

MORE U.S. AID TO R.P. PROMISED



Marcos reviews troops: A promise for more aid from "a reliable ally."

FEER

The Philippines and other developing countries can rely on the U.S. as a dependable ally, Marcos said Feb. 12 in a speech to the IBP. Although doubts had been expressed about the U.S. reliability as an ally in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, Marcos elaborated, "The latest acts of the U.S. indicate a firm and believable resolve to express concern and to act for that country's allies in more concrete terms."

In a speech at the Philippine Military Academy graduation exercises a week later, Marcos explained how "dependable" the U.S. really is. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke and Admiral Robert Long, commander in chief of the U.S. forces in the Pacific had just visited him and had "conveyed President Carter's appreciation of the good relations between the Philippines and the U.S."

Holbrooke and Long, Marcos explained, told him that the Afghan and Iranian crises and the Kampuchean conflict have underlined the strategic importance of the Philippines in the United States' global defense strategy. As a result, the Philippines can now count on even more U.S. military aid, Marcos said. In fact, Marcos, told newsmen who interviewed him after his speech, the U.S. has promised the Philippines "the biggest military aid among its allies."

No details were offered, however, about exactly how much more military aid was offered by Holbrooke. Two weeks before, Holbrooke had testified before a U.S. Congress subcommittee defending the allocation of \$105 million in U.S. military aid to the Marcos regime for FY 1980. □

INFLATION: CARTER ADMITS "A CRISIS"

See page 10



'I don't feel short of energy.'

National Democratic Leader Recounts Torture

After his disappearance on April 23 of last year, relatives and compatriots feared for the life of Sixto Carlos Jr., reknown pre-martial law student leader, national democrat and political science professor. On September 2, 1979, his wife Christine Ebro finally confirmed his detention at the Military Security Unit of Fort Bonifacio after months of search. Those four and a half months of incommunicado vividly recaptured by Sixto in a torture account, amaze all concerned for him. It is a wonder that he is still alive after what he has undergone—Editor.

Sixto Carlos was cornered in Mandaluyong, on the evening of April 23, 1979 by three plainclothesmen who alighted from two cars and surrounded Sixto with revolvers and sub-machine guns in hand. After a brief, disorienting ride, they took him straight into a room where the torture started immediately. The blindfold placed upon him before entering the car was replaced with a towel over which water was poured.

Questions were shouted at him re-

Continued on page 6

IN THIS ISSUE

Bataan Reactor Price Climbs to \$2 Billion	p. 4
Marcos Calls for MNLF Talks	p. 5
R.P. Exporting Rice While People Go Hungry	p. 6
Hawaii Conference Addresses Immigrant Rights	p. 7
Patriotic Front Wins Zimbabwe Elections	p. 11
Health Workers Join National Democratic Front	p. 12

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

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

Address Correction Requested

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Role of Women Revolutionaries in the Philippine Revolution

On March 8 every year, people around the world celebrate International Women's Day, an event which commemorates the many historic struggles of working women worldwide. Below, we reprint an article on the role of women in the Philippine revolution written by a prominent Filipina revolutionary—Editor.

By CLARITA ROJA

I will write now about the women in the current revolution. Just three years ago, our concept of our role in the movement was vague, even muddy. Shades of feminism and anti-maleism as well as an undue emphasis on the bourgeois concept of woman as a commodity crept in. I remember the time we were enthusiastically picketing beauty contests. Even though we did this less frequently than preparing for and attending demonstrations and strikes and generally integrating with the city masses, the fact remains that the bourgeois media played up our beauty-contest picket lines. This attests not only to the elitist direction of the press, but also to the fact that we women were not yet ready to convince them that the Filipino Women's Liberation Movement should affect all classes in Philippine society and should be geared towards the worker and peasant masses who comprise 90 percent of the population.

Nevertheless, the beauty contest picket lines were a part of our development as revolutionaries, and as a tactic, it was effective because a number of women of petty bourgeois origin entered the movement.

WHAT WE LEARNED

We learned to view the fact of male authority more objectively, we saw that it is not a concept men dreamed up out of the blue so that they could dominate women, that Filipino men as well as Filipino women are victims of the semi-colonial, semi-feudal system, and the way to tear off the screen of male authority between us is to overthrow, together, the system that set up that screen. I think I speak for the majority of women activists of petty bourgeois origin of my generation. Having separated from our families mentally or in actual fact, and having found our talents and energies well-used by the surging tide of the cultural revolution, we dreaded a return to the old order where we would have to cook, clean house and care for the children all day, and therefore waste away while the main current rushed by.

We have since learned that the concept that "woman is for the home" arises out of a reactionary state's unwillingness to spend for the rearing and education of its citizens' children. "Woman is for the home" because while the man slaves eight or more hours a day to create profit for the capitalists, she must rear the children who cannot go to nurseries or schools because the profit sweated out by the country's breadwinners is meant to make the big capitalists and imperialists richer, not to support nurseries and schools. And because "women are for the home" and are not supposed to be as skilled and as professional as men, they can be doled out lower wages if and when their dire straits force them to take up jobs and can be used as scabs whenever the men strike for higher wages.

On the other hand, the limited role of women in the mode of production deprives them of vital knowledge that can be gained only through active participation in production and class struggle. That half of the population should be denied such knowledge in its many ramifications is certainly a disadvantage to the great majority of the people.

ROLE OF THE PEASANT WOMAN

The peasant women in the Philippines, compared with others, take a more active role in the process of production. Together with the men they plant, harvest and winnow rice, if that is the source of their livelihood. This affords them relatively more status and therefore more help from men in the rearing of children.

However, other than taking part in some stages in the process of production, women are compelled to stay home, care for the children, cook, wash dishes and clothes, and plant vegetables or raise pigs or poultry to supplement the insufficient family income. Unlike the men, they have little or no dealings with the landlord, and this tends to shut out from their purview any firsthand knowledge of class struggle in its principal feudal form, i.e. the landlord-tenant relationship.



Unlike the men, their knowledge of the process of agricultural production is confined to a few stages, and this effectively limits their perspective and confines their vision, rendering them incapable of handling processes bigger than the management of vegetable gardens and pig sties.

THE ROLE OF THE WORKING CLASS WOMAN

The knowledge made available to the wives of workers is even more limited than that made available to peasant women in the sense that these women are nearly all excluded from the productive process of the capitalist mode of production. And because lay-offs are frequent and life is generally more hectic, the frustrations of the unpoliticized husband over his inability to provide sufficient support for his family often leads him to take it out on his wife and children, he having the male authority as breadwinner.

The incidence of intra-family violence, with the man as aggressor, is higher and sharper in worker families for this reason. With the recent repressive measures adopted by the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship against the people, with skyrocketing prices and the lowering of wages and the laying off of hundreds upon hundreds of workers, the incidence of intra-family violence is bound to become even higher and sharper.

However, because lay-offs are frequent and unemployment is rampant in semi-colonial Philippines under the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship, the woman is often called upon to become a worker herself, if her income as *labandera* (washerwoman) is insufficient to provide for the family. This is increasingly becoming the case with workers' daughters in their teens as well as, less frequently, workers' wives. From the ranks of these working women, many revolutionaries have arisen (such as Lisa Balandó, who was killed by fascist troops in a demonstration on May 1, 1971). Many more will arise.

ROLE OF THE BOURGEOIS WOMAN

The concept of women as domestic slaves is felt less acutely by wives coming from the national bourgeoisie, and greater degree as they become poorer, from the petty bourgeoisie. This happens because, having no part at all in the mode of production, they still partake of the more substantial fruits of their husband's labor and do not have to work too much at home because

they can afford to pay a poor woman to do their household tasks.

The major occupation of this class of women is to keep themselves pretty and lively so that "hubby can relax" after a day's "work." In these "upper" classes women are more like commodities, indeed like legal prostitutes, doled out a regular stipend to provide their men with required entertainment and relaxation. Of course they play also the important role of the incubators of the next generation of the ruling class by making babies who will inherit the father's wealth and property.

WOMEN'S ROLES ARE CHANGING

A great accomplishment was the active recruitment of women into the struggle. The fact that they comprise one-half the population and permeate all classes, was recognized at the movement's very inception.

In the city underground, some significant though superficially trivial advances have been made in the past few months. A UG (underground) house is first and foremost a productive unit in the most general sense of the term. For security reasons, I cannot tell you specifically what different things it produces, but the mere knowledge that it has a function should be sufficient to show you that each member of the unit, male or female, is a working member, is aware of the whole process of production and has specific as well as general tasks.

In addition, for purposes of ideological and political building, each member participates in unit meetings, discussion groups, criticism/self-criticism sessions and day-to-day decision-making.

A woman's part in the struggle for production and the class struggle therefore becomes very real. The leap in her consciousness becomes tremendous. In addition, since she performs ideological, political and organizational tasks as crucial as the man's, adjustments are made so that she alone is not tied down to the kitchen, housework and the children. Towards this end household chores are rotated, assignments going to men and women alike. Although the care of children is still principally the mother's task, even in this aspect the responsibility is shared.

Outside of the UG house, material conditions prevent the situation from being as advanced. Among worker communities, the first big leap toward liberating workers' wives is usually achieved with the establishment of nurseries and cottage industries run on a cooperative basis. The men cannot possibly share much in these tasks, as they have to go to work every day.

However, the women, with the assistance of advanced cadres, can now sit down together, talk about the problems of their communities and the bankruptcy of the dictatorship that has exacerbated these problems. They can now decide as one, the steps that they should take to overthrow the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. This is a far cry from their pre-collective days when they, as mothers and wives, confronted the poverty of everyday life alone, powerless and helpless.

BREAKTHROUGHS ARE MADE

Considering the narrow perspective imposed by the feudal set-up on worker and peasant women in the past, these steps are great leaps. The very fact of the collective endeavor in problems ranging from health and livelihood to education and class struggle, with its attendant discussions and need for decision-making, is already a tremendous breakthrough for the housewife previously attuned only to the individual management of vegetable gardens and pig sties. Like chicks peeping out of their newly-cracked eggs, what vistas; what brightness is thus revealed to them!

Today, we have a fully operational Red Women's Detachment, composed mostly of peasant women, attached to the New People's Army. Today, women sit on practically all Party Committees and hold responsible positions in different levels of the organizational structure.

We have superseded the semi-colonial, semi-feudal society we live in and are in the process of changing. The groundwork has been laid, and as we proceed in our task of overthrowing the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship, we cannot but go further until having achieved national liberation and democracy, we can start laying the economic and political foundation for the liberation of all Filipino women among the oppressed majority. □

Immigration Rights Conferences The Community Moves Forward

Uniting under the call of "Educate to Organize," chapters of the National Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrant Rights (NTFDFIR) are holding local conferences to address the issues affecting Filipino immigrant rights. These conferences represent a major breakthrough for the Filipino community and a major turning point in the political struggles of the Filipino community.

