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Prop 13 Threatens Services

Labor and Community Demo Hits Cutbacks



Over 400 demonstrated outside of the County of Alameda Administration Building protesting indiscriminate cutbacks in community services by the Board of Supervisors. [AK photo]

By DAVID POLAND
AK Correspondent

Alameda County is up in arms. On Feb. 5 the Alameda County Labor-Community Coalition staged a militant rally outside of the Alameda County Administration office. They then confronted the Board of Supervisors in protest of their proposed Proposition 13 cutbacks and questionable prioritization process.

A multi-racial group of 300 persons representing over 90 organizations — mostly social services and labor groups — all spoke their bitterness at the county's implementing of indiscriminate cutbacks in community fundings as a result of last year's passage of Prop. 13, the Jarvis-Gann initiative.

Ironically, it is only the community-based agencies who are threatened with cuts; there is no other mid-year scrutiny of any other section of the Alameda budget. The rally's speakers targeted this prioritization process as highly arbitrary and discriminatory. They pointed to the fact that even County Administrative Officer Mel Hing stated recently that there is enough money in the County budget to fund all community services at the 90 percent level until the end of fiscal year 1978-1979.

The Coalition went even further in targeting the City's own priorities by exposing that the county is currently spending \$39 million on a new jail, and

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Clergy Reacts To Pope's Message

What does it mean to the increasingly politicized Philippine clergy to hear of the Pope's message to the religious of Latin America? "You are not social messengers, political leaders or functionaries of a temporal power," said the prelate last Jan. 26 addressing the Third Latin American Bishop's Conference. In what many observers see as a deliberate effort to squelch the Latin-born "Theology of Liberation," he added, "This idea of Christ as a political figure, a revolutionary, as the subversive man from Nazareth does not tally with the church's catechism."

"To us it does not mean anything if he says that in Mexico," said one Philippine sister, the former superior of her order. "He must either address it to the universal church or come here and tell us."

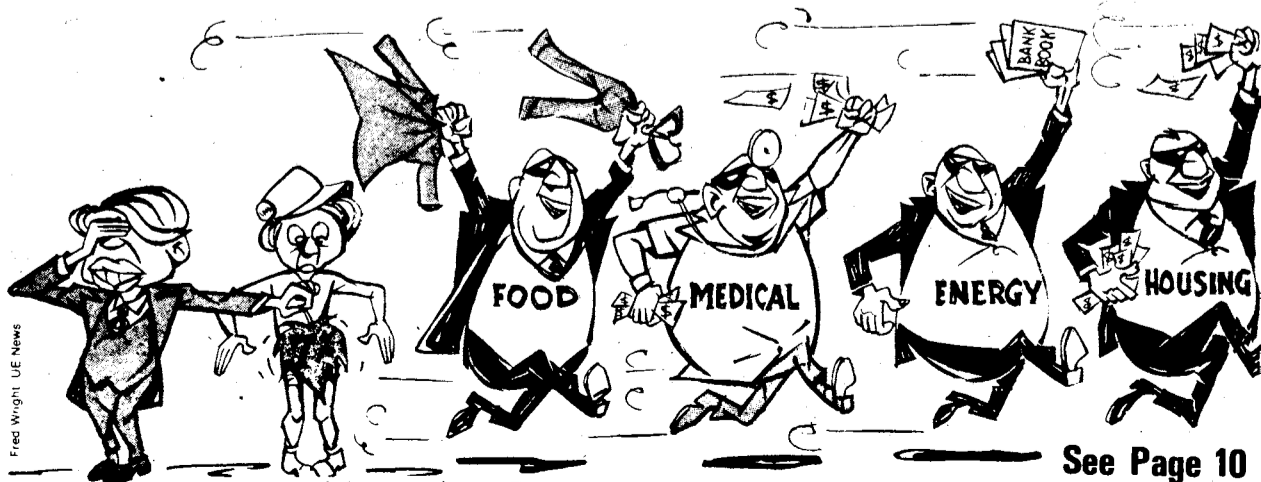
Religious who are among the most outspoken

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Philippine clergy members who have played an active role in the resistance movement voiced opposition to the Pope's recent message to the church. [AK photo]

U.S. Economy: the worst is to come



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NO SHORTCUTS TO NATIONAL LIBERATION

Reprinted from the *Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas*

Now that historic examples of other national liberation struggles are beginning to sink into our consciousness — how it took 30 years in the last round to liberate the Chinese people and never less than 15 years in most societies like ours — there are those who now dream of shortcuts to national liberation.

The illusion of a successful palace coup, which always looks so good in the movies, and which had actually taken place in a few welfare states has obsessed many libertarians of late. Much of the impatience may be due to confusion of the issue from the very beginning. The issue was never the removal of Ferdinand E. Marcos. For Marcos is an effect, not the cause. The issue always was, and is even more urgently, the demolition of the entire socio-economic order and its colonial underpinnings that installed Marcos to power. Marcos is only a temporary abcess in a sick and corrupt network; government is but one organ in society's body system. To remove Marcos without smashing the entire network so that someone of the same ilk cannot stage a repeat.

Errata. . .

Last issue, AK ran an article, *Bases Agreement Facilitating U.S. intervention*. The concluding section however, due to typographical errors, was misleading. With this, we reprint the corrected version of the article — Editor.

By increasing U.S. military assistance to the Marcos dictatorship, the U.S. is already intervening in internal Philippine affairs. Marcos, however, has gone out of his way to preclude objections to the agreement based on fears of a Vietnam-style commitment of U.S. forces. The U.S. Marcos says, will not be called upon to commit ground troops, "except as a last resort." Despite these assurances, the new agreement in fact provides a framework for the gradual involvement of U.S. forces in counter-insurgency operations.

Under the old treaty, U.S. forces were formally prohibited from acting against Philippine nationals although in practice this was not the case. Under

performance is useless.

Allende in Chile, for instance, made fatal shortcuts via an urban-based electoral coup. The elections supported by progressive forces could not, through legal sanctions alone, remove the old power structure fast enough, so that in effect, they set themselves up for public massacre. Pinochet's orgy of assassinations under brutal martial law following the murder of Allende is too well-known to repeat. Allende's error was to rely on constitutional processes or government pressure to uproot powerful imperialist-dominated economic and social structures that had described Chilean society through the years of mafia rule and corporate terror — a naive gesture at the best, in an underdeveloped society.

A palace coup and a people's war are never the same thing. The first is a conspiracy by a chosen few with powerful weapons suppliers and a small base in the capital city. People's war takes place where the people are — in the rural areas — and begins unevenly with land reform and localized people's governments, moving in pincer strokes in seemingly autonomous circular rings. The people themselves

the new agreement, "The U.S. commanders may participate in security activities within the base but outside the U.S. facility and off base in accordance with mutually-agreed procedures." This seemingly innocuous provision in the new agreement in fact carries ominous implications for it provides "legal" justification for direct U.S. participation in counter-insurgency operations which, in the past, had to be done on the sly. This, more over, is not a future possibility but a current reality for as the *Far Eastern Economic Review* of January 19, 1979 points out, one of the problems that the new agreement will solve is the need for joint U.S.-Philippine operations against the NPA guerrillas operating within the base perimeters.

As more and more aspects of the agreement are revealed, it will become increasingly clear that far from decreasing its military and political presence in the Philippines, the U.S. is instead strengthening this presence under the new agreement. It is not just that the "concessions" to Philippine sovereignty in the agreement mask continued Philippine subservience to U.S. strategic interests, they are being used to further increase this subservience. □

fight for and consolidate their own liberation from the forces of exploitation, poverty and the remnants of a feudal aristocracy — only one of whom is Marcos himself and his influence-peddling empress, in region after region, until only the largest cities and bastions of "white" power remain unliberated. This is undoubtedly a slow process with many reversals, but it so thoroughly touches every aspect of the peoples lives and institutions that no part of the old network remains outside the cities by the time the massive steamroller of armed peasantry and workers converges on what remains of the old order. The revolution's victory and consolidation is assured.

Those who are today fired with the hope of a quick palace coup staged by an elite of grandstand players are toying with risks and short-term changes. Genuine national liberation can never be won through an urban putsch designed by a few civil rightists, or mis-guided Black Septembrists, or bored adventurers who have grown wary of the long years invested in genuine liberation from the grassroots. People's war is the only reliable shape of things to come. □

Letters to the Editor

Jan. 25, 1979

The Philippine Times

Dear Editor,

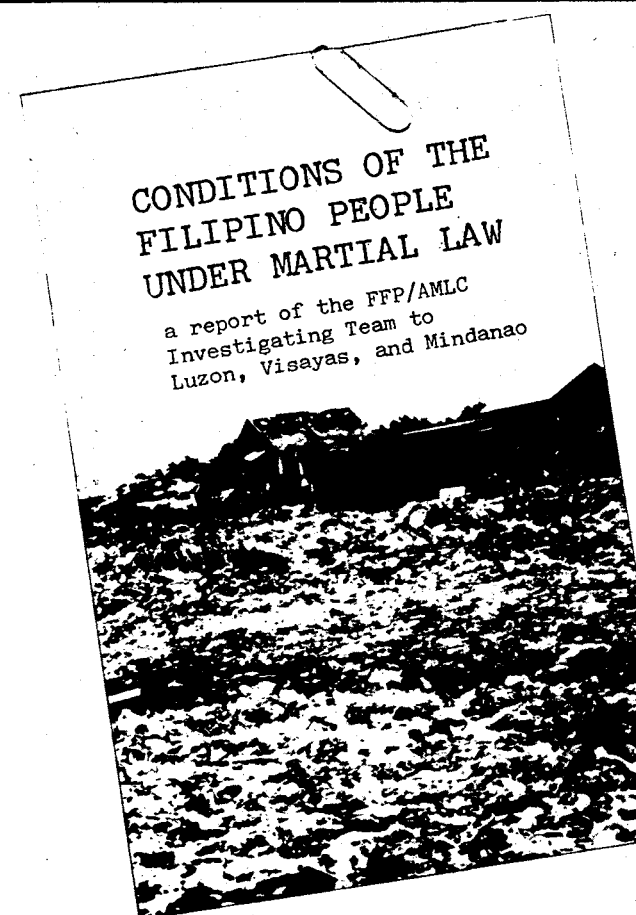
Noel Pagsuberon reports that the opposition forces have risen as one man in condemning the Carter-Marcos military bases ("Shut-Bases Drive Is On," Jan. 20-26, 1979). He also reported that a strategy involving advertisements in the U.S. mass media have been worked out and that "the MFP and the AMLC are reported to have set aside their differences and rallied against the Carter-Marcos tie-up."

