

AQUINO RETURNING TO MANILA?

By JON MELEGRITO
D.C. Correspondent

Washington, D.C.—Ex-Senator Benigno Aquino left for Tokyo

Tuesday, April 14 reportedly to plan a strategy for the June presidential elections with opposition figures Salvador Laurel and Gerry Roxas.

This meeting will determine whether Aquino will go back to the Philippines to direct the United Democratic Opposition's (UNIDO) challenge to President Marcos in the elections.

In a telephone interview with Odette Villanueva of the D.C. Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) and Odette Taverna of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), Aquino disclosed that his return to the Philippines would depend on getting a waiver for his arrest warrant, although he said, "They will probably get me after the elections."

Asked whether he will run against Marcos, Aquino referred to the 50-year age limit recently approved by the "plebiscite." "I am under age," he said.

He indicated that Salvador Laurel will most probably head the UNIDO ticket.

Aquino, who had agreed to speak at a D.C. AMLC-sponsored forum on political alternatives to Marcos scheduled later this month, said that in light of these



Ex-Senator Aquino: returning to campaign against Marcos?

Continued on page 4

California's Disputed February Exam: Nurse Board Withholds Test Results

In an unprecedented decision, the California Board of Registered Nursing postponed the release of the final results of the February 1981 licensing examination.

Although test scores were available, the board decided not to determine the final results until the validity of the controversial test is confirmed.

Normally the final results would have been released by mid-April 1981. However, since the state's Department of Consumer Affairs ruled that the State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE) has an "adverse impact" on Black, Hispanic, Asian and Filipino nurses (both U.S. and foreign-trained), the board has

subjected the exam to a study to determine if it is "job related" and valid. Only when the test is found to be "job related" and valid will its results be considered valid.

Board Maintains Liberal Approach

Individual nurses who received scores above the 350 passing mark are informed that they have passed the examination and are given licenses to practice as registered nurses.

Nurses who did not score above 350 are given the following notice by the board:

"This is a preliminary report

Continued on page 5

Special May 1st Coverage on Philippine Labor

SEE PAGE 8



BLUE SHIELD STRIKERS WIN

By BEN OCAMPO
Staff Writer

San Francisco—The 18-week strike staged by some 1,100 clerical workers has successfully brought the intransigent Blue Shield medical insurance company to a tentative settlement.

The settlement, announced April 14 by the Negotiating Committee of the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 3, will be formally presented to union members in a ratification vote April 20. The union rank and file is expected to accept the pact.

Economic Gains and Losses

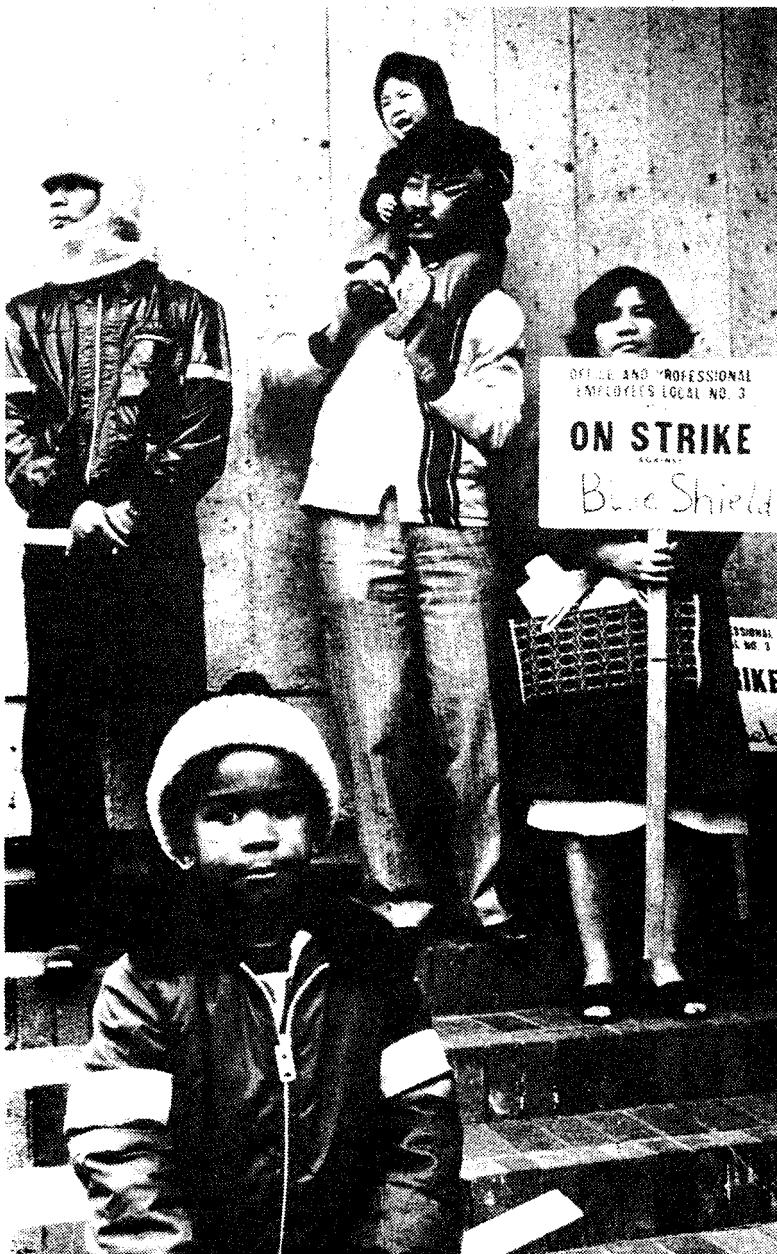
Included in the settlement are a new three-year contract, a back-to-work agreement, severance pay of one week for every year with a maximum of 12 years, and a wage increase of 9.5 percent for next year.

"It's not exactly what, we wanted, but it's the best we could get," remarked Emilia Pete, member of the union's Negotiating Committee.

As a gain, Pete cited promised improvement in health and safety standards. "From what I know, they (Blue Shield) will be providing screens and hoods to block the glare from cathode ray tubes (CRT's) of computer terminals," machines that enable management to count the work done and check errors.