Formed at the 1979 Filipino People's Far West Convention from the proposal of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), the Task Force put forth the position that the Filipino community is a primarily immigrant community and that the rights of immigrants in the U.S. are under constant attack. Above all, the Task Force has submitted that only through organized mass action on a nationwide scale could the Filipino community expect to put a stop to governmental attacks and harassment.

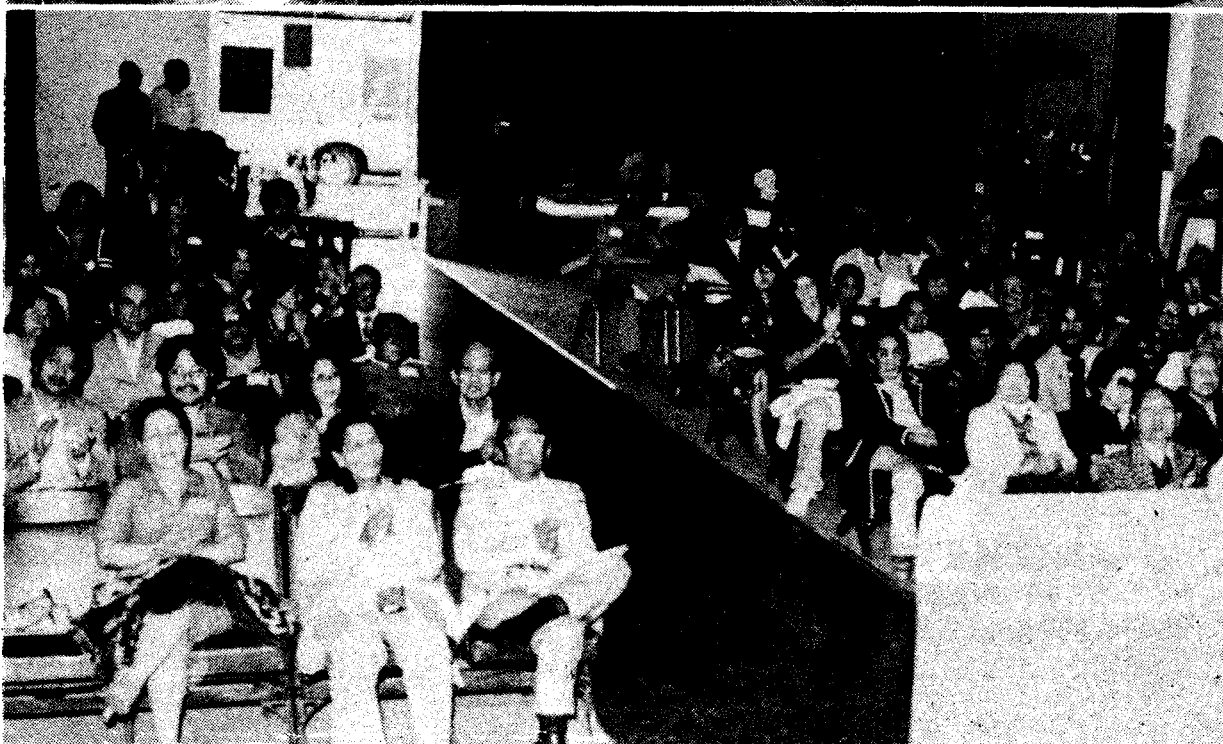
The conferences are acknowledging that the growth of the Filipino community in the U.S. is due to the ever worsening conditions in the Philippines, politically, economically and socially. Faced with these bleak conditions, many Filipinos are forced to leave their homeland, friends and relatives, in order to find a better means of survival.

Yet, at the same time, the conferences acknowledge that the immigration policies of the United States are dictated by the needs of U.S. business for cheap labor. When U.S. businesses need a ready source of labor, the immigration laws are relaxed to allow for the mass migration of many laborers to this country. But, when the economic conditions in the U.S. deteriorate, exclusion and deportation become the order of the day. This pattern and practice can best be explained when viewed in the same historical context as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Gentleman's Agreement of 1907 (which limited Japanese immigration) and the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1935 which limited Filipino immigration during the Depression.



Immigrant Rights Conferences: Major turning point in the political struggles of the Filipino Community.

AK Photo



It is also appropriate to point out the role of the U.S. government in perpetuating the mass exodus of Filipinos from their homeland. Military aid in the form of U.S. dollars to the Marcos dictatorship, U.S. support for the internationally-condemned repression under martial law, and above all, forced slavery of the peasantry and working class—the majority of the Philippine population—to the whims of U.S. corporations in the Philippines, are the primary reasons for the mass migration.

But, on the other hand, when immigrants come to the U.S., they are subjected to some of the worst kinds of abuse that this country offers. Denied opportunities to practice their profession because of discriminatory licensure laws, many Filipino professionals are forced to work at semi-related jobs at lower wages and in bad conditions. Employment discrimination and job harassment, compounded by the threat of deportation, have hardly served to make America a "land of opportunity."

In the last few years we have seen increased harassment of the Filipino community by the INS and related immigration authorities. 4-H trainees, nurses, doctors, accountants, and most recently, Filipino elderly on welfare, have suffered at the hand of the immigration politics during the economic crisis. Scapegoated for the crisis of U.S. capitalism and the decline of U.S. imperialism, immigrants are both blamed and forced to bear the burden of the economic crisis.

But the Filipino community has responded to the conditions of the Filipino immigrants by calling for mass, organized action. The conferences serve to build the strong foundations of a national organization that can strongly and properly address the issues of immigrant rights. The formation of such an organization is most important at this point.

The increasing repression in the Philippines, compounded by the decline of U.S. capitalism and imperialism, will and has brought an increase of attacks on immigrants either through anti-alien legislation or actual physical beatings of aliens by immigration agents.

With the view of "Educate to Organize" the conferences will play an extremely critical role in organizing the Filipino community for its crucial tasks.

The KDP reaffirms its support for these conferences and urges all those concerned about immigrant rights to take part in the upcoming conferences in New York, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Jose. □

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Buod ng mga Balita

IMELDA INVITED
TO ADDRESS
SAN FRANCISCO PRESS

An invitation to Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos to address the San Francisco Press Club has stirred considerable controversy within the Filipino community. "We wanted a controversial speaker and we certainly seem to have chosen one," commented David Morris, Chair of the Club's Speaker's Committee.

The controversy stems from Morris' unabashed and outspoken admiration for Mrs. Marcos. "I have personally seen a change in the Philippines from total chaos to law and order," says Morris, a businessman who makes frequent trips to Manila. "Nobody likes a dictator, but let's face it, they [Mrs. Marcos and her husband] have done a lot of good."

Morris' admiring comments during a recent visit were widely reported in the Manila press, along with a comment about the First Lady's numerous "humanitarian acts." This fact, together with the Press Club's practice of awarding a marble statuette of its black cat emblem, led to the interpretation that the First Lady was being presented with a humanitarian award. Previous recipients of the token include former U.S. Presidents Harry Truman and Dwight David Eisenhower, Princes Charles and Philip of England, and Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

"We don't give humanitarian awards," emphasized Morris to an *Ang Katipunan* reporter. "But there's been a lot of slanted reporting on the Philippines. This will give her an opportunity to air her side of the issue."

Morris echoed one of the First Lady's oft-repeated complaints about "bias" in the western press against the repressive Marcos regime. Morris revealed that Imelda would be asked to address a private banquet attended by Club members. He would invite, however, members of the "free Filipino press." Said Rene Cruz of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition, "Morris' invitation provides Imelda with precisely the opportunity she's been yearning for. But there are many questions we would like to ask her. If her address were to be open to those who are interested in asking some direct questions concerning the practices of the Marcos regime, we would be happy to see her come."

When asked to comment about some of the more damning aspects of the Marcos regime, such as prolonged torture of political prisoners, Morris quickly flashed, "Well, first of all, how are you going to verify these reports?"

"Anyway," he added, "they haven't done anything over there that hasn't been done over here. There are incidents of torture right here in our own police department—and look at our own boys at My Lai. This [torture] is unfortunate, but things are rough. □

IMF APPROVES NEW
R.P. LOAN PACKAGE

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) February 29 approved a major financial package for the Marcos regime totalling \$659 million. \$537 million is in the form of a stand-by loan that may be drawn in several installments by the end of 1981. The remaining \$122 million will be available immediately. Another \$17.3 million loan was announced earlier as part of the IMF's disbursements from a special fund built up through the sale of IMF gold.

The IMF statement announcing the loan package made it fairly clear that the loans are a form of "reward" for Marcos' adoption of IMF-suggested policies. The Marcos government, the IMF said, has adopted a new economic and financial program to sustain its economic growth, bring down the inflation rate and restore equilibrium in its balance-of-payments. New tax measures have been introduced and the regime has assured the IMF that "strict control over budget expenditures will be maintained." □

—Reprinted from the *Philippine Liberation Courier*

NIDO OIL
PRODUCTION DROPS

After much ado over a crude oil source off the coast of Palawan that developed into the NIDO oil field, and after only a year in operation, the Energy Ministry is shutting down one of the wells because more water is coming out of it than oil. The shut-down marks the beginning of a three-month interruption of the only domestic oil source banked upon to augment the scarcity of oil in the Philippines. Four other oil wells that make up the Nido oil field have cut back production to only 21,300 barrels per day, almost half of its former output of 40,000 barrels a day. That amount provided one-sixth of Philippine oil consumption in 1979.

"This cutback will significantly increase the Philippine bill for imported oil which is already estimated at \$2 billion this year," reports the *Asian Wall Street Journal*.

The government, which for the last several years has counted the eggs of Philippine domestic oil production long before they had hatched, has now begun to worry. Based on findings by Cities Service Co. of the U.S. which is the operating partner in the Nido consortium, the Ministry of Energy said: "It is anticipated that the amount of oil that would be recovered from Nido would be less than was originally calculated at the start of production."

Asian Wall Street Journal reported that news of the shutdown and cutback sent share prices tumbling for Philippine companies in the Nido consortium. □

REACTOR PRICE TAG LEAPS



Halt in reactor construction—largely a response to broad anti-reactor movement.

AK Photo

As Philippine officials expressed "optimism" that work would soon resume on the stalled nuclear reactor under construction in Morong, Bataan, word leaked out that the reactor's price had leapt to close to \$2 billion. This represents an increase of nearly 100 percent over the \$1.1 billion of the reactor's cost, a price that many observers had noted as unusually high.

Confirming the suspected hollowness of Marcos' earlier threat to call off construction altogether if the reactor proved unsafe, Finance Minister Cesar Virata revealed that contracts for plant equipment had been honored throughout the suspension of construction.