For the sake of accuracy, some clarifications are needed. On the one hand, the Marcos opposition forces in the Philippines and here have indeed come out with the same position on the bases — that of condemnation of the agreement. On the other hand, the AMLC and the MFP have not yet really done any of the things reported by Mr. Pagsuberon. They have not met and neither have they worked out any strategy. However, since the two groups have essentially the same position on the U.S. bases they indeed have the excellent basis to set aside their differences and to act in concert against the regime. Mr. Pagsuberon's enthusiastic reporting is only an accurate reflection of the overwhelming sentiment in the community: that the MFP and the AMLC should unite and act as one against a common enemy, and that the best time to do this is right now.

Some opposition leaders in the Philippines have asked the two groups to work jointly in seeing to it that the united opposition statement against the U.S. bases to be published as an advertisement in major U.S. newspapers. The AMLC is more than willing to cooperate with the MFP on this project. We have written the MFP through its president Raul Manglapus indicating our keen interest. We agree with the movement's well-wishers that a joint endeavor such as this one can be an important concrete step to building unity.

Sincerely,
Rene Cruz
National Coordinator
AMLC

CC: Pinoy, Phil. News, Ang Katipunan, Bayanihan Tribune, Filipino Forum.



**CONDITIONS OF THE
FILIPINO PEOPLE
UNDER MARTIAL LAW**

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Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Military Commission President Retires: David Case Drags On

"I am a good soldier. I owe my allegiance to my country and my God. I do not owe my loyalty to one man because loyalty to one man breeds tyranny and dictatorship." These were the words of Army Col. Romeo Soliman Jr., out-going president of Military Commission No. 6, as he delivered his valedictory address to a surprised audience.

Soliman's unexpected and ironic declaration took place during the January 11 hearing of the seven-year old subversion case against former student-activist, Luzvimindo David, and thirty-seven others at the Torres Hall of Justice, Camp Aguinaldo. David and his co-defendants are associated with the protest movement of the '60s and early '70s.

The turnover of the commission presidency means the case will drag on. Soliman himself succeeded another president who also retired before resolving the case. Much earlier, in 1972, the case was in the Court of First Instance. Upon the declaration of martial law the trials stopped, the case was frozen for five years and reopened again under new legal proceedings presided by a military tribunal instead of a civilian court.

The subversion case, upon which Marcos staked claims to the legitimacy of martial law is now entering its eighth year with a hearing reset for February 14. □

Soviet Offer of Aid Bared

The Marcos government was offered military aid by the Soviet Union during a deadlock in the U.S. bases negotiations, *Time* Journal writer Vicente Foz revealed last month.

Marcos was mum on the report, while Soviet Embassy spokesman, Tulkoon Karimov said, "I think it is not correct."

Whether or not the martial-law regime considered taking up the Soviet Union on its offer remains unknown. However, a "highly placed," unidentified source, said that the acceptance of Soviet aid would have forced the United States to dismantle the bases in the Philippines. The source was quoted as saying, "It would be inconceivable for the Philippines to receive aid from both (U.S. and U.S.S.R.). It's an either-or proposition.

In fact, with the recent U.S. Bases Agreement, the regime has committed itself not to "grant without prior contact of the United States, any bases or any rights, power or authority whatsoever, in or relating to the bases, to any third power.

Travel Restraints Still Imposed

Despite earlier presidential announcements lifting the travel ban, Aquilino Pimental, Jr., former Constitutional Convention delegate in 1971, found himself a recent victim of travel restrictions.

Pimental was refused his travel clearance by the Travel Processing Center (TPC). Subsequently, he approached the Supreme Court to pressure TPC release his travel papers. He also filed a petition with General Fabian Ver, head of the National Investigation and Security Authority (NISA), which governs TPC, and Major R. Madella, officer-in-charge of TPC.

Pimental asserted that his constitutional rights to travel had been violated.

Government Workers Ask for Wage Increase

The Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA) passed a resolution urging President Marcos to raise the salaries of 800,000 national government employees by 30 percent. The resolution further asked that Assembly members, Arturo Tolentino and Carmencita Reyes present the wage increase request to President Marcos.

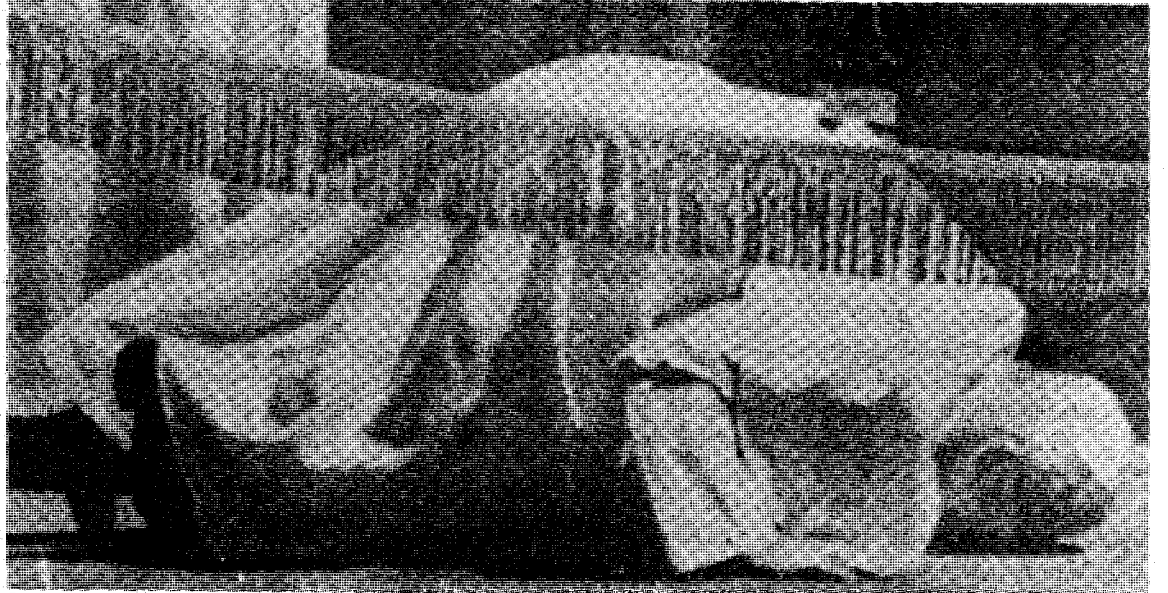
The resolution comes at a time when prices of prime commodities continue to spiral and more price hikes are expected due to the anticipated rise in oil prices. In contrast, wages remained stagnant for government employees. □

Seamen—Highest Export Labor Earners

The Central Bank of the Philippines reported a total of \$29.43 million in remittances from seamen's wages from January to November last year. By December, 1978, the total was placed at \$120 million, making Filipino seamen, as exported labor, the largest foreign exchange earners in the Philippines.

Next to the British, Filipino seamen are most numerous among the international shipping crews. There is also a large turnover of Filipino seamen each year.

To insure the large remittances, the Philippine government has controlled the massive recruitment and turnover of seamen, and has negotiated only \$187 as a monthly salary for them. Under international union agreements, however, seamen are entitled to \$520 per month. On top of that, the government requires at least 70 percent of the seamen's \$187 pay be remitted to the closest relative. In addition, the Philippine Chamber of Maritime Industry, collects a management fee from shipowners for whom the seamen work. The dollar earning from this cheap labor export is then coursed through the Central Bank. □



Pope as he alights from plane in Mexico where he later advocated the neutrality of the Church in political and social movements for change. (UPI)

Reaction to Pope's Message...

continued from page 1

critics of Ferdinand Marcos' martial law were clearly disturbed by the Pope's message, but at the same time determined to persist in their role as social commentators. Even the more conservative church figures defended the right of the clergy to speak out against injustice.

"Injustices should and will continue to be denounced," said Rev. Joaquin Bernas, head of the Jesuit order. Jaime Cardinal Sin, while supporting the Pope's message, compared activist clergy to an automobile accelerator: "Remove the accelerator and the car stays still."

Spokesmen for the Marcos regime were clearly delighted.

The Romualdez-controlled *Times Journal* lost no time in editorializing upon this clear indication of a deliberate rightward trend within the Vatican. While progressive clergy all over Latin America denounced the entire Bishop's Conference, its documents and its hand-picked participation by known conservatives and reactionaries, the *Times Journal* denounced "those who would involve the Church in Marxist adventures."

INVITATION FROM IMELDA

First Lady Imelda Marcos who managed a visit with the new Pope in the Vatican immediately following his coronation has obviously found him a man after her own

heart. She has already invited him to the Philippines to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the archdiocese of Manila. The invitation was recently renewed by Julio Cardinal Rosales.

If the Pope should decide to attend and re-issue his reactionary message on Philippine soil, he may find himself alienating a significant segment of the Philippine religious. Speaking of Rosales and Mrs. Marcos, one sister said, "What do they know of the poor, the starvation, the torturing, the eviction by the government of slum dwellers in the Philippines So I say it's all baloney to go to Rome and ask the Pope to come and attend a celebration." □

Anti-Bases Movement Grows



The anti-bases movement experienced a resurgence in the wake of the recently concluded bases treaty. Above a pre-martial law protest march demanding the expulsion of the bases.

"We call and challenge all Filipinos to unite and support the movement to dismantle U.S. bases. It is never too late to take serious steps to assert our rights and promote our welfare as a people," urged the College Editors Guild in a joint statement published in the *Philippine Collegian* last Jan. 25. The statement came in the wake of a renewed drive to expell U.S. bases whose continued existence on Philippine soil was guaranteed by the recently concluded U.S.-RP Bases Agreement.

The anti-bases movement was kicked-off on January 9 by a symposium featuring Civil

Liberties Union members Jose Diokno and Alejandro Lichauco as guest speakers. Earlier, a number of oposition figures issued a statement strongly condemning the five-year bases agreement signed by Marcos and Ambassador Murphy last Dec. 31.

During the symposium, student leaders representing various universities in the Manila area laid down plans for an intensive anti-bases information campaign. As a result, the Anti-Bases Committee was formed and is currently sponsoring lecture series against the bases in different campuses.

Queried on the significance of an anti-bases movement now that the agreement has been concluded, the student-based Committee said: "We believe that an agreement is not necessarily valid merely because the martial law authorities deem it so. The people alone can make decisions on matters which will virtually affect the future of our country. The struggle against U.S. bases must continue." Elaborating on the reasons for this movement, the Committee said: "U.S. bases are here primarily for the protection of U.S. economic interests in the

continued on page 5

Marcoses Named In Swindle Pay-off Suits

Two business irregularities, involving as usual the Marcoses, have been recently reported in the Asian Wall Street Journal. The report comes in the wake of reports that the regime's credibility among investors is suffering because of its failure to honor contracts as well as favoring business deals involving Marcos relatives and friends. According to the Asian Letter, a confidential fact sheet servicing Southeast Asia investors, the Philippines and Indonesia have earned the wariness of foreign investors for the manner in which they conduct business.