"These computers," continued Pete, "cause back and neck pains, alot of tension and stress, and many of those who work on them need to wear eyeglasses

Continued on page 6



The 18-week Blue Shield strike ends as a settlement is reached by management and OPEIU Local 3.



The Atlanta Child Murders

SEE PAGE 7

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EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

THE FATE OF THE ELITE OPPOSITION

Ronald Reagan is having none of Jimmy Carter's old human rights game and is offering no apologies for maintaining, at all costs, the U.S. interests in the Philippines. He is opting for Marcos to whom U.S. aid will flow unimpeded, and for whom a state visit to the U.S. is even in the offing. Stunned the most by all this is the elite opposition centered in UNIDO.

Having placed its fate in the U.S., the elite opposition now finds itself virtually abandoned, told by the White House "not to rock the boat," and to let Marcos be. Gone are the cocktails with State Department bigwigs, the "channels to the opposition" that Carter used to keep. The U.S.-sponsored coup that would place them at the helm is now closeted somewhere among other fond memories of the headier days, when Carter made it sound all so probable.

UNIDO, its options diminished, now has to deal with a Marcos made more arrogant by Reagan's assurances. Sadly, but not surprisingly, its humbled big guns appear ready to take any crumbs offered by Malacanang, such as the coming June presidential election—an even bigger joke than the one staged two years ago. Beggars can't be choosers. Thus, Aquino, Laurel and Roxas are now busy contemplating what nourishment can be squeezed from this meager meal. Aquino, his political fortunes in the U.S. narrowed by Reagan, is even willing to go home and stake everything in this foolish game.

To be fair, the UNIDO's leaders do say they do not expect to win the election but only want to use it to expand UNIDO's organized base. But here they seriously misread the popular sentiment. They lose sense of the maturing popular distaste for traditional politics, especially for Marcos' brand of traditional politics.

They should listen to Felixberto Olalia, chairman of the Solidarity of Filipino Workers (PMP) representing 30% of 1.8 million unionized laborers. The leaders of UNIDO, he said, are old oligarchs themselves who remember labor only when they need votes. "We have been used by both government and opposition politicians only too often." Solidarity, along with national democratic grassroots organizations, is boycotting the June election. A general strike and mass protests are being planned to punch Marcos' balloon.

Regardless, the UNIDO's leaders appear to be determined to run in June. But even if they win anything, they will lose anyway. By running, they will lend legitimacy to an obvious hoax. If elected, they will be powerless and worse, they will be paraded by the regime as proof that it has "normalized." This is what it means to be elected under Marcos.

And this is not the only price the UNIDO's leaders will pay for their obstinate loyalty to the well-worn tradition of ruling class elections. They will also find themselves increasingly without significant following from a people that is growing more politically mature, that already has better political sense than to let itself be used by Marcos. To have no following among the people they purport to lead—for the UNIDO leaders, this should be a fate worse than being elected in June.

The U.S. has opted for Marcos. This should be sobering for the elite opposition indeed. But if they choose to remain prisoners of their class and its flabby traditions, their significance as a force in the present political struggle in the Philippines will move even closer to the edge of extinction.

Join the May 3 Protests Against the U.S. Role in El Salvador

"El Salvador, the next Vietnam?" The similarities drawn between El Salvador and Vietnam are not merely coincidental. They spring from a common denominator which is U.S. big power domination.

Intervention itself is dictated by the desire to maintain or impose the U.S. imperialist domination of underdeveloped countries. This domination accounts for much of the United States' wealth and power.

Its consequence is the poverty, exploitation and repression experienced by most of the world's peoples, and which is the common bond that links their struggles for national liberation for an end to human exploitation, together. For this reason, Filipinos have as much responsibility to oppose imperialism in El Salvador and elsewhere as they do in the Philippines.

On May 3rd, progressives all over the country will be out in the streets in most major U.S. cities to oppose U.S. intervention in El Salvador and the racism that oppresses and divides working peoples here. The biggest protest will be in Washington, D.C.—at the Pentagon.

We call on all progressive Filipinos to join these protests. The victory of the Salvadoran people hinges as much on their own strength as on the U.S. people's ability to frustrate Washington's aim of crushing the Salvadoran revolution.

We also call on all progressive Filipinos to join us later in May, at community forums sponsored by the KDP and representatives of the Salvadoran revolutionary movement to learn from the experiences of our brothers and sisters in the common struggle. ■



Haig to attend ASEAN meeting in Manila in June

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What the Devil!

The December meeting with Imelda Marcos at the Waldorf Astoria in New York by Senator Ninoy Aquino, Sonny Alvarez and Steve Psinakis, for whatever purpose it may be, has raised very serious doubts among true lovers of freedom. Ninoy Aquino denies he has made any deals with Marcos or Imelda. Let us pray this is true. Because a deal with Malacanang is like a deal with the devil.

Juan G. Frivaldo
San Jose, CA

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From the Editor . .

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Got the Picture?

Is the AK aware that Marcos is trying to bribe the Filipino community in America? The plebiscite included an amendment that would allow Filipinos who are U.S. citizens to own sizable land in the homeland. It stuck out among the plebiscite questions like a sore thumb. Of course, some creep somewhere in California organized a campaign asking Pinoys to write their families to vote "yes" to Macoy's amendments. Got the picture?

D. R. V.
Sacramento, CA

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

A MANILA HOTEL FACES INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT



Manila Peninsula Hotel: Anti-labor practices bring international boycott.

The posh Manila Peninsula Hotel is facing a boycott launched internationally by sympathizers of its beleaguered employees.

The International Union of Food and Allied Workers Association (IUF) announced the boycott March 25 in solidarity with the National Union of Workers in Hotels, Restaurants and Allied Industries (NUWHRAIN), a Philippine union.

The IUF is backing NUWHRAIN's fight against Manila Peninsula's union busting activities and the hotel's "outrageous labor practices" which are all directed by its international management.

