

Ang KATIPUNAN

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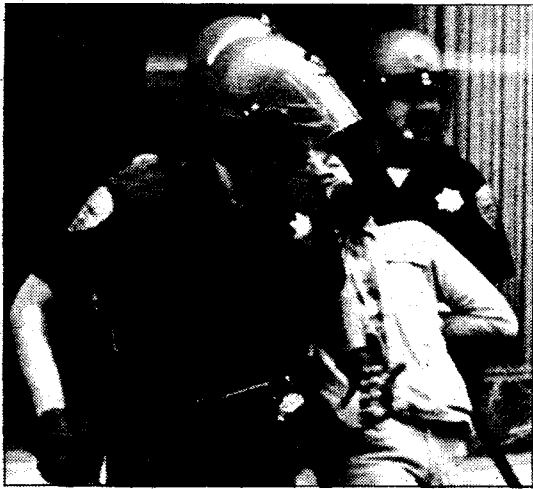
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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



16 ARRESTED IN THREE CITIES

Nationwide Sit-ins Hit Philippine Consulates



Members of the S. F. delegation, Dr. Walden Bello-top and Steve Wake-bottom, being carried out by S. F. police (left photos). Above right, the S. F. delegates form a human chain in the consulates office in an effort to press their demands.

Similar protests occurred in New York City, Chicago, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Honolulu, Los Angeles and Guam. See story on page 6 and 7 and an editorial on page 2. [AK photos]

**Election Aftermath:
Marcos Still in Trouble**

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**3,400 Homeless
in Tondo Fire**

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Military Abuses
in Bacolod**

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**4-H Trainees Demand
'End Abusive 55-Hour
Work Week'**

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**20,000 March Against
the Bakke Decision**

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Church Protests Military Abuses in Visayas



Lenilo Artagme, baring the marks of torture, was one victim of the escalating abuses of the military in the Visayas. Concerned clergy throughout the region have protested the military terror in a recent letter to Marcos. See story page 3. [AK photo]

'Colonialism must be totally eliminated'



Prosper Takawira [right] from the Zimbabwe African National Union, ZANU, recently spoke with the Ang Katipunan on the liberation struggle in his country. See the interview, page 11. [AK photo]

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Editorial



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'It isn't nice, but necessary'

Support the Occupations of the Consulates!

By the KDP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

The recent storming of Philippine Consulates in the U.S. by anti-martial law delegations and picketers which led to the arrests of 16 delegates has created a stir in the Filipino communities nationwide.

The delegates staged a sit-in at the Consulate offices to demand the release of 1,500 people arrested by the martial law regime as an aftermath of the sham National Assembly elections.

While the community has gotten used to anti-martial law activities in the U.S. — and has in fact supported this broad movement in various ways like signing a petition or sending a telegram to the U.S. Congress asking an aid cut-off to the Philippine dictator — this recent action has met with some shock and dismay.

There are few who say that they agree with the protestors' demands but they don't agree with the protestors' tactics. It isn't "nice," they say, to sit-in and disrupt the Consulate offices. It isn't being "law-abiding," they say, to refuse to leave after being ordered to do so by the police (who were called in by the Consulate officials).

While no one will disagree that is certainly isn't a nice experience to be arrested and hauled off to jail like a common criminal, we feel that there are times when one has to risk unpleasant experiences like this to defend one's beliefs and principles.

Being "nice and proper" is also relative — depending on one's perspective. What isn't nice? The peaceful sit-in staged by the anti-martial law delegates or the mass terrorism and repression unleashed by the Marcos dictatorship on the Filipino people?

Who isn't respecting the law — if law here is taken to mean, as it should, the protection of the rights of the people? The delegates who were simply exercising their rights to oppose an unjust government, or the dictator who rounded up thousands of people whose only crime, similarly, was to express their genuine sentiments regarding this unpopular regime?

Sometimes not being "nice and proper" is exactly what it takes to correct an injustice. This is what the people of this country did in the 60's to stop its government from continuing its genocide towards the Vietnamese people. Hundreds of thousands marched, sat-in, refused to be drafted.

Thousands were arrested, surveilled, harassed, and slandered by the FBI, hunted down like fugitives, but this did not stop the wave of civil disobedience against an unjust war. This mass defiance of the "law" contributed to the defeat of the U.S. government's imperialist policy in Vietnam.

The protests at the Philippine consulates, although still small in scale, are no different. By exposing the Marcos dictatorship for the fraud that it is and by refusing to be intimidated by the consulate and police officials who slapped disorderly conduct and trespassing charges against them, the delegations and the picketers contributed to the heightening of the regime's isolation internationally.

The Marcos regime is presently in a critical condition. The recent elections which were intended to stabilize itself has only left it weaker and more bankrupt politically. Here in the U.S., we can help hasten its death by cutting off all of its life-sustaining devices, the U.S. aid life-line being the key one.

We therefore urge all patriotic Filipinos in the U.S. to more actively express their opposition to the Marcos dictatorship. Our tasks are many and our resources few. You can help bring down this dictator by contributing both material and human resources to the anti-martial law movement.

There are countless ways of expressing your opposition to this oppressive regime. Giving a donation to the bail fund for the arrested delegates, attending their court hearings, distributing *Talibas* (the anti-martial law newsletter) to your friends and co-workers, joining your local anti-martial law alliance are but a few.

Now is the time to act on your convictions.

**IBAGSAK SIMARCOS!
DOWN WITH THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP!**



'Ingrates! You let them vote and the next thing, they want their ballots counted.'

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'REPUDIATE ALL RACIAL AND NATIONAL CHAUVINISM'

The following is part of a speech given by Aimee Cruz of the Union of Democratic Filipinos [KDP] given on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. following the national demonstration to overturn the Bakke Decision, April 15, 1978 — Editor.

We are Asians. We are supposed to be models of obedience. What are we doing here? The Carter Administration says we have no beef against Bakke because we've made it! S.I. Hayakawa says, "of course, Asians have made it!" Those big shots who run our lives actually think Asians have always had it better than other minorities . . .

What is the truth? Asians earn 30 per cent less than whites. Twice as many Chinese and Filipino families live below the poverty level as white families. Although the average education attained by Asians is higher than that of white population, statistics show that the salaries of Asian high school and college graduates are consistently lower. The unemployment rate for Asians is high overall, with Filipinos faring the worst.

Asians are also underemployed. Although we have skills for higher-level jobs, we are tracked into lower positions. Many professional immigrants end up working in jobs far below their training. Engineers work as draftsmen; nurses work as aides; lawyers work as clerks. Restrictive immigration laws as well as biased licensing procedures are used as tools to squeeze cheap labor from immigrant professionals.

That's why we're here. Because we are victims of racial and national discrimination just like other minorities in this white supremacist society. We are here today to rebel against racism. We have always fought racism and discrimination. We have always known that just as it is right to eat when one is hungry, it is right to rebel when one is oppressed and exploited.

We have united with Mexicans, blacks and poor whites to unionize the farms, canneries and factories in the West, and, as we were building unions, we waged an accompanying struggle against racism . . . against the vigilante attacks, the lynchings, murders and racist riots . . . whatever gains all working people have won have also been paid for in blood by Asians.

And we have not stopped fighting! The destroyers of the International Hotel know this. Those who failed to railroad Narciso and Perez to jail know this. The lily-white leaderships of the AMA and the ANA who wish to push out immigrant nurses and doctors . . . they know this. And that's why we're here today. That's why we're part of the struggle against Bakke . . . that's why we're part of this broader movement to fight racism, because we see the Bakke decision as a turning point in a growing right wing movement that is anti-minority, anti-alien and anti-women

continued on page 10

Help sustain our effort to continue bringing the most up to date and important news coverage about developments in the Philippines and in the Filipino community here in the U.S.

Become a KATIPUNAN sustainer by pledging a monthly contribution to our modest effort to fight the Marcos dictatorship and defend the democratic rights of Filipinos in this country. Our bills are many and our resources are few, and we depend on our readership to continue publication.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

New Wave of Strikes Hit Manila

Indicative of the popular restiveness sweeping Metro Manila, workers in some 20 factories went on strike over the months of March and April. Hardest hit was the labor-intensive textile and garment industry, in particular Arts Gloves (German and American owners) Litton Mills (American), Ding Velayo (a Montgomery Ward subcontractor), and Riverside Mills Corporation (25 per cent American owned). Workers at the RMC were able to secure all of their demands, spurring other textile and garment workers to follow their lead.

A recent survey conducted by the Dept. of Labor's Wage Commission revealed that the bulk of the workforce in the textile industry were paid the minimum wage level of P10 per day or P260 per month. In contrast supervisory positions in the same industry fetched an average salary of P2,000. It is estimated that at least P46, or P1,380 monthly, is needed to provide for the daily requirements of an average family of six.

In a related development, some 200 workers at the Manila Garden Hotel staged a sit-down strike Feb. 7 to protest excesses by management including an attempt to suppress their union.

Reports reaching **Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas** (Free Philippine News Service), said the employees stopped all work when the management of Manila Gardens refused to lift the preventive suspension imposed on three roomboys.

The three were among 20 employees allegedly suspended for their union activities according to a spokesman of the Manila Garden Labor Union. Seventeen were later allowed to work, but management insisted on keeping the three out.

The sit-down which lasted eight hours was initiated by bell boys who were later joined by the housekeeping staff and roomboys. By midday, waitresses, cooks and other food and beverage personnel stopped working. Frantic hotel officials finally relented and lifted the suspension of the three Union men.

In the midst of the strike, negotiations were carried out by Labor Relations Director Carmelo Nureil, who prevailed upon the workers to resume work. The workers agreed only after the Manila Garden management defined the status of Japanese hotel officials whose abrasiveness the workers were also protesting. Manila Gardens is owned by John Gokongwei, an industrialist close to Marcos and Japan Airlines.

Elated over their victory, a union official said: "Morale is high among us. We never realized we were this strong until the sit-down strike." □

Arrests Continue in Tuition Hike Protest

(BMP) — At least seven students of the University of the East have been arrested in connection with the on-going wave of protest against unjust tuition fee increases. The three students were apprehended by security guards during an anti-tuition fee hike action launched by the UE Student Alliance last Feb. 9. Earlier, four other students were arrested for allegedly "agitating" students to join a walk-out in protest against tuition increases. The walk-out was in progress when the UE security force closed in and collared the four.

Meanwhile, the Pulong-Pulong sa Pamantasan ng Silangan, a student-administration dialogue originally scheduled for January, was again postponed by the UE administration because the president was reportedly "not available."

"They are afraid to face the studentry because they are guilty," commented one student leader.

