

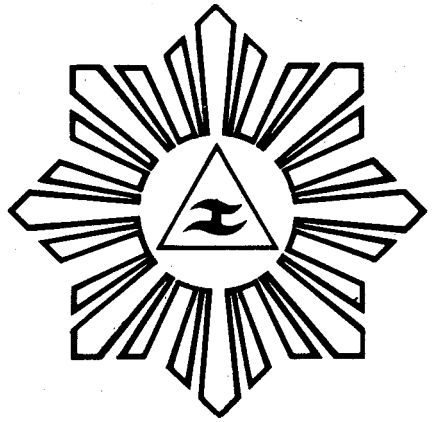
Ang KATIPUNAN

Volume IV, Number 6

April 1-15, 1977

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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



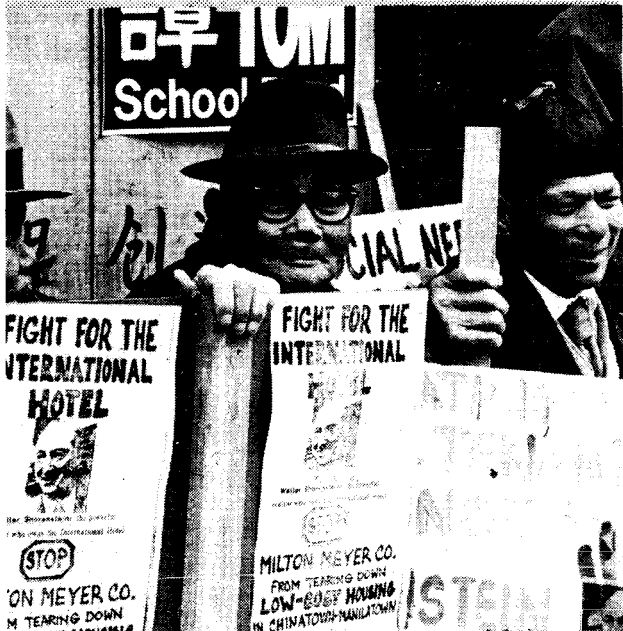
Marcos Concedes to MNLF Demands

see page 3

Despite U.S.-AID FFP Testifies in Congress Against Marcos

see page 7

S.F. International Hotel TENANTS CONTINUE FIGHT



The struggle's origins—elderly Chinese and Filipino tenants rest after demonstration against the Hotel's then-owner, Walter Shorenstein, president of the Milton Meyer Co.

*Mayor Shuns Tenants

*Elderly Tenant Dies

see page 6

*Who Backed Four Seas?

see page 8

HONOLULU:

Mayor Misuses City Funds

see page 6

Eyewitness Report on Narciso-Perez Trial

PROSECUTION'S CASE RIDDLED WITH INCONSISTENCIES

see page 12



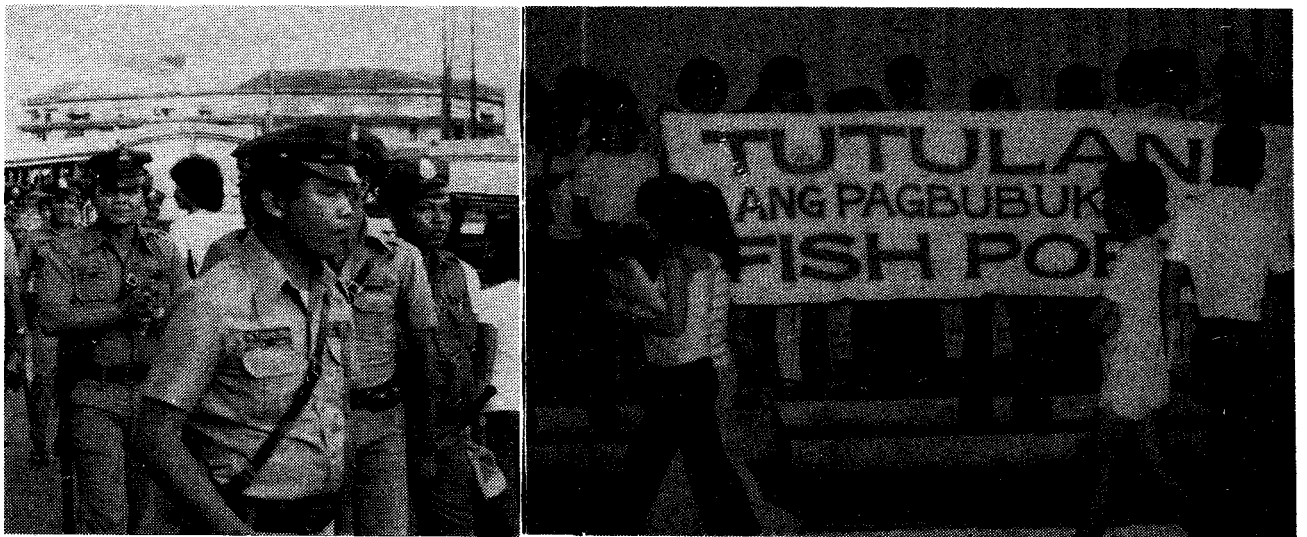
LEONORA PEREZ



FILIPINA NARCISO

Despite Martial Law—

1,000 Protest Navotas Fish Port Opening



Metrocom and demonstrators before violent clash later that evening when police plunged into the crowd, truncheons swinging. [BMP] photos

MANILA (BMP)—Over 1,000 workers, students, urban poor and fish haulers attended a symposium and demonstration March 12 to protest the opening of the Philippine Fish Port at Navotas, a fishing town a few miles outside of Manila. The symposium, which was held at the Sampaloc Student Center featured speakers from the Nagkakaisang Batilyo (Organization of United Fish Haulers).

The speakers pointed out that more than 6,000 fish haulers (batilyos) and other workers are slated to lose their sole means of livelihood as a result of the fish ports operation (See *Ang Katipunan*, Vol. 4, 5). Others protested the demolition of the urban poor community of Barrio Boulevard to make way for port facilities. Attorney Charito Planas, a well-known community leader and former political prisoner, explained that the wanton violation of the democratic rights of workers and urban poor such as the batilyos is the result of the collusion between the Marcos martial law regime and Japanese business interests. To the resounding cheers of the

audience, Atty. Planas militantly demanded an end to the martial law regime and its replacement with a truly democratic and nationalist government.

DEMONSTRATION—THEN ARRESTS

Afterwards, the participants assembled outside
(continued on page 2)

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Pagbabalikwas (In revolt)



Scores Injured, Several Arrested

1,000 PROTEST AGAINST NEW FISH PORT...



[left to right] Part of Barrio Boulevard, Navotas slated for demolition to give way for construction of the Japanese Fisherman's Village. Inside the compound of the Student Center preparing to march, but Marcos troops have barricaded the gates. Second batch of Metrocom troopers arrive at the Student Center; shortly thereafter, the Metrocom plunged into the crowd swinging truncheons. [bottom left] The Batilyos [fish haulers]. [BMP photos]

(continued from front page)

the student center to begin the march-demonstration. This, however, was thwarted by several hundred Metrocom (Metropolitan Police Command) troopers who surrounded the Student Center and its grounds and cordoned off all adjoining streets. The police then plunged into the crowd, swinging truncheons and injuring scores of demonstrators and onlookers.

Three students and one batilyo were arrested. Although two of the students were subsequently released, the others are still under detention and according to reliable sources are being severely tortured.

Undaunted by police brutality, the demonstrators regrouped some distance from the student center in front of the University of the East (UE) along Lepanto Street. There they were joined by bystanders in the chanting of anti-fascist and anti-imperialist slogans such as, "Oppose the Opening of the Fish Port," "Abrogate all U.S.-R.P. Military Agreements," and "Down with Martial Law, Fight for Democracy."

STUDENTS, WORKERS, URBAN POOR

Noting the presence of large numbers of students from UE and other universities along Manila's "University Belt," observers pointed out that the Marcos regime is likely to face larger and larger demonstrations in the months ahead. The 200,000 students in the university belt provided the bulk of the tens of thousands of demonstrators during the height of the First Quarter Storm in 1970. Since the declaration of martial law, large numbers of workers and urban poor have been added to the ranks of mass protestors.

From this incident, it is apparent that the volatile issue of the Fish Port will probably trigger more mass actions ahead. The opening of the Fish Port not only threatens the existence of sectors that depend on the fishing industry for their livelihood, but will adversely affect Filipino consumers, and their dietary habits. Developed by Japanese investors for the Japanese market, the new fish port has set the precedent for the foreign takeover of the Philippine fishing industry and sea resources. □

Women Detainees Issue Statement on International Womens Day

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

"Deprived of our freedom, denied of our basic human rights and severely tortured, we female political prisoners in Camp Bicutan join the struggle for the liberation of all women through our own struggle for the restoration of our freedom and basic human rights and for the redress of the injustices committed against us."

The statement went on to list specific grievances and actions the women have taken. In addition to staging two hunger strikes, several women publicly exposed and denounced "the severe torture and acts of lasciviousness committed against them by their military captors." To date the government has not responded to their complaints.

Signed by seven female prisoners, including Nelia Sancho, a former beauty queen-turned-activist, the statement ended by expressing faith in the struggle. "We believe that the progressive winds of change will continually blow towards fundamental changes leading to the liberation of women as part of the liberation of the people, not only in the context of Philippine society, but also in all societies where oppression and injustice prevail." □ [New Asia News]

PC Arrest 30 Tribesmen

KALINGA — About 30 hill tribesmen suspected of harboring subversives are languishing in the Philippine Constabulary barracks of Bulanao, a report from a reliable religious source said. The detainees were arrested between Nov. 25 to Dec. 3 of last year.

Sixteen of those arrested come from Barrio Tanglag. Days before the arrest, PC teams searching for firearms raided several houses in the same barrio but found none. Most of those arrested were barrio leaders, and three of

these leaders are public school teachers. To date, classes in Tanglag have been suspended pending release of the teachers.

These arrests have stirred up a "hornet's nest" of protest in the area. The people of Cabuluan, for instance, were poised to march to the military barracks last December. However, they called off the plan because the military threatened to transfer the detainees to Camp Crame if the plan pushed through. Until the harvest season is over, protest plans have been momentarily postponed — but not cancelled. □

Comprehensive Report FFP/AMLC Issue 2-Year Study on U.S. Aid to R.P.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The first comprehensive review of U.S.-Philippine relations, "The Logistics of Repression and Other Essays," was recently released by the Congress Education Project (CEP) of the Friends of the Filipino People and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines). The 160-page book, which involved two years of collective research and consultation, documents the volume, forms and functions of U.S. assistance in the consolidation of the martial law regime in the Philippines. This book is considered an important contribution

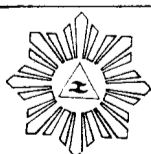
to the efforts to end U.S. aid to the Marcos dictatorship and reassess U.S. foreign policy in the Philippines.

The book is composed of seven essays: The Anti-Aid Campaign After Four Years; The Logistics of Repression; The Contours of U.S. Economic Aid; The U.S., Land Reform, and Rural Development in the Philippines; Development and Dictatorship: Marcos and the World Bank; U.S. Military Bases in the Philippines; and U.S. Bases and Martial Law.



The book will also be presented to U.S. Congress by the Friends of the Filipino People to orient them to the implications and consequences of the maintenance of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

The CEP, which was established in 1974, seeks to inform members of Congress as well as the broader American public of the effects of U.S. aid and U.S. foreign policy in the Philippines. Ms. Severina Rivera, coordinator of the CEP, co-edited this book with Walden Bello, West Coast Coordinator of FFP. □



Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino

(KDP) Union of Democratic Filipinos

KDP is a mass organization based in the U.S. and is committed primarily to the struggle for the basic and long-term needs of the Filipino people, both in the Philippines and here in America.

Because of this, KDP supports the struggle of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship and pledges to help build a broad-based movement among the Filipinos in the U.S. to oppose martial law.

However, KDP sees that the root cause of all the misery and poverty in the Philippines is the imperialist control, exercised principally by the U.S., over the economy and politics of the country. The Filipino people can solve this basic problem only through long and difficult revolutionary struggle for a truly genuine democratic and independent

Philippines.

Here in the U.S., KDP is committed to struggling for the democratic rights of the Filipino minority. *Katipunan* views the racial and national discrimination experienced by the Filipino people as part of and stemming from, the monopoly capitalist system in the U.S. KDP members understand that the U.S. government is in fact, not democratic, but in the hands of a tiny minority of monopoly industrialists and bankers.

KDP sees that the people of the U.S. also need fundamental, revolutionary change to solve the basic ills that plague American society. The *Katipunan* understands that the working class must firmly control the government before it can rightfully be termed a government "of the people and for the people."

KDP sees that greater numbers of Filipinos are coming to these same political understandings. KDP is an organization open to all who agree with our political programme. In addition, KDP is committed to working in close cooperation with all progressive Filipinos to build a strong Filipino people's movement in America.

