

Agrees To Policy Reforms

National 4-H Council Concedes To Trainee Demands

By SORCY ROCAMORA
4-H Trainee Support Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After many months of organizing and protest by Filipino 4-H trainees and their supporters across the country, an important victory was achieved March 20 when the National 4-H Council agreed to implement a number of

important reforms in the agricultural training program.

Among the changes agreed upon at a meeting between officials of the 4-H council and representatives of the trainees and their various support committees were emphasis on teaching concrete skills and techniques, implementing a grievance procedure for any trainee problems, and assuming

more fiscal responsibility to the trainees by issuing a more particularized financial statement.

A formal statement of agreement will soon be issued by the National 4-H Council clarifying to the trainees, farm hosts and agricultural extension offices the newly agreed upon policies. The main task remaining would then be implementation of the new policies. *(continued on page 8)*

Ang KATIPUNAN

Vol. V, No. 7

April 1-15, 1978

35¢

National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



Chinatown residents marched on the city to demand action against pending evictions. [AK photo]

21 TENANTS ARRESTED

PACE Confronts City Over Eviction Threat

By CATHI TACTAQUIN
AK Correspondent

HONOLULU — Twenty-one Chinatown tenants and supporters were arrested March 13, when they occupied Honolulu's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to protest the City's failure to stop evictions in Chinatown.

SEE EDITORIAL PAGE 2

The occupation of DHCD followed a rally and march that afternoon which had included a visit to the City Council to get a response to an earlier request for council action on developing an overall housing plan for Chinatown. When the delegation went to the City Council offices, the officials were "conveniently absent." Hence, no response was made to PACE although letters had been sent the week before indicating the need to have immediate answers. *(continued on page 8)*



Alexander Boncayao



Trinidad Herrera



Jerry Barican

40,000 Rally In Tondo

SUPPORT GROWS FOR OPPOSITION

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA
Election Update

In the biggest turnout yet for the opposition LABAN party, some 40,000 Tondo residents attended a spirited rally last March 12 in Plaza Fernandez. Principal speakers at the event were Trinidad Herrera, a civil rights leader from Tondo and Primitivo de Leon. According to reliable sources, the Tondo rally is indicative of the continuing success LABAN is meeting among the poorer and more politically conscious segments of Manila.

Some 60 symposia over the past two weeks have been held throughout Manila, most of which have been concentrated in urban poor communities, workplaces, and universities. Despite combined efforts of the Metrocom police, military agents and barangay officials to harass and discourage people from attending LABAN gatherings, the turnouts at these events have been consistently large.

LABAN candidates have been gathering increasing support despite harassment by Metrocom police, military agents and barangay officials.

KBL REFUSES TO DEBATE

Meanwhile, LABAN candidate Jerry Barican a law professor at the University of the Philippines cited the reluctance of the administration's Kilusan Bagong Kipunan Party to confront LABAN candidates in debates and to appear before audiences who have strong opposition sentiments.

Thus far, three LABAN candidates, Jerry Barican, Alex Boncayao, and Trining Herrera have challenged their KBL counterparts to separate debates. According to BUKAL, publication of the Ecumenical Crusade for a Conscientized Electorate, Alex Boncayao challenged Roberto Oca Jr. to a debate on workers issue like emergency allowances, the right to strike, and preventive suspension. Boncayao, president of the workers' union at Solid Mills has been detained four times for militant union activity under martial law.

Herrera likewise challenged Jolly Benitez, billed as the KBL's youth representative and technocrat, to a debate on housing and relocation. Ms. Herrera, *(continued on page 4)*

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Ang Katipunan
P.O. Box 23644
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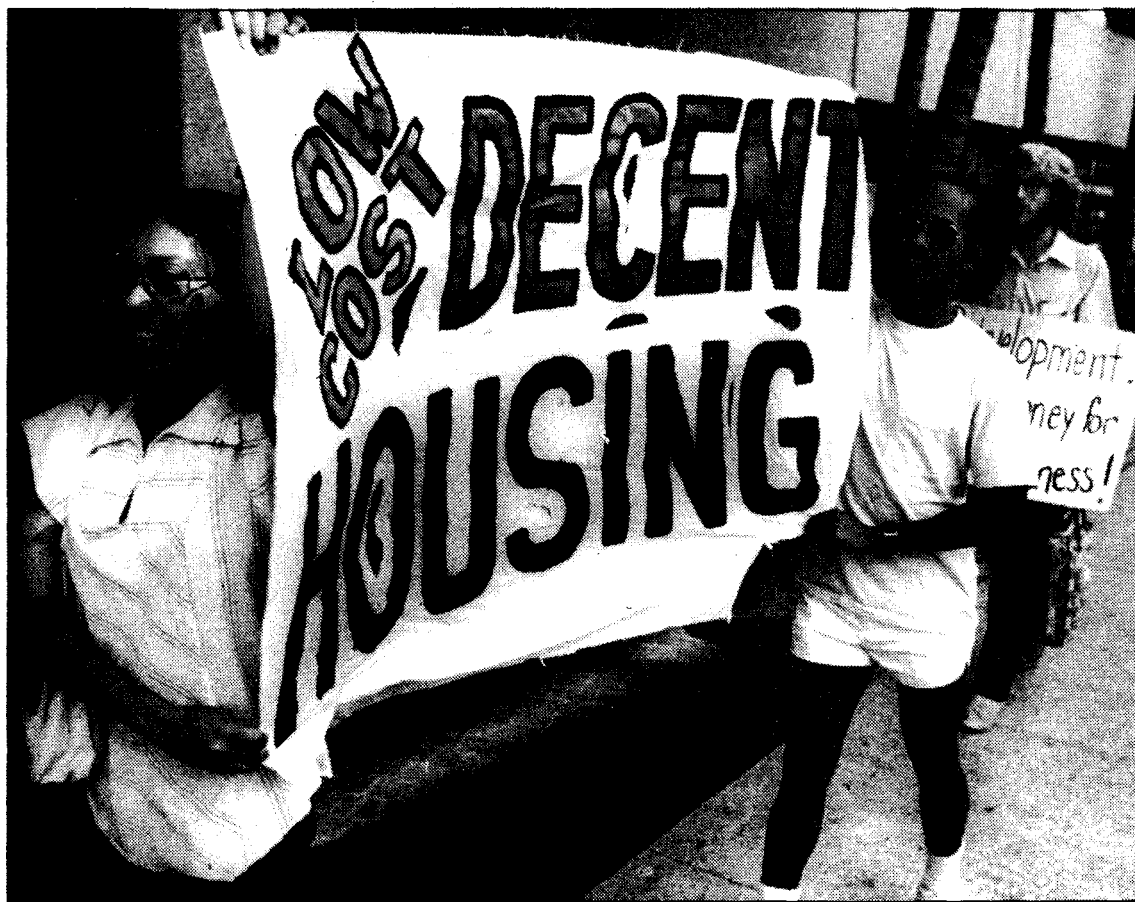
Editorial



The ANG KATIPUNAN, National Newspaper of the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino [KDP], is published every other week, except for January and July. Bulk Rate Postage paid in Oakland, CA. Address all correspondence to: P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.

Critical Time For Honolulu Chinatown

'City Must Be Responsible For People's Needs'



PACE supporters march to the City government thru the financial district — the real beneficiaries of the city's "redevelopment plans."

By CATHI TACTAQUIN
KDP National Council

The critical stage in the Chinatown struggle for low-income housing is fast approaching. Three hotels and one small business face possible eviction in the next couple of months and the City of Honolulu continues to drag its feet on any effort to halt the Chinatown evictions.

Chinatown housing has been a well-publicized issue for a number of years. People Against Chinatown Evictions (PACE) was formed a couple of years ago as an umbrella organization of Chinatown tenants to fight evictions.

The tenants, 1,500 residents who are mainly elderly Filipinos and Chinese and immigrant families on low incomes, are continually threatened with eviction in order to demolish or rehabilitate buildings as part of the City's "redevelopment plans."

But the redevelopment plans for Chinatown do not deal seriously with the housing needs of the residents there. Instead, because Chinatown borders the downtown business district, plans mainly call for expanding business buildings, commercial and tourist oriented in addition to further development of the city's mass transit center.

In the last couple of years it has become clear that it is useless to rely on the benevolence of the finance corporation landlords (big business) to provide for decent low income housing for those tenants who would be displaced by redevelopment.

Their lack of concern for the tenants was clearly demonstrated in their failure to repair under-code, dilapidated hotels while continuing to demand payment of rent. It was the rundown conditions of the buildings which made the area a prime target for the tax subsidized redevelopment in the first place, and big business has not hesitated to kick the tenants out in lieu of more lucrative commercial developments.

On the other hand, the city has tried to shirk its responsibility for providing housing to the people of Chinatown. It was only when mass pressure was generated by last year's eviction at the Aloha Hotel that the city council responded with a resolution to stop all Chinatown evictions until an overall housing plan was developed.

However, this resolution has remained a principle on paper, while the PACE proposed ordinance which would have made it law, failed to pass in the City Council.

At that time, the city's mayor, Frank Fasi, candidate for state governor, made clear his pro-eviction position. And because the Mayor's office is responsible for the Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) which is directly on top of plans for Chinatown, it has been difficult for the residents to have their concerns addressed.

PACE has continued to press the city council which makes policy for the DHCD, to take action on the housing issue. While the council does not have much say on what DHCD actually does, some council members are in favor of alternative proposals. Councilman Kaapu has put forward the idea of permanent rehabilitated relocation housing and councilman Pakarro has suggested that before any development begins in the city-owned blocks, housing for the present tenants be developed first. Pakarro has further stated that housing should be the priority concern over commercial development for Chinatown.

The problem is that no concrete plans have been decided upon and four buildings face possible eviction in the immediate future.

The next couple of months will be decisive in the Chinatown housing struggle. The question remains whether or not the mayor and several of the city council members, who are supported by the developers in their elections, will continue to collude with big business.

Meanwhile, PACE is tightening the network of tenants and small businesses as well as securing the support of the city's population, the majority of whom are on fixed and low incomes and forced to live in crowded, substandard housing.

PACE and supporters have been organized around the basic slogan, "Housing is the People's Right." To them it is clear: the city of Honolulu must take the responsibility for the welfare of its citizens in Chinatown. □

Letters

The ANG KATIPUNAN encourages you to comment on issues of the day, particularly those affecting the Philippines and the Filipino community in the U.S.

Letters should be brief, double spaced, and with generous margins. Names are withheld only if requested and deemed necessary. Write to: Letters to the Editor, ANG KATIPUNAN, P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.

Dear Comrades;

I want to thank you for the subscription to your very informative paper.

It is opening up for me a whole new world that is practically ignored by both the democratic and capitalist press in this country.

From information I've gathered from your paper I've told some contacts of mine that the Philippines should be better covered in their papers which carry long articles on Indonesia where the people have no real organization left.

The most important thing for successful revolution is organization and I am pleased to learn that there is such a thing as the National Democratic Front and the New People's Army, as well as other anti-imperialist forces.

I feel that historic developments are about to take place in the Philippines whether the bourgeois press reports them or not.

Thanking you again for the sub, I remain,

In struggle,
Francis Ballem

Ika-3 ng Marso

Para Sa Kinauukulan;

Nais ko sanang padalhan ninyo ako ng sipi ng Ang Katipunan. Pinadala ng aking kaibigan sa Chicago, ang sipi ng Ang Katipunan sa petsang February 1-15. Ang nais ko sanang gawin ninyo ay padalhan ninyo ako ng sipi sumusunod sa petsang iyon, hanggang sa Nobiembre. Ako'y uuwi na sa buwang iyon kayat hanggang doon ko lang nais padalhan ninyo ako ng sipi.

