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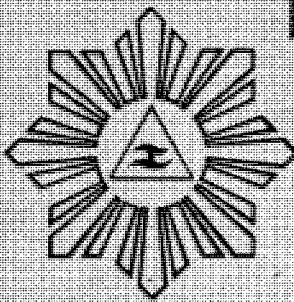
KATIPUNAN

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF KDP

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 5

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US Denies Asylum Bid - Macapagal in Hiding

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA



Diosdado Macapagal

Former Pres. Diosdado Macapagal emerged briefly from hiding April 10 to release a statement to foreign correspondents reiterating his determination to "fight for the restoration of democracy in the Philippines. Macapagal has been in hiding since April 1, after he unsuccessfully sought political asylum from the residence of US ambassador William Sullivan and simultaneously

assurances from the Marcos gov't that "Macapagal's life was not in danger and he is free to leave any time he wished." However, the 65 year-old ex-Pres., in a statement released April 2, claimed that an official of the Dept. of Nat'l Defense appeared at his home to "determine if I had already been arrested." Also, according to recent reports, the Dept. of Foreign Affairs invalidated Macapagal's passport and frustrated the latter's attempt to obtain a visa for Taiwan.

INT'L PUBLICITY — BLOW AGAINST REGIME

Despite the possible repercussions on Macapagal's life, the int'l publicity generated by his asylum bid has assured him of some measure of immunity from arrest. The int'l coverage given Macapagal has dealt a serious blow on the Marcos regime. Already, two editorials in the New York Times and Washington Star have criticized the State Dept. for denying Macapagal's asylum request and have praised his defiance of Marcos' "tin-horn dictatorship." Marcos has attempted to dilute the negative effects of Macapagal's asylum attempt by weakly dismissing it as an "April Fools joke."

MACAPAGAL'S MOVES — PART OF GROWING OPPOSITION

More importantly, however, Macapagal's latest

(continued on page 4)

launched his book "Democracy in the Philippines." Macapagal's asylum bid was denied by the US State Dept. on the grounds that the US does not grant asylum to persons based in their home country and after US embassy officials received

U.S.-R.P. TALKS BEGIN IN WASHINGTON

US-RP Ministerial negotiations on the use of US military bases in the Philippines ended April 13 in Washington, but will resume in Manila in June. These talks are part of a series undertaken to renegotiate US-RP Defense Agreements and the terminated Laurel-Langley Agreement.

The Philippine and US panels headed up by Foreign Affairs Sec. Carlos P. Romulo and Sec. of State Henry Kissinger, respectively, met for an hour and a half to discuss the details of the agreements. Washington sources say the State Dept. would not disclose the outcome of the talks and remained tightlipped on its location although the Philippine embassy was reportedly "packed with policemen." The strict security measures was seen as a means to avoid protest actions from local anti-

martial law organizations.

Despite the "conspired silence" of the two gov'ts, sources disclosed that the Philippines has demanded an annual rent payment of \$40-M for the continued use of Clark Air Force Base and Subic Naval (the largest American military bases in the Western Pacific). This expected move on the part of the Marcos regime was seen as a means to circumvent the effects of the Human Rights Amendment (appended to the Foreign Aid Bill) which withholds US assistance to repressive gov'ts including the Philippines.

Interestingly, the amount of rent-payments demanded by the Philippines is equivalent to the average (\$40-M) annual aid package the Philippines currently receives from the US. Further reports indicate that the US has conceded sovereignty over

(continued on page 3)

Schnapp/Sinnott Vs Philippine Consulate

PUBLIC OUTRAGE FORCES CASE DISMISSAL

Special to the AK

NEW YORK — Hailed by Anti Martial Law forces as a crushing defeat to the Philippine Consulate's attempts to suppress dissent, the Manhattan D.A. has decided to adjourn and dismiss Criminal Trespass charges against Fr. James Sinnott and Mark Schnapp.

Fr. Sinnott, Vicar General of Inchon, Korea, and Mark Schnapp were arrested Dec. 29, 1975 when, as part of a ten-member international delegation, they visited the Philippine Consulate to demand that Marcos "Lift Martial Law and Hold Immediate Elections."

After the two were arraigned in January, the New York Philippine Consulate insisted in pressing charges despite recommendations by the prosecutor and judge to drop the case. In addition, the Consulate called upon the U.S. State Dept, the U.S. Attorney (Federal Court), and the FBI to bring their

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Mark Schnapp (l.) and Fr. James Sinnott (r) point out the sign, "The People are Foundation of Power" following their victory over the Philippine Consulate in New York City. AK Photo

Int'l Publicity Pressures Marcos Fasting Prisoners Win Demands

CAMP OLIVAS Pampanga — Fr Edicio de la Torre, et al scored a victory over the Marcos gov't when their principal demands aired during their 78-day hunger strike were met. International publicity and strong public opinion over the tortures and inhuman living conditions in the jails forced the Marcos gov't to concede to the demands of the prisoners.

While the gov't did not disclose which of the prisoners' demands have been met, reliable sources reported that the prisoners have been transferred to a stockade in the Manila area. This was one of the principal demands of the prisoners, who charged that their isolation from the rest of the prisoners allow their captors to engage in brutal interrogations. The prisoners had earlier been

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Broader Anti - Aid Coalition Formed

A Task Force directed at insuring that the Human Rights Amendments appended to the military and economic assistance bills for 1976 effectively withholding US aid from repressive regimes, has recently been formed in Washington.

The Task Force includes some 20 organizations, including the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines), Clergy and Laity Concerned, Chile Legislative Committee, Campaign for a Democratic Foreign Policy, Americans for Democratic Actions, Womens Strike for Peace, the Catholic Conference, Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), and TAPOL, an International Organization Concerned With The Plight of Indonesian Political Prisoners.

Since the establishment of the Task Force, a month and a half ago, it has focused its efforts at having the Human Rights Amendments applied to four countries: Chile, the Philippines, S. Korea and Indonesia. The Task Force's immediate strategy is to press for an extension of the congressional ban on military assistance programs (MAP) aid to

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(KDP) Union of Democratic Filipinos

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EDITORIAL



Filipinos Part Of Working Class Observe Int'l Workers Day!

By KDP National Executive Board

May 1st, or May Day, also known as International Workers Day, will be celebrated all over the world this year as it has been for the past 80 years. Why is this day so significant? This day honors the common struggles of people throughout the world against injustices of all kinds. It is not a holiday limited to a nation, a culture, a particular tradition. Indeed, May Day surpasses such barriers. Moreover, it is also not limited to the celebration of past struggles, but identifies those challenges yet to be taken up by working people, the so-called "common people," who are the majority of people in the world. As such, every member of this working class has the right to note this day's significance, and join proudly in the celebration of the working people's historic and present struggles against all forms of exploitation and oppression.

ATTEMPT TO OBSCURE SIGNIFICANCE OF MAY DAY

When "May Day" is mentioned to some people, they vaguely identify it as some "spring rite." Many people, particularly in the U.S., have never even heard of May Day. This is due in part to the fact that the U.S. government has even renamed May Day "Law and Order" day, and has gone to the extent of creating a Labor Day in September—all to cover up the truth that May Day, even in the U.S., was often a time of large and militant demonstrations by workers demanding their democratic rights, better working conditions, and livable wages. The first May Day in the U.S. was in 1886 when workers staged a massive general strike all over the country to demand an 8-hour work day.

In the Filipino community, we should popularize and encourage Filipinos to also honor the workers' May Day. Aren't the vast majority of Filipinos in the U.S. workers? The early pioneers who left the Philippines were workers on the plantations of Hawaii, in the Alaskan canneries, in city hospitals, restaurants and hotels, and in farming areas like the San Joaquin, Salinas and Imperial valleys. Many present-day Filipino immigrants still work at the same kinds of jobs held by the early immigrants, although we now find more and more Filipinos working in offices, in the service industries, factories, and in other skilled and semi-skilled positions—medical assistants, technicians, accountants, etc. Truly, Filipinos are a part of the working class in the U.S.

Unfortunately, in the Filipino community today, May Day is still not that well known, although most immigrants recognize it as having been widely celebrated in the Philippines, a time of large demonstrations against fascist repression and exploitative working conditions. This ignorance of May Day has not always been the case, however, as during the 1930's, when thousands of young Filipino workers led and joined in May Day celebrations and protests in all the major U.S. cities. They were raising issues of racial and national discrimination, of the massive unemployment, bad working conditions and starvation-level wages. Certainly, these issues sound familiar to the Filipino community of today, as well as to the whole working class!

FILIPINO WORKERS JOIN OTHER WORKERS' FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

In the last year alone, Filipino workers came forward to raise many of the same issues. At Providence Hospital in Seattle, Filipino workers helped wage a successful union drive there. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Filipinos have joined with other workers, also mainly immigrants, at the Snow Lion garment factory to also fight for a union. And even the housekeepers at the Philippine Consulate in Seattle fled their jobs rather than work under exploitative conditions! Nationwide, Filipino foreign medical graduates have gained the support of hundreds in their campaign against their deportation and their expose of exploitation at the hands of the health care system in the U.S.

As workers, as people who must sell our labor for our livelihood, this process of fighting for our rights, our basic needs, is a process which has become part of our lives. And this is the thread that binds Filipinos with other members of the working class in the U.S. In examining these struggles of Filipino workers today, all of them involve other workers from different races and nationalities.

Thus, within our community, we should herald International Workers Day and proudly recognize the contributions Filipinos have made in the many battles of working people against injustices. As an organization dedicated to fighting for the rights and needs of all working people, the KDP, for one, willingly takes up the task of helping to popularize May Day in the Filipino community. Our recognition of this day is also another step forward against the racist stereotypes of our people as being "timid", "submissive", and "uncomplaining"—"ideal" workers. Every day, the role of the Filipino worker in the U.S. is concretely exhibited, in fighting side by side with other workers for their basic rights. Thus, we should not only call May Day "our" day, but we should begin to join other people in celebration activities which address the problems, needs and struggles of all working people.

CONTRIBUTION OF WORKERS MOVEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

We should keep in mind that this is most importantly an "international" day, in which we can also talk about the contributions of the workers movement in the Philippines. For example, during the last year, the workers in the Philippines have openly challenged the fascist rule of Ferdinand Marcos by staging numerous strikes, slow-downs, production sabotage, and demonstrations, in defiance of government bans on such actions. Not only have they voiced their opposition to the exploitative working conditions, but they have also led in the people's resistance against the increased repression of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. In fact, many workers have gone underground in the cities, while others have joined the New People's Army in the countryside.

Surely, these experiences of the Filipino people point to the fact that our struggles are a part of the glorious tradition of the working class. Because this becomes clearer as we sum up these experiences, we can be assured that in the future, International Workers Day will be widely celebrated by the Filipino community, as it is throughout the world. □

Manhandles Filipina Visa Applicant US Vice - Consul Relieved of Duty

By FRANCISCO OCAMPO

MANILA — A US vice-consul was barred by the Philippine gov't from discharging his functions after a Filipina visa applicant charged him and another visa officer of manhandling and bodily throwing her out of the embassy premises.

In its announcement, the Dept. of Foreign Affairs said it has withdrawn the "exequatur" issued to US vice-consul Donald Ness. "Henceforth, the Foreign Office no longer considers him as an embassy consular staff." (an exequatur is granted by the host country before a foreign consular officer can perform his functions.) The Dept of Foreign Affairs, however, exonerated Lewis Russell, another consular official, although the complainant, Ms. V. Campos Gomez said that it was Russell who provoked the incident when he arbitrarily cancelled her visa.

The US embassy, reacting sharply to the decision, called the action "regrettable" and remained firm on its claim that Gomez was to blame for the incident. However, in compliance with the Dept of Foreign Affairs decision, the US embassy pulled out Ness from the embassy's visa section and re-assigned him to another office in the embassy.

Ness and Russell were denounced by Ms. Campos who said Ness shoved and physically ejected her out of the embassy office last February 23 after she tried to get some documents attached to her visa application. Ms. Gomez told her story to the press after embassy authorities, including US Amb. William Sullivan, ignored the complaint. "I would like these Americans to know that they cannot degrade and insult me in my own country," pointed out Gomez.

In a related development, recent news reports disclosed another incident involving US naval base authorities in Subic. On March 5, 25 Filipina salesgirls in the base were subjected to a degrading search procedure. The girls were required to undress and were searched for tax-free items concealed on their body. The search produced negative results. The Philippine gov't lodged a diplomatic protest, stating that the search procedure "bespeaks a contempt for human dignity...." In response, Navy spokesman, Cmdr. Erwin Sharp said in a press statement that the search and similar ones in past had been part of efforts "to prevent pilferage from the PX and to insure that merchandise is not removed from the base in violation of Philippine laws."

These incidents are not uncommon although similar incidents in the past have generally been ignored by the Marcos gov't. The Marcos regime's sudden willingness to take actions on these complaints — filing two diplomatic protests within two months — has been taken by some as an indication of strained relations between the Marcos regime and the US gov't. □

Avon Launches 'Cosmetic War' Against Local Firms

MANILA — Avon Products, Inc. of the United States, the world's largest cosmetic manufacturer, has put the Board of Investments' (BOI) guidelines on the operation of foreign firms to a test. Avon entered into a licensing agreement with Boie Inc., a local firm, for the manufacture of its products. Aside from this agreement, Avon has applied with BOI for authority to market its own products, although marketing is an activity set aside for local companies which are adequately organized to handle such work. The local cosmetic industries, infuriated by Avon's insistence on this application has drawn petitions blocking entry of Avon. They pointed out that they are not against Boie's handling the manufacture but against Avon's intention to control its marketing operations which may result in the monopoly of the whole industry later on. Avon responded by threatening to withdraw its manufacturing agreement with Boie, Inc.

