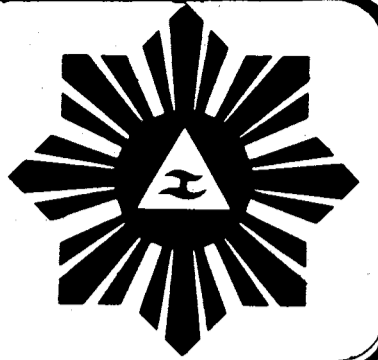


Ang KATIPUNAN

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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



Carter Pushes Increased Aid To Marcos

Top level pressure led by President Carter caused the House Foreign Affairs Committee to reverse a subcommittee action and restore \$7.9 million to the 1980 Philippine military aid.

The controversial cut had been viewed as a minor victory for human rights. Its sponsor, Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio) argued that there was a need to signal congressional concern over the worsening human rights violations and the prolonged state of martial law in the Philippines. It still would have allowed over \$90 million in military aid, an increase of 150 percent over last year's levels.

Symbolic as it was, the Hall amendment drew the most aggressive administration attack against any human rights measure to date. In his attempt to keep his personal commitment to Marcos intact, Carter publicly exposed the hypocrisy of his human rights crusade.

He deployed Sec. of State Cyrus Vance, Pentagon chief Brown, Asst. Sec. of State Holbrooke, the House Speaker and Majority Whip, to lobby committee members. In addition, Carter personally called key House members. Together with State Department officials, the Philippine Ambassador also met with Hall a day before the vote in a futile attempt to talk him out of pursuing his amendment.

A bemused Hall said, "I am just doing what I think is right." He expressed frustration at not being able to terminate the entire military aid program.

Hall had discussed extensively with Charito Planas, a leading Marcos critic; and Severina Rivera-Drew of the Congress Education Project (Anti-Martial Law Coalition and Friends of the Filipino People). He drew widely from materials submitted by the CEP in introducing his amendment.

BASES VS. HUMAN RIGHTS

The hour-long committee debate March 21 counterposed human rights against U.S. national security interests. On the morning of the vote Carter desperately wrote subcommittee chairman Lester Wolff that the aid

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MNLF fighters in Cotabato. Islamic Conference has pledged increased support.

Islamic Conference Escalates Support For MNLF

The reported reconciliation of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) defector Hashim Salamat and top leader Nur Misuari and the upcoming Islamic Conference are bringing pressure on the Marcos regime to return to the negotiating table. This time, however, the regime faces greater odds. Worried that the powerful conference will use political and economic threats, including an oil embargo, to force a settlement of the Mindanao conflict, Marcos dispatched his wife to meet with influential Muslim ministers in Morocco, the site of this year's conference. The First Lady has already tried to persuade Moroccan King Hassan to prevail on other countries to adopt a more moderate stance vis-a-vis the Mindanao war.

Manila's concerns have been prompted by the reported hostile mood of various Muslim countries towards the regime following the

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ALEX BONCAYAO, FORMER LABAN CANDIDATE, JOINS THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY



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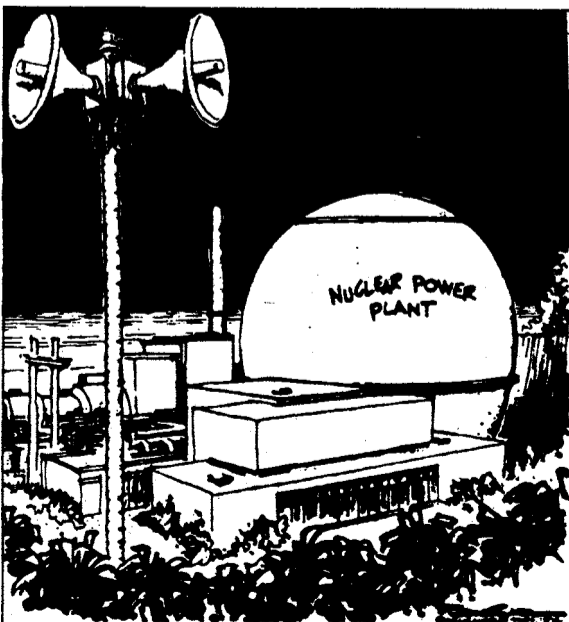
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Three Mile Island Accident:

DANGERS OF NUCLEAR POWER REVEALED

See page 10

"In case of emergency, repeat after me: Our Father..."

EDITORIAL
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No Nukes In The U.S...Or Anywhere Else!

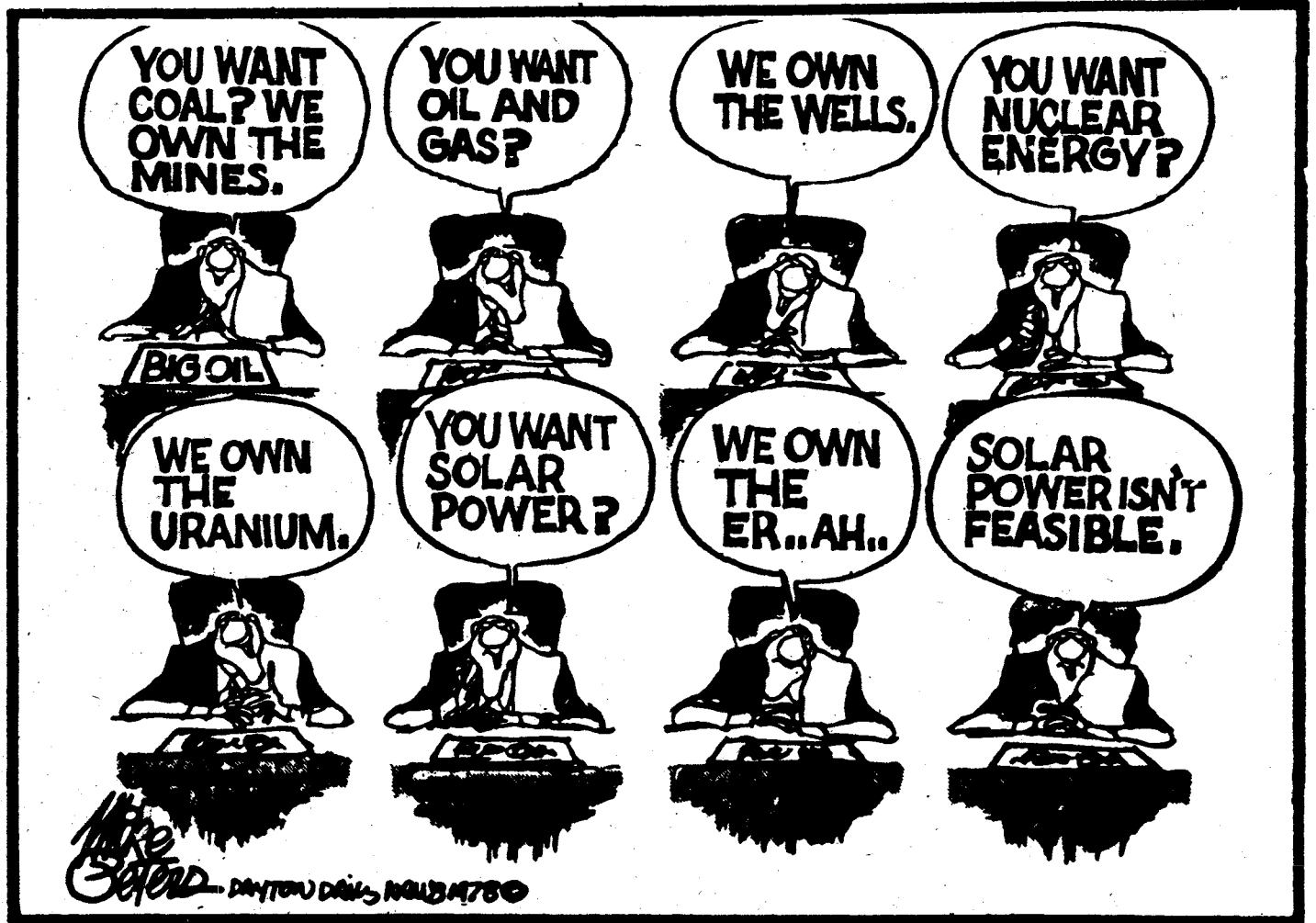
The nuclear accident in Three Mile Island, Harrisburg, PA has immediate implications for the Third World. Because of massive opposition to nuclear power as a source of energy by citizens of industrialized countries, there was already a heated drive to sell these nuclear reactors in Third World countries. The near catastrophe in the nuclear plant in Pennsylvania and the public concern over nuclear safety will surely accelerate this trend even further.

The big push to nuclearize energy production in the less developed countries is a classic case of the pursuit of corporate profits at any price. What is therefore unmarketable in the home country (like the U.S.) is dumped unscrupulously on the third world. Thus, to maintain corporate profits, the unsafe technology of nuclear power is being peddled in Third World countries like the Philippines, Argentina, South Korea, Brazil, Taiwan. These countries have all embarked on ambitious nuclear energy production.

For instance, South Korea has just built its first Westinghouse nuclear reactor and plans to order 45 more before the year 2000. The martial law regime in the Philippines has joined the act and is in the process of erecting a nuclear reactor in Bataan. And the corporations are not being choosy in their marketing methods. The Marcos government received an estimated \$40 million in order to be persuaded to buy a defective reactor from Westinghouse. The final victims of this unsavory business practice is of course the Filipino people, who are being made to foot the bill for a nuclear disaster right in their own backyard.

The total price of this nuclear reactor in the Philippines has soared to \$11 billion—the price of three reactors for one—or almost 18 percent of the countries external debt.

This hard-sell approach includes making financing easily available to



the Export-Import Bank in Washington.

This dubious drive to nuclearize the prospective nuke buyers. Thus, the Marcos regime has been able to finance this project, thanks to loans by third world just to serve corporate interests is all the more shocking for its total disregard for the safety of the people of these countries. The minimal safety precautions required in the U.S. are being ignored in the third world. What is already hazardous technology is made even more intolerably dangerous and the reactors in the third world are like time bombs certain to cause widespread radioac-

tive havoc in the event of disaster. Brazil's first reactor, for example, was swept by 71 fires in a five month period in 1977. South Korea's first nuclear power station has been pronounced unsafe by none other than the International Atomic Energy Agency.

And closer to home, the Westinghouse reactor in the Philippines contains 200 major safety defects, including its site close to five active volcanoes and a major earthquake fault.

Brazil, Taiwan, South Korea, Philippines — It is no accident that practically all of the third world governments buying nuclear reactors are repressive, right-wing allies of the

U.S. Nuclear energy is a highly centralized form of energy generation that lends itself well to the centralized patterns of social control exercised by these governments. The monopolization of energy production adds to the regimes' ability to intimidate and terrorize the people.

The task before us is clear. We must not only protest the hazards that nuclear energy currently poses to our families and our homes. We must also be vigilant in exposing the exporting of this unsafe technology to countries in the third world. The same corporate drive for profits over public safety must be opposed wherever it attempts to implant itself. □

HELP MAKE THE NEWS, SUPPORT THE ANG KATIPUNAN

These are exciting, albeit difficult, times for the Filipino people both here in the U.S. and in the homeland. Against tremendous odds, the Filipino people are making history, taking their destiny in their own hands and shaping their future.

In the Philippines today, tens of thousands of Filipino masses are mobilizing and organizing—in factories, in schools, in churches, in the countryside—to assert their democratic rights in the face of fascist terror and repression. They are making slow but steady gains in their resistance against the U.S.-supported Marcos dictatorship. Now more than ever, the fascist machinery is increasingly be-seiged from all sides and from all

sectors—by workers, students, clerics, urban poor, and peasants. Not only will they inevitably bring the collapse of this bankrupt regime but they are also simultaneously laying the groundwork for a new tomorrow—a Philippine society freed of foreign control and domination, a government truly representative of the majority of the Filipino people, not just a handful of landlords and politicians.