Hinihiling ko rin sanang huwag hintuan ang maganda ninyong gawain. Dito ko na-pagtanto na malaki pa ang pag-asa ng ating bayan na humango dahil marami pa ang kagaya ninyong nababahala sa katayuan nito.

Sanay buwanan ang pagpadala ninyo upang hindi gaanong makabigat sa akin. Sanay sulatan ninyo upang sabihin ang halaga ng aking babayaran.

Ang Inyong Nagmamahal
na Kapatid,
F. Cruz

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Marcos Begg U.S. Aid For R.P. Navy

Despite earlier dismissals of the importance of U.S. aid to his regime, Pres. Marcos last Feb. 10 went begging for more aid from his U.S. backers. Speaking at ceremonies commemorating Navy Day at Sangley Point, Marcos declared that the building of a sufficiently strong navy was a "matter of survival." He claimed that "external encouragement and support" through the infiltration of Philippine coastline was being extended to the insurgents from the south and north. "It is our hope that with the help of our allies, especially our great ally, the United States, we shall be able to attain this modernized navy," Marcos declared.

Marcos' admission that U.S. aid to his regime is a "matter of survival" belies his earlier claims that the Philippines could dispense with the "doleouts" and "blood money" from the U.S. Only last January, Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile, characterized U.S. military assistance as "insignificant." Reacting to comments of Rep. Lester Wolf (D.-New York), leader of a U.S. congressional delegation which visited the Philippines last December, Enrile said, "the Philippines will never call upon any foreign power to come to its assistance. □

Lopez Praises People's Poet

Salvador P. Lopez, well-known essayist, former President of the Philippines (U.P.) and one-time Foreign Minister, accepting an award as the most outstanding alumnus of the U.P. Department of English, declared that the writer owes a "certain loyalty to the principle of freedom."

Citing the examples of three national artists, Jose Garcia Villa, Nick Joaquin, and the late Amado Hernandez, he declared that the three represent the choices open to the Filipino writer today. While describing Joaquin as the best Filipino writer in English, Lopez admitted that Joaquin's literature was not a social vision.

As to Jose Garcia Villa, who has received wide acclaim in the United States as an *advante garde* poet for his "comma poems," and has been one of the Philippine's most consistent advocates of "art for art's sake," his judgement was much harsher. Villa "will be properly recorded in the anthologies of American poetry as an American poet of rare genius but of narrow compass. But to us Filipinos, he will always be the eternal exile, completely alienated from his own, and will have nothing whatever to say to us or to those who will come after us.

Lopez pointed to Amado Hernandez, labor leader, protest writer and vernacular poet, as the only writer-recipient of the National Artist Award who could be described as profoundly committed. Hernandez, who spent many years in prison because of his political activity, in Lopez's description, wrote about "the poor, the disinherited, the oppressed and their oppressors, the freedom and dignity of man." □

Newsom Reveals Tensions On Bases Talks

U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, David Newsom, in a speech before the International Chamber of Commerce in Manila, revealed a degree of tension between the bargaining parties hammering out the new U.S.-R.P. Bases Treaty. Newsom claimed that the Philippines may have to wait "some time" before Filipino commanders can be installed and the Philippine flag can be flown over the bases.

These cosmetic indications of "Philippine jurisdiction" constituted the bare minimum demands of the Philippine panel and were conceded by the American team months ago. Marcos, who is demanding additionally \$1 billion dollars in rental at the time brandished this concession as proof of his "nationalist" position on the bases. U.S. control over the negotiations, however, is so tight that even this cosmetic concession is easily retracted.

In a related development, Newsom was recently nominated by Pres. Carter to replace Philip Habib as U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs. The State Dept. has recently dispatched Donald Toussaint, a department veteran of Iran and Indonesia, to serve as Newsom's assistant in Manila. Sources in Washington predict that, if Newsom's nomination is accepted by Congress, Toussaint is likely to replace him. The same sources speculate that the projected visit by U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale in April, combined with Newsom's appointment, may move the bases negotiations to a new stage. □

Military's Atrocities Rise

A young naval recruit recently killed five civilians and wounded 14 more when he exploded a grenade inside a crowded bus in Camarines Sur, Southern LUZON. The incident was only the most recent in a pattern of escalating military abuses against the civilian population. The recruit justified his action by insisting that he thought the bus' occupants were members of the New People's Army (NPA).

The Marcos regime, in response to these increasing acts of violence, several weeks ago published a study attributing this vicious behavior by Armed Forces personnel to battle shock and prescribing psychiatric solutions to an obviously social problem (see AK, March 15-31, 1978).

Marcos Orders Mass Convictions

POLITICAL PRISONERS' TRIALS SPEEDED - UP



Military trials such as the one above are regarded as inefficient and above all, unjust. Despite this, 22 military tribunals are expected to resolve 100 cases within three months time.

Under the guise of restoring an independent judiciary, Pres. Marcos is stealthily preparing for the mass conviction sentencing of at least 200 political prisoners. In an order to Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile and the Judge Advocate General, Hamilton Dimaya, Marcos set a three month deadline (beginning February) for military courts to resolve 100 cases pending before them preparatory to the transfer of jurisdiction over criminal cases to civilian courts.

The move to expedite cases handled by some 22 military tribunals, most of which concern subversion charges, has been cited as proof of Pres. Marcos' intention to return to "normal political processes." After the three month deadline, the 22 military courts will

allegedly be phased out.

KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE

By speeding up the prosecution of political prisoners under the pretext of phasing out the much criticized military court system, Marcos hopes to kill two birds with one stone. First, he hopes to put to rest the charge of illegal and indefinite detention of prisoners by trying *en masse* scores of detainees. Second, he hopes to settle the controversy of military court justice — an issue which has earned his regime much criticism from foreign quarters, notably the International Commission of Jurists.

Under the guise of "expediting justice" Marcos is actually speeding up the frame-up of detainees who have long

demanding civilian court trials. Among the cases ordered to be expedited are those against Fr. Emmanuel Nabayra, Fr. Edicio de la Torre, Benigno Aquino, Lopez/Osmena, Nelia Sancho, and Luzvimindo David.

In some cases, as many as 50-100 respondents are charged for the same crimes. Logically, they will be meted the same sentences. Some prisoners are respondents in two separate cases, and face the likelihood of being sentenced twice!

This ominous move was carefully timed to coincide with a period when local and international attention would be focused on the election process. This way, the regime hopes to avoid calling attention to this scheme. □

PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM EXPOSED

Doremus Linked To CIA

My Dear Mr. Marcos — We're the top agency in New York and we can certainly help you with your public relations problems... wait'll you see what we did for BOO BOO SHAMPOO..!



The New York-based public relations firm hired by the Marcos regime to "correct misunderstandings" about his regime and "expand positive coverage" of the Philippines boasts of a gallery of executives with State Dept., Defense Dept., corporate and intelligence backgrounds.

According to the Liberation News Service (LNS- Feb. 17, 1978), Doremus handles the public relations problems of

other right wing governments notably Sudan, Spain, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. And with a staff that is markedly right-wing in orientation, Doremus' defense of unpopular regimes is certainly in expert hands.

The following is a brief listing of some of their top personnel:

William Codus: vice-president and head of counseling services for the Philippines. Codus was formerly with the State Dept., serving as the U.S. Assistant Chief of Protocol.

John O'Connel: provides "professional consultive services for Doremus. O'Connel was the former CIA Chief of Station in Amman, Jordan.

Retired Col. John Horton: vice-president and manager of Doremus office in Washington, D.C. Horton was formerly Chief of Motion Pictures for the Dept. of Defense. He was also one time aide to Pres. Truman.

Stephen John McCarthy: financial and investment consultant for Doremus. In the 1960's, McCarthy was an in-

vestment banker. In 1971 he joined the State Dept. Informed sources have identified McCarthy as a CIA agent.

George L. Disher: vice-president and regional manager of Doremus. In the late 1950's, Fisher was employed by the CIA. Since then he has been a public relations director of several U.S. corporations.

Doremus was commissioned to handle a five year, \$1.8 million contract by Mrs. Marcos early this year, following a spate of newspaper and magazine stories describing the widespread corruption and human rights violations in the Philippines.

Although the propaganda put out by Doremus may play a large role in covering up the repressive conditions in the Philippines... many feel it is already too late. LNS concludes: "... by hiring Doremus, Marcos may worsen, rather than improve his image for the public relations firm's close ties to the CIA and the State Dept. will only serve to isolate him internationally. □

HOW MARCOS PLANS TO WIN

Public Funds Squandered Over Election Farce

Behind the carefully constructed 'democratic' facade that surrounds the forthcoming elections, is an equally air-tight mechanism, called the Electoral Code, designed to rig it. Below, the CLUP exposes the futility of the interim parliament; the means by which Marcos plans to rig the elections; and the scripted role of the opposition — Editor.

As conceived and announced, the coming elections will squander public funds uselessly and wantonly. To hold the election, the regime will officially spend at least P20 million of public funds; and to maintain the interim parliament, it will spend at least another P30 million annually. How much will be spent clandestinely is anybody's guess.

All these huge expenses for what?

The interim parliament does not have the power to lift martial law. It cannot restore the people's liberties. It cannot even elect a Prime Minister — unless Pres. Marcos resigns or dies. It has no say about treaties. It cannot repeal or even modify any of the 2,000 laws so far issued by Pres. Marcos, or those he might issue hereafter. In fact, it cannot even legislate freely because:

- If its members prove recalcitrant, they may be arrested at any time for "subversive" activities, as 18 Constitutional Convention delegates and three senators were arrested when martial law was declared.

- If it enacts any law that Pres. Marcos doesn't like, not only can he veto it, but he can, by himself alone enact the law he likes, since he retains the power to legislate until he lifts martial law, and;

- Its members cannot oust Pres. Marcos but he can oust them by dissolving the interim parliament whenever he chooses.

CARDS STACKED FOR MARTIAL LAW REGIME

Now to elect a pliant parliament, the elections must be rigged — and yet remain credible. To rig the elections, the regime has adopted the following schemes:

1. Regional Representation — Under this system, only candidates who get the highest votes in a region consisting of several provinces will be elected. To win, therefore, a candidate must be or become known, not only in his district, but in the entire region. So he must create or be supported by an organization that operates regionally. Only the martial law regime has such organizations.

2. Short campaign period — Given the time and money, however, the opposition might create effective regional organizations. To prevent them from doing so, the campaign period has been shortened to 45 days.

3. Appointed and sectoral representatives — To make assurance doubly sure, the regime has burdened the opposition, from the very beginning with an almost insurmountable handicap. Of the 199-member interim parliament, only 165 will be "elected." Pres. Marcos will appoint 20 from his



Boy Scouts as Marcos vote getters: After six years of martial law, the regime controls voter registration and the election machinery.

cabinet, 14 more will be chosen by members of the Sangguniang Bayans in the provinces, and by barangay members and the presidents of the Kabataang Barangays in Manila — most of whom are, of course, partial to the regime. So, even before a single vote is cast, the regime is assured of 31 out of 199 seats or 17 per cent of the interim parliament. To control, the opposition must win at least 100 of the 165 "elective" seats.

That is 61 per cent, not merely 51 per cent of the vote. And this may not be enough. For, as we learned from the ConCon, a small majority can be reversed by "inducements," and if these fail, by arresting enough members on the pretext of "subversion." To have a safe majority, the opposition must win at least 110 seats — 66.67 per cent of the vote — and under martial law, it would take a miracle to do so.

