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Protest Hits World Bank Loans To Marcos

By JON MELEGRITOS
AK Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C.—This city's Anti-Martial Law Alliance (AMLA), and the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), staged a militant picket outside the World Bank Building, March 9 where new loan agreements were being signed between bank officials and the Philippine martial law government.

The picket was held in quick response to a report received 12 hours earlier that additional loans were to be given to the martial law government. The well-attended picket reflected the various anti-martial law groups' ability to organize at such short notice.

The picket which caught bank officials by surprise protested the signing away of the Filipino people to a future of "debt slavery." Calling attention to the already excessive external debt of over \$7 billion, the protestors also assailed the conditions attached to the World Bank loans that perpetuate the underdevelopment of the Philippines.

Philip Brenner, a faculty member of the University of California, Berkeley, was among the picketers.
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4-A Hotel Demolition Attempted

By CATHI TACTAQUIN
AK Correspondent

HONOLULU—A demolition crew under orders from the SLAP Corporation attempted to demolish the 4-A Hotel while tenants were locked in the building.

On Feb. 28, workmen appeared at the hotel, ordered residents into their rooms, and then tore out the plumbing, electricity and partitions to all rooms except those occupied by the tenants.

The residents—four elderly people and two children—reported that city police were stationed outside the hotel while the demolition took place. Later, the police admitted they were there to prevent any confrontation, particularly with members of People Against Chinatown Evictions (PACE). PACE and its supporters have actively fought against evictions and for low-income housing in Chinatown for three years.

Entrances to the building were sealed and padlocked during the demolition. Supposedly, this was to keep people out of the building. However, residents found themselves "imprisoned" and unable to leave the building to seek assistance.

The 4-A is one of several Chinatown hotels.
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Maraea Duncan holds the sink torn out by a crew which started to demolish the 4-A Hotel. (Star-Bulletin Photo)

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Women: The Struggle for Liberation

My dearest comrade,

It is 3:45 a.m. and it is raining again. It must be raining all over now, in the city streets outside these prison walls, forming a heavy curtain in the highway, over plains of rice paddy, over valleys and hills and mountain forests. I am reminded of trudging in the rain with comrades at other times, other places. With you.

I received your letter dated almost two months ago. Communications are so slow. But at least I received it, and thank you so much. It was good and bracing for me to be so vividly reminded of the work outside.

You gave few details about the comrades — how are they? Until now sometimes I wake up in the mornings a little startled I am in prison when just a few minutes ago I am with Squad Three, and we are just taking leave of Nay Lucing and Tay Pedring and almost everybody else in Barrio Jacinto. I am adjusting my pack and Nay Adring comes hurrying, slips sweet potatoes, still hot, inside my pocket with an urgent whisper, "take care!" Ka Bino calls out, "Team B, get ready!" And there goes Ka Ompong and I fall in right behind him.

And we walk on to the late afternoon sun to Barrio Domingo. And I wake up to four prison walls.

"... I love you," you write in your usual terse writing. "I will wait for you until you are free. I cannot help you now." It goes round and round my mind the whole day. I miss you and need you more than ever, and you cannot help me. I have to admit it is when I think of you that I am reminded most painfully that I am in prison. Prison is a sensation of being helpless, of falling prey to uncertainties. And the uncertainty of ever seeing you again is one of my prison bars.

To break my prison bars is to "pluck up one's courage and see the bright future ahead." From what do I pluck up revolutionary optimism? From the boundless enthusiasm of our Red fighters to learn new things, the openness and frank affection of the masses for us, their hatred for this system. I have trust in you, that you have learned well and wisely from our experiences. I learn from your calmness and decisiveness, my comrade, the active way you get the better of any situation.

Yes, there are no absolute sureties, we are still learning, there will be accidents—yet this is all preparation for the future that we can do. It is presumptuous to ask for absolutes, even if I think I am asking for only one small absolute, and that is to see you alive when I am free! Thus my lesson in materialism here in prison.

"There is only one way now I can make my love for you felt, and that is to persevere in developing our forces, to persevere in the cause which united us in the first place." And yes, how strong I feel when I am reminded of the fact that you are outside in the field gathering up strength into one gigantic force that will one day topple this arrogant enemy. How boldly proud, how utterly defiant I feel!

And then we have our child. He is beginning to make sounds with his tongue, learning to recognize dogs and birds, clucking his tongue in anticipation at cereal-feeding time. He is such a great comfort. Because of him, the future is something more solid to work for: "We are planting the tree so our children can enjoy the shade."

But I cannot help feeling sometimes that he is also a temptation to "lie-lbw" because I'm beginning to feel I want to watch him grow. A temptation to be less daring in making revolutionary demands of myself. Those of us who are mothers (here in prison) often discuss this, unburdening ourselves to each other.

Before, there was this common guilt that our children won't have a "normal" upbringing, deprived of the continuous guidance of mothers and fathers. You can just imagine how painfully Auntie Letty paints this in my mind, accusing me of being "irresponsible."

But I am sure of at least one thing. Only a revolution guided by conscious elements can fundamentally change this oppressive system. This is our highest responsibility, to make a revolution, and all other responsibilities are subordinate.

Do I put it too clearly? But it is an everyday, ceaseless struggle in each of us, may be more so to us mothers. Tell me, did you have just the hint of a fear that I might change, forget the revolution, when I get out of prison? Or at least, that it crossed your mind and lingered for a while or two before your trust in me took over? I wouldn't be surprised at all if you did — remoulding is a constant struggle and the enemy fully intends one's will to be broken by prison.

But do not worry. I still want to do many things for the revolution, a hundred, a thousand things. To teach you and learn from you and from each other.

It is still raining and it's already 5:30 a.m. I remember how the rain feels to us out there. One starts out feeling cold and damp, marching a bit desultorily as the cold seeps into your bones. The damp seeps into your backpack making it heavier, and you are momentarily dismayed that the water is going to wet all your clothes. But sometime later you do not mind the cold anymore — instead there is exhilaration, a feeling that everything is already wet, you can't get any wetter and colder. You know that as you go on walking in the cold, you will soon feel warm. Your body refuses to believe this at first but as you go on walking it is convinced. The warmth is something the cold cannot take away. Especially warm is the thought that when you reach the next barrio, the masses will provide you dry clothes to change into. . .

I love you.

Your comrade and wife

On March 8 each year, women all over the world celebrate International Women's Day. This day especially marks the militant struggles of women to liberate themselves as women as well as the important role they play in the struggle to liberate all oppressed people.

These struggles of women have had a long and revolutionary history. On March 8, 1917, thousands of New York garment women workers marched through the streets demanding the eight-hour work day, the vote, an end to sweatshops and child labor.

On March 8, 1960, thousands of women shoe workers marched through a blizzard in Massachusetts, with banners that read "American Ladies Never Will Be Slaves." They were part of the 20,000 strong strike of shoe workers in New England against subsistence wages.

In 1917, on March 8, the women textile workers in Petrograd, Russia demonstrated for "bread, peace and down with the Tsar." Their protest set in motion a series of strikes which led to the overthrow of the autocratic Tsarist government.

Today, working women and peasant women throughout the world are still active in the battle to end exploitation. On this occasion we would like to honor these brave women by sharing with our readers the writings of Filipino political prisoners, a considerable number of whom are women.

For us female Filipino political prisoners who have been subjected to extreme oppression and injustice, March 8, Women's Day, has a profound significance. We take this day as an opportunity to declare our solidarity with all women in the world who are struggling against the working class in the historic struggle against the forces of oppression and injustice, especially those committed against women.

Today, we female prisoners in Camp Bicutan, express our firm solidarity with women everywhere who are in the forefront of the struggle. We have great faith in this struggle. We believe that the progressive winds of change will continually blow towards fundamental changes leading to the liberation of women as part of the liberation of people, not only in the context of Philippine society, but also in all societies where oppression and injustice prevail today.

Female Political Prisoners
Camp Bicutan
Taguig, Metro Manila
March 1977

FOR NELIA

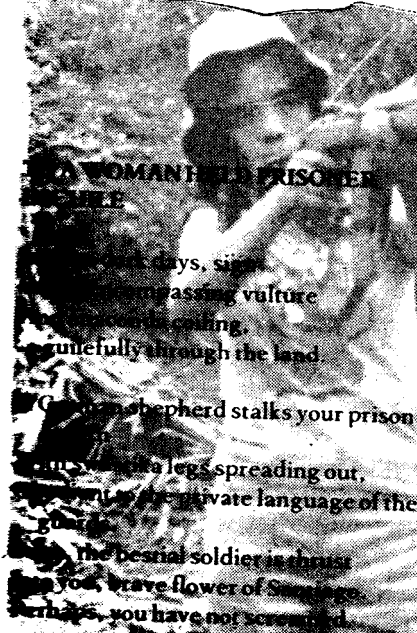
WHY ARE YOU SO HARD? THEY ASK
WHY DO YOU NOT BEND A LITTLE?

They call it grace
Swaying like the bamboo
With the wind
Listen to a breeze
The music of compromise
While it kisses the ground
At your feet
Even bamboos however
Could only bend so much.
When the storm comes
Listen to their cracking!

They break one by one
You could only bend so much.
I would prefer to be a rock
Smoothed by the years
But unwavering.

WHY ARE YOU SO HARD? THEY ASK
WHY DO YOU NOT BEND A LITTLE?

Clara Raza



As a victim could, Ned
So much as a martyr before the lions.
Perhaps you have simply gritted
Your teeth and clenched your fists.
Thinking of comrades and the flowers
Of the Andes, in unspoken communion
With Chileans on mountains and plains
Believed with them that these dogs
Must have an end, these genuises
Of the falanga, prod and truncheon.

It is the dark days, terror
Reveals your captors' canine teeth.
Frothing, many times have they taken you
O mother
Of the land and daughter to the storm.
Taken by all manner of dogs
Into all chasms of darkness.
It is the dark days, brother companions
But your struggle will also go on!



Oh, flower of Santiago!
As the petals fall,
Grow your thistles with the blood
We have given to the violator of our



Buod ng mga Balita

[NEWS SUMMARIES]

LOCAL OFFICIALS PURGED BY MARCOS

Prime Minister Ferdinand E. Marcos, in an exercise of dictatorial power, implemented a purge of local officials following his cancellation of previously promised local elections.

Many governors, city and municipal mayors should have ended their terms of office last December 31, 1975. However, there have been no elections since martial law was declared, and bureaucrats continued holding their posts at the whim of Marcos, an overstaying executive himself.

In a swift move, Marcos recently replaced 117 local officials, including six governors and five city mayors with his own appointees. This move was just the start.

Observers speculate that Marcos is postponing elections until he has aligned cooperative appointees as incumbents who would be likely to win a majority of key positions. □

LPG, CHEMICAL SHORTAGE HITS METRO-MANILA

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), an essential urban household fuel and energy source used for stoves, lamps, etc. has been running short to consumers' vexation and misery. There have been reports of dealers short-selling, channeling it away from conventional outlets or subjecting it to black market practices.

Importers attribute the problems to the rising cost of the product and high customs duty. There is uncertainty about future shipment of LPG, and importers feel the shortage is a world-wide phenomenon.

In response, the government conveniently blames the problem on the Iran crisis.

Yet a similar shortage of non-oil-based chemicals accompanied by price hikes calls the government's assessment of the situation into question. Puzzled by the increases, Victor Guevarra, president of Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. said that caustic soda, used by his firm, is made from salt instead of oil, and yet the price his company pays for imports "has risen 30 percent in two months."