Manila Peninsula, despite numerous court and presidential orders, has refused to reinstate nine dismissed NUWHRAIN chapter officers and organizers after the latter successfully unionized the hotel's employees.

supported by the U.S.-based Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN), the Southeast Asia Resource Center (SRC) and the Pacific Asia Center for Theology and Strategies (PACTS).

HOTEL'S DIRTY MANUEVERS

The story behind the dismissal is a familiar one to many Filipino hotel employees who are trying to unionize.

NUWHRAIN, after successfully organizing a chapter at the Manila Peninsula, filed a petition for a certification election in June of 1977.

Management, however, quickly entered into a bargaining agree-

ment with the Peninsula Employees Council/National Association of Trade Unions (NATU)—a yellow union that is considered a substandard contract negotiator and one that has no following among Peninsula workers.

Management quickly secured a back-dated certification from the Deputy Minister of Labor supposedly showing that a bargaining agreement already existed with PEC/NATU prior to NUWHRAIN's organizing.

As "official" representative of Peninsula employees, PEC/NATU "requested action" against the NUWHRAIN organizers as part of their security clause. This resulted in the dismissal of the NUWHRAIN officers for "disloyalty" to the "official" union.

The dismissal was taken to court and on November 23, 1977, the Office of the President decided in NUWHRAIN's favor. Peninsula management, however, refused to reinstate the dismissed officers.

A year-and-a-half later the Peninsula management was forced to concede to a certification election upon orders of the Supreme Court.

NUWHRAIN won the elections with an overwhelming majority despite management's attempts to interfere. Still, the hotel refused to reinstate the nine officers.

A turning point for NUWHRAIN came at the 9th International Labor Organization Asian

Regional Conference held in Manila December 1, 1980.

International Pressure

NUWHRAIN members distributed letters to delegates explaining the anti-union stance of management in the hotels they were staying. Leaflets calling for a boycott of these hotels were also distributed. Previously, the union had also approached the IUF which promptly put pressure on the Peninsula.

The manager of the Peninsula hotel was quickly called to its Hong Kong headquarters. Upon his return, a much harder stance against the union was apparent.

Marcos Reverses Decision

On December 9, 1980 the Office of the President suddenly reversed its own decisions on the basis of "new evidence" presented by Peninsula management.

NUWHRAIN was never given access to this "new evidence," depriving it due process of law.

A series of strikes including three other hotels were soon called by NUWHRAIN. The other demands of these strikes were soon settled, mostly in NUWHRAIN's favor. But the nine officials, though recognized as official employee representatives in the bargaining talks, have still not been reinstated by the hotel.

Another strike is likely to be called. The international boycott is aimed at giving the union more leverage.

Support from U.S. Groups

"The PSN is glad to be able to support the boycott in any way," said Elaine Elinson, the organization's national coordinator. "This is part of our larger campaign to expose conditions of labor in the Philippines and to win the support of trade unions here."

The SRC sees its support for the boycott as part of its campaign to expose tourism. "This is part of our effort to publicize the oppressive conditions behind those elegant surroundings and charming smiles used to lure visitors to various countries in Southeast Asia," said the SRC's Joel Rocamora. □

Buod ng mga Balita

HAIG TO VISIT R.P.

The diplomatic build-up for a Marcos visit to the U.S. is on. Last month, the Marcos regime announced that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will visit the Philippines next June. Haig will attend the summit conference of ASEAN leaders scheduled to take place in Manila on June 7 immediately before the presidential elections.

The regime also revealed coyly that Marcos intends to be right across the border from the U.S. in October. He will visit Mexico that month to attend the North-South Economic Summit.

In the same statement, reported by the Japanese news agency KYODO, Marcos expressed his satisfaction with the foreign policy orientation of the new Reagan administration. □

CASE OPENED AGAINST DANTE, CORPUS, AQUINO



Bernabe Buscayno

Victor Corpus

Military Commission No. 2 last month announced the resumption of subversion trials against Bernabe Buscayno, known as Commander Dante; Victor Corpus, and former senator Benigno Aquino to begin next April 23.

The same commission, headed by Brig. Gen. Jose Syjuco, found all three guilty in 1977. The finding caused widespread outrage. Aquino filed a petition through his wife for a writ of *habeas corpus* before the Supreme Court which then ordered the military commission to reopen the case.

No action was taken, however, leaving the three defendants in limbo, held in solitary confinement in military camps for over four years. Aquino, however, was allowed to leave for the U.S. for open-heart surgery in May of last year.

Observers are convinced that the recent re-opening of the case is directly related to the possible return of Aquino for the coming presidential election.

"The regime just wants something serious to hold over Aquino as a threat," commented Rene Cruz, National Coordinator of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition. "Our main concern is that, in the process of stacking the deck against Aquino, the regime doesn't drag Dante and Corpus, who do not have Aquino's influential international connections, into an untenable position."

The so-called lifting of martial law last January was accompanied by a pledge to end trials by military tribunals. □

QUEZON PROTESTERS AMBUSHED

As some 3,000 residents of Guinyagan, Buenavista, Lopez, and Cabanatuan in Quezon province marched February 1 to protest military abuses, increased taxes, and the spiraling prices of commodities, little did they know that death awaited.

Before they could reach Guinyagan town, the marchers were sprayed with bullets. There were two deaths and 16 injuries.

Government-controlled newspapers claimed the massacre was carried out by members of the New People's Army (NPA). However, the Alliance of the People of Southern Tagalog belied such accusations. They then demanded immediate investigation of the incident and other cases of military atrocities in Quezon. They also demanded the restoration of all democratic rights.

The Alliance stated that there have been more than 20 cases of killings, manhandling, robberies, unauthorized searches of homes and seizure of property in their area carried out by government troops. □

Oil Price Hike Wipes Out Wage Increase

Raising industrial workers' "effective minimum daily wage" to ₱31.85 has proven to be sugar coating to a pill that is much harder to swallow: an oil price hike.

Immediately following last month's ₱2 hike in the minimum daily wage, the Marcos government authorized local oil companies to raise prices of all petroleum products by an average of 10.5 percent. This is the second oil price hike in less than a year.