SCANDAL AND PROTEST

The Westinghouse reactor has, from the beginning, been surrounded by scandal and protest. Between the initial negotiations, conducted by the wealthy cousin of the First La-

dy, Herminio Disini, and the actual beginning of construction, cost estimates tripled. Disini is widely rumored to have personally profited from the deal to the tune of \$5 to \$35 million.

Work on the reactor was ordered to a halt last June in the wake of the Three Mile Island incident. President Marcos at that time ordered hearings on the reactor's safety.

Many felt that Marcos was responding chiefly to pressure from the broad-based anti-nuclear movement. The U.S. Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines had forced the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to suspend shipment of the reactor proper, pending safety hearings.

NEGATIVE RULING

The regime's hearings closed in September after a string of pro-nuclear witnesses had testified and a variety of "technicalities" had prevented anti-

nuclear evidence from being submitted. Ex-Senator Lorenzo Tanada, a latecomer to the work who had hoped to air the anti-nuclear position, finally stalked out in disgust.

Construction, however, remained suspended awaiting the NRC's decision issued last Jan. 29, when the regulatory body ruled that it could not evaluate these issues without violating Philippine national sovereignty. (See AK, Vol. VII, No. 3.)

Marcos regime spokesmen responded eagerly, expressing a desire to return to work on the reactor as soon as possible. They were somewhat fuzzy, as to where the funds would come from for the additional \$9 billion, insisting only that the amount was "covered."

Although no actual date has yet been set for resumption of construction and re-design efforts are still under way, "the transactions with the various manufacturers continue to go on," said Virata. □

Opening the Doors—
More Favors for Foreign Investors

In a confidential report dated October 1979, a joint World Bank-IMF (International Monetary Fund) mission strongly urged the Marcos regime to lift policies protecting domestic industries. Protectionist policies, the report said, "encouraged high costs, inefficient use of capital . . . excess capacity [and] penalized exports."

Using words that, according to the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, sounded like they were lifted bodily from the IMF-World Bank report, Economic Planning Minister Gerardo Siat February 13 announced that a list of 27 "overcrowded" industries had been reduced to seven. New investments are to be allowed in, among other areas, the electric appliances,

steel products, cement, processed foods, tin cans, soft drinks, and batteries.

Companies in the affected industries had been relatively safe from competition because it has been government policy to discourage the building of new plants or expansion of old ones in overcrowded fields. Because the government is also encouraging larger plants in order to make them competitive internationally, the new policy is expected to further erode the position of national capitalists who own existing plants.

AGRICULTURE AND
MANUFACTURE

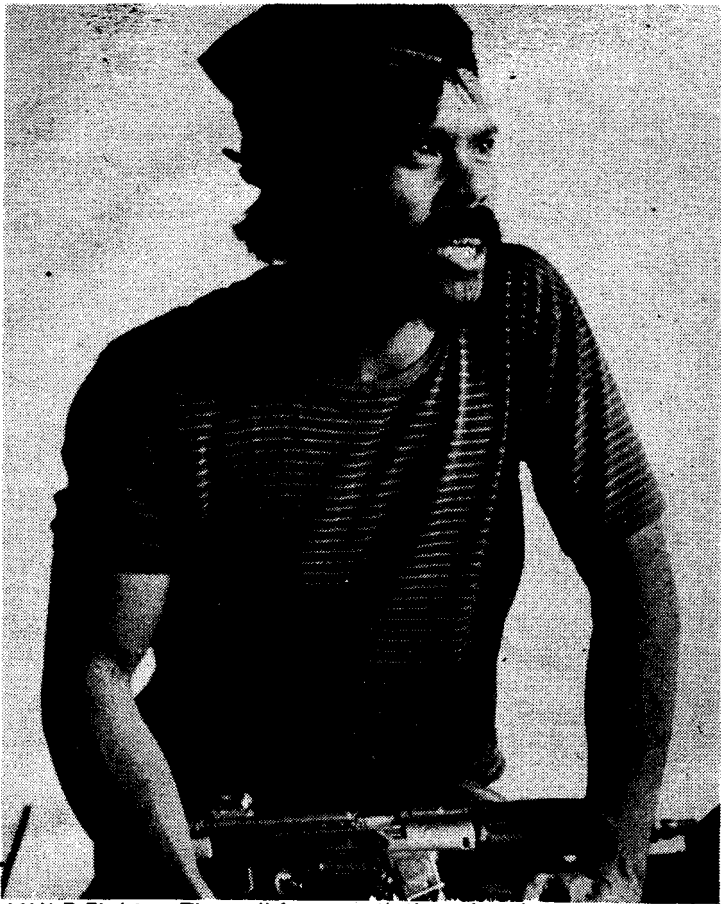
The government drive to expand agricultural and manu-

facturing exports meanwhile took two new steps in February with the conclusion of agreements to establish a large oil palm plantation and an aluminum plant.

The National Development Corporation (NDC) February 5 signed an agreement with Guthrie Overseas Holdings, Ltd. to set up a 20,000-acre oil palm plantation in Mindanao. As in Del Monte and Dole plantations, NDC participation is necessary in order to circumvent laws limiting corporate ownership or lease of agricultural land to 2,500 acres. The aluminum deal sets the initial basis for the construction of a plant in Mindanao by Reynolds Metal Corp. □

Same Old Song and Dance With a New Twist

Marcos Calls for Negotiations With MNLF



MNLF Fighter: The call for negotiations has become a yearly event.

National Geographic

In what has now come to be a yearly gesture, President Ferdinand E. Marcos last February 9 once again called for peace negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The occasion for the call was the visit of the new Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, Mr. Habib Chatti, to Manila in the wake of the most recent Conference meeting held late last January.

The weeks immediately preceding the annual Islamic Conference meet have become a period of active politicking with Islamic states for the Marcos regime. The Conference, however, has thus far lent its support to the MNLF. It has consistently invited Chairman Nur Misuari to attend as an observer and to address the delegates. This creates a yearly embarrassment for a regime eager to convince the Islamic states that Filipino Muslims enjoy full autonomy.

GREATER URGENCY

This year witnessed the usual courtship, but with perhaps a higher level of urgency and a more carefully thought-out plan

of political attack.

The slightly less than one year since the last conference meeting has witnessed an ominous blow to the Marcos regime. Iran, whose leader Ayatollah Khomeini warmly welcomed Misuari on a visit shortly after liberation, cut off oil shipments to the Philippines last October. The move was explicitly linked to support for the MNLF.

While Iran was responsible for a mere five percent of Philippine oil imports, Marcos is not eager to see Khomeini's move develop into a trend. The Philippines is dependent upon foreign oil for 82 percent of its needs and most—if not all—comes from Muslim states.

CALLING ON NEIGHBORS

This year, the Philippine strategy for winning Islamic acceptance involved greater reliance than even before on neighboring Malaysia and Indonesia. Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja visited Manila briefly just prior to the conference. Malaysia, however, has always been somewhat less eager to aid in resolving the Philippine conflict because of irritation

over the Philippine claim to Sabah.

The regime hoped this year to persuade Malaysia to play a far more active role. The idea, according to Sheila Ocampo of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, was to be brought up at the conference and then followed up by ASEAN.

In spite of his appeals to his neighbors, however, Marcos continued to emphasize his somewhat contradictory position that the conflict in the south is strictly a domestic problem. This leads viewers to suspect that his key interest in courting Malaysia is to insure much more active policing of Sabah, traditionally the transshipment point for arms sent to the MNLF by supportive Muslim countries.

EMPHASIS ON SPLITS

In terms of rhetoric, Marcos went out of his way this year to emphasize the dangers of a resurgent fundamentalist Islam which threatens, he claimed, to dismember ASEAN. This claim may have won some sympathy from both Indonesia and Malaysia where fundamentalist Islam exists as an organized political force and has, in years past, sparked serious rebellions.

Word has not yet come out as to just how well the Islamic Conference received the latest set of Marcos maneuvers. Nor have reports yet reached *Ang Katipunan* regarding that body's response to the much-exaggerated splits within the MNLF, a subject dear to the regime's heart. Marcos took advantage of Chatti's visit to suggest, as in previous years, a willingness to talk to the MNLF if only the group would decide who is in charge. Once again, he was referring to the rift between Misuari and his former deputy Hashim Salamat.

If last year's meet is any guide, Marcos' ploy may have had little effect. In spite of an identical pitch last year aimed at discrediting Misuari, Misuari was welcomed as the only MNLF representative. Since that time, Misuari has continued to receive support from Muslim countries receiving, according to Sheila Ocampo, unprecedentedly generous aid this year from Saudi Arabia. □

BALANCE OF TRADE DEFICIT RISES; PRICES SOARS

In mid-February, major economic officials of the Marcos regime exuded confidence that economic conditions in 1980 would not be as bad as earlier predicted. Increases in the prices of key Philippine exports, Central Bank Governor Gregorio Licaros said, would mean a balance-of-payments deficit for 1980 that would be considerably less than the \$370 million earlier predicted.

The price of sugar has indeed risen from \$264 to \$440 a metric ton; copper concentrates from \$350 to \$672 per ounce. Bouyed by these higher prices, production of these exports is expected to increase export receipts in 1980 by as much as \$1 billion. Government optimism, how-

ever, was short-lived. At the end of February the Central Bank revealed that the January trade deficit expanded to \$280.2 billion from \$203.3 billion a year earlier. Export receipts did increase by a hefty 44 percent, but imports also rose 41 percent. The current account deficit of \$233.5 million, up from \$131.3 million in 1979, would have been much higher except for an unexplained jump to \$139.7 million in short-term loans to the government.

MORE PRICE INCREASES

With this bad news already in the air, the Marcos regime February 12 announced a staggering 53.6 percent increase in petroleum prices in Manila. The

new petroleum prices include increases in taxes raising gasoline prices to as much as \$2.76 per gallon. Prices in the provinces will be slightly higher, Energy Board Chairman Ponciano Mathay said.

The new petroleum price increases are expected to generate another round of price increases for a variety of other goods and services. Already increased are electricity (30 percent), air fares and cargo rates (21 percent) and most importantly, kerosene (44 percent), used by millions of Filipinos for lamps and cooking. In an attempt to mitigate the effect of these increases, Marcos February 8 imposed a three-month freeze on food prices. □

Malacañang Zarzuela

BALANCING THE BOOKS

By VICTORIA LUNA

Those of us who struggle monthly over the task of balancing our checkbooks or household budget, who groan at the annual chore of working out our Federal Income Tax, could learn a few lessons from the technocrats who keep the Philippine economy humming.

The Philippine economy, we know, is not exactly in the greatest shape (just like our family finances). Foreign debt has mounted at a staggering pace in the last seven years, inflation has grown by as much as, some say 40 percent per year, both balance-of-trade and balance-of-payments have slipped disastrously and some credit institutions have begun to report the country as a bad credit risk.