A similar case of monopolistic takeover of an industry by foreign companies, disguised as "free enterprise," took place in the 60's when the Aranetas (a local capitalist) started a soya bean oil company but later went bankrupt because it was in market competition with Proctor and Gamble, Inc. (a big US conglomerate). Proctor and Gamble, in order to liquidate its local competitor, lowered their prices for the same product Araneta's company was manufacturing; the price was so much lower, Araneta could not come up with competitive prices that could be sustained for a long period.

But, P & G, being a financially established company, was able to sustain for quite some time until the Araneta venture went bankrupt. □

TOP SECRET US-RP TALKS ...

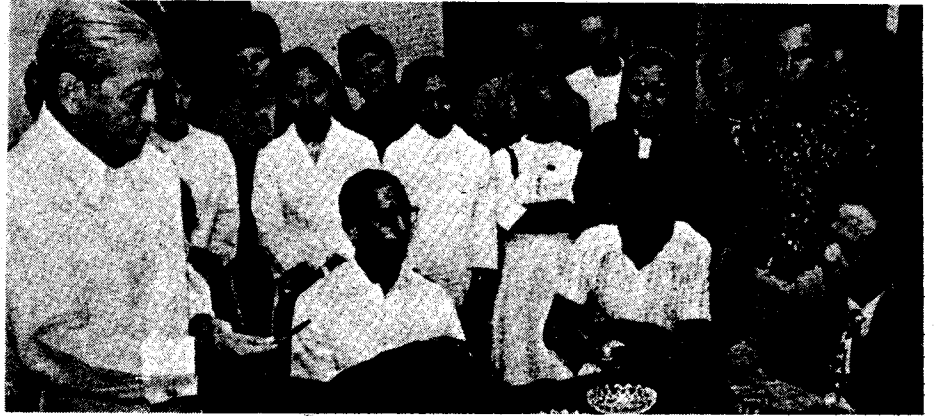
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the bases to the Philippines although the exact scope and nature of this control is yet unknown. Last July, however, a State Dept. official described the type of control the US is willing to relinquish to the Philippines as a "cosmetic form of sovereignty," wherein the Philippines flag will be flown over the bases but the US will maintain its strategic operations there.

Meanwhile, critical press opinion served as a backdrop to the talks, expressing what is considered to be the current mood of the American public towards the Marcos dictatorship. A New York Times editorial (4/13/76) stated:

"Despite Mr. Marcos's demands for renegotiations of the juridical arrangements — which began in Washington yesterday — and his attempt to obtain increased economic and military aid, the bases are now more important to the Philippines than to the US. Instead of pressing on further with a bases renegotiation that would commit future American gov'ts to shore up the Marcos dictatorship, the Ford administration would do better to initiate a basic reassessment of the Philippine-American alliance, while indicating to Manila increasing American concern over the tightening Marcos dictatorship." □

Pagbabalikwas (In revolt)



Maryknoll missionary Fr. Edward Gerlock (center) almost got deported in 1973 for his work among the poor. Cardinal Rosales is blocking future moves to deport foreign religious deprived of due process of law.

WORKERS SCORE GAINS IN 3 COMPANIES

MANILA — Workers in 3 companies scored successes in their fight to secure their rights, reports Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (Alliance of Filipino workers) recently.

At the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific Corporation (AG&P), the genuine workers' union defeated the management-controlled union affiliated to the Philippine Association of Free Labor Unions (PAFLU) in a certification election held Feb 10. The workers voted for the National Association of Labor Unions (NALU), which got 78% of the total 1,454 votes cast.

Meanwhile, at the Elizalde Rope in Binondo's Muelle de la Industria, the workers, after striking for 5 days, won their demand to reinstate 5 suspended workers including their union president, Felizardo Villados. In response to their second demand for company recognition of their union officials, the management and the Dept of Labor promised to hold a certification election which is yet to be scheduled.

At the Bethel Trucking Services in Quezon City, the owner Kim Ki Ong, conceded and promised to grant the workers' demands when the latter threatened to strike. (Pahayag) □

AFP DESERTERS AMBUSH PC PATROLS

PANAY — Soldiers forcibly drafted into the Armed Forces of the Philippines and assigned to fight in the war against the Muslims in Mindanao have been deserting and have formed their own group of what is known here as the "lost battalion." These dozen or so deserters have been ambushing Philippine Constabulary (PC) patrols. □



Sergio Osmena III (right) confers with lawyer Amelito Mutuc during investigative hearings in 1974.

OSMENA III FEARED TORTURED

MANILA — Sergio Osmena III is feared to have been tortured by prison authorities in Fort Bonifacio. According to his father, former Sen Sergio Osmena, Jr who is in exile in the US, Osmena III's visiting rights have been suspended and he is currently being held incommunicado.

These fears are based on recent reliable reports of a renewed rash of tortures of political prisoners in this military camp. At the same time, young Osmena's counsel, Amelito Mutuc was not allowed to see the former, even after Defense Sec Juan Ponce Enrile issued written permission for the said visit.

Osmena III has been in jail for more

than 3 years now on suspicions that he was an accomplice in an alleged plot to assassinate Pres Marcos. To date, no formal charges have been filed against him. □

CARDINAL ROSALES ISSUES OPEN LETTER ON PRIESTS' RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS

BAGUIO CITY — Cardinal Julio Rosales issued an open letter here and declared that the Catholic hierarchy "will do everything within its power to ensure that the martial law gov't will not trample on the right to due process of missionaries serving in the Philippines." Issued during the annual conference of bishops, 54 of the 64 bishops present agreed to affix their signature to the letter.

Cardinal Rosales, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference in the Philippines, released the letter after the Marcos gov't summarily deported two Italian missionaries, Frs. Francis Alessi and Luigi Cocqui. The two missionaries from the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions (PIME) were deported Jan. 24 to Rome, five hours after their arrest. The priests who worked in the Tondo area were charged as "subversives." (See last issue of Ang Katipunan). Frs. Alessi and Cocqui were also deceived into going with military agents who claimed that they were called to a meeting with Archbishop Sin of Manila.

The two, now in Rome, have asked to be allowed to return to the Philippines and defend themselves in open court hearings. But so far the Marcos gov't has ignored the request. □

BODIES OF NPA FIGHTERS FOUND

Three bodies of former University of the Philippines students and NPA fighters were exhumed from a common grave on March 26 in Quezon province. Two of the victims were identified as Lorenzo Lansang and Emmanuel Lacaba while the other still unidentified victim, was a pregnant woman. The three bodies were believed to have been killed a month prior to the discovery of their bodies.

According to reports, the three were bringing supplies to their comrades in the hill when intercepted by PC troopers who without provocation, massacred the unarmed revolutionaries.

During funeral services for Lorenzo Lansang at the UP chapel, March 31, his mother, Prof. Flora Lansang, herself a revolutionary and ex-detainee, spoke of her son's commitment to the struggle and his heroic death without regret. "We gave 'Utnik' to the people when he was only 13." □

TENANT DISARMS LANDLORD, SHOT WITH HIS OWN GUN

BATANGAS (PNS) — The killing of a member of a leading family here has reminded this country that relations between landlords and tenants are still marked by violence, despite land reform law passed three years ago.

Vicente Padilla, son of a powerful ex-senator and a landlord, was pressuring his tenant, Marcelo de Mesa, to accept a deal and move off the land so he could convert it to a vineyard. After the tenant filed a complaint in the local Court of Agrarian Reform, Padilla stormed into his yard, firing a gun and threatening to kill him. De Mesa and his neighbors say they disarmed Padilla and shot him with his own gun. □

MACAPAGAL DENIED ASYLUM...

(continued from front page)

actions is indicative of the growing opposition to the Marcos regime. During the past few months, growing numbers of workers, students, clergy and urban poor have been pressing for the restoration of democratic rights and the lifting of martial law.

This pervasive social unrest served as a backdrop to Macapagal's demand last November to convene the ad interim national assembly as a means of restoring democratic processes. According to the 1971 constitution, the ad interim National Assembly will serve as the highest governing body in the country in the period of transition from a presidential to a parliamentary form of gov't. It will be composed of former members of the legislature and the Constitutional Convention and was to be convoked by Pres. Marcos upon the ratification of the constitution. This constitution was ratified through a rigged referendum in January 1973. Nonetheless, Marcos has refused to comply with the very same constitution he took so much pains to ratify.

Macapagal actively campaigned for support of his proposal to convoke the National Assembly by meeting with former legislators and Con-con delegates; circulating petitions among Sangguniang Baranggay officials; reviving the defunct opposition Liberal party to develop a core of supporters behind his campaign; and soliciting endorsements from various political and civic organizations.

Panicked by the moves, Marcos accused Macapagal of conspiring to assassinate him (Marcos) and issued an Arrest, Search and Seizure Order for Macapagal. It was these series of harassments that compelled Macapagal to call upon the Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP) to abide by their oath to defend the constitution "by overthrowing the illegal Marcos dictatorship and organizing free elections."

Marcos' punitive actions stemmed mainly from his fear that Macapagal's proposal would rally the growing numbers of disgruntled elements within and outside his regime, who wish to see an end to Marcos' illegal rule.

CALL FOR NAT'L ASSEMBLY — COUP UNREALISTIC

While Macapagal's bold defiance of the Marcos

dictatorship merits praise, his proposal to convoke the ad interim nat'l assembly could hardly be considered as a genuine alternative to the Filipino peoples longstanding problems. Even if there was a slim possibility that the Nat'l Assembly would be convoked, its membership will still represent the interests of the less than 1% ruling elite who control and expropriate the country's wealth. The possibility of Marcos convening the Nat'l Assembly however, remains at this time a pipedream especially in the light of the fact that Marcos has a long record of violating the same constitution he conjured.

Macapagal's second proposal, urging the AFP to stage a coup d'etat is even more remote. Marcos presently exercises effective control over the military. The purgings, demotions, forced retirement, and transfer of the army's big brass, which the regime conducted last month, are all intended to knock off balance any potential threat to Marcos' rule.

Macapagal's third and last proposal, to hold free elections, is perhaps the most viable of all his demands. This however, cannot be effected by the military or by a handful of former politicians but by the concerted efforts of the citizenry. The peoples hatred for the Marcos dictatorship has proven to be the regime's greatest vulnerability. Throughout the course of martial law, he has tried to suppress the peoples democratic demands thru the alternate use of fraud and repression. Both methods have reached their limitations.

POPULAR SENTIMENT TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW HOLD FREE ELECTIONS

Throughout the Philippines today, thousands of Filipinos are rallying behind the slogan "Lift Martial Law, Hold Immediate Elections" put forth by the Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front. This slogan, however, can only be realized when the regime is so thoroughly exposed and isolated, that Marcos will have to submit to free elections or face a violent downfall. While such a time may not be within the immediate future, the groundwork has been laid to meet its challenges. The numerous mass actions being

Prisoners Win Demands...

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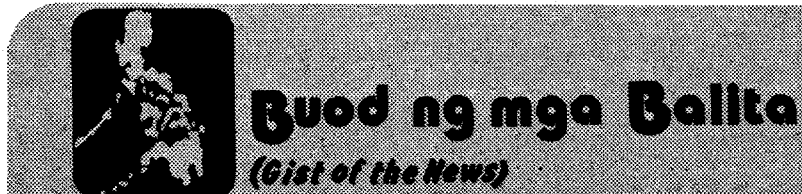
Defense Under-Secretary Carmelo Barbero (right) meets with Fr. Ed de la Torre (left) and Cardinal Rosales. Adverse public opinion to the regime's treatment of political prisoners forced the military to concede to some of the demands of the Camp Olivas detainees.

placed in complete isolation. Not even their lawyers and relatives were allowed to visit.

Reports also indicated that the prisoners demand to put the nursing mothers under house arrest has also been met. Two of the prisoners, Elita Quinto and Isabelita Guillermo gave birth while in prison. The stockades were determined to be inadequate and incongenial for tending infants. (See Jan 25 - Feb 26, Ang Katipunan)

Instrumental in pressuring the Marcos gov't to concede was the adverse public opinion which the case generated. Anti martial-law forces in the US and various Filipino newspapers brought public attention to the case and various groups including Amnesty International, World Student Council Federation, National Council of Churches, Association of Major Religious Superiors, Philippine Bishops Conference, lodged letters of protest to the Marcos gov't. □

launched by workers, the urban poor, students, the clergy, and peasants, together with the advance of the New People's Army in the countryside, are slowly but surely eroding Marcos' fascist rule and ripening the conditions for the lifting of martial law. □



ANOTHER EMPTY RHETORIC FROM MARCOS GOV'T

MANILA — Another token gesture supposedly recognizing the problems and immediate needs of the Filipinos was given by Labor Sec Blas F. Ople. "More jobs are needed for the poor," he claimed during the Asian Conference on Landless Rural Workers. Meanwhile, under the New Society no new jobs are in sight and unemployment has soared up to 578,000 (1974 figure).