After MNLF Ultimatum:

Marcos Concedes to Mindanao 'Autonomy'



Army chief Espino [right] accepting arms from surrendering MNLF member. Despite photos such as this one, neither side has disarmed so far and there is no talk of troop withdrawals.

[ASIAWEEK photo]

By VICTORIA LUNA

Finally conceding to the demands of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos proclaimed a large area of the southern Philippines autonomous — scene of a five year civil war between the MNLF and the Philippine government. The autonomy decree includes 13 provinces: Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Davao del Sur, and South Cotabato on the island of Mindanao; Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan in the Sulu archipelago; and the island province of Palawan. The region is to be administered provisionally by a government formed of MNLF elements and other inhabitants of the area.

The autonomy decree represents the latest development in the tense series of negotiations between the MNLF and the Marcos government held in Tripoli, Libya, under the auspices of the Islamic Conference and Libyan chief of state Col. Moammar Khaddafi. The first round of negotiations resulted in an agreement signed Dec. 24 by representatives of both panels that created a Muslim autonomous region consisting of the 13 provinces.

No sooner was the ink dry on the December agreement, than Marcos began to undermine his end of the bargain. He announced a plebiscite to determine which of the 13 provinces would like to join an autonomous region. He described autonomy in terms drastically different from those of the agreement. And he compounded public confusion by announcing that the entire country was to be divided into autonomous regions like the one in the south.

The second round of negotiations, from Feb. 10-March 5 was spent largely in recess because the negotiating positions of the two parties were poles apart. Because Marcos enjoyed a monopoly over information concerning the negotiations, it was only revealed within the last few weeks that the MNLF vigorously opposed Marcos' plan for a

plebiscite to determine which of the 13 provinces wished to join the autonomous region.

MNLF ISSUES ULTIMATUM

Finally, the MNLF, backed by Khaddafi and the Islamic Conference, issued an ultimatum: proclaim the 13 provinces autonomous by decree or face a renewal of hostilities. Marcos hastily postponed the March 17 plebiscite two days before it was scheduled to take place and First Lady Imelda Marcos was hurriedly dispatched to Libya to bargain with Khaddafi. Marcos at that time cynically declared on public television: "What we are fighting in the south is exported war. Let us admit that Pres. Khaddafi was calling the shots all the time."

The autonomy decree is the result of ten days of negotiation and compromise between Mrs. Marcos and Col. Khaddafi and represents a major concession by Marcos — one he had hoped, no doubt, not to have to make.

HOPES OF SQUIRMING OUT OF THE BARGAIN

Although the proclamation of autonomy clearly puts Marcos in a fairly tight spot, there are indications that he still has hopes to squirm out of the bargain. The agreement with Khaddafi significantly does not cancel the plebiscite, but instead converts it into a referendum. According to vague reports from Manila, the referendum will determine the "form" autonomy will take in the region, thus providing some maneuvering space for Marcos.

The referendum differs little from the original plebiscite. It merely asks whether the people want to be under the administrative control of the central government or the MNLF. Given the so-called "christian" backlash Marcos has been carefully cultivating over the last few months, there is little doubt about the likely results of the referendum. It is questionable, however, whether the MNLF will tolerate the arrangement.

CONTINUING MISTRUST

Deep-seated mistrust continues to shape the

actions of both Marcos and the MNLF. Neither side has so far disarmed and there is no talk of troop withdrawals. In fact, the Marcos regime recently sent Gen. Romeo Espino, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to the south for a tour to prepare the residents for a renewal of the hostilities. The government which has already spent almost \$1 billion on the war, has asked the U.S. to expedite delivery of already-ordered war materials. Reports of military encounters and ceasefire violations on both sides persisted throughout the negotiation period.

The issues at stake in the southern Philippines are so deep that a settlement worked out by Khaddafi and Marcos-by-proxy at a negotiating table in Libya cannot begin to solve them.

The conflict is anything but an "exported war." Involved is the usurpation of communally-owned lands by multinational agro-business and the turning over of Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan to big business to be exploited as frontier lands at the expense of their inhabitants — all in the name of national development.

The MNLF has fought this war for five years. Approximately 40,000 Muslims have been killed. 1.7 million refugees have been created. Bitterness towards the regime naturally runs deep.

Marcos on the other hand, has aligned himself and his interests with those who want to "develop" the South. On top of this, his track record on agreements is notably poor. Given the vast differences in interests between the two, sooner or later, it's back to the battlefield. □

U.S. Business Says:

BAD HEALTH MEANS GOOD BUSINESS

By VICTORIA LUNA

A recent special report in the magazine *New Scientist* by Mike Muller reveals that Meade Johnson-Philippines, through its unscrupulous promotional tactics for its infant formulas, cultivates malnutrition among Filipino infants. Nutritionists and concerned citizens have, in recent years, repeatedly emphasized the dangers of selling and advertising infant formulas in Third World countries. They have pointed out that people in developing countries cannot afford expensive imported infant formulas in the first place and the misuse of them leads to early infant malnutrition.

Aggressive marketing tactics on the part of multinational drug companies are calculated to discourage breast feeding, which, in the Third World, is the only safe, responsible, and reasonably-priced way of feeding babies. Muller's report reveals that these calculated attempts have had a profound effect throughout the Philippine medical profession.

NOT AN ISOLATED CASE

The Philippines is not an isolated case as confirmed by a report issued several years ago on the activities of the giant Swiss-based Nestle's Corp. in the poorest countries of Africa. In response to revelations about Nestle's formula peddling, concerned citizens and stockholders in other drug corporations have demanded an accounting of corporate practice in the Third World. Bristol Myers, the parent company of Meade Johnson, is a huge conglomerate and currently faces court charges for fraudulently reporting on the status of its infant formula sales in developing countries to its stockholders.

Meade Johnson, makers of Enfamil, a top-selling infant formula in the Philippines, is one of three multinational drug firms (the others being Nestle's and Wyeth Labs) vying to dominate the Philippine market. Muller's sources within the drug industry and the medical profession provide incontrovertible evidence that all three — Meade Johnson in particular — are flagrant violators of the public interest.

All three companies donate huge quantities of free samples to hospital nurseries. Many hospitals simply rotate among the three. Further persuasion, often in the form of nursery equipment donations, then becomes necessary to induce the hospital to abandon the others in favor of a single company. Confirming Meade Johnson's open encouragement of unethical practices, one administrator commented, "It is a very corrupting influence. You

(continued on page 4)

Mismanagement, Lack of Foresight

Water Shortage Hits Luzon

The current drought that has hit the Greater Manila Area, Northern and Central Luzon and is threatening to spread southwest, has reached critical proportions. In Manila and suburbs, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has imposed an eight per cent reduction in water consumption, while in Central and Northern Luzon, regular brown-outs (electrical power shut-offs) are being implemented.

The power shortages in these regions, due to low water levels in three hydroelectric dams, has led to nearly paralyzing the industry. The National Power Corp. has asked 30 large factories to reduce their working hours by five hours daily — a move that is expected to result in mass layoffs.

Although Manila is experiencing less problems, the urban poor communities are unfairly shouldering the brunt of the crisis. Since private plumbing is inaccessible to most urban poor this sector is completely dependent on water "hawkers" and "community faucets." Water peddlers now sell a drum of water for P8-10, a sharp increase from the regular rate of P3-4 per drum.

Mismanagement of available resources and poor planning contributed greatly to the severity of the

present crisis. For instance, the large-scale denudation of Philippine forests has led to the irreversible destruction of vital watersheds, especially in Luzon. Of the 17 million hectares of forested lands, 5 million have been destroyed, largely by Japanese and American logging concessions. It is estimated that it will take 148 years to recover these forests which are necessary for the retention and replenishment of water in basins and streams. Thus it is not surprising that Central Luzon could be completely immersed by flood water during the rainy season and yet experience severe drought during the summer.

The gross mismanagement and lack of foresight by the government has wrought greater havoc. Although the drought began in October of last year, the government has now only started to plan for a new waterworks system and is currently negotiating a \$20 million loan from the World Bank to finance the project. Even then, the water may be too expensive for many to afford since the project is foreign financed. Already MWSS is preparing to increase water rates by 100 per cent to meet current loan payments obligations to the Asian Development Bank. □

NEW PHILIPPINE EXPORT — Cheap Labor Filipino Merchant Seamen Fight Exploitation

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

The strike breaking action of hired British goons against 28 Filipino seamen last Feb. 27 in Le Havre, France, illustrates the helpless plight of overseas Filipino contract workers. After staging a wildcat strike and risking their lives at the hands of hired thugs, the crewmen were summoned home in early March, their demands unmet and the prospects bleak for future employment.

The seamen who demanded \$263,000 in wage adjustments, backpay and overtime compensation, struck by seizing control of the oil tanker Globtik Venus. Multi-millionaire shipowner Ravi Tikoo dispatched 60 unemployed British sailors to break up the strike with the inducement that the sailors would take over the Filipinos' jobs. Wielding batons, axes and sprayguns filled with acid, the British sailors knocked down the cabin doors and rounded up the outnumbered Filipinos. Bitterly recounting the incident, crew leader Dominador Dalanon assailed the French police for tacitly condoning the strikebreakers' violence: "When the baton-waving and acid-spraying Britons stormed the Globtik, many policemen were standing by, but they did not lift a finger . . ."

The British National Union of Seamen condemned the incident as "barbaric" and urged all seamen's associations to boycott Tikoo-owned ships. Meanwhile, the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) is investigating the incident.

The outcry of international labor groups contrasts sharply with the silence of the Philippine government, which is in an embarrassing predicament. Although there is talk that the Foreign Affairs Department is preparing to lodge diplomatic protests to both the British and French governments, the regime has yet to issue an official statement on the matter.

Manila's disturbing silence stems from its dilemma of having to weigh the protection of its overseas nationals against its profitable policy of exporting cheap labor to defuse domestic unemployment. There have been 50 similar incidents in the past wherein striking seamen were recalled, black-listed or barred from future employment. If this record is any indication of how the regime intends to handle the Le Havre incident, justice is remote for the 28 crewmen.

CHEAP LABOR — PHILIPPINE EXPORT

The regime's apathy towards the plight of over-

Filipino crewmen of the Japanese freighter listening to their captain in Montreal during their strike last October, 1976. Filipino seamen have been very active in fighting against low wages and poor working conditions, despite threats of blacklisting and reprisals in the Philippines.

[Philippine Times photo]



seas Filipino contract workers is consistent with its policy of providing the "cheapest labor in Asia." To superficially cope with the climbing unemployment rate (now at 25%) the regime created the Overseas Employment Development Board (OEDB) in 1974 to serve as a clearing house for overseas job placement. Since then, the OEDB has facilitated the exit of some 60,000 professionals and skilled workers to generally low-paying jobs. Increasing foreign exchange earnings is another objective of this campaign. The regime has imposed mandatory salary remittances (up to 70%) and dual taxation on these workers. The \$200 million worth of salary deductions from contract laborers paychecks has partially compensated for whatever crises its other exports are experiencing. Thus, like logs, copper, sugar and copra, Philippine workers have become a lucrative export.

Despite these onerous deductions (a requirement for job placement), thousands of Filipinos continue to flood the OEDB's offices — an indication of the severity of the country's unemployment problem. With thousands of unemployed workers completely beholden to the OEDB, the opportunities for graft and corruption are numerous. The OEDB doubles up as a loanshark, providing usurious loans for plane fares to the workers. Recently, some 4,000 workers and the United Kingdom's Federation of Personnel Services protested the \$50 "service fee" asked by the OEDB from each applicant on the grounds that they are a government agency.

AT THE MERCY OF EMPLOYERS

The types of jobs offered these workers range

from domestic, to medical professionals, engineers, service workers and construction workers. Demand for competent Philippine labor has been highest in the Middle East where the dearth of skilled labor is an acute problem. European countries, on the other hand, recruit Philippine labor to fill the lowest-paying jobs refused by their own nationals. The contractual terms and visa status of the Filipino worker makes him vulnerable to unscrupulous exploitation by his foreign employers.

The conditions of Filipino hotel workers in Northern Scotland typify this plight. According to the Scottish Vanguard: "Hotels throughout the country including many here in the Spey Valley (which of course includes the famed Poulson/Fraser Aviemore Centre) are employing Filipino workers furnished with 'work permits' under the racist Immigration Act. The wages and conditions in the hotel industry are notoriously bad. Any comparison with average earnings in other trades screams out for action by the workers. Take for example, the average wage in the hotel where I worked for the summer season — L21 before tax for a 5½ day week. In the dining room where I worked, all the staff worked close to a 6½ work day with compulsory overtime (instant dismissal for refusal) which the management refused to pay. Most of the staff were Filipinos, and considering the following facts, it becomes apparent who paid for the Rolls Royce and the yacht currently enjoyed by the hotel's paunchy 'jolly' owner in Bournemouth . . . the slave trade has been re-introduced in the '70's."