In the Filipino communities in the U.S., there is a growing commitment to defend our people against racial and national discrimination. Moreover, an increasing number of Filipinos are arriving at the conclusion that the genuine defense of our communities lie in the unity between ourselves

and the masses of American workers against the exploitative rule of a few who grow fat on the sweat and labor of the toiling millions.

Both here and in the Philippines, many Filipinos have joined the struggle for fundamental and basic changes. More and more Filipinos are involved in making history. They are making the news.

You too can make the news. Join this growing movement for change. And you can also help us make the news by supporting the Ang Katipunan. The Ang Katipunan is the only genuine Filipino newspaper in the U.S. today. We not only report the news from the Filipino people's perspective but we also help make the

news. We actively get involved in community struggles.

If you are not yet a subscriber to the newspaper, now is the time to subscribe. If you have allowed your subscription to expire and have lost touch with the Filipino people's movement, change this sorry state of affairs. Renew now. You can do even more by joining our growing number of sustainers and making a monthly pledge of \$5 or more to the paper.

Invest your time and money wisely. Put it into your future, your people's future.

Support the Ang Katipunan and help build the Filipino People's Movement.

Thelma DeGuzman Editor



ANG KATIPUNAN Staff
Editorial Office
Oakland, California

EDITOR
Thelma DeGuzman

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Victor Uno

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Victoria Luna, Ma. Flor Sepulveda, Anita Borja

COMMUNITY NEWS

Norma DeLeon, Jeannette Lazam

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Victor Uno

BUSINESS MANAGER

Midgio Galicia

PRODUCTION

KDP National Media Production Department

CORRESPONDENTS IN

Chicago, Guam, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York
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JUSTICE TEEHANKEE CALLS FOR LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW



Justice Teehankee.

Once again, the Philippine Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Claudio Teehankee, has publicly sounded a plea for the lifting of martial law. He made his latest appeal during a speech to officers and members of the Metro-Manila Press Club. The 61-year-old judge has been one of the two judges on the Supreme Court who has consistently denounced the usefulness of martial law, saying that, unless it is lifted, the real process of normalization cannot begin.

He specifically pointed out the inability of the present system to counter widespread graft and corruption in government and the military; and the prevalence of crime. He believes that "crimes are committed because of martial law and not in spite of it."

In an interview with *Asiaweek*, Teehankee cited a study done for the University of the Philippines College of Public Administration reporting that martial law has not eradicated government graft and corruption in spite of the creation of three major anti-graft bodies intended for the problem.

In explaining the unconstitutionality of martial law, Teehankee states that the President's power to impose martial law "is contained in but one clause of both the 1935 and the 1973 Constitution and that the imposition of martial law does not and cannot abrogate the entire constitution and its Bill of Rights, nor its specific instructions and limitations upon governmental powers and agencies. . . . Martial law has served to destroy the Constitution and republic it was to have safeguarded," he concluded. □

RUNNING NEW RISKS

[Reprinted from *Far East Economic Review*] Security precautions are being stepped up in Manila following attacks against nearby military targets by the New People's Army. One area now virtually banned to civilians is Fort Bonifacio in the center of the city. Unfortunately, the military failed to inform a large local running club that part of its habitual practice course had been sealed off, with the result that, one balmy February evening, a startled guard was confronted by a solid mass of shouting runners. The main body of the participants ignored the guard's rifle-waving and raced on through the restricted area, but two portly contestants bringing up the rear were not so lucky. They were dragged into the fort's security headquarters for questioning. An hour later embarrassed security officials escorted the two—the ambassador of one of the Philippine's major trading partners and a director of a local mining company—back to their waiting cars. □

MANILA POLICE TORTURE YOUTHFUL PRISONERS

A fact-finding committee uncovered the shocking use of dehumanizing torture on yet another sector of detainees—the youth. Several juvenile inmates of the Manila Youth Reception Center (MYRC) complained to the committee of various forms of maltreatment at the hands of the policemen in charge. Examples cited were: the rubbing of green pepper on the male sex organ of a detainee; another is termed "iniipitan" which is the method of squeezing together the fingers with bullets between them until the fingers bruise. Female detainees were reportedly ordered to strip naked and expose their bodies in the full view of male laborers and all the other inmates.

Those incarcerated in the MYRC are 16 years old and younger. Most of them are imprisoned for vagrancy, while 15 percent of them are held for disobedience. Another 15 percent are held for more serious crimes. □

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Bandits Release R.P. Missionary

Rev. Lloyd Van Vactor, kidnapped last March 9 by what the Marcos regime termed "Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels," was released last March 28, haggard but unharmed. The minister was abducted from his office at Marawi City's Dansalan Junior College of which he is president, by two armed and uniformed men.

Church official of the United Church of Christ received a ransom note demanding P500,000 (\$67,000) in exchange for the minister's safe return. The deadline was set for March 14.

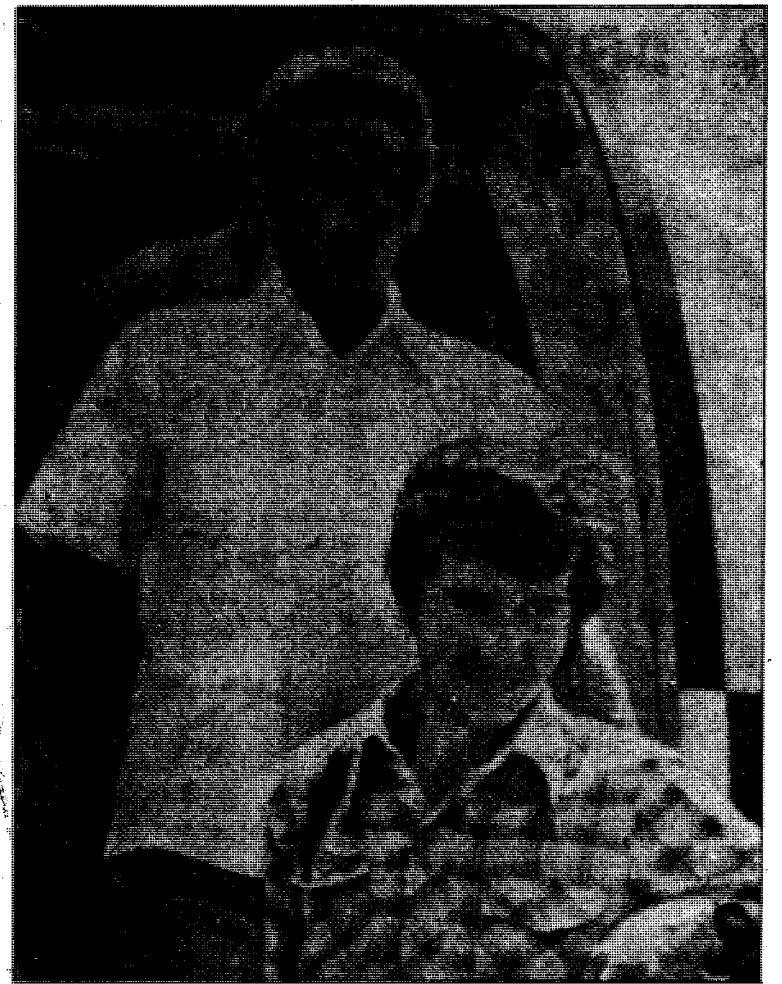
As deadlines came and went and were reset, the Marcos government, blaming the MNLF for the crime, made full use of the opportunity to paint the Moro rebel group as a band of criminals.

Sources within Dansalan College, however, have revealed that the group which kidnapped Van Vactor is not in any way related to the MNLF. It is, in fact, the same bandit gang which has already executed a number of kidnappings for ransom.

In October 1977, the group kidnapped Virgil Springer of the Maryland Timber Company and demanded P150,000. In February 1978, they abducted two nuns from Mindanao State University and demanded P16,000. All were released after the ransom was paid.

Most of the money, however, went in to the pockets of negotiators and local politicians who interceded in the two cases. This time they demanded a larger sum.

According to AK's source, the bandits knew that neither Van Vactor nor Dansalan College nor the United Church of Christ had the money to pay them. Their real target was the Philippine government and the local government of Lanao



Rev. Van Vactor deplanes in Manila one day after his release by a local bandit gang.

del Sur province. The government, however, refused to pay. Following the intercession of Libyan Foreign Minister Mustafa Drieza, the kidnappers gave up their captive in exchange merely for the "expenses" incurred during his 19 days of captivity.

Marcos and much of the international press has been able to attribute the abduction to the MNLF because of the highly complex situation prevailing in Lanao del Sur. While the MNLF operates in the region, so do a number of bandit groups who find it convenient to attach the "rebel" title to their activities.

The reason is simple. "Captured MNLF," explains AK's source, "are eligible for amnesty while common criminals

are not. Amnesty means, not only release, but it often means government-supplied weapons which the repentant ex-rebels are expected to use against their former comrades. So every bandit calls himself a rebel."

For Rev. Van Vactor, though he claims to have been treated well, the experience has left a tragic scar. He learned only upon his release that his wife Maisie, who had worked with him for years at Dansalan, died during his captivity. Mrs. Van Vactor was undergoing surgery for a chronic ailment at the time of her husband's abduction. "There is no question," medical sources revealed, "that the news of the kidnapping worsened her condition." □

Marcos Nephew Charged In Homicide

Following a long drawn out investigation and what many felt to be a cover-up, Andres Avelino Barba, nephew of Prime Minister Ferdinand E. Marcos, last month was charged with attempted homicide. Accused with him in the murder of Apolinario Buendia is his bodyguard, Bruno Dacanay, Philippine Constabulary sergeant.

But while this Marcos relative has been finally charged, many observers are still disturbed by certain aspects of the case.

The celebrated murder of the 17-year-old Buendia and the wounding of his parents, Rodolfo and Edita, occurred after a girl's volleyball match in which the team Barba had coached lost. The game was followed by a shower of rocks

which led an angry Barba bodyguard to fire warning shots into the air. Barba and his companions ran off in search of the troublemakers.

A number of witnesses present told newsmen that they saw the young Buendia walk out of his house near the volley-ball court in search of a younger brother. Seeing one of Barba's armed bodyguards across the street, he turned, witnesses claimed, and ran toward the house but was felled by a bullet in the back.

ALTERATION IN STORY

An eight-month study of the case by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) subtly alters the story. The NBI now claims that Buendia was shot while fleeing from the site of the rock-throwing incident.

This paints him as one of the troublemakers.

The NBI admits, however, that Rodolfo Buendia, who ran into the street when he saw his son felled, was shot by Barba himself.

Following the incident, the Barba residence was quickly surrounded by Presidential guards and the family reportedly moved into Malacanang. Newspapers identified the murder suspect simply as the "bodyguard of an army colonel's son."

The press has continued to downplay the Buendia murder. The indictment was covered by only one newspaper which discreetly avoided mentioning that Barba is related to the Prime Minister. Only one weekly tabloid referred to Barba as a Marcos nephew. □

Manila Teacher's Conference

Dutch Teacher Denounces Regime



Once again a Manila conference becomes a forum: Ramsey Clark holds press conference at the 1977 World Peace Through Law Conference denouncing Marcos regime. (Don Luce Photo)

Belated reports from *Ang Bayan* reveal that once again an international conference in Manila has been converted into a forum for denouncing the Marcos regime. Mr. Fred van Leeuwen, attending the International Federation of Free Teachers Unions conference last December as a representative of Dutch teachers, stood up in the conference to expose violations of the Filipino people's democratic rights.

Leeuwen spoke about the torture of political detainees in the country and the imposition of sentences upon them by military courts which, he said, are not limited to a few isolated cases. He added that strikes are prohibited while foreign companies continue to make huge profits.

