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\$26 Million Cutback For S.F. School District

Filipino Educators Assail Prop 13 Cutbacks

By DAVID POLAND
AK Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—Efforts are underway in the Filipino community here to organize against a devastating \$26 million cutback in the budget of the San Francisco Unified School District, as a result of mandates imposed by Proposition 13.

Some 350 people attended a meeting initiated by the group, Filipinos for Education last March 17. The group is comprised of four different Filipino teacher's associations, administrators and concerned members of the community.

The meeting was held at the Filipino Education Center, whose funding comes from the Unified School District. Programs at the Center are devoted to giving Bilingual/Bicultural education to recently arrived immigrants.

Throughout the course of the meeting, participants listened attentively to the School District's report regarding the proposed cutbacks. The report stated that 30 schools and 15 children's centers would be closed, summer school cancelled, and 545 certified teachers and 555 classified staff were to be terminated.

Filipino educators pointed out the repercussions in the Filipino community for such an overwhelming cutback would be devastating.

According to one educator, "If this mandate pushes through, 70 percent



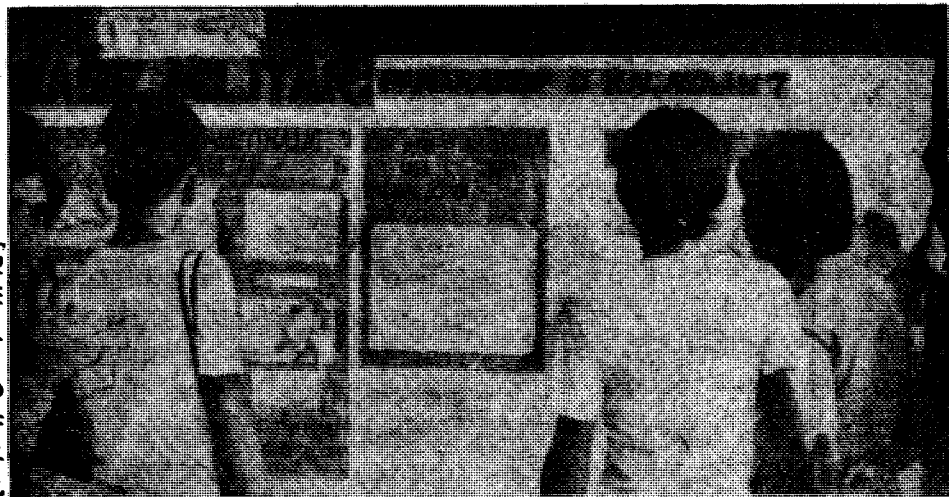
of all Filipino teachers will be terminated. It's the same old story again—minorities are always the last to be hired and the first to be fired."

Presently, Filipino teachers comprise 2 percent, or 107 out of the total 4,758 teachers employed by the District. The majority of the Filipino teachers were hired during the last 10

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350 attend meeting at Filipino Bilingual Education Center to organize against impending cutbacks in the S.F. School District Budget. A.K. Photo

Clamp Down On Academic Freedom



[Philippine Collegian]

Students at the University of the Philippines Los Banos campus look at anti-U.S. bases poster which was torn down shortly after by a school official.

In response to a growing wave of student demands from Mindanao to Metro-Manila for quality education and academic freedom, President Ferdinand E. Marcos issued a directive last Feb. 2 ordering severe restrictions on academic freedom.

Among its many provisions, the order prohibits "discussion on subject matters relating to political or allied issues" that might incite disorder and prohibits both "troubling criticisms" and "irresponsible dissemination verbally or otherwise, of findings and conclusions of studies, researches, and surveys with intent to impede, obstruct, or erode confidence in and respect to the New Society and its

leaders." The memorandum directs "strict compliance" and stipulates that violators will be dismissed and will face "appropriate disciplinary action . . . if the circumstances of the case so warrant."

While some professors speculated that the government's action might be a fearful response to the fall of the Shah of Iran, other observers point to causes much closer to home. Universities in Metro-Manila, provincial Los Banos and elsewhere recently launched open campaigns to withdraw U.S. bases from the Philippines in the wake of the U.S.-R.P. bases agreement. That this irritated at least one univer-

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Special Supplement Inside:

Ten Years of the New Peoples Army



23,000 Base Workers Strike

FLASH!
OLONGAPO CITY, PHILIPPINES—23,000 Filipino workers stage a two-day strike against their employer, the U.S. Subic Naval Base.

The workers were demanding better benefits such as health care, sick pay and recognition of Philippine holidays for days off.

Three picketers were reportedly hurt when a Navy truck sideswiped the workers picketing outside the gate of the base.

At press time, it is not known whether the workers won all their demands when they settled the strike.

A committee composed of representatives from the base and the Philippine Ministry of Labor was said to have intervened during the strike.

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EDITORIAL

'Revolutionary Arson' Or Isolated Terrorism?

Some quarters in the anti-martial law movement have recently excitedly announced that "the Philippine Revolution's torch is aflame". What a discovery! At first, one would think the source is a bit out of touch with the times and has only just now discovered that a full scale revolution is brewing in the Philippines. But a closer reading shows that this statement is not just a figurative manner of speaking but is meant to be taken literally.

The Philippine News in its March 10-16 issue (banner story "Revolution in RP has started" and Psinakis Column "The Philippine Revolution is on") reported that the so-called "moderate democratic forces" have lighted the fire of the Philippine Revolution. How? Believe it or not by actually setting fires in the Greater Manila Area and burning down such edifices like the Central Bank Bldg., (which houses the Comelec and the Bureau of Treasury) as well as other symbols like Rustan's Dept. Store, and the Philippine Plaza Hotel (particularly oppressive, we gather, because it is owned by Imelda Marcos, and not because of exorbitant prices).

The report was based on one of many handbills distributed by these "moderate forces" exhorting the Filipino people to break their shackles of fear by "lighting your own candle" or better still, lighting your own fire! Other sources of action open to the Filipino masses according to the anon-

ymous group are:

1) Pass this letter to your friends asking them to do the same: In case you don't know this is the old-chain letter trick which in the past, asked the recipient to say five rosaries with promises of heaven, wealth and good fortune and threats of hell, death, or, worse, poverty and other misfortune to those who fail to follow the instructions of the letter. Times have changed and now the innocuous chain letter asks not just for rosaries or novenas but actual fires with promises of quick liberation from the tyrannical Martial Law regime and a return to the old pre-martial law system.

2) Refuse to pay taxes: Not a bad idea actually but of course the rich (from whose ranks come a number of these "moderate forces") already do this through their tax shelters and loopholes and other such privileges of this class, which the vast majority of the Filipino people do not enjoy.

3) Send warning letters to supporters of the regime like Herdis, Benedicto, and well-known torturers like Major Abadilla, Col. Aure, asking them to "repent or resign or leave the country": Of course, the force of these letters alone will be enough to persuade these hard-core criminals to mend their ways. How ridiculous! This ignores the fact that they benefit materially from the martial law regime.

4) Slow down anything you do in

your company, both private and public that could in any way affect the supporters of Marcos-Romualdez: Maybe if the salesgirls in Rustan sold less or the waiters at the Philippine Plaza Hotel served less, the economy would collapse bringing down with it the Marcos dictatorship. How naive! More likely, the workers would merely be fired—after all there are millions of unemployed to take their place.

5) Boycott Rustans, Philippine Plaza Hotel, Silabis, Philippine Village Hotel, Cultural Center, etc., that belong to and are controlled by Imelda Marcos: Of course the masses of Filipino people already boycott these places not so much out of principle, but out of poverty! But why only those owned by Imelda? What about those owned by the dictator himself either directly or through his well-known fronts, like the Meralco, Pantranco, Manila Transit, Daily Express, etc., etc. Of course, this would mean going without electricity and mass transport and mass media since the regime has a monopoly on these. In the long run, if one were to be serious about this boycott, one has to stop buying practically everything since these "moderate forces" would be the first to admit that the dictator and his supporters have their tentacles on practically every aspect of the Philippine economy.