The Marcos regime has limited itself to wordy rhetorics as solutions to the peoples' problems instead of actual constructive efforts. Ople also said that the landless rural workers who account for the bulk of the unemployed had been a continuing source of social frustration and discontent. Ople's stance becomes more ironic and amounts to nothing more than a mere token display of concern when he, supposedly the "champion of the labor movement," called the workers' demand to raise the minimum wage to P18 a day as unrealistic. In actuality, this wage back-dropped against the cost of living in the Philippines is still inadequate for subsistence. A recent survey conducted by the Catholic church showed that an average family needs an income of P37 a day in order to survive adequately under the present conditions of the economy. □

ENRILE CALLS MILITARY BRUTALITIES "MINOR BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE"

MANILA — Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile issued directives to the military to improve further discipline in "the face of what we have observed to be a resurgence

of minor breaches of discipline among some of our soldiers which have tended to place the whole organization in bad light."

A few weeks back, about 1,500 officers and enlisted men were purged from the Armed Forces for these "minor breaches of discipline" ranging from murder, rape, extortions, malversation of funds, drunkenness, indiscriminate firing of firearms, etc. Only very recently in Cagayan de Oro City, 5 soldiers were also dismissed for killing 3 civilians and wounding another. □

2 MINERS RESCUED AFTER 24 DAYS ENTOMBMENT

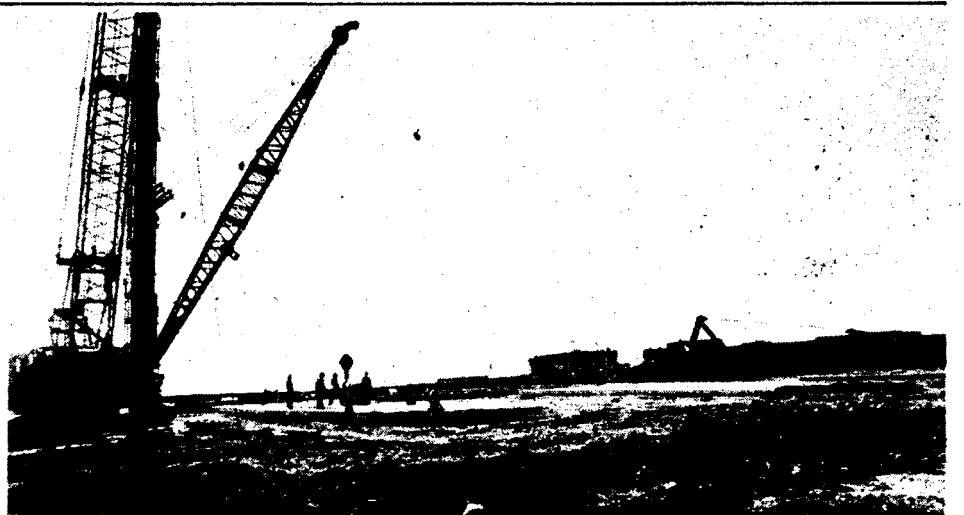
PLACER, Surigao del Norte — Two miners were trapped after a mine cave-in at Lepanto Mines, this town. The accident took place March 4, and the survivors were rescued from the site 24 days later. Initially, 5 survived but 3 died before they could be rescued. Surviving the gruelling experience are Nilo Chato and Geronimo Acot.

While the Marcos press has been publicizing the tragedy as supposedly setting "a world record of entombment" no mention has been made of the unsafe and deplorable conditions in the mines which caused the cave-in. □

MARCOS PROJECTS RICE SURPLUS

MANILA — Concurrent with the Marcos gov't's attempts to project an image of a stabilized Philippine economy, it is now claiming that it has enough rice supplies which it will export commercially next year.

The martial law regime has projected a harvest of 148.3-M cavans (6.5-M tons) of



Laborers work round the clock on the reclamation area off Roxas Boulevard.

rice this June. This optimistic - and to some quarters, unrealistic - projection is based on ideal weather conditions, a factor which the Marcos regime has no control over or cannot take credit for. Even if such a highly unlikely surplus were to take place, there have been no indications that the Marcos gov't intends to lower the price of rice. Present studies show 57% of a wage earner's expenditures goes to food. On a P8 per day maximum wage figured against a minimum of P1.90 a kilo (P3.34 a ganta) of rice, this means that 21% of a workers salary goes to rice alone (based on an average family of 6 that consumes half a ganta a day). □

TRADE CENTER TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN SINKING RECLAIMED AREA

MANILA - Another lavish project of Imelda Marcos is due to be constructed on the Manila Bay Reclamation Area. Scheduled for construction next to the Convention Center which is now being built, is the Philippine Center for International Trade and Exhibitions, PHILCITE is supposed to become a "counterpart of similar exhibition centers in many progressive countries throughout the world, especially those in Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Peo-

ple's Republic of China."

PHILCITE is part of the "city of man" plan Imelda Marcos has been "developing." Mrs. Marcos has grandiose plans of creating a modern city complete with a financial center, an area for hotels and restaurants, an embassy enclave, high-class residential areas, a yacht basin, and other luxurious havens, all to rise over 1,600 hectares of reclaimed areas from the Manila Bay. Ironically, these various projects instead of rising are sinking. The soil on the reclaimed area has not yet settled completely and engineers and architects working on these projects have warned Imelda of the feasibility of premature construction.

Ignoring these warnings, the impatient First Lady ordered the construction of the multi-million Cultural Center and Folk Arts Center anyway. Today, the Cultural Center has already sunk a meter and the Folk Arts Center (whose construction was rushed for the Miss Universe Pageant) is sinking an inch per month.

Despite this, Imelda is still rushing PHILCITE's construction to coincide with the October annual conference of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY

S. Cal. Groups Unite And Form Assembly

By MARY JANE GALBISO
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — "Unity" was the key word in bringing a diverse array of organizations together March 1, 1976 to form the United Filipino American Assembly of Southern California (UFAASC).

The primary purpose of this newly formed umbrella organization composed of social, political, professional and civic groups was said "to combine efforts and resources in the best interest of the Filipino community." Other common objectives include: "Addressing ourselves to the needs of all sectors of Filipinos in the economic, social and political areas; to develop a political clout which would make elected politicians responsive to the needs of Filipinos; and lastly, to provide a forum in educating the community about our true history in the US as well as addressing itself to the current conditions of our native country, the Philippines."

While this is not the first time that an assembly of Filipino organizations has been created, the past three attempts failed when conflicts over the position of leadership arose. Since the last effort in 1972, a general sense of skepticism had prevailed. This negative attitude was directly challenged in Nov 1975 by Mrs. Geaga, President of the Filipino American Community in LA (FACLA) whose efforts brought together a host of about 25 organizations to discuss reviving the assembly.

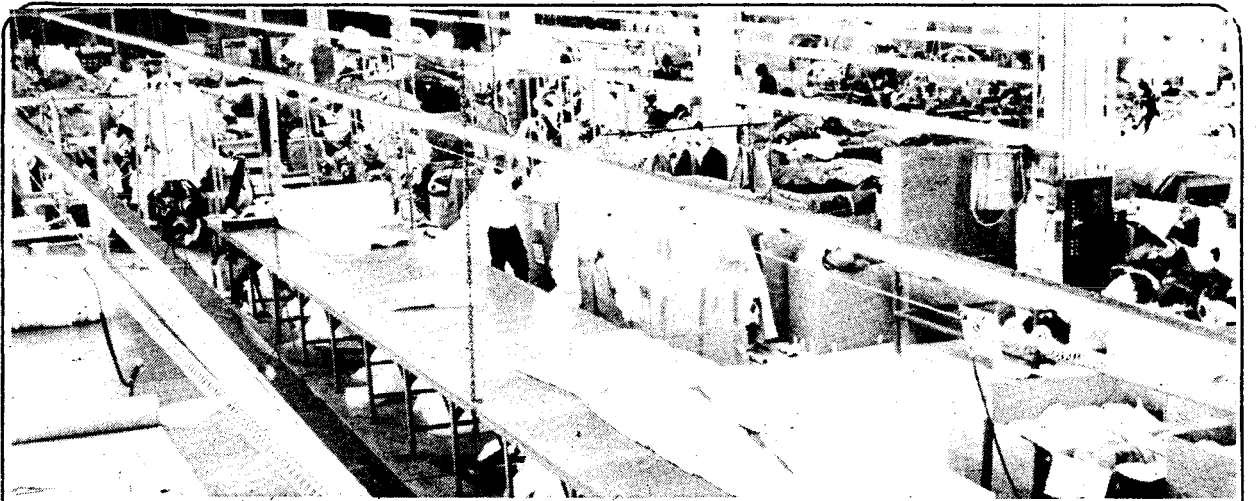
In its initial planning meetings many of key issues were resolved, particularly around the question of leadership. There would be no elected president; instead, overwhelming support was given to the concept of a monthly rotation of chairperson to convene the assembly meetings. This was done in order to counter any attempt by individuals or groups to gain control or dominate the assembly to promote their own interests. The basic structure of the assembly lies in a series of standing committees that are formed on the basis of various community needs such as health, education, employment, legal aid, etc. Within the founding meeting, ad hoc committees such as political action and Filipino Bicentennial Month were also formed.

FILIPINO BICENTENNIAL MONTH

The first official assembly meeting was held on March 15th in which plans for Filipino Bicentennial Month, June 12 - July 4, were discussed. This will be the first project undertaken by UFAASC, and will act as means to introduce the assembly to the Filipino Community and American public. Planned is a month of weekend cultural and educational activities highlighting the theme of the contributions and struggles of Filipinos here in the US.

Hopes for the success of the Assembly are high, and Mrs. Geaga remarks, "I look at it optimistically because of the participation, interest and enthusiasm shown in attending the meetings. This to me is a good gauge in predicting the future of the assembly."

The assembly invites all Southland organizations who can unite around its objective of Filipino unity to join in its efforts. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, between 7 to 9:30 P.M. at the Filipino American Community Center, 1740 W. Temple St., L.A. □



The above picture shows the Snow Lion garment factory whose workers have been trying to organize a union despite management's harrassments.

Snow Lion Garment Factory Immigrant Workers Fight For Union

By ROLANDO TOLENTINO
AK Correspondent

Snow Lion is a manufacturing company in Berkeley, California. They manufacture popular sport jackets (parkas), vests, and sleeping bags that are filled with Polar guard (a synthetic material that is used in place of goosefeathers for warmth). The workers at Snow Lion have been in the midst of a unionization drive for the past eight months. Because of the harrassment and intimidation like the firing of workers before the election by management, the Snow Lion workers failed to vote in a union. There are 190 employees at Snow Lion, mostly made up of women immigrants from Fiji, Samoa, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Philippines, the latter in the majority.

The following are excerpts from conversations with members of the Snow Lion Workers' Committee concerning some of the conditions that have prevailed at the Snow Lion plant.

AK: At what point did the workers' committee organize itself?

Irene: Right after the first union election, the workers committee started to meet on a regular basis. They talked about the firings, wages and the POLARGUARDIAN (internal newsletter of the SNOW LION WORKERS'S COMMITTEE). We formed a steering committee and held meetings twice a month and then would hold general meetings once a month with the rest of the workers.

Juanita: Before the SLWC we didn't have a thing. People would come to me or a couple of other girls who have been there a long time. Mostly the Filipino people would ask those who have been there a long time when they had problems. They come to us because they were unhappy with their jobs.

AK: Can you tell me how the piece rate system works at the Snow Lion plant?

Arthur: The cutters are on a piece rate. And that piece rate is so low you have to work really hard to earn more. You have to cut 100 jackets to earn 20 to 25 dollars a day. As a matter of fact, workers on a piece rate are forced to work harder. We have to speed up production.

Juanita: I started in 1974. After a year we started growing and growing. We started with 12 seamstresses in February 75 and moved into a larger space in Berkeley. The company hired more people.

We doubled in size. The people, when they really got the hang of making the stuff, they started getting better and better and started making more wages.

That was the time they started to cut the piece rate. They cut my wages 20%. First they told us that we can go ahead and make as much as we wanted to do and after we started pushing ourselves to make more money, the piece rate came down. When we asked why, they said we were making too much money. So we really started complaining about how they backstabbed us, after they said to make as much as we could then they turn around and cut it. They cut our wages at random. They based the piece rate on somebody who is really fast. Somebody who makes 50 booties a day can hurt the person who makes only 15 a day.

AK: What have your confrontations with the management been like?

Juanita: When the management heard about our union drive the company men came downstairs and gave us all a 20 cent raise. They asked different questions and I talked about this prejudice business that was happening on the floor of the Plant. The boss didn't want to talk about it in front of everybody. So he called me into his office and I was telling him how the floor lady who is Japanese pitted one race against the other.

She would show favoritism to the Korean girls against the Filipino girls to make them fight. And she would go back and forth and tell somebody about something in someone's personal life that has really nothing to do with our work. She would keep us divided in this way.

So we sat for an hour talking about everything. He would want to know exactly what our gripes and complaints were. I told him I didn't appreciate my wages being cut, and there were other women here that didn't appreciate it either. There are women here that support their children without husbands. They work hard to get a better piece rate and the harder we work the more you guys would knock our piece rate down.

Another example is that when we talk to our production manager, we have learned to take another person with us. One time he laid off three girls without a warning and he said they were too slow. He told us he was sorry and next time he'll give the workers a warning. We told him why can't he put the girls back to work when he admitted he was

(continued on page 7)

Clergy In Opposition To Martial Law ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

NEW YORK — The New York Local Alliance of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) sponsored an ECUMENICAL SERVICE AND FORUM April 3, at the United Nations Church Center entitled "The Church in Opposition to Martial Law; A Fundraiser for Political Prisoners and their Families."

