

# Ang KATIPUNAN

Vol. VI, No. 8

May 1-15, 1979

35¢

National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



## Marcos Threatens Crackdown

Special to the ANG KATIPUNAN

As the Philippines careens into an unprecedented economic crisis, President Marcos is attempting to defuse a potentially volatile situation by diverting the public's attention to a supposedly bigger scare — the so-called "leftist-rightist conspiracy."

In a speech before 2,000 baranggay leaders in Manila last March 2, an irate Marcos fumed: "Although I would like to remove martial law, I would not hesitate to use the powers of martial law to neutralize the enemies of the state . . . if our enemies are sizing us up, I am warning them that they will be arrested."

Two weeks later, in a speech before local government officials in Cebu City, Marcos escalated his threat to include "capital punishment." "All I want," Marcos ranted, "is to give fair warning that whatever they have planned, or are planning to do, they should not implement it because mere conspiracy is a capital offense and we know all about it and the application of the law will be inexorable."

To underscore their commander-in-chief's words, Metro Manila police forces and municipal officials readied themselves for the announced crackdown. In Caloocan City, Mayor Virgilio Robles has mobilized the entire force of 188 baranggays to check on the activities of subversive elements "out to sow discontent against the government." While in Manila, Mayor Bagatsing placed the city government on "red alert" and ordered the bolstering of the security forces in city hall. Recently, 18 people allegedly found postering in downtown Manila were arrested, signalling what informed sources say, is the start of wholesale "preventive arrests."

What is the Marcos regime all worked up about? Undoubtedly, the



continued on page 4

### NPA SEIZES TWO TOWNS IN SAMAR



NPA on patrol: The recent taking of two Samar towns graphically demonstrates NPA strength in that island. (AK Photo)

FLASH — The towns of Gamay and Mapanas in northern Samar were captured by the NPA on April 11. Reports say about 100 members of the People's Army entered the towns, disarmed the police and the Community Home Defense Force (CHDF), seized the radio and communications equipment and left with the confiscated arms. Throughout the whole siege, not a single shot was fired.

A recent visitor from the Philippines comments that in Samar, where over 80 percent of the province is sympathetic to the NPA, it would not be surprising if cooperation from within the towns was extended to the NPA.

The Ministry of Defense has predictably responded by dispatching troops to the area. □

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Anti-Nuclear Protest Hit U.S. Nationwide p. 10
- Smith Regime Escalates Terrorist Attacks p. 11
- Tourism Spurs R.P. Prostitution p. 12
- R.P. Economic Crisis Fuels Unrest p. 5
- Pickets to Hit Gov. Brown Over Prop. 13 Cuts p. 9
- New Controversy Surrounds Seattle's Union Station p. 7
- Special Ang Katipunan Interview p. 6
- Crisis Exposes Agrarian Policies p. 3

Ang Katipunan  
P.O. Box 23644  
Oakland, CA 94623

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 3383  
Oakland, CA



**EDITORIAL**

ANG KATIPUNAN Staff  
Editorial Office  
Oakland, California

EDITOR  
Thelma DeGuzman

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Victor Uno  
PHILIPPINE NEWS  
Victoria Luna, Ma. Flor Sepulveda, Anita Borja  
COMMUNITY NEWS  
Norma DeLeon, Jeannette Lazam  
DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS  
Victor Uno

BUSINESS MANAGER  
Midgio Galicia  
PRODUCTION  
KDP National Media Production Department  
CORRESPONDENTS IN  
Chicago, Guam, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York  
Philadelphia, Sacramento, San Diego  
San Francisco-Bay Area, Seattle, Washington, D.C.

# AK WEST COAST EDITION COMING SOON

The *Ang Katipunan* newspaper is on the threshold of an important venture which has exciting implications for our readers and supporters.

The newspaper staff is currently in the process of laying the groundwork for the first regional edition of the *Ang Katipunan*. The maiden issue of the AK West Coast Regional edition is due on June 1 — exactly two issues away.

The AK Staff sees this forthcoming event as an important step in the development of the newspaper that best serves the needs of the Filipino community in the U.S.

Since its publication in 1973, the AK has committed itself to the stand of people's journalism.

What has this meant in practice? It meant that we not only carried the news but we reported it from the people's perspective. To us, the news was not simply a mass accumulation of facts or data, seemingly unrelated and unconnected to one another. Certainly, news to us were the 5 Ws—the Who, What, Where, When, and Why. But it meant probing deeper into the essentials of the news from the people's point of view. This meant answering questions like what were the forces at play behind the current events and what does this development mean for the people's movement. Thus, unlike other journalists, we made no false claims of being "objective" (one of the common journalistic myths), but we openly declared our partisanship—for the people.

We've carried this editorial policy, uncompromisingly, in our coverage of the issues both in the Philippines and in the Filipino communities in the U.S.

Because of this stand, our definition of the news is also broader, yet focused. Our readers have undoubtedly noticed that the struggle to defeat conservative, anti-people forces and

elect a progressive slate in a Filipino community council is news to us. So is the struggle against illiteracy and poor medical care in a remote barrio in Samar. Yet, the coronation of a Miss Philippines or the coming-out ball of a Filipina debutante, while undoubtedly an important event to some, do not get covered in the AK.

In short, news to us is anything that concerns the people's movement—any issue that helps strengthen it and move it forward finds its way in the newspaper. This, we believe, is our main contribution to the Filipino people's movement and what distinguishes us from other newspapers in the Filipino community.

However, far from being satisfied with our level of development, we are constantly struggling to improve the newspaper—in content, by trying to reflect the variety of issues that people are involved in; in style, by trying to make the news readable, educational, yet appealing. It is in this light, that we have launched the first regional edition of the AK. To better serve the accelerating needs of the Filipino communities in Northern California, Southern California and Seattle, the AK West Coast edition will carry four more pages that will mainly report on news from these areas. In the past, we had to limit our news reporting from these areas simply because of space considerations. We hope that with the advent of the West Coast Edition, we can more accurately reflect the growing progressive movements in these communities.

We approach this coming period with great excitement and a heightened sense of responsibility to the people's movement. We are optimistic that we can meet the challenge of a regional edition because we are confident that the supporters of the newspaper, the friends of the people's movement, are behind us in this endeavor. □

Celebrate International Workers Day  
MAY 1

## THE WORKER HERO

By AMADO V. HERNANDEZ

*I am a worker: one grain of the sands  
that fill up the ruts, but also build the temples.  
Perhaps I owe my life to God,  
but my lot is a debt to myself.  
I know the law: "Man, from your own sweat  
you will earn your daily bread."*

*I erected Greece and Rome,  
I destroyed arrogant Troy:  
my hands are hammers, weapons to create  
and destroy at will.  
If you see before you any products of labor,  
It was I who shaped them, gave them birth.*

*I am the monarch without throne or crown,  
a master who must always obey another.  
How many lucky men have I helped enrich,  
while I myself remained hungry?  
How many stood upon my shoulders?  
My orphans have become Mammon and Nabob.*

*... All the buildings, streets and vehicles  
were wrought by my hands of steel;  
by the power I discovered—oil, coal, iron—  
industry and commerce performed miracles;  
but the gap between my life and property  
widened... and my life has been subjugated.*

*To deprive my person of dignity  
was the work of scheming minds;  
but gold will indubitably remain gold,  
fragrance of earth will elude concealment;  
and if I am negated by the corruptors,  
who will deny the final judgment of history?*

(In part)

**SUPPORT THE  
KDP RAFFLE  
FUNDRAISER DRIVE**  
Drawing: August 18

**PRIZE:**  
WEST COAST WINNER — 1 week vacation  
in Hawaii  
EAST COAST or CHICAGO WINNER —  
1 week vacation in the Bahamas  
HAWAII WINNER — 1 week vacation  
in San Francisco  
or in place of above:  
1 week vacation in Cuba or \$1,000 Cash.

ONLY \$1.00  
DRAWING — August 18  
Winner need not be present.  
Send checks or money orders to:  
K.D.P.  
P.O. Box 23644  
Oakland, CA 94623

**We Don't Just Report The News . . .  
We Help Make It.**

**And No Other  
Filipino Newspaper  
in the U.S.  
Can Make That Claim.**

For news that's factual, stimulating, provocative  
and . . . aimed towards developing a  
politically aware and active Filipino community.

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
UNION OF DEMOCRATIC FILIPINOS  
(KDP)

\$1.00 Trial Subscription — 4 Issues  
 \$4.00 — 6 months/individual  
 \$7.50 year/individuals  
 \$10.00 — 1 year/institutions  
 \$12.50 1/year/Outside of U.S.

For First Class Mail, send additional  
\$3.50/inside the U.S. and \$10.00/  
outside the U.S.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\$7.50 — 1 year/individuals  
 \$1.00 Trial Subscription — 4 issues  
 \$4.00 — 6 months/individuals  
 \$7.50 — 1 year/individuals  
 \$10.00 — 1 year/institutions  
 \$12.50 — 1 year/Outside of U.S.

For First Class Mail, send additional  
\$3.50/inside the U.S. and \$10.00/  
outside the U.S.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

# PHILIPPINE NEWS PHILIPPINE NEWS PHILIPPINE NEWS

## BUOD NG MGA BALITA BUOD NG MGA BALITA

### BENGUET WORKERS STAGE WORK SLOWDOWN

The workers of Benguet Consolidated Inc. have practically debilitated the Philippines' major gold mining firm with massive walkouts and resignations throughout the last quarter of 1978.

Indignant over implied mistrust of the miners as signified by the company's installation of metal detectors at the entrances of the mines, 1,500 workers out of a 4,000-strong workforce resigned at the end of 1978. This brought the annual turnover of workers from the average 10% up to 37% and pulled down last year's monthly average production to 8,908 from 9,009 ounces (of precious metal). At the peak of resignations, average production was at a low of 7,589 ounces per month. Production cost also rose by 20%.

Jaime Ongpin, president of Benguet Consolidated, admitted in his report to stockholders that even under the best of circumstances, "it would take months before manpower and productivity are restored to normal levels."

In fact, though management has implemented a rehiring program to fill the vacancies, only 781 of those newly hired have remained. □

### INSULT AND ASSAULT OF "IMELDA" PARK

"Imelda" Park in Baguio City, named after Imelda Marcos, the wife of the Philippine dictator, took a nasty beating from vandals recently, after the park had just been renovated. Trees and plants were uprooted and several electrical installations were destroyed.

Observers speculate that the vandalism committed may have been a ventilation of strong annoyance with the first couple's notoriety for naming almost everything after themselves. Some people consider it an expression of popular dissent.

The three-hectare park displaying different ethnic features of Benguet and its tribes, is not the favorite tourist spot it was intended to be. Instead it has served more as a lovers lane. The "Ulog" huts, authentic to the Igorots, are a main attraction of the park. But long before the recent defacing incident, these huts had already been defecated on and continue to serve as makeshift public toilets. □

### MARCOS' GRANT TO TUFTS UNPAID

Despite shoutings of demonstrators offended by Tufts University's acceptance of "blood money" from the Philippine Dictator, his wife, Imelda Marcos, went ahead in presenting an endowment of \$1.5 million to the University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. The money was to go to endow a Ferdinand Marcos chair for East Asian and Pacific Studies, and three fellowships for graduate studies. That was in October of 1977.

More than two years later, the grant still remains a promise as President Marcos through his Marcos Foundation says the money hasn't been raised, and indicated the foundation may not be able to raise the funds. \$500,000 should be paid this June. So far, Tufts has received only an initial \$150,000 that was a separate donation for administrative expenses.

Some Manila sources say that Marcos may still be reacting to the protest of Tuft's students and professors against accepting money from the Filipino strongman, by holding up the grant. Others suggest that the economic crunch in the Philippines has become so severe that Marcos has been forced to tighten up on cash resources. □

### R.P.'S WESTINGHOUSE REACTOR ALSO UNSAFE

The Three Mile Island accident could happen in 39 other countries including the Philippines. Recent information reveals that Westinghouse nuclear reactors, exported worldwide, have similar defects as the McDermott, Babcock and Wilcox reactor which caused the Three Mile Island panic in Pennsylvania because of a partial melt-down of the reactor core.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission warned that Westinghouse reactors have the potential for heating and do not have the emergency cooling system to deal with such a situation. An accident such as the one that occurred in Three Mile Island, could then result, or something even more devastating.

