

## 12th Anniversary of the New People's Army



Special Supplement—Pages 5-6

People's militia undergo training with New People's Army cadre as supportive townsfolk watch.

## AMLC Protests Planned Visit of Marcos

The invitation of President Ferdinand Marcos to address the April 21 Associated Press luncheon at the Annual American Newspaper Publishers Convention in Honolulu, has elicited strong protests from the Anti-Martial Law Coalition-Philippines (AMLC) and the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP).

In a united action, the AMLC and FFP demanded that the invitation be withdrawn due to "glaring contradictions in principle and in practice" between Marcos and the press. When asked about the criteria for the invitation, ANPA vice-president and convention coordinator Tom Fichter said, "In looking at the free press and the free world, we looked for world-wide personalities who have not been heard from in a while and who normally would not attend a convention in New York, for example."

Alan Newthar, ANPA chairperson and president and head of the Gannett chain of newspapers, personally issued the invitation for Marcos to address any of the convention breakfasts and luncheons to be held April 21-23. Manila newspapers and UPI carried stories quoting Marcos as "looking forward" to meeting with the news publishers.

"Speaking of Marcos and the free press in the same breath is a contradiction in terms," declared Rene Cruz, AMLC National Coordinator. "I am amazed and outraged that a man who shut down all Philippine media—newspapers, television and radio—upon the declaration of martial law, imposed complete press censorship, and allowed only family- and government-controlled media to resume operations—this man

Continued on page 9

## Carter's Answer to Crisis: Cutbacks

Reprinted from THE GUARDIAN

President Jimmy Carter has launched an "anti-inflation" program that will take the people of the U.S. far down the road to impoverishment.

Whether the program, if enacted, will eventually decelerate inflation probably depends on whether it induces a deep recession, which seems likely. That is perhaps its unspoken purpose. But its direct and immediate impact will be to make inflation worse.

Carter presented his new set of proposals to the nation in a radio address March 14. They had been hammered out during 10 days of unprecedented consultations with members of Congress—in which no Blacks participated, even though they were most concerned.

### FIVE-PART PROGRAM

The main elements in the package are massive cuts in federal spending and drastic limitations on credit. In addition, the five-part program includes:

- An import fee on oil that will raise gasoline prices at the pump by 10 cents a gallon beginning in mid-May.
- An expansion of the "monitoring activities" of the Council on Wage and

Price Stability, the agency that oversees the voluntary wage and price guidelines program.

- And something called "structural changes" signifying more tax breaks for industry later on.

The most visible proposal calls for a \$13 billion cut in federal spending in fiscal year 1981, the year beginning October 1. So far only about \$3 billion of the cuts have been identified. Carter planned to withhold specifics about the balance of the "bitter medicine," as he calls them, until the end of March—after the month's primaries are over.

However, it is clearly the intent of congressional leaders and the White House to make most of the savings by slashing social programs—such as welfare, jobs for young people, mass transit and school lunches—whose beneficiaries lack political clout. Earlier plans to increase military spending will scarcely be touched.

The budget cuts are to be made in the framework of balancing the budget, a largely symbolic act that Republicans have long boosted as a cure-all for economic trouble. According to the administration, the Democratic leadership

Continued on page 10

## INS Informer Denounced

The National Association for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG), Los Angeles Chapter and Ms. Aimee Cruz of the NAFL-FNG in New York recently responded to the charges made by Gonzalo Policarpio. Policarpio, called by both groups as a "Makapili," is being accused of furnishing information to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and aiding it in its harassment of Ms. Aimee Cruz, national co-coordinator of the NAFL-FNG.

The responses were made to a statement published in the Chicago-based newspaper, *The Philippine Times*, dated March 10, 1980. The statement was supposedly issued by "A Concerned Filipino-American," and charged Ms.

Cruz of being connected in an "alleged procurement of fake hospital employment contracts for Filipino nurses entering the U.S. on H-1 visas.

In its response to the article, the Los Angeles NAFL-FNG chapter called Policarpio's statement a gross distortion and an irresponsible attack on the NAFL-FNG. They also plan to file a libel suit against the Executive Board of the UFO, New York, unless a public apology is made by the board.

Ms. Cruz, on the other hand, claims that the statement has "appallingly exposed Policarpio's detailed knowledge of INS schemes in surveilling her and other Filipino community members."

See related articles on pages 7 and S4

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

# CUTBACKS A SIGNAL ...OR A SQUEAK?

By GELINE AVILA

It is a pathetic spectacle the way some groups are scrambling to claim credit for a recent "aid cut" to the Marcos regime. Raul Manglapus, as usual, wedged his way onto center stage, declaring that it was his lobbying that did the trick. Not to be out-done, another group claimed responsibility for "a great victory over resurgent Cold War militarism."

The objective of the fuss was what one pundit described as the "disappearing cut"—one of those cruel parliamentary jokes that the U.S. Congress periodically plays on the anti-martial law movement. The sorry history of the disappearing cut began last February, with the attempt of Rep. Tony Hall, a Democrat from Ohio, to introduce an amendment to make a symbolic cut of \$10 million from Carter's FY-1981 request of \$75.7 million in military aid for Marcos. A fine idea that deserved and got the support of a lot of people.

## GARBLED SIGNAL

As it wound its way through the Congressional mill, however, the "message to Marcos" that this effort was meant to communicate steadily got garbled. Rep. Lester Wolff, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, whittled down the already slight cut to \$5 million at a subcommittee session on March 6. The New York congressman's stance was a classic case of parliamentary contradiction and liberal vacillation: at the same time that he declared he was all for "sending the signal," he was assuring both Marcos and Carter that the amendment was not a violation of Carter's promise to provide Marcos with \$300 million over five years' time, which was one of the conditions of the Bases Agreement. Wolff's rationale was that the \$5 million could always be reinstated later, within the five-year period.

By the time the now mangled amendment reached the full Foreign Affairs

Committee on March 19 and confronted the formidable Congressman Clement Zablocki, chairman and Carter's point man in that body, Wolff was explicitly disclaiming that it was an aid cut and asserting that it was an aid deferral. With that assurance, Zablocki and the administration withdrew their opposition. The amendment was not even voted on, but transformed into a non-controversial procedural item. The effort that was meant to end with a bang concluded with a whimper, the signal to Marcos flickered out, Hall was left out in the cold, and a number of anti-martial law groups woke up to find they had been taken for a ride.

Not all groups, however, were caught napping when the bubble burst. One of those which kept its head clear through the whole process was the Congress Task Force (CTF) of the FFP and the AMLC, which had earlier prepared an excellent full-length critique of the State Department's Human Rights Report on the Philippines for use in the congressional deliberations. As soon as it spotted the move to water down Hall's aid-cut effort into an innocuous deferral, the CTF launched an emergency telegram campaign to save the cut and thus maintain the symbolic value of the initiative.

## THE EL SALVADOR STRATEGY

To its credit, the CTF also informed the public of several aspects of the proposed amendment that revealed it as less than the unalloyed blessing that some groups had made it out to be. While the CTF supported the human rights rationale for the cut, it was sharply critical of Congressman Hall's attempt to also present the amendment as a strategy "to save the bases in the long run" by propping up "moderate democratic forces" as an alternative to a "radical liberation front." An outcome similar to the Sandinista victory in Nicaragua, Hall had asserted, had to be

averted in the Philippines.

"Here, in almost pristine form," noted the CTF, "is what has become popularly known as the 'El Salvador Strategy'—propping up the elite opposition in order to defuse the nationalist left. We hold that if aid is to be cut, it should be for reasons of human rights and non-intervention, not as part of a strategy to contain popular and indigenous nationalist forces in order to save unpopular, unwanted, and useless foreign bases that constitute, in the words of the last Senator Claro M. Recto, a 'dagger poised at the throat of Philippine sovereignty.'"

We would add that while the Hall rationale is something that the pro-U.S. Movement for a Free Philippines would find quite congenial, it is distressing to note that it was also endorsed with no qualifications by some supposedly "nationalist" and "non-interventionist" groups. Opportunism for the sake of questionable short-term "gains" we would warn these groups, not only does not serve the interests of the Philippine movement; it also has a way of ensnaring its own practitioners into consistent opportunism.

## ALARMING TRADE-OFF

The CTF also pointed to the alarming tradeoff that was apparently made by the subcommittee between the aid deferral to the Philippines and the sharp increase of \$20 million it tacked on to the already \$50 million requested for Thailand by the administration. "Though the cut to the Philippines received the most publicity, the aid increase to Thailand was, in fact, more significant. Justified as essential to counter the 'Vietnamese threat' (one of the tenets of Cold War II strategy), the amendment had the effect of placing the subcommittee squarely behind the 'Carter Doctrine,' which sees Thailand as the key area for the reassertion of U.S. military influence in Southeast Asia. In the neat formula of the State Department, 'ASEAN is the

key to Southeast Asia; and Thailand is the key to ASEAN."

The accuracy of this analysis cannot be understated. The increased aid to the Thai regime will certainly be used, not to counter the imaginary Vietnamese threat, but to wage war on the strong domestic nationalist forces opposing the regime. And coming on top of a series of other moves—the reintroduction of B-52 command control specialists, covert negotiations for the re-opening of the huge U Tapao Air Base from where B-52 attacks were launched into Indochina during the Vietnam War, and the resurrection of the Manila Treaty of 1954 which provides for "mutual defense" between the U.S. and Thailand—the aid increase will bolster U.S. military presence not only in Thailand but in the region as a whole.

The scenario that the CTF tried to head off transpired in the full Foreign Affairs Committee on March 19. The aid cut to Marcos was, in fact, castrated and turned into an innocuous deferral; while the aid increase to Thailand was approved, with House liberals lining up behind the amendment to parade their credentials as proponents of a "strong defensive posture" in Southeast Asia.

## TELLING THE TRUTH

The struggle for meaningful aid cuts to the Marcos regime must continue. A critical stance toward propping regimes must be brought to bear on the U.S. Congress. But the objective of this effort is not served by presenting what was in effect a timid parliamentary squeak as a "bold signal." It is not served by hiding the fact of strong Congressional support for the reassertion of U.S. military power in Southeast Asia. And least of all is it served by patting oneself on the back and making the absurd and disarming claim that a "great victory over resurgent Cold War militarism" has been achieved.

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## Statement of Political Detainee

# 'U.S. Unmasked as Human Rights Pretender'

In its report to the U.S. Congress this year, the State Department gave the Marcos martial law regime a "passing grade" on the issue of human rights. This is a turnabout from the department's previous rating of the Philippine government as one of the outstanding violators of human rights in Asia and elsewhere.

The turnabout is explainable, not by any real improvement in the human rights situation in the Philippines, but by the geopolitical needs of the U.S. government. The Carter administration is soliciting stronger support from its allies and its client-states in the face of its escalating cold war confrontation with the Soviet Union, its quagmire in Iran, its economic crisis of threatening recession, and the specific needs of Carter's campaign for re-election.

The new U.S. tact has nothing to do with any change in the Marcos martial law regime's treatment of its political enemies, specifically suspected "subversives." The State Department report, however, implies some improvements have been made, simply by restating the regime's own claims.

It is a fact that torture and maltreatment of political detainees continue to be practiced by the military—even in

Metro-Manila where the practice has somewhat been reduced only because there have been less incidents of arrests. In the provinces, specifically in areas of active people's resistance to the martial law regime, "salvaging" is on the rise along with torture and maltreatment.

There has not been any meaningful restoration of democratic rights, contrary to what the State Department report implies. The recent nationwide elections for local officials (January 30) is cited as a positive indication of this. But the truth is that the elections proved to be what it was: a blatant display of political power by the ruling clique, of terrorism and mass frauds—trampling the people's right to freely elect their officials—perpetrated by traditional politicians who rally around the martial law regime.

The local elections only demonstrated to the people that there has not been reforms in the political system, that it is far from being a "new society." The political system is still mired deeply in corruption, deceit and terrorism. So what is there to cheer about?

True, "Filipinos are freer to speak out in general terms regarding government policies and social problems than they have been since the imposition of mar-

tial law." But this is not by the grace of the regime, but the natural manifestation of the people's rising politization and courage to resist.

Let's go back to torture. The torture account of political detainee Sixto Carlos, Jr. (a leader of the National Democratic Front arrested on April 23, 1979), made public only recently reveals worse methods of torture added to those previously exposed. And it is striking to note that the officers and men of the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) who tortured two youths arrested for allegedly pasting up subversive slogans in connection with the January 30 elections bragged about being "the best torturers in the world."

It would strain the mind to conclude that these most recent disclosures of torture in Metro-Manila fall within what the State Department report acknowledges as "isolated acts of violence . . . committed by poorly disciplined military personnel." They rather indicate a continuing pattern of conscious, duty-imposed acts by the torturers in the service of the martial law regime.