A sizeable number of people turned up for the forum which gained favorable responses from the audience, especially during the question and answer portion of the program. The program opened with the ecumenical service which included Bible readings on justice and liberation and a litany on Human Rights. Officiating were Rev. Paul Abels, pastor of the Washington Square Methodist Church and Fr. Joseph O'Hare, S.J., editor of America magazine.

The affair emphasized two themes: support for the

cause of freedom which the prisoners have been fighting for, and a call for greater unity of all anti-martial law efforts in the US. The local alliance extended the invitation for concerned Filipinos and Americans to join the Alliance activities.

In its welcome address, the Coalition described the pressing need for material aid to the families of political detainees, most of whom suffer from having lost a breadwinner or are unable to get jobs because they themselves are blacklisted.

The forum consisted of speeches by members of the clergy and songs by the Alliance Singers and the KDP cultural group. One song, "Mendiola," was deeply touching and well-rendered. Sister Carmelita Rodriguez, a recent arrival from the Philippines, delivered a taped message giving a first hand account of the torture of

prisoners, the resistance of the Filipino people in strikes, rallies and demonstrations which she had participated, like the recent sit-in strike of the La Tondena Distillery workers. Sister Carmelita stressed the need for financial aid and active support to those struggling against the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines.

Another Filipino nun described the formation of Christians for National Liberation (CNL), a progressive organization of priests, nuns, bishops, lay religious leaders, Christian youth who believe that the Philippines is afflicted with "fundamental problems which require fundamental solution." The Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), represented by Andrew Siegal, delivered a message calling for the end of US aid to the Philippine dictatorship and pointed to the many encouraging responses in the US Congress in its anti-Marcos stance as concrete results of the AMLC's persistent work. Aimee Cruz of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) spoke of the vital role of the religious sector in forging real changes in the Philippines. The KDP shared

(continued on page 8)

Isuda Ti Immuna - In Its Fourth and Best Performance



"Isuda" is not only educational, but serves as a cultural outlet for many talented Filipinos in acting, music, dance, etc. Above, some of the actors and actresses discuss a scene before rehearsals.

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

The fourth performance of Isuda Ti Immuna ("They Who Were First"), the Bulosan-inspired historical drama, is making final preparations for a two-day showing in San Francisco. "We are very excited about the improvements to the play," says its director, Ermina Vinluan, who also adds that "the script is sharper and scenes have been altered to encompass the broad experiences of the first Filipino immigrants, farmworkers as well as cannery workers."

The changes referred to by Vinluan include:

- A more dramatic opening scene which sets the basis to understand why the first Filipino immigrants were forced to leave their homeland. The first scene shows the slums of Tondo in 1920. The origin of the Filipino working class is dramatized; peasants losing their farms to the landlords and being forced to migrate to Manila for survival. The scene also portrays the Filipino anguish at seeing their country occupied by foreign troops—this was the period when America was consolidating itself as a colonial power in the Philippines.
- Alterations to the farmworker scene in Cali-

fornia and Hawaii, which captures the dreams of the first immigrants in coming to the US, only to see them smashed by the very nature of the work forced upon them as a minority of the American working class during the Depression. It relives the problems they faced as laborers, as young men socially ostracized, forced to have social relationships in taxi dance halls and gambling houses. One highlight of the play is the superb and sensitive performance by a member of the S.F. Mime Troupe. She plays the part of Dixie, the young white migrant worker turned taxi hall dancer whose relationship with a young Filipino man is doomed by racism and the hardships they both face.

- A new scene set in Seattle, reflecting the experiences of the Manongs as part of the urban work force. Faced with corruption and deplorable working conditions, the Filipinos along with other workers fight for a union—with many ups and downs in the hard, drawn-out struggle. This in fact is a struggle which continues today not only for the cannery workers, but in similar struggles in every major city across the U.S.

- The use of "Zarzuela," a traditional form of acting with music which is an added cultural form

in the rewriting of the script. New music arrangements have also been made to complement the Zarzuela.

HISTORICAL CHRONICLE OF FILIPINO STRUGGLES

On the whole, Isuda is an excellent chronicle of Filipino history in the U.S. It dramatizes the development of the Filipino movement, many times characterized by militancy but also too much spontaneity. Careful study of the Filipino labor movement in the U.S. was done by the writers of the script, whose analysis is that though many advances were made in organizing the workers, they were too shortsighted, and failed to map out a way to handle the racist and fascist attacks of the goons, headed by local industry. Therefore, though many gains were made, these gains were not consolidated, which may account for the tremendous gap in the development of the Filipino movement from the times of the Manongs to the younger generation.

BACKED BY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Because of this, Isuda is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience. Last shown at the 1975 Far West Convention in Berkeley, the play received enthusiastic response, with many requests for a repeat performance in the Bay Area, L.A., Delano, and Seattle. Involved in every aspect of the planning of this performance are students from campuses all over the Bay Area, community people, and several cultural groups. "Especially supportive," says Vinluan, "has been the Filipino educators who feel Isuda is something every Filipino student, and those who want to learn of the Filipino experience in America, must see."

Ms. Vinluan further explained: "The purpose of Isuda is not only educational; it also serves as a cultural outlet for Filipinos, and is a community activity that everyone can become involved in." She added, "The proceeds of the performances will go to help pay off the debt of the 1975 Filipino People's Far West Convention and for transportation to the next Far West Convention to be held in Seattle this August."

The two performances will be May 7 and 8th at the Nourse Auditorium, Civic Center, S.F. Admission: \$3.00 General, \$1.50 Senior citizens, and \$1.00 Children.

For tickets and/or information contact:
S.F.—Mrs. Faith Valdez (415) 994-5763
East Bay—Josie Fernandez (415) 642-0795 or 548-0958
San Jose—Debra Poland (408) 279-8031
Sacramento—Marlene Pedragosa (916) 927-7728.

Sulong! (Forward in the Struggle!)

LAU'S RESIDENTS TO FIGHT EVICTION

HAWAII—The residents at Lau's Place are preparing for an intense struggle to stop their impending eviction. Last March 25, Circuit Court Judge Norlito Kawakami granted Thomas and Henry Lau, landlords of 45 N. Pauahi St., a writ of possession allowing them to call in the State sheriff to evict their tenants. The residents will only have 10 days to move once the judge signs the writ.

The residents of Lau's Place are staunch in their position to fight the sheriff and the police from carrying out the evictions. These residents have been trying to stop the Laus' attempts to evict them since March 1975. At that time, they appealed to the Laus to let them stay until the city provides them with relocation. Under the law, the city must provide relocation for the residents. But the Laus refused, and since then, the residents have been fighting these landlords and the city for the right to stay in the building until permanent, decent, low-cost housing has been provided by the city.

The reason given by the city and the Laus for eviction is that the structure does not meet building and health code standards. However, the residents have charged that the Laus have refused to make repairs for years. The residents have continued to live under terrible conditions—no hot water, toilets which don't work, leaking roofs, and unsafe floors. They further charged that Thomas and Henry Lau allowed the building to remain unsafe in violation of the codes, knowing that redevelopment, which has been occurring in Chinatown for many years, would eventually reach their block. In this way, they would be able to rebuild something more profitable at the expense of the taxpayers and the residents. □

FILIPINO DAY AT UC DAVIS

DAVIS — Filipino Day sponsored by Mga Kapatid Club of UC Davis will be held at the UC Davis Campus from 1 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, May 16, 1976. The cultural and social event will focus on bringing out and discussing issues about racial and national discrimination relevant to the Stockton-Sacramento-Delta Filipino Community. A dinner and cultural presentation will also be held at the day's end. In the past, this event has provided a forum to bring forward different community needs and concerns.

This year Filipino Day will have as its theme "Mga Nagtatag ng Ating Kasaysayan" - "Makers of our History." The Filipino community's concern about the political upheavals in the Philippines will be discussed in a forum which will feature speakers. In addition to the forum, cultural presentations will be given. Skits depicting situations in the community, dances reflecting Philippine culture, poems, songs, and an art display will be presented throughout the day. Prior to that day, on May 15, a dance will be held from 9 to 1 a.m., in the Silo, presenting Maharlika band.

For further information, contact Mga Kapatid Club, UC Davis, c/o Asian American Studies, TB99, Davis, Calif., 95616, or phone (916) 752-3625. □

LOCAL FMG WORK INTENSIFIES

The very encouraging response of the Filipino communities across the US has spurred the Emergency Defense Committees for the Foreign Medical Graduates (EDC-FMG) to intensify its educational work and petition campaign before the May 30th deadline.

In the S.F. Bay Area, the local EDC-FMG has recently gained the support of

Filipino Immigration Services (FIS), Filipinos for Affirmative Action (FAA), the Filipino Richmond Optomist Club, and the Tainay Club. The Committee's activities for April will include more speaking engagements as well as a one-minute community bulletin on Asians Now, a local TV program.

The EDC-FMG committee in San Diego has announced the formal endorsement of the Council of Filipino American Organizations (COPAO) which represents over 32 Filipino organizations in the Southern California area. COPAO will not only take on work of the petition campaign, but has also pledged to write letters to Congress and the State Dept protesting the unfair and discriminatory treatment of the FMGs.

The Chicago EDC-FMG has planned a FMG Merienda-Forum on Sunday, May 9, 1:30 p.m. at Dr. Jose Rizal Medical Center, 1332 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. The program, entitled "FMG Case - Does It Concern You?" will focus on such questions as: Who is affected - Why are the FMGs harrassed - What are the implications to the Filipino community - and what can the community do about it. Featured speakers will be Dr. Benjamin Narrajos and Attorney Manuel Doria. The event will be emceed by Attorney Vicente Aquino.

Interested groups or individuals should contact EDCs in their local area. New York (212) 889-2705; Chicago (312) 327-2452; Philadelphia (215) 259-8210; Los Angeles (213) 386-5998; San Francisco (415) 534-2931 or 826-8784; Sacramento (916) 925-8634. □

FWC GAINS MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SEATTLE — The 1976 Filipino People's Far West Convention (PPFWC) has received the endorsements of the Filipino Community Council, Inc. of Seattle, and the Filipino Student Association of the University of Washington. This growing support for the convention was announced in a recent press release by convention

organizers who added that the "March 6th fundraiser at the F.C.C. was a huge success and took in over \$1,100.

"Especially encouraging," said convention organizer Nemesio Domingo, Jr., "was the Filipino Community Council meeting." F.C.C. member Salvador Del Feirro, Sr. and long-time labor leader, urged the F.C.C. to fully support the PPFWC as "a way to ensure more unity in the Filipino community." The resolution endorsing the 1976 PPFWC passed unanimously and members immediately pledged \$250 to the convention.

This year, convention organizers expect over 600 delegates to attend from Filipino communities up and down the West Coast. With the theme, "Pagisahin Ang Sambayanan" or "Unite the People," 1976 delegates will be holding workshop discussions on problems that Filipinos face in the areas of housing, education, students, youth, labor/employment, health services, art and culture and the conditions in the Philippines. "The primary aim of the convention is to unite Filipinos around solutions to the basic problems of discrimination in this country and to strengthen our common understandings of conditions existing in the Philippines," explained Domingo.

Sectoral Conferences to prepare for the convention workshops are being held all summer long up and down the West Coast. These preparatory conferences will enable convention delegates to work out concrete programs within all the areas before the convention workshops. In the Seattle area, conferences are being held on housing, youth and labor/employment.

The PPFWC organizers urge everyone to partake in building the convention. The work has been divided into four basic committees: Publicity/Outreach, Finance, Program, and Site/Logistics. If you would like to get involved or if you want someone to speak to your organization about the convention, please call Ben Rafanob, Nemesio Domingo Jr., or Angel Donfego at 682-0690 or 622-4053. □

Snow Lion Union Fight...

(continued from page 5)

wrong. He told us, "Oh yes, I'm wrong but I can't be looked at in my position being wrong." When we had another problem like that it was the same thing so we went to the president's office. he asked us: "Well, haven't you talked to Leonard about it?" and we said, "yeah, but we didn't get anywhere," and I told him what he had said before. Of course, this came out of the Polarguardian but the boss said that it wasn't true. Yet there were three girls in the office and he just bold-faced lied.

AK: What other types of problems have you faced?

Arthur: I used to work in the Snow Lion as a payroll clerk. I'm the only Filipino office worker, the rest are all white, who wouldn't talk to me. I worked as a payroll clerk for a month and asked to be transferred to a different part of the plant, even taking a cut in pay because I couldn't stand it working from 8 to 4:30 without talking to anyone. When your work in an office you have to have some friends who treat you nicely and vice versa.

Irene: The problem in the factory was that there was very little communication among the people until the Polarguardian came out. When it did, everyone got the news and it really changed things. Not only the people who speak English know but the people who speak Filipino, Korean, helped cut down those divisions that the company set up by hiring different people and putting them in different parts of the factory.

AK: What are the present plans of the Snow Lion Company?

Arthur: There are a lot of gimmicks that the company is using. They say that the company is losing profits when it is clear that they are expanding. They bought new machines, getting a new building, hiring more employees, and yet they say are losing, that there has been no profits.

