

10 Years of the New Peoples Army



March 29, marks the founding of the New Peoples Army. This historic day signifies the turning point in Philippine history when the desires of the Filipino people to liberate themselves took the conscious direction with the launching of protracted peoples war.

On the 10th anniversary of the NPA, we salute its victories and heroic sacrifices with the publication of selected articles and poems from *Ang Bayan, Liberation and Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas*, noted resistance newspapers.

—Editor

From 60 members and 35 firearms in the province of Tarlac in 1969, the New People's Army has expanded today to 41 provinces, with a total of 17 guerrilla fronts, each composed of several inter-connected guerrilla bases and zones. Within each region, the NPA has developed guerrilla

zones and rear bases in mountainous and forested terrain, where there is a wide area for maneuver and enemy rule is weak.

Its armed strength is estimated at a few thousand full-time guerrillas. At present, regular NPA formations range from small teams to regular guerrilla squads. The NPA is armed primarily with weapons seized from the government military.

The key to the growth of the NPA lies in the broad and deep support it receives from the people who recognize the need for an armed revolution which will thoroughly dismantle the armed machinery of the dictatorship's power. Such a broad and deep support has enabled the people's army to surmount serious difficulties and setbacks, such as encirclement and suppression campaigns and the capture of top leaders Jose Ma. Sison and Commander Dante.

Though still in the early strategic defensive stage of the people's war, the NPA is steadily mounting tactical offensives wherein the initiative is completely in its hands. Through ambushes, assaults and raids against the mercenary armed troops of the regime, it wipes out small, scattered enemy units, increases its weaponry and punishes informers and other bad elements.

The NPA, however, is not only a fighting force but, in fact, devotes most of its time and resources to organizing the peasantry—the biggest motive force of the revolution. Under the guidance of the Communist Party of the Philippines, NPA guerrillas help organize peasants to solve their land problems and also provide medical services, political education and literacy classes. From the ranks of the peasantry, the NPA draws its greatest number of armed contin-

gents.

The NPA's capacity for self-reliant growth is revealed in the increasing number of victories it has accumulated in the last several months. In Central Luzon, well-planned military operations from February to June have resulted in 37 enemies killed and many others wounded; numerous rifles and ammunition have been captured. In Mindanao, 38 PC soldiers, policemen, CHDF members and other enemy agents have been killed in the past months. In Eastern Visayas, the increasing military capability of the NPA is shown in its seizure of the towns of Arteche and San Policarpio in Samar province last November 1977, without firing a single shot. In the Mountain Provinces, many oppressed Igorot masses have joined the NPA and successfully carried out military operations against the regime's troops. □

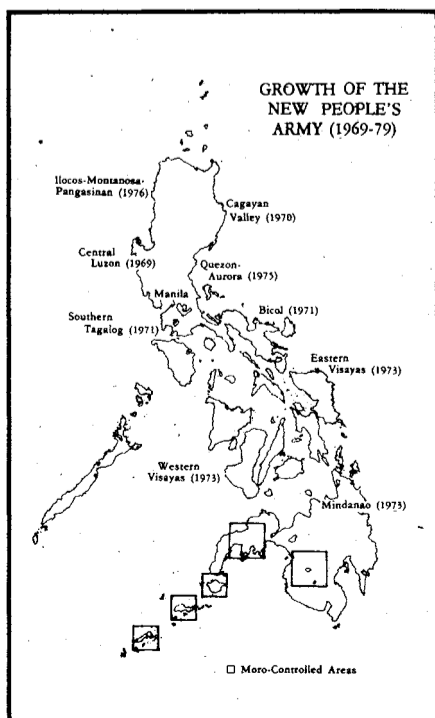
IN A GUERRILLA ZONE

SOMEWHERE IN PANAY—The reason for the inability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to destroy the New People's Army is the all-out support given by the people to the NPA.

"The enemy is in the north," a very agitated peasant warned the 1st squad of the New People's Army. Previously, several peasants also gave similar warnings. The first came from a farmer citing the enemy movement in the south and a second warning that they were moving in from the east.