In both the cases of Mr. Carlos and the two youths—Samuel Mallari and Augusto Sison of Navotas, Metro-Manila—the victims were arrested without the

presence of witnesses and without their relatives being notified immediately as required by presidential orders. Mr. Carlos was kept incommunicado for four months, during which the whole military officialdom denied having him in custody—despite the fact that his father, retired Col. Sixto Carlos, Sr., was once the AFP judge advocate general.

In the far-flung areas, peasants and ordinary people are being arrested, tortured and in some instances killed without their relatives knowing their whereabouts. Some who disappear are never found, dead or alive.

The U.S. government now glosses over these continuing violations of human rights by the Marcos martial law regime in order to strengthen U.S. hegemony over the Philippines and Southeast Asia. It has, in effect, made a mockery of its own pompous stance as international protector of human rights.

The U.S. government has unmasked itself as a pretender all along. The clear fact is that it now covers up the misdeeds of the Marcos martial law regime and unabashedly continues with the latter in suppressing the Filipino people. □

—Political Detainees in the Philippines  
14 February 1980

## FFP Report:

# U.S. State Dept. Covers R.P. Conditions

## Excerpts from the FFP Occasional Papers

To many individuals and institutions that have followed with concern the developments in the Philippines over the last few years, this year's State Department report on the condition of human rights in that country is both disappointing and disconcerting.

It is disconcerting for example, to see the report devote just one paragraph to the issue of torture and salvaging, or summary execution. It is even more so, when we are told that cases of salvaging are "unconfirmed"—in spite of the fact that such instances have been thoroughly documented by the Task Force on Detainees of the Association of Major Religious Superiors. This body, it might be noted is well-respected in international human rights circles and serves as the Amnesty International's source of basic data on the condition of human rights in the Philippines.

One finds it hard to decide whether to be amused or angered by the State Department's condition for the tag "confirmed" to be given to an incident of salvaging. "There were no witnesses," replied Pat Derian, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, when she was queried at a congressional hearing on February 7 on why her office regarded salvaging incidents as unconfirmed.

It is likewise disturbing to find that while the report concedes that reports of torture in several provinces have increased, it is careful to add that these are "all areas where guerrilla insurgencies are active." The implication is that, somehow, torture in the context of insurgency is more understandable and less illegitimate than in other situations.

## STATE DEPARTMENT APOLOGIST FOR REGIME

The same standards of proof that are brought to bear on charges of human rights violations are not applied to developments cited in favor of the government. Thus we are informed, with hardly a qualification, that:

● "more freedom is enjoyed now than at the beginning of martial law in

Manila and some provinces..."

● "Filipinos are freer to speak out in general terms regarding the government policies and social problems that they have since the imposition of martial law..."

● "The land reform program has been a single most effective program of its kind in the Philippines."

The double standard is nowhere more evident than in the report's claim that "the government took steps to curb military abuses in 1979 by, among other things, trying and dismissing some military personnel..." It fails to note that two of the three military men tried for torture and dismissed in Jan. 1979, were back interrogating prisoners by October.

By utilizing a double standard of proof, consistently underemphasizing negative trends, accentuating seemingly positive events no matter how tentative these may be, and in several instances passing off impressions as facts, the report manages to leave the reader with an overall sense that things are moving in a positive direction.

That this is, indeed, the intended effect was acknowledged by Derian on Feb. 7 when she stated that the report tried to reflect her agency's perception of "some glimmerings of possible change." The controlled Philippine press does not have Derian's caution and does right to the political message of the document: "RP's Rights Record Gains noted by U.S.," proclaims the banner headline of a recent issue of the government's U.S.-based newspaper.

Contrary to the impression projected by the State Department, 1979 witnessed significant deterioration in the state of human rights, the main trends being:

- increased cases of severe torture oftentimes preceding salvaging;
- continued incidents of massacres and mass arrests;
- continued violation of the rights of national minorities;
- continued denial of basic democratic rights; and
- deterioration of the condition of basic economic rights.

The magnitude of the problem of arbitrary killing and summary execution by the Philippine military is indicated by

the fact that in four months alone, there were 48 documented cases of salvaging and murder by the military. A great number of salvaging cases in 1979 occurred in areas which experienced extensive militarization such as Samar, Cagayan and Mindanao. It is important to bear in mind, however, that salvaging is not limited to areas with significant guerilla activity, and that most of the victims are not guerillas.

## SALVAGING, DISAPPEARANCES AND RELOCATION

The practice of beheading or lopping off ears of salvaged victims is not deigned by the State Department worthy of mention. Yet it has become a distinguishing mark of occupation troops in Samar. Collecting heads and ears apparently serves two purposes: it is a convenient substitute for a body count and it strikes fear of the military in the population.

Like salvaging, disappearances are a fact of life in the Philippines. In the first nine months of last year, at least 16 people disappeared while under military custody. Since 1975, at least 64 people have not been seen after their arrests, despite consistent inquiries.

The State Department report gives casual treatment to the problem of torture as it does to salvaging. It asserts, for instance, that there were two torture incidents alleged in Manila for 1979. This is clearly a distortion. In one instance alone, the June 14 arrest and heavy maltreatment at the hands of the Constabulary Regional Security Unit 4, the new name for the 5th CSU. The government's official position is that torture is not a policy and that torture incidents are isolated events committed by abusive soldiers. The methods of torture, however, belie this. According to TFD, "As the seventh year of martial law draws to a close, it seems various sections of the military are trading secrets from their arsenal of torture tricks.

Mass arrests and massacres were hardly considered worth mentioning in the State Department report. But they continued to be a disturbing trend in 1979.

The report asserts, "Philippine women participate freely in the economic, poli-

tical and social life of the country, and their participation is expanding." What is conveniently omitted is that women, particularly peasant women, continue to be the victims of some of the worst abuses committed by the military. "Rape and forced servitude" notes TFD is now a fate common to female peasant detainees."

National minorities have continued to be special victims of martial law. The military occupation of Southwestern Mindanao and Sulu continue to absorb about two-thirds of the troops of the Marcos government. Like the Muslims, other national minorities were targets of military repression. This included Higaonons of Mindanao, the Kalingas in Northern Luzon and the Tingians in Abra.

Displacement of large numbers of people by military operations continued in 1979—another fact not mentioned in the report. 17,000 Muslims and Christians were forced to leave their homes in Lanao del Sur last year.

## U.S. ASSISTANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

In fiscal year 1980, \$75.7 million were sent to Marcos as the first installment of a \$500 million aid package that constituted the linchpin of the U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreement of 1979.

According to a recent Congressional Research Service briefing paper, "the bases are one of several disincentives to a stronger U.S. effort to promote human rights in the Philippines."

We would go further to say that the guaranteed military aid given to Marcos in return for a secure tenure for the bases is clearly one of the conditions for stepped-up militarization in the country in 1979.

In conclusion, U.S. assistance cannot be divorced from the violations of personal, political and economic rights taking place in the Philippines today. In 1979 as in 1972, U.S. aid continues to be one of the major pillars of martial rule and dictatorship in the Philippines.

(Copies of FFP Occasional papers can be obtained at the address: FFP, 1322 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.



## PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Buod ng mga Balita

## CEBU PRIESTS CHARGED

A subpoena was recently served on Fr. Rudy Romano and Fr. Abdon Josol, two Redemptorist priests who were arrested and subsequently released on December 15, 1979 during a huge rally in Cebu to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The two are now being charged for "resistance and disobedience to an agent of a person in authority" and for "not procuring a permit from the proper authority to hold, rally, demonstration or parade." One of the priests, Fr. Romano is the chairman of the Visayas Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace.

While the affidavit filed by the military only acknowledged that a rally was held in the Redemptorist Church, the church's parish priest, Fr. John Purcell, said the rally was held in a "private area" and that it was the military who had "entered the Redemptorist Plaza by force and without permission."

The affidavit further sought to twist the facts by claiming that the squatters who had joined the human rights rally had been lured by promises of gifts and money from the priests.

Observers feel that this latest move against the two priests is a retaliation for the successful organizing of 6,000 people, mainly from the depressed squatter communities in Cebu City who came to the demonstration on their own accord, and refused to leave the police precinct until after Frs. Josol and Roman were released on the same day the human rights rally was held. □

Adapted from *SOLIDARIDAD II*

## INFORMATION MINISTRY PURGED

Let it not be said that Marcos knows no vengeance. When Information Minister Francisco "Kit" Tatad crossed him on the local election, Marcos sacked and publicly humiliated Tatad. That, it now seems, did not fully satiate Marcos' appetite for vengeance.

Recent reports from Manila say that Marcos has ordered the firing of 192 officials and employees of the Ministry of Information. This includes one assistance secretary. All is part of a plan to "clean-up" the Ministry of Tatad followers. Marcos' hangman, Ministry Officer-in-Charge Greg Cendana, recommended the dismissals, said to be only the first of a series of purges.

The purge is being rationalized on grounds of "grave misconduct and habitual absenteeism to gross inefficiency, incompetence and mismanagement." Manila wags say that not a few of those purged were, in fact, guilty of these "crimes," but their biggest "crime" is that of being on the wrong side of the now decided Tatad-Cendana war in the Ministry. □

## U.S. GRAIN EMBARGO DEFLATES R.P. COCONUT EXPORT PRICES

What is the connection between the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Philippine coconut export prices? Plenty, according to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce. Nothing, says U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Richard Murphy.

The story begins with the fact that the price of Philippine coconut exports recently plunged from 44¢ to 38¢ a pound in just two weeks. The reason for this, the Philippine Chamber of Industries says, is that U.S. purchases were sharply curtailed as manufacturers turned to U.S.-produced soybeans and corn as substitutes for coconut oil. These substitutes become competitive only after the embargo of U.S. grain exports to the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"It's a question that prices are fluctuating at the moment but that's not the cause. It's a question of market demand and supply," Murphy said. When pressed, Murphy said the grain embargo could, in fact, have caused the drop in export prices and "that's something we're going to watch very carefully." □

## UNSAFE FOR INVESTMENTS?

The Philippines is no longer a safe place for foreign investment and could become a serious problem area in the coming months, Frost & Sullivan, the business research firm said recently in a UPI report.

Any foreign company doing business in the Philippines should figure on a 60 percent probability of serious losses in the next five years because of political risks, the report added. Popular support for the Marcos regime is being slowly eroded, the company said, adding that if his opponents could unite, Marcos would be in real danger.

Frost & Sullivan also said it expects the peso to be devalued in the next 18 months. Moreover, the Marcos regime is unlikely to endure five more years and could be succeeded by a leftist-nationalist or a rightist military regime. □

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

## Massive Attacks Hits Workers



The jobless crowd employment office: Government hopes to alleviate problem through employment abroad.

Philippine Labor is under attack from all sides as thousands of workers are being laid off and thousands more are facing a 10-hour workday. The government's palliatives of finding placements for the unemployed abroad, and doling out cost-of-living allowances do not begin to cushion the devastating impact of these recent attacks and, in fact, deepen the crisis for Filipino workers.

## LAY-OFFS—A FAST GROWING TREND

Many workers from the manufacturing industry will be laid off as domestic business shuts down due to "continuous rises in oil prices." Labor Ministry statistics show that lay-offs have, in fact, been a steady trend. In one year alone, 121,005 workers were laid off in Metro-Manila. The number is expected to climb as the latest round of oil price increases impacts the rest of the country, closing down more businesses.

Wary of the host of problems that will surely come with mass unemployment, the Labor Ministry has set into motion a plan to actively place the laid-off workers in jobs abroad. Labor Minister Blas Ople has engaged the Overseas Economic Development Board (OEDB), the Bureau of Employment Services (BES), and the National Seamen Board, three government agencies, to do the job-placing. The desperation of the Labor Ministry blinds it to the realities of worldwide capitalist recession which will make seeking opportunities abroad a futile recourse. A history of negative experien-

ces accumulated by export workers is also conveniently overlooked. Many Filipino workers abroad have experienced job insecurity, discriminatory practices, illegal rackets, etc., ending in their deportation and subsequent unemployment.

Many parts of the world, especially Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, have taken in Filipino workers for short-term contractual jobs. "Export manpower" has never really provided long-range solutions to the unemployment problem. Its greatest service to the Philippine government has been as a source of foreign revenue.

## 10-HOUR WORKDAY

For workers who can keep their jobs on Philippine soil, the prospect for longer workdays for less pay lies ahead.

The foreign business community which includes the American, Japanese and European Chamber of Commerce and the Australian Business Group met with President Marcos recently to propose the revival of the 10-hour day in foreign-subsidized factories as an energy-saving measure.

The proposal, put forward by Harold Butler of the American Chamber of Commerce was received with no resistance by President Marcos. "I don't see anything objectionable to this proposal in principle," said Mr. Marcos.

