

Ang KATIPUNAN

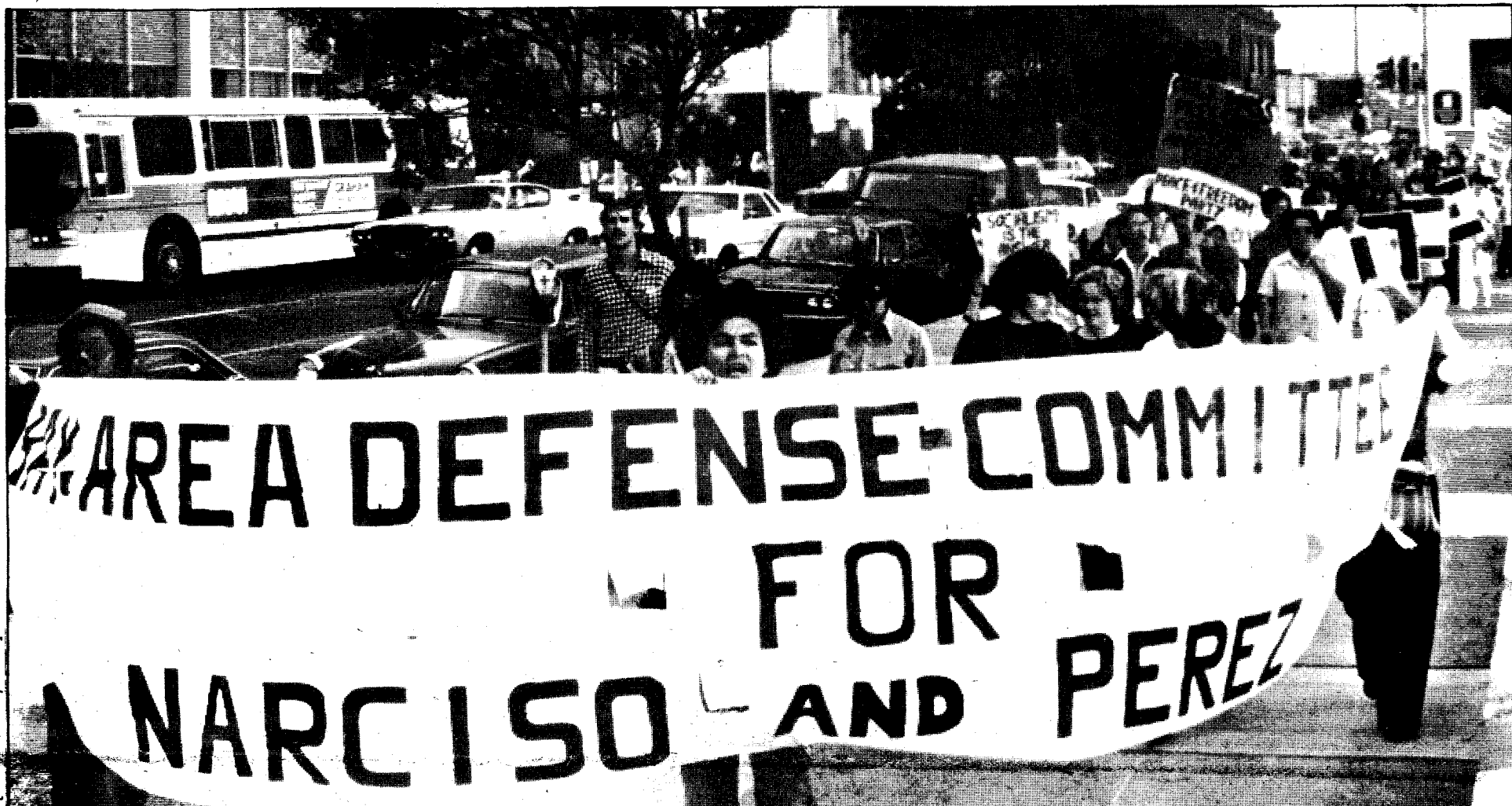
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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



VICTORY FOR NARCISO AND PEREZ!



[E. Miranda photo]

DETROIT—U.S. Attorney General James Robinson decided Feb. 1 not to refile criminal charges of poisoning and murder against Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez. The government move was heralded by the two nurses and their supporters nationwide. Instrumental to the prosecutor's move was the widespread support for the two accused, such as the above demonstration held in the Bay Area to protest the government frame-up and assert the nurse's innocence. SEE EDITORIAL, p. 6.

Carter's Human Rights Stand Exposed

MILITARY AID CONTINUES TO MARCOS REGIME

By VICTORIA LUNA

Once again the hypocrisy of President Carter's human rights campaign was exposed with the publication last Feb. 10 of the U.S. State Department's human rights report. In a replay of last year's scenario, the State Department finds the

Philippines a serious human rights violator but advocates a continuation of military aid for fiscal 1979. The figure requested is \$36.6 million in grant aid, military training funds and military sales credits the same figure granted by Congress last year.

The State Department this year advocates only minor changes and reductions in aid overall. The only country which has been cut out completely is Nicaragua, where the brutally repressive Somoza regime has been under seige for the last several months. Slight reductions are recommended in aid to Bolivia, Columbia, Haiti, Honduras, Paraguay, and Peru, which, according to the State Department sources "in some cases" reflect human rights considerations. On the other hand, the report goes out of its way to find improvements in the vicious regimes of Iran, Indonesia and South Korea, all, like the Philippines, considered strategically important to U.S. interests.

"CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT"

In the case of the Philippines, the report accuses the Marcos regime, in even stronger terms than last year, of "severe curtailment of human rights of individual citizens." The findings of Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, and the International Red Cross are all

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'Block Voting' Controversy
In April R.P. Elections

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Bictuan Political Prisoners Escape

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REFUSES TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS

4-H Regional Coordinator Threatens To Resign

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Women 4-H trainees at N. Carolina meeting.



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Buod ng mga Balita

[NEWS SUMMARIES]

PC Army Clash Over Smuggled Goods

A Philippine Army unit assigned to Zamboanga City, was relieved on Jan. 4, following a clash with Constabulary troops that resulted in the death of eight soldiers and the wounding of six others. Armed Forces Southern Command chief, Rear Admiral Romeo Espaldon ordered the mass relief of the 9th Infantry Battalion — from commander to the lowest ranked draftee — from further responsibilities in the Zamboanga City Internal Defense Command.

An initial investigation revealed that the armed clash was prompted by a squabble between a PC unit and an Army checkpoint force over smuggled goods.

In a related development, an Army draftee admitted responsibility for a grenade hurling incident which killed a PC soldier and wounded 63 others in Malangas, Zamboanga del Sur. The draftee, Felix Sumalpong of the 29th Army Infantry Battalion, said the grenade incident was a reaction to the ostracism he suffered for being a mere draftee and the failure of the Army to promote him despite his service in critical areas of fighting.

These two reports reflect the low morale of officers in the service of the Marcos regime. The people bear the brunt of the lack of discipline and incidents of military abuses against civilians have been on the rise. □

Saleh Object Of Massive Manhunt

Southwestern Mindanao has been under a state of siege by rampaging government troops hot on the trail of MNLF commander Usman Saleh. Saleh, the suspected mastermind of the October ambush of brigadier general, five colonels and 24 other soldiers, has been the object of a massive manhunt for four months now and carries a price of P500,000 for his capture. Because he has successfully eluded his pursuers, government troops have vented their frustration on the civilian populace; increasing their surveillance and stepping up harassment of non-combatants. The persons born in Patikul, the scene of the October ambush, have been singled out for questioning and detention. Reliable sources report that even as far as Zamboanga City, residents and visitors are required to show their cedula (identification papers) for the military to verify their places of birth.

Meanwhile, the Patikul-Palanao area of Sulu has been overrun by the 1st Infantry Army Tabak Division, out to flush Saleh's followers from their mountain hideouts. One recent search and destroy mission was frustrated by the rebels who covered mountain trails with homemade anti-mine and anti-personnel bombs.

Despite the continuing smear campaign against Saleh, who is depicted as a blood thirsty bandit, the truth behind the October ambush reveals retaliation as the motive. The murdered general, Teodulo Bautista, and his men were responsible for the massacre of Saleh's family and 40 other civilians, weeks before the October incident. □

Clark Hit For Nonpayment Of Workers

An official of the Presidential Assistant on National Minorities, (PANAMIN) recently assailed Clark Air Force Base for failing to pay hundreds of casual Filipino workers, including members of a minority group. The workers, who were made to work on various construction jobs inside the base, were given food rations that does not approximate the value of salaries. Another report revealed that 100 members of the Baluga or Aeta tribe were used as free labor in nearby Camp O'Donnel, Capas, Tarlac.

Responding to the charges, Ralph Pollard, chief of Clark's civic action project, said that air force authorities cannot pay salaries to the Filipino workers because they are classified as volunteers. Meanwhile, PANAMIN regional director Pedro Hipolito, asked the Dept. of Labor to intercede on behalf of the Filipino workers. □

Marcos Attempts To Split MNLF Ranks

In a bid to split the ranks of the insurgent Moro National Liberation Movement, the Marcos controlled press has exaggerated beyond proportions an apparent conflict in the MNLF's leadership ranks. The conflict which centers around the reported resignation of MNLF central committee member Hashin Salamat, has been publicized in the Manila papers as a power struggle that will soon result in a leadership coup.

Other sources, however, report that Salamat has been in contact with another group that pretends to represent the Muslim people. This group, the Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization, is believed to be a Marcos concoction and is headed by discredited Muslim "leaders," Rashid Lucman, a former congressman, and Macapanton Abbas, former director of the Presidential Task Force on the Development and Reconstruction of Mindanao. The BMLO first surfaced during the Feb. 1977 Mindanao plebiscite and was the only Muslim organization that publicly supported Marcos' version of autonomy for the south. □

APRIL 2nd ELECTIONS

Fraudulent Block Voting Revived



Liberal Party senators Gerardo Roxas [left] and Jovito Salonga [right] deliberate on participation in forthcoming elections. The Opposition submitted 10 demands to Marcos. [BULLETIN-TODAY photo]

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

The Marcos regime's quest for a democratic disguise suffered another setback as controversy over the election proceedings for the Interim National Assembly broke out late last month. The controversy centers around block voting, threatening the withdrawal of the opposition Liberal Party from the electoral contest and thereby undermining the credibility of the elections.

Block voting limits voter's choices to political parties instead of independent candidates. A voter, for example, needs only to mark the name of one party or group on his ballot, thus automatically voting for all the representatives of that party or group.

OPPOSITION WITHDRAWAL LIKELY

The block voting controversy comes in the wake of Marcos' attempts to woo opposition participation in the upcoming races. Although this is largely a token gesture, Marcos considers the opposition's role crucial towards making the April election appear credible and democratic. Initially, the opposition responded to the invitation in a positive though cautious tone. Led by former senators Jovito Salonga and Gerardo Roxas, the opposition predicated their participation on ten demands submitted to Marcos on Jan. 31. Topping this list was the abolition of block voting, followed by the removal of restrictions on free press, speech and assembly; the creation of a non-partisan election committee; and the disqualification of cabinet officials from running.

Although Marcos has conceded to most of these demands, he has remained firm on the issues of block voting and cabinet officials' candidacy. His unwillingness to compromise on these two points has driven the opposition further away. As Sen. Gerardo Roxas declared: "We know the value of elections.

We would want to participate but not under the circumstances that would give us no chance."

ONE-SIDED CONTEST

Marcos' inflexible position on block voting and the candidacy of cabinet members is understandable. These issues are decisive in determining whether the interim National Assembly would be overwhelmingly pro-Marcos in character or otherwise. Even if there were no irregularities in the conduct of the elections, the block voting, the rules on candidacy and other complex regulations contained in the 140-page 1978 Electoral Code insure that the results of the elections are favorable to the regime.

