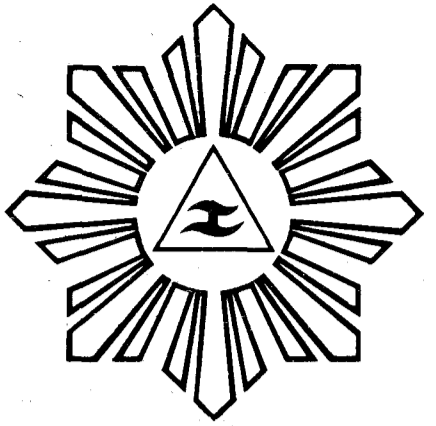


Ang

KATIPUNAN

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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



\$40-M for Philippines—

CARTER HEDGING ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE



U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Pres. Jimmy Carter [left to right]. Despite Carter's promises of "avowed concern for human rights," Vance recently announced that U.S. allies would receive aid, "whatever their violations of human rights."

The Marcos regime is slotted for \$40.4 million in military aid from the Carter administration, though evidence of torture and political repression in the Philippines has been thoroughly documented. (AK file photo)

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance made the first indication of the Carter Administration's tolerant posture towards the Marcos regime by announcing that "the United States would not reduce its aid to strategically placed allies, whatever their violations of human rights."

Vance's statement, made Feb. 24 before the Senate Appropriations Committee, bared the duplicity of Carter's avowed concern for human rights which he earlier dramatized by cutting aid to three countries

and lambasting the Soviet Union.

Although South Korea was the only country specified by Vance as exempt from human rights considerations with regard to receiving continued United States aid, the Philippines and Iran are expected to enjoy the same status. This speculation is confirmed by reliable Washington sources who have revealed that Carter's proposed \$40.4 million military aid package to the Philippines approximates the same amount proposed by his predecessor. Former President Ford maintained that cut-backs in foreign aid to

(continued on page 4)

'Eminent Domain' at Issue —

I.H. TENANTS FIGHT FOR IMPARTIAL JUDGE

BY JEANETTE LAZAM
AK Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO — Although "safe" under a temporary stay of eviction, the future of the tenants of the International Hotel here in this city is still in suspense. At issue is the S.F. Housing Authority's right to use "eminent domain" to buy the hotel and maintain it for low-cost housing. The hotel's landlord, Four Seas, is challenging this in court and the decision could be a landmark — victory or defeat — for the people's struggle for decent, low-cost housing.

One of the immediate controversies is over who will be the presiding judge in the case. Two judges have already been successfully challenged by the I.H. lawyers for being biased in favor of the landlord. The third judge, Byron Arnold, is still in contention. Though the tenants say that Arnold is as biased as the others, Superior Court held fast to its decision to maintain him for the case. Their decision was based on the technicality that the tenants had not filed a motion to intervene early enough before the selection was made. Lawyers for the I.H. are now fighting this decision in the Appellate Court, but there has been no response as of yet. The case scheduled to be heard no later than March 4.

Many of the tenants and supporters of the I.H. are this mean for the tenants...certainly one thing...imminent eviction.

Eminent domain, established in 1934, was originally a good concept and served the needs of the public by building roads, establishing parks, etc. But in recent times, it has been used to destroy people's housing in favor of big business expansion.

The I.H. is in no position to compete with corporate interests whose wealth and power far outstrip the tenants' meager resources. But they are in the position to challenge laws that deny the public's needs and lean indiscriminately in favor of business interests.

If the court is favorable in its decision on eminent domain, it could set a precedent that other housing struggles in this city could follow. Already in S.F., neighborhoods with the largest concentrations of poor and Third World working people have been hit the hardest by Urban Renewal. All along the China Basin, Japantown, Hunter's Point and South of Market (this neighborhood also has a high proportion of Filipino residents), the land is being subdivided, sold and developed for commercial or tourist interests. But the people's homes are torn down and not replaced.

In the words of Mrs. de la Cruz, an I.H. tenant of over nine years, "We must stop this eviction. We must fight for eminent domain so that all other people can benefit from this fight! We have nothing to lose, but all of us have everything to gain! I appeal to all our supporters to help us in every way possible!"

For information, call the I.H. at (415)982-4249. □

***V.A. Hospital 'Mystery' Deaths:**

Filipino Nurses on Trial for Murder

***Two Courageous Pinays**

***Another Pre-Trial Victory**

see page 3

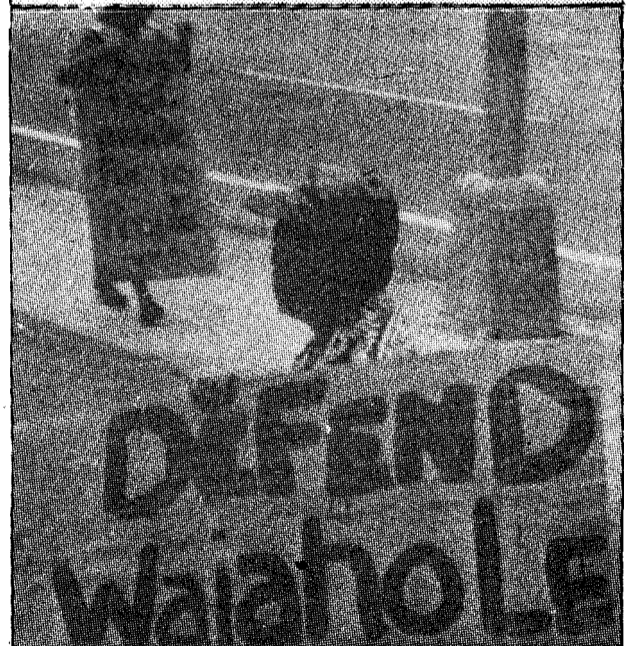
PRESS FREEDOM?

American Journalist Being Barred from Philippines

see page 5

State Intervenes

HONOLULU SMALL FARMERS WIN!



Waihole-Waikane supporter pickets in front of City Hall. (Pacific Courier photo)

By RUSSELL VALPARAISO
AK Correspondent

HONOLULU — The mass campaign of the farmers and residents of Waihole-Waikane to preserve the agricultural use of the land proved successful last Feb. 26, when the State intervened to stop the March 1 eviction. (continued on page 7)

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EDITORIAL

GUEST VIEWPOINT:

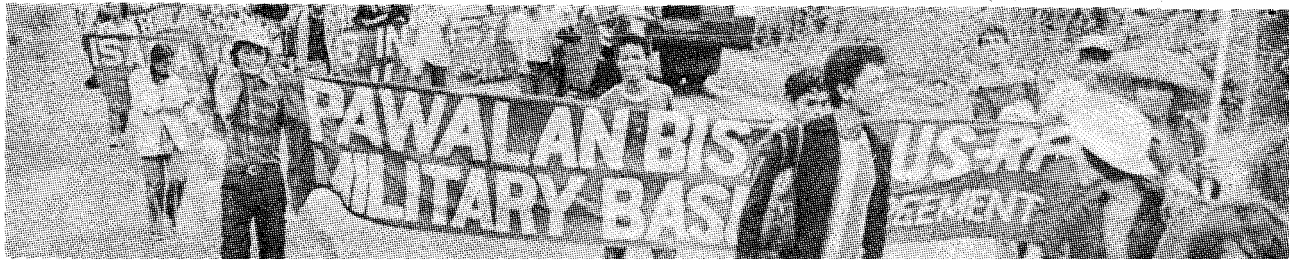
Stop ALL U.S. Aid to Marcos

By WALDEN BELLO
FFP West Coast Coordinator

Last month, the AMLC and FFP issued statements calling for complete withdrawal of American bases in the Philippines as part of our campaign to end U.S. support for the Marcos regime. As our Congressional efforts mount daily in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere throughout the country, however, I find it terribly disconcerting to read that one member of the anti-Marcos movement is attempting to undermine these gains.

In his latest column in *The Philippine News* (Feb. 26-March 4), Tony Garcia mounts an attack on the 90 signatories of a recent petition to President Carter seeking the withdrawal of U.S. bases from the Philippines. Garcia specifically singles out the Filipinos who signed the petition, asserting that they "could hardly be considered as representing the sentiments of 40 million Filipinos nor... delegated to speak for the people as if the bases issue had already been decided in [their] favor." Garcia also accuses the American academic and religious signatories of the petition, like George Kahin, I.F. Stone, and Rev. Paul Wilson, of being less than "democratic" in proposing base withdrawal.

Typically, Garcia's arguments are built on a



foundation of historical distortion and conceptual mish-mash. He talks about submitting the question of the bases to the democratic approval of Filipinos before any action is taken to withdraw them. Has Garcia ever asked himself if the Filipino people had any say on the establishment of U.S. bases on Philippine soil in the first place?

To give him a quick refresher course, the bases were forcibly imposed on Filipinos as a direct result of the aggression perpetrated by the United States in 1898 — a war in which 600,000 of our compatriots died defending Philippine sovereignty. To pursue the point, after the Second World War, when the U.S. had to find ways to legitimize its continuing military presence in the country, were Filipinos ever asked to approve the 1947 Military Bases Agreement negotiated in secret between the U.S. State Department and Japanese collaborator-later-MacArthur's handpicked "Little Brown Brother," Manuel Roxas?