Butler's proposal essentially changes the standard workweek to five 10-hour days from six 8-hour days. Butler admits the "ticklish" part of his proposal would be the deprivation of over-

time pay ordinarily received by workers putting in more hours than the eight-hour day limit. These payments take the form of a 50 percent hourly bonus. With the new proposal, overtime pay will be given only when an employee has worked 48 hours in a single week.

Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco, responding for Labor Minister Blas Ople and labor unions, said he didn't think there would be opposition to the plan. The only snag he sees is objection from the International Labor Organization (ILO), of which the Philippines is a member. The ILO has a code requiring overtime pay for workers who work over eight hours.

Minister of Industry Roberto Ongpin added that "most of us" in the Cabinet favor the plan and reported that the Labor Ministry is already developing tentative rules for implementing the 10-hour day.

Sources say that Mr. Butler was merely acting as a mouthpiece for government officials who originated the idea, and who chose the annual foreign business conference as a forum to make it public.

The plan also stipulates a reduction of one-hour lunch break to 30 minutes.

By implementing the 10-hour day with hardly any overtime pay for the sake of "conserving energy," the government, along with foreign businesses, is essentially making labor pay for the oil crisis. Eager to maintain or raise their level of profits, in spite of the oil crisis, foreign and local capitalists are now colluding to super-exploit labor. □

## Opposition Attempts Coalition

Having been defeated in the January 30 fraudulent elections, opposition groups are attempting another coalition to dispel impressions of disunity and disorganization.

In a luncheon with foreign newsmen, leaders of the various groups said the new coalition may be registered under the National Union for Liberation (NUL) or another name. The coalition's professed cause will be to provide constructive criticism to government programs and policies.

Drawn together in this new

united front are the National Union for Liberation (NUL), Lakas ng Bayan (LABAN), Concerned Citizens' Aggregation (CCA), Mindanao Alliance (MA), Liberal Party (LP), Bicol Saro, and Pusyon Bisaya. In the recent elections, the different groups worked independently. Some boycotted the elections. Others were disqualified, and a few were accredited by the Commission on Elections.

According to LP President Gerardo Roxas, the formalizing of the new umbrella organiza-

tion is under careful study, to insure that the coalition will not jeopardize the rights gained by each member group. The examples given are Mindanao Alliance and CCA, both granted the right of block voting.

Earlier attempts by the same groups with the same people involved, include the formation of KABAKA, followed by the formation of the NUFD—National Union for Freedom and Democracy. The viability of earlier tries at coalescing quickly petered out. □

# PEOPLE'S WAR ADVANCES TO HIGHER STAGE

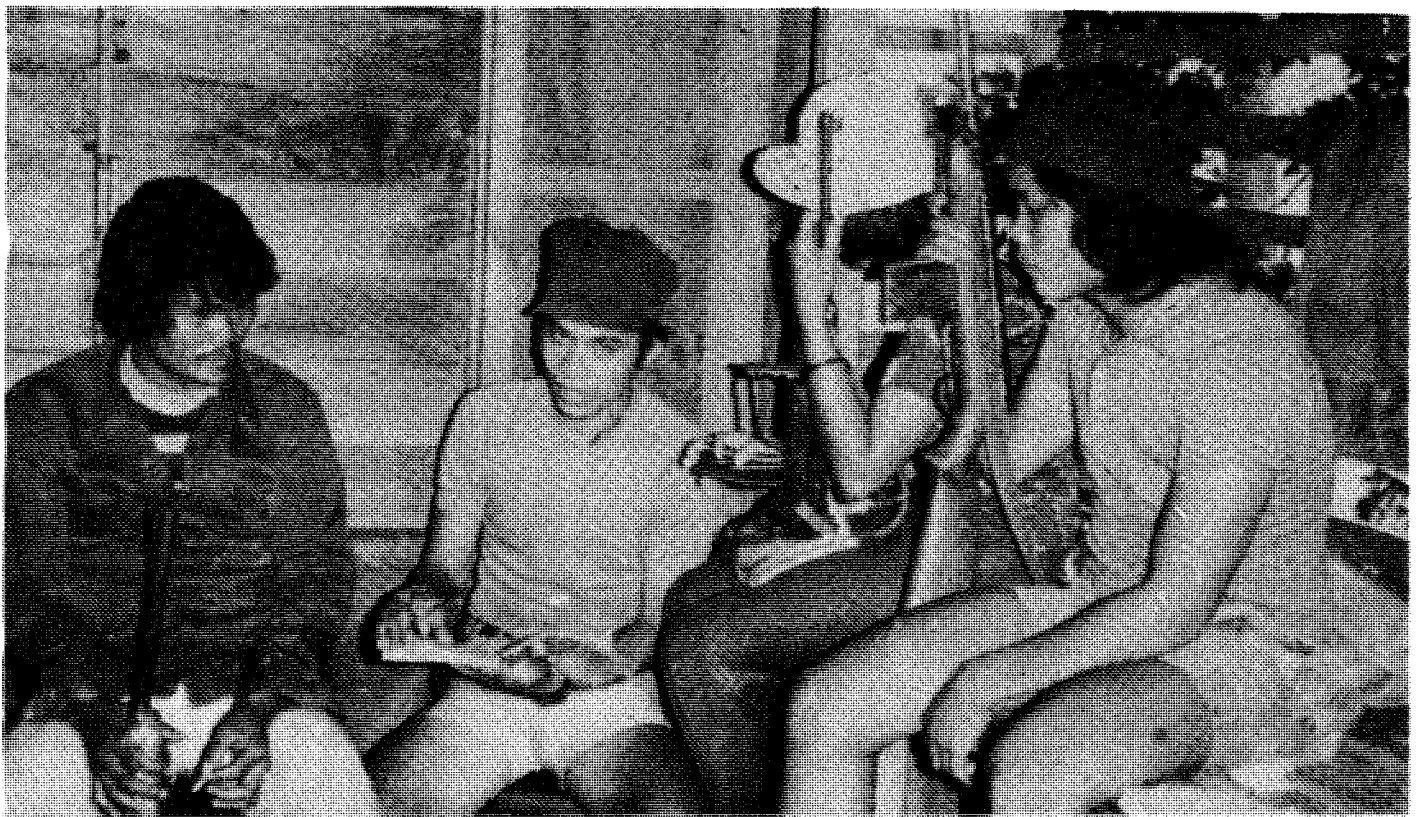
As the New People's Army enters its 12th year of struggle on March 29, 1980, it is armed with the confidence of a tried and tested vanguard army; ready to meet the challenges ahead and certain of winning still greater victories.

Indeed, 1979 can be added to the NPA's record as an important and critical milestone. Despite the ferocious military attacks which promised no less than to "sanitize the countryside of communist terrorists," the NPA not only managed to preserve itself; it determinedly pushed forward the armed struggle in keeping with the nationwide call to raise people's war to the advanced stage of the strategic defensive. Nowhere has this fete been most evident than in the provinces and regions where the military's encirclement and suppression campaign were most intense: Samar, Western Central Luzon, Bicol, Aklan, Davao, Cagayan Valley, and Basilan. In these areas, the military conducted on a mass scale, arson, rape, torture, murder, forced evacuations, intimidation, arbitrary arrests and illegal detention.

But in these very areas, the military's depredations only produced the opposite effect of rousing the people's anger and galvanizing their support for the People's Army. In these areas too, the tempo of the NPA's organizing and military work far from slackened. Nationwide, the scope and frequency of tactical offensives increased; the tug-of-war over towns and provincial urban centers became more conspicuous; and open mass actions, more often associated with the Manila-Rizal region occurred in far-flung areas of the countryside and were attended by thousands of peasants.

## "LIGHTING RAIDS"

The Eastern Visayas island of Samar, despite the presence of 10,000 AFP troopers and countless more paramilitary forces, continued to distinguish itself as one of the pacesetters of NPA activity in the country. Company-sized NPA forces launched the New Year with lightning raids in the towns of Gamay, Silvino Lobos, Mapanas, and several more. During their brief occupations in these towns, the NPA confiscated firearms, held rallies broadcasting their aims to the town residents and punished local abusers and spies. The subsequent massive deployment of troops, in particular the brutal 60th Infantry Battalion, did little to prevent similar occurrences. More recently, the NPA struck again, this time occupying a local outfit of the Marinduque Mining Corp. Before they stole away with the company's explosives, the 200-strong NPA force, redistributed part of the company's funds found in the premises, to the workers.



Similar "lightning raids" intended to gain the sympathy and support of town residents for the armed struggle in surrounding barrios, also occurred in Asuncion, Davao del Norte and Negros Occidental.

## RURAL MASS MOVEMENTS SPREAD

By effectively combining open mass actions with military activity in the highly militarized regions, the NPA and the revolutionary mass movement has been able to meet the fascist onslaught with both "sword and shield." Keenly aware that its gains cannot simply be preserved by "military might," the NPA has paid greater attention to directing the people's revolutionary energy and indignation at the regime's atrocities, towards open mass actions. These mass protests serve to expose the dictatorship's crimes and neutralize the attacks on the people.

In Cagayan Valley for example, home province of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, thousands of farmers and peasants turned out to demonstrate several times last year against the intensified repression. Enrile who earlier pledged to the National Security Council to "sanitize" Cagayan "no matter how many are killed," personally supervised the counter-insurgency effort. The people of Cagayan met the attacks with concerted mass actions which started last February 26, 1979. According to *Ang Bayan*, May 15, 1979, "More than 2,000 demonstrated in front of the church in Gatarran town to denounce the cruelty and abuses of soldiers of the 21st

Infantry Battalion. They also demanded the ouster of Gatarran Mayor Fruto Elizaga . . . On March 10, more than 600 peasants from six barrios of Lallo town marched to the town center and distributed copies of an open letter to the mayor . . . In Tuguegarao, capital of Cagayan, some 700 peasants met with Governor Teresa Dupaya and three town mayors on March 24 [and] presented to them a petition against military abuses."

Thus, despite Enrile's swaggerings against the NPA in his home province, the government has instead been more isolated. According to one Ben Shandel, a foreign correspondent who visited Cagayan during the height of the "sanitation" campaign: "The NPA openly fraternize and work alongside the residents of the remoter barrios while the PC have learned to prudently remain close to their barracks. In one significant reversal, the PC conceded NPA control in Bo. Naddenga by evacuating to a better locale, blaming malaria for their withdrawal."

## TACTICAL OFFENSIVES ON THE RISE

While still weak on the whole, and small compared to the numerical and logistical superiority of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the NPA has nonetheless made strides in building its armed strength. Concentrating on wiping out smaller and scattered units of the enemy for the purpose of confiscating arms, in the past year the NPA has utilized creative forms to undertake these missions at the least cost to the

people's army. Early last January, for example, five teams of Red Fighters staged simultaneous raids on CHDF headquarters in seven barrios of Zamboanga del Sur. At least 29 high-powered rifles were seized. Earlier, five Garands were confiscated from paramilitary forces in the same provinces, again, without firing a single shot.

The NPA's ability to increase the scope and areas of its military operations is drawn from its successes in building people's militias which serve as auxiliary forces to the NPA's regular operations. By conducting reconnaissance, security and functioning as the standing defense bodies of the barrios, the people's militias have relieved the NPA of the responsibility of maintaining revolutionary peace and order in the barrio. In these people's militias, even the youth have a role to play. As one underground publication recounted, a young boy took it upon himself to closely watch the movement of one Civilian Home Defense Force trooper. When the latter left his firearm for a moment, the youth bounded away with the "liberated" weapon and presented it to the people's army.

In certain areas of the country, the people's militias have carried out actions independent of the NPA. In Samar last year, people's militia forces staged two ambushes, capturing several weapons and ammunition. Armed only with *pugakhang* or home-made shotguns using match heads for gunpowder, the people's militia units made certain that conditions would be to their advantage.