Student protests are widespread as many school administrations have refused to comply with a presidential directive ordering the rollback of proposed tuition fee increases. The directive, issued early last year, was prompted by a general boycott of college students throughout Manila, at the beginning of the 1977 school year. □

R.P. Cost of Living Doubles in 5 Years

The cost of living in the Philippines doubled over the past five years, newly released statistics from the Central Bank indicate. The CB all-item consumer price index rose to 200.4 points last year from its base of 100 points in 1972. In contrast, prices rose by only 53.5 in the previous five year period (1968-1972). This means that the peso, using 1972 as the base year, is now only worth 49 centavos.

Among the six major components of consumer price index, food prices rose the slowest while services, housing, utilities, and clothing registered the highest rates. Of the foodstuffs, only one item, dairy products recorded an average decline of 0.5 per cent.

The National Economic and Development Authority has projected a seven per cent general increase in consumer prices this year. Observers, however, expect a higher estimate since the cost of living has increased by an average of 40 per cent over the past five years. □

COMPARATIVE LISTING OF VEGETABLE PRICES [per kilo]

| Item | 1972 | 1977 |
|----------|-------|-------|
| sitao | P2.03 | P4.40 |
| cabbage | P1.45 | P3.70 |
| pechay | P1.54 | P2.96 |
| eggplant | P1.86 | P2.33 |
| tomatoes | P1.99 | P6.55 |

IN BACOLOD CITY

5,500 Protest Military Terrorism



Land Reform in Sugarland was one of the chief demands of the Bacolod marchers.

MARCH 5, BACOLOD CITY — 5,500 angry mourners took to the streets of Bacolod City denouncing murder and torture of innocent civilians by the Philippine military in the southern part of Negros Occidental and Western Samar.

Marching under the banner of the **Alyansa Dampig sa Katunungan (ADK, Alliance for Human Rights)** were sugarworkers, urban poor, students, farmers, settlers, and religious men and women. Together, they marched along the streets of this Visayan capital with placards, streamers and angry shouts of "Stop Terrorism!"

LITANY OF TERROR

The people of Bacolod have much to protest. The last few months have witnessed a horrifying trend in the Visayas of murder, torture, rape, beatings, and destruction of property by the military.

In Calbiga, Western Samar, terrorist military operations have left 11 "ghost barrios," either totally or partially burned. Anyone suspected of being an NPA supporter has had his house and rice burnt.

Some, like Rogelio Abegonia, who was ordered at gunpoint by military goons to climb a coconut tree and was shot half-way up, have lost their lives. Elsewhere, the story is similar.

Benigno Cabigayan of Calbiga, taken to the site of his burnt house by the military and asked if it belonged to him, was shot on the spot when he said, "yes."

- Pablito Fernandez of Sipalay, Negros Occidental was shot while in military custody.

- Two residents of the same area, Vilma Riopay and Leonilo Artagme, have been severely tortured. Riopay was sexually abused as well.

- Two civilians, including an unidentified 12-year old boy were killed in Hinoba-an, same province, and five others tortured. Four more have been killed in Cauayan, two in Inayawan, and two more in Candoni, all by the military.

VICTIMS' PICTURES DISPLAYED

The Bacolod march denouncing these terrorist acts began

with a silent procession of mourners through the city's streets to the Redemptorist Church. Here, a people's mass was said, encouraging the people to fear nothing in their struggle for truth and justice.

Inside the church, pictures of murder and torture victims were openly displayed. As part of the ceremony, the manifesto of the ADK was read demanding a stop to all military operations in Southern Negros; an end to terrorism and military abuses; restoration of the right to strike and higher wages for industrial workers; land reform in Sugarland; return of lands grabbed from poor farmers; land reform for the urban poor and urban settlers; academic freedom for students; and higher wages for teachers.

MILITANCE RISES

After the mass and a drama depicting military abuses, the people commenced the second and more militant phase of the march. Bearing three black coffins symbolizing the recent victims, the group, now bigger and angrier, marched through the city's major thoroughfares chanting, "Combat oppression!" and "Restore the right to strike!"

The group marched to the city plaza where a large crowd expressed sympathy with their quest for justice. The few police and plainclothes military men who were caught by surprise did not dare go against the power of a people made conscious of their right to use the streets to voice their just demands. □

CHURCH PROTESTS VISAYAN ABUSES



Pictures of torture victims like this one of Leonilo Artagme were displayed during the People's Mass. [AK photo]

Concerned clergy throughout the Visayas have expressed outrage at the recent wave of military terror in the region.

A letter signed by 24 Social Action Directors and workers of the Visayas Secretariat of Social Action (VISSA) to President Marcos demands a complete stop of military operations; investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of terrorist acts; redress for loss of life and property; and immediate mobilization of government agencies to assist refugees.

In Western Samar, Bishop Ricardo Tancino, after visiting terror victims from Calbiga, issued a letter to the parish priests of the Diocese of Calbayog. Read in all churches during Sunday mass,

the letter urged the people of the diocese to rally to the aid of the Calbiga victims by deluging Sec. of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Secretary of Local Government Jose Rono with telegrams and petitions of protest.

The Religious Men and Women of the Diocese of Bacolod, in an open letter to the Filipino people, reiterated the demand for an end to military operations, killings and harassment of civilians and called for an immediate investigation of all cases of military brutality.

They further demanded an increase in salaries for workers, respect for the right to unionize, justice to victims of landgrabbing and eviction, and upheld the right of the Filipino people to free association. □

Legalized Landgrabbing AGRIBUSINESS THREATEN PEASANTS



Corporate farms producing rice and corn have used legalized landgrabbing techniques to take the lands of Filipino peasants.

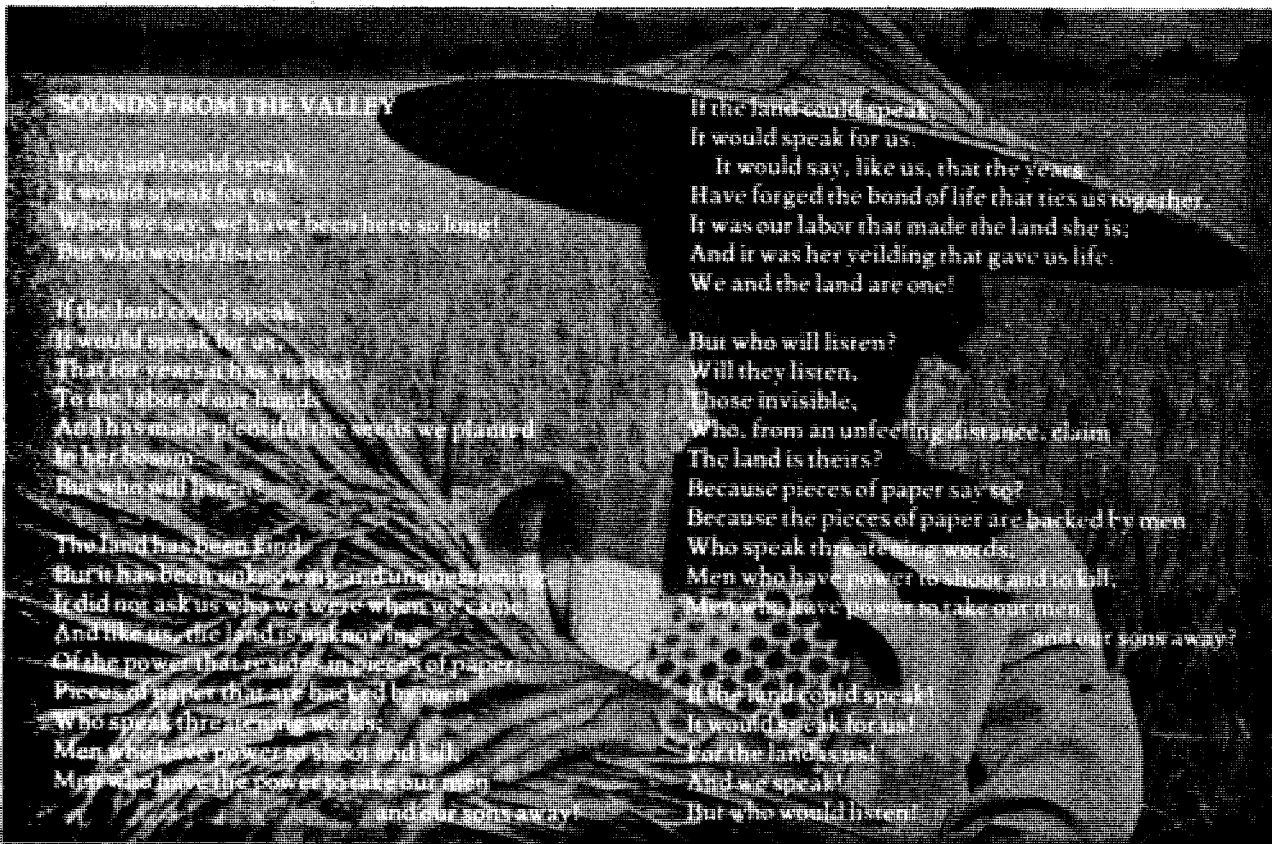
Land Reform, according to President Ferdinand E. Marcos, is the cornerstone of the "New Society."

In December of 1977, through Marcos' much vaunted land reform program, a mere 41,000 of the Philippines' peasants have begun to pay amortization on a total of 78,650 hectares of land. At the same time, an almost equivalent amount, 63,211.12 hectares of prime rice and corn lands had, according to the Inter-Agency Research Team of Mindanao and Sulu, fallen under the control of big, mostly foreign-owned or controlled, corporations.

In 1974, the same president who had promised to "free the farmer from his historic bondage" issued General Order #47 compelling corporations employing 500 or more persons to engage in corporate farming or to import rice and corn for their

Given the amount of rural displacement the Corporate Farming Program has caused and will cause increasingly in the future, the Research Team raises the question, "Who benefits from corporate farming?"

The answers are not difficult to find. Both corporations and big landlords have embraced the program with enthusiasm. A number of landlords of large tenanted estates have leased land to corporations in order to avoid losing their lands altogether to land reform. Meanwhile, corporations are finding that, with their modern techniques, they can raise rice and corn much more cheaply and profitably than their peasant competitors. Some have already branched out into other crops, such as vegetables, fruits, soybeans and sorghum. Many are eager to export their products.



SOUNDS FROM THE VALLEY

If the land could speak
It would speak for us
When we say, we have been here so long!
But who would listen?

If the land could speak
It would speak for us
That for years we have worked
To the labor of our hands
And has made fruitful the seeds we planted
In her bosom
But who will listen?

The land has been kind
But it has been unknowing and unresponsive
It did not ask us who we were when we came
And like us, it is not knowing
Of the power that resides in pieces of paper
Pieces of paper that are backed by men
Who speak threatening words
Men who have power to shoot and to kill
Men who have the power to take our men
and our sons away!