Of the 39 Westinghouse reactors in operation, 25 are outside the U.S.

In the Philippines, the construction of the containment structure for the much-opposed Westinghouse reactor is well under way. The recent findings on the flaws of Westinghouse reactors may prolong the final establishment of the plant in Morong, Bataan as proposed. □

### MOVING?

Don't miss the next issues of the ANG KATIPUNAN. Let us know your new address.

Third class mail is not automatically forwarded by the post office. Please notify us three weeks prior to your move and mail to: P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623.



## Slumdwellers Resist Operation 'Bliss'

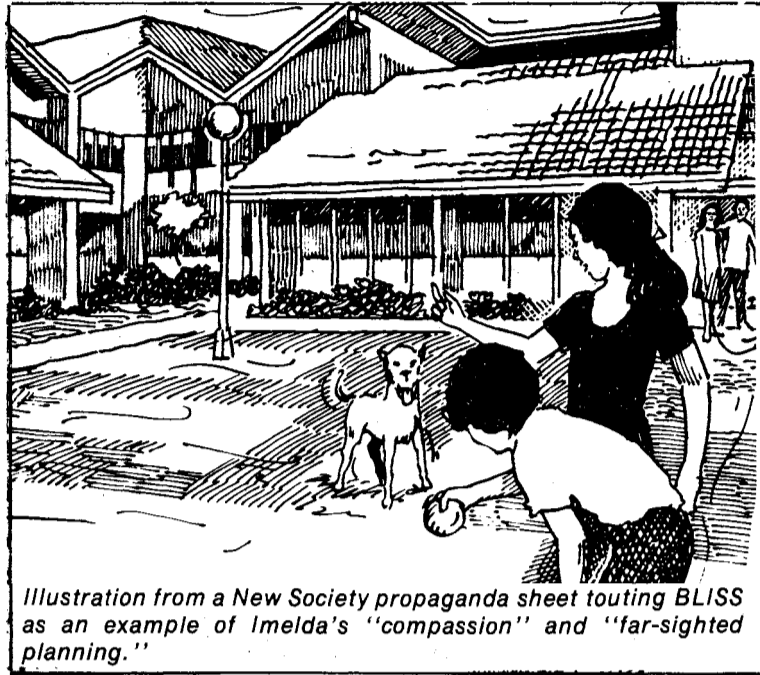


Illustration from a New Society propaganda sheet touting BLISS as an example of Imelda's "compassion" and "far-sighted planning."

BMP—Densely-populated slum communities in Metro-Manila and other towns and cities in the country are the principal targets of demolition of the regime's Bagong Lipunan Sites and Services Program (BLISS) (See AK, Vol. VI, No. 5.)

Under the five-year BLISS program launched last March by the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS), slums and other selected areas will be transformed into "model communities." The MHS is headed by Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, wife of the President.

The "model communities" are classified into three differing levels:

- Level 1—a neighborhood community with 50-100 families residing in an area of at least 2.5 hectares.

- Level 2—a mini agro-industrial estate with 100-500 families residing in an area of 50-100 hectares.

- Level 3—a community located in a watershed area where a rain catchment basin

can be constructed with an area of at least 500 hectares and a population of 500 or more families.

At least 300 "model neighborhoods", 77 agro-industrial and 12 watershed-based communities will be built this year in 1,500 cities and towns throughout the country, according to the MHS.

In proposed BLISS areas in Metro-Manila alone, the plan is slowly heating up opposition from affected families, mostly slumdwellers and low-income groups.

Twenty-seven BLISS sites are reportedly due to be completed by the end of April. At the Tatalon Estate, one of the sites due for completion soon, slum residents led by local barangay officials have forced authorities to postpone the demolition of part of the government-appropriated estate. The demolition was originally slated for March 1.

But in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City, NHA demolition crews and police troopers rammed through residents

who formed a human barricade to stop demolition activities last February. Several persons were reportedly injured.

Slumdwellers said the regime, in pushing through the BLISS project, has adopted a "maximum-eviction and minimum retention" policy regarding squatters in Metro Manila, who now number approximately 200,000 families.

According to the MHS plan, four-story tenement-type buildings will be constructed at each BLISS site. Only 16 families will be accommodated per building with monthly rentals ranging from P70 for residential and P250 for commercial units. Urban planning experts thus strongly doubt that the BLISS scheme will solve the housing problem in Metro Manila.

Slumdwellers also said government authorities have not mapped out relocation areas in the case of families to be evicted. Slum dumping grounds like Sapang Palay, Carmona and Dasmarias in Cavite are already crowded and "uninhabitable," they said. In fact, many residents from these relocation areas have been booted out by the regime to give way for new relocatees, they added.

Meanwhile, NHA sources said the multi-million peso BLISS project is in grave financial straits. Government ministries, including the Budget Commission and the NHA, have been ordered to allot special funds from their respective budgets for BLISS.

Only last week, the NHA released P20 million for the project. A transfer of housing loans earlier agreed upon by the NHA and the World Bank to the new "urban development" program is now being negotiated.

MHS agencies and other contracted firms such as the Farm Systems Development Corp. are also fighting it out for control fo BLISS activities and operations, it was learned

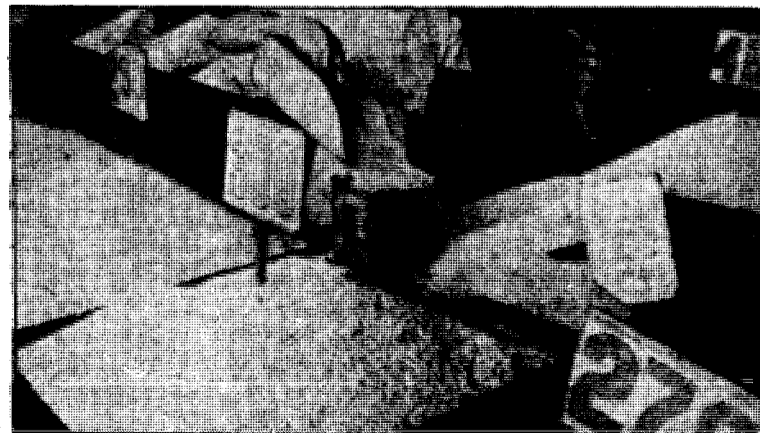
An added note of urgency to the planner's dilemma is the absence of rice warehousing facilities. Though National Grains Authority (NGA) Administrator Jess Tanchangco has announced the P40 million have been belatedly earmarked for warehouse construction, this will not save the current crop, which is presently stored in exposed, unsheltered spaces, from the coming rains.

### SELF-SUFFICIENCY — A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MARCOS REGIME

The current disarray in the regime's agricultural planning circles calls into serious question the Marcos government's claim to great success in the agricultural sector which has brought forth praise even from top-level visitors from the People's Republic of China. Marcos' claim to "success" rests solely upon the increased productivity of rice

continued on page 4

## Rice Surplus Confronts Regime



Rice for Sale: The hiking of the domestic ceiling on rice places the burden of the current crisis on the Filipino masses.

Reports on the Philippines' first major rice surplus, initially gleeful, are taking on the note of increasing panic.

Government officials, once boastful of having achieved rice self-sufficiency through

brilliant economic planning, are now scrambling to unload several hundred thousand tons on an already glutted market in which the going price is well below the cost of production.

# New Kind of Rice Crisis Face Filipinos...

continued from page 4

farming in the past several years leading to self-sufficiency, a commonly accepted indicator of economic well-being.

But self-sufficiency in the Philippines has occurred amidst mounting economic crises and increasing hardships for the Filipino people. Statistics on food intake and nutrition prove that increased productivity has not meant that the Filipino people are now eating more or better quality food. In fact, the reverse is true.

A number of observers have argued that the regime's exclusive focus on hiked productivity has, in fact, caused the accelerating impoverishment of the Filipino peasantry. Since the declaration of martial law, Philippine agricultural policy has focused upon mass infusions of cheap credits into the rural sector for the purchase of agricultural inputs. Elaborate programs — Masagana 99, Masaganang Maisan, etc. — have been devised to facilitate this capital-intensive approach to agriculture.

Rich farmers, the corporate farms, sugar planters who have converted to rice, and the uppermost — and smallest — stratum of the peasantry, have benefitted tremendously and their productivity has soared. But for the poor farmers, the vast majority, Masagana 99 and related government projects have meant nothing but trouble. Poor peasants, lacking sufficient funds to buy the recommended quantities, have tried to use "some" fertilizer, "some" insecticide, enough to drive them hopelessly into debt but not enough to affect the size of their harvests. Many, as a result, have lost their lands.

As inflation has soared, doubling and tripling the prices of basic commodities (see story p. 5), the government has had to insure a minimal diet for its grossly underpaid urban workforce. As a result, it has kept the price of rice artificially low. This has had a devastating effect on the peasantry who have had to sell their only product at a static price in the midst of inflation.

In response to the unexpected and unplanned abundance of rice, the planners are once again at work. Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco recently announced a plan to "get all upland areas out of rice and into yellow corn and surghum," a move which is bound to be unpopular with the national minority hill farmers of northern Luzon.

Meanwhile, Manila's foreign business community has suddenly taken note of a little-noticed law announced last September. The Agricultural Incentives Act marks a significant shift in the regime's agricultural policy. It holds out a promise of great profit for foreign agri-business interests. But, like previous agricultural policy, it offers the masses of Filipino peasants little but insecurity and a further threat to their already inadequate livelihood.

Under the new law, already privileged agribusiness investors are urged to expand and diversify operations. New corporations are invited to enter the agricultural sector. The new investors, in turn, are to be allotted even more incentives than export-oriented manufacturing and other privileged industries. Among the suggestions for cultivation: cattle, corn, sorghum, soybeans, fish, cacao, milk, cotton, cassava, spices and coffee. The agricultural ministry is thinking of adding earthworms and mulberries to the list. Besides tax concessions already



Winnowing rice: Masagana 99 and other programs have benefitted only the big planters, driving small farmers deeper into debt. (AK Photo)

granted to favored industries, the law allows agribusiness to deduct more than 100 percent of transport costs between farms and processing centers and all costs for building roads, irrigation works and other infrastructure facilities. These deductions may add up to 20 percent of a year's

income. Other favored industries must settle for deductions of up to 10 percent.

## MORE HARDSHIP FOR FILIPINO FARMERS

For Filipino farmers, the most chilling aspect of the new emphasis on agribusiness is Minister Tanco's sug-

# Marcos Crackdown Shatters Normalization Myth...

continued from front page

government is aware that the worsening economic crisis has fueled popular discontent and unrest throughout the country, thus posing a threat to its stability. That this volatile situation will continue to worsen in the months ahead is evident in the shrill tone of Marcos' warnings which contrast with his standard appeal for "sobriety, greater sacrifice and austerity" whenever the country faced similar difficulties in the past. To prevent this discontent from materializing into a dictatorship-toppling event, Marcos has resorted to his favorite, time-tested method of repression.

Secondly, according to the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (April 13, 1979): "Marcos is apparently reacting to the circulation of a public appeal in the form of a 'chain letter' (See AK, Vol VI, No. 6) seeking to rouse people's anger at the martial law government over intensifying economic problems." The letter urges the populace to "light a fire for freedom," and hints that an organized group is behind the recent fires and bombings of government offices, businesses owned by Marcos and his relatives, and homes of politicians associated with the regime such as former senator Emmanuel Palez, the most recent victim.