4. Block Voting — Still, miracles do happen sometimes, so to make sure this particular one doesn't, the regime has adopted "optional block voting" the very same strategem that the then ruling party used with such telling effect in the notorious 1949 elections to subvert the will of the people.

5. Padded voters' lists — To further increase the odds in favor of the regime, the coming elections

will use martial law voter's lists, including those that resulted from the "instant" registration system used in the 1977 referendum. These lists are unreliable, not only because of wide differences in their totals, but also because unlike pre-martial law registration cards, the martial law registration certificates are not serially numbered. Unless the voters' lists are purged, voters will "fly" from precinct to precinct in greater droves than ever before. And the shortened campaign period makes any hope of purging the lists unrealistic.

6. Instant registration and transient voting — If the schemes so far listed prove not to be enough, the regime can always resort as it did in 1977 to "instant registration" and "transient voting" and it can even add voting days as it did in an earlier referendum.

7. Safeguards against terrorism eliminated — It should not be necessary for the regime to resort to terrorism since martial law itself is terrorism. But to make sure that our people do not forget that we are under martial law, the "1978 Electoral Code" has eliminated safeguards against terrorism that were contained in the 1971 election code, like the provisions for disbanding para-military forces and other like provisions.

8. Composition of boards of inspectors — Finally, to see to it that teachers assigned as election inspectors obey orders, the regime has made the third member of the boards of inspectors (now called the 'election committee') — not teachers as in the ConCon elections but nominees of the barangay captains. In effect, the regime will have at least one inspector, possibly three; if the teachers are partisan or cowed, the opposition will have none.

With these schemes built into the very fabric of the coming elections, the regime is sure that it will win an overwhelming victory. Having so cleverly stacked the cards, how can it lose?

PLANNED ROLE FOR THE OPPOSITION

But to win is not enough: its victory must be believable. To achieve this, leaders identified with the opposition and prominent citizens who so far have not been identified with the regime must be induced to run and be elected, or, to put it more precisely, be permitted to get elected. One may even anticipate that the regime will cause the defeat of some of its more vocal and salient apologists because, with that, who can brand the elections as sham?

This explains the frantic efforts of the COMELEC and the controlled media to seduce the opposition into playing the regime's game and to lure its members into taking part in the coming farce.

Many years ago, a former Vice-President made famous the phrase, "they borrowed my honor," when his name was dragged into a scandal. The martial law regime may borrow the honor of many names in the coming elections for the interim parliament whose composition, as early as now, may already have been pre-determined. The regime needs the lustre of their presence, their name and their prestige in the parliament to clothe it with a measure of respectability and credibility. □

LABAN ...

(continued from front page)

is internationally recognized for her efforts to prevent the wholesale demolition of Tondo communities to make way for the First Lady's beautification campaign. Ironically, Jolly Benitez in his capacity as head of the Human Settlements Commission has engineered most of these squatter eviction schemes.

Barican, remembered for his role as a student leader during the turbulent early '70s, challenged Arturo Tolentino, the alleged foremost constitutionalist, to a debate on U.S. control over the Philippines and human rights. In an earlier symposium, Barican stressed that U.S. control over the Philippines and human rights. In an earlier symposium, Barican stressed that U.S. control over the Philippines has been strengthened with the inflow of massive foreign investments, resulting in the draining of the country's resources and locally available capital.

ATTACKS INCREASE

In response to the growing interest and support for LABAN, Pres. Marcos has shifted his anti-opposition campaign into high gear. Although he pre-

viously ruled out the use of "mudslinging" tactics, Marcos threw the first mudpie with the accusation that the opposition was supported by a foreign power, assumed to be the U.S. The attack served as a prelude to Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile's disclosure that imprisoned senator Benigno Aquino is a C.I.A. agent. While the disclosure was nothing new, Aquino having recently admitted that he worked with the CIA on behalf of three Philippine presidents, the timing was ostensibly calculated to weaken the burgeoning "Aquino cult."

Losing none of the deviousness he employed to win the 1965 and 1969 elections, Marcos followed up his "pro-U.S. baiting" with an accusation that LABAN is distributing handbills alleging that Imee Marcos is illegitimate. LABAN candidates denounced the charges as a ploy to win public sympathy, reminiscent of the time Marcos falsely accused the Liberal Party of distributing nude pictures of Imelda in 1969.

In another development, a known KBL leader was reported to have filed a petition to disqualify all LABAN candidates.

Jerry Barican warned that these attacks were part of a plan by the Marcos administration to sow disorder and confusion among the people and may very well culminate with the cancellation of the

April 7 elections. "These attacks and fabrications" he continued, "were designed to defuse support for LABAN and its candidates." Despite the fact that LABAN is composed of sectoral representatives with diverse political backgrounds, observers believe that its anti-martial law platform is its strongest point and as such LABAN is expected to put up a hard fight for Metro Manila seats. While most do not expect LABAN to win because of Marcos' control of the election machinery, its mere presence has encouraged much of the suppressed anti-Marcos sentiments to surface. □

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RP Military: Loot, Rob, and Kill

Samar Refugees Expose Reign Of Terror



400 families in Samar have recently been forced from their lands, and rounded up into refugee camps.

By TERESA DANTE
Special to the Ang Katipunan

MANILA, MARCH 8—Hundreds of rice and coconut farmers and their families have fled their homes and farmlots in 11 barrios (villages) in Calbiga, Western Samar as Philippine military

authorities instituted a virtual reign of terror in the area over the past six weeks.

According to reliable reports reaching here, the numerous atrocities against the rural populace were perpetrated by armed elements of Task Force Leysam following the anti-dissident campaign it waged last January.

"Leysam" is in charge of the suppression campaigns against the New People's Army guerrillas operating in the provinces of Leyte and Samar in Eastern Visayas. It is composed of army, constabulary, navy and air force troops. The Task Force is supported by elements of the Integrated National Police and paramilitary Civilian Home Defense Forces.

The reports said a delegation of 21 refugees, victims of military abuses and barrio officials, met Bishop Ricardo Tancinco, Jr. of the diocese of Calbayog last Feb. 19 to seek support and assistance. They disclosed that 11 barrios are now completely deserted, either entirely or partially burnt by the military. They are Minata, Mahankao, Hubasan, Lubang, Litteron, Kaamlungan, Bingaran, Biri, Gimbaga, San Mauricio and Otok.

The displaced farmers reported that there are more than 400 families or an estimated 2,400 persons, who are now refugees, having abandoned their homes and unharvested crops out of fear. They are temporarily housed in the towns of Calibiga, Villareal, and Zumarraga. Others left for Cebu City in Central Visayas and here in Manila.

SUBHUMAN LIVING CONDITIONS

The refugees described their present living conditions as subhuman. Quartered in makeshift shacks in the poblacion, (town), they are encountering several problems such as lack of food, poor health, and sanitation conditions and no means of livelihood.

[continued on back page]

Pagbabalikwas



Brotherhood of Workers Formed



A workshop discusses resolution at Congress.

"It is a rare occasion in the history of the labor movement that an organization originating from the workers and led by genuine leaders is found," noted the maiden issue of **Ang Kapatiran**, publication of the Workers Brotherhood Foundation (Kapatiran).

More than 200 delegates, observers and guests witnessed the historic founding of Kapatiran at the Pasig Catholic Auditorium last Nov. 30-Dec. 4. The founding congress was attended by workers from the construction, electrical and steel trades and the coconut products, yarns, garment, textile, foodstuff, pesticide, pharmaceutical and printing sectors. The congress passed a constitution and several resolutions and elected a general council which will serve as the standing leadership body of Kapatiran.

Highlights of the congress included speeches honoring Andres Bonifacio, worker-hero who led the 1896 revolution against Spain. This was followed by poems written and delivered by a worker about the tumultuous strike last year at the Engineering Equipment Inc. A cultural play by workers from Paranaque and a skit by a group of students followed.

The congress also committed itself to support the strike of Filipino Warehouse workers and the Nestle Products boycott. The spirit of the congress and the determination of the worker-delegates to bring the labor struggle to a new and higher level was captured by the slogans posted on the

auditorium walls: "Combat individualism," "Strive for Unity," and the "Progress of the Working Class Depends on the Unity of Our Class." □

Palanan Workers Continue Strike

A delegation of workers from Palanan, Isabela arrived in Manila last Feb. 18, to seek the assistance of other labor groups to help develop a strategy and plan for the resolution of a two-year conflict with their employer, Sierra Madre Projects, Inc. The delegates, representing a workforce of 256, complained that they were not paid salaries, wages, emergency allowances, or year-end bonuses amounting to P300,300 for a period of two years.

At present, a skeleton force of 126 workers are on strike and refuse to return to work until at least a year's worth of back wages are paid them. Another 130 workers have been forced to seek employment elsewhere.

Meanwhile, to keep alive, the strikers these past two years have turned to salt production for their incomes. This difficult and meagre source of livelihood has at least kept their families from starving. The workers have to hike for hours to get to the coast where they collect salt from logs floating on the Pacific Ocean. The salt is then traded or sold for rice.

Valeriano Bueno, owner of Sierra Madre Projects, Inc. and the Palanan Logging Enterprises, has no reason to deny the strikers their just demands. Bueno faces no threat of bankruptcy. In fact, he amasses huge profits from his chain of enterprises which include the Butuan Bay Wood Export Corp., Bueno Industries and Development Corp., a logging concession and electric plants in Agusan del Sur; livestock in Antipolo; the Valbuco Sugar Plantation in Bataan; fish ponds in Bunawan; a cattle ranch in Bukidon; and the Mahogany Veneer Plant. Bueno markets his wood products to Japan and Copenhagen. □

Mansakas Protest Appointment



Mansaka women: the tribe protests the appointment of a non-resident as mayor.

Fourteen representatives of the Mansakas, a tribe in the Maragusan Valley, Davao del Norte, Mindanao, visited Manila on Feb. 13 with the hope of securing an audience with Pres. Marcos. Having no time for them, Marcos delegated the matter to a subordinate, Antonio Florendo, chairman of Region II.

The Mansakas are protesting the arbitrary appointment of Florentino Obeso, a non-resident, as mayor of Maragusan. They complained that they were never consulted about the choice and that since Obeso assumed office in early January, he has harassed and threatened them.

For the past two years, the Maragusan Valley residents have been terrorized by the Lost Command, a band of armed goons, which the Armed Forces of the Philippines asserts, has no connection with the military establishment. Despite this disclaimer, the Lost Command has performed the duties of the AFP and, together with the local Philippine Constabulary, has interrogated and even liquidated local residents, for allegedly collaborating with the NPA.

As a result, tensions have been running high in besieged Maragusan, a situation which has hardly abated with the appointment of an outsider for mayor, who has already proven his

anti-people attitudes towards the residents.

Determined nonetheless to invalidate the appointment, the Mansakas will seek another dialogue with government officials, even if it means another long and expensive trip to Manila. □

RP Bishop Condemns Regime

(Agence France Presse) — A Filipino Catholic Bishop has accused the Philippine government of employing "terror tactics" against some tribal minorities and the military of "torturing and killing civilians." Bishop Bienvenido Tutud, in a letter to Pres. Marcos last Jan. 31, identified the tribes as Bilaan and T'boli in southern Mindanao and the Kalinga in northern Luzon.

Bishop Tutud, Chairman of the Commission on Tribal Filipinos of the Catholic Bishops Conference (CBCP), charged that the government's irrigation and electrification program in Lake Sebu would deprive the T'boli's of their ancestral lands. The bishop also accused PANAMIN, the government agency dealing with the national minorities of using "terrorizing techniques and divisive buying of loyalties" against the Kalinga in relation to the Chico River Dam Project. The project, which would entail transferring great numbers of the Kalinga tribe from their ancestral lands, has been bitterly opposed by some Kalinga tribe folk.