The price increase is almost 20 times more than the ₱2.00 wage increase announced at the regime's "Tripartite" conference of March 27-28.

As it has turned out, this meeting of labor, management and government was called earlier than scheduled to set wage adjustments in light of the price increase the regime had expected to approve.

Addressing the 84th anniversary

of the Philippine Army,

OPEC Blamed

President Marcos blamed the "inevitable increase" to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) "price increase policy."

Justifying the price hikes, he also reminded the audience that ₱95 million is needed for the "equalization fund" paid to various oil companies. This does not include the ₱1 billion in deficit the country has already incurred.

Asking the armed forces' full cooperation, Marcos dangled the prospect of a retroactive 15 percent wage increase for all national government agency employees, including the Philippine Army.

Appeal for Sobriety

As for the rest of the population, Marcos appealed for "sobriety" not "impulsive anger" or

"anxiety" over the oil price increase and its consequences.

Problems arising from transportation and commodity price spirals will be monitored by the government. Tuition fee hikes are to be frozen, Marcos assured the audience.

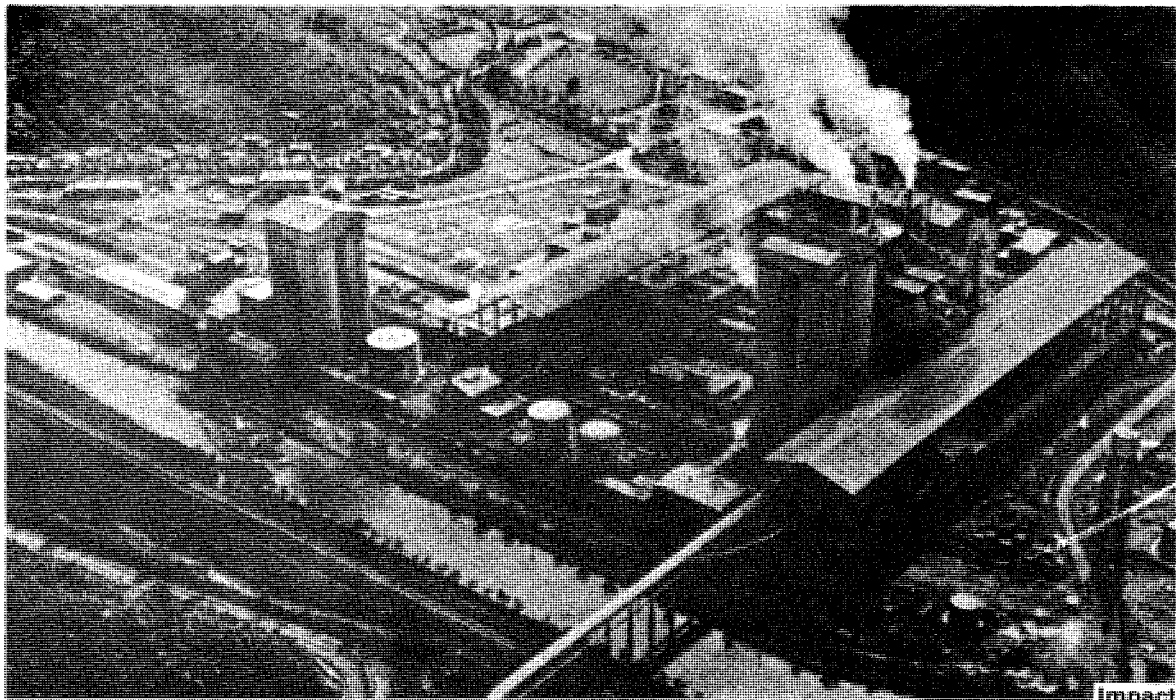
But Marcos himself just might spend a few anxious nights as a result of this latest hike.

The recent ₱2 wage increase for industrial workers still keeps earnings well below the officially recommended ₱60.00 needed daily for an average Filipino family to survive.

The oil price increase just might fuel further popular discontent which of late has been reflected in the growth, in numbers and militance, of the nation's labor movement. The mass protest actions sparked by the August 1980 oil price hike provide a glimpse of what may be in store the coming months. □

FOCUS: Cagayan de Oro

A Nightmare 'Made in Japan'



Kawasaki sintering plant: Too filthy for Japan, dumped on the Philippines—with Marcos' blessing.

Adapted from ANG BAYAN

When is economic development a setback? Who gains and who loses?

For the 2,000 residents of Bo. Nabacaan, Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao, development only meant their dislocation, loss of their livelihood and industry-related health hazards.

All 144 hectares of Bo. Nabacaan has been taken over by Kawasaki Steel Corporation (KSC). One of Japan's largest transnational firms, Kawasaki had since established a sintering plant, "For Economic Development"

To compensate for the Nabacaan residents' displacement, Kawasaki promised them relocation to Kalingagan. There they would be given free homes, free electricity and water. Work at reasonable wages was guaranteed at the sintering plant which would process ore for export for Japan. In addition, six cottage industry projects were to help supplement the people's income.

But when Japanese writer Noel Yamada visited Nabacaan and Kalingagan, he was dismayed by what he saw:

- Most of the people were not employed by KSC. Those who were hired received salaries less than minimum wage levels.

- Not one of the promised cottage industry projects has been established.

- 36 families have already

been evicted because they could not keep up with the rent payments on their houses. Ninety-six of the remaining 100 families have also been asked to leave when they could not pay rent. Most of those evicted now live in the Cagayan de Oro slums.

- The number of workers contracting asthma has increased. One worker who was fired by KSC because of his ailment died soon after. Other job-related illnesses are not compensated.

- Heavy water pollution is preventing former Nabacaan residents from making their livelihood from fishing. The Marcos government, by concealing pollution monitoring reports, effectively colludes with KSC.

Banned From Japan

A Kawasaki sintering plant used to be located in Chiba, Japan. But militant actions of Chiba residents protesting pollution hazards closed down the plant. There have been 700 "officially recognized" pollution victims, of which 60 died.

Nationwide indignation generated by the slow death of Chiba residents stopped the establishment of another sintering plant in that country.