Confirming the trend, Gustaff Flier, general manager of ICC Far East (Philippines) Inc. says that in Manila, the product has risen from \$155 a metric ton to \$265-280, (roughly ₱2,100 per metric ton) "in a matter of weeks," and is still increasing. He suspects that "investors who are just buying the raw materials are sitting on it."

Again, the disorder in Iran is blamed for the chemical shortage, but some worried businessmen say that prices of such products may not return to pre-crisis levels when Iran resumes oil production, because they feel the roots of the shortage are deeper. Others speculate that chemical dealers are simply cashing in on the Iran crisis in order to jack up prices of unrelated products. □

MARCOS HINTS AT ASEAN AS MILITARY FORCE

Philippine Prime Minister Ferdinand E. Marcos and Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo both recently dropped broad hints that ASEAN should be converted into a military alliance. "ASEAN will grow in importance as it moves from a purely cultural and economic grouping to something which will have a moral force that will influence not only its surrounding countries but practically all countries of the world," said Marcos last Jan. 31. Again on Feb. 9, he called for the strengthening of ASEAN in the light of the current conflict in Indochina.

ASEAN observers have long contended that the grouping of U.S. neocolonies—the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand—has always been intended as a substitute for the openly military South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). While leaders of the five nations have insisted that the alliance is essentially cultural and economic, it has consistently failed to implement its economic objectives. At the same time, ASEAN has provided a framework for a series of bilateral security agreements between members. Marcos' mention of a "something else" is the first open suggestion of the military function which many have long felt to be at the heart of ASEAN. □

DISINI FIRM GETS CONTRACT

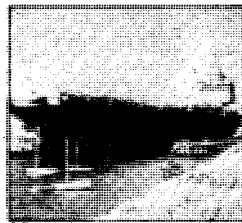
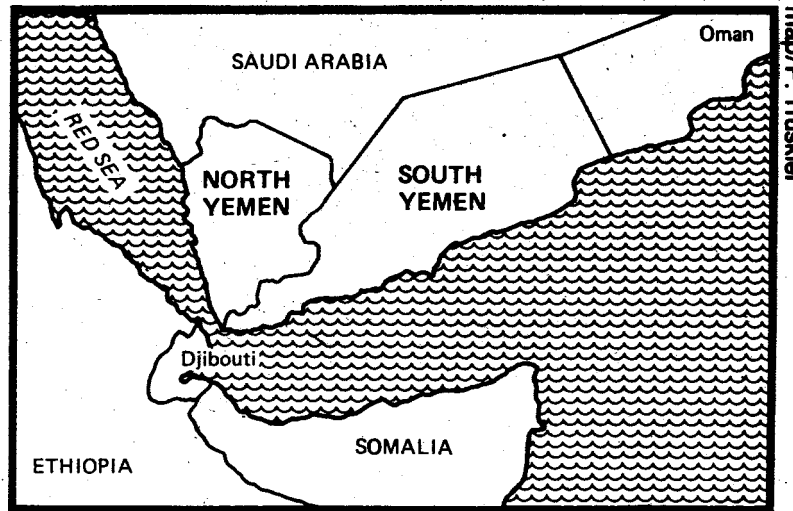
The controversial award of a \$100 million diesel engine manufacturing contract to a firm represented by a Herminio Disini-owned company (see AK Vol. VI, No. 4) has sparked sharp protest within the Philippine transportation industry. Disini's client company, Perkins Engines Ltd. of Britain will build engines below 150 horsepower.

Isuzu of Japan, one of the companies contending for the award appears, however, to be the favorite of a number of transport companies. "If we, the users of diesel engines had been consulted, the decision of the BOI may have been different," said an open letter to President Marcos urging that public hearings be held before the deal is finalized. □

Subic-based Ships Sent To Yemen Conflict

Once again U.S. bases in the Philippine are serving as springboards for U.S. intervention in other nations' disputes. Last March 5, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, in response to pleas from his conservative allies in Saudi Arabia, dispatched the U.S. nuclear-powered submarine *Constellation* and three other warships to the Arabian Sea. Their presence was meant to indicate American "concern" over South Yemen's military drive into Yemen.

Once again, anti-bases forces in the U.S. pointed out, the use of the Philippine bases exposes the Philippines to potentially grave consequences. While the dispute between the two Yemens has deep historical roots, the principal concern of the U.S. and the Saudis is their strategic position along the narrow strait which provides the only access to the Red Sea. South Yemen is a Soviet ally as is Ethiopia which guards the



(Above) The strategic North and South Yemen guard access to the Red Sea. (Left) U.S. nuclear carrier, Subic Base.

other side of the strait.

Observers point out that it was only a month ago that the U.S. president used the Philippine bases for a similar pur-

pose when he dispatched the *Constellation* to the Persian Gulf to show U.S. sympathy for the Shah immediately prior to his downfall. □

Zamboanga, Basilan and Jolo

Fighting Escalates In Mindanao

Fighting in Mindanao has escalated, claiming 137 lives within two weeks in February, UPI reports. The areas of heavy fighting are Zamboanga, Basilan and Jolo; with Jolo experiencing the most intense conflict.

Around the town of Indanan alone, 70 Muslim fighters and 21 military men were killed. Five years ago, the same town was razed to the ground at the height of the fighting in the south.

The renewed clashes, reports say, were provoked by a search and destroy mission, vaguely referred to as "police action." Especially targeted was the general area where Usman Sali, suspected master-

mind of the killing of General Teodulfo Bautista and 34 of his men, is said to operate (see AK, Vol. VI, No. 20). Since that incident in October 1977, the military has launched unrelenting retaliation campaigns against civilians and Muslim fighters. Indiscriminate bombings, and even chemical warfare have been used, creating massive refugee problems in the process.

PREPARATION FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS?

The same sources say, that the recent "police action" was launched by the government to prepare for local elections this coming summer in the two "autonomous" Muslim re-

gions. These regions consist of 10 southern provinces. The election is the only exception to a recent order by Marcos cancelling and postponing all local elections throughout the country.

The "police action" is a safeguard to anticipated resistance to the elections by the Moro people who feel that the Marcos government has violated the Tripoli Agreement signed in late 1976.

The Tripoli accord prescribed genuine autonomy for the Moro people. This meant control over their own natural resources, economy, and military, not control by Manila over their political processes. □

Pact Strengthens Chico Dam Opposition

Citizens of the Kalinga-Apayao region scored a victory by having the 60th PC Infantry battalion ousted from their area last December. Recalling the 60th PC Infantry Battalion after continuous protests over a series of brutalities including the mauling of a priest in Tabuk, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile was forced to admit that the military unit had been abusive.

Another accomplishment for the Kalinga-Bontoc people has been the formalization of their opposition to the Chico River Dam project through the centuries-old peace pact system known as "budong."

Within a two-day period, Dec. 28-29, amid tribal festivities, 2,000 members of the Kalinga and Bontoc tribes

from 20 barrios drew up a new "pagta"—terms of agreement which are as follows:

- 1) The people of Mt. Province and Kalinga affected by the Chico Dam projects are prohibited from working on the dam project or with the National Power Corp. (NPC);
- 2) Village residents affected by the dam project are prohibited from selling their goods and products to the employees of the NPC or any other government entity involved with the dam projects;
- 3) Any tribesman found to have been bribed against the interests of the people or in favor of the NPC will be severely dealt with, with death as maximum penalty;
- 4) The parties of the agreement will warn relatives of

Bontoc and Kalinga groups who are in the military not to harm the people opposing the dams;

5) Those opposing the dam project will not be held responsible for the death of any Kalinga or Bontoc working in the dam;

6) In the event of the killing incident, the peace pact among the villages in the dam site will not be affected and the peace pact holders will not answer for the dead victims;

7) Relatives of the dead victims killed in connection with the dam issue will claim the body quietly but are prohibited from taking revenge. If such a revenge is taken, they will become the enemies of all dam oppositors. □

News Analysis:

Sealing U.S. Commitment To The Dictator



Hints of the coming reconciliation: U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale meets with Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines last May. (UPI)

By JUAN CRISOSTOMO

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos' impending arrival for a state visit to the United States will firmly cement the Carter administration's renewed commitment to the Marcos dictatorship.

The substance of this commitment, a promise of \$500 million in military assistance and \$1 billion in economic aid and loans over the next five years, was worked out as part of the new bases agreement early in January. The agreement also provides a new legal basis for direct U.S. troop involvement in counter-insurgency operations "in accordance with mutually agreed procedures." Most importantly, the visit reflects a decision by the Carter administration to identify U.S. interests in the Philippines with those of the Marcos dictatorship.

This important development in U.S. policy towards Asia has largely passed unnoticed in the wake of the more dramatic developments in Indochina. The Carter administration has also gone out of its way to downplay its commitment to the Marcos regime because of its politically unsavory image as a consistent, and gross violator of its peoples' human rights. In the past two weeks both the State Department and the White House have tried to hide Marcos' forthcoming visit by either denying it outright or by claiming that it is "only a private visit."

As a February 25 joint statement by anti-martial law groups in the U.S. put it, however: "This recent development in the Philippines is reminiscent of the massive jump in U.S. military support extended by the 'liberal' Kennedy administration to the much-hated and isolated Diem regime in South Vietnam [in 1962]. This too went

virtually unnoticed until it was too late."

TWO YEARS OF TENSION

The January agreement concluded two years of uncertainty and tension in relations between the Carter administration and the Marcos regime. Prior to Carter's election, Marcos had received the unqualified support of both the Nixon and Ford administrations. Nixon increased U.S. economic and military aid by over 100 percent in 1973, one year after Marcos declared martial law. Ford made a state visit to Manila in 1975 and committed the U.S. to a renegotiation of the 1947 bases treaty. One of his last acts in office was the commitment of \$1 billion in economic and military aid as "compensation" for continued U.S. use of its bases in the Philippines.

Although Marcos rejected the Ford offer in expectation of a more lucrative deal with the incoming Carter administration, relations between the two governments instead quickly deteriorated. Marcos reportedly wanted a full \$1 billion in military aid on top of various other forms of economic assistance. The Carter administration did not want to provide this much aid, and in turn made other demands that Marcos was either unwilling or unable to give. Apart from the bases, other areas of disagreement were economic relations and human rights guarantees.

In the aftermath of the declaration of martial law in 1972, U.S. investment in the Philippines had grown by leaps and bounds. The U.S. had also regained its position as the Philippines' biggest trading partner, having been edged out a few years before by the Japanese. Most of these gains, however, remained hostage to the greedy whims of

Marcos as the Laurel-Langley Agreement, the U.S.-Philippine treaty of general economic relations, had expired in 1974. The Carter administration wanted a new treaty, but Marcos, in return, wanted greatly increased aid, some trading concessions and most importantly, the new administration's formal commitment to the maintenance of his regime.

One obstacle to the bestowal of Carter's *imprimatur* on the Marcos dictatorship was Carter's much-heralded human rights policy and Marcos' poor record on this issue. When the U.S. State Department released a report critical of Marcos' human rights record only three days after Carter took office, Marcos immediately responded by saying that the report was "offensive to the people and government of the Philippines" and threatening to cut military ties with the U.S. Undaunted, Carter maintained steady, if low-key, pressure on the human rights issue over the next two years.

EARNING MORE FROM PUPPETRY

Thorny as these differences were, provoking often intensely antagonistic comments from the Marcos regime, the essential and highly profitable alliance between the U.S. and the Philippine ruling class never seriously came into question. More than anything else, martial law was declared to suppress the nationalist movement which stood in the way of the intensification of the Philippines' economic relationship with the United States. The quantum increases in investment and trade with the U.S. after 1972 attest to this. In return for the favor, Marcos wanted a larger share of the profits. He wanted more military assistance in order to contain the growing resistance. His technocrats bargained aggressively for more loans and investment, for better terms of trade.