While everyone is allegedly free to file their candidacy bids, Marcos' officials have the added advantage of entering the race without forfeiting their positions. This practice, unheard of under constitutional democracies because of conflict of interests, is not surprising under martial law. Ordinarily, a parliament, which the National Assembly is intended to be, nominates at large heads of ministries. By reversing this procedure, and assuring his cabinet officials of elected posts, Marcos has spared the National Assembly the trouble of making independent choices. Already, ten cabinet members and former Nacionalista Party stalwarts have regrouped under the "Bagong Lipunan" (New Society) Party.

The procedure for representation to the 160-seat interim National Assembly also reinforces the advantageous effects of the block system for Marcos' candidates. Originally, the 160 seats were to be divided according to congressional districts or one representative per district. Now, the number of seats will be apportioned according to regions. Region-wide elections, besides overlooking provincial and district representation, maximizes the effects of block voting since the dominant po-

litical party in a specific region could easily carry the vote. The opposition, disadvantaged by years of limited activity under martial law, is not strong in any single region.

From all indications, the April election will turn out to be nothing more than a contest among pro-Marcos supporters. Unless the ground rules are changed, the opposition intends to withdraw. Should this occur, Marcos would be stripped of the sole ingredient that would make his stage-managed elections appear plausible. The mere revival of the infamous block voting system is enough to cast doubt on any kind of election. Under popular pressure, Congress abolished block voting 26 years ago, in 1951, after it was targeted for being one of the main features of the fraudulent elections of 1949 and 1947.

TRAPPED IN HIS OWN DECEPTION

Marcos, however, has a penchant for ignoring historical verdicts and political tactics that have been long discredited. Eager to create a democratic facade for his despotic regime, Marcos has devised a number of sham "normalization" and "liberalization" scheme

These schemes, like the numerous referenda, elections, and "martial law relaxation" moves, have been widely discredited, and hence fail as propaganda boosters for the regime. Despite these failures, Marcos is resolved to convince the world that there is such a thing as a "democratic despot."

In search of this elusive image, however, Marcos only succeeds in deepening his political dilemma. The April election is a classic example of problem. While setting out to create a legitimate cover for any otherwise rubberstamp legislature through the elections, Marcos has only succeeded in adding its farcical character. □

3 BICTUAN PRISONERS STAGE CLEVER ESCAPE



[DON LUCE/WIN PHOTO]

Despite long years in captivity, political prisoners continue struggle for genuine freedom in the Philippines.

[The following letter to the Philadelphia Anti-Martial Law Coalition from political prisoners at the Bicutan Rehabilitation Center is but another manifestation of the importance of the anti-martial law work here to our imprisoned brothers and sisters in the Philippines. This inspiring letter serves notice, that despite the separation of freedom loving Filipinos by time, distance, and the Marcos dictatorship, our common struggle against tyranny and oppression prevails over these barriers. — ed.]

Dear friends,

From Bicutan, we political prisoners extend our hands in a firm and warm handclasp to you. Maraming salamat sa mga nababalitaan naming ginagawa ninyo upang maitatag ang tunay na demokrasya sa ating bayan!

It is definitely to the credit of the various anti-martial law groups abroad that the Marcos regime has time and again felt the need to come up with various cosmetic changes in its dictatorial facade. Of course, we believe that the liberation of the Filipino people from the Marcos dictatorship and from all forms of oppression is the responsibility of the Filipino people themselves, principally those in the Philippines. But given the dependence of Marcos' "New Society" on foreign investments, loans and aid, especially from the United States, the various pressures from there play an integral part in our arduous and protracted struggle.

True, the Filipino people have launched various struggles here, and in our case it is true that we rely on our own efforts to achieve reforms and eventual freedom, but it is equally true that our struggle here would have had less impact on Marcos and his men if these struggles were not echoed and supported abroad, especially in the country of Marcos' master.

We have come to know of the various discussions and resolutions in your last National Conference. We welcome the campaign to adopt prisoners and target our inhuman torturers. We are equally heartened by your decision to continue your

struggle even if Marcos pursues his current plans to attempt his grand deception—to lift the formalities of martial law while retaining and further strengthening its essence.

One aspect of the cosmetic "normalization" campaign which Marcos and his advisors are unable to give is the release of all political prisoners and/or a general amnesty to political prisoners [including those "temporarily released"]. Of course he will time and again announce supposed amnesty and releases but if the past is any guide at all, these lists of thousands include those detained for non-political offenses, those already temporarily released and even some whom the military have killed in encounters—plus token releases from provincial stockades and maybe one or two from Bicutan. We recommend this point for your special consideration—"normalization" at the very least should include the release of all political detainees.

A second item for...action is the issue of nationalism, particularly on the bases issue. For all the posturing of Marcos regarding independence and self-reliance, he wants both the retention of bases and a huge chunk of money. It is our belief that the struggle for human rights and freedom in our land is not served by either money given to Marcos or the bases. Let us do our best to help explain the issues to our countrymen and foreign friends, for we realize that with the stakes involved Marcos and his friends will do their utmost to confuse the issue.

We hope that this letter will be the start of a closer working relationship between us and your group. Despite the seemingly overpowering dominance of Marcos' dictatorship, this letter is but one of the increasing signs that the people see through his deception and dare to struggle, and win, against his terrorism.

Tayo'y magtatagumpay!

In the struggle,

Political Prisoners
Bicutan Rehabilitation Center

R.P. Concessions Demanded JAPAN DEADLOCKS TRADE TALKS

The finalization of a trade treaty with Japan was postponed another year as Japanese officials refused to accept anything less than parity treatment for Japanese trade and investment in the Philippines. Talks headed by Amb. Pablo Suarez and Takehiko Mishiyama reached an impasse on Jan. 25, ending 5 days of fruitless discussion on a trade treaty that would replace the Treaty on Amity, Trade and Navigation which expired in 1975. A review of the Japanese position indicates that Japan is bent on advancing from its junior partner status vis-a-vis the U.S., to equal partner standing in their race to dominate the Philippine economy.

Despite the extremely favorable terms offered by the Treaty on Amity, Japanese negotiators demanded that unless the Philippines end its special privileges for the U.S., Japan must be accorded the same privileges enjoyed by its chief trade competitor. In addition, Japan demanded that should the Philippines restore parity rights for American nationals in its current U.S. trade negotiations, Japanese businessmen must enjoy the same rights. Parity rights under the expired Laurel-Langley Agreement entitled American nationals equal rights over the ownership and exploitation of Philippine natural resources. Under sharp attack from Nationalist forces in the late 1960's, parity rights ended with the expiration of the Laurel-Langley Agreement in 1974. However, special privileges to U.S. business, like tax exemptions on repatriated capital, reduced levies on imports, and other investment incentives, continue to be extended. These have replaced the more blatant parity arrangement with a more subtle form of economic control.



Just a few of the Japanese corporations doing business in the Philippines. The massive influx of Japanese goods, technology, investments and loans in the early '70s has been frequently referred to as the "Second Invasion." [Asian Alternative photo]

JAPAN-U.S. COMPETITION HEIGHTENS

Japan's determination to exact the same economic concessions that the U.S. presently enjoys from the Philippines stems from the heightened competitiveness between these two imperialist countries over control of the trade and consumer market of the Philippines. Trade with Japan and the U.S. presently accounts for 60 per cent of the external trade of the country. Of the total amount of foreign investments in the Philippines from 1970-76, the U.S. and Japan together accounted for \$436.12 million or nearly 70 per cent of the total. In the 1970's, Japan dislodged the U.S. as the main trading partner of the Philippines and more vigorously penetrated the Philippine consumer market.

Now more than ever, Japan is unwilling to halt the momentum of its business activity with the Philippines, fearing a U.S. comeback. Due to a highly appreciated yen which makes Japanese products costlier than equivalent U.S. goods, the U.S. has regained the competitive edge in trade with the Philippines.

PHILIPPINES ON LOSING END

The Philippines, for its part, is on the losing end of the arrangement. Being an underdeveloped country, whose economy is heavily dependent on the trade, investments and technologies of the developed capitalist countries, it has no choice but to accommodate the demands of these countries.

The expired Treaty of Amity is a case in point.

Multinationals In Control

R.P. Drug Industry Exposed

Why is the multinational drug industry particularly concerned about the new Philippine law allowing local business easy and cheap licensing to produce items patented in the Philippines? (See related story) A study by Esteban B. Bautista of the U.P. Law Center published in *New Perspectives* last June 1977, reveals the shocking degree of control the multinationals exert over the Philippine drug industry. A large part of this control derives from the patents that these companies hold on all drug chemicals and raw materials sold in the country.

Ninety-five per cent of the materials that go into locally produced drugs are imported from abroad. There are no research and development laboratories in the country. The Philippine pharmaceutical industry, as Bautista points out, is actually a pharmaceutical compounding industry.

The local industry consists of the most labor intensive aspects of the drug business. These include formulation or processing of raw materials into compounds, tablets, ointments, etc.; packaging of finished products in either local or imported containers; and brand management and distribution.

Fourteen multinationals and 23 other large foreign firms control 70 per cent of the Philippine market in terms of sales volume. Of these multinationals, three alone — Philippines-Warner Chilcott; Richardson-Merrell; and Parke-Davis — between 1967 and 1971 realized a net income of P25 million on a combined investment of P6 million.

The multinationals profit both from the cheap Philippine labor and the freedom to manipulate costs and prices. A study of imports of the drug Ampicillin, an antibiotic covered by patents issued

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LOCAL BUSINESS GETS SHORT STICK

Marcos Regime Bends Rule For Foreign Investors



Marcos meeting with representatives of multinational corporations, promises to be "flexible" in interpreting protectionist laws. [MANILA JOURNAL photo]

"If you have any complaints, suggestions, or recommendations, just send me a wire . . .

"I can assure you I'll be personally watching the implementation of this decree and we'll be reasonable . . .

"We are ready to listen to any arguments on this matter . . ."

President Ferdinand E. Marcos, speaking at a hastily-called Malacanang meeting with Manila's leading foreign businessmen late last January, was bending over backwards to accommodate the interests of the multinational corporations.

Administration official called the meeting in the wake of the Herdis/Westinghouse scandal to reassure the foreign business group that, in spite of the allegations of influence peddling, it was not really necessary to have "connections" in order to do business in the Philippines. The corporate chiefs, however, quickly turned the occasion into a gripe session, protesting to the president the few New Society laws and practices which attempt, however feebly, to protect local businessmen and the even fewer anti-pollution regulations.

The investors must have been pleased with the results. The president and his cabinet proved more than sympathetic to their problems. They either promised or implied favorable action — often at the expense of local business — on the complaints of

Levi-Strauss, Ford Philippines, and other major U.S. corporations.

The president and his top economic advisers displayed their usual willingness to bend or graciously disregard protectionist rules and regulations, which has won for the Marcos regime the reputation, according to one corporate president, of being "the most enlightened in Asia." As Michael T. Malloy of the *Asian Wall Street Journal* pointed out several days later in an article entitled "Foreign Businessmen Find Philippines' Bark Worse Than Its Bite," the regime has consistently issued rigid-sounding regulations, which are then enforced with "administrative flexibility."

The Marcos regime has proven itself "administratively flexible" on two issues of particular concern to foreign businessmen. The first, a measure designed to restrict peso borrowings by multinational firms (see AK, Jan. 16-31, 1978), was repeatedly postponed due to protest by the foreign business community and former U.S. Ambassador William Sullivan. Three months after it was finally enacted, the government announced the first exception to the rule. Since that time, the president of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines acknowledges, "I can't honestly find any [foreign firm] who has suffered any serious dislocation."

The second area of concern was a recently enacted ban on new industrial projects in Metro-Manila. When Timex of Bermuda, however, proposed to build a watch assembly plant well inside Metro-Manila government officials were quickly won over.

The familiar pattern of bypassing or reinterpreting protectionist laws reflects the economic dilemma of the Marcos regime. While the multinationals' stronghold on the Philippine economy grows tighter everyday, local businessmen, backed to some extent by the technocrats, are putting pressure on Marcos to maintain a degree of independence and prevent local business from collapsing altogether.