Obviously, they planned to use the "piston offensive." They apparently expected the people's guerrillas to retreat to the west and in the process get pinned down.

Ka. Ompong, the squad leader, gave the decision. "We will retreat into the forested area and wait for nightfall. Then we will try to break through the weakest cordon. We will have to rely on the masses to give us more information on which of the two



lines of offensive is the weakest."

We then bade goodbye and expressed our thanks to the owner of the house we were in. The owners told us to take good care of ourselves and not to take unnecessary risks.

The squad was broken into several small teams and given last-minute instructions by the squad leader. Should anything happen on the way, each team will attempt to make it to a secret rendezvous for regrouping. "Remember," said Ka. Ompong, "no unnecessary actions."

Two peasants went ahead to scour the areas that we had proposed to pass. They would forewarn the residents of that area that the NPA will be passing but will not stop over. They were also asked to keep an eye out for the movements of the enemy. An early warning system was devised.

Based on initial reports, the north-eastern line was presumed to be the weakest. We moved out from the waiting area. We had fixed our destinations in mind. The only problem will be to get through the cordon fast and quietly.

After marching for two hours, we reached the crucial area—a barrio

that lies in the middle of the northern and eastern government troop positions. We were reminded that although we were to move very fast, utmost care must be observed to see to it that no noise is made.

As we were moving in, we were intercepted by a farmer. He had received information that the northern and eastern lines were heavier than earlier reported and that it would be too risky to penetrate them. We had to retreat and try the southeastern line.

Had we not been warned by the farmer, we could have had a big fight in our hands, with the odds heavily against us.

We were guided by the farmer through a short cut in the barrio.

The journey during the rest of the way was uneventful except when we almost had a shoot out with a pair of carabaos.

As we broke through the cordon and reached our destination, laughter broke out and we congratulated each other. Ka. Ompong immediately wrote a letter of thanks to the masses that saved us. After all had they been caught, their lives would be in danger. □

The Making of a Red Fighter

Ka. Manny was constantly followed by shrieking children, doted upon by grandmothers and singled out for debate by farmers who spent their free afternoon hours in discussions with the NPA. It was therefore a big surprise to learn that Ka. Manny was not even from Santa Luisita, much less assigned to the surrounding district.

In fact, Ka. Manny was merely making a stopover on his way to the mountain ranges flanking eastern Pampanga. What then accounted for his sudden popularity? Clearly Ka. Manny had winning ways—his eagerness to debate, his sense of humor, and his ready advice for those with problems—quickly endeared him to the masses. His zeal in integrating with the barrio people was further fueled by the prospect of thinking alone in the next few weeks with no one to talk to. "Who knows when I'll get another chance to mingle with the people, those mountains are so sparsely populated?" Ka. Manny explained. Indeed, he wasted no time to maximize his usefulness to the Santa Luisita masses, helping solve a land dispute, meeting with the youth association, and even making medical calls on farmers stricken with gastroenteritis.

On the surface, Ka. Manny's engaging manner, his selflessness and dedication seemed effortless and quite natural. These qualities however, did not come naturally but rather, were the results of long years of struggle against adversity, with his comrades and above all, with himself. "I wasn't like this at all when I first came to the countryside, Ka. Manny expressed, laughing. "I was a hot-tempered student who wanted to get even with the fascists. It makes me shudder to even remember those early years."

When Ka. Manny left Manila as a firebrand student seven years ago, for the "glorious countryside" of his dreams, little did he suspect what lay in store for him.

FROM STUDENT TO PEOPLE'S FIGHTER

Hailing from a large lower-middle class family, Ka. Manny instinctively recognized the need for fundamental society change since high school. These rebellious instincts were soon honed into sharper political understandings in his college years where he "graduated" from many a teach-in, sit-in and violent demonstrations during the turbulent early seventies. Upon the death of a close friend during one such violent demonstration, Ka. Manny decided to leave for the countryside imbued with thoughts of retaliation and adventure. "This purely military viewpoint merely alienated him from the people who were not as intensely interested in the armed struggle I constantly talked about but were occupied with such problems as irrigation, bad harvest, sick carabaos, and the unjustness of the landlord." Soon Ka. Manny realized that it was futile to talk about armed struggle without linking it to the successful carrying out of the agrarian revolution.