And recently, the widespread disapproval of the presence of these U.S. bases during the '60s and '70s was a continuation of the profoundly democratic resistance to the same U.S. invader who took over our country at the turn of the century. But the political atmosphere of this period appears to have totally escaped Garcia. What else were the scores of popular demonstrations and marches demanding base withdrawal, which drew tens of thousands of Filipinos from all walks of life, other than exercises in popular democracy? If there ever was any genuinely democratic procedure in pre-martial law Philippines, that massive popular outpouring of sentiment against the U.S. presence in the Philippines was it. The nationalist movement was in fact so democratic in character that Marcos — who felt that the "old politics" of elite deceit, double-dealing, vote-buying, and corruption of which he was the widely acknowledged master — could not contain the tide of nationalism and popular democracy. Thus, he imposed the dictatorship in 1972 to save the whole structure of oligarchical rule and U.S. business and military interests there.

Is Garcia also unaware that almost all those now active in the Philippines against the Marcos dictatorship have said the same thing? This includes the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines, Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, The Signs of the Times (publication of the Association of Major Religious Superiors) and the Preparatory Commission for the National Democratic Front.

Mr. Garcia's apparent ignorance of these facts

must surely stem from his unwillingness to look at the hard realities of U.S. relations to the Marcos dictatorship. Garcia implies his support of the State Department and Marcos regime's contention that the bases play a role in the defense of the region. But even the U.S. Department of Defense conceded in 1972 that there was no external threat to the Philippines and that the bases mainly served as defense against internal insurgency. The bases, in fact, provide a symbolic, diplomatic, and military shield of the Marcos dictatorship against its own people. And there is no reason to doubt the Marcos-Pentagon assertions: Philippine Air Force (PAF) F-5's based in Clark have been known to carry out bombing missions against Filipino insurgents in Northern Luzon; PAF operations have utilized the sophisticated communications network of the U.S. base-and-installation complex during their military missions; the Marcos government's pilots have been trained to operate C-123 K and other U.S.-provided military hardware through U.S. training missions at Clark; etc.

However, the most tragic mistake of Garcia's argument is the fact that he has not grasped the relation between stopping U.S. aid to Marcos and the withdrawal of the bases. The recently issued State Department report acknowledging consistent

violations of human rights by the Marcos regime, still calls for the continuation of U.S. aid. Why? Because it claims that the cut-off of aid will lead to a removal of the bases by the Marcos regime in retaliation. Obviously, Marcos' saber-rattling remarks to the effect of "reassessing the bases" after criticism of his human rights violations, are meant to threaten the potential cut-off of U.S. aid by Congress.

This is no sign of independence from U.S. influence, but rather it is the gesture of a desperate dictator who fears that the growing "Human Rights Movement" among the American people might eventually force the U.S. Congress to cut off his only reliable pillar of support — U.S. aid. The memory of the Congressional refusal to appropriate continued assistance for South Vietnam's Thieu regime in April 1975 must bring nightmares to the man. Should this aid be cut, Marcos has found an even more lucrative method of maintaining U.S. support. During the re-negotiation of the bases treaty conducted with Henry Kissinger, Marcos blatantly demanded \$1 billion in military hardware alone as "rental" fee for the bases. If this treaty is accepted, Marcos will be receiving much more aid than even the present level of foreign assistance extended.

Those who are genuinely concerned with stopping U.S. aid to Marcos have now recognized the need to extend our demands to the withdrawal of U.S. bases because that is the only way to stop U.S. aid in any real sense.

The statement issued by the AMLC accurately reflects the demand for sovereignty and independence of our nation as democratically expressed by our people in thousands of protests, statements, and actions of the resistance movement at home. And the FFP statement by some 90 prominent religious, political, academic, and community leaders is but a manifestation of the American people's sentiments to end U.S. interference in the affairs of Third World countries. This movement is an extension of the vastly democratic movement of the American people which forced the U.S. government out of its aggression in Vietnam, and it is capable of rendering effective support for the Filipino people's struggle as well. How unfortunate that Mr. Garcia should provide such a disservice to these vital efforts through his unsubstantiated attacks. For it is Garcia who does not have his pulse on popular will, but instead relies on both colonial mentality and cold war hysteria to present a defense of U.S. military presence in the Philippines and indirectly of the Marcos dictatorship. □

BISHOP CLAVER:

'Criticism is a Thoroughly Christian Task'

PASTORAL LETTER

... We must all preach the Gospel. And preaching means speaking out. In words, yes, but much more so in act. Through our very lives.

This speaking-out task is hard to do these days in the Philippines. The decree is still in the books: it is a crime to criticize the government publicly; it is a crime to point out wrongs done to us, the people, by the regime; it is a crime to speak the truth of our present political situation.

Yet criticism is a thoroughly Christian task. Not any kind of criticism, true, not criticism for criticism's sake, not the ranting, raving kind of negative criticism that was characteristic of the political arena of the past; but criticism for the sake of truth, looking to the general good, spoken out of concern for what is being done to people to make them less people. And this task is all the more necessary when everyone is fearful, cowed into silence by threatening penalties, intimidated even by the deliberate rattling of arms. It is all the more necessary in the total control that government seeks to exercise with regard to mass media — a massive effort at thought control.

Hence all the greater reason, too, for fulfilling our task of speaking out. It will not do to impose silence on us, the Church, by glibly invoking the principle of separation of Church and State. For even sheerly political acts can have deeply moral implications. Laws and decrees and letters of instruction can be subversive of our very humanity, as indeed some are, and for that very reason of conscience and the Gospel.

There is an ever urgent need then for the task of prophecy, of critical judgment and action. Under whatever form of government. No matter how painful the constraints.

But we as Church are not one in our prophetic task? True enough. If we classify ourselves (Bishops included) in terms of opposition to or collaboration with martial law government and all it stands for, in terms too of our task of prophecy, we get these divisions:

- 1) Uncritical opposition: "There is nothing good about martial law — we reject it totally."
- 2) Uncritical collaboration: "There is nothing bad about martial law — we accept it completely."
- 3) Critical opposition: "There are some bad features about martial law — we seek to correct these."
- 4) Critical collaboration: "There are some good features of martial law — we should promote these."

There is a fifth stance: total unconcern. But this is not worthy of a Christian.

Where do we stand? What do we opt for?

I suggest we think the problem out. Together. I would only add one comment for your consideration. The operative words here, I strongly believe, are **uncritical** and **critical**. And hence, variant as our approaches to martial law may seem from the viewpoints of opposition or collaboration, if they are truly **critical**, in practice they should amount to the same thing. And if they do, we have a starting point for common thinking, for common action.

But, I repeat, our stance must be genuinely critical. From the very outset capable of separating the chaff of rhetoric from the grains of reality. . . .

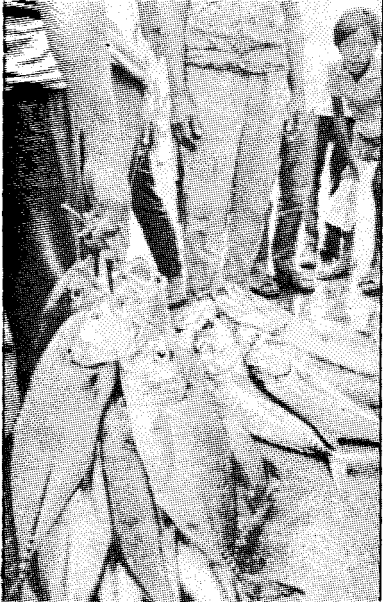
Francisco F. Claver, S.J.
Bishop of Malaybalay
Malaybalay, Bukidnon
Jan. 29, 1977



Buod ng mga Balita

(Gist of the News)

Fishery Workers Affected by Manila Port



MANILA — The new Philippine Fisheries Port, which opened in this city last Jan. 15, will seriously affect all the workers here in the fishing industry. The Port located at North Bay Boulevard, some 14 km. north of Manila, is the biggest fish landing center and market in the Philippines and supplies fish for most of the Greater Manila Area. Around 5,000-6,000 workers are expected to lose their jobs when the Philippine Fish Marketing Authority (PFMA) takes over the operation of the new, completely mechanized complex under the policy "minimum labor, maximum machinery."

The PFMA has already begun to take over the functions of the batilyos. In addition to these people, around 6,000-10,000 slum-dwellers are facing displacement and eviction (from land which they have occupied since 1939) as the port and market plan to be expanded greatly in the immediate future.

Prompting the building of the complex was the 1975 Fisheries Decree which permits foreigners to fish in Philippine waters, and the Treaty of Amity, Navigation and Commerce between Japan and the Philippines which opened the door for Japanese capital to enter the Philippine fishing industry.

Japan, heavily dependent on fish as a staple food and threatened by the extension of other nations' fishing zones into some of its major fishing grounds, is very interested in gaining a large, regular supply of fish from the Philippines. The Fish Port will, however, enable Japanese foreign capital to penetrate and eventually gain control over a sizeable share of Philippine fishing.

The construction of the Fisheries Port was financed by a \$5.5 million from the Asian Development Bank, and \$7 million from the Marcos government. The World Bank has also loaned \$43 million for the so-called Dagat-dagatan Project, a proposed city and industrial complex related to the fish port.