This was followed by a recent report that First Lady Imelda Marcos has been named in a suit by Ford Motor Company stockholders for bribing company chairman Henry Ford with \$2 million to establish a \$50 million car body stamping plant in the Philippines. In naming Mr. Ford and Mrs. Marcos as principals in the suit, the shareholders led by Roy Cohn and Henry Ford II, have been more specific than in the past. In a suit filed last year against Mr. Ford, the shareholders referred to a pay-off made by the "highest Philippine officials." The suit charges that Mr. Ford misused corporate assets in establishing the car plant which has incurred a loss of \$17 million through 1977. The shareholders also named General Sutowo of Indonesia for having made a similar pay-off to Ford in return for a \$30 million contract.

SWINDLE SUIT

In a related development, Mrs. Ana Marie Ocampo, a millionaire businesswoman, is seeking a government action against the Philippine Cruising Ventures Incorporated, an enterprise owned by the president's brother Dr. Pacifico Marcos. Echoing



Marcoses with Christina Ford in 1975. Imelda has been named in a Ford Motor Co. bribery suit involving \$2 million.

the frustrations of local businesspersons victimized by the Marcos-Romualdez clique, Mrs. Ocampo, in her suit before the Securities and Exchange Commission, said "I didn't include Dr. Marcos as one of the respondents because it would simply be a waste of time."

At issue is the transfer to PCVI of a 5,650 ton ship and a condominium unit worth \$2.6 million owned by Mrs. Ocampo who claims that she was never paid for these assets. Ocampo also alleges that PCVI is swindling the public by using her assets to sell shares to the public worth \$34 million. She said about 400 persons have already bought shares and the PCVI promised them a free trip to Hong Kong last November but never delivered.

Dr. Pacifico Marcos, chairman of the Philippine Medical Care Commission, is also chairman of PCVI, a private membership club. Other board members include Dr. Marcos' son, a government minister and deputy minister. Marcos is also a major stockholder in 14 successful companies ranging from real estate to a savings bank.

As is often the case, Mrs. Ocampo's suit has not appeared in the government-controlled press. When reached for comment, Dr. Marcos said "My hands are clean." Meanwhile, Ocampo's suit has yet to be commented upon by the SEC. Among the PCVI officers named in her suit is Nelia Gonzales, a relative of SEC Commissioner Julio Sulit Jr. □

PAGBABALIK WAS PAGBABALIK WAS

Human Rights Day Celebrated Amidst Repression

December 10 marked the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was celebrated in many ways and forms all over the Philippines last December 1978.

In the greater Manila area, a series of activities were held. There was a drama-liturgical at the University of the Philippines chapel in honor of all Christians in the Philippines who had been killed in the struggle to promote human rights.

At St. Theresa's College in Quezon City a well-attended Ecumenical Conference took place.

In Tondo, some 150 persons attended a multi-sectoral symposium sponsored by the Kapisan, a religious grouping. They discussed the concrete problems of slum dwellers under the Marcos regime, one of the known violators of human rights in the world.

As far south as Cotabato City a group of religious spearheaded the celebration of Human Rights week. Different sectors participated in the activities. Ex-senator Jose Diokno was invited to speak. The CEMCOM—Central Mindanao Command officers—were also invited to the activities. A prayer rally held at the Notre Dame University grounds involved both Muslims and Christians alike.

In five centers of Negros Occidental, an estimated 18,280 people attended the celebrations.

In Iloilo City, thousands attended a reflection-symposium sponsored by the Western Visayas Church Forum for Justice and People's Development. The participants, coming mostly from the poor and farmworker sectors, spoke to their hardship and the continuing military abuses.

During this event, Col. Miguel Abaya, Provincial Commander of the



Workers on picket duty.

City's PC-INP command sent two military men in his stead, in response to an invitation extended to him. The two men started taking pictures of participants defying an earlier agreement between symposium organizers and the military. When asked to turnover the film, the military men made a quick escape, marring what was otherwise a peaceful gathering. [Adapted from BMP] □

ROTATION POLICY ASSAILED

Workers of Inductocast Co., a machine parts manufacturing company based in Mandaue City, Cebu, staged a three-week long strike to protest management's "rotation" policy of employment.

Under the said policy, workers alternate their jobs in the factory for a certain period of time, thus resulting in a cutdown on labor costs.

Despite a ruling against the practice by the Ministry of Labor, the policy has been upheld and supported by the Associated Labor Union, a known pro-management labor federation, and the local labor office.

According to PAKIGBISOG, an underground newsletter, in Cebu, the

workers' strike, said to be the longest in the region since the imposition of the strike ban, is gaining support from various sectors in the city.

Management initiated the "rotation" policy to offset what its claims to be financial losses. However, the workers said the firm has been earning steadily over the years.

At the conclusion of the strike, the workers won their demands for remunerations with the company agreeing to decrease the rotation period of workers from six months to three months and to give P20 per week to every worker affected by the policy. [Adapted from BMP] □

LAGUNA FARMWORKERS ON STRIKE

Some 400 workers of the Fernandez-Cayco Farms in Victoria, Laguna struck last Dec. 14 to protest their depressed wages and management's unfair labor practices.

In a statement, the farm workers said that the P1. wage increase given them recently was not enough to tide them over. They also have not been given their 13th month pay and Christmas bonus.

Countering management's claim of

financial losses this year, the workers said the firm had harvested 130 cavans of rice per hectare, 30 cavans more than the average yield of the Masagana 99 variety.

New tractors were also acquired, and the owners even gave P29,000 in wages to an agriculturalist, the workers said.

The strikers also cited that vacation and sick leaves were given selectively. Premiums for overtime and night shift differential were also not adjusted. Some workers were summarily laid off, a mere P200 retirement pay was provided, and workers were maltreated by a foreman.

On the first day of their protest, about 70 students of the University of the Philippines, Los Banos joined the picketline. The strikers reportedly received threats from the military. Guns were also fired to scare them off, the workers said. [Adapted from BMP] □

TRIUMPH WORKERS RISE FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

Despite the intrusion of scabs in their picketline, the women-led 1,000 strikers of Triumph International, an undergarments firm in Metro-Manila, are holding their ground since the labor action started in November.

The workers are demanding the installation of air conditioning units to solve the poor ventilation problem of the factory especially in the production department, in which several cases of lung sicknesses of workers have occurred.

Reports said that P40,000 has supposedly been allotted for the acquisition of an air conditioner but the amount was funneled instead for the firm's publicity and promotions.

Management reportedly expressed willingness to negotiate with the strikers. The military, however, ordered owners to place the leaders of the strike under preventive suspension. [Adapted from BMP] □

Formula For Stability

Local Elections Postponed

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

The on-again, off-again promise of local elections, is officially off, as of Feb. 1. This was announced by President and Prime Minister Marcos before members of his *Kilusang ng Bagong Lipunan* (New Society Party), proving once more that the New Society's moves towards so-called "participatory democracy" is subject to presidential whim.

The postponement came in the wake of reports that the opposition Liberal Party and the newly-formed National Union for Freedom and Democracy (NUFD) were gearing up for the elections which were originally scheduled for June.

Announcements of the pending election also triggered rife power struggles within the Marcos camp. Reacting to the in-fighting, Marcos told a KBL party caucus: "We will not conduct any local elections this year to avoid political bickering and divisions among our people . . . I give notice to everybody to stop bargaining, working for local leadership."

Despite attempts to appear as an impartial arbiter, informed sources say Marcos himself has instigated the inner-party rivalries he now is compelled to contain.

CONSOLIDATING CONTROL

In a bid to control the local bureaucracy before staging elections, Marcos has been revamping local offices, removing officials and replacing them with his own appointees. The governors of Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Bohol and Maguindanao were eased out of office and municipal and city mayors have found their careers threatened in the government reshuffle which began in September.

Simultaneously, the dictatorship is tightening its military and political machinery on the local levels to contain the "peace and order" situation before holding elections. This pattern has been most conspicuous in areas where the New People's Army wields most influence and hence where the government faces greater possibility of defeat.

In Cagayan Valley, home-province of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, special goon squads are being formed throughout the region. Called "posse comitatus" these squads are being organized on the town level with the municipal mayors acting as heads. Elsewhere, civilian "brigades" charged with overseeing barrio affairs have been set up ostensibly to challenge the highly effective barrio organizing committees of the NPA.

OPPOSITION JOINS AGAIN

The talk of local elections activated opposition elements who hope to catapult themselves in power



(Left) Liberal Party leaders Gerry Roxas and Jovito Salonga caucus. Opposition elements plan to join the local election scheme.

through local polls. Many have gone to the grassroots to gear up for the campaign.

Since October, opposition members of the National Union for Freedom and Democracy (NUFD) have called for local elections stating that the "Filipino people have found it intolerable to put up with local officials many of them inept and corrupt." The NUFD is composed of prominent opposition forces including Salvador P. Lopez former senators Eva Estrada Kalaw, Gerry Roxas, Francisco Rodrigo, Jovito Salonga, and ex-president Diosdado Macapagal.

The Liberal Party is also reportedly reviving its political machinery in its pre-martial law strongholds and plans to field local candidates. Both organizations dubbed by certain quarters as "the democratic opposition" seem prepared to compromise their anti-dictatorship stance in favor of limited power-sharing with the Marcos camp under the framework of martial law. This position of increasing conciliation with the regime casts doubt on the sincerity of these groups' repeated calls for the restoration of freedom.

In Central Visayas and Mindanao, an opposition alliance involving the *Pusyon Bisaya*, Mindanao Alliance, and *Kunsensiya ng Bayan* is being built.

AIM OF ELECTIONS: STABILITY

While Marcos may have gained the upperhand by deferring the much-awaited elections, informed sources say the dictatorship cannot permanently shelve local polls.

The regime is merely biding time to consolidate its foothold on the local level before opening up an estimated 1,599 mayoral and gubernatorial posi-

tions for contest. Furthermore, while it hopes to limit the influence of opposition elements, reports add that Marcos does not intend to continue to deny them a share of political power. The postponement is merely an indication that Marcos is still laying down the groundrules for the anticipated election.

