

People's War in the Philippines

NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY SURGES FORWARD!

On March 29, the New People's Army (NPA) commemorates its seventh anniversary. There is certainly great cause for celebration of this event, as the NPA has been able to surge ahead in the armed struggle against the US-Marcos dictatorship. In seven years, the NPA has rapidly grown in size at the rate of more than 100% a year. From a handful of approximately 27 to 30 men in 1969, armed with a few rifles, the NPA today has grown to more than an estimated 10,000 regular full-time forces. This excludes half-time guerrillas and local militia from its bases and zones. Its mass base alone runs to hundreds of thousands. As of 1973, Marcos admitted that in the 18 provinces where the NPA operated at that time, it had 800 barrio organizations and committees and a mass base of 400,000 (Pacific News Service, 3/74).

NPA'S FOUNDING AND EARLY YEARS

The NPA's growth is even more inspiring when one reviews its history. Formed as the military arm of the re-established Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the NPA started literally from scratch. The people's army that preceded it, the HMB and Hukbalahap (People's Liberation Army and People's Anti-Japanese Army) had failed to consolidate the gains made during the height of the anti-fascist war against Japan. Under the leadership of the old PKP (Communist Party of the Philippines), the more than two decades of hard struggle and sacrifices in revolutionary armed struggle by the people failed to win the revolution or even preserve an army and continue fighting for the people. The document "The New People's Army," issued by a meeting of Red Commanders and fighters upon the formation of the NPA states:

"Our army is new in two senses. It is new in the sense that it is fundamentally different from the reactionary puppet Armed Forces of the Philippines (and all its supplementary forces) that wages armed suppression of the people and defends the exploiting classes. It is also new in the sense that it has repudiated that bourgeois line that has persisted in the people's army from the period of the Hukbalahap to that of the Taruc-Sumulong clique (the remnants of the HMB who have degenerated into bandits and gangsters-Editor) and sabotaged the revolutionary armed struggle for quite a long time."

Within its first year of existence, the NPA initiated the armed struggle, and established four guerrilla zones in Central Luzon. The following year it expanded to Cagayan Valley, a relatively populous mountain area, which serves as an excellent fighting ground. This was a key breakthrough for the NPA, since earlier people's armies had failed to expand substantially outside of Central Luzon. In Cagayan, two brutal encirclement and suppression campaigns were launched by the Marcos regime in its first concerted attempt to crush the NPA. However, not only did it manage to preserve itself against a superior military force, but it also managed to deal major blows to the government troops.

The first campaign took place between July and August 1972, as the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine Constabulary (PC) supervised by 12 American military advisers, fielded 7,000 troops in



NPA Fighters Inspect Arms Taken In Battle

The revolutionary army relies heavily on arms and ammunitions captured from the enemy.

Echague, Isabela to flush out the NPA "rebels." Using flexible guerrilla tactics, the NPA successfully evaded the main troops and, adapting lightning raids, killed 230 troops. Failing in its first attempt, a second punitive drive was launched in September, 1972, with a breathing space of less than two weeks from the first. To deprive the NPA of its base ("base denial operations") and its mass support, thousands of peasants were evicted from their farms and reconcentrated in camps near the town. Like the first campaign, the NPA utilized well-coordinated surprise attacks, and ambushed 170 troops, bringing the enemy casualties for the two campaigns to 400.

In both campaigns, the NPA's close ties with the people were evident. The barrio people, even under threat of torture and death by the government troops, continued to give food and supplies to the NPA. Acting as the NPA's "eyes and ears," they kept the NPA posted on the enemy's advances so that the government troops could not even locate the main NPA force.

The mayor of Casiguran in Isabela (an NPA

stronghold in Cagayan Valley), Dr. Oscar Escudero said, "the masses support the NPA. They don't cooperate with the government. They never tell us anything." (interview by Henry S. Bradsher in the *Washington Star News*, Dec. 2, 1974). An AFP major interviewed by the *New York Times* also said that, "they (the NPA) have mass support and we do not know where they are until our troops are engaged. We can only respond to enemy attack."