If the land could speak
It would speak for us
It would say, like us, that the years
Have forged the bond of life that ties us together.
It was our labor that made the land she is;
And it was her yielding that gave us life.
We and the land are one!

But who will listen?
Will they listen,
Those invisible,
Who, from an unfeeling distance, claim
The land is theirs?
Because pieces of paper say so?
Because the pieces of paper are backed by men
Who speak threatening words,
Men who have power to shoot and to kill,
Men who have power to take our men
and our sons away?

If the land could speak!
It would speak for us
For the landless!
And we speak!
But who would listen!

employees.

Today, the 63,211 hectares are leased by 260 corporations. 239 more companies, which have opted for importation, are likely to be pressured into farming to preserve foreign exchange.

OMINOUS IMPLICATIONS

The implications of a highly mechanized, capital-intensive corporate farming program in a country, 70 per cent of whose people are peasants, is ominous. As the researchers note, "To invite — more, to compell big, mostly foreign-owned and/or controlled corporations to expand their operations into the agricultural sector which is basically the domain of the peasantry and expect that this development will ultimately benefit the peasantry — this is a strange economics."

Government and military officials have benefited equally from the program. One of the largest tracts (9,000 ha., Western Palawan) is owned by the Philippine Veterans Investment and Development Corp. (PHILVIDEC) which holds a second 1,500 hectare tract in Davao del Norte. PHILVIDEC is widely known to be a front for Marcos' military cronies. Tagum Agricultural Development Corp. (TADECO) which is owned by Ferdinand Marcos and grows bananas for export by the United Fruit Co. (Chiquita) owns a 500 hectare tract in Davao del Norte.

GOVERNMENT-CORPORATE COLLABORATION

Land acquisition has involved both close government-corporate collaboration and intimidation and harassment of local residents. In some cases, local

BANNED PESTICIDES SOLD TO FARMERS

BMP — The Marcos dictatorship continues to gyp the country's already impoverished farmers in the name of self-sufficiency.

This gross exploitation of the Filipino peasantry was exposed once more in two cases reported in Mountain Province and Central Luzon.

A BMP correspondent reported that insecticides not intended for vegetable pest control were either being distributed openly or tested in the vegetable producing areas of the Mountain Provinces, particularly in Benguet. The malpractice, the correspondent wrote, was uncovered by a team of management specialists from the University of the Philippines at Las Banos (UPLB) in Laguna in the course of a survey of vegetable producing areas.

The two types of banned insecticides which are being passed on the farmers are DDT and Endrin. Two other brands which have yet to be approved for use, Carbofuran and Aldicarb, are also sold to farmers without their being informed of the possible toxicity.

The banned insecticides are marketed by Shell Philippines, Planter's Products, FMC International Corp. and Union Carbide Philippines, Inc.

The *Rural Monitor*, a newspaper published by Rural Motivators, reported that thousands of bags of "bad order" fertilizer had flooded Central Luzon in recent months, apparently with the tacit approval of the government. The *Monitor* quoted Acting Director Francisco Rentutar of the Bureau of Agricultural Extension as saying that the fertilizer was found mixed with other materials.

"Studies made by concerned agricultural workers showed the prevalence of the practice by accredited dealers, soil analysts, and some government authorities of cashing in on the ignorance of farmers on fertilizer use," the publication said.

The *Monitor* went on to add that the record June-August rice harvest of 106 million cavans did not benefit a single rice farmer.

The publication pointed out that, while the government had pegged down the price of rice, it has allowed the prices of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, farm implements, and irrigation fees to soar. □

governments have obligingly foreclosed on lots with title applications by small farmers on the pretense that the farmers have abandoned the land.

Some corporations have attempted to woo small farmers into leasing their lands by promising future benefits such as roads, schools, and jobs. Those settlers who have resisted these enticements have had their homes burned and stoned, their crops burned and bulldozed, and have suffered beatings and even death.

While the price for land leased by the company is set between P100 and P500 per hectare, few peasant owners have seen even half the amount. Some have received no more than P25 per hectare, the rest staying behind in the pockets of "go-betweens." Contracts are usually renewable after 10 years at the option of the corporation. The contract, the Research Team points out, "uses highly technical terms, (and is) written in English which poor farmers can hardly understand."

LEGALIZING LANDGRABBING

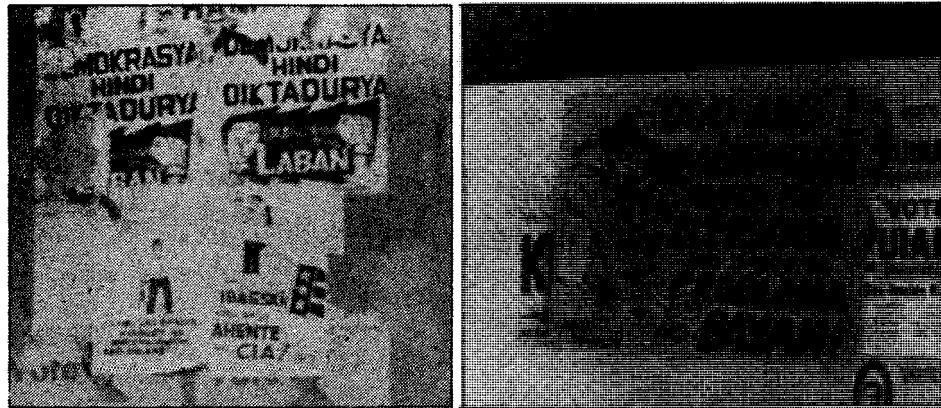
The report goes on to reveal the serious effects of what is in fact legalized landgrabbing. As more and more small farmers and settlers have been deprived of land to till, only some have been absorbed as workers on the corporate farms. Tenants as a rule, have been ejected from their lands altogether. Communities have been broken up and farmers and tenants have been left with no means of livelihood and no place to go.

Though 63,211 hectares represent only one per cent of the total 6.4 million hectares of rice and corn land in the Philippines, the trend toward corporate farming is likely to increase. A number of corporations not covered by G.O. 47, attracted by the profit possibilities, have already entered into farming ventures.

The findings of the Inter-Agency Research Team of Mindanao and Sulu reveal that the Corporate Farming Program has taken Marcos' lofty promises of distributing land to the tillers and turned it on its head. Thanks to G.O. 47, Philippine farmland is fast becoming concentrated in the hands of multinational corporations and those with whom they collaborate. □

Opposition, Foreign Press Targetted

MARCOS CRACKDOWN AFTER THE ELECTIONS



"Democracy not Dictatorship!" proclaims a LABAN poster [above left]. "The answer to the people's problems doesn't rest with the election!" proclaims another poster [above right], and is confirmed by an ongoing strike [bottom]. AK photos

by Ma. Flor Sepulveda

CRACKDOWN

Despite a return to hardline rule, the Marcos regime has been considerably weakened by the last election. In the wake of widespread protests and criticisms over the fraudulent April 7 elections, Marcos has ordered preemptive measures against civilian dissenters, the foreign media, and his own local and military officials. Further impairing the already strained US-RP relations, Marcos unexpectedly revealed that the last election was a result of Washington pressure on his regime. These developments are likely to increase Marcos' political vulnerability in the period ahead.

Ironically, the April 7 election was intended to create the exact opposite; that is to enhance the regime's credibility at home and abroad and strengthen US-RP relations. Instead, the April 7 election has turned into a miserable failure, increasing the dictatorship's unpopularity and further alienating its U.S. backers.

Thus it is not surprising that Marcos has been striking back at the opposition and the public at large with a vengeance. Over the past week, raids were conducted at several religious convents including the Jesuit Loyola House, while military agents are in hot pursuit of LABAN candidates and campaign workers forced into hiding. Although all five hundred protestors arrested in connection with the April 9 post election rally, including six LABAN leaders, have been released, sedition charges are being prepared against them and several clergy members. Random arrests are still in full strike with at least 40 more detained for staging lightning rallies at Plaza Bustillos. At least one death connected with these arrests has been reported. The victim, Teotimo Tantiado, an office aide to Fr. Romeo Intengan, was arrested with his brother on April 9 by Col. Rolando Abadilla, an intelligence officer known for his merciless torture of political prison-

ers. Six days later, Teotimos badly bruised body was found dumped along Quezon Boulevard. In a bid to defuse public outrage over his death, the military transferred Teotimo's body from one morgue to another and even stood guard over his closed coffin during memorial services at St. Peter's Church. An autopsy revealed that Teotimo died of acute pancreatitis resulting from severe beatings. Tantiado's brother is reportedly in critical condition at the V. Luna Memorial Hospital.

In protest over these continuing abuses, anti-martial law resistance forces, notably the Kilusan ng Mamamayan para sa Kalayaan (Citizen's Movement for Freedom) observed a day of mourning, Sunday, April 23. The day was marked by a "silence offensive" wherein people remained at home and desisted from any raucous activity.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CHASTISED

Meanwhile, Marcos obviously angered by the negative coverage of the fraudulent elections has ordered the investigation of foreign correspondents for allegedly meddling in Philippine affairs. Earlier, Marcos claimed that fifteen correspondents who covered the April 9 rally, had a hand in organizing the protest. Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo urged the Foreign Correspondents Association to be on guard against "subversive infiltration." Correspondents from the New York Times, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun and the major wire services, denied the allegations and claimed that they were properly identified during the rally. Reliable sources report that a news blackout was recently imposed on stories filed from the Philippines.

MILITARY DISAFFECTION

Perhaps more worrisome of the tumultuous civilian protests over the past period, has been the participation of military in anti-government activities. Officers at Camp Crame, Camp Aguinaldo, and Nichols Airbase reportedly took part in the April 6 opposition "noise offensive". At least 15 ranking officials signed an open letter denouncing the fraud and violence of the election. This development is likely to rattle Marcos who has already ordered the dismissal of ma-

yors and town officials in areas where the opposition LABAN party scored the highest.

DEEPENING BREACH IN US-RP RELATIONS

The greatest damage done by Marcos however, has been in the realm of US-RP relations. Widening the already gaping breach between his regime and the U.S. government, Marcos last April 8 publicly denounced the U.S., in particular the State Department for applying pressure on him to hold elections and release his arch enemy Benigno Aquino. The revelation however, confirmed critics claims that the election was a joint stage-show by Marcos and the U.S. to create an acceptable image of the regime, thereby creating a favorable climate in Washington for the ratification of the impending US-RP Bases Treaty.

