

(PHOTO: Philippine News, S.F.)



(PHOTO: Philippine Times, Chicago)

This ruin is what remains of the centuries-old Jolo city that was mercilessly bombed and shelled by government troops after the army was losing in its ground battles

against the Bangsa Moro Army. Refugees seen fleeing carrying their only worldly possessions. Reports show that the refugee level may reach 80,000.

## JOLO: TOTAL RUIN AFTER GOVERNMENT BOMBING

### Refugee Problem Mounts After Bombing

Jolo remains a devastated-ruin, occasionally revisited by residents trying to salvage damaged property or looking for lost or dead relatives. Scavenging, especially looting has been the past time of army troops and "surrenderees".

On Saturday, Feb. 9th, during the battle itself, government military reinforcements arrived. Already the Muslim forces had made special efforts to keep civilians out of the line of fire and guided them to safe areas about 7 km. southeast of the town. Sister Marian Chipeco of the Good Shephard Order, said "The Muslim forces deserve praise for their pains to spare civilian lives." (*New York Times* Feb. 25, 1974).

About 4,000 to 5,000 civilians went with the "rebels" to the hills which are tactical strong-holds not easily penetrated by ground battle and are used by the guerillas for defense bases. However, the government recognizing this advantage, heavily shelled these areas in the ensuing days. Which meant that the guerillas had to move the refugees once again to the lowlands during the bombing lulls.

Around 4,000 other refugees fled to Bangas Island fronting Jolo City; and the majority of these were then forced to evacuate to Zamboanga. The more affluent Chinese and "Christian" families went to Cebu, Manila, Davao and Iloilo.

#### Government Services Inadequate

At present, returning refugees are being housed in camps outside the city tended by government and private agencies including religious orders. The relief services are already inadequate, with problems mounting as the number of refugees is likely to increase to 80,000. There is an acute shortage of food, water, housing and medical care, though private civic and charitable organizations are pooling their resources to ease the hardship as much as possible.

The thousands, returning a month after the fighting, however face an uncertain future, depending solely on the relief available. The martial law regime, has censored the Manila press coverage of the Jolo situation, deliberately trying to minimize the problems in the south and keep the public virtually ignorant of the real situation, especially that of the refugees.

by Ma Flor Sepulveda

by Ma. Flor Sepulveda

More accounts of the Bangsa Moro Army's offensive last Febuary and the fighting that is still-going on, refute the claim of the Marcos regime that every Muslim stronghold has been retaken by the government.

The Muslim army entered Jolo City at 2a.m. on Feb. 7th gained control of Camp Asturias, the airport, pier area, the Notre Dame College of Jolo, and the entire downtown area. They then set fire to the Caltex (U.S. oil corporation) depot in the town. Employing harassment tactics the guerillas lured troopers into traps at the outer perimeter of town and annihilated them. Meanwhile the Manila army futilely rushed reinforcements in by helicopter.

Initial accounts of the Jolo seige were brought to Zamboanga City by civilians who evacuated the town. Nizam Abubakar, son of Jolo's mayor, had reportedly succeeded in rallying a large section of the Jolo population to take up arms against the AFP forces. These civilians, including local policemen, launched

an uprising in coordination with the guerrilla assault on the town.

#### Detailed Account of Battle

The main Muslim attack force (estimated between 500-800 with close to another 300-400 already in town) entered between midnight and 2 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7th. They immediately took up positions in the town and quickly overran the SATAG (air force headquarters) at the end of the airport runway. They held it until 4 p.m. This was to prevent reinforcements from landing.

Later on in the day, the Muslim forces occupied the town proper while still another force overran the PC Camp Asturias where they sealed off all roads and passages from the camp. By mid-day Thursday, full-scale fighting had taken place with the Muslim rebels who had formerly surrendered to Marcos being placed in the frontlines on the government side. By late Thursday afternoon and evening, mass evacuation of stranded residents took place. The Army, loosing in the ground fire, employed Sabre jets, C-47

(continued on page 2)

### ENVOY OF MARCOS:

## Luis Taruc Here In The U.S.

by Bruce Occena

Luis Taruc, probably best known for his earlier activities as "supremo" of the Hukbalahap, arrived here in the U.S. this past month. So far, he has been in Honolulu and San Francisco enroute to his final destination, Washington

Luis Taruc, probably best known for his earlier activities as "supremo" of the Hukbalahap, arrived here in the U.S. this past month. So far, he has been in Honolulu and San Francisco enroute to his final destination, Washington D.C.. His stated purpose for coming here is to beg the U.S. government for "back pay" and pensions for surviving Huk guerillas from the Anti-Japanese war. This has been a long and fruitless campaign dating back to the late 1940's, which has since become personified in the figure of Taruc.

Taruc maintains that the Huk guerillas were "loyal" to the U.S. during the war and should therefore be counted (and taken care of) as part of the U.S. forces during the war (ie. USAFEE). Most historians however, agree that this is more a statement of Taruc's individual loyalties and does not accurately represent the political sentiments of the majority of rank and file Huks during that

period. Hatred for and distrust of American colonialism was deep rooted among the peasantry of Central Luzon, who made up the Huk army.

And despite Taruc's attempts to project himself alone as the "leader" of the Hukbalahap; the guerilla army was led during that period, by what was then the Communist Party of the Philippines. (Since then, this group, led by the Lava brothers, has declined and degenerated to the point where their numbers are few and their political influence among the masses is insignificant. Today this group is known as the "Lava group" as

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# JOLO CITY LEFT IN RUINS...

(continued from front page)

gunships, and armed helicopters (all supplied by the U.S.) to bomb and shell the "rebels' hold-outs" (which meant the town proper).

Shelling continued to go on the entire Friday. The army, with several tanks, advanced towards the center of the town but a good part of its 120 supporters were wiped out. Fires continued to rage during this time.

By Saturday, government military reinforcements arrived; troops and heavy artillery were increased to bomb the city and to shell the "rebels". The Muslim forces, concerned about the civilians, withdrew completely while making special efforts to keep civilians out of the line of fire and guiding them to an area of safety outside the city. (See adjoining article about "Refugee Problem Mounts".)

Civilian casualties were estimated at 400-1,000, mostly Muslims. Military casualties according to JUSMAG (Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group) were estimated to be two full batallions (400-500, sometimes up to 800 each). The Muslim revolutionaries were placed between 150-200 dead. The total number of wounded is still unknown.

## 16 Year-old Draftees Front line Soldiers in Battle

Meanwhile, bitter demoralization swept the ranks of the AFP. The AFP's morale plunged to new lows, as a result of the heavy casualties suffered in the lightning attack of the Muslim fighters. Most of the casualties were young recruits who were forced to fight in the front lines.

The few who survived without injuries and those who lie maimed in various military hospitals were particularly embittered because they had been made into cannon fodder by the Marcos regime while they were supposedly on "military training". Hundreds of wounded troopers were confined at the V. Luna Memorial Hospital in Quezon City.

## Diokno Rumored Dead

# Opposition Faces Continued Persecution

Former Sen. Jose W. Diokno, was returned immediately to the detention station in Fort Bonifacio after an operation at the Veterans Memorial Hospital for a cyst that caused heavy swelling in his right elbow.

Diokno, who has been suffering from severe arteriosclerosis was operated on Feb. 8, 1974.

Meanwhile, the 12-man Supreme Court, which has come under heavy criticism for having deteriorated completely into an agency servile to Malacanang, may finally hear Diokno's bid for freedom.

The court reportedly is turning down Diokno's motion to withdraw his habeas corpus petition. The opposition senator had decided to withdraw his pleading after months and months of dilly-dallying on the part of the tribunal (see vol. 1-no. 6).