Moreover, the brutal encirclement and suppression campaigns only served to further antagonize the people. Standard tactics of the government troops included forcible relocations, mass arrests, shooting suspects on sight, torture of suspected NPA supporters and sympathizers. The same *Washington Star* news article states that the government troops often loot the barrio people and generally mistreated them, which Mayor Escudero said had, "the overall effect of alienating the very people whose support the government needed to hold in competition with the Maoists."

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Ten Point Program of the National Democratic Front

In April, 1973 the Preparatory Commission for the National Democratic Front issued a manifesto entitled "Unite to Overthrow the U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship." The NDF put forward the threefold task of the Filipino people: 1) Unite to oppose and overthrow the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship; 2) Liberate the nation from imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism; and

3) Establish a coalition government based on a truly democratic system of representation. Following is the ten-point program which will serve as the foundation of unity upon which the National Democratic Front will be built.

1. Unite all anti-imperialist and democratic forces in order to overthrow the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship and work for the establishment of a coalition government based on a truly democratic system of representation;

2. Expose and oppose U.S. imperialism as the mastermind behind the setting up of the fascist dictatorship, demand the nullification of all unequal treaties and arrange-

ments with this imperialist power, and call for the nationalization of all its properties in the country;

3. Fight for the re-establishment of all the democratic rights of the people, such as freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association, movement, religious belief, and the right to due process;

4. Gather all possible political and material support for the armed resistance and the underground against the U.S. Marcos dictatorship;

5. Support a genuine land reform programme that can liberate the peasant masses from feudal and semi-feudal exploitation and raise agricultural production through cooperation;

6. Improve the people's livelihood, guarantee the right to work and protect national capital against foreign monopoly capital;

7. Promote a national, scientific and mass culture and combat imperialist, feudal and fascist culture;

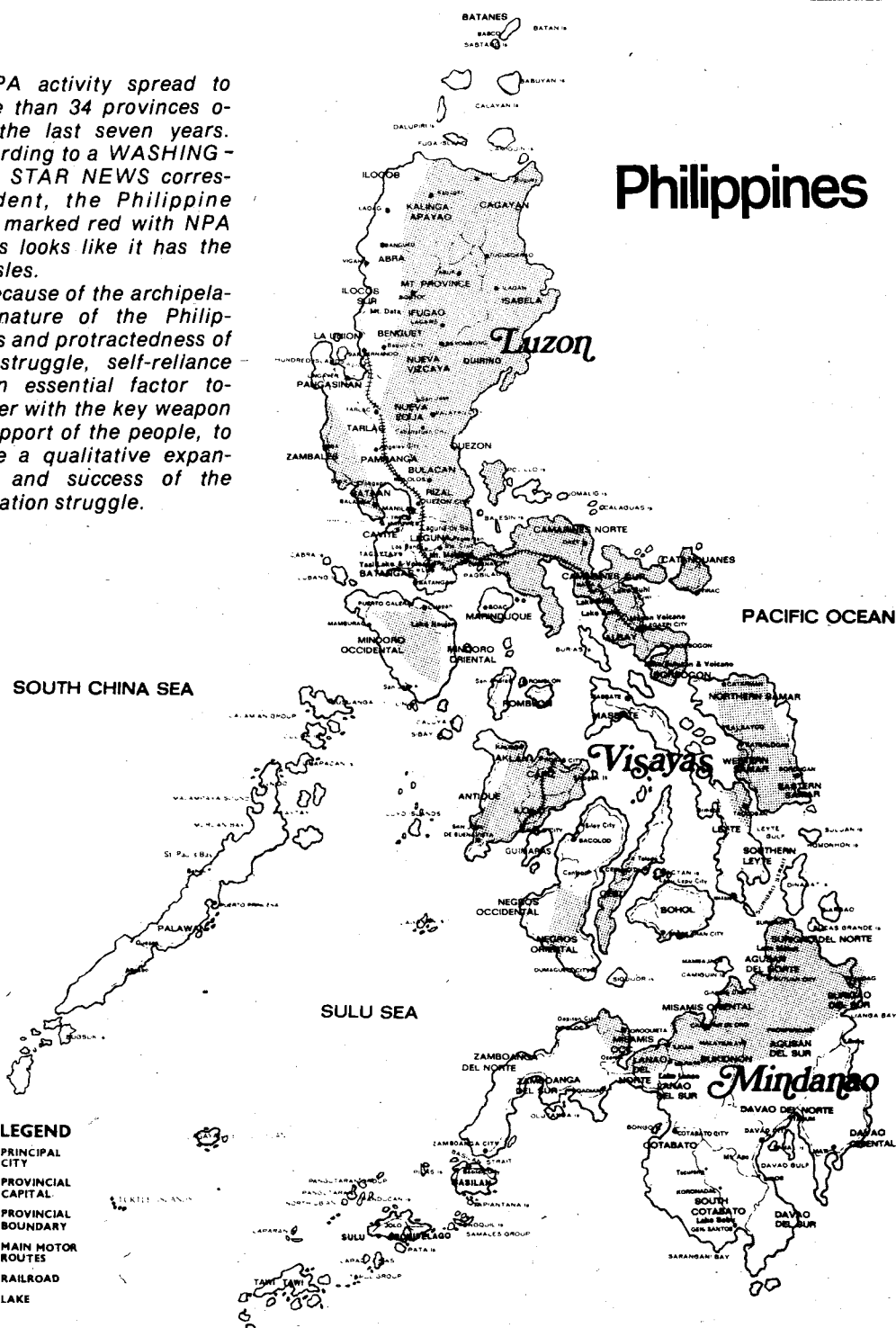
8. Support the national minorities, especially those in Mindanao and the mountain provinces, in their struggle for self-determination and democracy;

