

New People's Army revolutionary fighters express jubilation after the two-day battle in which they annihilated two companies of the 13th BCT and Task Force Saranay. (Photo is a reproduction of a blurry copy sent to LIBERATION.) (CREDIT: Liberation, Philippines)

## NPA SMASHES 200 TROOPS

### Isabela

(BMP) ILAGAN, ISABELA — Revolutionary fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) wiped out a government force of 200 officers and men in a well coordinated ambush and in subsequent pitched battles in the jungles of Santiago, this province, last February.

Only three state troopers are known to have survived the defeat and returned to their base. All officers are listed as "missing in action."

Involved in the Santiago battle were 70 NPA regulars reportedly led by former PC Lt. Victor Corpus, and two companies of the regime's 13th Battalion Combat Team (AFP) and Task Force "Saranay."

Delayed reports reaching correspondents of Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (BMP) and the underground newsletter LIBERATION said that the government troops were sent to the dense forests of Santiago in search of a highly mobile NPA force operating in the area. No sooner had the AFP's "search and destroy" operation been launched than the NPA got wind of it. The NPA fighters used walkie-talkies previously captured from the enemy to identify the assaulting force, determine its strength, and plot its movements.

One-step ahead of the state troopers, the NPA regulars awaited the most favorable conditions. Then they opened up from concealed positions with withering fire from .30 and .50 caliber machine-guns, M-14 rifles, and handgrenades.

The government force was completely taken by surprise but managed to return fire. After two hours of steady fighting, however, half its strength had been decimated and the survivors were disorganized and in full flight.

The NPA contingent broke up into squads. In the next two days and nights they pursued and crushed the fleeing soldiers.

### AFP Intensifies Terror in Isabela

Santiago is in the southwesternmost part of this province. It is at the boundary of Isabel, Nueva Viscaya and Ifugao.

Because of its defeat in this town, and previous losses in other battles with the NPA

in Isabela, the AFP has intensified its terror campaign in the province. At press time, the AFP checkpoints were set up in many parts of Isabela. There were reports of harrasment and torture inflicted on barrio folk in retaliation for the support they had been giving the NPA.

Earlier, an NPA unit operating in central Isabela killed four AFP officers and three enlisted men another ambush. The officers were said to be fresh graduates of the Philippines Military Academy who had just been commissioned and thrown into battle. The families of the young officers were claiming thier bodies at Camp Olivas, headquarters of the First PC Zone in San Fernando, Pampanga, just a week after they were sent on their first field assignment.

(continued on page 3)

## Demonstrators Protest Amb. Romualdez' Visit

see inside page 5 for full story



BOSTON — Demonstrators in front of the Statler-Hilton protest against martial law in the Philippines. Philippine Ambassador Romualdez, who was scheduled to speak at the Association of Asian Scholars Conference announced at the last minute that he would not attend the conference.

## AP Journalist Censored For Mindanao Reporting

by Ma. Flor Sepulveda

The Marcos regime was recently frustrated in its attempt to pin charges against Mr. ARnold Zeitlin, the only American correspondent stationed in the Philippines for Associated Press. The correspondent for AP was accused by the Marcos regime of "malicious, erroneous, and false" reporting of the Sulu strife. However, these charges against Zeitlin by the Philippine government were widely criticized by the international press, particularly the charge that Mr. Zeitlin's coverage of the Muslim situation was slanted because he is Jewish.

Sectors of the media failed to see the relationship between Zeitlin's religion and his coverage of the Muslim situation. They can only interpret the government's charges as a clumsy attempt to please oil-rich Arab nations (predominantly Muslim) who have inquired about the government's policies towards the Muslims. This is attested to by the letters sent by Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo to the Foreign Ministers of Kuwait, Egypt and Saudi Arabia; apologetically clarifying that "Philippine troops are not engaged in the wholesale slaughter of the Muslims" an implying that such an image was projected to the world because of news reports sent by "Arnold Zeitlin, a suspected Jewish journalist."

On February 28, Zeitlin refused to appear at a hearing of the Media Advisory Council (MAC). He instead wrote a letter to MAC pointing out that MAC had no jurisdiction ober Associated Press and the AP does not recognize the Council. The MAC was created last year in an effort to bring all foreign news agencies under its jurisdiction, thereby having control of what news is disseminated abroad.

### Zeitlin Case Stirs Criticism By International Press

The charges of the government against Zeitlin confirm a statement made by the International Press Institute that press freedom no longer exists in the Philippines.

The Zeitlin case is an excellent example of the tactics of the Marcos regime employed to suppress the truth and keep it from leaving the country. But his attempt to utilize Zeitlin as a scapegoat backfired, and instead, the reaction of the international press has shown two things:

First, the nature of the Marcos regime is such that it would go to any length in order to preserve the one-sided, pro-government reports about the situation in the Philippines. On the other hand, the growing resistance movement against the Marcos government is becoming stronger and more popularly known, and eventually, no amount of suppression on the part of the Marcos regime will be able to hide this trend.

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# International Workers Day

May 1, International Workers Day, will be celebrated in 1974 by workers in practically every country in the world. It is a day which signifies the struggles and victories of working people across the globe, including the Filipino people of our homeland those of us here in the United States. This day holds rich significance in our people's history of struggle against oppression and hardship.

Even though the history of this day is rooted here in the U.S., the rulers of this country have desperately tried to erase these struggles from the textbooks and our minds. The celebration of May Day as the International Workers Day dates back to the intensive battles of the working class in the U.S. for the 8 hour day, launched in 1886. A massive general strike was called across the country and set for May 1. It mobilized over 190,000 workers to strike and 340,000 others to participate in demonstrations. This struggle for the 8 hour day signified the demands of working people to limit the relentless exploitation of the 12 to 14 hour day. As this movement drew massive support from working people of different colors and nationalities throughout America, the capitalists became panicky. They brought out the National Guard with orders to "shoot to kill" ... and kill they did ... scores of workers were shot down.

May Day originally commemorated this massacre in the long struggle for the 8 hour day. The significance of May Day was kept alive as the American Federation of Labor (AFL) declared it an official day marking this struggle. Finally, in 1890 it was declared International Workers Solidarity Day by the International Congress of Socialist Workers in Paris, France.

Since then, May Day has grown to become the most significant international holiday in the world. But May Days are not only festive, in fact, they have marked some of the bitterest battles of the working people throughout the world.

In the Philippines, May Day was celebrated as early as 1902 when 100,000 workers and peasants marched on Malacanang demanding independence ... again in 1931, 30,000 Filipino workers marched demanding the same thing - independence. As recently as 1972, 3 Filipino workers were killed in a May Day demonstration where 30,000 protested Marcos fascism and U.S. imperialism.

Here in the U.S., Filipinos have actively participated in workers struggles for better pay and working conditions. In the fields of Hawaii and California and the canneries of Alaska, Filipino participation has left its imprint in the long struggle to build strong and democratic labor unions. For example, today Filipino workers are organizing to oppose discrimination in such groups as United Filipinos for Equal Employment (UPEE) and Alaska Canneries Workers Assoc. (ACWA) as well as in broader union struggles such as the United Farmworkers Union (UFW).

"In Unity there is Strength" - May Day symbolizes this important working class slogan. The purpose of May Day is to give us confidence in the future, that despite present hardships and exploitation, the unity of the workers all over the world is strong enough to accomplish, in time, complete liberation and justice for both the peoples of semi-colonial countries, like the Philippines, and the workers of countries like the United States!