Apart from the chain letter, Marcos and his lieutenants have also vehemently attacked two petitions currently being circulated around the country. One calls for the release of imprisoned former senator Benigno Aquino; the other for the immediate lifting of martial law and holding of national elections. Although it is not yet clear whether the petitions' organizers' goal of one million signatures for each can be reached, the Marcos regime is obviously worried. Manila's Cardinal Jaime Sin has endorsed the

Aquino petition by writing a separate letter of appeal and allowing the petition to be circulated openly in the Manila Cathedral.

## THE ELITE OPPOSITION

What makes these recent moves particularly worrisome to Marcos is that they have been taken at the initiative of his elite opponents who have become increasingly desperate since the signing of the U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreement. Marcos knows that the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the New People's Army present a more serious long-range threat. But the elite opposition potentially offers a short-run alternative to his regime.

On its own, the elite has not manifested a capability for generating and leading mass actions. The large LABAN rallies in last year's elections were, according to reports, largely organized by national democratic forces. In the past, their anti-Marcos activities consisted of issuing bombastic manifestos or currying the favor of the U.S. The call for "light a fire for freedom" appears to be their recent response to the unmistakable cementing of ties between the Carter administration and the Marcos regime.

Nevertheless, the chain letter with its call for urban terror seems to have played directly into Marcos' hands. Some speculation is rife that it is not too far-fetched that Marcos may have taken advantage of it to organize a few bombings of his own as he is widely reported to have done prior to the declaration of martial law in 1972. The revelation that many of the firebombs delivered to Marcos cronies were duds, lends credence to this speculation. By doing this, Marcos has devised a pretext for the major crackdown on all opposition that he is now threatening.

gestion that investors should aim for "contract farming." "The wave of the future is to work with the small farmer."

"Contract farming" is nothing new to Filipino peasants. Traditional farmers in Mindanao where Dole, Del Monte, and other agricultural giants are expanding pineapple and banana production, have learned that it means being forced to sign incomprehensible papers, which for a token payment, permanently deprive them of control over their lands. The alternative to signing is usually protracted government-sanctioned harassment by corporation employees. Losing their lands, the so-called partners in contract farming can only hope to become a part of the grossly underpaid rural labor force or join the swelling ranks of the unemployed.

## PLACING THE BURDEN ON THE MASSES

The Marcos regime has already insured that the economic burden of the rice surplus will be borne by the Filipino masses. In an effort to compensate for the losses on low-priced export rice, the regime recently raised the domestic price ceiling on rice to P2.54/kilo. While this intensifies the pressure on underfed urban workers, for the peasantry, it represents a mere token — too little, too late.

For the Filipino masses, Marcos' agricultural policies — from Masagana 99 to corporate farming to the Agricultural Incentives Act — boil down to the same old thing time and time again: the rich get richer.

And the poor? They get angrier. □

## THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE

While this threatened crackdown may throw the elite opposition off balance, it is doubtful if such threats could reverse the gaining influence of the national democratic forces.

In contrast to past economic crises under the martial law regime, the steep and sudden increase in consumer prices in past months has particularly ominous implications, hitting Manila's workers and urban poor hardest. A similar situation in 1974 came at a time when the national democratic forces were still adjusting to repressive conditions under martial law. In the past three years, national democrats have shown an increasing capability to organize effectively even under brutally repressive conditions.

Given the volatile situation, it is not unlikely that the next few months will see the resumption of organized mass actions after more than a year's lull as workers, students and urban poor react to recent price increases. The *Far Eastern Economic Review* reports: "A Citizens Alliance for Consumer Protection relates consumers' problems to general economic and social problems. It urges unity in launching coordinated action among independent consumer organizations and calls on workers, students, urban poor, religious and community organizations among others to participate in such actions against price increases."

National democratic forces are the only ones who have effective organizations among these sectors of the urban population. It is thus safe to assume that they will play key roles in the struggle against price increases.

Whatever happens in the next few months, Marcos' frenzied reaction to the stirrings of the mounting economic crisis and political unrest once more reaffirms the essentially repressive character of his regime. The dire threats of arrest and hints of capital punishment have once more ripped away the dictator's mask of "smiling martial law." The myth of normalization is over and it's back to repression as usual. □

**Widespread Inflation**

# Economic Crisis Fuels Unrest, Repression

## PRICE INCREASE CHART

ITEM	PRICE IN 1972	PRICE IN 1979	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
Cooking Oil	P1.20/small size	P3.50/small size	192%
Liquified Petroleum Gas	P21.00	P27.35	30.2%
Rice	P1.40	P2.74	96%
Pork	P9.00/kilo	P15.00/kilo	67%
Galunggong	P2.00/kilo	P8.00/kilo	300%
Eggs	P0.28 each	P0.50 each	79%
Loaf of bread	P0.80	P1.25	56%
Ballpen	P0.45	P1.50	233%
Sugar	P1.09/kilo	P3.50/kilo	120%
Tuition (UP/semester)	P233.50	P384.50	55%
Minimum fare	P0.20	P0.45	125%
Regular gasoline	P0.33/liter	P2.00/liter	506%

Marcos' "New Society" is in the throes of an economic crisis.

Apart from the standard economic indicators, the most obvious sign of the crisis is the frenzied tone of the recent pronouncements of Marcos and his lieutenants. In the past few weeks, Marcos has made increasingly severe threats of retribution against those "snakes," those "peddlers of falsehoods" who are "making an issue of the economic crisis and blaming the government for rising prices . . ." Starting out with threats of arrest, Marcos subsequently escalated to veiled hints of capital punishment.

In the past, Marcos' standard technique for dealing with economic problems has been to deny their existence or to order his technocrats to devise patchwork solutions. One measure of the seriousness of the current crisis is the threatened resort to Marcos' bottom-line tactic — repression. This frantic response stems from the fact that the problem facing the regime is one most likely to generate unrest — a sudden and steep increase in the prices of basic commodities.

### INFLATION TRANSFERRING COST OF CRISIS

In the past month, bus and jeepney fares have been raised by 50 percent, electricity rates by 11 percent, water rates by a whopping 74 percent, house rentals and school fees by 15 percent. Of more serious consequence for the Philippine poor, food prices have risen faster than other goods and services. The price of rice for example was recently raised to P2.74 per kilo (\$.37) almost double its price (P1.40) in September 1972 at the time of the declaration of martial law. Comparable increases have occurred in the prices of cooking oil (P1.20 small size can to P3.50), sugar (P1.00/kilo to P2.40/kilo) and eggs (P.28 each to P.50 each).

These increases, it should be noted, are expected to be followed by further increases in the rest of the year. Although Central Bank governor Gregorio Licaros says that inflation rose at an annual rate of only 10.1 percent during the first quarter of 1979, other sources say that inflation is going to accelerate in the next three quarters. The Asian Wall Street Journal (April 10, 1979) for example predicts that 1979 inflation will be at least 17 percent, more than double last year's 8 percent rate.

As usual, the Marcos regime has absolved itself of any responsibility for the increases. Instead, the regime blames "factors beyond our control," mainly the increase in the price of crude oil. Costs of production due to higher costs of imported raw materials and wage increases have also been used to justify inflation.

While these external factors have undoubtedly generated inflationary pressures, what the government conveniently neglects to point out is that its own insatiable demand for revenue and its very strategy for "export-oriented growth" has been the main source of inflation.

Oil prices, the Marcos regime's standard bogeyman for inflation are a good example. Instead of adjusting local fuel prices to the year-long staggered increase imposed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the regime increased prices by a full 14.5 percent at one blow. The bonanza that the oil companies will receive through the difference estimated at P500 million (\$68.5 million) will be collected by the government through increasing oil taxes.

In more general terms, inflationary pressures have been generated by the martial law regime's strategy for

development. The basic imbalance between money supply and available goods is the result of government overspending on infrastructure, military operations, tourism and other non-productive activities. These activities are largely financed through foreign loans now estimated at over \$8 billion. To finance the increasing debt-service burden the government has been furiously promoting exports, in the process creating domestic shortages in these products and driving the prices upwards to match export prices.

To cushion the impact of inflation the government recently decreed increases in minimum wages and allowances. All told, according to the Ministry of Labor, increases effective April 1 will average 27 percent for all 15 million workers in the country. "But," as the Far Eastern Economic Review's Shielah Ocampo put it April 6, "There are so many variations and exemptions that the practical result is to severely limit the application of the increases to already rock bottom wages. One estimate is that only 32 percent of workers on the minimum wage will benefit from them."

More than 50 percent of the country's workforce earn less than the minimum wage as a result of the widespread practice of hiring "casuals" and "trainees" sanctioned by the regime. They will not qualify for the increases. Thus even fewer workers will actually benefit from the increases. Allowances which are supposed to be provided even to "trainees" are not likely to be much help either. "A great many of them judging by previous experience will have to fight tooth and nail to get these small benefits or those previously granted by the government," Ocampo notes.

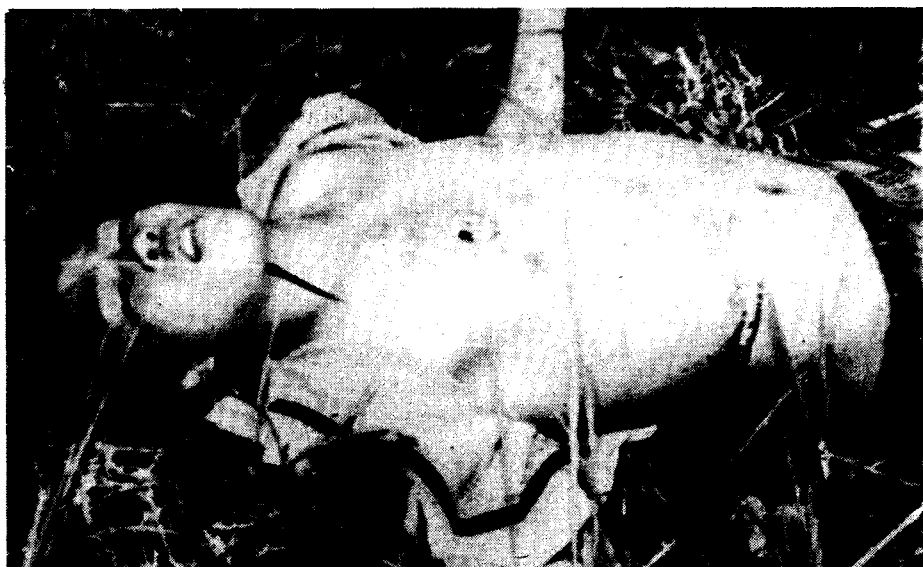
If the pattern set in the first three months of 1979 continues, it is going to be a very bad year indeed for the Filipino worker. According to the Central Bank, real wages for unskilled workers, the vast majority of the Filipino working class, declined by 6.5 percent between January and March 1979.

The bad news on the economic scene is not limited to inflation. According to the 1979 first quarter report of the Central Bank, the balance-of-payments deficit would have been \$241 million if it were not for the allocation of \$28 million of Special Drawing Rights by the IMF and for the monetization of \$8 million in gold.

The first quarter deficit was partly caused by a widening trade gap which increased to \$400 million from \$300 million for the same period last year. An abrupt reversal of capital flow had a greater effect. Where there was an inflow of \$249 million in loans and investment in the first quarter of 1978, there was a net outflow of \$66 million during the same period this year. Much of the capital outflow was in the form of debt-service payments. Another factor was a decline in direct foreign equity investments.

For Marcos, the one bright spot in the economic picture is the Carter administration's commitment of undisclosed amounts of military and economic aid as a result of the January U.S.-R.P. bases agreement. For the people, however, such aid will work, not towards improving their lot, but towards further increasing inflationary pressures on their already low incomes. Of greater importance, U.S. aid will serve to prolong the life of a regime whose economic policies have accelerated the deterioration of the people's livelihood. □

## Government Salvages Two Brothers



The body of Rudy Fuentes: Helping out with the family harvest proved to be a fatal mistake. (AK Photo)

From Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental comes another grim report of "salvaging" or summary execution by the Marcos military.

Killed last Jan. 6 by a team of Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) agents were Meliton Fuentes, 21 and the father of two children; and his brother Rudy, 19. The two were residents of Davao del Norte who made the fatal mistake of visiting their relatives in Barrio Molicay, Ozamis City in order to help them bring in the rice harvest.