The "excuse" offered by an embarrassed court reportedly was that it had had difficulty mustering a quorum to consider the Diokno petition which involves a basic question of human rights.

Without exception, the Supreme Court justices are either original appointees of Pres. Marcos or were "re-appointed" by after martial law and required to take anew their oath of office (this time under the Marcos constitution).

However they handle the Diokno case, the justices are expected to reflect Marcos' will.

Meanwhile, the Marcos regime continues to persecute opposition leaders who in recent days have suffered family misfortune or serious illnesses. Among them are:

Former Vice-President Fernando Lopez, who has been barred from going abroad. His elder brother, industrialist Eugenio Lopez Sr., reportedly is gravely ill of cancer in San Francisco, California.

Truckloads of dead troops were brought into Manila in the early morning coinciding with brown-outs, so the public would not witness the spectacle.

The young recruits also complained that their officers abandoned them during critical periods and this is attested by the fact that only a few officers were on the casualty list.

## Moro National Liberation Front

Reliable sources place the number of assaulting Muslim forces at 5,000. The Muslim forces were reportedly part of the Bangsa (People's) Moro Army, military arm of the More National Liberation Front (MNLF).

## "MUSLIMS IN THE PHILIPPINES" FORUM HELD IN NEW YORK - see page 6

A spokesman of the Moro National Liberation Front in Zamboanga City disclosed that the MNLF controlled the following areas: Tawi-Tawi-90%; Siasi Island-80%; Basilan Island-75%; Zamboanga del Sur-40%; Zamboanga del Norte-70%; Lanao-80%; Cotabato provinces-70 to 80%; with activities in Davao and Palawan.

The MNLF spokesman said that the Moro struggle is a resistance against alien interests and control over their land and sea rights; it is a fight to protect their right to existence and their efforts to advance Moro ways of living and cultural systems.

Most of the Muslim ancestral lands, so rich with natural resources, have been subjected to land-grabbing by American and Japanese corporations, as well as, Filipino "christian" landlords and politicians. The Muslims have been massacred by the combined AFP-Ilagas gangs for years now. And today, thousands of their homes and mosques in villages and towns are being burned to the ground by the indiscriminate bombings of the Marcos mercenary troops - often times with the assistance of American "Civic Action Advisors".

(Most of the reports in this article were condensed from accounts sent to us of Fazlur Karim, a teacher in Jolo and Dennis O'Leary, a journalist based in Sulu. -Ed.)

Civil libertarian Charito Planas, was returned to Ft. Bonifacio after an operation. She was allowed to rest only briefly in her Quezon City residence. Friends were discouraged from visiting her because of the heavy guard posted around Miss Planas.

Former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. who was allowed only under maximum guard to visit briefly his dying brother, Servillano, at the Manila Medical Center. Thousands later attended Servillano's funeral in an outpouring of sympathy and solidarity with the Aquinos.

Unconfirmed reports have reached us that Sen. Jose W. Diokno has not been seen by his family or relatives since his operation last Feb. 8. His wife who inquired about his whereabouts was not even told of the condition of Diokno.

Instead the military handed her back all his personal belongings. One recent visitor to the U.S. said that the circulating suspicion in Manila is that the Senator is dead.



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We encourage our readers to send us their comments and opinions on any of the articles printed in Ang Katipunan - about the situation in the Philippines; the struggle of Filipinos here in the U.S.; the problems in America and the international issues. When the occasion and space permits, we will reprint them. We also encourage criticisms of our newspaper so that we can improve our form and better the coverage of the news.

# Letters

## Malaysian Students condemn bombing

Federation of Malaysian Students Association of North America (PEMAU)

To the Ambassador of the Philippines to the United States of America:

March 7th, 1974

We strongly protest the recent actions of the U.S. backed Marcos regime's indiscriminate bombing and armed aggression against the oppressed people of the southern islands of the Philippines. We wish to express our solidarity with the just struggle of the people against the colonialism and fascism of the Marcos regime.

In protest,  
 PEMAU Exco, on  
 behalf of PEMAU

cc  
 Philippines Students' Association  
 PKPIM (Persatuan Kebangsaan Pelajar Islam Malaysia)  
 PKPM (Persatuan Kebangsaan Pelajar Malaysia)  
 Berita Harian  
 Utusan Melayu

## Protest statement sent to Congress

The following is a statement sent to the press and to members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee. In the works of one of the signators whose letter accompanied the statement, "...We must hang the 200 civilians slaughtered at Jolo around the necks of Marcos, Sullivan and the oil companies." - Editor

March 8, 1974

As persons concerned about the course of United States foreign policy we wish to draw attention to the recent destruction of the town of Jolo and the massacre there of 200 Filipino civilians (a minimum estimate) by the bombs and guns, planes and helicopters, artillery and naval vessels supplied to the armed forces of the Marcos dictatorship by the United States government. Before its bombardment, Jolo, the capital of the Sulu archipelago and a major spiritual center of the Muslims in the Philippines, was inhabited by some 40,000 citizens. Now 5,000 people are left in the ruins; the rest are refugees, or as noted, killed.

An important factor in Marcos' drastic measures against the Muslim insurgents in Jolo is a major push for oil in the Sulu Sea by U.S. multi-national corporations and Filipino vested interests.

The support of the United States government for the Marcos dictatorship is not only to be seen in the arms and ammunition supplied by Washington, but also by the use of the Special Forces or Green Berets in the Southern Philippines in what are called pacification efforts. It is to be seen in the JUSMAG, a permanent group of high-level U.S. military advisors to the Philippine Army, and in the appointment, last year, of William H. Sullivan, the United States foremost counter-insurgency expert in South East Asia, as Ambassador to the Philippines.

We believe that the slaughter and destruction at Jolo cannot go by without public protest being addressed to the United States government. Whatever the particular "advisory" roles played by Ambassador Sullivan and the JUSMAG, this killing and this devastation are the fruit of the United States military and economic support for the Marcos dictatorship; and the Jolo massacre provides more evidence of the most terrible sort that U.S. policy toward the Philippines must be changed, and as a first step, all military aid to Marcos must be stopped.

## Signatures to Jolo massacre statement:

Richard L. Deats  
 Nancy Jewett  
 France H. Conroy  
 Armin Alforque  
 Judy Perrolle  
 Nelson Navarro  
 Barbara Cort  
 D.B. Schirmer  
 Jim Drew  
 Fay B. Knopp  
 Heberon Alvarez

## Pre-Vietnam Developments: Central Panay

## Forced Relocation To 'Strategic Hamlets'

(BMP) Iloilo City - Residents of three barrios in the mountain areas of Calinog, Iloilo were forced by the PC to evacuate their homes and abandon their farms during the last week of October 1973.

The barrio people were compelled to live near the poblacion (town) to "deprive the New People's Army of their mass base," according to sources in the AFP, and to turn the area into a "free-fire zone" for the PC troopers in their current operations against the NPA in Central Panay.

Coordinated with this action, Task Force "Talibong" recently launched "Operation Kauswagan," a joint civic-military action intended to win over the poor peasants and minorities living in the same areas.

## Forced Re-Location Brings Starvation

Although the PC ordered the evacuation several months earlier, it was only when the PC troops threatened to "shoot everything in sight" and started to burn down houses and crops that the barrio residents complied.

Meanwhile, many other barrio folk in the area ordered to resettle, resisted PC pressure; Kaingeros (lumberjacks), poor peasants and minorities signified their intention to stay rather than starve in the towns.