In opposition to the new port, the people of Navotas have organized the Association of United Batilyos and the Barrio Association of North Bay Boulevard. Mrs. Miring de Leon, an active leader of the People's Association of Navotas was reportedly arrested at the end of January for "instigating the residents of Navotas and the batilyos." □ *New Asia News Agency [2/18]*

Oil Price Hike Imminent

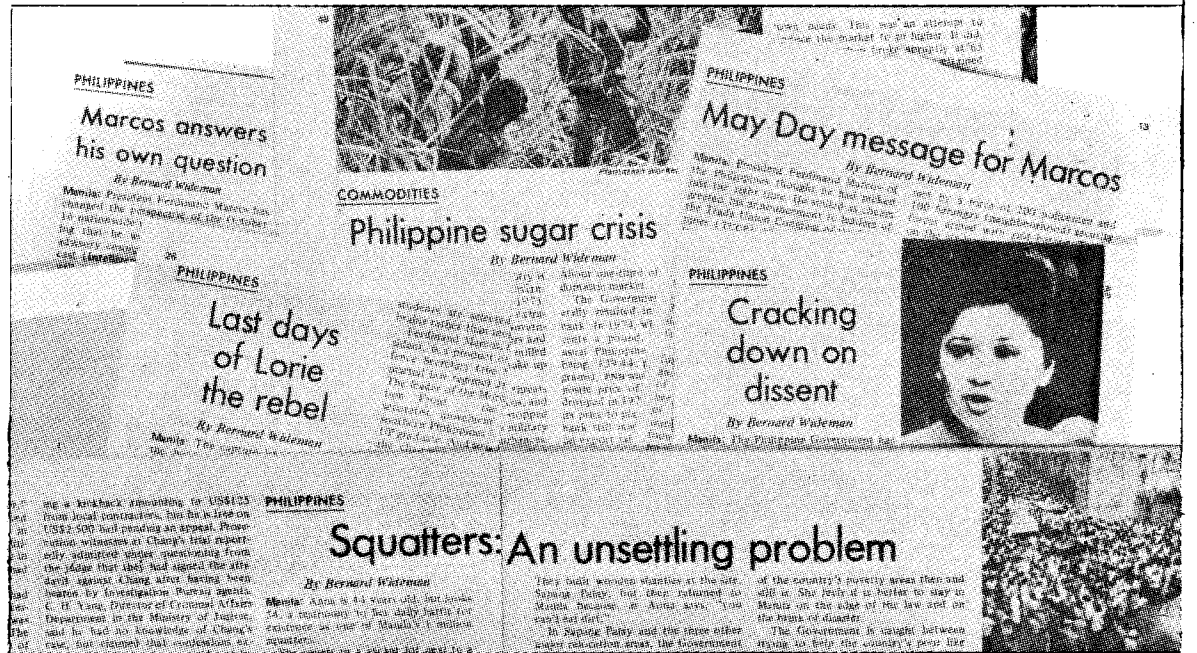
A projected 5 per cent increase in the price of oil and petroleum products is expected to trigger an inflationary 10 per cent increase in the consumer price index, promising yet another bleak year for the Filipino people. According to the "Big Four" (Caltex, Mobil, Shell and Esso) which is asking for an 8-9 centavo per liter increase in gas prices, the hike was warranted by the 5 per cent increase in crude oil prices imposed by the Organization of Oil Producing Countries (OPEC). However, representatives of labor transportation and consumer groups which are protesting the action, argue that the oil cartels are perfectly capable of absorbing the crude oil price increase in view of their wide profit margins. During the height of the Arab oil embargo in 1974, for example, the oil companies profited \$4 million by hiking gas prices 25 per cent to 35 per cent more than what was needed to break even with the increase in crude oil prices. Since the oil industry is completely monopolized by the "Big Four," this group can dictate unilateral increases in the price of gas at artificially inflated prices.

The severity of the economic repercussions poised by the oil price hike is underscored by the infuriated reactions of even the most conservative sectors of labor. Fearing the radicalizing effect of the oil price hike on the nation's labor movement, pro-Marcos labor leader Roberto Oca recently called for the nationalization of the oil industry. Consumer groups on the other hand, aware that the oil problem stems from the broader dilemma of foreign domination, demanded a thorough study of all multinational corporations operating in the country particularly, the oil companies. Meanwhile, jeepney, taxi and bus operators associations have threatened to effect fare increases if the oil hike is not rescinded. All these groups have filed counter-petitions to the oil companies' requests before the Oil Industry Commission and have pressed for the full disclosures of the "Big Four's" earnings.

Their efforts however, appear futile in view of the OILC's consistent rulings in favor of the oil cartels. Since 1970, the OILC has authorized nine oil price hikes amounting to 40 per cent increase in the price of gas over the past six years. The gov't has furthermore acted as an apologist for the oil industry, issuing appeals for conservation measures and expressing groundless optimism that the oil price hike will not be so bad after all. In an attempt to mollify the public, Pres. Marcos recently said that only the affluent or private car owners will feel the pinch of the crisis. While Trade Sec. Troadio Quizon made the absurd suggestion that oil-dependent industries (which is practically every industry) could circumvent the effects of the price hike by merely conserving.

The situation, however, is not as simple as the gov't has made it out to be. With the imminent oil price hike signaling take-off for consumer prices, the resultant decline in real wages will be the ultimate expression of the oil cartels' great swindle of the Filipino public. □

MARCOS RETALIATES AGAINST ANOTHER AMERICAN JOURNALIST



Bernard Wideman's articles on the Philippines, Far Eastern Economic Review.

By VICTORIA LUNA

Philippine immigration authorities began legal proceedings last Feb. 18 against Bernard Wideman, an American journalist accused of being an undesirable alien. Wideman, a 40-year-old free-lance writer from Seattle, Wash., has been denied an extension of his visa after residing in the Philippines for the last four years. In that time, he has covered Philippine political and economic news for the Far Eastern Economic Review and the Washington Post.

Wideman stands accused of violating two presidential decrees: rumor-mongering and the spreading of false news; and the infamous P.D. 823, barring foreign participation in Philippine labor activities. He is further accused of fomenting dissension through his articles. In a separate hearing, held last Feb. 25, Philippine Ambassador to Japan, Roberto Benedicto, alleged that an article by Wideman was libelous.

Wideman is the second U.S. newsman against whom the Marcos government has taken action. On Nov. 2, 1976, Arnold Zeitlin, Associated Press Bureau Chief, was denied re-entry to the country because of alleged connections with subversives.

Of the Western journalists covering the Philippines, Wideman has been most consistent in looking into issues and events which affect the interests of various sectors of the Philippine population. His reports on the resistance to the Marcos regime have been both broad and thorough-going. He has covered the expansion of the New Peoples Army, the numerous strikes in Manila, the mass actions held by labor, students, and urban poor, and the growing confrontation between church and state — none of which are discussed in the muzzled domestic media.

SOURCE OF IRRITATION

Wideman's coverage of the Marcos regime has been a regular source of irritation to those in power. His analysis of the October 1975 anti-corruption purge as a power feud between then Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor and Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile earned him the ire of the President who wanted to make the purge appear as a government clean-up. The subsequent sacking of Melchor later bore out Wideman's initial analysis.

More recently, Wideman focused his attention upon the country's sugar disaster. In an

article for the Far Eastern Economic Review, he pointed out the absurdity of building five new sugar centrals at a time when the country is suffering from a glut of unsold sugar. He revealed, however, that the owners of the new centrals were making tremendous amounts of money in kickbacks from construction firms and that three of the new centrals are owned by Ambassador Benedicto, one of Marcos' chief business partners.

Wideman's last major story for the Far Eastern Economic Review focused on the overbuilding of hotels in Manila. The barely-occupied new structures, he revealed, represent a costly error for the government, but a most profitable business venture for their owners. The owners of the hotels availed themselves of extremely low interest loans with a two-year holiday on payment of the principal. Wideman pointed out that, at the current rate of inflation, this was like getting free money. He also revealed that much of this money, rather than being spent on the hotels, was instead invested in the money market for a quick profit. Again, one of the chief beneficiaries was Benedicto.

TESTIMONY OF GOVERNMENT AGENTS

In response to Wideman's coverage of the resistance, the government has accused him of rumor-mongering and violating P.D. 823. A government agent assigned to watch the reporter testified that he saw him take an active part in an anti-government rally. An army captain testified that Wideman twice met with "suspected subversives." The charge of libel is clearly connected to his stories on the sugar and

hotel scandals. It is noteworthy that one of his chief accusers for this particular "crime" is Benedicto himself.

Local and foreign correspondents in Manila have expressed concern that the anti-Wideman campaign shows that now investigative reporting is illegal in the Philippines. Although the domestic media has long been completely controlled, the action against the reporter implies that all controversial issues are not to be discussed — anywhere.

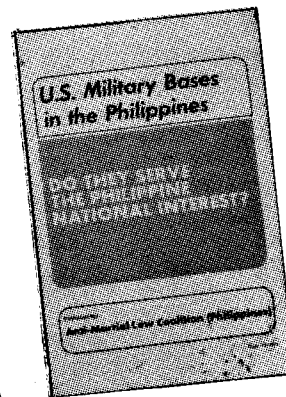
U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE

In response to the attempt to expel Wideman, Sen. George McGovern (Dem., S.D.) sent a letter to the State Department asking for its help in assuring that the journalist's visa be extended. At the urging of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition and the Friends of the Filipino People, Congressman Berkley Bedell (Dem., Iowa) circulated a letter in Congress expressing concern over the Wideman case. The letter was subsequently signed by 15 Congresspersons and forwarded to Pres. Carter. The Congresspersons urged the President to "transmit our concern and desire that Mr. Wideman be allowed to remain as a journalist in the Philippines."