On October 2 last year, the two were arrested by a team of unidentified military men. Strangers to agents in the barrio, they were suspected to be members of the New People's Army (NPA). Witnesses claim that the

brothers were maltreated both upon arrest and under questioning by the military.

The Fuentes brothers languished in prison at the Ozamis City Jail for three months. Then on Jan. 6, the CIS team arrived and took them to nearby Barrio Bagacay. Several hours after their arrival, they were summarily executed before the eyes of barrio residents.

Meliton's body bore eight gunshot wounds and Rudy's three. As in previous salvaging cases, newspaper reports carried the story of the brothers' deaths as an encounter between the military and members of the NPA. The two young men were killed, said the papers, while "trying to escape." □

# MARTIAL LAW COALITION

## Interview With Sister Mariani

# Activist Nun Denounces Regime's Repression

Sister Mariani is a Franciscan nun who taught at St. Joseph's College in Manila. When the college was raided in 1973 by the military, she was one of those arrested. Two months later, she was released. Since 1975 she has been actively involved in the Task Force Detainees and was interviewed in the British Broadcasting Company's (BBC) television documentary "Collision Course."

Last March, Sr. Mariani left the Philippines for Europe and the U.S. to seek support for the "free all political prisoners" movement. While she was in Oakland last April, the Ang Katipunan interviewed her — Editor.

By DAVID POLAND  
AK Correspondent

AK: Sister Mariani, could you explain the goals of the Task Force Detainees and how it was formed?

Sr. Mariani: The Task Force Detainees was a response of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines to the effects of martial law. People have been complaining of arrests, torture, military abuse and atrocities by the martial law regime.

The Task Force Detainees was meant to answer the needs of those who have been arrested because of their opposition to martial law. These are not just the needs of the detainees themselves but also of their families. Thousands have been put into the stockade because they were opposing martial law.

AK: What is the Program of the Task Force?

Sr. Mariani: We have four programs operating on the national level: three are legal assistance, material assistance [food, clothing and medical], and an educational program. In our educational program, we give seminars or what we call 'consultations.'

AK: Education is such a broad category, what do you try to accomplish in this program?

Sister Mariani: The program is designed to teach communication and documentation skills to farmers and grassroots folks. This is so they can document cases of abuse that is happening in their neighborhoods.



Sr. Mariani: "I would appeal to American people to stop all aid to Marcos...." (Don Luce Photo)

The nice thing is that they write their news items in their own dialect . . . and for me that is wonderful . . . people getting aware and trying to write what is happening in their own locality.

AK: How are these atrocities and abuses documented?

Sr. Mariani: Through the use of the educational program, people have begun to put together their own newsletters. In addition, they also give written reports to us, [Task Force], on any mistreatment that may occur in the hands of government forces.

It takes a lot of courage to be able to come together and speak out against martial law. People have learned that they're not alone in the struggle. They have come to know the problems of other farmers, fishermen, and people in other regions.

Even for Task Force members, working with the political detainees is not an easy task. It is a big risk, realizing one of us might be detained by the authorities.

AK: Can you speak on the other programs?

Sr. Mariani: Our material support program tries to help families of detainees. Under our assistance program, we have maintained the children of detainees who cannot afford to go to school. Last year we sent 74 children to school in the Manila area alone.

There is also the overall documentation program. This

program is the basis of sustaining systematically all other programs. To date, we have published the Political Detainees Update which is a bi-weekly and we also issue our quarterly reports and yearly books.

AK: Will you clarify what is meant by a 'political prisoner' under martial law?

Sr. Mariani: Our working definition in the Task Force Detainees is anybody detained in defense of his or her rights or the rights of others. So whether Marcos denies their existence by claiming 'they are criminal elements, we feel obligated to help these people in what little way we can.

AK: Sister, how did you, as a religious person, get involved in the anti-martial law movement?

Sr. Mariani: I guess for me that's easy to explain. We are church people, and when the masses of people are getting picked up for defending their human rights . . . it is our obligation to respond in their defense. Of course,

what we call, 'the opposition to structures that are very oppressive' — particularly the martial law regime.

Some of us are working with the farmers, trying to organize and point out their rights. Some are with the fishermen; others are with laborers . . . and some, like myself, are working with political detainees.

AK: Can you give us your assessment of the plight of the political detainees?

Sr. Mariani: The most alarming act that I have witnessed in the provinces is 'salvaging.' The government has been trying to get around the torture issue by the outright execution of detainees.

One case was that of the Fuentes brothers. These two brothers left Davao sometime in October for Ozamis to help their relatives in the harvest. For no apparent reason they were picked up and sent to the city jail.

In January, they were taken out of jail and killed in the barrio. I have



Task Force Detainees sisters with Vilma Ripoy, victim of military torture and abuse. (AK Photo)

there is always fear of the repressive regime. But for me, responding to the situation is simply Christian witnessing. Therefore, religious persons are getting involved.

The clergy and even the lay people do their share in organizing in the defense of the rights of the small people.

AK: What do you think of the religious hierarchy who say the church has no business with political issues?

Sr. Mariani: I feel that view is the height of inhumanity. In the Philippines this act of not getting involved oftentimes takes the statement of: 'Don't do any organizing because that might be communist.' This term 'communist' is so misused and sometimes overused to categorize any act that involves organizing the people for their own defense. Even the military takes advantage of this. They try to make people fearful so they won't get involved in organizing peasants and laborers. But clearly, there is a need to organize, to help people be aware of their human rights.

AK: Can you describe the present role of the religious in the movement?

Sr. Mariani: I think some religious people are playing a very good role in

seen pictures of the bodies, mutilated beyond recognition. This salvaging process is widespread, with cases reported in Negros, Samar and Cagayan.

AK: Sister, if you had to make an appeal to the American people in supporting the struggle of the Filipino people, what would you say?

Sr. Mariani: I would say first of all that their American money is being used to suppress the Filipino people, to torture the Filipino people, to uproot people from their villages. I would tell the American people that their tax money is being used to prop up a much-hated and repressive regime.

In effect, the American taxpayers are being used to support the present day atrocities in the Philippines. I would therefore ask that international pressure on the Marcos government be kept up. Both international pressure and publicity in exposing this brutal regime have helped to release some political detainees . . . which is good.

But the pressure must continue worldwide. I am not just talking about publicity or exposure, but also cutting off all military and economic aid to the martial law regime. The American people can help do that. □



One of TFD's programs is to assist detainees' families to support themselves. (Maryknoll Photo)

# FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

## Philippine National Day

# R.P. Independence Proclamation: June 12, 1898



San Francisco PND '77 — Philippine National Day has become a tradition in major U.S. cities with large Filipino populations. (AK Photo)

By VENERANDO CAPILI and  
ESTHER SIMPSON  
1979 Filipino National Day  
Committee

June 12, 1898, is one of the brightest spots in our nation's history. On this date Philippine independence was proclaimed by the revolutionary government headed by Emilio Aguinaldo.

As we prepare for the Filipino National Day celebration this year it is fitting to reflect back and draw out the significance of that historic moment. For there are great lessons relevant to us that can be learned from it but which tend to be buried in the sands of time.

The proclamation of Philippine independence from Spain on June 12, 1898 was the culmination of our people's struggle for freedom. It was preceded by some 200 revolts of varying scope and intensity at different times during the entire Spanish colonial period. Towards the latter half of the 19th century, the struggle for freedom took an added form: the first Propaganda Movement. There were two ideas then contending for dominance. One, associated with Antonio Luna, called for total break with Spain. Luna saw the inevitability of armed revolution. On the other hand, the reformists headed by Jose Rizal

called for the improvement of Spanish colonial rule in the Philippines. Rizal wanted representation in the Spanish parliament which, in effect, would have made the Philippines a province of Spain. Rizal's movement then was no different from the present Statehood movement which has failed to hit a responsive chord among the Filipinos.

The propaganda movement was initially confined to a few Filipino intellectuals in Europe. Soon it filtered into the islands and enkindled a general awakening to the oppressive condition under the Spanish colonial rule. However, serious limitations are always inherent in the leadership of the intellectuals and reformists. As part of the privileged class, they are always vulnerable to vacillations, compromises and capitulation. Furthermore, as individualists, they lack the ability to transform ideas into concrete demands and organizational forms that would encompass the broad masses of the people.

A dockworker, Andres Bonifacio, saw the futility of reforms and in 1892 took the decisive step by founding the secret revolutionary organization, *Katipunan*, which led the revolution against Spain. The main demand was total break from Spain by smashing the Spanish colonial apparatus and confiscating the Friar lands. Armed

uprising immediately ensued upon the premature discovery of the *Katipunan* by the Spanish authorities in 1896.

Based initially in Bulacan and a few other areas around Manila, the *Katipunan*, under the leadership of Bonifacio, won impressive victories and captured substantial amounts of weapons in the process. Action soon spread to other areas in the country.

The Philippine revolution was significant in one respect. It was the first liberation war in Asia. However, its effectiveness was limited. With the factionalism and the capture of its leadership by another *ilustrado*, Emilio Aguinaldo, which resulted in the execution of Bonifacio, the revolution soon suffered a series of setbacks. This led to the final act of capitulation formalized by the Treaty of Biak-na-Bato which temporarily ended the revolutionary war and sent Aguinaldo to voluntary exile in Hongkong.

Internationally, the United States was at the threshold of becoming a world power. The confrontation with Spain was inevitable. With this backdrop, US Consular officials approached Aguinaldo to ask him to go back and regain the leadership of the Philippine revolution. Thus, in 1898 the final phase of the Philippine revolution against Spain was waged under the leadership of Aguinaldo. The Filipinos' burning desire for freedom, aided by better weapons purchased from the US, led to the defeat of the Spanish forces with the exception of the seat of colonial government and some 13,000 Spanish troops inside the Walled City of Intramuros. On June 12, 1898, Aguinaldo declared the Philippines an independent republic. This date, again, has an added significance. It represents not only the birth of a new nation but also the fullest expression of our national unity. At that time the *Katipunan* already represented a national movement.

### INDEPENDENCE

It was a sunny day when Philippine independence was declared. However, dark clouds were hovering on

the Eastern horizon. A series of naive compromises by the *ilustrado* leadership before the declaration of independence led to a situation in which the Filipino revolutionary forces were driven out of Manila and US forces surrounded the remaining Spanish stronghold in Intramuros. The Spanish forces negotiated not with the Filipinos but with the US forces whereby the Spanish forces, after a mock naval battle in Manila Bay, would surrender to the US forces. Even Aguinaldo's Independence Proclamation already alluded to the "Mighty North American Nation," a recognition of the hovering dark clouds on the Eastern horizon.

Philippine independence was short-lived. On February 4, 1899, the Filipino-American War broke out. The hovering dark clouds became a rain of terror. The War lasted at least 7 years and killed at least 10 per cent of the Philippine population and 20,000 US troops. The destruction and atrocities committed on the Filipinos, in proportion to the Philippine population then, are unparalleled even to this day. Half a million people in Luzon perished, one third of the population of Samar were killed and that island became a "howling wilderness." The torture tactics later applied in Vietnam were tested first in that war. Historians now call that war the First Vietnam. It was truly a great liberation war, a lesson in national sacrifice and perseverance that even in defeat in the face of overwhelming odds the Filipinos had every reason to be proud. And they deserve our respect and admiration today.

This year, as we celebrate Filipino National Day, we honor the martyrs and heroes of the revolution not only by highlighting their great contribution but also by accepting our responsibility to carry on that unfinished revolution. Let this celebration revive the spirit which guided the Philippine revolution. Let it be an occasion to call for and express our unity with our countrymen who are at present struggling for genuine independence. □

## In Chicago

# Divisiveness And Thought Control

By EDDIE ESCULTURA  
AK Correspondent

Why are certain organizations and individuals excluded from the Consulate-dominated Philippine Week celebration?

