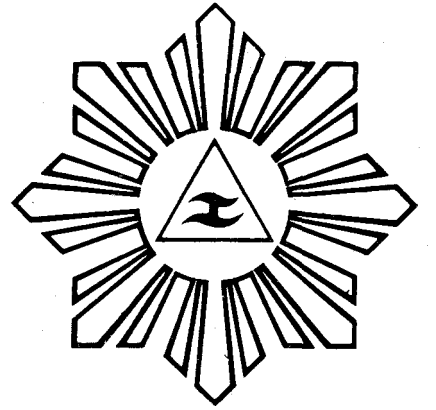


Ang KATIPUNAN

Volume IV, Number 3, February 16-28, 1977 25¢

National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



Statement Read from Every Pulpit in the Philippines BISHOPS CONDEMN MARCOS REPRESSION



Cardinal Rosales, Cardinal Sin and Bishop Claver [left to right] are all signatories of a pastoral letter that denounced the martial law government for interfering in the Church's role of evangelization. This move by Cardinals' Rosales and Sin, is significant, in view of their previously conservative stance advocating a non-committal posture on the part of the church, towards the concerns of the poor and oppressed. Their shift away from this stance was prompted by the release of a government blacklist of church people. Bishop Claver, long known for his work among Bukidnon's neglected minorities and poor, was number two on the blacklist.

[AK file photos]

See Back Page for Story

Set For March 1 FAIR TRIAL FOR NARCISO, PEREZ ?



The case of Filipina Narciso [l] and Leonora Perez [r], will be tried March 1, after a year and a half of harassment by the FBI and deliberate attempts by the prosecution to withhold vital evidence from the defense.

[Detroit Free Press photo]

By NENA HERNANDEZ
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO — The trial of the two Filipina nurses, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez will start March 1, after a month-long pre-trial hearing battle that recently resulted in the removal of Asst. U.S. Atty. Richard Delonis for withholding vital evidence from the defense and the reduction of the indictments against the two nurses. In acting on the defense accusation of misconduct by the prosecution, Judge Philip Pratt of the federal district court in Detroit ruled that the prosecution had failed to comply with his earlier order to turn all vital evidence to the defense. The prosecution also suffered another setback when the Judge disallowed the testimony of two new prosecution witnesses and ruled the "PIA note," a key prosecution evidence, inadmissible. However, the indictments for the two nurses are still two counts of murder, eight counts of poisoning and one count of conspiracy to commit murder.

Filipina Narciso, 30, and Leonora Perez, 32, are charged with murdering patients at the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan between July 18 and August 16, 1975 by injecting them with a powerful muscle relaxant, Pavulon.

The case has a long history of anomalies and irregularities since the investigation started August 15, 1975. The harassment by the hospital administration who tried to coerce the nurses to admit guilt, and long grueling hours of interrogation and harassing visits by the FBI.

The pre-trial hearings also revealed substantial contradictions in the prosecution's cases once the presiding judge, Philip Pratt, ordered the release of all evidence to the defense. The voluminous material turned over to the defense were so vital that after analyzing them, the defense felt that they could have moved for an entire dismissal of the case had they known the information beforehand. Of special note is the contradic-

(continued on page 6)

PC Colonel Responsible MARCOS MILITARY TORTURES, MURDERS YOUNG SOCIAL WORKER

By VICTORIA LUNA

A twenty-eight year old woman, Ms. Purificacion Pedro, a graduate of the University of the Philippines who devoted her career to working with oppressed groups, was shot, tortured, and finally murdered last Jan. 24. Her case provides the latest and most graphic example of the callous disregard for human life of the Marcos regime. Particularly significant in the case of Ms. Pedro is the fact that a key participant in her murder is a colonel in the Philippine Constabulary.

According to underground reports, Ms. Pedro was arrested last Jan. 18 in Abucay, Bataan. A walk down a barrio road with a group of friends turned into an ambush when a group of constabulary troopers opened fire. Ms. Pedro fell, wounded in the shoulder, while her friends fled. The troopers fell on her, beating her with their rifle butts. Finally they gave in to her pleadings for medical care and took her to Bataan Provincial Hospital, where they instructed the doctors caring for her to give her no anesthesia.

In the hospital, Ms. Pedro was under almost continuous interrogation by a variety of teams coordinated by Lt. Col. Miguel Aure, commander of the Fifth Constabulary Security Unit (5 CSU). Her whereabouts and condition remained unknown to her family for two days, after which they began to visit her.

On Jan. 23, Aure, with his men, paid his last visit to Ms. Pedro's hospital room at 5:45 P.M. At gunpoint, he ordered all of her relatives out of the room. After one

Ms. Pedro's hospital room at 5:45 P.M. At gunpoint, he ordered all of her relatives out of the room. After one hour, Aure and his men left and instructed the guard to keep the prisoner incommunicado. On the way out, he turned to the concerned relatives and told them, "Remember the name Aure."

After the interrogators left, the guard entered Ms. Pedro's room. Upon hearing disturbing sounds the relatives followed and found that the prisoner was not in her bed. One rushed to the bathroom door, opened it, and discovered her body hanging from the ceiling, suspended by her brassiere and a wire tied around her neck. Attendants immediately cut her down, but it was too late; Purificacion Pedro was already dead.

NO CONDITION TO HANG HERSELF

The controlled Philippine media carried the story as a suicide. The woman's family, however, points out that, with an arm and shoulder immobilized from a gunshot wound, Ms. Pedro was in no condition to wrap a wire around her neck and hang herself. They further point to the revealing fact that, at the time she was found, both of her feet were planted firmly on the ground. It is impossible to hang oneself without the full weight of one's body hanging free to tighten the rope around the neck.

The obvious implication is that Ms. Pedro was already dead, murdered by Aure and his goons in the course of her interrogation, then clumsily rigged up to make it look like a suicide. The fact that she was badly tortured was

(continued on page 5)

**S.F. Chinatown-
Manilatown:
Trial to Decide
Fate of I-Hotel**

see page 9

**Poor Suffer Most
Who's Behind
the Gas
Shortage?**

see page 10

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EDITORIAL

Narciso-Perez Trial

We Must Defend the Innocent!



Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez shown with their lawyers, Thomas O'Brian and Lawrence Burgess. Are the authorities hiding the real cause of deaths at the VA Hospital? [Sketch adopted from Detroit Free press]

By KDP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

As Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez are about to come to trial, numerous irregularities, which persist throughout the investigation and prosecution of their case, threaten to railroad these innocent nurses accused of murdering their patients. They have been browbeaten by a hospital administrator and given the third degree by the FBI to "confess" while major evidence supporting their defense has been willfully withheld by the prosecution.

The contradictory testimony of both key prosecution witnesses and the completely circumstantial character of the prosecution's "evidence" is more than enough to question the alleged guilt of these nurses. The harassment and prosecution of Narciso and Perez only confirm the community's worst fears that they have been targeted for these attacks solely because of their national origin. Indeed, this case is but a vivid demonstration of the cruelty and viciousness of the chauvenism against the foreign-born—especially those from Third World countries—which still predominates in America.

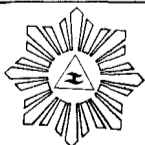
The unjust treatment of these nurses is an attack on the Filipino community and another assault in a series of mounting attacks attempting to degrade the quality and commitment of Filipino medical professionals. The Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG) deportation threat last year and the present discrimination in licensure of medical personnel are ample evidence of this trend.

We in the Filipino community must actively fight for the defense of Narciso and Perez because it is clear that the prosecution will otherwise continue to use sensationalized news accounts of these deaths and prejudiced assumptions about foreign-trained medical personnel to "try" them.

The defense committees around the country, which have greatly contributed thus far by raising funds for their legal defense, must increase their efforts in the course of the coming trial. However, we must be actively involved, not only in raising money, but in waging a concerted battle to expose the harassment of the nurses by the prosecution and prove their innocence.

In addition, the fact that the prosecution is pursuing this case with such intensity—while knowing that its evidence is contradictory—raises further suspicion in our minds that the authorities are hiding the real cause of deaths at the VA Hospital. Are the hospital authorities, FBI and prosecution simply irresponsible administrators and sloppy investigators? Or are they really attempting to cover-up something or someone who has a big stake in this? . . . Perhaps a case of gross negligence by the hospital, or a scandal implicating a major drug company?

We sincerely hope that the American courts will not only find these falsely accused nurses innocent, but also answer the underlying questions and bring those really responsible to justice! □



Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino

(KDP) Union of Democratic Filipinos

KDP is a mass organization based in the U.S. and is committed primarily to the struggle for the basic and long-term needs of the Filipino people, both in the Philippines and here in America.

Because of this, KDP supports the struggle of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship and pledges to help build a broad-based movement among the Filipinos in the U.S. to oppose martial law.

However, KDP sees that the root cause of all the misery and poverty in the Philippines is the imperialist control, exercised principally by the U.S., over the economy and politics of the country. The Filipino people can solve this basic problem only through long and difficult revolutionary struggle for a truly genuine democratic and independent

Philippines.

Here in the U.S., KDP is committed to struggling for the democratic rights of the Filipino minority. *Katipunan* views the racial and national discrimination experienced by the Filipino people as part of and stemming from, the monopoly capitalist system in the U.S. KDP members understand that the U.S. government is in fact, not democratic, but in the hands of a tiny minority of monopoly industrialists and bankers.

KDP sees that the people of the U.S. also need fundamental, revolutionary change to solve the basic ills that plague American society. The *Katipunan* understands that the working class must firmly control the government before it can rightfully be termed a government "of the people and for the people."

KDP sees that greater numbers of Filipinos are coming to these same political understandings. KDP is an organization open to all who agree with our political programme. In addition, KDP is committed to working in close cooperation with all progressive Filipinos to build a strong Filipino people's movement in America.

COMMENTARY

Tragedy Befalls Immigrant Family

By GELINE AVILA
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO—The "dream of a new life" in the "Land of Plenty"—still attracts thousands of Filipinos to the U.S. every year—almost everytime ends in disappointment once they arrive here and come face-to-face with discrimination, cultural adjustment, and unemployment. For one Filipino immigrant family, this disillusionment ended in tragedy last month here in this city.

Avelino Villarta, 40, from Camiling, Tarlac, took the life of his wife, Flordelis, 31, from Cebu City on the evening of Jan. 12, 1977. The Villarta's had been in this country for about five years.

Vel, as he was called by his friends, is now despondent, desperate and reportedly lost his will to live—lost in the grim reality that Flor is dead; his children, Arlene, 3, and Bill, 1, are now in a orphanage; and he is in jail awaiting trial for murder.

Unfortunately, a local Filipino newspaper, Philippine Herald, distorted the tragedy, by headlining its story, "Activist Kills Wife." While Vel was vocal in his opposition to the martial law government, the Herald, a pro-Marcos newspaper, consciously sensationalized its reporting to discredit Vel and smear the anti-martial law movement here in Chicago.



Villarta family. "The dream of a new life" in the "Land of Plenty" ended in disillusionment and tragedy.

[Phil. Times photo]

Although the Herald has the right to its opinion about the situation in the Philippines, it does not have the right to stoop to gutter journalism and opportunistically use a human tragedy just to promote the Marcos regime. While those views on martial law had nothing to do with the shooting, it is obvious that the Herald's views on martial law had everything to do with its reportage of the tragedy.

As a friend of the Villarta's I knew them as a hardworking couple with a strong love for their family. Like most of us new-arrivals, they had difficult times in adjusting to this country, especially in getting a decent job. Their economic trouble ate away at their family's stability, especially for Vel as he was never able to get steady employment. He was an accountant in the Philippines.

In fact, he told me he was forced to resign from his job back home at Central Bank in Cebu because he did not go along with the corruption his fellow examiners were involved in. One of the men taking pay-offs was a relative of one of the bank directors, so... Vel was "asked to leave."

Through all of his hardships, Vel tried to persevere, but this last time, he allowed his bad temper to get the best of him and he killed his wife in a fit of anger.

It was a senseless and inexcusable act, and Vel will have to take the consequences.

But instead of feeling contempt for Vel and gloating over his misfortune which seems to be the response of the pro-Marcos forces, the majority of the Filipino community in this city feel saddened by the Villarta's plight. For we too know first hand the day-to-day struggle for a better life here in the "Land of Plenty." □



Buod ng mga Balita
(Gist of the News)

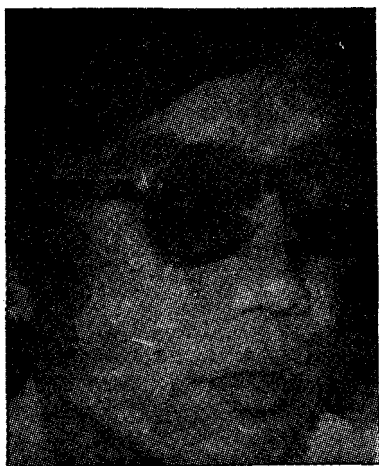
Marcos Softens Line on U.S. Bases

In a move that caught no one by surprise, Pres. Marcos softened his line towards the U.S. and declared that he was willing to give Pres. Carter plenty of time to work out his policy toward future U.S. use of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. The statement, made late last month to Washington Post correspondent Jay Matthews, was a sharp departure from Marcos' initially publicized threats to terminate all U.S.-R.P. military agreements.

More importantly, this recent turnabout confirms speculations that Marcos' earlier threats were basically empty and mainly intended to strengthen the Philippines' bargaining position for the resumption of the U.S.-R.P. Bases Talks.