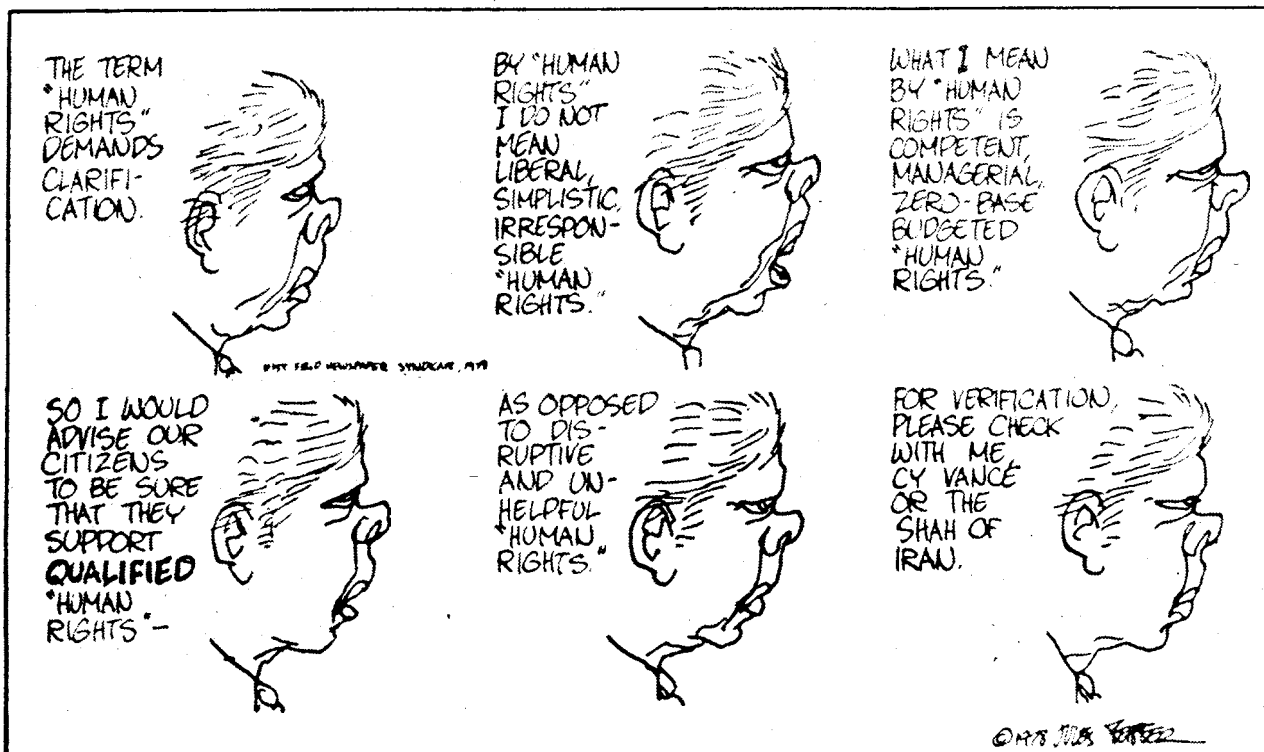
Fighting a losing battle, local businessmen have become visibly more disturbed in the last few months. A meeting of the Manila Jaycees last December came up with a unanimous demand for the full implementation of restrictions on local credit by foreign corporations. In January, the local business community finally succeeded in pressuring the regime to reevaluate the Progressive Car Manufacturing Program (PCMP). Foreign manufacturers had caused growing concern by relying on imported components rather than using those locally produced.

Even Marcos' technocrats have begun to see the danger of total subservience to and domination by the multinationals. The notion of restricting peso borrowings was the brainchild of Cesar Virata, chief economic technocrat. More recently the technocrats have backed a modification of the country's patent laws which will make licensing for local firms wishing to produce products currently covered by Philippine patents easier and cheaper.

The new law, embodied in PD 1263, if ever implemented, would strike particularly hard at the multinational pharmaceutical industry which markets imported brand name drugs at extremely high prices. Theoretically, the new rules would allow local drug producers to manufacture chemically similar drugs at much lower costs.

Although the foreign business community, which holds 90 per cent of the country's patents, is once again up in arms, it is extremely unlikely that the new patent scheme will work to its detriment. The Marcos regime has proven completely incapable of standing up to pressures from the multinationals which virtually control the Philippine economy. Foreign businessmen who are veterans in the Philippine scene remain unperturbed over the new law in spite of agitated calls from the home office. They have been in the country long enough to expect the usual pattern of watering down, postponement, reinterpretation, and accommodation from the Marcos regime. □

Aid Continues to Marcos Regime...



(continued from front page)

cited and the report claims no reason to dispute them. The State Department admits that at least some political prisoners have been subjected to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment," and notes the continued use of electroshock torture, physical beatings, and prolonged isolation.

The report further exposes the cosmetic nature of much of Marcos' "normalization" drive. It mentions the supposed curtailing of the power of the military courts, the releases of several political

prisoners, and the announcement of elections to the interim National Assembly, adding, "But no real steps have yet been taken toward the restoration of democratic government or the elimination of the more severe intrusions on individual rights."

Last year's human rights report pointed to overriding security interests which necessitated continued aid in spite of Philippine human rights violations. With the U.S. and the Philippines currently engaged in delicate negotiations on the status of U.S. bases in the country, the same

concern prevails. In fact, State Department observers point out that, upon the conclusion of the new treaty, the U.S. administration is likely to make a supplemental request which could result in a huge increase in military aid for fiscal 1979.

MARCOS TIPPED OFF

Marcos appears to have been tipped off on the State Department findings well before the report was actually released. He personally tried to assure Assistant U.S. Sec. of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Pat Derian on her visit in mid-January that the Philippine government has a long history of respect for human rights.

Several days before the report was released, Philippine Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile "coincidentally" ordered six soldiers charged with torturing and killing a political prisoner last October dismissed and police began investigating charges by two farmers that soldiers used water torture on them while attempting to obtain confessions from them on trumped-up charges of stealing their own ducks.

On Feb. 10, the day the report was released, Reuters reported a "campaign to clean up the Philippine forces' image" behind the announcement that day that the military had re-opened investigations into the killing of three Kalinga tribesmen by Philippine Constabulary troops in 1975. The case was investigated soon after the deaths, but no charges were filed and the incident was quietly dropped.

Although last year's report stirred up a blustery of protest both from government functionaries and Malacanang hacks, as of press time, there was as yet no reaction to this latest report — whether official or unofficial. □

Japan Demands Parity...



The lopsided economic relationship between Japan and the Philippines warranted a state visit by Marcos to Japan last year. He secured no substantial concessions from Prime Minister Fukuda.

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When ratified on Dec. 27, 1973, the Treaty supposedly safeguarded the interests of both countries. A summary of R.P.-Japan economic relations from 1974 to 1977 however, reveals that the Philippines has continued to occupy a disadvantageous position vis-a-vis Japan.

With regard to Philippine exports for example, Japan has on several occasions, arbitrarily cutback on its imports or worked to reduce the price of Philippine goods. In 1975, Japan announced a 30 per cent cut in its purchase of Philippine copper, resulting in a huge fall in copper earnings and an increase in the Philippine's trade deficit with Japan. When Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines decided to control the production and exportation of logs to ward off a big slump in log prices, Japan unilaterally slashed the buying price of logs, thereby reducing the price of Philippine wood products by 25 per cent. In 1976, Japanese banana traders assured Philippines suppliers that Japan could absorb the bulk of banana exports. When Philippine officials began talking about stopping importation of Japanese-made cartons for fruit, Japan suddenly threatened that it had a banana blut and importations of Philippine banana had to be cut back. This retaliatory move slashed banana prices by half.

Japanese imports on the other hand, have been more than fairly treated by the Philippines. "Dumping" products on the Philippine market, or dramatically reducing the price of a certain good by offering more of it than any other supplier, has been a favorite practice of Japan. In 1975, groups of local fishermen, livestock raisers and tin-plate manufacturers protested the dumping of 80 centavo canned mackarel from Japan on the consumer market. The same practice occurred in the bookpaper industry. Japan simply dumped bookpaper at export prices lower than its fair value, thus driving the Philippine bookpaper industry to near bankruptcy.

Although the Philippines has on several occasions protested these practices, Japan has accurately perceived that the Philippine government is all bark but no bite. As the present talks reveal, Japan is not only unwilling to work out a fairer arrangement with the Philippines, it is insisting upon more privileges that would increase the disadvantageous position of the Philippines. And with the bulk of Philippine exports committed to the Japanese market, the Philippines is in no position to change this inequitous arrangement. □

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U.S. INVESTIGATES HERDIS TRANSACTION



Herminio Disini, cousin of Imelda Marcos and golfing buddy of the President, is at the center of the \$1.1 billion nuclear reactor scandal.

[ASIAWEEK photo]

Both a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the criminal fraud division of the U.S. Department of Justice continued last week to investigate the controversial \$1.1 billion nuclear reactor sale to the Philippine government by Westinghouse Electric Corp. At issue is not only the transaction itself, which has raised many allegations of influence-peddling and

corruption under the Marcos government, but the feasibility of such a project in the Philippine context.

The Justice Department query, which began last November, concerns allegations that Westinghouse may have made improper payments to still unidentified Philippine nationals in order to obtain the reactor contract. Followers of the case, however, know that the key unidentified figure in the case is Herminio T. Disini, president of Herdis, Inc., a relative of Mrs. Marcos and frequent golfing partner of the president. Disini's role as Westinghouse's agent in the transaction has allegedly earned him anywhere from \$5 million to \$35 million. In addition, Herdis-dominated companies have received all of the major contracts for the reactor's construction [see AK, Vol. V, no. 3].

The Subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the House Appropriations Committee, under the leadership of Clarence Long [D-Md.], has targetted the role of the U.S. Export-Import Bank which provided the Philippine government with \$664 million in loans and loan guarantees in order to purchase the reactor. Long recently made public a letter he had written to Sec. of State Cyrus Vance in which he insists that the Filipino people will not benefit from the project. He earlier cited as his objections the location of the plant in an earthquake zone within twenty miles of two volcanoes, the relatively higher cost of nuclear energy as opposed to energy from oil fired plants; and the inexperience of the local Disini-owned construction firms, Power contractors.

On the basis of these objections, Long has questioned the procedure by which Eximbank evaluated the loan request, lodged a number of questions with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and has suggested that the U.S. should withhold a uranium export license for the project. □

Drug Industry ...

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to Bristol-Myers (U.S.) and Beecham (England) revealed dramatic disparities in pricing of imported drugs. In 1976 and 1977, both the two patent holders and three Filipino-owned licensees imported Ampicillin. The multinationals imported for their mother companies at grossly inflated prices, in some cases almost double those paid by the three local companies.

PROMOTIONS DRIVE UP PRICES

What drives the prices of chemicals imported by the multinationals so far beyond their value? Aside from the huge profit margin, these companies lay out huge expenditures on research and development (R and D) and promotions. These prices are passed on to the consumers.

The cost of promotions, according to a report released by the U.N. Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), ranges from three to four times that of R and D and consumes approximately one-third the value of drug sales. Promotional efforts are directed at the doctors through a variety of techniques. Drugs are pushed by salesmen, backed up by presents, samples, banquets, seminars and trips abroad. Bautista quotes, "It is difficult to maintain an impartial attitude about a drug when one has spent a few days in the Bahamas talking about (it)."

Information about drugs is available only from the companies themselves who produce their own literature and also control, through their investments, the major medical journals. As U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy once remarked, "What we have is a system of hard-sell rather than objective information dissemination; we have salesmen instead of analysts; we have the tools of selling — gimmicks, gifts, bonus deals — rather than the tools of science and medicine...."