6) Participate safely but concretely in various rallies, mass demonstra-

tions that your freedom loving friends will initiate: Of course the most concrete demonstration of your commitment to freedom is to become an arsonist! And these fires of "revolution" must not only be concrete but safe. How silly! There must be a technique to "safe arson". Let's just hope that the salespeople and other lowly employees of these hated edifices are not in the buildings at the time these misguided "patriots" start their revolutionary fires! But wouldn't it be more effective if Ferdie or Imelda or both, and Imee, Bongbong, Irene, the mother of the dictator, Mrs. Edralin Marcos, Kokoy Romualdez, etc.—in short, all other members of the Marcos dynasty, were in the building during the fire. Of course, if we were going to be thorough about it, we should also make sure the US Ambassador or even better, President Carter, and other important policy-makers in the US government who support the regime were also inside the burning building. Then, we would have truly liberated the Filipino people from the scourge of this US-backed dictatorship.

7) And when all else fails, there is still God to whom we can pray and appeal: Unfortunately, none of these culprits—devout Catholic Marcos, Baptist preacher Jimmy Carter, are obviously influenced by anything God has to say on the matter! It is

(continued on page 7)

Anti-Martial Law Coalition Deterred Marcos Visit

Recent issues of rabid pro-Marcos newspapers such as Filipino Reporter and the Bataan News (based in Stockton, CA) have accused the anti-martial law movement, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition in particular, of spreading "rumors" and engaging in idle speculations with regards to the Marcos state visit Washington, D.C. projected to be in March. A look at the facts, however, will show that this is not the case. In fact it is the Marcos-controlled media itself which was the first to trumpet Marcos upcoming visit by floating trial balloons. Teodoro Valencia, well-known for his "close ties" with the Philippine dictator (like mouthing the dictator's line on all issues without fail), raised in a February issue of the Filipino Reporter that, "It's about time Marcos comes to the U.S." Another publication, the ASIaweek, also well-known for having close ties with Malacanang, in its Feb. 23, 1979 issue writes: "When would Marcos go? A presidential aide told ASIaweek's Antonio Lopez that his boss 'has a standing invitation from Carter . . .'" Official sources intimated that the date would be either in spring or summer, "that is, sometime between March and August. Insiders, however, are betting on next month . . ."

Aside from the horse's mouth so to speak the other reliable sources of the AMLC include:

• Agence France Presse in its Jan. 1st news release reported that Marcos was coming in early March.

• Last Feb. 22, a member of the Congress Educational Project (CEP, an organization based in Washington, D.C.), called an aide of Hall Brooke (Undersecretary of State) whose res-

ponse was "maybe but not official."

• On March 1, CEP also called Rep. LEster Wolf's aide who confirmed that Marcos was coming mid-March to late March to "appeal to business community." (By this, we assume for further penetration of U.S. investment in the Philippines.)

• Several calls were also placed to the State Department by congress-people nationwide, upon the prodding of anti-martial law alliances who sent delegates to their representatives and senators. The State Department at various times confirmed the visit ("It's a private visit.") and, not unexpectedly tried to remain vague about the whole affair.

As the above investigation shows, contrary to what the pro-Marcos newspapers want us to believe, these are hard facts not based on "rumors" nor idle speculation. On the other hand, these facts strongly indicate that it was in fact the militant preparations of the anti-martial law movement that forced Marcos to defer his visit.

Interestingly enough, these Marcos mouthpieces do not even have the courage to defend their master's visit. Instead of proudly announcing that their "Master is coming to town," and defending "his right to come to town" (as loyal puppets are expected to do), they choose to deny his travel plans (as if it were a shameful and indefensible thing for him to pay a state visit to his U.S. master) and attack the Anti-Martial Law Coalition instead. In a way, their response is not altogether surprising. It is based on their awareness of the fact that their dictator is also unpopular among Filipinos here and does not have a mass base in this country. Who can they rally to welcome the arrival of

Marcos—a known violator of human rights—except Marcos cronies and paid hacks who constitute a tiny minority in the U.S. Filipino community. The majority of the Filipino people here have not forgotten about their relatives in the Philippines who are either locked up in Marcos' jail for asserting their democratic right, or who, like the majority of the Filipino masses, experience the economic hardship and military terror under the fascist regime. Our experience have shown that yes, the Filipino community here will step forward on this occasion, not to welcome the dictator's visit but to lodge their protest against the inhumane dictatorship.

The planned state visit is also not so inconceivable given the recently concluded U.S.-R.P. Military Bases Agreement. This executive agreement which was signed in January by the U.S. and Philippine governments, is not a mere routine policy decision. A closer examination will show that the "bases agreement" ushered in a qualitatively new stage to U.S.-R.P. relations. It meant a 150 percent increase in aid (\$500 million in five years) plus \$1 billion in economic aid. Moreover, the "base agreement" also include a provision that the U.S. military can now participate in off-base military activities "in accordance with mutually agreed procedures." Such "off-base activities" (which is a nice way of referring to counter-insurgency operations against the resistance movement in the country), can now be done overtly rather than covertly as was the practice prior to the bases agreement. This executive agreement therefore guarantees what Marcos have been demanding for, namely, unqualified U.S. support for his regime. It has the effect of

inextricably binding the U.S. to the isolated Marcos regime including direct U.S. intervention in the civil war that is developing there. In short, the U.S. has just made a commitment to the Marcos regime that could be paralleled to the commitment made by the "liberal" Kennedy administration during the sixties to the Diem regime in Viet Nam, a decision which had tragic consequences for the American and Vietnamese people.

Thus, it is logical to assume that such a significant agreement should be "consummated" by an official state visit. Whether or not it is Marcos who visits the U.S. or Carter who visits the Philippines is not the real question. The question is who was principally responsible for orchestrating this base agreement and who is principally trying to cover it up. Seen in the context of puppet/master relations, it is clear that the "liberal" Carter administration must principally be targeted. Contrary to his human rights facade, the U.S. President has in this last period supported another fascist dictator and drawn the country into another Vietnam through the bases which he has slipped through without any democratic participation from Congress or the U.S. public.

If Marcos thinks that by deferring his visit here, the anti-martial law movement will let down its guard, he is badly mistaken. The anti-martial law movement here will maintain its vigilant posture. Whenever the dictator decides to come—we are ready!

Revoke the Bases Agreement!
Stop U.S. Aid to Marcos!
Denounce Carter's support for martial law.

Rene Cruz
AMLC Nat'l Coordinator



Buod ng mga Balita

[NEWS SUMMARIES]

Tribal Filipinos Form Alliance

[BMP]—An alliance against the operations of Cellophil Resources Corp. (CRC), a giant pulp and paper firm owned by Marcos cronies, Herminio Disini, was formed late January by Tingguian and Bontoc minorities in northern Luzon.

Named United Communities of the Cordillera (after the region's mountain range), the alliance was the result of an Inter-Peace Pact Consultation held in Tiempo, Tubo, Abra on Jan. 25-26.

The conferees also approved a seven-point *pagta ti kalon* (terms of agreement of the peace pact) similar to that made earlier by anti-Chico Dam minorities in Mt. Province.

The terms which also served as the constitution of the newly-formed federation were:

1. Members of the federation are prohibited from working in CRC and other companies which destroy the means of livelihood of the members of the said federation;
2. Members of the federation are prohibited from guiding CRC personnel into the territories of the signatory villages;
3. Nobody is allowed to make transactions with CRC and other companies (e.g. mining) without first consulting the peace pact holder and resident of the place;
4. Anyone discovered of accepting bribes from CRC and other companies will be punished;
5. The federation will work as one to support any person who is brought to court due to CRC opposition;
6. Any member of the federation who violates these promulgated rules will be punished accordingly; and
7. The federation will hold an annual meeting except when there are emergency cases.

A resolution demanding that the CRC's license to operate in its concession areas be revoked was also passed and signed by peace pact holders.

At present, around 200,000 hectares of land has been granted to CRC by the Marcos regime for the firm's logging operations. The areas consisted mainly of Tingguian and Bontoc lands. □

Assemblyman Blasts Batasan

Assemblyman and KBL member, Arturo Tolentino, openly criticized the Batasan Pambansa (BP) as a "powerless body supposed to function as a legislature," in a speech to a civic club in Malolos, Bulacan.

He added that the current Philippine government is "not a parliament type in the true sense of the word, but a personalized government—a mixture of Marcos Martial Law and Marcos Parliament."