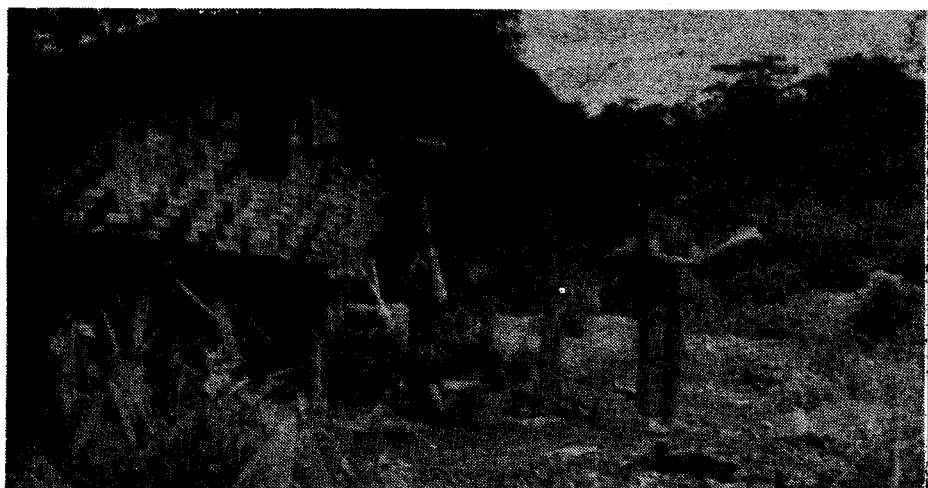
## ONWARD TO THE NEXT HIGHER SUB-STAGE

In sum, the strides of the NPA in the past year, forged in the heat of unrelenting encirclement and suppression campaign, has further steeled the people's army to meet its immediate task of raising the people's war to the advanced stage of the strategic defensive. Guided by the Communist Party of the Philippines, the NPA and the revolutionary mass movement are undertaking preparations to meet the tasks and challenges demanded by the next higher sub-stage of the national democratic revolution. Resting on a foundation of 11 years of determined struggle which has today borne fruit in the establishment of 29 guerrilla fronts in 39 provinces all over the country, the NPA and the masses of Filipino people, look forward to the 12th year of struggle, confident that the revolution will be brought one step closer to victory. □





# Peasant Cadre Explains Base-building Process



The following article is the text of the speech delivered by a representative of the New People's Army (NPA) during the "Internationalization of Class Struggles Congress" sponsored by Imperialism-Indonesia Project group of the Free University of Amsterdam on November 21-24, 1979.

On behalf of the revolutionary people of the Philippines, we would like to extend out thanks to the organizers of this Congress for this great opportunity to bring the Filipino struggle to all of you here.

I am Puri Labanan of middle-peasant origin. I joined the Philippine revolutionary struggle at the age of 16. Now I'm a cadre with the principal task of base building in the countryside.

The Filipino people are waging a protracted war aimed at completing our struggle for national independence and giving substance to the democratic aspirations of our people. The country has been under Marcos martial law government since Sept. 21, 1972, which is increasingly becoming more repressive as the revolutionary struggle is steadily advancing. This has been achieved after undergoing a rectification process which resulted in the re-establishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in December 1968 and the foundation of its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA) in March 1969.

The three basic components of the people's war being waged in the countryside are: base building, agrarian revolution and armed struggle, hand in hand with the united front work in the cities and town centers. The strategy is the encirclement of the cities from the countryside.

These were the tasks which the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the NPA faced when the struggle started with only 60 guerrillas who did revolutionary work in one district in a province in Central Luzon. Now it has grown to several thousand guerrillas operating in 41 provinces.

Samar has a land area of 13,080 sq. km. with 1.2 million population, 90 per-

cent of which is of the peasant class. The revolutionary movement expanded to this island in 1973—from one area in the south, it has expanded to two-thirds of the island with an estimated 300,000 organized peasants and several hundred full-time guerrillas, supported by 20,000 local militia. It is now one of the highly militarized areas with an estimated government troops of 7,000 excluding local police and civilian home defense forces. This heavy militarization was stepped up after we started occupying six town centers, surprising the local military outposts, except in one case where there was resistance wherein five government soldiers were killed. There was no casualty in the NPA. They were successful in confiscating the arms of the military and they held mass meetings after the assault. Before I left, despite the heavy militarization, one NPA unit assaulted and wiped out a military outpost, taking all the arms. These tactical offensives are advancing since the NPA regular army can already concentrate with military operations while around 10,000 full-time cadres and mass activists are undertaking the solid organization of the peasants, which is the principal task in base building.

Why and how is the revolutionary movement and its popular support advancing in our island of Samar and in many parts of the country? It is because of the revolutionary practice and dialectical relationship of waging military tactical offensives (guerrilla warfare) and its relation to base-building through the mass movements and united front work in the town centers.

My principal task as a cadre is base building—organizing the peasantry. Social investigation and class analysis are our guide for the Philippine revolution, which is basically a class struggle of workers, peasants, together with the petty bourgeoisie as its reliable ally and the national bourgeoisie as its unreliable ally against the big comprador-landlord bourgeoisie.

The essence of the organizing work is the building of a strong solid and collective leadership composed of the lower-middle peasants, poor peasants

and farmworkers. It has a broad and firm roots with the masses and can lead in mass struggles.

The process of organizing is painstaking. The first stage is building contacts in the villages to form a group of contacts with the following bases:

- The contact person should come from the lower-middle peasants, poor peasants and farm workers;
- They should have the desire to change the feudal system;
- And they have the willingness to undertake tasks.

Initial political education starts at this stage centering on the problems of feudalism in relation to bureaucrat capitalism and imperialism.

The second stage, after the initial social investigation and class analysis have been made and political awareness has been raised to willingness to take active part in the revolution, the Peasant Organizing Group is then formed. At this stage, social investigation and class analysis deepen and education advances. Propaganda work is undertaken and several organizing groups are formed. Membership is strictly based on class status—lower-middle peasant, poor peasant or farmworker.

The third stage is the formation of the Peasant Organizing Committee among the advanced members of the organizing groups. This is the point where future leaders show. Propaganda work and po-

• Defense (militia)—for protecting the masses, supporting the regular army, intelligence and communication.

These activities advance more when the Peasant Association is formally established and elections are held. At this point, the organizing committee is dissolved.

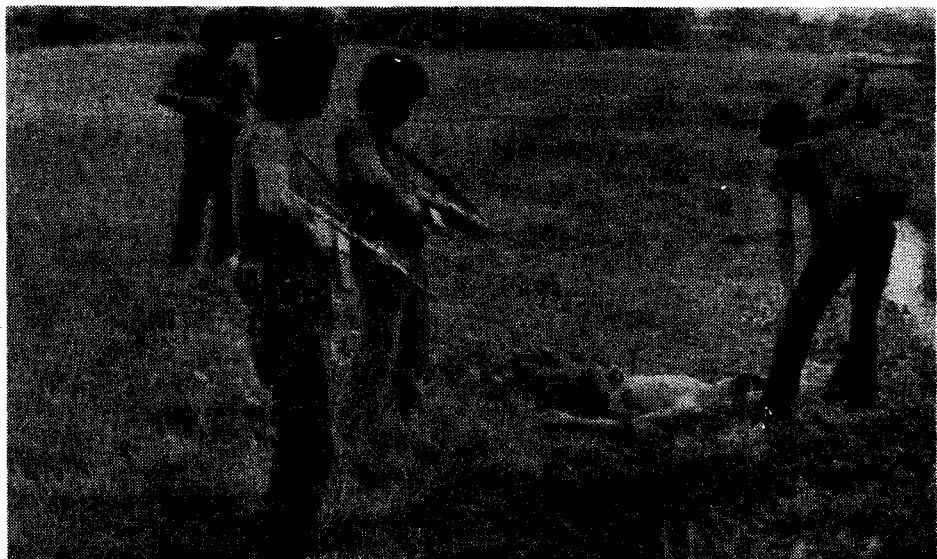
At the stage of the formation of the organizing committee, advanced peasants are already recruited to the Party.

The Village Revolutionary Committee is set up when:

- There is a solid and strong Party organization;
- The agrarian revolution has been implemented;
- There are strong peasant associations;
- There is a strong alliance with other sectors;
- There is a strong organized active militia; and
- Counter-revolutionaries and bad elements have been eliminated.

To ensure this steady advancement, constant summing up and assessment, planning, education, and criticism-and-self criticism are undertaken at all levels of organization.

In summary, therefore, the past ten years have seen the steady advancement of the Philippine Revolution against U.S. imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism, and feudalism which are concretely expressed and experienced by



litical education achieve higher level. Mass campaigns and mass struggles are pushed forward. Anti-feudal struggles are focused on the implementation of the step-by-step revolutionary guide to land reform. The minimum implementation is the secret land rent reduction and the maximum implementation at present, is the non-payment of land rent to the landlords. This is based on the assessments of the strength of the mass organization against the strength of the enemy. Mutual labor exchange and co-operatives are parts of the economic activities.

In one experience, several villages in three towns were able to increase the price of corn by boycotting the exploitative businessmen.

The committee system is implemented. These are committees on:

- Organization—for organizational work and expansion;
- Education—for ideological building, literacy and cultural activities;
- Economic—for economic projects and activities;
- Health—for paramedic training using herbal medicine and acupuncture; and

the Filipino people in the present U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. It is now moving towards the advanced stage of strategic defensive in the people's war.

And as the Philippine Revolution advances, we are continuing our effort of unity and cooperation with our Moro brothers, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), against our common enemy.

We are inspired by the increasing number of victories of revolutionary struggles of the Algerian people, the people of Mozambique, and Guinea Bissau.

We are open and we would like to share and learn revolutionary experiences with on-going revolutionary struggles of peoples such as the Saharai people, the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia, Azania, East Timor and others in Southeast Asia.

We are aware of risks, dangers and sacrifices as the Philippine Revolution intensifies, for U.S. imperialism is a formidable enemy. While mainly relying on the principle of self-reliance, we recognize the increasing need for solidarity and cooperation with other revolutionary and liberation movements in the world.

Philippine Revolution is the revolution of the Filipino masses. For this, we are sure of victory. MAKIBAKA! □



## FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

# N.Y. Holds Conference on Immigrant Rights

NEW YORK—"After today our community will not be the same again. We have just now made a conscious decision to take up struggles, be concerned, and be ready to fight for our rights as a community."

This statement was made by Ms. Lourdes Kiuchi in her closing remarks given at the New York Conference on Filipino Immigrant Rights held Sunday, March 16, 1980. Ms. Kiuchi is one of the co-coordinators of the newly formalized Immigrant Rights Task Force of the Filipino Community Center of New York (FCC-NY).

The Immigrant Rights Task Force was formed in response to the escalating attacks being made by the government and private interest groups against the rights of Filipinos as immigrants. The New York Task Force is part of a nationally coordinated effort to confront these problems by monitoring trends and practices of the relevant government and private bodies. It will also educate and organize the Filipino community to act in unity against these attacks whenever necessary.

The conference addressed four key issues involving immigrant rights facing the Filipino community today. The issues discussed were: the use of SSI reciprocity to exclude elderly Filipinos; the deferred voluntary departure (DVD) status and nurses on the H-1 visa; the Visa Qualifying Examination (VQE) for Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs); and the situation and the rights of over-staying Filipinos.

The Conference was also the first public activity sponsored by the Filipino Community Center of New York. In her welcome address, Ms. Teresa Rodriguez, Coordinator of the FCC-NY, emphasized that the FCC was formed precisely to confront and deal with the problems facing the Filipino community.

She stated: "The Filipino Community Center is first and foremost, a vision or a goal, and only secondarily, an organization. The organization has set out to accomplish a goal; that of building a Filipino community that is not united, but specifically united around a vision of a progressive Filipino community. A community knowledgeable of trends and issues which confront it directly or impact it indirectly; a community aware of its rights and ready to mobilize its members in any situation which requires a united, collective community response."

The welcome address was followed by the keynote speech given by Ms. Kiuchi, Co-coordinator of the Immigrant Rights Task Force and a member of the *Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino* (KDP). The keynote speech provided the Conference with a framework for the rest of the presentation and discussions.

Ms. Kiuchi gave a brief history of Filipino immigration to the U.S. She showed from the concrete experiences of the three waves of immigrants—from the *manongs* who came here as farmworkers in the 1920's to the men who joined the U.S. military services in the 1940's to the professionals and their families who started coming here in the 1960's—that "discrimination ran through our entire history here in the U.S." She then posed the question, "Why then do Filipinos leave their homes, their relatives and their friends only to be confronted with discrimination and prejudice when they come to the U.S.?"

The answer, according to Ms. Kiuchi, lies in the "push" factors in the Philippines and the "pull" factors from the U.S. The poverty and lack of opportunity in the homeland push Filipinos out of



Speakers at the N.Y. Conference on Filipino Immigrant Rights (left to right): Lourdes Kiuchi, Teresa Rodriguez, Ira Gollobin and Dr. Eduardo Farcon. A pledge of struggle for N.Y. immigrants.

the country in search for a better life. At the same time, because of manpower needs of the U.S. economy, the U.S. government, through the Immigration and Naturalization Services, encourages immigration into the country by opening up new preferences, increasing quotas and coming up with new visa statuses.

According to Ms. Kiuchi, the picture changes when the U.S. economy takes one of its cyclical plunges. She underscored that the present period is one of those plunges and because of this, the economy must flush out workers from the work force, and the government must look for an explanation for the economic crisis. The immigrant is found to be a convenient target. Ms. Kiuchi's presentation provided the backdrop for the subsequent discussions on the four issues facing the community.