This scheme however, has been blown to smithereens with Marcos' latest attacks and the flurry of critical editorials on the election in leading U.S. dailies. The deepening U.S.-RP breach is expected to hurt Marcos on several fronts. His irreparably damaged image lessens his chances for receiving more U.S. assistance. Presently, legislation proposing a 50% cutback on U.S. military aid to Marcos, is underway. The Carter administration, although tacitly supporting Marcos, will be hardpressed in lobbying against his legislation, what with the scathing attacks levelled by Marcos against administration officials, in particular Pat Derian of the Office of Human Rights.

NORMALIZATION DEAD END

With the election scheme a hopeless failure, Marcos' much touted "normalization" course seems to have run aground. The dictatorship is proceeding cautiously with regard to relaxing any more martial law restrictions. Former senator and Marcos adviser Arturo Tolentino called for the cancellation of the local elections planned for the end of the year and the prolongation of martial law. The convening of the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) has even been moved to June to allow the post-election situation to improve. With a growing opposition facing him, it is unlikely that Marcos would attempt any more "democratic" exercises in the near future. □

INSIDE THE GUERRILLA ZONE

THE REALITY OF PEOPLE'S WAR

BMP, SOMEWHERE IN PANAY — Ka Nards is a New People's Army guerrilla while his brother, Jim, is a gunman of the paramilitary Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF).

One of these days, the two will lock on each other in battle on some lonely forest trail, and one or both of them will die.

This is one of the harsh realities of people's war. It is not a happy moment when one has to choose between blood ties and service to the people.

"It is painful to me to think that when I meet my brother, we will be shooting at each other," said Ka. Nards. "If there were still some way to convince him that we are fighting a just cause, I would do it."

The two are identical twins in an "NPA family."

Their father is also a people's guerrilla as were their elder brother and Jim himself before he went over to the fascist side.

The elder brother was killed by Marcos troopers in an ambush in the mountains of Aklan some years back.

During that ambush, Jim was captured. He was tortured, according to Ka. Nards. Because he could not stand the torture, Jim capitulated. Eventually, word reached them in the guerrilla zone that Jim had

become a member of the hated CHDF. It was said he even participated in torturing suspects.

Ka. Nards and his father were numb with shock.

"We did not realize my brother had changed that much," Ka. Nards said. "Now we would not even dare approach him unarmed."

Recently, Jim led a CHDF raiding party that tried to entrap a small NPA band, which included his own father. "Tatay nearly died," said Ka. Nards.

Also recently, Jim had been moving around in the barrios and passing himself off as Ka. Nards. In the process, he tipped off NPA sympathizers and had them arrested.

"We have tried to reach him and convince him to come back," Ka. Nards said. "The people may have been hurt but they know how to forgive."

Instead, Jim prevailed upon his mother to side with him. The father was hurt bitterly but he took it calmly. "Sana, matauhan din sila balang araw," he said.

"Tatay and I are with the people," said Ka. Nards.

For them, the drawing of lines was an unhappy choice.

But no revolution is ever fought without sacrifice. □



NPA cadre patrols liberated area.

[AK photo]

U.S.-Wide Protests Over Election Hit

PRESS RELEASE ANTI-MARTIAL LAW COALITION [PHILIPPINES]

Militant protest against the fraudulent April 7 National Assembly elections and arrest of 600 people hit Philippine consulates in eight cities, Thursday, April 13. Sixteen people were arrested in the ensuing sit-ins and confrontations in San Francisco, Chicago, and Seattle.

The protests caught the Consulates completely by surprise and went off simultaneously in Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu and Agana, Guam. Organized in two days by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC), the sit-ins and demonstrations demanded the Marcos government to release all those arrested immediately after the fraud-ridden elections; to grant amnesty to LABAN candidates and leaders who were forced to go underground, and to lift martial law. The protestors also made clear their demand to cut off U.S. aid to the dictatorship.

At press time the 16 arrested are already out on their own recognizance after police departments charged them with either/or trespassing or resisting arrest.

SAN FRANCISCO CONSUL: "ARREST THEM"

A seven member AMLC delegation stormed into the S.F. consulate shortly before noon, accompanied by reporters from some of the city's major newspapers. The group included Deborah Kaufman (President, World Association of Law Students), Wilma Cadorna (Union of Democratic Filipinos, KDP), Vee Hernandez (S.F. Anti-Martial Law Alliance), Walden Bello (Friends of the Filipino People, FFP), Sylvia Kimura (American Friends Service Committee), Steve Wake (FFP) and Rev. Lloyd Wake (Minister, Glide Memorial Church).

One member of the delegation read the statement of their demands before Consul officials. Afterwards, the delegation asked to speak to Pres. Marcos on the phone. The request was denied and Consul Arguelles refused to meet with the dele-



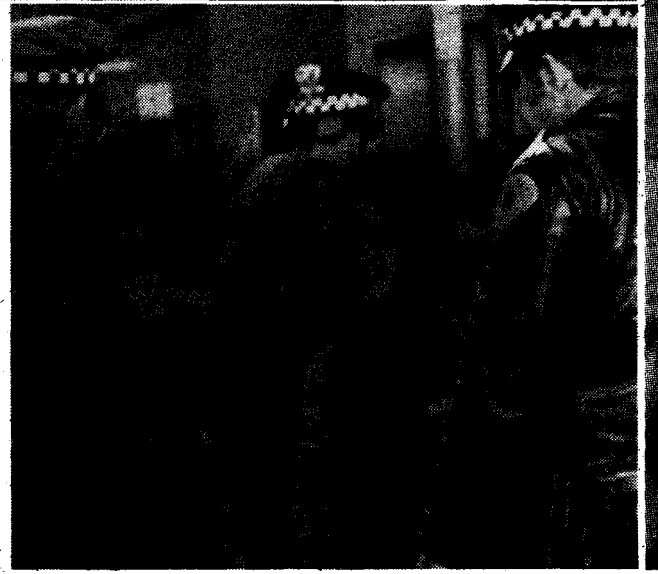
Above, New York AMLC delegates, Merle Ratner, Rene Cruz, Andrew Siegal, and Teresa Rodriguez, leave Philippine consulate after occupation. Across the nation and in Guam protests denounced the Marcos sham elections [far left photos]. In Chicago, Gelene Avila of the AMLC left the Philippine consulate only after being arrested by the city's police [left.]

[AK photos]

gates. Instead, he ordered the police to arrest the delegation who sat on the floor and sang "Ang Bayan Ko" and "Marcos will be Removed."

Outside, a noisy picket of some 150 people rocked Sutter Street with their chants, "Marcos election a deception."

In full view of the TV cameras, police carried out their orders from the Consul and forcibly dragged out three delegates from the Consul's office and placed all delegates in the paddy wagon to be brought to the city jail.



AMLC DELEGATE WILMA CADORNA:

'We Condemned Marcos' Mockery of Democracy'



Wilma Cadorna raised a clenched fist after her arrest. [AK photo]

By NORMA DE LEON

For 24-year old Wilma Cadorna April 13, 1978 will be one day in her life that she will never forget. For it was the day when she and six other persons were arrested by the San Francisco Police when they refused to leave the Philippine Consulate offices at 447 Sutter St., San Francisco.

April 13 — six days after the April 7 elections in Manila that seated all Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) can-

didates in Marcos' national assembly. That day witnessed simultaneous protest actions throughout the U.S. condemning the election results and aftermath. (See AMLC press release above.)

Wilma was part of the protest in San Francisco. "When I was approached to become a delegate, I felt honored, somewhat proud because I was one of the seven-member Anti-Martial Law Alliance delegation to express the Filipino community's condemnation of Pres. Marcos' mockery of democracy. The delegation intended to let Marcos' representatives here know that we can not and will no longer tolerate his repressive actions," she said.

The international media reported that some 600 persons, including leading candidates, members and supporters of the opposition party, Lakas ng Bayan (LABAN), were ordered arrested by Marcos. Unofficial sources in the Philippines, however, claim that the number of arrests ran to about 1,500.

"Among the delegation's demands which we read before Consular officials was the release of all those arrested and amnesty to those who were forced to go underground after the elections. We asked Vice-Consul Villamil to call Marcos by phone regarding this. But he refused saying we did not have the right to ask that

and that all arrested had already been released," continued Wilma. "So we asserted that we had the right and told Villamil that we would leave peacefully once our demands were met."

When I asked Wilma if she ever considered being arrested for participation in a sit-in, she replied that the delegation had anticipated this to happen. Attempts by AMLC delegations to meet with Consul Arguelles in the past two years had already proven to be unsuccessful. In fact, in 1976, one anti-martial law demonstrator was beaten up by S.F. Police officers who acted upon orders from the Consul.

"We know that the Consular officials would not yield to us and if we persisted, they would call the police to take us out of the building."

Sure enough, as one o'clock approached, Task Squad officers swarmed onto Sutter and Polk streets. Negotiations between the delegation and the Squad began. The delegates were told that if they did not leave, they would be forcibly carried out of the building.

"I was scared at first. I thought about police brutality. I wondered what the delegation would do if the Squad started beating us up," Wilma recounted. "But the militant picket outside never stopped chanting, expressing their wholehearted support for us, decrying police interference.

'S.F.P.D., Marcos Army!' they shouted. It was a source of inspiration, morale and strength for us inside who had locked our arms and legs to prevent the Squad from separating us."

While the massive demonstration of support and presence of the press prevented the police from brutalizing the delegation, the Tac Squad still carried out the consul's arrest orders with military precision and efficiency.

A choke-hold with a billy club pulled a delegate from the chain. In half-an-hour all the delegates had been thrown into a paddy wagon that brought them to the city jail.

All seven delegates were booked on charges of trespassing and resisting arrest.

In describing the whole ordeal, Wilma said that what had happened was not a game. "It was not a simple thing of the good guys versus the bad guys. It was real. And for all of us, without a strong commitment, we would not have pulled through."

For her relatives, friends, and acquaintances, the sit-in was an act that should have been done before. And as Wilma confidently told me, "Whatever risks our people back home face to expose and defy the Marcos regime, we must equally match here in the U.S. as an expression of our support." □

Law Front

Consulates—16 Arrested in 3 Cities



250 PICKETS IN SEATTLE

Inside the Consular office in Seattle, a yelling match erupted between the Consul and Greg Della, a KDP member of the AMLC delegation, when the Consul refused to even talk with the delegates. The four-member group was carried out bodily by the Seattle Police officers when the sit-in proceeded despite the Consul's refusal to hear the delegates. John Coughlan (FFP), Suan Robb (FFP), and Mike Rozu (KDP), composed the Seattle delegation.

Meanwhile, the picket of 50 people outside the Consul's office swelled to over 250 as it was joined by protesters against the trident nuclear submarine. These protesters who came later were particularly against the nuclear reactor being built by Westinghouse in Bataan as arranged by Marcos crony, Herminio Disini.