Of the April 7 IBP elections, Tolentino said it was reduced to a voting exercise, adding that "it would have been better if no election was ever held at all."

He brought attention to the fact that Marcos is the only Prime Minister in the world who was installed indefinitely by constitutional mandate instead of by parliamentary elections.

The assemblyman deplored the high security of BP sessions making it impossible for public viewing. He also charged the slowness with which bills are implemented on the BP's committee chairmen (simultaneously Cabinet members) who are preoccupied with other concerns.

Given his dissatisfaction, Tolentino hinted leaving the KB, but said that "under the new constitution I can't change my political party."

Tolentino was one of two assemblymen who has called for the lifting of martial law. □

Imelda's Basilica Meets Opposition

Wasting no time in pursuing one of her latest extravagant projects, First Lady Imelda Marcos has set out to erect a monumental Basilica for the awaited visit of Pope John Paul II, who has a standing invitation from her. However, the long-range plan is for the Basilica to house the body of President Ferdinand Marcos when he passes away and serve as a shrine in his honor.

Originally, the Basilica was projected to be finished by the anniversary of the founding of Metro-Manila. Now Mrs. Marcos changed the deadline to May 5, which is the first couple's wedding anniversary.

The site of this elaborate shrine will be in Lungsod Silangan, Taytay, Rizal. An enormous task of levelling off three mountains in Antipolo will be involved. Even a new highway may have to be dismantled. The estimated cost of the huge project is close to P200 million.

Meanwhile, several people have grouped together and formed the Movement Against the Construction of the Basilica and Concerned Citizens of God, as organized opposition against the Basilica. The main contention of this group is that the project is a display of excess amid the stark poverty in the Philippines. If it is the taxpayers' money being used, they strongly feel that it could be put to better use for the people. Cardinal Jaime Sin has also opposed the construction of the Basilica, and suggested to Mrs. Marcos that the funds intended for this elaborate tomb should be funnelled instead to low-cost housing and hospital for the poor. □

POLITICAL DETAINEES ATTACK REGIME LIES

In a recent press conference, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile denounced a resolution introduced by Assemblyman Reuben Canoy, asking Pres. Marcos to release all political prisoners. Enrile said the resolution could potentially create a security problem. While vehemently denying the existence of political prisoners, Enrile admitted having violators of the anti-subversion law in detention. As of Feb. 29, 1979, he called them "Public Order Violators."

In 1974, Marcos used the term, "political detainee" to mean "those charged under the anti-subversion act with rebellion, sedition, or insurrection and other crimes against the security of the state."

Both "public order violators," or political detainees, by any other name, are "accused of committing acts or offenses of a political nature," asserts a letter by Philippine political prisoners to the League of Filipino Students Foundation (LFSF) dated March 3, 1979. The letter was issued to dispell misconceptions created recently by Enrile's denial of the existence of political detainees.

The letter pointed out that scathing reports of torture and inhuman treatment revealed by the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International some years ago has prompted the regime's pattern of denying the existence of political prisoners. Since Marcos propagated a call for "normalization and implied the eventual lifting of martial law in 1977 it



The regime's repeated denials of the existence of political prisoners goes hand in glove with sham normalization scheme.

has become standard practice for the regime to deny it has any political prisoners. This is because any genuine call for normalcy requires the release of those imprisoned for political reasons.

The letter accurately enumerated alarming trends in the past two years that show the regime's foul-ups in its commitment to "normalize" as follows:

1) Arrests and the consequent torture and maltreatment of political detainees continue. Such abuses are rampant outside the Metro Manila area, far from the eye of public scrutiny. Even the U.S. State Dept. in its 1978 report on the world human rights situation admitted that "while a number of torture cases reported in Manila may have dropped in 1978, this practice continues at the same level as before in the rest of the country."

2) Numerous arrests of political nature are misrepresented as cases involving common crimes. Again, this is most true in the provinces where it is difficult to pin down the precise number of political

detainees because they are mixed with criminal elements and charged with such offenses as illegal possession of firearms and murder to disguise the political nature of their cases.

3) Other arrests go unreported because prisoners simply disappear or are made to appear as NPA and MNLF casualties in encounters with government forces.

4) The series of presidential amnesty decrees have all fallen short of their avowed aim of attaining national reconciliation. These amnesty decrees are highly restrictive. The detainee must file an application and is subject to review by military intelligence whose main interest is evidently to block such applications. As a result, not a single political prisoner has been released through amnesty.

The letter states that the overwhelming majority of political prisoners are "ordinary folks who have acted in one way or another with the desire to better their lives and society—trade unionists, slum-dwellers, minorities and students..." □

"Avenge Abat":

Terror Campaign-A Ruse

February 3, 1979, Second Lt. Tito Abat died in an armed encounter in Sta. Rita, Eastern Samar, supposedly with members of the New People's Army (NPA). His father, a Commanding General of the Philippine Army, Fortunato Abat, used the occasion to launch a massive retaliation drive against NPA in the province.

But a recent visitor from Eastern Samar brings back a far different story of Abat's death as told by the people of Sta. Rita. Their story reveals the brutality of the Philippine military establishment personified in a father who would falsify the facts of his own son's death in order to intensify military repression against the people of Samar.

According to the residents of Sta. Rita, Abat was killed in

a bizarre mix-up by members of the Philippine Constabulary (PC). Abat's Scout Ranger unit, counter-insurgency troops who wear no insignia nor name tags, left their base in Leyte, just across the San Juanico Bridge, to go on maneuvers in the Sta. Rita area. Meanwhile, a PC unit stationed nearby left on patrol.

The PC unit, sighting a group of unidentifiable armed men in the distance and assuming they were NPA, opened fire. "Stop," someone shouted from the PC ranks, "they are ours." But it was too late. Abat was already wounded and died several hours later in the hospital.

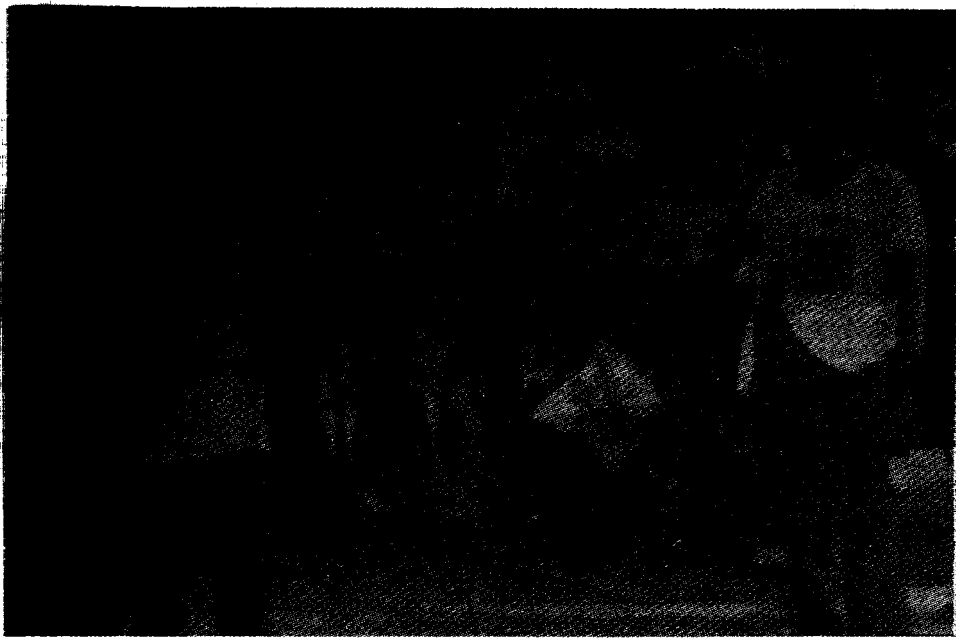
The Philippine military moved quickly to cover up the embarrassing incident and turn it to their advantage. The story was circulated of Abat's

death at the hands of the NPA and two battallions of troops were quickly dispatched to avenge his loss.

The real losers in the encounter, however, were the people in Sta. Rita. Church and community leaders were quick to draft a letter to Pres. Marcos, the international press and all concerned, telling the true story of Abat's grotesquely accidental death.