Rico Montessa, Jr., Co-coordinator of the Immigrant Rights Task Force, made a presentation on the SSI Exclusion issue. He gave an outline of the problem and emphasized that the use of SSI reciprocity to exclude elderly Filipinos returning to the U.S. is just a pretext to cut the chain of Filipino migration to this

country. "If allowed to go unchallenged, the INS practice," he said, "can effectively prevent family reunification, a right recognized and provided for by the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965."

Ms. Rosalie Espejo-Villar, R.N., a nurse at the Hospital of Joint Diseases and a member of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurses Graduates (NAFL-FNG), provided the presentation on the DVD status for H-1 nurses. Ms. Villar gave a scenario of how a nurse from the Philippines is lured to the U.S. through unscrupulous recruitment by American hospitals. Upon arrival, this nurse is forced to take the licensure examinations within six months and is faced with loss of her legal status and deportation if she does not pass the examinations within one year. She also reiterated the need for the extension of the DVD status until recruitment of H-1 nurses is stopped.

Ira Gollobin, Esq., an immigration lawyer and the General Counsel of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, made a presentation on the conditions faced by over-

staying Filipinos. He contrasted the changing attitudes of the U.S. government toward immigrants. "During times of manpower and labor shortage, 'hospitality' predominates. However, when the economy takes a downturn, this 'hospitality' is replaced with 'hostility.'" Mr. Gollobin also enumerated some of the rights of undocumented and over-staying aliens. He further emphasized that one can only claim a right if he/she exercises it.

The final presentation was made by Eduardo Farcon, M.D., former president of the Philippine Medical Association in America and president of the Association of Philippine Practicing Physicians in America. He outlined the legislations involved in the attempt to impose the VQE retroactively on FMGs who have not received their permanent status. "We could not believe how this could happen in a democratic country like the U.S. but now we realize that FMGs are considered useful only for as long as they can fill an acute need." He went on to say that "The FMGs served the American people when medical services were badly needed and served the places where no American graduate would go, as in the ghetto areas."

The morning presentations set the basis for lively workshop discussions in the afternoon. The over 60 people who attended the Conference broke up into workshops which closely analyzed each of the four issues and discussed the plans for action to be taken up by the Task Force. The workshops and the plenary session approved five resolutions dealing with the issues discussed.

As an initial campaign, the Task Force is undertaking a petition and letter-writing campaign to stop the use of SSI reciprocity to exclude Filipino elderly. The Task Force will also participate in the National Day of Protest being planned by the NAFL-FNG for April 21, 1980, to protest the first deportations of H-1 nurses since the expiration of the DVD status.

In conclusion, Ms. Rodriguez said, "The Immigrant Rights Task Force of the FCC-NY is now faced with the tremendous task, but it is also equipped with the analysis provided by the Conference and with the pledges of support made by its members. With these it is now ready to face the struggles it will have to wage to defend our rights as a minority in the U.S."

For further information, please call Lourdes Kiuchi at (212) 429-1550 or Rico Montessa, Jr., at (212) 465-0650. □

## Cruz Responds to Policarpio 'A Makapili in our midst'

The following letter is a response by Ms. Aimee Cruz to a letter that Gonzalo Policarpio submitted to the *Philippine Times*, which appeared in the *Time's* March 10 issue.

Dear Editor:

The long-awaited response from Gonzalo Policarpio finally appeared in your March 10, 1980 issue. As I expected, Policarpio simply needed to open his mouth to give himself away. His response, convoluted and incoherent as it is, is the clearest confirmation that he is an informant for the INS. His appallingly detailed knowledge of INS schemes in surveilling me and other progressive members of our community proved that he is in full access of information from the INS. One could not be privy to such detailed information about INS operations unless one had formal links with the INS.

Policarpio attempts to justify his act on submitting information on me and the NAFL-FNG to the INS by charging that I am involved in "procuring fake hospital

contracts for Filipino nurses entering the U.S."

I would certainly advise Mr. Policarpio to think his way out of this situation better, lest he sinks deeper into the murky situation he is already in. He has charged me with criminal activity of illegal recruitment of H-1 nurses into the U.S. He has implicated the name of the NAFL-FNG as an organization and smeared its prestige as an organization in defense of nurses' rights.

I am issuing Policarpio my second challenge: You better pull this one through. You have placed the UFO's name on the line, so you had better produce your evidence to your charges. Your blundering logic and convoluted thinking might become the noose with which you will hang yourself.

As far as the NAFL-FNG and our community are concerned, our analogy is still accurate: You are a Makapili in our midst.

Sincerely,

NAFL-FNG National Coordinator



# Anti-alien Legislation: THE WORST IS YET TO COME

By the National Organizing  
Department, KDP

We are witnessing with increasing ferocity a vicious attack on the rights of aliens in this country.

New legislation currently pending in the U.S. Congress—H.R. 4904 and H.R. 3236—would seriously cut back the availability of public programs and benefits to aliens; basic services to low-income persons like Supplementary Security Income (SSI), AFDC and Medicare.

While our awareness of this threat might be dulled by our own daily struggles with rising costs and diminishing resources, we should not become blinded to the brutal effects this attack will have on the day-to-day lives of millions of immigrants.

The real life impact of the anti-alien legislation is as grossly irrational as the beatings of aliens at the border, or "dragnet raids" conducted in minority communities.

What is at stake here is the fundamental right of aliens to simply survive in America.

We cannot casually accept this threat as just another by-product of inflation. Neither should we disregard the growing anti-alien trend as something that will simply "go away with time."

The fact that inflation and anti-alien sentiments exist together at this time is of great significance. It is a signal that

the very foundations of America's economic system is sounding a death toll.

Capitalism, in its characteristic instability, is suffering under yet another crisis—one that is victimizing all working people, immigrants in particular.

From the experiences of the immigrants in the past, we have seen that in a climate of economic crisis, the least stable sectors of the working class—like the immigrant sector—are the first victims of the frustrations of the entire class. We saw this with the exclusion movements against early immigrant Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos. In more recent times, it is taking the form of an attack on the Mexican-Chicano community, that is now spreading quickly to an attack on Asians.

## CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

As conditions worsen, the most backward and national chauvinistic elements of the American people will spark and fuel anti-alien hysteria.

In the meantime, government and big capitalists utilize this hysteria to obscure what the real problem is. That being, not just a crisis in U.S. capitalism, but a deeper crisis of imperialism world wide. The defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam marked the beginning of a steady loss of over-seas markets, raw material resources and areas for investment of U.S. capital.

The rising trend has continued to be the liberation of the peoples and nations

of the third world against imperialism with the U.S. as the main target.

As U.S. imperialist plunder abroad is reduced, the monopoly class in America must step up their exploitation of the working class at home in order to frantically maintain its high rate of profit. This has led to conspicuous escalation of the capitalist attacks on the economic well-being and political rights of the U.S. working class.

## ALIENS FOCUS OF ATTACKS

For aliens in the working class, it takes the form of deportation threats, harassment, and cutting back of their rights—in general, scapegoating of aliens for the nation's economic decline.

Foreign nationals who are "welcomed", encouraged and recruited into the U.S. during economic "booms" become the victims during economic crises. Unlike U.S. citizens, they can be more easily intimidated and often "gotten rid of" when the economy stagnates.

The INS is institutionalized to enforce this intimidation. It has the main responsibility for "controlling" foreign national workers.

The U.S. Congress also plays a less blatant, but equally sinister role in "regulating" immigrants for the needs of capitalists. In its role of chief lawmaker, Congress contributes to the efforts to exclude aliens by legislating laws to limit or discourage immigration.

A recent example is the onslaught of

anti-Iranian legislation that flooded the floors of Congress in the wake of militant Iranian protests of U.S. foreign policy.

While Congress should be confronted for its role in attacking aliens, we should be clear that these attacks are merely a manifestation of the scapegoating efforts of a decaying economic system.

Because of this, we can expect that attacks like these will escalate, rather than subside.

## BRACE FOR THE WORST—ORGANIZE!

We should have no illusions about reforming a Congress that has played the role of "chief controller" historically. Our task is to arm our community with the ability to defend itself against these vicious attacks.

First, we must educate ourselves so we can respond to the intimidation of the state apparatus, and prepare to take up present and future battles in our defense.

One expression of this is the recently formed National Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrant Rights.

But the success of this organization will only come through active participation from all sectors of the Filipino community nationwide.

We must reaffirm our commitment to defend the rights of all aliens against all forms of injustice, and prepare to direct our blows at the root of the problem—capitalism itself. □

## CHICAGO FNDC CALLS FOR UNITY



CHICAGO—The Filipino National Day Committee (FNDC), in a letter dated March 9, 1980, addressed to Dr. Nunilo Rubio, enjoined the Philippine Consulate-sponsored Philippine Week organizers to hold joint festivities in the upcoming fifth celebration of the Filipino National Day.

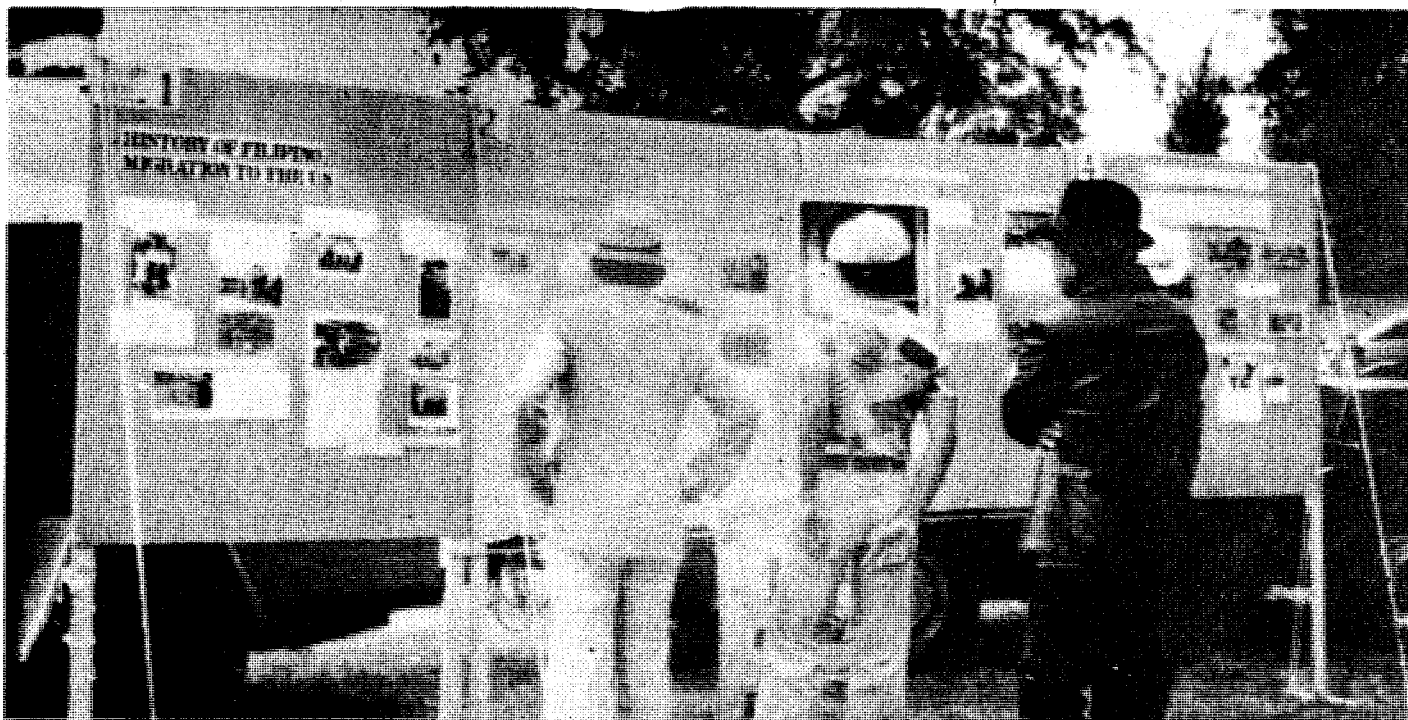
The event is scheduled for June 14 at Labagh Woods, this city.

Excerpts of the FNDC letter reads: "...we would like to invite your Committee to have a unified celebration with us on that day (June 14). We think that this is a practical matter that is necessary to avoid duplication of efforts and dissipation of energy. We also feel that we have a joint responsibility to the entire community in achieving some working unity.

If this proposal is agreeable to you, we suggest that representatives of both the FND Committee and the Philippine Week Committee meet to discuss how a unified celebration could be undertaken."

The letter was signed by the FND Steering Committee: Eddie Escultura, Susie Capili, Boots Ulat, Prudencio Ulat and Joe Espiritu.