9. Punish after public trial the ringleaders of the U.S. Marcos fascist gang for their crimes against the people and confiscate all their ill-gotten wealth; and

10. Unite with all peoples fighting imperialism and seek their support for the Philippine revolutionary struggle.

NPA activity spread to more than 34 provinces over the last seven years. According to a WASHINGTON STAR NEWS correspondent, the Philippine map marked red with NPA bases looks like it has the measles.

Because of the archipelagic nature of the Philippines and protractedness of the struggle, self-reliance is an essential factor together with the key weapon — support of the people, to make a qualitative expansion and success of the liberation struggle.



NPA Surges Forward...

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EXPANSION TO SOUTHERN LUZON

The following year, the NPA extended its operations to Southern Luzon, establishing guerrilla bases and zones in the Bicol region. New reports from the area reported the rapid gains it was making. For instance, *Liberation* (October, 1975), an underground publication of the Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic front, reported an incident in a barrio in Bicol where the barrio people joined the NPA in fighting the PC. The men fought side by side with the NPA guerrillas while the women and children prepared food and carried supplies. In the ensuing battle, 5 PC troopers were killed. Angered, the PC cold-bloodedly shot to death an 8-year-old boy whose two elder brothers were NPA guerrillas. The boy was given a hero's burial by the barrio people, after which the father left to join his two other sons in the NPA.

FROM LUZON TO THE VISAYAS

By late 1973, the NPA was in Samar, Negros and Panay. In Borongan, Eastern Samar, the NPA wiped out 52 enemy troops of Task Force Bulig in an eight-month campaign from February to September, 1975. These encounters were the NPA's response to a massive encirclement and suppression campaign of the government which mobilized an estimated strength of 1,000 regular and paramilitary troops. At least one detachment of AFP men was deployed to every barrio suspected of NPA sympathies in the towns of Maslog, Oras and Dolores. It was also in Samar where a whole barrio joined the NPA in the mountains rather than be relocated from their farms in one of the AFP's base denial operations.