"Spare us another Calbiga," they implored. Yet a retaliatory raid was launched in January 1979, which left over 2000 peasants homeless refugees as the military went on a reign of terror. In the process of finding the "NPA" the military committed numerous atrocities against the civilian population, a memory which burns on for the folk of Eastern Samar. □

Marcos Plays Cruel Joke On Workers



Workers will bear the brunt of the economic crisis.

In response to growing pressure from Filipino workers hard-pressed by soaring inflation, President Ferdinand E. Marcos last Mar. 15, decreed an increase in the minimum wage. The decree, however, was shot through with so many exceptions that even the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, businessman's guide to Asia, headlined the measure, "Marcos Issues Decree Raising Wages; Most Filipino Workers Aren't Covered."

The presidential decree came after a prolonged conference with management and the government-controlled Trades Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP). Noting that Marcos last June 12 promised to avoid circumventing the legislative process, the *Journal's* Michael T. Malloy suggested that "Wages are too hot an issue to leave to the Assembly."

The new decree raises the minimum daily wage for industrial workers in Metro-Manila to P13 from P11, and for industrial workers outside the capital

from P10 to P12. Wages for agricultural workers are raised from P8 to P10 on plantations and from P7 to P9 on farms.

All workers earning less than P1000 per month are to be granted an extra P60 cost-of-living allowance with P20 for farm laborers.

EXCEPTIONS

The number of catches in the new ruling, however, turn it into a cruel joke on the Filipino worker. Among them:

- Handicrafts industries, which, government statistics claim, account for 47 percent of nonagricultural employment, will not receive the cost-of-living allowance. Wages here are pegged at P10 for small and P12 for large manufacturers in Metro-Manila and P11 elsewhere.

- Construction and service contractors are exempted from the new decree.

- The sugar industry is exempted from the new wage structure until such a time as world sugar prices recover.

- Hotels and restaurants may credit 50 percent of tips and service charges against the wage increase.

- Finally, the most devastating, a wage increase of P1 next year promised by Marcos is replaced by the current set of wage hikes.

WORKERS—BEARING THE BRUNT OF NEW SOCIETY "DEVELOPMENT"

Filipino workers, since 1972, have borne the brunt of the New Society's "economic development" schemes. The drive to lure foreign investment has created an impossible situation for most workers. By the Labor Ministry's own estimates, the real income of all workers has remained at practically the same level as seven years ago; and the real income of unskilled workers—the vast majority—has dropped by more than one-third. With inflation forecast to reach at least nine percent in 1979, even the TUCP in late February, requested that the minimum wage be raised from P11 to P24.

All in all, the rest of 1979 looks bleak for Filipino workers. The Marcos government is hostile to price controls, and the price-controlling authority it has selectively employed in the last few years to pacify popular discontent is scheduled to be phased out in June.

Battered by low wages and inflation, Filipino workers value holidays as a refuge from the rigors of working-class life under martial law. Now even this is threatened. In a recent speech before applauding foreign businessmen, who have been pressing for an extension of the work-week, Marcos promised to cut down the number of holidays and abolish the tradition of a short working day in the summer. □

Academic Freedom...

continued from front page

sity, if not national, authorities, was indicated by a February edition of *Perspective*, newspaper of the University of the Philippines at Los Banos which reported that posters on the U.S. bases had twice been removed from a bulletin board by barong-clad men riding a car marked "For Official Use Only."

MILITANT STRUGGLES FROM LUZON TO MINDANAO

But the bases campaign is only the latest indication of widespread concern for academic rights—in this case the right to be heard on issues of national importance. Students all over the country have been speaking out to demand academic freedom, better facilities and better working conditions for faculty and non-academic personnel.

One of the most militant and prolonged struggles has been the boycott staged by students and faculty members of Mindanao State University in Marawi City. The action began last June, sparked by delayed salaries of teachers, misappropriation of funds by university officials—particularly MSU president Ali Dimaporo, and inadequate and deteriorating school facilities.

Students and teachers boycotted the school for an entire month at the end of the first semester, beginning again at the start of the second. Anger flared when government soldiers assigned to the university killed six students and beat up school employees in an effort to suppress dissent. Not the least intimidated, students and teachers staged another walkout on December 12 and promised not to resume classes until the murderers had been punished and their demands granted.

In the Visayas, 450 undergraduates of the University of the Philippines' Cebu City branch walked out of the classes on Nov. 21 in protest of "inefficient administrative policies and practices" of the administration. Their action lasted 14 days.

In Metro-Manila, teachers and non-academic workers succeeded in forcing the resignation of Vicente Araneta as president of Araneta University through a combination of strikes, mass leaves by teachers and non-academic staff and student boycotts. Their complaints centered on unfair faculty classification and pay scales and low employee salaries.

SUCCESSFUL LOS BANOS ACTION

Finally, students from the Los Banos branch of the University of the Philippines last Jan. 24 forced the administration to revoke a memo requiring prior approval from the Office of Student Affairs for any bill, poster, or announcement posted on walls or bulletin boards. Following that victory, 2000 students boycotted classes from Feb. 7-11 demanding improved dormitory facilities and equipment. They were joined by teachers, researchers, janitors and security guards protesting poor pay. Maintenance workers in particular demanded a new salary scale.

In a related development, public school teachers in Bataan, Central Luzon, staged a walkout in response to pressure to participate in the Buklod ng Kabataang Kawani (Union of Young Employees). They denounced the organization as a network set up by the Marcos regime to spy on the national democratic movement and, at the same time, enhance the regime's image among the people of Bataan. □

Worst Detention Center

78 Prisoners Stage Hunger Strike

In one of the first major actions of political prisoners in provincial jails, some 78 inmates of the PC Hill Detention Center, Cotabato City, staged a hunger strike on Feb. 26 to demand humane treatment and better living conditions.

Weak and emaciated, the detainees hoisted placards reading, "Give us Justice or Give us Death," and chanted their demands. Neither verbal threats nor shots fired by terrified soldiers intimidated the detainees from carrying through with their action. Some of the Muslim prisoners even donned white headbands to symbolize their determination to carry through with the hunger strike till death, if their demands were not met.

The action which disrupted the Camp's activities and gathered the support of sympathetic individuals, prompted Brig. Gen. Delfin Castro, head of the Central Mindanao Command, to agree to hearing the detainees' complaints. Three days later, Castro's emissaries talked to the detainees and agreed to comply with their demands on the condition that they suspend the hunger strike for a week.

The truce, however, was a ploy to frustrate the detainees' demands. The following days, visitation rights were resumed but cut down to 30 minutes. By March 4, visits were altogether prohibited. The food supply was also

cut down to a bare minimum. During this time word circulated that two sickly detainees died prompting concerned citizens and relatives to march to the CEMCOM headquarters on March 6 for confirmation. The visitors were scolded for milling around the camp and were even threatened with strafing by a Lt. Usman, the attending officer at the time.

Despite the tense situation, the detainees seized upon the occasion to make the visitors aware of their plight by again hoisting their placards.

WORST DETENTION CENTER

What drove the 78 detainees to a total hunger strike despite their frail conditions?

According to the Political Prisoners Update, PC Hill or the 41st Sub-RECAD has been labeled "the worst detention center in the Philippines" by a delegate of the International Red Cross Committee, and named "41st Sub-RECAD graveyard," by the detainees themselves.

Cooped in three dank and dimly-lit and cramped prison cells, the detainees could only get a glimpse of the outside world through small windows. There are not enough bunks for the detainees so the prisoners take their turns sleeping on the bare floor.

Their usual fare is a bowl of boiled, almost rotten, fish or meat which remains to be found in a sea of broth

and rice. The supposed P4 daily food budget of each detainee goes into the pockets of the caterers instead of in the mouths of the prisoners.

Coupled with this lack of food is the refusal of the military to allow the detainees to exercise and sun daily to maintain good health. The military's callous disregard for the detainees' health was dramatized by the death of Abdila Idon on October of last year. During his illness, Idon was never attended to by a doctor and was brought to the hospital only when he was about to die. His body was never given to his parents nor were they allowed to give him proper burial rites.

Already weak and undernourished, the detainees are even forced to donate blood to government and private blood banks.