"I was the butt of jokes then by farmers who teased me about my constant talk of revolution when I would get sick at the thought of eating snails. I was teased because of my fair complexion and since I didn't know the dialect, I got isolated." Demoralized, Ka. Manny decided to call it quits. Were it not for the intercession of some comrades who advised him to be less defensive and be

more open to learning, Ka. Manny would probably be back harging out in his old haunts along the university belt. Thus, despite the putdowns, Ka. Manny determinedly set out to learn the dialect and adapt to the hardships of rural life. When the jokes diminished, then altogether disappeared, Ka. Manny knew he was finally accepted.

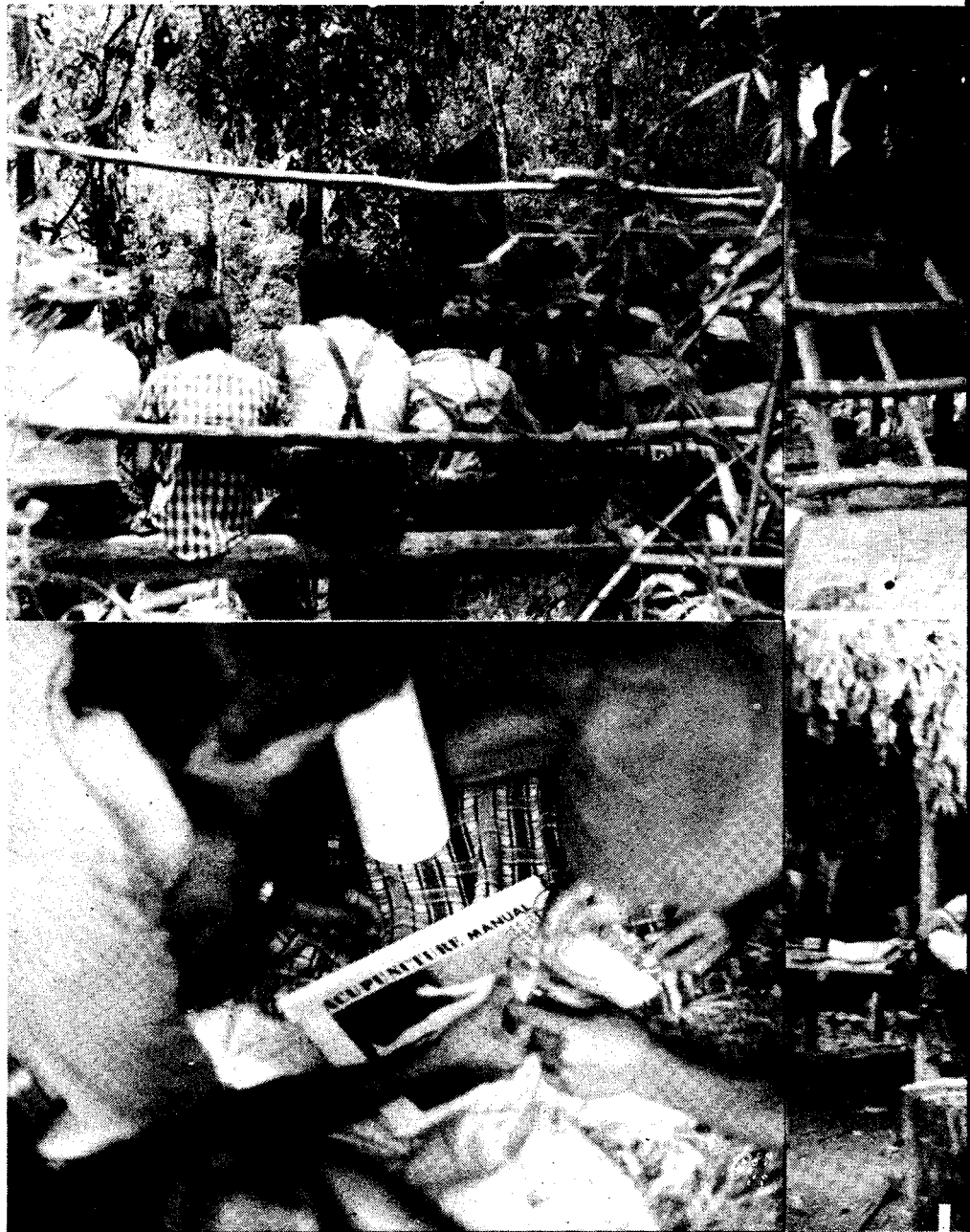
TEST OF FIRE

One common crisis facing most activists in the shift to the countryside is the prospect of an early death. How does one cope with such fears? "It is wrong to be paralyzed by the idea of death, since death can befall anyone anytime. It's just that here in the countryside the chances are greater. When we make a commitment to the revolution, sacrifice in general and death in particular are part of this commitment. In his brushes with death, Ka. Manny learned not only to conquer his fears but to turn this into courage, thus enabling him to clear-headedly direct battles and win. The sacrifices of his dead comrades serve as a constant source of inspiration and courage.

Ka. Manny first tasted the bitter realities of people's war in the sugarcane haciendas of Tarlac in 1974. With another comrade, Tom, the two pitched tent in the sugarcane clearing while awaiting word from their team leader on the next course of action. As the two prepared to sleep, a voice called out from the dark, "Hey Joe, I need help." Although wary about the use of "Joe," a slang-term not ordinarily used in the countryside, Ka. Manny responded nonetheless. As he walked six feet toward the shadow, shots rang out hitting him in the leg and chest. Ka. Manny rushed to Tom but was rendered stunned and speechless by the fountain of blood spurting from Tom's side. His dazed state was broken by piercing pain in his leg. Suddenly aware that he had been