For political reasons, according to the Philippine Consulate. That is, some of those excluded do not think like the Consul on the issue of martial law in the Philippines. For the others who are similarly excluded such as members of the Filipino National Day Committee, well, that is the price they have to pay for upholding the democratic right of anyone to participate in the Filipino National Day celebration.

While one might dismiss such divisiveness as a matter of idiosyncrasy on the part of a Consul who just cannot stand opposition, the reason is much deeper than meets the eye. It lies in the essence of the Philippine Week celebration itself.

Although the character of the Philippine Week celebration was not

quite clear when it was held for the first time in 1976, it has become much clearer since last year. Its theme is quite revealing: "*Isang Diwa, Isang Bansa*" which is the slogan of the "New Society." Not only does it spell repression but, in essence, it also translates as thought control. It then becomes clear why the Philippine Week Committee is anathema to democratic participation. This explains why only those who yield to thought control or who support martial law such as Carmelito Llapitan and Dely Villalon have occupied leading positions in the Committee. Those with reservations about martial law, if at all invited, are given token positions. Of course, those who uncompromisingly uphold democracy such as the members of the Filipino National Day Committee are barred from the Philippine Week Committee.

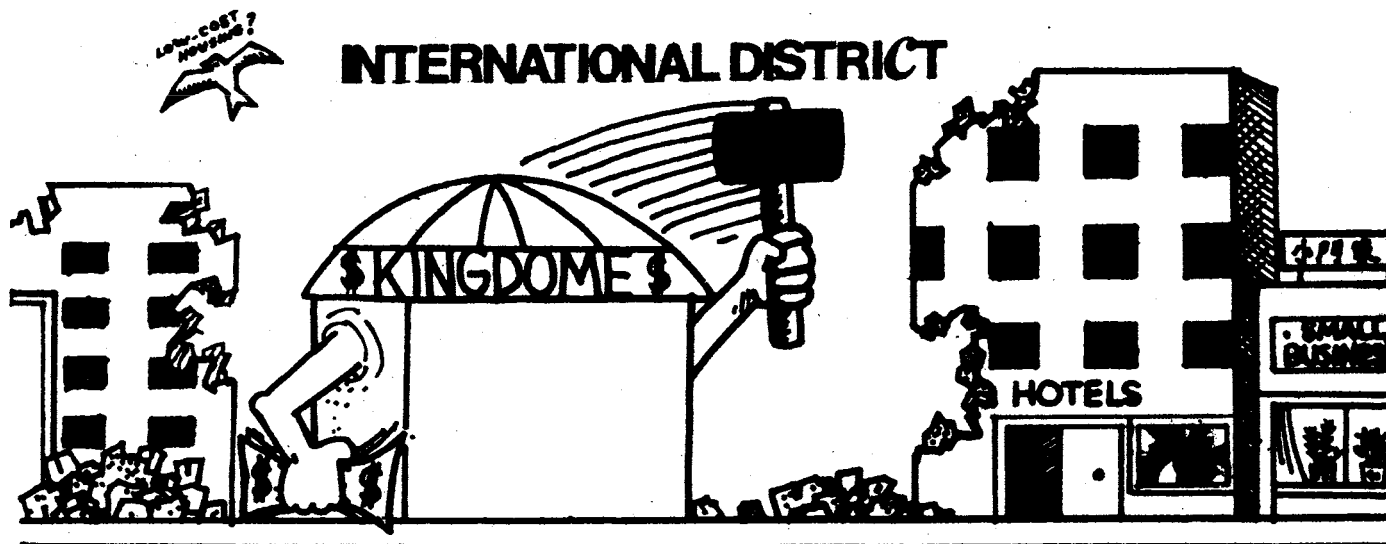
Popularizing such "New Society" slogans by giving it organizational expression through the Philippine Week Committee is the more subtle

way of extending the long arm of martial law to our community. This has replaced the more blatant forms of intimidation which have become ineffective in recent years. This subtle tactic belongs to the category of *Balikbayan Roadshows*, *Zarzuela* or the cultural tour of "*Himig ng Lahi*." The latter presents Philippine history through the eyes of the Philippine dictator. To give flavor and finesse to this tactic, less obvious pro-martial law elements who are willing to swallow the Consulate's wishes, hook, line and sinker, are sometimes used. This is how Vicente Aquino found his way into the chairmanship of the Philippine Week Committee in 1977. What is pathetic about it is that even well-meaning persons have become unwitting tools of the martial law regime. For example, not too many people realize that the *Zarzuela* and *Himig ng Lahi* presentations are part of the well-coordinated propaganda blitz of the dictatorship around June 12.

At the root of this manipulative scheme is the Consulate's cunning in exploiting the basic nationalistic sentiments of Filipinos for the purpose of serving the political ends of the Marcos dictatorship. By successfully covering up its political role of doing propaganda and spying and by falsely projecting itself as a service agency (like referring H-1 nurses to lawyers who charge exorbitant fees), the Consulate has been able to sanitize its image even if it is the direct representative of the repressive regime. It utilizes social ties, combines persuasion and intimidation and promotes a false sense of nationalism to minimize criticism of the martial law regime. Nationalism is invoked to come to the defense of the Philippine government even if that regime is tainted with the blood of countless victims of torture and murder. And so, not a few people have become tools, willingly or unwillingly, of this agency for repression. For when the Consul comes around with that disarming and deceptive smile, the groans and sighs of those being mutilated and "salvaged" by the dictatorship which he represents fade into the background. □

## I.D. Residents Gird For Battle

## Bus Co. Attempts Union Station Takeover



By ELAINE KO  
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE — No sooner has the International District community taken a rest after fighting against the Port of Seattle than METRO Bus has now unraveled plans that brings it into conflict with this community's residents.

District residents gathered at the International District Housing Alliance dinner on April 14 to discuss the similarities between the aborted plans and METRO's current plans, and also to discuss organizing strategy.

"First, it was the Port of Seattle barging into our neighborhood with an intermodal transportation terminal. Now it's METRO's plans for a bus transportation terminal," claimed an elderly Filipino resident.

"They're all the same — all for big profits at the expense of us low-income residents."

Back in December last year, the Port was forced to drop their plans for a \$17 million intermodal bus terminal on the 11-acre property in the International District. This decision came after months of massive opposition led by the Housing Alliance and Inter\*Im, a social service agency. It was clearly a defeat for the powerful Port (second in size only to New York's Port Authority), which had spent over \$200,000 in preliminary studies only to find staunch opposition to their plans.

"We are simply opposed to Metro instituting a transfer terminal for commuters coming from south suburbs into the downtown area. We already must live with a wall of buses to the district, a domed stadium, a freeway and now 100 buses per hour into the Union Station," stated Andy Mizuki of the IDHA. "There is no way we will allow Metro to build here."

Last year, METRO's Transition Downtown Task Force (MTDTF) began studying the new regional transit system for 1990 to accommodate a big increase of commuters now coming into the Downtown area to shop, work or do business. It is estimated that by 1990, 7,000 more people will come into the Downtown area per peak hour. The Task Force is presently studying four alternative systems, one of which would build a self-transfer terminal at Union Station and another terminal at 9th Ave. and Pine Street. Thousands of commuters would transfer daily at the Union Station onto electric trolleys and head down a new "transit mall" along 3rd Ave. Commuters from the North would transfer at the North Terminal and use the mall. This alternative, called the "Twin Terminal" concept, is most desirable to the Task Force. This also happens to be the most expensive.

Construction cost for this alter-

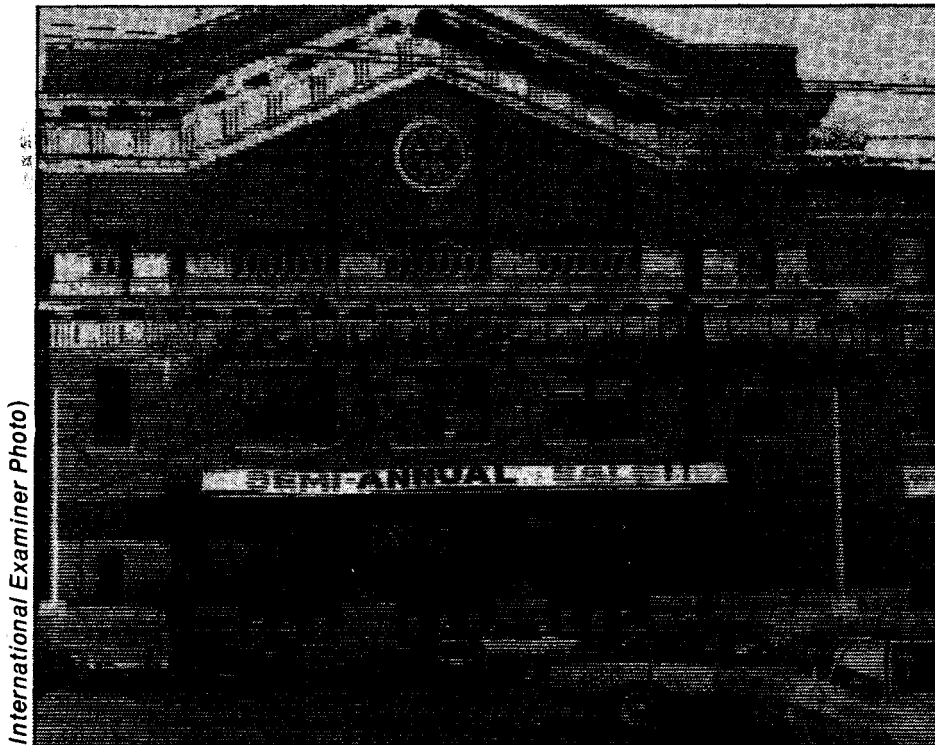
native system will exceed \$180 million, not including yearly operating costs. Metro hopes to secure up to 80 percent funding by the Federal government. METRO doesn't anticipate major problems in receiving such transportation funds since both state senators Henry Jackson and Warren Magnusen have powerful positions in Congress and former Washingtonian Brock Adams is the head of the Dept. of Transportation.

#### NEW SYSTEM TIED TO SEATTLE'S GROWTH

Downtown Seattle is frequently described as the transportation center for the entire Northwest Region. "Downtown Seattle should be the place

dweller — i.e. the low-income elderly, the young laborer, the family, all of whom are renters. This new system is a "peak hour" system, that is millions will be invested into a system that will only be used by suburban commuters during two peak hours per day. Inner city dwellers who must live with such a massive development and all the problems it brings may never use the terminal.

Public officials representing the Metro decision-making body have sanctioned the study of the new alternative system, which they claim will "serve the public." But who will it really serve? It is more accurate to say it will serve the growing corporate interest at the expense of the inner



METRO's plan to convert the Union Station into a transportation transfer terminal presents a danger of displacing I.D. residents.

city dwellers. Similar experience in other cities tells us who are really served by such mass transit system. In San Francisco, only 7 percent of the people along its route use BART to get to work. BART has only four stations outside San Francisco's downtown financial district and whole areas of the city, especially low-income neighborhoods, are not even served by it.

Insensitivity best describes METRO planners' attitudes. Their publication never mentions a word about the system's impact on small businesses, land areas, increased pressure for new parking lots as opposed to affordable housing, and evictions of people. This attitude is not surprising. The consultant firm, Parsons Brinckerhoff, was the joint partner in designing and constructing San Francisco BART system. There has been untold loss of low-income housing and small business to pave the way for BART, not to mention the property taxes citizens pay to support it.

In all, over two-thirds of BART costs were paid for by property and

sales taxes. Parson Brinckerhoff reportedly made over \$150 million profit by building BART.

#### NEGATIVE IMPACT ON I.D.

Inter\*Im has charged METRO with being biased towards Union Station property because there are three other sites available for the METRO transfer terminal. The city Office of Policy Planning has already conducted two community meetings at which they have extolled the benefits to the I.D. if METRO were to build the terminal at the Union Station.

However, I.D. residents and community activists stand firm that such a terminal must not be built in the International District.