The Dutch teacher called upon his fellow teachers to help "restore the true image of this friendly and hospitable country; do whatever you can for those who should not be in jail, but who should work together with us for a free world where justice is unblemished and where teachers will not

be used for unjust and undemocratic ends, where people may develop in an open and tolerant atmosphere."

POLICY BACKFIRES

The attempt to build up Manila as a major world conference site has been a key element in the Marcos regime's efforts to bring more tourists and foreign exchange into the country and, at the same time, to bolster its image abroad. The policy has, however, more than once backfired. Supporters of the Filipino people have used these conferences instead as an opportunity to expose the injustices of the Marcos regime. In August 1977, former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark, human rights activist Don Luce and others denounced the Marcos regime before the assembled delegates to the World Peace Through Law Conference and the international press. The regime was so taken by surprise that one such denunciation was allowed to be broadcast over domestic television reaching thousands of homes. □

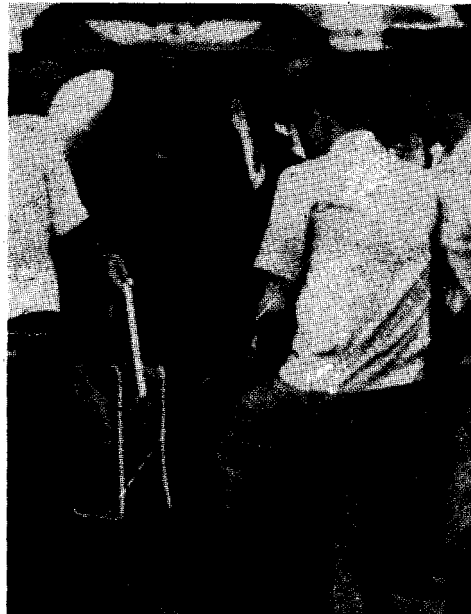
Marcos Regime Plans Price Hikes For Goods And Services

Adapted from ANG BAYAN

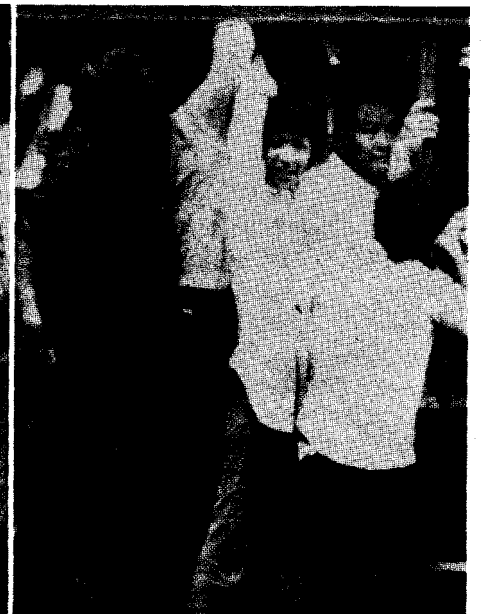
While the Marcos regime continues to talk about "stabilizing prices," the Filipino people recently discovered that the price increases assailing them in the last few months have been carefully planned. An "inter-agency committee on prices and incomes," under the supervision of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), last December drafted a plan which incorporated both price hikes and the imposition of new taxes and emphasized continued dependence on

Side by side with these price hikes, the regime plans to increase its tax collection. It calls for strict enforcement of tax decrees which were approved last year. These include the additional five percent sales tax and the increase in real property tax, ranging from 100 to 1,200 percent.

The Marcos regime has steadily raised taxes in order to repay its mounting foreign debt and to guarantee new loans. The total outstanding foreign debt as of last February had risen to a record \$7.78 billion. The World Bank and International Mone-



Soaring transportation fares are among the recent group of price hikes. Companies have been granted a 23 percent increase.



foreign capital to intensify export production. The plan was completed long before the much publicized public hearings on price increases could be opened.

According to the NEDA plan, the prices of oil and gasoline are to be raised by 14.5 percent, the amount by which the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) recently raised the price of crude oil. In addition, a new four percent tax is to be levied. This will bring the local oil price hike up to almost 20 percent, which could go higher still in the light of the major oil companies' petition for a 17 percent increase and the still spiralling price of crude on the world market.

HIGHER COSTS OF SERVICES

The plan also envisions increases in the cost of a broad range of services:

- Bus and jeepney fares are to be raised by 23 percent allegedly to enable transportation companies to earn at least a 12 percent return on their investments. If the companies are still unsatisfied with this profit rate, the plan allows them to raise their fares by as much as 40 percent.

The regime, meeting strong opposition, temporarily withdrew from this position. Particularly embarrassing was a study made by the Commission on Audit which revealed that the transport companies have been earning an average 30 percent return on their investments annually.

- Electricity rates would be raised by 11 percent. The plan claims that the rise in power rates is needed to help the National Power Corporation pay its loans from multi-national funding agencies.

- Water rates would be increased by 74 percent. Again the plan claims that the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System needs funds to pay its foreign debts.

- A 15 percent increase in house rentals is to be allowed.

In addition to these measures, the plan allows the paper, drug, coconut product, galvanized iron, and food industries to increase their prices.

tary Fund which control Philippine access to foreign loans have made increased taxation a prerequisite for continued credit to the Philippines and have pressured the regime to intensify export production.

In response, the Marcos government prescribes increased export production as a cure to inflation. Yet the Filipino people have consistently lost in the realm of foreign trade since the bulk of Filipino exports are raw materials which are exchanged for far more expensive manufactured goods. As production slumps in the United States, Europe and Japan, demand for Philippine raw materials declines and so do their prices. The Philippine trade deficit thus steadily widens. Last year saw a trade deficit of \$1.5 billion, the biggest in Philippine history. As of February, the 1979 deficit had already risen to \$112.9 million, up from \$73 million last February.

SHORTAGES AT HOME

The export-promotion drive has created serious shortages in the local supply of foods and other needed products, such as cement, being sold abroad. The prices of these now-scarce items, as well as the prices of products based upon them have thus been driven up.

Ferdinand E. Marcos continues to demonstrate his willingness to provide profits for the multi-national-dominated industries while the Filipino people find themselves increasingly incapable of coping with inflation. The latest news item reveals that only two days after his token wage hike decree (See AK, Vol. VI, No. 6), last March 16, he removed sugar, milk, textiles, and school supplies from the list of basic commodities covered by price control.

Yet the regime maintains that the general price rise for 1979 will not exceed two percent. Given the vital character of the products and services decontrolled and slated for price hikes, the Filipino people find this figure difficult to believe. They are bracing themselves for chain reaction inflation of ten percent and possibly far more. □

Irish Trade Unionists Demand Pullout From R.P. Projects

Two Irish trade unions, expressing outrage over Philippine human rights conditions, last month called upon Ireland's semi-governmental Electricity Supply Board to "terminate its current project in the Philippines."

The Electricity Supply Board (ESB) entered into a consultancy contract with the Philippine National Power Corp. (NPC) in 1979. The NPC is the government agency which supervises both the highly controversial Chico River Basin Dam Project and the nuclear reactor under construction in Bataan. The reactor site is surrounded by five volcanoes, several of them active, and is said to lie near an earthquake fault.

Last March 10 the two unions, both of them representing ESB employees, together with the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace and Trocaire, the Catholic Agency for Third World Development, presented to the press a report of an 18-day visit to the Philippines late last year.

WORKING WITH NPC — COURTING DANGER

Mr. Eamonn Oakes, secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers/Technical Administrative and Supervisory Staff (AUEW/TASS), said that his group had managed to meet at least 150 people during their stay, including political prisoners and their families. They had

seen first-hand the poverty, deprivation and denial of civil and religious liberties to the Filipino people, he noted. The group visited both the near-complete nuclear plant and the proposed Chico dam site, detecting there a strong military presence. He hoped the report would warn ESB workers that working with the NPC on the dam would endanger their lives since several NPC employees have already been killed.

Bishop Eamonn Casey, chairman of Torcaire, revealed that the report had been undertaken partly at the request of the Filipino people themselves. Several Filipino bishops had requested assistance he said, because of the repressive conditions under martial law which denies freedom of speech and assembly.

While calling upon the Irish government to establish guidelines for the operation of semi-government bodies in the Third World, the report concluded, "The present economic strategy being pursued in the Philippines is indefensible . . . It provides rewards for the few and dismisses the majority as expendable. It asks the many to be silent, to accept that this generation, except the elite, must be sacrificed for the long-term good of all . . . ESB involvement in the Philippines is not benefitting the people of the Philippines." □

Misuari-Salamat Reconcile

Islamic Conference Steps Up Support For MNLF

continued from front page

breakdown of the December 1976 Tripoli agreement. Relations between the regime and the Islamic Conference have steadily deteriorated as the regime has attempted to enforce its own solutions in the troubled South.

Militarily, Marcos troopers have renewed hostilities, stepping up harassment of Muslim communities in so-called "police action" operations. Diplomatically, the regime has avoided mediation from the Islamic Conference thereby stalling a new round of negotiations by citing the various splits in the Moro movement. Since 1977 two top MNLF leaders, Hashim Salamat and Abdul Kahir Alonto have deserted while another faction, the Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization, associated with conservative, pro-Western elements, has laid claim to leading the Muslim movement. The latter however has no discernible following within the Philippines although it is known to enjoy the backing of Saudi Arabia and a Washington-based group called the Development Alternatives, Inc. And on the political front, the regime has continually proclaimed the formation of two semi-autonomous regions in Mindanao and has promised the holding of local elections. To date, these so-called reforms remain to be seen and are deemed ineffectual even if implemented.

GREATER MNLF BACKING SEEN

The Islamic Conference however has not slackened its vigilance and concern over the Mindanao conflict as the regime has hoped. Since the outbreak of the war, the conference has been sympathetic to the MNLF and on numerous occasions has attempted to act as mediator between the Filipino Muslims and the regime.



Well-armed Moro fighters of Cotabato Province: stronger Islamic backing and reconciliation between Misuari and Salamat strengthens their diplomatic position.

(Larry Johnson Photo)

Many member states have extended military support to the MNLF and provided refuge for its sought-after leaders. Currently Libya, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, and Saudi Arabia provide supplies to the MNLF. The regime's dependence on oil from Islamic states and its fear of increased military assistance to the MNLF has made it vulnerable to pressure from the conference.

For these reasons the regime has attempted to exploit the rifts between conservative, radical and the mode-

rate member states, dispatching Imelda Marcos every so often on special missions to the Middle East.

MARCOS ON DEFENSIVE

This time, however, the regime faces stiffer opposition from the conference as a whole which has intently watched the escalation of the war over the past year. More moderate sectors, such as the Muslim World League have worked for a reconciliation between Salamat and Misuari. Salamat who commands rank-and-file support

from Cotabato fighters, reportedly met with Misuari in Tripoli earlier this year. Meanwhile, conference secretary Karim Gaye has agreed in principle to a renewal of talks but not on Marcos' terms that these be held in the Philippines without third country interference. Libyan Ambassador to Manila, Moustafa Dreiza has sounded a graver warning: "There are many countries and I don't have to mention them, that are very well prepared to assist what you call the rebels against your government." □

Cebu, Navotas Urban Poor Evicted



Urban poor of Cebu face an uncertain future.

Adapted from ANG BAYAN

Some 1,000 residents of urban poor communities poured into the streets of Cebu City last January 22, the day of the city fiesta. Together, they marched five kilometers to confront the mayor about the local government's plan to evict them from their homes.

In line with the Cebu South Reclamation Project, the government plans to put up a business complex on a site occupied by the city's urban communities. About 500,000 are affected. The intended industrial site will complement the proposed Export Processing Zone to be put up on adjacent Mactan Island.