Be that as it may, the debt-service ratio, which determines how easy it will be for the country to get loans in the future, has remained safely below 20 percent, the figure set by Philippine law as maximum. This is a major achievement.

AND WHAT IS THE DEBT-SERVICE RATIO?

The debt-service ratio measures the country's annual debt payments, principal and interest, against its total export earnings for a year. The idea is simply that a country shouldn't be paying more than one-fifth of its total export income to repay debts. Given the soaring figures on Philippine indebtedness and the comparatively sluggish growth in export receipts over the last few years, we struggling book-balancers can only ask with admiration, "How?"

The answer, it seems, is rather simple: juggle.

President Ferdinand Marcos last month revealed that he is considering simply removing loans by multinational lending institutions to multinational firms operating in export processing zones from the Philippine foreign debt. Will these companies then stop receiving loans? Of course not. They are simply being asked, according to the Finance Ministry, to have loan funds applied for by and granted to their parent companies. Thus Ford Motor Co. in Bataan province may very well need a loan next year from the First National City Bank of New York or some other such institution, but will receive it via Detroit.

Presto! The debt-service ratio, in danger of slipping over the brink, is once more under control.

But this is not the only clever trick the Marcos finance boys have thought up to keep their ratio in good order. It has, in fact, been in danger many times—if not continually. According to one unnamed foreign financier, if the figure were calculated as decreed by the almighty International Monetary Fund (IMF), it would probably run close to 40 percent.

JUST WHAT GOES UNDER "EXPORT RECEIPTS?"

But there are ways of keeping it under control. For example: including your income from foreign loans under the category of export receipts. The IMF doesn't do it that way. The World Bank doesn't do it that way. But the Philippine Central Bank does it that way and it keeps that ratio looking just fine.

And then there is the matter of arriving at that figure for export earnings once loan income has been added in Philippine exports and borrowings have been growing yearly. So several years ago the average was scrapped in favor of the figure for the one year immediately preceding. (Of course the law itself was never changed—a mere detail.)

Then last year, the ratio looked threatened again and export values were growing. So, once again, Presto! Monetary officials announced a new policy. The figure used would be that for the year itself.

IMF LENDS ON

Of course officials in the IMF know a thing or two about book juggling and are not altogether unaware of what is going on. In fact, the acrobatic balancing of books is a source of much discussion in Manila's foreign business circles. But that doesn't stop the IMF from deciding to lend more and more money on the basis of the tenuously maintained "Safe" debt-service ratio. The latest sum, announced last March 1, is \$659 billion for 1980. Not bad.

But then the IMF has learned: figures may be figures, but what gets loaned out to a dutiful *tuta* gets paid back—with interest. Sigh. It would never work on my savings and loan. □

ANG KATIPUNAN (AK) is the national newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and is published as a non-profit educational and informational service geared toward covering issues affecting primarily the Filipino community in the U.S. Published bi-weekly except in January and July when monthly, the AK is produced cooperatively by the AK Staff. Basic subscription rates are: \$7.50 a year for the U.S. and Canada and \$10.00 overseas. Application for second-class postage is pending at Oakland, CA. Editorial offices are located at 3600 Lincoln Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602, (415) 482-3400. Send subscriptions and correspondence to P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623. Postmaster, send address corrections to P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.

Regime Exports Rice While People Eat Less

PATTERNS OF HUNGER IN THE PHILIPPINES

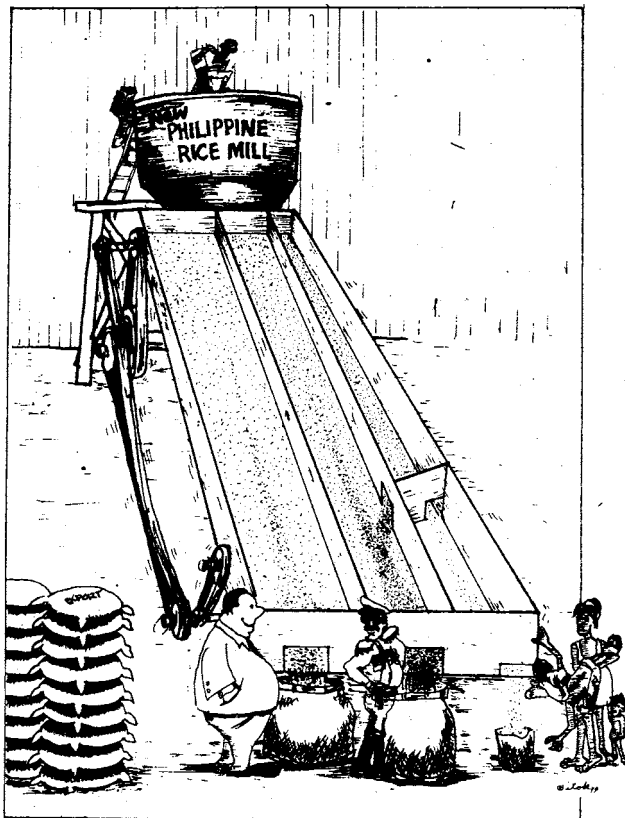
By VICTORIA LUNA
AK Correspondent

One of the Philippines' top young businessmen recently added insult to a malnourished people's injury by announcing a new set of "non-conventional export priorities." Bienvenido Tantoco, Jr. of Rustan Investment and Development Corp. revealed his company's intention to develop protein-rich animal feeds made from local vegetable sources for export to the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Thus while up to 80 percent of Filipino children suffer from first, second or third degree malnutrition, Filipino technocrats and business planners hope to ship precious locally-grown plant protein to the developed world where it will feed animals.

While Tantoco's plan, which comes at a time of rapidly deteriorating health conditions within the country, represents an innovation for the Philippines, it is part of a pattern which has emerged with depressing regularity throughout the Third World.

WASTING PROTEIN

Frances Moore Lappe, in her popular book, *Diet for a Small Planet*, discusses the nutritional plight of underdeveloped countries. Dominated by multinational economic interests and desperately in need of foreign exchange, these countries find themselves forced to export vitally needed protein-rich grains to the developed countries while their own people suffer from protein deficiency. The grains, perfectly acceptable for human consumption, are used as animal fodder. This, Lappe reveals, is a highly



Malnutrition and disease in R.P., little known to international public, reach staggering proportions.

SRC File Photo

inefficient use of resources for several reasons. Among them:

- Much of this fodder is consumed by cattle at a highly inefficient conversion ratio. For each kilo of edible beef protein, the cow must consume 18 kilos of plant protein. (Chickens, in contrast, consume only four kilos of plant protein per kilo of poultry protein produced.)

- Animals, in particular cattle, do not require protein in order to produce

it. They are, in fact, protein factories, capable of producing the precious material simply by consuming grass and other forage.

A RICE "SURPLUS"

The latest plan for agricultural export comes as no particular surprise. Last year, Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco announced intentions to boldly expand export of a wide variety of crops—soybeans for animal fodder among them. His reason? The Philippines, he and members of the regime boasted, had reached self-sufficiency in rice production in 1976, and by 1980 had begun to export the commodity. It was not, however, a particularly profitable agricultural export. Substitutes had to be found for planting on lands formerly devoted to rice.

Although the regime's statistics on food production are often confusing and contradictory, there can be no question that a genuine increase in rice production has occurred. According to government figures, production for 1976 reached 3.8 million metric tons, climbed to 3.9 million in 1977 and 4.2 million in 1978. By the end of June 1977, 1,156,000 metric tons were stored in bulging warehouses forcing the regime to embark on

a sudden massive warehouse-building campaign and providing the justification for rice exports in 1978.

LOWEST CONSUMPTION IN ASEAN

But did increased rice production mean that the Filipino people were better nourished than in previous years when grain had to be imported?

Quite the contrary. One glowing source on Philippine agriculture, the International Food Policy Research Institute based in Washington, pointing to the Philippines along with 15 other countries as models of agricultural development, admiringly reports a rapid increase in the feeding of basic foodgrains to livestock.

Far more damning are the regime's own statistics. Government sources claim that each Filipino consumes only 76 kilos of rice yearly, the lowest in the ASEAN region. By contrast, each person in Thailand consumes 171 kilos, each Indonesian 121 kilos and each Malaysian 115 kilos. The University of the Philippines College of Agriculture suggests a more generous figure of 104 kilos which nonetheless leaves the Philippines at the very bottom of the consumption pile within an already impoverished region.

DISREGARDING ESSENTIALS

Depending on which of the two figures for the Philippines is correct, Filipinos daily consume either 208 or 284 grams of rice, well below the 313 grams (114 kilos/year) recommended by the gov-

Continued on page 12

Torture . . .

Continued from page 1

peatedly, alternating with intervals of the "water cure" treatment. Sixto pretended to comply just to catch his breath and stall his torturers from drowning him altogether. But they continued unrelentingly until finally he vomited. They did the water treatment less after that, but stepped-up the slaps and blows.

MARATHON TORTURE

For three straight days and nights following his capture, Sixto was questioned, tortured and deprived of food and sleep. The blows became frequent. He was especially pained by the sadistic hammering of his testicles. They tickled his nostrils with chicken feathers and fine coconut leaf midribs. They poured scalding water all over his body. At other times, they would pour gin into his nostrils, and they beat his thighs and legs with a wooden paddle. They spoon-fed him with a thin bitter liquid and watched him grow dizzy, numb and start to chill. They applied first-aid only when they saw him start to tremble. Upon revival, Sixto realized he had been poisoned.

The worst came when he was hogtied at the feet to a flat iron sheet. His hands were tied to a hook attached to a pulley. As they pulled up the hook his whole body was wrenched in opposite directions creating incredible pain. In this suspended position, the water cure was applied again with a hose. After the proceedings which were witnessed by cheering officers, Sixto became keenly aware of the mentality of his torturers as he described what happened next.

PICTORIAL RECORD

"Despite the fact that I was very weak and trembling, I was aided in a standing and erect position in front of a photographer. My blindfold was removed and immediately returned after the flash . . . I was amazed that they would take photographs as if to exhibit their deceit to the world, or like Hitler's Gestapo, they painstakingly keep pictures and records of their victims."

"Repeatedly, I asked them to get me some medicine for my heart ailment. They knew about this ailment because they got the results of my ECG test administered in 1977 out of my wallet. Rather than grant my request, they used this provocation: 'We will give it to you if you tell all. What further need have you for medicine—we are going to kill you anyway.'

Sixto came to know two of his interrogators by the names of Popski and Capt. George. Capt. George claimed to be Sixto's classmate at the University of the Philippines. Sixto flashed on one of the earlier comments his torturers made, "You've cost the government a lot. The government has spent a lot of money looking for you . . ." Who else, he wondered, could have identified him better if not a former classmate.