In a related development, Marcos made friendly overtures to the Carter administration in a Feb. 12 interview with Henry Kamm of the New York Times. While demanding a clearer American policy towards Asia and better trade and military relationships, Marcos expressed optimism that the Carter administration would understand the necessity of his rule by martial law. "I think they (Carter administration) understand that we are moving toward normalization," (sic) Marcos said, inferring tacit approval of his regime by the newly-installed Washington administration. □

World Scientists Press for Release of Posadas



Roger Posadas

A recommendation for the release of detained physicist Dr. Roger Posadas, has been sent to Philippine Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, informed sources revealed recently.

Pressured by a deluge of letters from well-known scientists all over the world, Pres. Marcos issued a directive to Enrile, Dec. 1, 1976, to re-evaluate Posadas' case as well as those of other detained scientists including Ester Albano Garcia and Guillermo Ponce de

Leon. Letters strongly urging immediate release came from Nobel Prize-winning chemist Linus Pauling, Dr. Robert Geroch of the University of Chicago, and Dr. A.H. Taub of the University of California at Berkeley.

One scientist cited the "poor impression held by myself and my colleagues concerning the treatment of scientists in your country."

"I speak for my self, as well as for my colleagues throughout the world, in expressing deep concern over Prof. Posadas' detention, and in urging your personal intervention on his behalf," wrote Dr. Robert Geroch.

The source also revealed that Dr. Posadas has been invited to the Eighth International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation, which will be held in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada in August, 1977.

The invitation was sent to Dr. Posadas in Bicutan Rehabilitation Center in Taguig, Rizal, where Posadas has been imprisoned on charges of subversion. The Philippines' foremost physicist was arrested in January, 1975.

Colonel Sison, Chief Prosecutor for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, interviewed Dr. Posadas in connection with the requests. As of press time, Enrile's recommendations for the release has not been acted upon. There is speculation that military bureaucrats may be deliberately holding it up.

Amnesty International has expressed its commitment to follow up on the case of Dr. Posadas, according to the same source. □

Polio Epidemic Spreads

A total of 60 lives have been claimed by a polio epidemic which has spread southward since its outbreak last month on Bantayan Island, Cebu. The four Davao provinces, North Cotabato and Negros Occidental, have reported a polio outbreak in their respective regions. Despite a mass immunization drive and measures to enforce environmental sanitation, the polio epidemic has not been contained. Health Department officials in the stricken regions say the many unreported cases may lead to certain areas being bypassed in the immunization drive. Meanwhile in Bantayan Island, the origin of the epidemic, the ratio of deaths is still 7 to 10.

The scarcity of the anti-polio vaccines, which are not produced locally, is another obstacle to the campaign. Disturbing reports in Cebu City of local pharmacies stockpiling the drug in order to inflate the price makes the number of unnecessary deaths even more criminal.

The sad plight of the afflicted children may have also never been the case had the government made genuine attempts to curtail communicable diseases and to upgrade rural sanitation. The source of this year's outbreak was reportedly a contaminated water well.

A World Health Organization report released last year revealed that mortality rates from polio have increased from 1.7 in 1960 to 2.3 in 1972.

Between 1967 and 1973, only 1,272,109 pre-school children received two doses of polio vaccine (Minimum required is three doses) making vaccination a privilege instead of a necessity to the average Filipino child's health. Government officials have traced the problem to inadequate funds and laboratory facilities which have limited the production of vaccines.

But this recognition has not prevented the diversion of funds into the First Lady's multi-million Heart and Cancer Centers, whose grandiose purposes would hardly alter the 59% mortality rate of communicable diseases in the Philippines today. □

**More MNLF Negotiations —
MARCOS WHITTLES DOWN 'AUTONOMY'**



MNLF guerrillas and military officials congratulated one another on ceasefire. Recent actions on Marcos' part, however, indicate that the ceasefire would at best be temporary.

By VICTORIA LUNA

As the second round of negotiations between representatives of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Republic of the Philippines begins in Tripoli, Libya, on Feb. 7, more signs were emerging which call into question President Ferdinand Marcos' sincerity regarding the agreement in principle signed last Dec. 24 by the two groups.

The agreement, which has never been published in full in the Philippines, was recently smuggled out and published in the Philippine News (2/5-11). The text calls for "autonomy in the Southern Philippines within the realm of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines," and dictates that "the areas of the autonomy for the Muslims in the Southern Philippines shall comprise the following: 1. Basilan; 2. Sulu; 3. Tawi-Tawi; 4. Zamboanga del Norte; 5. Zamboanga del Sur; 6. North Cotabato; 7. Maguindanao; 8. Sultan Kudarat; 9. Lanao del Norte; 10. Lanao del Sur; 11. Davao del Sur; 12. South Cotabato; 13. Palawan."

In spite of Marcos' initial talk of cooperation, recent moves imply that the regime is already out to circumvent the agreement at this early date. Marcos is trying to limit the area of the Muslim autonomous region, to restrict the meaning of autonomy, and to further weaken what remains of the concept and area of autonomy through divide and rule techniques.

AUTONOMY PLEBISCITE

At the end of last December, Marcos coupled the announcement of the Libya accord with the confusing news that a plebiscite would be held in 13 provinces to determine whether or not they wished to become part of the autonomous region.

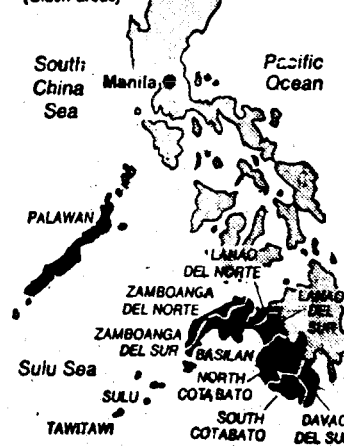
The agreement however, makes no mention of a plebiscite. Of the thirteen provinces, only five have Muslim majorities. If a plebiscite — even a fair one — is held, it is possible that the remaining eight will choose not to become part of the autonomous region. The plebiscite is thus a tool for drastically limiting the area of autonomy.

Not satisfied with effectively diminishing the area of autonomy by more than half, Marcos has, from the beginning, chipped away at the concept of autonomy itself. On Jan. 4, he announced that the formation of an autonomous region in the south was merely a step towards the establishment of autonomous zones throughout the country. (AK 1/1-15) The statement suggested that Marcos regarded autonomy as a

mere label and has no intention of relinquishing central government control.

The latest indication that autonomy for Marcos is, at best, a cosmetic change is the recently disclosed manpower and rehabilitation program for the south. The team which disclosed the program included Lt. Col. S.D. Somera, psy-war and information officer for the Western Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Somera's position alone gives some indication of the true objectives of such a program. An article in the Manila Journal (1/30-2/5) implies that Marcos intends to use the program for counter-insurgency purposes and further suggests that Marcos has taken on the rehabilitation of the war zone as a purely central government project without so much as consulting the MNLF.

**Moslem Areas
In The Philippines**
(Black areas)



[Graphic by Phil Times]

DIVIDE AND RULE

The most ominous tactics being used by the government to undermine autonomy at this point are those of divide and rule. During the negotiations in Tripoli, the Philippine panel rejected the proposal for a single autonomous region. In the report of Undersecretary of Defense for Civilian Affairs Carmelo Z. Barbero to Pres. Marcos of Jan. 4, he noted that he has to "[explain] to [Libyan Foreign Minister] Ali Treki the need for two regions because the Tausugs of Sulu and the Maranaos of Lanao are traditional warring groups." (Manila Journal, 1/16-22)

The most recent ploy used by Marcos in his attempt to divest the MNLF of power and authority has involved a new group, the Muslim Reform Liberation Movement (MRLM) which appeared on the scene within the last few weeks. The MRLM claims 26,000 "rebel" supporters — ironically the same number of MNLF rebels the government claims has surrendered in the last

four years. The group demanded that the government also negotiate with their representatives. Marcos responded by ordering Barbero to begin negotiations with the group in Zamboanga City on Jan. 20. The group further expressed a desire to negotiate with the MNLF and the World Islamic Conference.

The hitherto unheard-of MRLM seems to consist largely of "returnees to the fold of the law" better known in the Philippines as "balikbayans." Nonetheless, the alternative "rebel" voice which rejects the MNLF's demands makes the MNLF appear to be a mere faction and gives Marcos room to maneuver as he looks for more loopholes in the autonomy agreement.

REPLAY

The ploy would perhaps be less obvious if Marcos had not done the same thing once before. Negotiations with the MNLF in Jeddah, in January 1975 collapsed when Marcos' representatives attempted to buy off the leadership. To cover up the debacle, Marcos set up another conference the following April in Zamboanga City with another group of so-called rebels. Not surprisingly, the "rebels," who turned out to be long-time stooges and cronies of Marcos, completely rejected the MNLF demands.

Pulling the same kind of move at this point in history, however, is particularly risky for Marcos. His negotiating team agreed to the demand of the Islamic Conference (which arranged the talks) to recognize the MNLF as the sole representative of the Muslims in the Philippines. Holding negotiations with the MRLM is tantamount to a slap in the face for both the MNLF and the Islamic Conference. Marcos could torpedo the negotiations altogether if the MNLF and the Islamic Conference decide he has back-peddled too much.

The latest series of maneuvers merely confirms speculation that Marcos has no intention of making any kind of substantial concessions to the MNLF. Marcos is under pressure from the Philippine military, which views autonomy, as described in the Tripoli agreement, as a veritable lifting of martial law. Simultaneously, he is pressured by U.S. and Japanese business interests which are concerned about safeguarding their investments in Mindanao at all costs. As a result, Marcos is trying to whittle down autonomy to manageable proportions. If he succeeds, the administration of the new "autonomous region" will hardly differ from that of the rest of the country. □

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCANDAL-

Marcos Cronies Get Millions in Bribes



Front cover of GTE promotional manual. Handsome bribes, not only modern equipment, was part of the deal.

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

A major scandal involving no less than Pres. Marcos and his cronies was revealed by the Securities and Exchange Commissions during investigations of illegal overseas pay-offs by the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation (GTE). According to the Washington Post, a total of \$4.5 million in kickbacks, personal loans and credit was directed by GTE to Philippine government officials "at the highest levels" and principals of the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company (PLDT). The pay-offs were allegedly made to convince the Philippine firm to purchase \$20 million worth of GTE equipment and for GTE to get favorable tax treatment from the Philippine government.

The investigations further revealed that no less than GTE's top executives, Theodore Brophy board chairman, John J. Douglas, vice-chairman, and William Bennet (executive vice president) personally supervised the Philippine venture. Although the Philippine public has been generally aware of the lucrative and "illicit relationships" between Philippine government officials and multinational firms, the GTE bribes are noteworthy, in that it is the first documented exposure of these anti-national practices.

What prevents this scandal from erupting into a full-blown crisis, such as what happened to Japan and the Netherlands during the Lookheed disclosures, is the dictatorship in the Philippines which has effectively suppressed news of the bribes from becoming widely known. According to United Press International (UPI) sources in Manila, a Malacanang official threatened to cancel UPI's operating license after its coverage of the scandal was carried in most Asian newspapers.

Meanwhile, the PLDT officials implicated have been tightlipped about their involvement, prompting the SEC

to file an additional charge of violating federal securities laws by failing to disclose their part in the transaction.

The careful efforts taken by the regime to cover-up the scandal can perhaps be traced to Pres. Marcos's personal involvement in the case. Although the SEC did not reveal the names of the Philippine government officials involved, it is widely believed that Pres. Marcos was a recipient of the bribes by virtue of his connections with Roman Conjuangco, president of PLDT and a defendant in the case. The latter is a close personal friend of Marcos and is known to front for many of Marcos's business holdings.

Despite attempts of the dictatorship to cover up its role and thus avoid censure, the scandal will nonetheless remain as a telling reminder of the monopoly control wielded by U.S. big business over the Philippine economy and how this is promoted by the local big capitalist class and its government backers.

MARCOS-GTE HONEYMOON

GTE's honeymoon with Marcos and his cronies began in 1967 when the American company decided to "divest" its holdings in PLDT to Filipino nationals, in accordance with the impending expiration of the Laurel-Langley Agreement. GTE held 28 per cent of PLDT's common stock and 48 per cent of its preferred shares, valued at \$7 million and representing one-third of PLDT's ownership.

PLDT principals Ramon Conjuangco, Alfonso Yuchengco, Antonio Meer, and Ramon Rivilla, offered to buy GTE shares although according to GTE's audit findings the four were unable to finance the sale. On the other hand, another group of Filipino investors was willing and had the capital to buy out GTE's holdings.

Curiously enough, GTE decided to turn down this group in favor of Cojuangcos group which had formed into a holding company, the Philippine Telephone In-

vestment Corporation (PTIC). GTE even "loaned" Cojuangcos group the amounts of \$484,000 in cash and \$3.5 million in personal loans and credit to partially subsidize the sale.

Despite what seemed to be a giveaway offer to PTIC, GTE got \$30 million from the sale or four times the original value of its PLDT holdings and profited \$9 million! (Pacific Imperialism Notebook, June, 1970) Were the PTIC principals the losers in this deal? Obviously not. Hidden in the \$30 million figure was a lot of high level maneuverings and padded paychecks. To outbid the other buyers of GTE's shares, Cojuangco must have offered the higher price of \$30 million which was obtained through foreign creditors with the help of Marcos. Thus the transaction was finalized without PTIC officials expending a single cent and yet gaining enormous increases in their personal incomes.

FALSE DIVESTMENT

However, the big time corruption involved in the sale is not half as shocking as the realization that GTE never relinquished control of PLDT. It only divested its holdings in appearances to "conform" to Philippine law, but in reality GTE continued to control this major public utility firm through invisible levers.

