

## Anger, Cynicism Greet ML "Lifting"

### DEMOS HIT 'LUTONG MACOY'

By BEN OCAMPO  
Staff Writer

As expected, Marcos' recent pronouncement declaring the lifting of martial law met widespread skepticism.

The most visible reaction in the U.S. Filipino community came from the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC), which spearheaded nationwide demonstrations January 19, denouncing the lifting as "no different from Marcos' old hollow promises."

"Ferdinand Marcos is a frustrated magician," chided Rene Cruz, AMLC Coordinator at the San Francisco rally in front of the Philippine Consulate. "He thinks he can fool the people with illusions. He held a number of fake referendums—no one was fooled. He held two fake elections—no one was fooled. Now, he wants to make people believe he is no longer a dictator pretending to lift martial law—no one was fooled!"

Chanting "Down with Martial Law"  
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Anti-dictatorship demonstrations, such as above in San Francisco, were held simultaneously through various cities around the U.S. denouncing the fake lifting of martial law in the Philippines. (AK)

### Marcos Compares Self to Roosevelt

By VICTORIA LUNA  
Staff Writer

"Marcos has lifted everything else around here," commented one political observer, "so why not lift martial law?"

Such cynicism was not atypical of the response to Ferdinand Marcos' lavish ceremony last January 17 marking the so-called "lifting" of martial law. Before a crowd of 3,000 government officials, foreign dignitaries and a weeping Imelda gathered in Malacanang's Heroes' Hall, Marcos issued Presidential Decree No. 2045 proclaiming an end of martial law.

During the hour-long speech which accompanied the proclamation, Marcos compared himself to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and martial law to the "New Deal."

Enumerating the achievements of his eight year as dictator, he claimed that martial law had "bought time for our people so that they could muster the

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### Revolution in El Salvador:

## U.S. Aid Sparks Uproar



El Salvador revolutionaries go on the offensive. U.S. resumes military aid to hated junta.

In its final days before leaving Washington, the Carter Administration resumed military aid to El Salvador's ruling junta, paving the way for future U.S. intervention in that Central American country.

The military aid, suspended a month ago when right-wing paramilitary troops murdered three American nuns and a lay worker, was reinstated Jan. 14. Five million in military hardware—including helicopters, trucks, communications equipment—will be sent to bolster the Duarte regime. Officials in Washington have also discussed supplying El Salvador with more deadly guns, tanks and planes.

In addition to the military hardware, the Carter administration dispatched military advisors to El Salvador and neighboring right-wing Latin American countries. Already some 200 marines are active in El Salvador and 16 U.S. military advisors were recently sent to Honduras. Both Honduras and Guatemala, countries ruled by repressive military governments, have massed troops on El Salvador's borders, in an effort to stifle a popular military uprising against the Duarte regime.

The U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Robert White, noted the serious nature of the Jan. 10

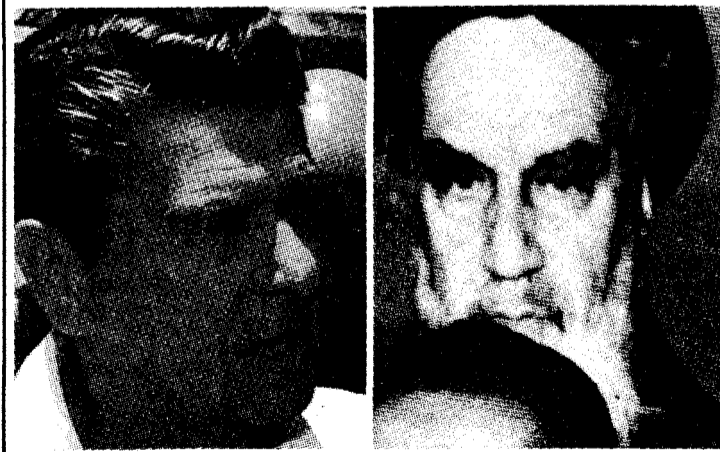
anti-government offensive when he announced the resumption of military aid. Having to ignore the repressive character of the Duarte government—especially since three more Americans were murdered by rightists since December—White reiterated that support for the junta was consistent with past U.S. policy of opposing "Marxist-Leninists" from seizing power.

In the U.S., demonstrations, petitions and other actions protested Washington's actions in El Salvador. On the West Coast, Bay Area longshoremen at 30

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## The Hostages Hysteria

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

THE HOSTAGES  
HYSTERIA

It is sad, if not a little frightening to watch Reagan's, Carter's and the media's blatant manipulation of the hostage issue in order to whip up a frenzy of racism and flag-waving national chauvinism.

Unless the real history of events leading to the hostage crisis is vividly recaptured, there is the danger that more people will be blindly stampeded into drawing the wrong lessons from it. Driven by emotional appeals we will become the real victims of a concerted effort to gain popular support for an increasingly aggressive and war-like U.S. foreign policy—a policy that threatens the true interests of the U.S. people and the peoples of the world.

Certainly, most of the 52 hostages (three are suspected of being CIA torturers), are victims of the interplay of historical forces and their release is a welcome event. However, what is being obscured by Carter's and Reagan's appeals to jingoism and militarism is precisely *who is responsible for the hostages' plight and who has been manipulating the issue for political gain.*

According to the racist thinking blared out by the U.S. government and media, the Iranians as a people are the nasty culprits who, simply because of their "barbarian nature" chose to terrorize the 52 Americans. We are continually reminded that this was a violation of international law, civilized behavior, etc. The image presented to us is that of an innocent, law-abiding U.S. government and a provocative, "outlaw" Iranian government and people.

The underlying militarist message is that the U.S. should "stop being Mr. Nice Guy." After all, the line goes, "the only language these people understand is force." With such a high-powered barrage on public emotions it is easy to forget how the crisis started in the first place.

In point of fact, the real, original provocation that started the crisis was the long-standing U.S. support for the brutal regime of the Shah of Iran. Not only did the U.S. restore the Shah to his bloody throne (in 1953 with a CIA-coup following a popular revolt that had ousted the hated dictator), but the U.S. kept the Shah in power for 26 years with billions in military aid and expert training for his secret police.

All the while, U.S. oil interests benefitted mightily at the expense of the Iranian people's natural resources, and the U.S. state gained a powerful and vicious "enforcer" to protect its strategic interests from the peoples in the region who are fighting U.S. domination.

By the time the Iranian people were finally able, against all odds, to oust the Shah in January of 1979, they had come to understand clearly that their real enemy was these very U.S. interests, without whose backing the Shah would not have lasted in power for a single day.

It is not surprising therefore, that Carter's decision to admit the Shah to the U.S. in November 1979, (at the urging of David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger), was seen as a provocation by the Iranians. The spontaneous reaction in Iran, predictable enough under the circumstances, was the seizure of the U.S. Embassy and its staff.

The point is that the hostage crisis did not materialize "out of thin air" or simply as the result of the "demonic ravings" of those "barbarian Iranians," but rather as a predictable response to this U.S. provocation. This response was so predictable that U.S. intelligence agencies had forewarned Carter that the Embassy was likely to be seized if the Shah were admitted.

Of course, all this is being conveniently overlooked now, when history is being systematically distorted and for the purpose of winning U.S. popular support for aggression. Thus ironically, the hostages, already victimized once by Carter, are now being victimized a second time by Reagan to provide the emotional charge around which to fashion a new popular consensus in favor of U.S. militarist intervention in "uncivilized places" abroad.

Unless this blatant distortion and manipulation of the hostage issue is exposed and rejected by the people of the U.S., we would again have been victimized by the likes of Reagan, Rockefeller, and Kissinger into supporting policies which run directly against our own best interest. While they need war, violence, and aggression to keep the people of Iran, El Salvador, Korea, and the Philippines within their exploitative grip, we need peace, friendship, justice, and liberation for all exploited people in the U.S. and throughout the world.