(continued on page 5)

'Bad Health/Good Business ...'

(continued from page 3)



Mother breast-feeding her child.

are always made aware that you could have virtually anything you asked for."

PAYMENTS TO DOCTORS

In their effort to persuade doctors to prescribe their formulas and pediatric medicines, drug companies offer to refund offices and clinics and even provide paid vacations and "entertainment" for doctors visiting Manila from provincial cities. Even more imaginative practices have been used. One company collects prescriptions from pharmacies and makes payments to doctors who prescribe their drug, though the practice so far has been prominent only in Manila. Another company made

pre-printed prescription forms that doubled as raffle tickets with prizes such as cars to encourage doctors to prescribe to their products.

Strong evidence exists that this "corrupting influence" prevents doctors from giving the best possible medical advice to their patients. A recent study by Ann Burgess, a nutritionist with the University of the Philippines Institute of Public Health found in a recent survey of doctors that:

- 35 per cent understood the two basic reflexes governing lactation;
- 72 per cent thought that babies should not be put to the breast in the first 24 hours after birth;
- only 46 per cent knew an effective treatment for flat nipples.

Burgess' findings merely confirm the suspicions of many new mothers that hospitals and pediatricians conspire against breast feeding. Countless mothers have informed a nursery staff of their intention to breast feed only to later chance by the nursery and see their infants being bottle fed. This writer found her pediatrician totally unsympathetic to her decision to breast feed and eager to convince her at every monthly check-up that the baby would gain much more weight on formula.

CONTROL OF DRUG INDUSTRY

Through their dominance of the infant formula and drug industries multi-national companies like Meade Johnson exercise near-complete economic control of one of the most vital industries in the Philippines. The dangers of this form of control emerged clearly in the Philippines during the recent polio epidemic. Since all polio vaccine in the country was imported and extremely expensive, there was insufficient vaccine to meet the emergency needs. Overdependence on multinational companies for the most essential medicines has resulted in price dictation by these foreign firms.

The ability of multinational drug companies to

both control the Philippine market and to co-opt Filipino doctors has had devastating results on the treatment of disease in the country. Among the symptoms of the broader problem has been insensitivity to patients needs, over-reliance on drugs rather than natural curing processes, and prescribing drugs without adequate testing. As the New Scientist article points out: "There is widespread misuse of drugs — it is not coincidental that new resistance strains of venereal disease have emerged in the Philippines."

PROFITS FIRST; PEOPLE LAST

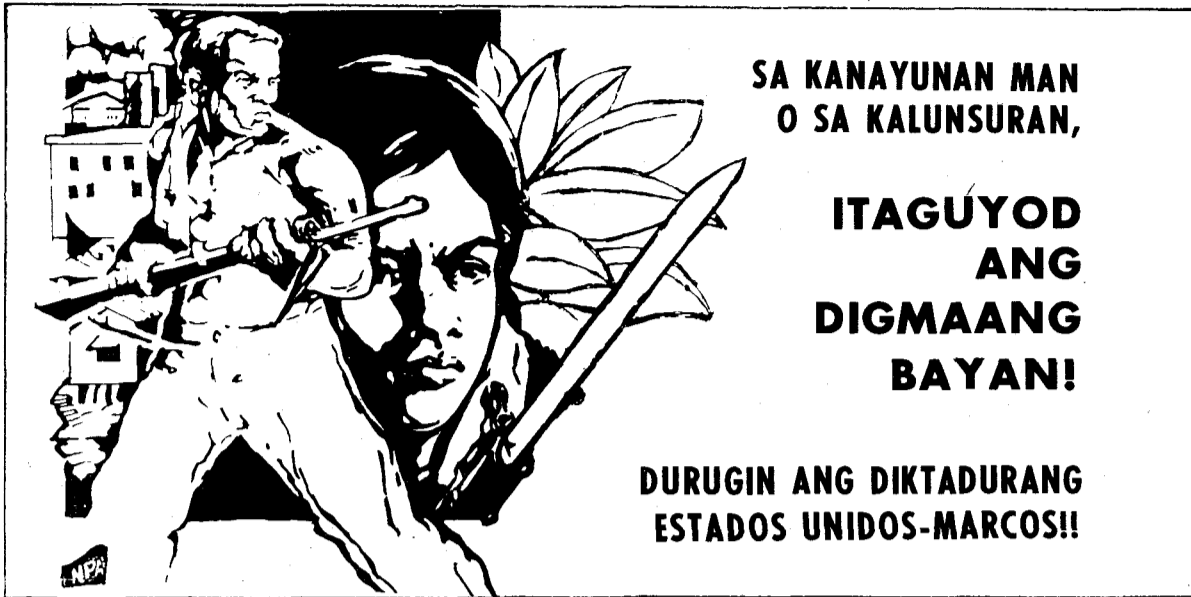
Meade Johnson's profit-first-people-last philosophy was behind its refusal last June to pay its workers an emergency cost-of-living allowance of P50 per month decreed by Pres. Marcos. After an illegal strike, during which one-third of the company's 300-strong workforce was arrested, management was forced to back down. The company still hopes to retaliate by firing the strike leaders for alleged "economic sabotage."

Muller points out in the New Scientist article: "The irony of [Meade Johnson's] generosity to the medical profession is that it heightens the inequalities both in the health system [by favoring private hospitals] and in Philippine society at large." The country is suffering from gross malnutrition and malnutrition-related diseases. The nation's Nutrition Policy states: "Mother's milk is best for a baby. Breastfeed him for as long as there is milk."

By pushing infant formulas in the Philippines, Meade Johnson and its competitors actually foster malnutrition among Filipinos. By monopolizing the market in vital vaccines and keeping their costs high, multinational drug companies profit tremendously. In other words, the ill-health of Filipinos means good business for Meade Johnson — and they and their rivals are doing the best they can to maintain it. □

* DELIA CORTEZ and NOLI RESUS *

Two More Young Patriots Slain by Marcos Troopers



SA KANAYUNAN MAN
O SA KALUNSURAN,

ITAGUYOD
ANG
DIGMAANG
BAYAN!

DURUGIN ANG DIKTADURANG
ESTADOS UNIDOS-MARCOS!!

A report from a Geneva-based organization calling itself The Philippine Group reveals that the Marcos military, in its efforts to quell the people's struggle for liberation, has slain two more young patriots. The report includes a poetic tribute and brief biographical sketches to these community organizers Delia Cortez and Arnulfo Resus, written by their co-workers in the struggle. They are reprinted in full below.

A SALUTE TO DELIA

Heroine of the struggle of the Filipino people
Martyr in the liberation of the Philippines
Delia Cortez, aged twenty
Shed her blood for her people and her beloved country.

Life young and hopeful,
She did not keep it for herself.
Offered it without reserve
That others may live without chain and fear.

Her death we mourn
But grief turns to joy!
Her selfless living and dying
Unite and dare us to struggle
Till liberation is won.

WHO WAS DELIA?

Delia was born to a humble family who owns a small farm at the foot of the Bataan mountain range in the town of Samal. She was one among many children. Delia grew up in a religious atmosphere; her father was a Methodist and her mother belongs to the Philippine Independent Church. She was schooled in the public schools in her town and province up to the secondary level.

Delia acquired her political education during the radical ferment which spread in the countryside in the early '70s. She, along with two brothers and several cousins, joined the movement for national democracy after the imposition of martial law.

Her love of country was put to the supreme test when she yielded her life for the people in an encounter with government forces in the Bataan mountains on Jan. 21 this year.

A TRIBUTE TO A TRUE SON OF THE PEOPLE

the eagle soared
faced the furor of the armalite
dived to clutch the bullets
in its claws

red, hot, blood drips
stained the leaves,
wet the roots of the forest tree.

the eagle that soared to the heights of the sierras
now rests in the depths of the virgin forest.

the wings fly no more
but its flight is borne by the wind.
and the wind carries on
the message of the struggle,
the sacrifice,
the sweat, the blood, the toil. . . .
of those whose lives have been offered.
they shall once more rise and soar
for they were lives, lived not for self
but for the people.

as high as the mountain ranges of the sierras
as deep, thick and impenetrable as its forests
is Noli's love for country,
and commitment to the people
in their struggle for freedom
and longing for liberation
from the clutches of tyranny and oppression.

dreamer was he
who was willing to pay the price
to make that dream a reality.
concerned for the future of all
he was willing to give and share,
even his all.

Noli belongs to us his friends and loved ones.
but he belongs more to our history, to our people.
he belongs to that rare, unique breed
who is willing to live and take the risk
to die a death that lives on
in the struggle,
sacrifice and
victory of the people.

there is silence
the eagle rests
the eagle has become one with the forest.
others may think that the battle is lost
but more eaglets will have wings to soar
the heights of the sierras
and then all eagles shall fly free
finally winning the war.

WHO WAS NOLI?

Noli was born Arnulfo Resus, a little over twenty years ago to a typical middle-class protestant family in southern Luzon. He led a sheltered, well-ordered life. He enrolled in the better private schools for his education, attended church regularly, went to Sunday school, was active in the Christian Youth Fellowship and other church-related activities.

But Noli was somehow different from those in his age group and social class. He was more intense, more discerning. He did not accept the privileges of his station without question. On the contrary, his early and thorough exposure to the Bible led him to more questions. Why were some people better off, more equal than others? Was it because his parents worked harder? But he knew

that the poorest worked not only from dawn to dusk, but well into the night for a meager pittance, enough for a few scraps of food and shreds of clothing. Was it because God loved some more and so he gave them more? To him that seemed utterly impossible.

So he wondered. He questioned. And he acted.

In his university years at the Philippine Christian College in metropolitan Manila, Noli became more exposed to the plight of the people and the gross injustice heaped upon them. He realized that these injustices and sufferings were the inevitable and logical consequence of a social structure that is basically unjust. The answer therefore was to restructure society and come up with a more equitable and just relationship among the members of society. Of course, Noli and his student friends were not so unrealistic as to think that on their own they could undo and redo society. They realized that power emanates from the people and it is only the people who could rebuild society. And so in the early '70s, Noli participated in programs designed to raise people's consciousness, involved himself in community development, and joined mass protest demonstrations. To all these Noli gave his most intense commitment. It was a commitment so deep that Noli knew that sooner or later he would lay down his life for it.

And when the establishment moved to quell the rise of the people with harassment and violence culminating in the imposition of martial law in September 1972, Noli was one of those arrested, detained and brutally tortured. During an investigation on torture in the Philippines by Amnesty International, a cellmate, Charlie Palma, testified that while he himself was being horribly beaten, Noli's head was continuously banged against the wall despite Noli's pleas. This was part of Noli's daily life for several months. Eventually he was released, since no charges were filed against him.

The months of torture and deprivation did not diminish Noli's commitment to the struggle of his people. On the contrary, it made the fire of his love and courage burn more fiercely.

Soon after his release, he married Aida Carlos in their home church. Noli and Aida were bound to each other by their passion for justice for their people and their love for each other. Aida has served as a member of the World Student Christian Federation (WCSF) Asia Committee, general secretary to the Philippine Student Christian Movement, member of the WCSF Executive Committee and Methodist youth delegate to the Christian Conference in Asia.

Soon afterwards, Noli and Aida left the city to work in the countryside as community organizers in northern Luzon. Despite the hardships they experienced, their enthusiasm continued for their work. Letters from them were always full of courage and joy and a sense of fulfillment in serving the people.

Sometime during the first week of February, Noli was killed by soldiers in Isabela. This was confirmed only recently. The fate of Aida is still unknown.

Noli gave his all — including his life. This was his testament to his people in their struggle towards liberation. His own words to one of us who expressed concern over his safety sums up his vision of what it meant to be in the struggle: "Kuya [elder brother], if anything happens to me, ten more will take my place."

There will be more than ten. □

MERCHANT SEAMEN...

(continued from page 4)

OEDB — PARTY TO SUPPRESSION

The OEDB lends a direct hand in the suppression of these complaints. Seamen who have participated in unionization drives or wildcat strikes are black-listed by the government's Seamens Board. Last year, a Filipino doctor working for the Iranian government threatened to sue the OEDB for false advertising when the terms of his contract were not met. Not surprisingly, a few weeks later, the doctor retracted his complaint — an indication that the OEDB did some arm-twisting to quiet down the dissatisfied doctor.

The defenseless and therefore docile status of

Filipino contract workers is in fact the OEDB's incentive to the foreign employer. Labor Secretary Blas Ople brazenly touted the OEDB as "... the government's guarantee to the foreign employer that the Filipino workers being offered to him are of the finest technical and personal quality."