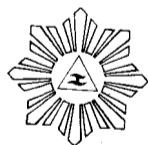
One of the terms exacted by GTE during the sale was that PTIC would "cause" PLDT to buy \$20 million worth of GTE equipment. This assured GTE of a captive market that would purchase equipment at non-competitive and therefore inflated prices. This in turn would foster technological dependency on PLDT's part for GTE's technical and management services: a reality that continues today despite "divestment." Other more obvious manifestations of control is the fact that GTE corporate Secretary Joe Mellis, served simultaneously as assistant secretary of PLDT despite the Supreme Court's Luzon Stevedoring ruling barring foreigners from sitting on the boards of Philippine firms. GTE furthermore retained a significant minority stock position (17 per cent) in PLDT, giving it an appreciable measure of authority in determining the activities and direction of that corporation.

Thus, despite the expiration of the Laurel-Langley Agreement which has supposedly eliminated the favored status of American investors, GTE like many other American firms, retained a monopoly control over an important sector of the Philippine economy.

DUMMIES

Furthermore, the manner in which GTE divested its holdings in its Philippine subsidiary, GTE Industries Inc. sheds light on its relationship with the notorious PTIC foursome. The four were willing dummies or "Filipino faces" in GTE's attempts to de-Americanize the ownership of its subsidiary. During the same year, 1967, GTE granted PTIC the option to purchase 40 per cent of its Philippine subsidiary stocks. The fact that this was just a paper-ownership arrangement was revealed three years later when PTIC exercised this option by issuing GTE a promissory note (statement of an intention to buy) for \$486,459.40 payable at the ridiculously low price of \$1 per year! Obviously, this arrangement did not reduce

(continued on page 5)



Ang **KATIPUNAN**

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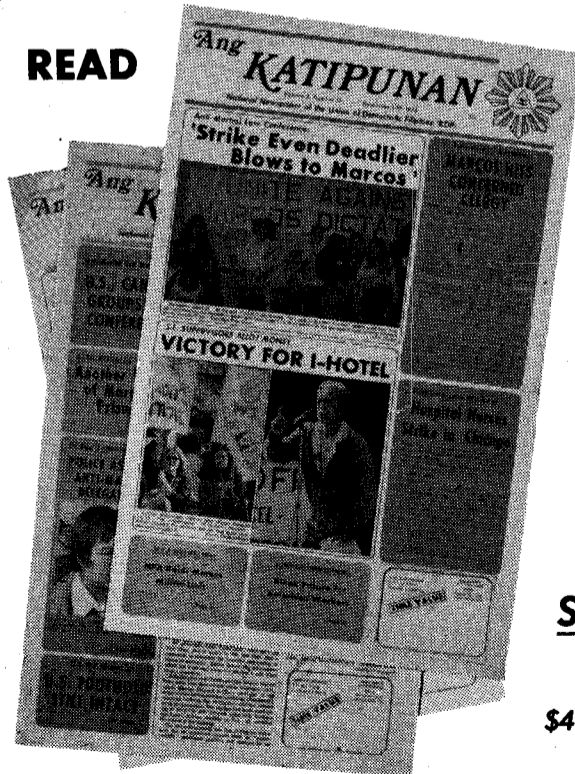
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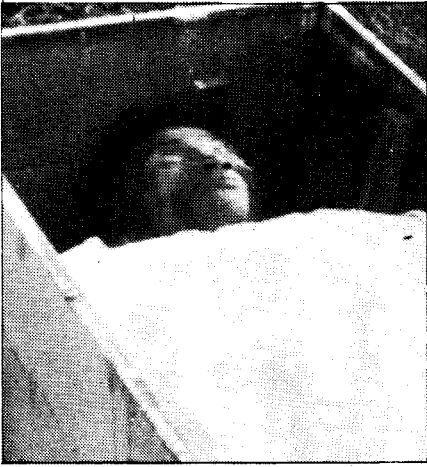
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PC Colonel Responsible: Social Worker Shot, Tortured, Murdered by Military...



"No one but no one has been tortured," Pres. Marcos emphatically denied over nationwide broadcast on Dec. 11, 1974. There are not only hundreds of detainees, living proofs of torture, who could dispute his brazen lie. At least eight deaths resulting from torture have been reported and documented. Among the fatalities are [clockwise] Ben Pancouillas, Liliosa Hilao, Fortunato Bayotlang, and Santiago Arce. Pedro's death is the latest addition to this growing list.

[AK file photos]



(continued from front page)

born out by the bruises on her body and face. The colonel's warning to "remember the name Aure" takes on an ominous significance in the light of the fact that she was already dead when he uttered it.

MIGUEL AURE: PORTRAIT OF A BUTCHER

The name of Col. Miguel Aure is not unfamiliar to anyone who has followed the documentation of torture in the Philippines. 5 CSU, of which he is the chief, along with the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA), the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP), and Metrocom Intelligence (M-2), is one of the chief interrogating and torturing units in Central Luzon. The names of officers and enlisted men attached to these intelligence groups appear repeatedly in "Political Detainees in the Philippines," published by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines and "Report of the Mission to the Republic of the Philippines" published by Amnesty

International.

The Amnesty report specifically says, "The mission noted with regret and concern that . . . the commandant of 5CSU, Lt. Col. Miguel Aure . . . featured in several accounts as having beaten prisoners and having been present when prisoners were tortured." Prisoner Monico Atienza reports that Aure repeatedly kicked him in the shins while two lieutenants punched him in the ribs. Benigno Carlos told Amnesty International that Aure came in during his torture to ask how the "treatment" was going and gave orders to carry on. In other cases, prisoners testify that Aure's office in the 5CSU building has been used as a torture site. This can hardly have happened without his permission.

FINAL RESPONSIBILITY

The military's own concept of authority dictates that a commanding officer is responsible for all activities undertaken by his own staff or within the confines of his office. This means that, directly or indirectly, Aure bears

final responsibility for the torture of countless victims who have suffered at the hands of 5CSU staff.

Among the actions within 5CSU's headquarters for which Aure must be held accountable: the repeated use of the building as one of the few sites within an actual army camp (rather than in a safehouse) for tactical interrogation of torture of prisoners; the locking up of 10 female prisoners by a lieutenant for a minor infraction of rules from June 22 to July 4, 1975, in a cramped room with only tin cans to hold urine until all became sick; and the beating of five prisoners, one of them for at least two hours, on Jan. 2, 1975, by a torturing team. The team was not interested in extracting information, but was simply celebrating the "birthday" of the unit.

GOONS AND PSYCHOTICS

A comment by Romeo Enriquez, one of the victims of Lt. Aguinardo, the most notorious of Aure's underlings at 5CSU, reveals that the colonel must also be held accountable for knowingly hiring goons and psychotics to perform his filthy work. According to Enriquez, "When Aguinardo beats people he is laughing, shouting. I think he is psychotic. They do not treat us like people."

Aure frequently tries to play to role of the good guy with his prisoners, in contrast to the bestiality of his underlings, whom he usually allows to do the dirtiest of his dirty work. Bonifacio Ilagan reports that Aure urged him to forget all about his torture (kickings, beatings, burnings of the soles of his feet); "That's now in the past." In the case of Alan Jasmynes, he even apologized after two drunken agents came into the building and beat him in no connection with his interrogation. Of course, his apologetic pose did not stop him from personally seizing seven trucks belonging to Jasmynes' family and operating them for haulage and commercial contacts.

TORTURE AS "ABERRATION"

The few attempts by the Philippine government to "take action" against violators of human rights and specifically torturers have targeted low-ranking officers and enlisted men. Even these cases have frequently been whitewashed, as in the recent trial of a notorious pair from M-2, Lt. Clifford Noveras and C2C Eddie Abalos. In their trial, a military doctor testified that no signs of maltreatment appeared on the body of prisoner Cenon Zembrano, a detainee who was subjected to lengthy torture, including having a flatiron pressed to the soles of his feet.

The United States Department of State "Report on Human Rights in the Philippines" justifies continued aid to the Philippines on the basis, among other things, of torture as an "aberration" which takes place "usually in the first stages of interrogation by lower ranking military personnel . . ."

But Lt. Col. Miguel Aure, 5CSU commander, is hardly "lower ranking military personnel." And no amount of posing can hide the fact that Aure, responsible for all the outrages committed under 5CSU auspices, is one of the chief butchers of the Marcos regime.

AURE'S NAME WILL BE REMEMBERED

The underground source which provided the information about Purificacion Pedro closed its message with a chilling warning: "This is a true account of the death of Purificacion Pedro, political detainee. Events that happened between her arrest and burial may be denied by her family. This is because they do not want to be further harassed by those responsible for her death."

The family, no doubt, is reminded of the case of Liliosa Hilao, whose murder by the military under torture was similarly disguised as a suicide. Her family was brave enough to tell the truth. Today her brother, Winifredo, her brother-in-law, Romeo Enriquez, her sisters Josefina and Amarylis, and her sister-in-law Violeta, have paid a heavy price for their honesty. All are in prison and the first two have been badly tortured.

Whatever the Pedro family may choose to do, confronted with this terrible precedent, they can take solace from the fact that not just the family, but all Filipinos who care about human decency and their allies abroad will "remember the name Aure." Aure will live to regret that. □

Marcos Cronies Get Bribe Pay-offs...



GTE, a major electronics conglomerate, directed \$14 million in bribes to government officials of 28 countries including the US

(continued from page 4)

GTE's control of its subsidiary since it retained voting control over the shares through a voting trust.

On the contrary, GTE not only gained a Filipino front but also tax exemptions from the government as a result of "nationalizing" the ownership of its subsidiary.

BAHAMAS CONNECTION

Despite the subservient role of the PTIC four to GTE, they were well compensated. Through a Bahamas conduit, GTE made an additional bribe of \$1 million in 1971 to PTIC principals as an incentive to finalize the 1967 agreement to purchase GTE equipment. The agreement was finally signed but did not come into fruition until five years later when PLDT managed to obtain \$30 million from a consortium of foreign banks.

The blissful relationship, however, took a sharp turn early last year, when the SEC discovered illegal GTE payments to the Philippines, Iran and Indonesia. GTE thus terminated all ties with PTIC on Feb. 1976 forfeiting in effect, the \$1 million loan, which the SEC considered

illegal payments. Since PLDT gets traded on the American and Pacific stock exchanges, placing it under the jurisdiction of the SEC, a complaint was filed by the latter against PTIC in a Washington District Court last month. In a recent ruling, the SEC ordered the PTIC principals to recompense PLDT with \$1 million obtained from their own sources. The SEC will further monitor PTIC's activities over a five year period.

GAME ALL OVER?

Although the Bahamas connection may cease to be profitable, the PTIC fiasco will hardly mark the end of the lucrative Marcos-Cojuangco alliance. It is doubtful that this scandal would affect the standing of PLDT as one of the top twenty revenue earning firms in the country. Marcos and Cojuangco will merely shift their rip-off schemes from the delicate arena of international finance to that inexhaustible source of wealth: the Filipino people. And their records confirm this too.

In 1970 PLDT attempted to push a bill through Congress exempting it from customs duties on imported goods and national income tax as well. It was one of the few bills that Marcos personally lobbied for in Congress. In the same year, PLDT asked for a 70 per cent increase in telephone subscriber rates — a request automatically approved by Malacanang and believed to be a political payoff to the Cojuangco family which had generously contributed to the 1969 Marcos re-election campaign.

Upon the declaration of martial law, PLDT's penchant for increasing telephone rates were much easier for Marcos to effect, what with the Congress and Price Control Council abolished. On June 1973, Marcos issued PD 217 requiring telephone subscribers to finance up to 50 per cent of the costs of the telephones they use. This essentially meant the mandatory purchase of stocks by telephone subscribers. On top of this PLDT raised its rates 5 per cent "due to increases in foreign exchange rates," in other words, shifting to consumers the debt service burden of its outstanding debts. Of course, Marcos would not have effected these unilateral increases in telephone rates if he does not stand to enjoy a cut in the profits. □

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FILIPINO Community

1 Dead, 3 Hospitalized Seattle Youth Condemn Gang Activity

By DAVE DELLA
AK Correspondent

Late in the evening of Jan. 21, Jon Hayashi, a nineteen year old Japanese-American youth from Seattle, was killed when someone in a passing car fired several bullets into Hayashi's car. Hayashi and his three friends in the car were on their way home from a party in Seattle's southend when the shooting occurred. None of the others were injured.

This senseless killing is the latest in a series of violent incidents among Asian youth in Seattle, including a shoot-out last November between rival Filipino gangs that left three people hospitalized. Outraged people in the Seattle Asian community are asking: Who is responsible for these acts? Friends of Jon Hayashi pointed out that he is not a member of any gang, and that he was generally well-liked.

At this time, it is not known who is responsible. Police raided the party after the shooting, questioned everyone present, took some down to the police station, but got no

leads. The youth at the party, however, were generally critical about how the police handled the matter.

One of those questioned by the police said afterwards, "They interrogated me as if I did it, or I was covering up for those who did. The police just seemed to be going after any Asian youth, rather than getting down to the job of finding the ones who did the shooting. Would they be dealing with a shooting incident involving white youth in the same way?"

Concerned community people have also expressed criticism of the Seattle press, which has stirred up some racist hysteria over this incident with sensational headlines like, "Area Asians Fear Gang Wars." This type of news reporting implies that Asian youth, in general, are involved in gang activity, rather than just a few who really are.

The great majority of Asian youth are opposed to this violence. They want to see justice done in this case and that gang activity be stopped. As one youth leader said, "Whoever did this won't find any sympathy from me or anybody else I know." □

Medical Professionals, Community Persons Set Conference

By THERESE RODRIGUEZ
AK Correspondent

NEW YORK — A major organizing committee meeting — in preparation for the forthcoming National Conference for Fair Licensure for Foreign-Nurses Graduates (FNG's) — was successfully held last Feb. 13 at the U.N. Church Center, this city.