- KDP National Executive Board

## Imprisonment, Torture - Trend After AFP Defeat

# Parish Priest Tortured In Jolo

(BMP) ZAMBOANGA CITY - Fr. Primitivo Hagad, parish priest of Jolo, Sulu, is now confined at a concentration camp here after being arrested and tortured by military intelligence.

No charges have been brought by the regime against Hagad since he was arrested in Jolo on Feb. 20. Hagad, an Oblate missionary, was known for his work among the poor and was openly critical of the government's policies in Sulu.

Together with many other prisoners, the priest was tortured by the military on the roof of Notre Dame College. The college had been taken over and fortified by the army since the large-scale fighting broke out in and around Jolo.

Concentration camps in Zamboanga and Jolo have been filled with political prisoners, Fr. Hagad said about 70% of those arrested including women, are tortured "so they are forced to confess or sign accusations for thing they did not commit, or know anything about".

### Priest Experiences of Tortures, Imprisonment

Fr. Hagad in a report published in the BANGKOK POST by John Jacob Rentz, related the conditions in jail and his experience of torture which began on Feb. 20.

In the provincial jail where he was confined there were no toilet facilities, water and food. It was so crowded it was difficult to find a place to lie down.

On Feb. 21st Fr. Hagad was blindfolded and physically tortured. In his words:

"They began to work on me - box, slap, kick, pistol, and rifle butts, etc. Some prisoners were subject to electric shock. While blindfolded questions were shot at me not in

order and asked by different persons.

By 7 a.m., Fr. Hagad was made to sign a statement which he was not allowed to read, then by handcuff, he was shipped to Zamboanga.

Torture is a common practice in prison camps all over the Philippines. From all accounts however, it has been of very little use in tracking down the leaders of the revolutionary opposition, nor in checking the spread of the people's resistance throughout the country.

"While brutality of the type experienced by Fr. Hagad had been routinely administered by the military authorities," Rentz said, "its use against a priest is a new and even more ominous facet of the Marcos governments reaction to the protests about the social policies of Marcos' so-called 'New Society' which are increasingly being raised by the more liberal elements of the Catholic Church."



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# Letters

printed in Ang Katipunan - about the situation in the Philippines; the struggle of Filipinos here in the U.S.; the problems in America and the international issues. When the occasion and space permits, we will reprint them. We also encourage criticisms of our newspaper so that we can improve our form and better the coverage of the news.

## Reader Exposes Taruc's Real Interest in Recent U.S. Visit

March 25, 1974

Of all people in the Philippines, Mr. Luis Taruc is in America ostensibly

"to seek justice for Hukbalahap veterans and to seek for my right to royalties for my first book 'Born of the People.'" Actually, Mr. Taruc is going

"to speak before various groups and associations, including schools and universities. Inevitably, the subject of martial law, the present happenings in the Philippines, and such come up and produce animated discussions."

We know, as a matter of fact, that no Filipino is allowed by Marcos to come here unless he will sell Marcos' dictatorship to the American people. And Marcos picks particularly those who were against him or who were against dictatorship, before martial law. Some examples are Amelito Mutuc, John Osmena and, of course, Romulo, the former champion of civil rights and free press of the free world and in the United Nations.

If Mr. Taruc's real motivation in joining Marcos' society is

"...this opportunity, for me to stay with the masses, the poor toiling class in our homeland, to live with them, and be with them in their day to day struggle - is the compelling force, the pressure that places me today where I am." why doesn't he stay home and take advantage of Marcos' commitments to the poor? What need is there for him to spend time telling the American students and associations the Marcos' martial law

"is truly Philippine-style so far. Pres. Marcos, again and again, appealed for understanding and cooperation." Does not Mr. Taruc know that same idea has been mouthed here by the other propaganda agents of Marcos but nobody believed them. May be Marcos thinks, the Americans will buy now because his latest agent "has been fighting for 40 years for the liberation of my people."...

J./G. Quijano

## 3 US Naval Officers Killed At Subic Base

April 13, 1974

The death by ambush of three U.S. Naval officers at Subic Naval Base in the Philippines, Saturday, April 13, is a tragic event that demands immediate investigation by U.S. authorities. Until all the facts are known, the possibility cannot be ruled out that these U.S. officers were killed as a result of the Nixon administration's support for the Philippine military dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, who is presently troubled by dissent and insurgency. Today, millions of dollars of U.S. taxpayers' money prop up Marcos with military and economic support against insurgent forces? U.S. military advisers supervise the counter-insurgency activities of the Marcos army? U.S. Green Berets are active in the Philippines in support of Marcos. Only recently, the Marcos dictatorship killed hundreds of Philippine civilians and destroyed the town of Jolo in an attempt to suppress widespread Muslim dissent. The weapons, planes, bombs and warships that Marcos used to accomplish this slaughter were U.S. supplied. Under these circumstances, it is inevitable that many opponents of the Marcos regime would identify the 16,000 U.S. military personnel at Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Field with U.S. military support of the Marcos dictatorship. Was this the case in the present circumstance? The American people need to know.

Whatever the facts should prove to be in these three deaths, the best guarantee that there will not be more American casualties in the Philippines is for the American people to see to it that their government cuts off all U.S. military aid to the Marcos dictatorship, and withdraws all U.S. troops from the Philippines. There should be no more Vietnams.

For the FFP Provisional Council  
Barbara Cort  
Bradford Lyttle  
D. Boone Schirmer

## REGIME FORCED TO ADMIT LOSSES...

(continued from front page)

These recent successes of the people's liberation forces belie insistent claims of the Marcos martial law regime that the backbone of the revolutionary movement has been broken. Because of its losses in the field, the regime was forced to admit, in a recent briefing at Camp Aguinaldo for the foreign press that the revolutionary forces have increased their armed strength and widened their area of operation.

Last month's battle in Santiago calls to mind another shattering defeat of the AFP in Isabela soon after the imposition of martial law, when AFP generals boasted that they would sanitize the mountains of Isabela in two months.

The AFP's 5th Infantry Battalion was annihilated in San Mariano Town, leaving 200 of its officers and enlisted men dead after a series of skillfully executed ambushes and counter-encirclements by platoon and company-sized units of the NPA.

Another graveyard for many units of "search and destroy" missions is Jones in southern Isabela, adjoining Nueva Vizcaya. An estimated total of 340 AFP officers and



Fighters of the NPA practice for battle in photo taken in 1970.

men were killed by the NPA there in the first year of martial law.

The martial law regime's setbacks in Jones were so heavy that Pres. Marcos in an appearance on nationwide radio and television, was forced to admit to "some

losses" in that town's barrio.

Among other provinces in Northern Luzon where the A has reported gains are Quirino, Aurora, Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya. It has won new recruits and expanded its mass base among the peasants in these areas.

## Marcos Offers To Bribe Ex-Solons

(BMP) MANILA—Pres. Marcos is offering money and choice government positions to appease former members of Congress who have been sulking since he abolished their offices.

This was learned following a caucus among former members of the defunct House of Representatives at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Makati, Rizal.

Former Rep. Carmelo Z. Barbero (L.-Abra), a Marcos "trouble-shooter" told the assembled politicians that the President had set up a special fund from which they could draw from time to time.