As a result of the forced evacuation, the barrio folk are presently starving since they were prohibited from tilling their mountain farms and no aid has been given them in their new homes. The PC promised to give the evacuees 5 hectares of land each but this was never carried out.

The barrios near the town center designated as relocation centers are tightly guarded by the PC. Government troops also regularly patrol the abandoned barrios to prevent people from returning to their homes.

## "Free Fire Zones"-

## U.S. Tactic in S. Vietnam

Reports gathered by the BMP show that mountain areas have been forcibly evacuated to create "free fire zones" in Isabela, Zambales, Bicol, and recently in Davao. Hundreds of thousands of peasants have been driven off their land and left to starve in town centers.

The creation of "free fire zones" and the forced resettlement of peasants in



(PHOTO: Associated Press, Oakland Tribune)

In Bohol, American engineers, members of the Green Berets, and Philippine personnel built bridge together. But throughout the country the Green Berets are utilizing "pacifying tactics" on the people, such as conducting "civic action work," whose strategic goal is to "neutralize" the mountain tribes and peasantry from recognizing oppression and to "win them away" from the liberation fighters, through relocating them to the lowlands.

concentration camps or "strategic hamlets" were tactics developed in South Vietnam by U.S. troops as part of the "pacification" drive against the Vietnamese people.

As a result of their defeat in Vietnam, U.S. "Green Berets," both troops and advisers have been reassigned to the Philippines to undertake the same mission, this time against the Filipino peasants.

## No Safety in PC-Guarded "Safety" Areas

But neither the deceptive measures such as token medical projects and promises of new homes and farms, nor harsh measures such as forced re-location and punitive actions, have convinced the majority of mountain people to abandon their homes for the "safety" of PC-guarded areas.

Their reluctance is attributed to two factors: First, resettlement means virtual starvation for the poor farmers who have no other means of subsistence other than their mountain farms. Second, it also means being available for taxation there (the regime is currently collecting P10 per family head) and for recruitment under the forced drafting program of the AFP on the part of able-bodied men and youths.

## Highlanders Flee "Free - Fire Zones"

(BMP), BONTOC, BONTOC - Highlanders streamed to Baguio, Nueva Viscaya, La Union and other lowland areas when the central highlands of Luzon were declared "free-fire zones".

The area where the provinces of Bontoc, Benguet, and Ifugao share a common border was converted into a "free-fire zone" by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) when it waged an "encirclement and suppression" campaign last November and December against suspected units of the New People's Army.

The entire range, from Mt. Polis to Mt. Napulawan, was subjected to indiscriminate bombings and strafings by the Philippine Air Force Jets.

This forced the people, mostly peasants who do woodcarvings to add to their incomes, to leave their villages. They complained to frequent abuses and harrassment by government soldiers. Also because of the bombings, schools were closed and the people's livelihood was disrupted.

## LUIS TARUC: Former Huk Turned Government Agent

(continued from front page)

distinguished from the Communist Party of the Philippines which leads the New People's Army -NPA.)

Taruc's chances to get the U.S. Congress to grant him back pay and pensions seem slim. Especially in the wake of Vietnam and in the midst of Watergate. Will Taruc's long awaited pilgrimage then be a total failure?

No, in fact there are strong indications that this is not the real purpose for Taruc's visit anyway. He admits himself that his trip is being sponsored by the U.S. State Department with the "close cooperation" of the Marcos government. For someone who claims to be a "revolutionary" and a "socialist", his itinerary is conspicuously well organized by men associated with the Marcos and U.S. governments. In both Honolulu and San Francisco, speaking engagements and interviews with newspapers and radio stations were arranged for him almost daily. When questioned as to how such a "poor man," "born of the people" could afford to come and travel throughout the U.S., he can not produce a convincing story.

His role as a representative of the Marcos government comes clear during his speaking engagements. He spends the first part of his talks highlighting his personal history as a Huk. The purpose of this seems to be to establish with the audience his authority as a



"veteran revolutionary" who has always "sacrificed for the interests of the common tao". He carefully fails to mention the facts that while still the supposed "revolutionary leader" of the Huks, he surrendered twice to the government; turned over to the government complete lists of Huk guerillas (resulting in the killing and blacklisting of many), and since his release from prison in 1960's, he has consistently worked for and cooperated with the corrupt governments of Macapagal and Marcos.

His main message is this - that as "a revolutionary" he supports the Marcos government! He claims that both he and

Marcos want the "peasants and workers to run the country" and "to end the interference of foreign corporations". "The 'New Society'", he says "is the end of American rule in the Philippines and the beginning of democracy". When asked by the audience to explain such things as the marked increase in foreign investments since martial law; or the discrepancies in the Land Reform which allows the biggest landlords in sugar, coconut, etc. to keep their lands; or the illegality of strikes under martial law; he either skillfully evades such questions or answers them in a confusing and contradictory way.

Anti-martial law observers here are agreed that the Taruc tour of the U.S. is part of the propaganda effort on the part of the Marcos dictatorship to get support among Americans and overseas Filipinos for the "New Society". Marcos hopes that Taruc will "appeal" to a different sector of people and create the impression that even the "left" (excluding communists) supports the martial law regime.

However, it is doubtful that Luis Taruc, former Huk turned government agent, can be very successful. Especially with the news being brought back by returning "Balikbayans" about the sharply increasing economic hardships, or news of fighting in the provinces, and a full-scale war against the government in certain areas of Mindanao.

Taruc will most likely tour the Mid-west and East coast on his way to Washington.



# Mula sa atin...

## MUCH TAX PAYMENTS GO TO MILITARY

(BMP) Monies obtained from taxes and intended for public health, education, public works and other essential civic projects, inevitably find their way to the coffers of the armed forces.

Pres. Marcos, since the imposition of martial law last year, has given even more special attention to the needs of the military, well aware that his regime cannot survive without the full support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). For example, immediately after Dec. 30th, Marcos promoted all commanders of the army, navy, and air force another grade higher.

These are some of the provisions given each of the 50 AFP generals:

-A summer cottage in Baguio City, fully furnished at government expense.

-An interior decorated office furnished with air-conditioning, refrigerator, "new look" furniture, and wall-to-wall carpeting.

-Brand new staff cars including government purchased cars and vehicles for the day to day use of the generals' families.

These are only a few of the privileges enjoyed by the military higher-ups and sanctioned by the "official corruption" in the AFP, as exposed in an article written by an AFP officer called "Brass and Taxes".

## PAMPANGA DRIVERS STRIKE OVER REDUCTION IN FARES

(BMP) SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA- Angry jeepney drivers of the Minalin Drivers Association went on strike for two days, Jan. 2 and 3 when Mayor Flores of Minalin ordered the 40 centavo fare for the trip between San Fernando and Minalin (12km) reduced to 25 centavos.

"Why should the mayor reduce the fare just now when the prices of gasoline and diesel oil have been increased by the oil companies?" the drivers asked.

The protesting jeepney drivers complained that constabulary troops were sent to harass them following a report that they had gone on strike. The PC threatened the small jeepney drivers with cancellation of their permits if they did not comply with the order to reduce their fares.

## EMPLOYEES PROTEST SSS BIGGER CUT FROM WORKERS' WAGES

(BMP), MANILA - A strong protest movement is being urged among employees of private firms against the increased Social Security deductions from salaries and wages. The Social Security System (SSS), which collects from some 3.2 million SSS members, now gets 7% of the workers' monthly salaries instead of the previous 6%. The 1% increase began this January, 1974.

The underground newspaper *Maghimagsik* (Revolt) urged all the affected workers to register their opposition by any of the following methods:

-Sign mass petitions against the additional deductions, or join fellow employees in trooping to the SSS, Bureau of Labor Relations or Malacanang.