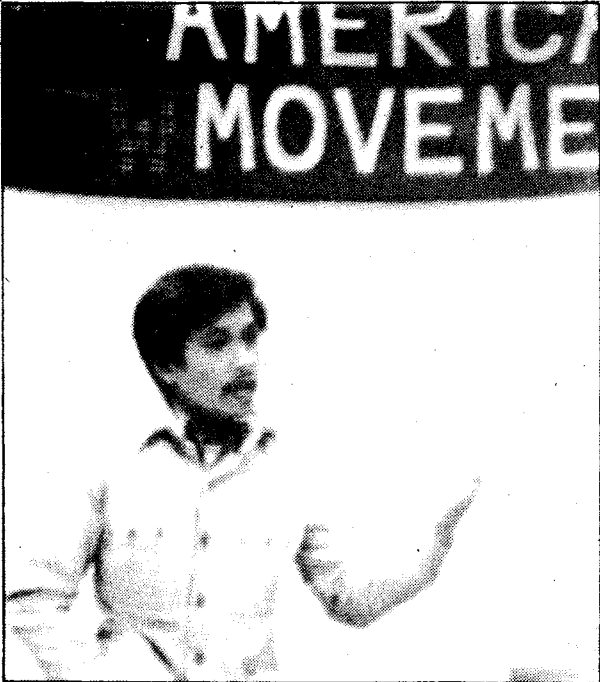
As a result of PANAMIN's activities, Bishop Tutud said in his letter that the New People's Army, military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines "is now cast in the role of the people's protector and the government in that of their oppressor" in the Kalinga region.

Bishop Tutud said he was concerned "with the suffering and unrest of the people, the torturing and killing of citizens by the military and the terrorizing of the general populace." □

Anti-Martial Law Front

AMLC, FFP Hold Forums

U.S. Bases Spark Controversy Among Filipinos



Walden Bello at the L.A. Bases Forum: "U.S. Bases . . . [a] risky source of instability."

By NORMA DE LEON

While negotiations for a new bases treaty between the U.S. and the Philippine government continue to proceed at a slow pace, the bases issue has sparked a major controversy within the Filipino community in the U.S. The crucial question around which heated arguments have arisen is whether U.S. bases should stay or be withdrawn.

In response to the rising need to shed light on this important issue, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) and the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), organized a series of nationwide educational forums and house-meetings on the topic: U.S. Bases and Their Role in the Philippines. From February through March, anti-martial law alliances and FFP chapters in the east and west coast states, Honolulu, and Guam, mobilized the Filipino community to attend the gatherings. Speakers on the topic included Mr. Rene Cruz, National Coordinator of the AMLC; Ms. Inday Refi, member, Congress Education Project; and Mr. Walden

Bello, West Coast Coordinator of FFP.

The informal discussions that followed the speeches were generally lively. What evolved as the two main points of contention and concern were the questions on "security" and "employment."

Pro-bases arguments focused on the stated purposes of U.S. bases in the 1947 Military Bases Agreement which are "protection of U.S. security interests in Asia," and "insurance of the territorial integrity of the Philippines." "If these bases are withdrawn," said a member of the audience at the Chicago forum, "it would mean an invitation to a foreign power to attack the Philippines."

But proponents of the bases withdrawal contested that the objectives of the bases is mutually beneficial to both countries as the bases agreement has always been partial to U.S. interests. The idea that withdrawal would threaten Philippine security is purely a "myth." As speaker Walden Bello strongly pointed out, "in fact, U.S. bases are like a magnet that attracts another superpower into the area and their presence is a risky source of instability."

A substantial number of nuclear weapons are stored in the more than 20 bases in the Philippines, putting the country in a precarious position in the event that war breaks out between the U.S. and another superpower.

Debunking the shaky argument that Russia, China or Vietnam might invade the Philippines, Mr. Bello explained, "Most experts say that compared to the U.S., Russia does not have the ability to establish a base in Southeast Asia. On the other hand, China has never been an expansionist power and Vietnam has mostly been interested in ejecting colonial powers out of itself."

Moreover, a number of countries have already openly expressed their desire to neutralize Asia, that is, to free the region from superpower intervention. This can only be accomplished if the U.S. moved its bases out of Southeast Asia.

The next point that likewise generated an interesting debate between the pro and the anti-bases concerns employment. It has always been widely propagated that the U.S. bases rank second to the Philippine government as the largest employer of Filipinos. If the bases moved out,

supposedly massive lay-offs would occur.

Pro-bases arguments further contended that these bases are a major source of dollars for the country, and industries that rely heavily on the presence of the bases for survival would suffer, if not go bankrupt.

Again, anti-bases individuals contested the economic role of the U.S. bases. The percentage of Filipinos employed there is actually small, less than five per cent of the total Philippine government employees and less than one per cent of the total Philippine non-agricultural workers.

While conceding that the bases supply the Philippines with much needed dollars, they argued that the increased military spending is strong nourishment to the soaring Philippine inflation. The lack of major industries in an underdeveloped country results in a low supply of goods which does not match the amount of dollars that circulate within the nearby areas.

Moreover, the so-called "industries" that U.S. bases promote are socially damaging to Filipinos. Prostitution, gambling, drugs, smuggling of PX goods are the type of businesses that operate in and around the bases.

Offering an alternative solution to the U.S. bases question, Ms. Inday Refi said that lands occupied by the U.S. bases should "instead be converted to farm lands. These lands could, in turn, be tilled by agricultural cooperative members to generate employment for more Filipinos."

What has particularly come under attack from the anti-bases forces is the fact that the control of U.S. bases is not in the hands of Filipinos. The Philippine government does not have any say on whatever the U.S. government decides to do within the bases which is considered American territory.

As Jan Fowler of FFP-Chicago remarked, "The bases are an infringement on the Philippine national sovereignty, an insult to the Filipino people."

Negotiations on the bases treaty may peak again soon, or perhaps drag on for months, but it is a good sign that Filipinos are raising points and counterpoints on an issue that undoubtedly affects over 44 million Filipinos back home. □

Interview With Rene Cruz, AMLC Coordinator:

'Marcos Can't Afford Real Normalization'

In a recent interview with the Ang Katipunan, AMLC Coordinator Rene Cruz talked about the upcoming elections and the Marcos regime's "normalization campaign."

Q. The Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) has recently issued a statement in its publication, *Taliba*, decrying the upcoming election as a farce. Could you elaborate upon the AMLC's reasons?

A. In the first place, this election is taking place under martial law and in no way can a democratic process take place under martial law. Secondly, the election itself is obviously rigged.

Q. Why do you say that it's obviously rigged?

A. First of all, the regime has decided to permit block voting, which was legislated out of existence in the Philippines in 1951. Also the board of elections inspectors is composed of pro-Marcos baranggay people. Then, many vocal oppositionists are in prison.

These are our immediate criticisms. In its long-run implications, we also oppose the election as part of the "normalization" scheme.

Q. What do you mean by normalization?

A. According to Marcos, "normalization" means returning the country to political normalcy, possibly even lifting martial law. We see this scheme, however, as being just a show.

Q. Why do you insist that "normalization" is just a show?

A. Marcos cannot afford real normalization. Since the declaration of martial law, he has expanded his personal wealth, confiscating the property of those who previously shared in the economic dominance of the country. He cannot allow these disenfranchised ruling forces back into the government.

Even more importantly, during the course of martial law, people's organizations have developed in resistance to his dictatorship. If Marcos were to allow people to exercise their political beliefs, he would be out of office in no time. The current "normalization" scheme is mainly

for international consumption.

Q. Why do you say that it's mainly for international consumption?

A. The regime has been under increasing criticism from the international public, much of it from the U.S. Congress which holds the purse strings for U.S. aid.

Q. Is the U.S. government likely to buy "normalization"?

A. There are two divisions in the U.S. government which have differing attitudes toward "normalization." One is the U.S. Congress. As shown in our experience, the U.S. Congress is open and responsive to learning the real facts about the Philippines. In Congress there is a strong possibility that many will question "normalization."

But, to the Carter administration and the State Dept., I think the scheme is acceptable. The U.S. administration has admitted in the State Dept. report that there are human rights violations in the Philippines, but, due to national security interests, continues to recommend aid to Marcos. Carter's rhetorical human rights concern fits hand in glove with Marcos' "normalization."

Q. Is it a coincidence that these elections are coming up at the same time as the base negotiations?

A. I cannot say that this is consciously planned, but the coincidence is striking. Back when the talks were just beginning, former Ambassador Sullivan stated that the absence of "stable" governmental structures in the Philippines posed some problems. In other words, it would be embarrassing for the Carter administration, which is supposedly concerned with human rights, to come to terms with a dictator.

A new bases treaty is extremely important to both Marcos and Carter. Marcos wants \$1 billion in aid or rent. Even if that amount is actually lowered, this money, guaranteed by the treaty, will not have to go through the U.S. Congress every year and be subject to the pressure of the anti-martial law movement.

With the treaty ratified, Carter can carry on his rhetorical human rights crusade, Marcos can go on with his "Normalization" and both can have a road show with Carter chalking up every fake democratic exercise by



Rene Cruz, AMLC Coordinator

Marcos as a gain for his policies.

Q. What does the AMLC feel true normalization would entail?

A. Under genuine normalization, people's organizations would be free from harassment. They would be allowed to operate legally. Demonstrations and strikes would be permitted.

The Marcos monopoly on the media would be dismantled. Confiscated media facilities would be returned to their rightful owners. Decrees and letters of instruction of the martial law government would be abolished. Political parties would be allowed to express their beliefs and programs without fear of harassment.

Put more simply, genuine normalization would mean the complete and total negation of martial law and all the repressive practices it has brought. □

FILIPINO Community

Nat'l Day Event Threatened

L.A. OPTIMIST CLUB CONTENDS FOR JUNE 12 SPONSORSHIP



Negotiations between L.A.'s major Filipino organizations have yet to break the Optimist Club's monopoly on Philippine National Day — June 12.

By RAFEAL ORPILLA
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — Controversy over the sponsorship of the annual June 12th Philippine National Day Celebration erupted here last month when the Optimist Club moved to monopolize the community event.

Opposing the Optimist's narrow stand, the United Filipino American Assembly of Southern California (UFAASC) has been negotiating for the equal and open sponsorship of June 12th by all Filipino American organizations. The Assembly, which is composed of over 60 Filipino organizations, unanimously passed a resolution March 24, asking the Optimist Club representatives present to relay the UFAASC's desire for unity. UFAASC also underlined its readiness to launch a massive lobby and petition effort directed to the City if the Optimist Club chooses not to open the sponsorship of the June 12th Celebration.

The week prior to the Assembly meeting, on March 18, an open community meeting was held attended by representatives of some four major organizations: Optimist Club, UFAASC, the Filipino American Citizens of L.A., and the Filipino Association of San Bernardino.

This meeting agreed on four points: 1) that the June 12th Celebration be openly and equally co-sponsored by interested Filipino American organizations; 2) that the planning committee be convened representing the above sponsoring

groups; 3) that the June 12th working committees be formed by the planning committee and that committees be planned before be dissolved; and 4) that the Optimist Club be authorized to obtain the site permit from the City on behalf of the planning committee. The last point was included because of the Optimist Club's insistence on doing the task of getting the permit.