The detainees are mostly angered however by the military's refusal to release them until three years have elapsed. Despite the fact that most are mere suspects, CEMCOM has neglected the speedy disposition of their cases.

Thus, after several years of degradation and uncertainty, the detainees went on a hunger strike.

Despite the two empty bunks standing ominously, the March 6 show of defiance by the remaining detainees is proof that the prisoners remain undaunted in their struggle for justice. □



New FACLA Elections One Step Closer

San Jose Strikes Out With Third Lawsuit

Special to the ANG KATIPUNAN

LOS ANGELES—Wednesday, March 14, proved to be an important date for the Committee to Save FACLA (CSF).

In a much heralded victory, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Pacht ruled in favor of the CSF's lawsuit against the San Jose administration for their "controversial" win last December. He ordered new elections to be held which will be administered by a neutral referee agreeable to both parties.

Last month the CSF, leading opponents of San Jose, filed for an injunction to invalidate the 1979 FACLA elections because of several violations of the election code. These were: the shortening of the voter registration period from two months to two weeks; the non-notification of voters; the Committee on Elections consisting of only two members instead of the required three; and the Registration Committee having only five members instead of the required nine.

In addition, San Jose's "landslide" claim to victory occurred with only 400 voters going to the polls as compared to the 6,000 the year before. The CSF claims that the election violations together with San Jose's stormy year in office brought upon by undemocratic practices and financial infractions put a damper on the enthusiasm for the 1979 FACLA elections.

The judge's decision was handed down despite San Jose's request for a full evidentiary hearing and his arguments that the plaintiffs (CSF) did not meet substantial "burden of proof" against his administration.

The over 100 declamations gathered by the CSF from the L.A. Filipino community proved to be enough evidence to warrant the Court's decision to invalidate the elections.

A POSITIVE STEP

The CSF's response to the victory decision was one of exuberance, yet at the same time a sober call to the hard work ahead in bringing unity to the turbulent atmosphere existing in the community.

Jaime Geaga, presidential candidate against San Jose in the 1979 elections, stated: "Because of the court's decision, the community now

Major Demands Met

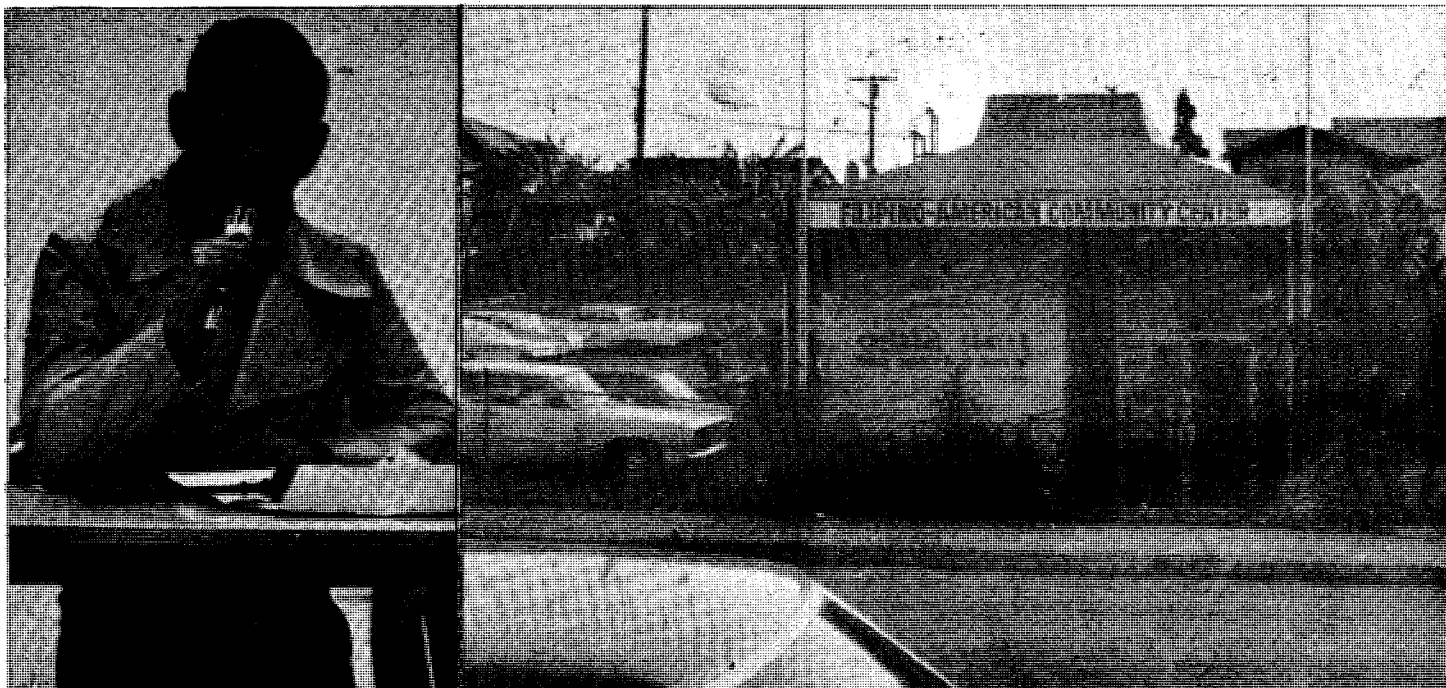
PAL Workers Win Contract

Adapted from PHILIPPINE NEWS

San Francisco-Philippine Airline employees returned to work March 12 after their union voted to accept PAL's compromise offer.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) was able to get four of the seven major demands that it wanted from PAL. Those were:

- Correct inequities in pay rates of top and lower rates in most job classifications. This bought PAL salaries at par with industry norms;
- Protection in pay rate for those employees who have already moved without restrictions from one classification to another;
- Every employee would receive the same minimum increase (10 percent)



San Jose: "Holding back the progress of FACLA and the L.A. Filipino community" if he chooses not to abide by the court's decision.

has the opportunity to hold clean and honest elections. However, in order to defeat San Jose, if he chooses to run again, the community must realize that the damage he has brought to FACLA can only be reversed if we all take the responsibility to become involved. We must show that we want and need an organization that serves the broadest interests of the community."

Sandor Fuchs, lawyer for CSF, warned of the limits of the legal victory. He said "The lawsuit victory legally insures that a new election will be held, but it will be the members of FACLA who will have to abide by the new election procedures. If the defendant chooses to ignore this . . . it is no longer a legal issue, but a political one. And members of FACLA must be prepared to act accordingly."

FOR SAN JOSE, BUSINESS AS USUAL

Meanwhile, San Jose reportedly once again attempted to railroad his way through FACLA's regular monthly meeting. Last March 18 he refused to discuss the lawsuit.

He claimed not to have "officially" received the court decision. However, it was learned earlier in the week that San Jose had agreed to give his approval for Atty. Jose Lauchengco to

be referee in the event of the new election . . . an act which acknowledged his court defeat. Not until a hotly contested debate and insistence from the general assembly did San Jose agree to discuss the matter.

Speculation is rife that San Jose will once again delay justice in FACLA, given his remark during the meeting that he "may appeal" the case.

To this a San Jose critic remarked at the end of the meeting, "How can one man be so arrogant as to hold back the progress of our community by forcing us to go through a lengthy appeals process? When the majority of the

people want a new election, when already two judges have found his administration illegal based on previous lawsuits . . . his insistence on an appeal can only mean that he is afraid of an honest election and points out to the fact that he puts his own pride before the interests of the whole community."

Presently, the CSF and San Jose will be entering into negotiations to decide new election procedures agreeable to both parties. The finalized procedures will then be handled by the court appointed referee. □

4-A Hotel Tenants Denied Injunction



Residents of 4-A Hotel demonstrate outside SLAP Corporation Offices. A.K. Photo

HONOLULU—Because of "insufficient evidence" on the demolition damages, the Circuit Court here denied an injunction by 4-A Hotel residents against their landlord.

The injunction would have forced SLAP Joint Venture to repair damages done to the hotel as a result of the "partial" demolition three weeks ago.

The demolition, ordered by SLAP itself, destroyed the kitchen and toilet areas shared by four hotel elderly residents and two children. (See AK, Vol. V, No. 5) While the demolition crew was tearing down these areas, the residents were locked in their rooms.