## FNDC Sponsors Essay Contest



CHICAGO—To mark the significance of June 12, 1898 in Philippine history, an essay contest is being sponsored by the Filipino National Day Committee (FNDC).

The contest is open to Filipino and Filipino-Americans residing in the U.S. Topics for the contest may be one of three subjects:

- The Significance of June 12, 1898 and its relevance to our community.
- What does it mean to be a Filipino in America?
- The need to maintain Filipino identity in the United States.

The essay contest is divided into two categories: Division I, for contestants who are in high school and up; and Division II for those who are under high school.

Entries shall be judged on the basis of content (60%), which shall include relevance, research effort and originality; and style (40%), which shall cover grammar and the use of language, com-

position and creativity.

Cash prizes will be awarded for winning entries in both divisions. For winners in the high school and up (Division I): \$100 first prize and \$50 second prize. For those below high school (Division II): \$50, first and \$15 second prize. Consolation prizes in kind shall be given to runners-up in both divisions.

Entries must be typed on regular size bond paper, double-spaced, and must be from 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Contestants must use a pen name which must be on the right hand corner of the first page or each page. Each entry must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the pen name used by the contestant and his or her real name, address or phone number.

All contestants must also submit proof of authorship such as signed statements by their parents, relatives or friends.

Among the members of the Board of Judges are: Moy Pacis and Dr. Emer

Alcantara, former members of the Board of Editors of the now-defunct Pinoy Newsmagazine; Ernie Tolentino, Editor of the *Philippine Times*; and Dr. Eddie Escultura, member of the 1980 Filipino National Day Steering Committee.

Decisions of the Board shall be final and unappealable.

First prize entries in both divisions will be published in the 1980 Filipino National Day Souvenir Program and in Filipino newspapers.

All members of the Board of Judges for this contest and their immediate relatives are disqualified from joining the contest.

Entries must be sent to: Filipino National Day Committee, P.O. Box 2276, Chicago, IL 60690. Deadline for mailing is April 30, 1980.

Formal awarding of the prizes will be made during the Filipino National Day barrio fiesta in Labagh Woods, this city, on July 14. □



## RESISTANCE ABROAD

# Anti 'Salvaging' Campaign Launched



Marcos' military troop proudly display trophy—decapitated head of slain NPA cadre.

Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos' undeclared policy of murdering those suspected of "subversion," termed "salvaging" by the military, has come under attack from the Anti-Martial Law Coalition—Philippines (AMLC).

The AMLC, a coalition of organizations and individuals with 12 chapters in the United States and Canada, has launched a campaign to expose the thoroughly repressive character of the regime, which has already been criticized by the Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists, and the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines for its gross violations of human rights.

The AMLC will be gathering signatures for petitions to be sent to Amnesty International, the International Tribunal of Peoples, and the U.S. Congress. Slide-shows and educational forums will be held nationwide.

Salvaging first emerged as a conspicuous trend in 1976. Victims, male and female alike, ranging from senior citizens to young children, have been found in mass graves in isolated areas of the countryside—often decapitated, always mutilated with ears, nose, and limbs cut off, bodies hacked by machetes or riddled with bullets. Most of the victims are non-combatants.

Documentation by the Task Force Detainees (a church-affiliated group in the Philippines) and the National Resource Center on Political Prisoners (an AMLC project) has since mounted, in-

dicating that salvaging is an unofficial policy of the regime, not an accidental or isolated practice, as Marcos claims.

"The regime is saying in essence," stated Rene Cruz, National Coordinator of the AMLC, "that anyone who opposes Marcos' dictatorial rule has no right to live."

Stephanie Brown, National Coordinator of the Friends of the Filipino People, asserted, "Salvaging is a crime to which the United States must be an accessory. It is U.S. support that enables the regime to maintain itself through repressive measures." Brown was referring to the U.S.-RP Bases Agreement which guarantees the dictatorship \$500 million in military aid over the next five years. The U.S. has consistently supported Marcos to protect billions of dollars of investment and to maintain military bases which have a strategic importance to U.S. global interests.

With the international exposure of widespread torture of political prisoners, the trend has been towards eliminating the regimes "embarrassment." There have been 181 documented cases since the declaration of martial law. This figure is considered conservative by the Task Force on Detainees, since the military does not report its atrocities.

Salvaging used to be reserved for known leaders of the resistance. Now its scope has widened to include victims of worker, peasant, student and youth backgrounds. □

# Philippine Support Network Set up in Japan

A new national liaison committee to coordinate Philippine support work was recently set up during a meeting last December from seven groups who gathered in the Shinsei Kaikan. The meeting which formally set up the Japan Committee for Philippine Concerns was a follow-up to the first regional conference of Philippine Support Groups held in the Philippines and Tokyo in September 1979.

The formation of the national liaison committee is expected to expedite Japanese response to emergency appeals for solidarity from various human rights groups in the Philippines, notably the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (KKK) and the Task Force for Political Detainees. One of its first activities had been a more substantiated mass-based campaign in behalf of political prisoners. Several cables and at least 250 cards were directed to Philippine martial law authorities to protest the arbitrary arrest of Fr. Restituto Cardenas last year. Some of the concrete projects proposed for national action in Japan this year are a well-coordinated Japanese boycott of Philippine bananas is expected to raise Japanese consumers' consciousness of the interlocking interests of the repressive martial law

regime and profit-hungry Japanese multi-nationals engaged in the still burgeoning banana industry in the Southern Philippines.

Participants at the one-day gathering, especially women and church groups likewise called for more concerted action on the now raging issue of Japanese package-deal tours and prostitution of Filipino women. Japanese male tourists are the largest single group of tourists to visit the Philippines annually, and hence responsible for massive infusions of foreign currency into the regime's dwindling dollar reserves.

Groups participating in the national liaison committee include the largely Catholic Philippine Study Group, which together with the Jishu-Koza Stop Pollution Export Committee, has been spearheading the campaign against Kawasaki industry in Chiba and its sister polluting steel mill in Mindanao. Others are the Pacific Asia Resources Center, the Navotas Support Group, and the newly-formed, Philippine Task Force, Japan. The latter is a largely Protestant-based support group which grew out of the regional conference of Philippine supports, of which the Protestant National Council of Churches of Japan was a sponsor.

*Reprinted from SOLIDARIDAD II*

# Australian Support Groups Meet

The anti-martial law movement in Australia gained new ground recently when Philippine Action Support Groups in four major cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide gathered in a two-day conference of Philippine support groups, held in the Philippines and Tokyo last year.

The regional conference, which drew participation from more than 50 concerned Christians and human rights activists, called for the political and organizational consolidation of Philippine support groups and the formation of national committees in various Asian countries.

The Australian meeting, which was organized in Sydney on Feb. 23-24, sought to arrive at a deeper understanding of Philippine society and a more accurate appraisal of the ideological and political groups opposed to the martial law regime. It also dwelt on a critical evaluation of the existing support groups in Australia and the direction they are taking.

The gathering which was attended by a resource person from Samar in the

Central Philippines, likewise sought to define priority areas of work for this year. A major issue proposed for more coordinated and sustained national action is the issue of militarization of the Samar island and the Australian government's complicity in an obviously counter-insurgency development program in the beleaguered island.

The four major support groups in Australia, though hitherto loosely united, had been in the forefront of mass protests against martial law over the past few years. The most recent widescale national mobilization centered on the projected Australian export of uranium for the martial law government's ambitious and controversial nuclear program in Morong, Bataan. Late last year, together with increasingly militant anti-nuke and aboriginal rights activists in Australia, they spearheaded a successful tour for three Filipinos, including a Catholic Jesuit priest, to rally the Australian people against uranium exports to the Philippines. □

*(Reprinted from La Solidaridad II)*

# Marcos Visit Condemned...

*Continued from page 1*

is allowed within miles of a meeting of the press, let alone be an honored speaker."

Cruz noted that in pre-martial law days, the Philippine press had the reputation of being the freest in Asia as evidenced by widespread criticism of the government.

Stephanie Brown, FFP National Coordinator, stated "Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are two of the most important rights we have. Without

them, we are in danger of losing all our rights and freedoms. The Philippines is an excellent example of this," referring to the complete lack of political, civil and human rights.

"If the ANPA genuinely uphold the principles of a free press," Brown continued, "they will revoke their invitation to Marcos." Brown cited examples of the Philippine press' trammelled rights including: confiscation of TV and radio studio equipment to break the media

monopoly of Marcos' powerful political rivals, the Lopezes; wholesale round-up of journalists upon the declaration of martial law which led to the condemnation of Marco by PEN International (a prestigious association of writers); the denial of an entry visa to Bernard Wideman for his exposes in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (FEER); and the banning of *Time* and *FEER* issues carrying articles critical of the regime. Representatives of the AMLC and the FFP are

seeking discussions with the ANPA to express their disapproval and put forward their demands.

The ANPA conventions center around the topics of the world press, world issues, and world leaders attracting past speakers such as President Carter and Nelson Rockefeller in the past. This year, UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is the keynote speaker, and the issues of economy, energy, politics and the press will be highlighted. □

## DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Carter's 'Solution to Crisis ..

in Congress has now unanimously adopted the Republican prescription as its own.

The move prompted Douglas Fraser, head of the United Auto Workers union, to comment, "Herbert Hooverism resurrected." Black Rep. Ronald Dellums (D.-CA) was "outraged."

## CUT IN REVENUE SHARING

Largest of the proposed cuts identified by Carter was the 75 percent reduction in revenue sharing with states, amounting to \$1.7 billion.

States use these funds largely for education and welfare, with much of the money filtering down to the local level. Twelve states, for instance, use all such funds for elementary and secondary schools and Texas uses all its share for higher education. Other states allocate the funds to aid for the elderly, mental health programs and medical care for the poor.

"Many of our cities will be faced with serious disruptions of their budgets" if the cuts are made, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. And a spokeswoman for the National League of Cities said the cuts "virtually guarantee layoffs or property tax increases."

Carter has also earmarked \$859 million to be cut from planned improvements in welfare programs for next year.

Otherwise, the President left the proposed cutbacks vague.

However, Carter's delay in releasing details of the cuts irked the congressional budget consultant group, whose members were anxious to get down to regular committee consideration of the proposals. They reportedly suspected that Carter planned to change the agreed on package without consulting them. And so on March 18 they went ahead and released the details of the cuts irked the congressional budget consultant group, whose members were anxious to get down to regular committee consideration of the proposals. They reportedly suspected that Carter planned to change the agreed on package without consulting them. And so on March 18 they went ahead and released the detailed recommendations.

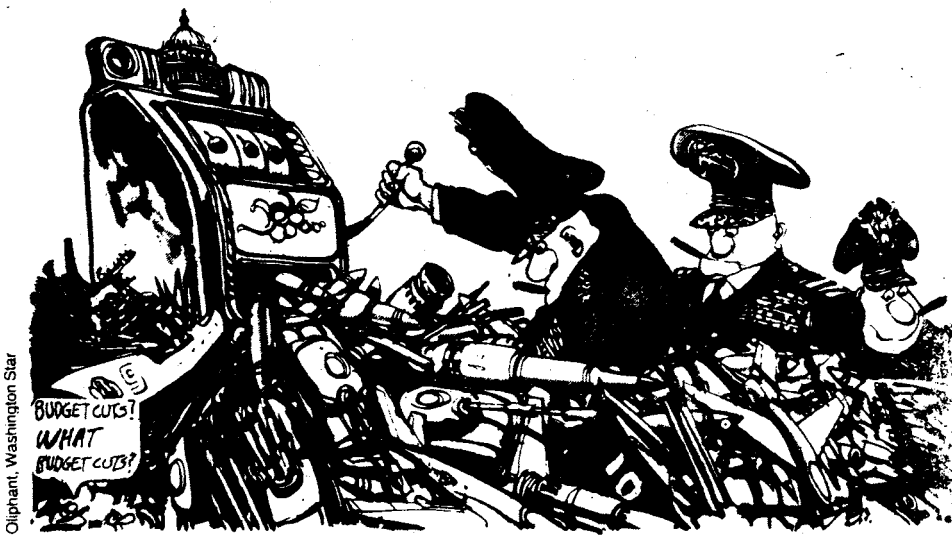
They were as bad as feared, the great bulk directly aimed at poor people. They included cuts of:

- \$1 billion to wipe out anti-recession aid to cities.
- \$800 million in cost-of-living increases in federal pensions.
- \$500 million by eliminating 50,000 CETA jobs.
- \$400 million from the child health assurance program.
- \$234 million by ending Young Adult Conservation Corps.
- \$270 million from the annual food stamp adjustment.
- \$200 million by reducing food stamps when school lunches are provided.
- \$200 million by cutting help on poor people's heating bills.