shot, Ka. Manny ran limping into the cane fields with the PC trooper behind him in hot pursuit. His guerrilla tactics, served to keep him hidden and alive. As the PC trooper blindly opened fire at the sugar canes Ka. Manny made a nest for himself in the ground, covered with dried leaves. Finally unconsciousness overcame him as he was quickly losing blood. When he woke up staring at the noonday sun, Ka. Manny felt half dead. His legs were pale and stiff, his throat dry and parched and his bed of leaves covered with blood. Ka. Manny shut his eyes tight, determined to die but his mind refused to yield. Visions of his dead comrade, the masses he left behind and his loved ones constantly hounded him. For the next 12 hours, Ka. Manny lay unconscious and only vaguely remembered the sensation of being lifted and dragged.

When he finally opened his eyes, he was surprised to find himself surrounded by elderly men and women weeping while nursing his wounds. Without a word of explanation, an elderly woman mopped his head and whispered, "Kasama, we will make you well; please don't die."

Pointing to the concave, scarred portion of his thigh, the only reminder of that incident, Ka. Manny related, "After that encounter with the masses and their determination to keep me alive, I said to myself, for as long as I can help it, I will avoid death. I want to live to serve the masses for as long as possible. It always occurs to me now that these musings about death are defeatist. We should be prepared



VICTORIES

The New People's Army chalked up successes in the tactical offensives launched in all its guerrilla fronts during the last rainy season, according to partial reports from all over the archipelago.

The people's army added many weapons to its arsenal and wiped out many enemies, while the Red commanders and fighters sharpened their military skills.

Following are some reports on the tactical offensives in the regions, most of which were launched in July and August in conditions particularly favorable to NPA guerrilla units:

• A New People's Army squad ambushed five policemen on August 19 in Tarug, Ugbo, Alimodian, Iloilo, as the latter were crossing a river on their way from a dance.