In the light of the recent statement by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance approving continued aid to countries like the Philippines which violate human rights, informed observers doubt that Pres. Carter will take a stand on this issue. This means that Marcos will feel freer than ever to crack the whip on correspondents who dare to tell the truth about the Philippines — Filipinos and foreigners alike. □

U.S. Military Bases in the Philippines:

DO THEY SERVE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL INTEREST?



An in-depth analysis of the role of U.S. Military Bases in the Philippines from the point of view of Philippine National Interest.

Send 50 cents per copy, plus 10% of purchase for mailing costs to:

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Philippine Political Prisoners: Enrile Belies Regime's 'Official' Stance

The regime's official stance that there are no political prisoners under the martial law government was recently belied when Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile recently admitted that 1,441 persons were under detention in the Philippines. Enrile claimed that these persons were held for what he termed as "crimes against national security."

In an interview with New York Times correspondent, Henry Kamm (NYT 2/18) Enrile initially estimated the number of prisoners at "a little less than 200." Enrile's figure was later refuted by an aide who, going to official records, produced a number seven times as high. Independent observers believe, however, that even these "accidentally revealed" figures still tend to be on the conservative side.

According to Enrile, since the declaration of martial law, a total of 7,961 had been arrested on charges of rebellion, sedition or subversion as well as conspiracy to commit such crimes. Of the 1,441 who have remained in detention, 706 have had charges filed against them while 735 cases were still "under review."

The regime's response to the mounting criticism against it for violation of human rights has been two-pronged. It has denied outrightly the existence of political prisoners. Moreover, it has been hurriedly bringing to trial these prisoners who have been illegally detained for nearly four years without any formal charges against them.

Currently being tried for rebellion and sedition are well-known Marcos foes like Sen. Benigno Aquino, Eugenio Lopez Jr. and Sergio Osmena III. Long-time political prisoners like Nilo Tayag and Fr. Ed de la Torre have now been brought to trial before a military court appointed by Marcos.

Underscoring the "kangaroo court" character of the Marcos judicial process is the present mass trial being conducted, involving Nelia Sancho and 57 other political detainees. All have been named as respondents in rebellion charges which also implicated Fr. Edward Gerlock, an American missionary who was recently deported after a seven-minute trial.

Undoubtedly, by going through the legal motions of trying and convicting these prisoners, the regime hopes to justify its repressive policies towards the opposition to its rule. □

U.S. Hedging on Human Rights...

(continued from front page)

countries committing gross violations of human rights would be counter-productive, a stance which Carter is pursuing with little modification.

COSMETIC CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The foregoing events, therefore, suggest a Carter foreign policy based on convenience and mismatched with his pre-election promises that it would be based on human rights. The latter was a popular aspect of Carter's campaign and was in tune with the desire of 70 per cent of the American public to cut U.S. aid to repressive regimes abroad. Secretary Vance alluded to Carter's inconsistent approach to human rights by stating: "The United States runs the risk of appearing hypocritical in cutting aid to one friendly nation and maintaining it with another even though both nations might be equal violators of internationally recognized human rights." This admission forecasts that future U.S. criticisms of human rights violations by a particular country would be carefully weighed against United States security and economic interests there.

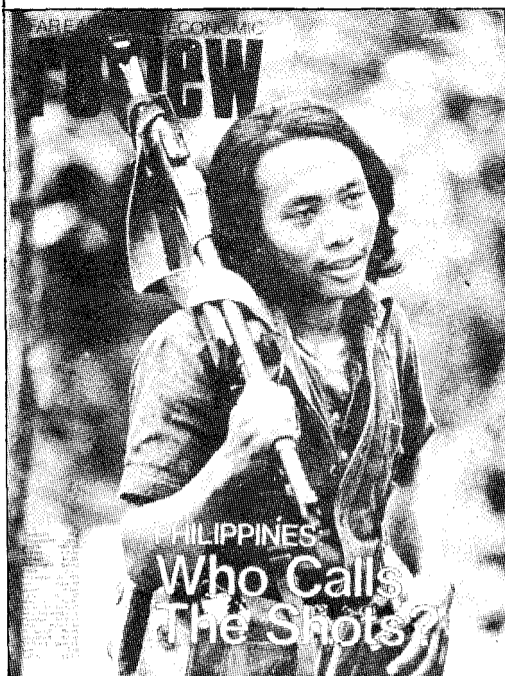
Thus, the best that can be said for Carter's avowed concern for human rights, is that it is cosmetic and designed to suit the current international trend towards concern for civil liberties.

MARCOS-CARTER RENDEZVOUS?

The exemption of the Philippines from human rights considerations has been characterized by a New York Times editorial (2/27) as "an evident embrace of the Marcos regime" by the Carter Administration. Carter's decision to overlook the brutal violations of human rights under the Marcos regime is due to the importance of retaining American operational command over its Philippine bases. Apparently, Carter, like Ford, considers its 22 bases such as the sprawling Subic Naval and Clark Air Force bases, as strategic and vital despite much Congressional contention that they have outlived their purposes.

The fact that the United States-Philippines bases renegotiations talks have quietly resumed after an unfriendly recess since December is an indication that Carter is eager to conclude the talks and may very well concede to most of Marcos's demands. Foremost among these demands, are base rental payments within the \$1 billion range and a semblance of Philippine control over the bases for cosmetic effects. □

'On-Again-Off-Again' Plebiscite Uneasy Peace in Southern Philippines



(Far Eastern Economic Review, Jan. 14, 1977)

By VICTORIA LUNA

As negotiations between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Republic of the Philippines continue in Tripoli, Libya, Philippine policy toward the MNLF and the recently troubled southern part of the country lurches on as erratically as ever. The latest indication of Marcos' wavering policy toward the south has been his startling position changes on the plebiscite to determine which of the southern provinces will become part of a Muslim autonomous region.

On Feb. 11, Marcos suddenly called for the plebiscite to be held on Feb. 21. At that time, he called it "an unreduceable requirement of our constitution" (sic). Then, in an abrupt turnabout, five days later, he cancelled it altogether. Several days after the cancellation, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) announced that the plebiscite would be held on March 17 and accompanied by "free discussion and debate," a formula which has now become a catchword for the carefully orchestrated buildups to Marcos' famous plebiscites—all of which "happen" to overwhelmingly support government positions by over 90 per cent.

As in the past, the plebiscite is to be conducted through "citizens assemblies" under the direction of the barangays. Meanwhile, the government is engaging in a campaign to inform the people in the south about the

formation of Marcos' latest bureaucratic apparatus, the Sangguniang Pampook, or Regional Assembly. According to a proposal unanimously approved by the Batasang Bayan last week, the Sangguniang Pampook of the new autonomous region will serve as a model for similar regional legislative bodies to be set up throughout the Philippines.

CONFLICTING REPORTS

Pres. Marcos also claims to have received a message from Tripoli that the MNLF and its allies in the Muslim world will recognize the on-again-off-again plebiscite as "an internal matter within the sovereignty of the Philippines." His statement conflicts, however, with a report to the New York Times by correspondent Henry Kamm who, in a February 16 article, reveals that disagreement between Marcos and the MNLF over the plebiscite has gone on for some time.

According to Kamm, Marcos insists that the poll is called for under the preliminary agreement signed in Tripoli last December 24, which states that "implementation [of the agreement] shall be through all necessary constitutional processes." Misuari's mistrust of the plebiscite formula stems, no doubt, from an awareness of the way in which Marcos has repeatedly used it to create an appearance of popular support for his unpopular policies. Other critics speculate that Marcos can use the "popular opinion" manufactured through the March plebiscite, as an escape hatch from whatever he may not like about the decisions made during the Tripoli negotiations.

ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY

Reflecting Marcos' determination to have his cake and eat it too with regard to the negotiations, an atmosphere of uncertainty hangs over the cities of the south. Though the guns are silent, MNLF forces work to secure strategic positions for themselves near major crossroads and engage in open recruitment among the people.

Few are taking advantage of Pres. Marcos' amnesty program aimed at the rebels. According to Kamm, few firearms are being turned in—a precondition for a grant of amnesty. In fact, the trend seems to be toward the reverse and some former MNLF members who earlier availed of amnesty are rejoining its ranks.

Kamm further reports an air of 'skepticism and widespread mistrust of Marcos among Christians and Muslims alike. Abrupt reverses in position about the plebiscite and trotting out the same old phrases used previously in Marcos' rigged polls can only deepen the malaise. As residents of the cities hurry to their homes soon after dark in spite of a midnight curfew, an uneasy peace hangs over the southern Philippines. □

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FILIPINO Community

Leonora Perez, Filipina Narciso:



TWO COURAGEOUS PINAYS DEFEND THEIR INNOCENCE

By ROMY DE LA PAZ

For most Filipinos, Leonora Perez and Filipina "P.I." Narciso have dramatically become a symbol of strength and courage. Many Filipinos seem to have empathized with these two courageous Pinay nurses who have displayed remarkable composure in the midst of their crisis.

The plight of these nurses has become a rallying point in the Filipino community. Numerous defense committees have mushroomed throughout the country, attracting the diverse social and political groups in the Filipino community in the U.S.