Barbero also conveyed to them Marcos' reported plan to draft a number of them into the martial law regime, possibly into the cabinet.

In between his remarks, Barbero had his

hands full trying to calm his former colleagues who were angered and resentful not only because they had been deprived of their positions but because they were being made scapegoats for official corruption in pre-martial law days.

Among the most outspoken was ex-Speaker Cornelio Villareal, himself a former Marcos lieutenant in Congress, who assailed the President for "painting us before the public as crooks".

Villareal said it was grossly unfair of Marcos to project members of the Congress as being corrupt when he (Marcos) was very much part of that system.

One other former congressman said the "special fund" was not necessary since "we are not asking the President for charity". What he and his former colleagues want, he

said is for Marcos to convene the ad-interim National Assembly.

An oppositionist, former Rep. Neptali Gonzales (L.-Rizal) held a different view. "Whether or not the President convenes the National Assembly is no concern of mine, since I do not opt to serve in that body," he said. "I only want to point out that the longer the President keeps martial law, the more difficult it will be for the country to return to parliamentary rule."

Citing the case of the martial law regime in Greece, Gonzales warned that the leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines might not want to give up the power and privilege they enjoy under martial law, and therefore might oppose any return to constitutional government.

## Human Barricades Stop Eviction Crew In Quezon City

(BMP) QUEZON CITY—Residents of two barrios here have set up human barricades against the state's bulldozers to resist forcible eviction by the Marcos martial law regime and millionaire landowner, Francisco Ortigas.

Armed with a court decision rejecting the claim of Ortigas and Co. to the two barrios, and in effect upholding their own claim to the land, the residents served notice they would struggle resolutely until their rights are recognized.

Manning the human barricades are members of 311 families living in barrios Ugong Norte and Bagumbayan, near the Pasig boundary.

While it was Ortigas and his group who appeared interested in expelling the residents by force, Ortigas said there "were orders from Malacanang" to go ahead with the ejection at once. This was confirmed by Asst. Exec. Sec. Ronaldo Zamora who said the demolition was planned at the government's initiative since the residents' claim "can be ignored."

### History of Legal Disputes

Contested are 290 hectares of land which the residents and their forebears have been occupying for decades and from which efforts have been made to eject them since the early 1900's.

The dispute over the land reached the

courts in 1967. It was decided in 1970 when Judge Vivencio Ruiz of the Rizal Court of First Instance (CFI) in Makati, Rizal ruled against Ortigas.

In reaching this decision, associates of the judge said Ruiz overcame pressures from the Ortigas group, including offers of money. Ortigas and Co. appealed the case, and after only two weeks of deliberation, Judge Arsenio Alcantara of the Rizal CFI reversed Ruiz' decision on Nov. 3, 1973. Alcantara took a vacation abroad soon afterward.

### People vs. State Confrontation —

On Dec. 23, a demolition notice was sent to the residents of Ugong Norte ordering them to vacate the land by Nov. 26. The Bagumbayan residents were given until Jan. 3. On Dec. 26 — "demolition day" — the residents held off ejection by informing the demolition teams that Alcantara's decision was not final and executory. They added they had appealed the decision.

Meantime, barrio leaders went to Malacanang to seek relief but were turned down by Zamora representing Pres. Marcos.

When the bulldozers returned on Jan. 4, barrio residents, with young women at the vanguard, blocked their path. The prospective succeeded only in demolishing a vegetable patch, after which they retreated.

The human barricades went up again on

Jan. 5, 17, and 21, when the residents, some armed with bolos, faced the PC soliers and men from the city engineers office in what was described by witnesses as an "eyeball to eyeball" confrontation. The state forces withdrew once more.

The residents of Bagumbayan and Ugong Norte were finally asked to file a "complete case" before Judge Alcantara decides whether or not the case is worthy of elevation to the Court of Appeals. The residents said that this order was merely a dilatory tactic to make it difficult for their case to be heard.

### The People Stand Firm

But the people are standing their ground. The older barrio residents say that when the "Spaniards" tried to drive out the people from the land in 1904 and 1905, the barrio folk chased them off with drawn bolos.

The case of Bagumbayan and Ugong Norte recalls the fight put up by residents of Tatalon estate in Quezon City and those of the foreshorelands in Tondo against when the Marcos regime has been taking repressive steps.

Like the Bagumbayan and Ugong Norte residents, the Tatalon folk put up human barricades to resist ejection. The Tondo foreshoreland dwellers on the other had, were already marching to Malacanang when the demolition of their dwellings was suspended.

# Mula sa atin...

## PC Soldiers Rape 2 Women

Two young women were abused and raped at gunpoint by three PC soldiers aboard a United Auto Lines bus on Dec. 8, PAHAYAGANG BAYAN, a resistance paper in Northern Luzon reported.

The two women, both in their twenties, were on a bus bound for Bangued, Abra, when they were raped by the PC soldiers at about 9 p.m.

The PC troopers used their firearms to overpower the two women and to keep the outraged passengers of the bus from helping the victims.

The three assailants were identified as members of the Abra PC Command based in Camp Villamor, Bangued.

The incident was just one instance of the military's many abuses of women and against the civilians of that region, PAHAYAGANG BAYAN said.

## Highlanders Fight Benguet Mine Co.

Bontoc peasants in the mountains of Mainit have risen to defend their lands against the interests of Benguet Consolidated, Inc. (BCI), one of the biggest gold mining firms in the country.

The peasants denounced the opening of gold mines in their area since this would result in the eventual pollution and destruction of their rice fields, rivers, and virgin forests.

Resisting the attempts of the BCI to encroach upon their ancestral lands, the Mainit peasants set up stone barricades to protect their homes. Hired goons of the local mayor, bribed by the BCI, tore down the barricades last Jan. 18.

Angered by this provocation, hundreds of peasants, young and old alike marched at daybreak of Jan. 20 to the BCI camp. The women peasants were at the forefront carrying bolos like their menfolk. They fell upon the 6-man BCI team who they quickly outfought and sent fleeing to the forests.

The following Jan. 24, the Mainit residents held a public meeting and disputed BCI claims and demanded the immediate cessation of all BCI operation.

## Abra Folk Block Airstrip Project

(BMP) BANGUED, ABRA -- Peasants of Modiit, Dolores, have united to oppose government moves to bulldoze their homes and farms to make way for an airstrip.

Hearing of the plan to construct an airstrip, the Modiit peasants immediately presented a resolution to Mayor Danilo Zapata of Dolores saying they would lose their homes and farms if the plan were implemented.

The mayor rejected the resolution and even threatened the Modiit residents of confiscating their properties.

The peasants then brought their case to Rep. Carmelo Barbero, who agreed to meet them together with Mayor Zapata and former Con-con Delegate Arturo Barbero.

In a viva voce vote that Rep. Barbero called, the Modiit peasants overwhelmingly rejected the airstrip project with a resounding "No!"

"Nalawag! (It's clear)" the peasants said of the results.

Despite the peasants unanimous opposition, however, it seems that the government has not abandoned the project. A bridge has already been constructed on the road to Modiit.

The peasants are reportedly preparing to resist impending government moves to eject them by force.

## Marcos Decrees: Collegialas and Provincianas Are Now Equal

In a shallow attempt to gloss over the blatant differences between the rich and the poor, Marcos has come up with another new gimmick:

"All students from the elementary, secondary and collegiate levels in all public and private schools, are to wear identical uniforms. In this way 'class consciousness' would be eradicated."