Robert Gerell, representing SLAP, testified in court that the demolition was ordered to "follow up a notice to correct," issued by the City Building Department and the State Health Department over two years ago.

Many feel, however, that the demolition move was ordered by SLAP to justify

forced eviction of the remaining tenants.

Said a 4-A supporter, "Not until after the demolition, however, did SLAP file a suit to evict, claiming that the old structure is no longer habitable."

Despite denial of their injunction against their landlord, the tenants have expressed intention to "strongly" oppose any eviction attempts. Another hearing has been scheduled on March 27 on the issue.

Meanwhile, the People Against Chinatown Eviction (PACE) which aided in partially restoring electricity and plumbing to the hotel since the demolition, vowed to continue to organize Chinatown residents against any forcible evictions.

"This could happen to you. At 4-A we have been fighting eviction since 1977 and will go on demanding for low-cost housing, not eviction," said a 4-A tenant to other Chinatown residents. □

Tenants Fight Rent Hike

By DEBBIE KO
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE — An attempt by the owner of the Paul Revere Apartments here to hike rents by 22 to 54 percent has been stopped dead in its tracks by an organized tenant opposition. The rent hike that would have been effective April 1 came on the heels of an earlier increase — \$10-15 — only last October.

Upon receipt of their increase notice, March 1, the predominantly Filipino tenants gathered in the hallway to express their outrage and disbelief at the increases which range from \$30 to \$65 per month.

A petition "for redress of this unfair and disproportionate financial burden" was immediately drawn up by the tenant organizers — Paula Polintan, Suzie Del Carmen and Mrs. Nemo. Seventy-four signatures were easily collected, according to Mrs. Polintan. Copies of the petitions were also sent to the City Council officials, Mayor Royer, Gov. Ray and the local press to expose the issue.



Tenant representatives meet with IDHA and STU. A.K. Photo

The Paul Revere Apartment house is a 64-unit building, owned by Donald Harvey who also owns two other buildings in this city. Paul Revere is his largest apartment housing, valued at \$404,700.

Ninety percent of its tenants are Filipino who mostly earn below median wage. They work as clerks, hotel and hospital housekeepers, and the rest of the residents are elderly living on SSI benefits.

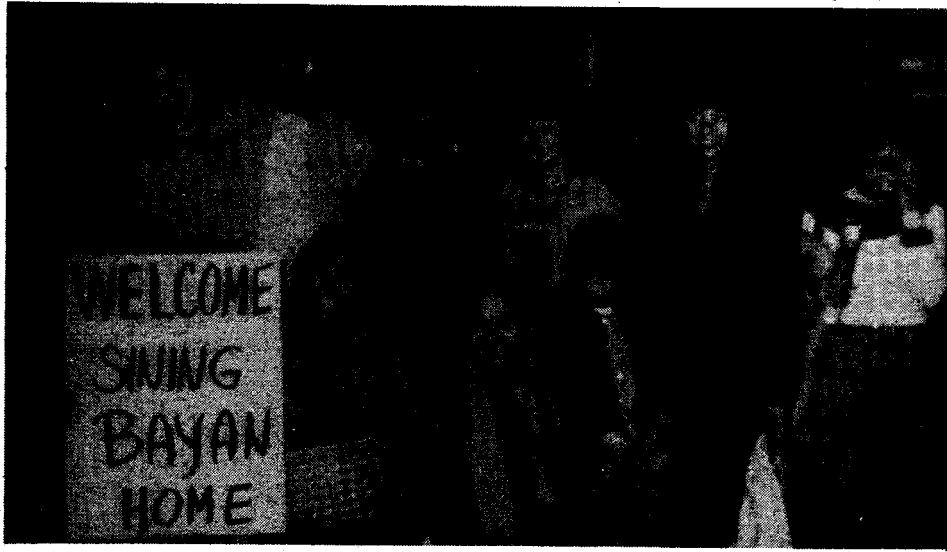
As a result of their opposition against the rent hike, some tenants have met with the International District Housing Alliance (IDHA) and the Sea Tenants Union (STU). Both these groups have been active in housing struggles in Seattle.

The Paul Revere tenants heard about the experiences of other tenants faced with similar problems from the IDHA and the STU. At the same meeting, a course for immediate action was charted. The tenants wrote a letter to Mr. Harvey requesting a meeting to discuss their position.

They also enclosed Carter's Wage and Price Guidelines which calls for no more than a 7 percent increase in wages and a 6 percent increase in prices, accordingly. The tenants request no more than a 6 percent increase in their rent.

"We are not trying to prevent an increase, only that it should be within our means which should take into

'Mindanao': A Review



Members of "Mindanao" cast are greeted by friends and relatives upon arrival at S.F. Inter'l Airport.

By FELY CUSIPAG
AK Correspondent

TORONTO, Canada — Close to 300 people came to the Pickford Park High School Auditorium here to watch Sining Bayan's presentation of MIN-DANAO. They came out with a vision closer to reality of the Muslim brothers in the South.

From the moment that the performers burst upon the surprised audience from the back of the auditorium, with the sound of powerful kulintang and their joyous chorus, the grip on the spectators did not slaken until the end of the fifth act.

So skillfully was the pace of the

drama brought to the height of the fifth scene, that no other alternative could have taken place other than the decision to unite and to resist bodily the eviction bulldozers, symbols of U.S. economic exploitation and fascist local rule.

The conflict between reform and revolution, between Christian and Moro chauvinism, between dissention and unity, all these tensions exploded in the defiant cry "Makibaka, Huwag Matakot!"

The first burst of gunfire stunned the audience along with the barrio folk of the Moro village of Linantangan and the Christian village of San Andres. It is a brief but powerful moment . . . the shock on the faces of

Ishmael, Jamila, Lizam only mirrored the shock on the faces of 300 people held in a vise.

In the rhythm of the agong and the kulintang, the flashing of lights, the choreography of heroic fighters — struggle and revolution became the red flag braving the winds of change.

It is not in the height of this revolutionary fervor that the drama ended, not in the romantic illusion of a victorious battle. It was in the slow, painful process of organizing, recouping their forces, analyzing the past events. A sober, realistic ending.

Ibrahim, the wise spirit of the Moro people, finally emerged from the shadows to extract the lessons from the play. It was only then that the audience caught its breath.

For all its technical flaws, and they were not many, for all the shortcomings in the delivery of some lines, the play was a huge success among the Torontonians, even the more skeptical ones and even among those who came expecting a Broadway professionalism from the performers.

With the Del Monte background, the perfectly timed choreography and musical scoring, and most of all, the enthusiasm of the players, the message came home.

And while all this was happening, Lazaro, who plays Lizam, was alone in a room, sick with the measles . . . but nonetheless composing a song called . . . "Sining Bayan." □

consideration our earning capacities," explained Mrs. Del Carmen.

NEGLIGENCE

The other reason that the tenants are actively opposing the rent increase is the landlord's negligence and non-responsiveness to their complaints.

"To this day I have windows in my bedroom that don't open, leaking faucets, dirty carpets and only one lock on my door. The heating is not functioning so I have to turn on my oven to heat the apartment or else, I'd freeze!" revealed Mrs. Del Carmen.

She continued, "I have told them over the last two years about this but nothing has been done."

Thus, Mrs. Del Carmen feels that the proposed increase of another \$45 per month is unwarranted. Last October her rent was already raised by \$15.

"If this keeps up I will not be able to eat anymore, or pay my other bills . . . my husband is old and works only part-time. All the other apartments in the neighborhood are getting \$10 raise. So why the \$30-65 for us? Is it because we are Filipinos? That's discriminatory," said Mrs. Del Carmen.

SECOND INCREASE

Other tenants have also voiced their complaints about the rent hike policies. They propose a year-to-year schedule of raise, not every few months. The landlord's proposed raise for April was to be the second in a period of six months.

"I didn't receive any rent increase last October but now I am getting a \$50-hike which I can't afford," Mrs. Nevis, an elderly woman living in a one-bedroom apartment, said.