DUAL OPPRESSION

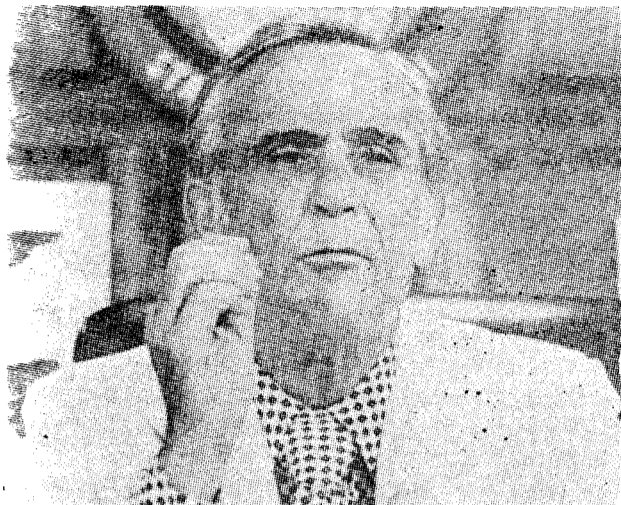
The double jeopardy faced by the Filipino worker, first from his foreign employer and secondly from his own government, has inevitably reduced him to a scab laborer in relation to the working class of his host country. Wage scales set by various unions in different trades are being threatened with reduction by the presence of cheaply paid Filipino laborers. Similarly, jobs traditionally reserved for Europeans or Japanese are threatened by the flooding of Filipino labor in the

international job market.

Thus, unionization along sectoral lines is the most viable means by which Filipino workers can unite with other workers and fight for their collective economic and political rights. The ITF has on various occasions attempted to organize Filipino seamen with limited success. These moves pose grave consequences to the regime's "cheap labor export policy," which can be gleaned by the reaction of the Philippine government towards unionization. Ople recently attacked the ITF for attempting to apply First World standards (higher wages, union membership) on Third World workers. Ople's statement is an explicit admission that the regime's "foreign employment program" is merely an extension of its domestic policy of keeping labor cheap and docile for the benefit of foreign business. □

FILIPINO Community

HONOLULU MAYOR INVOLVED IN BRIBERY SCANDAL



Mayor Frank F. Fasi

By MOY TACAZON
AK Correspondent

HONOLULU — A major scandal involving city mayor, Frank F. Fasi has made daily front page news recently. In a grand jury indictment last March 21, Fasi along with his former campaign manager Harry C. Chung were charged with bribery and misuse of city funds.

According to the Honolulu Advertiser (3/22) Fasi and Chung "on or about the months of October and November 1970, entered into a corrupt understanding with Hal Hansen, then president of Oceanside Properties, Inc." which was chosen to develop Kukui Plaza, a major part of Honolulu's biggest urban renewal project.

The agreement was that Fasi would be paid \$500,000 through campaign contributions, gifts, gratuities, services and benefits if he selected Oceanside as the developer of Kukui.

If convicted, Fasi will face penalties ranging from a \$1,000-\$10,000 fine or five years in prison.

HISTORY OF KUKUI PLAZA PROJECT

In 1971, Mayor Fasi proposed that a private developer be permitted to build a parking facility and apartments in the Chinatown area slated for redevelopment. This arrangement would be made in exchange for selling 25 per cent of the apartments to families of moderate income.

Fasi then appointed a selection committee (which included most of Fasi's cabinet involved with housing money and construction) to sift through eight proposals. Fasi eventually selected Oceanside Properties, Inc. When controversy later surfaced over the choice, Fasi explained "it offered the best deal for the city and it talked about selling rather than renting units."

In October 1971, an arrangement had been made to lease the land to Oceanside for \$1 per year for the parking facility and apartments. Later, in 1973, Oceanside Properties president Hal Hansen agreed to pay for the construction of the parking facility on the condition that they be guaranteed 6 per cent profit on the \$50 million project. There was nothing in writing however, to that effect.

In 1975, Fasi and Oceanside made an amendment to the original contract which put the "guaranteed six per cent profit" into writing, eliminated number of facilities including a pedestrian overpass which had been required in the original draft, and made other changes in the deal—all without the knowledge of the City Council.

The recent State investigation of Fasi was begun last November after an eight-month City Council investigation of the Kukui project. The investigation was prompted by reports in local papers of financial concessions granted Oceanside.

COMMUNITY OUTRAGE

Outraged by the city scandals, People Against Chinatown Eviction (PACE) denounced the payoffs and misuse of city government to benefit the rich corporations and powerful politicians. "We are talking about monies which are badly needed to provide decent low-cost housing and storefronts for Chinatown residents and small businesses," said a PACE spokesperson.

"These private developers come into our communities with the help of city officials in the name of progress to 'benefit the citizens and beautify the city.' Instead, all we have gotten are rent hikes and evictions so that the rich can make more profits," he added. "Not only should Fasi pay, but Hansen and Chung who have reportedly been offered immunity if they testify against Fasi should also be made responsible for their crimes against the people." □

S.F. International Hotel MAYOR MOSCONE SHUNS TENANTS



Mass support has played a crucial role in stopping the eviction attempts at the I.H.

By JEANETTE LAZAM
AK Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO — Banners and picket signs once again appeared in front of City Hall March 22, 1977 to demand that Mayor George Moscone take a more active role to intervene and prevent the eviction of 65 elderly tenants from the International Hotel. Approximately 75 demonstrators and tenants marched for three hours chanting and passing out printed statements of support to passers-by. Signatures were solicited and the statements were later delivered to the mayor.

Earlier that week, the Mayor conceded to a meeting with the tenants, but abruptly changed his mind when he heard that a demonstration was being planned around the meeting. Sources inside City Hall claim that the Mayor wanted to have closed door meeting rather than a publicized session. A delegation of tenants tried to enter the Mayor's office at the scheduled meeting time of 3:00 p.m. but were told to leave and escorted to the exit door.

The demonstration continued, however, and was successful in affecting the Mayor's office. Later that day, Moscone called the hotel and said he would be "most willing" to come to a Sunday brunch (held every week at the hotel) and answer any questions that tenants and supporters might have. Though the date has not yet been set, the tenants are proposing it take place within the next two weeks.

This March 22 demonstration, along with the March 24 candlelight vigil outside of Judge Byron Arnold's house (presiding judge on the I.H. "eminent domain" case) is part of the recent efforts to bring back the International Hotel issue to the public's eye.

The main focus is the upcoming court hearings in which the owners, Four Seas Corp., contends that the International Hotel does not constitute a public necessity, and thus claim that the S.F. Housing Authority's use of eminent domain is illegal. As of yet, the hearing has not been scheduled since the I-Hotel's lawyers are appealing to have Judge Arnold removed from the case because of his bias against the hotel. Many believe that this could be decisive in determining if the tenants will stay or be evicted.

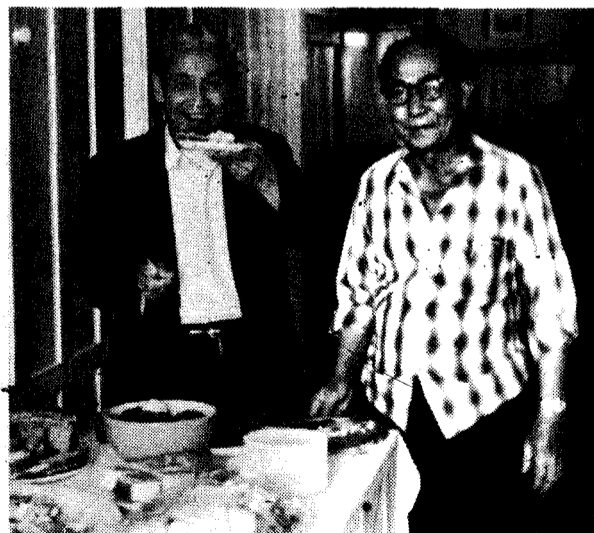
Meanwhile, the I.H. Tenants Association along with the Support Committee is making an all-out effort to keep the I-Hotel issue alive to the public — and especially to the courts, Four Seas, Mayor, and Board of Supervisors — and that all I.H. support actions go well-publicized.

A massive outreach campaign is being launched into the many communities of the S.F. Bay Area. Contact of various community, church and union groups are currently being planned for the purpose of speaking directly to people to clarify the issues and most importantly, to consolidate the ever-growing support for the hotel.

If your community group wishes to support the hotel, and requests to have speakers for your meeting, please contact the hotel at (415) 982-4249 or write IHTA, c/o Nancy Erickson, 848 Kearny St., San Francisco 94108. □

I. Hotel Tenant Dies at 76

A COURAGEOUS FIGHTER



(Kaliwara/Blake photo)

Claudio Domingo [left] and Loreto Leano [right] during a celebration at the I. Hotel.

In the course of the protracted struggle at the International Hotel, many people have made important contributions and significant sacrifices at each juncture. Yet, the greatest single sacrifice is when a person lives and dies for the people's struggle.

Over the past nine years, some of the I.H. residents, all elderly men, have died. Recently, 76 year-old and I.H. resident for the past 11 years, Claudio Domingo, died from heart failure on March 26. For years he waged an exhausting struggle for his life against complex abdominal problems and a weak heart. He departed a soldier at his post, a courageous fighter for the Hotel struggle.

When Domingo became seriously ill two months ago, he took his place in the tenant's association Board meetings and general mass support meetings, despite his doctor's advice to rest. He always had a deep concern for the fate of the Hotel. When he was visited by fellow tenants and supporters in his hospital bed, his first remarks, despite his semi-conscious state were: "How is the Hotel? How is the struggle?"

Domingo arrived in America in the 1950's and resided shortly thereafter in the Manilatown district and permanently resided in the International Hotel. He immigrated in order to provide for his poor family in the Philippines. He was a veteran who guarded the Panama Canal during World War I and served in the cavalry division of the Philippine Scouts during World War II. One episode he like to tell goes back to his experience in the Philippines. He was taking care of horses in a stable one day when a tall, white U.S. soldier derisively called him a "monkey." Domingo grabbed a stick and swiftly clobbered the man, knocking him unconscious. When later asked during his court-martial for his reasons, Domingo remarked: "The real monkey got mad and hit him, but not me. We Filipinos are peaceful people and we are equal to everybody." The verdict — not guilty.

The severe strain and pressures in the last six months have hospitalized four elderly tenants. Manong Domingo was the last to go to a hospital — and the first to fall. In his death, one sees the ruthless character of the Four Seas and the Courts on one side and the courageous tenants fighting for their rights on the other.

If there is a trait that Manong Domingo displayed until the end of his life, it was the "will to fight and determination to win." □ By EMIL DE GUZMAN



Asia Scholars Demand U.S. Bases Withdrawal

NEW YORK CITY — The Committee for Concerned Asian Scholars (CCAS) passed a resolution, March 27, endorsing the demands of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) on the issue of U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The resolution passed overwhelmingly by CCAS called for: the cut-off of all U.S. military and economic assistance to Marcos; the rejection of any treaty on the U.S. bases which would provide Marcos with military aid in the form of base rent; and the withdrawal of the U.S. bases in the Philippines.

An authoritative seminar on a wide range of issues on the Philippines, including the presentation of a well-documented study of U.S. aid, was conducted before the CCAS drafted the resolution. The Friends of the Filipino People who conducted the seminar, discussed the bases issue, recent political and economic developments in the Philippines, and the anti-aid campaign undertaken jointly by the AMLC/FFP in Congress. The Three-Year Phase Withdrawal of Bases Plan mapped out by FFP (it will be presented to Congress later this year) was also discussed. Daniel Boone Schirmer, Walden Bello and Severina Rivera of FFP led the discussion.



Walden Bello

Severina Rivera

Boone Schirmer

CCAS is a group of progressive scholars founded by academics during the Vietnam war and continues to do research work around Asia today. □

Rosenthal Shares Concern for Human Rights

NEW YORK CITY — "Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and since then, things have been pretty bad." So stated Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal from Queens, New York, during a visit to his offices by a Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) delegation on March 18.

In opening the discussion, Rosenthal explained that he has not been concentrating much of his attention on developments in the Philippines. He did confirm, however, the seriousness of the Philippine government's human rights violations, which have been attested in both of the congressional committees (Rosenthal is a member of the House International Relations Committee and the Subcommittee on International Organizations, a vital group in regard to human rights legislation and often called the Fraser Committee).

The FFP visitors pointed out that any payment of rental for U.S. military and naval bases would result in providing further support to Marcos in perpetrating further human rights violations. The congressman shared this concern and indicated that he was interested in reading the AMLC and FFP materials presented to him. The documents study the negative role of the U.S. bases both to the people of the U.S. and the Philippines. Sr. Caridad Guidote of the N.Y. Anti-Martial Law Alliance also gave Rosenthal a position paper composed by church people in the Philippines which also advocates the withdrawal of U.S. bases.

The visitors characterized the discussion as fruitful. Sr. Caridad remarked that Rosenthal was frank about needing more information on the bases and the ever-increasing World Bank loans. New York FFP member, Marc Schnapp was satisfied with Rosenthal's agreement that the International Relations Committee must assess the viability of the bases before examining any State Department proposals for base rental payments to Marcos.