Attended by some 60 Filipino nurses and community leaders representing New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Chicago and the S.F. Bay Area, Calif., the working meeting mapped out plans and goals for the national conference scheduled for late April. Among the local community organizations represented were the United Filipino Organization (UFO), Philippine Nurses Assoc. of New York and New Jersey, Philippine-American Youth Organization (PAYO), Jaycettes, Quezon Province Association and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP).

CONCERN FOR FLIGHT OF FILIPINO NURSES

The impressive attendance was viewed by many as a clear indication of widespread apprehension and concern about the high failure rate of Foreign Nursing Graduates in the bi-annually administered State Board Test Pool examination. The present failure rate is known to be 90 per cent in almost every major state of the U.S. The overwhelming number of Foreign Nursing Graduates trying to hurdle these exams are Filipinos.

Nurses who have "failed" these exams — and consequently stripped of their RN status — are forced to accept nursing positions lower than the level of their professional training. They oftentimes become nurses' aides, licensed practical nurses or nursing technicians. The problem affects nurses who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents, as well as nurses on H-1 (working visa status).

... they feel there's something artificial barring them from passing these exams . . .

A draft summary of the licensure problem prepared by the Preparatory Committee for a National Conference for Fair Licensure for FNG's in New York, served as the framework of the meeting's discussions.

Ms. Nora Pascua, RN, and a member of the United Filipino Organization, presented the historical background of the nurses licensure issue and described the harsh consequences faced by nurses immediately after their "failure." Ms. Primitiva Lejarde, RN, undertook the task of presenting the analysis of the licensure problem. Ms. Christine Hing, RN and nursing instructor, presented opinions on what the Filipino community can do in resolving the problem.

An enthusiastic discussion and a dynamic exchange of experiences ensued throughout the entire meeting. The overwhelming opinion among nurses was that "they really feel they do the best they can, but they feel there's something artificial barring them" from passing these exams. Although a minority opinion expresses the view that perhaps the "failure" stems from lack of initiative from Filipino nurses themselves (i.e., "they do not study enough"), such opinion was effectively rebutted by the majority of the delegates.

The draft summary, after vigorous and extensive debates, was overwhelmingly approved in the meeting, with positive additions on how the draft could further be improved.

DISCRIMINATION A REALITY IN THIS ISSUE

The draft's line of argumentation, noting in particular the discriminatory aspect of the licensure problem, was described by some American delegates and community lawyers as "very viable and the fact that discrimination is a reality in this issue is an argument the American public will readily accept." Some questions arose as to whether discrimination in this case is intentional or not. Reuben Seguritan, a community leader, responded that "even if the law is neutral on its face, as long as it operates in a discriminatory manner, it is still discriminatory."

Ms. Aimee Cruz, KDP, who delivered the opening remarks and led the discussion on how the preparation for the national conference could be organized, was elected coordinator by the delegates of the preparatory meeting. Elected co-coordinator was Ms. Christine Hing, RN.

Further details will be released by the Organizing Committee. For more information, call (212) 458-6369 or (212) 429-5448. □

Irregularities, Contradictory Evidences Riddle Narciso-Perez Case...

(continued from front page)

tory testimonies of the key prosecution witnesses, John McCreary and Richard Neeley.

The case against the nurses started on June 28, 1976 when a note, written by John McCreary about two hours after his breathing failure was turned over to Dr. Lucy Gootenday, a VA hospital cardiologist. Scribbled on this note were the letters "PIA", supposedly the name of the person who gave him the Pavulon before his breathing failure. The note was later turned over to the FBI who in turn, used it to indict Filipina Narciso: stating that "P.I." is the "PIA" in McCreary's note (Narciso uses the nickname P.I., an abbreviation for Filipina).

But the new information revealed that McCreary said on three occasions that the person he referred to in the note is a caucasian woman who worked in the intensive care unit and was known to him as "PIA." McCreary identified this woman two times on Sept. 22 and Dec. 1, 1975 in a photograph line-up. Ironically, this woman, whose name has not been revealed in court, was granted immunity from prosecution after testifying before the grand jury. On another occasion, McCreary denied saying he meant "PIA" to be "P.I." to another staff nurse in the ward, Judy Polachek.

Polachek testified during the pre-trial hearings that McCreary told her, Aug. 17, 1975 — two days after McCreary's breathing failure — that his assailant is a Mexican female. Polachek recounted that at the same moment she was talking to McCreary, P.I. walked in. Knowing about the note, Polachek asked him if P.I. looked like the person who gave him the Pavulon injection. "I pointed to P.I. and he said no," Polachek disclosed. On the same day, Polachek admits writing a memorandum to her nursing supervisor regarding McCreary's statement to her. However, the memorandum disappeared; "I understand that they've been trying to find it for the past three days but it does not seem to be anywhere in the nursing department," testified Polachek.

The prosecutions also made deletions in the original FBI transcript of interrogation which revealed some discrepancies when checked against McCreary's account of the incident in his diary. McCreary was at a loss trying to explain such discrepancies. Among these was the deletion of the three interviews with an intern who said that McCreary claimed that his assailant is a Mexican male.

CONFLICTING VERSIONS UNTIL SEVERAL HYPNOSIS

Leonora Perez's name did not enter the investigation until several months later when Richard Neeley, under hypnosis, testified in a videotaped interview that he saw Perez standing next to his bed just before he had his respiratory arrest on the night of July 30, 1975. (The interview was videotaped because the prosecution believed that Neeley might not live to testify in court.)

Before Neeley was hypnotized and interrogated under FBI supervision, he gave conflicting accounts of his breathing failure.

When Neeley was hypnotized three times in December 1975; he never identified Perez during these sessions. It was not until January 9, 1976 during another hypnosis session that he identified Perez.

The defense has questioned the method of hypnotic interrogations that were administered to Neeley by the FBI. Dr. Martin T. Orne, a research psychiatrist, testified that the hypnotic interrogation was used actually a "confabulation;" defined by Dr. Orne as "something which happens when a person makes up a place that is missing in his memory...That FBI agents, by their



Flanked by Leonora [l] and Filipina [r] is Catherine Sembrano, another VA Hospital nurse who was fired because of her pregnancy. She filed and won a suit against the VA Hospital for sex discrimination.

questions and their attitudes to Neeley's answers guided him to say what they wanted him to say...the kind of interchange...which in fact, is creating information." It was also noted that the three FBI agents (Russo, Butler, and Delaney) were asking most of the questions with the psychiatrist hired by the prosecution, Dr. Herbert Spiegel, taking a minimal role.

At one point in the hypnosis interrogation, Neeley said he could not remember anyone present in the room except that "something was shaking the hell out of his bed." Later on he said he remembers two nursing assistants, a mysterious black fellow, and a little Filipino girl. At this point, the FBI suddenly took interest in the Filipino girl and shifted the questioning on her. But Neeley responded and said "they could not do anything like that." Then the FBI asked Neeley while flashing a picture, "in the picture can you see anybody whom you believe would do something like that?" Responding, Neeley pointed out the Filipino (Leonora Perez) and said that he disliked her because she was not friendly to him.

"That is a direct suggestion to put somebody on the screen to visualize someone on that screen, who might do something like that," pointed out Dr. Orne, referring to the interrogation process described.

Neeley's personal character is also being questioned. Dr. Dennis Walsh, another psychiatrist describes Neeley as being "vulnerable psychologically" and an alcoholic "black-out drunk who has difficulty remembering an entire evening of drinking." Dr. Walsh stated that Neeley "manufactured the memory of seeing someone in his room in an effort to get the FBI the information they wanted to hear, not necessarily the truth about what happened during Neeley's breathing failure."

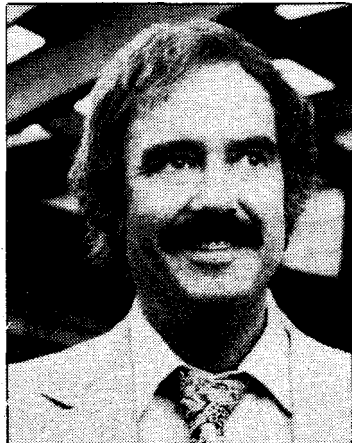
CONSPIRACY BY 1,800 FILIPINO NURSES!

During an interview with Dr. Walsh, Neeley came out with an absurd belief that the murders and poisoning was part of a "Nation-wide conspiracy of 1,800 Filipino nurses out to murder Americans;" and that this conspiracy involved the Philadelphia poisonings at the Legionnaires' Convention.

Neeley's blatant racist attitudes were also substantiated by the testimony of Richard Collins who said that Neeley referred to Narciso and Perez as "a couple of slant-eyed bitches and it doesn't make any difference to me what happens to them." □

Forward Sulong! (Forward in the Struggle!)

6-Day Lobbying Campaign Rallies Support of Rep. Burton for Aid Cut-off to Marcos



Congressman John Burton

SAN FRANCISCO — A Six-Day Congressional Lobbying Campaign was recently launched to convince congresspeople all over the country of the serious implications of continued aid to the repressive government of President Marcos; and that supporting the application of the Human Rights Amendment is to the interest of the American people. The Friends of the Filipino People and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) seized the February 10-15 congressional break and organized its chapters and local alliances to meet with their respective Congresspersons.

In line with this, the Bay Area Anti-Martial Law Alliance and the local FFP chapter met with Congressman John Burton (D-Cal) and discussed the repressive conditions in the Philippines, the role of U.S. aid, the implications of a renewed bases treaty, and the need for congressional initiative to insure the application of the Human Rights Amendment.

Congressman Burton agreed that U.S. aid to the repressive government of President Marcos be stopped. He believed that the Human Rights Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act be applied to its fullest extent and assured the Alliance and the FFP that he will take initiative to get the support of other congresspeople in opposing aid to the Marcos government. Congressman Burton also agreed that the U.S. bases should be withdrawn saying, "their presence implies support of the repressive regime."

Groups Join Together for Human Rights Workshop

In response to the growing popular concern about U.S. aid to repressive regimes, a workshop on congressional and local work around the human rights issue will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 3000 Folsom St., San Francisco. The workshop, initiated at the suggestion of the North Americans for Human Rights in Argentina (formerly Olga Talamante Defense Committee) will be attended by a number of Bay Area organizations, including the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) and the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP).

Topics to be covered in the workshop include the following: U.S. government channels of military and economic aid to repressive regimes; President Carter's probable strategy on the human rights issue; congressional organization, procedures and personalities in the human rights field; ideology of the human rights movement; and local mass work around international human rights.

Other participating groups in the whole-day workshop include Non-Intervention in Chile (NICH), Office for Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Chile (OPHRICH), Argentina Information and Service Center (AISC), Comité Salvadoreño, Korea Research and Action Committee, and National Campaign for a New Korea Policy.

400 Attend Seattle Forum on Repressive Governments

SEATTLE — The FFP chapter, this city, launched their campaign to stop U.S. aid to the martial law government of Marcos by participating in "An Evening of Education and Culture." The event, sponsored by a local Coalition Against Repressive Regimes, drew 400 people to Garfield High School to listen to reports on repression in third world countries and national music from Chile, Africa, the Arab world, and the Philippines.

The keynote speaker of the evening, Tony Monteiro, had recently returned from Africa where he witnesses effects of U.S. intervention in Angola. He also cited South Korea, Iran, Indonesia, Spain, Chile, and Zaire as examples of unpopular governments dependent on U.S. military and economic aid for survival. In return, these governments grant the U.S. privileges such as allowing U.S. bases, and enacting policies favorable to the U.S. and other foreign corporate investments.

A Chilean refugee who was recently released after one and a half years in prison, spoke of the reasons for the 1973 U.S.-supported military coup. He described the stand of the Popular Unity Government to provide free education, housing, and health care to the poorest sectors while expropriating ownership of the large landholdings and demanding increased control of Chile's natural resources. He said that the military coup led by General Augustinho Pinochet "submerged the entire people in misery and hunger like none ever experienced in their history."

Stephanie Brown, an FFP member and spokesperson for the Coalition, then described the actions which concerned Americans have taken to pressure Congress to implement the human rights amendment. The audience was then asked to write letters to Congress and address their demands to the state's representative, Congressman Bonker (D-Wash).

In encouraging the letter-writing campaign, Ms. Brown said, "The letter which you write tonight is multiplied 300 times in this room alone and all of our efforts are multiplied thousands of times throughout the country. Alone, we have little effect but united, our pressure can limit and eventually end U.S. aid to these repressive regimes."

The FFP Seattle is continuing its letter-writing campaign through an educational outreach program that will eventually reach several hundreds of people. □

Fraser Calls for Moratorium on Aid

By SEVERINA RIVERA,
FFP/AMLC Congress Project
Coordinator

WASHINGTON — Congressman Donald Fraser (D.-Minn.) has called for a moratorium on U.S. military aid to all countries except the Middle East and Western Europe, in a talk last week before the Fund for Peace gathering hosted by Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Cal.).

Mr. Fraser said only these two regions abided compelling reasons (i.e., generally considered to have direct and obvious roles in U.S. security) to warrant continued military aid. He urged an intensive policy review of other areas, to be undertaken through the spring.

While these arguments are not new in Washington it is the first time that a key senior legislator has indicated he will seriously push this view within the Carter administration.

If concentration of aid to this two core regions becomes the dominant feature of U.S. foreign aid policy, military aid to repres-

sive regimes, like the Philippines could be severely curtailed.

Such an approach would also popularize the thinking that "non-core areas" such as Asia, Africa and Latin America, could be subjected to a strict human rights standard without detriment to U.S. security.