PI AND LEONIE—TYPICAL FILIPINO IMMIGRANTS

Until they were charged with murder, Leonie and P.I.'s experiences were typical of the nearly one million Filipinos who, in seeking better opportunities that are almost non-existent in the Philippines, uprooted themselves to rebuild their lives in this country.

Both came to live and work in the U.S. five and a half years ago.

"P.I.", 30, lives in a rented house with several other Filipina women in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She is the sixth born of nine children in a strong Catholic family. "My father thinks highly of the United States . . . my sister works in this country as a nursing supervisor in Alabama and through her I learned about the good things." When she first came to the U.S., she settled in Alabama but moved north to Michigan in 1972 to be near friends.

Leonie, who is 32 years old and recently gave birth to her second child, recalled her early life in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. Her father, who had been a farmer and a barber in another town, moved to Bayombong to open a sari-sari (grocery) store because farming was not providing enough money to educate his seven sons and daughters, Leonie related.

"I wanted to see the United States," she said. "When I was a kid, we used to study American history. And I

was just fascinated to see the United States and to work there."

Like most Pinay nurses, they were attracted to the U.S. by the promise of "better salaries and better hospitals to work in."

"P.I." and Leonie never knew each other until both were assigned to the Veterans Administration Hospital's intensive care unit in 1975, looking after the hospital's most critically ill patients.

As nurses, the two gained the respect and admiration of their fellow co-workers in the hospital.

"They both have very fine characters, fine sense of humor and are superior to excellent, in their profession," attested Betty Jacim, night nurse supervisor at the VA hospital.

"Mrs. Perez is an excellent nurse who knew exactly what she was doing," exclaimed Dr. Dana Kissner, a University of Michigan Hospital intern who worked at the VA last summer. "She was always very, very concerned that she was causing somebody pain. I never, ever saw her mistreat a patient."

Richard Collins, 58, a salty ex-boxer who spent over 30 months as a VA hospital patient, said: "P.I." is just about the finest nurse there is at the hospital. If there is any better, well, I would like to know about it."

When news broke out that the two had been indicted for the alleged murders, there was a combination of shock and anger expressed by the Filipino community, especially the people who knew them.

"They cared too much about people to deliberately and wantonly take a life," retorted a nurse who worked with "P.I." and Leonie. "They were too full of life themselves." The nurses who worked with them at the hospital day to day do not believe they are guilty of multiple murders. "Not those two . . . they did too much to save lives."

The nurse who asked not to be identified, drew out the apparent racist overtones in the case, stating that because the two young women were natives of the Philippines and English wasn't their native language, "Their

Another Poison Charge Dropped Against Narciso/Perez

DETROIT—Federal prosecutors have decided to drop one more of the poisoning charges against Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, the two Filipino nurses accused in the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital murders.

The surprise decision, disclosed Tuesday, Feb. 22, by U.S. Attorney Phillip Van Dam, marked the second time in recent weeks that the prosecutors have reduced charges against the nurses.

As a result, Richard Neeley, a former Veterans Administration [VA] patient and key prosecution witness, will not be called to testify at the nurses' trial scheduled to begin March 1. Neeley, under hypnosis, had testified in a videotaped interview that he saw Perez standing next to his bed just before he had his respiratory arrest on the night of July 30, 1975. Before Neeley was hypnotized and interrogated under FBI supervision, he gave conflicting accounts of his breathing failure. Defense lawyers for Narciso and Perez proved that the hypnotic interrogations administered to Neeley were highly questionable and improper. Neeley's personal character as an alcoholic "blackout drunk" and quite "vulnerable psychologically" was also cited by the defense.

This latest development in the Narciso-Perez trial case means that the original mass murder indictment against the Filipina nurses has been cut almost in half. "The only mistake," said defense lawyer Thomas O'Brian, "is that they did not dismiss the balance of the remaining charges."

The former VA Hospital nurses will still be prosecuted of using Pavulon, a paralyzing drug, to murder two patients and poison seven others at the hospital during the summer of 1975.

The nurses are also charged with conspiring to poison a dozen hospitalized veterans. The women, who have declared their innocence of all charges, face possible life sentences in jail if convicted in any one of the poisoning or murder counts. □

rights are being infringed upon. They were railroaded," she continued. "It's something we all feel deeply about."

Since the federal grand jury indictment following their arrests by the FBI last year, the lives of "P.I." and Leonie have taken a sharp turn. Ironically, the two Filipinas who came here to seek better jobs and worked hard at it, are now jobless. Both nurses were suspended from their nursing duties since the indictment.

Irregardless of the outcome of the trial, their lives will never be the same. "P.I." and Leonie's experiences this past year will remain with them the rest of their lives. □

Fr. Gerlock Speaking Tour:

Marcos Agent Attempts to Crash Teach-In

By EDDIE ESCULTURA
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO — "Can you continue offering liturgy, saying mass, baptizing, when the majority of the people are lacking in freedom and human dignity, or would you join in the struggle, which people have already initiated to change society, to try and make some decisions for themselves about their own lives and make a society that will be representative to their needs?"

Fr. Gerlock posed this question before an enthusiastic crowd of 140 people at the teach-in sponsored by the Human Rights Alliance Against Martial Law last Feb. 18.

However, before he could finish his talk, Marcos agents were spotted sneaking into the hall where the teach-in was taking place. One of them, Isaias Gonzales, of the Philippine Consulate, sneaked in with his camera, but was immediately asked to leave by the members of the alliance.

When he refused, Geline Avila of KDP informed the audience of the presence of the agent, stating that Gonzales had no basis to be there since he had a different motivation, which is to spy on the people who were there and to obtain data that could be distorted and used to attack the opposition.

Gonzales hypocritically protested that he was being

denied of his freedom when in fact he was known to be a part of the Marcos machinery that intimidates Filipinos here, harassing picketeers at the Consulate by taking pictures and making obscene gestures. When it became clear to Gonzales that he was thoroughly isolated among the crowd, he left.

Fr. Gerlock then resumed his talk, explaining why he decided to join the struggle of the poor. He recounted his nearly 15 years in the Philippines, first among the farmers in Davao whose lands were being taken away by big banana corporations and later among the workers and squatters in Tatalon, Quezon City struggling for basic human rights such as housing.

Father Gerlock reminded his audience that martial law has existed for years and years for the majority of workers, farmers, squatters, and cultural minorities even before the formal declaration of martial law in 1972. But the difference, he said, was that, "In the period before 1972 you had a glowing sense of consciousness among farmers, laborers, and squatters, and they were beginning to agitate to change society so that the majority of the people would not exist for the society, but that society would exist for the sake of the people."

The declaration of martial law however did not totally choke the growing consciousness of the people, explained Gerlock. He recalled that in the last six months alone, the workers of Metro-Manila waged 50 strikes, and 10

demonstrations of at least 3,000 people each took place in the Manila area during the past year.

Father Gerlock encouraged the audience to join together with the poor people who can restructure the society and make it truly democratic for the majority. In obvious reference to the need for stronger unity in the anti-martial law movement here, Father Gerlock said, "If there is one point that I would like to drive across tonight, it would be that people put aside their ideologies, that we support the poor, the people in Tondo, and the Tondo Foreshorelands, that we support the people affected by the Chico River Dam project, that we support the laborers in the Bukluran."

He concluded saying that, "The people will ultimately triumph."

The other speaker at the teach-in, Dennis Quinto, brother of a recently released political prisoner, and a member of the Human Rights Alliance Against Martial Law, shared his observations during his visit to the detention camps in Bicutan, Rizal, last December. He appealed for financial assistance to certain political prisoners who need immediate medical attention.

The other resource people who participated during the open forum were Dave Kamatsu and Jan Fowler of Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), Ruben Mooty of the Human Rights Alliance Against Martial Law, and Geline Avila of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). □

Nurses' Licensure Problem Conference Set for April 30-May 1



Planning meeting held last Feb. 13 attended by 60 nurses and community persons.

(AK photo)

NEW YORK CITY — The National Conference for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates (FNG's) has been definitely set for April 30-May 1 in this city, according to Ms. Aimee Cruz, National Coordinator for the event. Ms. Cruz added that announcements of the conference site, accommodations and other details would be forthcoming.

Plans for the National Conference were made at a meeting held last Feb. 13, which was attended by 60 nurses from key cities in the East Coast, Midwest, and the West Coast. Commenting on the broad attendance, Ms. Aimee Cruz said, "this is a clear indication that the problem of licensure faced by hundreds of foreign nurses — the majority of whom are Filipinos — is a very serious one with far-reaching implications. This problem strikes very deep concern among many people in the Filipino Community."

NURSES FAIL EXAMS

Widespread apprehension has swelled due to the fact that 90 per cent of foreign nurses have been "failing" the bi-annually administered State Board Test Pool Examinations. Those who "fail" have been stripped of their Registered Nurse status and immediately terminated from their jobs. These nurses have been left with no other choice but to accept nursing positions (as nurse aides, licensed practical nurses or nurse technicians) lower than the level of their professional training and experience. The problem affects nurses who are citizens, permanent residents or those on H-1 (working visa) statuses.

It is expected that the national conference will be the most effective method of convening all interested groups, organizations and individuals to fully discuss the nurses' licensure problem and of attaining the widest possible participation from the Filipino community in mapping out and planning concrete forms of action to be undertaken on the issue.