This March 18 meeting appeared to reverse the previous Optimist Club stand of mainly sponsoring the event by themselves. Thus, this meeting opened the door for joint sponsorship of the event. However, by March 22, the Optimist Club again reversed its stand, and called for their sole sponsorship of the event.

UFAASC has challenged this move as running counter to the community interest of ensuring a successful June 12th event as well as undermining the unity which June 12 could foster in the community.

In last year's June 12th Celebration, the UFAASC was a joint co-sponsor of the event and was instrumental in gaining recognition for June 12th Philippine National Day by the County and the City of L.A.

"Besides," one member of the UFAASC emphasized, "June 12th is the celebration of all Filipinos. It is a day to uphold our national heritage, the historical struggles of our people for national independence, our present struggles for equal rights in this country. We are all celebrants, not just guests of the Optimist Club." □

Filipinos In England

'Deplorable Working Conditions Face Immigrants'

By DR. EDWIN B. ALMIROL
Prof. of Asian American Studies, UC-Davis

Presently there is practically no significant research attention given to the Filipino immigrants in the United Kingdom in spite of the fact that their numbers are increasing. Information from the Immigration Office indicates that there are approximately 8000 Filipinos in England, mainly nurses, domestic helpers and textile workers.

Between 1975 and 1976, I interviewed 25 Filipino domestic workers in London hotels and nurses' aides. I wanted primarily to find out their motives for immigration and their perception of their present situation. Initially, I found out that a majority of the Filipino immigrant workers in the United Kingdom are women, between the ages of 21 and 35, and who work in blue-collar urban jobs. Almost 90 per cent have had at least two years of college, and a few even have college degrees, but an overwhelming majority are in low-income, low-status, and low-skilled jobs.

Almost 100 per cent of those interviewed report that they came to the U.K. to improve their economic condition. They reported that they were recruited by employment agencies which are approved and encouraged by the Philippine Dept. of Labor. These employment agencies require recruits to pay as much as P2000 (about \$300) for a non-refundable processing fee which presumably guarantees would-be immigrants job placement in the U.K. Many of those interviewed complained that this initial fee has placed them and their families in serious debt. The Filipino immigrant workers often worked as hotel maids, waitresses, private domestic workers, hospital orderlies, nurses' aides, and mill and textile workers.

'Filipina women worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and lived in small, dark, damp rooms above the factory.'

There was a case study of the employment of Filipino workers in the U.K. in Feb. 1974, published in a Runnymede Report entitled, "Immigrants and Employment in the Clothing Industry — The Rochdale Case." This study revealed that the Filipino women workers worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and lived in small, dark, damp rooms above the factory. In one extreme case, there were 16 women and a child sleeping in one small room which would normally sleep not more than two people. There was no kitchen and so the women had to cook in their rooms. Unfortunately, these working conditions, which are distinctly reminiscent of early 19th century industrial revolution working conditions, cannot be easily dismissed as aberrant cases. In a large government hospital in London, I observed that the Filipino workers who work as nurses' aides and domestic helpers live in cramped and poorly ventilated rooms which are as small as eight by ten feet.

Many of the Filipino immigrant workers argue that their deplorable situation persists because of the indifference of the Philippine government through its Dept. of Labor and its Embassy in London. The Philippine Dept. of Labor appears to be more interested in exporting cheap labor, with all its attendant abuses, than in insuring favorable working conditions for those who leave the country in search of work. Many claim that their complaints brought against employment agency abuses have only fallen to deaf ears at the Dept. of Labor. One woman reported that before she left the Philippines she was assured work in a hotel but once she arrived she was placed as a domestic live-in servant in a large private home. When she complained she was threatened with deportation and her passport confiscated by her employer. She wrote to the Dept. of Labor but she never received a response. She used to be a grade school teacher in the Philippines.

The Philippine Embassy also ignores the immigrant workers. The Embassy is downright arrogant to the very people it is supposed to help and serve. In one example, a Filipino immigrant who worked as a nurses' aide died from an illness and the Embassy was contacted for assistance to send the body back to the Philippines. The Embassy refused to be of any assistance. Through some difficulty and sacrifice on the part of the other immigrant in the hospital, sufficient money was raised to send the body. The Embassy, many of the immigrant workers claim, is preoccupied with parties and fundraising socials, with afternoon teas and propaganda for martial law.

It is fairly common to see in the classified pages of the prestigious London Times advertisements announcing: "Situations Needed: Hard-working and Reliable Domestic from the Philippines." Little do the readers know that there is more than meets the eye. □

Technicalities Stall Discrimination Suit

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

OAKLAND — "What race does a Filipino belong to . . . black or white?" asked Judge Schwarzer, who is presiding over the case of Rolando Domingcil vs. National Can Company.

This peculiar question was posed to Mike Wong, the attorney from Asian Law Caucus, Inc. who is representing Mr. Domingcil in a discrimination suit against his employer.

The case revolves around the firing of Domingcil who has worked for the National Can Co. of San Leandro for 13 years with a model work record. According to Atty Wong, Domingcil was abruptly dismissed from his job as a forklift driver Sept. 26, 1976 after refusing to carry out his supervisor's order.

Domingcil reportedly refused to operate a particular machine on the basis that the task was not required under his job duties. Moreover, since he was working overtime, according to company rule, the task should have been given to the worker on the shift with the lowest seniority.

"The supervisor contends that Domingcil's firing was due to insubordination because Domingcil

committed an "act of violence" against him when an argument ensued over the assignment. However, Domingcil insists that the alleged act of violence was merely a raising of his hands to break the close contact between them during the argument," elaborated Wong.

Domingcil further charged that the misrepresentation of the minimal contact between himself and the supervisor was only part of the discrimination he was subjected to at the National Can Co. He cited the criticisms he received for taking legitimate break and rest periods granted under the union contract.

Nevertheless, Rolando Domingcil may never be able to have his day in court to determine justice in what he feels is a case of discrimination and oppression as a worker. He is asking that he be reinstated as any other white worker would have been under the same circumstances. But the suit is filed under the Civil Rights Act of 1866-USC 1981 in which the law of discrimination on the basis of race is only defined between blacks and whites.

If Judge Schwarzer decides to interpret the law solely from technical standpoint, he will rule that Domingcil is of the white race and therefore could not be the object of discrimination. □

Lawyers Exposed Visa Problems: A Profitable Business

By LENI MARIN
AK Correspondent

NEW YORK CITY — Fely Garibay, a 38-year old Filipina, came to the U.S. in 1971 on a B-2 (tourist) visa. Three months later, she was hired as a clerk-typist by an American company and has worked there since then. However, on Feb. 16, 1978, she was taken to the Brooklyn Detention Center by officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) pending deportation. Yet, throughout her stay in the U.S. she spent hundreds of dollars for immigration lawyers in an attempt to resolve her visa problem.

Such is the plight of a growing number of Filipinos who come to the U.S. as tourists or non-immigrants wanting to seek better jobs in this country.

Like other foreign workers with visa problems, Fely sought assistance from an immigration lawyer of an American law firm. She was told that "political asylum" status would shelter her from immigration problems. Unaware and ignorant of immigration laws and procedures, Fely agreed to apply for political asylum which requires extensive proofs of possible persecution based on political reasons if she went back to the Philippines.

A year after filing the application, the immigration lawyers informed Fely that the request was denied. For their legal services, the law firm charged her \$750. Yet, she decided to continue seeking legal advice with the same law firm for "protection."

On Dec. 18, 1977, Fely was summoned by her lawyers to come to the office where she was shocked to discover that her deportation had been set for Dec. 21. "The lawyers should have informed me earlier since that was already the second notice. I never received the first one," she remarked.

She had three days to salvage the situation. Her lawyers offered to try to delay the deportation for a fee of \$1,500 provided that she put down a payment of \$1,000. She turned down the offer and took back her visa papers.

Fely did not lose hope. Her friends referred her to a Filipino lawyer who advised that she could apply for an immigrant visa through the sixth-preference category if her employer sponsored her. What she was not told, however, was that the sixth preference status is open only to skilled workers such as doctors, nurses, pharmacists, engineers. Clerk-typists do not fall under this category.

The new lawyer charged an initial payment of \$500, and told Fely to keep calm and continue with her job.

On Feb. 16, INS officers came to Fely's workplace and took her to the Brooklyn Detention Center where she would be staying until her deportation. She was denied any bail and, like the other "illegals" there, she was treated like a common criminal.

The Detention Center is like a prison house where the "illegal aliens" — mostly from Third World countries of Haiti, Mexico, Colombia and others — are detained till their deportation day. The building is five-stories high and located in one of the most squalid areas of Brooklyn, the Red Hook area. Tight security is maintained and visitors are asked to pass through metal detector doors. The "illegals" can only be talked to through individual screened windows.

Until today Fely is still in the Detention Center. She has never received any visits from her Filipino lawyer who talks to her only by phone to demand an additional \$200 for legal fees. The same lawyer billed Fely's employer \$2,500 as legal services payment for an employee. Realizing that the lawyer was obviously taking advantage of her predicament, Fely terminated his services.

She has hired another lawyer to negotiate for her bail. Fely still hopes to win her case. "(What has happened) has been a very painful experience for me. There was no one whom I could have gone to except those money-hungry lawyers. But I need to stay here," she said through the screened window.

Fely Garibay's case is typical of the plight of thousands, perhaps millions, of undocumented foreign workers in this country. Faced with the need for economic survival, they become easy prey to quick-profit seekers like labor contractors, lawyers, employment agencies, and others who attempt to benefit from their visa problems. □

Tenants Arrested

PACE CONFRONTS CITY ...

(continued from front page)



Chinatown residents confronted City officials to stop pending evictions.

PACE (People Against Chinatown Evictions) the anti-eviction group which is in the forefront of the housing struggle, called for the action in light of several Chinatown evictions which may take place in the near future. The most immediate is the eviction of the 4-A hotel which may take place in April, as soon as the owner obtains a Writ of Possession. 4-A tenants here have refused to move until the demands of PACE for an overall housing plan which meets the people's needs, have been met (see AK, Vol. V, No. 6).

Also facing a possible April eviction is the Mindanao pool hall. The manager there has refused to pay excessive rents for the building which has gone unrepaired by the landlord.

In the meantime, two other hotels, Lau's and

1189 are awaiting State Supreme Court decisions on their appeals against eviction. Both hotels are also protesting the landlord's application to raise the bonds of each hotel to \$20,000. If the bonds are approved by the court, and the hotels are unable to pay, it would subject the tenants to immediate eviction even though their appeals have not been decided.

It has recently been revealed that the City of Honolulu is the landlord of 1189, so the move to raise the bond money is just another indication of the City's two-faced, anti-tenant role in the housing struggle.

While the 21 protestors await an April 14 court date, tenants and supporters are preparing to resist the possible evictions in April. □

Victory For 4-H Trainees...

(continued from front page)

EXPANSION OF JOB TRAINING

At an all day meeting with the trainees and the support committees from North Carolina, California, and Washington, D.C., the executive and managing directors of the National 4-H Council made a commitment to expand both "on the job training" and the study curriculum by April 30, 1978.

The program change will include the development of a syllabus model on various skills in the specialized areas of poultry, swine, dairy and horticulture. This model will be used by the trainee and the host farmer to increase the theoretical foundations of the trainee's practice work on the farm.

"This represents a substantial reform in the program," said Lorenzo Ticol, a trainee from California. "Almost all the trainees have received absolutely no theoretical training at all, in spite of promises when we left the Philippines that we were sent here to learn modern methods of farming."

"If they'll really do this," he continued, "more than 200 trainees all over the U.S. will benefit from it."