In 1974, two years after martial law was declared, the NPA was in 34 provinces, 11 of which significantly were in Mindanao. In this region, which is heavily populated by Muslim national minorities, the NPA cooperated with the Bangsa Moro Army of the Moro National Liberation Front, which is demanding self-determination for the Muslim minorities. The Bangsa Moro Army has also proven itself to be an important part of the people's armed resistance, and has occupied the bulk of the Marcos government forces in battle. The NPA's activity on this island has centered in the Davao and Zamboanga areas.

Today, the NPA has operations in all regions of the country, leading a foreign correspondent to comment that the map of the Philippines marked in red with NPA operations looked like it has measles. (Henry S. Bradsher, *Washington Star News*, December 2, 1974). At present, the NPA has two or three fighting fronts at various stages in the following regions: Cagayan Valley, Ilocos-Montana-Pangasinan, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, and Mindanao.

Regular NPA formations in these areas range from company to platoon to squad-sized forces. In several provinces, they can even launch battalion-sized operations. In the Kalinga-Apayao area in Northern Luzon, where a recent NPA ambush killed 13 AFP soldiers, an army colonel disclosed that the NPA had at least two battalions of 300 men each, with a local militia of 600 men. The colonel cited a tribesman as his source (*New York Times*, March 16, 1976).

NPA'S STRATEGY OF PEOPLE'S WAR

The NPA's staying power lies in its correct application of the strategy and tactics of people's war. The people's war strategy is a key part of the overall revolutionary struggle which encompasses not only the demand for national sovereignty ending US economic, military, and political domination; but also the critical democratic demand for land. These demands articulate the genuine aspirations of the Filipino people for national democratic revolution. The political goals of this program set an excellent basis to build a broad National Democratic Front composed of all patriotic sectors and groups that support these principles; a front which can organize the people's resistance against the US-Marcos dictatorship. Since the interests of the exploiting foreign corporations and local landlords are well protected by extensive US military bases and aid to the troops of the Marcos regime, the people also need a military arm to fight for their interests. The strategy for this armed resistance is called people's war and its military arm is the New People's Army.

People's war is both a political and military strategy to defeat the army of the ruling elite, through a protracted effort to mobilize and arm the Filipino peasantry as the main source of revolutionary fighters. The peasantry compose 75% of the Philippine population and they are subject to the harshest con-

ditions of poverty and backwardness that plague the rural areas. Since the land ownership is heavily concentrated among a small number of wealthy landlords, the Filipino peasantry are subject to oppressive land rent agreements which give up to 70% of their harvests to the landlords. These hard-pressed farmers, even those who own their own land, are forced by their conditions to borrow money from the landlords often at a 100% interest rate.

Thus, the main success of the NPA's mobilization of the peasantry stems from its implementation of the Communist Party's Program of Agrarian Revolution. This program encompasses the pressuring of landlords to reduce land rent from the usual 70%-30% favoring the landlords, to 10%-90% in favor of the peasants. It eliminates usurious practices by the landlords and in its more consolidated guerrilla bases, the NPA has already achieved its maximum goal of land redistribution. In these areas, land is confiscated from despotic landlords (the main target of the agrarian revolution) and it is redistributed to the peasants that till it.

The NPA is able to exert this pressure because of its armed strength which can threaten the landlords directly or prevent them from collecting their rent. It is this armed strength which can defend the achievements of the revolutionary agrarian program. Since the countryside is a vast underdeveloped area with poor roads and communications, the government forces are weakest here and most vulnerable. The mountainous terrain which covers major sections of the countryside provide an excellent setting for the people's army to preserve itself, even under concerted enemy attack. Thus, the NPA can build its strength in the countryside step by step until it eventually wins control, and finally takes the major cities of the country, consolidating the complete liberation of the entire country.