The Red fighters confiscated two carbines, a shotgun, three super .38 pistols, a .45-caliber pistol and a .38-caliber revolver. All the policemen were killed.

• On a mountain road between barrios Basao and Ngibat in Tingla-

yan, Kalinga-Apayao, fighting took place on August 1 in which seven personnel of Task Force Hydra were killed, according to the revolutionary newspaper *Dangadang* (September 1978).

From their vantage positions, the Red guerrillas fired on the enemy's weapons carrier whose passengers included eight PC soldiers, a civilian guide and two civilian hitchhikers. In 20 minutes, four enemy troops were killed. Two others died on the way, and a third one died at the hospital.

Among the seven dead were T/Sgt. Benigno Medina, T/Sgt. Mario Blas, C2C Dionisio Reyes, C1C Calbert Tanglagan, C2C Adorico Dordes, Jr. and C2LC Filadelfo Geraldo. Two civilian hitchhikers were wounded in the battle, giving further warning against the danger of fraternizing with the enemy especially in combat areas.

• Earlier, on July 31, an NPA unit opened fire on a vehicle of the Kalinga Special Development Region (KSDR) on the road between Calaguan and

for this eventuality but should do all we can to prolong our service to the people."

Brushes with death, however, while the crucible of one's revolutionary convictions, are only a small part of the arduous process of changing. The hardest struggles are usually the daily battles against selfishness, pessimism, bad styles of work, etc. "For myself, the times when I've developed second thoughts about the revolution were not during open battles. Sometimes pessimism would set in every time I have my bouts with malaria. During these afternoon chills I really wonder whether I should go on. It's these little daily sacrifices such as lack of medicine, food, clothing which are really trying." How does one cope with this existence? "Sometimes I think that maybe I find it unbearable

because I know what comfort was like; I know the feeling of having gone to college, of having a daily allowance for recreation. But the masses have known nothing beyond their meagre existence. When I think about their plight, my thoughts of comfort and rest are quickly put to the side."

It was time for Ka. Manny to leave. He bade his younger comrades in the youth association good-bye. As he slung his rifle over his shoulders, the masses stuffed his backpack with rice-cakes and a packet of soap. After he disappeared into the canefields with a group of children in his tracks, Santa Luisita was buzzing with concern over his safety. What further proof is needed to show that the once detested student has transformed into a people's fighter in every sense of the word. □



OF THE NPA

Lubuagan, Kalinga-Apayao. Riding in it were three PC soldiers and a PC-Panamin informer. A puppet soldier was killed, while the informer was injured. That same evening, a group of PC troops visited the latter in the hospital and accused him of complicity in the encounter. He was then roundly cursed and shaken up by his fascist masters.

IN MINDANAO

• Two Garand rifles, two carbines, a shotgun, three pistols and ammunition were confiscated by an NPA unit from CHDF members in two Davao del Sur barrios last July 11.

The unit first entered Batono, Sta. Cruz, and individually disarmed the barangay captain and three CHDF members. Then they hiked to the neighboring barrio of Sebulan, in the Toril district of Davao City, and repeated the operation.

The Red guerrillas wore PC uniforms, so the CHDF men failed to put up a fight. In both barrios, the latter were called together and briefed on the objectives of the revolutionary movement, and the policy laid down by the people's army concerning CHDF members who do not fight against the people and the revolution.

• Still in Mindanao, an M-2 carbine and four M-1 carbines were seized in separate confiscation, liquidation and ambush operations in Rosario, Agusan del Sur, according to the mass newspaper *Asdang* (November 1978).

On the other hand, two M-16s and a Garand rifle were confiscated by an NPA unit in Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur, in tactical offensives launched in the area also last July and August.

Red fighters ambushed a PC-CHDF group in Lalud, Tudela, Misamis Occidental, last August 30. A PC trooper was killed, two CHDF men were injured and the people's army carried off a carbine and ammunition.