4-H SURVEYS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

To facilitate implementation of the reforms, the 4-H Council agreed to conduct two surveys, the first of which will seek out host farmers who would be willing to hold regular farm conferences with trainees to increase both study and practice on the farm. In the past, some host farmers saw the trainees only as cheap labor, without any need for study or training.

The second survey will investigate trainee needs and interests in order to develop curriculum for in-service training sessions, along with the assistance of cooperating extension agents.

"We will finalize all of this by May 15," promised Grant Shrum, 4-H executive director. "By then, we will know who amongst the host farmers should be changed."

TRAINEE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Another major change will be the implementation of a trainee grievance procedure. Previously the trainees had no avenues to pursue in voicing problems leading to frustration and demoralization. Now, after the trainee has sent grievance letters to the regional coordinator, with copies furnished to the host farms, support committees and national office, the 4-H offices will immediately notify the trainee of any action likely to be taken by the foundation.

"This will be very significant for us," said Frank Obidencio, a trainee from North Carolina. "For the past six months, I've written almost everyone to demand my correspondence course, but I've gotten no response until now! Based on this agreement, I know whom to write, more concretely."

Another reform agreed upon at the Washington, D.C., meeting was a more detailed explanation of items in the financial statement submitted by the foundation this past February. This statement was the cause of numerous questions and complaints from trainees as the report was a very general account of trainees expenses in the program. Trainee Oscar Leron, who is also an accountant, suggested a procedure which the 4-H Foundation accepted and will send a letter to trainees by May 15.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Despite the numerous and significant program changes won by the trainees, the question of a 48 hour work week remains unresolved. Trainees have been pushing for a guarantee that they won't be required to work more than six days a week, as many have in the past.

In the discussions, the 4-H officials admitted that the main obstacle to the implementation of this reform was agreement by the farm hosts, who have always expected "labor" from the program rather than "teaching." The usual 60 to 70 hours of work done by trainees per week represents significant production for them and any reduction in the number of hours will be viewed as less work for the hosts.

This point sparked a lengthy discussion in the negotiations as trainees and support committee

continued on page 9

NEWSSCOPE

Los Angeles, Ca.

Far West Convention Work Underway

On March 12 the 1978 Pilipino Peoples Far West Convention (PPFWC) Planning Group was formed to start preparation work for the eighth PPFWC scheduled to be held at UCLA during the Labor Day weekend.

Representing a good cross section of the community, 30 people attended this first general meeting where the goals and purposes of the 1978 PPFWC were discussed. Blessie Hernandez presented the two points of principle as the main basis for unity of the 1978 PPFWC Planning Group.

These points included:

1. The forging of community awareness to fight against discrimination (based on national and racial origin) and uphold the Filipino's democratic right to equal employment, education, housing and health services.

2. Because Filipinos have maintained and continue to keep ties with the homeland, the need for the convention to take an active concern of the existing conditions and present situation in the Philippines.

After general approval and support of the goals and principles four working committees — program, finance, publicity/outreach, and site/logistics — were formed.

The Far West Convention have been held annually in the past eight years all over the West Coast from Seattle to San Diego. The most recent one held in San Diego drew over 500 Filipinos from all over the West Coast.

The 1978 PPFWC in Los Angeles, like the past conventions, will have workshops on major issues facing our communities such as employment problems, Filipino history classes in education, problems of our youth, etc. A general assembly with keynote speakers is also being planned to open up the Convention. A new full-stage production is being considered for the Saturday cultural program — one of the main highlights of the Far West Convention.

A concerted drive to recruit other interested community members to participate in this enormous project is already underway. The second general meeting of the Planning Group will be held in the South Bay (specific site still not confirmed) on April 9, Sunday at 1:30 p.m. For more information regarding the next general meeting or any other meetings of the working committees, please call (L.A.) 484-0687 or (Long Beach) 498-3449 and 834-6954. □

New York City, N.Y.

Philippine National Day '78 Celebration Set

Preparations for the Philippine National Day Celebration 1978 has been launched after a meeting last March 18 at Woodside (Queens), New York City. The Philippine National Day Committee (PNDC) announced that the third Annual Philippine National Day festivities will be held on June 10 at Flushing Meadows Park in New York.

Philippine National Day is a barrio-fiesta type celebration held in major cities in the U.S. On this day, the Filipino communities all over the U.S. will pay tribute to all the aspects of the Filipino's people's rich national heritage. At the same time, it is a day to reflect on the many contributions of Filipinos to the development of American society.

Ms. Teresa Rodriguez, one of the elected co-ordinators of the event said, "The celebration will require extensive work and preparations. Again, it will be the ability of the community to unite over and above differences and the expression of this unity through joint work which will be key to the success of Philippine National Day 1978."

As in the past years, there will be exhibits, cultural presentations, food and games for the children. Additional features like sports tourna-

ments and an amateur singing contest (of Filipino folk songs) for the children will be included.

The March 18 meeting was attended by community individuals and representatives from the following organizations: Philippine American Youth Org. (PAYO), Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP), National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NALFL-FNG), Garden State Youth Organization. The Anti-Martial Law Alliance (N.Y.) has also indicated its willingness to participate in the preparations for the event. A number of community organizations and groups were sent invitations asking them to actively participate in making a successful 1978 Philippine National Day.

Mrs. Primitiva Lejarde was elected as one of the co-coordinators. For more information, call Ms. Teresa Rodriguez (212) 672-1297 or Mrs. Primitiva Lejarde, (212) 626-0556. □

San Francisco, Ca.

'Stop Work Order' Halts I-Hotel Demolition

With a City "stop work order" still in effect, the demolition of the International Hotel by the Four Seas Investment Corp. is at a temporary standstill.

The City has indicated it will prevent demolition at least until a final court appeal on the validity of Four Seas' demolition permit is heard. On Feb. 22, Municipal Court Judge, Raymond Arata, Jr. ruled Four Seas' demolition permit invalid. Another court appeal is also pending on the Housing Authority's eminent domain action to take the Hotel for use as permanent low-rent housing.

Meanwhile, the United Trust for Historic Preservation has just announced a \$2,500 grant to the International Hotel Tenants Assoc., the Chinatown Coalition for Better Housing and the Chinatown Neighborhood Improvement Resource Center. The grant was given in order to study the feasibility of using the hotel and the entire block to meet the housing, community facility, and commercial needs of the Chinatown-Manilatown area.

However, as the City and commercial developers continue to destroy what little housing remains in the area in order to expand the financial district, there is little doubt that anything short of a militant citywide housing movement will prevent the destruction of the International Hotel and other low cost housing. □

San Francisco, Ca.

Racial Discrimination Charged At U.C. Med

Three medical students, two Black and one Filipino, are preparing a class action suit charging racial discrimination against the University of California medical school system. The three students have carefully documented their own cases as well as the cases of several other medical students who they say have been the victims of racial discrimination.

In order to prove their arguments, they have secured the legal services of well known attorney Charles Garry.

Among the complaints the three students are out to prove are that: 1) the administration keeps student evaluations secret and that students are denied access to their records; 2) it also uses confidential personal and academic counseling information against the students; 3) the arbitrary imposition of the National Board Exams on minority students before they can get back into school while white students are not forced to take the exam; and 4) the misuse of "provisional grades" and not enough time allotted for make-up exams, maintaining a double standard for whites.

According to Elisa Nerez Wong, a Filipino medical student kicked out of U.C. Med at San Francisco, "We are out to prove that it doesn't matter how talented, bright or how good you are. The fact is, they don't want minorities into the professional field." □

ACWA UPDATE

Cannery Workers Urged To File Claims



Silme Domingo, plaintiff in ACWA lawsuit.

STOCKTON — Silme Domingo, plaintiff in a successful class discrimination suit against the New England Fish Co. [NEFCO], came here March 15, urging minority cannery workers to start filing claims with Seattle's Municipal Court.

Domingo's visit here was part of his outreach itinerary that included Sacramento and French Camp. The outreach work became necessary when it was learned that the number of claims filed was still low three months after the forms were mailed out in November.

Majority of minority cannery workers return to the San Joaquin Valley at the end of the canning season which is from June to August. But at the start of the salmon-catching period, they return to Seattle where they are shipped to Alaska.

This migratory lifestyle of minority workers, a great number of whom are Filipinos, is one reason for the low number of filed claims. Domingo admitted that it is most probable the forms might have been mailed to incorrect addresses. Thus, many might not have even received them.

The other reason for the problem is that the majority of workers have not had the chance to learn how to proceed with filing claims. Most information on the lawsuit was kept by the plaintiffs and their attorneys who were put under a "gag rule" by Judge Gus Solomon. The "gag rule" restrained plaintiffs Silme and Nemesio Domingo from communicating with affected class members on the lawsuit benefits until last month when the gag rule was lifted.

The move to reach as many cannery workers as possible may take a few more months. But with the plan of the Alaska Cannery Workers Association [ACWA], of which Silme Domingo is a member, to step up publicity on filing claims, it is expected that a majority of these class members will be reached. □

Victory For 4-H Trainees...

continued from page 8

members presented their view of the root cause of the program's problems.

"The main problem is that the program is self-sustaining," said Tim McGloin from North Carolina. "The trainees are expected to 'learn' and yet they are also expected to earn monies to sustain the operational expenses of the program, to pay the salaries of the program staff members, office supplies, insurance, and so forth. How will they have time to even study when they're working 60 to 70 hours per week?"

"Neither the government, U.S. or Philippine, subsidizes the program when in fact millions of dollars are spent by both governments in tourism and the military, while agricultural training would be a more worthwhile program," McGloin added.

Since the 4-H National Council could not resolve this issue, a second round of negotiations will be scheduled after the 4-H Foundation issues its decisions April 15. It is hoped that positive actions will soon be taken by the foundation as trainees have no intention of continuing to work for 70 hours weekly in the remaining period of the program.

In addition, while reviewing the budget, a number of discrepancies emerged which the 4-H council had no satisfactory answers. Especially on items concerning travel and "mutual aid funds," the U.S. 4-H foundation maintained that these items were taken care of in Manila. They seemed somewhat embarrassed and promised to investigate the program in Manila around these monetary discrepancies. By the second round of negotiations, some of these questions will hopefully be answered.

In the meantime, trainees are encouraged by the progress and remain cautiously optimistic pending settlement of the 48-working hours issue, in addition to the actual implementation of the reforms. They especially want to thank all supporters for the help they have received in their efforts to make the training program more fair and meaningful. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

'Ratified But Not Satisfied'

COAL MINERS END 109-DAY WALKOUT



Miners rally Feb. 15 in Charleston, W. Va., to denounce regressive contract. The March 24 agreement has been described as "A treaty between two warring nations."

By VICTOR UNO

"The only reason people will vote for this," said a Virginia miner prior to the ratification vote, "is because they are hungry and they don't see anything better down the pike."

Even while voting to accept the Bituminous Coal Operators Association's contract offer March 24, the sentiment among the nation's miners is that the agreement was "ratified, but the miners are not satisfied." The closeness of the final vote, 58,384 in favor and 44,210 against, reflected the divided opinions about the content of the new three-year agreement. Even among those voting to accept, no one was particularly enthusiastic about the new contract.

From the beginning of the BCOA-UMW contract talks, the coal miners faced a stiff uphill fight. The nation's coal operators proposed a thoroughly retrogressive contract, one worse than the 1974 agreement. The BCOA wanted to outlaw the miner's right to strike over local safety hazards, impose stiff disciplinary measures for any miner participation in a wildcat, take away the long-standing plan which had cost the miners nothing and institute a system which would cost coal workers \$700 yearly, and implement a production incentive plan which threatened dangerous mine speed-ups in an industry already the most hazardous in the U.S.