CHICAGO: A PICKET INSIDE CONSUL SANCHEZ'S OFFICE

After a three-hour sit-in at this city's consul office, members of the AMLA delegation were arrested by Chicago police upon "official" order from Consul Sanchez. The delegation composed of Fr. Tom Joyce (8th day Center for Justice), Geline Avila (KDP), Belen Asidao (AMLA), Bill Simpson (FFP), and Joe Meinhart (Church Committee for Human Rights in Asia), was strongly supported by 70 picketers outside the building that housed Consul's office.

Other protests in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Honolulu and Guam were met with hostility by consul officials who refused to talk or see delegations of the AMLC. But the boldness of the anti-martial law movement in the U.S. manifested in the April 13 demonstrations, successfully exposed the dictator's recently held elections.

Rene Cruz, AMLC national coordinator, declared that the nationwide protests were in line with AMLC's pledge to "respond to Marcos' outrageous acts against the people with increased militance." He added that "Filipinos at home did a fine job in exposing Marcos deception."

Commenting on the new National Assembly, Cruz added, "It has no credibility even at its very best. As some people say, Marcos may have won the battle, as he claims, but he already lost the war." □

CEP TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS

On April 6, Severina Rivera and David Looney of the Congress Education Project [CEP] testified before the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations chaired by Rep. Clarence Long [D.-Md.]. Below are excerpts from that testimony — Editor.

The Carter administration continues to oppose any cuts to the Philippines . . . Last year it opposed the Burke amendment, claiming that a cut "would have serious impact upon important programs with a treaty ally which allows us the use of valuable military facilities."

The Marcos government is fully aware that these bases constitute a perfect foil to inhibit further U.S. criticism against its human rights violations. Mr. Marcos and his spokesmen have taken various stances, from charging that these bases do not really serve the Philippine interest, to calling the U.S. attitude "impudent and colonialistic," a "throw-back to the posturings of Yankee fuddy-duddies at the turn of the century." (*Manila Journal* editorial, March 1978).

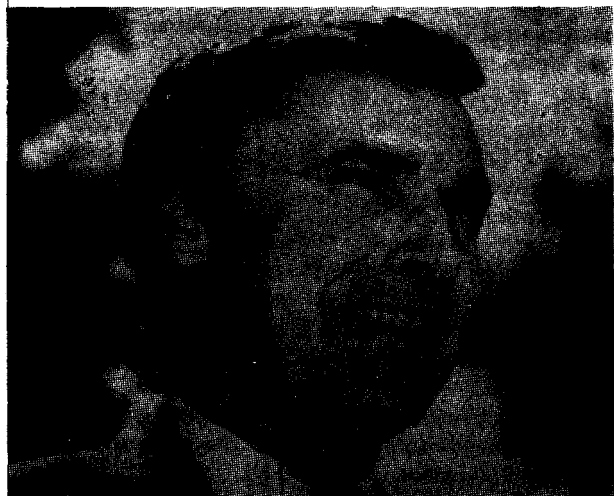
Foreign Secretary Romulo enunciated his government's strategy most clearly, "Once we have [cleared away the cobwebs of misunderstanding] it should be possible to resume the pending negotiations on military bases . . ." (*Manila Journal*, March 16, 1978).

BASE RENTAL ILLEGAL

It is highly inconceivable that Mr. Marcos will
(continued on page 12)

RYAN AMENDMENT IN COMMITTEE

50% Aid Cut to R.P. Proposed



Rep. Leo Ryan [D.-Cal.] recently proposed a cut in aid to the Marcos regime.

Key members of the U.S. congress are becoming increasingly concerned over funding the oppressive Marcos regime.

Rep. Leo Ryan (d.-Cal.) recently announced that he will introduce legislation to the House Sub-Committee on International Organizations, Monday April 24 advocating a cut in U.S. military aid to the Marcos regime by over 50 per cent.

Ryan's proposal, an amendment to HR11876, the Military Aid bill, would terminate the \$18.1 million which goes to the Philippines under the Military Assistance Program (MAP) and \$.7 million from the International Military Education and Training (IMET) Program. This would leave only \$18.5 million in Foreign Military Sales Financing for fiscal year 1979.

Congressman Ryan and his staff have consulted closely with the Congress Education Project (CEP), a joint effort of the Friends of the Filipino People and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines), in develop-

ing the proposal. CEP staffers testified last April 6 before the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations chaired by Rep. Clarence Long (D.-Md.) urging cuts in U.S. military aid to the Philippines and the withdrawal of U.S. bases (see related story).

LOPEZ, KAHIN ASKED TO TESTIFY

Rep. Donald Fraser, Chairman of the International Operations Subcommittee has invited Eugenio Lopez and Professor George McT. Kahin to testify before the committee next Thursday, April 27. Eugenio Lopez recently escaped from a Marcos prison to the U.S. The hearing will be conducted by Rep. Ryan.

Professor Kahin, noted Southeast Asian scholar and member of the Council on Foreign Relations, recently spent two weeks in Manila under the sponsorship of the Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines. During that time, he monitored the April 7 elections and studied the U.S. bases issue.

Kahin spoke recently at a briefing of Congress-people, legislative aides, and human rights organizations. Calling the recent elections "one of the most fraudulent in Southeast Asian history," he informed the audience of his first-hand observations of "ghost precincts," stuffed ballot boxes, missing voter lists, and lack of proper voter identification cards. Kahin managed to obtain one of many "flying voter" cards which were distributed by the Marcos party to enable bearers to cast multiple ballots. His discussions with Filipinos of Metro-Manila, he said, reflected a general skepticism toward the election.

Turning to the subject of U.S. bases, Kahin called "fallacious" the Carter administration arguments which maintain that Clark and Subic bases are indispensable to U.S. security. He urged that the U.S. not entangle itself any more deeply with Marcos given his increasing political instability. □

APPEAL TO SUPPORT 4-H TRAINEES

End Abusive 55-Hour Work Week

The following is an appeal to the Filipino community and supporters to join the letter writing campaign to reform the 4-H Philippine Agricultural Training Program. We would like to urge our readers to assist in building this public pressure which is the only thing which can force the 4-H officials to implement the promised reforms—Editor

By THE SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR
FILIPINO 4-H TRAINEES

Dear friends,

We hope you have been keeping informed of the developments to reform the 4-H Philippine Agricultural Training Program. Thanks mainly to the organization and determination of the trainees themselves, as well as the support of the broader community, important progress has already been made. For example, there has been a noticeable improvement in the previously substandard housing conditions which many trainees faced. In addition, the 4-H officials have agreed to meet on a number of occasions to discuss the shortcomings of the program with trainees and supporters; this is also a big improvement in their attitude of last year when they would refuse to even meet and discuss the problem.

As we reported recently to the community newspapers, a meeting was held April 3, in Washington, D.C. to comprehensively review all the promised policy reforms of the 4-H program. From that meeting trainees and supporters emerged with some "guarded optimism" that with continued cooperation from 4-H officials and host farmers the program could be reformed to the point that it would be acceptable to the trainees. However, as we stated, there were still a couple of outstanding issues which remained to be cleared up.

Key among these was the issue of mandatory working hours. Presently, the policy calls for 220 hours of mandatory work per month; this averages out to 55 hours per week. The trainees justifiably complain that leaves them hardly any time for relaxation, or study, much less any sightseeing! Although the present policy also supposedly guarantees that trainees will not have to work more than six days a week, in reality this gets violated quite often. Many trainees have been known to have to work 10 to 12 hours a day, seven days a week, for weeks on end! Although some trainees have enrolled in correspondence or evening agricultural courses, many have had to discontinue these studies due to their long work hours each day.

To attempt to put an end to this type of abuse, trainees have put forward the request that the policy on mandatory working hours be lowered to 208 hours per month, which average out to 48 hours per week or six-eight hour days. Trainees are not unwilling to work more hours—so long as it is voluntary and that it has been mutually agreed upon by both the trainee and host farmer. Obviously, this is a perfectly reasonable request on the part of the trainees. In fact, in our opinion, it is downright lenient in the light of the fact that this is supposed to be a "training program"; not a "work-exchange program"

In the Washington, D.C. meeting, however, 4-H officials maintained that they could not alter this policy until first taking a poll among host farmers to see if it would be acceptable to them. In a more recent communication they indicated that they will not alter the policy on mandatory work hours, although the formal decision will not be made until May 15.

We can not understand this unreasonable position of the 4-H officials on this issue. In fact, independent surveys which we have conducted in California and the Southeast indicate that the majority of the host farmers are already willing to accept the mandatory 48 hour limit per week. If there are a few host farmers who refuse to agree to this, this is not good enough reason to refuse to alter the policy. Instead, the 4-H officials should replace them and look for more cooperative host farmers. To quote directly from their latest communication to us, "Every effort to recruit host farmers that are receptive to the training concept will continue to be made by the National 4-H Council" (emphasis ours).



4-H trainees at L. A. airport continued to appeal for reforms in 4-H program for future trainees. [AK photo]

Group C 4-H Trainees Depart for R.P.

Filipino 4-H trainees departed for the Philippines Thursday, April 13 after an 18-month stay in the U.S. At a press conference just prior to their departure, members of the group voiced their continued dissatisfaction of the program sponsored by the Philippines Agricultural Training Council (PATC) and the U.S. National 4-H Council.

In the past six months, the trainees have presented demands to improve the quality of the program. In March, the trainees won a victory when the National 4-H Council conceded to their demands to develop guidelines in each of the disciplines (i.e. horticulture, vegetable and fruit crops, etc.), that financial accounting of the program (which is subsidized by the trainees themselves) be made known and that better selection of host farmers be made.

However, because of their organizing efforts here in the U.S. many of the trainees are apprehensive in their return to the Philippines. Given the current political situation in the Philippines, little wonder that many have this concern.

But many of the trainees are anxious to make known the problems they have encountered so that improvements could be made for others who would participate in the future.

Eliza Samar, 24, related some of her experiences. Eliza had expected to be placed in one of her three areas of preference in agriculture, either horticulture, field crops or vegetable and green house. Instead she was placed on an apple orchard harvesting and pruning trees. It was there she injured herself, falling from a tree and breaking her foot. She was not given adequate medical treatment and still has problems with the

injury. She asked for a transfer and was placed in a florist shop in DeBois, Iowa, working mainly as a sales clerk.

Feeling that this was not the "advanced technical training" she had expected she again asked for a transfer. She was transferred to a dairy farm. There she was asked to prepare breakfast for the host family, clean house and wash clothes. Work hours were from 6 a.m. to as late as 11 p.m. with no days off. Dissatisfied with the conditions on the farm, Eliza, along with other trainees, refused to work on Sunday. In response, the host farmer asked them to leave.