• Last December 7, an NPA unit

ambushed a five-man enemy team at high noon, as they were going down the road from sitio Malubago towards Buga, Libon, Albay. The barrio was then celebrating its fiesta.

Killed were C1C Bertito Osea and two CHDF members, while another CHDF member was seriously wounded. All of them are notorious bad elements hated by the people. The lone survivor even got himself decorated by his fascist masters, although he had done no fighting at all—"but what use is the medal to him; it won't take long and he too will be dead," the people remarked, laughing.

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

The people are taking a more active role in the actual armed struggle, for today they are no longer contented with just looking out for the enemy, delivering messages or feeding armed units in their homes.

Instead, they are now launching their own tactical military operations, an example of which is reported in *Dangadang*. Last May 15, a PC soldier was killed and another one was wounded when members of the Barrio Militia Unit (YMB) carried out sniping attacks against 16 fascist troops who were engaged in a military operation in Betwagan, Sadanga, Mountain Province.

Taking down the guns they had used in the war of resistance against the Japanese, the menfolk of Bokos, Nunggulungan, in Banawe, Ifugao, laid siege to the PC camp. They pinned down the enemy for four hours. Even the 50 troops sent as reinforcements aboard three trucks were so afraid that they could not get close to the fighters, *Dangadang* said.

The fascist had already killed three people from Bokos, causing the barrio residents to decide on taking revenge.

In Tangalan, Aklan, according to *Igrab sa Nakatundan*, revolutionary mass newspaper in Western Visayas,

a youth seized an M-16 Armalite rifle from a PC sergeant last May 1. The weapon was then presented to an NPA unit.

Meanwhile, the people's army has been increasing its rifle strength not only from the battlefield but also in the process of wiping out bad elements.

For example, two M-16 Armalite rifles were confiscated by a Sparrow unit of the NPA last December 18 in Tagkawayan, Quezon, when it meted out the death penalty on two brothers who were notorious criminals. This was reported in the first issue of *Balikwas*, a new revolutionary paper in the Quezon-Bicol Border Front.

Last May, in Naligusan, Ibaday, Aklan, another criminal element who had been secretly organizing a CHDF group was put to death and a carbine was taken from him.

According to another report in *Paghimakas*, revolutionary newspaper in Negros, two carbines, a 30.06 rifle and other military equipment were seized by the NPA when Red fighters ambushed a group of bandits last February 1978 in Cauayan, Negros Occidental.

Killed in the ambush were the bandit chief and three of his followers. Three were wounded and three others surrendered to the NPA. The prisoners were sent home after receiving a stern warning not to do any more harm to the barrio masses.

LEARNING TO MAKE WAR

In all these operations, the commanders and fighters of the people's army proved to be eager students in the art of warfare. They are rapidly becoming skilled in the application of the basic principle of war—preserving one's own forces while crushing the forces of the enemy.

"Our chief method is to learn warfare through warfare," said Mao Tse-tung, adding, "A revolutionary war is a mass undertaking; it is often not a matter of first learning and then doing, but of doing and then learning, for doing is itself learning."

As consolidation work advances in the guerrilla zones and local organs of political power were set up level by level, militia units are also set up in the barrios. These are made up of armed citizens who take charge of public order in their respective places and who also participate, as supplementary forces, in some operations of regular army units. Meanwhile, the units of the people's army are able to devote more of their time to military work.

As the revolutionary army adds to its arsenal, it is also able to recruit more troops. Advanced training is given to the units, which in time will be reorganized into larger regular military formations. These will be capable of launching, in turn, bigger tactical offensives which may also be coordinated with other operations on the zone or front level.

In this way, the people's army gathers strength and accumulates experience in the present stage of the strategic defensive, going on to a higher level of warfare against the reactionary state.

GAINING TIME AND STRENGTH

Because of the protracted character of the people's war being waged by the Filipino masses led by the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army increases in size and strength by the accumulation of many tactical victories. This is how it will eventually overcome and destroy the enemy's reactionary armed forces over a long period of waging war, and uphold the complete establishment of the people's revolutionary political power in the entire Philippines.