The reasons for such contract demands were bitterly simple. Wracked by numerous wildcats and walkouts over unsafe mine conditions since the 1974 contract, strikes which effectively halted production and the companies' profits, the operators were demanding "labor stability" over the miner's demands for mine safety.

In addition, the operators, pressed by the general U.S. economic recession and subsequent losses in their rates of profit, were attempting to put the burden of their economic problems on the backs of the coal workers. One operator estimated that by converting the health plan to a private carrier system, the companies would "save" 25 to 30 per cent of the current health costs, a savings which means more profit for the coal monopolies.

'NO CONTRACT—NO WORK'

The miner's response to the operator's unreasonable demands was straightforward — "no contract, no work." Over 160,000 strong, the nation's miners struck Dec. 6. In the three and a half months of the strike, UMW members refused to work until an acceptable contract was democratically ratified. While the miners endured tremendous sacrifice in the course of the strike, the companies were forced to feel the effects of their intransigence, losing an

estimated \$2.8 billion in sales.

In the course of the miner's strike, the role of the government was starkly revealed to be on the side of the operators. After the miners had endured hardships for three months, and the operators began to feel the burden, President Carter began to actively intervene. Blaming the strikers for causing massive layoffs and power shortages in the industrial east, Carter threatened, then evoked the anti-labor Taft-Hartly law against the miners.

The coal operators were near ecstatic with Carter's moves, especially since Taft-Hartley mandated that the companies only open their mines for the workers while the miners were told to end their strike and go back to work, contract or not.

However, the response of the miners to the government intervention was a loud and unanimous "No to the Taft-Hartley." Miner solidarity became an inspiration to all workers as less than one-half of one per cent of the miners obeyed the Taft-Hartley injunction, and the government was forced to retract the injunction in ignominious defeat. In addition the BCOA was then spurred to retract its more outrageous demands in an effort to settle the strike.

Throughout the strike, the militant stance of the mines was shown to be more of a spontaneous nature than a strong rank and file movement. Against the legitimate outcry of the miners to the BCOA proposals was UMW Pres. Arnold Miller, who more often showed his willingness to reconcile with the retrogressive demands of the operators than with the just demands of the union's rank and file. In addition, the UMW contract bargaining council was unable to assert the demands of the membership to the BCOA and kept approaching the UMW membership with the same proposals which were rejected by the strikers in the first place.

'RATIFIED BUT NOT SATISFIED'

By the 109th day of the strike, and the vote on the BCOA's third contract proposal, all these factors weighed heavily on the miners. And while the U.S. labor movement began moves towards supporting the miners, the economic and political pressures of such a long strike were clearly felt by the miners and their families.

Even with the March 24 ratification, the issues which called for such a long strike will continue to be a source of conflict between the coal operators and the mine workers. Even the president of the BCOA admitted that the contract was like a "peace treaty between two warring nations."

While the BCOA was forced to retract its most regressive demands, such as specific language attacking the right to strike, contract provisions forcing miners to pay up to \$200 yearly for medical

Lessons From Miner Solidarity

TAFT-HARTLEY SUCCESSFULLY DEFIED

Despite numerous efforts by the coal operators and the Carter administration to forcibly break the UMW strike, miner solidarity showed that the coal workers were not going back to work until the strikers themselves democratically decided to end the walkout.

Efforts to demoralize the strike by whipping up anti-miner sentiment—from blaming the strikers for mass layoffs and energy shortages to nera hysterical ravings about impending violence by the strikers—failed to intimidate the militant miners into submission. The most glaring example of the government and operator's near-impotence was Carter's invocation of the Taft-Hartley law March 9 to force the miners back to work.

The provisions of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley law are many and broad. Under court order, all union officials are prohibited from "continuing, encouraging, ordering, aiding, engaging, or taking part in" outlawed strike.

Under order of U.S. District Judge Aubrey Robinson, a temporary Taft-Hartley injunction was imposed against the strike on Thursday, March 9. Striking miners were banned from "interfering with or affecting the orderly continuance of work in the bituminous coal industry." To enforce the court rulings, violators were threatened with fines or jailings. In addition, union treasuries were subject to impounding by the government.

Appearing on national television, President Carter called on the miners to "obey the law," and appealed to the striker's "patriotism" to end the strike for "the national good." However, the miners refused to be intimidated, and one striker was quoted as saying, "Taft-Hartley was never intended to help the country, it was to help big business."

In coal fields from Ohio to Arkansas, work whistles blew the following Monday morning to still-empty mines, as fewer than 100 of the 160,000 striking UMW members abided by the Taft-Hartley injunction. Peabody Coal, the nation's largest coal operator with 31 mines in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Arkansas, Missouri and western Kentucky, reported that none of the 13,227 miners it employs showed up for work. Throughout the eastern coal regions, this report was echoed by other operators as miners continued their strike.

By Saturday, March 18, the government was forced to concede that Taft-Hartley was not working. U.S. District Judge Robinson, who only nine days earlier granted the temporary injunction against the strike, lifted his earlier order, admitting that the miners "are not paying attention to what I do anyway." The Carter administration had sought to extend the injunction, but Robinson rejected the government's contention that the walk-out constituted a national emergency, as required by Taft-Hartley.

By refusing to grant an extension of the temporary injunction, the coal miners were freed from a legal pressure to continue picketing and other strike activity. Recognizing that one of their main anti-strike measures had failed, the coal operators met again with the miner's negotiating team to hammer out a third proposal, one which mainly dropped blatant anti-wildcat language and one which the miners subsequently ratified on March 24. □

care as well as maintaining a lengthy and time-consuming mine-safety grievance procedure will remain as sharp antagonisms in the coming months. Clearly between the time the miners first go back to the coal fields and the next contract ratification, there will continue to be unrest in the mines. □

LEBANON INVADED

Israel Launches War Against Palestinians

By VICTOR UNO

In a brazen act of aggression, combined Israeli air, sea and land forces invaded southern Lebanon March 15, indiscriminately bombing and shelling Arab civilian populations.

Seizing all areas below the Litani river, territory which comprises ten per cent of Lebanon's land mass, over 10,000 Israeli troops aided by jet fighters and heavy artillery, attacked Palestinian refugee camps, reducing homes, stores and hospitals to rubble. The massive invasion created an army of close to 200,000 refugees — both Palestinian and Lebanese — forcing these civilian populations to flee the death and destruction of the Zionist aggression. In the wake of the massive attacks, hundreds of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians were killed or wounded.

At times outnumbered 20 to 1 by the Israeli's, Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas waged a heroic battle against the invaders. Against Israel's massive firepower — including Kfir and U.S.-made Skyhawk and F-15 jets; Rashef missile boats and Dabur gunboats; and heavy artillery and tanks — PLO troops, with no aircover and with only light weaponry, managed to stall the invasion, allowing the orderly withdrawal of civilian and PLO personnel.

In all areas, the attack came without warning, resulting in a huge toll on the civilian populations. Israeli jets bombed Lebanese cities and Palestinian camps with impunity, raining death and destruction indiscriminately. In Uzai, a southern suburb of Beirut, whole blocks were leveled under bombs dropped by recently-delivered U.S. made F-15 jets. Even the conservative pro-Israeli U.S. magazine Newsweek reported on Israel's "death from the air":

"The jets did their job perfectly, leveling restaurants, bakeries, service stations, and houses for five hundred yards. The cement-block walls crumbled, and families eating lunch were buried in the ruins . . . (T)he Israeli's claimed that the PLO had its radio

station in Uzai . . . (but) we found nothing that looked like a radio station, or the remains of one."

In Lebanese villages and Palestinian refugee camps throughout southern Lebanon, the death and destruction perpetuated on Uzai was repeated. Lebanese cities such as Tyre, Bint Jbail, Yarin as well as the Palestinian camps of Al Buss, Rashadiye and Sabra suffered the terror bombing of and shelling of the Israeli invasion.

ISRAEL 'JUSTIFIES' INVASION

The massive Israeli invasion came in the wake of an abortive March 11 PLO raid in Israel in which 30 Israeli's and nine Palestinians were killed. The PLO commandos, who took over an Israeli bus in an effort to reach Tel Aviv, were subsequently killed in a wild fusillade of Israeli bullets at a traffic barrier. Time magazine said the Israeli action was carried out by "terrified traffic cops" who "probably killed more hostages than did the terrorists."

The PLO indicated that this mission did not proceed as planned. PLO spokesperson Ghazi Hussain said, "The PLO is not fighting a war against women, children and civilians, but against the military occupying power. But sometimes guerrilla operations do not run as planned. Sometimes, the campaigns by underground organizations in the Second World War against the Nazi occupiers also went wrong."

Using the PLO raid as a pretext, the Begin government then launched its terrorist invasion, claiming it wanted only to establish a "security belt" in southern Lebanon. "The Israel Defense Forces do not intend to harm the population, the Lebanese army or the Pan-Arab (Syrian) force, but rather the terrorists and their helpers..." stated the Israeli high command.

For the Zionists, the Palestine Liberation Organization is a terrorist group, and it was clear the invaders aimed to destroy the PLO in the course of their invasion. However, Zehdi Labib Terzi, PLO representative at the United Nations warned that Israel "can't destroy the PLO unless they eliminate the entire Palestinian popu-



A March 21 San Francisco protest denounced the recent Israeli invasion into Lebanon.

lation. It would be another genocide."

To many observers, this latest act of Israeli aggression was seen as consistent with past Zionist policy, where force of arms are used in a cynical effort to "solve" the Palestinian question. Again Israeli guns were attempting to either destroy the indigenous people forcibly evicted by Israel from Palestine in 1948, or destroy their areas of concentration in the hopes of forcibly assimilating the Palestinians among other Arab people.

However, the latest Israeli action, far from destroying the Palestinian people or intimidating them into submission, has only further exposed the ugly face of Zionism to the international community, strengthening the resolve of the Palestinians to continue their struggle against Israeli aggression. The fact that the 10,000-man PLO army was able to elude the Israeli onslaught and move north is one inescapable reality for Israel that the Palestinian question is far from resolved and the PLO will remain a crucial factor in any efforts towards a genuine

Mideast peace.

U.S. OKAY'S INVASION

Besides supplying the Israeli's most of the sophisticated armaments used in the Lebanon invasion, Washington apparently had advance notice of the intended Israeli action, as reported in the New York Post. Despite the apparent forewarning, the Carter administration did little to discourage the Begin government from launching its aggression.

In addition, public opinion was courted by the major U.S. press to sympathize with the Israeli aggressors. Typical was the comments of the New York Times which said the world "owes the Israelis an honest sympathy and partnership in measures to punish terrorism on every front."

Many Americans, however, were outraged by Israel's brazen acts, and in demonstrations in New York City, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, rallies were held to denounce the Zionist aggression and support the PLO. □

PATRIOTIC FRONT DENOUNCES SMITH MANEUVER

Rhodesian 'Transitional Gov't' Formed

By JEANETTE LAZAM

In a private March 20 ceremony, three Zimbabwean moderates — Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, and tribal chief Jeremiah Chirau — were quietly sworn into Ian Smith's executive council as part of the regime's nefarious plans for a "transition to black majority rule."

Because of the outrageous provisions of Smith's "internal settlement," the three moderates wanted to avoid publicizing the servile nature of their participation in the transitional government. While the three have been accorded much esteem and flattery by the white-majority regime, the moderates were sworn in as ministers without portfolio, and they will exercise little power in the new government.