Through *Panaghugbong*, an umbrella organization of 10 urban poor

communities, the people denounced the government's disregard for their plight as evidenced by their development schemes. A spokesman denounced these development projects which will evict hundreds of thousands to make way for the interests of foreign corporations and their local comprador partners.

The demonstrators were neither deceived nor intimidated by repressive tactics used against them by Mayor Florentino and the military. In the face of repression, they continued lambasting the local government to the large crowd which had gathered.

RELOCATION UNCERTAIN

In a related development, 350 urban poor families of Navotas, Metro-Manila are due for eviction to give way to a flood control project. Although they have promised relocation in Dagatdagatan, they are not certain whether the place is habitable.

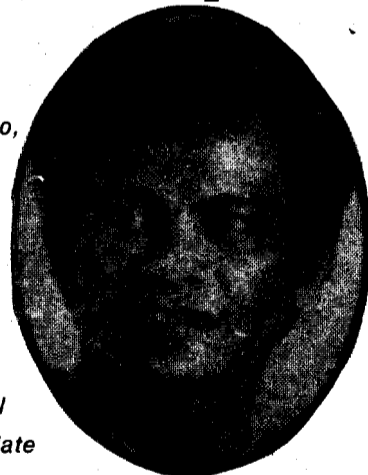
The houses have no walls or partitions. Transferees have received no assurance from the government of getting housing materials. They are also deeply concerned about the lack of water.

Within the year, the Marcos government has slated the demolition of the first batch of 800 houses in the Tondo foreshore area, the country's largest concentration of urban poor dwellers. First to be affected will be 104 houses in Luzviminda Village, to be followed by 80 more every month. No relocation site has been prepared for them. □

Boncayao Joins NPA

Alex
Boncayao,

former
LABAN
candidate



MANILA, March 10 (BMP) — Alexander Boncayao, Lakas ng Bayan (LABAN) candidate in the 1978 Interim Batasang Pambansa "elections" and a vocal worker leader, is now a full-time cadre of the New People's Army (NPA). This was confirmed yesterday by a ranking member of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Manila-Rizal regional organization. An official CPP statement on the matter is expected shortly.

The CPP member said Boncayao's decision to join the NPA, military arm of the Red party, stemmed from the fact that only through armed resistance can the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship be toppled and the oppressed Filipino masses win genuine liberation and freedom.

Boncayao, he said, is active in one of the NPA fighting fronts in Northern Luzon.

The object of an all-out manhunt by Marcos operatives in Metro-Manila,

Boncayao carried out underground activities following the rigged IBP polls in April before finally heading for the hills in late September. In a taped message to all worker activists in Metro-Manila on May 1, Labor Day, last year, Boncayao announced his desire to fight in the countryside. He was quoted as saying that the [IBP] campaign proved nothing but a mockery of electoral processes, the bankruptcy of the Marcos regime and that "mere reformism is useless."

The CPP member said "the apparently liberal atmosphere the [IBP] campaign created was a chance for airing what millions of Filipinos had long demanded from the regime — democracy and freedom." It was on this basis that Boncayao dared tread the political arena openly, he said.

"Democracy and freedom, however, could never be realized through the IBP but through a long-term people's war," the CPP member said.

The militant union leader of Solid Mills also urged all workers in his message to support the armed movement in the countryside.

"The workers are the vanguard of the revolution; we must express this spirit in our struggles everywhere — in the factories, at the strike fronts, and even in the hills," Boncayao reportedly said.

Boncayao, 32, of Barrio Agos, Bato, Camarines Sur, was detained twice by the Marcos regime; first in 1976 and the second in January 1978. On both occasions he was heavily tortured and no formal charges were pressed. □

Cambridge Protests U.S. Nuclear Weapons In R.P.

CAMBRIDGE — An anti-nuclear group based here recently urged President Carter to withdraw all nuclear weapons stored in U.S. bases in the Philippines.

In a letter to the President, March 23, the Mobilization for Survival cited two reasons for their demand. The letter said, "Atomic weapons in the Philippines are not only dangerous to the security of the Philippine people; they are dangerous as well to the security of the people of the United States."

The letter also cited a report by the Center for Defense Information released two years ago, which stated, "U.S. national security would be

increased . . . by the removal of the nuclear weapons . . . which pose dangers of theft, unauthorized use, allied seizures, and accidents."

Signatories to the letter included historian Daniel Boone Schirmer of Cambridge University; Dr. George Wald, Nobel Laureate in Physiology of Medicine; George McT. Kahin of Cornell University; Rev. Thomas J. Marti, Peace and Justice, Maryknoll; June Trotten, Government Relations Director of the American Baptist Churches; Severina Rivera-Drew, Congress Education Project of the Friends of the Filipino People and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition; and other anti-martial law groups and activists in the U.S. □



Anti-nuclear demo in New York — the Mobilization for Survival group urged Carter to withdraw atomic weapons from U.S. bases in the Philippines. (Newsweek)

Carter Pushes Increased Aid To Marcos...

continued from front page

was an "integral part" of the bases agreement recently concluded. Several months labelled this claim "deliberately misleading and disingenuous" since the Carter aid promise to Marcos was in the form of an Annex, not as the main body, of the agreement.

Carter further cited the bargain the U.S. got for facilities whose capabilities for military intervention were "not limited to the Western Pacific, but which extends, as events of recent days have demonstrated, to much wider areas of the Indian Ocean and the entire Middle East." (Recently the U.S.S. Constellation at Subic Bay was dispatched to the Yemen conflict in the Mideast.)

Quite predictably and unfortunately, supporters and opponents of the Hall measure shared the view that the bases are vital. Their point of departure was the degree to which Marcos' human rights abuses had to be addressed. Hall argued that the small cut did not impair the bases agreements. Hardliners like Clement Zablocki (D-Wisc.) committee chair, and Edward Derwinski (R-Ill.) who led the attack in the committee, argued that the bases were a more important consideration than human rights. They also sought bipartisan protection for Carter's "integrity" which would have been jeopardized, they alleged, if his promise to award \$500 million the Marcos over five years was rejected by the Congress.

"MOW THEM DOWN"

Some members expressed astonishment at Carter's "over-reaction" to a very small cut. His tough display, however, is consistent with the need to bolster an American image supposedly gone "soft" in Iran and Vietnam. "I am determined," Carter wrote, "to dispel such unwarranted doubts."

The word, clearly, is that in Asia the Philippines is the ultimate U.S. stronghold, the non-negotiable; that after several years of post-Vietnam vacillation, Carter has finally decided to plant the U.S. flag alongside a friendly dictator. It is there that the U.S. is digging in despite the imminent threat of a Philippine uprising.

Congressional hardliners applaud. One legislator told Planas and Rivera, "If Filipinos attack our bases, I say,

send in our troops, train our guns on those Filipinos and mow them down!"

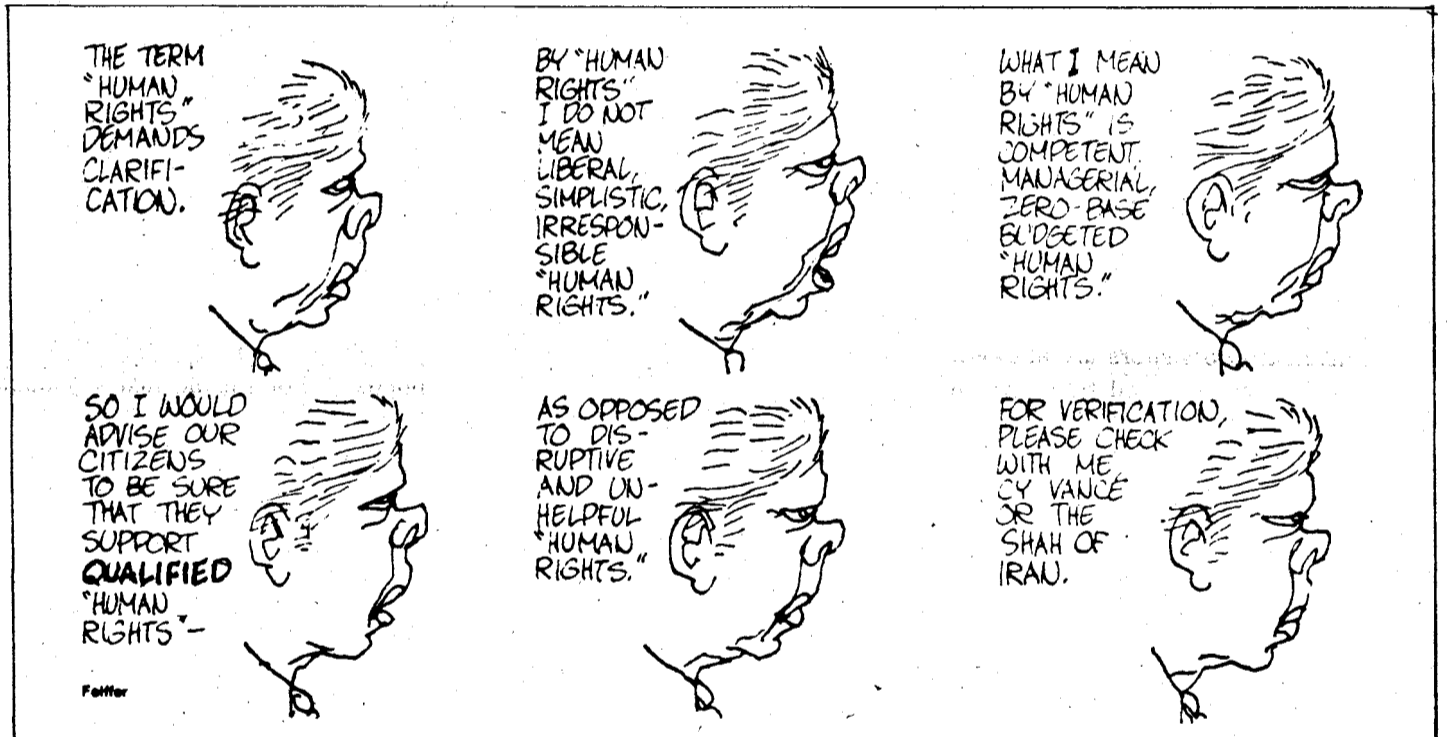
INTERVENTION AND PRESSURE

Rivera, an anti-martial law force in Washington for seven years noted, "The mood in Washington today is ugly. At this period when the U.S. economy is bleak, groundwork is being laid for a profit-generating war economy. Given this and the growing instability in the Philippines, the conditions are ripe for U.S. intervention there."

Anti-martial law groups here continue to seek the involvement of U.S. citizens toward a greater voice in shaping a non-interventionist foreign policy.

Planas, known for her nationalism, affirmed the need for more pressure here. She added however, "It is clear that despite some sincere congressional efforts, all we can expect from Washington are small symbolic gestures. And even these can be wiped out by one single, strong effort by Jimmy Carter, the Pentagon and the State Department."

A sympathetic congressional aide and Asian specialist had similar observations "The only time bases (and therefore aid) could be withdrawn is when the Philippines erupts like another Iran. My travel throughout Asia tells me that as far as the Philippines, the U.S. better develop some contingency plans right now." □



The following is Pres. Carter's letter to House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairperson Lester Wolff, urging Wolff not to make any reduction in the aid to the Marcos government.

— Editor

To Chairman Lester Wolff

As you are aware, an integral part of the amendment of our Military Bases Agreement with the Philippines in January was my commitment to seek Congressional approval of \$500 million in Security Supporting Assistance, Foreign Military Sales credits and grant Military Assistance during the next five years. Of that total, \$50 million is to be in MAP, \$25 million in Fiscal Year 1980 and the remainder in Fiscal 1981.

I made that commitment without hesitation, following careful consultation with many members in Congress, because I consider the amounts relatively modest in relation to the value which we derive from continued, unhampered operation use of the facilities. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, you know and appreciate the importance of those facilities in the Philippines — an importance which is not limited to the Western Pacific but which extends, to much wider areas of the Indian Ocean and the entire Middle East.