The Carter administration bargained just as aggressively in return. Taking advantage of its dominant position, it held Marcos at bay on the bases question and on economic issues. Though conceding a continuing flow of aid and loans, the U.S. carefully controlled their disbursement to serve the interests of U.S. business in the Philippines and to keep Marcos in a perpetually mendicant position. U.S. military and economic assistance was kept at the 1976 level until the conclusion of the bases agreement last January. In late 1977, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), followed by the consultative group of Philippine creditors led by the World Bank, imposed limits on Philippine borrowing abroad. U.S. purchases of sugar, a key Philippine export, were cut back to 613,338 tons last year compared to 1.2 million tons in 1977.

The Carter administration, however, wanted the regime to attain a certain degree of stability. Martial law, after all, had been declared for that purpose. In particular, Carter wanted the economic

continued on back page

PAGBABALIK WAS PAGBABALIK WAS



Tobacco drying. Davao tobacco workers demand that their employer keep his factory open. (PNB Photo)

Davao Workers Fight Plant Closure

Women workers at a Davao tobacco factory are opposing management's

plans for a shut-down which would result in their lay-offs. According to *ASDANG*, a resistance paper in Mindanao, the workers contested the claims of the Chinese owner of losses and failing health as reasons for closing the Davao Chewing Tobacco Factory.

Management's decision to apply to the Ministry of Labor (MOL) for permission to shut down, workers point out, came in the wake of a victorious strike by the workers in mid-November last year. The one-week strike resulted in victory for the workers as the factory's owner, Mr. Chan San Yu, was forced to give in to their demands. These included implementation of the minimum wage, the provision of sick, vacation and maternity leave benefits, facilitation of SSS loans and the reduction of overload work.

In a letter to the MOL protesting the appeal, the workers point out that the factory cannot at present be losing. Nor could failing health be the problem. Mr. Yu has put up two other factories recently and is involved in

other businesses. These include bottling cooking oil, selling cornstarch and other products. Pointing to the profitable character of his business, the workers said that Yu's children vacation twice a year in Hong Kong. □

Bataan Residents Score Marcos Firm Over Pollution

BMP, MARIVELES, BATAAN, Jan. 25 — Residents of Barrio Sisiman in this seaside town are up in arms over the construction of a stone-crushing plant by the Marcos-owned Bataan Shipyards and Engineering Co. (BASECO) as a pollution menace. At the same time, the barrio folks denounced BASECO's plan to evict them by the time the plant becomes operational.

In a position paper, the barrio residents charged that the plant would spew out thick clouds of dust and would produce noise "to the detriment of the health and well-being of the population." Over 2,500 persons will be affected by the pollution

hazard once the plant becomes operational.

According to residents, demolition plans have already been prepared by BASECO. The barrio elementary school has already been targeted for demolition. In their protest statement, the residents recounted the tragedy of the relocated people of Barrios Nassco and Kamaya.

In Barrio Nassco, some 4,000 residents were left homeless when authorities of the Bataan Free Trade Zone demolished their houses in 1972. In Barrio Kamaya, 70 peasant families lost their land in 1971 and were ordered by the government to transfer to another area. Most of the relocatees were reportedly not given compensation while others were simply given *lawanit* wood and nails to make their dwellings.

Originally the site proposed for the plant was Rocky Mountain in San Miguel Town. No explanation was given for the change to Barrio Sisiman. Barrio residents are urging that the plant be transferred to the original site. □

New Restrictions

Traffic Measures Harass Manila Drivers



Typical traffic congestion in Metro-Manila: New laws both increase "tong" and encourage purchase of new cars.

(Photo: Asia-Philippines Leader)

(BMP) — Thousands of motor vehicle drivers, owners and operators in Metro Manila are feeling the burden of high fines and heavy penalties imposed on traffic stallers and violators by the recently-issued Presidential Decree 1605 and a companion Metro Manila Commission ordinance.

But the MMC, headed by the dictator's wife, corrupt traffic policemen as well as manufacturers and distributors of motor vehicles, is delighted. The twin measures ensure for the MMC a large source of revenues, practically legalize the "tong" or "lagay" system and boost the sale of motor vehicles.

PD 1605 transfers to the MMC the powers and responsibilities formerly assumed by the Land Transportation Commission (LTC) and the Board of Transportation (BOT) — but in an enlarged scale.

Among its provisions are:

1. A fine of P200 on operators of public utility

vehicles or owners of private motor vehicles which stall on public roads, streets and thoroughfares in Metro Manila;

2. Compulsory towing of stalled vehicles by traffic enforcement authorities or by any private towing agency — if by the former at a fee to be determined by the MMC;

3. Graduated fines for violations of traffic rules (committed within a 12-month period) in the following amounts: P10 for the first offense, P20 for the second offense, P50 for the third, one year suspension of driving license for the fourth, and revocation of driving license for the fifth;

4. Payments of fines for traffic violations within seven days, with failure to do so opening the violator to formal charges, and non-renewal of his driving license if he was applying for such during the time;

5. Payments of fines which may be made at the

treasurer's office of the various localities in Metro Manila, the Philippine National Bank, the Philippine Veterans Bank or any of the two banks' branches, shall accrue to the MMC.

The ordinance provides that the fine and towing fee shall be paid within three days after the vehicle stalled. If the operator or owner of the vehicle fails to pay within the designated period, a daily surcharge of 20 percent of the fine shall be imposed for the first two months, and 30 percent for the third and fourth months, and 40 percent for the fifth and sixth months but not exceed P10,000.

The ordinance further says that if after six months, the fines, surcharges and towing fees have not been paid by the operator or owner of the stalled vehicle, the said vehicle shall be sold at public auction. From the proceeds of the sale, the MMC shall get the accumulated charges, with the

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MALACANANG ZARZUELA

Imelda: 'Let Them Eat Bliss'

By VICTORIA LUNA

Will providing Imelda Marcos with a grassroots base for her political ambitions bring BLISS to the Filipino people?

The people thought they had heard just about everything when a dead serious First Lady of the Philippines, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, her love for her people oozing out at every pore, launched "Project Compassion," a somewhat vaguely-defined program to "provide services to the rural Philippine population." In the interests of the First Lady's compassionate image, some of the best technocratic minds in the country went busily to work on a program which hasn't been heard of since.

Then a dead serious Governor of Metro Manila, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, to a chorus of blushes and snickers, provided the populace with air conditioned "Love Buses" to attract wealthy commuters to public transportation. The act of love in this case was the fond gesture of reducing air pollution in Metro Manila for the sake of visiting tourists in whose name the entire city had already been cured of "visual pollution." This meant that discreet fences had been built around those squatter communities which had not already been bulldozed out of the city.

It turns out that the Filipino people hadn't heard anything yet. For a dead serious Minister of Human Settlements, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, has offered them a promise of nothing less than BLISS.

BLISS, pet project to end all pet projects, is a vastly expanded Project Compassion. It stands, with a bit of pulling and twisting, for Bagong Lipunan Sites and Services Program. Some — lesser minds — might have labeled this an uninspiring "BLSSP." Only tender, loving and compassionate Imelda would dare to call a government program "BLISS."

STEPPING ON TOES

BLISS' goal is to satisfy what is now known in the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS) lingo as

the "Big 11" needs and "to realize the vision of the New Society." Its modest objectives, which may come as something of a shock to a number of Cabinet ministers, are to provide water; power; food; clothing; work; medical services; education, culture and technology; ecological balance; sports and recreation; shelter and mobility for 46 million Filipinos. That covers just about every area of government operations and every ministry in the Marcos cabinet. Except, of course, defense.

Just to establish lines of authority in case any cabinet minister should bridle at having his function seized by the First Lady's super ministry, the prime minister has issued a prime ministerial decree empowering the MHS to "call on any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, . . . private entities and organizations for cooperation and assistance . . ."

There is, of course, a catch. After all there's no point in being the second most powerful civilian in a military government if you can't consolidate that power at a grassroots level. BLISS is designed to do just that. For the BLISS concept of integrated communities envisions 17 BLISS Baranggay Brigades (How poetic!) for every community. Since the smallest community unit, envisioned as the "First Level" of the BLISS concept, is a mere 50 to 100 families, every Filipino in the country sooner or later is bound to be touched by and organized into BLISS.

WILL BLISS BRING BLISS?

While cabinet ministers are still smiling blissfully — if a trifle woodenly — as their toes are painfully stepped on, the first three pilot projects designed to bring instant happiness to the Filipino people have already gone into effect. The criteria for identifying pilot areas, according to MHS, includes "population size, total service requirements, resource potential and significance to the larger geographic and socio-political context." By some strange coincidence, two of the areas which most perfectly meet these criteria are in Paoay, Ilocos Norte,



Can BLISS build a power base for Imelda?

hometown of the President, while the third is Tolosa, Leyte, hometown of the First Lady herself.

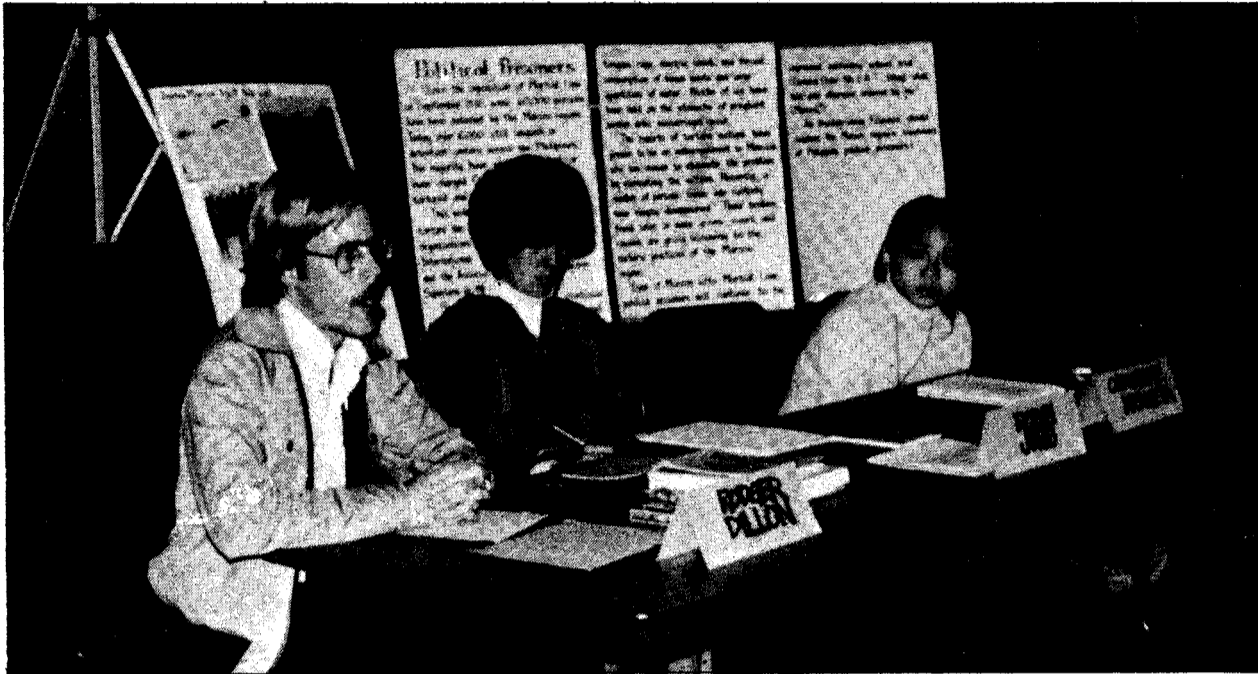
Will BLISS go the way of Compassion? Will it end up in a pile of papers on the desks of various technocrats? Not if Imelda has her way. But will it be worth the crunched corns and seething tempers of the Philippine bureaucracy?