For U.S. Filipinos, it would be particularly tragic if this hysteria manages to pave the way for more direct U.S. military intervention in the Philippines on behalf of the pro-U.S. Marcos dictatorship. We must not allow the heavy-handed appeals to racism, national chauvinism and militarism to make us forget our real interests and fall into the trap neatly laid for us by the original perpetrators of the hostage crisis. □

## TOPIC: FOREIGN POLICY



"Believe me, gentlemen! Heavenly guidance has shown me the only way: "Speak suavely, and carry a big stick!"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## "For You, A Poem"

Congratulations to you—one and all. My admiration and respect go to you all who continue to fight for life and freedom—especially through the printing of the AK. Thanks for putting me on your list of readers. I hope to contribute to your financial needs someday. Meanwhile, I am sending this poem for freedom, love of country and hope. Manigong bagong taon!

Natty G. Baranda  
Xenia, OH

*(Space problems prevent us from printing Natty's poem. But we intend to publish a yearly literary folio featuring the works of socially and politically concerned overseas Filipino writers as soon as we can—Editor.)*

## Self-Deceiving

While on vacation back home I saw Pres. Marcos on TV a lot. It strikes me that he seems to believe in his own propaganda. For example, he seems to believe that he really has popular support. He seems to believe that he really improved the economy despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Rumors say he is sick but they don't say he's crazy. What's the story?

Manny Banlao  
Framingham MA

## Our Sub Story

I bought a subscription for me and two more for my friends but none of them have arrived. This is a common complaint about the AK. It is a good newspaper but it has to get to us, your readers.

S. R. Inacay  
Forest Hills, NY

*(We are sorry for the inconvenience. We are already correcting the irritating kinks in our distribution system—Editor.)*

## We Are Not Scabs!

I thought I'd never see the day when Pinoys joined a strike picket line. So, more power to the Blue Shield *kabayans*. Not all Pinoys are scabs and also we should stop thinking that unions just mean trouble and extra payment. If we do not want to get kicked around we better set our minds straight.

Cip Gomez  
San Francisco, CA

"Did You Do  
Your Homework?"

President Marcos said he is lifting martial law to insure a smooth transition from a dictatorial to a parlia-

mentary government by 1984. In retrospect, this is what Aquino has been advocating in his talks. Marcos said he is doing his "homework" for the Filipino people. Aquino said he is moving to Boston to do his "homework," too. Once before, the Spaniards did their "homework" and we ended up as their peons. The Americans did their "homework" too and we are suffering from their economic exploitation until now. For once, let the people do their homework. For the last time let them fashion their own destiny.

Paul Sapuriada  
San Diego, CA

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Political Prisoners:

### Bicol Detainees Also on Hunger Strike



Political prisoners in a provincial jail: Legaspi action brings partial success.

Belated reports from the Philippines reveal that political prisoners in Bicutan were not the only detainees participating in a hunger strike.

Political prisoners in a Bicol jail won partial victory last December three days after starting a hunger strike.

All 11 political prisoners at the 5th PC/INP Detention Center in Legaspi City were protesting the unjust and inhuman detention, and the repressive conditions in camp.

Triggered by an order limiting visiting days to Saturday for only 30 minutes, the fast was launched December 10 with a noise barrage and a barricade set up by the striking detainees.

The detainees had earlier submitted a list of demands to Carmelo Barbero, Deputy Minister of Detainee Affairs. It called for:

- the release of those detained illegally;
- facilitation in the budgeting of food allowances;
- participation in budgeting of food allowances;
- daily and conjugal visits;
- the removal of abusive military personnel.

#### Wives, Relatives Intimidated

A pre-strike negotiation with the camp's Regional Commander had to be called off by wives and relatives of the strikers when a

detainee was called in for interrogation.

Negotiation with the military three days later, however, resulted in the granting of some demands: two mothers were released; daily and conjugal visits were allowed, prisoners' participation in the budgeting of meal allowances, and more beds will be provided.

The victorious prisoners then stopped their noise barrage and removed their barricades. Although some of their demands were granted, the prisoners still fear possible reprisals from their custodians. They however remain determined to continue their struggle until their demands are met. □

## RP Narrowly Misses Oil Crisis

Philippine dependence on Middle Eastern oil meant some slick diplomatic maneuvering last December after an embargo was imposed by two major suppliers.

The Philippines currently imports 200,000 barrels of oil daily, 30% from Saudi Arabia and 15% from Iraq. Conflicts with these two countries last November caused a halt in imports from Saudi Arabia and a threatened stop to exports from Iraq.

#### Anger Over Muslim Question

Saudi Arabia stopped shipment apparently over the Marcos regime's handling of Muslim secessionists. The Saudis once before halted oil shipments over the same question in 1974.

Tension between the two countries was further aggravated this time by what the Saudis insisted was a "smear campaign" in the Philippine press exposing Saudi treatment of Filipino domestic workers.

To clear misgivings, Imelda Marcos, Philippine ambassador-at-large, met with Saudi dignitaries in New York early last December. (See related story this page.) Convincing them of the government's sincere concern and plans for solving the economic and social plight of Filipino Muslims, she was assured of at least 10,000 barrels of Saudi Arabian oil daily.

#### Workers Evacuated From Iraq

Iraqi officials had meanwhile expressed their displeasure over



Sheikh Yamani, Saudi oil minister and recent recipient of award from Ferdinand Marcos. (Asiaweek)

the evacuation of 1,500 Filipino workers from that war-torn country. The evacuation had been ordered by the Philippine Ministry of Labor to protect the workers' lives.

Urgent negotiations with Iraqi Foreign Minister Saadun Hammadi, however, resulted in the promise of resumed oil exports in exchange for the redeployment of Filipino workers displaced by the war.

Filipino contractors and subcontractors had already voiced concern over Iraqi threats against "foreign companies working in Iraq that reduced their activities or violated their contracts by exploiting the state of war."

Eight Filipino construction firms holding \$150 million in Iraqi contracts suspended work and

brought home their workers when the Iran-Iraq conflict started. Contractors said that their guarantees, advance payments and performance bonds may be confiscated by their principals or the Iraq government if they do not meet their contract commitments.

#### Workers—Source of Foreign Exchange

At stake too is a conservatively estimated \$1.5 million monthly in foreign exchange remittances coming from the workers themselves. Workers sent abroad on such contracts under agreement to send home roughly 75 percent of their earnings. Wages range from \$250 monthly for unskilled labor to \$750 for skilled labor.

Middle East contracts have been a major source of Philippine revenue and are now a major project of the Ministry of Labor. Iraq has budgeted \$400 million of its \$1.4 billion budget for development projects to Philippine subcontractors.

#### No Guarantees

Hammadi refused to guarantee the safety of the Filipino workers because "we are in a state of war."

Philippine Labor Minister Blas Ople last December issued a set of firmer guidelines designed to protect the workers. But Filipinos leaving work in Iraq must still sign an agreement saying they are going abroad of their own volition and that abandoning work—war or no war—is a cause for termination and blacklisting. □

## IN THE TRUE NIXON TRADITION:

### NIXON CHEATS AT TINIKLING

Reports from New York reveal that the apex of First Lady Imelda Marcos' recent U.S. visit was a glittering party she hosted at the Waldorf Towers in that city.

Gracing the evening's event were old chum Van Cliburn, Mrs. Douglas MacArthur, and ex-President Richard Nixon. Highlights of the evening, according to social columnists, included Imelda warbling "Dahil sa Iyo" and piano performances by the latest duo, Cliburn and Nixon.