METRO's plan would spell doom for people living and working in the I.D., with auto congestion by hundreds of daily passengers, exhaust from diesel buses into the terminal, noise and air pollution. More serious is what it would bring along — i.e. increased need for parking lots and expansion of transportation-related uses into the district. METRO's projected goal for the Downtown project is 120 million riders per year, up from the current 50 million riders.

Adding to the pressure is the skyrocketing land values caused by the boom in real estate investment in downtown Seattle. The only thing not "booming" is the building of low-income housing. Over 9,000 people have been displaced out of the downtown area since 1960. Over 92 percent of the low-income households are renters and with a one percent rental vacancy rate, this constitutes a housing crisis unequaled in the history of the "Queen City," as Seattle is known. METRO's terminal will cause land values in the I.D. and neighboring areas to soar which make renovations of old buildings for low-income housing least desirable for private landowners and speculators. The I.D. housing condition is already the worst in the city according to government statistics.

#### GOVERNMENT ROLE IN HOUSING

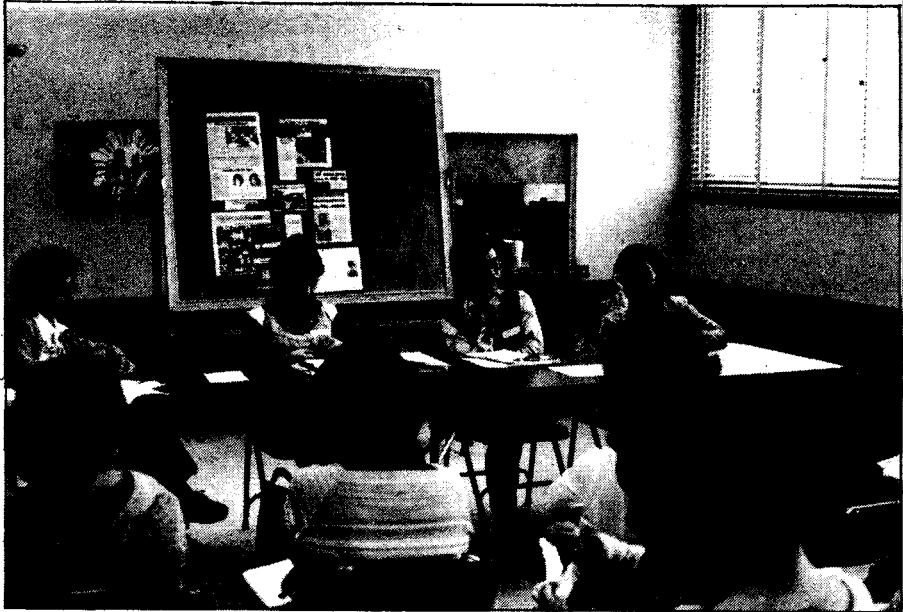
The government is actively assisting Seattle's big capital investment over people's demands for housing. They have given only token funds for renovating low-income housing. Meanwhile, the federal government will be financing both METRO's projects, and both Federal and local governments have extensively assisted in urban renewal of the Pike place and West Lake Mall areas for tourist and commercial uses. Very little new housing has been built, yet the Pike place area alone evicted over 600 residents to pave way for the urban renewal.

While METRO goes after transportation funds, housing funds were cut back by the Department of Urban Development (HUD). Seattle has received less than half the funds they received last year for low interest loans on housing renovations. There has been no low-income housing for families built in the entire city since 1972. The government officials even admit that they have met less than two percent of the low-income housing needs.

"What we are asking of METRO is to study other non-residential sites for this South terminal. We are not against public transportation, but we won't support it at the expense of people's homes," stated Mizuki. "International District residents are planning a letter-writing and petition campaign to be distributed throughout the district and the city." □



# Commission Screens FNG's Through Biased Tests



FNG forum in San Diego last March.

(AK Photo)

Screening Foreign Nurse Graduates (FNGs) through written tests could be a devious way of preventing them from coming to this country. At least this is what the Foreign Nurses Ad Hoc Committee, based in San Francisco, thinks of the screening tests given to FNGs in their native country who desire to work in the U.S.

The tests are prepared by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS). They were first given in October 1978, then again in April 4 this year to thirty countries including the Philippines.

CGFNS is supposedly a "private, non-governmental" body borne out of a meeting between the Department of

Health, Education, and Welfare and two prominent nursing groups, the American Nursing Association and the National League of Nursing. More specifically, the commission was a result of an HEW study that investigated and evaluated the "readiness of foreign nurses to meet licensing requirements" in the U.S.

The idea of the study on FNGs did not originate from HEW itself. It was urged by three government agencies — the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Services and the Department of Labor — and by all state boards of nursing examiners. Most likely, the study was prompted by the high percentage of failure in licensing exams among FNGs.

Funding for the Philadelphia-based CGFNS comes from HEW, NLN, ANA, and, for some unclear reasons, from Kellogg's Foundation. It was revealed that HEW doled out \$6 million while cereal-foods fame Kellogg's granted some \$345,000 only recently.

## ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

The screening tests, according to the commission, have supposedly been designed with the aim of measuring FNGs nursing competency.

However, critics of the CGFNS question the validity of the tests.

They say the tests gauge the FNGs' English proficiency more than nursing competency. This is the same factor which, according to the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) cause the failure rate among FNGs taking their licensing exams. The failures have also been attributed to the cultural bias of the exams.

Consequently, the Commission, along with ANA, NLN and Kellogg's Foundation, has been charged with trying to bar FNGs from coming to this country. The CGFNS has, of course, denied this.

In the Philippines, which produces the largest number of nursing graduates among the 30 countries where the screen tests were administered, a nurse is required to pay P20 for the application form alone. Another P20 is collected on the day the test is actually taken.

What most FNGs taking the test are not told is that taking the test is not a criterion for H-1 visa eligibility. Passing it does not even guarantee the working visa.

Moreover, according to Jose Bernardo of the California Board of Registered Nursing, "taking the test ... is not even required by most states ..."

Press Release

## COALITION URGES PROP. 13 PROTESTS

"We must learn to live with less." That's Governor Jerry Brown's message to Californians on how to deal with the massive cuts in jobs and services resulting from Proposition 13.

However, there are those who don't agree with the Governor's turn toward conservative fiscal policies. One such group is the California Labor Community Coalition for Tax Justice and Human Needs which is organizing a picket/rally on May 5th at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. Brown is scheduled to speak at the said hotel in a health policy conference entitled "Health: Whose Responsibility?" at 9 a.m. that day. Labor and community groups from all over the Bay Area will come together under the banner: "Tax Justice and Human Needs: We won't live with less!"

The *we* who Brown expects to live with less are not the corporations who reaped a 25 percent increase in profits last year and yet get away with paying less and less taxes. Rather the *we* are those workers expected to live without cost of living allowances; the *we* are those minorities, women, seniors, disabled, and the poor who depend heavily on government funded services to their basic needs; and the *we* are California's workers who have not gained any real tax relief from Proposition 13.

The May 5th event is being held to bring together the many special interest groups to demonstrate the overwhelming negative impact of the Prop. 13 cutbacks, and the need to increase the state bailout in order to maintain jobs and services.

Not only do we need every cent of the state surplus to ensure that the quality of life is protected such as in health, education, jobs, and social services, but we need assurance in the bailout bill that local politicians are required to sustain jobs and services at their current level.

In Alameda County last year, the Board of Supervisors arbitrarily laid off over 600 public workers (mostly women and minorities) while they stored away over \$10 million to pay for computers and rent payments 20 years in advance. Similarly, this year, the Board of Supervisors of Alameda



County are making arbitrary cuts but this time for community-based organizations

Twenty-two organizations which provide services such as transportation to the disabled, bilingual legal services for women, Native Americans and Filipino immigrants have been given termination notices. The rest of the county's community-based organizations' budgets are being cut by 38 percent. Meanwhile, the entire County budget is only estimated to be 4 percent of its projected needs given the state bailout allotments.

These types of cutbacks are going on all over the state and it is essential that we not fight amongst ourselves for pieces of a shrinking pie. We must unite the fightback movement and give mutual support for one another.

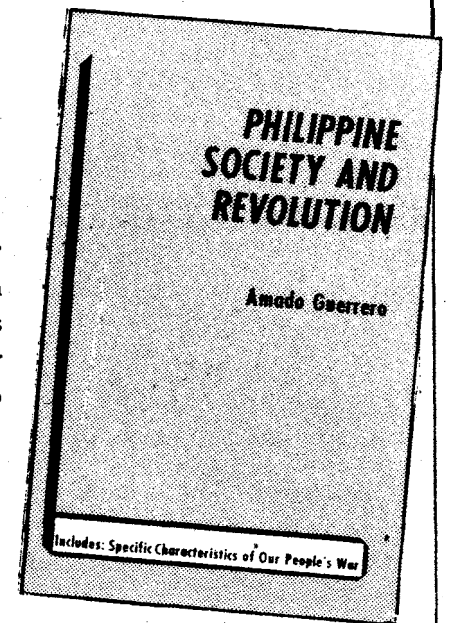
The California Labor Community Coalition for Tax Justice and Human Needs was formed to put forward progressive alternatives on the issues of taxes and government spending priorities. It is currently developing a proposal for a people's tax initiative aimed at the November 1980 ballot. The principles upon which the initiative would be based include: 1) Shifting the tax burden to those most able to pay (corporations and the very rich); 2) Guarantee tax relief to homeowners as well as renters; 3) Provide adequate funds for quality human services.

For more information about the May 5th picket, or the Coalition, contact: Sherry Hirota (415) 834-6900 or 261-2948; or Louise Cohen (415) 626-0190. □

## PANDAYAN PUBLICATIONS

is proud to announce the first U.S. publication of:

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY AND REVOLUTION — A comprehensive class analysis, basic problems and program for National Democratic revolution in the Philippines. Also includes Specific Characteristics of Our People's War. \$3.95



### OTHER BOOKS:

LOGISTICS OF REPRESSION — A report on the volume, forms and functions of U.S. military assistance to the martial law regime in the Philippines. \$2.00

MAKIBAKA (Join Us in Struggle) — A documentation of five years of resistance to martial law in the Philippines. Published by Friends of the Philippines of Holland. \$5.00

CONDITIONS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE UNDER MARTIAL LAW — A report of the 1978 FFP/AMLC Investigating Team to Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. \$2.00

### PAMPHLETS

REFUGEE CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES \$2.00

POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE PHILIPPINES \$2.00

10-POINT PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION \$5.00

FOUR YEARS OF MARTIAL LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES \$2.00

SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE'S WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES \$5.00

### POSTERS

PHILIPPINE REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY MURALS (Set of four) \$4.00/set

MINDANAO \$1.75

WELCOME TO AMERICA \$1.00

### RECORD

BANGON (Arise) \$5.00

Send checks, money order to:

PANDAYAN

P.O. Box 24707

Oakland, CA 94623

Please add \$.50 for mailing and handling.

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL  
DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL  
DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL

'We All Live In Harrisburg'

# Thousands Protest Nuke Dangers

While the nuclear reactor at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island plant headed for a cold shutdown after the near-disastrous March 28 accident, popular opposition to nuclear power began picking up steam.

In nationwide protests, thousands of people took to the streets to denounce the hazards of nuclear power, demanding a cold-shutdown of the nation's 70-plus reactors. The nation's largest rally occurred April 7 in San Francisco, where over 20,000 people demanded the closure of California's Diablo Canyon nuclear reactor. Built by Pacific Gas and Electric Co., the \$1.4 billion reactor is located just three miles from an active fault.