As for the Filipino people, they have not, as yet, grown ecstatic over the prospect of immediate BLISS. They are not overcome by rapturous hopes that the First Lady's program might at one sweep solve the cruel problems born of economic and political oppression. Somehow the lady who delivered \$2 million worth of bliss — or was it compassion — to Henry Ford seems to them to be a little too much a part of the problem to be able to provide them with the solution. □

ANTI-MARTIAL LAW NEWS

Chicago Investigating Team Forum:

'A Profound Transformation Is Taking Place'



Rodger Dillon, Robin Jurs and Christine Araneta, three of the nine members of the Investigating Team to the Philippines. (AK Photo)

By EDDIE ESCULTURA
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO — "A profound transformation is taking place in the Philippine countryside today," declared Geline Avila of the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP), at a forum in Chicago February 24.

The occasion was a panel report on the situation in the Philippines by three members of the Investigating Team sent to the Philippines by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) and the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) September, 1978.

The nine-member team lived in different parts of the country to know more the conditions of the people and the resistance movement there.

Ms. Avila lived in northeastern Samar for six weeks, where she traveled with units of the New People's Army (NPA) and was able to participate in and observe their organizing.

According to Ms. Avila, "The NPA arrived in Samar only in 1977, and now some of the most advanced guerrilla units in the country are found on that island." In obvious amazement of what she found in Samar, Avila continued, "The NPA and cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) are laying the foundations for a new society . . . not the 'new society' of the martial law regime, but that of a liberated people."

She said that the Philippine peasants are

gradually breaking the chains that have kept the countryside underdeveloped.

Among the main problems faced by a typical barrio, according to Avila, are: excessive land rents, usury, illiteracy, and lack of medical facilities. She showed slides to illustrate her point of the painstaking work that the NPA undertakes in organizing a typical barrio to resolve its problems. She said that the first step in organizing a barrio was to determine their most immediate needs and its composition in terms of economic classes and sectors.

Another member of the team was Jan Fowler of the Friends of the Filipino People. Ms. Fowler described her trip to Mindanao where she interviewed refugees who have been pushed off their land due to expansion of the multinational agribusiness in that area.

In Manila she also interviewed well-known political prisoners such as Fr. Ed de la Torre, Satur Ocampo and Nilo Tayag. What impressed her most was their deep familiarity with issues facing the Filipino community in the U.S., such as the Bakke Decision and the Women's Movement. Fowler reported that the work of the AMLC is quite well known in the resistance movement in the Philippines.

MNLF DEMAND

A lively discussion ensued after the presentation of the Muslim situation by Aijaz Ahmed, another

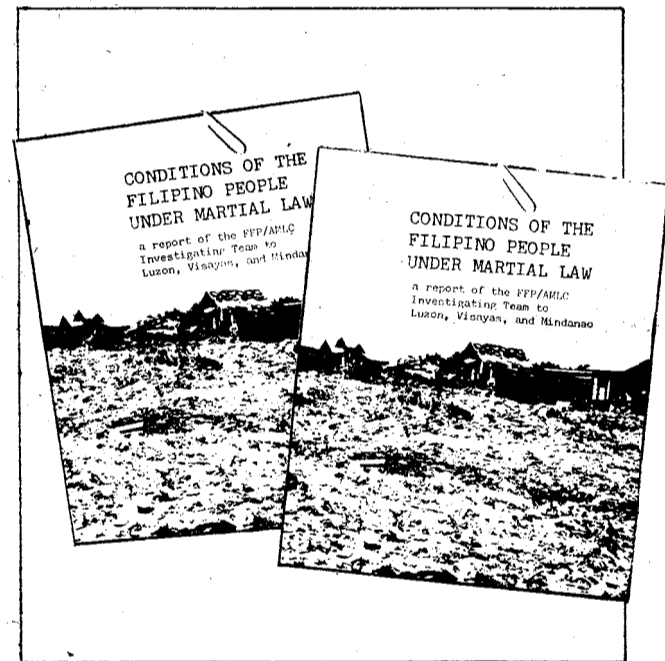
member of the team and a professor of Social Science at Rutgers University. Responding to the question of whether the Muslim secessionist demand was justified or not, Ahmed said, "The question is purely academic." Ahmed cited the Tripoli Agreement in which the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) demanded not secession, but autonomy for the region.

Ahmed spent most of his time in the Muslim region where he interviewed refugees and MNLF fighters.

Another question raised expressed concern over the people's attitude towards the Communists. Ahmed clarified that as far as the people were concerned, the Communist Party is viewed as the leading force in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

Ahmed further explained that the Party's ability to deal with the people's immediate needs through its military arm, the NPA, is a major factor for its growing influence in the countryside.

The forum to the 85 participants who had come to listen to the panel, also provided a good opportunity to find out ways by which one could support the AMLC work. Patsy Schweitkert, moderator for the



evening, explained the different levels of participation in the AMLC, from that of being part of the core group to taking part in distributing AMLC materials.

The Investigating Team was a coordinated effort by the movement here and the Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front in the Philippines. □

Demo at World Bank...

continued from front page



ty of Maryland questioned the intent of the World Bank in loaning millions to a dictatorship that promises no strikes, and cheap labor to multinational corporation. He labelled such financial assistance as "underdevelopment loans."

Charito Planas, a political refugee and a leading critic of martial law, cited the World Bank loan for the construction of the Chico River Dam as an example of the bank's insensitivity to the social costs it funds. She added, "The loan in effect facilitates genocidal practices against minorities in the Philippines and benefits only foreign-owned mining enterprises in the vicinity of the Chico River."

Nicky Perlas of the Nuclear Free Philippines recalled that the World Bank partially funded some monies for the purchase of a nuclear reactor being installed in Morong, Bataan. "This project is yet another instance of World Bank's and the martial law government's insensitivity to the needs of the Filipino people," said Perlas.

A number of bank employees approached the demonstrators and asked for leaflets which they said they would distribute inside the bank. They added that they were in full agreement with the demands of the demonstration.



Picket outside the Sheraton Palace Hotel last Feb. 25 protesting the arrival of Ambassador Eduardo Romualdez. Demonstrators outside have linked up Romualdez' visit with the impending arrival of the dictator Marcos within this month. (AK Photo)

Organizers of the demonstration said that this was a "dry run" for bigger mass actions in the future. Hinting that this was a "dress rehearsal" for the coming visit of the dictator Marcos, they promised to have more people in the next mass action. Over 50 people attended the March 9th demonstration/picket. □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

Asylum Sought

Two 4-H Trainees Face INS Deportation

By BOB McMAHON

Reprinted from the North Carolina ANVIL

NORTH CAROLINA—Two years ago, the future looked bright to Ed Erasga and Armando Ortiz. The sons of poor farmers in the Philippines—"barrio people"—they were chosen in a national competition to take part in two years' training on American farms in modern agricultural techniques.

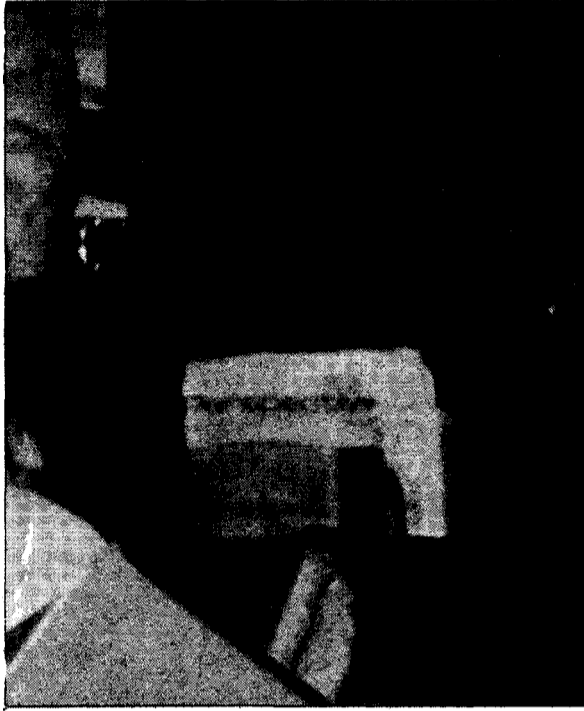
Disillusionment soon followed. The training program run by the agricultural department of the U.S. and the Philippines through 4-H Councils in both countries, proved a "fraud," they said in an *Anvil* interview.

They claimed almost no training was provided. Instead, they found themselves living under primitive conditions, performing simple manual labor, and cheated of promised wages.

With the aid of church and human rights activists in North Carolina, Erasga and Ortiz, joined other trainees in demanding changes in the program. When negotiations with 4-H officials produced no results, they went to the press.

American news accounts of conditions trainees faced—including a chicken coop home with a bucket for a toilet, being denied food when ill with the message "no work, no eat," or endlessly cleaning hog troughs as training in advanced techniques—created a scandal when it was printed by the Philippine press.

Before their scheduled two-year stay in the U.S. ended, Erasga and Ortiz decided they could not afford to return to the Philippines. Accordingly, they appealed to the U.S. Immigration and



Erasga (left) and Ortiz (right) face INS deportation.

Naturalization Service (INS) for political asylum, an appeal which was denied Dec. 12, 1978.

Erasga and Ortiz cited several grounds for the political asylum appeal. At a meeting on Jan. 19, 1979, with Philippine and American officials about the 4-H training program, they were told by Francisco Rentatar, Commissioner of the Philippine Bureau of Agricultural Extension, that their activities would be considered "against martial law."

A trainee who returned to the Philippines wrote them he was told by provincial 4-H officials that the trainees who were outspoken against the program were "subversives," and were working with opponents of the martial law government of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

ANTI-MARTIAL LAW

Erasga and Ortiz said, being denounced as an opponent of Philippine martial law by a government official is a guarantee of imminent political imprisonment and torture. Numerous observers, including the annual human rights review of the U.S. State Department, confirmed that thousands accused opponents of the Marcos government are arrested and tortured annually. Many are executed, or simply "disappear."

Beyond their roles as spokesmen for the 4-H trainees, Erasga and Ortiz were active, after they left the 4-H program in Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) an American-based group working to restore human rights in the Philippines and to end U.S. support for the Marcos government.

According to Tim McGloin of Durham, a member of the Carolina chapter of FFP, immigration officials acted as if unwilling to give any serious consideration to Erasga's and Ortiz' appeal for

asylum. During their first visit to the INS regional office in Atlanta, they were asked, after filing the appropriate papers, to step into another room "for an interview." Not until asked directly did the INS official dealing with their case say that "interview" would be a deportation hearing.

The two Filipinos refused to go through with the hearing unless their lawyer was present. Both claimed the examiner told them, "You don't want a lawyer because that would cost a lot of money."

The official also apparently took note of their FFP activity. "You're criticizing the U.S. government," they reportedly were told by the examiner. "Why do you think we should give you asylum?"

In October, they returned to Atlanta for a scheduled hearing at the INS office. When they appeared accompanied by their lawyer, Jean Levi, they were told that the hearing officer was not available. Only after the lawyer had insisted they were finally given a hearing. "The pattern appears to be that they (INS) want to avoid contact with a lawyer," said McGloin, who was also present at the hearing.

Erasga and Ortiz are appealing the denial of asylum. A hearing before an INS appeal judge is scheduled in Atlanta for the first week in March. "The INS has said the judge will only give them 15 minutes because he gets 60 cases a day," McGloin said.