A draft summary of the nurses' licensure problem served as the framework for discussion in the Feb. 13 meeting. Ms. Nora Pascua, RN, and a member of the United Filipino Organization (UFO), presented a historical background of the problem and described the harsh consequences immediately faced by nurses upon their "failure." She stated that while all nurses face a common consequence after they "fail" (immediate termination and demotion), those on H-1 visas face a much more complex problem. "Because their visa status depends on sponsorship/employment from a hospital, nurses who are terminated automatically lose their visa status too. They then become "illegal aliens," deportable any day. These nurses are therefore placed in a much more difficult condition of striving to pass the exam under extreme time pressure."

There were also strong condemnations heard of the continuing reckless recruitment of nurses from the Philippines through travel agencies who are commissioned by private hospital administrations in the U.S. Travel agencies are known to receive up to \$1,000/per nurse recruited. "In this highly commercial process of recruitment, many nurses have arrived either completely uninformed or at the very least, misinformed about the serious implications of failing the licensure exam," Ms. Pascua declared. Nurses who were present related their own experiences with the agencies which recruited them.

Mrs. Primitiva Lejarde, RN, presented an analysis of the problem by stating first of all that, "There is nothing objectionable in establishing licensure procedures. Anything that would serve to uphold and protect the public's health interests is a good thing. Our main concern . . . is to find out whether this licensure examination does accomplish its stated aim of protecting public health interests by accurately measuring, in a fair manner, the candidate's ability to practice the nursing profession. Or is the present exam discriminatory to foreign nurses but

U.S. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR 'BAKKE CASE'

By VICENTE SAN NICOLAS

In a move that will have nationwide implications for minority affirmative action programs in the fields of education and employment, the U.S. Supreme Court decided Feb. 22 to hear California's controversial Bakke case.

At issue is a suit drawn by Allen Bakke, a 36-year-old white civil engineer, against the University of California Board of Regents. Bakke has charged the Regents with "reverse discrimination" for admitting minorities into U.C. Davis Medical School under a special admissions program while turning away whites with better academic qualifications.

The program at U.C. Davis, which reserves 16 out of 100 spaces for members of ethnic minorities in each freshman class, was found to be unconstitutional by California's State Supreme Court. Critics of the Board of Regents, which instituted the special admissions program only after massive pressure by Black, Latino, and other minority and civil rights groups, have charged that the Board never adequately defended the program before the State's highest court.

After the State Supreme Court's ruling, progressive groups were divided as to whether or not an appeal should be made to the U.S. Supreme Court, given the conservative drift of the present Berger Court and the Regent's unwillingness to present a strong case. The U.C. Regent's, however, decided to appeal the case, and the U.S. Supreme Court has now decided to hear their arguments.

Oral arguments are not expected to be given before October of this year, and a decision will not be forthcoming until 1978. In the interim, civil rights groups are expected to file "friend of the court briefs" arguing in favor of affirmative action programs. In addition, numerous groups and coalitions are beginning to form to educate and press for an overturn of the Bakke decision. □

beneficial to certain powerful interest groups?"

She then proceeded to state the main point which has created much apprehension and has cast doubt on whether the licensure examination is accurate and fair as a gauge of nursing competence. She stated: "If we were to simplistically accept the 90 per cent rate of failure, it means that we accept that 90 per cent of foreign nurses are unfit to practice in the United States. Yet, many of those "failing" this exam are nurses whose competence has been proven through at least three months to two years of RN practice, working mainly in critical areas of the hospital (e.g., Intensive Care Units), and whose work records are generally excellent. If nurses of such proven competence are "failing" this exam, where could the problem lie? With the nurse or with the exam?"

Other critical points regarding the exam were discussed:

1) Why is the passing score *not set*? (Each State Board is empowered to determine or change the passing score for each examination.)

2) Why are the results not open for public scrutiny? Why cannot nurses have direct access to their test papers in order to verify results or to determine their weaknesses?

3) Why is there no agency or body which accepts the responsibility to answer questions, complaints or grievances regarding the nature and administration of the exam?

4) While it has been ruled unconstitutional to require information on national origin, color, photographs, in most official transactions (as this may provide basis for possible discrimination), why are nurses required to submit such information as early as the time when they apply to write the examination?

5) Why are test papers inscribed with "F" for foreigners and "FR" for foreigner-repeater? Why do they carry serial or coded numbers which indicate whether one is a foreign or United States graduate?

CULTURAL BIAS AND DISCRIMINATION

The existence of culturally-biased test items was also a point of vigorous discussion. Nurses cited particular test items which clearly indicated a considerable degree of disadvantage for the foreign nurse writing the exam. The language level, phrasings and sentence construction (unnecessary use of double negatives), the method of testing (multiple choice/situational) were all cited as sources of difficulties for foreign nurses. "All these show an extreme lack of sensitivity to the fact that foreign nurses hold English only as a second language . . . they end up "failing" the exam not because they do not know nursing, but because language level deterred them from fast and/or accurate comprehension," Mrs. Lejarde stated.

Ms. Nelia Isana, a teacher in New York City, delivered a short message on the role of the Filipino community in this issue. Recalling a personal experience of discrimination where community support proved her most effective weapon, Ms. Isana invoked community groups

(continued on page 7)

Despite Objections:

Racist Textbooks Approved

By LILIAN GALEDO
AK Correspondent

SACRAMENTO — What was to have been a brief, half-hour discussion of the "merits" of two social science textbooks being considered for use in California public schools erupted into a four and a half-hour debate and exposed the superficiality of this state's Legal Compliance procedure. The process intended to correct the mistreatment of minorities and women in textbooks, was found token last Feb. 27 when the Filipino Far West Task Force on Education and 20 of their supporters attended second level appeal hearing of the publishers of "Let Freedom Ring" and the "American Adventure" here in this city. The Filipino educators found themselves struggling, not only to continue their battle to block these specific racist textbooks, but to be heard by the panel.

California, prior to 1975, appointed its own Curriculum Commission to review books for possible adoption by the State Board of Education. Because of community pressure in the late '60s and early '70s, a new system was instituted to involve minorities and women in the review process. This is known as the Legal Compliance Evaluation Process guided by education codes which mandate that instructional materials include minorities and women and not demean or stereotype them in any way.

Following this procedure, Task Force submitted, in December 1976, objections to four books being considered for adoption. The Task Force made strong and concrete objections to the books, but later found the legal compliance process fell short of its own stated objectives. Two of the four books — "Let Freedom Ring" and "The American Adventure", Allyn and Bacon, publishers — were found to be in noncompliance at the first level of legal specifications. But the process permits the publishers to appeal at the second level — the State Board of Education — which has gained a reputation for siding with the publishers.

At the outset of the February 27 meeting, the chairman of the panel warned the audience that, unlike other hearings, neither the publisher nor the community participants would be permitted to speak unless asked directly by member of the State Board's panel. Yet, as

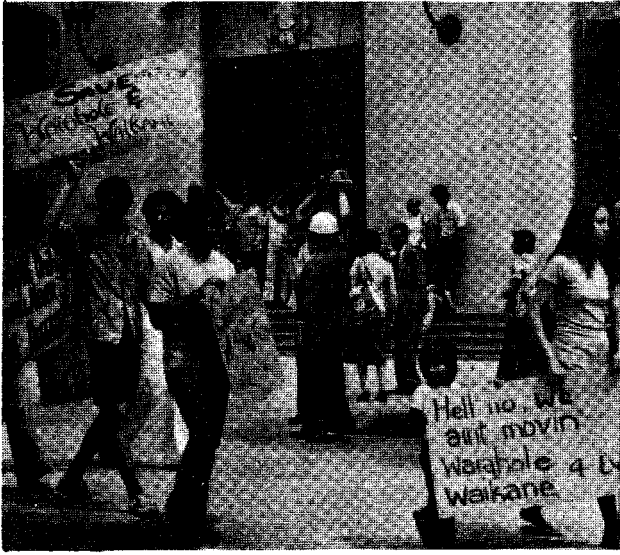
the session unfolded, the direction of the hearing became quite obvious. The panel looked to the publisher's representative to speak out on points of clarification and accuracy and even went so far as to offer rewritten passages to make objectionable material more palatable. Task Force members, often ignored by the panel, were forced to demand recognition at every possible opportunity. Supporters of the Task Force who attempted to contribute to the arguments for rejection were stopped in mid-sentence and silenced.

In the case of "Let Freedom Ring" and "The American Adventure," the general tactic of the panel was to push for revisions rather than reject the entire book. It was apparent after 15 minutes of "discussion" that neither of the books would be rejected. When the textbook critics argued that certain racist sentence and passages were not isolated occurrences, but the trend for the whole book, they were met with recommendations from the publishers and panel for revisions. During American colonization, for example, the sentence: "Soon plans were made to *prepare* the people there for independence and self-government" was changed to, "Soon plans were made to *transfer* self-government to the people." In both cases the idea is demeaning since the Philippines was already independent and self-governing since 1898. In another instance, the publisher, rather than change the context of a particularly racist passage recommended in "all seriousness" that the entire issue be dropped from the text and left unsaid. Revealingly, the panel admitted that those publishers that avoid sensitive issues probably had a better chance for adoption of their materials.

With both books, the panel voted to recommend the texts for adoption, pending implementation of the revisions. Once the revisions have been incorporated into the book and it is resubmitted and reviewed for acceptance by the full State Board of Education at one of their regular meetings.