The local elections are significant in that it will allow the various competing factions of the ruling elite, Marcos minions and the so-called opposition elements alike, to share in political rule. This development will stabilize the dictatorship's rule in the long-run and will conciliate all forces willing to participate in governmental rule within the framework of martial law.

With Marcos reasonably assured of long-term U.S. backing, to the tune of \$1.5 billion for the next five years, he can be more accommodating of political rivals and tolerant of the elite oppositions maneuvers. Conversely the elite opposition has come to the realization that the U.S.-Marcos alliance has been strengthened by the bases agreement. Thus, their decision to play along in the local election scheme.

Lastly, because the regime is aware of the growing influence of the resistance, particularly in areas where the government's control and presence is weak, the need for the ruling elite to close ranks and establish firmer control on the local levels is more acute now than ever before.

But while local elections may be the regime's next formula for a more stable system of rule, it remains in doubt if the anticipated results will necessarily stem the bigger "problem" which Marcos and the elite opposition fear alike—the gaining strength of the armed resistance. □

Bases...

continued from page 3

Philippines and Southeast Asia. These are the same interests which keep us a dependent economy—an exporter of raw materials and a market of finished products; a haven for light industries which are able to keep profits up by keeping wages down. They make us susceptible to attacks from the enemies of the U.S. who may not otherwise be our enemies. They produce such antip social activities as drug addiction and prostitution. The very presence of U.S. bases here makes a mockery of our sovereignty."

NEW PHASE

With the anti-bases campaign afoot, a new phase in the Filipino peoples historic struggle against U.S. bases has been charted. According to the Philippine Collegian this began in 1940 when former president Manuel Quezon won the presidential elections with a platform of neutrality and an independent national defense plan. Such was clearly a protest against the Tydings-McDuffie Law which provides, among other things, for the continued presence of U.S. troops and bases in the country.

After World War II, despite massive anti-American protests, the Philippine government was forced to sign the Military Bases Agreement and the Military Assistance Pact.

Again in the 1950's, Sen. Claro M. Recto among others, was most vocal against the continued existence of the bases. Public demonstrations of this period expressed similar sentiments. In January of

1965, 2000 students and professors from the University of the Philippines demonstrated before the U.S. embassy to protest the shooting of 32 Filipinos in the bases.

Three days later, 10,000 others staged bigger

demonstrations. This was followed by mass actions elsewhere in the country. These activities led to more militant mass actions by hundreds of thousands of citizens in what is now known as the First Quarter Storm of 1970. □

MINDANAO A MUSICAL DRAMA



This musical drama is a play which provides a historical and contemporary background into the struggle of the Moro people, the largest minority group in the Philippines. Special music was composed for the play incorporating ethnic instruments from the southern region of the Philippines. The play was performed twice in San Francisco and Oakland last June 1978 and was well received by an enthusiastic crowd of 1,200 people.

This will be the last Bay Area performance of the play before *Sining Bayan* takes it on a tour of the East Coast and Canada in March.

TIME: Wednesday, February 28, at 8:30 p.m.

PLACE: La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Below are the dates and places for the East Coast and Canada performances.

March 7, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Jones Commercial High School Auditorium 606 S. State St., Chicago, Ill. For info: (312) 989-4566

March 9, Friday, 7:00 p.m. Bickford Park H.S. Auditorium; 777 Looor St. West; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; For info: (416) 276-3267

March 11, Sunday, 4:00 p.m. Rec Path Theater; McGill University; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; For info: (514) 271-4856

March 16, Friday, 7:00 p.m. Friends Select School Theater; 17th and Parkway; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; For info: (215) 387-1487

March 19, Monday, 7:00 p.m. New Lecture Hall; American University; Massachussets and Nebraska; Washington, D.C.; For info: (301) 839-1787

March 17, Saturday, 7:30 p.m. N.Y. School of Printing Auditorium; 439 W. 49th St., NYC; For info: (212) 672-1297

AMLC Speaking Tour Launched

'The Truth Behind The Dictatorship'

SAN FRANCISCO — The first leg of the speaking tour by the AMLC Refugee Investigating Team began here, February 11, at the Mission Cultural Center.

An estimated 150 people came to hear "the truth behind the smiling dictatorship" of Pres. Marcos. Four members of the team, gave vivid eyewitness accounts of their probe into the conditions of the Filipino people under martial law and the resistance in both urban and rural areas.

Roger Dillon, an active labor organizer with the San Francisco Labor Council spoke first on 'Labor Organizing in Mindanao and Negros.' He gave a vivid picture of the workers' plight. Dillon stayed in Kolambugan, Mindanao where he witnessed organizing among workers at Findlay-Miller, a foreign-owned plant. He said the company had failed to pay the workers for almost three months until the workers struck. Despite the ban on strikes, the workers firmly refused to return to work until their demand for immediate pay and improved working conditions was met.

Dillon also spent some time in Negros to observe conditions among the migrant workers or "sacada's" in this province's sugar plantations.

Describing the sacadas' working and living conditions as deplorable, Dillon stated it is no wonder that the New People's Army organizing activity has increased in this area. This has alarmed the military, resulting in the torture of many peasants suspected of supporting the NPA.

Dillon also spent some time in Central Luzon examining the Igorot minority's struggle against the Chico River Dam Project. This government effort, if successfully carried out, will mean the uprooting of Igorots from land which they have worked and lived in for centuries.

"Everywhere I went I talked to people who have been tortured; I witnessed no land reform promised by the government, but land rip-off; I saw basic human rights, particularly labor organizing, denied," concluded Dillon.

DELMONTE AND AGRIBUSINESS

"What struck me the most in my entire stay in the Philippines was the cultural dislocation that people are going through," expressed Robin Jurs as she began her report of her stay in Malaybalay, Bukidnon in Mindanao.

Jurs, who was formerly with the Interfaith Church Committee on Corporate Responsibilities, has done extensive research on agribusiness and third world underdevelopment. She focused on Del Monte, one of the multinational corporations that have deeply penetrated Mindanao's economy. Del Monte plans to expand its plantation areas to include six barrios. According to her, this expansionist move will cause not only physical dislocation, but also cultural genocide, for the barrio people whose lands Del Monte wishes to rent. What is unfortunate, reported Jurs, is that the government itself cooperates with Del Monte by refusing to grant land titles to the rightful owners unless they agree to rent their lands

Eyewitness Report

Samar: Inside a Guerrilla Zone

By GELINE AVILA

The author is a member of the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP) based in Oakland, California. When the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) launched its project to send a team of investigators who would examine the internal refugee crisis and the resistance movement in the Philippines, Ms. Avila was one of those considered to be with the team. Most of her stay in the country was spent inside a guerrilla zone in Samar, Eastern Visayas.

Ms. Avila, a former member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), will be on a speaking tour along with two other team members in the East Coast and Canada. The speaking engagements focusing on the team's investigation findings are sponsored by the AMLC. The following are excerpts from the author's personal account of her experience which appears on a documentation pamphlet by the entire team.

Las Pinyas is a barrio situated on interior hilly forest land in the northern part of Samar. Thirty-five families, majority of whom are middle peasants, reside in this barrio. They settled in this



Roger Dillon from the AMLC investigating team addresses a Bay Area meeting.

[AK photo]

to Del Monte.

But there is resistance among those who refuse to lease their lands to this multi-national corporation. Showing colored slides she took during her investigation, Jurs presented the activities of people resisting takeover of their lone source of livelihood by a foreign corporation.

PEASANT ORGANIZING IN SAMAR

Of all the team members, Geline Avila stayed the longest in the Philippines. For almost three months she lived in Samar in a barrio that is recognized as a NPA guerrilla zone. (See excerpts of Avila's experience, this page.)

Samar, explained Avila, is a backward, and perhaps the poorest, province in the entire country. It has been neglected by the government and its people have a high illiteracy rate. The people suffer from extreme poverty.

Reported Avila, "NPA activity in Samar is strong and so the government's military presence is also strongly felt. In the guerrilla zone I settled in, I saw how the barrio people moved to confront the enemy."

Avila also described the changes that Samar has undergone with the coming of the NPA. Before, people had no access to health care. The lack or absence of formal education has also caused peasants to "attribute natural phenomena to unscientific

explanations." Since the NPA began organizing in 1974, Avila said, remarkable changes in the people's lifestyle and livelihood have occurred.

"It is these changes that are fundamentally opposite to what the government offers. . . . Recently, the Marcos regime has expressed plans to develop Samar. For whom? For the multi-national corporations who would largely benefit from development," continued Avila. "Therefore, the people see the need to defend these changes by armed means. This is why the NPA is there and their numbers multiplied."

The last speaker was Christine Araneta, co-coordinator of the AMLC's National Resource Center for Political Prisoners in the Philippines. Araneta spoke briefly on her experiences on NPA organizing in Central Luzon and elaborated on the resistance as led by the National Democratic Front (NDF). The NDF is a body comprising representatives from the different progressive sectors in the Philippine society.

At the conclusion of the eyewitness reports an open forum generated a spirited discussion between the audience and speakers. Questions concerning the future of the Philippines, the NPA, the "communist" alternative and the lifting of martial law seemed to be in the audience minds the most.

The speaking engagements of the investigation team was sponsored by the Bay Area Anti-Martial Law Alliance. □



Geline Avila

interior area because the scarcity of land compelled them to open up farming on forest land. The choice lands in the plains are owned by big landlords.

As I entered the barrio, I noticed right away that soil around the fields was reddish. This variety of soil is poor in quality and tends to be low-yielding. This poses a big problem for the farmers of Las Pinyas. Wide areas of land are cultivated, imposing heavy production burden on the farmers, yet yielding such a low harvest that it is not even enough to supply them with rice and corn for the whole year. When the rice and corn supply run out, the barrio people subsist on a diet of kamote (yam)

or cassava. The already poor quality of soil is compounded by still backward methods of production. *Kaingin* or slash-burning farming is still commonly practiced by the farmers. Because of this practice, the soil continually gets poorer, yielding a lower harvest each time. After some time, the farmers are compelled to move on again to open up new forest lands for farming, moving more and more into the interior each time.

I asked Ka. Naty, a Communist Party cadre based in this barrio, if the soil problem could not be remedied by fertilizers. "Kasama," she answered, "one needs money to buy fertilizers. Limited cash which the farmers get from selling rattan and wild abaca gathered from the forest goes to buying bare necessities like kerosene, matches and salt." Her explanation made me realize that I had not fully absorbed the reality of the extreme poverty of the Filipino peasantry.

