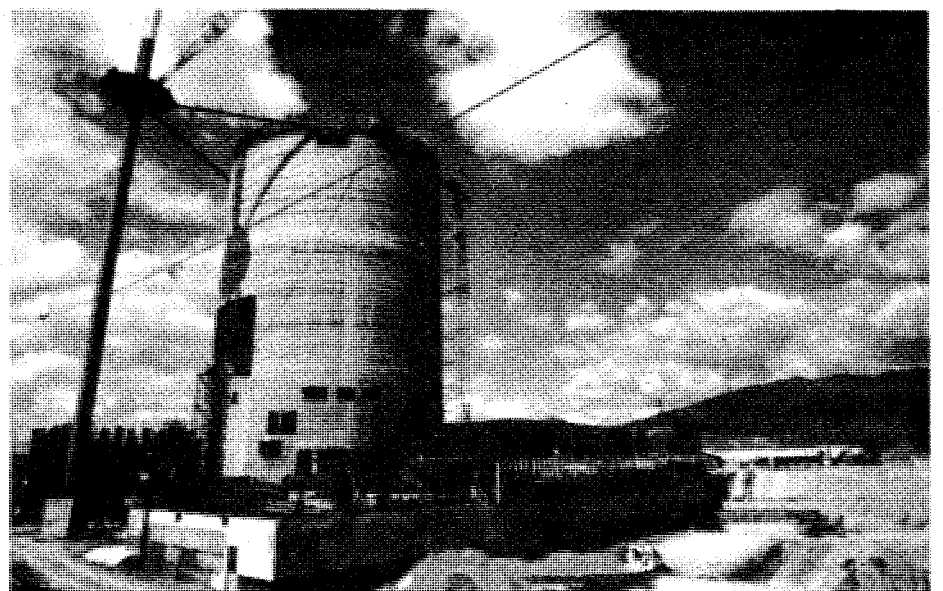
Nucleonics Week also said that "...a consultative committee composed of Minister of Finance Cesar Virata and National Power Corporation President Gabriel Itchon, will meet with U.S. Export-Import Bank officials in Washington shortly to start talks on financing problems created by suspension of work on the project. The committee talks are expected to center on liabilities incurred by the Philippine government in the project and the Filipino group is expected to ask for a moratorium on payments of interest on loans which reportedly amount to about \$127,000 daily."

Further confirmation of Marcos' intentions was provided by Westinghouse chairman Robert E. Kirby when he minimized the importance of Marcos' objections as obstacles to the resumption of work on the plant. At a press conference in Tokyo last month, Kirby said, "The only thing holding up the nuclear power plant in the Philippines at the present time is the NRC...if the NRC were to release the licenses, I believe that the plant would continue to be built and built at full speed."

CONFIDENTIAL REVIEW

A confidential review of the project made by an NRC consultant contradicts the government's claims that the earthquake and volcanic dangers have been adequately addressed. The review, obtained by the Washington-based Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), was done by Dr. John Kelleher, former staff seismologist of the NRC.

According to Kelleher, a "fundamental shortcoming" of the nuclear project has been the "failure to install an adequate seismic network to evaluate earthquake hazards in the vicinity of the Bataan peninsula." He asserted that without at least two years of gathering data with such a network, it would be difficult to evaluate the seismic design of the plant. The plant is presently designed to withstand ground acceleration of .4g. Like the 1978 Mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Kelleher warns that, with the present inadequate data, the possibility of earthquakes with greater ground ac-



Morong nuclear reactor core rises quickly inspite of debate over safety hazards.

celeration cannot be discounted.

Kelleher also supports the IAEA Mission's view that volcanic eruption is a "credible event." The plant, which is rising on the western flank of Mt. Natib, is only 9.5 kilometers from the volcano's nearest crater.

Other shortcomings pointed out by Kelleher include the inadequate review of the possibility of tidal waves; the impossibility of predicting a specific volcanic eruption; lack of concrete plans to remove and transport nuclear fuel and waste and to decommission the plant in the event of a seismic or volcanic occurrence.

NRC JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE

NRC delay in granting Westinghouse an export license for the reactor core has stopped construction of the plant, which is about 20 percent complete. The NRC is reported to have received 20 different submissions arguing for and against the

agency's legal capacity to consider health and safety questions associated with the export. Among the organizations which have submitted arguments are the Friends of the Filipino People, Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines, Concerned Citizens Reactor Safety Review Board, Westinghouse, Center for Development Policy, and the Philippine Government.

Although the NRC is under great pressure to conduct a review, it is not yet clear whether it will decide to do so. *Nucleonics Week* (Dec. 13, 1979) recently reported that the NRC's own attorneys have said that the commission has legal authority and obligation to make an examination. But the attorneys also outlined seven options for conducting reviews, several of which could be used to conduct a pro forma review (not unlike that conducted in Manila) preparatory to the granting of the licenses. □