RUNNING THE GAMUT OF THOUGHTS

While not undergoing torture, Sixto was immobilized by hand and foot cuffs, and had to either sit or recline in one position. But his mind tossed around thoughts and memories all day and night over and over again.

"One thing in particular, I made it a

point to do all day and all night was to feel out my surroundings and to think. I recollected and mulled over each event in the previous days. The significance and focus of each of their questions, each of my replies, my errors and weaknesses.

"I also forced myself to mentally go through each event in my life starting from my childhood . . . the people who became my classmates. Many times I would think about my wife, my son and my parents—apprehensions over my wife's pregnancy and the health of my parents. Often too would come to mind my close friends and comrades who died in the hands of the fascists, and those who experienced hardships in the hands of these executioners.

"And of course, the fear never left me as to what exactly these people had in mind for me . . . I ran the gamut of all the thoughts I was capable of . . . in these circumstances . . ."

The interrogations let up gradually, although Popski and Capt. George were still frequent visitors. With each visit, Sixto requested three things: transfer to a regular detention camp; information for his family of his whereabouts; and immediate medical attention.

"SMALL PIECE OF THE SKY"

None of the requests were granted except for his transfer to the Military Security Unit of Fort Bonifacio also known as 1571, on May 15. Even after the transfer, he was kept isolated in an 11- by 4-foot cell that hardly had ventilation.

"One blanket, one bed, a dirty bucket of water were the only things on the cell. I am the new lodger at door No. 13 (a cell previously occupied by hardcore MSU soldiers under discipline)."

"Inside of 21 days until noon of June 6, the doors to my cell were always

locked. The only time I saw a person was whenever my food was brought in and when my mess tray would be taken away. All I see from the window is Ka. Amado's "small piece of the sky* . . ."

Three days after his transfer, a medical officer finally visited him. The black and blue welts from his beatings symptomized the swelling pain all over his body, especially deep pain in his chest and thighs. He still had convulsions from feverish chills, but could neither sneeze nor cough without wincing in pain. His wounds were pus-infected and would bleed from the handcuffs. Although he was given penicillina and aspirin for two months, the doctor did not give him the chest x-ray he requested. He was not allowed to have sunlight, fresh air or exercise.

From the time of his transfer, Sixto requested verbally and in writing:

- That his family be allowed to visit.
- That he be able to consult a lawyer.

- That he be allowed some sun, exercise and fresh air.

- That he be given reading materials.

Of the requests only two were granted. On June 26, reading material was finally made accessible. On September 3, Sixto was finally allowed to visit with his wife for the first time since his capture.

"I met my wife and sons four more times at the Fort Bonifacio Golf Club, for one-hour periods. They always prepared good food for us and our guards. And of course, pictures are taken left and right (so that in the future they can prove to the world the 'honorable' treatment by the regime of their joyous prisoners)."□

*This refers to a poem by nationalist Amado Hernandez written when he was incarcerated during the 50's.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

Hawaii Confab Tackles Immigrants' Problems



Hawaii Task Force pledge to take up 4-H, SSI and bi-lingual education issues.

HONOLULU—"Stop Discriminatory Practices Now!" was the slogan for the 1980 Conference on Filipino Immigrant Rights held in this city Feb. 23. Attended by over 50 participants, the Conference passed several resolutions calling for community action.

Particular concern was expressed over the issues of SSI exclusion, anti-alien legislation, the exploitation of Filipino agricultural trainees, and the need for bilingual education and services for immigrants.

Conference organizers were surprised to find the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii, Durward Long, among the participants. The University is the U.S. sponsor of the controversial agricultural 4-H training program.

Long, another U.H. official, a host farmer and two 4-H trainees apparently attended the conference to give "their side" of the issue. Two other trainees, Leo Kitkitoy and Arcenio Estioco, had been invited by the Task Force to speak to the conference about the issue.

The conference passed a resolution which criticized the training program and supported the trainee's efforts to gain substantial reforms of the program. Long said he thought the resolution was "negative" and thought it should include a "commendation" for the school's efforts to settle the problems. Participants, however, indicated that "it is too early to tell" how significant the changes are, and should not yet give a "stamp of approval."

The conference also widely discussed the lack of bilingual education and services, a serious issue in Hawaii, given the large number of Filipino and other immigrant groups with limited English speaking abilities.

Federal, state and local agencies were also criticized for their lack of attention to these matters; the Department of Health has already been sued for not providing bilingual health aides.

A graphic example of the lack of bilingual education programs was provided by a teacher at the Kunia Elementary School, located at the Del Monte pineapple plantation. Recent newspaper articles disclosed that 43 of 75 students at Kunia received notices from their teachers that they could be kept back a

grade because of reading problems. Most of these children are Filipino immigrants, although a bilingual teacher was hired only last year. The Task Force will be investigating the problem at Kunia as well as other areas.

Many conference participants indicated they were interested in joining the Task Force, and were glad to see there was an organization prepared to actively take up immigrant rights issues.

The Hawaii Task Force has set March 12 as the date of its next meeting to orient new people to the organization. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Legal Aid Office in Honolulu. □

N.Y. Plans Immigrant Rights Conference

NEW YORK—"Every impingement on our rights as immigrants that goes unchallenged constitutes an open invitation for more attacks on our rights as a minority in this country."

With this call, the Immigrant Rights Task Force of the Filipino Community Center of New York (FCCNY) announced a conference on Filipino Immigrant Rights, scheduled to be held on Sunday, March 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Billed as a "working and organizing conference," it is also seen as a forum for analyzing these problems and for str-

teging on what the community can do to confront these attacks against immigrant rights. On top of this agenda are the issues involving the present trend to deport the Filipino elderly who are on SSI; the H-1 nurses and the Deferred Voluntary Departure status (DVD); the foreign medical graduates and the Visa Qualifying Examination (VQE); the rights of illegal aliens; and the INS and its relationship to the Filipino community.

There will be panel presentations on these issues and workshops discussions

in which resource persons will be at hand.

The FCCNY has become aware of the crucial need for the formation of an immigrant rights task force in New York. This Task Force could continually monitor trends and developments in immigrant rights and organize community action whenever necessary.

Lourdes Kiuchi, Coordinator of the New York Immigrant Rights Task Force, said: "With the escalation of discriminatory and exclusionary policies by the government, and its collusion with pri-

vate interest groups, we can no longer afford to be apathetic to just fight our own individual battles, or even to just form ad hoc defense groups to address these issues. We need a standing task force to keep on top of the situation and to be a consistent front that will battle these attacks against our rights."

She added the hope that the conference will end with most of the participants signing as members of the Task Force.

For further information on the conference and the Task Force, call Lourdes Kiuchi: (212) 429-1550.

Chicago Readies for June 12 Festivities

CHICAGO—Obviously elated by the enthusiastic participation at the first planning meeting held at the Rizal Center last March 2 for the 1980 Filipino National Day celebration, 20 community organizers braced for the hectic months ahead. Preparations are in high gear for the celebration, scheduled for June 14 at Labagh Woods in this city.

This year's celebration will be the fifth one since 1976. Rain or shine, the barrio fiesta setting adopted by the organizers has drawn community-wide participation totaling close to 5,000 people during the last five years.

"The Filipino National Day celebration provides wholesome, relevant and educational activities through a popular format such as the barrio fiesta picnic to mark the significance of June 12, 1898," commented Prudencio Ualat, member of the Steering Committee. According to the organizers, the celebration forges a working relationship among the participating groups and individuals, thus contributing towards community unity.

SPIRIT OF JUNE 12, 1898 REVIVED

"It is a learning experience," said Susie Capili, another member of the Steering Committee, "for it explains the true significance of June 12, 1898 and highlights our contributions to this adopted land."

Capili further pointed out that "in the course of the preparation, and during the event itself, those involved learn more about our community—its concerns, problems and the need for unity in resolving them."

June 12, 1898 marked the birth of the short-lived Philippine Republic after the successful revolution against Spain. The Republic collapsed when the Philippines became a colony of the United States after the Filipino-American War of 1899-1902 although fighting continued up to 1916.

"However, the date itself," according to Eddie Escultura of the Steering Committee, "signifies not only our love for freedom but also national unity and the forging of the Filipino nation."

Thus, the theme "Get Involved, Reaffirm the June 12, 1898 Spirit of Unity."

"For us in this country," Escultura continued, "June 12 is also an occasion to reaffirm our responsibility in the con-



Filipino National Day Steering Committee members (left to right): Prudencio Ualat, Eddie Escultura, Boots Ualat, Susie Capili, and Joe Espiritu.

tinuing struggle for freedom, justice and democracy."

UNITE THE COMMUNITY

The celebration also focuses attention on the Filipino community here. The community has been in the news lately and this has enhanced the awareness of the plight of Filipino immigrants.

Boots Ualat, member of the Steering Committee explained that "the democratic orientation of the Filipino National Day celebration provides rich organizational experiences for many people which will remain useful in organizing and uniting our community in dealing with its problems."

Escultura pointed out that "the celebration will also help identify the sincere and democratic forces in the community and expose the divisive forces in our midst." He then reiterated his challenge to the Filipino-American Council and the Philippine Week Committee to have a unified celebration with the Filipino National Day Committee and join its barrio fiesta picnic even if only for practical purposes. "This is for the good of everyone," he added.

Escultura emphasized that "since our main thrust is unity, we intend to show this in practice." He said that the Committee will make a concerted call for participation and challenge various groups to join the celebration. "The democratic character of the celebration provides the basis for all groups, if not the entire community, to work together towards the celebration," Escultura stressed.

The Steering Committee discussion

took notice of the charge by the Marcos papers that the Filipino National Day Committee is political. Escultura explained that the democratic character of the celebration draws a very wide political spectrum that necessarily includes pro-martial law and anti-martial law forces. However, the program of activities, including the speeches, reflects the theme for the particular year and revolves around Filipinos' national heritage in the form of the literacy-cultural program and other contributions to America.

CONSULATE STANCE HIT

With respect to the Consulate-sponsored Philippine Week celebration, Escultura clarified that it is not the consulate's pro-martial law politics which makes it divisive. He noted that although martial law is inherently controversial, it is mainly the consulate's refusal to participate in the broader celebration which "divides our community and dissipates our energy."

The politics of the Philippine Week celebration, according to Escultura, is reflected in its theme, the speeches, and the exclusion of certain political persuasions. "Over the years the Philippine Week Committee has adopted the martial law slogan, 'One Thought, One Nation,' which means thought control or repression."

The speeches," Escultura continued, "foster the illusion of independence at a time when the Philippine economy is totally dominated by U.S. corporations, when our sovereignty is negated by the presence of the U.S. military bases, and

the lifeline of the Marcos regime is securely fastened to Uncle Sam."

JOIN THE FESTIVITIES!