Approaching the Marcos government with various "economic aid" packages, Kawasaki was given the right to transfer the sintering plant to the Philippines.

The secondary beneficiaries of these development projects

are some Marcos loyalists in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Kawasaki's local partner is the Philippine Veterans Investment Development Corporation (Phividec). It is run by ranking AFP officers.

Appeal to the Japanese People

Through Yamada and a Mr. Aoagi, a leader of the grassroots movement in Japan against KSC's export of pollution to the Philippines, the peasants and fishermen driven out of Nabacaan appealed to the Japanese people. They called on the Japanese people to pressure Kawasaki into fulfilling the promises it made before grabbing their lands.

But closer to home, the former Nabacaan residents now have the direct support of the nearly 30,000 residents of 18 neighboring barrios. These people's lands are being targeted for confiscation by the Marcos government for still another "economic development" project, this time an "industrial estate."

Representatives of these barrios say they are firm in holding on to their lands, fighting against pollution and cooperating with all other affected communities. Even the area's landlords have finally agreed "not to sell the land without consulting with the tenants"—proof that popular anger is building up and that resistance to the regime's plans is going to be stiff. □

Aquino Returning . . .

Continued from page 1

developments, he had to cancel his appearance.

'NDF Analysis Correct'

While Aquino acknowledged that the elite opposition group will not win the election, he views this as an important opportunity for expanding UNIDO's organized base.

"This election is just the beginning of a long protracted struggle which may last 10 to 15 years," Aquino said.

When asked whether the UNIDO is willing to arrange some kind of tactical alliance with the National Democratic Front (NDF), Aquino evaded the question. The NDF, he said, is pursuing its own course and "won't be bothered by the elections."

He pointed out, however, that the NDF has clear directions and added, somewhat surprisingly, that its analysis of the political situation is correct.

Aquino then said that were it not for his "political entanglements" and "political exigencies that I need to attend to," he would be pursuing the same course as the NDF.

"Kung ako lang ang masusunod, tama ang ginagawa ang mga radicals around the elections. And tama ang linya around armed struggle." ("If it were only up to me, I would agree with what the radicals are doing around the elections. Their line on armed struggle is correct.")

The National Democratic forces called for a boycott of the last plebiscite and held mass demonstrations in many places. They are expected to continue similar activities during the elections.

Aquino's comment contrasted sharply with earlier ones which emphasized peaceful transition and resorting to armed struggle only as a last resort.

Aquino also said Finance Minister Cesar Virata's appoint-

ment as Prime Minister is indicative of Marcos' worry over the country's economic problems.

Instability in Marcos Camp?

This, he claimed, is a move designed to reassure the international business community which has of late expressed grave doubts about the regime's stability.

He also alluded to a growing instability within the Marcos camp in light of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile's and Imelda Marcos' displeasure over Virata's appointment.

Aquino is expected to return to Boston from Tokyo on Sunday, April 19. If he decides to go back to the Philippines, he hopes to meet with Nur Misuari of the Moro National Liberation Front somewhere in the Middle East, before proceeding to Manila. He plans to send his family to Australia although his wife might join him in Manila. □

Plebiscite Follow-Up:

VIRATA BECOMES A PRIME MINISTER

Ferdinand E. Marcos followed up his predicted "landslide victory" in the April 7 plebiscite by appointing a prime minister. His choice: Finance Minister Cesar Virata.

The plebiscite changed the present parliamentary form of government based on the English model to what Marcos terms a "strong presidential" system. It is to be followed by a presidential election which has been moved one week from its original June 7 date.

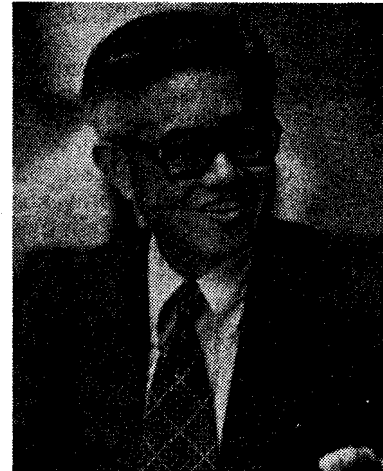
Marcos has held the title President/Prime Minister since 1973 when the last constitution was "overwhelmingly approved" via a similar plebiscite. The new arrangement calls for the prime minister to hold limited powers and to be appointed by the president.

A Safe Choice

Virata is viewed by most observers as a safe choice. A Harvard-trained technocrat, Virata has no political base of his own that could pose a threat to Marcos and is extremely popular with the international business community. His appointment is seen as a ploy by Marcos to get more foreign loans.

Elite opposition figures had earlier predicted that Marcos would select his unpopular but very powerful wife Imelda to act as prime minister.

"Even Marcos isn't that crazy," commented Geline Avila of the International Association of Filipino Patriots. "The elite opposition



"Prime Minister" Cesar Virata

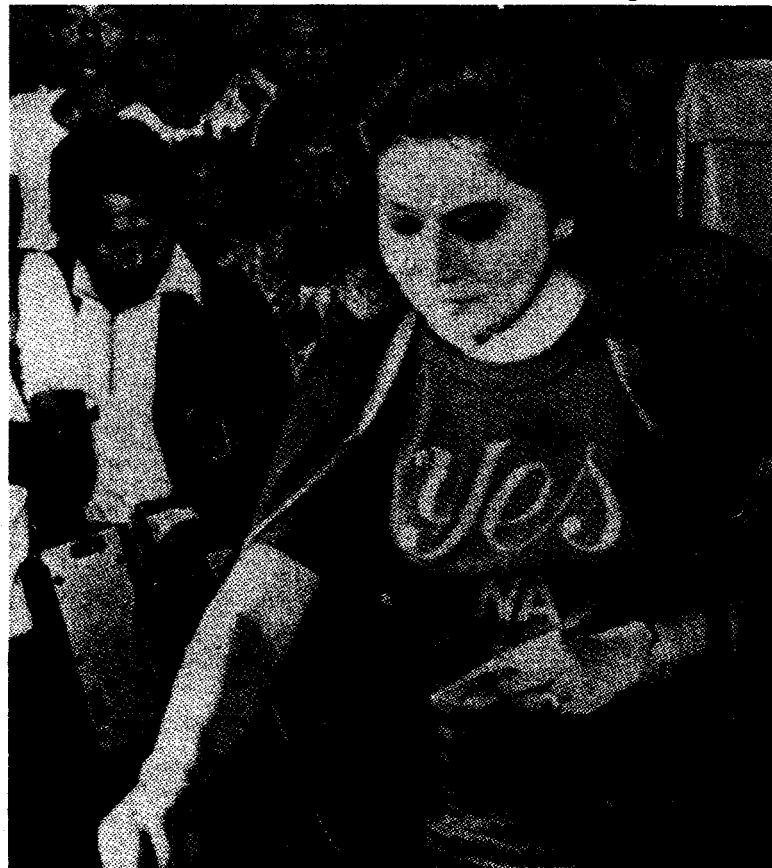
percentage of "no" votes from outlying provinces than from the Metro-Manila area.