But the *piece de resistance* was provided by Nixon when he joined a group of Filipino folk dancers performing the Tinikling. "He was very sprightly," claimed one observer. "He appears to have gotten over his phlebitis." Reports reveal, however, that for all the former president's verve, he avoided injury from the clapping bamboos by cheating. He danced outside the bamboo poles the entire time.

Nixon's folk dancing debut remains recorded for posterity. Mrs. Marcos, mindless of the ex-President's Watergate wounds, taped the entire evening.

Mrs. Marcos followed her Waldorf bash with a trip to Morocco where she was wined and dined by King Hassan in appropriate company—with the self-proclaimed king of Iran, Reza Shah II, son of the late and well-hated Shah. □

## POPULATION SHIFTS NORTHWARD

Recently released data from the 1980 Philippine census reveals a record level of northward migration from the country's outlying provinces to the island of Luzon and Manila in particular.

While the population has, through recent history been unevenly distributed, with greater density in Luzon, 1980 figures show a marked acceleration in the northward shift. Of 47.9 million Filipinos, 54.5 percent now live in Luzon while 5.9 million of these, a full 12 percent live in Manila.

The biggest drain on population comes, not surprisingly, from Mindanao and the eastern Visayas. Here a growth rate of 1.59% annually represents little more than half of the national rate of 2.64%.

Observers of the Philippines express little surprise at the statistics. The economic decline of the country, rapidly accelerating rapidly in the last few years, has hit residents of the countryside particularly hard.

More and more peasants have been driven off their lands in Mindanao by multinational agribusiness. Both Mindanao and the eastern Visayas represent two of the most economically depressed areas of the country. They are also areas which have demonstrated some of the strongest popular support for the Moro National Liberation Front and the New People's Army. □

## MARCOS BACKS R.P. MR. UNIVERSE CONTEST

Belated reports from the Philippines reveal that yet another Marcosian extravaganza has been planned and, by now, no doubt staged in the true New Society tradition.

"This will certainly generate a lot of goodwill from body-builders around the world," commented Col. Levy Macasiano, chairman of the Bodybuilding Association of the Philippines last October. The colonel was referring to a newly-signed presidential decree backing major fundraising campaign to back the Mr. Universe contest planned for Manila the following month.

Under Proclamation No. 2023, President Ferdinand Marcos enjoined the public to support a six-month fund drive for the extravaganza citing the worldwide publicity to be gained for the country through the effort.

In 1974, the Marcos regime sponsored the Miss Universe pageant, a highly expensive event for which the Philippine Folk Arts Theatre was constructed in record time. □

## CPP Modernizes Pilipino

*Ang Bayan*, official publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) recently announced the implementation of proposed changes in the use and spelling of Pilipino words and terms.

In line with the CPP's policy of developing a "national language that would serve as a firm bond among the masses of people," the changes include:

- Simplification of Pilipino: words used daily by the greater number of people in the country will replace the "profound" words in classical Tagalog literature.

- Spelling based on the rule "spell as pronounced" particularly words derived from foreign languages.

According to the CPP, new political ideas currently changing the thinking and activities of Filipinos are frequently conveyed in Pilipino. As the national language, Pilipino "should mirror the very life and struggle of the greatest number of Filipinos—Tagalog, Ilokanos, Sebuanos, Waray, Ilonggos, and other." The use of the language of the masses—a language that is "concrete, colorful, and lively"—encourages this rapid and powerful flow of new ideas.

While using Tagalog as the fundamental source of the Pilipino vocabulary, exact words originating from a particular region will be popularized. Foreign words will be incorporated if there is no equivalent from the Philippines' dialects and languages.

"Pilipino is now accepted and used as the language of the broad masses of people, as the bearer of national identity. Its development is an inseparable part of the general revolutionary struggle. It is to the interest of the revolution and the people to advance, enrich and enliven that language which is truly ours," the CPP explained. □

# The Real Alternative: National Democracy

SIXTH IN A SERIES

"Who should replace Marcos?" This question is beginning to weigh heavily on people's minds as more and more of them come to realization that the Marcos regime has to be overthrown.

Among opposition forces, some propose what is essentially a reform version of the pre-martial law social and government order. This proposal is loosely referred to by its proponents either as "liberal democracy" or "democratic socialism."

Though bankrupt in its analysis and logic, "liberal democracy" has some credibility due mainly to the "big names" of the political leaders who propose it. The forces behind the recent bombings are also identified with this proposal.

On the other hand, the National Democratic Program stands in opposition to both Marcos and to a return to the pre-martial law social and political order. Ang Katipunan will explain the Ten-Point Program of the National Democratic Front, an alternative that has already become a living force in the Philippines today.

—Editor

## Point 6. Improve the people's livelihood, guarantee the right to work and protect national capital against foreign monopoly capital.

Fear of possible unrest as reaction to already dismal living conditions for the vast majority of Filipino people played a large part in the timing of Dictator Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial law. Since September 1972, those conditions have sharply declined.

The few puny hikes in the minimum wage since 1972 have done nothing to stem an acce-

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## "Lutong Macoy" . . .

Law, Support the Filipino People's Struggle for Genuine Democracy!" demonstrators from AMLA chapters of Seattle, San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C. set up picketlines in front of Philippine Consulates two days after Marcos made his formal announcement.

"Despite the short time for preparation, our picket was very militant," stated Jing Santa Maria from the New York AMLA. "It really showed the strength of our organization."

## "Lifting"—A Farce

"It is not called martial law anymore, but it is still Marcos law," exclaimed Cruz. "Unless freedom of press is returned, unless freedom of assembly and political association is restored, unless free speech is guaranteed, unless the right of workers to strike is recognized—there will be no democracy. Marcos is still dictator. Unless Marcos' political and military machine is dismantled, the Philippines will still be under a fascist dictatorship."

In Seattle, local AMLA spokesperson Leni Marin explained why Marcos was "forced to lift martial law."

"He has taken this action to coincide with the Reagan inauguration in hopes of attracting open endorsement from the new administration, and to impress Pope John Paul II who is scheduled to visit the Philippines in February."

## Demo Highlights

In Honolulu, the Committee for Human Rights in the Philip-

lated decline in real wages. Today's peso buys only 34% of what the peso bought in 1972. The worker in 1979 earned little over half of what he or she earned in 1972 in terms of actual buying power.

Conditions for the peasantry have similarly deteriorated. Prices of their products have been held down while commodities soar. Phoney land reform has bound many to yearly payments they cannot afford, the end result of which is loss of their land altogether. Government emphasis in the use of pesticides, fertilizers and highly-priced hybrid seeds has made crop-growing more expensive than ever.

## Local Capital Suffers

While more and more peasants have flocked to the cities to join the ranks of the urban poor, pressure on this very group has sharply increased. Programs, under various deodorized titles—ZIP (Zonal Improvement Program), BLISS (Bagong Lipunan Integrated Sites and Services), etc.—have meant relocation to places far from work with few materials for rebuilding homes.

National minorities have felt similar pressures. Attempts to exploit natural resources on their traditional lands or to force them into counter-insurgency units has meant uprooting them from both land and culture and herding them onto reservations.

Local capitalists have suffered as well. As the New Society has thrown open its doors wider than ever to foreign capital, they have had to compete under increasingly unfavorable terms with Filipino

compradors representing foreign — particularly American — interests. Loans, even those from local banks, and credits have been sucked up by giant multinationals leaving less and less to local capitalists. Each major loan from U.S.-dominated banks to the Philippine government has brought with it more unfavorable terms, eliminating tariffs and the few barriers which remain to protect local capital.

While workers, peasants, urban poor, minorities, professionals, and local capitalists have suffered in various ways from in-

strength to stem the tide of turmoil and rediscover their solidarity."