-Inform fellow workers and employees, by leaflets or manifestos, about the additional burden being imposed on them by the regime.

"Where will the additional SSS money go?" -To meet the increased propaganda costs of the martial law regime and to finance its huge military budget.

## 'BALIKBAYAN': Part II

# Martial Law - People's Lives Tell Real Story

(The following article is the conclusion of last month's Balikbayan Couple's Views: Worse Conditions Under Martial Law. It tells more of what they witnessed, their personal accounts, and how they felt about martial law and the Philippines as a whole before they returned to the U.S. We encourage our readers who have had a chance to return home to send us their views and feelings about the present situation-Ed.)

We had left the Philippines only a few years ago but we saw that the Philippine conditions had grown worse. As people expressed it, "worse the last year and a half". Everyone we talked to did not hesitate to state this and we learned much from the stories people would tell about how martial law had affected their own individual lives.

For example, jeepney and taxi drivers complained openly about the increase in gasoline prices. All drivers must now buy a monthly packet of ration tickets from the government for P2.00 in order to even buy gasoline.

Also, small businesses are badly affected. Sari-sari (small stores) in Manila and Quezon City are required by Marcos to pay P35.00 quarterly for tax purposes. One of our aunts who runs a store complained that she barely makes enough to live on.

Factory workers receive less than P8.00 a day. At the same time that wages are frozen, prices of prime commodities soar sky-high. Such wages cannot assure them of a decent living. It is no wonder that foreign investors are reaping \$7.00 for every \$1.00 invested in the Philippines. Marcos is tied with foreign companies, that is why he allows unrestricted foreign investments in the country.

### Peace and Order

The Marcos government claims that there is practically no more crimes. This is contrary to what we saw; there are still crimes, but they are just not being reported.

A week after arrival in Manila, one of our relatives witnessed a shoot out between robbers and police in a market place. But this was not put in the papers because such news would belie the "peace and order" propaganda. Fighting, killing and rape still occur. While visiting a relative in the hospital, many of the emergency cases were victims of such crimes.

Our cousin remarked that crime cannot be eliminated by the military. While many people are not making enough to make ends meet, while many remain unemployed, then crime will continue to exist. This is the basic social and economic problem that the majority of our people face everyday. And this is where much of such crime comes from, and Marcos' martial law will not change that.

### Land Reform

In barrio outside Lucena City, we had conversations with a peasant who told us that Marcos' land reform was a phony.

Peasants who constitute 75% of the people, generally pay 70% of their harvest to the landlords and keep only 30%. But that barely meets their needs, and when typhoon hits, their share comes to almost nothing.

Under Marcos land reform things remain unchanged. First of all, peasants may own land but it will require 20 to 25 years of cash payments to pay it off. Money for these payments can be borrowed from Marcos-created rural banks, but at high interest rates. This leaves the peasant heavily indebted to both landlord and bank. In addition, peasants affected by land reform have to join government cooperatives, where they must buy American made fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

Secondly, only small and insignificant landholdings are covered by the land reform.



Foreign businesses have found a good market in the Philippines to sell their goods, especially with the incentives under martial law. "Kentucky Fried Chicken" hut in Ermita, Manila (Dec., 1973).

The thousands of hectares used for sugar, pineapple, and coconut for example, are exempted because big landlords or foreign corporations usually own them.

### The Underground

Leaving the province, we had many muddled thoughts in our minds. We saw the vast inequities between the rich and the poor, we felt the sharpness of the economic crisis. The "new society" was supposed to create "peace and order", but all we saw was repression and military abuses.

We wanted to know the root of the problems and we wanted to know the solution to these problems too.

Before leaving, an old friend in Manila who had joined the underground movement after martial law, clarified all these to us. He said, "The Philippines is controlled by the U.S. and this domination has stretched over decades, creating an economy designed to fit U.S. interests and that of the local ruling class. This has shaped the political and social institutions of our country."

"Before martial law a broad awakening of our people to anti-imperialist consciousness was sweeping the country. The growing movement included peasants, workers, students and professionals. It opposed all forms of foreign domination safeguarded by the ruling oligarchy. The movement posed a great danger to the very existence of the prevailing system. Recognizing this threat, Marcos declared martial law in an effort to suppress all forms of democratic resistance to his regime."

"But even under the present situation, the people's struggle for a genuine independence and national sovereignty against U.S. and the local ruling class continues. We fight now to uphold the democratic rights of the Filipino people against the fascist repression of the US-Marcos dictatorship."

"For example, in over 30 provinces, many peasants are joining the New People's Army" He told us that workers in factories slow down production to protest their bad working conditions; the Muslims in the south are fighting against government suppression; and in the cities, students, teachers and professionals continue to find ways to protest the economic and repressive conditions under martial law.

"It is the unity of the Filipino people in their common struggle against the US-Marcos dictatorship, that will ultimately liberate the Philippines from its present yoke of oppression", his parting words.

More and more the pieces fitted together for us. Marcos was playing on our homesickness; he wants us Balikbayans to see only the clean streets and small reform which he hopes will impress us into supporting his "new society" when we return back to the States.

While we treasure our fondest memories of our families, relatives, and friends, we can not at the same time, dismiss the hard conditions they are forced to live under, in the present regime - and surely we want a better life for them! Being part of the Filipino people, we feel we must assist them in resisting the present dictatorship and in winning the struggle for a new and genuinely democratic Philippines.

# Alaska Cannery

## Workers Fight Job Discrimination

On the West Coast for over fifty years, Filipinos have had a general pattern of working in the agricultural fields during peak seasons and the Alaska salmon industry in off-season periods. Filipinos today comprise a major segment of the workers employed in this industry, though in the past it has included Chinese and Japanese workers. In the canneries, Asian workers face discriminatory practices whereby they are given strenuous, low-paying work and segregated, relatively inferior, unsanitary living and eating accommodations.

For Filipino people in the U.S., much of our experiences in America have been of exploitation, compounded by racial discrimination. We have been used as a cheap labor force in the fields of Hawaii and California, in the fishing industries of Alaska, in the U.S. Armed Forces, and as domestic and service workers in the cities. Such practices continue even today where many recently arrived Filipinos commonly experience discrimination because of their "accent" and their Philippine education and training which many employers consider inferior to American education. Many, therefore, have not been able to find jobs equivalent to their training and capability.

However, the trend in the U.S. is for the non-white people to organize and fight against such discriminatory practices of the employers and also with the labor unions. The following is the first part, of a 2-part series article, about the present struggle of Asian workers against discrimination within the Alaska canneries. — Editor



In the canneries, Asians (Filipino in the picture above) are usually given the low-paying, strenuous work.

Special to ANG KATIPUNAN

by Dale Boregson

SEATTLE — When the salmon cannery workers returned from Alaska last fall, they had had enough of segregation and discrimination. A group of them decided to take on the Alaska cannery industry by forming the Alaska Cannery Workers' Association (ACWA) and filing a lawsuit against two big companies. Presently, about 50 cannery workers are actively building the ACWA.

"For years the canneries have been getting away with illegal discrimination," says Clark Kido, Treasurer of the ACWA. "Workers complained to their union delegates or to the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC), but nothing ever came of it. Some consoled themselves by saying, 'Oh well, this is my last season in Alaska, but come next spring they would be back, fighting the same old system.'"

ACWA is not another union, but an advocate group which seeks to use Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to attack employment discrimination. This law is a direct result of the Civil Rights Struggle that took place throughout the South in the 1960's.