Irene: The company is trying to diminish their American operation and transfer everything to Taiwan. They are becoming international and are starting to rely on very cheap overseas labor in order to make more profits. The way the company is able to get away with it is that they have the stuff cut here, have all the goods made in the US and then sent over to Taiwan to be assembled with cheap labor and then sent back with a very low tariff. For instance, if it was all made in Taiwan with Taiwanese goods and labor it can be 25% tariff. Now with the system they have with American goods with Taiwanese labor, it is a mere 7% tariff. The important thing is the fact that people are getting exploited. It is also a way where the company is running away from the union here and it is really worse because they are going to other countries, exploiting the workers there.

At this point in the struggle to unionize the Snow Lion Plant, the workers' committee has been making steady gains in building workers solidarity and unity on the shop floor. These are not new conditions that face immigrant workers. Only by concrete active support of the community will we see changes within the immigrant population to fight for their democratic rights as workers in this country. □

ID RESIDENTS PROTEST STADIUM OPENING

By GENE VIERNES
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE—Coinciding with the grand opening festivities of the \$68-M King Dome Stadium on March 27, the Int'l District Housing Alliance sponsored a rally protesting the destruction of the International District Community. The rally, attended by 125 residents and supporters, also marked four years of struggle and resistance against the Dome Stadium since its groundbreaking on Nov. 2, 1972.

Immediately following the rally, supporters went to the Stadium to distribute 5,000 leaflets outlining the housing problems and other negative effects of the stadium upon the community. One that is already apparent is the new parking meter restrictions which were installed in March limiting parking to 90 minutes, doubling the meter prices and enforcing them from 10 o'clock a.m. to 10 o'clock p.m. seven days a week! "This in effect," they said, "makes it impossible for residents to park in front of their own homes."

Mrs. Louie, an elderly Chinese, best captured the residents' feelings: "The overall results of all of these intruders is destruction of our everyday lives."

A spokesperson for the Alliance explained that "the ID residents are rapidly beginning to understand that redevelopment means profits for Big Business and the gov't and is not designed to meet any of their basic housing, health and other necessities in life." Recently, seventy residents demonstrated their growing consciousness by protesting a drastic cut in funding of the ID's only Health clinic at a rally March 15, at Hing Hay Park. Thru such pressure and additional lobbying efforts, the ID Health Clinic was given more city funds to continue their much needed operations for next year. Furthermore, residents and small shop owners are now undertaking petition drives demanding the removal of the new parking meters as well as the return of the four mailboxes which were



New meters installed since the opening of the Dome Stadium (background) severely limit access to parking for ID residents.

abruptly removed in January.

An added victory for the ID residents has been the recent announcement by the Port of Seattle that plans for the \$40-M transportation complex (next to the ID) has been scrapped. The reason the Port gave for discontinuation of the project was "financial unfeasibility" but they added that, "it may be feasible at some later date."

Meanwhile the ID Housing Alliance is broadening the participation of sympathetic groups with future plans including more pressure on the City Mayor, West Uhlman, and HUD for more income housing subsidies. □

Mijares Testifies For Maids...

(continued from page 8)

seek US political asylum." A representative of the AADC addressed the audience and courageously explained that other speakers from the Filipino community had been invited to speak on the issue but declined for fear of reprisal by the Marcos government. She noted that a well-known Filipino leader had initially accepted an invitation to speak, but had declined because of fear that he would be harrassed by the Marcos government when he returned to the Philippines on a planned visit to see his relatives.

The AADC also sponsored two informal discussions in the International District. Over 100 people participated in discussions with Mr. Mijares. Mijares' first-hand accounts of the conditions in the Philippines sparked a healthy exchange of opinions

and ideas. The participants in the evening discussion were especially moved by Mr. Mijares' discussion of the inhumane treatment that political prisoners suffer in the Philippines and specifically his direct experience with the family of Lilosia Hilao, the woman who was tortured to death in 1973. Earlier at the International Drop-in Center, Mijares called upon concerned individuals and organizations in Seattle's Filipino community to set aside their differences and step forward and unite to stop US military aid to the Marcos government and demand that martial law be lifted in the Philippines.

According to the legal counsel for Abuel and Almirante, a decision is expected within 30 days. Although the AADC is quite optimistic, a spokesperson has stated that the AADC will "continue to fight the deportation of Ms. Abuel and Ms. Almirante" if the decision is unfavorable. □

On the Front

COALITION PREPARES ECONOMIC AID STUDY

An extensive study of US gov't economic assistance to the Marcos martial law regime is now in the process of being completed. The research is being undertaken by the Anti Martial Law Coalition and is intended to complement the military aid study released last year by the Coalition under the title "Logistics of Repression." Some 25 researchers based in Boston, N.Y., Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Storrs, Conn., and Madison, Wisconsin have been engaged in the project for the last four months.

The research focuses in depth on the major aid programs of the Agency for Int'l Development. These include population control, agrarian reform, labor development, community development, educational development and militarily related economic assistance. US assistance funneled thru the World Bank is another area explored by the study. Among the more critical questions being probed are the following: the nature and extent of AID supported sterilization in the Philippines; the "development impact" of the various population programs; the social effects of AID supported land reform programs; the relation between AID participation in land reform projects and US counter-insurgency objects; the reasons for the massive

increase in World Bank aid to the Marcos regime.

Data collection is scheduled to be completed by the end of April, and the published report will be out by the end of June, in time for Congressional Committee hearing on the applicability to the Philippines of the Human Rights Amendment recently attached to the 1976 Foreign Assistance Bill. □

BOSTON HOLDS SUCCESSFUL TEACH-IN

BOSTON — "Pilipino People's Struggle: Time-Honored Tradition" was the theme of a successful teach-in on the Philippines held March 26th in Cambridge. The evening program, sponsored by the Goddard-Cambridge Core Course, the Friends of the Pilipino People (FFP), and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), featured a slide show depicting the centuries-old heroic resistance of the Filipino people against foreign oppression and local exploitation.

The *Barricades of Diliman*, a 1971 documentary film, portrayed the weeklong seizure of the University of the Philippines in Diliman by students, professors, workers and the urban poor, in solidarity with public and private transportation drivers who launched a massive strike against the hike in oil and gas prices by the country's five

leading oil companies, all owned by U.S. multinational corporations. The film also showed the brutal action by the government to suppress the people's demands to end the worsening economic and social conditions.

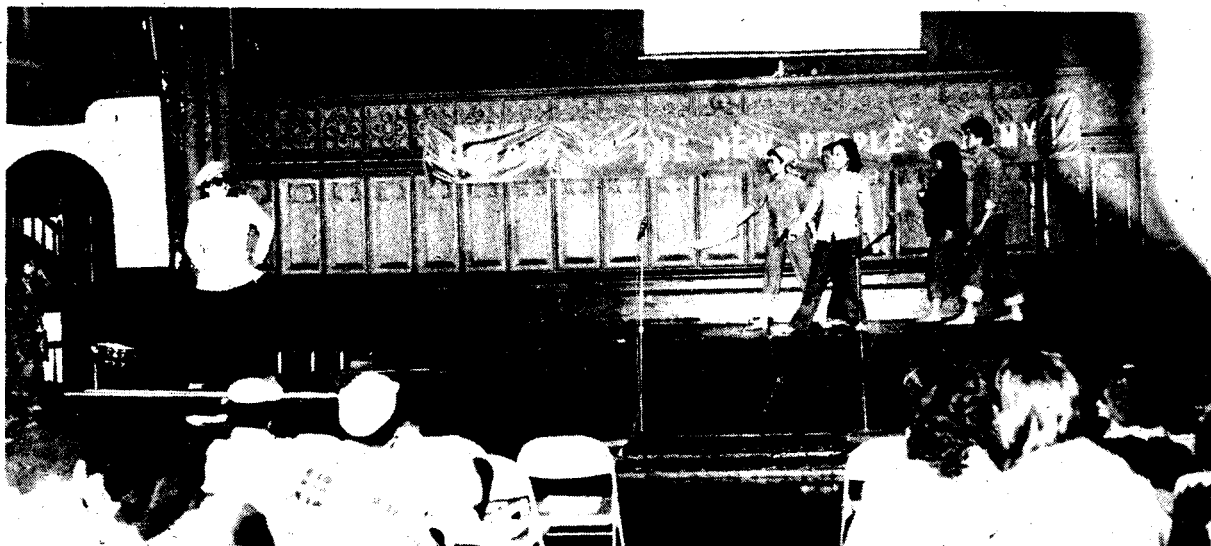
Following the slideshow, a call was made to the audience to support the freedom fighters in the Philippines through monetary and clothing donations.

The evening presentation ended with speeches of solidarity. The spokesperson for the Union of Vietnamese Patriots in the U.S. stated that the "Vietnamese people are determined to stand shoulder to shoulder with all peoples throughout the world to safeguard peace and struggle tirelessly for national independence, democracy and peaceful social progress."

The representative of Eritrean for Liberation in North American emphasized that the Eritrean and Pilipino people "are waging a life and death struggle against the ferocious enemy number one of mankind—U.S. imperialism."

Lisa Field, a junior high school student strongly stated that the school children of Boston were in solidarity with the political prisoners in the Philippines. "The children who ride (the) buses, when they are in trouble, are political prisoners of racism; we feel with the political prisoners in the Philippines. We are going to keep on riding these buses and we know the Pilipino people are going to keep on fighting. Makibaka, Dare to Struggle!" □

CELEBRATIONS MARK 7th YEAR OF NPA



New York skit scene showing the peasants confronting the landlord. Five other celebrations were held in major cities throughout the US.

By CARMEN FERNANDEZ
AK Correspondent

March 29, 1976, the 7th anniversary of the establishment of the New People's Army was marked by celebrations in major cities in the US.

This occasion was utilized to popularize and deepen the political understanding of the concept of people's war in the Philippines. It was also on this occasion that the medical aid campaign for the NPA was formally launched.

Celebrations were held by 5 KDP chapters: Hawaii, New York and N. California Region on March 27; Philadelphia on April 3 and in Seattle on April 9. The cultural presentations included speeches, a skit and songs. The speeches reviewed the general worsening conditions under the martial law regime of Marcos; why people's war is the answer to martial law and the basic problems in the Philippines which existed before martial law, like land problem, US domination of the economy, military and politics.

Revolutionary songs were sung in between speeches, giving emphasis to each point in the speech. In the Bay Area, Sining Bayan, the KDP cultural group, sang "Babaing Walang Kibo" (O Passive Woman) which was a call to the womenfolk to arise and defend the motherland from foreign exploitation; and "Tao ang Mahalaga" (People are the Decisive Factor) which expresses the main ingredient for the success of a liberation struggle, which is its people.

The highlight of the program in Seattle was a skit that beautifully depicted the general hardships of peasants under feudal conditions and dramatically contrasted the successes of conscious organizing efforts under the leadership and guidance of the NPA to that of the spontaneous reaction of peasants, which failed to bring the landlord to heed their demands. It characterized the political and organizing work done by the NPA among the peasants -- giving basic medical services, educational needs and politization -- which dispels the myth propagated by the Marcos gov't. and anti-communist forces that the NPA is only a military force devoid of the support of the Filipino masses. The idea that the NPA is an outside force and not one coming from among the masses was disproved by the concrete examples of NPA organizing in the barrios. The skit gathered wide applause from the audience.

The cultural fundraiser events drew a lot of support from individuals and fraternal organiza-

Plea For Political Asylum

Mijares Testifies On Behalf Of Maids

By SELMI DOMINGO
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE—Former head propagandist for the Marcos gov't, Primitivo Mijares, has recently testified here that the two housekeepers that fled from the home of Philippine Consul Julia Palarca, "would be likely candidates for the Marcos gov't prisons." In an Immigration and Naturalization Service hearing in Seattle, March 29, Mijares voiced concern regarding the fate of Francisca Abuel and Estelita Almirante if they were deported back to the Philippines.

Reflecting upon his own personal experiences within the Marcos gov't, Mijares stated that the

tions supporting similar national liberation struggles in the Third World. In Hawaii, solidarity messages were extended by the Hui Paio and Third Arm; the New York event which drew over 125 people, was solidly supported by Khmer Residents in America, Asian Americans for Action, Friends of Indochina, Congress of African People, the New York Women's School, Youth Against War and Fascism and October League; in Philadelphia, organizations with similar struggles like the Ethiopian Students and Eritrean students reiterated their support on this occasion; in Seattle, where the audience swelled to fill the auditorium at the Ethnic Cultural Center Theater, the Afro-Asian Latin-American Solidarity Committee affirmed its support; and in the Bay Area, it was supported by more than 200 sympathizers like ISA, Arab Students Association and Northern Cal Alliance.

The celebration was successful in both its educational and fundraising aspects. The medical aid appeal drew a sizable collection during the programs. Overall, the activities raised over \$1,000 towards the NPA medical kit of which KDP plans to send at least 12 in a period of 6 months.

Culminating the programs was a medical aid appeal. The New York speech aptly summed up the need to intensify international support for the Philippine revolution "...because the Philippine struggle is taking place in these times when US imperialism is on its downfall in the world and when it has been significantly defeated in the Pacific, the Philippine revolution promises to be even more intense. The United States will not give up its last Pacific stronghold without unleashing a reaction even more violent as it did in Indochina. That is why support accorded by friendly peoples... is much needed and deeply appreciated...."

It continues: "It will be necessary for all anti-imperialists to raise their commitment to higher levels--to complement our political support with concrete material support to national liberation struggles."