In preparation for the appeal, Erasga and Ortiz are getting affidavits on conditions in the Philippines from informed human rights activists, such as Don Luce, executive director of Clergy and Laity Concerned, and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, familiar with the situation. Other Filipinos opposed to Marcos who were granted asylum in their country are also giving evidence to support the appeal.

If the March appeal is denied, Ortiz and Erasga will continue appealing into the federal courts if necessary. Meanwhile, FFP is working to create public concern around the case and to raise money for legal expenses. Already, FFP members report they have heard from people from as far away as Ohio and Georgia who have written U.S. Attorney General Griffen Bell (who supervises INS operations) supporting the request for asylum.

Supporters of Ed Erasga and Armando Ortiz have issued a call to everyone to write letters in support of political asylum to:

Atty. Gen. Griffen Bell
U.S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Copies of the same letter should be sent to Mr. Tyrys Minnix, District Director, INS, 1430 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA 30309. Erasga's file number is A21410134 and Ortiz' is A21410149. Donations for their legal defense are also welcomed and may be sent to the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), P.O. Box 2125, Durham, NC 27702. □

1979 FWC PLANNING MEETING

The first general preparatory meeting for the 1979 Filipino People's Far West Convention (PPFWC) will be held on March 24, Saturday at the Sacramento City College Student Lounge. There will be a potluck from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a community meeting at 7 till 10 p.m.

The themes for this year's PPFWC are: Organize the Unorganized; Break From Political Passivity; and Build Strong Unity in the Community.

For information call the Interim Planning Committee for the 1979 FWC:

Jerry Paular, Sr. (916) 451-8322 and
Marlene Pedragoza (916) 392-7950.

1975 Breathing Failure Case

Detroit VA Hospital Sued For Negligence

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—The Veterans Administration Hospital here faces malpractice suits stemming from the rash of respiratory arrests that occurred in its floors in 1975. Fifty-one cases of breathing failures happened within a two-month period that year, causing the deaths of five patients and the poisoning of at least ten others.

The breathing failures were attributed to the injection of Pavulon, a powerful muscle relaxant drug, into the bodies of the victims.

Relatives of the victims who died or almost died, are now suing the VA Hospital staff for malpractice or negligence or both. Cora Blaine, widow of Bennie Blaine, filed a \$1.8 million suit last February 22 at a U.S. District Court.

Blaine said that the hospital employees introduced "on numerous times the drug Pavulon and the antibiotic gentamicin" into her husband's body.

Blaine's lawyer, George Sallade, claimed that despite the fact that both drugs were already known

to produce fatal effects, the VA staff still did not consider precautionary measures in prescribing them. He said this in itself was "negligent" treatment.

The mysterious deaths became the subject of domestic and international attention when two Filipina nurse employees, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, were accused of murdering and poisoning the victims. The accusation came after a brief period of investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The two maintained their innocence prior to and during the whole period of trial. Behind them grew a powerful support movement demanding their release, charging that the two had been framed up. After over two years of battle for justice in January 1978, their case was dismissed.

Up to this time, however, the case of the respiratory failures remains a mystery at the VA Hospital and the government has not acted upon another investigation. □

County Cutback Victim

Filipino Immigrant Services Threatened



FIS staff getting signatures on petitions demanding the Alameda Board of Supervisors to stop the "indiscriminate cutbacks" of all community and public services as a result of Proposition 13. (AK Photo)

OAKLAND — June 30, 1979, is a crucial day for the staff and friends of the Filipino Immigrant Services (FIS).

On this date, FIS, because of a crippling budget cut imposed by Proposition 13, may have to shut its doors for good.

How would this event affect the Filipino community? According to Jessica Ordone, director at FIS, "If we lose FIS it will be a tremendous setback for the Filipino community in Alameda County."

She continued, "FIS grew from a grassroots response to the lack of services provided to newly arrived Filipino immigrants by the County. If the County wants to end FIS, it means that county officials are prepared and ready to assume the responsibility again . . . and we know that they are not!"

EXPANSION OF SERVICES NEEDED

FIS as a multi-service agency has been in existence for the past six years. It started to function in 1973 and presently its services include: individualized counseling in social services (food stamps, public assistance, immigration, etc.); employment counseling, referral and translation/interpretation services.

A year after its establishment, FIS helped over 1000 newly arrived immigrants, individuals as well as whole families, in adjusting to the socio-economic pressures of U.S. society.

The full-time staff remains at only five full-time people. But the caseload of FIS continues to

increase as the numbers of Filipino immigrants keeps rising. "What we're experiencing at FIS is the need to expand and deepen our services, not end them as the County of Alameda proposes to do," said Ms. Ordone.

FIS, along with its sponsoring organization and fiscal agent, Filipinos for Affirmative Action (FAA), has attempted over the past six months to bring this issue of "indiscriminate cutbacks" to the Filipino community.

"The response so far has been very good," stated Astrid Mangune, FIS secretary and receptionist. "We managed to get over 600 signatures on petitions, and a multitude of letters to the Board of Supervisors demanding that FIS and all other community and public services not be cut back."

She continued, "The staff, in addition to their regular office responsibilities has had to take on direct organizing in the Filipino community, making it extremely hard for us to cope up with all the other responsibilities we have."

According to Ms. Ordone, "The task of organizing has been taxing on all of us, especially in light of our already 'limited' funding problem."

"We don't have the kind of budget at present that allows us to print, mail and distribute thousands of letters and leaflets every week. What we mainly rely on is our friends to help get the word out."

Through this struggle, FIS has gained some invaluable experience in working with other community groups and organizations. In this recent period, FIS joined the Alameda Community-Labor Coalition; a united front of organizations and individuals challenging Prop. 13.

The future of FIS and numerous other community services now depends on how much pressure the people can exert to demand that much needed services like FIS be retained.

In summing up this experience, Ms. Mangune stated, "When I first came to FIS I had no idea what to expect. It was just a job to me. But that was then, and now I realize that this struggle is just not one for a community agency, but a struggle for people's basic needs to be met. But FIS does mean a great deal to me and so many others that I chose to stay and fight . . ." □

Large S.F. Insurance Co.

Blue Shield Attempts Union Busting

By DAVID POLAND
AK Correspondent

Blue Shield, one of the largest insurance companies in San Francisco, is out to bust the first and only organized union of insurance workers.

Individual letters given to all 1,500 employees from the Blue Shield management last Dec. 1 stated that the company, "cannot remain competitive in its present situation" and that "they would have to renegotiate their present contract or move out of town."

In the subsequent negotiating meeting between Blue Shield management representative and the Union Negotiating Committee, Blue Shield laid down the following ultimatum: "The following modifications in the current labor agreement would permit Blue Shield to be competitive from its base in San Francisco, i.e. . . . 20 percent reduction in wages and a seven percent reduction in benefits (vacation, sick leave, etc.)." The company also demanded a "10 percent savings by efficiency improvements" (fancy words for speed-ups).

The ultimatum was met by the OPEIU Local 3 negotiating committee with its own counter-proposal. First, Local 3 stated that its present contract is legally binding until Nov. 1980 and it has no intention of taking a pay cut. Secondly, it questioned Blue Shield's "lack of profits" and their inability to pay. Union representatives also demanded that an independent fact-finding committee be allowed to review the company's books to review the supposed deficits. The proposed committee would be composed of three members: one company representative, one union representative, and one neutral arbitrator.

But Blue Shield rejected the union's counter-proposal. One reason given, according to Blue Shield's official reply, was "fact finders could not avoid seeing confidential material, which, for competitive reasons, should only be seen by

company officials.

STALEMATE IN NEGOTIATIONS

Currently, talks have stalemated. Many feel that this is due to the firm stand taken by union and also the increased community support which no doubt has helped pressure Blue Shield to back off a bit. In the meantime, the company has "taken its information back to the Board of Trustees for Review." Although Blue Shield has agreed to future meetings and conference negotiations, it is apparent that both parties are regrouping, sizing up their next move.

According to Barbara Pottgen, Union Vice-President, "The problem is not of profits or deficits, but is a case of Union busting!"

"Our union is two-thirds minorities and ninety percent women."

Pottgen added, "We represent the first successful attempt to organize office workers in the financial 'Wall Street of the West.' If they can bust our union, they will have successfully stifled the organizing of office workers for many years ahead."

In response to Blue Shield's arguments that they are not making profits, the union pointed its finger at what is actually considered the main cost factor in Blue Shield operations, the subcontractors.

The main subcontractor is Electronic Data Services (EDS) of Dallas, Texas, which processes medical claims. EDS recently boasted profits of 100 percent. EDS is owned by H. Ross Perot, a multi-millionaire who recently broke into the international news as a man so powerful that he was able to send mercenaries to rescue two of his stranded computer programmers in Iran.

In the meantime, workers at Blue Shield are taking things in stride, refusing to panic, because according to a ten-year Filipina employee, Julie Fernandez, "We have grown accustomed to these continuous harassments and ultimatums from the top." □

Seattle's FCSI Filipino Community Inaugurates New Leaders



SEATTLE — The inauguration of elected officers for this city's Filipino community, held March 3, proved to be the largest event in years. Six to seven hundred members of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc. (FCSI) attended, leaving standing room only for onlookers.

The overwhelming attendance can be interpreted as support for the new council and within that, support for the Filipinos for Reform and Progress (FARP) candidates.

The defeated opposition had predicted a boycott of the oath-taking by the FARP officers, but this proved to be false. The large number of people who attended the inauguration were FARP supporters.

According to FARP's newsletter, the Filipino-American Reporter, issued a week earlier, encouraged the large turnout as a show of strength.

With reforms being implemented now, FCSI is looked upon by the Filipino population in Seattle as the organization that can assist the community in solving its problems. □

PAL Workers Strike For Contract



Striking workers picket PAL's office in downtown San Francisco and airport offices for better working conditions, cost of living increase and a wage increase. (Philippine News Photo)

Adapted from Philippine News

SAN FRANCISCO—The strike was inevitable.

Since their unionization in 1976, workers of Philippine Air Lines (PAL) had been trying to negotiate a contract with the company without success.

So last February 28 PAL employees, members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO, went on strike. They also began picketing at the San Francisco Airport, March 1.

PAL employees affiliated with I.A.M. almost three years ago, not without a tough opposition from the company. By only one vote employees won their unionization efforts.

Talks for a contract had gone on in an on-and-off manner in Washington, D.C. The union has been demanding a one-year contract with full backpay from 1976. PAL officials rejected this and instead has maintained a firm position of a three-year contract and no retroactive pay.

Another major disagreement in the contract negotiation is the Scope Rule which, if PAL workers lose, would empower the company to bypass the union.

As union representative Bob Quick said, "If you make \$50 per hour and they [PAL] farm out your job — \$50 means nothing."

LOWEST PAY.

Other issues that have led to the strike are work pay, working conditions and fringe benefits.

A PAL union report stated: "Our impartial survey reveals that PAL employees are by far the lowest paid and have the worst working conditions for any employees in the airline industry in America — and [PAL] refused to come anywhere near matching the industry's worst contract."

In striking contrast, a Qantas reservation clerk earns \$1,200 a month as beginning salary. Jeanette Ness, a 28-year-old reservation clerk at PAL's San Francisco branch office, admitted, "I earn about \$833 a month . . . [yet] I am one of the highest paid employees."

Workers are likewise forced to work overtime or be fired.

Tenant Sues Landlord, And Wins

SAN FRANCISCO — A Filipina tenant here took her landlord to court and won a decision ordering the owner to pay back an illegally held security deposit. The small claims court ordered the landlord to return the \$100 deposit to the former tenant.

In pursuing the claim, the tenant, Mrs. Jonie Bautista, was assisted by the Asian Law Caucus which is a community-based law office. According to the Asian Law Caucus, California Civil Code 1950.5 applies to all leases which are terminated on or after January 1, 1978.