The Filipino National Day celebration encourages entire families to attend since the activities are so varied that even children and senior citizens could participate. Participation is free and imposes no restrictions on low-income families. The day's activities include a literacy-cultural program, sports and games, food sales, exhibits, and raffles.

Bayani Legaspi of the Philippine Nurses Association of Chicago (PNAC) saw the FND as an occasion to show our culture. Bob Ambubuyog of Towncraft could not see any reason why the various Filipino organizations "could not come together for just one day on this important occasion."

To enliven this year's celebration and generate more publicity, there will be an essay contest on the topic, "The significance of June 12, 1898 and its relevance to our community." Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each of the adult and youth categories. In addition, the winning essays will be published in the 1980 Filipino National Day Souvenir Program and the Filipino papers.

In order to insure a successful celebration, the Committee identified five main areas of work to pursue: a) outreach and mobilization, b) publicity, c) program, d) finance and souvenir program, and e) logistics. Appropriate committees were formed for these tasks and each committee will come out with detailed plans by March 9.

Susie Capili summed up her feelings about her participation by saying that "the work is overwhelming, but we can count on previous experiences and the willingness of the members to learn organizing skills." Joe Espiritu, another member of the Steering Committee, said "This is my first time to get involved, but I'll try my best."

The next meeting of the Committee will be on April 6 at the Capili residence, 4740 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL 60625, tel. (312) 539-1389.

In a related development, the Filipino National Day Steering Committee wrote the Philippine Week Committee to formally raise the possibility of having a unified celebration on June 14 for practical purposes. □

N.Y. Gears Up for PND '80

In a planning meeting held last February 25, organizers for the Philippine National Day Celebration of the Filipino Community Center of New York (FCC-NY) began preparations for the annual festival at Flushing Meadows Park.

This year will mark the 5th PND celebration in New York City. According to Teresa Rodriguez: "Organizers this year have pledged to work for a most successful day which would truly reflect the varied interests of the Filipino community in the United States. The event will also highlight our people's desire for independence and our pride in their contributions as a minority in this country. This year's PND celebrations will be a renewed commitment to present a program that will have variety while focusing on our national and ethnic unity," she added.

This year's celebration will be held at the PNDC's traditional site at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens on Saturday, June 7. Aside from the wholesome fun and games which PNDC celebrations are well-known for, this year's celebration will feature more cultural and educational aspects of the celebration.



PND organizers pledge to make this year's fete a "real treat" to the Filipino community in New York.

Filipino families in several neighborhoods in Queens are already busy preparing song and dance numbers for the cultural and educational program. Joey Honrado of the Folklorico Filipino and one of PNDC's coordinators, will cho-

reograph the entire program. Other organizations and community groups will also introduce their respective organizations through their various parts in the program.

"The PNDC plans to enjoy even

more than the number of participating groups and individuals than the 7,000 crowd that was gathered last year. The value of PND celebrations goes beyond the success of the event itself. What is of larger significance are the mature, tolerant and democratic relations which are forged by participating groups and individuals who recognize the various divergences among themselves yet are able to work together around their common goals," said Joey Honrado.

Present in the planning meeting were Linda Pichon, Del Mendoza, A. Sian, Carlo Padua, Jun Lejarde of the Philippine-American Youth Organization (PAYO); Joey Honrado of the Folklorico Filipino; Dolly Vergara and Tic Bunag of the NY Anti-Martial Law Alliance; Teresa Rodriguez of the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Filipino; Aimee Cruz and Prima Lefarde of the NAFL-FNG; Serge Macapagal and Bobby Parial of the Nueva Ecijanans; and Jack Tom, a publicity and art consultant.

For more information, contact Teresa Rodriguez at (212) 565-7539 or Joey Honrado at (212) 533-7153. □

RESISTANCE ABROAD

NRC PICKETED OVER RP REACTOR



Demonstration in front of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, February 15, 1980 to protest the NRC's decision to issue a license to Westinghouse for the export of a nuclear reactor to the Philippines. About 30 protestors participated. The action was called by the Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines, which includes the following groups: Friends of the Filipino People, International Association of Filipino Patriots, Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino, Nautilus Alliance, Friends of the Earth and others.

Congress Task Force Photo

U.S. to Send Marcos Counterinsurgency Aircraft

The controversial OV-10 Bronco, a counter-insurgency aircraft, is one of the weapons that the U.S. plans to furnish the Philippines this year. This came out in testimony by Asst. Sec. of State Richard Holbrooke before the House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Asia-Pacific Affairs on February 21.

The OV-10 has achieved notoriety because of its use by invading Indonesian troops to suppress Fretilin resistance fighters in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1977. According to reliable sources, the Philippine government had been pressing the United States to provide the aircraft for a number of years now. This is the first time that the U.S. has acceded to the request.

"This is an alarming piece of news," commented Rene Cruz, coordinator of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC). "The Broncos are clearly meant to shore up Marcos' vicious anti-guerrilla campaigns in Samar and Mindanao."

Other observers noted that the provision of the sensitive weapon to Marcos constitutes further evidence that the U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreement of 1979 not only increased aid to Marcos but also

opened up to his military a greater range of weapons in the U.S. armory.

The Carter Administration is seeking \$75.7 million in military aid from Marcos in fiscal year 1980. In addition, it is requesting \$30 million in "Economic Support Funds," or militarily-relevant economic aid. After discussions with Holbrooke in Baguio City on February 19, Marcos declared that the amount represented the biggest military aid among the countries getting similar assistance for their treaties with the United States.

HOLBROOKE: BASES NOW MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Holbrooke, known as the architect of current U.S. policy toward East Asia, came to the hearings fresh from his discussions with Marcos. The granting of the administration's request, he made clear, was linked to the security of tenure of the U.S. bases. Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Force Base, he asserted, "are now even more important to us. They are key to our strategic posture in the Indian Ocean."

Holbrooke warned the Committee that he was "extremely opposed" to any

kind of effort to reduce aid because "this would be perceived in Manila as lack of seriousness on our part to carry out our defense commitments."

This came in response to the suggestion by some members of the Committee that Congress might consider not granting the full amount requested by the administration this year and typing this to human rights concerns. Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-NY) explained that such an action would not be inconsistent with the Bases Agreement since there was nothing in the pact that obligated the U.S. to give aid this year. The only obligation, he noted, was that at the end of five years, \$500 million would have been provided the Philippine government. Holbrooke grudgingly conceded this.

In contrast to Holbrooke, Rep. James Jeffords (R-VT) painted a bleak picture of political and economic conditions. Jeffords was part of a congressional delegation that visited the Philippines in mid-January. While there, Jeffords took the opportunity to meet with martial law critics.

Jeffords reported that his sources revealed that "the practice of salvaging,

of torture or murder, the same as the 'disappearances' which have terrified observers of Argentina, are on the upswing in the Philippines." He also emphasized the fact that the Barbero Commission, set up by Marcos to investigate military abuses against civilians, has no viable system for monitoring these abuses. "If the Philippine government is unable to even accurately keep tabs on the dimensions of what it clearly feels is a problem," he concluded, "I frankly doubt the government's ability to rectify the problem."

Jeffords' position reflects that of a number of liberal congresspeople who feel that the Philippines is a potential Iran and the best course of action is for the U.S. to disengage itself from the Marcos regime before it is too late. As Jeffords put it, the U.S. must "avoid getting tied to another Shah of Iran—when he goes, we go too." Seasoned observers noted, however, that the swing toward a more aggressive posture, including firm support of repressive U.S. allies in Southeast Asia, is much too strong in Congress. "It's the year of the hawk," noted one. "It's open season on doves." □

FFP Holds Successful Regional Council Meetings

The Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) successfully completed two Regional Council meetings: January 26-27 (New York) and February 9-10 (San Francisco). The Council meetings, attended by 25 representatives from seven cities, adopted ambitious plans for the coming six months in their efforts to challenge U.S. support for the Marcos dictatorship.

The Conference features spirited discussions on the Carter Doctrine and its impact on the Philippines, the history of U.S.-R.P. relations, the U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreement and current developments in the Philippines. The discussion of the Carter Doctrine drew the most heated exchange as delegates pondered Car-

ter's shift to an openly aggressive and interventionist foreign policy.

Pointing out that the actions of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan have been used by Carter to whip up a new war hysteria, Council member Frank Kiuchi (NY) said, "This cold war rhetoric is a cover for Carter's real concern—to secure Arab oil and other interests from nationalist challenges."

As Council member Kathy Keller of Seattle noted: "Carter learned a major lesson from the victory of nationalist forces in Iran . . . that if a dictator, backed by U.S. weapons, is unable to secure U.S. economic or military interests, the U.S. must be prepared to step in directly."

Council member Kathy Gilberd (San Diego) commented: "We can't underestimate the importance of the Philippine bases to the U.S. plans for intervention. Developments in the Persian Gulf have really shown that these bases are springboards for intervention."

Council members adopted as FFP's first priority a campaign against Carter's interventionist policy. The campaign will examine the use of the Philippine bases as springboards for intervention and the domestic preparations for military aggression seen in draft registration.

The FFP Council adopted five other campaigns for the coming months:

1) **Samar**—focusing on militarization on the island and the use of U.S.

weapons.

2) **Salvaging**—protesting the increasing murder of political oppositionists and innocent civilians.

3) **Labor**—linking the suppression of the right of Filipino workers to organize with Marcos' policy of providing cheap labor.

4) **Women**—focusing on U.S. Agency for International Development programs of family planning and forced sterilization.

5) **National Minorities**—examining the displacement of minority people by beautification and development projects of the World Bank and Marcos. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Inflation: Carter Admits "A Crisis"

Reprinted from THE GUARDIAN

The really big news last week was not the Olympics, not the New Hampshire primaries.

It was inflation. And usually sober economists no longer viewed inflation as a temporary disturbance. Efforts to contain it were using words like "scary," "a crisis" and "a national emergency" to describe the record-setting rates.

Suddenly, government economists no longer viewed inflation as a temporary disturbance. Efforts to contain it were not working, and it threatened to get out of hand. Businessmen and bankers looked at new figures with growing alarm tinged occasionally with panic. Abruptly, talk turned to price and other controls and to deeper cuts in non-defense spending.

The alarm was sounded when the Labor Department announced February 15 that wholesale prices jumped at an annual rate of more than 19 percent in January. It was the biggest increase in five years.

This was followed less than a week later with word that retail prices had climbed 18 percent. That was the biggest hike in six-and-a-half years.

"We are in a quagmire from which it will be hard to extricate ourselves without substantial risks and pain," Henry Kaufman, one of Wall Street's most respected economists told the American Bankers Association in Los Angeles February 21. "Inflation is roaring ahead. No let-up is in sight." Kaufman then went on to call for the declaration of a national inflation emergency.

Alan Greenspan, formerly Nixon's chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and a leading consultant to big business, described the situation as "a little scary."