## SOCIAL SECURITY "REFORMS?"

For the moment, neither the White House nor Congress plans an assault on Social Security payments. However, Edmund Muskie (D.-ME), chairman of the Senate budget committee, made it plain in discussing the anti-inflation program March 16 that "reforms" are coming soon. These changes, he indicated, might tie benefits to increases in average earnings, instead of to consume prices, as now.

Under the earnings index, for instance, retired people would receive an increase of about 8 percent next July, instead of more than 13 percent to which they are



now entitled, in a period of declining purchasing power for workers, a more devastating decline would be guaranteed for low-income elderly people.

As matters stand, it is still impossible to discover what cuts Carter has in mind, or in view of the new tensions between him and the Hill, what their chances are for eventual enactment. But whatever their origin, drastic cuts are under way.

It's plain that the cuts will have little effect on prices.

In the first place, they leave intact the \$150 billion highly inflationary military budget. Further, a reduction in federal spending resulting in a balanced budget and a consequent reduction in federal borrowing might be expected to take some of the steam out of prices and interest rates. But recent experience—with the auto and steel companies, for example—has shown that corporations in highly concentrated industries cope with reduced demand not by cutting prices but by cutting production and increasing prices.

And besides, grossly harmful as the cuts would be, in terms of total federal spending and the entire economy, \$13 billion does not bulk large. Under somewhat different circumstances last year, official Washington budget-makers pointed out that a \$25 billion reduction in federal outlays would reduce inflation by less than half a percentage point.

Perhaps more significant than the budget cuts were Carter's proposals to restrain credit. These were spelled out in complex detail by the Federal Reserve System's board of governors March 14.

A big part of the credit program is aimed at consumers. Credit cards will be harder to get, more expensive to use and easier to have revoked.

The rules regulating the banks, oil companies, retail stores and others issuing this type of credit are quite explicit. The lender must deposit in a no-interest account \$15 for every additional \$100 of new credit issued in excess of the amount outstanding March 15. This provision cuts the funds available for credit and increases the issuer's expenses—which will undoubtedly be passed on to credit-card users.

However, because the automobile and housing markets are already depressed, the Fed has exempted from the new restraints loans to finance cars, houses and home furnishings. But, if available, these funds will be more costly.

The overall credit program is described as "a voluntary Special Credit Restraint Program" applying to banks and finance companies. Banks are asked to hold the increase in their loans to about 7.5 percent, compared with the 19 percent annualized increase in January.

Large banks will in some cases be required to increase their reserves, somewhat reducing their available funds, and the largest will be charged an extra 3

percent on funds borrowed from the Fed.

On March 18, the Chase Manhattan and other major banks raised their minimum rate to customers to 19 percent, the third hike in less than a week. The Chase said the new rate did not take into account the recent Fed action, plainly indicating further increases are ahead.

The cutback in bank lending is entirely up to the banks and they have the power to allocate whatever credit is available, although they are supposed to make a special effort to maintain credit for farmers and small businessmen. It seems evident that price-rationing will work in the credit field as it does in gasoline sales, disproportionately hurting the poorest.

Since businesses need increasing sums to operate in time of inflation, any serious cutback in the availability of credit will slow down business activity. Thus credit restraint, coming on top of a large cut in federal spending, might touch off a slide into recession. At this point, however, there is no way of gauging whether the Fed restrictions will limit credit a little or a lot.

## GASOLINE TAX

Carter dressed up his proposal to raise \$11 billion in revenues by imposing a gasoline tax as a conservation measure. He has already set the \$4.60 fee on each barrel of imported oil and directed that it be passed through the gasoline pump, where it will raise the price by 10¢ a gallon. He proposed that later Congress transform the fee into a tax.

The reason for this little game was, of course, that the President has the power to slap on an import fee to discourage imports, for instance, but may not impose it simply for revenue purposes.

Carter promised that none of this tax would wind up in oil company treasuries, which remains to be seen. But the tax will add nearly one percentage point to the consumer price index—"conserving" gasoline by forcing more people to do without.

In his March 14 appearance, Carter took the opportunity to commend the "spirit of strength and cooperation," shown by the business, labor and public members of the Pay Advisory Council, who had recently recommended that average price increases for the coming year be held to 8 percent.

## AFL-CIO GUIDELINES

With inflation running at more than 15 percent, 13 top union leaders, including AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland, had joined with the other council members in endorsing a wage guideline that, if adhered to, would further cut workers' real wages.

Carter went on to say that he was "sharply expanding the price and wage monitoring activities" of the Council and

Wage and Price Stability. The council, a key element in an earlier Carter anti-inflation program, has had no visible effect on inflation, but has done a useful job for Carter and business in keeping the lid on wages.

The final point in the new program was a proposal for undefined "structural changes over a long period of time to encourage productivity, savings and research." It was a token of Carter's intent to back tax cuts for business when times are better.

So Carter's new anti-inflation program, his fourth, appears to be as wide of the mark as its predecessors and even more an instrument of ruling-class power.

Faced with a collapse of the bond market (an important source of long-term funds for industry as well as governments) and the beginnings of public panic about prices, Carter has been forced to act to safeguard his leadership and candidacy. And nervous congressional leaders were ready to play along.

To be effective any new program had to be impressive in scope and carry with it strong assurances that it could be translated into action. The consultations with the contingent from the Hill, carefully selected by Senate majority leader Harry Byrd (D.-VA) and excluding both Blacks and women, provided the necessary appearance of built-in congressional support.

And Carter, naturally, turned the situation to serve the immediate needs of his campaign. The March 14 speech provided another opportunity in which to blast Kennedy's proposal for mandatory wage and price controls. But that was incidental, for Kennedy was no longer a significant contender, at least for now. The main threat came from Republican frontrunner Ronald Reagan and the balance-the-budget quarter—and Carter's intention was to steal their thunder.

## PRESSURE FROM ABROAD

Carter may also have been under pressure to act from his peers overseas. As an explanation of his astonishingly quick reversal from a 1981 budget with a \$16 billion deficit in January to a revised budget with zero deficit less than eight weeks later, Carter offered only "rapid changes in world events and economic prospects." He noted that the problem of surging inflation and interest rates was a worldwide problem, and he cited recent reports from Britain, Italy, Japan, and West Germany.

One of the factors again contributing to the discomfort of U.S. allies and trading partners has been the recent unsettled behavior of the dollar—this time its strength.

High interest rates in the U.S., induced earlier as an anti-inflation device by the Fed, have made dollar securities attractive to foreign investors. And the relative increase in the value of the U.S. currency has boosted the cost of all dollar-dominated imports to other countries, most importantly oil imports. It would be surprising if Carter had not recently had urgent calls from foreign capitals about the economic situation.

A prominent French businessman recently commented: "It's a very dangerous situation, and it carries a small but quite actual risk of disruption of the entire international economic system."

It is in this context that Carter has offered his program that is bad news for the great majority of people in the U.S. and, in the words of the Congressional Black Caucus, "an unmitigated disaster for racial minorities, the poor and the elderly." □



## National Unity Urged

# Mugabe Named Zimbabwe's Prime Minister

By DEBY ARMANDO  
AK Correspondent

On March 11, Patriotic Front leader Robert Mugabe was formally named Prime Minister of Zimbabwe following his sweeping election victory in late February.

This marks a new beginning for the country's majority black population who are jubilantly celebrating their victory after having lived under the oppression of racism and exploitation of a white minority government for 85 years.

Fearing retaliation from the guerilla leaders, thousands of whites left Zimbabwe during the past few years. Appealing for national unity, however, Mugabe addressed the country, urging all people of Zimbabwe to remain and rebuild the nation:

"I urge you whether you are black or

white...to join me in a new pledge to forget our grim past," said Mugabe in the national address. "Join hands in a new amity and together as Zimbabweans trample upon racism, tribalism and regionalism."

"I wish to assure all the people that my government will strive to bring about meaningful change to their lives. But everyone should exercise patience, for change cannot come overnight."

"For now, let us be united in our endeavor to lead the country to independence. Let us constitute a oneness, derived from our common objectives and total commitment to build a great Zimbabwe that will be the pride of all Africa. Let us truly become Zimbabweans with a single loyalty. Long live our freedom!"

Demonstrating his sincerity, Mugabe took steps to see that all the people of

Zimbabwe have representation in the new cabinet. He appointed former deputy prime minister David Smith as Minister of Commerce and Industry, and another white, Dennis Norman, as Minister of Agriculture.

Two other cabinet posts, Minister of Sports and Recreation and Deputy Minister of Education and Culture, were filled by two ZANU women leaders. The appointments give recognition to the crucial role that women played in Zimbabwe's war of liberation.

Four members of Nkomo's Patriotic Front were also appointed to cabinet posts. Nkomo himself will serve as Home Secretary, which includes responsibility for the nation's police force.

### WESTERN AID DISCUSSED

Among the formidable new tasks now facing Mugabe is the task of maintain-

ing some amount of economic stability and overcoming the devastation of war.

The U.S. is presently leading discussions with the other major Western countries regarding aid to Zimbabwe. Diplomats of some of the governments involved say the main objective is to preserve their access to the prized raw materials of Central Africa.

Yet there is speculation that South Africa will also seek U.S. aid to be used in efforts to destabilize Zimbabwe's new government through subversion, military intervention and economic pressure. Since the U.S. has used and aided such methods to overthrow popular governments in the past, and is well known for supporting fascist dictatorships to maintain its economic interests, it is not yet clear exactly where the benefits of U.S. aid will next be felt. □

## A History of Struggle

# Zimbabwe Must be Free!

By TERESA STERN

Nearly one hundred years ago, an English colonialist named Cecil Rhodes led the British South Africa Company into Zimbabwe. The English wanted to own this land because they saw big profits in the fertile land and rich mineral resources. Armed with English weapons, they took over the country, named it Rhodesia, and forced the people into labor. They set up a government of white settlers and allowed no representation of the black people who outnumbered the whites more than twenty to one.

During the 1960s, Britain was forced by pressure from African people to grant independence to its colonies. The whites in Rhodesia, however, refused to give up their power over the black majority. In 1965, under the leadership of Ian Smith, Rhodesia broke away from Great Britain and set up a system of legalized racism. Ever since, Rhodesia has been an outlaw state, condemned by every nation in the world except South Africa. The United Nations passed economic sanctions against Rhodesia, making it illegal for any country to trade with or provide aid to the outlaw government.

During the 14 years under Smith's government, life for Zimbabweans grew more and more unbearable. Every aspect of life was affected by racial oppression. The standard of living for black people was so low that three out of ten children died in infancy. Decent housing and education, medical care, fair wages, trade unions, the court system, the military, ownership of the land, mines, and manufacturing facilities were all reserved for white people.

### LIBERATION STRUGGLE LED BY PATRIOTIC FRONT

The Zimbabwean people have fought for their country and their lives ever since the British first invaded. For many years, people tried to win their independence through peaceful means. Finally in the mid-1960s, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) launched an armed struggle against the Smith regime. Both ZAPU and ZANU have always stood for majority rule and a non-racial society, and they are supported by the overwhelming majority of Zimbabwean people. In 1976 ZANU leader Robert Mugabe and ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo formed an alliance called the Patriotic Front.

The success of the Patriotic Front forced the Rhodesian government to make some changes. In April 1979, Ian Smith called for elections and claimed that blacks finally had the right to vote.

However, the Patriotic Front was barred from participating in the election and people were forced at gunpoint to the polls. This is how Bishop Abel Muzorewa—a black man—was "elected" Prime Minister of Rhodesia.

It was clear to the people of Zimbabwe that Muzorewa was only a puppet of Smith. During his eight months in office, he did not make any real changes in the basic system of life in Rhodesia.

After Muzorewa was made Prime Minister, the armed struggle continued. The strength of the Patriotic Front and its supporters prevented Muzorewa's regime from becoming established as a stable government. However, the Muzorewa-Smith regime was supported—sometimes openly and often secretly—by South Africa, Britain, and the U.S., and so the Patriotic Front was not able to win a total victory. Also, Zimbabwe's neighbors had suffered greatly from the long war. These five countries, known as the Frontline States, are Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Zambia, and Botswana. The Frontline States strongly urged the Patriotic Front to negotiate so that the war could be brought to an end. A military stalemate combined with pressure from the Frontline States led the Patriotic Front, Britain, Muzorewa, and Smith to the negotiating table.

### AGREEMENT REACHED AT LONDON TALKS

On Dec. 21, 1979, after thirteen weeks of talks, an agreement was signed between Britain, Muzorewa, Nkomo, and Mugabe. This agreement settled on a complete ceasefire and an election to be held in February. Zimbabwe would be governed by Britain until the elections were complete. There were several crucial terms in the agreement, including that all South African troops must be evacuated from Zimbabwe, and that the 24,000 "auxiliary forces" and all Rhodesian troops must be given the same treatment as the Patriotic Front troops. The Rhodesian troops were supposed to remain in their bases. The Patriotic Front forces were to gather at assembly points inside Zimbabwe, keeping their weapons with them.