Presently, the Paul Revere Apartment tenants are preparing to attend a hearing on the city-wide movement for "rent control" ordinances with City Council member Michael Hildt. Three other tenant groups in the city will attend this hearing. They all face gradual displacement from their homes by rent hikes and deteriorating living conditions. □

Educators...

continued from front page

years primarily due to affirmative action policies implemented by the School District. However, the affirmative action policy bears no weight in deciding terminations because the S.F. School Board follows regulation that state "seniority" as the sole criterion.

COMMUNITY ASSAULTS CUTBACKS

Teachers and parents decried the situation pointing to the growing Filipino student population (9 percent in the district), who will ultimately suffer from this cutback.



Filipino students comprise 9 percent of the total student population in San Francisco.

Many others in the meeting supported this assertion, pointing out that minority programs like Bilingual/Bicultural education are now in jeopardy. Also noted was the cancellation of many educational services such as after-school sports, music and art electives, driver's education, etc.

Ligaya Avenida, Filipino educator chairing the meeting, appealed to the community for action. She said: "Should we be the stereotyped quiet Filipinos and let things fall as they may, or should we take a more assertive position and demand what is fair and equitable?"

Paulette Vitin of the San Francisco Chapter of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), also spoke. "We can already see from mandates implemented in other social service areas that

Prop. 13 is not just an attack against working people, but racist attacks against all minorities."

She continued, "Hardest hit have been Chicanos, Blacks, Asians, and Native Americans who already suffer from exclusion and discrimination in this society. We have every basis to fight and unite with others against Proposition 13."

COALITION FORMS

The majority agreed that a Filipino Coalition should be established and formalized.

In response to this Ms. Vitin added that, "Because the Prop. 13 cutbacks affect the entire Filipino community

we should strive to include in the coalition parents, students and other community groups . . . not just teachers and educators. We want the coalition to be reflective of the entire Filipino community's outrage regarding the Prop. 13 cutbacks."

Participants then voted to rename themselves, the Coalition for Filipinos for Education, and tentatively set a general meeting on April 1 to announce its establishment.

It was stressed that everyone who would like to take an active part in the Coalition — teachers, parents or students — attend the next meeting.

Other plans agreed upon at this meeting were a possible letter-writing campaign targetting the State legislators and Governor Jerry Brown, and a plan for an upcoming demonstration in Sacramento on April 26. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL
DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL
DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL

Backdrop To Weber Case

Black Unemployment Crisis Mounts

Behind the movement to overturn the controversial Weber decision lies the growing crisis of rising unemployment among the nation's black youth.

The Weber decision is labor's Bakke case. Just as the Bakke decision affirmed the concept of "reverse discrimination" for education, seriously eroding minority enrollment in professional schools, the Weber case threatens the small gains registered for minorities in the field of employment. For the nation's black youth, even a small reversal of these affirmative action gains will have a serious negative consequence.

The jobless rate among black youths reflects what has already been recognized as a growing national crisis. Just after World War II, the official unemployment rate for blacks 16 to 19 years old was 16.5 percent. Ten years ago it was 24 percent and last month it was officially registered at 35.3 percent. Close to half a million blacks between the ages of 16 to 24 were unable to find employment last year.

The impact of this situation takes an enormous toll in its human and material costs. Black communities across the country increasingly became impoverished and ghettoized subject to the crippling tensions, fears and anxieties of the economic depression they are forced to bear. Deteriorating living standards and sharp increases in crime are directly linked to the growing numbers of the unemployed.

FAILURE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Throughout the 1960's and up to the present time, the fight for civil rights



saw the establishment of numerous affirmative action programs and government agencies to respond to the problem of black unemployment. Some sources estimate that close to \$40 billion was spent over a 10 year period in an attempt to solve the problem.

Instead of decreasing, however, black unemployment rose. This inability of the government programs to resolve the problem has incurred sharp criticism from many quarters.

One of the largest problems of government jobs training programs was that they tended to give people

skills for non-existent jobs. In addition, program bureaucracies consumed vast amount of money with little results. Direct government hiring of huge numbers of unemployed tended to keep the jobless employed only for as long as the programs were funded.

With the recent downturn of the U.S. economy, there has been an increasing cry to severely curtail existing federal programs. Conservative solutions have stressed less government involvement with increasing reliance on the private business sector. Government spending has been under attack, and recently CETA funds were slashed by \$700 million.

Isolated Terrorism...

(continued from page 2)

apparent from their practice that God does not have a hot line to Malacanang or the White House.

BANKRUPT STRATEGY FOR REVOLUTION

However, aside from simply ridiculing the immaturity and ludicrousness of its tactics, this brand of "revolution" represented by these moderate democratic forces must be taken seriously. It is a dangerous idea being propagated by bourgeois opposition figures who are riding the tide of anti-dictatorship sentiments prevalent among the masses of Filipino people and distorting its course to suit their narrow interests.

Who are these moderate democratic forces?

These are the same people who have been lobbying in Washington for a US-backed coup to topple the dictatorship. Now that Jimmy Carter has shown that his concern for US military-economic interests overrides any concern he may have for human rights, and now that it has become clear the US has no intention of switching puppets for the time being, (as evidenced by the recently concluded US-RP Bases Agreement) the ranks of these bourgeois, anti-Marcos but pro-imperialist, figures have been thrown into confusion. Their response to this development is classic. On the one hand, some continue to deny that a Carter-Marcos alliance has been unmistakably sealed. The same newspaper that carried the articles on the revolutionary fires prominently also carried an editorial in the same issue,

stating that the planned Marcos visit should not be "construed as blanket US approval of...Marcos" and hope that "the American Chief Executive will be able to persuade Marcos to pave the way for the return of democracy to the 45M Filipinos who have suffered the past 7 years." Such an assertion of trust and confidence in the good faith of US policy makers is laughable if its consequences were not so tragic. If the \$500M jump in the US military aid (giving more guns and planes and training to the regime's army) and over \$1B economic aid to the regime does not constitute blanket US approval of Marcos, then what does! In the event that this indirect US support is not enough, the Bases agreement has even provided for direct US military participation in activities outside of the bases. Translated in concrete terms, this means that the US will not hesitate to use American troops to protect the Marcos dictatorship from the Filipino people.

This wishful thinking in face of hard facts is one response. The other extreme is the attitude of desperation by other anti-Marcos opposition figures represented by these "moderate forces". They are the advocates of isolated terror as the road to quick victory relying mainly on terrorist tactics such as fires, assassination attempts, bombings, etc.

What is wrong with these tactics? One, although they are spectacular and produce immediate results, and may even win the sympathy of some Filipinos whose hatred for the oppressive regime is boundless, these tactics are ineffectual in the long run. They

are only capable of destroying property (which can always be rebuilt) or liquidating individuals (who can also be replaced). They do not eliminate the system and the class that perpetuate these injustices and inequities.

This is the difference between this bourgeois opposition and the rest of the anti-martial law movement. The so-called moderate democrats oppose Marcos because he has centralized all powers and economic privileges in his clique, thus robbing these disgruntled politicians of their share of the spoils so to speak. On the other hand, the vast majority of the Filipino people hate the dictator for what he represents—the rule of the landed elite and corrupt politicians who serve not the interests of the Filipino people but that of foreign multinationals and investors. The Filipino people therefore see that the enemy is not Marcos alone but these imperialist interests in the country (in particular, the US) that keep the country backward and underdeveloped, that masterminded the fascist coup implemented by its puppet Marcos in 1972. These are the same interests to whom these bourgeois opposition figures now appeal for a "return of democracy" in the Philippines.

The other reason the national democratic movement oppose these tactics of isolated terror is because it obscures who are the real makers of change in Philippine society today. In other words, does the liberation of the Filipino people from tyranny, class oppression, and foreign domination lie in the hands of a few individuals, arsonists and terrorists; or does it come from the strength and force of the organized Filipino masses?

No, the ills of Philippine society will

Efforts by the political right have also stressed legislative action to repeal minimum wage laws for minors, as well as removal of child labor laws and a reduction in the age at which one could legally leave school to seek employment.

Such reactionary moves are advanced to make young workers more available to the whims of the employer. Already many of the current job programs are designed to either give the employer a tax break for hiring a hard core unemployed, or some government programs actually pay the wage of a worker while doing productive labor for a company.