Recent events in Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Middle East

have raised doubts about the willingness of the United States to sustain support for its friends and to honor its obligations. I am determined to dispel such unwarranted doubts. This applies to the Philippines, with whom we not only have a newly revised agreement on use of the military facilities but also a longstanding Mutual Defense Pact

I know the Congress continues to be concerned about the Philippine human rights situation. I share that concern. During the base negotiations we maintained a continuing dialogue on human rights with the Philippine leadership including President Marcos and his Defense Minister. We have stressed the necessity of improvement in areas of the most serious concern such as mistreatment of detainees. Our position is well understood, and we see some modest improvement. We do not believe a cut in grant MAP would serve overall U.S. interests in the present circumstances.

Accordingly, I would appreciate your support for the authorization and eventual appropriation of the full amounts of security assistance for the Philippines, including \$25 million in grant Military Assistance — perhaps the most important component — which I have requested in the FY 1980 budget.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Carter

Paul Revere Apt. Demonstration

Tenants Call For Rent Control

By DEBBIE KO
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE — "My rent has increased by \$60 a month since Oct. 1978, but my wages have not increased by \$60 a month; I do not earn the wages of a professional," declared Maria Penaranda, four-year tenant of the Paul Revere Apartments.

Penaranda was speaking before 60 supporters and fellow residents at a March 31 rent increase protest in the downtown Seattle neighborhood of First Hill.

The rally, held on the steps of the Paul Revere Apartments, called attention to the deepening crisis of skyrocketing rents faced by income renters, like this apartment's tenants, majority of whom are Filipinos.

Onlookers gathered in drizzling weather to hear spirited chants: "Stop harassment, tenants unite!" "Owner's greed, tenants' grief!" and short speeches were given by tenants and supporters.

LANDLORD HIRES "SECURITY"

At the rally tenants exposed the harassment and overt intimidation attempts by the landlord, Donald Harvey, who has undauntedly tried to stymie the tenants' organizing efforts.

Harvey hired six policemen and security guards to patrol the halls and to make sure no visitors are allowed. His actions have served to create an atmosphere of tension and fear to discourage organizing efforts in the building. He has also gone door-to-door with the assistance of his manager to collect rent checks "a little early."

In March, tenants began to organize themselves in opposition to the 22-54 percent rent increases. (See AK, Vol. VI, No. 6.) A defiant atmosphere swept through the halls while tenants went from door-to-door to get responses from other tenants about the

increases. Petitions against the hike circulated and a letter was sent to Harvey pressing for negotiations.

Tenants likewise brought their concerns to a community hearing with City Councilmember Michael Hildt, Chairperson of the Housing and Urban Development Committee. Hildt opposed rent control but he pledged to "study" the housing crisis.

Owner Harvey and manager John Hughes however, reacted strongly against the tenants' request. On March 24 a dismayed Harvey agreed to meet with his tenants to discuss the increases. But on the morning of the scheduled meeting, Harvey backed out and opted for talking with tenants individually. Though he lives in a well-to-do suburb of Seattle, Harvey slept almost a week at the Paul Revere Apts., going door-to-door promising tenants this would be the last increase of such a gigantic proportion, "Next year, your increase will be a reasonable rate," he promised.

But this method only served to anger the tenants. "... He is just trying to sow confusion and division among us to destroy our unity. He even gave the senior citizens a 50 percent reduction in their increases," revealed Paul Polintan, a Paul Revere resident. "He knows the tenants are weak singly but as a group we are strong," he added.

TENANTS WITHHOLD RENT INCREASE

In spite of the repressive moves taken by the landlord Harvey, the Paul Revere Tenants Committee vowed to withhold the rent increase until Harvey agrees to negotiate.

For April, rent checks were submitted at the regular rate accompanied by a statement calling for negotiations on the rent increase and housing code repair work.



Mrs. Penaranda ; Shari Woo

(AK Photo)

The Paul Revere Tenant Committee maintained rent increases should be commensurate with inflation rate and wage increases which are held at 7 percent.

OWNER SUBSIDIZING TENANTS

Tenants felt that their landlord tried to portray himself as a struggling landlord "pauperized" because of his continued "subsidy of his tenants with low rents." He even reported to the Seattle Times, "I can call a realtor today and have three buyers willing to pay one million dollars or more... the rent was increased because the investment wasn't paying off. I could sell the building, invest my profit in bonds... or I could take my money and literally go sit on my butt in Mexico."

Shari Woo, a tenant organizer with the International District Housing Alliance (IDHA), says that "Downtown Seattle has become a target for development of industry, corporate business, trade, and tourism skyrocketing land values which have a 'ripple effect' on rent increases of low-income housing units."

"One look at downtown Seattle's

growing skyline will tell you who has political and economic control over the stability of your homes," she added.

Ten thousand Seattle residents, half of whom are elderly, live in the First Hill community; they are among the hardest hit by the city-wide rent increase of 36 percent last year. According to Woo, renters are left with no alternatives if faced with an increase beyond their means since vacancy rates in this city are less than one percent.

Woo explained that tenants need city rent control ordinances. These legally protect them from unrestricted rent hikes. Woo added, "The common public opinion is that tenants have no right or immediate solutions to rent increases. It is not even necessary for an owner to justify a rent increase in concrete terms. Whether or not tenants will have a decent affordable home is left to the mercy of the landlords."

"This," she continued, "is what we need to turn around by exercising our democratic rights to organize and obtain legal rights on the matter." □

FLASH—At press time the Ang Katipunan received news that Paul Revere tenants agreed to pay the rent hike. The apartment owner, Donald Harvey, reportedly gave the tenants an ultimatum, April 14, saying that if tenants did not pay the raise in three days, they would have to leave.

The owner, meanwhile, promised the tenants three things in writing: discussion of tenants' complaints; no rent hike within a year; and making the needed repairs within this month. If the last promise is not fulfilled, he agreed that the tenants could pay the old rent amount until he has completely fixed the building.

The tenants felt a strong unity had been built among them, one which would help in future dealings with the landlord. □

International District Downtowner Apt. Tenants Complain To HUD

By ELAINE KO
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE — The Downtowner Tenants Association has formally filed a complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) concerning the marked deterioration of their 220-unit low-income apartment building.

Since 1970, HUD has subsidized each dwelling but has failed to enforce code standards. Major complaints are lack of heat and hot water throughout the cold winter months. Security complaints have also escalated among the tenants. There is no curfew for visitors at night and the management has given in to a policy of "letting anyone live in the building," thus prostitutes and habitual drunks roam freely through the eight-floor building. Killings, shootings and physical fights resulting in damaged property have become common occurrences.

"We're scared to death to leave our rooms at night," one elderly Filipino stated. "Everyone complains constantly now. The management must be overhauled."

But bad living condition is just one

of the "problems" continuing to plague the tenants. Recently, the Downtowner was the target for redevelopment schemes but they were thwarted by mass tenant opposition.

"First the owners (Howard and Martin Seelig) tried to transform our building into a first-class, tourist hotel evicting us long-time residents. No less than two months later we found ourselves fighting a \$17 million transportation terminal from being built smack dab across the street from us," stated Clark Robinett of the Downtowner Tenants Association (DTA).

"Now, it's the deteriorating conditions which we are protesting."

SUBSIDY CONTRACT

The Downtowner Apartments is comprised of Filipino, Chinese, white and black low-income residents. It was renovated under a 20-year contract with HUD in 1970. There are 12 more years under the contract and Mr. Jerome Curry, HUD Director of Loan Management, made promises at a tenant meeting last August that "There is no way that HUD will let the owners out of their contract (and allow

continued on page 8



Seattle's International District: Site of a battle between big business and residents' (mostly elderly Asians) need for decent, affordable housing.

Sacramento Prepares For FWC

SACRAMENTO — Some forty-five Filipinos from this city and its surrounding areas attended the first general meeting for the 1979 Filipino Peoples Far West Convention (PPFWC).

Sacramento is this year's host city for the traditional West Coast event to be held on August 31, September 1-2.

The meeting began with a slide show covering the purpose of the FWC and some of its past accomplishments. "The FWC represents one of the most highly organized Filipino community events in California, with hundreds of delegates coming from all over the Far West," began Vangie Meneses of the FWC Interim Planning Committee.

"Past conventions have brought forward many issues which the FWC has addressed, such as the Narciso-Perez case, the International Hotel struggle, Proposition 13, and many more."

After the slide show, other members of the Interim Planning Committee who attended last year's FWC in L.A. gave their personal views on the event.

Mr. Jerry Paular, Sr., a respected community leader and long-time resident of Sacramento, said: "Last year I attended my first convention more or less by accident. What I observed was that throughout the West Coast the concerns of all Filipinos are the same . . . from Seattle to San Diego. In all my years living in California, it was



The first general preparation meeting for the 1979 Pilipino People's Far West Convention appealed for support and involvement from the community. (AK Photo)

the first time I saw our concerns identified and resolutions made to rectify the problems."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports of the progress of the preparation were also part of the meeting's agenda.

Vangie Meneses of the Outreach Committee said the mobilization for the FWC has already had some positive impact on the Sacramento

community. "There is a new kind of vitality and energy in the valley."

One good piece of news is the site for the 1979 FWC.

This year's FWC delegates will be exposed to a different setting as the event will be at the prestigious Sacramento Convention Center. The delegates will be lodged at the centrally-located Senator Hotel, unlike the previous years when conventions were held in school grounds.

Because the estimated site cost will reach \$3,000, intense fundraising faces the Finance Committee. Funding proposals have already been sent to various levels of state, local and federal institutions.

PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS FORMS

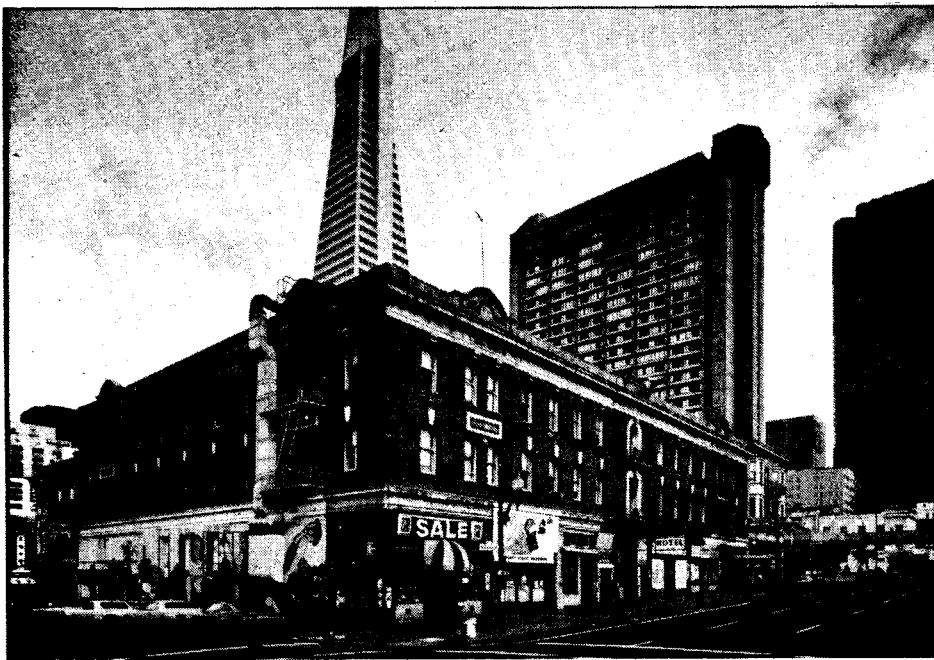
After the committee reports, convention organizers explained how various groups and individuals could get involved the different levels of commitment include sponsorship, endorsement, financing, etc.