Citing the role played by similar groups in aiding the Indochinese peoples to victory, the NY KDP chapter pointed out that despite all tactical difficulties, the Filipino people like the Indochinese peoples will win their struggle in the final analysis.

Monetary contributions are encouraged and will go towards the purchase of a standard medical kit used by each NPA regional medical unit. Checks or money orders should be sent to: c/o Ang Katipunan, PO Box 23644, Oakland, Ca. 94623 □

women would probably be prosecuted for having exposed the working conditions they faced while under the employment of Consul Palarca, thus embarrassing a representative of the Philippine gov't. Mijares further admitted that the Marcos gov't has arbitrarily and unjustly imprisoned thousands of Filipinos since the declaration of martial law September 1972.

Mijares' testimony was arranged by the Abuel-Almirante Defense Committee (AADC), to further substantiate Ms. Abuel's appeal for political asylum in the US. The AADC also presented extensive documentation attesting to the continued political persecution in the Philippines, which included copies of letters written by Archbishop of

Schnapp/Sinnott Case...

(continued from front page)

force to bear on the judicial system as well as to investigate the private lives of Schnapp and Sinnott.

This gross manipulation of the American judicial system by the Marcos representatives became the target of a national letter writing campaign by the Anti Martial Law Coalition (Phil.), the clergy and church groups, and many supporters. Telegrams, phone calls, and letters of indignation poured into the State Dept. and the Manhattan D.A.'s office. Walden Bello, National Coordinator of the AMLC, said in a press release: "We know that the American public will not stand for this malicious abuse of the courts. The Philippine gov't will not be successful in obstructing dissent on American soil."

Not long afterwards, the defendants' attorney received a phone call from the District Attorney's office. The Assistant D.A. implored, "Please tell your client's friends to stop sending all those letters." He explained that the State Dept was now taking a "hands off" position (contradicting the State Dept's earlier denial of involvement) and implied that the D.A. himself had no desire to be identified as a defender of the Marcos regime.

"The most important implication now," says Inday Refi, a spokesperson for the N.Y. Local Alliance of the AMLC, "is that the Marcos gov't has displayed its arrogance and repressive character once again."

Meanwhile, Vice Consul Quirolico asserted that Consulate officials had not been notified by the D.A.'s office of the decision, and declined further comment.

Fr. Sinnott commented: "Let no one mistake us. We are not grateful to the D.A. or the State Dept. They have used their offices as accessories along with the Consulate in harrassing us for our legitimate actions."

Walden Bello aptly summed up the situation: "The D.A.'s decision has become a decisive setback for the Philippine Consulate, and the Marcos regime as a whole. This incident has illustrated another futile attempt at curbing even the most polite and democratic forms of dissent. The victory over this attempt at repression does not stem from the State Dept or from the D.A.'s decision, but in the united and strong national outcry brought about by the AMLC. We see here, as we have recently in Congress, that the governmental structure can not ignore the call of a broad and united movement. It is through an even more diverse and active AMLC that we will see the most effective blows yet to the Marcos dictatorship." □

Ecumenical Service...

(continued from page 5)

domination of the Philippine nation by US big business and other foreign monopolies."

The dinner which followed the open forum carried on enthusiastic discussions of problems under martial law.

The New York Alliance coordinator, Inday Refi, remarked: "This is an encouraging indication of the warm support of the broader Filipino community. The food served in the dinner were donations from concerned Filipinos and Americans. The presence of officials from the National Council of Churches as well as many other individual church people is very encouraging. With this heightening response, we are coming closer to victory." □

Manila, Jaime Sin, and documentation prepared by the documentation committee of the Anti-Martial Law Alliance.

Ms. Abuel and Ms. Almirante have been under a deportation order since September 1975 when they fled the household of Consul Palarca, along with another housekeeper. The case attracted concern and in December 1975 the Abuel-Almirante Defense Committee was formed. The AADC has successfully led in rallying community support for Ms. Abuel and Ms. Almirante. The AADC raised financial support for the legal defense and gathered over 700 signatures in a petition entitled "Petition to Support US Asylum for Abuel and Almirante." These activities and efforts to fight the deportation order culminated in the March 29 hearing on Ms. Abuel's request for political asylum. Ms. Almirante's application for political asylum has been continued pending her application for permanent resident status due to her recent marriage.

In the continued effort to build support around the case, the AADC sponsored an educational forum on March 28. Over 75 supporters listened to speakers from the AADC and Seattle Anti-Martial Law Alliance discuss the issue, "Why Filipinos

(continued on page 7)

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL

ECONOMIC 'RECOVERY' Workers Continue To Bear Brunt Of Recession

By VICTOR UNO

Despite a recent deluge of favorable economic news heaped upon the American people by the Ford administration, working and unemployed people will continue to bear the burden of the recession, while economic "recovery" will be confined mainly to the wealthy.

Compared to figures of previous months, the economic picture painted by Washington may look encouraging, even heartening, for those given to believe official pronouncements. But behind the administration's rosy figures is the grim reality of over 15 million unemployed, along with massive cutbacks in health, education and other social service spending.

The basis for the Ford administration's optimism was a number of different factors suggesting that the worst US recession in 40 years may be coming to an end. Among these factors are:

- Increased monthly production in the total output of US mines, factories and utilities since the five-month decline of October 1974 through March 1975;
- Moderation in the rate of inflation, from a staggering 12.2 per cent in 1974 to a "mere" 7 per cent for 1975;
- An end to the massive liquidation of inventory which characterized the first five months of 1975 with some increases in inventories at the manufacturer and wholesaler level being reported;
- Huge increases in corporate profits, the last quarters of 1975 registering the most rapid increases in more than a quarter of the century and up dramatically from 1974 record lows;
- A flurry of activity in the stock market, reflecting investor "confidence" in the recovery as prices of most corporate stocks surged upwards, with the Dow Jones average of leading industrial stocks registering one of its biggest one-month advances this past January.

Ford was elated by the economic news, declaring that, "We came out of this very sharp recession in good shape." But while the rich corporations and investors celebrated their recovery, the other side of the economic coin revealed a deep recession still very real for millions of Americans.

NO RECOVERY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

For approximately 15 million unemployed, the benefits of the economic upturn have yet to be felt. If Ford's economic policies continue to prevail, there will be no significant decrease in the number of unemployed and many jobless face the ominous specter of running out of meager unemployment payments.

Already more than one million jobless Americans have exhausted unemployment benefits, according to official US Labor Dept. statistics. These are

workers who have been out of work for more than 65 weeks, the maximum period a worker can receive the payments.

More than half of those exhausting their benefits were women workers, 40 per cent were minorities and the vast majority, some 80 per cent, were the main bread winners for their families. Once dropped from receiving unemployment payments, these people are also dropped from the official unemployment figures.

For those still receiving unemployment benefits, where the average payment averages between \$60 and \$80 a week, moves have been made to cut back on the number of weeks the benefits will be paid. Congress, which had appropriated funds to extend unemployment payments by 26 weeks in states with high unemployment, also included provisions to stop the supplementary payments to states if their official unemployment rate fell below 10 per cent. Because of this, some 20 states will be dropped from the supplemental payments despite the fact that in many of these states unemployment still runs high in the large urban cities, especially among blacks.

Unemployment among blacks, even in the best economic periods of the US, has always run to at least double that of white workers. According to figures recently released by the Urban League, the black worker suffers 25 per cent unemployment, and the black teenager a staggering 35 per cent rate. Ford proposes nothing to change this condition.

FORD'S SOLUTION: CONTINUED UNEMPLOYMENT AND CUTBACKS

Despite an official unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent, (which is in contrast to the over 15 per cent figures of the Urban League), the Ford administration has called for a massive 27.5 per cent cut in existing federal employment and training programs. In March, Ford vetoed a Congressional bill which would have created 600,000 jobs. Severe cuts in the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program have already taken place.

Other cuts in Ford's proposed budget for Fiscal year 1977 (Oct. 1, 1976 thru Sept. 30, 1977) include a \$900-M slash in the food stamp program, affecting some five million recipients of this aid. A \$500-M cut back in education is proposed, in addition to a \$400-M slash in aid to higher education.

Ford's proposed changes in the Medicare program, which helps provide needed health care to the elderly and the disabled, would restructure Medicare payments so that patients would pay \$1.9-B in medical costs while receiving only \$568-M in services. An estimated 22 million people would be adversely affected by this change.

INCREASE IN MILITARY SPENDING

While proposing sweeping cuts totaling \$7-B



that affect the right of millions of workers to a decent job, education and health care, the Ford administration has requested a \$12.9-B increase in military-related spending. Accounting for over half of the federal budget, the increase in military spending would largely be for "strategic weapons systems" such as the B-1 bomber, Trident submarines and the atomic cruise missiles.

In addition, proposed corporate tax exemptions and reduction of corporate tax rates would benefit corporations by \$13-B. Other moves to spur "investor confidence" in fiscally shaky cities included a federal loan to New York City, ostensibly to help solve the city's fiscal crisis, but which stipulated massive cutbacks in social services and layoffs of city workers. While the people of New York City suffered a massive attack on already difficult living conditions, banks and investors were guaranteed continued millions in tax-free profits.

Ford's cuts in the areas of social services and jobs and increases in expenditures for the military and business only reflect the current capitalist logic of "recovery for the rich, recession for the poor." □

Groups Plan Counter-Bicentennial Demos

NEW YORK CITY — On March 27 and 28, some 210 individuals representing 94 organizations, community groups and collectives met in NY City to found the Coalition for a People's July 4th. The task of the coalition is to organize a massive counter-demonstration in Philadelphia on July 4 to set forth a popular perspective on the meaning of the bicentennial which is substantially opposed to the theme of "celebration" being advanced by the US gov't.

Marked by a lively and often times sharp exchange of views regarding the political character of the coalition, the conference was nevertheless able to forge a working unity around nine demands which were viewed by the majority of delegates as reflecting the needs and aspirations of the broad sectors of the US population in this period of crisis of the monopoly capitalist system. Pared down to 25 slogans by a special committee created by the conference, these demands include the following:

"Productive jobs for all living wages and a guaranteed income"; "Tax money for people's needs not military spending"; "Defend the right to strike, union democracy and collective bargaining"; "A bicentennial without US colonies"; "Independence for Puerto Rico"; "Stop all CIA and military intervention in the affairs of other nations"; "End the system of racism" and "End the system of sexism."

The work plan approved by the conference envisions the building up within the next three months of local coalitions in major cities throughout the east coast, the south, and the mid west to organize different sectors of the population to go to Philadelphia on July 4. The west coast will have a separate mobilization.

A major skirmish with authorities is already developing around the issue of a permit to demonstrate in Philadelphia. Citing various objections, the Philadelphia city gov't has so far refused to grant a demonstration permit to the coalition. A coalition spokesperson has also decried the "smear propaganda being spread about the alleged intention of radical groups to disrupt the gov't's bicentennial celebrations in Philadelphia."

In the assessment of the same individual, the battle for the permit "will probably go down to the wire, but the citizens of this country will be able to enjoy the right to peaceably assemble and demonstrate their grievances in Philadelphia on July 4."

Chosen as nat'l coordinator of the coalition was Alfredo Lopez of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP); 64 individuals, the majority of whom are organizational representatives, were elected to the nat'l board, the major decision making body of the coalition. Rene Cruz of KDP was elected to both the Nat'l Board and the 15 person interim committee, which is the executive body of the coalition. □

Broader Anti-Aid Coalition....

(continued from front page)

Chile and to all other categories of military assistance and the initiation of congressional hearings on repression in the Philippines, S. Korea and Indonesia.

Hearings on the Philippines will be held before the House Subctte. on International Organizations (Fraser Committee) on May 15. According to Severina Rivera, Washington liason of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition, among the witnesses being presented by the coalition are Rev. Larold Schultz of the United Church of Christ, and Rev. Edward Leidens of the Nat'l Council of Churches, both of whom have recently returned from the Philippines. She also revealed that efforts are being made to contact Dr. Peter Stanley, Associate Professor of history at Harvard University, to serve as a witness.

The current activities of the Task Force includes lobbying in Congress and mobilizing grassroots constituency pressures on Congress people. The Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) according to Walden Bello, is proposing a third major activity, which is the preparation of a joint pamphlet covering the human rights situation in the 4 countries targeted by the Task Force. □

MASSIVE SURVEILLANCE OF CITIZENS POLICE "RED SQUADS" HEIGHTEN REPRESSION

By RICHARD GUTMAN and DAVID OSBORNE
Pacific News Service

While public attention focuses on congressional investigations of FBI and CIA abuses, illegal activities by what may be the nation's largest army of political spies—local police "red squads"—have gone virtually unnoticed at the national level.

Two hundred of these political intelligence units from almost every major American city belong to the federally-funded Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit, through which they exchange files and other information.

Where investigations of red squads have taken place, violations of the law have been routinely documented.

In Chicago last fall a special grand jury charged the Chicago red squad with illegal burglaries and wiretapping, infiltration of groups engaged in no criminal activity, incitement to violence and aid to a right-wing terrorist organization engaged in harassment of the left.

The grand jury said the activity had "all the earmarks of a police state."

Several weeks after the report was released, a class action lawsuit produced documents proving the police department had established a "neutralization" program to "expose, cause or cease or change in direction . . . anti-social groups," among them the National Lawyers Guild.

The San Diego City Council is beginning hearings this month to investigate its police red squad, following press mention of its role in helping the FBI fund a right-wing organization which terrorized the left in the early 1970's.