Schnapp emphasized the importance of writing letters to congresspeople. He said: "FFP is learning from experience that Congress is sensitive to their constituents' opinions. We really can get the aid cut-offs we want. But first we must be willing to take a vital step. Let's make our opinions known to our congresspeople and Pres. Carter."

Sr. Caridad added a concluding observation, "Our kababayans have learned painfully that an opinion is too precious to be kept secret."

Information on the campaign to withdraw U.S. bases and letterwriting are available from: Friends of the Filipino People, National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 824, New York, N.Y. 10027. □

Amnesty Int'l Reports on Pedro Torture-Slaying

LONDON — The Amnesty International reported in the March issue of its monthly newsletter the death of Purificacion "Puri" Pedro, the 28-year old Filipina social worker who was shot, tortured and murdered by the 5th Constabulary Security Unit of the Philippine Constabulary last January 24. (See Ang Katipunan, February 16-28, 1977 issue for details.)

The Amnesty International (AI) is an internationally recognized organization that has been involved in the defense of human rights for many years. In 1975, AI sent an investigative mission to the Philippines to document the violations of human rights committed by the Marcos government. Its report was submitted to Congress together with the document on Political Detainees in the Philippines prepared by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP). Upon the request of Congress, the U.S. State Department verified the two reports and found them to be very accurate. □

Carter-Initiated

Bill Seeks to Undermine Human Rights

LOOK, WE'RE NOT GOING TO STAND FOR YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



AND THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO!



By PETER OWENS
AK Correspondent

[Graphic adapted from U.S. News and World Report]

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Carter-initiated bill that seeks to overturn the Harkin Amendment (also known as the Human Rights Amendment) was introduced in Congress and passed the House Committee on Buildings, Finance, and Urban Affairs with a close vote of 22 to 20. The bill, considered dangerous because it undermines congressional attempts to apply strict criteria on aid to repressive regimes, will give unlimited power to the Carter administration in dispensing aid to the said governments. Rep. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) will bring the issue before the whole Congress for a floor vote on April 7.

The Harkin Amendment, passed Sept. 10, 1975, prohibits economic assistance to countries which engage in gross violations of human rights. This amendment is applicable not only to U.S. bilateral assistance (government to government) but also multi-lateral assistance (government to government through financial institutions like the Inter-American Bank

and the African Development Bank.) This amendment has since been used to cutoff aid through the Inter-American Bank to Chile in June 1976.

Another amendment to extend the applicability of the Harkin Amendment to World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) was defeated by a vote of 28 to 15. This means that the U.S. aid to the Philippines through these two institutions cannot be controlled or terminated by Congress.

In fiscal years 1973-76, economic aid to the Philippines totalled at \$2.922 billion, \$240.5 million of which was through U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), \$697 million through WB and its affiliates, and \$309.6 million through ADB. The Philippines is the biggest recipient of U.S. economic aid in fiscal year 1976 which totalled to \$1.4184 billion.

The defeat of this amendment is especially significant as only six per cent of the U.S. monies channeled to the repressive government of Marcos is presently covered by the

human rights amendment.

The Carter administration through Rep. Henry Reuss is attempting to subvert the growing concern over human rights in Congress by substituting an amendment which will not specifically prohibit the U.S. government from extending aid to repressive governments. Instead, the Reuss initiative will encourage the administration to "Channel aid to democratic, non-repressive governments." Human rights groups complain that the Reuss amendment is actually a Carter "Trojan Horse," which is rhetorically attractive but would gut the human rights movement in Congress of all viable legislative restrictions on U.S. aid.

"This weaker substitute," decries a prominent human rights lobbyist, "does not match Carter's campaign rhetoric on his commitment to human rights or any humane or decent foreign policy reflecting the aspirations of the American people. Carter's move will free from restriction any congressional power over aid." □

Subcommittee Hearing on Aid to R.P.

FFP Testifies, Despite U.S.-AID Objections

By PETER OWENS
AK Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) displayed its arrogance in front of the House Subcommittee on Foreign Appropriations when they declared they would not testify before the said subcommittee if the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) is testifying. U.S.-AID representatives objected for chauvinistic reasons and based their decision solely on the contention that "FFP is not an American organization but is a group of Filipinos."

Although the great majority of FFP members are American citizens, the few Filipino members are very active and have contributed significantly to the organization, especially in the study of U.S. aid to the Philippines.

Upset and dissatisfied by the irrelevant allegation, Subcommittee Chairman Clarence Long (D-Maryland) dismissed the objection and replied that

if AID refused to testify, "that is their problem," but FFP will be allowed to present their testimony. The two groups will present opposing views on the U.S. economic assistance role in the Philippines. It was also surmised that AID objected in the hope that its testimony before the subcommittee would stand unopposed as it is the agency that administers the economic aid in question.

Jim Drew, a prominent Washington lawyer and member of the National Council of FFP and William Goodfellow, a widely-respected scholar and member of the Center for International Policy will testify before the subcommittee April 5, on the status of human rights in the Philippines. The House Committee on Appropriations is reviewing the economic aid proposals of the Carter administration.

The FFP-organized testimonies will attempt to prove that the Philippine government is a gross violator of human rights and that any

assistance given such government would not directly benefit the needy people in the Philippines. For instance, its violation of two requirements of the International Development and Food Assistance Act are sufficient grounds for Congress to terminate assistance to the Philippines. □

FFP SPONSORS

PHILIPPINE FORUM

NEW YORK CITY — An educational evening on the Philippines will be held at the Washington Square Church Parlor, 133 West 4th St., this city, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12.

Film clips on U.S. involvement in the Philippines from the Filipino-American War to the present including the U.S. role in the imposition of martial law will be shown. An exhibit on handicrafts made by Filipino political prisoners will also be displayed.

For particulars, call Marc Schnapp at [212] 564-4111. □

PEOPLE VS. PROFITS OR— WHY DOES BIG BUSINESS WANT THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL?



Attny. Bush representing the Four Seas Corp.

By JEANETTE LAZAM
AK Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—“A very quiet” real estate transaction took place on Dec. 31, 1973 in the downtown offices of Milton Meyer and Co., one of the largest real estate firms in San Francisco. From that day on, for the next three and a half years, the city government of San Francisco and major business interests would be subjected to a barrage of questions, demands, mass demonstrations and militant pickets that politically rocked the downtown business right off their seats. The real estate transaction was the selling of the International Hotel.

Prior to this, Milton Meyer Co. had owned the hotel and had attempted several times to evict the tenants and demolish the building. But strong opposition from public and private sectors put a halt on any eviction, and in 1971, a lease was signed between the landlord and the residents.

From 1971-73, the tenants negotiated with Walter Shorenstein, President of Milton Meyer Co. for a lease with option to buy the building. Shorenstein's terms, however, were so stiff that a new lease was not secured and in 1973, the International Hotel was sold to a then-unknown business firm, Four Seas Investment Corp.

While one can only speculate about the reasons why Milton Meyer sold the I.H. to Four Seas, it is well-known that they were affected enough by public pressure not to evict the tenants. In fact, it was somewhat of a political embarrassment for them when it was revealed they were at the bottom of the proposed cold-hearted eviction of some 60 elderly residents from their homes. Despite this “embarrassment,” however, they must have decided that it would be worse to sell the building to the tenants. For no other local firm wanted the “controversial building” or was willing to risk the time or money to battle it out with the strong public sentiment opposed to the eviction.

The I-Hotel sold for \$850,000, a small flat fee which was paid in full. All transactions were final and were handled through the Transamerica Title Corporation on behalf of Four Seas.

FOUR SEAS: WHO ARE THEY AND WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

The Four Seas formed a corporation under the State of California Law in May of 1973, seven months prior to the purchase of the International Hotel. Its stated purposes for corporation were:

- Wine owner and wine manufacturer;
- includes all activities related to wine growing or manufacturing;
- and any other activities designated from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Since 1973, Four Seas has expanded their real estate holdings in the rural areas (wineries in Healdsburg, Calif., purchased for \$1.1 million) to purchasing property (land sites) in San Francisco. Other than the I-Hotel, they own the Bell Hotel, 37 Columbus (burned down) and another hotel at 1426 Taylor St.

All purchases were made at extremely low-selling prices, and again the Transamerica Title Corp. acted as the representative of the Four Seas in each case. Although each site sold “rather cheaply,” one can only wonder where the capital

for such investments came from—interestingly enough, each transaction was paid in full.

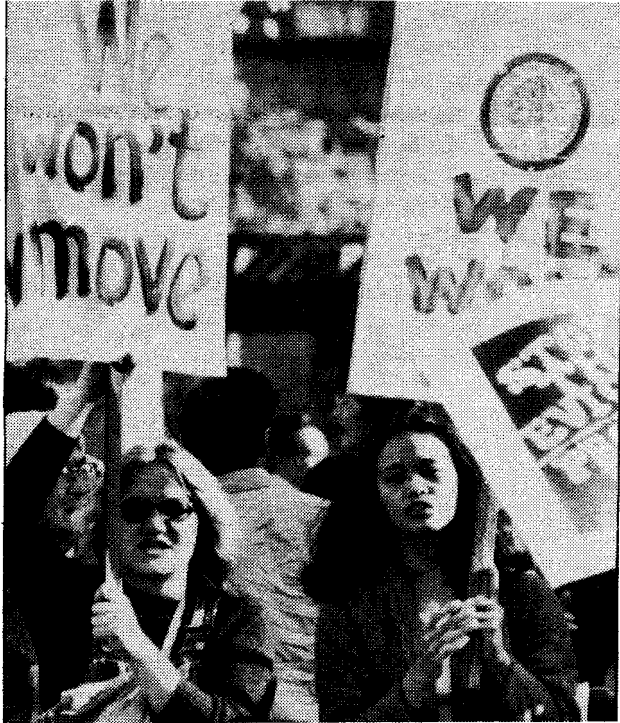
The Four Seas is a mystery to many people involved in the I-Hotel struggle. Little is known of them or their intentions about the future of the hotel. After some research in local city records, it was found that the Four Seas is part of the Asian Overseas Investment Corp. whose political and economic ties are linked up with the local ruling elite of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines and Thailand. The latter three countries are presently under martial law and all four have governments with long histories of political repression against their people. Relatively speaking, though, Four Seas is a small time operation compared to the larger multi-national corporations whose “business tentacles” span across many oceans into other continents. Whether large or small, however, the end product is the same—profits before people or corporate interests before the basic necessities of life.

In examining the Four Seas Corp. there are seven Board of Directors of which four are the key figures that dominate and control all transactions of the business. They are:

Supasit Mahaguna, President. Mahaguna is a prominent Thai businessman who owns 65 per cent of the corporation's stock, making him the largest share owner. He also owns a large distillery in Bangkok with branches in Hong Kong.

Arthur Chan, Treasurer. Chan owns two prominent enterprises in S.F.-Chinatown and is part of the local elite circles in the Chinatown community.

Jack Wong, Secretary and Legal Consultant. Wong is an attorney for the Chinatown legal firm of



Gintjee, Shortall and Roensch. Wong is a member of the Chinese Six Companies, the powerful conservative business organization in Chinatown. The Six Companies has been known to be the direct political arm of the Taiwan government in the Chinese communities in the U.S. Their activities include propaganda to discredit the People's Republic of China and to discourage any sympathy or acknowledgement of them. In more recent years, they have been exposed as the major organization that controls the political climate in Chinatown and some rumors even have it that their links to City Hall politicians have been instrumental in promoting the primacy of Chinatown's tourist industry rather than the social, economic and cultural needs of the Chinatown community.

Alfred Roensch, Legal Consultant. Roensch is a partner of Gintjee, Wong, Shortall and Roensch and son of Adolpho Roensch, general manager for the San Miguel Corporation, a Philippine conglomerate, whose best known export is San Miguel beer. Roensch was indicted by the Security Exchange Commission in May 1975, for stock fraud concerning a “paper” corporation, Consolidated Equities Management (CEMI), and a Southern California-based Shamrock Mutual Fund. Of the eight persons who were indicted, four were convicted, and Roensch was among those acquitted.

Roensch and Wong are currently defendants in 11 suits pending in Alameda and San Francisco counties for fraud, legal malpractice, harassment, negligence and default in money payments. At

least four of these suits involve the bankruptcy of the Mandarin Towers, a luxury condominium in Chinatown.

Roensch and Wong are also being sued by Mahaguna himself for a promissory note backed by the two that has never been paid.

BIG BUSINESS' CONTROL OVER HUMAN LIVES

At every step of the struggle of the International Hotel, information about the Four Seas Corp. has never full been revealed to the public. The public in general has been much more critical in recent years with the moves of Big Business and government in terms of their effect on the lives of the people. But it has only been in the last 10-15 years that the progressive and liberal research and publishing groups have taken a more direct role in exposing the activities of corporations. Such examples have been brought out in exposes like the Watergate scandal where former Pres. Richard Nixon made money by protecting the interests of business groups like ITT and the milk producers.