Manong Danny Pizarro, appealed to those present: "Let us unite and form a strong unity to reach our goals. Let's reorganize our strength, form new foundations to reach our objectives."

The organizations that have agreed to co-sponsor the FWC are: the Filipino Community of Sacramento, and Vicinity; the Visayan Club; the Filipino Law Students of Davis; the Anti-Martial Law Alliance of Sacramento; the Union of Democratic Filipinos; and the Filipino Student Alliance.

As far as the tangible rewards in participating in the event preparations, Ms. Meneses had this to say: "The FWC is an opportunity for personal growth and maturity. Personally, my first FWC experience was in 1972. I find it exciting to see the Filipino movement at different stages of maturity." □

I-Hotel Then...



The beautiful I-Hotel prior to demolition

(Chris Huie)

And Now



What's left of the structure — an empty shell. Soon demolition will be over, leaving no trace of the building. But the memory of the tenants' struggle to keep their hotel will live on, etched in people's history. (S.F. Journal)

Blue Shield Backs Down

SAN FRANCISCO — In an important victory for Bay Area clerical workers, Blue Shield Insurance Company agreed March 16 to keep their present contract with their unionized employees.

The company had previously given notice to its 1500 workers that it "could not remain competitive in its present situation and would have to renegotiate their present contract or move out of town." AK, Vol. VI, No. 5.)

However, Local 3 of the Office and Professional Employees International Union which represents the Blue Shield workers, interpreted the com-

pany's actions as a union-busting effort to smash the city's only organized union of clerical workers. In this city, the bulk of the workforce is made up of clerical workers.

The agreement came about with the intervention of S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein. But, in a classic case of opportunism, Feinstein then took personal credit for the agreement.

Union officials quickly exposed that Mayor Feinstein, who is up for reelection, was pressured to take the role of mediator from supporters of the Blue Shield workers including community organizations, other labor groups, and politicians such as Willie Brown. □

Downtowner...

(continued from page 7)

them to build a tourist hotel.)"

With that dream "down the tube," the owners have decided to develop another tourist hotel next to the domed stadium at 2nd and South Jackson Streets.

These occurrences are tied into the escalating battle between low-income residents on one hand, and big business interests on the other hand encroaching upon every parcel of land in the downtown neighborhoods. Everyday there are low-income tenants being evicted, rents being raised, and conditions deteriorating. As land becomes more valuable, landlords choose "more profitable uses" from their property and sell out to big business, financial, or tourist interests.

The Downtowner Apartments is located on the front battle line — just on the west edge of the International District facing the Domed Stadium and Union Station (being eyed by METRO for a big bus transfer station) and located south of the financial downtown district. □

A MUSICAL DRAMA

"MINDANAO"

returns to
Bay Area

The stage presentation of the musical drama "Mindanao" comes back to Northern California. After a successful tour of the East Coast and the Canadian cities of Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto to act the play, Sining Bayan will perform it again this month.

Performances will be in Oakland and in Sacramento at the Sacramento State University in April 19 at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call Ermena at (415) 482-3400 or 482-3041. □

11 Years Of Armed Struggle

New Peoples Army Founding Celebrated

SAN FRANCISCO—A crowd of 100 people gathered at the Dover Club Hall, April 7, to mark the eleventh year of the New People's Army.

The NPA was founded in March 1969, three months after the re-establishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Sponsored by the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP) and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), the program began with the NPA's marching song "Ang Bagong Hukbong Bayan."

Walden Bello of the IAFP then spoke about the growth of the NPA since its formation ten years ago.

"Today, the NPA is the main armed power threatening the reactionary hegemony of U.S. imperialism and Marcos fascism in the Philippines . . . In key areas like the provinces and islands of Samar, Panay and Mindanao, NPA units are reported to have reached company-sized formations prepared to initiate a more mobile form of guerrilla warfare," said Bello.

Bello also disclosed that the updated Philippine map would present areas colored red, pink and white. Red areas are those parts of Northern Luzon and Samar island where the NPA is in control and enjoys free movement and popular support. Here, Marcos' military control has been eliminated.

Pink areas, according to Bello, are those regions where the political influence of the NPA is widespread and deep." However, the NPA in these parts are still no match militarily against the government's army.

Continued Bello, "White areas are usually the bigger cities and the

PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION



The April 6-8 weekend was celebration time in the U.S. Filipino community, marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the New People's Army, a formidable force against the Marcos dictatorship. (AK Photo)

surrounding provinces where the suffocating presence of the enemy's military and police apparatus" is strongly felt.

STRENGTH AND RESILIENCY

In providing an explanation to the speedy progress of the NPA since its formation, Bello cited four reasons. The NPA is a revolutionary army, unlike the Hukbalahap which betrayed the Filipino people by abandoning armed struggle and cooperating with the government.

The NPA is a political army under the Philippine Communist Party. It is a people's army whose major composition is from the peasantry.

Lastly, the NPA is a "force that has steadily accumulated popular sup-

SOLIDARITY

At the event, the Chilean and the Zimbabwean peoples movement expressed their solidarity with the Philippine resistance movement.

A message from the Movimiento Izquierda Revolucionario (MIR) of Chile and a brief speech from Prosper Takawira of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) congratulated the NPA and the CPP for their roles in the anti-imperialist struggle in the Philippines.

The celebration program also presented a slide show of NPA organizing in the Philippine countryside. The slide show was a compilation of recent pictures taken by members of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition Refugee

Investigation mission to the Philippines last August.

San Francisco was not the only area where the NPA founding was celebrated. New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, San Diego, Los Angeles, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C. and three Canadian cities also held celebrations. □

Educator's Grievance Heard

SEATTLE—A Filipino educator partly won her grievance case against Franklin High School of this city last month.

Mrs. Zenaida Guerzon, a Filipino language instructor, filed a complaint through her union, charging that her contract was violated by the school.

Instead of teaching no more than five class periods with one period for preparation, she was assigned six classes with no preparation period.

In addition she was forced to teach a Spanish class for no additional pay "under threat of a lowered salary" if she refused.

After filing her grievance, School Principal Ben Canada decided to rehire the former Spanish teacher, thus relieved Mrs. Guerzon of one load.

However, her added teaching loads have not been eliminated. She felt she has been "mishandled" and said, "My question is what I have won actually. I have gained nothing except an unfair load . . ." for no commensurate pay. □

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DOMESTIC INTERNATIONAL

Gov't Cover Up, Industry Abuse

Harrisburg Accident Highlights Nuclear Dangers

The near-catastrophic accident at the Harrisburg Three Mile Island nuclear power plant has served to expose the terrible dangers and problems inherent in nuclear power and the government's role in misleading this country's people about those dangers.

Across the country, and especially in the area immediately surrounding the Three Mile Island facility, an agonizing fear and disbelief spread like wildfire as the March 28 accident began to unfold. What pro-nuclear experts and government officials had vowed would never happen was taking place.

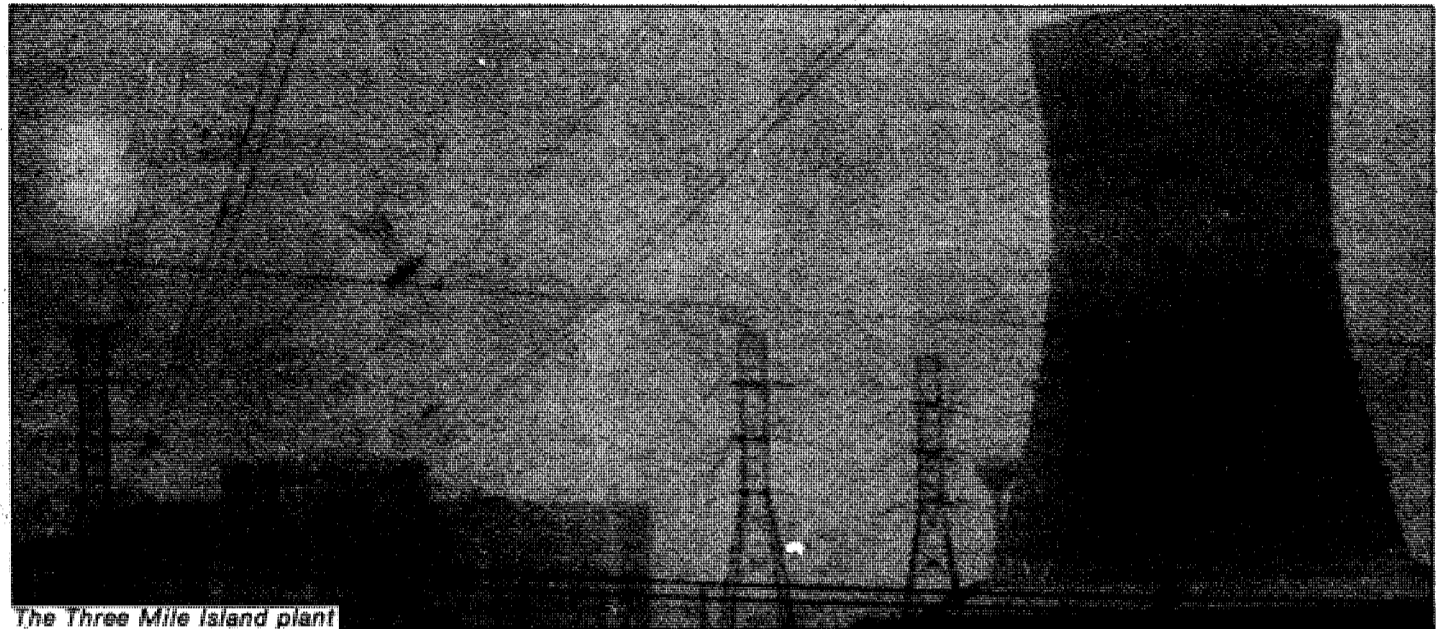
Jeopardizing the lives of thousands, the accident spread a deadly radioactivity into the air, dumped 400,000 gallons of contaminated water into the Susquehanna River, and even leaked large amounts of radiation through the steel and concrete walls of the plant's containment building into the surrounding area.

Throughout the week-long drama, nuclear technicians were fighting for control of a near-uncontrollable situation. Indeed, the occasional automatic venting of deadly radioactive steam from the plant only served to underscore the technicians' dilemma.

For the 500,000 residents within a ten-mile radius of the plant, the nuclear disaster meant anxiety, fear and ultimately anger. The momentary disruption to their lives was overshadowed by the possibility of nuclear contamination and an unsure future of possible cancer and genetic damage resulting from the radiation. Misled by years of government and Metropolitan Edison power company assurances that such an accident could never happen, local residents now faced the full implications of official lies as schools were closed and pregnant women and young children were forced to flee the area.

POWER COMPANY, GOVERNMENT COVER-UP

The actions of the Met Ed power



The Three Mile Island plant

company and the government as the accident began to unfold was one of public deception and callous disregard for the lives and safety of residents surrounding the Three Mile Island plant. In statement after statement, Met Ed power company spokesmen, government officials and Nuclear Regulatory Commission personnel contradicted one another, attempted to downplay the seriousness of the growing crisis, before finally admitting that a major accident had indeed occurred.

Massive leakage of radiation, spreading some 20 miles downwind of the nuclear facility, was detected just hours after the 4 a.m. March 28 accident began. Met Ed officials at first denied that any radiation leakage had occurred. By 9 a.m., "no leak" became "a small leak." By 10 a.m., the reactor accident caused the plant's systems to automatically vent radioactive steam to the outside, a process that continued for almost two hours.

Met Ed officials continued to downplay the radiation leak. At 12:45, spokesman Don Curry asserted that "There was no measurable release of radiation into the atmosphere. The plant is cooling down in an orderly manner with no consequences to the public."