The New People's Army started organizing in this barrio in early 1977. Before that time, the only thing the farmers knew about the NPA was that it had been fighting in Calbiga, another town in Samar. In 1974, the Philippine Constabulary passed through on patrol and warned the barrio people against the NPA. I asked Ka. Nonoy, one of the farmers first contacted by the NPA, what his initial reaction was when they came. "I was not really afraid," he answered, "even with the previous warnings of the PC. They were very polite when they would talk to us. If they would catch us

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Sining Bayan: A People's Cultural Theatre

The following is an interview conducted by the ANG KATIPUNAN staff with the Sining Bayan, a people's cultural group. Sining Bayan, under the auspices of the National Cultural Group, the cultural arm of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), is composed of members of the Filipino community in the San Francisco-Bay Area. The purpose of the interview is to give our readers a basic understanding of Sining Bayan's development as a people's cultural group both politically and theatrically. Those participating in the interview were Vennie Villapando, Roland Anolin, Annie David, Douglas Yaranon, and Mars Estrada.

—Editor

By Jeanette Lazam

Can you explain briefly the history of Sining Bayan? For instance, what does the name "Sining Bayan" mean?

Vennie: The name Sining Bayan means People's Art. It is a name chosen to best identify what we are doing. We see the development of the Sining Bayan in two stages. When Sining Bayan was formed it was seen in the perspective of using cultural work as another form of propaganda work in the Union of Democratic Filipinos, (KDP). It was about four years ago, (starting with the play *Isuda ti Imuna*) that we consciously utilized for the first time, theatre and other cultural media for use in education and propaganda. If we look around today, theatre is used solely for the purpose of



Top Row: Annie David, Loy Apalisok, Roland Tolentino, Vennie Villapando. [AK]

entertainment. Sining Bayan combines both, with stress on education. So even at that early stage, the main goal was set. However, the group was still very undeveloped and we faced incredible problems. Skills were very limited in all areas of theatre, singing and music. And politically we were very naive. At present, we are still learning a lot of the basics.

When you say basics, what do you mean by that? Is it basics in terms of just theatre work or are we talking about cultural work in the main?

Vennie: We mean the basics of really using cultural medium as a tool for education . . . that's one basic. The other basic we can talk about is the question of "form." How do we develop basic skills in order to really do good cultural work.

Doug: Sining Bayan at first was viewed simply as a singing group. It also performed skits, actos and once in a while did small musicals. We performed usually at different community functions like Philippine National Day, or at demonstrations. Mostly, what we did was popularize Filipino revolutionary songs from the Philippines. The first major undertaking, theatrically speaking, was *Isuda*. At that time, the planning around such an undertaking was not as good as it is now. The good aspect though, was that we were able to mobilize and include many people from the Filipino community for the entire production. We learned many lessons from that period, which we are now able to use to avoid making the same errors at present. The plans for plays or other cultural work are thought out more carefully.



Scene from *Mindano* play. Poor Moro and Christian peasants prepare to fight against eviction from landlord.

How many years has existed? It seems as though it has gone through many twists and turns in order to get to where it is presently . . . politically and skill wise?

Roland: Sining Bayan has been in existence since 1974, and it has gone through major revisions since then.

Can anyone elaborate on why Sining Bayan was formed? And why do you consider it to be a 'People's Cultural Group'?

Vennie: We can say that this period is the second stage of Sining Bayan where the effort is much more conscious to develop a cultural movement in the Filipino community. Hopefully through the efforts of Sining Bayan, we can spark a movement of other groups which can get inspiration from our perspective on culture. At this stage we are also consciously trying to develop artistic skills in order to develop the form. Form we feel plays a significant role in bringing out the content of any play, act, skit or musical endeavor. So it's establishing the professionalism in this area of work, and we can see that when we decided to really be serious about cultural work . . . the effects on the cast and the Filipino community have been very noticeable.

From the play *Isuda* to *Mindano* . . . that's quite a long time period. What else has the Sining Bayan performed?

Vennie: We performed the *Narciso/Perez Frame-up* . . . and that was the first project wherein we utilized the combination of music and theatre. It was very successful.

How do you gauge success?

Vennie: This play was developed at the height of the defense movement for the two nurses, *Narciso* and *Perez*. When we performed the play here, in San Francisco, there was a lot of enthusiasm and support for the two nurses. Many people started to join the *Narciso/Perez* Defense Committee because the play helped developed their awareness of the issues behind the frame-up.

What makes Sining Bayan different from others? Let's compare Sining Bayan, for instance, to the American Conservatory Theatre [ACT].

Doug: It's a matter of politics and political orientation. Those theatre groups that are not people's cultural groups don't have a basis of unity, politically speaking. Theatre groups that exist today give much more emphasis on individuals becoming 'stars.' With Sining Bayan and other groups like it, the stress is on the message or political point . . . there are no stars in Sining Bayan.

How did people get involved with Sining Bayan?

Annie: My first introduction to cultural work was in the play *Isuda*. I was living in Los Angeles then. When I moved here to the Bay Area, I was approached by members of the National Cultural Group of the KDP that was then developing and casting parts in the *Narciso/Perez* play. I joined the Sining Bayan theatre group because I united first with the goals and objectives of Sining Bayan, and from my own viewpoint had wanted to, since the time of *Isuda*, get involved with cultural work. Since that initial approach, my involvement has been steady . . . from the *Narciso/Perez* play to smaller productions at various functions like the annual Philippine National Days singing and doing various skits.

Roland: I first became involved with the production of *Mindano* and then with the play *Sakada*, the plight of the sugar workers in the Philippines. I looked back at my own participation in Sining Bayan and have taken on a much deeper political stand in supporting the struggles of the Filipino people. I think, for myself, in order to concretely show or demonstrate my support for the people in the Philippines and in the U.S. it means to be involved in something that has the potential of reaching as many people as possible . . . and that was cultural work. I've also gained many skills during my time with Sining Bayan that have been extremely helpful. One thing that I would like to mention is the fact that before, many of us were ignorant or had very little knowledge of what cultural work was and what it was going to take to develop ourselves as cultural workers. Now, I feel we have the correct perspective, attitude and the necessary political understandings. These skills can be learned . . . there is no such thing as being 'inherently' talented. Many of us prior to Sining Bayan did not know to act on stage, or for that fact sing. Many of us have learned how to . . . and it's just a matter of practice and learning . . . it is hard work.

How does Sining Bayan develop the skill aspect and the political aspect? Let's take the play *Mindano*, did people study the situation in *Mindano* and then begin to formulate the play?

Vennie: In choosing what plays to write about, first, the National Cultural Group of the KDP tries to target an issue that's most alive in our community. And then we choose that issue and study it, doing a lot of research . . . that was the process we utilized in the *Narciso/Perez* play, and *Mindano*. We studied the particular situation of the Moro people, the nurses for *Narciso/Perez*, etc. and the kind of struggles confronting them. After doing the thorough re-

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Leper Colony Threatened With Eviction



[upper left] Hale Mohalu resident speaking at anti-eviction demonstration. [Bottom] March and demonstration on National Leprosy Day in support of Hale Mohalu.

By CATHI TACTAQUIN
AK Correspondent

HONOLULU — World Leprosy Day last January 28 was especially significant to leprosy patients in Hawaii. Here, it was also "Save Hale Mohalu Day," in recognition of the bitter struggle to stop the State's eviction of lepers from their health facility and home.

For years, the State Health Department has wanted to relocate residents of Hale Mohalu to another facility, Leahi. Patients are critical of the newer facility, the manner in which they are being forced to move, as well as the State's motivation in wanting them to leave Hale Mohalu.

Last September, the Health Dept. cut off electricity, water and medical services to Hale Mohalu in an attempt to force patients to move. Many refused to leave, and continue at Hale Mohalu with the aid of an electric generator, and donations of food, money and medical services.

In solidarity with Hale Mohalu residents, leprosy patients from Kalaupapa, on the island of Molokai, flew to Honolulu to take part in the "Save Hale Mohalu Day" march and rally. Kalaupapa is the old leprosy facility where victims of Hansen's disease, or leprosy as it is commonly known, were isolated in earlier years because of the contagious nature of the disease.

Together with patients from Leahi and 200 supporters from the community, church and political action groups, Hale Mohalu patients marched to

the State Capitol to hear speakers and local entertainers, who volunteered their services for the day. Earlier, a lunch-time program at Aala Park featured various community cultural groups.

Ironically, the program at the Capitol took place in front of a big statue of the much-honored Father Damien, a missionary who spent many years working with leprosy patients before any of the "miracle drugs" were developed. Fr. Damien also sought to erase the oppressive stigma which surrounded victims of leprosy. (With the development of new drugs within the last decade, leprosy can now be effectively treated, its growth retarded, and it is no longer considered to be highly contagious. Many leprosy patients in Hawaii can freely circulate, but some, due to physical disabilities, cannot travel by themselves or work.)

PUBLIC OFFICIALS BLAMED

Program speakers targetted the governor, George Ariyoshi, and the State Health Dept. for their roles in seeking the eviction. Patients and supporters questioned the reason for the state's insistence on moving the patients to Leahi. Some patients who were moved to Leahi complained that it is a "sterile institution." It lacks privacy for patients, especially for couples and families. Hale Mohalu, on the other hand, is a "live-in" facility, and the only "home" many patients have really known.

But the state maintains that the patients are its wards, and must do as they are told. In response

the patients stated, "We are people, and we have our right to decide where we will live. We won't be pushed around any longer!"

What are the state's true motivations? According to reliable sources, the land presently occupied by Hale Mohalu is considered choice land for profitable urban development. As early as 1977, the head of the Health Dept., George Yuen, blatantly wrote to Gov. Ariyoshi that a "major consideration" for the relocation of Hale Mohalu patients would be "the release of 11.2 acres of prime land for state use . . ." Hale Mohalu is located in the heart of Pearl City, a rapidly growing community just outside of Honolulu.

With leprosy cases on the decline today, the Health Dept. sees no long term interest in maintaining Hale Mohalu for the current patients. In fact, the facility has been allowed to deteriorate for many years. Apparently, the enticement of over 11 acres of profitable land is more important to the state than providing patients with a decent and dignified lifestyle.

An elderly Chinatown resident compared the patients' struggle to that of Chinatown people against eviction by big business and the city for so-called "redevelopment," saying "It's the same thing." For their part, the residents of Hale Mohalu say they refuse to be part of the same pattern of injustice in which the "motivations of profit" are more important than the interests of people. □

Filipina Harassed By Honolulu INS

By DEBBIE KO
AK Correspondent

"At first I wasn't really afraid since I told them the truth. But now I'm beginning to feel the seriousness of the situation not only for myself but also for other immigrant Supplementary Security Income (SSI) recipients who face possible separation from their families."