For one educated in the Philippines, the common backward notion is that if one is a product of a public school, it is "bakya" (mediocre), but if one comes from an exclusive Catholic college, one is "class". This is what he refers to as "class consciousness".

Commented one coed from the Philippine College of Commerce: "So what if I wear the same thing as one of those snobs from Assumption (an exclusive girl's college), when come evening she returns to Forbes Park and I return to Navotas."

# Former U.P. Editor Slain

(BMP) QUEZON CITY -- Antonio S. Tagamolila, former editor-in-chief of the *Philippine Collegian* and president of the college Editors Guild of the Philippines, was killed by government forces Feb. 19 in the mountains of Aklan.

Six persons, including a pregnant woman were killed by the PC who surrounded the hut occupied by Tagamolila and his group. The state troopers also wounded a boy, aged one and a half years, son of the peasant family sheltering the group.

The hut was located in a mountain clearing in sitio Turoytoy, barrio Manica, Libacao, Aklan.

Initial reports indicate that Tagamolila may have been shot while interceding for the lives of the peasant family. An autopsy indicated that he died of three gunshot wounds inflicted at close range.

There are also unconfirmed reports that among those who died were Antonio Hilario, former secretary general of Samahang Demokratikong Kabataan (SDK), and chairman of the SDK chapter at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Leopoldo "Babes" Calixto, Jr. of the Mapua Institute of Technology, and Rolando Llorca of the Lyceum of the Philippines.

Hundreds attended Tagamolila's funeral, which followed a memorial service held for him by his fraternity, Alpha Sigma, at the UP Chapel in Diliman. On foot, his friends took turns in bearing his red-draped coffin to the cemetery, while the mourners hummed songs of protest.

His widow, Victoria Segui, was arrested by military agents while the funeral ceremony was going on. His body was interred on March



Antonio S. Tagamolila

21 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina, Rizal. Tagamolila was buried beside his elder brother Crispin, former Constabulary lieutenant, who deserted and died as a fighter in the New Peoples Army.

Tagamolila, who as 24, was a consistent scholar during his school days. He was a science major at the UP high school. He also excelled in college, topping the examination in 1971 for editor-in-chief of the university paper, *Philippine Collegian*.

When his older brother Crispin was killed in Isabela in 1972, the younger Antonio told friends that his family's one big regret was that Crispin did not have a longer period of time to serve the people.

On the younger Tagamolila's passing, fraternity brothers in Alpha Sigma said in an obituary published in *Bulletin Today*: "His death is heavier than a mountain".

## Many Will Take His Place In The Struggle

*[Editor's Note: This is a letter of a young wife to her husband's family upon confirmation of his death while waging armed struggle in the Philippine countryside. The fallen revolutionary was an intellectual who left the university to fight with the people in the struggle for national liberation and democracy in the Philippines.]*

13 March, 1974

My dearest Papa, and Mama, Brothers and Sisters:

This is probably the most painful and difficult letter I shall ever write...

By the time you receive this letter, we will be making preparations to bring the bodies home. THIS LETTER SERVES AS A CONFIRMATION OF SONNY'S DEATH as I have asked my Mama to give this to you only after I have seen Sonny's body for myself. As I write this, all seems so unreal, like a bad dream one wants desperately to rouse from.

Forgive me for having kept this from you all this time. Frankly, I kept hoping I would never have to report anything to you after all. I saw no point in making you go through this particular kind of hell, waiting for good news, fearing the worst, hoping for the best, yet making actual preparations for the worst possibility.

Now the question we must ask ourselves is: How would Sonny want us to face this?

Like you, it is with deepest pain that I must accept Sonny's death. That someone like him so gentle, kind-hearted, so young and full of promise, so humble and blind to his virtues with a deep analytical mind and a deep abiding love that flowed beyond the confines of home and family, must leave us so soon, too soon...it isn't easy to accept...Yet for Sonny's sake, accept it we must.

The greatest tribute that we can pay him is be calling forth the highest level of courage he himself possessed. He would have asked now to keep faith with him, not to view his death with bitterness nor regret, but with hope and firm belief that his sacrifices will bear fruit along with the sacrifice made by those before

and those who shall follow him in the struggle. And this will not be easy.

So many others have died and many more will make the one supreme sacrifice before any flicker of victory can be seen. Sonny had no illusions about this. Historically, in theory and in practice, he had seen that it was an all or nothing proposition. But over and above this, it was his deep abiding faith in the people -- the simple common man, the peasant, the farmer, the common folk who after all constitute the most potent force for social development. That has kept his courage alive.

Let us realize that Sonny was prepared. Personally, this is my only comfort. When he miraculously escaped death last year by a mere inch, he accepted it calmly, quietly. He was often pensive when he came home. He would look at our son with a fond gently smile, a smile laced with sadness. It was then I know. Inwardly, I wept. But it would have been unfair of me to let him know this. In loving someone, I guess one must also know when to let go. Sonny was never mine alone, to own, to possess as a dutiful husband. But in a higher sense, he was indeed a dutiful husband and father, and extraordinary son.

So now in this hour of reckoning, weep if we must for the pain is real, the loss so seemingly final. But let us remember too that we are not alone in our grief, that there are countless others in the movement who have known and love Sonny and who see in his sacrifice a deeper meaning than that which lesser men would like to impose; that there are countless more among the people with whom he had lived and worked who saw in his quiet unassuming ways and the day-to-day example of his life that after all, Man is possible.

Lovingly,  
Your daughter-in-law

## U.S. FILIPINOS

# Alaska Cannery Workers Fight Job Discrimination

## Part II:

Last Nov. 29, 1973, a group of Asian and Native American cannery workers filed a lawsuit against the New England Fish Co. (NEFCO) and its subsidiary, NEFCO—Fidalgo Packing Co. The lawsuit, sponsored by the Alaska Cannery Workers Association (ACWA), charged NEFCO with discriminatory employment practices, citing the concentration of minorities in lower paying, dirty and unskilled jobs, as well as poor housing and dining facilities. Non-whites are usually barred from desirable, higher paying jobs such as fishermen and machinists. Asian workers, the majority of whom are Filipinos, constitute more than 80% of the work force.

Part I of this article (last issue), described the history of exploitation and discrimination of cannery workers, and the current conditions of low-paying, degrading work and segregated housing and dining facilities. —Ed.

### Special to ANG KATIPUNAN

by Dale Borgeson

SEATTLE— The ACWA is an advocate group that seeks to use Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to attack employment discrimination. The ACWA was formed this summer after the cannery workers returned to Seattle and it now has 60 active members, mostly in their 20's. A spokesman for the group, Nemecio Domingo, said that conditions in the Alaskan fishing industry are uniformly inferior for minority workers and Asian have been discriminated against for more than 50 years.

### EEOC's Role

In the past two years, over 50 complaints have been filed with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) over these discriminatory practices. EEOC did virtually nothing until the lawsuit was filed in November, 1973. This spurred EEOC to enter "secret" negotiations with the industry, excluding the workers from the talks. The industry has asked the federal judge to delay hearings in the law suit until the EEOC negotiations are completed. This has infuriated the workers, who are thinking of picketing the EEOC offices to demand the right to participate in the negotiations. So far the judge has only granted the industry partial delays on the lawsuit.