In the document "Our Urgent

Tasks," The Party Central Committee reminds us:

"The strategic line of our people's war is to surround the cities from the countryside until such a time as we can advance on the cities from stable revolutionary bases in the countryside. Over a long period of time, we must develop guerrilla warfare on a nationwide scale in order to turn to our advantage the disadvantage of fighting in a small archipelagic country whose countryside is relatively vast compared to the cities but which is broken up into many islands." □

Why Peasants Join the NPA

SOMEWHERE IN WESTERN VISAYAS—What convinces a poor farmer to take up arms and fight against the martial law regime? What conditions permit him to realize that only the road of armed struggle can the country be truly liberated to achieve national prosperity?

Ka. Ange relates his story.

Before he joined the New People's Army, Ka. Ange's world was of small *kaingins* and a shack too small for his big family. Being a poor peasant, he and his family lived in hunger, especially during the lean months (which ordinarily stretches to eight months). They ate *kamote*, cassava and other root crops in order to survive. And when illness hits the family, only the local "arbolario" could provide them with treatment.

Ka. Ange's face was a picture of suffering but exudes strength. His skin, burned brown due to constant exposure from the sun; his feet, grown callous and blistered for there were no shoes and slippers in his place (if there were, who could afford it?); his body, muscled from hard work but frequently attacked by rheumatism and arthritis—he is the common *tao* in this country.

His wife suffers the same thing. She consumes her time both in the fields and in the house, strained throughout the day. The children grow illiterate like their parents for poverty has pushed them away from the school, and the "daily bread" has been to them a life-time goal.

Deplorable their life can be, what more when government troops would visit their place. They would take away the poor farmer's chicken, pigs, and other animals to feed themselves.

Thus, Ka. Ange and his family learn that the NPA and the need to fight were one and the same thing. It did not take long before Ka. Ange decided to play his part in the revolution.

Ka. Ange joined the NPA barrio militia. He remained in the barrio to defend it from government troopers and local *bandidos*.

Most of the time, he goes around the community, talking with the people, sharing his views and urging them to do as he did. He would convince them to form groups among themselves and their friends and relatives in order to safeguard their rights and, at the same time, find means to improve their lot.

Like a true people's fighter, Ka. Ange takes pain in explaining the basic tasks of the Red Army. It did not take long before the NPA swelled with peasant recruits.

Now, Ka. Ange is but one of the many poor farmers in the ranks of the people's army. Some have already offered their lives for the revolutionary cause and many more stand ready to follow their footsteps. □

"Nature is on the side of the fighting masses.
"Command every inch of it with genius."
— Jose Ma. Sison

The rains have come,
Warriors beloved of the masses,
It is time to avenge Crispin Tagamolila.
The forest, swathed now by the dark of the sky,
Has become even more impervious
To the frantic roar of helicopters;
If they come we shall in any case
Shoot panic into their dragonfly wings.
Let the enemy commandos
Trudge up the Sierra Madre
With their six-pound packs.
The mud that will gather on their boots
Shall add to the weight on their backs.
We for our part
Shall slide nimbly down
The mountain trails,
Lightly up the giant boulders:
We serve the masses,
The masses are with us.
Today, as our comrades below
Help plant the season's new seedlings,
We shall run the enemy down: for now
Will the flashfloods take them.
The flashfloods of our anger
Will bloodily take them.

TO A WOMAN POET*
DYING IMMORTAL

*The woman poet referred to is Lorena Barros, a former student activist and was the founder of the first militant feminist organization in the country. She was herself a political prisoner at Canlubang and Ipil. She escaped from prison in 1974 and was killed in an encounter by the military in March 1976.

yesterday I had a talk
with an old man
who had your eyes—
the same laughing squint
hiding a watchfulness
that catches even hints
of rainbows.