Even President Jimmy Carter conceded to a group of editors in the White House February 26 that "we have reached a crisis stage . . ."

At the wholesale level, for once food prices dropped a little. But what particularly disturbed economists was the 29 percent rate of non-food items. Gasoline was way out of line with a leap of more than 68 percent annually. In the face of slack demand, the auto oligopoly boosted car prices at a rate of more than 24 percent.

Also at the retail level, gasoline increases were an important contributing factor to the inflation level. They ran at the rate of 89 percent compared with 68



percent at the wholesale level. That suggested gouging at the pump.

At the retail level, it was the so-called "underlying rate" which excludes food and other volatile necessities, that professionals found especially worrisome. The underlying rate was fairly steady a year ago, and the President's men used to take comfort from that. But no longer.

Carter's director of the Council on Wage and Price Stability noted last month, "The underlying rate of inflation has started to explode." And he described the general retail price movement as "ominous."

Despite the steep price increases, consumers went on buying a lot and retail sales climbed at the rate of 28 percent. Of course, with inflation accelerating there was good reason to buy rather than save, where the choice was open. The consumer borrowing that went into the January buying had not been reported at presstime. But at year end installment debt, excluding mortgages, stood at \$1,402 for every man, woman and child in the country and it was still rising. Such borrowings are, of course, in themselves inflationary.

The continuing strength of consumer buying helped to keep industrial output moving upward in January. The pace was slow, less than 4 percent, and no sign of economic strength. But it didn't signal a downturn either—and that was considered negative by those who had counted on a recession to take the steam out of inflation. On February 19, Washington, made matters seem worse when it released the revised fourth quarter report on the gross national product (GNP, the total national output of goods and services). It turned out that the GNP

had grown a surprisingly strong 2.1 percent, instead of the 1.4 percent originally reported. And the curative recession seemed more elusive than ever.

The *Wall Street Journal* put it altogether: "Price, production data raise fears slump may be averted."

The only anti-inflation action out of Washington in recent weeks came from the Federal Reserve Bank System and it was considered by Wall Street, at least, as long overdue.

When he took over in October as head of the Fed, Paul Volcker had increased the discount rate (the interest the Fed charges on loans to member banks) by a dramatic one percentage point to 12 percent. At the time, the move was interpreted as directed mainly at supporting the value of the dollar overseas, rather than to discourage business borrowing and thus slow inflation in the U.S. However, it was also widely understood that the administration was counting heavily on the Fed and its restrictive monetary policies to cope with rising prices in the future.

But then "the Fed fell asleep at the money switch," as one disgruntled observer noted, and its credibility faded. Its inaction worsened inflation fears during early February, contributing to extraordinary weakness in the bond markets. (Somewhat like savings accounts, bond principal erodes if the interest rate on the bond doesn't at least keep pace with inflation.)

At last, on Feb. 15 immediately after the wholesale prices were released, the Fed raised the discount rate another

percentage point to a record 13 percent. Commercial banks followed the lead and by February 25 raised their minimum rates to 16.5 percent, from 15.25 percent. However, there was a lurking feeling that the Fed action would prove ineffective.

As recently as January 28, when he first spoke out for mandatory controls on wages, prices, profits, rents, dividends, and interest rates as the way to cut back inflation, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) sounded loud and lonely. He has company now.

Early in February, the president of the conservative Brookings Institution and one of Brookings' economists, Barry Bosworth, had a change of heart. Bosworth had run Carter's Council on Wage and Price Stability for two years.

Believing that the momentum of inflation is so great that "nothing but a major recession or mandatory controls can break it," Bosworth advocated that wage increases be held to 5 percent and price increases to 6 percent for two or three years, with profits and rents also controlled.

Those moves should be coupled with gas rationing or a gas excise tax, a balanced federal budget, and business tax cuts, Bosworth said. Federal authorities should be given power to break contracts—union contracts, for instance—that stood in the way of the controls.

Kaufman's advocacy of controls was similarly coupled with proposals that would chill workers and the non-working poor. He proposed an immediate deep reduction in federal non-defense spending and limits on private and government borrowing.

The White House, professing no change in views on controls, has let it be known that it will take no action on the crisis at least until after the New Hampshire primaries. Nonetheless, controls seem to be on the agenda for discussion in Washington. The Gallup poll indicates that 58 percent of the people favor controls. Sen. William Proxmire (D-WI) has scheduled March hearings on them. The bourgeoisie wants action.

But beware. In U.S. experience, most recently during the Nixon era, wage-price controls have been designed to help business at the expense of workers. And the damping effect on prices has been temporary, since the controls did not alter the underlying economic conditions. The controls package is booby-trapped. □

We Don't Just Report The News . . . We Help Make It.

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
UNION OF DEMOCRATIC FILIPINOS
(KDP)

For news that's factual, stimulating, provocative
and . . . aimed towards developing a
politically aware and active Filipino community.

- ☐ \$1.00 Trial Subscription — 4 Issues
- ☐ \$4.00 — 6 months/individuals
- ☐ \$7.50 — 1 year/individuals
- ☐ \$10.00 — 1 year/institutions
- ☐ \$12.50 — 1 year/Outside of U.S.

For First Class Mail, send additional \$3.50/inside the U.S. and \$10.00/outside the U.S.

Name _____
Address _____

- ☐ \$1.00 Trial Subscription — 4 issues
- ☐ \$4.00 — 6 months/individuals
- ☐ \$7.50 — 1 year/individuals
- ☐ \$10.00 — 1 year/institutions
- ☐ \$12.50 — 1 year/outside the U.S.

For First Class Mail, send additional \$3.50/inside the U.S. and \$10.00/outside the U.S.

Name _____
Address _____

- ☐ \$1.00 Trial Subscription — 4 issues
- ☐ \$4.00 — 6 months/individuals
- ☐ \$7.50 — 1 year/individuals
- ☐ \$10.00 — 1 year/institutions
- ☐ \$12.50 — 1 year/outside the U.S.

For First Class Mail, send additional \$3.50/inside the U.S. and \$10.00/outside the U.S.

Name _____
Address _____

PATRIOTIC FRONT VICTORY IN ZIMBABWE

In the first elections in which all the country's political parties were represented, the mandate of the Zimbabwean people was loud and clear—No more white minority rule; no more black puppet rule.

Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party scored a resounding victory in the final vote tally, capturing 57 out of 80 African seats in the country's 100-member parliament. Combined with the 20 seats won by Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU-PF's party, the election results underscored the total rejection of the collaborationist policies of the Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

"For my party, for the Patriotic Front as a whole, this is a great moment," a victorious Robert Mugabe said just hours after the election results were known. "It's a moment of our victory, the culmination of our national struggle which has cost so many lives and much suffering."

Joshua Nkomo, who ran against Mugabe in the elections, echoed the same sentiments of unity in the election aftermath.

"Together, ZANU and ZAPU, we have 77 seats," Nkomo noted. "I think this is vital. We fought for Zimbabwe. We fought for the independence of our country. We have done it over years. Finally we have got Zimbabwe. This is the great thing I feel that has happened. It's a step forward the independence of Zimbabwe."

ZIMBABWEAN MASSES HAIL ELECTION RESULT

Zimbabweans throughout the country hailed the election results as it became known that Mugabe's party won an overwhelming victory. As reported in the *New York Times*, the results left "Rhodesia's Whites Stunned: Blacks Jubilant."

"All over town, blacks who normally have hidden their feelings from whites gave vent to their joy at the prospect of being governed by a party that has pledged to transform this settler society, re-distributing wealth and land and eliminating inequalities in education, medicine and other social services."

The report by *Times* correspondent John F. Burns also related the tribulations of a white Rhodesian woman who was having troubles over this new attitude of black Zimbabweans. "Used to be I'd tell them I'd report them to Mr. Robinson, and that'd be the end of it. But now, not at all. Now they say, 'You go to Mr. Robinson, I don't care, we've got *jongwe*. That's all I've heard all day, *jongwe, jongwe*.'"

Burn's account notes that *jongwe*, in the widely-spoken Shona language of Zimbabweans, means rooster, the symbol of Mugabe's ZANU-PF party. He relates that "the rooster became almost overnight a symbol not alone of a party but of a people, the blacks, and their belief that they finally are to be released from a life of subordination to whites."

BRITAIN, WHITE RHODESIANS SHOCKED

British and white Rhodesian reaction to the elections were subdued, barely masking the tremendous shock which both groups felt in the vote's final count. Robert Mugabe's election was somewhat expected, yet it was widely believed that he would not secure a majority of the parliament's seats.

Pre-election coverage of the campaign by the state-owned radio and television focused on the lavish—and corrupt—campaign of Abel Muzorewa. At a final rally in Salisbury, a Muzorewa rally gathered an estimated 100,000 people, a seemingly impressive number.

Later, however, it was revealed that many of those attending came only for



Zimbabwe masses celebrate outcome of recent elections: ZANU-PF won a landslide victory.

UPI Photo

the free food and drink provided by Muzorewa's party. Others related to reporters that they were paid \$15 to attend, or that they were rounded up at gunpoint by security forces and hauled in by bus. There was even an attempt to raffle off six cars at the rally, but this was halted by a court decision which ruled it a corrupt campaign practice.

Muzorewa waged his campaign as the only black candidate who openly embraced the illegal white minority Smith regime last year, participating in the notorious April "elections" which the Patriotic Front boycotted and which all objective observers denounced as a sham. In this year's election, in which 2.7 million people participated, representing 94 percent of the Zimbabwean electorate, Muzorewa's UNAC party polled a mere eight percent, winning a mere three parliamentary seats.

The British, along with the many white Rhodesians who pinned their hopes on Muzorewa, were understandably quite stunned.

EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE ELECTIONS FAIL

Tremendous efforts by Britain and Rhodesian forces were mounted in the final campaign weeks in an effort to block Mugabe's election.

Mugabe himself was the target of two assassination attempts. On February 6, a hand grenade exploded outside his home. Then on February 10, an 80-pound bomb was detonated on a road just after Mugabe's car passed. Both attempts failed, yet other armed attacks claimed the lives of two Mugabe supporters in Chipinga on February 9.

Other incidents of violence were or-

chestrated by anti-Patriotic Front forces in an attempt to brand Mugabe a "terrorist." On February 25, a massive explosion destroyed the Mambo Press, a Catholic paper which had been banned by the old regime for its critical reporting of the white minority regime. The press dutifully reported the incident as "Marxists attacking religion." Yet it was found out that two people killed in the explosion were one European and one African, whom observers speculated were members of the notorious Selous Scouts, an anti-guerrilla army unit. One theory is that they were killed when the Soviet-made explosives they were planting in an attempt to discredit Mugabe, exploded prematurely.