An aide to Rep. Fraser said a moratorium on military aid and a subsequent decision to suspend this aid to certain countries — on the basis of their non-core character — would prevent the "humiliation" of subjecting individual countries to the Human Rights Amendment which prohibits aid to repressive regimes. He further stated that the U.S. government could then privately inform these regimes of the human rights factor contributing to that decision.

Whether aid to repressive governments is cut off directly through the implementation of the Human Rights Amendment, or through this back door "core area" approach, the key factor in the aid question remains the same. Imperative for the success of either method is that the out-



Congressman Donald Fraser

rage of the American public to U.S. aid to repressive regimes must be made known to Congress.

Our commitment to human rights must be absolute, to echo President Carter. Certainly, it must be staunch enough to overcome the fear of humiliating, corrupt and repressive regimes.

Nation-wide Speaking Tour:

FR. GERLOCK DECRIES MARCOS MARTIAL LAW REPRESSION

Reprinted from the Daily Californian; Univ. of California — Berkeley [2/8/77]

Philippine students and workers continue to protest the state of martial law in their country, despite increased pressure from the military and President Ferdinand Marcos.

That information came yesterday from Father Edward Gerlock, a priest recently expelled from the Philippines for alleged subversive activity.

Gerlock addressed about 30 people in the Student Union here, to speak about his 14 years of work with Philippine farmers and squatters, and his imprisonment on charges of inciting protests against the Marcos government.

Although little news of worker protests finds its way into the Philippine press, workers have staged about 50 strikes against major industries in the last six months.

Students still play a major role in the poor people's struggle for self-determination, he said.

"My impression is that students have joined together with the labor and squatter projects. Students are not so much pushing their own cause, but are immersing themselves in the service of more repressed sectors."

Street demonstrations are riskier than they once were, Gerlock said.

"The military has very sophisticated equipment. They are constantly taking pictures. And students occasionally disappear."

Gerlock's interest in helping the poor gain a voice in their future led him to work with farmers in the Northern Philippines. He helped organize protests and demonstrations against a United Brands takeover of traditional tribal land.

After martial law was declared in 1972 by Marcos, Gerlock and thousands of others became subject to imprisonment. Gerlock was arrested for the first time only days after the state of emergency was declared. He spent seven weeks in prison.

Gerlock said his time in prison showed him there was a double standard of treatment for the rich and the poor.



Fr. Gerlock, who was deported for alleged subversive activities like "helping the poor," went on a nation-wide speaking tour sponsored by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition [Philippines] to talk about repression under martial law. [AK photo]

"If you're an American in the Philippine prison, or another important person, there's not much chance you'll be tortured. But if you're a farmer or a laborer, it can be very tough. Ninety-nine per cent of the people who are tortured have no particular significance to the government."

Gerlock was arrested for a second time in 1973, and spent three weeks in prison. After a five month trial, and another year under house arrest awaiting a verdict, the court found there was no basis for charging him with subversion. However, he was put on probation by the government.

He was arrested for a third

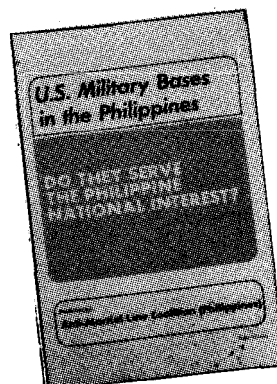
time, and charged with subversion on Nov. 18, 1976. His arraignment, trial and conviction lasted seven minutes. Gerlock was then immediately ordered deported and loaded into a plane for Honolulu.

After his deportation, the Maryknoll religious order Gerlock belongs to protested the action to the State Department and Henry Kissinger.

"We were very excited when a reply (from the State Department) came in the mail. But when I opened it, all I found was a bill for \$25 for entering the United States without a passport," he said. □

U.S. Military Bases in the Philippines:

DO THEY SERVE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL INTEREST?

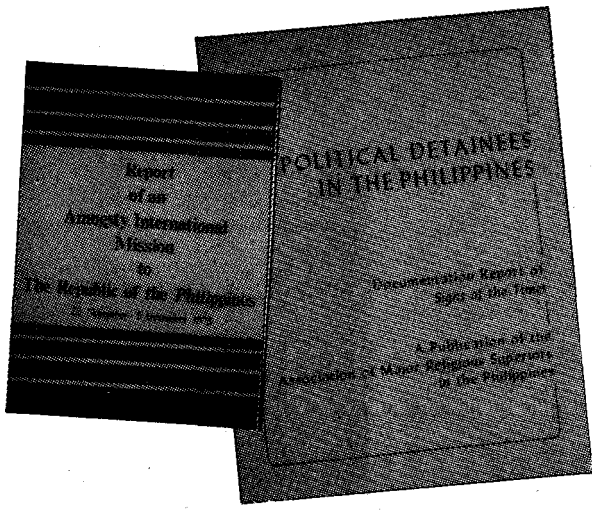


An in-depth analysis of the role of U.S. Military Bases in the Philippines from the point of view of Philippine National Interest.

Send 50 cents per copy, plus 10% of purchase for mailing costs to:

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110 Maryland Avenue N.E. Room 504
Washington, D.C. 20002

Analysis of AMRSP, Amnesty Int'l Documents

State Dept. Declassifies Report

By SEVERINA RIVERA
FFP/AMLC Congress Project Coordinator

WASHINGTON — The Friends of the Filipino People and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) scored a significant gain last week when the U.S. government declassified the State Department's official analysis of the Amnesty International and Association of Major Religious Superiors (AMRSP) studies. Confirming the accuracy of the two studies that fully documents the extreme torture and maltreatment of political prisoners in the Philippines, the State Department report revealed the "essential validity" of the two studies and was unable to unearth a "single factual error" after reviewing it in detail.

A responsible State Department official called their document "politically explosive" and speculated on the various ways the Philippine government might react to the document's public disclosure.

On the other hand, this State Department document is couched in the usual bland, bureaucratic language, reflecting their dispassionate treatment of the issue of torture and human rights. The Department has recommended that aid to the Philippines government continue and even increase, despite their full comprehension of the human rights violations in the Philippines.

The FFP and the AMLC earlier filed a suit for the full declassification of the State Department report under the Freedom of Information Act. Although this partial declassification is considered significant and substantial, other vital information in the report still remains to be released to the public. One of such is the report on the representations with Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile which reliable State Dept. sources, describes as the extent to which the U.S. government has promoted human rights in the Philippines. This same source revealed that procedures for arrests and detentions are also outlined in this report as gathered from the Command on the Administration of Detainees (CAD) of the Dept. of National Defense (DNA-Philippines).

The FFP and the AMLC are distributing the State Dept. document and their response to the U.S. Congress. Copies are available at the FFP National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 824, New York, New York, 10027. Send 75 cents for the cost of copying and mailing.

The AMRSP study, on their request, was published and distributed in the U.S. by the AMLC and is available through its various chapters in the U.S.

The AI study is available at Amnesty International, 6th Street, SE Washington D.C., 20003. □

Letter to Washington, D.C.**Americans Call for Withdrawal of U.S. Bases in the Philippines**

FLASH! President Jimmy Carter has called for the re-evaluation of U.S. bases role in the Philippines, reliable Washington sources disclosed Feb. 14, 1977. Carter's move comes in the wake of criticisms of the martial law regime for its violations of human rights, a fact that has also been confirmed by the State Dept.

By SEVERINA RIVERA
FFP, AMLC Congress Project Coordinator

Some 90 persons have addressed a statement to President Jimmy Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and members of the U.S. Senate calling upon the United States to withdraw its bases from the Philippines and rejecting any payment of rent for these bases.

The statement denounces the bases as "implicit support for the Marcos dictatorship and a threat to its opponents," and declared a payment of rent "would augment the military aid the U.S. already gives to the Philippines and the monies the Marcos regime spends on its army and police."

The United States and the Philippine governments are presently renegotiating a treaty for the continuation of U.S. bases in the Philippines, particularly Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. While the outcome of the treaty negotiations is still unclear, there are certain possibilities which we would like to warn against as contrary to the best interests of the U.S. and the Philippine peoples.

Our first concern is that the U.S. government might agree to pay rent to the Philippine government for using the bases, a proposal much discussed by the press in connection with the negotiations. This, we fear, would be another way for the U.S. to support the military, police and other repressive institutions of the martial law regime in the Philippines. The Philippine government, presently headed by Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, would be at liberty to use this rent money for whatever purpose it saw fit. Because the police-state apparatus of the government has consumed an increasingly large proportion of revenues since the declaration of martial law in 1972 and because internal opposition continues to grow, we conclude that the Marcos government would use the funds primarily to repress opponents and maintain its dictatorship. The rent, in short, would augment the military aid the U.S. already gives to the Philippines and the monies the Marcos regime spends on its army and police.

Opposing only rent, however, would leave us in the position of supporting the continuation of rent-free U.S. bases. This has been the situation since World War II. The Philippines is one of the few Third World countries in which the U.S. government can establish military outposts but pay nothing to the country's government for use of the land and other facilities.

We oppose the bases and urge the U.S. government to withdraw them from the Philippines. Numerous U.S. officials have said that the bases are not designed to protect the Philippines against invasion. Indeed, contrary to insuring Philippine security, the bases under-

mine it by threatening to entangle the Philippines in any confrontation that might arise between the U.S. and another nuclear power. The bases, instead, are springboards for the U.S. military to other parts of Asia and the Pacific. They were, for instance, staging areas for U.S. forces during the U.S. government's twenty year war in Vietnam. They could be so used in the future. In addition, due to the close links between the Philippine military and the U.S. military through military aid, JUSMAG (Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group in the Philippines), and other means, the bases are implicit support for the Marcos dictatorship and a threat to its opponents.

Two hundred years ago, our country threw off British imperial rule. One of the main aggravations that prompted our forefathers to revolt was the presence of British soldiers in the colonies. Can we not, as a people, sympathize with the desire of many Filipinos for an end to the U.S. military's presence in their country? Let us, at this time in history, do without colonies and without the vestiges and relics of colonies like the U.S. air force and naval bases in the Philippines.

We strongly urge the U.S. Senate to refuse to ratify any proposal coming from the present negotiations between the U.S. and the Philippine governments which provides for the continuation of U.S. military and naval bases in the Philippines, with or without rent.

Among the signers are: George Wald of Harvard University and Salvador E. Luria of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both Nobel Prize winners; two noted Filipinos, both self-exiled because of the Marcos dictatorship, Salvador Araneta, Secretary of Agriculture in the Cabinet of Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay and Heherson Alvarez, Delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1971-1972; experts on Asian affairs including Frank H. Golay, and George McT. Kahin, both of Cornell University, Benedict J. Kerkvliet and Robert Stauffer, both of the University of Hawaii, James C. Scott of Yale; Tom Hayden of Santa Monica, California, Howard Zinn of Boston University, and Noam Chomsky of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, all identified with opposition to the Vietnam War; prominent women activists including Florence Luscomb, long time fighter for women's rights, Anne Nelson, International Office of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Sr. Margaret Traxler of the Institute of Women Today; Black leaders like Margaret Burnham of the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, and Rev. Muhammad Kenyatta, Black Economic Development Conference; Rev. Thomas J. Marti, Coordinator, Maryknoll Peace and Justice Office, Richard L. Deats, Director of Interfaith Activities of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Rev. Paul Wilson, Disciples of Christ; the journalists I.F. Stone of Washington, D.C., and William Worthy of the Baltimore Afro-American.

The statement was initiated by members of the Friends of the Filipino People. □

**Letter-Writing Campaign:
'You Can Help End
Aid to Marcos...'**

The Marcos regime currently receives about \$40 million in military aid and \$1.4 billion in "economic aid" from U.S. government agencies or U.S.-dominated international lending bodies. This aid makes possible the harsh repression which is presently being suffered by Filipino people.

If Marcos and the Pentagon have their way, U.S. citizens will be paying an additional \$250 million yearly in military assistance over the next five years. Marcos wants \$1 billion worth of weaponry as "rent" for the U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

You can help ease the burden of the Filipino people by writing to Congress to demand:

- an end to U.S. military aid to the Marcos regime
- rejection of military aid to Marcos in guise of "base rental"
- withdrawal of U.S. bases from the Philippines

Direct letters to the following:

Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

Senators Hubert Humphrey, Clifford Case, Dick Clark, Charles Percy, George McGovern, John Sparkman, Jacob Javits, Frank Church.

Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

House International Relations Committee:

Reps. Donald Fraser, Lee Hamilton, Dante Fascell, Stephen Solarz, Charles Diggs, Lester Wolff, Helen Meyner, Jonathan Bingham, Cardiss Collins, Clement Zablocki

House of Representatives Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Local Representatives and Senators:

Check the white pages of your phone book

Sample Letter

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I would like to express my heartfelt opposition to a foreign policy that supports repressive dictatorships the world over. I would like to call your attention in particular to the \$40 million in military assistance which the U.S. Government annually provides the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines. The Pentagon admits that this aid does not go to external defense but to the maintenance of internal security. In other words, it is intended for the Marcos regime's repression of the Filipino people.

I find particularly alarming the State Department's plan to provide Marcos with \$1 billion or more in "guaranteed" military and economic aid in exchange for the maintenance of U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Cloaked as "rent", such aid, if approved as part of a bilateral treaty, would escape the yearly congressional deliberations on military assistance. I urge you to do everything possible to convince your colleagues to end all U.S. military assistance to the Marcos dictatorship, and to reject any attempt to pour in aid to Marcos in the guise of rental for our bases in the Philippines. The bases in the Philippines perform no positive military and political function for the Philippines and the United States; in fact, they merely serve as "hostages" to ensure our continued support of a corrupt and dictatorial regime. I therefore urge you and your colleagues to press for their dismantling.