RACISM TO BLAME

Failure of U.S. government job programs to solve the problem of black unemployment has its roots in the structural unemployment of blacks in the U.S. economy. In disproportionate numbers, blacks are forced into the ranks of the unemployed by an economy unable to provide enough jobs and a social system which promotes racial discrimination to keep blacks in the most unstable and insecure areas of the economy.

The old saying of blacks being the "last hired and first fired," was partially offset with some of the federal jobs programs and affirmative action programs. Yet the inability of the U.S. economy to provide black youth with employment is a stinging indictment of the economic system. And the Weber case, if upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, will constitute one more attack on the rights of black, and all U.S. workers.

not be solved by a few fires and some assassinations here and there. Genuine democracy for the majority of the Filipino people can only come when the landlord rule in the countryside has been smashed, when the US grip on the country's economic, political and cultural affairs has been broken and when corrupt politicians—Marcos and his like—will have been deprived of their base for support and existence. This is a process that will involve millions of Filipino masses in a protracted people's war. It will be a genuine revolution of the people, not of a handful of disgruntled politicians who have no confidence in the capability of the Filipino masses and are too impatient to undertake the necessary education and organizing work necessary to bring revolution to victory. □

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Washington Maneuvers New Mideast Accord

Egypt and Israel have apparently come to terms with a U.S.-proposed peace plan, following Carter's trip to the Middle East last March 7-13. Carter's last-minute maneuvering reversed the impasse in the talks which began six months ago when he held a Camp David summit meeting with Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Premier Begin.

Carter's decision to conclude a swift deal with Egypt and Israel came in response to the growing uncertainty of continued oil flow from Iran in view of the unabating turmoil there. But more importantly, it was a reaction to the alarming prospect of antagonizing and driving the world's largest oil supplier, Saudi Arabia, into improving its ties with radical Arab states and the Soviet Union.

The conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement thus signified the reassertion of a U.S. presence aimed at persuading vacillating conservative Arab states that security lies in closer links with Washington, as opposed to rapprochement with Moscow or Arab radicalism. The peace agreement, in effect, removed most immediate stumbling block to Carter's determined drive to contain the worsening political instability threatening strategic U.S. oil interests in the region.

The peace pact, in the short run, enables both Egypt and Israel to demilitarize the disputed Sinai Peninsula, and obliges both countries to work towards the speedy settlement of some sort of autonomy for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The pact also provides a handsome package of U.S. military and economic aid worth more than \$5 billion to Egypt as well as Israel, and commits the U.S. to ensure Israel's oil supplies, 60 percent of which was cut off in the wake of the Iranian revolution.

This elaborate arrangement will pave the way for the steady escalation of U.S. military involvement in the region. Likewise, it constitutes the first crucial step towards the subordination of Arab-Israeli hostilities in favor of the construction of a U.S.-dominated regional condominium, composed of Israel and her erstwhile bitter enemies, the conservative Arab states.

If everything goes well for the U.S., this bold, new political realignment will be directed at checking the extension of Soviet influence as well as counteracting popular movements struggling for independence. Such an alliance will then adequately fill the vacuum created by the downfall of the shah whose regime the U.S. had relied upon to act as regional gendarme for Western interests.

The U.S., however, has yet to face even greater obstacles before realizing this post-shah strategy. As long as the accord is not linked up effectively with a more comprehensive Middle East settlement, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and



Israeli troops in occupied Palestinian territories.

Lebanon, the signing of a peace treaty, by itself, does not guarantee the prevention of any war in the near future.

The key unsettling issue confronting each of these Arab regimes is the Palestinian question. Scattered throughout the Arab world, the struggle of millions of displaced and exiled Palestinians for their national cause continues to threaten their respective "host" countries. It is for this reason that these states have almost unanimously been pressing for the creation of a Palestinian state.

Although Israel's main concern is also to defuse the Palestinian struggle enough to keep it in control, it seems to be unwilling to grant any substantive autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, since an autonomous state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is viewed as a threat to Israel's continued existence. Israel is afraid that conceding autonomy will encourage the Palestinians to work with more determination to regain the rest of their homeland.

While Israel has conceded certain Palestinian rights on paper, it is unlikely that this will differ from its conceptions of "autonomy" which includes the continued military occupation of the areas by

the Israeli military; establishment of new Zionist settlements; denial of rights for supporters and members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the only internationally-recognized body representing the Palestinian people; Israeli control over water resources; the complete subordination of the West Bank's economy to that of Israel; and finally, an Israeli-imposed system of political repression.

But it is also unlikely, quite understandably, that the Palestinians will go along with this kind of "autonomy." Neither will the conservative Arab regimes accept this should Israel push through with it, as it does not satisfactorily resolve the chief problem in their hands. On the contrary, Israeli intransigence can very well drive Saudi Arabia closer to the radical Arab states and the Soviet Union, and precipitate a new war and dash the remaining hopes of the U.S. in pursuing its new Mideast strategy.

Thus, it remains to be seen how fast Carter will be able to act to avert widespread destabilization as negotiations over the issue of Palestinian autonomy in Israeli-occupied territories emerge at center stage. □

U.S. Intervenes In Yemen Conflict

Reprinted from the Guardian

A sudden influx of U.S. military supplies and "advisors" into the Yemen conflict over the past two weeks has threatened the volatile Arabian peninsula with the specter of a major war. But by March 14, Arab League mediation efforts had succeeded in getting both North and South Yemen to announce a ceasefire and troop withdrawals.

U.S. military personnel were dispatched together with large quantities of sophisticated weapons and equipment to prop up the beleaguered rightist North Yemen regime against a growing internal liberation struggle and a border conflict with neighboring anti-imperialist South Yemen. The administration move to intervene in the conflict was made without consulting Congress.

The mediation of the Arab League, in particular Syria and Jordan, has been spurred on by fears that super-power rivalries will split the Arab

world, not only pitting North and South Yemen against each other, but also involving neighboring Saudi Arabia in the conflict.

The extent of U.S. involvement in the conflict included the following:

- Pres. Carter disclosed March 5 that the aircraft carrier Constellation was en route to the area along with three other warships bearing 5000 U.S. service personnel and 80 fighter aircraft, including F-14s.

- By March 9, the administration announced that it would send \$380 million in heavy arms and equipment to North Yemen. These arms shipments are being coordinated with the military aid sent by Saudi Arabia, and a U.S. general has been dispatched to oversee the coordination process.

- Pentagon spokesmen announced that 70 U.S. army and air force instructors were being sent to North Yemen immediately, the administration announced March 12 that it planned to send 200-300 advisors. By March 14 the administration was hastening to assure the press that the

"advisors" would not play a combat role.

The frantic U.S. efforts stem in part from administration concerns that the U.S. demonstrate its strength after the setback to the U.S. policy in Iran.

The U.S. is also anxious to forestall any threat of upheaval in Saudi Arabia which may threaten U.S. oil interests. Administration spokesmen testified before congressional committees last week that they were prepared to go to war to defend their claims to Saudi oil.

Primarily, the U.S. appears to be searching for a new policeman in the region to replace the ousted Shah of Iran. Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, both reactionary regimes, are best disposed to serve as instruments of U.S. policy and to combat rising democratic and revolutionary movements in the region. The U.S. hopes to base a new "collective security system" on such rightist Arab states.

More than a week before the Yemen conflict broke out, Defense Secretary Harold Brown traveled to the Middle

East to promise arms supplies to the two U.S. allies. Even before that, in late January, an unarmed squadron of U.S. warplanes had been sent to Saudi Arabia, the Washington Post reported. These had been sold to Saudi Arabia as part of a \$4.8 billion arms package which included arms to Egypt and Israel as well.

The U.S. policy in the area is also part of a strategy to prevent the Soviet Union from gaining access to the strategically important Red Sea and Indian Ocean region. The hostility of the area's pro-Western regimes contributed to South Yemen's growing tilt toward the Soviet Union. This, in turn, has provided Saudi Arabia with a perennial excuse to invoke "communist encirclement" in demanding more active U.S. involvement in the area.

In addition, of course, increased arms sales to the area mean more U.S. profits. "The major impediment to pursuing a policy of real arms sales restraint is the fact that we are only one of several nations that transfer large amounts of hardware to the region," one administration spokesman told the New York Times March 7. "Until we can agree with Moscow, London and Paris on a program for cutting back, we will have to play the game." □