The publicity resulted largely from a report submitted to Sen. Frank Church's Select Committee on Intelligence last summer by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), based on evidence

gathered for a lawsuit.

According to the ACLU report, the San Diego red squad worked closely with the Secret Army Organization in a campaign of break-ins and bombings, culminating in a nighttime shooting raid which left a victim permanently without the use of one arm.

The red squad then moved to prevent a full investigation of the incident. Later two red squad members planned unsuccessfully to assassinate another leading San Diego radical, as one of the agents later admitted to the target and a local newspaper report.

TELEPHONE COMPANY HELPED

In Houston a recent grand jury investigation found extensive police surveillance from within the local telephone company—resulting in files on over 1,000 citizens with no criminal records, including city council and school board members.

And in Michigan a circuit court judge recently discovered the Michigan State Police red squad files on over 200,000 citizens. He declared the squad unconstitutional and ordered the files destroyed.

Red squads have also been investigated during the last year by state legislatures in Maryland and New York; by city councils in Detroit, New York and Washington, D.C.; and by county grand juries in Indianapolis and Baltimore.

Class action lawsuits have been filed in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, Kansas City, Houston and Detroit.

In most cases extensive cooperation between local red squads and federal agencies—particularly the FBI—has been documented. Files have been freely exchanged and agencies have often worked together in disruption tactics.

The Rockefeller report on the CIA and recent

documents obtained by the Washington Star News show the CIA has also held special seminars for police officials and trained domestic police departments in clandestine operations such as burglary and safe-cracking.

Local investigations demonstrated a consistent pattern of red squad activity across the country, including infiltration, electronic surveillance, disruption and the occasional use of right-wing terrorists. Few of the red squad targets have been engaged in criminal activity.

In Chicago the red squad infiltrated civil rights groups like Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH, community groups like the Organization for a Better Austin and civic watchdogs like the Alliance to End Repression.

The grand jury, pointing out that all "at one time or another were critical of the policies of the mayor of Chicago," concluded that "the true motivation for spying on community groups was political."

Infiltrators not only submitted reports on membership, leadership and financial sources, but also in several cases were instructed to assume leadership in the groups they penetrated.

Electronic surveillance has been discovered with equal frequency. Manufacturers of electronic surveillance equipment testified recently before the National Wiretap Commission that half their sales are to police departments in jurisdictions where wiretapping is illegal.

The total number of red squad files resulting from intelligence operations is secret, but recent announcements of file purges suggest staggering numbers. Last April the Los Angeles Public Disorder Intelligence Division destroyed nearly 2 million "outdated and irrelevant" index cards; in 1973, after being sued, the New York City red squad purged roughly one million cards. □

Dare to struggle...



ATTICA INDICTMENTS DROPPED

In a major victory in a five-year legal battle, indictments against all but one of the inmate-defendants of the 1971 Attica prison rebellion were dropped Feb. 26. The indictments were a part of the state's \$8-M effort to cover up the brutal murder of 29 inmates and 10 guards by armed troopers who suppressed the rebellion. While indicting only one state trooper for crimes, 62 Attica inmates were charged with 1,278 crimes.

A broad movement demanding justice for the Attica inmates forced the state to reveal that the three Attica prosecutors who have been serving since the rebellion had covered up numerous crimes, including murder and torture, by state troopers and guards. In calling for a dismissal of the indictments, Special Dep. Attorney General Alfred Scotti admitted the state cover-up was "amply demonstrated."

Efforts to secure executive clemency or amnesty for some eleven Attica defendants who pleaded guilty under extreme pressure by the state will continue. □

THOUSANDS RALLY TO STOP EXTRADITION OF AIM LEADER

Over 4,000 people rallied in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza to stop the extradition of American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Dennis Banks to South Dakota. Speakers urged California's Gov. Brown to refuse extradition and demanded that all federal charges and harassment against Banks be dropped. A petition containing 150,000 California signatures was given to a representative of the governor; a national petition has gathered 750,000 signatures.

Banks went underground beginning Aug. 5, 1975, following a frame-up conviction on riot and assault charges in Custer, S.D., and was arrested by the FBI in El Cerrito, Ca., Jan. 24. In the past two years, over 40 AIM members and sympathizers have been murdered in S. Dakota, and S. Dakota's Attorney General William Janklow has publicly threatened Banks, saying that "the only way to deal with the Indian problem in S. Dakota is to

put a bullet through Dennis Banks' head." □

OLGA TALAMANTE FREED

On March 28, after months of mounting national and international pressure, Olga Talamante, a Chicana activist from Gilroy, CA., was released from jail by Argentina's new military junta. Olga had been confined in Abuel, Argentina, for 16 months, along with 13 fellow activists, on charges of "subversion"—holding "subversive materials" and illegal possession of a firearm.

During her confinement, her parents, farmworkers around Gilroy, mounted the Olga Talamante Defense Committee which in addition to demonstrations and fundraisers, was able to amass thousands of signatures on petitions calling for her unconditional release.

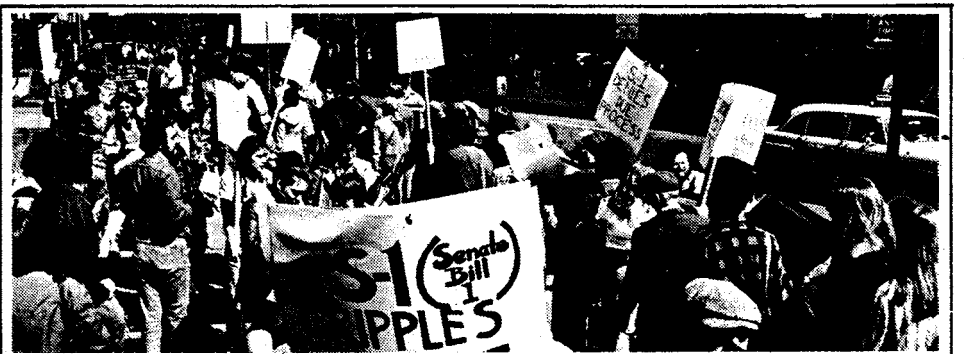
Ms. Talamante's release came on the heels of a military coup d'etat overthrowing Pres. Isabel Peron. Informed sources have stated the new regime released Olga quickly as US political prisoners create unfavorable publicity in light of securing US military or economic aid.

Upon release, Olga, who was subjected to four days of torture when first arrested, vowed to continue the struggle for the release of the remaining estimated 7,000 political prisoners still confined in Argentine jails. □

CUNY STUDENTS HIT CUTBACKS

Numerous demonstrations by thousands of students have hit proposed cutbacks affecting the 20-campus City University of New York (CUNY) system. The cutbacks, part of Pres. Ford's and Mayor Beame's "austerity" program for the financially beleaguered city, will close two CUNY colleges with other severe cuts in staff and courses at the remaining campuses. With stricter admissions policies, affecting minority students the hardest, some 30,000 of the university's 180,000 students will be dropped from enrollment.

One of the latest demonstrations involved a protest of 2,000 students at a meeting of the school board April 16. The



Close to 100 people rallied against the repressive S-1 bill March 20 in front of Times Square in New York City. The demonstration, sponsored by the New York Coalition to Defeat S-1, included street theater and a "speak out" blasting the proposed law.

SAN FRANCISCO—A call has been issued by the California Coalition to Stop Senate Bill One for a massive demonstration May 1 in Sacramento. The coalition, comprised of a wide spectrum of groups, including the ACLU, NAACP, KDP, Unitarian Churches, United Prisoners Union and others, reflects the growing popular outcry against the proposed repressive legislation.

Senate Bill 1, conceived during the Nixon Administration and written under the guidance of then-Attorney General John Mitchell, is a major attack on the American people's democratic rights and

would provide the legal basis for increased domestic repression. The bill, now pending before Congress with the backing of both Senate leaders Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), would outlaw various forms of protest, curb press freedoms, increase penalties, and broaden police powers.

Numerous groups and coalitions opposing S-1 have mushroomed in the past months, and a number of demonstrations and teach-ins have been held to broaden opposition to the bill. The Sacramento demonstration will rally on the Capital Grounds, 1 to 4 p.m., and will feature a number of speakers and entertainment. □

demonstrators, some of whom occupied a board office building and others who stopped traffic at a nearby intersection, were attacked by club-wielding police. Three students were arrested and 22 were injured in the attack.

The New York Board of Higher Education (BHE), administering the mandatory cuts, has ignored charges that schools serving Black and Latin communities were being singled out for the heaviest cuts. □

'HURRICANE' CARTER AND JOHN ARTIS RELEASED

In a major victory in their 10-year struggle to overturn a framed conviction for murder, John Artis and Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter were released from New Jersey prison March 28.

Carter and Artis, both black community

activists, were convicted by an all-white jury in racially-tense Paterson, N.J. in 1966, on charges they had murdered a tavern owner. Last year, key state witnesses had revealed to the New York Times that they had been pressured into implicating the two by police officers at the original trial. However, rather than revoking the sentences, the state is demanding a re-trial, this time maintaining that the two were "look-outs." Carter has angrily retorted that the state is attempting "to reframe us after the original frame fell apart."

The release of the two came after two years of intense public pressure, spearheaded by the Carter-Artis Defense Comm., which included massive demonstrations, vigils, and letter writing campaigns as well as assistance from such notables as Mohammed Ali and Bob Dylan. □

WORLD IN FOCUS

KISSINGER THREATENS CUBA

WASHINGTON—Sec. of State Henry Kissinger, in a carefully-worded address to the Dallas World Affairs Council on Mar. 22, issued a warning to Cuba that the US "will not accept further Cuban military interventions abroad" and implied that the likely arena for direct confrontation will be Cuba itself. A leak to the *Washington Star*—which Kissinger refused to refute—spelled out plans that involve a naval blockade, an invasion and limited air attacks. Kissinger also criticized those who "preach strategic superiority while practicing regional retreat."

Kissinger's warnings grew out of the Administration's fears over the shifting world balance of powers. Washington's threat was calculated to dissuade Moscow from encouraging further Cuban military interventions in Africa. "It is time that the world be reminded," Kissinger said, "that America remains capable of forthright and decisive action."

In the wake of another stinging US military defeat of its client forces in Angola, the Kissinger threat has been seen as another Washington attempt to initiate some form of retaliation against Cuba, similar to the Mayaguez incident in Cambodia last year. □

ARAB PROTESTS HIT ISRAELI SETTLEMENT PLANS

Over 600,000 Palestinian Arabs in Israel and in Israeli-occupied lands, demonstrated against Tel Aviv's continued expropriation of Arab lands to build new Israeli settlements. The massive demonstrations, which included a one-day general strike March 30 in Arab villages and cities, saw six Arabs killed, scores wounded, and 288 arrested by Israeli police and militia as the Zionist regime attempted to brutally crush the strike and demonstrations.

Targeted by the demonstrators were plans by the Israeli gov't to expropriate 1,500 acres of Arab-owned land in northern Galilee to build a housing project for 10,000, mostly Jewish, settlers. The intensity of the demonstrations, the largest protests to occur in Israel since that country's founding in 1947, showed the growing outrage of Arabs in the occupied territories to Israeli expansion and indicated the growing nationalist sentiments of Palestinian youth, many of whom carried the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) flag in the protests.

A UN Security Council censure of Israel's illegal settlements in the occupied lands failed to pass due to a lone US veto in a 14 to one vote. The resolution criticized Israel for "measures aimed at changing the physical, cultural, demographic and religious character of the occupied territories and, in particular, the city of Jerusalem, the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and other violations of the human rights of the inhabitants of those territories." □

US PULLOUT OF THAILAND UNCERTAIN

THAILAND—Seni Pramroj, head of the National Democratic Party which won the nat'l April 4 elections has announced his intention of reversing the previous gov't's decision to terminate the presence of all US military personnel in Thailand by July 1976.

The new gov't policy of maintaining a US presence is contrary to the existing popular sentiments in that country. Massive demonstrations and rallies have been staged these past months by militant students, intellectuals and workers, denouncing the US presence as a direct threat to Thai national sovereignty. These mass demonstrations compelled the previous gov't of Kukrit Pramroj to announce last March 20 its decision to end the presence of US military personnel in Thailand within four months, with the exception of 270 advisers.

Seni Pramroj's decision to reverse the move by his brother was not totally unexpected. The National Student Centre of Thailand (NSCT), a militant student organization which effectively led the mass movement against US military presence, was highly skeptical of Kukrit's ability and intent to implement his decision. It charged that the four month deadline for US withdrawal was well within the April 4 elections wherein a newly-elected gov't could reverse the decision. The recent move by Seni Pramroj confirmed the validity of these suspicions.

The new gov't's rationale for maintaining close ties with the US is to ward off alleged threats from neighboring socialist countries of Indochina. Seni's foreign policy is in harmony with the interests of the US to maintain its presence in Thailand where historically, Thailand has served as the American jump-off point in its wars of aggression against Indochina. The recent victories of the Indochinese peoples, however, forced a total US withdrawal, leaving Thailand as the only country in the periphery of Indochina that still maintains US military presence. □



Part of the audience of 10,000 people that attended the closing rally of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party's (PSP) 2nd National Congress on Dec 7 of last year. The PSP has been in the forefront of the independence struggle.