Sincerely yours,

John Brown

A Concerned American Citizen

**FFP Moves National Office**

The National Office of the Friends of the Filipino People [FFP] has just recently moved to a new address. For inquiries on FFP activities, write: National Office, Friends of the Filipino People [FFP], 475 Riverside Drive, Room 824, New York, New York, 10027.

EVICION IN SUSPENSE:

Court Battle May Determine I. Hotel Fate

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

SAN FRANCISCO — A series of legal maneuvers by the Four Seas owners to block the process of eminent domain on the International Hotel have forced this fight for low-cost housing back into the courts. A court hearing has been scheduled for Feb. 22.

The intent of the Four Seas, a Hong Kong based investment company is to stop the Housing Authority from taking possession of the property at 848 Kearny St. with a writ of mandamus. Indignant over what they consider an infringement on their right of private ownership, they argue that the International Hotel does not constitute a public need.

On the other hand, the International Hotel Tenants Association (IHTA) contend that the hotel in fact serves a grave public necessity for low income housing in San Francisco's Chinatown-Manilatown. The housing problem is particularly severe in this city which suffers from a less than two per cent vacancy rate and rents which have soared 200-500 per cent in the last decade. The encroachment of big corporations and government redevelopment to expand their Wall Street West has continually displaced hundreds of working and retired residents who live on minimal fixed-incomes.

Aside from this legal maneuver, the Four Seas has been exploiting Sheriff Hongisto's allegation that the tenants are "a bunch of terrorists" in order to discredit and obscure the true aspirations of the tenants and the community for decent housing.

In response to these allegations, Emil De Guzman, IHTA spokesperson asserted, "The proven honorable reputation of the IHTA and its supporters totally disputes this outrageous slander. Because the support of the International Hotel is so massive, the Four Seas Corporation cannot take this fight head on, but must resort to outright lies to protect their selfish interests." Last month, 8000 supporters demonstrated outside the hotel, forcing the courts to back down on their eviction order.

NEW THREAT TO IHTA

Another serious threat to the IHTA is the selection of Judge Byron Arnold to preside over the hearing. Last July, Judge Arnold overturned a Board of Permit Appeals decision to stop the issuance of a demolition permit to destroy the hotel. Throughout the preceding Arnold demonstrated his bias against the hotel by making wisecracks and insults such as "the Bar Association is only using this issue to build their reputation of helping the disadvantaged," and giving a free wheel to the Four Seas attorney.

Efforts are being made by the IHTA and City Housing Authority attorneys (who is representing the IHTA posi-



Preparing for the Feb. 22 court battle, basically a conflict of interest between private property and public interest, — I-Hotel tenants and supporters demonstrated in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals. [AK photo]

tion for eminent domain) to disqualify Judge Arnold in order to obtain a fair and just verdict.

"We stand to lose if we have a biased judge," says Emil de Guzman of the IHTA, "We have witnessed with a biased judge like Arnold and Ira Brown no matter how logical and sound our arguments are, they will be interpreted in a slanted manner. This is unacceptable, and we demand a new judge."

IHTA URGES CONTINUED PRESSURE

Continued pressure directed at city officials and the Board of Supervisors who were conspicuously silent when the hotel was under siege last month. Mayor Moscone left San Francisco two days before eviction without making a public position. When tenants and supporters jammed the Board of Supervisors chambers to demand a state of emergency, the supervisors washed their hands of the matter claiming "it is entirely out of our hand to stop the eviction."

The IHTA is directing much of its energy to build a mass demonstration outside City Hall on Feb. 22, to keep the courts in check. If the eviction is stopped, the IHTA will be granted a time period of five months to a year to formulate a permanent plan to control the hotel. To fail in

this hearing will mean danger of immediate expulsion. Eviction would then be enforced by March 4, 1977.

While contingency plans for eviction day are also being organized, the IHTA has stressed the reliance on the support from the community as the backbone of the IH struggle to force unprecedented concessions from the city government.

"If we win," says de Guzman, "the rewards will advance the overall cause of the city housing movement which bases itself in Third World and working class communities in San Francisco." □

Filipinos Join Protests of INS Harassment

By MARK SCHNAPP
AK Correspondent

NEW YORK CITY — Protests against the unjust treatment of deportation cases by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on Mexican nationals has drawn the support of the Filipino community, this city. Numerous injustices condemned at a recent protest rally included: the denial of the right to free legal defense; refusal to translate any of the proceedings in the language understood by the deportation victims; and the constant harassment and exploitation of undocumented workers.

Once such recent case is that of Jose Medina who is now facing deportation. During the deportation proceedings, he witnessed the shabby treatment and the injustices committed against people facing deportation. Helpless deportees are left to fend for themselves; they are dragged into hearings whose proceedings they cannot understand with all the legal and technical jargon said in a language foreign to them. Most of the time, they cannot afford to get their own lawyers, as they are usually workers living on sub-minimum pay.

Medina also mentioned his experience at the Ortho Mattress Company in Los Angeles. He participated in a union-organizing drive where the company tried to deport the workers rather than pay them the benefits that the workers won. Medina noted, "They live in a kind of modern slavery, isolated and denied participation in social, political, union and academic life.

"We immigrants share a common experience. The Philippines, just like Mexico has a crisis economy. We must leave our homeland and come over to this country where we are used as a source for cheap labor and a scapegoat for the U.S. unemployment crisis."

"We are also harassed and threatened with deportation once we organize and fight for our rights," remarked a KDP member who joined one of the protest rallies against unjust anti-alien policies on undocumented workers.

Rallies broadly supported by organizations and individuals in nine other major cities across the U.S. were also held. Defense committees have been set up and petitions have been circulated to stop these anti-alien activities.

Joining the campaigns are the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, Texas Farm Workers Union, Coalition Against Repressive Immigration Legislation, and the Committee for the Defense of the Bill of Rights. Among the sponsoring organizations in the rally, this city, were the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Youth Against War and Fascism, Union of Democratic Thais, and the KDP. □

Sacramento Hearing:

Filipinos Block Racist Textbooks; Publishers Bemoan Profit Loss

By LILIAN GALEDO
AK Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — In a recent hearing before the California State Legal Compliance Committee, the Filipino Far West Task Force on Education was successful in temporarily blocking the adoption of two social science textbooks which the group found to be objectionable in its treatment of the Philippines and Filipinos. The textbooks are "Let Freedom Ring," Silver Burdett, publishers, and "The American Adventure," Allyn and Bacon publishers.

The Far West Task Force on Education which came out of a resolution passed at the 1975 Filipino Peoples' Far West Convention has been reviewing California social science textbooks in regards to their treatment and depiction of Filipinos and the Philippines.

Citing education codes 9240 (b) and 9243 (a) which requires that a book include fair minority representation, the Legal Compliance Committee was persuaded to reject its adoption. However, in both cases the publishers will be appealing the panel's decision directly to the State Board of Education later this month.

Objections to the books stem from their treatment of Philippine-U.S. relations with distortion of facts, oversimplification of facts such that the Philippines and Filipinos are portrayed as weak, incapable and uncooperative while the image of the U.S. is that of "benevolent" protector." Specifically, the books deny that Filipinos valiantly defended the country against the Spanish and against the superior firearms of the U.S. forces and play down the role of the Filipinos' quest for self-determination.

The hearing held in Sacramento, Feb. 8, 1977 was attended by over 30 supporters from Cal State University, Sacramento, U.C. Davis, and concerned Filipino educators and community people from the Bay Area. Their observations were summed up by one witness who felt that "the true interest of the publishers were ap-



Community supporters observe as the Filipino Education Task Force went before the Legal Compliance Committee to present their objections to racist textbooks. [AK photo]

parent as they attempted to defend their books."

Publishers frequently alluded to the financial loss that their company would suffer should their material be rejected. Furthermore, their efforts at rectifying damaging passages in materials were only token in nature. As an example, the Silver Burdett Company proposed changing an objectionable quote "There was nothing left for us to do but take them and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift . . . and Christianize them," (pg. 463, "Let Freedom Ring") by dropping the words "and uplift."

The task force has made an appeal for concerned individuals to attend the public hearing by the State Board of Education next month where their support will be crucial. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

FUEL SHORTAGE?

Gas Co. Profits Soar During Cold Crisis



While bitter cold weather in the East has caused millions immeasurably hardship, the gas companies withholding of natural gas supplies has worsened their plight [AK file photo]

By VICENTE SAN NICOLAS

While millions of workers and families suffer through the worst U.S. winter ever recorded — enduring record freezing temperatures and snow falls — their misery has been exacerbated by an alleged shortage of natural gas supplies. Thousands of schools and factories were closed and an estimated two million workers were laid off their jobs due to the "gas shortage."

The alleged shortage, however, has been exposed as an artificial situation created by the gas companies to better their profit earnings. While much of the natural calamity arising from the cold weather was unavoidable, the suffering of masses of Americans was made worse by the calculated withholding of natural gas supplies from the cold stricken states by the gas companies.

"There is no shortage of natural gas in the United States," declared the Washington Post Feb. 1. "A consensus of studies by federal and private groups is that more than 40 years of natural gas resources are available."

Despite the existence of massive natural gas supplies, estimated between 1,000 and 2,000 trillion cubic feet, the desperately needed fuel was consciously withheld to force an end to federal regulation of interstate gas prices. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D.-Ohio) charged that "there is indeed a deliberate withholding of natural gas from the market in order to force deregulation."

The logic behind withholding gas supplies from the

cold-stricken East was frankly discussed by Antonio Sanchez Jr. in a Jan. 31 New York Times story. Sanchez' company, based in Laredo, Texas, sits on one of the largest natural gas deposits in the U.S. and has "enough natural gas to keep Northeast factories humming, schools open and homes warm." Yet the gas isn't moving until it becomes more profitable.

"Why should I sell my gas out of state for \$1.42 (per thousand cubic feet, the federal limit) when Texas buyers are waiting in line to pay \$2.00 for it?" asked Sanchez. "For \$1.42 I wouldn't even go out and drill the holes. We wouldn't even consider it. It's simply not commercial."

"The people in the East," he continues, "may not pay a lot for the gas but now they don't have any gas at any price. There's got to be a lesson in there somewhere."

That lesson, in the words of Sen. Metzenbaum, is that the oil industry is "bringing this nation to its knees in its greed for profits." James Flug, director of the Energy Action Committee, further elaborated the actions of the giant gas monopolies in recent testimony before the House Energy Subcommittee:

"The oil and gas companies have no interest in dealing with the current emergency," he said. "The more people who are cold and out of work and out of school, the easier it is to stampede the nation into a deregulation frenzy." He added that deregulation "would allow those who have hidden, withheld and diverted national gas from interstate markets to reap huge profits in selling that

very gas."

Despite widespread suspicion and consensus of popular opinion that the gas and oil companies were behind the cries of "gas shortage," there was little anyone could do about the situation. The Federal Power Commission (FPC), which is entrusted to protect the public's interest and regulate the gas industry, depends on the oil and gas industry for all its information and data. The American Gas Association, an industry organization which supplies the FPC with its information, has never been subject to an independent audit and a House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations criticized the AGA reports as "highly suspicious."

Questions regarding the actual cost of producing and transporting natural gas, the extent of existing supplies and reservoirs, and the amount of profit the companies extract have thus far been left to those same companies to answer, free from any public scrutiny. About the only thing President Carter could do was to urge the masses of affected citizens to lower thermostats and don thick sweaters.

Industry's campaign to deregulate natural gas price controls, however, reached partial victory last week when the U.S. Congress passed and Pres. Carter signed into law emergency legislation partially lifting the price ceiling until April 30. Millions of hard pressed workers and families, while now gaining some relief with the prospect of having enough fuel to heat their homes, will have to pay dearly for the much needed natural gas.

Besides the monetary burden forced upon millions of families with increased heating bills, the wide-spread human suffering has continued to take its toll. In Ohio, Eugene Kuhn froze to death after a local utility turned off his electricity for nonpayment of an \$18.38 bill. In New York City, Pinkney Carson, 66, and Herman Jackson, 62, also froze to death in tenement rooms without heat, as did numbers of others in the nation's eastern states. Thousands of other families have suffered increased incidents of colds and flu, and with the increasing number of factories closing down because of lack of fuel, thousands of workers are expected to be laid off work until April.

The benefactors of much of this human misery have greeted the cold weather with unabashed enthusiasm. Norman Greenberg, vice president of Drexel Burnham and Co., declared that "Some of the cold weather impact is coming through in earnings now," as the Dow Jones utility average climbed to a three year high. And like many Eastern utility companies, the General Public Utilities Corp., which serves Pennsylvania and New Jersey, reported profits up by 67 per cent. □

Less-Than-Honorable Discharges Not Affected:

Carter's Draft 'Pardon' Excludes Vietnam Veterans

Reprinted from THE BLACK PANTHER
Intercommunal News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Black veterans organizations and other veterans groups representing poor and minority people across the country have denounced President Jimmy Carter's "pardon" of Vietnam era draft evaders because of its exclusion of veterans with less-than-honorable discharges — who are overwhelmingly Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Native American and poor Whites.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said in a statement that the pardon "extends overdue relief to a small segment of the war resisters of the Vietnam era, but military offenders and veterans with less-than-honorable discharges are more numerous than draft violators by a factor of 100 to 1. They are also, by and large, more likely to be poor, from minority groups and less educated." ACLU Executive Director Aryeh Neier added that "99 per cent of the people who could have benefited from a full amnesty still need to be dealt with," the New York Times reports.