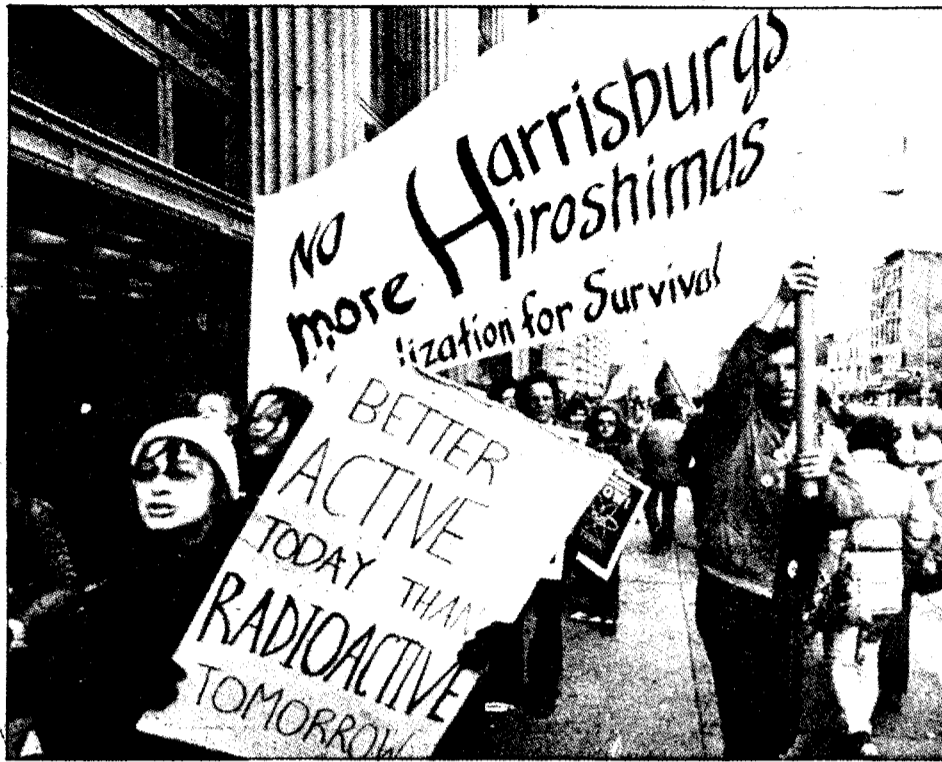
While the PG&E utilities pressed the state for a license to operate the plant, nuclear opponents scored the inherent dangers of the plant, using the example of the Harrisburg accident. Daniel Ellsberg, Ralph Nader, Dennis Banks and other speakers noted that aside from the earthquake danger, the plant would generate an estimated 1,000 pounds of highly radioactive plutonium and other wastes.

"We're going back into the streets to demand the complete shutdown of nuclear energy," stressed Dennis Banks.

## NATIONWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS

Called by the Abalone Alliance and Citizens for a Better Environment, the day-long rally reflected a growing nationwide sentiment against nuclear power and the nuclear armaments race.

In Groton, Conn., some 4,000 protesters gathered outside the General Dynamics plant April 7 to denounce the launching of the first Trident nuclear submarine. Described as the largest anti-nuclear weapons demonstration in the Eastern Seaboard, an estimated 230 people were arrested after staging a sit-in at the entrances to the plant. The Trident submarine, built at a cost of \$1.2 billion, was targeted not only for its exorbitant cost, but for its serious escalation of the nuclear armaments drive of the U.S.



New York City residents protest nuclear power April 6.

(Guardian Photo)

The Harrisburg accident sparked numerous other demonstrations. In Los Angeles, 2,000 people rallied against nuclear power while clear across the country in New York City, some 4,000 rallied April 6 at the offices of Gov. Hugh Carey demanding the closure of the Indian Point nuclear plant. In Harrisburg, 1,000 rallied April 6 on the steps of the State Capitol demanding the closure of the Three Mile Island plant. Other protests occurred in Boston, New Jersey, Columbia, Vermont, and Washington, D.C. as thousands called for an end to present U.S. nuclear policy.

International protests also scored nuclear power dangers as 50,000 marched in West Germany on March 31. One of the chants at that rally was "We all live in Harrisburg!" underscoring the fact that nuclear contaminants are indiscriminate in the choosing of its victims.

Widespread concern over the possibility of the worst type of nuclear

reactor accident, a melt-down of the reactor core, has been heightened by the government's own reports on the effects of such an accident.

According to the government's Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a serious nuclear accident resulting in a meltdown of the reactor core would cause:

- The release of a lethal cloud of radiation, one mile wide and with a range of 75 miles. Everyone within the cloud's path would receive high doses of radiation that would result in immediate death.

- Estimated deaths: 3,300. Estimated injuries: 314,000. Resulting cancer of the thyroid: 240,000. Genetic defects: 45,000. Other deaths from cancer: 29,000. Property damage: \$14 billion. Square miles contaminated: 2,000.

Compiled in 1975, the NRC report, known as the Rasmussen Report, asserted that despite these dangers, nuclear power was safe. With the recent accident at the Three Mile

Island reactor, however, this assertion by the NRC stands discredited, while the dangers of a greater accident loom larger.

## COMPANY RISKS HAZARDS FOR PROFITS

In the ensuing investigation of the Harrisburg accident, it has been revealed that the electric utility operating the plant consciously risked an accident by ignoring safety regulations, overworking safety maintenance crews and ignoring numerous reports of equipment problems and failures.

The almost new reactor, which cost over \$1 billion to build, began full commercial operation just last December 30, 1978. Problems began to surface almost immediately, forcing the shutting down of the plant for two weeks in January when two safety valves ruptured during a test run of the plant's turbine. On Feb. 1, a throttle valve developed a leak. Later, a heater pump blew a seal and on Feb. 6, a feedwater pump tripped off.

With the numerous problems, maintenance technicians were worked overtime to keep the reactor running. The Los Angeles Times reported that these crews were worked for 40 consecutive 10-hour days before the March 28 accident.

It was the pursuit of profit that caused Consolidated Edison to maintain such a dangerous policy as long as the plant churned out electricity: the company would be making money. According to a "key worker" quoted by the Times, the attitude was "Risk this, risk that, do anything but keep the generation [of electricity] flowing."

Local residents of the Three Mile Island reactor are now paying for the company's—and ultimately the government's—reckless nuclear power policies. The evacuation of pregnant women and small children, the fear and anxieties of widespread and serious radiation contamination, and the possible dangers of another, more serious accident, are all realities now facing the American people. □

## Oakland Meeting

# Conference Urges Mass Anti-Weber Activities

Over 350 people attended the "Education and Organizing Conference to Overturn the Weber Case" held on Saturday, March 31 at Castle-mont High School in Oakland.

Sponsored by the Northern California Coalition to Overturn the Weber Case, the conference was called to educate the participants on the legal and political ramifications of the Weber case and to prepare the participants to organize for the National Day of Protest on June 2.

Conference speakers Dr. Carlton Goodlett, editor of the *Sun Reporter*, Victor Thusen of the Labor Studies Center of City College of San Francisco, Bill Tamayo, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus, Dr. Vicki Alexander of the Third World Women's Alliance, and Lorenza Carlisle of the Caterpillar Anti-Discrimination Committee and Co-chair of the Coalition, pointed out the devastating impact that the Weber case would have on minorities and women.

Dr. Alexander charged that while minorities and women bear the brunt of the economic crisis they are being erroneously blamed for the crisis. "The impact of racism and sexism is to have the unhappy white male worker point to minorities and women as the cause for his bad economic conditions when it's really only the employer who profits from racism and sexism," stated Tamayo.

At issue in the *Weber v. Kaiser Aluminum* case is the survival of affirmative action programs which were "voluntarily" established to compensate for years of discrimination. In 1974, Kaiser Aluminum and the United Steelworkers of America AFTER GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY AND WORKER PRESSURE—collectively bargained for an affirmative action program whereby each plant would increase its minority and women population in the skilled craft positions.

In the Gramercy, Louisiana plant

where Brian Weber, a white male, worked it was necessary to establish dual seniority lists: for each two skilled craft training vacancies, one black and one white employee would be selected on the basis of seniority within his racial group. Under the plan, black workers with less seniority than Weber were admitted into the program while Weber was not.

As a result, Weber claimed that the affirmative action plan violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Under Title VII employers are instructed not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, or national origin. Weber charged that he was a victim of "reverse discrimination" since no legal need was established for an affirmative action program that gave preference to blacks.

In opposition to Weber's allegations the conference speakers presented these facts: The Kaiser plant in Gramercy opened in 1958 with an

alleged nondiscriminatory hiring policy. However, no blacks were hired until 1962. After governmental pressure, the Kaiser workforce was increased to 10 percent black in 1969, the bulk in unskilled positions.

In 1974, blacks constituted only 14.8 percent of the plant workforce. That same year, blacks constituted 40 percent of the workforce surrounding the plant and over 40 percent of the neighboring population. Prior to the 1974 agreement, only 5 of the 273 craftsmen at the plant were black.

Under the affirmative action plan, only 5 to 8 training slots were available each year. Thus, according to Kaiser officials it would take 32 years, that up until the year 2006, for blacks to be approximately 40 percent of the skilled craft positions. Without an affirmative action program the goal of 40 percent black skilled craftsmen will never be met.

"Weber the individual, has power-

continued on page 11

## Attacks In Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana

# Smith Regime Escalates Terror Campaign

The Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia has unleashed a new wave of terrorism against Zimbabweans inside the country as well as in neighboring Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana. The Smith regime has feverishly mobilized as many as 100,000 reserve and regular forces in a relentless effort to prevent them from taking action against the sham elections being held last month. The racist regime conducted these elections in order to project a cosmetic image of Black majority rule for international consumption.

Rhodesian Hawker Hunter jets once again bombed Zimbabwean refugee camps 350 miles deep into Zambia April 12, killing 136 people and wounding 200 more. The action, which constituted part of Rhodesia's intensification of raids into neighboring African states, was the sixth into Zambia alone and the deepest strike reported since August 1976.

The following day, Rhodesian forces dressed as Zambians staged a pre-dawn raid on the Zimbabwean African People's Union (ZAPU) headquarters in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The raiders, believed to be Selous Scouts (Rhodesian Black security forces) flown in to Zambia aboard helicopters or transport planes, used land rovers to reach the site which was only half a mile from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda's own home. Although the defenders were initially taken by surprise as 10 were killed and 12 more seriously injured, the raiders were shortly repulsed. However, their attempt to capture Joshua Nkomo, ZAPU head and co-leader of the Patriotic Front, was frustrated.

On the same day, Rhodesian forces also conducted two other raids into neighboring Botswana. Rhodesian commandos disguised as Botswana Defense Force soldiers struck at Francistown, located 25 miles from the Botswana border, and kidnapped 14 ZAPU people. Rhodesians also destroyed a ferry which supplies the Zambezi link between Botswana and Zambia at Kazungula which is 270 miles northwest of Francistown. According to Botswana President Seretse Khama, three more were slain in this attack.

The Rhodesians also carried out similar raids on Zambia April 10, 11 and 14 and on Mozambique April 20. Their jets raided 100 miles north of Lusaka on the 10th. The next day, they strafed three camps near Luan-gwa with rockets, resulting in the death of one and the injury of six, including two West German civilians staying at a farm near one of the camps. On the 14th, their warplanes bombed Mulungushi, 66 miles north-to-northwest of Lusaka. Six days later, Rhodesian warplanes blasted encamp-



Militants of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA), one of the targets of the Smith regime's escalated terrorism. (ZANU Photo)

ments in southern Mozambique.

Simultaneously, the Smith regime clamped down on resistance forces inside the country and rounded up an undetermined but sizeable number of Zimbabweans around Bulawayo, considered sympathetic to Nkomo. The raids and arrests were apparently aimed at preventing guerrillas of the much larger and better-armed ZAPU, based in Zambia and Botswana, from joining their 11,000 counterparts inside the country. Most of those currently fighting in the countryside of Zimbabwe belong to the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) led by Robert Mugabe.

The response of Zimbabwe people's forces to the racist terrorism was both quick and unequivocal. In a move calculated to reassure the people that they are not alone and defenseless, ZANU fighters blew up the Caltex depot station in Fort Victoria, 175 miles south of the Rhodesian capital of Salisbury, two days after the raid on ZAPU's headquarters in Lusaka.