PATENT LAW-BAND-AID SOLUTION

Even the proposed new patent laws, about which multinationals in the Philippines are currently howling so miserably, is a mere band-aid solution to the systemic disease of multinational domination of the Philippine drug industry. To begin with, the Philippines as long as it remains an economic



The "botika" or neighborhood drug store is the chief outlet for foreign pharmaceutical merchandise.

colony of the U.S., will never be able to enforce it, no matter who is in power — Marcos or anybody.

Even if the government tried to enforce this law, of which Bautista is a firm advocate, it would not lead to the establishment of an independent drug industry responsible to the needs of the Filipino people. While this vital area remains in the control of private business, local businessmen will always find it cheaper and more profitable to import the raw chemicals from big corporations abroad than to sink their capital into laboratories in the Philippines.

Only a state-controlled industry which is not motivated by profit, but by concern for its people's welfare will be able to establish a national drug industry which is independent of foreign competition and avoids waste. □

Editorial

Narciso, Perez Victory A People's Victory!

By NENA HERNANDEZ
KDP National Executive Board

The recent victory of Narciso and Perez has been met with jubilation by the tens of thousands of people who supported these two Filipino nurses. The victory celebrations being organized nationwide are much deserved, capping two long years of difficult and bitter struggles to expose the frame-up of these innocent women.

The victory is all the more treasured for the lessons that this experience has taught us, valuable lessons on the nature and character of the U.S. judicial system. We have seen first-hand that the U.S. courts are far from the just and fair system that many of us thought them to be. Together with Narciso and Perez, we learned quickly that the U.S. judicial system is not infallible and it can, and often does, commit gross injustices — especially where its poor and non-white peoples are concerned.

Not only was this mockery of justice evident in the scandalous FBI conduct during the investigation but this travesty was continually played out in the course of the women's trial. From the prosecution's shameless attempts to tamper with the evidence, the judge's reluctance to declare a mistrial despite these irregularities, and the shocking conviction turned in by the jury based on the weak evidence — all of these instances were a damning indictment of the U.S. system of justice.

The lesson here is that contrary to popular myth, the courts are integrally connected with and part of the existing political and economic system with all its prejudices and inherent evils. In this country, this means being part of the U.S. monopoly capitalist system, where the racism, national chauvinism and class bias of the system work to the disadvantage of poor and minority people.

To a large extent, the actions of the judge, prosecutors and jurors merely reflected the existing social climate and prevailing attitudes. How easy it was for the government to seize upon two women foreign born and naive to U.S. ways, and try and make them scapegoats for the larger problem of inadequate health care under the VA system.

In the course of the trial, it became clear that these prejudices were a key factor in the nurses' trial. With evidence totally circumstantial and without any motive, the prosecution was able to get a conviction. Biased jury selection and the government's spending over \$2 million made the plight of Narciso and Perez look very grim.

POWER OF THE ORGANIZED MASSES

Like most judges under the system, Philip Pratt was also subject to the political and social currents operating during that period. This helps explain why based on almost identical arguments, he initially rejected the defense motion for a mistrial but later ruled in favor of a new trial for the two nurses. Undoubtedly, the big factor influencing the judge's change of heart was the breadth and depth of the mass movement around the nurses. Undoubtedly, the big factor influencing the judge's change of heart was the breadth and depth of the mass movement around the nurses. The massive demonstrations held in cities nationwide, in addition to the 38,000 signatures presented to him following the conviction was an unmistakable signal of the people's sentiments.

Even the prosecution's decision to drop the charges against the two nurses stems not from any sudden "enlightenment" but from what U.S. Atty. Gen. James Robinson termed as the "overwhelming support for the women."

In the final analysis, it was these organized peoples forces that was decisive in freeing Narciso and Perez. This is not to impugn the nurses' lawyers who presented an excellent defense of the women. However, without the pressure and support of the Narciso-Perez defense movement, the tragedy of Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez would not have been averted.

One only need to look at countless examples of people unjustly convicted of crimes they did not commit to realize that truth and legal expertise is oftentimes not enough. These people are not less innocent than Narciso and Perez. But in the case of these immigrant women, it was the organized people's forces that tipped the scales of justice in their favor. These same people's forces will ultimately change the judicial system in this country by revamping the inherently unjust foundations of this capitalist society.

TASKS NOT OVER

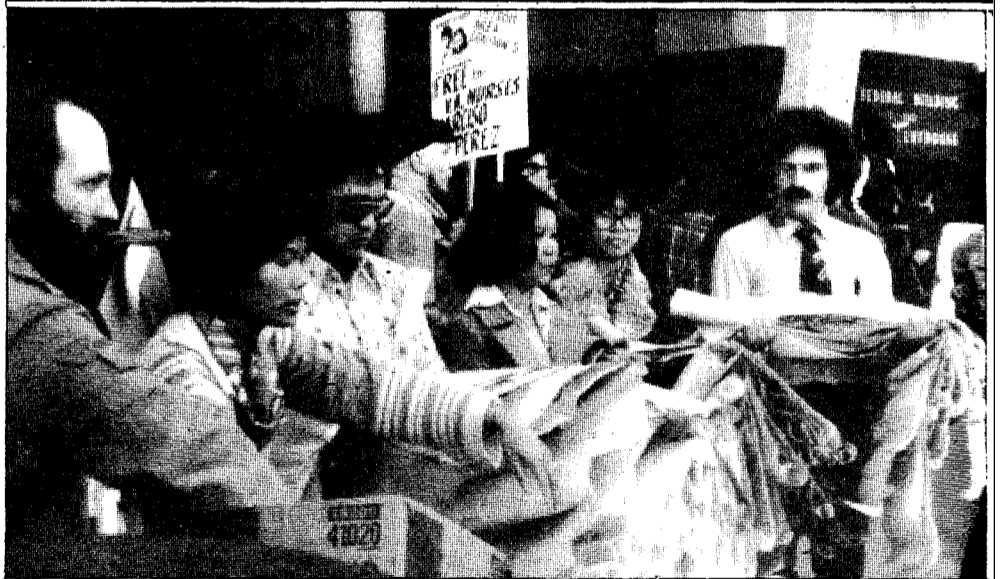
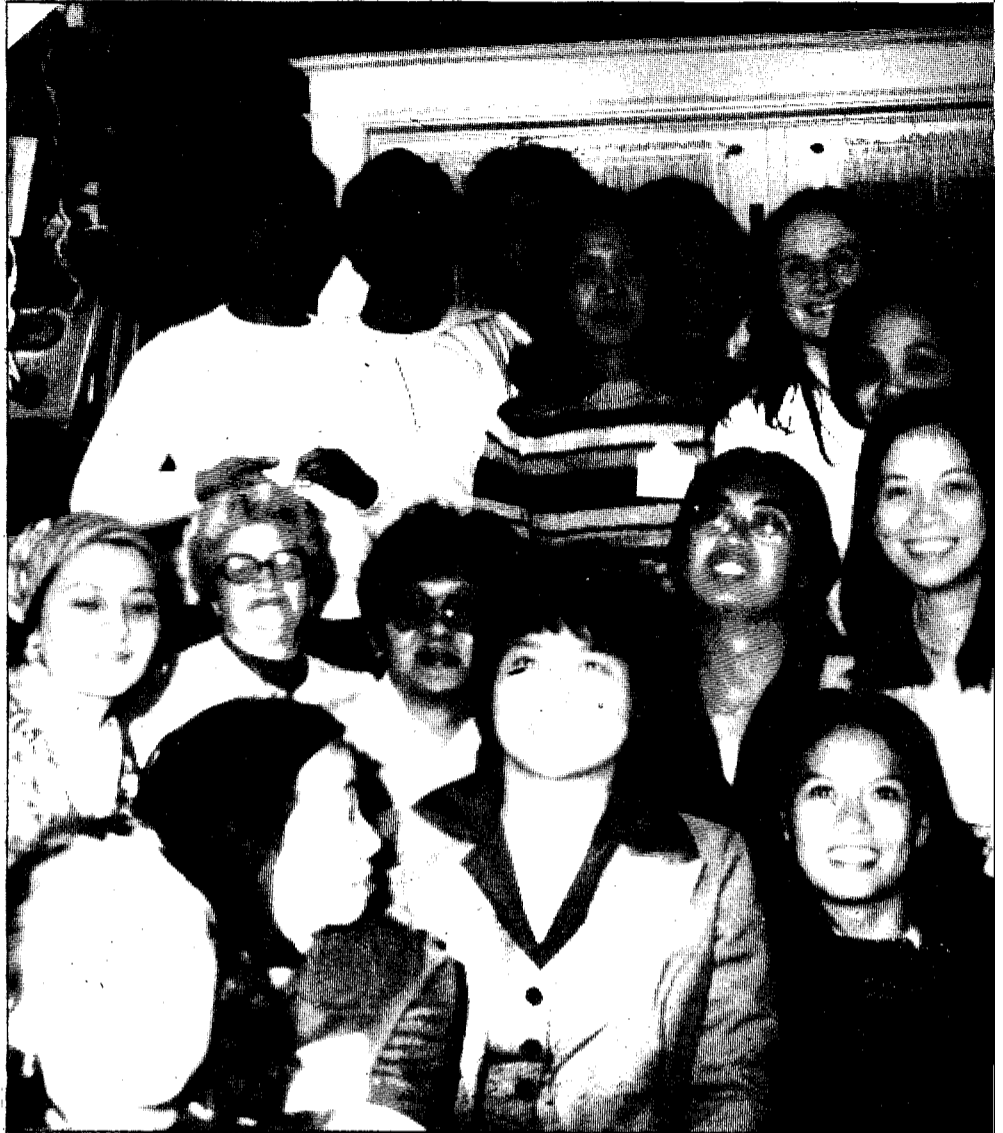
In the midst of our celebration, we should not forget that this case is not yet closed and until the real culprit of the Ann Arbor VA hospital tragedy is apprehended, our tasks are not over. Narciso and Perez were not the only victims of this tragedy. The families of the respiratory victims have likewise suffered not just the loss of their loved ones, but also from not knowing what caused their deaths.

The government has already announced that it has no intention of reopening the investigation inspite of the fact that the FBI failed to investigate other leads like the possible drug contamination and other likely suspects. This obvious reluctance to pursue the case leads to the well-founded speculation that there is a cover-up involved, a case of the "fox guarding the chickens." We must prevent this cover-up and now move for an investigation that exposes the truth behind the deaths.

Similarly, there is a need to investigate the conditions in the Ann Arbor VA hospital that made it possible for these tragedies to occur. These substandard facilities must be upgraded and made safe for the people.