A recent study on draft resistance in the Vietnam era, commissioned by the University of Notre Dame and researched by Lawrence M. Baskir and William A. Strauss, declares, "The burdens of Vietnam were unevenly imposed. The economically and socially disadvantaged did most of the fighting. They also paid most of the penalties for not fighting. No one should be asked to pay any further price."

During last fall's Presidential campaign, Carter promised that, if elected, he would pardon all those who broke Selective Service laws during the Vietnam War, in an effort to "heal our country..." However, the pardon — issued on January 21, as the Georgia peanut farmer's first executive order on his first full day in office — was a bitter disappointment to the over one

million people who do not fall into the categories covered by the pardon.

CATEGORIES

Those categories include:

- 13,000 convicted draft violators, fugitives from the draft and those under indictment for draft violations, according to U.S. Justice Department figures; and
- an estimated 250,000 who did not register for the draft and were never caught;
- men and women who received dishonorable and bad conduct discharges will not be eligible for upgrading.

The progressive military publication "Turning the Regs Around" estimates that there are 790,000 Vietnam War era vets with less-than-honorable discharges for AWOL (Absent Without Leave) offenses or for acts of resistance within the armed services, and at least 93,000 deserters, both those who are "still-at-large" and those already caught, punished and doubly punished with bad discharges.

Black veterans' groups emphasized that the great majority of Blacks drafted into the service did not desert, as did a number of White, middle class men who fled to such places as Canada.

The Baskir-Strauss study maintains that during the Vietnam War 150,000 men and women were given undesirable, bad conduct or dishonorable discharges for going AWOL. Most AWOL offenses were unrelated to the war, the study — which later this year will be published as part of a book called "Change and Circumstance" — says. The offenses were caused by family or personal problems.

The authors also state that many "bad paper" discharges were given to men and women who shouldn't have been in the service in the first place.

Further information, revealed by the Baskir-Strauss study discloses that almost one-third of all military offenders were "educationally disadvantaged" and were

brought into the armed services under the Pentagon Projects 100,000 and New Standards manpower programs.

"Instead of calling up reserves or drafting college students — either of which would have involved immense political consequences — the government met its manpower needs during the Vietnam buildup by accepting hundreds of thousands of recruits who would have been disqualified before and after the Vietnam War," the study says.

CONVICTION RATES

The attrition and court-martial conviction rates for these under-qualified soldiers were twice the rates for all other service people.

About 75,000 of them, Baskir and Strauss state, received bad discharges — "one more handicap imposed upon people who were already disadvantaged when they entered the service."

A spokesperson for Pacific Counseling Service in San Francisco stated flatly that Carter's pardon was nothing more than "doing the White middle class a favor."

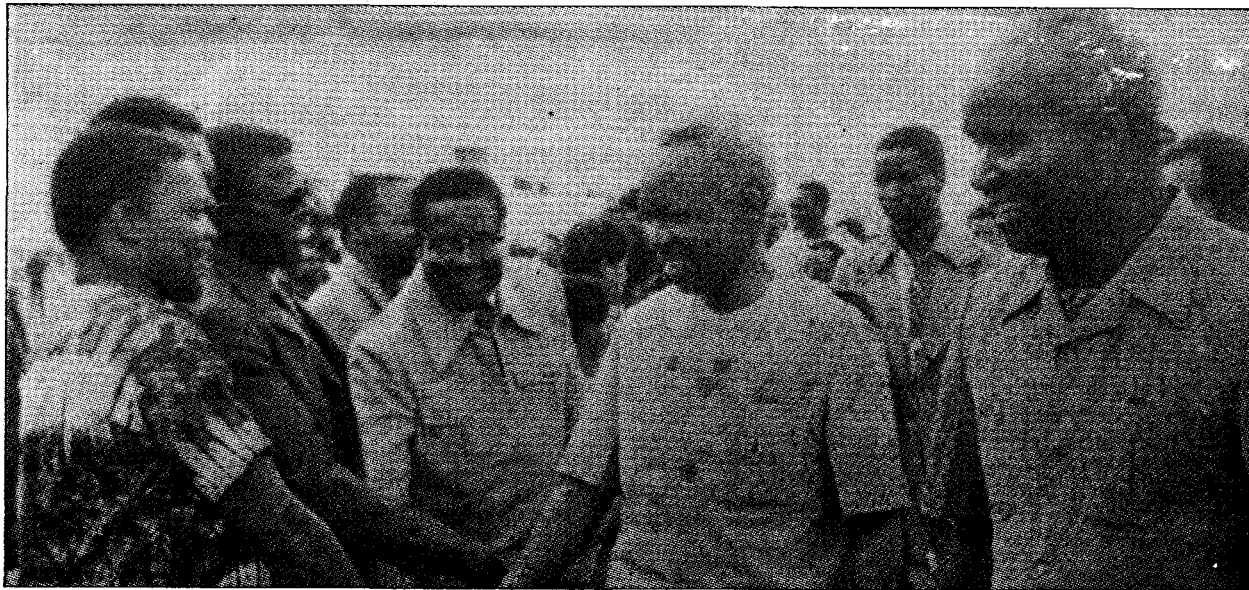
Emphasizing that Black and poor people have been ignored by the Presidential pardon, the spokesperson said that for fiscal year 1976, there were a total of 30,721 undesirable discharges and 53,135 general discharges, the first step down from an honorable discharge. Blacks and other minorities received such discharges by a margin of 4-1 over Whites, he said.

Presidential press secretary Jody Powell said that the Pentagon has undertaken a study on persons who received less-than-honorable discharges and those who deserted.

Black veterans' organizations point out that unlike Whites who chose to evade the draft, those few Blacks who did so were forced to serve long prison sentences because they could not afford to pay the legal costs necessary to keep them out of jail. □

Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) Talks Collapse

Guerrilla Movement Advances



ZANU leaders Zumbinai Kangai, Robert Mugabe get airport welcome in Lusaka from presidents Julius Nyerere [Tanzania] and Kenneth Kaunda [Zambia]. [AK file photo]

By VICENTE SAN NICOLAS

Despite the recent breakdown of the Geneva talks on Rhodesia, the guerrilla movement opposing the white-minority Ian Smith regime has continued with significant advances.

The Geneva talks, initiated by Britain with the active support of the U.S., had attempted to ease out the present government of Ian Smith over a two-year period, usher "moderate" pro-Western black leaders into power and isolate the insurgent, pro-socialist guerrilla movement.

Even the best efforts of British diplomat Ivor Richards, however, could not shake the demands of Zimbabwe's (Rhodesia) nationalist leaders that power be handed over in a year's time and Zimbabwe nationalists control any transition government.

Ian Smith, even while isolated internationally for his racist and illegal rule, arrogantly rejected the latest British proposal that power be ceded to the nationalists within 14 months, saying that the Kissinger plan — which called for a two-year, white-dominated transition government — was the only basis for negotiations. Zimbabwe's nationalist leaders have denounced the Kissinger plan since its inception, and Britain admitted that in the face of Smith's intransigent position, the Geneva talks would be indefinitely suspended.

The failure of the negotiations, however, has not stopped Zimbabwe's guerrilla movement from achieving significant gains both internationally and within Zimbabwe. Indeed, the recent breakdown of the Britain-U.S. "peace initiative" has only confirmed the guerrilla movement's contention that Zimbabwe's future will be decided "on the battleground."

PATRIOTIC FRONT ADVANCES

The most dramatic development thus far was the Jan. 9 announcement by African "frontline" presidents that "full political, material and diplomatic support to the Patriotic Front" would be given. The five presidents of Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Zambia, and Botswana thus reaffirmed their support to the alliance of Robert Mugabe, head of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) who together comprise the Patriotic Front.

The frontline nations, which met in summit conference in Lusaka, Zambia, thus gave their support to the only Zimbabwean leaders who are committed to waging armed struggle against the Ian Smith regime. The other two nationalists at the Geneva talks, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, were thus rebuffed for their distance from the armed movement.

In backing the Patriotic Front, Tanzania's president Julius Nyerere declared that "We are recognizing a fact. We have been supporting the freedom fighters and naturally we support the leaders of the freedom fighters." While Sithole and Muzorewa reacted angrily to the frontline nation's announcement, saying it was an unjustified act of interference in the internal affairs of the Zimbabwean independence movement, Nyerere commented that "their importance will have to be measured in relation to the struggle."

Besides the full backing of the five frontline nations, Zimbabwe's Patriotic Front also received the endorsement of the Organization of African Unity's (OAU) Liberation Committee on Feb. 3. The committee's action, reached after a week's discussion in Lusaka, Zambia, will thus clear the way for all aid and mutual support to be channeled directly to the Zimbabwe guerrillas. The entire OAU is expected to ratify this decision later this month.

The OAU is also expected to hear a recommendation from its Defense Committee that steps be taken to send a Pan-African army to the frontline states to aid those countries against present and future military attacks by the white minority regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa. Mozambique has been invaded numerous times by Rhodesian troops and other countries — such as Botswana and Angola — have been threatened with

similar military invasions. If the OAU decides to send such an all-African army, it will greatly enhance the struggle against the Ian Smith government and provide greater security for the Zimbabwe guerrillas, many of whom are training in the frontline states.

GUERRILLA ARMY CONSOLIDATES

Thus far, the armed struggle in Zimbabwe has been the single, most important factor threatening the Ian Smith regime. While the white minority government has been condemned internationally for its illegal and racist rule, where 250,000 whites enjoy political, social and economic advantages over 6 million blacks, the regime has survived primarily because of economic support provided by South Africa and the United States. Only with increased guerrilla activity did the Smith government agree to attend the Geneva talks.

The guerrilla army, the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA), has been active since its inception in 1973. In an effort to strengthen the ZANU-ZAPU alliance, a joint statement was issued by Robert Mugabe for ZANU and Jason Moyo for ZAPU saying that the people's army would be strengthened and consolidated under guidance from the Patriotic Front.

Besides consolidating the existing army, in an effort to rid it of factionalism and tribal antagonisms which have long hindered the movement, ZIPA has continued to inflict casualties on Rhodesia's "security forces." Indicative of the growing conflict, the Smith government extended mandatory military service to age 50. In addition, the ZIPA downing of a Rhodesian military plane flown by "Flying Ace" Barnett was a major psychological setback for the Smith regime.

Popular support for the Patriotic Front continues to grow inside Zimbabwe, reflecting the strength of the movement and the inability of the Smith government to keep information from the Zimbabwean masses. Recently, some 400 students at a missionary school in the Zimbabwe countryside decided to join the guerrilla army. Accompanied by many of the school's teachers, the students took vehicles to neighboring Botswana where they contacted the Patriotic Front.

While many Western news accounts said the residents were "kidnapped by armed guerrillas" parents of the students refuted this distortion, saying that the students decided on their own to go and that there were no armed guerrillas present when they left. The parents, who went to Botswana to talk with their children, returned with some of the younger students who vowed to return to the Patriotic Front when they were older.

SMITH INCREASES REPRESSION

Following the suspension of the Geneva talks, Smith increased repression on the Zimbabwe masses while offering to end the most blatant aspect of racial discrimination in an attempt to conduct an "internal settlement" to his regime's dilemma. On Jan. 25, Rhodesian police arrested the Rev. Canaan Banana, the publicity secretary of the People's Movement which recently formed in Zimbabwe as a part of the Patriotic Front. In addition, Jason Moyo, vice president of ZAPU was assassinated by a letter bomb on Jan. 22. Moyo's murder came days after his joint declaration with Mugabe on the ZIPA and appears to be part of Smith's attempt to split the ZANU-ZAPU alliance.

Meanwhile, Smith's plan to legitimize his racist rule by easing some restrictions on blacks, and opening talks with some tribal leaders, has been denounced by both Zimbabwe leaders and reactionaries in Smith's Rhodesia Front Party. While the sham character of Smith's "internal settlement" has been hit by Zimbabwe nationalists die-hard reactionary whites have criticized Smith wanting to "end racial discrimination." (sic)

While increased repression by the Smith regime is expected by Zimbabwe's guerrillas, Robert Mugabe has emphasized the need to now intensify the guerrilla war. "Only a guerrilla war on a large scale will force the Salisbury regime to sit down at the negotiating table with any real intention of transferring power to an African majority government." □

WORLD
IN FOCUSTHOUSANDS PROTEST RIGHTIST
VIOLENCE IN SPAIN

In the wake of rightist violence which left seven persons dead, thousands of Spanish citizens marched and staged a general strike to protest the reactionary terror. On Jan. 23, a rally in Madrid calling for amnesty for Spain's political prisoners was attacked by gun-wielding rightists which left a 19-year-old student dead. The following day, a demonstration to protest the death was attacked by police and a 20-year-old woman was struck in the head with a tear gas canister and killed.

The climax of rightist terror, however, came that evening of Jan. 24, when two gunmen entered the offices of Madrid's Workers Commission and murdered five labor lawyers. The attackers, armed with machine guns with silencers, methodically lined the occupants of the offices against the wall, cut telephone lines and then emptied their guns against the unarmed persons. Four persons survived the attack.

Spontaneous strikes and walkouts by workers occurred in the days following the murders, culminating in a Jan. 26 general strike in which an estimated five million persons participated. In addition, over 100,000 persons swelled the streets of Madrid Jan. 27 for the slain lawyer's funeral.

The response of the government of Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez was to suspend certain democratic rights and police were given greater liberties to carry out unwarranted searches and arbitrarily jail persons on mere suspicion. The targets of this repression, however, are progressive and leftist persons, over 100 of whom were arrested since the recent killings. □

CUTBACK REBELLION ROCKS EGYPT

Two days of massive demonstrations and riots shook the government of Anwar Sadat following a Jan. 18 announcement that the Egyptian government planned to cut subsidies on food and other consumer goods. Because of the bloody riots, in which 79 persons were killed by government troops with over 800 injured and 2,000 arrested, Sadat was forced to overturn the Jan. 18 cuts, announcing Jan. 20 that the government subsidies would be restored.