Throughout the next four days,

extremely high internal temperatures, combined with an unexpected and unforeseen formation of a hydrogen gas bubble, threatened to expose the nuclear core to further damage, possibly even an explosion that would blow the top off the reactor and send tons of radioactive contaminants into the surrounding air and water. The plant's automatic systems continued to vent radioactive steam into the air, with levels measured as high as 1,200 millirems per hour. Normal radiation amounts for the average person usually amount to no more than 500 millirems per year.

GOVERNMENT TO PUBLIC — "NO DANGER . . ."

Government action as the accident began to unfold could only be described as inept at best, yet actually bordering on one of criminal negligence and complicity in the deception started by Met Ed officials.

Immediately following industry's announcement of the accident, Pennsylvania's Lt. Gov. William Scranton, Jr., joined in the chorus of voices downplaying the dangers of the situation. "There is and was no danger to public health and safety," Scranton declared early Wednesday morning. "There was a small release of radia-

tion to the environment. All safety equipment functioned properly."

Later it would be revealed that all safety equipment had not functioned properly. The failure of a cooling pump led to high temperatures and pressures within the radioactive core. A safety valve then opened to release some of the pressure, yet failed to close, causing highly radioactive water to flood the containment structure. The resulting loss of pressure and water within the nuclear core caused further overheating, resulting in a partial meltdown. Human error led to the turning off of an emergency cooling system, and automatic pumps began transferring water out of the containment structure to nearby auxiliary building which then flooded, causing the venting of radioactive steam into the air.

The extent of the damage to the nuclear core and the dangers of radiation were minimized by the government's Nuclear Regulatory Commission which declared Thursday night that "the danger is over." By Friday morning, however, the NRC was admitting that a partial meltdown had occurred, with the potential of a total meltdown a "possibility."

Continued release of radioactive
continued on page 11

National Anti-Weber Mobilization Committee Forms

By MIKE KOZU
AK Correspondent

In a major step towards building a national movement to overturn the Weber decision, the National Anti-Weber Mobilization Committee (NA-WMC) was formed during the last week of March.

In a national leadership planning conference held on March 24 and 25, over 75 individuals and organizations met in New York City, agreeing to coordinate actions against the "reverse discrimination" claims of Brian Weber, a white Kaiser Aluminum worker.

June 2 was designated National Anti-Weber Mobilization Day by the conference. There will be a national demonstration in Washington, D.C. and local demonstrations are being planned in Los Angeles, Bay Area, Seattle, Chicago, Detroit, and possibly New Orleans. It is expected that the U.S. Supreme Court will issue a decision in early summer.

The need for a coordinated national response to Weber's attack against

affirmative action, was expressed by many delegates. Bob Wing of the Northern California Coalition to Overturn the Weber Case, called for a "strong unity of action."

Phil Gardiner, of the Los Angeles Committee to Overturn the Weber Decision, emphasized the "need to build a coalition of strength."

"The danger of affirmative action programs being cut back," Alice Jennings, of the Michigan Coalition to Overturn the Weber Decision, added that "the task before us is an important and serious one. If Weber is upheld, human needs will take a backward step."

The Weber case could eliminate many existing voluntary affirmative programs in employment. The impact of the Bakke decision in education is already being felt. And, according to the Affirmative Action Coordinating Center, there are over 200 cases, in court, attacking affirmative action programs.

Fran Beale, of the conference organizing committee, emphasized in the suit, "Weber is not just an

individual. He represents a right wing attack that powerful forces are supporting. A number of corporate-backed legal briefs, supporting Weber, have been filed."

The Pacific Legal Foundation, a multi-million dollar tax-exempt law firm, is filing a brief attacking federal mandated affirmative action programs. Alcoa Aluminum Company, which has the same affirmative action training plan that Weber is challenging, contributes to that foundation.

The conference will develop a National Anti-Weber Mobilization week to build for the national demonstration. This will take place from May 26-June 1. A comprehensive program of education and mobilization will be mounted in all sectors of society. A national petition campaign will also be addressed to the Supreme Court, demanding the reversal of the Weber decision.

The following slogans were adopted for the National Anti-Weber Mobilization Committee's activities: 1) Reverse the Weber Decision, 2) Defend and Expand Affirmative Action Pro-

grams for Minorities and Women, 3) Fight Racism, Sexism, and National Oppression, and 4) Support the Labor Union's Fight for Affirmative Action.

A National Liaison Committee has been established as a communications network and to share resources. An evaluation meeting will be convened in July to assess the National Anti-Weber campaign and discuss possible future work.

To join with the National Anti-Weber Mobilization Committee's activities, contact the following groups: West Coast — Seattle Anti-Racist Organizing Committee (SAROC), P.O. Box 22194, Seattle, WA 98122. Northern Cal. Coalition to Overturn the Weber Case (NCCOWC), P.O. Box 3026, Berkeley, CA 94703. Los Angeles Coalition to Overturn the Weber Decision (LACOWD), P.O. Box 55228, Los Angeles, CA 90055.

For more information about the national demonstration and other area activities, contact Affirmative Action Coordinating Center's hotline. In New York state, call (212) 866-3501. Out of state, call 1 (800) 223-0658, toll free. □

Treaty Deepens US Mideast Role

By JAN AUSTIN
Reprinted from INTERNEWS

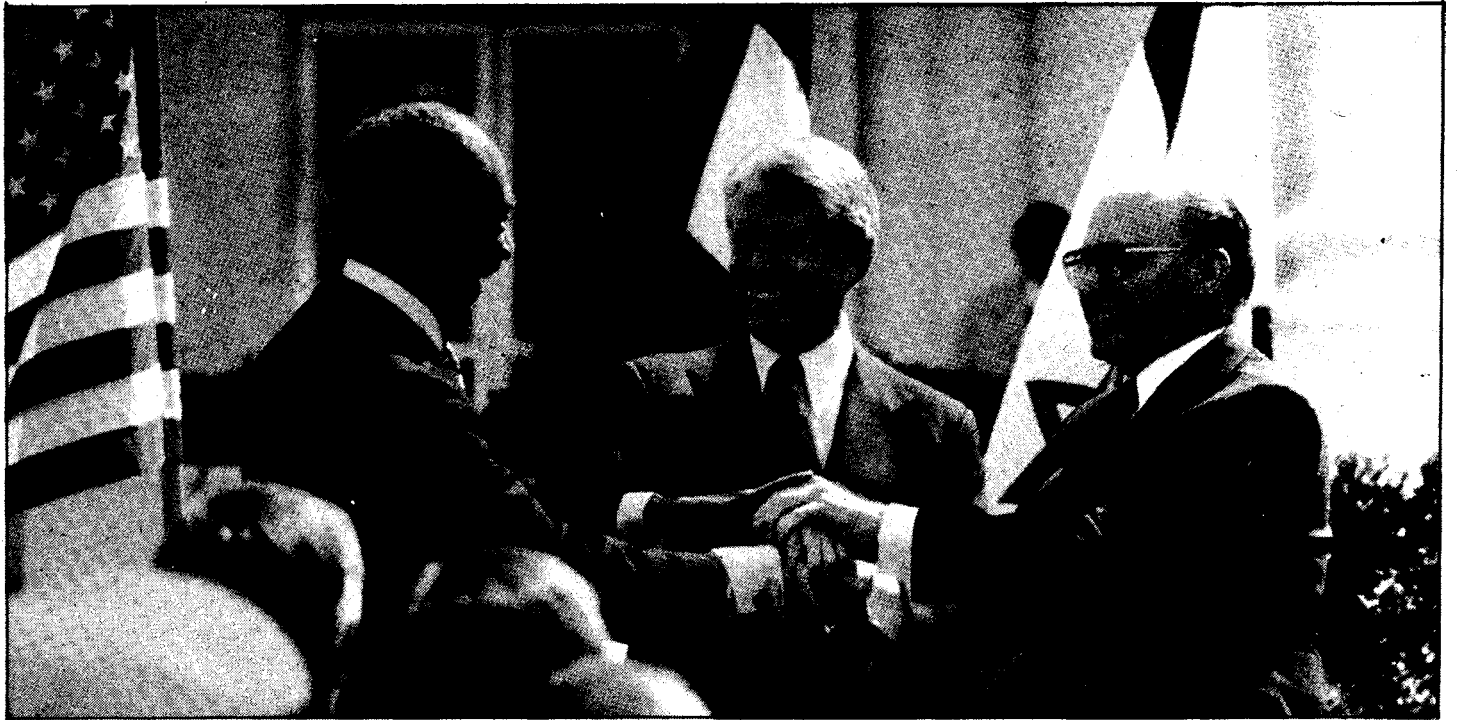
The United States is emerging from the intensive bargaining that produced the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty with major new economic, political and military commitments in the Middle East. President Carter went far beyond the role of mediator between the two sides. By the final stages of the negotiations, the U.S. had become a central actor—pledging massive aids guaranteeing Israel's oil supplies for 15 years, and promising Egyptian President Sadat to remain deeply involved in future negotiations over Palestinian home-rule.

The treaty is expected to cost the U.S. at least \$5 billion in military and economic aid over the next three years, in addition to some \$2.5 billion already budgeted for Egypt and Israel. The administration has promised to supply Israel with \$3 billion to cover most of the costs of its withdrawal from Sinai bases. And it has pledged to provide Egypt with \$2 billion in planes, tank and anti-aircraft weapons.

Beyond these promises, the administration made it clear to both sides that it regards the peace treaty as clearing the way for a new era of strengthened U.S. military cooperation with Israel and Egypt aimed at containing Soviet and radical Arab influence in the region. The prospect of such enhanced security ties with Washington helped both Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin overcome their final objections to the treaty.

U.S. officials hope that these strategic considerations will also prevail with conservative Arab nations that have opposed a separate Egyptian-Israeli settlement. The administration is trying in particular to persuade Saudi Arabia and Jordan that the treaty should be seen as part of a long term U.S. strategy that will salvage American influence in the region and protect them from external threat.

That was the message national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski took to Saudi and Jordanian rulers Mar. 16-18. But the two countries reportedly rejected U.S. suggestions that the Soviet Union poses a greater threat to their security than does continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands. While neither Arab government wants to see harsh retaliatory steps that might topple Sadat, they regard a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace as contributing to radicalization



Carter, Begin and Sadat celebrate new Mideast treaty. U.S. role in Mideast will be heightened.

(Newsweek)

and instability in the Middle East.

The Carter administration continues to insist that the peace treaty is, in Brzezinski's words, "the beginning and the cornerstone of a comprehensive peace treaty in the region." The next stage in the process, say U.S. officials, will be to resolve the Palestinian question. The U.S. has pledged that it will be a "full negotiating partner" in talks aimed at establishing limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza strip. Those talks are scheduled to begin a month after the Israeli-Egyptian treaty is signed. However, Washington will have a hard time persuading Arab nations that these negotiations will lead to real Palestinian self-determination:

- There is nothing to prevent the negotiations from being drawn out indefinitely. In the final compromise, Egypt gave up its demand that local elections be held in the West Bank and Gaza within a year. Instead, Israel agreed only that it will try in good faith to complete negotiations on the details of setting up home-rule in the next 12 months. The compromise worked out by the U.S. left unsettled what will happen if no agreement is reached in 12 months, or exactly how quickly elections are to be held in the occupied territories.

- Israel has made it clear that it does not intend to grant self-determination, as that word is normally understood, to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Camp David agreement—signed by Israel, Egypt and the U.S.

last September—calls for a five-year transition period during which the future status of the occupied territories will be negotiated. During this period, a local administrative council is to be set up by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Prime Minister Begin has frequently pointed out that the Camp David formula does not require Israel to relinquish sovereignty, withdraw its military forces, or cease the establishment of new settlements in the occupied territories. He has also made it clear Israel does not intend to give up any of these prerogatives in the course of the negotiations. And he has flatly stated that Israel "will not accept a Palestinian state on its borders, not even if the council is to be set up under the self-rule scheme votes to establish it."