Thus stated Mrs. Angeles Carcellar, a victim of harassment by the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) which has been singling out for exclusion immigrants who have received SSI payments or other forms of public assistance.

In the last four months an exclusionary law, on record since 1915, has been given an interpretation that affects immigrants who are likely to become public charges, or receive any form of public assistance. This implementation has had adverse effects on elderly immigrant Filipinos, particularly those seeking re-entry to the U.S. via the port of Honolulu. In San Francisco, Hawaii and most recently in Seattle, such cases have been reported.

The case of Mrs. Carcellar began in late December 1978 when upon seeking re-entry to the U.S. she was stopped in Honolulu and questioned about her past SSI history. When she answered affirmatively to having received SSI benefits, she was subsequently asked to sign a document she did not fully understand. At the same time her passport and green card were confiscated. Until now not even her lawyer knows what the signed document states.

Mrs. Carcellar, 65, came to this country in 1975 as a permanent resident, petitioned by her daughter who is a U.S. citizen. Her husband and another daughter soon followed in 1976. Around this time she experienced some medical problems for which she received Medical coupons. Consequently she became eligible for SSI benefits which were granted.

Meanwhile, her husband sought employment and worked at odd jobs while they received the SSI monthly income of \$169.

Since her first application for SSI, Mrs. Carcellar made two trips to the Philippines. During those two periods her trips were reported, as lawfully required, to the Welfare Office to stop sending SSI money. However, it was on return from her third trip that she was stopped and scrutinized by immigration officials. She was admitted under "deferred inspection" to continue towards her destination to Seattle. The INS, however, stipulated that she must attend an exclusionary hearing set for January 1979.

The hearing meant either exclusion from SSI benefits or deportation to the Philippines.

"In Honolulu, the first question they asked me was 'Are you travelling by Balikbayan?' Then they questioned me about SSI. I must have looked like the perfect target as an elderly Filipino," narrated Mrs. Carcellar.

Bewildered and worried, she returned to Seattle and sought legal counsel and community support. The claim of the INS is based on the assumption that because Mrs. Carcellar was once on public

assistance she would probably need it again. Therefore, she could be a public charge for exclusion.

"It's like they are arresting me for what they fear I might do and not for what I didn't," continued Mrs. Carcellar.

COMMUNITY ATTENTION

Later developments of the case came out in a meeting between Filipino Community Council members David Della, Deony Porsilles and Nick Benigno with Mrs. Carcellar's lawyer Bob Yamagiwa, for a postponement of the hearing until Feb. 22. At this hearing, the Carcellar family will be requested to prove her eligibility to enter the U.S. legally. This means presenting an affidavit of her husband's ability to support her without public aid. The prospects look good since Mr. Carcellar is now fully employed at a shipyard as an outside machinist and earns sufficiently for both of them.

The Carcellar's case might be resolved in the next month. However, Mrs. Carcellar has expressed concern over the existing new interpretation of the law and its implications for new immigrants. The application of the law, according to a supporter of the Carcellar family, is full of discrepancies. For one, it is arbitrarily administered only in Honolulu and San Francisco ports. The implication also implies that recent immigrants are not given the same benefits as citizens.

Community council member Nick Benigno, who brought this case to the community's attention, stated, "We will ultimately need to challenge this law since it appears to be discriminatory in many ways against a lot of Filipinos. The community should inform all immigrants of this new interpretation and educate them on their rights." □

FACLA Controversy:**Geaga Says:
'Replace San Jose'**

LOS ANGELES—In a TV appearance January 28, Jaime Geaga refuted a claim that Tony San Jose has been the victim of anti-San Jose forces in the Filipino-American Community of L.A. (FACLA). The rebuttal was in response to a thirty-minute interview of San Jose, FACLA's controversial president, that was aired on Channel 22 two weeks earlier.

In the interview, San Jose claimed he was the victim of an unruly opposition which has blocked his worthwhile plans for FACLA. Geaga's rebuttal charged San Jose with victimizing FACLA by illegally holding office; causing turmoil and scandal to embroil the community organization.

Continuing, Geaga presented a detailed history of the December 1977 and 1978 election irregularities and court decisions which he said proved San Jose's illegal actions. Geaga asserted that FACLA is presently beset with financial scandals and he also enumerated the various community services San Jose ended.

For these reasons, Geaga added, San Jose's opposition has widened to include even his former close supporters. In conclusion Geaga expressed optimism that the Filipino community will eventually unite despite the present turmoil. He attributed this to the hard realities facing Filipinos as a fast growing minority community in this country. He then offered a solution for FACLA which is the replacement of San Jose's leadership with one that is more relevant and sensitive to the community's needs.

Geaga was a presidential contender in last December's elections and has always been known as a consistent critic of San Jose's administration. He is also among the opposition leaders who have vowed to "fight corruption from within the organization."

The rebuttal was part of the promise of equal time by CMM Productions and the Asian American News. Since he was only given six minutes to air the opposition's position, Geaga and other opposition leaders were also promised longer TV time in the future.

The rebuttal came in the wake of a related action by Geaga and 19 other candidates in the 1978 election of filing a court suit to invalidate the last election. Only seven percent of the total 6,000 members were allowed to vote in that election. If successful, the case could result in a new election supervised by the courts. □

Sining Bayan. . .

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search, we arrive at a conclusion on how the play should be written with the particular resolution to the problem. It's from that starting point that the script is written. Usually, we write it in a collective way . . . or what we call a 'brain storming' session on how the story line should be developed, the plot we will have, but always insuring that the context of the play is political.

After you've written the script then what happens?

Vennie: After that, we go for casting. With casting, we draw from within the Filipino community . . . for example, we have people working with us from the Asian community, who are part of Sining Bayan. Before we actually go into rehearsals, we call an orientation for the prospective cast members to thoroughly go through what the play is about, why we're doing this play and provide the political orientation necessary. We like to assume that based upon the orientation there is general political unity among everyone participating in the various projects. That they agree and unite with the issue, that is the principal condition before anything else is further discussed.

Other than the political discussions about the play or issue, does Sining Bayan provide any other education for its cast?

Vennie: Yes, we do. After the orientation and the casting is completed, what we do is provide forums and slide shows for the company to deepen their understanding of the play and the issue, as well as attempting to study the main aspects of the struggle. For us, we feel that by collectively studying the issue it also provides us with a stronger insight for character development . . . that is the struggle to be realistic so the audience can view the seriousness of the struggle.

Getting back to an earlier question, I neglected to ask Mars how he became involved with the Sining Bayan?

Mars: Actually, I'm a newcomer to Sining Bayan. Before I joined I was already a member of the National Cultural Group of the KDP. I believe that in this period, the need for more education in the Filipino community is very stark. Of course we have a variety of materials that are presently available; such as the *Ang Katipunan*, national newspaper of the KDP, different materials published by the KDP and the International Association of Filipino Patriots, and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition equally, but one area of work that still needs to be steadily improved and paid attention to is theatre and music. Theatre work is one of the most effective because it doesn't only enlighten people about the issue, but it hits you in the heart. Seeing a movie, watching a television show or viewing a play has tremendous impact on people because it allows many to watch as vividly as possible the drama involved. We have taken the 'printed word' and have placed motion to it; we have taken the printed word and have added music to it that reveal in an artistic and dramatic sense the story of the Filipino people's struggle for liberation and freedom. I think foremost, we of Sining Bayan are here performing a task for the people.

In reference to Mindanao, why was this particular issue chosen for a play?

Mars: We are answering a very burning question . . . a question that has been on the minds of people, "What is happening in Mindanao?" Who are these Muslims? We think that the people in the United States, not only Filipinos, should know the real issues of the Filipino people. By presenting the play 'Mindanao' we feel we are graphically showing the struggle of the whole of the Filipino people.

How does Sining Bayan sustain itself financially?

Roland: For the scale we're trying to do a tour of six, possibly seven cities we had asked many people, "what it would take to accomplish this tour in financial terms. We were told that the minimum would have to be \$25,000. But in reviewing the whole tour we came to an understanding that first, we wouldn't allow money matters to become an obstacle in doing the tour . . . what we did was develop self-reliance. At present our entire budget comes to \$6,300.

When you say self-reliance, what does this mean?

Mars: When we talk of Sining Bayan and our self-reliance, we are not just talking about folks who make up the cast or the production . . . most importantly we are talking about the people in the different cities where the play will be performed.



scene from Mindanao

Without their help, support, and cooperation Sining Bayan and its various projects could not happen.

Doug: It is really a question of politics. People have stepped forward to get this production off the ground, they have helped to provide transportation, lodging and other accommodations in order that the Sining Bayan Company can come to their community. We ourselves have pooled together all of our resources, money and materials.

Vennie: When we talk of finances, we cannot but go back to the idea of what a 'people's theatre is.' In people's theatre, we are saying that we are rooted in the community and we don't get huge grants from rich people or foundations. So all the props, costumes, and what have you, are done by us and we get help from community folks. We are not like the ACT, who farm out or contract people outside the company to do that work. Maybe Annie can speak a bit about how the costumes are designed and gathered together.

Annie: Many of our costumes are borrowed from friends and relatives. If we can't get them from our friends, then we search in second hand stores or we wind up sewing the costumes ourselves.

So in Sining Bayan the concentration is just not on acting, music, and character development . . . but it's an all-sided responsibility?

Mars: Yes . . . the actors are not just actors, but they also function in different production roles. Roland heads up the technical crew, lighting and sound; Doug the props and Annie the costumes . . . all three in addition to those responsibilities have major parts in the play.

Doug: I also want to add that with a people's cultural group we do not have the money or resources to do advance publicity anywhere near the magnitude of the ACT. We send press releases, print up flyers and brochures, but our strongest base of support comes from the people themselves.

Are there other ways Sining Bayan receives money?

Doug: We also conduct fundraising. In between rehearsals and production work we set aside time to raise money through various activities like dances.

One last question. What does Sining Bayan hope to accomplish in the near future? Can we look forward to other plays? Are you planning to expand the theatre group to include smaller companies around the United States?

Vennie: What we really are attempting to do is to raise the cultural standards of the community. We feel that there has been a gross mis-education of our people principally due to the kind of culture that exists presently . . . one that teaches you all the backward and commercial ideas of people in general, one that promotes racism, sexism. We feel with the presence of Sining Bayan and other people's cultural groups, we will begin to challenge those ideas and present to the people the true history, the facts and a totally different perspective and view regarding the struggles of Filipinos as part of the working class of this country and in the Philippines. We feel that the Sining Bayan has the potential to be a 'cultural center' in the Filipino community capable of raising the standards of political and artistic value, speak to the issues, present the facts in a theatrical and musical way that many people have long been denied the opportunity of seeing or participating in. Theatre has long been used as a medium that only the rich or the middle class could afford. Sining Bayan has taken that medium and exposed to the working people, in particular Filipinos. So, it's not just a tool for the entertainment of the rich, but a tool for education and enjoyment for working people. □

Prop 13...

continued from front page

has set aside another \$8 million for a Hayward facility, and \$6 million for Santa Rita Jail. Harvey Smith, spokesperson for the Coalition said during the rally, "It doesn't make any sense to cut the programs which keep people out of jails and then spend a lot more to build jails."