**Paper Lifting**  
While U.S. Ambassador Richard Murphy called the move "an important step in the right direction" and Jaime Cardinal Sin, head of the Philippine church, described it as "beneficial," reaction among Filipinos ranged from cynical disinterest to anger.

The United Democratic Opposition (UNIDO), a loose grouping of former politicians opposed to the regime, denounced it as a "paper lifting."  
"Only two of the more visible and repulsive symbols of martial law will be phased out: the military tribunals and the army detention centers," claimed UNIDO in its prepared statement. "Everything else will be what it has been during eight years of mar-

## Marcos Loses Propaganda Battle

In terms of publicity, the nationwide demonstration grabbed the U.S. media's attention far more than what Marcos got.

Practically all the demonstrations received TV and press coverage; quoting prominent AMLA organizers. At best, San Francisco *Chronicle* printed a picture showing a tearful Imelda captioned "Emotional Moment."

The positive media coverage favoring the AMLC's well-coordinated demonstration was attri-



Scavengers scrounge for food at Constitution Hill: Number of urban poor grows as quality of life declines. (Dorothy Friesan)

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## Compradors, Multinationals Flourish

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## Marcos Compares Self to Roosevelt . . .

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buted to the systematic media campaign launched by the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN). The PSN distributed an Editors Advisory to all major press institutions, which detailed pertinent facts related to the lifting of martial law issue.

"The result was impressive," commented Cruz, "considering we were jockeying for the media's attention in the midst of the release of American hostages in Iran, and Reagan's inauguration."

Elated by the demonstration's success, Arturo Polintan, in his late 50s and who arrived in Seattle only three months ago, remarked: "Malaking tulong ito sa ating mga kababayan sa Pilipinas!" (This is a big boost to our countrymen back home.) □

tensified oppression, an increasingly small slice of comprador capitalists and giant multinationals continues to flourish. The decline in real wages has meant a boost in profits.

Foreign monopoly capital has benefitted from the displacement of the peasantry. It has provided an ever-widening pool of under- and unemployed, eager for any job. Multinationals thus can keep wages down and continue operations under the most exploitative of conditions. This potential increase in exploitation and profit-making capacity for foreign monopoly capital constitutes yet another key reason for Marcos' martial law declaration.



Marcos: Changing the label but not the goods. (Asiaweek)

tial law: no free press, no free speech, no peaceful assembly, no independent legislative body, and no rule of law.

"On the other hand, the tremendous concentration of power in one man will remain."

## Detainees Denounce Move

Political prisoners issued a statement early in January asserting their position both on political detention and on national unity and reconciliation, the stated goal of Marcos' move.

The detainees denounced the regime's decision to single out prominent political prisoners such as Jose Ma. Sison, Bernabe Buscayno, Victor Corpus, and Saturnino Ocampo, described as "viciously militant," for indefinite detention.

The prisoners demanded dismantling of "all authoritarian restrictions barring the full exercise of [democratic] rights." They added that genuine national unity and reconciliation "is based on the common determination to assert our national independence and oppose imperialist domination of our national life."

Reaction of the international press to the well-publicized event was lukewarm at best. The *New York Times*, Reuters, the

## Only Solution: A Planned Economy

The National Democratic Front sees but one solution to the problem of insuring the Filipino people's livelihood: a planned economy. Only through centralized planning in a national democratic state can the needs of all classes in Philippine society be met.

Needed products must be manufactured. Housing must be built. Food crops must be produced in sufficient quantity and purchased by the state at prices which will guarantee the peasantry's well-being.

## Genuine National Development

Under an economy geared toward people's needs, work for every member of society becomes not only a right but a necessity. The more raw materials and commodities produced, the more becomes available for genuine national development.

Within the context of a planned economy, the initiative of local capital is essential. Yet local capital, if it is to participate in national development, must be sheltered from the uneven competition of foreign monopoly capital. Credits and loans must be made available to nurture ventures in projects which will benefit the entire Filipino population.

Genuine development which will insure the livelihood of the entire Filipino people, says the National Democratic Front, will only occur through the combined efforts of all classes today oppressed by U.S. imperialism. □

Associated Press, United Press International and the *San Francisco Examiner* were careful to emphasize those features of martial law which would remain unchanged despite the so-called "lifting."

The *New York Times* pointed out that the gesture was aimed principally at the incoming Reagan administration in hopes of still warmer relations with the U.S. than under the Carter regime.

Its front-page story revealed that Reagan made an exception to his rule of refusing to meet with foreign leaders prior to the inauguration in order to meet with Imelda during her recent U.S. visit.

The *Times* and other publications linked the timing with the pending visit of Pope John Paul II.

While it is yet too early to judge the reaction of the new U.S. administration, in the Philippines few seemed to be fooled.

As for the U.S. media, its response was best captured in a comment quoted by the *LA Times's* Keyes Beech: "By getting rid of it [the term 'martial law'], Marcos gets rid of the stigma and right now he needs all the help he can get." □



## FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

# "English Only" Rule Angers L.A. Pinoys

**Special to the Ang Katipunan Los Angeles**—Angered by threats of termination unless immigrant medical workers abide by a stringent 'Speak English Only' rule, some 50 Filipino employees at the Queen of Angels Hospital denounced the hospital administration policy as "intimidating and discriminatory."

"If you can't abide by the rule," stated Klint Thompson, the hospital's Director of Nursing at a staff meeting, "then you can hand in your resignation today."

The 'English Only' policy was enforced due to alleged complaints from patients, who reprimanded nurses for speaking in a foreign language. Imelda Caratao, one of the Filipino staff nurses, remarked that Thompson strongly implied their incompetence when he commented that "nurses trained in America, Canada and England were not trained to abuse patients."

The racist overtones attached to the policy sparked Filipino workers to confront John Gardner, the hospital's Executive Director, by presenting a "letter of concern" signed by 50 Filipino employees. The letter demanded why Filipinos were singled out



Filipino medical employees of Queen of Angels and suppression of their rights embodied in an Hospital in Los Angeles fight the discrimination "English Only" policy of the administration. (AK)

for speaking in a foreign language, and challenged the policy's constitutionality.

"This policy is absurd," commented Maribel Salomon, a Filipino nurse, "especially in this hospital where 76 per cent of their employees come from 15 different countries." Salomon added that "50 per cent of these foreign workers are Filipinos,

many of whom staff the intensive care units."

Rose Sommers, one of the Filipino night shift workers, remarked that "one cannot avoid speaking in one's language, especially given the physical set up of the units, which often isolates Filipino nurses with each other."

"The administration," continued Sommers, "is placing the foreign

nurses in a Catch-22 situation. One either adheres to the English only policy, resign or be terminated."

Gardner stated that the problem was not the language issue. "the real issue," he said, "is communication—the attitude, intention and spirit with which people communicate with each other."

Many nurses remained skeptical. Sommers explained that "there seems to be an attitude against having too many foreign nurses in the hospital. The problem definitely started way back before this issue." Some Filipino nurses intimated that "certain people in the administrative staff of nursing did not trust the professional qualifications of Filipino nurses."

Salomon further asserted that Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) 1980 guidelines on "English Only workplace requirements" specifies that such a rule is justified by business necessity such as safety factors or supervisory needs only. The EEOC for the most part, reminds employers of their affirmative duty to maintain a working environment "free from harassment based on national origin, which precludes the use of one's native language."

For the Filipino nurses at the Queen of Angels Hospital, this is just a beginning. 'English only' policies are viewed by many nurses as a precedent for more oppressive and racist measures, directed particularly against foreign trained personnel. □

### COMMENTARY

## Immigrant Rights Issue

# Blaming the Victims Won't Solve Problems

By **BILL TAMAYO**  
National Coordinator  
National Filipino Immigrant Rights  
Organization

Alex Esclamado, in a major speech at the Asian Pacific Immigration Conference set out to tackle the formidable task of analyzing our community and setting out our tasks in addressing the problems of the recently arrived immigrants. Unfortunately on both counts Esclamado gave a one-sided and inadequate presentation on a very complex and urgent problem.