This revolutionary process is already underway, as the NPA has expanded its forces throughout the country and has already undertaken a number of successful land reform efforts in its guerrilla zones. In Barrio Gabod in Sorsogon, the townspeople with the aid of the NPA confiscated the land from an oppressive landlord. The peasants had originally occupied the land, which was uncultivated public land, and developed it into a productive farm. Gogola, a corrupt former councilor, went to the peasants one day and claimed ownership of the land, brandishing a "legal" title to it. He then set himself up as the reigning landlord of the place. As land rent, Gogola exacted more than half of every harvest. One day, a cadre of the NPA came. After explaining the revolutionary land program of the CPP, he helped the peasants devise ways of getting even with their abusive landlord. The peasants kept 90% of the harvest and gave only 10% to Gogola. Infuriated, Gogola sought the assistance of the PC but the peasants now were organized and fought back. In one armed attack against the peasants, Gogola was killed together with several PC soldiers. After Gogola's death the peasants took back their land, tilled it collectively and shared the harvests equally among themselves. The example of Gogola soon spread to neighboring barrios.

ORGANIZING THE PEOPLE

The NPA does painstaking political work with the townspeople. Initially an armed propaganda unit or "seed" unit holds secret meetings with the progressive barrio folks. Problems and needs of the barrio are discussed. A core, or Barrio Organizing Committee is formed which carries on the general mobilization of the barrio. Democratic mass organizations for the women, youth, and other sectors are established. At a later stage, a Barrio Revolutionary Council is elected by the townspeople to replace the old Barrio Councils. Self-defense units and local militias are also set up to protect the barrio from AFP reprisals.

Such political work with the peasants is invaluable. Not only are the peasants aroused and organized, but they also gain the important experience of exercising their democratic rights. These experiences in organs of democratic political power lay the foundation for their eventual participation in the coalition government which will be established after national democratic revolution.

SOME PARTICULARITIES OF PHILIPPINE CONDITIONS

Although these principles of people's war have been proven successful in other revolutionary struggles, the NPA has also considered some of the characteristics which distinguish the Philippine situation from revolutionary struggles in other countries. For one thing, the Philippines is broken into thousands of islands with the major islands separated by large bodies of water. At any time it chooses, the government troops can concentrate their fire and force on one island and blockade it from the rest of the islands. Arms and supplies can then be cut off and, more importantly, the regional

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INTERVIEWS WITH NPA CADRES: "Why I Joined the NPA"

Over the last several years, correspondents from various underground newspapers visited and interviewed NPA cadres in order to put in proper perspective the political transformation of individuals — intellectuals, clergy, workers, and peasants — in the course of the struggle for national democracy. We have taken some sections of these interviews to share with our readers the life and experiences of these courageous fighters. Our sources are: "Various Reports," a newsletter of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines; *Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (BMP)* or *Free Philippine News*; and *Liberation* (published by the Preparatory Commission for the National Democratic Front).

SAMAR PEASANT JOINS N.P.A.

Responding to Col. Eduardo Javelosa of the Philippine Constabulary Task Force in Calbiga, Samar, who tried to bribe Prudencio Calubid with offers of amnesty, the NPA unit in Samar wrote:

Hard Life of an NPA. "We chose this life consciously and with full awareness that revolution is not a picnic but a ruthless struggle between the exploited and the exploiters. Unlike the men in the AFP who fight (if ever they do) for their salary (please do not confuse money for humanity!), the red fighters of the people's army are consciously fighting to liberate the motherland from the clutches of American imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism — the triad of evils that have sucked the blood of our people and have turned them into slaves and squatters in their own country. These are the evils that have made our countrymen lose not only their identity but also their dignity."

Necessity of Armed Struggle. "You suggested that we stop killing each other as we are brothers. Frankly, on our side, we do not want to fight a single day longer nor do we want to lay waste any single life of what you called our 'brother Filipinos.' But then we must face reality. Are members of the Armed Forces brothers of the Filipino people they have massacred?...Are you a 'new Filipino,' you who serve the interest of the American imperialists and their 'Filipino' puppets, you who do not even raise a whisper of protest when your Lord Master Marcos sold our country to the Japanese Zaibatsus, but instead protect and intensify his act of national betrayal?" □

PRIEST-TURNED- GUERRILLA

Father X is one of the numerous members of the clergy who have been drawn deeply into the struggles of the people and have taken to the cause of the oppressed both in the countryside and the cities. Like many others, he fled when martial law was declared in September 1972 and has chosen to work among the peasants.