The Task Force said afterwards that they will again be making their objections known to the State. A Black curriculum specialist, in anticipation of the struggle ahead, suggested that "minorities should get together to bring more strength and force to our objections." objections. □

Waiahole-Waikane Struggle Honolulu Small Farmers Win...



Land struggle hits Honolulu City Hall.

(continued from front page)

Under tremendous pressure from the people of Hawaii, Gov. Ariyoshi made a press statement that the State had made a deal with one of the landowners, Mrs. Marks to buy up 600 acres of Waiahole Valley for \$6 million. According to Ariyoshi, long term leases will be ensured to the residents of the valley.

Prior to this 11th hour announcement, 500 people demonstrated at the State Capitol building demanding that Ariyoshi take a stand to save the valleys.

Though the settlement stopped the eviction process for the residents of Waiahole, its sister valley of Waikane is still under threat of eviction by Joe Pao, Mrs. Marks'

windward partner. Pao, intent on his plans to build 3,000 unit residential subdivisions, has refused to negotiate despite the popular demand to save the agricultural use of the land. In addition, Pao is fearful that the settlement with Mrs. Marks will interfere with his plans and has claimed that it is illegal.

The broad support for Waiahole-Waikane was demonstrated Feb. 19 when over 5,000 people turned out for a rally-fundraiser. According to reports, over \$11,000 was raised to assist the Waiahole-Waikane Community Association (WWCA) in their plight to save their homes, their farms, and their lifestyles.

"The struggle is continuing," said WWCA president, Bobby Fernandez, "although our fight to maintain agricultural use of the land has basically been won, we must continue to fight to save our sister valley from eviction."

What looks favorable for the Waikane residents are reports that the Land Use Commission has yet to decide on Pao's petition to rezone the land from agricultural to urban use. In fact, at the Feb. 9th Commission hearing, Pao's plan to bring in a witness in favor of rezoning backfired. Mr. Sahara, a Land Utilization Specialist at the University of Hawaii, who was subpoenaed on behalf of Pao, testified against rezoning saying that long term leases were important to Waiahole-Waikane since there were still many private farmers there. Testimonies that the roads leading to the Waikane Valley were too narrow to accommodate an urban center there also weighed heavily against urban development.

Meanwhile, the residents of Waiahole must clarify the terms of their leases with the State, the new landlords, as rents have yet to be established. Nevertheless, the people of Hawaii have won an unprecedented victory in the struggle of public need vs. private profit interests. □

NURSES' CONFERENCE...

(continued from page 6)

and organizations to grasp the long-range implications of the nurses' licensure problem and to unite to redress whatever injustices are being committed on the nurses. "In the final analysis," she said, "this issue has a direct bearing on our future as a minority in this country."

LOCAL MOBILIZATION BEGUN

Meanwhile, local committees of the organizing committee for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates has mapped out extensive plans for broad educational activities in their respective cities.

In New York, mobilization and educational teams have already been formed. These teams have been sent out to hospitals and neighborhoods in a bid to win support for the nurses' licensure issue. A public borough meeting is scheduled for March 26, for Brooklyn and Queens. Similar activities will begin for Manhattan by late March and a Manhattan borough meeting will be held in late April.

The Philippine-American Youth Organization (PAYO) is also holding an amateur talent show where a play depicting the experiences of nurses who are recruited into the U.S. will be presented.

In Philadelphia, similar hospital and neighborhood gatherings will be held. A local committee composed of nurses and community persons was formed in a meeting last Feb. 19. The committee will target specific hospitals in Philadelphia whose nursing staff include many Filipinos affected by the problem.

In New Jersey, a southern Jersey local committee based in Atlantic City has been recently formalized. Plans for a community forum to explain the issue and announce the conference are also being finalized. A northern Jersey local committee based in Patterson has also been finalized and is now gearing up for a forum to be held at St. Anthony's Church on Saturday, March 26. There will be a program consisting of speakers to explain the issue and an informal merienda cena (coffee hour) will follow.

The Chicago local committee, which was formalized in a meeting held last Feb. 23, is set to begin neighborhood meetings where a full explanation of the nurses' issue will serve as the focus of the activity.

Several cities on the West Coast are also gearing up to formalize local committees in their respective cities.

In San Francisco, a mass meeting has been scheduled for March 13 to formalize a local committee of Filipino nurses, both registered and unlicensed, and concerned members of the Filipino community. The meeting will be held at Precita Center, 534 Precita St. (corner of Alabama St.), San Francisco, from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

For all those interested in the Campaign for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates, who wish to be visited in their hospitals or informed about the issues, please contact any of the following persons nearest you.

Aimee Cruz, National Co-Coordinator
58-22 41st Ave.
Woodside, New York 11377
(212) 458-6369, evenings

Mrs. Christine Hing, RN, National Co-Coordinator
523 E. 14th St. #12B
New York, N.Y. 10009
(212) 677-2509, evenings

Partial list of local committees:

Mrs. Primativa Lejarde, RN, N.Y. Coordinator
23-84 38th St., Astoria, N.Y. (212) 626-0556

Ms. Aimee Besa, Philadelphia Coordinator
(215) 474-2405

Normita S. Amorado, RN, Northern Jersey Coordinator
(201) 473-8570

Nora Pilao, RN, So. Jersey Coordinator
(609) 344-8902

Mayee Asidao, RN, Chicago Coordinator
(312) 528-0325
and Joy Bernason, RN
(312) 363-6845

Wevelyn Aragon, San Francisco Coordinator
(415) 530-5786 □

U.C. DAVIS—

School Administration Harassing Asian-American Studies Department Dept.

DAVIS, Calif. — Asian-American Studies (AAS) at the University of California at Davis, a program initiated and designed to teach the true experiences of Asian-Americans, is facing a serious setback.

"The current crisis," said the AAS Support Committee in a recent press release, "revolves around the administration's imposition of irrelevant tenure evaluation criteria on AAS Coordinator, Dr. George Kagiwada."

Asian-American and other ethnic studies programs grew out of students' efforts for an education that recognizes minority people's history, culture and perspectives. In 1969, Asian-American students, with support from the community, demanded and won an Asian-American Studies program at U.C. Davis. From the beginning, however, AAS has had to hurdle numerous administrative barriers, including threats of cutbacks on an already inadequate budget, rejection of faculty candidates and refusal to approve proposed courses.

The denial of tenure to Dr. Kagiwada was denounced by the AAS Support Committee, not only because of the key role he has played in developing AAS, but that it represents a serious threat to the more than six years of efforts to create a program relevant to student and community needs.

In addition to a full-time teaching load, Kagiwada has been responsible for development and administration of AAS at the Davis campus, which offers more than fifteen courses and has produced more than 10 publications. Kagiwada has also been a strong advocate of student involvement and accountability to Asian-American communities.

The Support Committee further cited other threatening moves against the AAS by the U.C. Administration.

• The University's attempts to eliminate the Cantonese language component of Asian-American Studies is evident in its action to deny the instructor "security of employment," which is equivalent to denial of tenure, for those with "lecturer" titles.

N.Y. Congressman Says: 'Marcos Has No Intention of Lifting Martial Law'

By MARK SCHNAPP

NEW YORK — "Marcos clearly has no intention of lifting martial law in the foreseeable future," stated Congressman Stephen Solarz, recounting his interview with Pres. Marcos last November. In a meeting Feb. 18, 1977 with a delegation sponsored by the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), NY Chapter, the Congressman also explained how Marcos recited a litany of reasons for maintaining martial law, leaving Solarz with the sense that in a year's time, Marcos would only offer a new and improved list of rationalizations.

The delegation included a Maryknoll nun, Sr. Annette Mulry, and members of the FFP. They expressed the opinion that any rental agreement which might be negotiated for U.S. military bases in the Philippines would constitute another form of military aid to Marcos, therefore circumventing the currently existent Human Rights Amendment. (Last year Congress enacted a human rights amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act which forbids military and economic aid to governments which grossly and consistently violate internationally recognized human rights.)

In response to the delegation's request that the House International Relations Committee reassess whether the U.S. bases are worth maintaining, Solarz indicated that he had already commissioned a Library of Congress study examining alternatives to Subic Naval Base. Solarz said he welcomes FFP's response to the study. The Congressman added that hearings on the value of the bases could convene following the conclusion of negotiations with the Philippine government.

The FFP encourages all those concerned with the human rights of the Filipino People to write to Pres. Carter and their local congressperson expressing their concern that Marcos should not receive U.S. tax money in any form and that U.S. bases be withdrawn from Philippine territory.

Further information on the history and current role of U.S. bases under martial law may be obtained from: Friends of the Filipino People, National Office, 475 Riverside Drive Rm. 824, New York, N.Y. 10027.

You can help ease the burden of the Filipino people by writing to Congress to demand:

- an end to U.S. military aid to the Marcos regime
- rejection of military aid to Marcos in guise of "base rental"
- withdrawal of U.S. bases from the Philippines

• Efforts to develop the Filipino-American component of Asian-American Studies have been undermined by delaying tactics of the administration. Earlier this year, the Dean of the College, Charles Hess, nullified the Recruitment Committee designated to seek a Filipino Studies instructor, and that Committee's candidate. Organized protest by Asian students faculty and community people forced the Dean to reinstate the Committee.