Such nationwide scandals, however, are not very different from our own local situation in which the city government and firms like the Four Seas join hand-in-hand to make San Francisco another “Wall Street of the West” at the expense of the people. That is, tearing down residential sites for convention centers and commercial projects without replacing the housing that has been destroyed.

This is the essence of the basic demand being brought forth by the tenants, “Stop the Eviction through Eminent Domain.”

“Eminent Domain” has historically been used to oppose the interests of the people and to uphold the interest of big business. The S.F. Redevelopment Agency (RDA) has been the major organization which has used this power and the effects have been greatly felt. For example, in Japantown, the RDA used “eminent domain” to purchase properties and sell them to private enterprise but hundreds of Japanese-American residents have been displaced and their whole community has been commercialized.

The International Hotel is the first case in the city's history, (and possibly, all of California) to ever demand that “eminent domain” be used to uphold the interests and needs of the people.

Thus, the I.H. struggle is essentially challenging the property rights of landlords to do whatever they please with their property. Concretely, it challenges the “right” of a capitalist enterprise to remove 65 tenants from their home and community for a more profitable business without any social responsibility for the consequences of this action.

The “International Hotel Tenants vs. the Four Seas” can be a landmark victory for many housing, and community struggles across the nation in the long run—but that future depends today on the public support and active participation of all who are fighting against social injustice. □

Narciso-Perez Trial...

(continued from back page)

FBI and prosecution in withholding and distorting crucial evidence during the investigative stage, pre-trial hearing, and even up to the present. As the prosecution attempted to introduce the medical records of the victims named in the indictment (which had been in the care of the FBI for the last year) defense lawyers challenged their authenticity and conclusiveness. These records, introduced as prospective exhibits 15-25, were studied by the defense lawyers along with the nurses themselves who pinpointed missing documents and papers in the wrong order, arousing suspicions of further FBI irregularities and cover-ups in this case.

As explained by the defense lawyer, the FBI was under great public pressure to preserve its image in view of the Watergate incident, Hoffa disappearance and Patty Hearst kidnapping which were occurring at the same time. In addition, speculations about the serious implications of government negligence in the VA hospitals have been offered as a possible explanation for the government's single-minded persistence in prosecuting these two nurses, despite the obvious weakness of their case. To date, the FBI has already spent \$1 million on this case.

Although the defense did not at this time offer an alternative explanation for these mysterious respiratory arrests, attorney O'Brien did explain that he believed “that by the time we are finished with the trial, we will be much closer to the truth.” In a brief press conference following the Wednesday session of the hearing, O'Brien also said: “I think that during the course of the testimony . . . what this government did to them [Narciso and Perez] during the investigatory stage of this whole thing will come to light. We'll all hear it and it won't be something that any of us Americans will be proud of.”

The two defendants, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, appeared calm and optimistic about the developments so far in the trial. Said “P.I.”: “I am very confident that in the end, justice will prevail.” □

Filipinos, Americans, and Canadians NPA Anniversary Celebrated

Filipino singing group during celebration of the 8th Anniversary of the New People's Army in San Francisco, Calif.
(AK photo)



SAN FRANCISCO-BAY AREA — "Armed struggle has become the principal form of resistance in the countryside [in the Philippines]." This was one of the main points addressed by Milagros Fernandez of the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP) in one of the recently held nation-wide educational forums to celebrate the Eighth Anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA).

Continued Ms. Fernandez: "The Marcos fascist regime has increased its repression and suppression campaigns . . . supported by U.S. assistance and U.S. bases in the Philippines . . . backed and protected by an army — Marcos army. The Filipino people likewise need a military arm to protect and fight for their own interest. Therefore, among all sectors of the Philippine resistance, the NPA will prove to be the only invincible force capable of overthrowing and defeating the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship in the end."

Although 1976 was a difficult year for the NPA due to intensified counterinsurgency campaigns of the Marcos regime, they have continued to grow despite assaults from brutal and sophisticated techniques like free fire zones, relocation, torture, murder as well as the recent capture of some of its key leaders. "The NPA has developed new guerrilla zones, increased in numbers, and most importantly, broadened its support from the Filipino people. With the correctness of its strategy in its application of people's war and the strength of its revolutionary ideals, the NPA has forged a stronger instrument in the struggle for liberation," Ms. Fernandez concluded.

This statement and other similar ones were made at forums held in key cities in the U.S. and Canada this past month. The forums utilized slide shows, speeches, and cultural presentations, and were held in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, and the Canadian cities of Montreal, Vancouver, and

Toronto.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE MEDICAL AID CAMPAIGN

The procurement of medical aid as a concrete means of support for the struggle in the Philippines was given major stress in the activities. The sympathetic response of Americans, Canadians and the Filipino community to this call has already resulted in the procurement of eight sets of medical supplies and equipment kits valued at \$4,000.

The IAFP pointed out: "The NPA's medical work among the people is vitally important and gives some insight into the future stress on health care in the countryside after the victory of the revolution. Already, clinics opened in guerrilla zones have been able to render basic health services like minor surgery, anti-TB injections, and treatment of skin diseases. Close attention is also paid to teaching peasants basic hygiene, combining the use of local herbal remedies and western medicine as well as food preparation to correct imbalance or vitamin deficiencies. This work, in addition to careful attention to the medical needs of NPA soldiers wounded in battle, constitutes an important cornerstone of the NPA's base building among the peasantry. The value of this type of aid cannot be measured in dollar terms and even in the number of people who have benefitted from their use. For the people and for the NPA itself, it is, most importantly, concrete evidence that they do not struggle alone," finished the IAFP. □

Increased support for the medical aid campaign is needed very much due to the intensified efforts of the Marcos dictatorship. Send your donation to:
International Association of Filipino Patriots
P.O. Box 24737
Oakland, California 94623

CHICAGO FILIPINOS UNITE AGAINST LICENSURE PROBLEM

By EDDIE ESCULTURA
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO — In conjunction with the nationwide efforts protesting the unfair licensure exam for Foreign Nurse Graduates (FNGs), concerned community persons formally established the Local Organizing Committee for Fair Nurses Licensure in a meeting March 26 at the Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Center. Attended by some 50 nurses and other concerned individuals representing several hospitals and organizations, the meeting discussed the licensure problem and ways to resolve it.

HIGH RATE OF FAILURE

A large percentage (80-90 percent) of FNGs in Illinois fail the licensure exam, compared to a small 10-20% of USNGs who do. Participants overwhelmingly agreed that this high rate of failure is already a cause for alarm.

Immigrant or citizen FNGs who "fail" the test are either stripped of their registered nurse (RN) status, terminated from their RN positions or allowed to carry out the same nurse's duties with, however, a demotion in rank and pay level.

For nurses with an H-1 visa, failure means work contract termination, hence, loss of visa status. And worse still, they become "illegal aliens" and therefore subject to deportation.

The high rate of failure is a community problem which, if allowed to persist, is not only unfair to the nurses but the general public who will be deprived of their needed services.

INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR STUDY

Through the course of the discussion, one suggested reason for the large percentage of failing FNGs was the insufficient time of preparation for the licensure exam.



Nurses and concerned community persons discuss the licensure problem.

Newly-arrived FNGs, particularly nurses under H-1 visas, are compelled to take the next scheduled exam without due regard for the need for preparation and adjustment. One nurse narrated her case where she had to take the exam 13 days after her arrival. She failed, given her state of anxiety.

A nurse suggested that efforts be concentrated on encouraging hospitals to provide free review classes for nurses. Others cited that a longer period of time be given to nurses to prepare themselves for the exam. Still others suggested that test permits be extended from six months to a maximum of two years.

VALIDITY OF EXAM

While it is true that a sufficient preparation time may

Far West Convention 'Kicks Off' in San Diego

By HERB TUYAY and ANDREW HINOJOSA

SAN DIEGO — The work around the upcoming 1977 Filipino People's Far West Convention (PPFWC) was publicly launched last Saturday, March 27 at the Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church hall in this city. The potluck luncheon meeting attracted approximately 100 concerned community people and represented a good cross section of senior citizens, adults and youth.

The meeting was held to basically inform the San Diego Filipino community about the 1977 PPFWC — its purpose, history and significance. San Diego was selected as host city to this year's convention. In previous years, the FWC has been held in Seattle, Wash., Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Jose and Stockton, Calif.

The event was highlighted by the main speaker, Filemon Adrid, the incoming chairman of the Council of Filipino-American Organizations (COPAO), who stressed the importance of unity in making the FWC a success. He also pointed out the progressive nature of the PPFWC in addressing itself to the needs of the Filipino community and pledged his full support.

Other groups represented at the meeting included Operation Samahan, a community service project of Senior Citizens, and the West Coast Confederation of Filipino Students. It was pointed out that more participation is still needed as the convention's success depends on community-wide participation in the organizing work. Mobile speaking teams are currently making presentations to different community groups and a monthly newsletter will be produced soon.

The 1977 FWC is scheduled for Sept. 2-4 at the University of California campus at San Diego (in La Jolla). The cost is estimated at \$15,000 and a finance committee is in the process of submitting funding proposals to various agencies and foundations. It was stressed, however, that the community must be relied upon as the main source of support. Organizations are being asked to hold fundraisers as well as join the various subcommittees to get the convention's program development and logistics off the ground.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to "Far West Convention Committee," c/o John Foz, Finance Committee, 3231 Newberry St., National City, Calif. 92050. For more information, contact Dion Aquino, (714) 278-2594. □

help reduce the failure percentage, however, other factors indicate a deeper root to the licensure problem.

First, the manner in which test questions are written seems to test more English language comprehension of FNGs, all of whom speak English as their second language. In addition, many are just starting to learn the language. For instance, double negatives are used unnecessarily in most sentences.

Second, a standard passing score is neither set for all licensure exams nor are nurses allowed direct access to their exam paper to verify test results and/or to determine their weak areas. Could it be that such policies were instituted to discourage nurses from questioning the manner in which the exams are prepared, administered or evaluated?

Third, despite its unconstitutionality, nurses are still required to supply information on their national origin, race, or provide photographs of themselves. Such information may provide basis for possible discrimination.

In addition, FNGs' test papers are inscribed with codes different from USNGs. "F" is the letter code for a foreign-trained nurse and "FR" for a foreign repeater.

As further proof, many hospitals have evaluated FNGs as very competent (good to excellent) in their work, but many such nurses still failed the exam.

The inevitable question of whether the present nurses' licensure exam, with all its cultural bias and discriminatory aspects, truly measures a nurse's competence or not was posed before the audience.

A controversy arose when Betsy Cabatit-Segal, president of the Philippine Nurses Association of Chicago (PNAC), maintained the validity of the licensure exam. Others, however, disagreed with her and pointed out that the facts indicate discrimination in the preparation, administration and evaluation of the test. After the discussion unfolded, Cabatit-Segal later gave her support for the efforts to resolve the problem.

COMMITTEE TASKS

As the meeting drew to a close, the Local Organizing Committee for Fair Nurses' Licensure laid out its first major task: to prepare for the national conference on the licensure problem to be held in New York April 30-May 1. Teams for research, outreach, logistics and finance were formed, and Mayee Asidao of the KDP was elected coordinator of the local committee.

For information about the nurses' licensure problem in Chicago and the effort to resolve it, call Mayee Asidao (312) 528-0325 or 327-2452, or Joy Bernasol (312) 752-6938 or 363-6845. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

After Bitter 10-Year Battle—

U.F.W. TRIUMPHS OVER TEAMSTERS

Reprinted from THE BLACK PANTHER
Intercommunal News Service

BURLINGAME — "Now the real battle starts — with the growers," said Cesar Chavez, a triumphant smile arched across his face, as he spoke with newsmen last week after signing an unprecedented agreement between his United Farmworkers Union, AFL-CIO, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, ending a phase of their 10-year, often heated, battle to represent this state's agricultural workers.

The agreement, which lasts for five years and includes an enforcement mechanism for binding arbitration covering 13 Western states, sets down legal jurisdictional lines defined by state and federal laws.

Despite Chavez's disclaimer that, "We didn't get everything we wanted," so overwhelming was the UFW victory in the accords that the only real concession obtained by the Western Conference of Teamsters was that the pact was signed in its spacious headquarters here in the suburban outskirts of San Francisco.

Under the agreement, reached after an "intensive" — in Chavez' words — series of 18 negotiation sessions beginning last November, the UFW will maintain jurisdiction over all workers covered under the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA), while the Teamsters have jurisdiction over all workers covered by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). (Agricultural laborers were excluded from coverage under the NLRA when it was enacted in 1935 because of pressure on Congress from powerful grower interests.)

Essentially, the accord means that the UFW organizing of field workers will proceed with no Teamster interference. The Teamsters get strengthened jurisdic-

tion over workers in transportation, packing sheds and canneries.