Other major concerns were aired during the press conference, including unaccountability of the program's finances and the retention of passports until the return to the Philippines. One trainee commented on the problems created with no passport as an identification. In one instance, he was embarrassed before his friends when he was refused admittance to a restaurant because he had no identification other than his training program card which was not acceptable. "Taking away of passport," said the trainee, "is the taking away of our rights."

Mr. Monroe, Western Regional Director of the program on hand at the airport was asked why the passports were taken. He admitted he did not know but that the policy was going to be changed. However, it was revealed that Group D trainees had their passports taken when they entered. Questioned on other areas of concern such as the long working hours (some 70 hours a week), Mr. Monroe was unable to answer though commented that he felt that the trainees were not "forced" to work that long. □

continued on page 9

It seems perfectly evident to us that any host farmer who finds it unacceptable for "trainees" to work eight hours a day, six days a week is proof enough that they are not "receptive to the training concept."

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Write a letter to the National 4-H Council before May 15. Voice your support for a policy change which would assure that "trainees" not be forced to work more than 208 hours per month. Stress your concern that such a request by trainees is absolutely reasonable given the fact that the program is supposed to be a training program. The letters should be addressed to: Grant Shrum, Executive Director National 4-H Council, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D.C. 20015.

- Arrange to make two xerox copies of your letter. One to be sent to us. The other to the local branch of the 4-H in your area. This is because we are hoping

that there may be progressive people in the local 4-H who might become sympathetic to such a reasonable request on the part of the Filipino trainees. If so, we could follow-up with them and request that they look into this matter and exert some pressure from inside the 4-H structure.

- Make a donation to assist the community support work. Because the trainees make so little money already, we do not ask them to pay for the costs of transportation, telephone, mailings, etc. For that we must rely on your support. Anything you could afford to give will be greatly appreciated. Make checks out to: SUPPORT COMMITTEE FOR THE FILIPINO 4-H TRAINEES, or to the local support committee in your area. Our address is 516 16th St., Oakland, CA 94612, phone (415) 465-9876.

Thank you,
Helen Salamanca
Support Committee member

JOINT SPONSORSHIP WON

Agreement Reached in L.A. June 12 Dispute



New York's Philippine National Day '77 — Theme: 'Build a United Pilipino Community.'

[AK photo]

LOS ANGELES — A tentative resolution was reached in the month-long dispute over the sponsorship of the June 12th Celebration here.

At an emergency meeting held last April 19, representatives of the United Filipino American Assembly of Southern California (UFAASC), the

Optimist Club, and the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) for the second time agreed on joint sponsorship of the broad community event.

However, this time the agreement was witnessed by several city agencies including the Parks and

Recreation Dept., the City Commission on Human Relations, and the Mayor's Office. The presence of city representatives was prompted by a petition drive of UFAASC and various other organizations asking the city to intervene as a "last resort to break the long impasse in the June 12th preparations." The petition which was signed by 34 organizations calls for the city to grant the June 12th park permit to the group representing the majority of Filipino organizations.

Until now, the Filipino Optimist Club have insisted on their sole sponsorship of the celebration. Attempts by the UFAASC to call for an open and joint sponsorship of the event by all interested Filipino groups were thwarted by both the Optimist and the San Jose faction of FACLA.

A prior agreement on joint sponsorship reached at a meeting as far back as March 18 was reversed when the Optimist Club refused to ratify the agreement.

An added complication arose at the April 19th meeting when the San Jose faction of FACLA began urging the sole management of the event by the Optimists even when the representatives of the Optimist themselves were open to joint sponsorship.

However, after four alternative solutions were proposed at the April meeting, a consensus was reached on the following proposal: That a Pista Sa Nasyon planning committee be formed to sponsor, manage, and organize June 12th, Philippine National Day Celebrations at MacArthur Park; that the planning committee be open to all interested organizations and individuals, and that a mechanism be developed within the planning committee organizational structure to encompass the democratic participation of all sponsoring groups. It was also agreed that the Optimist Club would secure the park permit on behalf of the Pista Sa Nasyon planning committee and that another meeting be set for Wednesday, April 26, 1978 to continue negotiations.

The June 12th Celebration in Los Angeles MacArthur Park has emerged to be the largest single gathering of Filipinos overseas. Last year's celebration attracted over 10,000 when a variety of groups under the banner of UFAASC co-sponsored the event with the Optimist Club.

The premise of the UFAASC position on the June 12th dispute is that this festive occasion commemorating Philippine heritage, culture and struggles belongs to all Filipinos, not just one organization or individual.

There is some speculation that the Optimist Club may again refuse to ratify the agreement. In that case, UFAASC is prepared to reactivate its petition drive in order to proceed with June 12th preparations. □

THREATENS COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

Asians Blast Jarvis-Gann Initiative

OAKLAND — Asian community leaders here have warned that the Jarvis Gann initiative which is purportedly aimed at cutting wasteful government spending would severely threaten the welfare of their communities.

The negative impact of this controversial property tax relief measure, Proposition 13, was outlined by an ad hoc coalition calling themselves, "Asians Against Proposition 13."

If Proposition 13 passes, the coalition charged that there would be the following ramifications for the Asian communities:

- **MASSIVE LAYOFFS OF MINORITIES.** In Alameda County alone, 4,700 county workers will be laid off strictly on the basis of seniority. Since minorities have been the most recently hired under affirmative action laws, they will be hit the hardest by the layoffs.

- **CUTBACKS OF MINORITY SERVICES.** Monies to community based organizations providing specialized services to the Asian community will immediately be withdrawn.

- **TERMINATION OF BILINGUAL SERVICES.** The all-to-recent gain in getting bilingual workers hired by

counties to make such services as hospital care and police services accessible to minority communities will be cut.

The Jarvis-Gann initiative (Proposition 13) will be voted on by Californians June 6, 1978. It calls for a property tax limitation of 1½ per cent per year based on 1975-76 property assessments.

While Proposition 13 appeals to the popular demand of property tax relief, Tom Suhr of Legal Aid of Oakland contested that it goes far beyond the justified tax relief for individual homeowners.

"The Jarvis-Gann initiative will mainly benefit big property owners and large apartment owners. In fact, ⅔ or \$5 billion of relief will be to commercial and industrial businesses, while only \$2 billion will effect individual homeowners. When you divide the latter by the large numbers of homeowners, the relief they will receive will be relatively small," explained Suhr.

According to Supervisor Ed Edelman of Los Angeles County, "Texaco, Inc. would save \$6.8 million in taxes and Lockheed Corp. would save \$6.6 million . . . and [these] are the secret beneficiaries of this tax scheme."

On the other hand, the price of Jarvis Gann is 70 per cent of county revenues with no provisions for replacement. It has been speculated that the public would end up footing the bill through a huge increase in regressive sales taxes which hits the poor hardest since they pay the same percentage no matter how much money they have. Drastic cuts in public services such as libraries, schools, hospitals, and parks are also envisioned if Proposition 13 passes.

"The ultimate implication," said another member of Asians Against Proposition 13, "is that government will totally negate its responsibility for providing for the basic needs of its citizens. Many say that it is doing such a bad job anyway, that it doesn't matter. What they are really saying is that only the rich should be entitled to education, health care and other basic rights."

Asians Against Proposition 13 has suggested that those supporting property tax relief, instead vote for the Behr Bill, Proposition 8. This 30 per cent tax relief measure will only affect individual homeowners, provides relief for seniors, calls for increased renters credit, and provides for the State to make up for lost county revenues.

Asians Against Proposition 13, made up of representatives from the Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Filipino communities have rallied together to inform voters to the adverse effects of Jarvis-Gann. They have targeted massive leafletting and a voter registration campaign to encourage all eligible voters to defeat the initiative. □

4-H TRAINEES...

continued from page 8

In reference to accountability of the financial aspects of the program, the Regional Director pointed out that much of the money was spent on the plane fares, orientations in both the Philippines and the U.S., seminars in some areas, insurance, etc. Even at the time of the departure for the trainees, it was still impossible to assess how much each of the individuals would be receiving since there was still a month-long seminar in the Philippines which the program was financially responsible for.

These uncertainties and persistent problems of housing and working conditions within the 4-H training program has prompted much support from among the Filipino communities across the country. The trainees have stressed their concern in raising these violations in the program has only been to assure a better program for those who are to come.

Mr. Monroe tried to point out that though there were problems, "some will look back (at this) as one of the finest experiences in their life; some just can't wait to come back to the U.S." But as one trainee put it before boarding the plane: "The nightmare is almost over." □

COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL IN STATE OF EMERGENCY

CHICAGO — This city's Cook County Hospital has been placed in a state of emergency by its policy-making body. The Hospital Governing Board passed a resolution two weeks ago declaring the hospital in grave financial crisis.

Seriously affected by this crisis is the Cook County Hospital extension at Cermak Road which provides health care services to mostly state prisoners and which employs about 500 workers. The closing down of this extension means an end of health care delivery to the prisoners as well as mass layoffs.

To prevent this from happening, a district court issued an injunction ordering the Governing Board to continue operation of the Cermak Road branch.

But hospital employees, as well as concerned community persons who have organized themselves into the Coalition to Save Cook County Hospital, believe that the standing court injunction is ineffective. What is needed is funding from the state to guarantee continued services to the patients.

The same state funding would also assure hospital employees of their jobs which might not pay wages if the Cermak Road extension is closed.

At press time, the Ang Katipunan has been told that the Coalition to Save Cook County Hospital will pressure the state government to fund the hospital. Mass actions have already been planned to implement this plan. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

20,000 Demand 'Overturn Bakke!'

MASSIVE ANTI-BAKKE MARCH IN CAPITOL

By SAMUEL CACAS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over 20,000 chanting and banner waving marchers converged on the nation's capitol April 15 demanding the racist Bakke decision be overturned.

The massive turnout, the largest anti-racist event to occur in recent times, was a militant display of support for minority rights and affirmative action programs. Calling for a rejection of the "reverse discrimination" case, the demonstrators marched from the ellipse, behind the White House, down Pennsylvania Ave. and around the U.S. Supreme Court. The demonstration ended at the capitol where a rally was held.

Throughout the day-long event, marchers chanted, "Beat back the Bakke decision!" and "We won't go back! Send Bakke back!" Demonstrators came from as far away as Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Rochester, New York City, Michigan, Milwaukee, New Haven, New Jersey, Norfolk, North Carolina, Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Philadelphia, and other cities.

Sponsored by the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (NCOBD), the National Lawyers Guild, the People's Alliance, and the Black American Law Students Association, the action came in anticipation of a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on the "reverse discrimination" suit. Action by the high court is expected any day now, and the decision will have significant ramifications on minority affirmative action programs nationwide.