Why He Joined The NPA. "I consider my priesthood as essentially service to the people, to give witness to justice, love and peace as Christ did. It is in the interest of our faith and the Church that I am struggling in the hills. And although my initial reason for going up was to hide, later I found the experience enriching, educating, and fulfilling for my priesthood. I was serving the real people — those neglected and deprived of service. The present structure of our parishes serves only 2% of the people in the poblacion (town). Priest seldom go to the barrios. If they do, it is to earn money for religious services."

To those who wonder why a priest should choose the path of armed struggle in order to serve the people, Father X said:



A political instructor (above) conducts theoretical and tactical studies to an NPA squad. Discussions among the revolutionary fighters (right) continue even during meals.



"As Mao Tse-tung points out, as long as imperialism exists, there will be no peace since it keeps on attacking the people. In fact, even in our local situation, it is not the people who start the armed struggle. They take up arms in self-defense against the aggression of the landlords and the PC."

Did he realize that his work among the peasants was under the guidance of the Communist Party of the Philippines? How do the people look at the CPP?

"I didn't realize it at the beginning. Our decision was more spontaneous. But after a few days I realized that some of my companions were Party members. The Barrio Organizing Committee (BOC) members definitely know that there are Party members guiding them. Hence, the image of the Party is principally that of a guide. While relying on our own efforts — democratic — we need to centralize these efforts and for that we need a party. We also contrast the CPP with the present ruling party of the rich." □

ARMED STRUGGLE AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Kasamang Tonyo, a political officer of an NPA squad explains to *LIBERATION* the formation of defense units and the role of women in the barrios.

Launching Armed Struggle. "Because the enemy is stronger than us militarily, we avoid decisive clashes and pitched battles. We concentrate on attacking relatively weak and isolated units of the enemy."

"Our basic unit is the squad. When launching ambushes and other operations, three squads usually join up to form a platoon. During big operations against the enemy, we concentrate several platoons to hit at the enemy."

"Besides the NPA regulars formed into squads, we have guerrillas active in this region. They also carry out ambushes and raids, sometimes in coordination with NPA regulars."

"Each well-organized barrio also has a people's militia, which is formed and guided by the NPA unit operating nearby. The members of the militia come from the barrio and they function as the barrio defense forces."

Women Are Active Too. "Their role becomes crucial especially during intense military suppression in the barrios. During such situations, the

menfolk are usually ordered not to leave the house. It is the women who go out to observe the movements of the PC's and collect valuable information; they are involved in major production work — planting and harvesting — and are relied upon greatly in times of crisis. They do courier work, help in logistics and are also active in NPA medical teams as doctors and nurses.

"In some instances, they participate in the fighting, as when a woman partisan played a vital role in the surprise attack on two marines on board a train in Pampanga. The woman singlehandedly shot dead two marine passengers and took two rifles and a pistol, while her male companion explained to the other passengers the purpose of their act." □

CAREER OFFICER DEFECTS — JOINS N.P.A.

In December 1970, Lt. Victor Corpus with the assistance of the NPA raided the armory of the Philippine Military Academy, the school where he graduated with honors in 1967. In his statement on the raid, he also explained a coup d'etat is not the solution to the people's problem:

"Whenever it becomes starkly clear that revolution is the solution to crisis, it always occurs that the reactionary armed forces as the main component of state power becomes a more callous instrument for suppression as is clearly demonstrated by widespread abuses of reactionary troops in the cities and countryside. But there will always be an increasing number of men, especially in the lower ranks of the reactionary armed forces, who detest the suppression of the people and who ultimately choose the side of the people."