Participating in the signing of the agreement at the crowded press conference were M.E. (Andy) Anderson, head of the Western Conference of Teamsters, the 13-state area covered under the pact, and Cesar Chavez, founder and president of the United Farm Workers Union, AFL-CIO. Also present were International Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons, who sat in solemn significance, for most of the gathering, and a smiling pair of attorneys who hammered out the hard details. UFW chief counsel Jerry Cohen and Teamster lawyer Jack Orms.

Answering questions from the over 100 newsmen in attendance, Chavez said, "The benefits of this agreement are going to be enormous, tremendous, for the farm workers. We're happy with it."

Saying that the "Agreement opens doors for farm workers to get quicker union protection," Chavez called upon "the grower community in California to give up your anti-union fight to realize the rights of workers to have a union." He told the growers "to join with us so we, together, can enhance the industry and bring about more and better benefits for farm workers."

As for earlier accords reached during the decade-long battle, Chavez said, "This is different. Now we have the top leadership in the West and the international president blessing this agreement." He said that as one result of the agreement, he expects UFW membership to exceed 40,000 by the end of this year.

Speaking for the Teamsters, who cover 350,000 dues-paying members in California alone, M.E. Anderson explained that his group will withdraw all objections to contested ALRA elections and that existing Teamster contracts with growers would go through a "phasing out

process." Teamsters' representatives will meet with the growers to get the contracts assigned to the UFW, pending approval (by vote) of the workers affected, he said.

Contracts signed before 1970 will be considered on a case-by-case basis, Anderson remarked, and steps on transferal will "be deferred."

Commenting on the name-calling the two unions have indulged in over the years, Fitzsimmons said, "We have put our disagreements to bed and are working in all ways, shapes and forms to use the spirit and power of the trade union movement for the benefit of the workers."

Fitzsimmons acknowledged that part of the Teamsters' motivation to reach a settlement with the UFW was to dispel the picture of their union as a violence-initiating oppressor of farm workers.

"We now get in the position where we are not accused," he said, adding, "We are not the people suppressing the farm workers."

Questions concerning potential Teamster pension costs, the high cost in image and in money for an only partially successful organizing drive, and the potential costs of a UFW suit charging an illegal conspiracy in "sweetheart" contracts with growers were all skirted by M.E. Anderson.

Not until Chavez, in the early 1960s, began to maneuver toward the formation of what is now the strong and viable UFW has there been any real success in attempts to organize farm labor workers in California.

In the late 1960s, some powerful growers invited the Teamsters to their farms to act as needed muscle in efforts to frustrate and crush both Chavez and his then fledgling union. But now, after last week's agreement, it seems that the struggling UFW has not only survived, but has come out of the 10-year battle even stronger. □

46,000 Textile Workers Intensify Unionizing Efforts

By VICENTE SAN NICOLAS

The nation's second largest textile manufacturer — J.P. Stevens — is coming under increasing attack these days as its 46,000 workers intensify a 13-year fight for organizing rights and union representation.

Most recently, a March 1 picket and rally at the Stevens headquarters in New York City drew over 1,500 workers and supporters to the company's annual meeting. While the company's board of directors met with stockholders, pickets denounced the company's anti-union policies and racist practices.

By purchasing token shares of the company's stock, a number of Stevens workers and supporters were able to gain access to the meeting. In what turned into a tumultuous four-hour shareholder's meeting, a number of company abuses and injustices were recounted by Stevens' workers.

The Rev. Albert Pickard, who worked at a Stevens mill for over 20 years, making at most only \$3.50 an hour, hit Stevens' racist practices as he told of being repeatedly passed over for promotion while white workers with less seniority got the better positions. In addition, Pickard angrily denounced the company's persistent efforts to stymie union organizing efforts.

Accounts similar to those of Pickard's were given by numerous other workers, some of whom suffered brown lung disease due to poor working conditions in Stevens plants. Other speakers, such as Coretta Scott King, widow of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., spoke in support of two resolutions challenging the company's labor practices. These resolutions were sponsored by the Center on Corporate Responsibility, the United Methodist Church, and four other religious organizations.

Despite the workers' and supporters' efforts, however, the J.P. Stevens chairman of the board, James D. Finley, made it clear who was running the meeting. "This is my meeting," he arrogantly declared. "We do not follow Robert's Rules of Order. I sit here with the vast majority of the proxy votes and I can overrule anything I want."

In the final vote on the pro-worker resolutions, Finley enforced his proxy majority, and the resolutions never received more than 6 per cent of the vote. Yet the value of the resolutions and presence



J.P. Stevens workers demonstration in 1975.

of the workers lay in the attention they brought to the efforts of the workers to unionize.

ALL-OUT EFFORT TO STOP UNIONIZATION

Ever since workers began organizing at J.P. Stevens in 1963, mainly with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), the company has waged an all-out effort to stop unionization, often in stark violation of federal labor laws. Over the past 13 years, J.P. Stevens has been cited for labor statutes violations 15 times, and has been ordered to pay more than \$1.3 million to some 289 illegally dismissed or harassed workers.

At the seven Stevens plants in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, where the workers voted in the ACTWU over two and a half years ago, the company has yet to negotiate a contract. In Statesboro, Georgia, the company closed its plant after the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) cited the company for "bargaining in bad faith."

In addition, the company has recently been found guilty of practicing racial discrimination at the Roanoke Rapids factories by a U.S. District Court judge and Stevens has been ordered to start compensatory programs.

Despite the numerous legal setbacks and fines, J.P. Stevens has been more than willing to pay the costly attorney fees and wage a time-consuming ef-

fort to stop the union drive. So far, by using numerous legal channels, the company has been able to avoid unionization and its racist labor practices have continued.

In addition, the vehemently anti-union company has used run-away shop practices (closing plants where unionization efforts are gaining headway only to open a new factory in another state or country where the workers are unorganized). Stevens already owns or has opened factories in six foreign countries by this method.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NATION'S SOUTH

The efforts of the J.P. Stevens workers has broader implications outside of the Stevens workers' own efforts to unionize. Because most of the J.P. Stevens' 85 U.S. plants are in the South, 63 in North and South Carolina alone, the organizing effort is expected to affect the entire character of southern labor if successful.

In the South, unions have faced numerous anti-labor laws and to date have made little headway in organizing southern workers. In the textile industry, this is particularly true, as less than 10 per cent of the region's 700,000 textile workers belong to a union. In addition, pay scales and working conditions of all southern workers greatly lag behind the rest of the nation's organized work force, despite the fact that the South has been experiencing a greater pace of industrialization than the rest of the U.S.

Organized labor, mainly the AFL-CIO, has pledged its support to the ACTWU efforts against Stevens, giving the union monetary support and focusing attention on the U.S. Congress to amend the 42-year-old National Labor Relations Act to benefit organizing effort in the South. Besides targeting the textile industry, auto, steel and other basic industries are on the agenda for organizing.

In addition, greater economic pressure is being exerted against Stevens in an effort to break its anti-union stance. Last November, the AFL-CIO called for a boycott of J.P. Stevens products, and the boycott is rapidly gaining the nation-wide support of numerous church and civil rights groups. Stevens, which has been more than willing to pay \$1.3 million in fines since an increase of only 10 cents an hour for its workers would cost the company \$9.6 million a year, may yet be brought to the union negotiating table. □

Dictatorial Rule Rejected**India Vote Ousts Indira Gandhi**

Jubilant opposition party members celebrate ouster of Gandhi.

[photo: TIME Magazine]

By ROMY DE LA PAZ

The stunning defeat suffered by India's Indira Gandhi and the ruling Congress Party in the recent March 22 elections confirmed the Indian people's overwhelming rejection of dictatorship rule.

Confident that her ruling Congress Party would win landslide victory, Gandhi had abruptly called the elections last January in an effort to legitimize the restrictive measures she imposed 22 months ago. The election results proved fatal to her, however, as the partially-relaxed emergency rule enabled the Indian people to voice their condemnation of Indira's dictatorial regime.

Dictatorship vs. Democracy

It was the Declaration of the State of Emergency imposed by Gandhi in June 1975 which became the focal issue of the March elections.

Contrary to her claims that the emergency rule was precipitated by an urgent necessity to save India from chaos, Gandhi used the measure to maximize and further consolidate her political power.

Prior to the emergency declaration, she was convicted on June 12, 1975 of election fraud, a charge which seriously threatened her political career. Had Gandhi not suspended the normal political process, she would have been barred from holding any public office for six years. Barely 13 days after her conviction, Indira officially announced a national state of emergency, claiming that "forces of disintegration were trying to destroy democracy in the name of saving democracy."

What followed was, in the words of an opposition party leader, "the blackest period in India's history." The emergency proclamation — which in effect declared martial law — suspended civil liberties, instituted press censorship, prompted mass political arrests, said to have numbered close to 70,000 political prisoners, and centralized all state power into Gandhi's hands.

The declaration of martial law in India thus elevated Indira's status to the ranks of other dictators like Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines and Pak Jung Hi in South Korea.

Similar to other dictatorial regimes, India's laboring masses were hit hardest by Indira's anti-worker decrees: curtailment of the right to strike, a wage freeze without a corresponding price or profit freeze, and simultaneously opening India's door to various foreign multi-national corporations. During Gandhi's reign, the number of Indian's unemployed was officially estimated at 10 million, with another 50 to 60 million semi-employed.

Forced Sterilization Hit

Beyond the emergency rule, Indira's downfall was also precipitated by the government's forced sterilization campaign and other birth control programs. The March election results showed that Indira's ruling Congress Party was heavily routed in the populous states of north and central India, the so-called "vasectomy belt."

Excesses in the enforcement of the sterilization campaign led to the death of thousands who suffered from infections contracted during the operation, and hundreds of thousands have been terrorized in the name of population control. These excesses sparked nationwide demonstrations and mass unrest vehemently protesting the sterilization campaign as nothing more than a poor government cover-up in the latter's failure to provide concrete

solutions to India's dwindling economy.

Ghandi's son Sanjay, who headed up the sterilization drive, absorbed much of the Indian people's anger. As a result, Sanjay similarly suffered a humiliating defeat in his first bid for a Parliament seat during the March elections. Moreover, Sanjay's failure as Indira's heir-apparent spelled the demise of a political dynasty which she had hoped to perpetuate had the election results been in her favor.

Undoubtedly, it was the widespread anti-dictatorship sentiments that led to the downfall of Indira, Sanjay and the ruling Congress Party, and catapulted a coalition of veteran politicians to the helm of the Indian government.

'Back to the Old Politics'

The opposition alliance led by the Janata Party was a coalition of political groups covering a broad political spectrum from left to right, uniting in common opposition to Gandhi's suspension of civil liberties. Capitalizing on the Indian people's pro-democratic rights sentiment, the opposition wrested political leadership from Gandhi under the popular slogan of "Freedom vs. Slavery, Democracy or Dictatorship."

Whether the coalition can remain united in victory as it did as an opposition party still remains to be seen. The inauguration ceremony proclaiming the anti-communist and rightist Morarji Desai as the new prime minister was already wracked with internal bickering and squabbling, a characteristic of India's politics even before Gandhi's dictatorial regime.

Despite its shaky character, the new administration managed to issue statements to the effect that the emergency declaration would be lifted as one of their priorities. "You need not fear this government, as you had feared all those months," Desai told a jubilant crowd. "We are your servants and not your masters."

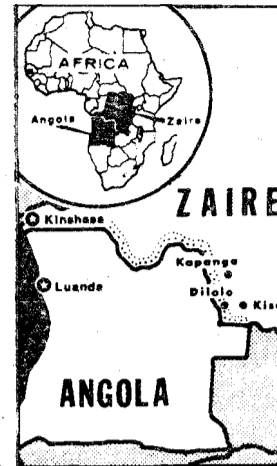
Just how a new grouping of old politicians plan to cope with India's massive problems is the big question. As one critic skeptically remarked, Desai's government may just usher in an era of "back to the old politics" characterized by power grabs and competition among politicians in power, leaving the Indian people's most pressing problems unattended.

Semi-Feudal, Semi-Colonial India

Indeed, India's problems are vast. With a per capita income of about \$120, India is still among the poorest countries in the world. The top 10 per cent gets over 40 per cent of the country's wealth, with the top one per cent monopolizing 10 per cent of the national income. In 1960, between 40 and 50 per cent of the Indian population did not have the means to eat two meals a day, not including expenditures on clothing, housing, medicine, etc. By the early 1970's, this figure rose to over 60 per cent.

In a semi-feudal, semi-colonial India, the land problem remains a priority. Nearly 50 per cent of the people have no land while 10 per cent own more than two-thirds of the land.