Filipino immigration patterns have changed significantly over the past decade, and Esclamado needs to brush up on the present problem. No longer do professionals constitute the majority of Filipino immigrants, as Esclamado would have us believe. Indeed, many of the recent arrivals come as unskilled or semi-skilled workers, and not as professionals which characterized immigration from 1965—1975. We have before us, therefore, a whole new set of problems which confront us.

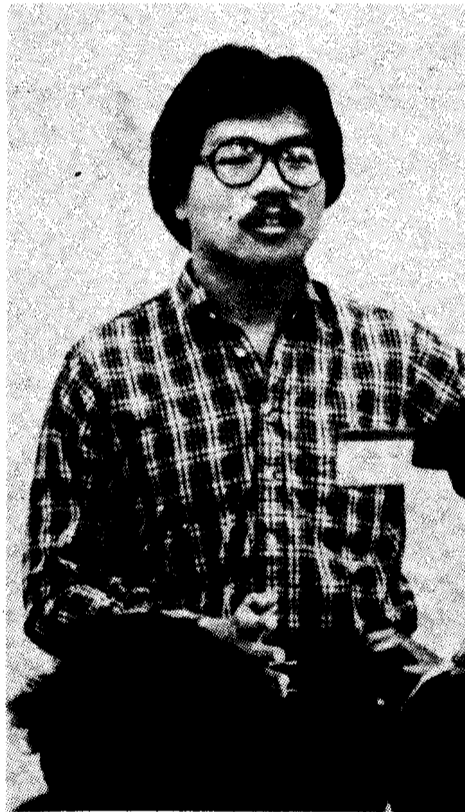
What is the cause for some 50,000 Filipinos arriving here every year? Here, Esclamado blames the martial law regime, noting the worsening conditions for the massive exodus from the Philippines. One could hardly take exception with this view, but there is a need to go one step further and place the blame on the major economic overseer which perpetuates the sorry state of affairs in the Philippines—the United States.

After all, Filipino immigration actually escalated prior to martial law. This can only be explained by the historic economic subjugation of the Philippines by the United States, where superprofits of 500 per cent are extracted while poverty and squalor are forced on the Filipino masses. Immigration has been the desperate solution born out of a desperate situation.

### Blaming the victim

If one refuses to see the role of the U.S. in creating the immigration problem, then one can get into the uncomfortable position of blaming the victim for the crime.

The Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), for example, has been a source of fear and intimidation for many immigrants and Esclamado criticized the INS for harassing many individuals. Yet



Bill Tamayo of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization.

the problem, in Esclamado's view, is that many immigrants have provoked the situation by using devious means to stay in the U.S. Alleged fake documents, convenient marriages to U.S. citizens, violating visa requirements have all contributed to this "provocation" of the INS.

It should be clear that the INS needs no provocation when it decides to clamp down on a particular group of foreign nationals. Reflecting the often arbitrary whims of the existing political and economic climate, the INS often "looks the other way" when there is a need for a particular form of labor. Just as quickly, repression is often evoked to curtail the influx of foreign workers deemed unnecessary. What remains constant is the vast multitude of economic refugees from underdeveloped countries who are ever striving, by any means necessary, to escape a life of poverty and misery.

These refugees often resort to "illegal" means to remain in the U.S.—and who blame them? Their "illegality" must be placed within the larger "crime" of U.S. domination of the Philippines.

### Defend—or Castigate— Undocumented Workers

What stand should the community take towards those immigrants who arrive without legal status? Esclamado stated his views clearly in an Oct. 27 *Philippine News* editorial, aptly entitled "Filipino 'Illegals' Smear Our Image:"

"For the U.S. immigration authorities, the influx of undocumented Filipinos adds up to their monumental headache brought about by the bloating number of illegal aliens in this country.

"For the Filipino community, Filipinos who come here by jumping the fence are a cause for embarrassment and are indelible blotches to the good image of its members..."

By dividing the community into those who are legal and those who are "illegal," between those that have visas and those that are undocumented, there is the serious danger of falling into that age-old trap of "divide and conquer." Instead of seeing undocumented workers as a "disgrace to the community," advocates for immigrant rights must take the position that these workers are a part of the community that have basic human rights that must be defended.

At no time did Esclamado present such a call. Yet the present day reality is that increasing numbers of Filipino immigrants will join the ranks of the undocumented workers, becoming the lowest paid and highest abused laborers in this country. Without any political rights, the undocumented workers are prey to an economic system hungry for cheap and unorganized labor.

It would be a serious mistake to ignore this sizable and growing sector of our community. True, they are stigmatized as "illegals," and do not carry the status of being "respectable" and "legal" resident professionals. Yet their concerns are no less important, unless one gauges importance solely by how much political and economic power a sector of the community commands.

### Who's behind the attacks?

Taking note of the growing "anti-alien" trend, Esclamado placed principal blame on the conservative, Republican forces in Congress and in the new Reagan administration. Yet he failed to note the accountability of the Democratic Carter

administration, under which the plight of the H-1 nurses deportation arose and which saw some 400 elderly Filipinos harassed by the INS under the SSI Exclusion tactic. Under Carter, such harassment and abuse of individuals became more heightened and widespread.

It should be evident that both political parties reflect the underlying economic problems of U.S. society. As the U.S. economy enters periods of crisis, the foreign born are easy targets to scapegoat. What becomes the urgent task for advocates of immigrant rights is maintaining this overall perspective and placing our future tasks in this new and changing context.

To hope that a Democratic Party in power would be less anti-alien has already been exposed as shortsighted, since their track record on this issue has already been established. Instead of relying solely on electoral politics, we must understand that only a united community—immigrant and citizen, professional and unskilled, the 'legal' and the undocumented—can weather the upcoming assaults on our people.

The community is not as simple as the one-sided analysis of Mr. Esclamado would have us believe. At the National Conference of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization it was agreed by the delegates that undocumented workers are a growing part of our community and like all other sectors, must be defended against discrimination and employer abuses. Furthermore, it was agreed that issues of bilingual education, the defense of H-1 nurses against discriminatory licensure and deportation, and the education of the community about immigrant rights were the pressing issues of the time.

Failing to examine the changing character of our community and the need to defend all sectors of our community could steer our community's organizing efforts in the wrong direction. The battle to defend immigrant rights mandates that activists not take such a narrow view on our community as Mr. Esclamado's analysis would have us do. To fail to see the broader problems of our community is to render immigrant rights organizing to the role of merely taking on issues of "respectable, legal" residents and professionals when our community is much more than that. □

## Blue Shield Clerical Workers:

## Frustration on a Daily Basis

By Jessica Ordon  
San Francisco  
Correspondent

Mrs. Santos, a medical practitioner by profession, was employed by the Blue Shield Insurance Company ten years ago. She was ushered in along with many other Filipinos with backgrounds in medical training.

Lured by the company's promises of upward promotions, rewards for hard work and an attractive business environment, Mrs. Santos took the opportunity to make it in America.

Every workday she arrived early at 6:30 am, and took her place in front of a cathode ray terminal (CRT) and two microfilm machines that she used to process claims.

Her day was synchronized with the automated work. She moved quickly to finish fifty claims an hour. The expensive computer EDS system introduced two years ago brought on more complications in processing that actually slowed her down.