There are a few who say that in the end this case restored their faith in the American judicial system. We think that this more rightfully restores our faith in the people of the U.S. who saw through this case of discrimination and injustice and rose to the task of defending these two women. It is this faith in the peoples power that we celebrate and which now gives us the optimism and confidence in the tasks ahead. □

SCENES FROM THE FIGHT



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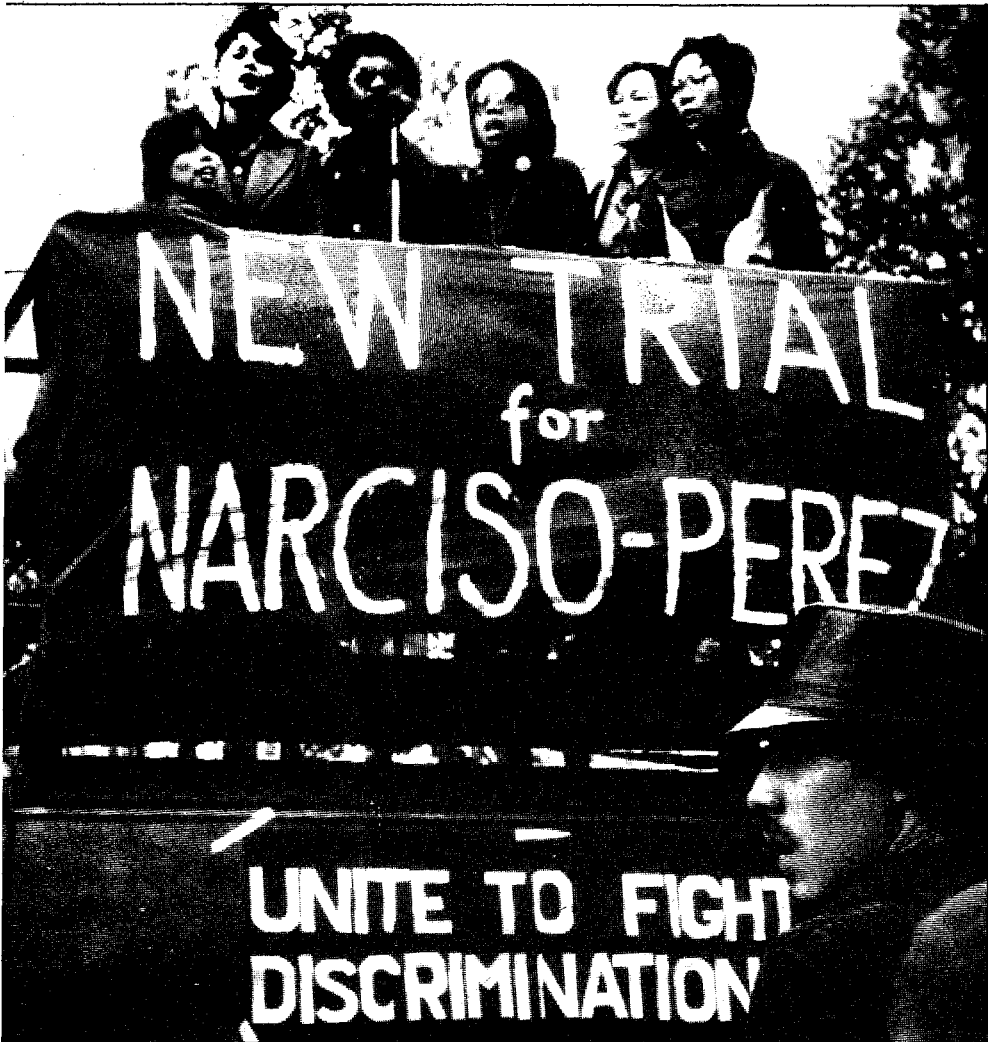
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FREE NARCISO & PEREZ



COMMENTARY S-1437 Dangerous Implications For Filipino Community

By JEANETTE LAZAM

The U.S. Senate recently passed an ominous bill which threatens the legal, political, and social rights of all persons living in this country. The bill S-1437 is, in the words of the American Civil Liberties Union, a "dangerous compromise of civil liberties" which would limit "virtually every strike, picketing activity, or mass demonstration at or near a federal facility" (see full story page 10).

The broad scope of the bill, which sets nationwide statutes and now goes to the House for action, has serious implications for Filipinos in the U.S. Numerous democratic rights—that of petition, picket and access to information—would be seriously limited under this bill.

The frightening aspect about the bill is the fact that if it gets passed, victories like the Narciso-Perez case could not have been realized. People would not have been allowed to demonstrate and petition openly; the utilization of freedom of expression by way of newspapers, editorials, pamphlets and so on would have been challenged by the new federal code. In addition, press gags, instituted by the courts under S-1437, would have been halted up to date reports of the case, thus not allowing the public to review the facts for themselves. And for Narciso and Perez, the institutionalizing of such forms as psychiatric treatment of criminals would be mandatory under S-1437—no longer just a consideration of the court.

Numerous other community struggles would be limited by S-1437's passage. In the 4-H trainees controversy, a double whammy of criminal charges could have been invoked against the trainees. Since the bill provides criminal charges against "obstructing government business" trainees could have been prosecuted on the grounds of not fulfilling a contract between the 4-H Foundation and the U.S. Government Dept. of Agriculture and the Philippine government. The second violation which ties so closely to the first, would have been their right to strike given any unfair labor practices of the 4-H Foundation. If they did strike, it would, in effect produce a work stoppage on farms that have government contracts, which would have been illegal under this code.

Due to press restraints, the 4-H trainees would have been severely limited in attaining the wide exposure and mass support necessary to force the National 4-H Foundation and the Philippine 4-H Foundation to meet with them.

Under this bill, H-1 nurses, who have scored a victory over threatened deportations, would have never been able to come out of hiding and challenge such discriminatory injustices on the part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, fearing immediate governmental reprisal if they surfaced to complain.

There are of course, many more examples that can be cited in which the Filipino communities across the nation have stood up to fight for their democratic rights. But these struggles could be short-lived or curtailed if S-1437 passes.

Such actions of demonstrating, organizing, petitioning, are democratic rights which must be defended and not curtailed as S-1437 would certainly do. Most of us should be fully aware of what it means to live in a society where the basic civil liberties are swept away. One need only use the example of the present dictatorship in the Philippines to evoke frightening images of a fascist regime that tramples on the rights of its citizens.

Although S-1437 is by no means the imposition of martial law, it clearly represents a trend in the U.S. which should concern all of us.

We strongly urge the Filipino communities across the nation to unite with other people in denouncing S-1437, a bill that proposes to severely curtail the civil liberties of a great majority of the people.

We strongly urge all our readers to send mailgrams, letters or postcards to the House of Representatives, where the bill is presently being reviewed. Special emphasis should be given to the Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, where the bill is being used as a working draft for proposed legislation to the House as HR 6869.

The only way to stop S-1437 from full passage is organized mass resistance. Our experience as a minority and as workers in this country have shown that the only way to secure our rights is to fight for them. We *must* stop S-1437 from encroaching even further on these already limited rights. □

FREE NARCISO AND PEREZ! —STOP THE FRAME-UP! This chant was used nationwide as thousands walked picket lines and signed petitions asserting the innocence of the two Filipina nurses. Denouncing the racist FBI and government frame-up, protestors, (starting left and going clockwise) demanded a new trial for the women following their outrageous conviction last summer. (Left middle photo) A nationwide petition drive gathered over 30,000 signatures demanding a new trial and by the end of the December a new trial was won. (Top photo) Narciso and Perez then met with some of their nationwide supporters at a January strategy session where plans were made to demand that charges be dropped. (Above right) The recent government decision not to press charges due to "overwhelming support for the women," is an indication of the power of the people when organized, such as a New York Free Narciso and Perez rally.

MOVE TO STOP REFORMS

4-H Coordinator Threatens Resignation

FLASH!

At press time, 4-H Regional Coordinator Mike Espinosa has reportedly resigned, although no official confirmation has been issued. It is believed that the 4-H National Office may accept the resignation to save the council from further exposure to the community concerning the exploitative and oppressive character of the present training program.

By SORCY ROCAMORA
AK Correspondent

Under increasing pressure from the Filipino trainees, California 4-H Regional Coordinator Mike Espinola has threatened to resign, apparently to stave off implementation of promised reforms in the 4-H Agricultural training program.

Espinola has been persistently pushed by the trainees for changes that would make the program more representative of the training they had hoped to acquire on their host farms.

In a Feb. 5 meeting with 4-H National Council of the Philippines' representatives Francisco Abano and Climaco Pena, the California trainees were asked to name states they would wish to go to in the event that Espinola resigned for "health" reasons. In the same meeting, Abano and Pena also assured the trainees of enforcing the needed changes.

Prior to their meeting with the Philippine 4-H officials, the trainees had reached a consensus to draft a letter presenting their work and living conditions and their demands to the 4-H Regional Council. The demands, similar to those of the North



North Carolina trainees confront 4-H officials and demand reforms in program.

[AK photo]

Carolina trainees (see AK article, Vol. V, no. 3), included reduced working hours per week (to 48 hours), semi-annual accounting of each trainee's expenses, opening of 4-H books for audit by trainees, and more practice in each trainee's specified area of specialization. Presently, trainees are doing unskilled labor like lawn-mowing, car-washing and shoveling manure.

TRAINEES PLIGHT SPARKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Last year's expose on the sorry plight of the Filipino 4-H trainees drew community awareness which has remarkably transformed into a nationwide support movement. In California, the 21 trainees are working closely with the Support Group for 4-H Filipino Trainees.

The speculation is that another motive for Espinola's threatened resignation is the existence of community groups that back the trainees. If Espinola resigned and the trainees transferred to states where no support exists, the promised reforms could easily be forgotten.

Aware of the mounting community concern on the issue, Abano and Pena have openly expressed recognition of the support group as the community monitor. These two met with the group's members to guarantee that changes would be carried out immediately.

An interesting revelation is that Abano and Pena are with Goodyear Tire and Planters Products, respectively. The 4-H National Council of the Philippines is composed of Philippine officials who work for such U.S. multinational corporations like International Harvester, Liberty Mills, Caltex and Shell that all have huge stakes in the agricultural "development" of the Philippines. It was also learned that the Council's Honorary Chairman is none other than Pres. Ferdinand Marcos.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM PROPOSED

In a related development, a Modesto-based community organization, Tayu-Tayo Interlink, has presented an alternative program which is similar to the present one. The proposed alternative will attempt to eliminate the complex and bureaucratic structure of the existing 4-H program and will also provide better training opportunities for trainees in terms of agricultural education and cultural exchanges.

Currently, almost all California trainees have never even participated in any American 4-H activities. The Manual of Operations stipulates that as 4-H members, the trainees should be active participants of 4-H events.

The 4-H Regional Officials have reportedly approved the proposal. The trainees, however, have questioned the application of the suggested alternative to their present situation. Although it may be beneficial to future groups, the trainees say that it cannot make major reforms in their current program which faces possible termination if Espinola resigns. Besides, the Tayu-Tayo Interlink cannot absorb all Group D trainees in California.

The implementation of changes in the 4-H Agricultural Training Program remains to be seen. The trainees have risked their stay in the U.S. by demanding reforms. Nonetheless, it is strongly evident that the trainees, along with their supporters, are determined to push through with their battle for an improved program.

The support group urges people to get involved in the trainees' cause. Contact persons are Ricardo Rocamora (415) 222-0925 and Lee Mueller (209) 524-5982. □

Full Testimony Hearing

FACLA Elections Trial Underway



[Philippine Press Weekly photo]

FACLA member's Dovie Aguila and John Fangon, both supporters of San Jose, talk while under the protection of hired Carson Patrol guards which took FACLA ballot boxes at gunpoint under San Jose's orders in recent scandal.

By RAFEAL ORPILLA
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Legal action by the Filipino community here to nullify the self-proclaimed election of Tony San Jose finally got underway last Feb. 8 at the Los Angeles Superior Court.

However, the judge ruled in favor of the defense (representing San Jose) motion to grant a full hearing with oral testimony. This delays any decisive action on the contested election term which is only for one year.

The court suit which seeks to invalidate the results of the Dec. 4, 1977 elections of the Filipino American Community contends that the multitude of irregularities and gangster tactics employed by San Jose makes a mockery of the organizations democratic principles. The main legal arguments of the plaintiffs are:

1. The unanimous action of existing Board of Trustees at the time of the election to nullify the results is legal and valid.
2. The numerous and serious irregularities before and during election day were in violation of FACLA election codes. Most notorious of these incidents was the removal of ballot boxes by force from the FACLA premises.

3. That the Commission on Elections led by John Fangon and Henry Quema (both staunch San Jose backers) was no longer legally constituted because a new Comelec was installed replacing Quema and Fangon. This new Comelec also voted to nullify the elections.

The suit of the plaintiffs was presented by Gary Star who cited that all these instances are sufficient grounds for the nullification of elections under the non-profit corporation laws of California. The plaintiffs further contend that a fair and untainted election is the very foundation of a non-profit corporate democracy. Moreover, they argued that the recent elections were so tainted that the only way to restore confidence by the membership is to void the elections and order a new election with sufficient guarantees to insure integrity of the election process.