—poem to her comrade

YOU ARE NOT ONE TO COUNT THE
LONELY STARS THROUGH A TIN CEILING

They took you away from the loveliest
Place of rains, rivers and bamboo
And dreams that know no bounds,
From the heaven-shrouded fields,
Where life was pleasant from sun
To sun: Bright east and gloaming west
They took you away from a woman
Who had songs for a child about to be.
When you left, red were her eyes and spirit:
Grief welled up, but courage flowed
Into her clenched fists, as she recalled
Your farewells and your instructions.
From the fields where bravery is joy
They took you away, from those beloved
That your brain may dry up in a dungeon.
But you have become a legend to me:
Revealing yourself, you are not one to count
The lonely stars through a tin ceiling!

The fronds, without being told, danced in crosses
On a deathground of proud trees and humble hills
And the birds knew when to chirp their elegies.
Even the rocks seemed to be renewing themselves
Angrily, where they had been chipped off
By the violence of lead warping against earth.
Rains poured in January and spirited away
Your blood into the roots of quiet bamboo
And into the headwaters of the lowland brook.
The earth must have felt wonder: This warm body
Has slumped so beautifully, clutching its own
As though in a prophecy of bittersweet reunion.
You had written of lilies in the free undergrowth
Unfolding like the remembered eyes of your love,
Eyes more constant than the glimmer of fireflies
Lilies like torches in a dark season of monsoons.
It may not be so strange, after all, that memories
Of our moment of dying over your unreal death
Persist to haunt us: it was only a second of grief,
And we small need, oh! a brave cycle of lifetimes
To feel your hands in ours, fully hold your spirit
As we follow trails where you planted your flowers.

ANG MGA KAIBIGAN

kilala ko ang aking mga kaibigan —
sila yaong iniluluwal
sa mga nipang dampa sa kanayunan,
sa ilalim ng tagpi-tagpi bubong
ng mga iskuwater sa kalunsuran,
o sa butas-butang na kutson
sa mumurahing ospital.
sila yaong pakyawan kung binyagan
sa minamadaling oremus ng kurang
nagtitiipid ng laway
para sa isusunod na binyagang espesyal.
sila yaong ang paglaki
ay babahagyang namamalayan
sapagkat walang diyaryong mangangahas
maglathala ng kanilang pangalan
ni ng munting salu-salu sa pagdiriwang
ng kaarawan.
sila yaong kahit man lamang sa isang araw
ay pinagbibigyang maging diyos
ng mga nagkukunwaring utusan,
at pinipilit pahalakhakin
sa mga pinalamutiang kasinungalingan.
sila yaong makaraan ang halalan
ay muling pasasambahin
sa mga panginoong napapaligiran
ng mga bakod na baril
hanggang sa kubeta.
sila yaong nakabaon sa kumunoy
ng pagkakautang
at nagmamamangid na lamang sa sariling
likhang yaman sa mga palengke
at mga kristal na durungayan
ng mga tanyag na basar.

sila yaong sa mga dula
sa tanghalan ng mayayaman
ay mga di-pansinin
o kontrabidang papel ang ginagampanan.
sila yaong kung may angking talino
at kadalubhasaan
ay inaaring upahan utak at bisig
ng malalaking mangangalakal.
sila yaong nagsasariling namumuhay
sa mayayamang kabundukan,
na ang anyong nililok
ng makalumang kultura
ay ginagawang tumpalan
ng pangungutya ng mga "sibilisado"
sa ngalan ng kristiyanismo't
makabagong pag-unlad,
na ang yama't binungkal na lupain
ay hinabamban.

kilala ko ang aking mga kaibigan —
sila yaong ang kasaysayan
ay nakatala sa mga dugo't putikang pahina
ng mga aklat ng mga kadre
na bumulagta sa kabundukan
ng Luzon, Bisaya't Mindanaw.
sila yaong ang kapakanan
ay nasa diwa ng bawat api
ng unti-unting humahanay
sa kaliwang dulo ng larangan.
sila yaong ang tadhana'y akin . . . din . . .
ang mamuhay sa isang bansang malaya
o mamatay nang nakikibaka!