The protests, which hit the cities of Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, Assyut, and Kena, reflected the extent of Cairo's economic crisis and the desperate plight of Egypt's 40 million people. While the price increases would have amounted to only 10 to 15 cents per consumer item — sugar from 40 to 45 cents a pound, cooking gas from \$2.25 to \$2.43 for a 24-pound cylinder, and cigarettes from 78 to 84 cents a pack — they represented a dramatic rise for the average Egyptian worker whose monthly earnings average a mere \$60.

The demonstrations, which drew tens of thousands of participants, also reflected growing disaffection with the Sadat regime. Throughout the protests, derisive slogans about Sadat were shouted while chants of "Nasser, Nasser, Nasser," in reference to the late and popular president, filled the streets. Sadat's handling of Egypt's economy, which opened Cairo to massive Western investment, helped lead to Egypt's latest economic crisis. Sadat's efforts to increase prices for food and consumer goods was part of an austerity plan aimed at winning approval of a \$140 million International Monetary Fund loan. Even with this loan, however, this year Egypt's balance-of-payments deficit is expected to exceed \$3.5 billion. □

GANDHI 'SETS' ELECTIONS

After 19 months of "emergency rule" which suspended virtually all democratic rights in India, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi called for parliamentary elections in March to approve her repressive rule. Despite Gandhi's claims that the elections showed her "commitment to democratic principles," critics cite the Prime Minister's latest move as mere window-dressing to a dictatorial and unpopular regime.

While some minor changes have been recently initiated in preparation for the elections, Gandhi has stressed that the "state of emergency" itself has not been lifted. Press censorship continues, persons are still subject to arbitrary arrest and over 65,000 political prisoners remain incarcerated, creating a climate of intimidation and fear.

Observers have noted that even if the "state of emergency" is formally lifted for the elections, many of the repressive measures prominent during the emergency period have been legitimized by recent constitutional amendments enacted by Gandhi's ruling Congress Party. The Washington Post noted that the constitutional changes were a "permanent institutionalization of the emergency... democratic in form, dictatorial in content." □

After Arrests, Harassment and Deportation

Clerics Take Stand Against Marcos Repression

A pastoral letter read from the pulpit of every church in the Philippines on Sunday, Feb. 6, roundly attacked the Philippine government for interfering in the Church's work of evangelization. The letter read, in part, "It is most unfortunate that in many cases . . . evangelization work has been misunderstood (by the government) and led to the arrests of priests, religious, and lay workers, and even the deportation of foreign missionaries."

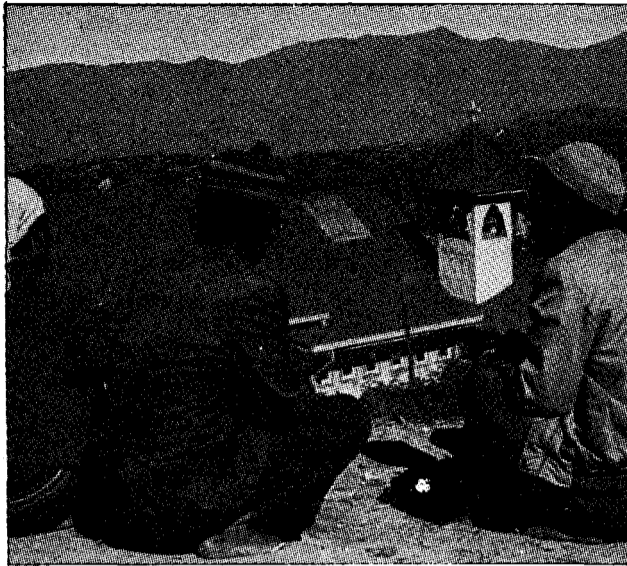
The statement was signed by 66 of the 82 members of the Catholic hierarchy in the Philippines, including six archbishops and the country's two cardinals. It represented a critical setback for the Marcos regime; previous to this, only 17 of the country's bishops have openly stated opposition to government policies.

The prelates were responding to a series of anti-church moves by the government which began in November, 1976. Aside from deporting four foreign missionaries at that time, the military closed down two Catholic publications and two church-based radio stations for allegedly disseminating "subversive" materials. Since last November at least 114 church and lay leaders have been arrested without charges, supposedly for subversion.

The pastoral letter was the most dramatic product of the bi-annual meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, held in Cebu City from Jan. 25 to 29. The meeting opened with a speech by Papal Nuncio Msgr. Bruno Torpigliani, who sternly warned the gathered clerics of the dangers of infiltration by Communists. Several bishops in turn questioned the Pope's envoy if he was not equally worried about infiltration by government agents.

ANGERED CLERICS

The clerics, already angered by the arrests, closures and deportations, were further inflamed by the presentation of a document charging 155 church and lay leaders, including four bishops, with "rebellion and inciting to sedition." The list, allegedly emanated from Camp Crame, headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary,



Bontoc tribefolk survey ancestral lands and village church from hilltop. Their struggle to preserve their lands and culture which is threatened by "development"—the Chico River Dam Project—has received the active support of the clergy.

and was said to have been drawn up last December. Of the 155, only one has actually been arrested.

The bishops expressed their outrage by reelecting Bishop Julio Labayen to the important position of chairman of the church's National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA), despite the fact that he was number 28 on the list. The body directs all church-supported social action programs.

Even formerly conservative clerics have been profoundly disturbed by the latest turn of events in church-state relations in the country. According to Bernard Wideman, writing for the Washington Post (Feb. 6), "One highly conservative bishop, whose radio station was closed and many of whose people arrested, is still so angry that he has been writing letters to cardinals all

over the world complaining about government repression of the church."

The statement expresses the dissatisfaction of the hierarchy in fairly strong language. It particularly condemns the deportation of foreign missionaries, saying, "Our missionaries, especially the foreign ones who came to our shores at the impulse of the Holy Spirit, are caught in the dilemma of obeying God and serving man and being suspect of subversion with its untoward consequences, or avoiding such suspicion by giving up altogether their missionary task."

CALLOUS TREATMENT OF MINORITIES

The letter further attacks the government for its callous treatment of non-Christian, non-Muslim minority hill peoples. Pointing to government "development projects", it says, "The actual implementation of [government] programs destroys rather than preserves the cultures of the people . . ." and points out that men and women working for the rights and development of cultural minorities "have been harassed, intimidated, arrested, and jailed."

According to Wideman, 105 tribespeople and church workers have been arrested in recent months for allegedly resisting government programs. The most notorious of these is the Chico River Basin project, which, if implemented, would deprive tens of thousands of Bontocs and Kalingas, mountain peoples of Northern Luzon, of their livelihood and spiritual roots. The Bontocs and Kalingas have vowed to fight to the death to defend their lands against the government-imposed hydroelectric project which would provide electricity to wealthy planters of the Ilocos provinces.

Church people have been in the forefront of the Bontoc-Kalinga struggle, acting as staunch allies of the tribal groups. They have likewise supported the heated labor struggle in Manila and the efforts of urban poor to retain their homes and human dignity. It is this alliance with exploited groups all over the country which has earned them the ire of the martial law government. □

PERSONAL VENDETTA:

Lopez/Osmena Likely to be Convicted



Eugenio Lopez Jr. [l] and Sergio Osmena III [r], personal enemies of Marcos, will be arraigned, tried and undoubtedly convicted by a military court.

By SAMUEL P. BAYANI

The regime's well-orchestrated campaign to convict two of its arch foes seems to be building up for a grand finale. With the conviction of four of their co-accused, nothing stands in the way of the regime in convicting the two principal defendants and its prime targets, Sergio Osmena III and Eugenio Lopez Jr.

Found guilty by a military court last Feb. 10 of plotting to kill Pres. Marcos and take over the government were August McCormick Lehman, Eduardo Figueras, Manuel Crisologo and Antonio Arevalo. All four have tagged Osmena and Lopez as the masterminds behind the plot and were given the minimum sentence of six years of hard labor and fined \$2224. Both Osmena and Lopez are scheduled to be arraigned on the same charges on March 22.

PERSONAL VENDETTA

The trial was nothing but a weak attempt by the regime to justify prosecution of its bitter rivals. The Osmena and Lopez families were once major powers in the Philippines and bitter opponents of Marcos. Both Osmena III and Lopez Jr. were arrested shortly after Marcos seized power in 1972 and have been imprisoned without trial until 1973 when adverse international opinion pressured Marcos to file formal charges against them. The two were then charged with eight others in a plot which involved eight abortive assassination attempts on Marcos' life. They were also accused of fomenting rebellion by organizing violent political demonstrations in 1970. Lopez was accused separately of having used the newspaper and radio and television network owned by the Lopez family to disseminate "false, vile, foul and scurrilous" statements with the purpose of overthrowing

the government. The newspaper, the Manila Chronicle, is now defunct and its facilities are under the control of Benjamin Romualdez, brother of Mrs. Marcos, while the broadcast stations are in the hands of Roberto Benedicto, a close friend of Marcos.

Also named in the plot was Sergio Osmena, father of Osmena III and opponent of Marcos in the last presidential elections. Osmena Sr. who went into exile in the U.S. a week before martial law, was tried in absentia. Aside from Osmena Sr. among those still at large are two other Americans, a Larry Tractman from California and Robert Pincus of New York.

INCREDIBLE CONSPIRACY

The proportions and credibility of the conspiracy strain the imagination. At its earlier stages, the conspiracy even implicated Tun Mustapha, Sabah chief minister. A former Cotobato mayor, Udtog Matalam Jr. testified that he had been asked by Osmena to head a liquidation squad, code-named Tiger Jacks. The squad was supposedly financed by Osmena and Mustapha and was purportedly aimed at actively supporting demonstrations and terrorist activities in Manila. Matalam's testimony was contained in two affidavits he executed—the first in 1973 and a second one three years later in 1975 to supplement the first. Curiously enough, after the initial media play-up of the Mustapha connection to the plot, the regime has dropped any further reference to Mustapha.

The tales of the assassination attempts themselves are incredulous episodes of unparalleled bungling on the part of the assassins and almost miraculous luck on the part of the victim. Among the fiascos were the attempt to blow up Marcos by loading a flagpole with bombs, rigging a flower pot with explosives and blowing up the car bearing Marcos and Suharto during the latter's visit to the Philippines in 1972. The first two failed because the exploding device did not go off, the third did not even get past the planning stage because the necessary "equipment did not arrive on time."

There are other strange aspects of this New Society-staged drama. Crisologo who first implicated Osmena and Lopez, was reportedly handsomely rewarded for his testimony with \$1 million pesos. Lehman, a Vietnam war veteran from Tennessee who vehemently denied any knowledge of the plot at the time of his arrest later backed down and testified against Osmena. Recently, Lehman got married to a daughter of a retired presidential guard. Their chief wedding sponsor was Maj Gen Fabian Ver who moved out of his villa to make it available to the honeymooning couple. Ver is the security chief of the Presidential Security Battalion. After the wedding at the Malacanang Palace Chapel, President Marcos telephoned his assassin-to-be and his bride to congratulate them on their vows. The hired gun and his wife now live in a renovated former Officers Club in a Manila suburb. To assure them of decent living, the

military is helping them to set up a corporation to sell government imported automotive supplies. An American Embassy source in Manila said that the Marcos prosecution panel volunteered that Lehman may go out of the country for business purposes.

The fate of Osmena and Lopez will not be as fortunate. While it is doubtful that the regime will execute them because of their prominence, Marcos has gone to great pains to establish their guilt to let them off lightly. Notwithstanding the incredulous testimonies and questionable reputations of the state witnesses, which raise serious doubts about the authenticity of the charges, Marcos is bent on prosecuting at all costs the last of his political rivals. □

Deportation Imminent—
REPORTER DENIED
VISA RENEWAL

Informed sources within the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) revealed Tuesday, Feb. 15, that journalist Bernard Wideman has been denied a renewal of his Philippine visa. This act by the Philippine government is tantamount to deportation.

Wideman has acted as one of the most reliable sources of unbiased information about the Philippines through his regular articles in the Far Eastern Economic Review and, more recently, the Washington Post. His articles on the country's sugar crisis, the overbuilding of hotels in Metro-Manila, the aggressive role of the Philippine armed forces in the conflict with the MNLF, and the growing strength of the NPA have been a consistent source of irritation to the government.

Although the AMLC through one of its spokespersons, Severina Rivera, protested Wideman's virtual deportation to the State Department, they refused to take up the problem. A petition is currently being circulated in Washington by Congressman Berkeley Bedell (D-Iowa) protesting Wideman's imminent ouster to both the Philippine Embassy and the State Department.

Several Congressmen have already indicated a willingness to sign the petition. Others have suggested that if the Philippines goes ahead with its plans regarding Wideman, the U.S. should respond by ousting a Filipino reporter. The suggestion is based on a recent precedent. Earlier this month the United States expelled a Tass reporter in response to the expulsion of an Associated Press reporter from the Soviet Union.

Wideman is the third American reporter against whom the Philippine government has taken action. On Jan. 28 of this year, Radio Pacifica free-lance journalist Steven Teitch was deported. On Nov. 2, 1976, Associated Press Manila-Bureau Chief Arnold Zeitlin was denied re-entry to the country.

In the case that congressional concern is ineffective in preventing Wideman's expulsion from the Philippines, the reporter has already agreed to hold a press conference on his return under the auspices of the AMLC and to undertake a national lecture tour similar to the one recently completed by Fr. Edward Gerlock. □