On the other hand, Gordon Bubar representing the defense argued that the election of Tony San Jose and his slate of officers was valid, saying that the election was "properly conducted" even if their were certain "minor" irregularities. Justifying their position, Bubar argued:

1. According to the FACLA constitution, the Board of Trustee meeting may be called only by the Chairman. Therefore, the action of the special Board of Trustee meetings last Dec. (wherein the Chair was absent) has no bearing or effect.

2. The action filed by the plaintiffs was improper because none of the plaintiffs were denied the right to vote.

3. That the plaintiffs were also in violation of certain election codes such as the dissemination of election materials within the election premises and they are therefore participants of their own accusations.

However, the defense failed to dispute the irregularities which called the election into question. Ironically, if San Jose truly won the election, he should have nothing to fear from a new election.

Nevertheless, the whole election scandal has paralyzed the Los Angeles Filipino community as well as created a deep split in the FACLA organization.

Meanwhile, San Jose has pompously taken over the FACLA center and changed all the locks.

At this point, some of the FACLA's members are depending heavily on the outcome of the court case, while many more committed FACLA members vowed to continue the struggle for democracy in FACLA regardless of the court results. □

Filipina Charges Navy With Discrimination

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

What is usually a joyous occasion was the beginning of a five year nightmare for Mrs. Flores when she gave birth to her first son, Ernest, at the Bremerton Navy Hospital in Washington.

Erlinda Flores, a 30 year old Philippine national and wife of a Navy serviceman, delivered at the Bremerton Hospital under one of the "benefits" offered by the Navy. But what she experienced was an agonizing personal ordeal which led to the filing of a malpractice suit against the Navy charging it with negligence, injury, discrimination, and violation of her rights as a patient.

She describes the effects of her experience: "I'm fully exhausted physically and mentally. At times my hands are shaking as a result of the nervousness. I feel myself tearing apart, I really need someone to talk to. I cannot accept what has happened, what is happening, and the possible results of this ordeal to my son in the future."

On Sept. 21, 1973, Mrs. Flores checked into the hospital. Despite pleas for a cesarian section as advised by two previous obstetricians, the doctors at the Navy hospital treated her as "just one of the hysterical Filipino women" and went ahead with a normal delivery procedure to "see what would happen."

At 7:08 p.m., Sept. 22, Ernest V. Flores was born. However, to the mother's dismay, her son's right eye was bulging and was so red that the white and black part of the eye was undistinguishable and there were scratches across his brow and chin. The baby was bluish green (a sign that the fetus was in distress and should have been detected earlier in the delivery process) hardly made a sound.

Following the delivery, the nurses and doctors asked numerous questions of Mrs. Flores and called her husband in. All the hospital staff told the couple that the child may have "congenital conjunctivitis" (blocking of the tear duct before birth), and assured them that the baby was "okay."

The doctors did not tell them, however, that their child's eye had developed a blood clot and furthermore, never let on that they might have caused it.

When Mrs. Flores was later told that her son could not be circumcised because the baby should not be allowed to cry for blood might spurt from his eye, she began to doubt the care that she and her son were receiving.

It was not until weeks later after they had been discharged and the baby's still didn't seem to be improving, that Mrs. Flores managed to get hold of the child's case history. When Navy personnel initially refused to give them to her, she lied to the Navy pediatrician, saying that her brother was a doctor and would be following up on the case. The records revealed that the delivery wasn't so "normal" after all. The doctors delivered the child with a vacuum suction, with forceps clamped to the baby's head, and that oxygen was given because of the baby's extremely low activity level. She also noted discrepancies in the records and a great deal of emphasis on the fact "that the baby's problems were congenital."

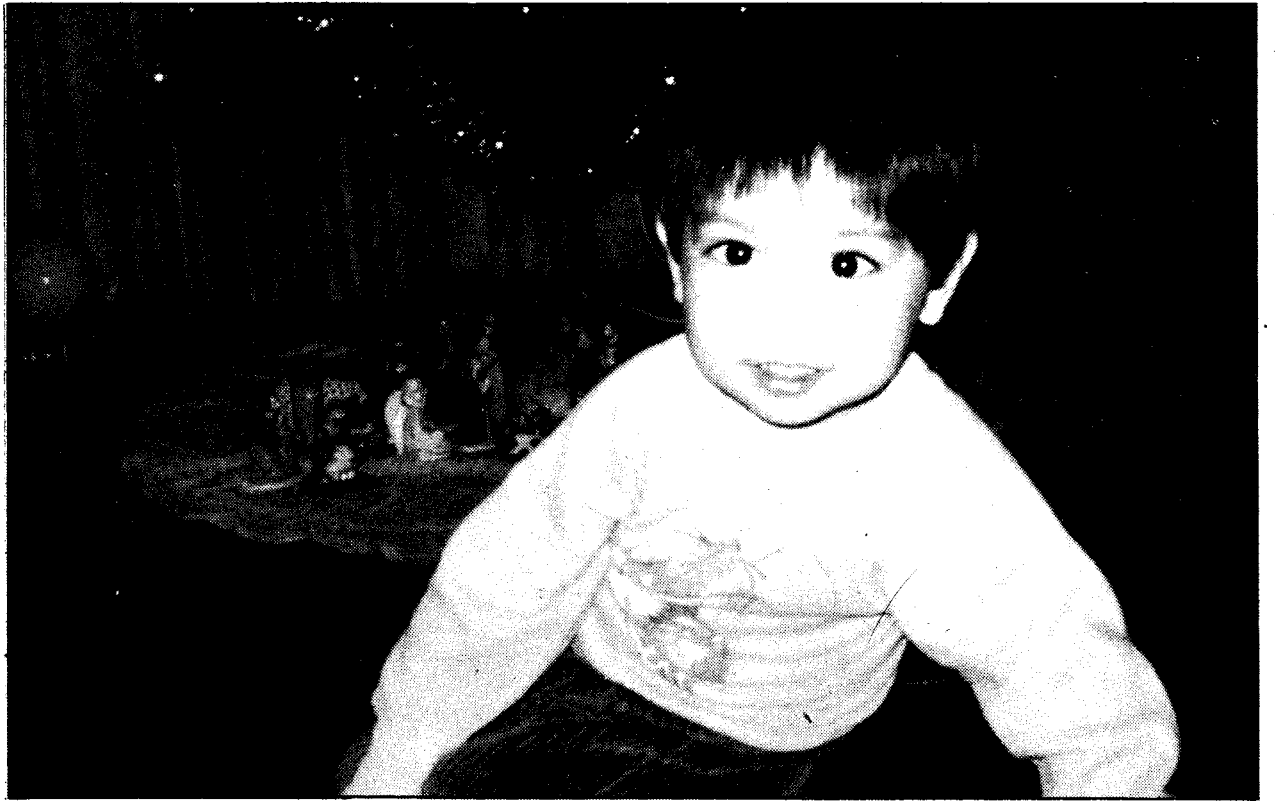
No longer trusting the care at the Navy Hospital, the family pursued outside specialists, paid for out of Mr. Flores limited serviceman salary. The private doctors detected scars on the child's eye and refuted the Navy's claim that the injury could have been congenital and merely tear duct obstructions.

One doctor felt that the circumstances around the child's delivery affected the child.

When Mrs. Flores filed a complaint with the Commanding Officer of the Bremerton Naval Hospital, she was not taken seriously and in fact, blamed for the eye injury. Furthermore, the Navy immediately reprimanded her husband who was aboard the USS Enterprise at the time, for not coming to them first. Refusing to be cowed, Mr. Flores said he could not force his wife to stop her complaints as it was her right to do so. They proceeded to file a malpractice suit against the Navy for damages and ill treatment prior to, during, and after the delivery of their son.

The Flores family has been subjected to numerous instances of harassment and discriminatory treatment by the Navy:

1. Mr. Flores' evaluation in the Navy were always high until after the complaint when he



Ernest Flores, victim of Naval hospital negligence.

discovered that his evaluation grades were changed and lowered.

2. The family had to insist they be given a copy of Mrs. Flores medical records (which is their right). After waiting in the doctor's office for twenty minutes refusing to leave until they received it, the Navy corpsman pulled it right from his drawer. Mrs. Flores found that the page containing a Fort Ord Army hospital report that her pelvic structure was too small to deliver a 6 lb. baby was missing. It was later recovered.

3. Mrs. Flores was again refused a caesarian section delivery for her second baby at the Oaknoll Navy hospital in Oakland, and denied a release of military medical coverage (Champus) to have a caesarian in a private hospital. Fearing a similar problem with her second child, she contemplated abortion. With the help of Congressman Pete Stark, the Champus papers were released.

4. Despite documentation that the first child requires special attention both medically and within the home, the Navy denied Mr. Flores' request to have his shore duty extended or to be given a humanitarian discharge. He was continually assigned to sea duty and now has gotten squad duty and could be shipped out anytime.

The entire Flores family has suffered as a result of this ordeal. They have spend thousands of dollars on medical care for their oldest son who is now developmentally delayed, has a speech and hearing problem, and will still require eye

surgery in the future.

Mrs. Flores was forced to quit working to care for her child who requires psychotherapy and special medical treatment. She has been under so much pressure that she has come close to having a nervous breakdown. Mr. Flores, who enlisted as a career man in the Navy, has become so disgusted with the treatment they have received, he has decided to leave the navy and forego the benefits after 10 years of service.

Despite these hardships, the Flores family is standing their ground. In the course of the last four years, they have become aware of many more cases of maltreatment of Filipinos and other Navy families by the insensitive and inept Navy hospitals. Most are just too afraid to speak out. The realization that theirs is not an isolated incident or a "figment of their imagination" (as the Navy would have them believe) has helped them to stay strong in their conviction that this type of treatment must not continue.

The Flores family has gambled a lot in bringing this issue into the open — both in the courts and by allowing themselves to be interviewed. They have been advised that raising the issue publicly may anger the Navy and make it difficult to get a settlement. However, they told this reporter, "We are not just interested in the money, although we are concerned about our eldest son's future. We want justice. It is kind of a moral question, you know, because people shouldn't be treated this way." □

Milwaukee Hotel Seeks Eminent Domain

SEATTLE — In a move unprecedented in this city's housing struggle, the International District Housing Alliance (IDHA) has sought the Seattle Housing Authority's declaration of "eminent domain" over the Milwaukee Hotel.

This bold move was undertaken by the IDHA prevent eviction of its more than fifty Asian tenants. Filipino and Chinese elderies have been living in the hotel for years because it is one of the few low-income housing sites in the International District.

The fight to maintain the hotel has been organized by the Milwaukee Hotel Tenants Assoc. despite the failure of the owners to repair the building. Last year, the city's Fire Department brought suit against Don Louie, the hotel's co-owner and manager, for negligence in correcting sixty fire code violations. Municipal Court Judge Barbara Yanick found Louie guilty and ordered the closure of the hotel and the eviction of the tenants within seven days.

But the IDHA, the tenants association, and a supporting community organization, the Interim, acted quickly. In less than two weeks, they impressively corrected forty of the violations, thus making Judge Yanick rescind her original order.

While the IHA and the tenants took over temporary management of the hotel, attempts to negotiate with Louie and the other co-owner, Jordan Wong, for either a long-term lease or purchase of the building have proved unsuccessful. Louie and Wong have continually refused to even discuss the long-term lease that the government needs in order to provide funding for the hotel's renovations.

The IDHA also offered the owners a purchase price of \$300,000, an offer that was much too generous considering the decreased market value of the place. Despite this, Louie and Wong arrogantly responded by asking the Alliance \$325,000 immediate cash, knowing that this would be impossible under the funding guidelines of the Housing Urban Development.

Realizing that the owners would not compromise at all, the IDHA decided to seek the aid of the Housing Authority. The latter has thus far agreed to send the owners an official "threat of condemnation" which could force the owners to sell the hotel.