The code prohibits any security deposit to be characterized as "non-refundable" in a lease agreement. While providing landlords the right to deduct amounts for damages caused by tenants to the dwelling, exceptions are made on the ordinary wear-and-tear of the dwelling. Landlords must prove reasonableness of the amounts claimed and

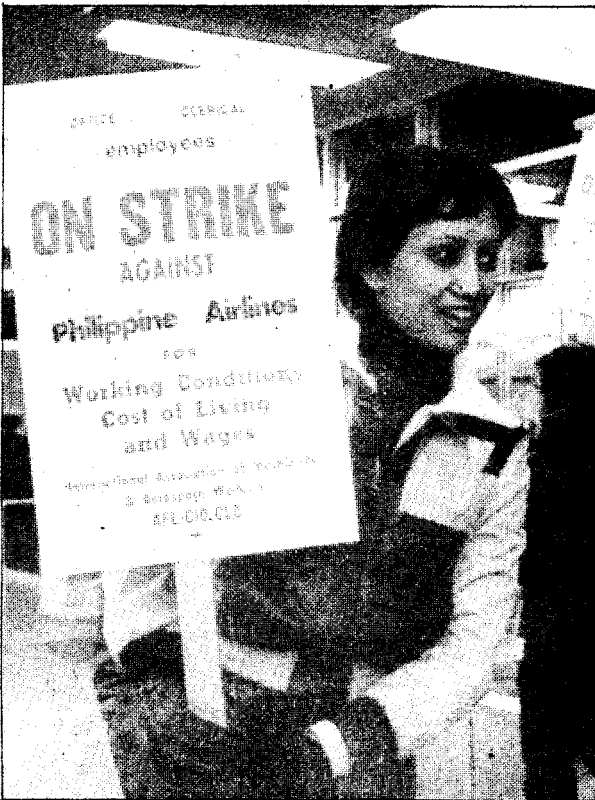
Said one disgruntled employee, "The last time we worked overtime was when Imelda Marcos had one of our planes diverted so that she could fly to Rome to attend the crowning of the Pope. We had to house a whole planeload of people until we got them a flight."

PAL, the Philippine flag carrier, is now known to be owned by the Marcos family.

The two-week long strike has obviously caused serious damage to PAL's business as staff shortage takes its toll. Already several travel agents have reportedly switched to Pan Am to prevent flight delays for their customers. PAL booking has also gone down since.

Susan Lee, PAL spokesperson, denied major damage to the company's business. She said that no major interruptions have occurred so far.

There are also reports that "scabs" have been flown in from Manila under tourist or student visas. Lee, however, discarded these as "rumors." □



receipts of repairs must be shown before deductions are made.

This has caused considerable concern especially since the apartment complex at 5178 Mission is heavily habited by Filipinos. Most of the ex-tenants, according to the investigation, never bothered to collect their deposits simply because they were not aware of their rights under the law.

In addition the former tenant reported that when repairs are needed, such as unclogging the sink or bathtub, a \$10-20 charge is imposed before a plumber would be called in. This is in violation of landlord's responsibilities in the upkeep and maintenance of the building.

Suing in small claims was not hard. The tenant filed the suit on her own with minimal assistance from an Asian Law Caucus clerk. Anybody can file suit in small claims, provided that the amount in dispute does not exceed \$750. □

Racism Charged Seattle School District Victimizes Community

By DEBY KO
AK Correspondent

Despite nationwide claims that the school district in Seattle is making numerous gains in resolving racism, the Filipino community is finding itself a victim of racism in the school district.

The Seattle School District, which implemented mandatory desegregation, has laid claim to making "important strides" in race relations. The desegregation plan, which is known as the Seattle Plan, calls for the busing of over 12,000 students.

However, the Filipino community is finding out that despite desegregation efforts, racism still exists in the school district.

Recently, Mrs. Zenaida Guerzon, the lone Tagalog instructor in the entire Seattle public school district, has found herself a victim of harassment by the school administration. Guerzon, an elected council member of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc. (FCSI) and a veteran advocate for Filipino concerns, was threatened by the school administration to either accept an increase in an already extensive teaching load or receive a significant cut in pay.

Last February, Mrs. Guerzon was ordered to teach an extra Spanish class, while still teaching Tagalog classes at three different schools in Seattle. In response to the administrative order, Mrs. Guerzon alleged that the orders were in violation of her contract with the school district. Guerzon's allegation was later rejected and she was instructed to comply with the order. Rather than passively complying with the order, Mrs. Guerzon filed a contract grievance through the Seattle's Teachers Association (STA) bargaining unit for Seattle teachers.

For those who have worked with Mrs. Guerzon the struggle has come as no surprise. According to some Filipino parents, "Mrs. Guerzon has been instrumental in fighting for Tagalog language classes and bilingual classes in the school district. Because of her advocacy, Mrs. Guerzon is being harassed." Observers have stated that this is an obvious effort to discourage those who might take it upon themselves to push for the concerns of the Filipino community.

Mrs. Guerzon also feels that she is being harassed, "I am a thorn in the side of the administration. I am being harassed and I feel that I have been treated unfairly by receiving an extra load when they can afford to hire another teacher." Guerzon cited her involvement and community work as the real reason for her harassment.

"My involvement with students at various disciplinary hearings, my role in the bilingual program, my community work and the rest of the FCSI elections have had a definite role in my mistreatment," declared Mrs. Guerzon.

Many people feel that Mrs. Guerzon's harassment is linked to the school district's lack of commitment to the Tagalog Language Program. Silme Domingo, of the Filipino Community Task Force on Education and a member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), strongly feels that the harassment of Mrs. Guerzon is an effort by the administration to obscure the lack of commitment to the Tagalog program.

Domingo, chairperson of the bilingual Advisory Board Committee at Mrs. Guerzon's school, emphasized that, "The harassment of Mrs. Guerzon and the lack of support for the Tagalog program is blatantly racist. The school gave the Filipino community a token program and are now saying that if we want the program, we will have to squeeze blood out of a rock if we want to see it survive."

Domingo assessed that, "There is probably no other program or teacher in the school district that is treated with such discrepancy . . . it is clearly discriminatory."

Other representatives of the Task Force for Education also cited other instances of discrimination in the school district. Many of the concerns focus around discriminatory treatment of Filipino students involved in the Seattle Plan.

In their efforts to voice the concerns of the Filipino community, the Task Force on Education has given the commitment to take up Mrs. Guerzon's case, and other cases of discrimination of Filipinos in the school district.

In a recent statement to the Seattle School Board, the Task Force has strongly urged the School District to begin meeting the needs of the Filipino community. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL
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DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL

Contrived Oil Shortage

U.S. Oil Majors To Reap Windfall Profits

Windfall profits are expected for U.S. oil majors due to the recent price increases blamed on the shutdown of Iran's oil production.

Exxon, the largest U.S. oil company, is expected to register profits at least 25 percent higher than last year's \$680 million for the first quarter of 1979. Other oil majors are predicted to register similar profit booms.

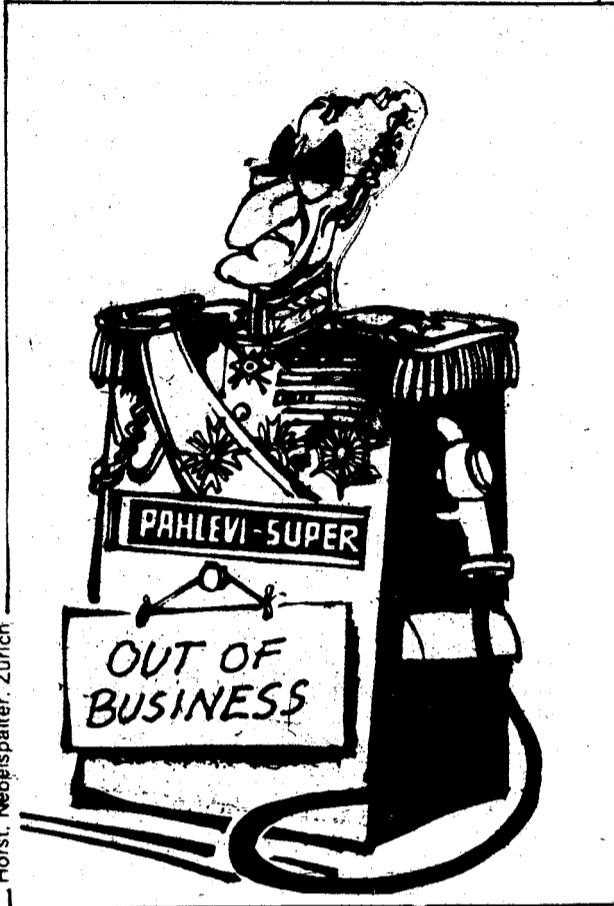
The huge earnings reports come in the wake of numerous news accounts of a growing oil crisis, with the possibility of gas rationing and \$1 a gallon prices in the near future. A potential repeat of the worst horrors of the 1973-74 oil embargo has been raised, blamed on the upheavals in Iran and that country's shutdown of oil production.

Such dire warnings, ranging from Energy Secretary James Schlesinger to numerous congressional leaders, rest on the current allegations of a shortage in U.S. oil supplies. Upon close examination, however, the current shortage seems to be more of a case of industry manipulation of supplies and markets than to any real decline in oil reserves.

U.S. imports of Iranian oil, before that country's shutdown, accounted for less than five percent of total U.S. petroleum imports. With the closing of Iran's oil wells, other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) increased oil output, reducing U.S. shortages to less than three percent. While such a shortage hardly seems reason for national trauma, the U.S. oil monopolies immediately began crying crisis.

The oil shortage soon was reflected in the cutting of oil deliveries to dealers by the oil giants. Exxon, one of five U.S. companies which make up a worldwide marketing cartel, cut supplies of all petroleum by 10 percent, even though Iranian crude accounts for less than four percent of its supplies. During February, Exxon deliveries to Canada were cut by 25 percent, even though the oil company normally supplies Canada with oil from Venezuela.

Other members of the oil-marketing cartel include Gulf, Texaco, Standard Oil of California, Mobil, British Petroleum, and Shell, the latter two being oil companies outside the U.S. This cartel has exclusive rights to most of the oil exported by the 13-member OPEC, which has a cartel on oil supplies. The marketing and refining cartel, with its global system of distribution, decides through a complex secret agreements and formulas which country and company get which oil and at what price.



Horst, Nebeispalter, Zurich

This cartel has a powerful hand in manipulating oil supplies, even creating a shortage to exert pressure on Pres. Carter and the Congress to do away with existing U.S. price controls on gasoline and U.S.-produced crude. Indicative of this market manipulation is that only last September, oil and energy experts were talking of an oil glut on the world's market.

PRICE CONTROL LIFTED

Industry pressure to lift what limited price controls existed over the price of gasoline saw initial success last month when Pres. Carter and the U.S. Congress removed controls from the pricing of jet fuels. In addition, oil companies will now be allowed to raise the price of certain petroleum products to offset the decline in profits in other areas of oil production.

Carter's other actions included proposals to the U.S. Congress for a gas rationing plan and power to order the closure of filling stations. Total de-control

is in the near future as Carter seeks to limit gas consumption through higher gasoline prices.

Such increased costs are already being felt in other areas of oil production. Cost of home heating oil soared by 14 percent since mid-October at a time when OPEC prices rose only five percent. Costs of other refined products have also risen far above the OPEC's price raises.