The ACWA lawsuit charges New England Fish Company and Nefco Fidalgo Packing Company with discriminatory practices in hiring, housing, working conditions, wages and personnel policies. It is a class action suit, filed on behalf of all non-white workers employed by the companies since 1965 (estimated to number about 2,500). It asks the Court to order an end to the discrimination, and to award damages of over \$5,000,000.

### Long History of Exploitation, Discrimination

For over 70 years, Asians have been recruited to work in the Alaska salmon canneries. Starting with the Chinese, carrying over to the Japanese, and now continuing with the Filipinos, the canneries have used Asian labor to extract super-profits in

Alaska's most profitable industry.

While a few white workers make lucrative wages, Asian workers have always been trapped in the hardest, lowest paying jobs. "It is a white man's dream to work in Alaska's most lucrative industry and make a few thousand dollars in a short summer," says Nemecio Domingo Jr. of the ACWA whose father also worked in the canneries. "But for us Asian workers this dream has always been a myth."

When Asians first began working the canneries at the turn of the century, a hard summer's work benefitted the worker little more than having food to eat for the season. Workers had to hire on through vicious labor contractors, who stole much of the wages and fired anyone who protested. With what little money they got, workers were required to buy necessities such as salt at company stores which charged exorbitant prices. So at the end of the season, many workers had no money coming at all and some were even in debt for the next season's wages. To discourage united resistance to this system, the canneries and the contractors played up the workers' national differences, pitting Japanese against Filipinos, etc.

But in the 1930's the struggle to unionize the canneries began and Filipinos were a leading force in this fight. Uniting with other Asian workers, they formed Local 37 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) and forced the canneries to recognize their union through a series of militant strikes. Much worker's blood was shed in this struggle with the Union's President and Vice-President being murdered in the streets of Seattle during a demonstration. A union hiring hall, seniority rights, and job security, replaced the hated labor contractor system. Wages and work conditions improved somewhat. Local 37 reached a peak of 5,000 members in the late '30s. During that period the union leadership, which included working-class fighters like Ernesto Mangaoang, fought militantly for workers' rights.

However, government joined industry in attacking the union during the McCarthy era. Repeated attempts were made to oust and deport progressive leaders such as Mangaoang. The deportation attempts failed, but the constant attacks did succeed in weakening the union.

### Current Conditions — Low Paying, Degrading Work, Segregated Housing

At the present time, there are 10 unions in the industry, 9 all-white craft unions and local 37 for non-whites. Members of Local 37 comprise the entire cannery work crew, while members of the all-white unions monopolize such jobs as machinists, fishermen, and members of the "beach gang." ACWA is planning to add several of the all-white unions as defendants in the law suit.

Both white and non-white employees are housed at the cannery during the fishing season. However, the non-whites are segregated from white employees in housing and dining facilities and are provided with relatively inferior and unsanitary living and eating accommodations. The cannery pays the cook at the non-white dining hall a lump sum to buy food, and many cooks pocket much of the money themselves. Last season, 15 Asian workers at Columbia Wards in Ketchikan staged a hunger strike to protest the bad food.

The canneries habitually assign non-white workers to the most strenuous and degrading work, for low pay, and with no chance for promotions. Pay averages \$2.50 per hour, in a state where the minimum wage is \$3.00 per hour. The contract calls for a 48 hour week, with Saturdays spent mowing the lawn, cleaning up the complex, or doing other "detail" work. Harassment continues on freetime too, as the companies enforce rules about no parties in the barracks and enforce selectively against the non-white workers.

(Continued in the forthcoming issue.)

## CHICAGO: Survey Reveals U.S. Filipinos Strongly Reject Martial Law

Since the declaration of martial law, Marcos has launched intensive propaganda efforts to have the martial law regime accepted by Filipinos abroad, particularly those in the U.S.

Though Marcos has stepped up his propaganda campaign, most Filipinos here in the U.S. have seen through the lies and instead, the anti-Marcos, anti-martial law sentiments of patriotic Filipinos overseas have grown stronger. This trend has been recently substantiated by a survey conducted by the Philippine Study Group (Chicago) through a questionnaire published in the Sept. 30, 1973 issue of the *Philippine Times*.

Below is an account of the findings of the survey which notably, were also published in the Philippines in the Movement's underground publications, BMP (Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas) and LIBERATION. As such, it brought forward the unity of the Filipino people here in the U.S. with the people's struggle in the homeland against the Marcos martial law regime. The following was reprinted from LIBERATION, a

mass newsletter circulated in the Philippines and published twice-monthly by the Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front (NDF). -Editor

Six of every ten Filipinos and Filipino-Americans strongly disapprove of martial law, and eight of them believe Marcos imposed martial law to remain in power.

These are some of the findings of a survey conducted among the readers of the *Philippine Times*, a Chicago-based newspaper.

Fully 61.3% of the respondents to the survey expressed "strong disapproval of martial law" while only 11.1% indicated their strong "approval".

"Put differently," the *Philippine Times* said, "strongly disapproving respondents outnumbered the strongly approving respondents almost six to one. This is a powerful statistic

which indicates the basic thrust of the survey data."

The Marcos regime's lack of credibility was reflected in the respondents' replies as to whether or not they felt Marcos sincerely intends to implement his promised reforms, and whether these would be achieved.

The most definite finding was that 65.5% felt that irrespective of Marcos' intentions, only a "few" promises would be achieved, 13.4% felt that "most" would be achieved, and only 1.6% felt that "all" would be achieved.

"(The data) suggest that the respondents ...are still quite skeptical concerning Mr. Marcos' sincerity of intention..." the *Philippine Times* said in its Jan. 15 issue.

Among the "bad effects" of martial law which were checked off by the respondents in the questionnaires, "curtailment of civil liberties" was checked off by 87% of the respondents; "censorship of the press" by 86.6%; and "the establishment of a dictatorial regime" by 81.1%. February 11, 1974

**NEW YORK FORUM:****"Muslims in the Philippines"**

SPECIAL TO ANG KATIPUNAN

by Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK — The National Association of Filipinos in the U.S. (NAFUS) sponsored a forum on "The Muslims in the Philippines" on March 6, 1974, in New York City. It was well-attended by members of NAFUS, KDP, MFP and other unaffiliated individuals.

The speakers were Raoul Beloso, head of the Filipinos for Freedom, and Walden Bello, representative of the KDP. Beloso's speech claimed that the Muslims were irked and offended because they felt that they were just used by Marcos for electoral purposes. He cited the Jabitah massacre and the Kamlon rebellion as part of the abuses that Marcos unleashed against the Muslims in the recent years. Mr. Beloso then concluded that the solution for the existing conflict is for the U.S. to intervene, that is, to take on the peace-maker role.

**Historical and Economic Perspective Given**

On the other hand, Walden Bello put the Muslim problem into a historical perspective. He showed that the northerners and the southerners have co-existed peacefully prior to the coming of the first colonizers, the Spaniard, and in fact, prior to their coming, Manila was in the process of becoming a principality of one of the southern sultanates. He stressed that Spanish and American colonization has been and is the root cause of the "Christian-Muslim" conflict through the use of "divide and rule" tactics. He cited from history, that in 1899, General Bates of the U.S. signed a treaty with the Muslims in the south, promising the Muslims their right to religious worship and political sovereignty. At the same time, this gave the U.S. forces time to finish up their pacification efforts in the north which culminated in Aguinaldo's capture. After this, the Americans swept into the south to complete their political, economic and military conquest of the Philippines.