Plebiscite, U.S. Support Hit

Two demonstrations occurred to protest the plebiscite. The first, sponsored principally by the elite opposition, marked the eve of the plebiscite. Thirty were arrested including ex-Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw and the family of ex-Senator Salvador Laurel.

The second occurred April 11 on the campus of the University of the Philippines. Here a coalition called People's Opposition to the Plebiscite-Election held a three-hour rally to denounce the Marcos dictatorship and its support by the U.S.

The students and workers reportedly applauded every time speakers exposed the links between Marcos and U.S. interests. Banners demanding revocation



Imelda casts her ballot in 1977 plebiscite: Dissatisfied with Virata choice? FEER

gets a little paranoid sometimes when predicting Marcos' behavior."

Manufactured 'Yes' Ballots

The plebiscite results showed an 80 percent victory for Marcos, slightly under his predicted 90 percent "yes" vote. Observers of previous plebiscites were somewhat surprised given the regime's penchant for manipulating returns.

In Zamboanga City, however, Mayor Cesar Climaco, an opposition man, reported that a raid on a local hotel had turned up four men in possession of manufactured "yes" returns.

The ballots bore official seals made out to cover all of Region 9 in southwestern Mindanao. The Commission on Elections claimed not to have heard of the incident. Reports noted a much higher

of the bases agreement were waved prominently to the cadence of militant songs.

Laurel Likely Opposition Choice

In spite of the clearly left character of the UP protest, members of the elite United Democratic Opposition (UNIDO) spoke there. These included Kalaw and former senator Gerardo Roxas.

UNIDO has refused to comment formally as to whether it plans on running a candidate in the coming elections. Opinion within it has apparently been divided.

But recent interviews with ex-Senator Benigno Aquino in the U.S. (see related story, page 1) reveal that plans are afoot and that Laurel is the most likely choice. □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

Gang Violence in a Poor School: IS THERE A WAY IN SAN JOSE?



Quality education: Sorely missed by minority students in San Jose.

By **BECKY VILLONES**
San Jose Correspondent

East San Jose has the reputation of being the "home of the bad elements" in the minority communities. Among the minorities concentrated in the East Side are Filipinos who are drawn to the area by housing developments there.

Recently, the near-fatal beating of a Filipino student has prompted parents, students and community leaders to take a closer look at the situation in the area's Independence High School where there are 340 Filipino students, and where the beating took place.

Gangs and Bad Schools

Gang violence between Mexican and Filipino youths is definitely a major concern. But in

examining this issue, parents and students alike have come to the conclusion that the lack of quality education is very much at the root of the youth's social problems.

Looking at the situation of Filipino students alone, the picture is disheartening. For the Mexicans, it is not any better.

There is only one Filipino teacher at the school. There are no bilingual services, and no programs to help recent arrivals from the Philippines deal with culture shock.

Filipino students have no place on campus where they can feel comfortable.

The city of San Jose and the county of Santa Clara have long been notorious for ignoring the needs of the minority communities. Now with Filipinos growing as a new ethnic group, increasing demands are made upon the city

and the county, especially its educational services.

Parents Go Into Action

Parents have held meetings and circulated petitions. An ad-hoc committee met with the superintendent, the principal of the school and the Board of Trustees of the Eastside Union High School District.

Plans are underway to bring the Filipino and Mexican communities together to discuss what they can do to stem gang violence.

Pacifico Ramos, coordinator of the Filipino Service Center, asserts "The problems of the students are clearly linked to the lack of services and the lack of personnel. We must intervene before the gang violence results in someone getting killed."

Will Reagan Spoil the Works?

Responding to pressure from the parents of Independence High students, the city is developing bilingual services for next year.

The parents' ad-hoc committee and the Filipino Parents Club Independence High will take an active role in the development of the bilingual classes and the hiring of personnel. Constant monitoring of the services will be required.

The big question facing the parents and students however, is whether the new service will survive President Reagan's cuts in bilingual education programs. □

Arrested by INS Last Month: Arizona Nurses Get Six-Month Reprieve

Phoenix, AZ—Four Filipino H-1 nurses who were arrested March 25 by immigration authorities won a six-month permission to stay and work in the U.S.

Nelly Acorda, Susan Almeniana, Aimee Patricio, and Frank Suraton gained Deferred Voluntary Departure status in a deportation hearing last April 7.

The reprieve comes as a result of the controversy stirred by the Filipino community in Arizona over the nurses' arrest by the INS. Community groups rallied to the nurses' defense, publicizing their case and seeking support from Filipinos elsewhere.

During the six-month period the nurses, three of whom failed the February 1981 nurses licensure exam, have to retake the test and pass it in order to maintain their work contracts and visas.

The four were turned in to INS authorities last month by their former employer, Beverly Manor Nursing Home, after results of the licensure test were made known.

At present, they are working for the Mountain View Nursing Home in Safford, Arizona.