After the rally, 200 protesters went into the Administration Building to air their anger at the Board of Supervisors. Upon entering, coalition members were told that the Board of Supervisors had conveniently "postponed" the hearing as three of the five supervisors were "out of town."

Under pressure though, the remaining supervisors were forced to listen to the demands of the Coalition which was united around the demand for continued funding for all community-based programs at 100 percent.

The Filipino community was represented during that day when Jessica Ordonez, Director of the Filipino Immigrant Services (FIS) addressed the Board: "The FIS is needed to take care of bilingual assistance, social adjustment, and economic stability of the growing Filipino community. We demand that human services be made a priority."

During the two-hour confrontation, the Coalition was able to make clear their demands, with various speakers. According to one spokesperson, "We are not about to take this even if it means coming back here everyday to form picket lines."

For more information about the Alameda County Labor-Community Coalition: call 763-4411. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL
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U.S. Economy: the worst is to come

By ANNA DeCORMIS
Reprinted from THE GUARDIAN

Although all the economic scorecards for 1978 aren't in, enough has been reported about wages, inflation, economic growth and unemployment to make it clear that last year was a dud for workers and poor people.

Now President Jimmy Carter and his advisers are predicting that this year will be worse.

In fact, the administration is doing its best to make it worse. Carter maintains that his administration can slow down the economy to take the steam out of inflation without plunging the country into a recession. Others are not so sure. Many private economists believe a recession will hit during the latter part of the year.

Of course, last year was not bad news for everyone. Some corporations made big gains, especially in the last three months when prices zoomed. Bank profits surged with the rapid rise of interest rates. And farmers, notably ranchers, enjoyed near-record earnings.

For workers, however, it was a different story. Their economic problems were summed up in the 3.4 percent cut in their real, disposable income (the money left to spend after taxes and adjustment for inflation). Average pay raises fell substantially behind inflation, benefitting employers.

Carter did a lot of talking about holding prices down but inflation accelerated. For 1978 as a whole consumer prices jumped 9 percent, compared with about 7 percent for the preceding year and 5 percent for 1976.

The latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showed consumer prices for the month of December up at an annual rate of 7.2 percent, but the figure was deceptively low.

That number reflects the surprisingly large effect of California's Proposition 13, which cut real estate taxes in the state. Excluding Proposition 13, the cost-of-living increase for the country as a whole would have been 9.6 percent.

For this year, the administration last week predicted another 9 percent rise in consumer prices, beginning the year at a somewhat higher rate and tapering off slowly.

Gloomy as the administration prediction may be, many feel it is overly optimistic.

Both William Miller, head of the Federal Reserve Bank System, and Alice Rivlin, director of the Congressional Budget Office, told a congressional committee last month that they expect inflation to get worse. In effect, they predicted the rate for the year would top 10 percent.

As to economic growth, Carter said he expected a slowdown in the country's output of goods and services to about 3.3 percent this year, from 3.9 percent last year. Again, Rivlin was more pessimistic, estimating growth at zero to 2 percent.

If the congressional budget committees accept the Rivlin estimate, they will have to propose even deeper spending cuts than Carter recommended to meet the budget deficit goal of \$29 billion.

Indicative of some private opinion, IBM, the computer



"It may be designed to control wages, but I don't understand how it works in relation to prices."

mammoth whose economic forecasts for 1978 were among the most accurate said that their economists were predicting 1979 growth at 2 percent, well below the administration estimate.

A RECESSION COMING?

The question of recession is very much on Washington minds. Carter says there won't be one next year. His secretary of commerce last month asserted her "confidence that the slowdown will not turn into a recession."

However, Miller, speaking somewhat more frankly, acknowledged that there is "a risk" that the government's anti-inflation policies, such as cutbacks in spending and high interest rates, may "go too far and trigger a downturn." In context, he apparently meant a downturn that would carry on down into a recession. But the prospect of a "mild" recession didn't seem to worry him.

Last year finished with an unexpected spurt of economic growth, which (as the forecasts indicate) seems unlikely to continue for long. In the final three months of 1978 the output of goods and services jumped 6.1 percent, according to preliminary figures. The spurt was attributed mainly to consumers' big holiday shopping spree and to their heavy purchases which were on credit.

Despite the strong finish, there were still left at the end of the year 6 million unemployed by official count, in reality probably about twice that many. Despite the opening during the year of some three million new jobs, the official unemployment rate in December was 5.9 percent, about what it had been all year.

This year there will be fewer new jobs and unemployment will rise. Practically everyone agrees, although estimates vary. The administration, for instance, says it expects the rate to rise to 6.2 percent by the end of the year, while Rivlin says it might go as high as 7.2 percent. IBM predicts 6-7 percent.

The December unemployment figures, by the way, show that joblessness among adult men and teenagers increased, for women remained unchanged and for Blacks declined insignificantly while sticking at more than double the rate for whites. The outlook for jobs for Blacks, especially for Black teenagers, is almost unbearably bleak.

If Carter policies are hurting minority people and workers and the poor, they are working quite well for the owners of agricultural and industrial enterprises, as well as banks.

It comes as no surprise to consumers that businesses along the food chain did well. Raw foods are specifically exempt from the pressures of Carter's so-called anti-inflation program.

Farmers, aided by increased federal subsidies in addition to higher prices, reported a 28 percent gain in profits over 1977, with ranchers benefiting from soaring beef prices reportedly doing best.

In the fourth quarter, among the standout profit performances of food packers were Nabisco's 15 percent rise in profits, record profits at Hunt-Wesson (owned by Norton Simon) and a 79 percent gain for General Foods.

Oil company gains in the fourth quarter were even more spectacular. Marathon Oil posted year-to-year profit gains of 29 percent, Gulf 45 percent, Exxon 48 percent, Texaco 72 percent, and Standard of Ohio 134 percent. Standard of Ohio attributed most of its gains to greatly increased production of Alaskan oil. It should be noted that gasoline prices at the consumer level rose at an annual rate of 48 percent in December—before the Jan. 1 effective date for the latest OPEC increase.

The fourth quarter capped an extraordinarily profitable year for the banks. They have been passing on to their customers the higher "anti-inflation" interest rates imposed on banks by Miller and the Federal Reserve.

One tabulation showed profits for the year for the top 50 banks in the country up 26 percent, with California banks up 33 percent. Chase Manhattan, the Rockefeller bank, reported earnings up 62 percent.

Banks cited as a major reason for their impressive earnings an absence of jawboning from Washington, according to the New York Times. One investment banker commented with satisfaction: "We don't have people running around in Washington claiming that the bankers are raping the country." But, with help from Washington, they are. □

Farmers Protest At Nation's Capitol

Some 2,000 tractors, pickup trucks and other farm vehicles converged on the nation's capitol Feb. 5 demanding increased government farm support payments.

The protest, organized by the American Agricultural Movement (AAM), brought traffic in the nation's capital to a standstill, as District of Columbia police clashed with angry farmers. "We've raised enough corn but not enough hell!" was the rallying cry for these independent farmers who have been pressured by growing agribusiness interests since World War II.

"We cannot afford to stay on the land even though we would like to," said one farmer to the Guardian newspaper. "With the prices we get from corn and wheat and other crops, and the way the cost of production has been skyrocketing, we just don't have any margin left to live on."

Forced to buy equipment and supplies from monopoly firms, often at great risk through tenuous bank loans, independent farmers are further hit by low prices offered for their crops by monopoly middlemen, as well as unfair competition by huge agribusiness firms. The smaller farmer has slowly been displaced as the main supplier of America's agricultural needs, driven from both land and livelihood.

The AAM has been seeking a Congressional order to Agricultural Secretary Bob Bergland to raise crop price supports under the 1977 farm law to 90 percent of parity. Both Congress and the Carter administration, however, have stalled on any action, seeking to hold the ceiling on inflation which they say will increase if the farmers demands are met.



2000 farmers snarled Washington, D.C. traffic to protest low farm prices. [UPI]

Bergland, even while admitting that family farmers are "still hurting" from the grim years of 1977 and 1978, said the administration will not seek any increase in price supports. AAM farmers have vowed to continue their protests, predicting that their numbers would exceed the 30,000 which took part in the first AAM protest in Washington last year. □

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Bakhtiar Falls, Khomeini in Power

Special to the Ang Katipunan

FLASH: The rightist government of Shahpur Bakhtiar was violently overthrown by the pro-democratic Khomeini led people of Iran, Sunday, Feb. 10.

The final hours of the pro-monarchist forces were filled with the thunder of exploding munitions dump at army bases, the burning of police stations, the people's arrest of the martial law commander of Tehran and the seizure of Shah Rezi Pahlavi's imperial palace and residence.

The overthrow began Friday, Feb. 8 when the vicious Imperial Guards, under orders from Bakhtiar to restore order, attacked the air force base in south-eastern Tehran which was immobilized by striking air force technicians sympathetic to the democratic fervor sweeping Iran. Radioing for help, thousands of Tehrani residents flowed to the base to support the technicians. The technicians subsequently liberated arms, distributing them amongst the supporters, and a massive battle began.

On Saturday morning junior officers reporting for duty joined the pro-democratic forces. By the evening the people had forced the Imperial Guards into a retreat. When the dead were counted it became apparent the Guards had suffered a massive defeat at the hands of the inexperienced, but armed masses. The people buoyed by their victory set out to the nine main Tehrani police stations. Suddenly, there were plenty of arms in the hands of the people and the final hours of the pro-dictatorship, pro-monarchist forces had begun.

During late Saturday and early Sunday events accelerated. The head of martial law in Tehran was placed under people's arrest, most of the remaining pro-Bakhtiar parliament resigned and Bakhtiar's residence was rumored to be under attack.

On Sunday morning Tehran's radio and tv stations were seized by several hundred people. The radio went back on the air broadcasting as "The Voice of the Iranian People—The Voice of the Revolution." The initial broadcast urged the people to continue the anti-dictatorship, anti-imperialist struggle. It continued that the army had retreated to the side of the people but to be careful as conspiracies were still in the air.