In recent years, Bello pointed out the economic oppression of the Muslims has been heightened by the intrusion of U.S. Big Businesses such as Dole, Del Monte and B.F. Goodrich who in collusion with Filipino compradors and bureaucrat-capitalists, have grabbed large tracts of land from the Muslim peasants. Land that the Filipino Muslims had lived on for generations was "sold" right from under them, and they were evicted and

forcibly driven from their land. Moreover, this economic exploitation, Bello said, has been legalized and encouraged by the present dictatorship. Recognizing this, Bello concluded that the struggle of the Muslim people for religious and cultural self-determination is in fact an integral part of the broader national democratic struggle of the Filipino people for genuine independence and agrarian revolution.

During the question and answer period that followed, the role of the U.S. in the Philippines was the main subject of discussion. While Beloso maintained that the solution to the Muslim problem would be for the U.S. to come in and intervene as a peacemaker, some people in the audience pointed out that in fact, it is American-made planes and bombs which destroyed the whole province of Jolo.

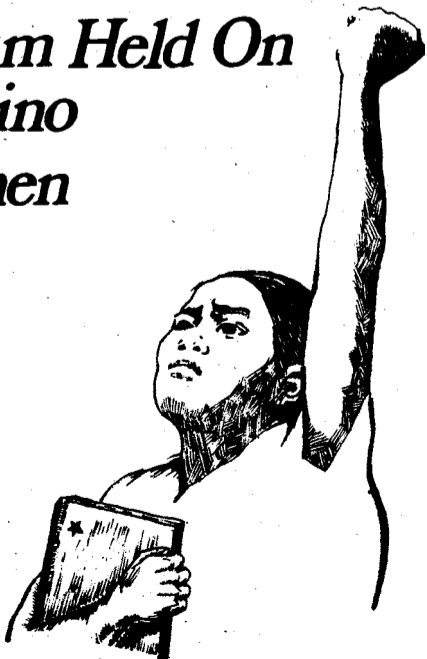
**It Is Not A Religious War**

After thorough discussion, there was general consensus among the audience that it is not the Muslims against the Christians, but rather, there is fighting throughout the Philippines today against the Marcos martial law regime. And that in Mindanao, this movement has the participation of Muslims, poor Christians settlers and other national minority tribes, all of whom have been victimized by the corruption and landgrabbing of Marcos, the Big Landlords and foreign corporations.

It was also brought out by Bello that National Democratic forces are taking an increasingly leading role in the Muslim liberation movement in the south. This can be evidenced by reports that the recent Jolo uprising was led by Nur Misuari (former head of the Western Regional of Kabataan Makabayan). He pointed out that Filipino Muslims, the majority of whom are poor peasants, are recognizing that their problems are part of the more deeply rooted problems within the whole of Philippine society. They were also disenchanted by the poor leadership shown by the feudal datus. These datus had espoused a strong desire for secession and later capitulated to Marcos.

Furthermore, Bello also proved that contrary to the view that the U.S. is not involved in the present Muslim unrest, indeed the U.S. has increased its involvement. Aside from sending "technical" aid in the form of Green Berets and weapons of mass destruction like napalm to the Marcos government, the U.S. is taking advantage of the Marcos policy of giving rights to foreigners for oil exploration in the south.

By the end of the forum, the majority of the audience seemed agreed that the Muslims, after centuries of struggle against oppression and exploitation, will not give up their present fight for freedom, genuine democracy and cultural and religious self-determination. ■

**March 8 — International Women's Day****Forum Held On Filipino Women**

Since its proclamation in 1901, March 8th, International Women's Day is a day celebrated throughout the world commemorating the glorious history of struggle for

liberation and equality on the part of working women of the whole world. This day recognizes the heritage of struggle and the contributions of women to the creation and betterment of society.

Filipino women also share in this rich and militant tradition. In commemoration, on Friday, March 8th, in San Francisco, the KDP held an open forum on Filipino Women. The forum addressed itself to the need to understand the struggle and oppression of Filipino women in the Philippines, as well as, their position as Third World and working women here in the U.S.

The first part of the forum was an historical presentation highlighting the struggle of Filipino women in Philippine society and Filipino history in the U.S. as part of the broader experiences of exploitation and oppression of Filipino people. Then there was an open discussion in which many people participated. Drawing from their experiences, different women related how their opportunities were severely limited because they were Filipino and women.

This was the first event of its kind and about 50 people attended the evening affair.

**UNITY...  
Magkaisa!****CHILDREN'S PROBLEMS DISCUSSED  
— FILIPINO CHILDREN'S  
CENTER PLANNED**

NEW YORK—For its 5th monthly affair, the Philippine Forum of New York sponsored a lecture on February 23, about "How to raise Filipino children in the United States". Dr. Rodolfo Varias, a noted Filipino doctor, was the main speaker. With him, composing the panel who answered questions from the audience, were Dr. Edita Millan and Ms. Aleli Alvarez, pediatrician and sociologist, respectively.

A case study prepared by Dr. Varias became the frame of reference for the discussion. The case study was about a young Filipina widow who immigrated to New York, started living with her boyfriend and then sent for her two daughters to live with them. There was a considerable response from the audience which consisted of Filipino and Filipino-American couples and prospective parents. The discussion focused on conflicting values in child-rearing such as discipline and early independence.

A proposal to establish some sort of a center to guide Filipino children and help them adjust to American way of life was agreed upon by the group as the possible solution to the problems of identity and cultural conflict that most Filipino children face. ■

**ETHNIC STUDIES THREATENED  
— STUDENTS ORGANIZE PROTEST**

BERKELEY— On March 1, here at UC Berkeley, about 500 students attended a rally sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Defense Committee. Its purpose—to stop the University Administration in its attempts to dismantle the Ethnic Studies Department.

The Administration through pressure is attempting to move the Ethnic Studies into the College of Letters and Science. The result would be the complete loss of what aspects of independence in policy and political direction presently enjoyed by the Ethnic Studies. Such independence has assisted in development of courses and projects more relevant to the needs of the people in Third World communities.

With Ethnic Studies under L&S however, the Administration will be in a better position to out-right control the hiring and firing of faculty, the content of curriculum and course materials, and the extent of student voice in Ethnic Studies programs. All this would lead to eventual break-up or total cooptation of Ethnic Studies.

The Ethnic Studies Department was established in 1969 as a result of the Third World Strike, which involved thousands of students. The demand came from TW students on campus who found that there were few courses on the history, language, culture and experience of minority peoples in the U.S. Courses that were offered were filled with racist stereotypes and superficial analysis. In addition, the strike exposed the fact that inadequate high school education, the "tracking system", and bad advice from racist counselors deprived most minority students of any REAL opportunities to go to college.

Many people realize Ethnic Studies cannot by itself root out racism from American society, nor for that matter, fundamentally alter the racist character of the university institution. But it can and has provided minority students a basis to influence the content and direction of part of their education. ■



## Part II: Farmworkers Struggle for Justice

For Filipino people here in the U.S., the Farm Workers struggle is especially important because a significant part of our history in America has been as farmworkers. Until the Farm Workers Union was formed, the farmworkers were unorganized and did not have a way to fight against the racist and exploitative conditions they faced in the fields. With the Union has come better wages, working conditions and basic rights for all farmworkers and Filipinos have been a contributory part of the Union's history and present struggle.

The following is the last of a 2-part article on the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) that explains the boycott tactic, the present nation-wide boycott campaign and how to support the UFWA. The article was written for Ang Katipunan by our correspondent in the Delano area who is in the Union and is presently actively involved with many Filipino farmworkers in that area. — Editor

### SPECIAL TO ANG KATIPUNAN

by Polly Parks

Boycott has been one of the main weapons used by the Farmworkers Union (UFWA) in the fight for better wages and working conditions in the fields.