The racist regime's terrorism also failed to dampen the Patriotic Front's resolve to trounce the sham elections. Smith's desperate tactics did not stop the guerrillas who were organized in groups of 10 to 50 from going into the villages in the countryside and mobilizing the people to bear arms instead of participate in the sham elections.

On the contrary, the regime's terrorist acts underscore the farcical nature of the elections, which leave Rhodesia's policy of racial segregation fundamentally unaltered. Such a policy had led the United Nations and

other international bodies to impose military and economic sanctions on Rhodesia, policies Smith is now seeking an end. It is solely for this reason that the regime has taken great pains to legitimize itself in the eyes of the world.

Rhodesia, whose lifeline is the presently limited and covert economic and military support from the U.S. and Britain, is particularly interested in improving its ties with both of them. To elude the international condemnation reserved for segregationist regimes like Rhodesia, both countries have chosen to distance themselves from its openly racist policy.

Smith now hopes that such a semblance of black rule will encourage the lifting of the international trade and arms embargo, and pave the way for the U.S. and Britain's open identification with their interests. Such a likelihood is further increased by a possible rightist Conservative Party victory over the Labor Party of incumbent Prime Minister James Callaghan in Britain's forthcoming elections next month. Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative candidate for Prime Minister, has advocated, among other things, closer, friendlier ties between Britain and Rhodesia.

But however way the U.S., Britain or the rest of the West prefer to view them, the Rhodesian elections have not ameliorated the image of the Ian Smith regime among the Zimbabwean masses. Predictably, because more than 90 percent of the country is under martial law, the electoral process which began April 10, has elicited

relatively little interest beyond people's begrudging participation at gunpoint. The election one-sidedly guarantees whites who comprise three percent of the population 28 out of 100 seats in the new parliament.

During the first round of elections, there weren't even 28 seats contested. Only four of them were actually voted on as Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front party ran unopposed in all the others. While campaigning, Smith even attacked the four independents, saying he regarded them, "in the same way I look at a dog that goes onto the rugby field in the middle of a game — he just gets in the way."

With Smith in effective control of the parliament, the second round of elections for the remaining 72 seats for blacks thus amounted to little more than an inconsequential jockeying for nominal positions between the groups of Bishop Muzorewa, Rev. Sithole and Chief Chirau, the three former liberation leaders now in Smith's pay.

But Rhodesia's outright terrorism and electoral chicanery will neither fool the international public nor change the stubborn fact that an ever-growing number of the Zimbabwean people have already thrown their weight behind the Patriotic Front and are now resolutely taking up arms to bring about genuine Black majority rule. It is therefore only a matter of time before internally and internationally-isolated Rhodesia will be engulfed in their seething people's war and meet the same inevitable fate as that of the Shah of Iran. □

## Weber Coalition...

continued from page 10

ful allies in those who erroneously believe that blacks are advancing too far too fast, at the expense of white America. The truth is that Black America is slipping dangerously already, without the help of people like Bakke, Weber and their friends. Fewer blacks are going to college now than ten years ago, and social and educational programs designed to increase equal opportunities for minorities are being reduced whole," noted Dr. Goodlett.

Workshops were held to clarify any points and to answer the questions for the participants. The workshops parti-

cularized the impact of Weber on labor, women, students, youth, and on the West Bay, East Bay, Sacramento, and San Jose communities. Citing various examples of attacks on affirmative action, the workshops highlighted the fact that the resurgence of racism was clear in employment.

"Only by organizing against the racist offense and by making the necessary sacrifice can we foresee a bright future for our children," warned Lorenza Carlisle.

Victor Thusen, noted labor organizer, stated that racism brings every

worker's wages down — white or minority. "Labor must take up the issue. If leaders aren't putting forth the interests of the rank-and-file, they aren't helping the union. Leaders can be moved or moved out."

The conference called for an "Anti-Weber Sunday" to be held on May 20. On that day, the Bay Area will be flooded with anti-Weber materials — human billboards on street corners, mass leafletting, banners, signs, etc. The project will draw attention to the demonstration scheduled for Saturday, June 2, as part of the National Day of Protest. Uniting under the demands of: 1) Overturn the Weber Decision, 2) Defend and Expand Affirmative Action, and 3) End All Discrimination Against Minorities and Women. Demonstrations are being

planned in New Orleans, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, Chicago, the Bay Area and Washington, D.C.

The goal of the national campaign is to pressure the United States Supreme Court to overturn the decision of the lower court which held that Weber was discrimination against and that the affirmative action plan was illegal. Only through mass pressure on the Court would a favorable decision come about noted the conference speakers.

The Coalition is encouraging everyone to participate in the movement to overturn the Weber case. Educational forums, outreach, publicity, and media work is taking place. For more information contact: East Bay 549-3196, 465-6433; West Bay 431-5939; P.O. Box 3026, South Berkeley Station, Berkeley, CA 94703. □

# 'Hospitality Girls' In The Philippines Tourist Trade Spurs Oppression



By A. LIN NEUMAN

"Good evening sir, please come inside." The tone is alluring and the woman beautiful. The scene, repeated thousands of times nightly among the crowded nest of nightclubs in Ermita, the tourist belt of Manila, symbolizes the special burden born by women under the new foreign-oriented model for economic development. Pushed out of the countryside by poverty, women come to the cities in search of new manufacturing jobs.

But real opportunities are less than they imagined. The other major growth industry in the Philippines today is tourism and the procurement of women for pleasure, particularly the pleasure of foreigners, is a multi-tiered system. Open invitation to enjoy the mysteries of a "hospitality girl" is only the most visible manifestation of a prostitution phenomenon which grows larger with every percentage growth in tourist arrivals.

Director Lucina Alday of the Bureau of Women and Minors of the Ministry of Labor estimates that there are as many as 100,000 women employed in the "hospitality" industry in Manila. The figure may even be misleadingly low as applied to prostitution per se. Government statistics account for only those women employed in licensed establishments, who must obtain health permits and undergo periodic venereal disease checks.

Prostitution in the Philippines has always flourished in places where there is a heavy concentration of foreigners. Today there are heavier concentrations of foreigners than ever before due to policies introduced since President Marcos imposed martial law in 1972. As a major governmental priority, tourism has grown from a negligible dollar earner in the 1960's to the nation's fourth largest source of foreign exchange in the late 1970's. In 1977, tourism brought in over \$300 million, \$262 million more than in 1972.

As the nearest rich country, Japan provides much of the new tourist business. Twenty-nine percent of all visitors arriving in the Philippines are Japanese, and the tourist industry is particularly accommodating to Japanese men. Because they usually travel in groups, Japanese are especially conspicuous in their pursuit of women. It has become a familiar sight in Manila to see bus loads of Japanese men pull up outside a club, disembark, and go inside to choose a partner for the evening.

Typically, a large Japanese tour operator advertises a "package tour" to the Philippines in cooperation with a large Manila agent. The deal includes everything from shopping to hotel to women, who are either chosen

from picture books in Japan or selected in person in one of the large clubs, some employing over 200 women, during the "night life" tour.

Sources in the business report that the men on tour pay an average of \$60 for one night with a woman. Very little of the cash arrives in her hands, however. A rough breakdown looks like this:

club owner.....	\$15
tour operator.....	15
local guide.....	10
Japanese guide.....	10
total.....	\$60

The women receive between \$4.25 and \$5.75 from the owner's share. They report that often they do not get even that much, because the club management imposes fines for improper dress, smoking, drinking, tardiness and other arbitrary infractions.

## PROSTITUTION MEANS PROFIT FOR BIG BUSINESS

In 1976, the Philippine government financed the construction of several new first-class hotels in Manila to house delegates to the IMF/World Bank convention, despite widespread criticism of the project as an inappropriate investment for the government of a poor country. Since then, the hotels have been plagued with occupancy problems.

The Manila Midtown Ramada, a product of the building spree, is owned by Chinese industrialist and Marcos' business partner John Gokongwei. The Ramada has a typical, although unusually explicit, procedure for handling the women. The hotel passes out sheets printed in Japanese "To our Japanese guests with ladies." The sheet lays out the

rules: the women are to be admitted after 5:00 p.m. through the employee's entrance; they are to leave by 8:00 the next morning; they are not to be taken to any of the public areas of the hotel and all food and drink orders must be by room service. Finally, the hotel charges a "joiner's fee" of \$10 for the right to take the women into the room. One source reported that the Ramada management has admitted to making 40 percent of its gross income from the "joiner" system.

## TOURISM MINISTRY: SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL

At the Ministry of Tourism, officials do not admit there is any problem and they deny any part in the creation of a prostitution industry in Manila. An official of the ministry stated, "I really do not know of any connection between tourism and prostitution, if ever there is, we do not play it up." Yet the ministry has co-sponsored seminars on venereal disease prevention among club and sauna bath owners in the tourist district. Officials are hesitant to grant interviews, however, and there is a general sense of see no evil, hear no evil in the halls of the ministry.

The predominant reaction to prostitution continues to be focused on the women's individual morality. Director Alday asserts "the girls turn to prostitution because of neglect from religious and civic groups and general misunderstanding." As long as the government continues its pursuit of the industrial world's leisure dollars, however, there is no end in sight to the growth of prostitution in the Philippines. Calls to individual morality miss the mark. The crux of the issue is summed up repeatedly in interviews with the women themselves. "I hate it, but I just need the money." There is no other way to get it.



Streets of Olongapo are peopled with children who would not look out of place in an American suburb, but who in reality are marked by a sordid world. (A.L. Neuman)

## U.S. Bases And Prostitution Where Do You Go When The Ships Sail Home?

By LIN A. NEUMAN

The elements of prostitution in the Philippines are the same in Manila, the smaller cities, and the cities that service U.S. military bases: rural poverty drives women to the city; they are exploited by tour operators, pimps, hotel managements, their customers; the government unofficially but energetically encourages the trade. But there is poignancy to prostitution in Olongapo City and Angeles City which makes it different from other places in the country.

In Manila and other large cities, prostitutes look at their work in purely monetary terms. Transient tourists do not offer even the illusion of a long-term relationship. Only in Olongapo and Angeles do U.S. servicemen, with one- or two-year tours of duty, offer the possibility of marriage,

escape from poverty, and the possibility of emigration to the United States.

The "success" stories are common enough. A parish priest in Olongapo reports that as many as 15 marriage licenses a day are issued for Filipino-American marriages. More frequent are the live-in relationships, however, and most "wives" are abandoned when the tour of duty is over. For most of the approximately 30,000 prostitutes at Subic and Clark, marriage to a serviceman remains a dream.

There is a raw quality to prostitution in the base towns that sets it off from prostitution in other cities. The level of violence and drug usage is higher than in Manila. "Many of the women die before they grow old because of drugs," revealed one nun who works among them. At best, women face a life of constant insecurity

made particularly tragic by the children they bear and cannot support.

Government statistics show that an average of 30 Amerasian babies are registered each month in Olongapo, but many more are never officially accounted for. The sheer numbers of children have led to disturbing consequences. There is a large market in babies from Olongapo with white fathers whose mestizo looks are considered more beautiful than straight Malay features by wealthy Manila families.

The children who remain in Olongapo are often prone to failure due to their mothers' lifestyle and their obvious parentage. They go "from the womb to the street, to Boy's Town, to jail and back to the street in a continuous cycle," said the sister. Children of black fathers suffer particularly from American racism as absorbed and reflected by Filipino culture.

School usually means harassment and taunts of "Your mother is a hostess." There is evidence that many girls follow in their mothers' footsteps into the bars while the boys become expert at picking pockets, drug dealing and gang life.

## HUMAN COST OF THE BASES

Olongapo and Angeles point up the human cost of U.S. military operations. They are a visible signpost of the American presence, one cemented by the recent Carter-Marcos agreement on the bases. The streets of Olongapo and Clark are full of children whose looks would place them comfortably in any American suburb but whose heritage is one of abandonment and suffering. As long as the bases remain, so will their social victims. There are no easy answers to the garish strip, the sounds of American music, or the haunting eyes of children caught and marked by a sordid world. □