Another bombing blamed on the Patriotic Front, Rhodesian police and army personnel constantly harassed ZANU-PF campaign workers, arresting almost every high official of the party at least once. The total number of those arrested for alleged violations numbered in the thousands.

British governor Lord Soames also participated in the harassment of ZANU-PF by stopping the party's campaign literature at border crossings and airports. Tons of brochures and leaflets were impounded and held for "customs fees" of up to \$100,000. In addition, some 140,000 Zimbabwean refugees in Mozambique were not given the time or the means to return to the country and participate in the voting. Repatriation of refugees, a key component of the London agreement, saw only 32,000 refugees return to Zimbabwe to vote.

In an address to the people of Zimbabwe after the elections, Robert Mugabe, whose name could not legally be

mentioned on Rhodesian radio just a few months ago, announced his intentions to form a broad-based, racially integrated government. One of the major problems facing Mugabe is the attitude of the country's white population towards the new government. Towards them, Mugabe was conciliatory, trying to allay fears towards his rule.

"I would like to believe," Mugabe said, "that within the country among both blacks and whites who may not have participated in the national struggle on our side, there are democratic forces as well. We want to insure that there is a sense of security on the part of everybody, both winners and losers."

Full democratic rights for all would be observed, and Mugabe noted that "There is no intention on our part to use the advantage of the majority we have secured to victimize the minority."

MAJOR PROBLEMS CONFRONT NEW GOVERNMENT

The major question of the integration of the armed forces remains to be implemented, as officers of the opposing armies meet to merge their forces. General Peter Walls, commander of the white Rhodesian forces and viewed by most whites as their protector, has for now seemingly accepted the now seemingly accepted the new situation.

National unity is now the watchword for Zimbabwe. How this unity can be built, and how unity can be maintained, especially as the new government's policies come into conflict with the old system of politics and the old social order, are the major challenges facing the new country of Zimbabwe. □

Patriotic Health Workers Join National Democratic Movement



Provincial health worker: 1 per every 38,520 people.

SRA File Photo

Health workers, a vital yet underpaid sector, find themselves facing similar problems faced by less-skilled wage-earners, and most have become less and less a part of the comfortable middle-class. For all the years and cost of training, some cannot even find jobs. Those who work gravitate toward urban centers and not the provinces where they are badly needed.

In response to these trends, MASAPA

(Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan or Nationalist Health Association), which formed two years ago, has adopted a seven-point program charting goals and principles based on the National Democratic Program.

In its first national conference, MASAPA gathered progressive health workers, from doctors to sanitary inspectors, who together ratified a document entitled "The National Democratic Pro-

gram for the Health Sector." This has guided the association's work to the present. The document related people's health problems to their root causes, and provided insight on how to resolve the problems by confronting them at their roots.

The association pointed out that the people's health problems are part and parcel of an exploitative system which must be overthrown so that a comprehensive national democratic health system can be established.

The nation's health today is in very bad shape and continues to deteriorate. Pneumonia and tuberculosis which are now under control in developed countries remain the two top killers of the Filipino people. MASAPA's statistics match those of the regime, showing that 80 percent of the national population is malnourished and that for every 1,000 babies born, 55.3 percent die in infancy. Due to the grave lack of health manpower and facilities, 62 out of every 100 Filipinos who die receive no medical attention.

MASAPA reveals that in the rural areas, there is only one nurse for every 20,000 people. It adds that, in sizeable

portions of Mindanao, only one public health physician is expected to serve every 38,520 people.

There is also a serious shortage of hospital facilities. Metro-Manila has the greatest number of hospitals, but these are not enough to serve the people in the region. Only one hospital bed is available for every 626 persons.

WORSE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

The situation is far worse in the provinces where there are fewer hospitals. In Camarines Sur, there is only one bed for every 1,712 people, and in the Cagayan Valley region, one bed for every 1,152.

In the face of this serious lack of health personnel and facilities, the Marcos regime shows indifference. In the 1979 national budget, the regime allocated only P1.3 billion to the nation's health needs while it appropriated P5.5 billion for the military.

Their knowledge of the deplorable state of health of the Filipino people and its causes brought the MASAPA members together. They are aware that their sector plays an important role in developing a new and progressive health system. □

1. Combat the imperialist domination of the Philippine health industry.

U.S. imperialism and other foreign capitalists dominate the health industry of the Philippines. Because of their monopoly, they have reaped huge profits and occupied a strategic position in the entire health system.

From 1967 to 1971, for instance, the Walter-Chilcott Laboratories (Phil.), Inc., made a profit of P11.09 million or more than 600 percent of its initial investment. Richardson-Merrell (Phil.), Inc., earned a net profit of P8.4 million, or more than 400 percent of its capital stocks, and Parke-Davis and Co., Inc., recorded profits of P5.5 million, or more than 200 percent of its initial capital.

Enlightened members of the health sector must take an important role in the struggle to break the foreign domination over the health industry and towards nationalization of this industry. Native health knowledge and work on the country's herbs and other raw materials for medicine must be improved.

2. Oppose the use of health as a tool of the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship.

The U.S.-Marcos regime uses health programs to mask the imperialist exploitation of the country, deceive the people and maintain its rule.

Projects of such front organizations as USAID, PANAMIN, Catholic Relief Services, and the Peace Corps are conspi-

cuous in areas of the countryside where the people's armed revolutionary struggle is raging. Their aim is to show that the U.S.-Marcos regime is taking care of the people's health when in fact it is neglecting them.

MASAPA calls on health workers to carry forward a vigorous propaganda campaign to expose the dictatorship's bogus health care.

3. Develop health programs to strengthen the revolutionary mass movement in the urban as well as rural areas.

The MASAPA called for the setting up of programs that would fill the needs of the revolutionary movement in the cities and countryside.

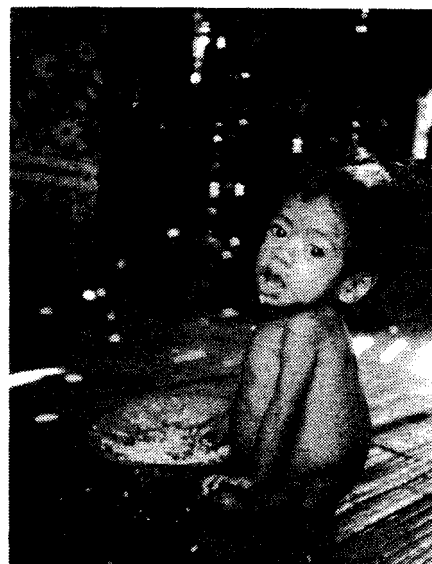
4. Gather the most extensive support of the health sector for the armed struggle.

Health workers can make big contributions to the armed struggle advancing in the countryside. Some may become Red Fighters of the New People's Army. Others can assist in developing the health system in guerrilla fronts.

5. Uphold the democratic right of health workers to organize and fight for their genuine welfare.

Like other working sectors of society, health workers are also exploited and oppressed, particularly those in the lower

7-Point Program of MASAPA



rung of the medical hierarchy. The nurse's salary is as low as P263.33 a month.

Unemployment is also rampant among health workers. According to the Philippine Nurses Association, 25 percent of all registered nurses have no jobs.

6. Work for a re-orientation of the health educational system and propagate a nationalist and democratic health con-

sciousness.

Institutionalized health education is grossly Western-oriented, highly commercialized and isolated from the people. This is the inevitable result of U.S. imperialist domination of Philippine society.

Health workers must wage a determined campaign to re-orient the system of health education and remold the values of health students, workers and professionals. Either in schools or in their sphere of work, they must continually expose and oppose colonial elitist values in health care.

7. Promote solidarity with all progressive health workers abroad and seek their support for the revolutionary struggle.

U.S. imperialism is the ultimate culprit behind the crisis of health in the Philippines. But despite its distinct local manifestation, it is an international phenomenon and is inextricably linked with the problem of world capitalism.

Health workers can make a special contribution to the forging of an international anti-imperialist unity by promoting solidarity among all progressive health workers of the world.

Filipino medical workers who are abroad are urged to return to the Philippines, serve their countrymen, and participate directly in the people's democratic revolution. □

Hunger . . .

Continued from page 6

ernment's own Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). This shortfall, however, is interpreted with an almost satanic twist by the government spokesmen as a sign of progress. At a conference of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization in 1978, one martial law technocrat hailed the decrease in rice consumption as putting Filipinos "way ahead of most developing countries and at the same pace with developed countries."

What the technocrats casually disregard is the proportion of rice and other grains to other foods—meats, vegetables, fruits, dairy products and legumes—consumed in the Philippines and in the developed world. Whereas, in developed countries, grains are only one of many foodstuffs combined to provide

daily nutritional needs, in the Philippines, rice provides the bulk of the people's diet, combined with patis, camote tops, and dried fish for protein.

BELOW THE BAREST MINIMUM

The translation of the 313 gram minimum posited by the FNRI into the most basic of nutritional requirements proves woefully insufficient. It is widely accepted that the average individual needs roughly 2,000 calories—energy food—daily in order to function. Yet 313 grams of white milled rice, according to statistics from the San Francisco-based Institute for Food and Development Policy, provides a mere 1,138 calories, 284 grams of rice provides 1,033 calories, while 208 grams provides only 708.

The picture is even grimmer with regard to protein needs. A 128-pound

adult requires 35.8 grams daily for subsistence. 313 grams of white rice provides 20.75 grams of which only 70 percent, 14.5 grams, is usable by the human body. 284 grams of rice provides only 13.2 grams of usable protein while 208 provides only 9.6 grams.

Clearly the 313 gram rice minimum and the two lower consumption statistics can only be regarded as sufficient if it is assumed that Filipinos consume 900 to 1,250 calories and 11 to 25 grams of protein daily from other sources.

But such is by no means the case. Legumes have never formed as integral a part of the Filipino diet as they have for the peoples of Latin America. Dairy products have always been scarce luxuries throughout the country. Meat has always been a fiesta dish. With the growing inflation of the last three years, many Filipinos who managed to eat poultry, fish or eggs at least once or twice a week have had to cut such luxuries out of their diet altogether. Meanwhile the rise in the price of rice has meant a

decrease in dried fish and vegetables along with decreased rice consumption.

INSTITUTIONALIZING MALNUTRITION

Far from indicating any kind of progress, regime statistics on rice consumption reveal the steady deterioration of the Filipino diet. In turn, this calls into question the entire issue of the rice "surplus." Regime sources base their calculations not on need, but on actual consumption patterns. Clearly consumption has declined, perhaps to the government's own figure of 76 kilos per person per year, because Filipinos can afford to buy less and less food.

A "surplus" has thus been created beyond what the people are capable of purchasing. It is this that is available for export. This "surplus," in turn, provides the justification for converting ricelands into export-croplands, a move which threatens to institutionalize a food-intake level at barely one-half of the population's needs. □