However, boycott is an important tactic used by the labor movement whenever the tactics of strike and collective bargaining break down. When the employers refuse to even negotiate union demands the only way to force them to cooperate is by cutting into their profits. This can be done through what is generally called a "consumers boycott". It consists of launching a movement to encourage other working people throughout the country to boycott certain commodities that are being produced by "scab" (strike-breaker) labor. Such a concrete solidarity movement can prove very effective in cutting the profits of companies and forcing them to negotiate seriously with the unionized workers.

Although generally associated with the farmworkers movement, this tactic of boycott has been successfully used most recently in the struggle of the Farah workers. Willie Farah is a manufacturing capitalist who owns a number of garment factories in the southwest. A successful nation-wide boycott of Farah pants has recently forced him to recognize the union after two years of bitter struggle on the part of the Chicano workers there

## BOYCOTT



### UFWA and the Boycott

In its determination to survive in its battle against Agri-Business the UFWA has often used boycott in order to help win contracts. The most famous was the 5 year long Grape boycott of the late 60's that finally forced Agri-Business to recognize the UFWA (then known as UFWOC) and the farmworkers right to organize themselves into a union.

Today, most of those hard won contracts have been lost. This is due to the refusal of the Growers to renew contracts, along with the cooperation they have been receiving from the leaders of the Teamsters Union (in signing "sweetheart" contracts). Because of this, the UFWA is once again concentrating on the tactic of boycott and has launched another nation-wide boycott movement against certain farm commodities, wines and supermarkets.

There has been a UFWA boycott on "iceberg" lettuce since the unsuccessful strike of 1970. And this past year, in the wake of the battle over the expired Grape contracts (see

part 1-Vol 1 No.6), a new grape boycott has also been called. This means that people are asked to boycott all lettuce and grapes, EXCEPT that which displays the UFWA union label (farmworkers black eagle).

Gallo is the largest winemaker in the U.S. On July 10, 1973, E & J Gallo winery signed a "sweetheart" contract with the Teamster Union. Gallo previously had an eight year contract with UFWA.

After Gallo signed with the Teamsters, some 70 striking UFWA families were given eviction notices from their labor camps. The families are resisting this and asserting that they have the democratic right to strike and choose their own union and remain in these labor camps while on strike.

Being the largest winemaker, Gallo has influence over all the other wine companies. Other companies wait for decisions made by Gallo and then follow suit. A significant victory over Gallo would mean an easier road in negotiating contracts with other wineries.

The goal of the wine boycott is to stop people from drinking Gallo wines (wines whose label say "made and bottled in Modesto, Ca."). A nation-wide campaign is underway to educate young people, many of whom drink Gallo pop wines (Ripple and Red Mountain) to support the boycott. In connection with the Gallo wine boycott, Franzia and Guild wines should also be boycotted. (A list of all wines in boycott can be gotten from UFWA offices).

### Boycott Safeway and A&P

In addition, the UFWA is calling on people to boycott two large chain stores — Safeway and A&P. Both of these giant food stores are responsible for selling most of the non-union products (grapes, lettuce and wines).

The reason behind why these two corporations want to destroy the farmworkers union is because their Board of Directors have many connections and over-lappings (interlocking directorates) with the corporate California Agri-Business.

The boycott of Safeway and A&P is termed a "secondary boycott" because it is directed against the stores that carry the "scab" products. The stores claim that such a boycott is illegal and unfair. They pretend that they are "impartial and neutral" and they try to give the impression to the public that they have no connections with the California Growers. The purpose of the secondary boycott against Safeway and A&P is to expose this lie and to cut into the profits of the Growers.

### Supporting the UFWA

Farmworkers are in the cities attempting to rally public support in their fight for the right to have a union that represents their needs. The boycotting, picketing and mass rallies are vehicles in gaining this necessary support.

Also there is a bill before the California State Legislature calling for supervised elections in the fields. The Growers and Teamsters having been defeated in the field elections in the past, have since been opposed to supervised field elections.

The grapes will be ripe enough for picking again this spring, and the strikes in the fields will start again. In order for the strike in the fields to be successful, a strong boycott must co-exist in the cities.

There are several ways of helping the farmworkers struggle for justice. By boycotting non-union produce, people will help the farmworkers again an upper hand in negotiating for new contracts. People should contact local boycott offices in their city in order to help picket on weekends or to help disseminate information about the farmworkers struggle to their co-workers and friends

Makibaka! Huwag Matakot! Viva La Causa! ■

## America In Turmoil

### WATERGATE INDICTMENTS: 7 NIXON AIDES NAMED

On March 8, 1974, climaxing a 20 month study of the Watergate-burglary and cover-up, the Watergate Grand Jury handed down indictments along with a fifty page report, documenting a conspiracy of crimes ranging from perjury, suppression of evidence, manipulation of law agencies, and burglaries. In addition, a separate report on the President's involvement was handed over to Judge Sirica.

Seven persons were immediately indicted from an estimated forty conspirators. They were the closest of associates of President Nixon.

Indicted on 24 counts of conspiracy, perjury, and obstruction of justice were former presidential aide H. R. Haldeman and John Erlichman, both key persons in deciding presidential policies and dictums; former Attorney General John Mitchell, the symbol of "law and order"; and special presidential counsel Charles Colson. Three remaining persons, Kenneth Parkinson, Gordon Strachan, and Robert Meridan, were indicted for the cover-up of Watergate.

The separate report on President Nixon's involvement has been ordered sent to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee which is investigating impeachment proceedings. The report is said to consist of evidence documenting Nixon's involvement in Watergate.

Though the seven were indicted, the Watergate Grand Jury cannot indict Nixon publicly because of a constitutional technicality which prevents the indictment of a president during his term of office.

### FARAH WORKERS WIN UNION RECOGNITION AFTER 2-YR STRIKE

After a 22-month long strike and boycott, 3,000 Farah workers, mainly Chicanos and women, won their drive for union recognition. At a press conference on Feb. 24, it was announced that the employer, Willie Farah, had finally conceded the demand of the workers for a union. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America was the union chosen by the Farah workers to represent them.

For years, the Southwest has been a haven for runaway whops from the industrialized North. Here there are strong racist antagonisms against Chicanos. Employers could deny Chicanos their basic rights as workers and exploit them for their labor without reprisal. Women also are not considered as equals in this society and are denied their rights. Therefore, the Farah workers victory, after great sacrifice and struggle, was not only an important trade union victory but an important gain for women and Chicano people against racism and exploitation.

The militant strike began on May 2, 1972 when the workers walked out in support of 6 co-workers who had been fired for their attempts to bring in a union. By May 10, workers at 3 other plants joined the strike.

In the course of the militant struggle, 4 plants were shut down and a nationwide boycott of Farah pants was successfully launched; Farah lost up to \$10-M in 1972 and another \$10-M in the first half of 1973.

The victory also set favorable conditions for more organizing in the Southwest where there still remains around 100,000 unorganized workers. ■

# Reconstruction and Vigilance

Following is a portion of an article written by Steve Talbot after his recent 3-week visit to N. Vietnam and liberated areas of S. Vietnam. He went along with two other Americans and together they are planning to make a film about their trip.

The Vietnamese are placing stress on the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreements. They feel it is to the best interest of the people and country to do so. It gives them the opportunity to rebuild the North; repair some of the war ravages in the South, and extend democratic freedoms in southern areas held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG). This they understand will serve to build up the people's forces fighting for independence, reunification and democracy, as well as, further isolate the corrupt Thieu regime in Saigon.

The Vietnamese Talbot talked with were confident that in any political battle with Thieu they would win out, while saving the country from further military devastation. However they pointed out that the U.S. still backs up Saigon and all the violations of the Peace Agreements. Nixon has provided Thieu with \$1.25 Billion in military aid. And so, although they would prefer no full-scale war, the Vietnamese remain fully prepared to fight again militarily if and when the need arises.