Since the Camp David summit, the Israeli government has been working on the practical details of the local self-rule plan. Recommendations by a high-level government committee, leaked to the Israeli press in February, indicate that Israel is not planning to cede meaningful control to the local Palestinian administrative councils.

Among the committee's recommendations: Israel would continue to control water sources in the occupied territories. The government would retain control of nearly 20 percent of the 1.6 million acres in the West Bank and Gaza that are state lands, and Israeli would continue to settle on these lands. The local councils would make no laws and have no control over Israeli settlements or the land itself. The Palestinian councils would

have a police force, but internal security would continue to be vested in the Israeli army and security services.

- No prominent Palestinian, elected or otherwise, from the West Bank or Gaza, has publicly supported the self-rule scheme or signaled a willingness to negotiate with Israel to set up local administrative councils. West Bank leaders charge that the autonomy formula outlined at the Camp David summit only legitimizes Israeli occupation. Rejection comes not only from the pro-PLO mayors elected in most West Bank towns, but also from moderate Palestinians who look to Jordan for political leadership. "The leaders of the West Bank and Gaza and the mayors of their cities and towns are unanimously agreed on rejecting the proposals," the moderate mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Friej, declared in February.

Given the well-organized opposition on the West Bank, President Sadat has proposed that autonomy be established first in Gaza, as a kind of pilot project. Gaza was administered by Egypt from 1949 to 1967. The chief leader in Gaza is Israeli-appointed mayor Rashad al-Shawa, a moderate, pro-Jordanian politician. Shawa warns that he will not support autonomy that does not lead to self-determination. "Mr. Begin has already stripped it of any meaning," Shawa said last week. "Mr. Begin has announced that no autonomy given to the occupied territories will ever lead to self-determination. So he has destroyed the word autonomy from the very beginning." □

Harrisburg...

continued from page 10

steam and the inability of nuclear experts to cool the core finally led Pennsylvania's Gov. Richard Thornburgh to "advise" all pregnant women and young children within a five-mile radius of the plant to leave the area. Residents within a ten-mile radius were similarly "advised" to stay indoors, with doors and windows closed. Some 20 schools within the affected area were closed, and an estimated 100,000 persons voluntarily evacuated the area.

Pres. Carter, who later visited the site, urged against a general evacuation, saying that officials should not be "going off half-cooked." Yet nuclear critics took government and power company officials to task, for downplaying the dangers of the situation.

Harvard biologist and Nobel Prize winner George Wald lashed out at the government's action. "It's absolutely irresponsible not to evacuate people near the Three Mile Island nuclear facility," he declared. "Every dose of radiation is an overdose... there is no lower threshold for radiation."

Dr. John Gofman, a University of California professor, voiced similar criticisms, estimating that a fatal cancer results for every 300 persons exposed to one additional rem of radiation per year. He predicted increased cancer deaths for residents surrounding the accident if evacuation was not enacted.

Other critics noted that, had the Three Mile Island danger been one of natural origin, say a pending hurricane or flood, there would have

been much less hesitancy to order an evacuation. Yet given the Carter administration's banking on nuclear energy as part of its overall energy program, and the subsequent involvement of billions in existing facilities, a general evacuation order would only have highlighted what is now a general public apprehension about nuclear power. The fact that the Three Mile accident even occurred, debunking all previous assurances by pro-nuclear experts that it could never happen, only added more fuel to America's growing anti-nuclear sentiment.

The government and power company deception and cover-up which began the first day of the Three Mile Island accident has not abated. While the Harrisburg plant is no longer in any immediate danger of a meltdown or explosion, the full story of the accident has yet to be revealed. Given the government's and Met Ed's past actions around the accident, many Americans retain a healthy skepticism

as to the government's pronouncements and explanations for the accident.

That skepticism, and ultimately anger, has been bolstered by the fact that Met Ed customers will now be paying higher rates for their electricity, rates caused in part by the massive clean-up bill for the Three Mile Island accident. Stuck with a billion dollar nuclear white elephant that may cost upwards of two billion to clean and which will most likely never again operate, Harrisburg residents are also stuck with paying for a government and power company mistake which now threatens the health and safety of the entire nation.

At present, some 72 nuclear plants operate in the U.S., and the Carter administration has vowed to continue its policy of emphasizing nuclear power as the solution of U.S. energy needs. Nuclear opponents note that Harrisburg should serve as the final warning, and that a more serious accident is only a question of time. □

People's Justice Prevails

DEATH OF A GOVERNMENT TORTURER

Adapted from ITUM
A publication of the
Task Force on Detainees

On Christmas Day, 1978, the people of Negros Occidental smiled, laughed and rejoiced. They and their families had suffered torture, theft, the loss of loved ones, and untold harassment at the hands of the Philippine Constabulary Staff Sergeant George Presquito and his gang. For Christmas 1978, they had received the one present they had daily hoped and prayed for. Sgt. Presquito, their bitter enemy, was dead.

"This goat with a month old *tinday* (kid) is the only property I have but I will sell it and I will buy one tin can of tuba and whiskey to celebrate the death of one man who undressed me and my husband in front of my children and them. Thank God he is dead, said a resident of La Castellana.

A DRUNKARD PRONE TO VIOLENCE

Who was PC Sgt. George Presquito and what were his deeds?

Presquito was born in Binalbagan about 1940. His father was and is a lawyer representing the local sugar planters' association as well as a number of individual hacenderos. Presquito left home to attend school in La Castellana. In high school he was the leader of a teenage gang that was occasionally hired by local planters for various purposes. Already he was known as a drunkard, and, when drunk, was often violent.

Presquito did not finish high school until he was over 20. For several years he drifted. But in 1969, Presquito finally found his purpose in life. He joined the Philippine Constabulary and went to Cebu for training. Eventually he became commander of the PC assigned to La Castellana.

Somewhere along the line, Presquito became a member of the CIS (Criminal Investigation Service), a section of the PC operating outside the regular chain of command. This section has a known preference for personality types like Presquito's. As a CIS agent, Presquito had much greater authority than a regular PC officer. He operated throughout the entire third district of Negros Occidental.

In August 1972, shortly before martial law was declared, Presquito was involved in the killing, after they had surrendered, of two members of *Kabataang Makabayan* (Nationalist Youth, KM) on the outskirts of Kabankalan.

Presquito was well-prepared for his post-martial law job as butcher of Negros. After the declaration of martial law, Presquito was granted the authority to issue shoot to kill orders.

What did George Presquito do with his authority?

"The first time George did something around here was in 1973," says a resident of Candoni. "He had four residents from Sitio Calumunding walk a distance, made them jump into a carabao waterhole and he gunned them down with a machine gun. He then put the corpses into a *caroso* (cart), marched into town and displayed the bodies for all to see."

CATALOGUE OF VIOLENCE

A brief and incomplete listing of only the most recent of Presquito's deeds reveals why the day of his death was a day of rejoicing for the people of Negros.

• July, 1977. Vilma Riopay was taken from her house in Magballo,



Vilma Riopay, one of Presquito's many victims, was found in a state of "acute psychosis."

Kabankalan, at dawn by Presquito and his men. Ten days later, her family located her. She was covered with bruises and in a state of acute psychosis as a result of vicious torture sessions which included water torture and electro-shock treatment as well as beatings. Though she has recovered from the worst of her shock, a psychiatrist reports that without consistent psychiatric treatment for the next few years, she could become an emotional invalid for life. Vilma's family while searching for her, was told by military authorities, "We have no authority over Sgt. Presquito."

• November, 1977. Rolando Santillan of Bo. Buenavista, Pontevedra, was shot and wounded by a *ronda* (privately-hired hacienda guards) acting under the orders of Presquito. No motive was given.

• December, 1977. Rolando Eslera, of the Uriate Coffee Plantation, was shot to death by Rey Hava, right-hand man of Presquito. Informants reveal that Eslera discovered Presquito's coffee smuggling activities and was therefore liquidated.

• January, 1978. An unidentified man was shot and wounded in Sitio

Alava by two men acting on Sgt. Presquito's authority.

• September, 1978. Mateo Ronquillo and Avelino Queritan of Sitio Abo, Manlocachoc, Sipalay, were arrested by a team headed by Presquito. Queritan was divested of his watch, P227.00 cash and a jacket and then released. Ronquillo has not been seen since.

• November, 1978. One hundred forty farmers and settlers from 12 sitios in the municipalities of Kabankalan, Ilog and Hinoba-an arrived in Bacolod City. They lodged accusations against Presquito of torture, illegal arrest, forced evacuation, killings and liquidations, military raids without warrants, looting and destruction of properties, extortion and threats. PC officials, hearing their grievances, promised to arrest Presquito within three days.

PEOPLE'S JUSTICE PREVAILS

The PC did not arrest Presquito, in spite of solemn promises by regime officials to punish severely those who abuse their authority, particularly torturers.

On the afternoon of Dec. 24, 1978,

Sgt. Presquito sat at a kiosk in Bacolod City with the mayor, the police captain and several others drinking beer. One by one they sauntered off, leaving Presquito, usually accompanied by his well-armed gang of soldiers and informers, alone for a rare moment. As the PC man raised his shirt to scratch his flabby stomach, he was surrounded by five men carrying armalites and a .45 caliber pistol. The torturer stood up and started to speak.

The people's forces did not demand an eye for an eye from this man who had caused so much pain and suffering. A quick shot from the .45 followed by a rain of armalite bullets finished him quickly.

Late in the night of Christmas Eve, the dead body lay covered with a linen sheet on the embalming table. A lighted candle above the head fell, burning the dead man's face and upper torso. "Hell couldn't wait until his body was buried before it started the fires," remarked one relieved resident of Candoni. □

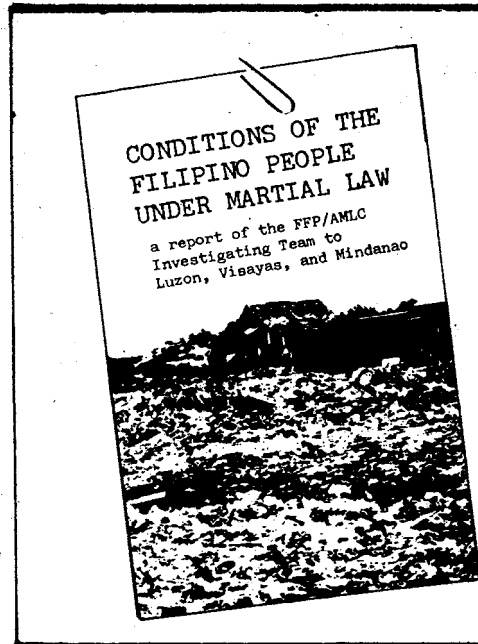
'There Are Many Presquitos'

"What should I do with my *talibong* (knife) now that Presquito is dead?" asked an old man. He had been saving the weapon for the murderer of his son. Presquito had shot the young man for picking up fallen coffee beans. "Keep it in shape," answered a friend. "There are more Presquitos."

The list of military terrorists in Negros Occidental is long. It includes well-known names: Sgt. Caneso, Baby Singson, Major Dumpit, Ray Hava and others. All have participated in brutal torture and harassment of the Negros population.

Not only the military, but the civilian police play an active role in repressing the Negros population. Pablito Tanghil was shot in January, 1978, after leaving his home in the company of policemen who claimed they needed his services as a guide. Eliseo Geronimo was killed that March when he went to buy *balut* for his pregnant wife. He had tried to pacify a group of arguing men, was grabbed by police and hauled off to prison where he was fatally beaten. Lt. Col. Gilfredo Geolinga was named "Chief of Police of the Year" for having arrested 127 workers, sympathizers and their priest while negotiating with landowner Angel Arana over the use of his idle land.

"I only hope I live long enough to see them dead with my *talibong*," said the old man. □



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