If, however, Louie and Wong still refuse action, the Housing Authority would then proceed with "eminent domain." □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

Nationwide Forums Set

Week Of Education On The Bakke Decision

Across the nation, chapters of the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD) will be setting the groundwork and organizing efforts to host and sponsor a National Week of Education and Action Against the Bakke Decision and Racism, to be held from February 19-25.

Educational programs and events will be taking place nationwide, all aimed at deepening the understanding of the implications from the upcoming Supreme Court decision on the Bakke case.

Presentations and programs will be given to labor unions, civic and social organizations, agencies, teachers and students, minority community groups, and civil rights groups.

When asked why such an extensive and impressive move on the part of the NCOBD had been decided, National Co-Chairperson Ray Otake replied, "Most people, including those in minority communities, are not familiar with the issues in the Bakke case and how Bakke affects them." He further stated that, "Through this National Week of Education, we hope to show that the Bakke issue is just one instance of the current attacks waged against minority programs and minority rights nationwide."

The National Week will culminate on Feb. 25, with the final event being a "People's Trial," a play depicting the effects of the Bakke decision on

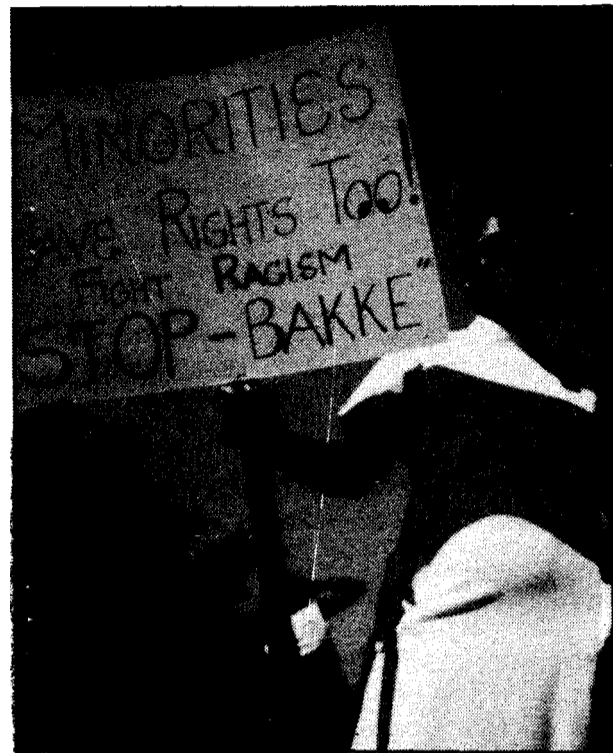
minority people's civil rights.

In the People's Trial, the NCOBD will attack the concept of "reverse discrimination," as a myth, highlighting this fact by featuring testimony by people active in anti-racist struggles. They will also include scenes recalling the history of racism in the U.S., and the struggles minorities have waged against it. Concluding the play will be special emphasis on why the Bakke attack is happening now and how it represents a central part of a rise of racism in a period of economic instability.

Events are being planned in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Antonio, Texas, and other cities.

The NCOBD has issued calls in each of these cities to people interested in working on the People's Trial. They are especially interested in looking for people who can help in the following areas: theatrical direction and staging; costume and make-up; lighting and sound; props and sets; music; stage crew; acting and extra people to help out with miscellaneous responsibilities.

For more information, contact the local chapter of the NCOBD, or the National Office for times, places the event will be held: NCOBD, P.O. Box 3026, So. Berkeley, Station, Berkeley, CA 94703 or call (415) 549-3297. □



Anti-Bakke protestor at last year's Nov. 8 National Day of Protest in Oakland, CA. [M. Barnes photo]

A Major Attack On Democratic Rights

Senate Passes Repressive S.1437 Bill

By JEANETTE LAZAM

Without much fanfare and with only eight days of floor debate, the Senate passed S-1437 January 30, a highly repressive national criminal code which now goes to the House for consideration.

The bill, known as the Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1977, was the descendant of last year's infamous S-1 bill. Like its predecessor, S-1437 represents a major attack on people's rights to organize, petition, and protest (see Commentary on page 7).

The quick Senate passage of the bill without public notice or outcry which stopped last year's S-1 bill was partially due to skillful Capital Hill maneuvering by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.).

'S-1437 would erode freedom of expression and other constitutional rights.'

Kennedy, along with other S-1437 backers was able to have the Senate vote on the bill ahead of debate on the Panama Canal Treaties as originally scheduled.

While there had been a recent increase in public opposition to the bill, the Senate action came before a strong S-1437 movement could be built. Despite the vote, however, concern about the bill from labor unions, community groups and the press continues to grow.

Organizers against S-1437, such as the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and local Stop S-1437 Coalitions will now shift the fight to stop the bill to the House of Representatives where hearings will be in mid-February.

S-1 DISGUISED

One of the reasons S-1437 passed so quickly was that backers of the bill claimed that the most blatant aspects contained in the earlier S-1 bill had been eliminated or watered down. These changes, numbering about 125 in all, were the reason why many former opponents of the bill recently threw their support behind the measure.

Opponents of S-1437, however, maintain that the bill continues to carry the same repressive features as those in S-1. According to David Fishlow of the



Northern California ACLU, "While the bill represents a considerable improvement over the earlier S-1, it still would erode important aspects of freedom of expression and other constitutional rights, and would strengthen the power of the federal government to investigate and prosecute controversial and outspoken citizens."

In addition, Fishlow and others also stressed that the language of the bill was so broad and unclear in describing criminal violation that almost anything that persons might do legally now, such as demonstrate or picket, might be viewed as a crime against the government under the new code.

According to the New York-based Guardian newspaper, some of the major repressive aspects of the Senate-passed version include:

- The bill makes it a misdemeanor with a penalty of one year in jail for "obstructing a government function by physical interference" — which the ACLU noted could be used to bar demonstrations at all federal facilities. The legislators added a clause this session giving five day sentences in cases of "nonviolent demonstrations" which do no "significant" impairment or "obstruct" a government

function.

- The catch in the latter provision is that the definition for "significant" will be reserved for a federal prosecutor and, although the penalty for an act is less severe, it gives the government the opportunity to move in and break up almost any demonstrations directed against it.

- The bill abolished the possibility of parole for almost all federal prisoners and changes the current system of indeterminate sentences (allowing judges sentencing discretion within certain limits) to a system of fixed sentences, with little time off for good behavior.

- Conservative Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) successfully introduced an amendment giving judges the right to preclude pretrial release of information necessary for the defense of suspects accused of murder, treason, and sabotage.

- The bill breathes life into two major pieces of McCarthy-era legislation. The Senate approved version retains a key section of the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950, which has long loomed as a serious threat to political activists and communists. And conservative Sen. James Allen (D.-Ala.) managed to reintroduce the Logan Act of 1799, which forbids private citizens from any direct contact or correspondence with foreign governments. Although no one has ever been prosecuted under the Logan Act, the government used it to intimidate many anti-Vietnam war activists.

PRESS FREEDOMS THREATENED

Despite some changes in S-1 provisions which attacked press freedom, the revised bill still threatens reporters with arrest and imprisonment.

Under the old bill, reporters who violated a court ordered gag rule were automatically subject to arrest and imprisonment. Recent changes now allow a reporter arrested for violating a judicial gag order to contend that the court order was invalid and an interference with news functions. In addition, limited protection was afforded reporters and information "leakers" if they carried out their activity solely for disseminating information to the public.

However, under the Obstructing a Government Function by Fraud articles, the new bill still provides arrest and jail sentence if a reporter "intentionally obstructs or impairs a government function by defrauding the government through misrepresentation, chicanery, trickery or other dishonest means."

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Election Boycott, Armed Attacks Hit Regime

Nicaraguans Strike Somoza Dictatorship

By VICTOR UNO

The forty-year-old dictatorship of Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza is facing its worst crisis as a nationwide general strike coupled with armed attacks by the Sandinista guerrillas have threatened to topple the hated regime.

Sparking the massive unrest was the Jan. 10 murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, a prominent Somoza critic and editor of the country's only opposition paper. Following Chamorro's assassination, which was linked to a rightist Cuban exile and business partner of Somoza, Pedro Ramos, over 25,000 Nicaraguans filled the streets of Managua calling for the removal of the dictator.

The massive street demonstrations, which attacked businesses owned by the Somoza family, quickly escalated into a nation-wide general strike on Jan. 25. Originally called by the General Labor Confederation and the Nicaraguan Worker's Center, to demand a full investigation of the Chamorro murder, strike leaders were soon calling for Somoza's resignation.

Reflecting the broad opposition to the Somoza regime was the widespread and popular support given the strike from all sectors of the Nicaraguan populace. Both business and labor organized the work stoppage, and Catholic bishops voiced their support for the strike. The country's biggest business organization, the Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE) threw its support behind the strike as did the Union for Democratic Liberation (UDL), a broad-based opposition coalition.

By the second week of the strike, an estimated 80 per cent of the country's businesses were closed. Striking truckdrivers halted deliveries of gasoline and oil, shutting down 37 of the capital's 47 service stations, crippling transportation throughout the country. Hospitals were closed because of striking doctors and the closing of stores caused nationwide shortages of numerous consumer goods. Many employers vowed to pay striking workers a show of their support for the anti-Somoza protests.

In addition to the nation-wide work stoppage, numerous demonstrations and protests have hit cities throughout the country. In Managua, a dozen women protesting the disappearance of relatives at the hands of Somoza's police occupied a UN office, demanding the release of all political prisoners. In support of the protestors were some 150 women, including some from Nicaragua's wealthy elite, who demonstrated and held a mass outside the building.

Other large protests of women,



Rivas residents carry coffin of Sandinista guerrilla recently slain in clash with Somoza's troops.

[UPI photo]

many carrying pots and pans in noisy demonstration, have occurred in the streets calling for Somoza's resignation. Students have also taken to Nicaragua's streets, and in various neighborhoods, street barricades and bonfires were erected to harass Somoza's police and army.

SOMOZA HEIGHTENS REPRESSION

In an attempt to suppress the nationwide uprising, Somoza mobilized the 7,500 member National Guard and invoked special emergency powers to impose heavy fines on business and industry which refused to obey government orders to reopen. Numerous convoys of jeeps, trucks, and armoured personnel carriers were dispatched to the streets of the nation's capital in an effort to force businesses open at gunpoint and intimidate the people.

While claiming stability and confidence in his regime, Somoza heightened press censorship while members of his National Guard clashed repeatedly with anti-government protestors. In the city of Matagalpa, 120 miles north of Managua, troops fired on an anti-Somoza march Feb. 1, killing one and wounding eight. National guardsmen have repeatedly used teargas and clubs to disperse the peaceful protestors which have recently occurred.

Throughout the upheavels, dictator Anastasio Somoza has tried to maintain an outward image of confidence and stability. "There has been a definite countdown to see if the

Somoza's are in or out," admitted the 53-year-old dictator during the second week of the strike. "Well, in my view, the answer is that we're very much in."

Somoza staked part of this claim on the municipal elections on Feb. 5. Prior to the voting Somoza urged Nicaraguans to participate in the balloting, saying that "No violence, no strike, nothing has kept us from continuing to enjoy our constitutional guarantees and one of these is going to the polls without fear and freely."

The popular opposition, however, urged a massive boycott of the election, demanding that the aging dictator resign. The Conservative Party, the only legal opposition to the Somoza dynasty in the balloting, withdrew half of their candidates in protest.

On the voting day itself, reports of empty or near-empty polling stations were posted by the news media. The Somoza opposition claimed a victory with over 80 per cent of the eligible voters participating in the boycott. Even Somoza was forced to concede that the boycott was effective as he voided the elections and conceded that 65 per cent of the voters stayed away.

SANDINISTA GUERRILLAS LAUNCH ATTACKS

While massive protests and the election boycott hit Somoza in the cities, guerrillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) launched armed attacks against troops of the National Guard.