Speaking to the assembled masses, Aimee Cruz of the KDP noted that the demonstration "serves notice that minority people have never and will never take these attacks lying down." Joe Mulloy a white coal miner stressed the relationship between Bakke and the anti-racist and labor struggles:

"There is an inseparable bond between the struggle against racism and the struggle against the



20,000 marched on Washington, D.C. April 15 demanding 'Overturn the Bakke decision!' (Guardian photo)

big coal companies that the miners have just wages," said the United Mine Workers union member.

"This dreadful system would have us blame each other for the lack of security and comfort in our lives, Mulloy stressed, adding, "We must understand that if the scourge of racism and national oppression is to be swept from our land and from our minds, then we must destroy it at its roots. We must take on every abuse that this system throws at us, be it cutbacks in social services, threats of war, attacks at the workplace, or the Bakke decision."

More than 70 Asian Pacific Americans joined in the national demonstration, following several weeks

of mass mobilization by the Asian Pacific Focus of the NCOBD in Washington, D.C. The NCOBD circulated a leaflet urging Asian Pacific Americans to join the demonstration, and it had the support of such groups as the Pacific Asian Coalition, the Korean Community Center, the Asian Pacific American Federal Employees Council and the D.C. chapter of the KDP.

The demonstration was the largest to take place in Washington, D.C. since the anti-Vietnam war protests of the '60s and early '70s. The spirit of the march organizers was to "Broaden and deepen" the work of building a mass movement against racism. □

Repudiate all Racial and National Chauvinism...



Aimee Cruz, KDP representative, spoke before the April 15 anti-Bakke protest in Washington, D.C. [AK photo]

(continued from page 2)

These attacks against minorities and immigrants have sharply increased with the dog-eat-dog competition for shrinking opportunities in employment and education in an economic system controlled by cut throat competition among corporations with increased mechanization to displace workers and the movement of companies to low-wage and unorganized areas that has put millions of workers out of jobs when production is unprofitable.

There is no shortage of work to be done. There's work to be done in the decaying urban centers; in the education of our youth, or in helping to

rebuild Indochina ravaged by U.S. military aggression. There's work to be done. But this work is not profitable for America's ruling handful. They couldn't care less about the ghettos. They couldn't care less about the Indochina they destroyed. Six million workers are unemployed.

A constant state of desperation and joblessness has set in. Yes, the economic crisis in the U.S. is growing. But minority communities in this country have lived in economic crisis for years. For the majority of our communities, the depression has always been there. The poor housing in the South Bronx has been there for years, the unemployment of black youth has always been there, the superexploitation of immigrant workers is nothing new.

For minority communities, the crisis is not new. It is not new to us because the crisis has always been absorbed by us — a section of the working class demarcated by the arbitrary lines of skin color and national origin. The poverty and hardships of racial and national minorities are not viewed as a crisis for the country. Instead, our hardships are seen as a natural outgrowth of "our problem" of "sub-human status"; Jim Crow laws said that blacks had to be that way because of their "inferior status." Now as the cry of reverse racism is sounded, minorities are poor because they are "culturally inferior" and "unqualified."

As the effects of the economic crisis spreads even beyond minority com-

munities, we find fertile ground for the intensification of racism. Economic instability has broken out even to the more traditionally stable sectors of the working class and among many white workers. Cutbacks in social services, education, anti-union attacks.

But the unified response of these immense cutbacks in living and working conditions faced by us all is sabotaged by racial divisions. We see many responding to these conditions with a backlash against the few and limited gains of minorities who begin to break color lines in professional and skilled jobs.

Some have posed the idea that the Bakke issue and affirmative action divides the working class. NO! It is racism that divides the working class! And as long as the economic instability and crisis inherent in the capitalist system are borne on the shoulders of minority communities, and as long as one section of our class accepts inequality — any meaningful resistance to these attacks on all our living standards will be impossible.

The unconditional support of every demand for equal participation in employment, education and social services is a condition for working class unity, for the successful fight against these attacks, for a formidable challenge against the capitalist system which is the root of all our problems. The unconditional support for equality is a condition for the successful struggle to build a new social system not fueled on racism, oppression and exploitation.

This is the grave importance of the movement to defend affirmative action and special admissions programs. While these programs do not promise any of the long-term solutions to racism in this country, they are real steps to combat inequality. And they are under the vast and enormous pressure of the growing racist and reactionary forces in this country.

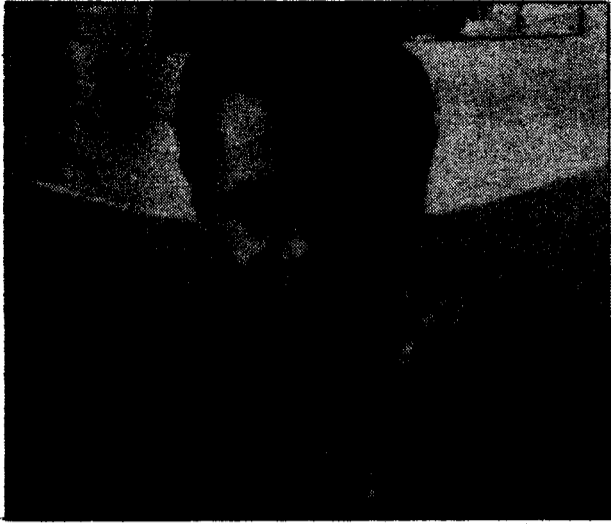
Our demonstration today is a historic step in this struggle. It serves notice that minority people have never and will never take these attacks lying down. It serves notice that an anti-racist movement will begin to sweep the country in this period — more united, more powerful, and more revolutionary in perspective than has ever rocked the foundations of this country.

It serves notice thru its orientation that it will not be derailed by the ruling forces in this country and that this movement against racism will not be a tool to attack other workers. It will be a movement to forge a real and fighting unit of the working class based on the repudiation of all forms of racism and national chauvinism. Such a force of working people in this country will truly make these rulers tremble.

The Union of Democratic Filipinos, while rooted in one section of the struggle, the Filipino community in the U.S., expresses its commitment to this battle. Our commitment is not only for the rights of our community but also toward the strategic unity of the working class for the future of revolutionary change in this country. □

INTERVIEW WITH ZANU

'Colonialism in our Country must be Totally Eliminated'



Prosper Takawira is a 26-year-old member of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), here in the United States to speak about the reality of the struggle in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) which is presently under the control of a white settler regime headed by Ian Smith. The following is the first installment of an interview the ANG KATIPUNAN conducted with Prosper Takawira on the struggle in Zimbabwe — Editor.

By JEANETTE LAZAM

Q: Why are you in the U.S.?

Presently, I'm a student . . . and also an active organizer for my party. I belong to the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). ZANU is a component of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe, which is a united front of organizations currently waging a war of national liberation against the white settler regime of Ian Smith. Along with that we are also fighting against foreign domination of imperialist powers and all the manifestations that occur when your country is controlled by outside forces.

Q: Did you originally come here as a student, or was your mission more than just academic study?

Well, I think that any Zimbabwean who leaves the country comes here on a two-fold mission. The first part is to educate the people to the reality of the struggle in Zimbabwe. Connected to that of any Zimbabwean who leaves the country is also the responsibility of acquiring an education, especially a technical education that is somehow related to the whole development of our country. So my stay in this country is two-fold; one, of course, is to work very actively in cultivating friendship for the revolution in Zimbabwe with all the other progressive forces in the world, and the other part is the educational experience that any developing country needs . . . in terms of having a very well trained technological base that will be able to replace the system as it exists today.

Q: How long has the struggle against colonialism in Africa been going on?

Let me point out in terms of colonialism that the movement against colonialism begins after the second world war (for the main part), where almost all the Third World countries begin to resist colonialism and takes up the struggle against imperialism.

Zimbabwe is no exception. After the second world war, we begin to see the formation of political parties, mainly developing from the labor unions that had been formed prior to the second world war and also the other African associations that had been formed to address the colonial regime to the needs of the African people. Today, we can see that in the whole of Africa, South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia still retain white settler regimes, which is an abnormality in this day and age. I think that even the imperialists recognize that they can no longer defend a settler regime. . . a racist minority regime is beyond defense.

The main question today in Zimbabwe is who is going to come after Smith. I think the question of Smith has already been dealt with. We, in the Patriotic Front, of course fully believe that the existence of colonialism in our country must be totally eliminated. . . by all means necessary, including the armed struggle.

The whole of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) is united on this issue, almost as well as the whole of the international community. The United Nations is united that the racist colonial regimes in southern Africa must go. So actually you will find that there is a lot of agreement. Even areas among our camp and within our own camp of progressive people, anti-imperialist people as well as just like the world in general; there is an agreement that in this day and age there is no defense for the existence of colonial regimes.

Q: You stated earlier that the major question now confronting Zimbabwe is 'who is going to come after Smith?' Implied in that statement is the Patriotic Front's position of the recent internal settlement. Can you state that position?

Well, of course, the Patriotic Front does not recognize the internal settlement — totally, entirely, and without exception. Maybe I should point out that there are two plans at this point that have been presented to us. There is the internal settlement, which is the plan between Ian Smith, the leader of the settler regime in Rhodesia, and the so-called 'moderates', which we choose to characterize as puppets of the colonial regime.

The internal settlement is a settlement between those forces; between the Smith forces, the colonial forces and the so-called 'moderates,' the puppets who are today engaged in a massive scheme of defrauding our people of the fruits of our struggle. And then the other plan is the so-called Anglo-American plan.

Q: What's the difference between the two?

There is really no difference between the two, both of them engage in the protection of the so-called white minority rights in Rhodesia. In other words, although there is a war today in Zimbabwe fighting against colonialism and against racism, we're faced by a proposal by our adversaries that in the solution to this problem we should also set up a structure that will define the rights of the so-called minority; in other words, re-introduce racism in our country.

We do not think that we can be party to any settlement that must take into consideration the demands of the settler minority. This is out of principal, you understand. Why we say this is that first of all our people are fighting against racism so now why should we agree to an agreement that incorporates racism into our own government?

We do not want the existence of racism; our country is already divided in terms of race. So our solution to the problem is that the solution must totally invalidate this division of our people and it should only apply to Zimbabwe. In other words, we have rights as Zimbabweans. Zimbabweans include not only Africans, but anybody who has lived in Zimbabwe who is committed to a free Zimbabwe. . . they can be Zimbabweans.

In other words, then, we will only consider protecting the rights of Zimbabweans rather than protecting the rights of the minority or setting up a structure that recognizes the rights of the minority, because that would be first of all undemocratic. The white minority constitutes less than five per cent of the population, and as such we cannot have a government that would incorporate some of the racist structures which recognize the white settler minority independently from the people of Zimbabwe.