The nurses licensure exam which is widely used in various states is now under investigation in California, following a Consumer Affairs report attesting to the exam's "adverse impact" on foreign-trained nurses and minority nurses. For H-1 nurses, passing or failing the exam becomes the only basis for continued stay in the U.S. □

NPA's Anniversary Celebrated



Some 85 people turned out for the New People's Army 12th Anniversary Celebration at La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley, April 16.

The program featured updates on the current Philippine situation and the NPA. A slide show on the people's guerrilla forces produced by the National Democratic Front in the Philippines, also premiered.

Sponsored by the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP) the event included solidarity greetings from the revolutionary movements of El Salvador and Africa. A 15-minute tableau of songs and poems by NPA cadre was performed by KDP and IAFP members. □

Test Results . . .

Continued from page 1

of the licensing examination. Final action of this Board will be determined after the review of the validity of the examination is completed in September. You will be notified at that time if you have passed or failed the examination."

In addition, nurses who possess temporary permits to practice are issued new permits valid until October 1, 1981. The validity study of the final results of the exam are expected to be finished by this date.

The board's actions are part of its overall liberal plan to keep nurses from losing their jobs and from being deported while the contested exam is being studied. Other actions taken by the board aimed at diminishing the exam's negative effects on minorities and foreign nurses:

1) Reevaluating the passing score after the validity of the examination is established. This may involve eliminating some questions considered to be biased.

2) Seeking a regulatory change to extend the period of interim or temporary licensure to 24 months to allow for foreign nurses' cultural adjustment.

3) Seeking regulatory change to eliminate the requirement that all sections of the examination be passed within a two-year period.

However, it should be noted that the current State Board Test Pool Examination will still be used in the July 1981 examination.

Organizations involved in the defense of foreign nurses view that board's actions as "positive steps."

Groups Laud Board Actions

Lillian Galedo of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization's (NFIRO) national staff said, "The Board's action is a realization that the test is highly questionable and may be discriminatory to minorities and foreign nurses. Extending the interim permits was the just thing to do."

Bill Tamayo of the Asian Law Caucus and attorney for the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL) stated: "Since the Board is questioning the validity of its own exam, I hope that other states will do likewise, it is basically the same exam being offered in other states. In addition, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) should be barred from deporting any foreign nurses on H-1 visas who have not received their final results. If the test is not found to be job-related, which is a likely finding, all deportations should be stopped until a valid, non-discriminatory exam is developed."

In another related development, a dozen lawyers, all members of the National Lawyers Guild Immigration Committee in the Bay Area, have agreed to be part of a deportation defense panel for the H-1 nurses. This action serves as an important backing for the efforts of the Asian Law Caucus, NFIRO, and NAFL to stop the deportation of H-1 nurses. □

N.Y. Defense Machinery Tightened Up: Rights Group Expects More Attacks on Nurses

By **L. MARZAN**
N.Y. Correspondent

The local chapter of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO) is organizing a community meeting to map out plans for the defense of H-1 nurses who are expected to fail the state's licensure examination.

The meeting set for April 24 at the Greeley Arcade in Manhattan is being jointly organized with the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG).

"Let us remember the Narciso-Perez struggle, the Alona Defense, the fight for DVD status for H-1 nurses, and resolve to carry on the fight for minority rights in this country."

Velma Tom, NFIRO spokesperson explained her organization's reason for maintaining a vigilant posture against the INS:

"First of all, we have to alert the community that the INS will not stop in Arizona (referring to arrests conducted by the INS against Filipino nurses, see AK, April 16-30).

"Nurses in New York and New Jersey may be next, and if they can do this to nurses, who will be deprived of human rights next? It may be accountants, clerks, anybody."

NFIRO and NAFL representatives have met with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) to discuss cooperation on the H-1 nurses' issue.

Defense Network Expands

The AALDEF is studying the possibility of filing a lawsuit against the New York State Board of Nursing, charging that the licensure examination is discriminatory.

In preparation for the lawsuit, the AALDEF is requesting the State Attorney General's office to investigate the examination.

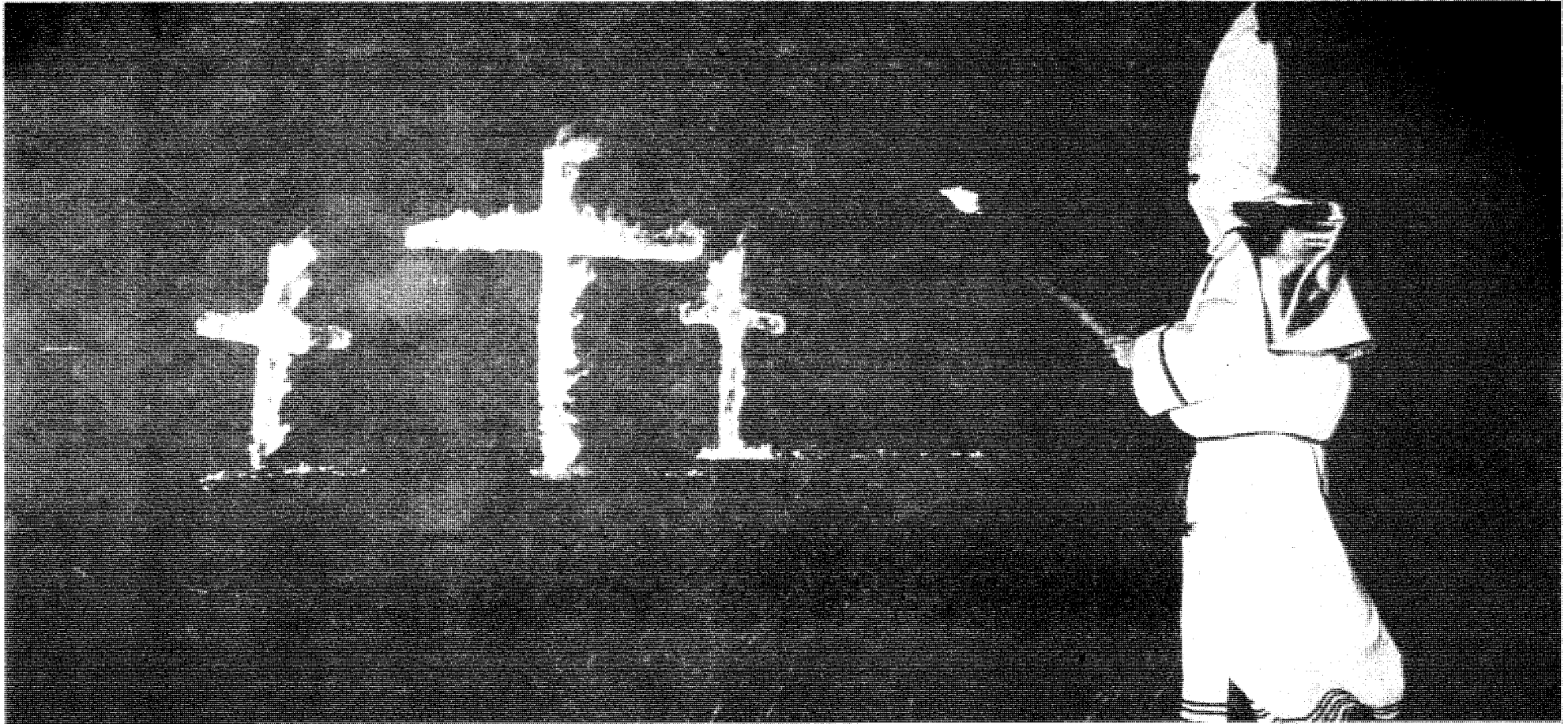
The NFIRO and the NAFL are approaching Filipino, Asian American community organizations, as well as church and civil rights groups to get endorsements and support for the request.