Despite the press censorship of the Somoza regime, the government admitted that in the town of Granada, three guardsmen were killed in a FSLN attack which caught the government troops by surprise. Government buildings were taken over on the evening of a Feb. 2 raid during which the guerrillas hoisted a banner over the main square reading, "This square was taken by the Sandinista Front on February 2, 1978."

The government was more quiet on details of a larger FSLN attack in Rivas, admitting only that three government soldiers were killed and six were wounded.

The Sandinistas, which just last October launched a series of attacks against national guard outposts which left 50 dead, have been waging a 15

year armed struggle against the Somoza dynasty. The armed movement takes its name from Augusto Cesar Sandino, a nationalist general who fought U.S. marine occupation in the 1920's and was murdered by the present dictator's father, also named Anastasio Somoza.

U.S. PROTESTS HIT SOMOZA

A number of protests against the Somoza dictatorship have also occurred in the U.S. In San Francisco's predominantly latin Mission district, candlelight vigils and marches were staged during the week of Jan. 30. The Nicaraguan consulate was also briefly occupied and a large rally was held Feb. 4.

Official U.S. reaction to Somoza's troubles has been guarded, although there are indications that the White House realizes that the Somoza dictatorship is fast becoming a political liability. While Washington has been a staunch supporter of the Somoza government for the past 40 years, the White House responded to international criticism of the regime last year by suspending economic aid. In addition, there are reports that military aid to Somoza will be cut back this year.

Despite these moves by the White House, there are reports in the Latin American press that the Somoza government has been using U.S. supplied napalm against the Sandinista guerrillas in the mountains surrounding Managua. While there has been no official admission of the napalming, it has been reported that the Nicaraguan air force used the bombs for 15 consecutive days in January to destroy the FSLN.

Such actions against the FSLN would not contradict present U.S. efforts which seem to be putting leverage on Somoza to allow the growth of moderate opposition while isolating the revolutionary FSLN. However, the Somoza family is so entrenched in the corruption and repression in Nicaragua that such moves towards a democratic facade may be too late to save the ailing dictator. And the anti-Somoza opposition is so broad, sharing a common hatred of the regime, that there are elements which openly call for the participation of the FSLN in the transition after Somoza's over-

Senate Passes S.-1437...

(continued from page 10)

WHITE HOUSE PRESSURE

As the bill moves to the House in the latter part of this month, the White House is expected to exert a great deal of pressure on the representatives to pass the bill so Democrats can point to it as one of their major accomplishments in the November elections.

In the meantime, the movement to stop S-1437 continues to build, with more labor, community and civil rights groups organizing against the bill. Recently, six international unions and 20 locals including the American Newspaper Guild and the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union, have passed resolutions condemning the bill.

However, organizers against S-1437 note that opposition will have to grow if the repressive measure is to be stopped in the House. For more information on S-1437, write NCARL, 1250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 501, Los Angeles, CA 90017. □

Anti-Martial Law Front

FFP STATEMENT ON U.S. BASES IN THE R.P.

U.S. Bases an 'Affront to Philippine Sovereignty'

This statement on the U.S. Bases in the Philippines was presented for the Friends of the Filipino People by Professor Daniel Boone Schirmer at the World Peace Council international conference entitled "Dialogue on Disarmament and Detente," January 25-27, 1978 in Washington, D.C. — Editor's note.

The Friends of the Filipino People asks this body to consider the question of U.S. military and naval bases in the Philippines. We believe these bases are contrary to the interests of the people of the United States, an affront to the sovereignty of the Filipino people, and a threat to the peace of Asia and other areas of the world. These bases, in fact, represent an especially dangerous and unjust system of armaments that most particularly deserves to be eliminated.

Today the United States maintains a number of military and naval bases in the Philippines. Of these the most important are Subic Naval Base, chief repair station for the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and Clark Air Field, home of the 13th Air Force, the last remaining U.S. planes in Southeast Asia.

At present negotiations are going on between the governments of the Philippines and the United States for a new treaty to govern these bases. These negotiations appear to be discussing such things as flying Philippine flags at the bases and the presence of Philippine commanders in the bases. Changes like these will

in no way alter or interfere with the essential U.S. control of the bases.

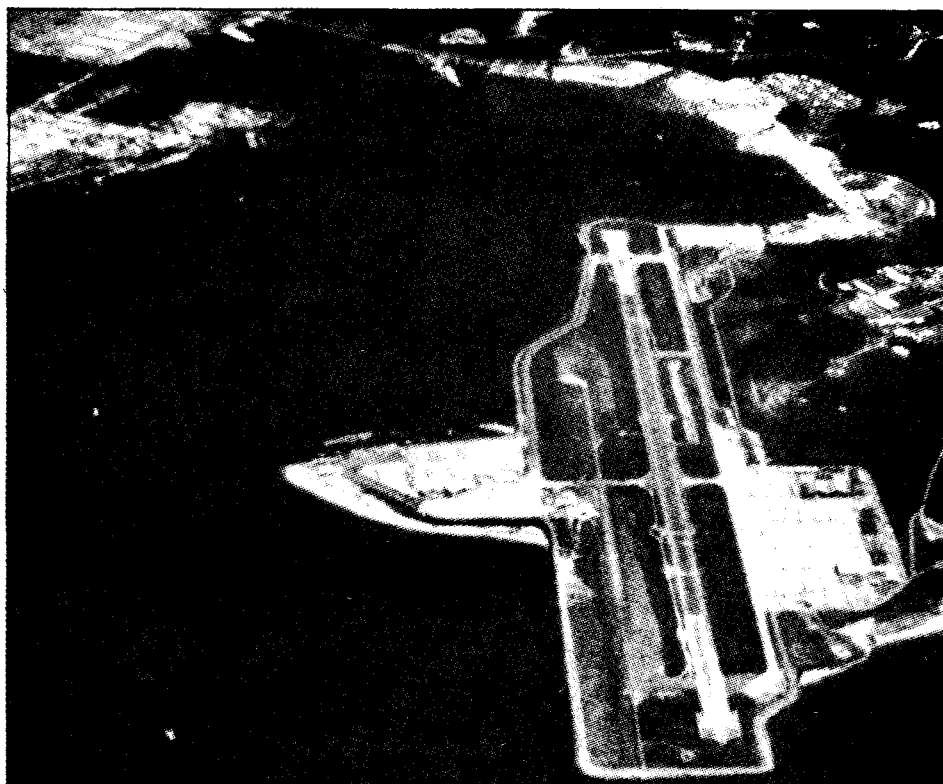
Since the future of U.S. bases in the Philippines is at present under discussion, we feel it is an especially appropriate time for international peace forces to express their opinion on this question. Certainly there are many people in the United States who would be interested in their opinion.

We believe that the danger to world peace that this particular system of armament represents can best be understood in terms of history. The United States have had a military presence in the Philippines since 1899. In that year, the imperial-minded President McKinley sent U.S. troops to make a U.S. colony out of the Philippines, and a year later, this same McKinley sent a large contingent of these same U.S. troops from the Philippines to intervene in China and help suppress the Boxer Rebellion.

In 1918-1920 U.S. bases in the Philippines served to support U.S. military intervention in Soviet Siberia.

Bringing this record of support for aggressive intervention (only partially recorded here) to climax, the U.S. bases in the Philippines served as a cornerstone, an essential logistical support for the U.S. war against the Vietnamese people from 1964 to 1975.

The use of Philippines bases as a launching pad for U.S. intervention elsewhere is entirely consistent with the purpose assigned to the bases by the U.S. military high command. In 1945 in a top-secret memorandum the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff defined the purpose of the Philippine bases in the following terms: "The



Subic Naval Base — 'a launching pad for U.S. intervention.'

U.S. bases in the Philippines should be considered not merely outposts but as springboards from which the United States Forces may be projected."

Principled Philippine nationalists have long opposed the bases as an infringement on their country's sovereignty and independence. Only last year the prestigious Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines called for the elimination of the bases (reportedly a storage place for U.S. nuclear arms) in order to forestall their nation's involvement in any possible nuclear holocaust.

It is certainly the traumatic experience of the Vietnam War that has caused for the first time a significant movement of U.S. opinion against the bases. This has been seen especially in the past year. So important a journal as the New York

Times editorially questioned the bases present validity. Some 95 academic and religious notables called for their withdrawal. Voices in U.S. government circles also questioned the bases. The U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia circulated an unprecedented document calling for their elimination. A Staff Report of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee declared the value of Clark Air Base questionable "unless the United States intends to mount and support major military operations in the Southeast Asia mainland."

But it is highly doubtful that the peoples of Southeast Asia will allow such military operations to occur again. In fact the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has an agreement with the Philippine government that the Philippines will not allow the bases to support intervention against Vietnam, and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Trinh has expressed confidence that "the Philippines will not let the bases be used for aggression against Southeast Asian nations." Moreover, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has urged the Philippine government to work for the elimination of these bases altogether. We believe that these positions of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are fully in accord with the interests of the people of the Philippines and the United States, are fully in accord with the interests of world peace.

If there is one thing that is altogether definite and clear, it is that the people of the United States do not want to become entangled in new wars of intervention in South Korea, the Middle East, or South Africa. Therefore, it is in the highest interests of the people of the United States that a potential base for such military entanglement be removed.

That is why we urge this body to take a position that calls for the elimination of U.S. bases in the Philippines. Such a measure would also promote the full independence of the Filipino people, help convert Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and friendship, and remove a system of armaments that can only serve as tinder to the fires of war, can only be a danger to the cause of international peace. □

PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM HIRED

Dictatorship Attempts To Improve Image

By SAMUEL R. CACAS
AK Correspondent

The Philippine government recently signed a contract with Doremus & Co., Inc., a U.S. public relations firm, in an attempt to improve its image in the United States, according to a recent article in the *Washington Post*.

In a related development, the D.C. Alliance Against Martial Law in the Philippines, learned that a photo display of the "New Society" in the Philippines was exhibited in the lobby of the Mullin Library of Catholic University on January 24.

The display, entitled, "The Philippines Today," was taken down four days later following protest letters from students and faculty members of the University's Social Work Department. The Alliance later learned from one student that the University had agreed to use the photo display in exchange for law journals from the Philippines. The exchange was transacted through the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., according to the student.

Earlier the same week, an Alliance member reported that paintings and etchings of artists from the Philippines were displayed in the lobby of the International Monetary Foundation Building.

Attempts by the Philippine government to improve its image in the U.S. have come in the midst of increasing media coverage of human rights violations in the Philippines and financial scandals linked to the Philippine government. □

Pro Marcos Journalist Attempts Intimidation

SACRAMENTO — A speaker at an upcoming conference on human rights revealed to the *Ang Katipunan* that he was recently the object of an intimidation attempt by a pro-Marcos journalist from Sacramento.

Dr. Edwin Almirol, a professor at the Ethnic Studies Dept. of the University of California at Davis reported that he received a telephone call from Milicio Jacoban, editor of the Sacramento-based *Bataan News*. Almirol said that Jacoban warned him to "speak well" of the Marcos regime at the human rights conference. Almirol is one of the speakers on the human rights condition in the Philippines at the conference on "Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy" which will take place at the U.C. Davis campus Feb. 24-25.

Almirol quoted Jacoban, who is known to have very close ties with the Marcos government, as saying, "You better be careful with anything you say because we're looking at this thing very closely." Jacoban was also reported to have warned Almirol that "the Consul is interested in hearing what you have to say."

Jacoban then told Almirol to "emphasize the positive aspects of martial law, the improvements and advantages which it has brought to the country."

When Almirol replied that his talk was going to focus on human rights violations in the Philippines, Jacoban reportedly questioned his qualifications to speak about the Philippines and even questioned the nationality of Almirol, who is a Philippine national.

Almirol decried what he considered a "blatant attempt to curtail people's right to free expression."

Having learned of the incident, this city's local Anti-Martial Law Alliance plans to lodge a protest against Jacoban's attempt to extend Marcos unpopular martial rule here.

The conference which Almirol will address will also feature Ms. Pat Darien, head of the State Department's Office on Human Rights. □