Serving as a monitor of the exploding situation outside its walls, "The Voice" announced that 4000 armed people had set up barricades around the main army headquarters, that Bakhtiar had resigned and Bazargan was now recognized as Prime Minister.

Early on, Khomeini came on the air and announced that the people were to keep fighting as the revolution was not over. As the day wore on, buildings were seized, fires raged, and the masses of the Iranian people reclaimed the streets of Tehran.

Though there were not reports of massive uprisings in the provinces, it was reported that the army did not attempt any actions once the Bakhtiar government fell.

MONDAY, FEB. 12, 1979

On Monday morning, Pres. Carter held a press conference and announced the U.S. government's

Anti-Weber Task Force Organized

During the last week in January, over 40 individuals and organizations met in New York City to form the beginning of a concerted anti-Weber movement.

The conference, sponsored by the Affirmative Action Coordinating Center (AACC), called for a reversal of Louisiana's Weber decision, which upheld a "reverse discrimination" suit by a white Kaiser Aluminum worker Brian Weber. Weber charged that the Kaiser plant's voluntary affirmative action program, which accepted equal numbers of blacks and whites into the company's skilled training program, unfairly violated existing seniority requirements to the disadvantage of Kaiser's white workers.

The U.S. supreme court, which agreed to hear Kaiser's appeal of the controversial case late last year, is expected to render a decision in early summer. Like last year's Bakke decision, which had a tremendous negative effect on minority enrollment in professional schools, a Supreme Court ruling upholding Weber is expected to severely affect minority affirmative action programs in all areas of employment.

The recent New York meeting expects to organize a larger anti-Weber conference in March, and an anti-Weber task force was established to issue educational materials about the decision as well as encourage the



Tehran residents took up arms in a massive uprising that toppled the Bakhtiar government.

[UPI]

support of the "DESIGNATED PRIME MINISTER" Bazargan. This rapid turnaround of Washington's dictatorship policy in Iran apparently means the U.S. is simply recognizing the obvious wishes to make immediate public reversals in hopes of tempering any further anti-U.S. sentiment in Iran.

Whether this works remains to be seen. The Bazargan government is a liberal, constitutionalist government, backed by Ayatollah Khomeini who has been consistently demanding an amorphous Islamic government.

formation of local anti-Weber committees across the country. Attending the January meeting were groups such as the Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE), the Guardian, the International Socialists, the national office of the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD), and the Socialist Workers' Party.

The AACC, which formed to defend affirmative action

What that means in terms of program and practice remains to be seen, as does whether it can in any way respond to the problems of the Iranian people. According to a representative of the ISAUS, a pro-democratic Iranian student group, Iran has just undergone a bourgeois democratic revolution, as pro-monarchist government forces have been decisively overthrown. After 25 years of a monarchist dictatorship the people of Iran have stood up to demand democratic rights. How much further this can be taken remains to be seen. □

programs nationwide, also announced that some 64 civil rights, women and labor groups endorsed their anti-Weber briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court. These groups included the Congressional Black Caucus; the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; the Southerners for Economic Justice, and others.

For more information, contact the task force toll free: 800-223-0655. From New York City, call 866-3501. □



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10th Anniversary of the Philippine Communist Party Celebrated



Bay Area activists attend the celebration of the founding of the Communist Party of the Philippines sponsored by KDP and IAFP. [AK photo]

It was an energetic show of solidarity and support for the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Over 250 Filipinos and Americans gathered at San Francisco's Mission Cultural Center, January 7, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the re-establishment of the CPP. It was the first time that this many people assembled to hear about the re-established party's history and its vital role in the Philippine resistance movement.

The event lasted for more than two hours. It was an evening of songs descriptive of the Filipino people's struggle against martial law and resistance against U.S. colonial domination of their country; of speeches and an open forum at the conclusion.

Speakers from the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP) focused on the varied facets of the struggle and reported the developmental stages the Party had gone through since its reestablishment on Dec. 26, 1968.

The present Party distinguishes itself from the

Eyewitness...

continued from page 6

working in the fields, they would help us. But when the PC passed through in 1974, all the PC did was to order us to slaughter and cook our chickens for them."

One farmer described to me how their barrio was organized. "For the next few months after their arrival in 1977, the NPA set about the painstaking work of arousing the barrio people on the roots of their poverty. They showed us that we ourselves have the power to change our conditions."

The NPA then established one embryonic form of a peasant organization. Once this was done, the first action of the peasants was to confront the usurer in the barrio. "Whenever we needed cash, usually to buy seedlings, we could only turn to the usurer," continued the farmer. "For P30 borrowed, we paid back a cavan of rice which sells at P60 to P70 in the town center. This usurer also owned the only store in Las Pinyas and this was another way through which we got indebted to him. Once organized, we decided to change the payment arrangement to half a cavan of rice per P30 borrowed. At first he refused to accept this arrangement but we stood our ground and refused to pay him anything. Seeing that we were organized and firm in our demands and knowing that the NPA was around, he had to concede."

SUPERSTITION

Because of the drought that had just hit Samar, the harvest for that season was lower than usual. This and other problems related to production were the topics of discussion in the meeting of the Peasant Association that I attended. An old woman, uncertainty apparent in her voice, spoke at the meeting, "We have probably displeased San Isidro again, that's why we have a low harvest. Maybe we ought to pray to him and make an offering." The discussion that followed captivated me as I watched a people held by superstition for so long, struggle to seek scientific explanations for phenomena they experience. Ka. Naty, the CPP cadre, patiently explained the drought and its effects on the rice farms. Common to the experience of the peasant class, the farmers of Las Pinyas have been denied the opportunity to go to school and are therefore illiterate. I watched in admiration as Ka. Naty

old party by attaching the word "reestablished" before its name. (See AK, Vol. VI, Nos. 1-2, on the old party.) The older party was under the leadership of the Lava brothers—Jose, Jesus and Vicente—while its army was led by Luis Taruc who now occupies a high government position in the Marcos regime.

According to an IAFP member, "These people were traitors to the Filipino people. They co-opted with the U.S.-established puppet government in the Philippines which has caused the country to remain economically and politically subservient to the U.S."

"For this reason," she continued, "the genuine communists sought to reestablish the party. Shortly after its reestablishment, its military arm, the New People's Army, was founded in March 1969."

Nationwide CPP celebrations also occurred in these cities last January—New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C. Outside the United States, IAFP chapters in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver held their own CPP events. □

Nationwide Speaking Tour

The following are the dates and places for the AMLC Team speaking tour:

WEST COAST

SAN DIEGO: Feb. 23, Lady of Angel Church, 656 24th St.; 7:30 p.m. For info, call Aida or Maria 477-5225.

LOS ANGELES: Feb. 24, St. Athanasius, 840 Echo Park; 4:00 p.m. For info, call 613-1520.

SEATTLE: March 10. For info, call Elaine Ko, 723-5277.

EAST COAST

NEW YORK: Feb. 16, U.N. Church Center, 777 U.N. Plaza; 6:00 p.m. For info, call 458-6507 or 626-3222.

PHILADELPHIA: Feb. 17; Nationalities Service Center, 1300 Spruce St.; 2:00 p.m. For info, call 727-1428 or 387-1487.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Feb. 18; St. John's Episcopal Church Social Hall, 9801 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland; 2:00 p.m. For info, call (301) 933-5239 or (202) 543-1097.

CHICAGO: Feb. 24; 7:00 p.m. For info, call Eddie 989-4566.

explained, in terms the farmers could understand, natural sciences. Discussions followed about the poor quality of the red soil and the harmful effects of slash-burn farming (*kaingin*). As science was grasped and unity achieved in the meeting, I shared in the victory as the old woman stood up and spoke again, "Now I understand that we have two struggles to wage, the struggle to overthrow the ruling class and the struggle to control nature. After we overthrow the ruling class, then we can spend more time and devote more energies to struggle against natural enemies." □

Military Terror Victimizes Five

Five civilians fell victim to the military terror campaign against the residents of Davao City and surrounding areas over the last two months.

On Dec. 24, three youths from Asuncion were picked up, tortured and "salvaged" by three military men.

The three, identified as Mario Bulja, Crisanto Lamokso, and Crispin Villaflor, members of the Kabataang Barangay, were on their way to buy things for a KBL Christmas party, when they were arrested by plainclothesmen identifying themselves only as "authorities." They were then told to board a white jeepney supposedly headed toward the PC barracks and were told they would be released shortly after.

The three were instead brought to Davao City. While there, the men confiscated the youth's money to buy some bread, cigarettes, and drinks. Afterwards they proceeded to the Island Drive Motel in Matina, where the torture began. For five continuous hours the three were forced to admit knowledge of rebel activity. Finally, the military brought them to an isolated road where they were blindfolded, bound and one by one stabbed in the back.

The military left.

Fortunately, one survived and managed to walk a kilometer to nearby Maa, with a knife still stuck in his back.

FARMER

On December 31, Rio Namancayao, a farmer friend of Noe Corella, and his son, Chito, set out for town to sell their copra produce and visit a doctor. While waiting at the clinic, they were approached by two plainclothesmen and were summoned to the police headquarters. During this time, Chito, who was detained in a nearby cell, heard his father's moans and cries as the men forced him to admit that Chito was an NPA.

About an hour later, Chito was released and ordered to bring his unconscious father to the hospital. Four hours later, his father was dead.

Rio, 48 years old, a widower with five children, had only three weeks earlier, a talk with Col. Teofilo Bulusan, Provincial Commander of Davao province regarding his son Leo, an NPA.

Rio agreed at that time, to talk to Leo and hoped to see him on his birthday. Rio however, died one day before this anticipated event.

TAILOR MURDERED

One Crispin Nasong, a tailor with a family of five, was apprehended on Pantukan on January 17, by seven armed men. The following day, at about 6 a.m. Crispin was found dead, a kilometer away from his house. One of the men in the arresting team was identified by Aurelia, Crispin's wife, as Lumen Macabalo, a member of the Integrated National Police.

Lumen, according to Aurelia talked to Crispin on the evening of Jan. 17, to accompany them. He later assured Aurelia that Crispin will be returned in a short while.

Aurelia then went to Pantukan Station Commander to appeal about her missing husband. The Station Commander denied that there was any arrest and claimed that Macabalo was no longer assigned to Pantukan. Aurelia, however, saw Macabalo enter the Commander's office during the conversation with the latter.

Early the following morning, Crispin's relatives went to search for him, only to come across his dead body a short distance away.

Aurelia, who is eight months pregnant, now worries about how her family would survive. She has appealed to authorities to investigate Macabalo and his six companions. □

moving?

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