She fought the machinery to speed up so she would make her quota of 350 claims per day. She received no relief from the glare of the machine's display screen. The strain on her eyes and exposure to the computer's radiation was a considerable worry. The poorly adjusted chairs which were not changed to fit the new equipment did not help her back as she stretched to reach the key board of her terminal.

Sitting near Mrs. Santos, right down the line on both sides were Filipinos. They scanned their



As the strike progresses, Blue Shield workers firmly resolve to have their demands met. (AK)

screens in fast repetition and stopped only to exchange opinions on a claim.

Martha, a pediatrician in the Philippines, Anita, a medical technologist, Annie, a nurse, Carmelita, an x-ray technician, all developed skills in handling special claims because of their knowledge and medical training. In fact, many in her unit of 50 became proficient on different types of claims.

In the course of a day, she would be asked by five or six of her co-workers to help solve a complicated claim. Even supervisors called her for advice.

Many times, she wanted to refuse. Many times she wanted to say that she was being taken for granted. She was not getting paid to do the work of others. It

was difficult enough that she had to meet her own quota. But after a few attempts to argue, her rebellion was suppressed with heavy frowns from management. She was chided for being "uncooperative" and "insubordinate."

Begrudgingly, she fell back in line and took up the demands of the work. She knew she was not the only one who had to bow to the company's authority.

All Filipinos were pressured to keep their jobs. Few Filipinos had a chance to work in their field of training. Obtaining a license to practice forced them to practically repeat their entire training.

She told herself that she was putting her skills to use. But she knew that she was not benefitting.

One the one hand, she was nothing more than an overworked claims processor. On the other hand, she was an integral part of the company's skilled workforce, but unappreciated by the company.

Now, on strike, the conflict has finally opened up. The union has raised the issues of workers wages to keep up with the cost of living, to correct the production standards and institute health and safety precautions.

Mrs. Santos is on strike for the same demands that affect all the workers. The discrepancies fostered among the workers roles and responsibilities are bred into the work relations by existing inequalities.

The particular oppression of her kind is a struggle that will

only be resolved in the long term effort to end the divisions in the working class, divisions based on race, sex, and nationality.

Mrs. Santos is satisfied to be on strike demanding the company recognize the organized strength of its workforce. So when she chants "Shut it Down!" the warning to the company is echoed by eleven hundred workers and alerting the 200,000 more unorganized clerical workers in San Francisco that changes are long overdue.

#### Afternote:

Filipino professionals have been immigrating to the U.S. since 1965. Well over 200,000 entered under the third preference category. Their training and skills have brought them into a position where they are currently a part of the American work force that daily competes for jobs.

In San Francisco, the center of business and finance, thousands of Filipinos have been drawn into employment in banks, corporate offices, insurance companies, in state and government agencies.

San Francisco businesses have made use of Filipino abilities. Management has especially profited from such a highly skilled workforce by bringing them in at the lower rungs of the pay scale, and keeping them there.

Filipino strikers against Blue Shield, as members of the Office and Professional Employees Union local 3, are entering their eighth week of struggle. The strikers are holding firm in their demands for a decent contract. ■

## Kauai Residents Fight to Keep Farmlands

Helen Toribio  
Hawaii Correspondent

**Nukoli'i, Kauai, HA** —Big names in Hawaii's political, corporate and union circles are being challenged by Kauai residents in a land struggle that will determine whether Nukoli'i will become another resort or remain an untouched beach site.

International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union (ILWU) international representative Eddie Tangen, former AMFAC executive C.E. Stoner, and Kauai Mayor Eduardo Malapit are believed to be among the members of an unknown "hui" (club or organization), that is behind the controversial Nukoli'i resort development plan. Kauai resident feared it will create a massive "commercial atmosphere" similar to other tourist spots in Hawaii.

On November 14, 1980, Kauai residents voted in a referendum to stop the construction of a new hotel and condominium in Nukoli'i and to rezone the land back to agricultural land. Election results were 10,794 against the construction and 5,618 for.

The Kauai County Charter on referendums says, "If a majority of the voters are voting upon a referendum ordinance (Nukoli'i development in this case), shall vote against it, the ordinance involved shall be considered repealed (illegal) upon certification of the election results."

#### Referendum Betrayed

Despite its defeat, construction went ahead after the elections and continued even after election results were certified on November 25.

Mayor Eduardo Malapit, a second generation Filipino-



Protestor carried away by policeman during a demonstration against resort construction in Nukoli'i.

American who recently won his fourth term as county mayor under the slogan, "Voice of the People," received heavy public criticism for not enforcing the referendum law and allowing the construction to go on. He and other county officials stated that the decision is now up to the district court.

Mayor Malapit fears that the county may be liable for damages worth millions of dollars in taxpayer's money if the construction permit is revoked and the construction is stopped.

The construction permit was granted to the developers on the day before the elections although both the county government and

the developers knew about the elections. Because the permit was given and the construction was started, the developers say they have "vested rights" on Nukoli'i.

The Save Nukoli'i Committee, a grassroots organization of Kauai residents leading this land struggle, is challenging the "vested rights" claim of Graham Beach Partners, Hasegawa Komuten (Tokyo), and Real Estate Finance Company, but was denied the right to examine the finance records of these developers by Circuit Judge Kei Hirano. The financial records were to help determine the dollar amount of the developer's "vested rights"

and challenge a possible liability against the county that would be worth "millions."

#### Agricultural Land Sold to Corporations

The controversial site is located on the eastern side of the island of Kauai. Although not as popular as Kauai's other beaches, Nukoli'i is a favorite spot of local fishermen.

In 1974, 60 acres of agricultural (sugar cane) land in Nukoli'i was sold by AMFAC, Hawaii's largest corporation, to the unknown hui for \$1.25 million. This land was re-zoned to urban land by the state Land Use Commission headed by Eddie Tangen

at the time.

Eight months later, the hui sold the land to Pacific Standard Life Insurance and a partner, Hasegawa Komuten, for \$5.25 million.

In 1979, the Kauai County Council, many of whom were ILWU endorsed, re-zoned 25 acres of Nukoli'i land to resort. In fear of another resort development that may lead to a replica of hotel-congested Waikiki, Kauai residents fought to have the resort development on a referendum ballot. Save Nukoli'i went on an island wide door-to-door campaign to gather enough signatures to put Nukoli'i on the referendum ballot.

#### More Protests To Come

Despite several protest actions and the successful election results, Kauai's residents failed to stop the resort development. While the court listens to both sides of the controversy, the construction continues.

Save Nukoli'i feels that the resort development must be stopped now in compliance with the referendum law. If the construction goes on to completion while the court weighs the legal evidence of both sides, the case could be dismissed. Save Nukoli'i would no longer have a case of stopping the construction once the hotel and condominium are completed.

Save Nukoli'i will be organizing more protest actions and gather statewide support to continue pressuring Mayor Malapit to pull out the construction permit and decisively halt the resort development. □



## DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## U.S. Aid Sparks Uproar . . .

Continued from page 1

ports refused to handle cargo bound for El Salvador. Numerous religious groups also protested the dispatching of U.S. advisors and tax monies to that strife-torn country.

The Catholic bishops of Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Wilmington decried U.S. support for a "repressive regime." The Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Arzube, along with 18 clergy, called on Washington to "cease military and economic aid to El Salvador, reassess our foreign policy, and encourage and sponsor respect for human dignity and self-determination."

**Popular Offensive Scores Impressive Gains**

The January 10 offensive by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) quickly scored impressive gains which rocked the Duarte government and threatened its downfall.

Seizing three radio stations in San Salvador, FMLN cadre broadcast appeals for a general insurrection against the military junta. The International Airport was attacked, and uprisings in some 55 towns were launched.