Puerto Rico: THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

This is the final article of a three-part series on Puerto Rico's national liberation struggle. Parts one and two covered the period beginning with the 1898 seizure of the island nation from Spain by the US, through the subsequent years of US colonization, and the efforts of the Nationalists for independence. The 1950's colonial economic scheme, dubbed "Operation: Bootstrap," which was supposed to transform Puerto Rico into a developed nation has instead strengthened the colonial relation while providing no refuge for the huge working class it created. — Editor

By WALDEN BELLO
AK Correspondent

Under the impact of the colonial capitalist crisis, Puerto Rico's urban working class created by Operation Bootstrap stirred towards an increasingly anti-colonial direction.

Up until 1965, union leaders affiliated with the big mainland confederations like the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO controlled Puerto Rican organized labor movement. With the growing class realization that these unions represented a form of labor colonialism that effectively removed the decision making power from local unions to conservative labor bureaucracies negotiating collective contracts on the mainland, a drive for independent unionism led by such militant labor leaders as Pedro Grant was launched.

Today, the pro-Yankee tradition of Santiago Iglesias has been effectively shattered; independent unions now control 47 percent of the organized work force, with the internationals left with 43 percent. Forced into the defensive, unions like the Teamsters and the Seafarers' International have concluded de facto alliances with the colonial government to stem the advance of independent unions or break their hold in critical industrial areas.

INDEPENDENTISTA ALTERNATIVE RESURRECTED

The working class ferment induced by objective economic conditions has been accompanied by the emergence of the decisive link between the class struggle and the anti-colonial movement.

In 1959, in the wake of the successful Cuban Revolution, the Movement for Independence (MPI) was founded by Juan Mari-Bras and other independentistas who were profoundly dissatisfied with the inability of the surviving Nationalists and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) to lead the independence struggle. The rise of the MPI, which reorganized itself into the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) in 1971, marked the effective resurrection of the independentista alternative as a viable political force after laying dormant for a decade after the Nationalist disaster of 1950.

The success of the PSP in resurrecting the independentista alternative has been linked to three principal factors. First, unlike the Nationalists, it has been able, through patient and scientific organizing, to forge an organic link with the Puerto Rican working masses. Second, it has applied a scientific theory to the anti-colonial struggle, something which previous groupings were unable to do. This theory, grounded in the specific Puerto Rican reality of a massive working class arising in the context of colonial capitalism, holds that the struggle for independence cannot be attained without the simultaneous establishment of a Puerto Rican socialist society. Third, unlike the PIP and other groupings, the PSP holds that independence will never be won at the ballot box but has to be wrested from the colonial power by a wide variety of legal and illegal mass actions, including, in the long run, the armed struggle.

The linking of the independence struggle and working class revolution in the PSP is manifested by various facts. The party's estimated 12,000 militants, affiliates, and active sympathizers are, in the vast majority, workers. About 30 of the 50 current members of the Central Committee are either active labor leaders or individuals of working-class origin. Among these labor leaders are Pedro Grant and other long-time leaders of

the movement for independent unionism.

The party has close links with such critical labor groups as the United Workers' Movement (MOU), which, integrating about 46 unions, constitutes the island's largest independent labor confederation; the National Workers' Union (UNT), whose militant advances in organizing petrochemical workers have made it the target of intensified legal repression; and the Operators' and Cement Workers' Union, whose determined strike against the Puerto Rican Cement Co. in Ponce has been the longest strike in Puerto Rican labor history. The PSP is also the leading force behind the drive to organize gov't. workers, who make up a critical 28 percent of the labor force.

THE PSP IN THE BREACH

Both Washington and the colonial gov't have targeted the PSP as the main threat to the continuance of colonial rule. The gov't's strategy has been to stem the advance of the party through a combination of goon tactics, legal repression, state violence, alliances with strike-busting international unions, and massive anti-Communist propaganda.

Indicative of the growing violent repression against the PSP was the March 25 murder of Santiago Mari Pesquera, PSP member and son of PSP leader Juan Mari-Bras. Another PSP member was recently murdered in Chicago and both deaths have been linked to right-wing groups aligned with the colonial gov't.

Legal repression has consisted of moves banning militant PSP-connected unions like the UNT from organizing workers; frame-ups of militant labor leaders like Federico Cintron Fallo, executive-secretary of MOU, and student leaders like Luis Coss of the Federation of Pro-Independence University Students for "criminal offenses."

Gov't anti-Communist propaganda against the party reached hysterical proportions as the PSP prepared to hold its Second National Congress in November of last year. Almost daily, radio, television, and newspaper attacks were launched by gov't officials and agencies against the Congress. On the very day that the Congress opened, the US Senate Judiciary Committee made public a report of its internal security subcommittee which sought to discredit the PSP as "having links with terrorist groups" and serving as the "Cuban connection in Puerto Rico."

COLONIAL FASCISM OR SOCIALIST REPUBLIC?

The increasing gov't repression is a manifestation of what Juan Mari-Bras calls "the irreversible crisis of the colonial capitalist system." The alternatives for Puerto Rico are indeed polarizing into two deeply antagonistic ones.

The first alternative would be the establishment of a State of Permanent Union with the US. This option, which is now being feverishly pursued by the ruling Popular Democratic Party with the backing of the US, would establish a state of affairs similar to that which existed in Hawaii and Alaska before they became states. Through this maneuver, the US and the PPD colonial gov't hope to short-circuit the current international debate over the colonial status of Puerto Rico by making it into an "internal matter" of the US. It would also provide the legal basis for the full-scale repression of the independence movement by making agitation for independence a "treasonable" act, and open the way for massive intervention by Federal troops in the event of armed hostilities.

The other alternative is the establishment of an independent socialist republic. This remains the only road to genuine national liberation and the restoration of Puerto Rico's rightful position as a Caribbean nation. Whether Puerto Rico will fall to colonial fascism or be liberated by socialism will critically depend in the next few years on the militance of the working masses, the skillful leadership of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and the support of all progressive forces throughout the world. □

Succession Debate a Charade

Imelda Appointment Imminent as FM Successor

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

Pres. Marcos's dynastic ambitions have culminated in a Malacanang-orchestrated campaign to arouse public support for the imminent appointment of his wife Imelda R. Marcos as his successor. This campaign, which unfolded early in March, was prompted by ex-Pres. Diosdado Macapagal's earlier admonition that the ad interim national assembly should be convened to avert a "bloody succession struggle." (The 1971 constitution stipulates the automatic convening of the national assembly as the highest governing body in the country in the event of the President's untimely death.) To circumvent this constitutional fetter and counteract Macapagal's move, Marcos rallied his local stooges to clamor for a presidential decree on succession under the pretext of launching a "democratic succession debate." The succession debate also served as a launching pad for Marcos to float the "Imelda for President" trial balloon.

WELL ORCHESTRATED CHARADE

Since it unfolded early March, the succession debate has been a carefully-rehearsed charade. According to the Far Eastern Economic Review (4/19/76), this charade is being expertly directed by Dept. of Local Gov't Head Jose Rono, who is also reputed to be an Imelda man in the cabinet. Aided by his relative Eduardo Soliman (head of barangay affairs and an aide of Imelda), Rono's office has been cabling local Sangguniang Bayans advising them to suggest a presidential decree on succession. Sure enough by mid-March provincial governors and city mayors from Luzon urged Marcos to issue a succession decree to "avoid the disruption of gov't affairs and public services should anything happen to him." They proposed the holding of another referendum or the convening of the Sangguniang Pambansa to vote on the decree. The Sangguniang Bayan of Makati (known to be Imelda's stronghold) went further and urged the designation of the First Lady as the President's successor. Makati Mayor Nemesio Yabut said that this will spare the country and the gov't the huge expense of a referendum.

Meanwhile, ex-Constitutional Convention delegate Arturo Pacificador, arguing from a "legal standpoint" said: "With the great powers we are entrusting to the incumbent President . . . I do not think we should spare him that relatively smaller power of designating the best successor."

Adding fuel to the campaign, the Marcos controlled dailies, the Daily Express and Times-Journal, minced no words in expressing their endorsement of Imelda. A supportive commentary in the March 24 issue of the Daily Express stated:



First Lady Imelda Marcos awaits her turn to address the U.N. General Assembly. Despite her denial, Imelda is Pres. Marcos' likely choice as successor.

"The successor must be not only a close confidante or trusted lieutenant of the President but also must come closest to his heart and be intimate with him in all his endeavors, public and private." (sic) The Times-Journal on the other hand boldly headlined "First Lady Urged as FM Successor" in its March 19 edition. Not surprisingly, both newspapers are controlled directly by Imelda's kin: the Express is edited by her cousin E.P. Romualdez and the Journal is controlled by her brother Benjamin Romualdez, current ambassador to Peking and governor of Leyte province.

LADY IN WAITING

The current campaign to name Imelda as Marcos' successor confirms speculations that she has long been groomed for the presidency. The powers conferred upon her by her husband have steadily increased under martial law. For example, her ad hoc ambassadorial assignments are considered major and have reportedly overstepped on the functions of the Dept. of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, her broad powers as governor of Metro-Manila (which is considered the second most important executive position in the gov't) have earned her the title of "de facto vice president."

Although Imelda has dismissed the "succession rumors" last March 24 with "the President is healthier than I am. . . how could I be his successor?", observers believe that her flimsy

denial is just part of the act to test public response. It will be recalled that previous to her appointment as governor of Metro-Manila, the same group of Makati officials "pleaded" with Pres. Marcos to consider their endorsement of Imelda. After a series of coy refusals and repeated urging, Imelda finally acceded to "popular demand." Similarly, her false attempts to dismiss the impression that she is the President's lady-in-waiting are merely cues to her local supporters to mount a stronger campaign.

CIA COUP BEHIND SUCCESSION FRENZY?

While the outcome of the "succession debate" is a foregone conclusion for most Filipinos, its launching at this time has raised speculations on the validity of the rumor that Marcos may soon be deposed by a CIA-sponsored coup d'etat. In a meeting with former congressmen last March, Marcos claimed that "leftist and rightist zealots" have banded and are plotting to assassinate him. He also implicated the CIA with the plot but did not substantiate this allegation.

Whether Marcos's fears are real or imagined, it can be assumed that his coup d'etat nightmare has been a compelling consideration in his succession schemes.

But if, in fact, a CIA-backed coup is in the offing, his attempts to secure a foothold into the future by naming his wife as successor are both futile and shameless. □

Palawan Oil Strike - A Marcos Gimmick?

Reports that oil has been struck in Palawan was announced by Pres. Marcos on March 11, the same time Central Bank Gov. Gregorio Licaros was preparing to embark on a US\$706M foreign loan mission.

News that oil "was starting to flow" at Nido No. 1 well, some 30 miles NW of Palawan Island, was relayed by Marcos to visiting Canadian and American trade delegations on March 11, with live TV coverage. Consequently, the stock exchanges reacted and prices of oil shares went mad.

The oil 'strike' is seen as a boost to the gov't's borrowing program and help increase its credit rating.

According to the Far Eastern Econ. Review, among the foreign loans the CB Governor Licaros was hoping to sign up was \$200M from 10 American banks led by Manufacturers Hanover and First Natl. City Bank of New York; \$100M from a consortium of European banks headed by Trade Development Bank of Geneva; \$100M from another European group organized by Kuhn Loeb; \$50M from a Japanese syndicate formed by Bank of Tokyo and Fuji Bank; and a massive \$256M from a group of banks comprising Citycorp Intl., Mantrust Intl., and American Express Intl.

At the end of 1975, the Philippines' outstanding foreign debt was close to \$4B; the balance of payments was in deficit last year and is expected to be in the red this year and next.

Since Marcos made the announcement on live TV on March 11, no further reports on the progress of the oil find has been released by the gov't. □

Hostages Released

HIJACKERS GRANTED ASYLUM IN LIBYA

Three Muslim hijackers were granted political asylum by the Libyan gov't after releasing 12 hostages, April 14, in Benghazi, Libya. The asylum grant ended the longest hijacking incident in history which began April 9 in Cagayan de Oro City. The hijackers, members of the Moro National Liberation Front, seized a Manila-bound Philippine Airlines jet bearing 73 passengers, to demand the release of 4 political prisoners and \$300,000 ransom. Upon arriving at Manila, however, the Marcos gov't refused to negotiate, compelling the hijackers to commandeer the plane to Malaysia, after releasing the passengers in exchange for 12 PAL employees.

The plane made refueling stopovers at Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Karachi, and Bahrain before reaching the final destination, Benghazi. Upon being released, the pilot Arnulfo Santos described the hijackers as "very nice." The crew members were unharmed and no threats were made against them throughout the trip.

Since martial law was declared three years ago, the Muslim insurgency in the South has erupted into a full-scale war. Their discontent, founded upon centuries of religious persecution and economic dispossession, has crystalized into a protracted struggle for self-determination and genuine autonomy.

The Marcos regime's response to this popular struggle has been to escalate military operations in



Hijacked plane stops at Manila for refuelling.

Mindanao, and increase its attacks on the Muslim communities.

REFUGEES NUMBER SWELL

The fighting in the South has resulted in the dispersal of 500,000 refugees. More recently, this number was swelled by 30,000 persons during the height of fighting in Lanao del Sur last month. According to Associated Press, the refugees have been placed in camps in 11 cities after fleeing fighting in the Basak area on the southern shores of Lake Lanao, 500 miles south of Manila. The figure was the highest announced by gov't authorities since fighting broke out in the area early in February. About 90% of the 450,000 people in Lanao del Sur are Muslim. □