We cannot have a state that has two laws; one for the white people and one for the African people. That is the reason that there is war today, because there's the existence of a state that proposes that there are two laws in Zimbabwe; one for the African people and one for the minority. We're fighting a war to destroy this system.

Q: Let's talk about this Anglo-American Plan. Why is the U.S. and Britain pushing so hard? What do they have to lose? What's at stake for them?

What's at stake . . . there's a lot at stake. I can assure you that the change of government in Zimbabwe today will reflect the balance of the world powers. In other words, the change of government in Zimbabwe threatens the present balance of world powers, not only in southern Africa, but in the whole world. The Anglo-American plan, and the reason why we say it is not different from the internal settlement, is that the Anglo-American plan also proposes that they exclusively put to the white minority. For instance, the plan says there should be the Zimbabwe development fund; a fund that the United States and imperialist countries would contribute in order to assure that the settlers will remain in Zimbabwe after independence.

Q: And maintain their same status?

Yes, and maintaining their same status. This fund will go to paying the pensions of the civil servants whether they're in Zimbabwe or they're out of Zimbabwe. Basically respecting the structures that have been set up by the colonial regime for its own civil servants, like pensions, etc., that would be payable to these people. Let me offer an example, if

you pay somebody a pension it means that you recognize the work that they've done. Now that's very contradictory. We aim to destroy the whole establishment of colonialism in other words we do not respect the structures that colonialism has set in our country.

Q: What are these structures?

By structures, I mean the educational system, the judiciary system, the economic system, the way that the land is divided, the ownership system. All those things we totally reject that they can be part of a free Zimbabwe. So therefore we see that the Anglo-American plan proposes to give us exactly what is happening in our country today, it does not answer the problem. The reason why there is war in Zimbabwe today is because we seek a direct transfer of power from the colonial regime to the people of Zimbabwe.

Q: What do we mean by power. Let's define that.

I mean the ultimate power of the state . . . state power. The power to run a judiciary, a military, a police force and all the things that go with a society. In other words, at present the major contradiction in Zimbabwe is between the settler colonial regime and the people of Zimbabwe. Our people at present do not have the power to self-determination.

Although they live in the land of their birth, and they're the majority in their own country, the present regime does not recognize the rights of the Zimbabwean people. On the contrary, it has taken such brutal and oppressive measures to make sure that the people who talk about the liberated Zimbabwe are effectively oppressed . . . and hence, the war. So when we talk about power, we're talking about the whole state machinery, the whole government. And the government is an economic system. The government is responsible for how the natural resources, the national wealth are going to be distributed to the people. And of course, at present we notice that the colonial regime being a by-product of imperialism protects the structures of imperialism.

Q: How does this relationship work in Zimbabwe?

Today, the multi-national corporations in Zimbabwe . . . multi-national corporations based in the United States and the other western countries reap the highest profit per dollar. They make 18 per cent profit per dollar in southern Africa because of the conditions created by the settler regime. The contradictions that have been created by moving people from their lands, from their productive lands, and moving them to less productive lands, by so doing forcing people into a cash economy. Multi-national corporations have taken advantage of this situation created by the colonial regimes not only in Rhodesia but also in south Africa.

Q: What is the response from the Zimbabwean masses and the Patriotic Front to this ruthless exploitation?

The revolutionary objectives of our struggle is to establish a liberated Zimbabwe, that will be ruled by Zimbabweans, whose first objective is to satisfy the demands of the Zimbabwean people. And by Zimbabwean peoples, I mean the working class of Zimbabwe. . . the people who contribute to the worth of Zimbabwe. I also mean the peasantry of Zimbabwe and I also mean the other various structures that we have in our society; students, the intelligentsia of Zimbabwe who at present are oppressed by the system.

Now we seek to obtain state power. But how can we obtain state power? We have to recognize, today at this moment the existence of the colonial regime in Zimbabwe is a result of the war that they won in 1893. When the settlers first came . . . our people fought a war of resistance against colonial domination. We lost the war. In 1896, we had another war, a national uprising in Zimbabwe against colonialism, and again we lost the war.

Today, the situation is different. Today we call for a general insurrection of our people. In order to bring about a general insurrection of the our people we want the unity of our people, and that unity must be on principal. That unity is based on the principal of what is the major contradiction in our country. That unity today is found within the scope of the Patriotic Front . . . which is the unity of the armed struggle which allows all Zimbabweans who are dedicated and committed to the armed struggle to organize for that purpose to overthrow the colonial regime and set up a liberated state in Zimbabwe. □

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

3,400 Families Homeless After Tondo Fire**REGIMES 'SOLUTION' TO SQUATTER PROBLEM**

By MA. FLORSEPULVEDA

"Who else could have benefited from the burning of Tondo, if not the government," argued a Tondo resident, while surveying miles of rubble where 12 barrios once stood. Billed by the captive media as the "biggest conflagration ever to hit Manila since World War II" the fire left 3,400 families homeless, P20 million in property damage and a telltale sign to establish the government as the culprit, with profit and vengeance as motives.

For the fire to occur in Tondo — home for some one million urban poor and hotbed of dissent against martial law — is no mere coincidence. Since the late '60s Tondo residents have been constantly harassed and intimidated to make way for the regime's relocation schemes. Their unwavering stand has resulted in running battles with the government, particularly with Metro Manila Governor Imelda Marcos' administration, that has oftentimes grabbed international attention.

In the recent sham elections, Tondo also earned the regime's fury by its obvious overwhelming support for the LABAN opposition.

Because the "Tondo problem" has been an irritating thorn on the regime's side for so long, it is not inconceivable for the regime to use arson to put an end to this nagging problem.

MOUNTING EVIDENCE

Tondo residents, meanwhile, are still appalled at the callous and calculated manner by which the regime chose to end the "Tondo problem." According to an organizer for ZOTO (Zone One Tondo Organization) the fire broke out at 1:30 p.m. April 3, just four days before the election. Within five hours, the flames consumed the barrios of Wagas, Magbuhay, Tagumpay, Kagitingan, Lualhati, Lukandula, Ibarra, Dalisay, San Ramon and the Bureau of Public Works near North Harbor.

Despite frantic summons to the Manila Fire Department, the firemen arrived at the scene five hours after the fire started, with only a force of six men! The firemen then proceeded to douse houses which were beyond the danger of burning, and allowed the flames to further spread. The firemen were reportedly indifferent to the resident's appeals to shift to areas where the fire was uncontrollably spreading. The obvious nonchalance of the firemen was more sinister than it seemed, as residents claimed smelling gasoline from the direction of the firetruck.

As the residents helplessly watched their homes burn, reports of PC men setting fire to various places began to circulate. By the end of the fire, the residents' suspicions were confirmed: the government offered no relief assistance to the victims and gave several conflicting versions of the fire. First they blamed the conflagration on careless children, then they claimed that there was a gasoline explosion and finally they admitted that it was arson committed by "subversive terrorists." The official stories changed several times in accordance with the resident's new findings.

POLITICAL MOTIVES

Another ZOTO organizer and LABAN campaigner further added that the fires were part of the regime's campaign strategy to scare the electorate. Overwhelming evidence suggests this to be true. When the Tondo fire broke out, simultaneous fires were reported in Odeon Theater, Blumentrit Street, and an urban poor community in Quezon City. Other fires were also set in LABAN strongholds.

It was no coincidence either, that many of Tondo's residents were participating in a workers rally for LABAN on the day of the fire.

REBUILD TONDO

Despite the new hardships faced by the Tondo residents, they have indicated their determination to surmount this latest tragedy and renew their resistance against the regime. In a taped appeal to anti-martial law organizations abroad, representatives of ZOTO have asked for any form of assistance from overseas Filipinos. Medicine, clothing and cash for building materials are badly needed. An estimated P1 million is required to rebuild homes for at least 500 families.

Despite the Marcos regime's terror tactics, the Tondo "problem" has far from vanished. □



What was once a well organized tightly knit community has been reduced to a heap of rubble.

[AK photos]

CEP Testifies Before Long Committee...

(continued from page 7)

terminate U.S. use of the bases in response to a reduction in U.S. assistance. State Dept. officials privately concede this. In the first place, the base agreement of 1947, as amended in 1966, contains no provision for termination by either party unilaterally until 1991 and then only upon one year's notice.

Mr. Marcos' effort to extract money from the U.S. as a *quid pro quo* for bases use is illegal since the agreement specifically provides that the bases shall be rent free. In addition, the presence of the bases provides his government with the assurance of military and economic support as well as serves to deflect official U.S. criticism. Without any popular support for his martial law dictatorship, Mr. Marcos is more than ever dependent on external sources of support and is not likely to endanger the U.S. assistance he receives.

Many prominent Americans have expressed disagreement with official assumptions regarding the strategic nature of these bases. Rep. Donald Fraser cites the need for an evaluation since a "reasoned argument can be made that they are not important to U.S. security." Admiral Eugene Larocque (ret.) has noted that the "U.S. bases in the Philippines are not essential to the national defense of the U.S." Ambassador Francis T. Underhill, former political counselor to the U.S. embassy in the Philippines, advocates a complete withdrawal of these bases because of their high cost and limited usefulness. Asian experts at Harvard, Cornell, Yale and other respected universities oppose these bases and studies by Brookings Institution and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff in 1977 recommended their scaling down.

CHANGES IN EAST ASIAN POLITICS

Dr. Gareth Porter, a Southeast Asia scholar and a

consultant to the FFP, has outlined powerful arguments against the retention of these Philippines bases. Firstly, two kinds of fundamental change in the politics of East Asia make the bases a dubious investment, both economically and politically, for the U.S. in a longer-term perspective.

The first is that the kinds of intervention contemplated from the bases when the agreement was first negotiated in 1947 and then amended in 1966, are no longer feasible or necessary. The second change is that the growing instability within the Philippines makes these bases politically risky. Secondly, the value of these bases were related to cold war policies of forward defense and the containment of communism in the Far East. Internal U.S. government studies admit their drastically reduced value at present.

What concerns us most is the political costs and risks of maintaining the bases. They are presently posing a dilemma to the U.S. in its attempts to pursue human rights concerns. If the U.S. agrees to maintain them at great cost, they will become a hostage to the Marcos regime. As the regime faces recurrent and escalating political and economic crisis, Marcos will attempt to exploit the vested interests within the U.S. government in the bases in order to extract more U.S. support. We believe most strongly that a policy based not solely on military strength or supremacy, but on a respect for the freedom, sovereignty, and human rights of other peoples best serves our long term and genuine national interests.

In sum, these bases, whose value to the U.S. is the subject of debate among experts, serve as a primary barrier and a lever that the Marcos government as well as the State Dept., holds to check any human rights initiatives that the Congress may wish to take on the Philippines. □