In Santa Ana, the country's second largest city, two leading army officers led a revolt of garrison soldiers and some 80 personnel joined the FMLN guerrillas. Similar army revolts occurred in other cities and FMLN guerrillas were able to seize San Francisco Gotera, the capital of eastern Morazan province.

In addition to their military



Filipino contingent at Berkeley demonstration of 4,000 supporting El Salvador revolutionaries. (AK)

offensive, the FMLN called for a general strike, paralyzing many sectors of the economy. On January 13, the general strike closed most major factories, halted transportation and closed farms. Even government employees, estimated at 20,000 strong, walked out of their jobs.

The Duarte government responded to the strikes with urgent radio appeals for workers to return to their jobs. Combined with these broadcasts was the

declaration of martial law, with a 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew imposed. Trying to downplay the popular offensive, the Duarte regime claimed the situation was "under control." Yet, the official death toll for the first few days of the offensive topped 500, with many more casualties expected.

**Diplomatic Offensive**

The FMLN, which combined the five major guerrilla armies in one command, was recently joined

by the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) which is comprised of the country's major progressive and democratic organizations. A joint commission of seven members was established to prepare for the formal establishment of a Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Heading the FDR is Guillermo Ungo Sante, Secretary General of the National Revolutionary Movement and a former member of the junta. Eduardo Calles, head

of the independence Movement of Professionals and Technicians (MIPTES) was named vice president of the FDR.

In a joint statement, Ungo and Calles noted that the military regime was "a coat of paint on a dilapidated building that was about to collapse." The new popular government, said Ungo would commit itself to a democratic, independent and non-aligned course. □

**Martin Luther King's Birthday:****Honored by Many But Ignored by U.S. Gov't**

By Walter Yonn  
Staff Writer

This Jan. 15, thousands marched in the bitter cold of Washington, D.C., acknowledging what would have been the 51st birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. King was murdered on April 4, 1968 in Memphis Tenn. The Washington marchers, along with several major unions and religious groups expressed the sentiments of millions when they called for a national holiday on King's birthday.

The fact that a man of King's stature is still not acknowledged by most states and the federal government by means of an official holiday is an indication of the racism that pervades U.S. society.

Martin Luther King, a well educated minister with the promise of a comfortable life, was first drawn into the struggle against segregation in 1957 on moral and religious beliefs. After his initial successes and international recognition culminating in his receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, King could have easily traded his prominence and the trust of his people for a government position or other material gains.

King chose the hard road. Through the 60's, he marched, braved arrest and imprisonment, faced blackmail efforts of the FBI until his untimely death at the hands of an assassin.

In the 60's, King came to understand that his people's struggle for equality and freedom would have to be part of a struggle for basic changes in the U.S. political and economic system. He also came to see

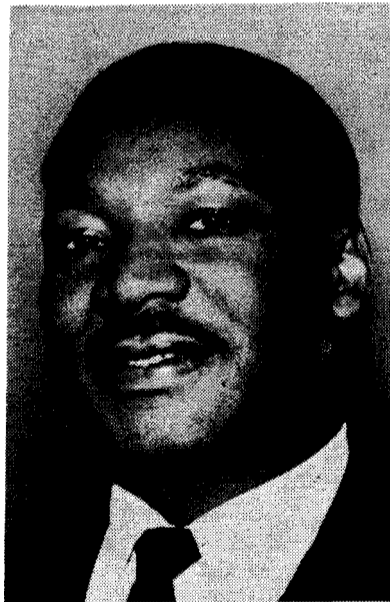
that U.S. foreign policy was an extension of the same system that oppressed black people at home. Many believe that it was when King's earlier indignation turned to a severe critique of the U.S. system as a whole that he was murdered.

In 1967 he began to speak actively against the Vietnam War. 1968 found him supporting striking sanitation workers in Memphis where he was gunned down.

January 15th is a state holiday in eight states, only one of these can be considered a "deep South" state, Louisiana. All of the southern states, including King's home state of Georgia, have a holiday for Robert E. Lee's birthday, the leading southern general in the U.S. Civil War. Most of these states also have holidays for "confederate soldiers memorial day," and several even have a third holiday for Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy.

For millions of black people in the very states in which King marched and spoke against segregation his birthday is not acknowledged. They must however participate in celebrating the birthdays of the southern military and political leaders that fought a war—in which millions died—for the preservation of slavery.

Despite the lack of official recognition, many in the black community treat January 15 as a holiday by staying home from work and keeping their children home from school. There has also been recent publicity due to popular singer Stevie Wonder's



Martin Luther King, Jr.  
January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968

recent album and his 25 city tour during which he urged the holiday be made official. Although more states may grant the day and many people nationwide may continue to observe it, it is unlikely that under the present political and racial realities in the U.S. it would ever become a national holiday. This is more an indictment of U.S. society than a reflection of King's national, and worldwide contributions.

**Excerpts from N.Y. Anti-War Speech 1967**

"...There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I, and

others, have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle, it seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor—both black and white—through the poverty programs. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings.

"Then came the build up in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would not invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demoniacal destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

"I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today—my own government.

"The only change came from America as we increased our troop commitments in support of governments which were singularly corrupt, inept and without popular support. All while the people read our leaflets and received regular promises of peace and democracy—and land reform. Now they languish under our bombs and consider us—not their fellow Vietnamese—the real enemy.

"Perhaps the more difficult but no less necessary task is to speak for those who have been

designated as our enemies. What of the National Liberation Front that stranglely anonymous group we call VC or Communist?...What must they think when they know that we are aware of their control of major sections of Vietnam and yet we appear ready to allow national elections in which this highly organized political parallel government will have not part. And they are surely right to wonder what kind of new government we plan to help form without them—the only party in real touch with the peasants.

"I am as deeply concerned about our own troops there as anything else. For it occurs to me that what we are submitting them to in Vietnam is not simply the brutalizing process that goes on in any war where armies face each other and seek to destroy. We are adding cynicism to the process of death, for they must know after a short period there that none of the things we claim to be fighting for are really involved. Before long they must know that their government has sent them to a struggle among Vietnamese, and the more sophisticated surely realize that we are on the side of the wealthy and the secure while we create a hell for the poor.

"I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world stands aghast at the path we have taken." ■

# Bitter Harvest from the Sea

## Adapted from SOLIDARIDAD II

Six thousand small fishermen living around the coastal areas of Cebu City are threatened by pollution, overfishing, and tourist development projects.

For the largest and most populated city in the Visayan region, the last few years saw a mushrooming of industrial firms and factories along the coastal areas, rivers and springs. These waterways, serving as channels to the sea, then become dumping site for industrial waste.

## Dead Fish and Shrimp

Fishermen and fish pond owners in towns along Cansaga Bay are most affected. Everytime molasses is disposed by the Asia Alcohol Corporation, dead fish and shrimp are soon found floating on the water's surface.

In Apao, a fisherman and town-leader spoke of how they have to go further into the sea to get a good catch. This meant higher gasoline costs, not to mention the danger they face in their small bancas. A nearby distillery, newly installed, has already caused a 60-hectare oyster pond to stop production.

The combined waste of a brewery plant, Cebu Royal Plant, and Cebu Glass Plant are directly discharged into the Cebu Channel through a sewer extending just nine meters off shore. Residents along the channel now complain of dark greasy or blackish waters encroaching their lands.

## Village Relocated

Aside from the pollution hazard, small fishermen are faced with other problems.

Residents of Changi were forced to leave town and stay in apartments in the mainland when their whole village was expropriated to give way for the construction of the new international airport. Beach development projects have also been slated for that town.

Towns along Magellan Bay are constantly threatened by large trawlers from nearby towns and foreign-owned companies. Destructive fishing methods such as dynamiting plus the rampant commercial collection of corals have destroyed the ecosystem, leaving nothing for the fishermen.