OPEC REACTS WITH SURCHARGE, OTHER PRICE INCREASES

Responding to the marketing cartel's wringing of superprofits, OPEC member countries have begun raising the price of their crude oil exports. On Feb. 26, in announcing future increases, Saudi Arabia's Sheik Ahmed Yamani said that some OPEC members "feel that the oil companies are really making windfall profits" over the current situation and that OPEC would "have to take part of that profit back to their treasuries."

Some OPEC members enacted a surcharge on every barrel of crude, such as Kuwait, which charged an additional \$1.20 a barrel. Libya charged the lowest, 68 cents a barrel.

In addition to the surcharge, OPEC members began withdrawing from long-term contracts and began selling crude on the "spot" market, where prices have soared to \$23 a barrel, far above OPEC's pegged price of \$13.34. The spot market normally handles oil sales to small refiners.

Capping the OPEC price increases was the early March decision to raise crude prices by as much as 20 percent by the end of the year. Just last December, OPEC announced a four-step price increase that would have limited the average increase to about 10 percent. The recent decision for increased prices will cost oil companies, and petroleum users, much more.

This OPEC increase is the basis for U.S. oil major predicting \$1 a gallon gasoline by year's end. For OPEC, the increase was virtually dictated by a decline in oil revenues, due in part to the falling value of the dollar and the decline in the Western economies. With OPEC's price increases, both OPEC and the oil companies will greatly profit.

The recently reported windfall profits for Exxon and other majors are due largely for their withholding oil supplies from distribution, thus creating an oil shortage, causing prices to escalate with a growing demand. Now, the oil majors are cashing in by selling oil at prices far above the price they originally paid for the crude. □

Washington Escalates Aid To Thailand's Kriangsak

The U.S. has decided to escalate its economic and military aid to Thailand, following a state visit to Washington by Thai strongman, Gen. Kriangsak Chamanand last Feb. 4-8. The move, which comes one month after the granting of a similar aid package to Marcos through the new U.S.-Philippines bases agreement, constitutes yet another part of a broader U.S. effort to strengthen its strategic client regimes in Southeast Asia.

The gesture by the Carter administration by far represents the strongest reassurance of support for the Thai dictatorship since the military bloodily ended the country's three-year experiment with parliamentary democracy in October 1976. Up until then, the U.S. has kept a low profile with the Thai government, which quietly borrowed \$242 million from private European and U.S. banks for defense spending in the past two years.

However, President Carter has now deemed it politically viable to associate closely and openly with Kriangsak because, unlike Thanin Kraivixien whom he toppled in 1977, he is demonstrating an ability to project a more "liberal" image in line with Carter's "human rights" foreign policy. He has opened up ties with neighboring socialist countries, released some political prisoners held since 1976, and promised elections by spring 1979. At the same time, even though Kriangsak has been unable to run the faction-ridden military bureaucracy any better, he has however managed to



Thai military in southern Thailand.

attract foreign loans and investments more successfully than his predecessor. The Thai dictatorship's continued existence largely depends on such kinds of foreign support in the absence of popular support.

MORE LOANS AND GUNS FROM U.S.

Thus, as a result of talks with Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, in the course of the U.S. visit, the Kriangsak regime will receive \$500 million (twice as much worth in loans as the previous year) from the U.S.-dominated multi-lateral lending institution.

Likewise, the Hong Kong-based *Asiaweek* magazine quotes State Department sources as saying, "[Military] supplies in the pipeline and projected sales are large." The U.S. will add \$6 million to its military aid, pushing military credit sales up to \$30 million and sell \$75 million worth of arms for the current fiscal year. These weapons include helicopters, aircraft, armored vehicles, small arms, ammunition, and electronic and communications equipment. In addition, the U.S. will supply the Thai army with \$11.3 million worth of arms and ammunition left over from the Indochina War free of charge.

Prior to his visit to the U.S., Kriangsak also went to Britain to purchase a wide range of counter-insurgency weapons including British-made helicopters, light scorpion tanks and military trucks.

MODERNIZING THE THAI MILITARY

The acquisition of such enormous quantities of military hardware from both Britain and the U.S. will in effect rapidly modernize the Thai armed

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Angola, Mozambique Get Hit

Rhodesia Bombs Refugee Camps

By SARA RODRIGUES

Reprinted from the Guardian

LUANDA, ANGOLA — A new racist offensive has begun against Southern African liberation forces: in the last 10 days, there have been five separate bombing raids against Patriotic Front camps in Mozambique, Zambia and Angola.

The latest raid into Angola was the deepest penetration yet, 185 miles, of a black African country. An estimated 160 people were killed and 530 wounded in the February 26 bombing mission by Rhodesian forces.

The Rhodesian attacks have coincided with an escalation in rhetoric by apartheid South Africa against frontline states "harboring terrorists." That rhetoric may soon be backed up by military action, as it has been in the past.

The attacks and threats, a visible sign of the growing desperation of the apartheid regimes, appear unlikely to achieve their desired results. In both Namibia and Zimbabwe, the liberation forces have stepped up their military activity. Nor have the frontline states Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola, and Botswana backed down in any way in their support for the guerrillas.



Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith.

And as details of the raids unfold, there are increasing charges that Britain had advance knowledge of the raids and is in fact deeply involved in Rhodesia's military strategy.

In most of the recent raids, one attack on Mozambique on Zambia and the latest on Angola, the targets have been Patriotic Front camps composed mainly of elderly refugees and young people.

INTENSIFYING STRUGGLE

It is clear that the threats and bombing raids are a response to an ever intensifying struggle waged by the peoples' forces in Southern Africa. The bombings, for example, came in the wake of the Patriotic Front's attack last week on the Rhodesians' largest army barracks. The tremendous intensification of the armed struggle in

Zimbabwe, including the downing of a civilian aircraft two weeks ago, has forced the Smith regime into ever more desperate moves.

The latest bombing run by the Rhodesians came Feb. 26 with a 7 a.m. raid by five Mirage fighters, provided by South Africa, on a Patriotic Front school in eastern Angola. The Rhodesian military offices said that they attacked a camp of the Zimbabwe African National Union co-partner in the Patriotic Front with the Zimbabwe African People's Union, headed by Robert Mugabe.

The refugee camp is near Luso, Angola, located a full 185 miles into the interior of the country.

On Feb. 23, Rhodesian forces are reported to have struck out at Zambia less than 20 miles from its capital of Lusaka. Although no casualty reports were issued, it is believed by some reporters in the city that hundreds may have been killed. These reports, published in the Washington Post, stated that following the attack there was a steady stream of ambulances and emergency medical personnel carrying dead and wounded to the city's hospitals. The raid targeted Nampundwe camp, where 14,000 elderly Zimbabwean men and women as well as young people freshly airlifted from Botswana were living.

According to the Washington Post, Zambian and Patriotic Front forces reported that two Rhodesian aircraft had been downed in the raid and an even larger attack had successfully been warded off.

A wealth of circumstantial evidence indicates that British intelligence had previous knowledge of Smith's bombing raids against the frontline states. Even the British ruling Labor government has become uneasy about the extent of public awareness of Rhodesian activities.

Earlier this month, the British foreign office "warned" Botswana about its airlifting of Zimbabwe refugees to Zambia. A Botswana government spokesperson told newsmen that the foreign office "told Botswana the flights may be shot down by Rhodesian aircraft."

Britain sent troops and hardware to Zambia to improve the country's air defense system following last year's first raids by Smith's South African-provided airplanes against Patriotic Front camps. Since these arrivals, Zambia has been bombed three times by Smith and its air defense system has lain silent. Only Patriotic Front guerrillas in the border area with Rhodesia brought down the marauding aircraft.

The latest bombing run by the Rhodesian came on Feb. 26. If, as the Rhodesian defense headquarters claims, the planes flew across Zambia, then they passed "undetected" through international radar control at three points inside Zambia Ndola, Lusaka and Mungo.

Furthermore, the weekly flight of the Italian airline Alitalia had its timetable altered at the last minute this weekend. Normally, it would have left Rome Feb. 24, stopping in Luanda the following morning, then going on to Lusaka and returning to Luanda on Feb. 26 before leaving for Rome later that evening. The airline decided not to send the flight to Luanda at all, thereby avoiding

merely suspected of communist sympathies; and to regulate the flow of commodities, foodstuffs and medicine from one district to another.

TARGET: GROWING POPULAR RESISTANCE

With these repressive measures, the Kriangsak regime hopes to undermine the growing rural resistance movement led by the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT). The CPT, which has been successfully winning many adherents among the peasants by implementing land reform in the areas under its control, is presently waging armed struggle in 36 out of 72 provinces throughout the country. Since late December last year, its military arm, the People's Liberation Army of Thailand (PLAT) has been on a major offensive against government troops in the south.

At the same time, Kriangsak has taken measures to strengthen his "liberal" image mainly for international consumption. A new constitution, the 13th since the absolute monarchy was overthrown in 1932, was officially approved by King Bhumibol on December 22 of last year. Elections are up for April and the air has been cleared for them. To cap these moves, the regime has launched a public relations campaign to provide "correct information" on Thailand, especially among U.S. businessmen, whom it is trying to woo.

These latter measures, however, have meant little to the Thai people, whose support the regime is secondarily trying to win. The promulgation of a new constitution has immediately attracted wide criticism even by the country's own muzzled press. In addition, the forthcoming elections have only stirred up general apathy among the people, even among several prominent politicians. It is unlikely, therefore, that such measures will avert the



Angolans demonstrate support for President Neto's assistance to the Zimbabwe struggle.

the critical air corridor between Angola and Zambia where the Mirage fighters passed back and forth on the morning of Feb. 26.

It is not the first time that the weekly Alitalia flight has been altered less than 24 hours before Smith's bombing excursions. Last November, a similar "alteration" for "technical reasons" took place. The Alitalia flight flew Rome-Luanda-Rome and missed the Lusaka run. The next day the Rhodesians bombed the Patriotic Front camps in Lusaka. Alitalia officials claimed that wildcat strikes were the source of their schedule "problem."

The liberation forces also condemn the role of the U.S. and France in the raids; both countries continue to supply vital arms and oil to Pretoria, without which not a single Rhodesian or South African plane, armored car or patrol vehicle could move.

The threats and actions by the racist leaders can leave no doubt about Pretoria's and Salisbury's tactics for the next few months. Rhodesian Foreign Minister P.K. Van der Byl recently boasted, "The countries that lend themselves to these activities must accept the fact they will suffer in the same way as innocent civilians were killed in the tens of thousands by Anglo-American bombing raids on Germany in the last war."

Defense Minister Pieter W. Botha, who replaced Vorster as prime minister while holding onto his defense job, has also issued open threats in the last few weeks against countries "harboring terrorists." The South African radio has been broadcasting daily threats such as, "Violence will escalate and all of Southern Africa, particularly the so-called frontline states, will suffer the consequences."

The bombing and intimidation tactic, however, has little chance of success. In the last 10 days alone, Patriotic Front guerrillas have blown vital railway links three times and launched a highly successful attack against one of the toughest targets in the country: the largest single troop garrison at Inkomo Barsak, Salisbury. □

growing isolation of the Kriangsak dictatorship among the Thai masses.

On the contrary, together with the escalation of repressive controls, they seem more likely to alienate the regime even further in the long run. The adverse effects of such policies are already becoming apparent. Two weeks after the passage of the new anti-communist law, the Kriangsak government ordered the reshuffle of government officials in the southern province of Surat Thani, where the CPT is active, in response to popular pressure. Other provinces, especially those in the border areas, will also effect similar reshuffles in order to improve the government's worsening image, according to *TIC (Thai Information Center) News*.

Meanwhile, in the urban areas, union leaders are seeking more freedom to organize and fight for better living conditions, prompted by the rapidly deteriorating quality of life of Thai workers. Students in Bangkok, for their part, have come out to demand self-government in the universities and a greater role in the country's political life; while lawyers in southern Thailand, defying military courts, have urged the lifting of martial law.