ACWA members from Columbia Wards Cannery in Ketchikan, Alaska, will be filing a similar suit against their company soon. Under Title VII, workers must have had their complaints in with EEOC for 6 months before they can get a "right to sue" letter. This means it would be April before the first Columbia Wards worker would be eligible to sue, but ACWA lawyers are looking for ways to get around this technicality.

### The Union's Attitude

ACWA would like to add Local 37 to the



SEATTLE — Men standing in front of the Union hiring hall waiting to be called to go to Alaska to work in the canneries.

lawsuit as a plaintiff. The workers' lawyer Michael Fox, says, "There is no way that this case can do anything but help every member of Local 37." President Gene Navarro of Local 37 acknowledges the need for change: "For the past 15 to 20 years we have been trying so hard to present findings of these goings-on. We fought, have been and still are fighting like hell to change such conditions. It is a fact that there were little changes—but they were accomplished little by little." So far, however, Local 37 has been cool towards the ACWA. Fox is worried that if he can't convince Local 37 to join the suit soon as a plaintiff, the companies will bring the Union in as a defendant on the company side.

One of the problems the workers face is the demoralized state of the union. Political attacks by government and industry, combined with loss of jobs due to automation and shortage of salmon, have greatly weakened the union's strength and militancy. Bureaucracy has set in, and with it corruption. A young Samoan worker tells of his initial experience with the union: "Five of us hired on together. Only after we had been working several weeks did we learn that we were supposed to receive a \$50.00 part-pay at the Union Hall in Seattle before coming up to Alaska. None of us had gotten the money. When we asked our union delegate what happened to it, he just smiled and explained that it is necessary to pay to get jobs."

The contract which the union has signed forbids strikes during the season. As strikes before or after the season would be utterly meaningless, this is essentially a NO-STRIKE clause which deprives the workers of their most fundamental bargaining weapon — the right to withhold their labor. In addition,

grievance procedures for on the job enforcement of the contract are practically non-existent. In some ways the union has slipped into playing the part of the old labor contractors.

### Seattle Community Support

Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which the ACWA lawsuit seeks to use to attack employment discrimination, has already been used effectively in some areas. The United Construction Workers Association (UCWA) has been able to use Title VII to force job openings for Blacks in the building trades in Seattle and Oakland. However, the cannery workers realize that just filing a lawsuit will change very little. So the ACWA is also organizing community support and workers to enforce Title VII rulings on the job.

The reaction of the Filipino Community in Seattle to the ACWA has been mixed so far. Joe Ancheta, ACWA's liaison man with the United Construction Workers' says, "We want community support and we will get it as we start accomplishing things. When the ACWA started out they were criticized by Black organizations like the Urban League for their radical tactics. But when they started getting Blacks into the construction trades, they became the pride of Seattle's Black community."

## 3 More Companies Named In Recent ACWA Lawsuit

SEATTLE— Much like the ACWA lawsuit filed last Nov. 29, 1973, another class action suit was recently filed by ACWA naming Wards Cove Packing, Bumblebee Seafood and Columbia Wards Fisheries for discriminatory employment practices. Says ACWA member and a plaintiff in the suit, Lester Kuramoto, "Persons of Asian descent have had no opportunity to get higher paying, more skilled jobs in the fishing canneries. We do things like 'sliming' (cleaning fish) while whites become machinists, carpenters or fisherman, which are the cleaner and better positions."

The new lawsuit seeks an injunction against the companies to desist from such discriminatory practices in both employment and segregated and substandard living and dining facilities provided. Back wages and other damages are also being claimed and it is felt that up to 5,000 cannery workers will be effected by the ACWA class action suit.

People can contact the ACWA through Michael Fox, 914 E. Jefferson, Room 1106, Seattle, Wash. 98122.

## Boston Protestors Picket Romualdez

BOSTON—On Monday, April 1, 1974, some fifty persons joined in a picket line to protest an address Philippine Ambassador Eduardo Romualdez was scheduled to deliver to the Association of Asian Scholars in their convention at the Statler-Hilton in Boston.

Organized by the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) and the Concerned Asian Scholars (CCAS), the demonstrators carried placards and chanted slogans like, "Hands off the Philippines, No more Vietnams!", and "No U.S. Aid to Marcos, Lon Nol and Thieu!". The picket line was well received and several persons joined in it off the street.

Ambassador Romualdez failed to show up

at the Convention as scheduled, claiming pressing business in Manila. The moderator of the panel, "Multilateral Diplomacy in S.E. Asia: Ambassadors' Views" where Romualdez was to have spoken permitted Ms. Barbara Cort of Cambridge, Mass., to make a statement to the audience for the FFP and CCAS. —Calling attention to the recent massacre of civilians at Jolo by the Marcos government using U.S. supplied weapons, Ms. Cort said:

*"The future looks ominous for peace and security in the Philippines and ultimately in all Southeast Asia. Fighting is still raging in Indochina largely because*

*more than 80% of the operating expenses of the Thieu government are paid by the United States government. And now the Philippines is following the same path. Marcos is increasingly violent against his own population and reliant on U.S. military aid. U.S. Green Beret soldiers are active today in that country. We feel that peace and security in Asia can never be achieved while U.S. military aid can be used to prop up corrupt and dictatorial governments."*

Ms. Cort's statement received warmer applause than any made by the Ambassadors who addressed the panel (those from Indonesia, Malaysia, etc.). A subsequent question from the floor raised the issue of political prisoners in the Philippines and Indonesia.

**LOS ANGELES: Police Harass Youth Center****Pagkakaisa Center On the Move!**

LOS ANGELES - In the month of April, the police made raids on the newly-opened Filipino youth center in Los Angeles, PAGKAKAISA. The center is located in the Temple St. District, a Filipino community since the late '20's.

On three different occasions between April 4 & 5, about ten LA police entered the center, looked all around, searched drawers, asked for ID's and took things from the Center (such as pictures on the wall, membership lists and literature). After one youth protested their actions, they ran a 'check' on him and arrested him for unpaid parking tickets. They also told the people that the police "could search the center anytime they like." The last time, the police entered with a photographer and took pictures of the place - upstairs and downstairs.

The people who organized the Center have put up loud protests to these kind of arbitrary police searches. They are calling together meetings of the Filipino youth and community to put a stop to this kind of harassment. The L.A. police department has already gained a bad reputation for the racist attitudes and strong arm practices in minority communities (i.e. during the Watts riots of 1967 and Chicano Moratorium of 1971). This recent incident follows a similar pattern only now directed against Filipino youth.

In fact, the police had no legal basis for their actions. Upon entering PAGKAKAISA, they had no search warrant nor particular arrest warrant, and proceeded to do what they pleased. Therefore, such police practices like the intimidating and strong-arm manner in which they searched the center legally constitutes undue harassment and violates the democratic and constitutional rights of the Filipino youth and community. - Editor.

**SPECIAL TO ANG KATIPUNAN**

by Terrio Echavez

LOS ANGELES - During January of this year, some Filipino youths had a meeting in a small Filipino cafe near the corner of Beverly Blvd. and Union Ave. in Los Angeles. Many of these youths were formerly involved in gang activities such as shop lifting, purse snatching, joy riding, fighting with rival gangs, and getting loaded. Most of them were from the same neighborhood in central Los Angeles which is predominantly Latino, Filipino, and Black. Many of these same youths, now in their teenage years, had immigrated here from the Philippines during the past five years or so.