It remains highly questionable whether a different grouping of landlords, bureaucrats, and rich merchants who have taken over the Indian parliamentary government can pull India out of its present turmoil. While it is clear that Indian people's democratic aspirations have been confirmed, India remains saddled with deeply-rooted problems that has persisted since British colonization of the country. □

WORLD IN FOCUS**Zaire War Upsets U.S. Copper Interests**

U.S. intervention in Zaire, the former Belgian Congo, has recently been a focus of international attention as the Carter administration shipped off \$2 million worth of military supplies to Zaire president Mobutu Sese Seko. Zaire is currently embroiled in a raging civil war against anti-Mobutu forces in the country's copper-rich Shaba province, an internal conflict that may become a protracted guerrilla

struggle against the Mobutu regime.

In justifying the shipment of an estimated \$2 million worth of military hardware to Zaire, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance told the House International Relations Committee on March 16: "They [the anti-Mobutu guerrilla forces] have been engaged in conflict in the southern part of the Zaire along the routes of the copper mines, the basic commodity on which Zaire depends for its economic sustenance and survival." He further called the fighting "dangerous" because loss of the copper mines "would be a very serious blow to the government of Zaire."

The "strategic importance" of Zaire to the U.S. was underscored by a statement from State Department officials to the New York Times admitting that any disruption of Zaire's copper mining caused by the fighting in the Shaba province would "upset" Zaire's debt renegotiation and "jeopardize nearly \$1 billion in American mining investments." □

U.S. Backs Invasion of Timor

Despite the brutality which accompanied Indonesia's military takeover of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor last July, the Carter administration has requested the U.S. Congress for increased military aid to the Jakarta regime. Robert Oakley, a high-ranking State Department official, expressed U.S. support for the Indonesian invasion, stating that as far as the U.S. is concerned, East Timor "has effectively become a part of Indonesia."

The Indonesian atrocities were cited in a report prepared by James Dunn, a former Australian consul in East Timor who currently heads the Australian parliament's foreign affairs research unit. The Jakarta regime was said to have committed "the most serious case of contravention of human rights facing the world at this time."

The report noted that Indonesian troops have killed some 100,000 East Timorese by indiscriminately gunning down civilians in major towns, wiping out entire villages in the mountains, engaging in widespread rape and looting, regularly using torture to gather information, and bombing villages with napalm. Despite these brutalities, Indonesia reportedly controls only less than 20 per cent of the land and half the population. It is still faced with stiff and increased opposition from the popular FRETILIN independence forces, a guerrilla movement fighting against colonialism and for total independence of the East Timorese people. □

U.S. Honors U.N. Ban on Chrome

Acknowledging the inevitable trend of black majority rule in southern Africa, the Carter administration forcefully lobbied for congressional repeal of the Byrd Amendment March 13. The move restored U.S. ban on Rhodesian chrome. Commenting on the repeal of the Byrd Amendment, Sen. Dick Clark (D.-Iowa) said: "It's a question of putting our best foot forward in Africa in a decade. When you go to Africa, all they talk about is how we violate the U.N. sanctions."

Since 1971, the U.S. has consistently paid lip service to the U.N. Security Council sanction against the importation of chrome from Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). The U.N. sanction, in effect, grew out of the international community's direct opposition to the racist Ian Smith white minority rule in a black majority country of Zimbabwe. Despite the U.N. sanction, however, the U.S. had actually been importing the metal under the terms of an amendment written by Sen. Harry Byrd (I-Virg.). Explicit in the violation was a political support for the fledgling Smith regime in Zimbabwe.

Timing on the bill was seen by the U.S. Congress as crucial, with Jimmy Carter scheduled to speak before the U.N. General Assembly, and where the U.S. desperately hopes to build a new image towards southern Africa. □

Eyewitness Report on Nurses Trial



Narciso and Perez [left to right] leave courthouse with family. The defense's cross-examination has been so revealing that hospital administration admit that psychiatric patients were allowed to roam freely and there were no strictly enforced visiting hours or check-in-check-out procedures.

[Philippine Times photo]

By NENA HERNANDEZ

DETROIT — With jury selection completed, opening testimony in the trial of Filipina "P.I." Narciso and Leonora Perez finally began here at the Detroit Federal Building courtroom last Monday, March 28.

More than 100 people packed the courtroom on the opening day of testimony, including members of the families, supporters and sympathizers of the defendants as well as many Filipina nurses who came after their night shift from a Detroit area hospital. National and local press corps and television crews were also on hand as the case has become one of national interest.

This trial culminates a 2-year investigation process since the series of mysterious respiratory arrests which killed two patients in the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Both Narciso and Perez (they were nurses working on the evening shift at the VA hospital) have been indicted on seven counts of poisoning, two counts of murder and one count of conspiracy to injure patients by poisoning. The nurses are alleged to have injected a powerful muscle-relaxant drug, Pavulon, into the intravenous apparatus of nine patients, causing the breathing failures.

OPENING STATEMENTS

After the presiding judge, Philip Pratt, issued preliminary instructions to the jury on its responsibilities, the trial began with opening statements from both the prosecution and defense, presenting a "sneak preview" on what is expected to come in the projected 4-5 months of trial proceedings.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Richard Yangko opened with an introduction of the prosecution's case to the jury, beginning with such comments as, "The last thing the prosecution wants to see are two innocent people convicted," and "The prosecution will not try to alter the real course of these events, nor try to put blinders over your eyes, or gloss over the weak points of our case." Yangko was met with an immediate wave to skepticism from the courtroom spectators who had followed the long history of harassment and irregularities by the prosecution and FBI thus far in the case.

Ironically, Yangko began the summation of the case with a telling admission that the entire case is based on "circumstantial evidence." They had no direct testimony of any eyewitness, no confession or person overhearing a confession by the nurses, and no direct evidence such as fingerprints or a murder weapon which could be connected with the nurses in any way.

As the prosecution outlined all of the testimonies they intend to present, it became evident that their case will rest on an attempt to place the two defendants anywhere in the areas of the patients who suffered mysterious respiratory arrests.

Although the prosecution contends that Narciso and Perez entered into a highly organized "partnership in crime" (conspiracy) to kill nine people (after having known each other only 3-4 weeks at the hospital), Yangko failed to mention any possible motive for the so-called "conspiracy."

"HOUSE OF CARDS"

The defense opened with a slashing attack on the prosecution's case, referring to it as a "house of cards." Taking the floor on the second day of the trial, Defense attorneys Thomas O'Brien and Edward Stein presented a very different picture in their opening statement. The defense team targetted the fact that the prosecution could not even present circumstantial evidence that any crime had been committed, since Pavulon was conclusively found in only a few of the victims, nor that the nurses were in any way involved.

From their opening statement, it appeared that the thrust of the defense would be the introduction of evidence challenging the prosecution witnesses who even placed the nurses in the area of some of the respiratory arrests. This would include earlier testimony of prosecution witnesses whose story had altered and other wit-

nesses who contradict the prosecution witnesses regarding the whereabouts of Narciso and Perez during the series of incidents.

Other areas of focus for the defense will be the introduction of the numerous other possibilities which were not mentioned in the prosecution statement. Even in the preliminary statement, the defense mentioned several facts about other persons identified at the bedsides of the victims of these incidents.

One such person was Betty Jakim, a former supervisor of the night shift at the VA hospital who later committed suicide. Jakim had been undergoing psychiatric treatment at the University of Michigan Neuro-Psychiatric Institute and claimed responsibility for the VA deaths before her death. The prosecution, however, contends that Jakim's confession is invalid because she was "emotionally disturbed."

The defense also raised a curious fact about a key prosecution witness, Bonne Bates. Bates, a VA nurse who had testified that Narciso and Perez were in the vicinity of the mysterious respiratory arrests, had been granted immunity from any prosecution in exchange for her testimony. Unless Bates herself had any responsibility for the respiratory arrests, the defense questioned the basis for the immunity.

The defense further disclosed that its cross-examination of the chief pharmacist of the VA hospital revealed that Pavulon was unexpectedly discovered near a storage area of intravenous bags on the 4th floor of the hospital after a search was conducted following the mysterious deaths.

SHOCKING CONDITIONS AT THE VA

Aside from these possibilities, the defense team has also planned controversial testimony that will expose the grave understaffing of the hospital, poor security system and disorganized procedure in the condition of

emergency care which was extended during the respiratory arrests. The implications of these conditions on the case quickly surfaced in the defense attorney's cross-examination of the first few witness called by the prosecution during the first week of hearing evidence.

Gary Calhoun, Asst. Chief of Staff of the Ann Arbor VA hospital, was called to testify on the employment of Narciso and Leonora Perez. The defense cross-examination, however, brought out several shocking revelations about the working conditions, security and patient care procedure at the hospital. First, Calhoun admitted there were numerous complaints and protests by the hospital staff on the understaffing at the hospital. Even a petition signed by over 60 nurses had been presented to them only several months before the series of mysterious respiratory arrests. He acknowledged that the hospital was badly understaffed in ratio to other community and even VA hospitals. He further admitted that there were times when one registered nurse would be responsible for the care of up to three wards at a time (possibly two different floors at once) which was, in some cases, up to 70 patients simultaneously.

POOR SECURITY

Regarding the security procedure, Calhoun was forced to admit that patients from the psychiatric ward were actually locked out of their room in the daytime and allowed to roam freely throughout the hospital as a matter of regular procedure.

In addition, he testified that there were no identification badges worn by hospital personnel; no process of signing in or out for hospital visitors nor strictly-enforced visiting hours; no record maintained regarding the hundreds of medical students observing in the hospital. Calhoun even said "anyone could have roamed freely in and out of the hospital" without being stopped or questioned during the hours in which these mysterious respiratory arrests occurred.

NO EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

The last point brought out by the defense cross-examination of Calhoun was the VA hospital procedure (emergency Code 7 call) which is issued in such circumstances as those of the respiratory arrests in question. Most hospitals create special cardiac or respiratory teams which specialize in the revival of patients suffering an attack of this character. The teams train and practice this specialty because of the immediate and highly trained response necessary to save a patient's life in these circumstances.

At the Ann Arbor VA hospital, no such special unit exists, and in fact, every doctor or nurse available when a code 7 is called is expected to rush to the scene of the emergency and render treatment.

This procedure has crucial significance in explaining the presence of Narciso and Perez during the attempt to revive these patients. It also explains the greatly-conflicting testimony as to who exactly was at the scene and what action was taken to revive the patients, given the immense confusion of the actual situation when five such calls occurred within the course of an hour.

FBI'S ROLE

Another area of controversial testimony which had already begun to come out in the trial is the past role of the

(continued on page 8)

Emergency Meetings Nationwide

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROWS

By NORMA DE LEON

As the trial of Leonora Perez and Filipina Narciso continues, support from the Filipino community for the two falsely accused nurses continues to mount. Last week, several support groups and concerned individuals in major cities across the U.S. organized emergency mass meetings to lodge their protest against the "irregularities" in the investigation and prosecution of the case. The meetings also raised more money for the nurses' defense fund and served as a forum to discuss the significance of the Narciso-Perez case to the Filipino community.

SCAPEGOATS

In the Chicago mass meeting March 27, Esther Simpson, coordinator of the Chicago Support Group for Narciso-Perez, related the history and an analysis of the case; Jun Narciso, brother of one of the defendants, Filipina "P.I." Narciso, talked about support needed from the community. One participant said that the two nurses are being used as scapegoats and added that it is one among "the many indignities suffered by all minorities."

The same feeling that Leonie and "P.I." are innocent and being framed-up for crimes was voiced in the San Francisco Bay Area community meetings held last March 26 and April 3. In her speech, Josie Camacho of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) said that the harassment of the two nurses was only one of the unfair treatments accorded them since the case unfolded. An outraged audience member remarked: "We are concerned not because Narciso and Perez are Filipinos like us but because an injustice has been done."

ANTI-ALIEN HYSTERIA

"The Narciso-Perez case is interconnected to the

ongoing trend in the U.S. to discredit foreign medical and health professionals," cited Aimee Cruz at the New York community meeting March 26.

Cruz, who last year nationally coordinated the Emergency Defense Committee for the Foreign Medical Graduates (EDCFMG) that was formed to respond to the threat of deportation faced by FMGs, further added: "It is therefore important for us to be concerned not only with the dismissal of charges against Leonie and 'P.I.' but also to get the true killers prosecuted. If they [Narciso and Perez] were merely acquitted, doubt would still linger. We would not have erased the malice and smear that has been heaped on Filipino medical and health professionals through this blatant case of national discrimination."

Another speaker, Mrs. Primitiva Lejarde, R.N., also noted that the constitutional rights of Narciso and Perez have been violated in many instances.

COMMUNITY ACTION

A similar community meeting organized by the L.A. Support Group for Narciso-Perez occurred in Los Angeles March 27. Preparations for other community meetings are also underway. In Seattle, the Coordinating Committee for the support of Perez and Narciso will meet April 10 at 2:00 p.m. to organize the mass meeting. Interested individuals may call Sister Heidi (206) 634-0819.

If anyone is interested in forming a Narciso-Perez Defense Committee or would like further information, contact the Chicago Support Group which is handling national liaison responsibilities and has recently published an informational pamphlet on the case. Call Esther Simpson, [312] 267-6208. □