The Kriangsak dictatorship is thus faced with a dilemma from which it seems to have no recourse. As long as a dictatorship remains and as long as economic conditions continue to worsen, Kriangsak is bound to face a mounting mass opposition, repression or liberalization. Observers note that these developments in Thailand, especially the dramatic increase of U.S. support, ominously resemble Vietnam in the sixties. But if Vietnam's experience is any parallel, such a course will inevitably bring about the downfall of the U.S.-backed Kriangsak dictatorship at the hands of the emerging popular resistance movement. □

Thailand...

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forces. It will enable Kriangsak to confront the mounting popular resistance in the far-flung rural areas as well as to cope with the unstable situation in neighboring Kampuchea (Cambodia). Moreover, a stronger Thai military makes it possible for the regime, in turn, to increase its assistance of pro-U.S. neighbors. Currently, Thailand maintains a joint arms business venture with Singapore, while Thai border patrol police train Malaysian troops and conduct joint military operations against communist insurgents along the Thai-Malaysian border.

The Kriangsak regime's counter-insurgency strategy includes a \$70 million plan, financed through the Japanese government, for the development of "security-risk villages" (Thai version of the strategic hamlets deployed in Vietnam) along the Thai-Malaysian and Thai-Kampuchean border areas. This project, personally directed by Kriangsak, is part of a bigger \$200 million plan to provide the government with better access to villages in these areas, where 10 percent of the country's villages are situated. Both the World Bank and the Thai government will shoulder the balance of the funds.

The regime has bolstered this with legal repressive controls. On Feb. 1, the legislative body passed a new anti-communist bill. The new legislation empowers government authorities to detain a communist suspect for up to 480 days; to check, censor and seize personal mail, telegrams, books, newspaper, and tap telephones of those

Sealing U.S. Commitment To The Dictator . . .



Right opposition leaders Jovito Salonga and Diosdado Macapagal: Part of Carter's strategy is to patch up splits in the Philippine ruling class.

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concessions won under martial law to be institutionalized—to be given a legal basis other than Marcos' presidential decrees. More broadly, the U.S. was deeply concerned about the widening split between pro- and anti-Marcos factions in the ruling class. More than anything else, it was this concern which lay behind Carter administration pressure on Marcos to move towards "normalization" and "reconciliation."

Marcos, sensing his tenuous political position, resented this pressure. At various points in the past two years, he suspected that these pressures to "normalize" were thinly-disguised preparations for replacing him with a more manageable puppet. In May 1978, only a week after Vice President Mondale's visit to Manila, he openly warned the U.S. against any attempt to "destabilize" his regime.

Another aspect of the U.S.' "human rights" pressure on the Marcos regime reflected problems in Carter's relations with the U.S. Congress. As long as Marcos retains his image as a human rights violator, Carter's ability to support him is limited by congressional and popular concerns on this issue. Carter, therefore, has steadily pressured Marcos into making some cosmetic changes to make it easier for Congress to back him fully. While Marcos has responded to these pressures with a touch here and there, he has proceeded carefully because of the disastrous consequences of the April 1978 elections. At that time, what had started out as a controlled exercise in "electing" a fake legislature resulted in a stark, and massive exposure of the regime's unpopularity.

THE BASIS OF THE CURRENT RAPPROCHEMENT

Given these areas of disagreement, how then was

San Diego To Hold Forum On Nurses

SAN DIEGO—An educational forum on the plight of Foreign Nurse Graduates (FNG) is scheduled for March 17, 12:00 p.m., at the Paradise Valley Recreation Center, 6610 Potomac.

The forum will focus mainly on the rights of H-1 nurses who hold non-immigrant status. Ignorant of their rights as foreigners in the U.S., most of these FNGs do not know what to do once they are subjected to unjust treatment by the immigration officials.

The forum is sponsored by the San Diego Support Committee for the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for FNGs. The NAFL-FNG was formed in 1977 in response to the rising need of FNGs to organize to solve their licensure and immigration problems. The Alliance has chapters in major cities in the U.S. including Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Florida, Kansas, and the state of Tennessee.

The main speakers for the forum are from the L.A. chapter of the NAFL-FNG.

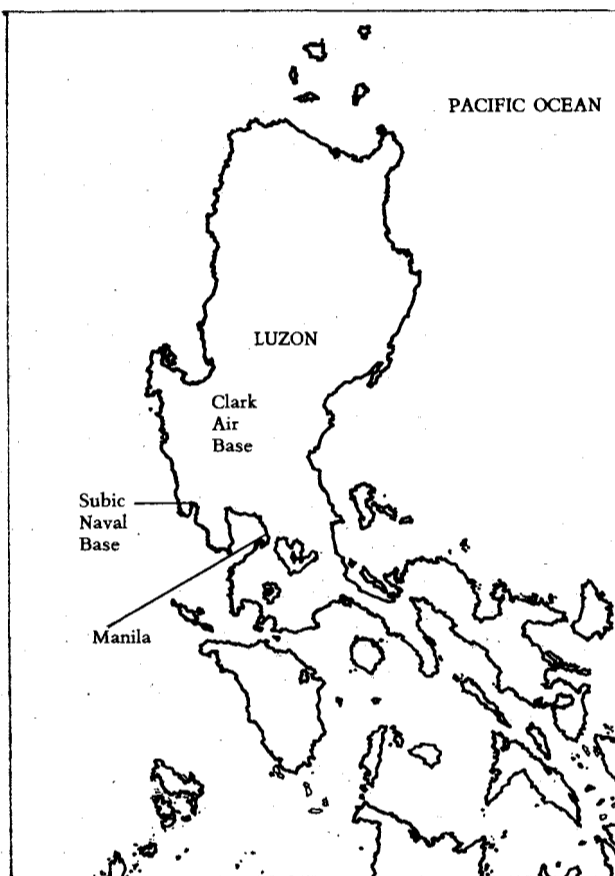
For information call Florante Ibanez (477-5225) or Kathy Abriam (280-4136).

Also, FNGs who want the *Know Your Rights* booklet may obtain copies from the NAFL-FNG National Office, P.O. Box 960, Woodside, N.Y. 11377 or from the NAFL chapter in their area.

achieved? Have all the differences in the past two years been resolved? The answer is that they have not all been resolved. But for different reasons, both Carter and Marcos have decided to set aside some of their lesser differences and resolve a few key ones.

Close examination of the bases agreement shows that it was Marcos who made the concessions. Marcos wanted "rental" money for the bases that would not be subject to Congressional approval. Instead he got "assistance" mostly in the form of loans allotted on a yearly basis and therefore completely at U.S. discretion. On the criminal jurisdiction issue, the only truly nationalist position Marcos took in the negotiation process, he completely capitulated, allowing the U.S. continued jurisdiction over U.S. servicemen who commit crimes both on- and off-base.

Why then did Marcos make all these concessions? The answer lies in the steadily deteriorating economic position of the Philippines. Because of this, U.S. pressure in the form of



foreign borrowing limits and massive cutbacks on imports of sugar, have been most effective levers. By making concessions on the bases issue, Marcos expects to receive not just the amounts specifically resulting from the agreement but also the lifting of the IMF- and World Bank-imposed borrowing restrictions and other trade concessions. Added to this economic factor is Marcos' deteriorating political position at home. By receiving the Carter administration's blessings, Marcos hopes to win over at least the elite oppositionists the better to

4-A Hotel...

continued from front page

fighting eviction. The residents, mainly elderly Filipinos, are opposed to eviction, as there is no permanent, low-income housing available for relocation. The 4-A is owned by the SLAP Corporation, which wants to remodel the second story area for use as business offices.

The 4-A residents obtained a temporary restraining order on Mar. 2. This stopped further demolition and allowed them to remain in the building. They intend to file suit against the landlord to repair bathroom and kitchen facilities, and to be responsible for the physical and emotional trauma suffered by residents because of the ordeal.

Recently, PACE learned that SLAP now intends to seek a writ of eviction against the residents, who are still opposed to moving. Apparently, SLAP will claim that the building is no longer habitable because of the damage caused by demolition.

SLAP's legal action followed the residents' legal appeal to stop demolition and intent to file suit. The residents, PACE and supporters also staged an early morning picket at one of the landlord's homes as a show that any eviction attempt will still be actively opposed. □

fight the fast growing national democratic forces.

For the U.S., Marcos' willingness to concede on key issues in the bases agreement was a major victory. Although differences on the "normalization" and other economic issues remain, the Carter administration has probably concluded that Marcos will be more malleable from this point on. U.S. pressure, however, will now be made within the context of a decision that Marcos and his dictatorship are essential to the pursuit of U.S. interests in the Philippines. This decision is based both on the fact that the right opposition has never managed to present a viable alternative to Marcos and on the need to consolidate the Philippine ruling class in its struggle against the national democratic resistance.

The *rapprochement* between Carter and Marcos undoubtedly strengthens the Marcos dictatorship in the short run. For the resistance, this new development will mean added hardships. But the essence of the political situation in the Philippines remains the same. The long-run trend towards increasing political support for the resistance will continue. In looking to the future, Marcos should not be too dazzled by promises of U.S. support. In 1962, the U.S. made a decision to increase its assistance to the Diem regime. In 1963, Diem was killed in the aftermath of a U.S.-backed *coup d'etat*. □

Traffic Measures...

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excess going to the operator or owner.

In issuing the decree and the ordinance, Marcos and Imelda cited the "alarming" and "critical" traffic situation in Metro Manila where 47 percent of the total number of motor vehicles in the country are concentrated.

Affected by the two measures are some 1,400,000 bus, jeepney and taxi drivers, 120,000 operators of public utility vehicles as well as thousands of owners of private cars, jeeps, buses, trucks, and other types of motor vehicles.

In the two months of their enactment, the two measures have increased the asking price of traffic policemen for "tong" or "lagay." In many cases, operators and drivers of public utility vehicles as well as owners of private cars, jeeps, prefer to pay the P200 stalling fine and towing fee. To many of them, it doesn't really matter where the fine and fee money goes—up high to the MMC or to the local traffic cop.

The MMC ordinance considers as stalled vehicles any vehicle and/or its attachment which is unable "for any cause" to proceed under its own motive power and is on a public road, street or thoroughfare. There is no qualification on whether the vehicle got stalled in an area with a light or heavy traffic flow or during the rush or non-rush hours.

The reasons for getting stalled can be running out of gasoline, a blownout tire, a weak battery or a burnt-out armature. But it could also be that the stalled vehicle is a little too old so that it would be economical for the owner or operator in the long run to buy a new one rather than risking so many P200 fines and towing fees, costly repair jobs and spare part replacements.

Undoubtedly, the Progressive Car Manufacturing Program (PCMP) members led by Delta Motors Corp. which is headed by Marcos crony Ricardo Silverio Sr., are secretly elated by the two measures. The decree and the ordinance are a big boost especially at a time when their sales do not keep up with increases in productive capacity. Except for Delta, the other PCMP members—Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, and DMG are not picking up in their sales fast enough. But Delta Motors is gearing itself up for a major sales drive this year, particularly for its Toyota cars and Tamaraw vehicles, in an effort to strengthen its dominant role in the automotive industry. In the years ahead, it aims to corner the bulk of the market for buses and trucks with its designation as the sole marketing entity in the country for MAN commercial vehicles and with the start of operations of its diesel plant.

PD 1605 and Imelda's Ordinance No. 78-A, which were issued last November, came just in time—if they were not synchronized with the Delta plan. But one thing is sure—1979 will prove to be another thanksgiving year for this Marcos-owned company. □