In the meantime, the people of North and South are being mobilized to reconstruct the damages and eliminate the shortages caused by years of war and bombing. In addition, N. Vietnam, as a socialist country, is unfolding a massive worker and peasant movement to rapidly increase production in all fields; raise the living and cultural conditions of the masses, and give assistance to their brothers and sisters in the South. This article tells somewhat of the lightning progress that has been made in N. Vietnam in only one short year towards the accomplishment of these goals. —Ed.

“Why do you think we have been invaded so many times?” Luu Quy Ky, Secretary General of the Union of Vietnamese Journalists, asked us. “We are the only country in the twentieth century to suffer such a long period of war... Not because we are warlike, but because we love our independence and freedom. It is an irony of history that we have had to fight so long.”

“We are a very poor country,” said Hoang Tung (editor of North Vietnam's most important paper, *Nhan Dan*,) “Life is very hard here. But what U.S. military planners never understood is that we have one richness — our fighting spirit for independence and freedom. Our tradition of resistance gives us strength. But our strength also comes from a new ideology of equality and liberty and new relations among human beings. Because of this we could mobilize millions of people in war. It also gives us the capacity to create economic strength and develop our society. Only one year after ending the war in the north, we have healed several wounds in the economy and erased many traces of the war.”

Luu Quy Ky stressed... “How many years do you think it will take us for restoration? Five years would be very fast, but we want to accomplish it in less — two or three years. Can this dream happen? It is our determination.”

Luu Quy Ky and Hoang Tung's statements reflect the current mood in North Vietnam. It is a period of transition and tremendous activity after years of intense warfare.

Dikes and dams have been repaired in time for last year's monsoon rains. Millions of people had to work during the hurricanes last fall to strengthen the dikes where the new dirt had not hardened — but they held. Thousands of miles of roads have been restored.

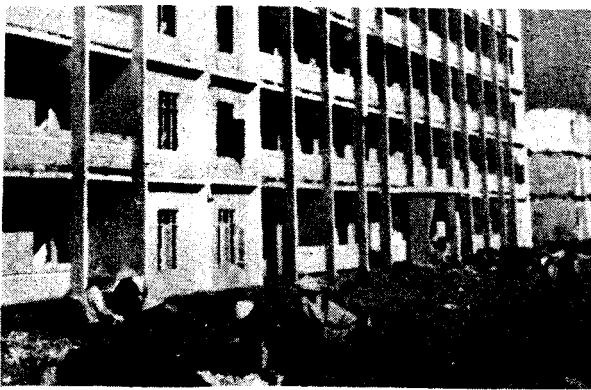
The communications network is said to be back to normal. Even heavily bombed

factories, like the important textile mill in Nam Dinh, are operating — though still at reduced capacity.

Deputy Le Thanh Nghi's February 4 speech in the National Assembly called for a 21 percent increase in 1974 in industrial production over 1973 and a 16 percent increase in agriculture. He also proposed the start of a five-year plan in 1976 — after two years of rapid restoration had returned North Vietnam to a state of economic development comparable to 1965 — the year the bombing started.

Agriculture is not completely restored, but millions of bomb craters have been refilled and people in the rural cooperatives in the delta region told us the rice crop had been fairly good, despite all the difficulties... So food is not a critical problem. The markets were full and no one we saw seemed under-nourished.

There are large-scale housing construction projects throughout the North. We were told that seven million school children are back in regular classrooms after wartime dispersal to



Housing project in Hanoi

underground and temporary schools in relatively safe areas... We also toured labs and lecture halls and saw experimental tea fields at an agricultural university in Thai Nguyen attended by 1000 students from 24 national minorities.

There was also a great deal of political activity in addition to the much publicized national assembly. The Third Vietnam Trade Union Congress opened on February 11 in Hanoi with more than 500 delegates. And the Fourth National Congress of Women was scheduled to open March 4 and close on International Women's Day, March 8.

Two nights a week there is television in Hanoi for some 1000 TV sets in public places... broadcasting an evening of news, cartoons for children, a math lecture, a general science program and a film... There are cultural performances six nights a week in the Hanoi city theater... The parks are crowded on Sunday, and we ate shrimp cakes and drank beer with dozens of families at a restaurant on the West Lake in Hanoi. And even the circus is back in Hanoi, playing to 1500 people a night with clowns, acrobats, magicians, monkeys on bicycles and trained bears.

“In the North,” Luu Quy Ky told us, “there is a sense of optimism and love of life. Usually after a war people are demoralized, but here people are active and the feeling between humans is strong”

But the greatest problem still confronting the North Vietnamese is the threat of renewed bombing and the continued fighting in the South. Everyone talks about it. And while a kind of normal life has returned to North Vietnam people are still wary. Even maids in our hotel and people riding bicycles on the street were sometimes armed with rifles, and the military is definitely prepared for war...

As Luu Quy Ky told us after dinner one night, “You know, I'm a symbol of national unity myself. My first job was in Saigon. I edited a paper there in 1937. Then I was an editor in Hue and later I became an editor of a paper in Hanoi, and I've been here ever since. But I'd certainly like to see those cities in the South some day.”

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## World in Focus

### SPANISH NATIONALIST EXECUTED — FRANCO'S “LIBERALISM” BELIED

On March 2, 1974, Salvador Puig Antich a Spanish nationalist was executed by garroting. Antich had been charged by a military tribunal with allegedly blowing up a bank and killing an officer.

The basic reason for Antich's execution was to satisfy the right wing elements of Spain. This group had been clamouring for stricter laws and criticized the “liberalness” of Franco's regime in suppressing leftist forces in Spain.

Spanish activist have been developing a movement against Franco's fascist government and are struggling to gain more democratic rights. i.e. Labor organizing, freedom of speech, etc. The Franco regime then allegedly “liberalized” its policies on civil liberties, though Antich's execution clearly belies the depth of Franco's “liberalism”.

Instead of frightening the Spanish people, the execution further polarized Franco's regime from the people. Demonstrations and riots broke out in protest of the execution and criticisms from progressive priest and seminarians in the Catholic church were launched against Franco.

### LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN AFRICA ADVANCES

Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) and Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) are the liberation forces within their countries.

The activities of FRELIMO and ZANU has brought much panic among the Portuguese colonialist in Mozambique and the white settlers in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). The current targets for the FRELIMO and ZANU are the communications and trade systems.

A particular target is the railway from Salisbury, the Rhodesian capital, to the deepwater port of Beria, in Mozambique. Rhodesia is a landlock country, and is dependent for the railway for trade. In the current offensive, three trains have been derailed.

In reaction to the Liberation Forces, counter-insurgency efforts have been increased by joint forces of Portugal and Rhodesia. Jet bombers and helicopters have been used against FRELIMO and ZANU. More recently, “aldeamentos” have been started. “Aldeamentos” are comparable to the “strategic hamlets” or concentration camps used by the U.S. in Vietnam. More than 20,000 Africans have been forcibly moved and had their livelihoods destroyed because of the “aldeamentos”.

In Rhodesia, token reforms have been attempted in order to stifle the liberation movement. The African Progress Party and National Settlement Forum have been formed. This is in hope that giving the Black people limited participation in government, the independence movement will be neutralized.

However, attempts to co-opt liberation in Africa are meeting defeat. Conditions in Mozambique and Rhodesia are developing in favor of the independence movement to overthrow Portuguese colonialism and the white racist settlers in Rhodesia.



Ham Rong Bridge in North Vietnam