They talked in both Tagalog and English and spoke of redirecting themselves from gang activities into more constructive things that would improve their situation and serve the youth and community as a whole. They talked of making a drop-in center for Filipino youths as a beginning step.

**A Filipino Community Youth Center**

A few days later, the first general meeting was held and many Filipino youths from the neighborhood came as well as people from interested groups like AADAP (Asian-Am. Drug Abuse Program), Asian Women's Center, and LA Chapter of the KDP and some high school and college Filipino groups.

The drop-in center and youth organization started to materialize. AADAP could finance the center and a storefront nearby was available. We talked about how the center should really function and suggestions were made for objectives, goals and programs. A core group responsible for overall coordination was formed and finally, after weeks of discussion and meeting, we made some important decisions, like:

**GOALS** - "Organize alternatives for the youth that are positive and constructive; know our roots and history; help to serve the total community; and learn to know what is happening in other communities. We need to re-educate the community about attitudes towards the youth."

We also formed committees to paint and reconstruct the storefront which would have a drop-in center, office, library and conference room. Then we voted and named our organization and storefront - PAGKAKAISA (Unity) - which won by an overwhelming majority.

**Youth Organize the Storefront**

Soon after this, the lease on the storefront was signed and almost immediately, work was

started to convert it into a center. Within weeks, PAGKAKAISA became the focus of a lot of young energy and constructive activity. A large Filipino flag, visible from blocks away, was painted on the front surface of the building. Wall dividers were made to partition off the different rooms needed. Posters, photos and educational literature were placed inside, and most importantly, young Filipinos began to frequent PAGKAKAISA.

Also a list of PAGKAKAISA house rules was drawn up and exhibited on a large sign in the center. This is because some negative things were also occurring, such as people smoking dope and drinking booze around the vicinity of the center, which was jeopardizing the existence and development of the center. The importance of house rules and descriptions became clearer after the incident with the police.

We had meetings to discuss the incidents and we felt that the police were only trying to intimidate us and close down the place. The raids were scare tactics meant to create a bad image of the storefront so that the youths, parents, as well as the people in the



LOS ANGELES - PAGKAKAISA members painting front section of storefront into the likeness of the Filipino flag.

neighborhood, would not want to support PAGKAKAISA.

However, we knew that PAGKAKAISA was doing nothing wrong or illegal and in fact, we were struggling to serve the interests of the people and the Filipino community here in LA, especially the youths. We felt our activities would prove this and for this reason, PAGKAKAISA is determined to stay open!

Now the need for PAGKAKAISA house rules is better understood by people and we are struggling to enforce them. Also, we know that in the long run, the strength of PAGKAKAISA has to come from the support of the whole community. So we are planning an open house in May so that parents can better understand PAGKAKAISA.

We are also thinking of building some structured programs to meet concrete needs, like job placements, teaching crafts, counseling, court intervention, and education. PAGKAKAISA is still developing and a long road of struggle lies ahead to implement the objectives and goals. There is much work to be done, especially now that the local police station has made PAGKAKAISA a target for harassment.

But this will not set us back and PAGKAKAISA is on the move forward!  
**SERVE THE PEOPLE!**

**UNITY...  
Magkaisa!****"Project Manong" Hotel Soon To Open**

OAKLAND - "Project Manong", the 22-unit hotel being renovated into low cost housing for the Oakland Filipino Senior Citizens, has announced that it will be ready for occupancy in about two weeks. Located at 561-16th Street in Downtown Oakland, renovation on "Project Manong" began last October by volunteer crews, mostly young Filipinos. In recent months, the project has received stronger community support and volunteer crews have been coming from outside the Oakland area (such as Delano, San Jose) to give their assistance.

**SF Bay Area - Past Month's Activities Include Student Conference, Forum on Muslims, UPEE Dinner**

SAN FRANCISCO - Last March 23-24, close to 100 Filipinos from junior college, state and university campuses in Northern California, attended the first intercampus Conference of Filipino College Organizations. Sponsored by 11 campus groups, it was held at SF State and hosted by the Filipino campus organization, PACE (Filipino-American Collegiate Endeavor).

The Conference dealt with the essential need to organize campus groups, methods of organizing, direction, and the relationship of Filipino Studies programs and Filipino campus groups. Afterwards, a proposal to form a representative Council of No. California Filipino College Organizations was unanimously endorsed along with a workbook with copies of speeches, songs, contact list and Filipino Studies resource guide based off the Conference.

On Sunday, April 7 the UPEE (United Filipinos for Equal Employment) held a fundraising dinner at the Mabuhay Gardens Restaurant. About 130 people attended and \$300 was raised to help cover the legal costs of Mrs. Emma Salazar and UPEE's class action suit against CBS (California Blue Shield) for discriminatory employment practices. The lawsuit was filed last June 27 and has gone through some preliminary court action.

On Friday, April 19, in an evening forum and cultural program, the SF chapter of KDP presented "Tanikala ay Lagutin" (Break the Chains!), a program on the Philippines today and the Muslim struggle. A skit and slide show exposing the lies of Marcos' "New Society" was presented by some Filipinos who had recently visited the homeland through "Operation Balikbayan." Later, 3 speakers addressed themselves to the history and present resistance struggle of the Filipino Muslims in Mindanao. About 100 people attended the event.

**"MAGUINDANAO" - Play About Muslim Struggle To Be Performed At UC Berkeley**

BERKELEY - "Maguindanao," a 2-act play about the present situation in Mindanao, will be performed on May 19 at the Zellerbach Auditorium, UCB, 7:30 p.m. "Maguindanao" is sponsored by the UCB student organization, PAA (Filipino American Alliance) and the East Bay Chapter of the KDP, is the story of a Muslim town that resists the efforts of a local bankrupt politician who is trying to take away the lands from the Muslim peasants for a foreign mining company. For information call (415) 642-0795.

**Canned Goods, Donations and Work Brigades Sent to Agbayani Village**

In this last month, two volunteer work brigades went to Delano to work on Agbayani Village. Fifteen people from San Diego, KDP activists and high school and college students involved in Operation Samahan, event just before the Easter holiday and worked from April 7-11. From San Jose, KDP activists and members of UFYO (United Filipino Youth Organization), about 15 altogether, were there a weekend, April 19-21. Both brigades did a variety of work, from general cleanup and ditch digging to scrapping the walls and preparing them for painting.

Also in Los Angeles, on April 7 a Victory Celebration was held at Elysian Park marking the completion of the door-to-door canned food drive for Agbayani Village. The project, undertaken by Filipino, Chinese, Japanese and Chicano youth from various progressive organizations, was an immense success and over 500 lbs. of canned food and \$140 was collected. These groups had also participated in sending work brigades to the Village.

Construction on the Village began last April, 1973 and is expected to be completed in about 3-4 months.

phony tax returns

# A Tax Dodging President

As if the Watergate scandal was not enough, Pres. Nixon was again caught up in another self-imposed mess. What began as leaks of tax evasions, grew to a full investigation of the President's tax returns, from 1969 to 1972. The Internal Revenue Service and a Congressional Investigation Committee revealed that Nixon was delinquent in paying taxes by as much as \$467,000.