Ian Smith continues to retain his title and power as prime minister of the country. Sitting alongside the three moderates in the council which will oversee the implementation of the "internal settlement," Smith exercises a powerful veto over any decisions of the group. In addition, white veto is maintained throughout the structure of Smith's transitional government, where each ministry will be jointly headed by both a white and a black.

In denouncing the Smith maneuver, Patriotic Front spokesman Joshua Nkomo noted that the basic oppressive government apparatus remains, "that is, the army, which remains pure white and white controlled; (the) police, which remains white and white controlled; (and) the civil service and the judiciary. . ."

LIBERATION MOVEMENT ADDRESSES U.N.

This latest development in Zimbabwe was the direct result of the March 3 accords signed by Sithole, Muzorewa and Chirau with Ian Smith. After the outlines of the "transitional government" became known, the Patriotic Front, the liberation movement actively fighting the white-minority regime, addressed the 15 member U.N. Security Council urging international rejection and condemnation of the plan and the racist Smith regime.

Robert Mugabe, one of the co-leaders of the Front, stressed that, "if we consider the fact that the present war in Zimbabwe is a culmination of a crisis built upon institutionalized racial separation, then we can see that the creation of an apartheid franchise cannot solve the problems of our country." He further added, "it is for this reason that the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe has maintained the position that it is fighting for a non-racial society, because we believe that any solution based upon racial lines is no solution."

"We are not fighting white people," emphasized the liberation fighter, "but a racist system whose continued existence poses a serious threat to the security of Africa as a whole." Urging the U.N. to take action, Mugabe ended his address with a direct appeal:

"We earnestly call upon the U.N. Security Council in the name of peace and justice to repudiate the so-called Salisbury agreement and reaffirm its condemnation of the illegal regime of Rhodesia. In the meantime, we want to reaffirm our position, namely that any attempt to find a

negotiated settlement to the problem of our country by by-passing the liberation forces of the Patriotic Front, which now controls more than two-thirds of the country, will not solve anything. The masses of Zimbabwe are solidly behind us. . . ."

AFRICA BACKS PATRIOTIC FRONT

On March 14, a resolution by the 49 nation Africa Group declaring the internal settlement "illegal and unacceptable" was passed in the Security Council by a vote of 10-0, with five abstentions coming from the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, West Germany, and France.

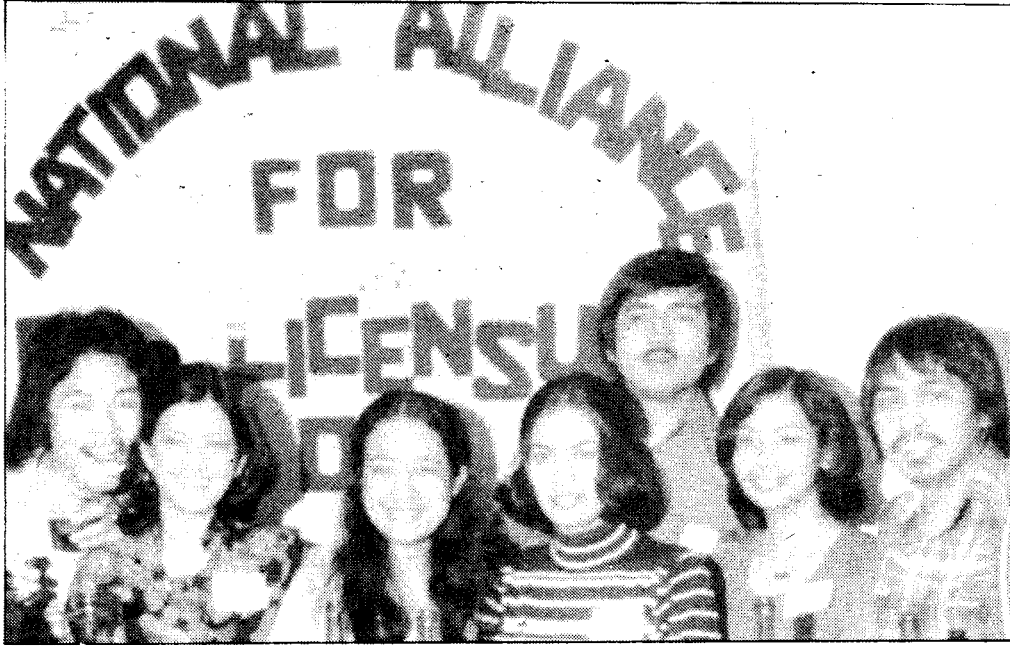
U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young, despite his earlier denunciations of the Smith plan, said that "compared with the kinds of settlement proposals which Smith entertained in the past, the Salisbury agreement marks some progress." British Ambassador Ivor Richards expressed similar agreement.

The reaction of the African states to the proposed settlement was one of universal condemnation and rejection. Most vocal were the countries of Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Botswana. A Mozambique official stated that "the plan will only maintain the presence of the terrorist Rhodesian regime and prolong the suffering of the Zimbabwean people."

Algerian President Houari Boumediene called for all African countries to "step up their support for the Patriotic Front and armed struggle," adding that "the puppet settlement is aimed at dividing the Zimbabwean people and sowing the seeds of civil war which would spread to the whole of southern Africa." □

REVIEW COURSES CHALLENGED

NAFL Launches Nationwide Investigation



Some members of Chicago NAFL at a party celebrating victory for H-1 nurses.

By DAVID POLAND
AK Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO — Plans to launch a nationwide investigation on the current state of review courses the day to day reality of making a living. Here in the available to Foreign Nurse Graduates (FNG's) were unveiled recently at a gathering of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (Bay Area NAFL-FNG).

The event itself was actually a victory party planned to celebrate the NAFL's earlier victory in successfully stopping the deportations of H-1 (working visa) nurses. During the early evening program, a happy crowd of some 65 persons greeted warmly the announcement of yet another abitious NAFL campaign, namely, the campaign for

government funded quality review programs for FNGs.

It was also revealed that the existing review courses are extremely few, are: 1) generally weak, of low quality and ineffective in terms of assisting FNGs in their particular needs and difficulties. This is because most of these programs have not conducted any systematic or thorough going study of the particular difficulties which FNGs generally encounter during the State Board Exams. 2) Generally run by private groups or individuals and therefore, the profit motive often supercedes the need to genuinely assist the FNGs. The average charge for these review courses is \$50-\$100 per subject. This often results in haphazard teaching methods.

Because of this, FNGs are left with limited

options which is either to conduct self-study or to orient themselves to the cultural differences that affect nursing practices. This difficulty was expressed by one NAFL speaker: "We are also faced with the day to day reality of making a living. Here in the Bay Area, because the State Board does not allow us an adequate adjustment period, most FNGs are forced to take jobs in convalescent homes as nurses aides. The starting salary is \$2.65-\$2.75 per hour and includes terrible working conditions, graveyard and swing shifts. How can we also find time to study?"

Based on these experiences, the NAFL (Bay Area) is launching an investigation on the current state of review programs offered. It has also launched a pilot study group session in order to determine from the FNGs themselves, their particular needs and difficulties in regards to the State Board Exams.

Upon completion of the investigation, the findings will be presented for evaluation at the Second National conference of the NAFL-FNG scheduled for May. This position paper will then be presented to the proper government bodies, federal and state, for the disbursement of government monies for review programs.

Stressing that the government has the overall responsibility for the review program, one NAFL speaker stated: "Shall we squeeze pennies from our own communities for these programs? Certainly not, the government itself is overall responsible for this. Afterall, it is their lack of action in terms of temporary permits, lack of review classes, and their general insensitivity to the needs of the FNGs that has created the problems in the first place."

For further information on the Review Investigation call Mayette Aurellano RN at (415) 756-6142 or Noni Espiritu (415) 834-6762; or write: NAFL-FNG. (Bay Area), 85 Lausanne Ave., Daly city, CA 94014. □

Samar Peasants Flee Military Terror...

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The uprooted peasants recounted their ordeal at the hands of Task Force Leysam as follows:

1. Government soldiers roam the barrios as if they are occupation forces, indiscriminately mauling unarmed farmers resulting in the death of a few;
2. The soldiers engage in wanton burning of houses and sacks of rice owned by the farmers, looting their personal valuables such as cash, stealing their grains, chickens and pigs. The troopers usually wear no name tags or they simply cover them to conceal their identities;
3. Meetings of more than three persons are banned lest they get arrested on suspicion of being NPA guerrillas.
4. Anyone the troops meet along the way is liable to be picked up and questioned. At times, the person is cajoled to turn government informer as well as guide for the soldiers. Sometimes, he is just killed in an isolated spot and the barrio people would be told he was slain in ambush.
5. Anyone found keeping a sizeable stock of rice is suspected as an NPA sympathizer, giving enough reason for the owner to be beaten to death and his property burned.



Driven away from their barrios, Samar farmers now huddle in relocation sites and only sneak back to their fields like thieves in the night.

6. Soldiers plant evidence to frame up people they are not on good terms with, to give a reason for their arrest and torture; and

7. Working tools of farmers, such as bolos and sundangs (bladed implements) are confiscated.

BRUTALITIES RECALLED

The refugees recalled a typical incident to illustrate military abuses in their area. Last Jan. 25, they said, some 20 armed troopers of Task Force Leysam aboard a helicopter descended on a sitio (hamlet) of Barrio Minata. Finding no one in the sitio, as everyone was out in the field that morning, the soldiers started their burning and looting spree. Among the victims was Emilio Okaslas, a farmer. The troops took away Emilio's P506 savings in coins, before razing his house to the ground. They also roasted and ate his pigs. On the same morning, the house and rice stock of Sofronio Okasle was also set on fire.

Before leaving for the barrio proper, the soliders demanded chicken for dinner. The following day, they continued terrorizing the rural folk. Benigno Cabigayan's house was empty, so they set it to torch. Rogelio Abegonia, another farmer was ordered by the soldiers to pick some coconuts for them after he failed to give the chicken they demanded. When Rogelio was halfway up the coconut tree, he was shot at, causing him to fall. The soldiers simply left the badly injured Rogelio under the coconut tree.

On the way back, the troopers met Benigno Cabigayan. Right there and then, according to the refugees, Benigno was tortured and shot at.

"NOTHING BUT MISERY"

The peasant refugees bewailed that "before the soldiers came, our barrios were peaceful and prosperous. The soldiers bring us nothing but misery. In the old days we would feel secure when the soldiers were in our barrios. Now we want them to leave. We hope they will be finished off in Mindanao."

Another farmer added: "We know that there are NPA guerrillas somewhere there. But they do not harm us. Once they killed a notorious carabao rustler. After that, our carabaos were safe. We did not have to tie them near our homes at night anymore."

The displaced farmers asked help from the religious in Calbayog City to stop the military

operations, saying: "If the military operations continue, we cannot till our fields. If we do not till our fields, we have nothing to eat. We will die including our children."

They also asked for immediate aid such as cash, food, medicine, and clothing. The farmers said that, at times, when they could longer bear the extreme hunger and deprivation in the poblacion, they would slip back to their farms. Said one, "we are like thieves in our own farms. To get the few camotes (sweet potatoes) we planted, we have to be very careful that the soldiers do not see us. We know of farmers who have been tortured or shot at in their own farms."

In response to their needs, Bishop Tancinco mobilized various religious organizations in his diocese. The bishop also urged concerned citizens and organizations to send in telegrams and letters of protest to martial law administrators demanding the military operations in the affected areas be halted.

Meanwhile, the peasant refugees continue to live in fear and poverty. They are uncertain when their suffering will end. All they know is that, "In the old days, we were afraid of bandits and bullies. Now we are afraid of the soldiers." □

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