Another part of the agreement concerned the Parliamentary body. It was decided that twenty seats of a 100-seat Parliament would be voted in by whites only, and the other 80 seats would be voted upon by the black majority.

### BRITISH ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE PATRIOTIC FRONT

After the settlement was signed, the British violated crucial aspects of the agreement. Rather than evacuating the

4,000 South African troops, they allowed 2,000 more to enter and remain in Zimbabwe. Soames used the Rhodesian military and Muzorewa's auxiliary troops to police the country. The British extended the State of Emergency for six months, leaving the estimated 15,000 political prisoners in detention.

The British also tried to limit all Patriotic Front campaign activity. The campaigns had to be conducted under martial law. The British imposed limits on the transportation available to bring people to rallies. Salisbury printers refused to print Patriotic Front brochures, and election literature was held up at the border.

The Organization of African Unity (except for Malawi and Zaire) condemned these British abuses of the agreement, and the UN Security Council issued a similar condemnation after calling an emergency session to address the violations.

### U.S. IN ZIMBABWE: HISTORY OF OPPOSITION TO LIBERATION

The U.S. has many financial interests in Zimbabwe, particularly in the country's rich mineral resources. But more important to the U.S. is Zimbabwe's strategic location in the Southern African region. In order to maintain a safe zone for U.S. corporate interests as well as military access, the U.S. government aims to maintain moderate, stable, pro-Western governments in this region.

Before Ian Smith was removed from his position as Prime Minister in April 1979, the U.S. government actually supported the racist regime, although publicly it declared otherwise. Rhodesia was supplied by U.S. companies with oil, military equipment, and many consumer items. American mercenaries were recruited in the U.S. to fight against the Zimbabwean people. All these transactions were illegal, and all were well-known to the U.S. government, yet none of it was stopped. The U.S. government has always been more concerned about profit-making and strategic military considerations in Southern Africa than about the conditions of life for the people there or the sentiments of American citizens who object to illegal U.S. support for racism.

The U.S. was a strong supporter of the British attempt to undermine the Patriotic Front. Like the British, the main concern of the U.S. has been to ensure that the atmosphere in Zimbabwe after the elections is a good one for profit-making. This matches their covert support for settler rule and opposition to liberation.

A number of American companies

have already begun making plans to set up shop in Zimbabwe now that the elections are over. The Walt Disney Corporation was one of the first to make inquiries. Several major U.S. companies have expressed interest in importing Zimbabwean chromium, used in stainless steel product, as well as nickel, asbestos, and tobacco. Union Carbide, the second largest American chemical concern, plans soon to resume its manufacturing and sales operations in Zimbabwe. They have the largest direct U.S. investment in Zimbabwe—net assets of \$25.8 million.

The U.S. will use whatever leverage it still has to protect these investments. On the one hand, this will mean applying economic pressure on the new government. And it will mean continuing U.S. support for its stable and reliable ally in the region, South Africa.

### VICTORY FOR LIBERATION

The forces opposed to liberation—the settlers, the British, South Africa, and the U.S.—had hoped to use the elections to their advantage. These reactionary forces were facing an eventual military defeat through the long guerilla war. Their only hope was to manipulate the elections to put the liberation forces in a weak position, but their plan has failed. The liberation movement won a sweeping electoral victory with ZANU taking 57 of the 80 contested seats and ZAPU winning 20. The thoroughly discredited Muzorewa was left with only 3 seats.

ZANU and ZAPU were able to win the election because they had historically developed broad popular support and carried out a long armed struggle against the regime. The presence of the seasoned guerilla forces prevented Britain and the settlers from rigging and manipulating the elections. The political program and history of ZANU and ZAPU clearly represented the desires of the people of Zimbabwe. The result was a victory for ZANU, the leading liberation force, and for its ally in the liberation struggle, ZAPU.

This victory is a watershed in the history of Zimbabwe. The new government must still meet many challenges in defending and consolidating this victory, but the liberation forces now have the upper hand. The people of Zimbabwe have struck a decisive blow against the forces of racism and foreign domination.

The above article was taken from *This is the Time*, newsletter of the Southern Africa Organizing Committee (SAOC). SAOC can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 11376, San Francisco, CA 94101.

# MARCOS THREATENS CRACKDOWN

"The full force of martial law will fall on terrorists and their politician friends responsible," thundered Ferdinand Marcos early last month in the wake of a questionable series of grenade attacks centered in the troubled Philippine south. Observers suspect that the President's remarks may herald a new and severe nationwide crackdown.

In a somewhat confusing accusation, Marcos attributed the bombings to the New People's Army (NPA) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). At the same time, he suggested that they represented a response by disgruntled politicians to the recent highly fraudulent local elections which witnessed a clean sweep by Marcos' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

## HIGH TOLL IN LIVES

The blasts, occurring in crowded public places, have already claimed a toll of 40 persons killed and more than 400 others wounded on the island of Mindanao alone. Yet observers seriously question their attribution to the NPA and MNLF for a number of reasons.

To begin with, although the rash of bombings, according to the Marcos press, occurs at a time of stepped-up NPA activity, the people's army is known to reject terrorist tactics which kill or injure those whom it sees as its greatest potential base of support—Filipino peasants and workers.

Secondly, although the blasts have increased in frequency, they are by no means a new phenomenon. *Political Detainees Update* last January documented a series of blasts beginning as early as October which took the lives of at least 10 people. This particular series coincided not with mounting rebel activity but with increased raids and "zonas" by the Philip-



Military inspecting weapons: Observers suspect recent bombing was used as an excuse to intensify militarization.

pine military. Implementing *Op-lan Walis*, the military claimed to be engaged in rooting out "terrorists" in the area.

Residents in the south question those incidents. A grenade blast last October in the only movie theater in Jolo killed two and wounded scores more. How, asked observers, could a civilian have brought a grenade into a theatre surrounded by military in sandbagged position where security measures were so tight that not even a comb was allowed inside?

## STAGGERING PRICE HIKE

Others point to the timing of both the blasts and Marcos' warnings. "It may be true that the bombings follow in the wake of the recent elections," said one observer. "But they also follow a 53.6 percent hike in the price of petroleum products which means soaring costs for all commodities and increased hardship for the Filipino people. It may simply be a most convenient excuse."

Indeed Marcos' threat was

accompanied by talk of issuing Arrest Search and Seizure Orders (ASSO's) and approving more arrests without warrants and detentions without trials. His speech could easily mean *carte blanche* for the military to move against anyone suspected of dissatisfaction with current conditions.

## IDEAL JUSTIFICATION

Marcos warned of hardships ahead in his December election announcement. He came close, in fact, to implying that a crackdown would follow. Insisting that economic conditions after January would deteriorate so as to preclude the possibility of elections for several more years, he insisted it was "now or never."

Suspensions still rankle at this point as the nature and origin of the recent round of grenade blasts. Whatever the truth, Marcos has found himself an ideal justification for intensified military repression to cope with the inevitable unrest generated by the country's severe economic crisis. □

# Lee, Marcos Prepare for U.S.-ASEAN Meeting

President Marcos and Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, prime movers behind ASEAN, recently ended a three-day talk in Metro-Manila. Despite ASEAN's insistence that it is an economic and cultural association, recent signs indicate its gearing up for a military alliance with the U.S. Marcos and Lee's discussions verify this development.

The met produced a joint statement from both heads of state urging U.S. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to call an immediate international conference on Kampuchea; and appealed to ASEAN members to help settle the Kampuchean conflict.

Marcos told news men after Lee's departure that ASEAN should adhere to the "principle of balance of power until the U.N. could be in a position to assert its authority."

Although Marcos and Lee insist that ASEAN is an organization for mutual economic and cultural exchange among its five members—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and



Marcos and Imelda bid Lee Kuan Yew and his wife good-bye at the airport.

Manila Journal

Thailand—its recent concerns have been around regional security as affected by the Indochina conflict with its strong undercurrents of superpower cold war.

With the U.S.' willingness to come to the defense of Thailand in the case of a Vietnamese invasion made known earlier this month, ASEAN is forced out of "neutrality." ASEAN

member states are known instruments of U.S. designs in the region, particularly Thailand and the Philippines where large U.S. military installations are housed.

The Marcos-Lee talk served for the ASEAN-EEC (European Common Market) talks which followed March 6-8 and for upcoming discussions between the U.S. and ASEAN states in April or May. □

## Malacañang Zarzuela

# BALIK-KALABAW

By VICTORIA LUNA

The Marcos regime is big on *baliks* these days. First it was the ingenious *balikbayan*, a plan involving lowered plane fares on PAL flights to Manila coupled with a high-pitched campaign to bring overseas Filipinos home for vacations. The goal, a two-fold one: bringing back planeloads of homesick Pinoys to see how nicely the New Society has managed to clean up the streets and pouring large doses of foreign exchange into the dollar-hungry economy.

Then we had *balik-banda*, part of the New Society's on-going Search for a National Identity. This was meant to revive our interest and respect for the hallowed institution of town marching bands. Bands from all over competed for the opportunity to go to Manila for the final round in the contest (*balik-Manila?*) where one was proclaimed the finest *banda* in the country.

Now comes the *balik* to end all *baliks*: *balik-kalabaw*. No, this is not a program to up-grade the quality of Philippine soil by enticing back all carabaos which have been exported or may have ventured abroad as tourists to enrich Philippine soil through droppings of the best fertilizers yet known to man.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

Contrary to popular belief, according to at least one spokesman for the Marcos regime, the carabao has become an vanishing breed. Governor Santiago of Bulacan province has thus launched an ambitious program in hopes of weaning away a spoiled Filipino peasantry from its fancy new-fangled ways: to persuade peasants, in the interests of fuel conservation to toss aside all of the automated devices to which they have, according to government literature, become addicted to in recent years—hand tractors, mechanized harvesters and the like—and return to that endangered species, the carabao.



Filipino employing "archaic device" known as the kalabaw.

For Governor Santiago, the task is a challenging one. Leaving no stone unturned, he has managed to locate one peasant in northern Bulacan whose stance toward the carabao is positively belligerent. "Given the fact that I am now capable of purchasing with my yearly earnings a full 50 percent of what I could purchase four years ago," he quotes the rascal as saying, "I'm not sure I want to sacrifice my Honda hand-tiller, my automatic harvester and my fancy new motorbike merely because gasoline now costs more than \$2.50 a gallon. What is a carabao anyway? Is that the funny-looking creature which I'm told once pulled my grandfather's sledge? We haven't seen any of those things around here in years. They do have horns don't they?"

*Ang Katipunan*, responding with grave concern to the implications of Governor Santiago's program, dispatched its local correspondent to Remedios, Bulacan to query Juan T. de la Cruz as to just exactly where had all the carabaos gone. "Huh? Carabaos gone?" was the response. "I don't know about the others, but mine is out in the backyard and he's trampling on my *kamote* plants again."

Governor Santiago, however, is adopting drastic measures to entice Filipino peasants to return to this ancient form of transport and cheap energy. He is offering to award a young *bulo* (a male calf of the vanishing species) to any peasant willing to throw aside his Honda for the sake of energy conservation and the country.

## ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Given the regime's keen interest in adopting such useful "projects," the possibilities are endless. The AK herewith offers a number of useful suggestions for similar projects. We may thus serve the interests of those up-and-coming young technocrats and politicians who wish to impress President Marcos and his U.S. supporters with their concern for progress, energy conservation and a balanced budget but lack some of Governor Santiago's obvious brilliance.

For example, how about a *balik-kanin* program? The idea here would be to persuade the Filipino people to stop spending money on exotic foods like meat and vegetables, addicting themselves to outrageous foreign tastes for expensive bread and butter and just get back to basics—rice and salt with a *kamote* top and a bit of *daing* now and then. Imaginative incentives might be used like a free bottle of *patis* awarded to the barangay with the highest carbohydrate and lowest protein, vitamin and mineral consumption.

And what about *balik-lakad*? Here the regime would urge each Filipino peasant to sell his newly-acquired car, jeep or motorcycle with all of their oil-guzzling ways to return to the time-honored but nearly forgotten tradition of walking from place to place, just think how much the country might be able to save on its oil import bill!

Given these days of soaring energy costs, a program of returning, difficult as it might be, to foot travel might well serve as a symbol for a budget-conscious regime. What could be a more appropriate as it might be, to foot travel, might well serve as a symbol for a budget-conscious regime. What could be a more appropriate slogan to sum the entire essence of the Marcos regime than "Balik-lakad with the New Society." □

\*For our non-Tagalog speaking readers, though *lakad* means walk, *balik-lakad* means to walk backwards.