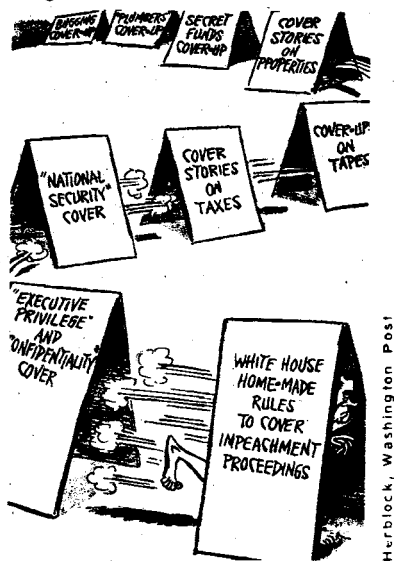
## Nixon's Tax-Dodging Maneuvers

In a 994-page report, the Congressional Committee, short of outrightly charging fraud, stated that phony deductions and falsifying income level show that blatant tax dodging maneuvers were employed in fixing Nixon's tax forms.

Nixon, the report charged, billed the government for a \$5,000 "masked ball for Miss Tricia Nixon," cleaning Mrs. Nixon's rugs, and replacement of a cement shuffleboard at five times the original cost; dodged tax payments on the sale of his New York apartment and some land on his San Clemente estate; claimed depreciation

deductions on a \$4,800 Cabinet room table; deducted \$480,000 for giving pre-Presidential Papers to the National Archives (this deduction was disallowed) and claimed more in deductions for California gasoline taxes in one year, than the actual expenditure in gas.

Steaking.



Nixon in effect claimed no contest by stating that he would pay the back taxes. However, Nixon stated, "any errors which have been made were made by those preparing his returns and were made without his knowledge and approval."

However, Arthur Belch, Nixon's tax lawyer countered, by saying that Nixon and himself went through the returns "page by page..." and at one point came to a no-tax situation, and asked himself, "What's going on here?"

The division in Nixon's camp maybe widening, but not as sharp as the gap between Nixon and the American people. Breaking at a time when millions of Americans are struggling to pay their income taxes, revelations of tax dodging President furthered the cry for impeachment



## FBI ILLEGAL WIRETAP

# Government Misconduct at Wounded Knee

The trial of American Indian Movement (AIM) leaders Dennis Banks and Russell Means for the "illegal" occupation of Wounded Knee was recessed for an evidentiary hearing. Presiding Judge Fred Nichols ordered a special evidentiary hearing on "government misconduct" in the Wounded Knee trial when evidence surfaced of illegal FBI wiretapping against AIM.

### Evidence of Illegal FBI Wiretap

Evidence detailing FBI phone monitoring was the point of departure in calling for the evidentiary hearing. Invoices from an electronics store in Rapid City, South Dakota, showed that the FBI bought \$2,000 worth of electronic equipment a day before the wiretapping of a telephone in Wounded Knee. Equipment bought by the FBI included such things as wires, switches, phone jacks, headphones, tape recorders and \$35 worth of cassette tapes.

Local FBI director Joseph Trimbach, originally denied the wiretapping of phone conversations to and from Wounded Knee. But this was soon contradicted by a memo that read: "On the evening of 3-5-73, while manning a checkpoint, number one, a telephone extension tied into the Wounded Knee Trading Post was monitored..."

The memo was from an FBI agent who gave it to Mr. Trimbach.

When asked by Judge Nichols about this discrepancy in his testimony, Trimbach



Demonstrators at St. Paul Federal Building

replied that the memo was written after an "accidental" overhearing of a phone conversation.

With further evidence surfacing that implicated FBI "misconduct" Judge Nichols has grown critical of the FBI. The judge is already considering holding Trimbach in contempt of court for his previous false testimony.

The AIM defense is asking for dismissal of all charges on grounds that the FBI suppressed evidence, and that the U.S. government bring charges against the FBI for its illegal activities in connection with the case.

In effect, what was a trial against AIM has turned into a trial of the FBI.

# America In Turmoil

## Kent State Grand Jury Indicts 8 Guardsmen

After four years of investigation on the shooting of 4 Kent State University students during an anti-war demonstration, an Ohio State Grand Jury, last March 29, returned indictments against eight National Guardsmen. On May 4, 1970 a group of demonstrating students gathered to protest the U.S. troop invasion of Cambodia, resulting in the death of 4 students.

The grand jury since its convening in Dec. 18, 1973 reviewed some 250 photographs and documents and an 8,000 page report by the FBI. The grand jury, in handing down the indictments charged the eight guardsmen with wilfully violating civil rights of the protesting students. However, the grand jury fell short of charging the government officials responsible for the calling in of the national guards onto the campus, namely former Ohio Gov. James Rhodes.

The shooting took place at Kent State during the heights of the nationwide protest action against the invasion of Cambodia by U.S. troops. An ROTC building at Kent State was burned in protest to the escalation of the war and then Gov. Rhodes called out the national Guards to quell the antiwar actions.

Infuriated over the use of troops on the campus, students fought back. On May 4, a group of guardsmen suddenly fired on hundreds of students while atop a hill and clearly out of reach of handthrown rocks. Reports of student snipers circulated by authorities were proved false. The FBI said the claim that the lives of the Guardsmen were threatened was "fabricated subsequent to the event."

The indictments on the guardsmen has led a demand to reopen the case of the Jackson State shootings, May 14, 1970, only 10 days after Kent State. where two black students were killed by Mississippi state troopers.

A House Judiciary subcommittee now plans to hold hearings to find out why the responsible parties in the Kent State and Jackson State killings were not prosecuted three years ago.

## "ZEBRA" DRAGNET HALTED

SAN FRANCISCO — Under the pretext of searching for an alleged Black murderer ("Zebra"), the San Francisco police department instituted a massive stop and search of Black men between the ages of 20 and 30 years. In a span of six days, some 567 Black men had been stopped and interrogated. The victims of the searches were then given identification cards, in case they were stopped again. The police tactic created a strong indignant feeling among the Black community. The police action was unconstitutional and another form of intimidation of the Black community.

The protests were then brought to Federal Court for a ruling on the constitutionality of the searches. After two days, U.S. District Judge Alphonso Zirpoli ruled the police measures unconstitutional and leveled an injunction on the police to stop the searches.

The injunction on the "Zebra" dragnet, however, does not mean the halt of further police harassment of the Black community.

## DOW STRIKERS ASSAULTED BY STATE TROOPERS

MIDLAND, MICH. — On March 18, an estimated 5,300 chemical workers, members of Local 12075, United Steelworkers of America (USW) struck the Dow Chemical plant after Dow management refused to negotiate a new 3-year contract in good faith. The strike is mainly over cost-of-living wage increases along with other important issues like pension, hospitalization benefits and safety.

Considered the worst use of police brutality against workers in Michigan's history, 50 carloads of state troopers were called in on the first day of the strike. With badges removed, the troopers attacked and rushed the picketlines without provocation. In three days, about 50 were arrested and another 50 severely beaten. The police attack on the Dow picket lines were withdrawn by the state attorney when an investigation confirmed workers' charges of police brutality. The state troopers had been called in at the request of the Midland Mayor (with the prompting from Dow's management) who thought the strikers would be too much for local police.