"As an officer, I could have participated in conspiratorial meetings with other officers in order to undertake a coup d'etat. I am aware of many officers who keep on talking that perhaps a palace revolution could solve the problems of the people. But I believe that a coup d'etat, since it is done at the top and without real mass support especially among workers and peasants, can only be manipulated by the people's enemies. Thus, I have decided to cast my lot with the New People's Army which is the true instrument of the downtrodden masses in the struggle for national liberation and democracy." □

NPA Surges Forward.

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forces lose contact with the national command. With no land borders with countries sympathetic to the Philippine struggle, it will be difficult to receive material assistance from other peoples and countries.

But, strategically, the archipelagic character of the country can serve as an advantage to the people's forces when the enemy forces will be compelled to disperse itself at great costs across the archipelago. Until that time, to offset the archipelagic limitations of the country, the NPA establishes rear bases and zones in mountainous and forested areas where it has room to maneuver.

Thus, the archipelagic character of the country underscores the protractedness of the liberation struggle. It also emphasizes the need for self-reliance by the revolutionary forces. NPA units have displayed this quality in the face of the enemy's encirclements and blockades. Self-reliance in the pro-

curement of arms has also been a necessary condition. Recently, the CPP formed an Explosives Movement (EM) aimed at the development and manufacture of arms and weapons that can be locally produced using indigenous materials. At present, the NPA's main source of weapons is still the battlefields. American-made M-16s, the standard weapon of the AFP, find their way into NPA hands after successful battles. Rocket launchers also confiscated from AFP troops in the Cagayan Valley in 1974 were used by the NPA to shoot down a Philippine Air Force Sabre-jet and an AFP helicopter. In the same year, in Santiago, Isabela, 70 NPA forces led by Lt. Victor Corpuz (the famed Philippine Military Academy officer who defected to the NPA in 1971) successfully ambushed 2 companies of government troops. The group used walkie-talkies captured from the enemy to identify the government force, determine its strength, and plot its movements. Only three government troopers survived the battle and all officers were listed as missing in action.

This spirit of self-reliance held in such high regard by the New People's Army, is exemplary of the qual-

ities necessary for the national democratic movement to wage such a difficult battle for the liberation of the Philippines. The path of revolutionary armed struggle for the Filipino people, is undoubtedly one of hardship and great sacrifices which are only beginning to unfold. But, there can be no question that this historic undertaking is certain of its ultimate success. As the recent victories of the Indochinese peoples' in this last year have confirmed, a just cause of national liberation will enjoy not only the support of its own people, but of the freedom-loving people throughout the world. And it is this people's support which is the decisive factor, capable of defeating all the combined ruthlessness and ferocity that could possibly be mustered by the US-Marcos dictatorship. As Amado Guerrero, Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines said, "the most powerful weapon in the hands of the people's army; that is the people's support. We cannot wage a revolutionary war without it." And it is this support which has set the basis for the great advances of the New People's Army over the last seven years, and will assure it of complete victory in the future. □



Woman NPA medical personnel (right) administers anti-malaria shot to an armed combatant. Such preventive medicine is an essential component of the NPA medical supply kit. These NPA medical units also extend their services to barrio people among whom they work, providing basic health care services.

Medical Supplies Needed for the NPA

SUPPORT THE ARMED STRUGGLE

In the countryside the New People's Army (NPA) is likened to the fish in the ocean, where the terrain is familiar and its fighters are supported and protected by the people. The barrio and peasant folk carry much respect for the NPA because its political program meets their direct needs. NPA fighters also have a popular style of work and are noted for their honesty and iron discipline.

This is quite the opposite of the mercenary Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) of the Marcos regime, whose presence is dreaded and feared by the people. And even though the AFP has carried out extensive raids, harassment, and military campaigns on towns and barrios where NPA influence is strong, they have been unable to uproot the people's army.