• More recently, the administration attempted to use false information to block the rehiring of Dr. Jovina Navarro, a Filipina, to teach the Asian Women's course, a course that she developed at the Davis campus. Again, it took energies better spent elsewhere to force the administration to rehire her.

Despite the University's lack of commitment, Asian-American Studies has developed consistently as a program committed to educating students about the Asian-American experience, and as one which derives its substance from work with community people and issues. Asian-American Studies' community orientation is reflected in all of the courses, as well as through its support of community projects in Sacramento, such as the Asian Health Clinic, Asian Tutorial, Delta Organizing Committee, Asian Legal Services Outreach, Japanese-Community Center. Although students and community people have remained active, much of the responsibility of development of Asian-American Studies goes to Prof. Kagiwada.

Students, faculty, staff and community people have joined in the Asian American Studies Support Committee to fight the administration's unjust attacks and to strengthen Davis' program. The Committee believes that students have a right to an education that recognizes the contributions and struggles of Asian-American and other minority people. The Committee also believes that securing tenure for George Kagiwada is crucial to the continuation of the program, and that the administration must recognize his tremendous contribution in coordinating and developing an unprecedented program. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

RECENT REVELATIONS:

CIA Made Million-Dollar Payoffs to Foreign Heads of State

By VICENTE SAN NICOLAS

Recent disclosures of massive and extensive CIA payoffs to foreign heads of state have again shed light on that spy agency's nefarious activities. Reporting in the Feb. 18 Washington Post, reporter Bob Woodward revealed that the CIA has made secret annual payments totaling millions of dollars to King Hussein of Jordan for the past 20 years.

Besides the covert payments to Hussein, past recipients of CIA monies included presidents Chiang Kai-shek of the Nationalist regime on Taiwan, Ramon Magsaysay of the Philippines, Syngman Rhee of South Korea, Sese Seko Mobutu to Zaire, Eduardo Frei Montalvo of Chile and Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam.

Payments to King Hussein were made under the code name of "No Beef" and were delivered by the CIA station chief in Amman. In return for the monies, which Hussein used to support a lavish and decadent lifestyle, the U.S. was given "great leverage and unusual access to the leader of a sovereign state."

Under the rule of Hussein, Jordan has never drifted outside the U.S. orbit, and the King has always been hostile to the Palestinian resistance movement against Israel, another U.S. client state. In 1971, Hussein launched a vicious assault against the Palestinian resistance which was then headquartered in Jordan, and the guerrilla movement was forced to relocate in Lebanon. Hussein's attack was widely believed to be CIA-inspired.

In the Philippines, the CIA worked closely with Pres. Magsaysay to crush the popular "Huk" guerrilla army. The "Huks," who led in the anti-Japanese resistance

during World War II, were threatening to lead a wider nationalistic revolution against U.S. domination in the 1950's. In this campaign, Magsaysay worked closely with CIA agent Edward Lansdale, who later "distinguished" himself for the CIA programs in S. Vietnam which killed or imprisoned thousands of Vietnamese patriots.

"I have not found anything illegal or improper."
— President Carter

Other instances of CIA influence-peddling include the agency's propping up of repressive regimes after popular and progressive governments were overthrown with CIA help. Such was the case in Iran when the progressive government of Mohammed Mossadegh was overthrown and the fascist rule of the Shah installed.

Almost all of the recipients of CIA monies have been known for their repressive domestic rule — such as the regimes in South Korea, South Vietnam and Taiwan. In these countries, the CIA payments helped prolong unpopular and dictatorial regimes which consistently violated basic human rights through imprisonment and torture of political dissidents.

WHITE HOUSE DOWNPLAYS ACCOUNTS

Reacting to the disclosures, the Carter Administration has attempted to minimize the impact of the reports by refusing to comment specifically on any of the reported

payoffs. While maintaining a certain domestic silence on the issue, the White House has made efforts to alleviate any embarrassment to King Hussein by issuing a statement in which the Jordanian leader was praised as an "outstanding national leader" who has "played a constructive role in reducing tensions in the Middle East."

While refusing to comment on any specific CIA activity, Pres. Carter has issued statements defending the spy agency, saying that he has "not found anything illegal or improper" with the CIA payments. When asked by reporters whether or not this statement was contradicted by his recent suspension of secret payments to Hussein, Carter would not offer any comment.

Observers have noted that Carter has generally been taking the same stand of previous White House administrations in defending the spy agency and stressing the need for more secrecy by restricting public access to "this kind of information [covert actions]." While this stands in apparent opposition to his campaign promise to conduct a more open foreign policy with less government secrecy, Carter has only offered more "trust me" statements, holding himself "personally responsible" for any CIA errors and promising to "do the best I can not to ever make a mistake."

Sources in the CIA have also tried to downplay the importance of the payoffs, saying it was "mostly old stuff" dating back to the '40s and '50s. Nevertheless, as recently as last year, the CIA helped secretly fund Holden Roberto's pro-Western army in Angola, and the recent revelations of payments to Jordan's Hussein only raises further questions as to other continuing secret CIA programs. □

Towards Genuine Black Majority Rule

Zimbabwe Liberation Forces Expanding

By ROMY DE LA PAZ

The ranks of the Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) liberation forces are rapidly expanding, much to the dismay of the racist Ian Smith white minority regime.

A New York Times article (2/16) reported that hundreds of Zimbabwe patriots were moving through overcrowded camps in neighboring Zambia. These training camps are directly supervised by the popular Patriotic Front, a political alliance composed of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU).

Volunteers for the guerrilla armies are flown 450 miles northeast to Lusaka, Zambia, traveling on scheduled flights on Zambia Airways or on special charters. When word spread through the western Zimbabwe province of Matebeleland that people are wanted as freedom fighters, one Botswana police officer said, "As a result, they are pouring across the border to volunteer."

SMITH RACIST CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIES

Realizing the futility of dissuading the Zimbabwe people from joining the armed struggle en masse, the hated Smith regime has adopted a more vicious slander campaign against the guerrilla movement. This racist campaign has resorted to the portrayal of the liberation guerrillas as "enemies" of the people, "kidnappers" and "savage" gunmen out to kill innocent people.

This racist campaign came to light when Smith charged that a unit of the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA) raided the Manama Lutheran Mission and marched 400 Black schoolchildren across the border to neighboring Botswana. This propaganda maneuver of Smith, while attracting international coverage from the western press, came to an abrupt halt, when the supposedly "kidnapped" children were finally traced in Botswana and told their story. Much to Smith's embarrassment, the children proudly declared: "We want to train as guerrillas and fight for freedom."

Smith's lies didn't end here. What immediately followed was a massacre which claimed the lives of seven innocent white missionaries. This tragic incident provoked international indignation, a situation which Smith conveniently capitalized on. Smith's initial reaction was not one of grief, but claiming ZIPA as the murderers. The white government claimed that the guerrillas "attacked" the Roman Catholic St. Paul's Mission, 37 miles north of Salisbury. A government investigation was immediately launched in an effort to link the guerrillas to the massacre; however, again this failed as no hard evidence could be gathered to support Smith's allegations.

The Patriotic Front condemned the atrocities and simultaneously refuted the Smith regime's false allegations. The liberation front charged that the wanton killing was committed by the infamous Selous Scouts, a



Zimbabwean liberation fighters, March 12, 1976.

(LNS photo)

"Green Beret" type of black soldiers controlled by the Smith government. The guerrillas and black African nationalists, like Bishop Abel Muzorewa, charge that the scouts, disguising themselves as liberation guerrillas, kill blacks and whites alike to arouse anti-guerrilla sentiments.

U.S. GOAL "PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE"

Given the tremendous surge of the national liberation movement in Zimbabwe, U.S. policymakers in Washington are now forced to adopt new tactics. The present revolutionary trend dangerously runs counter to the U.S. general policy of pushing for the rapid triumph of a moderate black majority rule, subservient to the vast U.S. financial interests in Zimbabwe.

The present Carter administration's reassessment of tactics also stemmed from the failure of the Kissinger-type diplomacy in the Geneva negotiations late last year. The talks Kissinger engineered between the white minority government and the black guerrilla leaders, carried out by Britain as chief mediator, only resulted in a precipitous decline in the U.S. ability to influence events in Zimbabwe.

The U.S. is also anxious to disassociate itself from what it considers now as a liability, the isolated Smith

regime.

Recently, the Carter administration has already gone on record favoring repeal of the Byrd Amendment, the legislation that allows U.S. imports of Rhodesian minerals in a long-standing violation of U.N. sanctions. Passage of the repeal in Congress is almost certain. Carter's calculated move was also very timely, as it seems that U.S. manufacturers can now obtain the alloys they have been getting from Zimbabwe from a new Union Carbide plant in South Africa.

Other options include U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young's proposal to reopen the stalled Geneva talks through prior consultations involving Britain, the U.S., the front-line states (Tanzania, Botswana, Angola, Mozambique, and Zambia) and Nigeria and Zaire.

Other U.S. options considered were ostensibly designed to bring a "peaceful transition to majority rule," options that are now seemingly outdated. Far from seeing it as a peaceful process, the Zimbabwe liberation movement led by the Patriotic Front has stepped up guerrilla war, a policy of strengthening their position in the battlefield as well as in the negotiation tables.

For them, the key question is beyond how majority rule will be established. The question now is what kind of society a free Zimbabwe will be, a situation wherein U.S. options would certainly be obsolete. □