Also affected by these factors are 15,000 to 20,000 men, women and children whose main source of income is from catching edible shells, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, jellyfish, and seaweeds.

## Nationwide Problem

The case of the Cebu fishermen is not an isolated one. Hundreds of thousands of fishermen nationwide are affected by industrial pollution and Japanese and local corporate fishing operators.

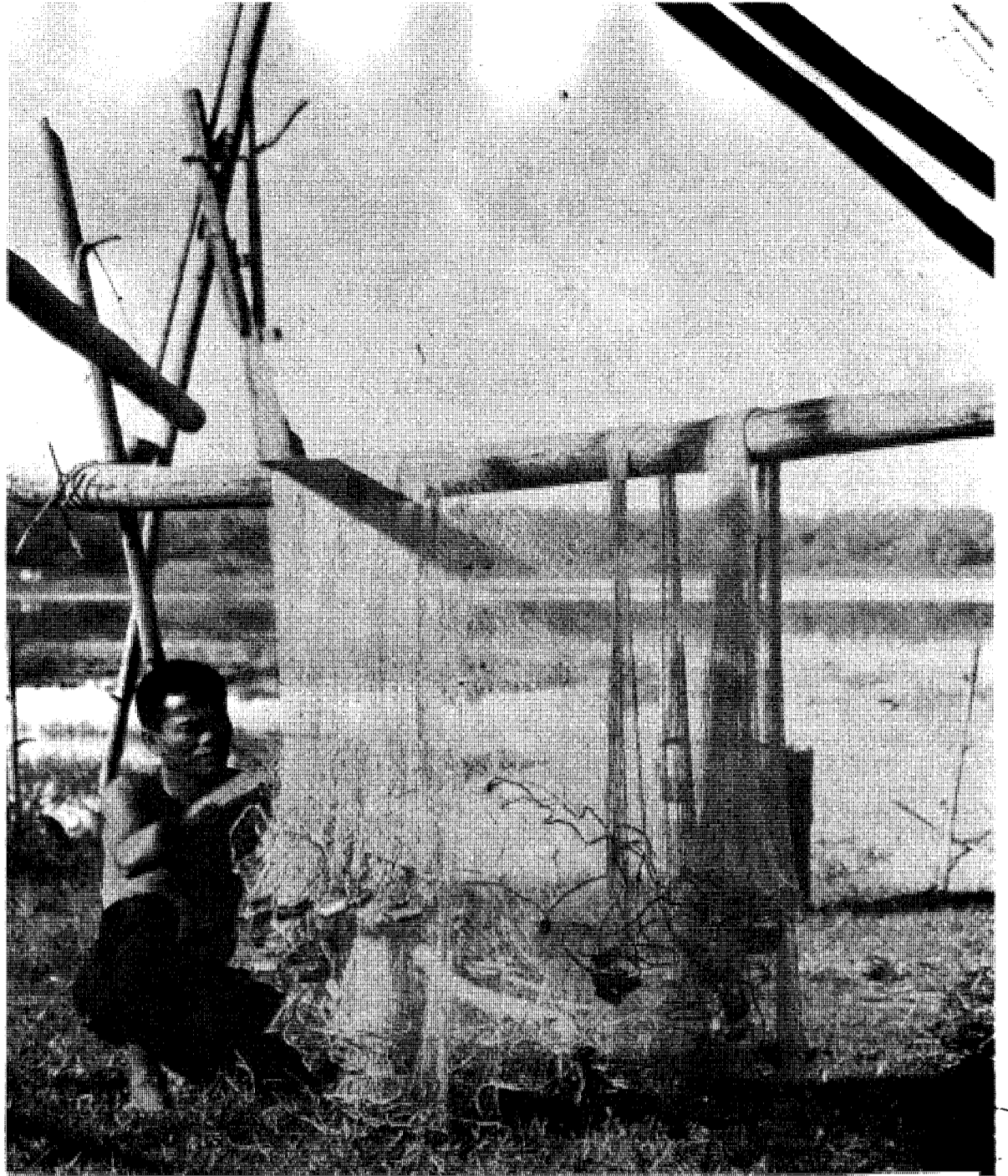
A report made by the University of the Philippines Marine Biological Society showed that Philippine commercial fishing grounds have been so exploited that productivity is declining. Similarly, the continuous depletion of shells and coral reefs is disrupting the aquatic ecosystem and causing beach erosion.

Dynamite fishing, officially banned and punishable by death, is still frequent. Poaching of corals in Philippine territorial waters currently undertaken by Japanese operators employs the destructive method of dredging, often on a hit and run basis.

Aquatic pollution is caused by 57% of over 600 firms surveyed by the National Pollution Control Commission as potential pollution contributors in 1978.

## Government-Endorsed

In 1973 the Philippine-Japan Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, which gave rise to massive Japanese investments sealed the fate of local fishermen. Moreover, PD No. 704 (Fisheries Decree of 1975) placed emphasis on production not for local consumption but for



Fishermen throughout Cebu find catch declining; problems—pollution, overfishing, destruction of coral reefs. (J.R. Sarmiento Photo)

export to "enable the fishery industry to contribute positively to the development and growth of the national economy." It also authorizes foreigners and foreign corporations to engage in fishing

in Philippine waters.

While technology has been seen as a major solution to underdeveloped economies, modernization and industrialization of commercial fishing in the Philip-

pines only served the further impoverishment and displacement of local fishing folk. The question of technology by whom and for whom has assumed greater relevance. □

# Thousands Mark Human Rights Day



Anti-government protests like this one in Cotabato are spreading all over. Thousands demonstrated in Samar and Manila on "Human Rights Day," December 10.

December 10, 1980 marked the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' 32nd year.

To commemorate this and its relevance to the present conditions in the Philippines, 1,500 people gathered in a protest

mass rally held at the Christ the King Church in Metro-Manila.

Carrying the theme "The Philippine Human Rights Movement—Towards Independence and Social Emancipation," the event brought together workers, farm-

ers, urban poor, students, religious, and professionals.

Representatives from the different sectors spoke of their present condition and the continuing struggle for their just demands:

- Workers for their right to

fair wages, to a genuine trade union and their right to strike;

- Peasant demand for genuine land reform;

- Urban poor need for decent living and housing;

- Student protest against high tuition fee increases and struggle for campus press freedom and genuine representation in student councils and organizations;

- Church workers and religious men and women to uphold people's rights and concerns;

- Professionals to unite themselves with the masses and demand better living conditions; and lastly,

- National minorities fight to defend their ancestral lands from government and foreign corporate expropriation and exploitation.

## "Right to be Free from Foreign Domination"

KASAMAKA (*Kalipunan ng mga Samahan Para sa Maka-taong Karapatan*—the Coalition of Organizations for Human Rights) issued a statement on the present condition of the human rights movement in the Philippines saying, "... today we are not celebrating the human rights situation which is unde-

nably deplorable. What we are celebrating is the fact that the people are persevering in their assertion of human rights

"We celebrate, too, the fact that the people have raised their efforts to promote human rights to a higher plane. Today, human rights have come to mean not just individual and sectoral rights for a people to be free from foreign domination."

## Samarens Uphold Human Rights

Meanwhile in Samar, 2,000 people staged a similar human rights event November 27. Residents of six barrios of the town of Llorente in Eastern Samar marched to the town plaza to denounce and expose military abuse and other violations of their human rights.

They bore placards reading "I-udong an operasyon! Diri mangawat, manlugos, manakop con waray sala con mag-operasyon!" (Stop military operations! Don't loot, rape, arrest any innocent civilian during operations!). Speakers represented each barrio during the peaceful rally that followed the march.

Although the rally was not disrupted by the military, three farmers were later arrested. Reports reveal that these farmers are still missing. □