The NPA's support has been built steadily through its political work among the people and military effectivity as the people's army. The NPA initiates organizing work in the barrio and immediate attention is paid to the basic needs of the people. Fundamental to these needs is the land question, which is central to the livelihood and well-being of the people. Pressure is usually put on the big landlords to lower rents and interest rates on loans, with the eventual goal of land redistribution to those that till the land. In addition, the NPA initiates the development of mutual assistance in farming, and encourages the formation of peasants, women and youth mass organizations to give the people the experience of organizing their own affairs, the work and needs of their own barrio. This includes critical education needs, as schools, which are established to teach peasants to read and write, develop scientific methods of cultivation, and learn other related sciences.

N.P.A. AND HEALTH CARE

The health care work conducted by NPA medical units encompasses two important functions: the care of wounded NPA fighters and the health care of the people among whom they work.

Recent studies documented in the Assn. of Major Religious Superiors' "Sign of the Times" found the

Philippines to hold the world's highest TB infection rate, with 80% of the population malnourished. Diseases such as gastro-enteritis and parasitism continue to plague 90% of the Filipino people that fall below the poverty level. Certainly these conditions are at their worst in the Philippine countryside where only 26% of the Philippine's physicians work among over 75% of the population.

Therefore, the NPA's medical work among the people is vitally important and gives some insight into the future stress on health care in the countryside, once the national democratic revolution is accomplished. Already, some clinics opened in guerrilla zones have been able to render basic health services, like minor surgery, anti-TB injections, and treatment of skin diseases. Close attention is also paid to teaching peasants basic hygiene, combining use of local herbal remedies and Western medicines as well as food preparation to correct imbalance or vitamin deficiencies. This work, in addition to the careful attention to the medical needs of the NPA soldiers wounded in battle, constitute an important cornerstone of the NPA's base building among the peasantry.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR N.P.A.

The NPA has waged this political and military battle over the last seven years with their weapons, supplies, and food coming principally through their own efforts and the support of the people. However, the Preparatory Commission for the National Democratic Front (NDF) has also called on overseas Filipino patriots to "Unite with all peoples fighting imperialism, and seek their support for the Philippine struggle." This is because the enemy which the Filipino people are confronting today is a system of US imperialism and its perpetuation of local unpopular regimes, which has oppressed peoples all over the world, from Vietnam to Puerto Rico and even the American working people themselves.

Certainly, patriotic Filipinos overseas, progressive Americans, and peoples of the world can best assist the Philippine revolution through their own

struggle against this common enemy. But direct support is also needed, and the Philippine revolution will be brought to victory one day sooner with contributions to the armed struggle.

AN APPEAL FOR AID

One concrete form of material support that is needed now is medical aid. The maintenance of well-organized, well-equipped and well-supplied medical teams for the people's resistance is at a critical stage in the Philippines.

The cost of medical supplies is high and difficult for the underground movement to secure. Medical materials which are basic to the continuation of the armed struggle such as surgical tools, antibiotics, painkillers, and preventive medicines are closely watched by the government. In some areas of the country, the government has issued an order that no bandaging materials or any medication for wounds — not even the simplest disinfectant — may be sold without a prescription. Medical personnel especially nurses and doctors sympathetic to the revolution are also heavily surveilled in an attempt to thwart their assistance to the struggle. This creates a scarcity of drugs and supplies used for the heroic armed combatants of the NPA and peasant supporters.

Your support is very crucial in advancing the Philippine revolution and the anti-imperialist movement world-wide. Any monetary contributions you can offer will go towards the purchase of a standard medical kit used by each NPA regional medical unit. Checks or Money Orders should be sent:

c/o "Ang Katipunan"
P.O. Box 23644
Oakland, CA 94623

A kit of these medical supplies cost \$500 and we plan to send at least 12 in these next six months and will continue to furnish this kind of support until liberation is achieved in the Philippines.

Long Live the Philippine Revolution!

Victory to the People's War!

Long Live the Friendship of the

Revolutionary Peoples of the World! □