# Third World Countries Assert Rights

by T. Ordon

Over 60 Third World countries, united in their common dissatisfaction with their unequal economic relations with the dominant powers, strongly voiced their opposition to the colonial and imperialist domination and exploitation of their countries and asserted their sovereign national rights to protect their natural resources and develop their national economies. The U.S. and U.S.S.R. were singled out by several countries as the "superpowers," the "biggest exploiters and oppressors... subjecting other countries to their control, subversion, interference or aggression." (China)

Most of the natural resources needed today are found in the Third World, in countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Yet these countries are very poor. This is because the gold, silver and iron mines; the banana, sugarcane and rubber plantations; the oil and other natural resources are plunderously extracted from these countries by colonial and imperialist countries. Through political, economic, and military control - direct and indirect - TW countries have developed a lopsided agrarian economy, (which is designed to develop the raw materials imperialist countries need), national industries remain undeveloped, the people are exploited as cheap labor, and they must buy finished goods from these countries at expensive prices.



Algerian President Houari Boumedienne.

These just demands of the TW countries were made at the recently held Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly, beginning April 9, which was convened to study the problems of raw materials and development. The Assembly was called into session on the proposal of Algerian President, Houari Boudemienne and was concurred and approved by 100 countries.

## TW Asserts Rights

The convening of the Special Session itself represents the emergence of a new trend in the international political arena - TW countries struggling in unity against imperialist exploitation, an indication of the awakening and strengthening of the TW. In the words of Pres. Boudemienne in his keynote address opening the debate sessions (April 10), "the majority of peoples" had now rejected the "passive role" assigned them.

The inequitable prices paid for raw materials by the industrialized countries and the soaring costs for essential import commodities for the TW countries was the key issue that united TW countries with the most diverse political tendencies and varying degrees of political and economic independence.

There were many differences of emphasis and outlook among them on many questions, but this issue of opposing the colonial and imperialist powers and upholding their national sovereign rights remained consistent throughout the speeches.

The key event which infused the TW with

this new sense of power, as nearly all the TW speeches have brought out, was the Arab oil embargo growing out of the October War.

Said Pres. Boumedienne, "Owing to the fact that the developed countries have virtual control of the raw materials market and... a monopoly on manufactured products and capital equipment, ... (and) capital and services, they have been able to proceed at will in fixing the prices of both the raw materials that they take from the developing countries and the goods and services that they furnish these countries... whereby the wealth of the poor countries is transferred away from them."

## Protect Natural Resources, Develop National Economies

"Raw materials-producing countries should be masters in their own houses, so as to use their natural resources for their own development." He went further to stress that the oil embargo action decided upon by the OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) is really the first "concrete illustration" of the "vital need for the producing countries to control the levers of price control."

The 'oil crisis' was due to the fact that "those companies refuse to accept a cutback in their profits by absorbing the increases in oil prices." (Ghana)

Pres. Boumedienne, quoted statistics pointing out the rises in imported industrial and food products which were bigger than those in oil. In the last five years, the prices of tractors, steel and cement have multiplied 2, 3 and 4 times. Yet, Boumedienne noted, there was no outcry by the developed countries at these price increases, which imposed and still impose far greater hardships on the TW countries than oil prices.

## Independence & Self-Reliance

Finally, the difficulties faced by states that are formally independent in politics but economically still bound and subservient - the problems of neo-colonialism - were stressed by Teng Hsiao-Ping, in a statement of China's position. "In achieving political independence the people of a country have only taken the first step... Without political independence, it is impossible to achieve economic independence; without economic independence, a country's independence is incomplete and insecure."

"... If imperialist monopolies can gang up to manipulate the markets at will, to the great detriment of the vital interests of the developing countries, why can't developing countries unite to break up imperialist monopoly and defend their own economic rights and interests?"

"The oil battle has broadened people's vision. What was done in the oil battle should, and can be done, in the case of other raw materials..."

"The developing countries have great potentials for developing their economy independently. As long as a country makes unremitting efforts in the light of its own specific features and conditions and advances along the road of independence and self-reliance..."

The Special Session recently held marked an important step forward for TW countries along the road of independence and self-reliance. In a speech delivered March 4 by Pres. Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcoming the visit of Algerian Pres. Boumedienne:

"The time has gone never to return when the imperialists could freely oppress and plunder the peoples of the Third World and bargain about and decide on their destiny behind the scene."

# World in Focus

## Laos: New Government Formed

After nine years of U.S. bombing and a shaky year of negotiated peace, the Lao Patriotic Front (Pathet Lao) and the Royal Laotian Government have formed a new coalition government. The new government was officially formed at the old royal capital of Luang Prabang on April 5.

Pathet Lao leader Prince Souphanavong arrived two days earlier in the "neutralized" city of Vientiane to make final arrangements for the coalition with his half-brother, Prince Souvanna Phouma, whose government was backed by the United States. Souphanavong was greeted enthusiastically at the airport by a crowd of some 5,000 people, including high school students in their uniforms, Buddhist priests and the entire Vientiane diplomatic corps, except for the ambassadors of Saigon and Phnom Penh.

For nine years, Laos has been the victim of secret U.S. bombing, from 1964 to 1969. The Senate Sub-Committee on Refugees reports that throughout 1973, the U.S. dropped enough bombs in Laos to the equivalent of one ton of bombs for every man, woman, and child in the country. According to the Committee, one million Laotians were killed, wounded or made refugees in the war.

Twice before in 1957 and 1962 the Pathet Lao entered coalition governments, only to have it sabotaged by the right wing elements in Laos. This time, the Pathet Lao has insisted on establishing joint military and police forces and joint administrations in Vientiane and the royal capital of Luang Prabang before forming a coalition government.

"The agreement specifies that 60 days after the formation of a coalition government, U.S., Thai and other foreign troops must leave the country and that all special forces must be disbanded. But already the U.S. is trying to conceal its continued presence in Laos"..... Our war with the U.S. has lasted 20 years, we are very anxious to see the peace agreement fully implemented. It is the common victory for all Laotians, and it has been the deepest aspiration of our people for many years," said Lao Patriotic Front ambassador, Kamphay Boupha. (INTERNEWS)

## PRG Proposes 6 - Point Peace Program

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG) has initiated a second drive to reaffirm its commitment in keeping peace in Vietnam by announcing a new six point peace program.

On March 22, the PRG made public a program which is within the framework of the Paris Agreement of 1973. The major point of the proposal are the immediate ceasefire and the holding of general elections.

The peace proposal comes at a time when the Saigon regime of Thieu and the Nixon administration are launching propaganda that the revolutionary forces are going to launch an "invasion" of South Vietnam.

The PRG proposal reaffirms the six basic provisions of the Paris Agreement and proposes a new timetable and three-step process for arriving at a democratic government for South Vietnam.

In an immediate and long range manner, the six point proposal hopes to accomplish the following: 1) The immediate silencing of arms, to effectively carry out cease-fire throughout South Vietnam; 2) The release of all captured and detained personnel to be completed in three months, by June 30 at the latest. 3) The guarantee of rights of democratic freedoms to the people; 4) The rapid formation of the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord, within three months after the ceasefire has gone into effect. 5) General elections to be held at the latest a year after the formation of the National Council; 6) And two South Vietnamese parties should agree on an appropriate reduction of military forces.

After the holding of general elections and the formation of an official government of South Vietnam, the building of a unified army will be undertaken.

The Peace Proposal was praised by members of the neutralist forces as supporting the forces working for peace and independence.