Asked what their chances are of winning such a lawsuit if and when it gets filed, Margaret Fong of AALDEF replied, "It is a very complex case. We think we can win it but we have no illusions we can swing it lightly."

"We do think it is a good opportunity to air out our analysis of the problem of H-1 nurses, thus educating the general community in the process." □

San Gabriel Valley, L.A.: "Those Damn Chinks . . ."

KLAN GOES AFTER ASIANS



Burning crosses—symbol of Klan terror: San Gabriel Valley's Asians are edgy as a cinema and a Chinese-language newspaper are vandalized, burned.

By MARIA ABADESCO
L.A. Correspondent

The West San Gabriel Valley community of Los Angeles, which includes Alhambra, Monterey Park and San Gabriel has always been known as a "quiet" community.

But the rash of anti-Semitic and anti-Asian attacks which began last fall is turning this "quiet" into fear.

Monterey Park, whose population is 40 percent Asian, has been the target of harassment by the Alhambra chapter of the Ku Klux Klan.

Chinese movie theaters have had their windows broken or their marquees splattered with paint. The management of a Chinese theater in Monterey Park received phone calls telling them to "go back to Hong Kong."

The *Post Advocate and Progress*, a newspaper which serves the areas was vandalized. It was later discovered that the \$1,000 damage to its office was directed at the "Dragon News," the paper's Chinese language section. The Klan claimed responsibility for the vandalism.

A few months afterwards, the paper's entire office was burned to the ground. There are many speculations linking the crime to the Klan, but no one is talking.

The attacks in San Gabriel Valley are clearly a reaction to the influx of Asians within the last decade.

In a letter addressed to the *Post Advocate*, the Klan explained their actions:

"...American freedom is being violated. We can't even see American movies in our own city.

The problem originates from the boat people. All those damn chinks...Three-fourths of Monterey Park population aren't even American citizens and are here on visas. To top that off, Monterey Park has the second highest Oriental population in America. America is not their home... The KKK Alhambra aims to kick ass not kiss ass. So if you continue to roll out the Chinese RED carpet, do so at your own risk... The worst is yet to come."

Filipinos Feel the Pressure

For some Filipinos, the myth that Klan terrorism only affects blacks is beginning to evaporate as racist terror begins to reach their own backyards.

The views of Estrella Santos, a 43-year-old housewife residing in Alhambra typify this growing realization:

"I came to the States in 1960, I never realized that it would be this way. I used to dream that once my family and I arrived here that everyone would be friendly. Jobs would be easy to come by. But it wasn't so.

"When we first moved here, the white neighbors were not friendly, they disliked the fact that we were Filipinos."

She continued by saying, "I guess you learn to live with discrimination, it is part of America, what can you do?"

A young woman in her early 20's who wished to remain anonymous stated her feelings:

"Don't they (the Klan) realize that America has always been known as a melting pot? This country is not a white man's land, all nationalities put in their sweat and blood to make this country what it is today.

"Foreigners only come to the U.S. because the conditions in their countries are bad. Like the Philippines, who wants to stay in a place where there is martial law? Why does the Klan and those who think like them blame us for the problems of this society?"

Laurie Mayeno of the multi-racial National Anti-Racist Organizing Committee (NAROC) explained that white superiority attitudes flourish when economic conditions become unstable.

"During the depression, lynchings of blacks and Chinese were common," she said.

"Racist ideology seeks a scapegoat for economic and political ills. Therefore, racist sentiments are not only aimed at blacks but at non-white immigrants as well." □

Blue Shield . . .

Continued from page 1
after some time."

Pete also noted that production standards, which are to be in effect for one year, have to be agreed upon by both parties for renewal. Previously, such standards were imposed solely by management.

George Santori, another Negotiating Committee member echoed Pete's assessment of the agreement. "It's the best thing we could do for the majority workers at this time," he stated. "Actually," Santori continued "the company wanted to cut our benefits further. They wanted to strike out the protective clause on our sick leave, but failed. They wanted severance pay of one week for every year, pegged at a maximum of four years . . . we won a maximum of 12 years."

Santori noted that the wage increase issue was a loss for the union which demanded 14% next year. The settlement gave 9.5%, the management's offer.

Runaway Shop

The settlement came in the wake of workers' protest over Blue Shield's decision to shift jobs away from San Francisco. Blue Shield transferred 262

jobs to its offices in Colton, Woodland and Los Angeles, and in March, announced it will transfer 186 more out of San Francisco.

OPEIU Local 3 spokesperson Reeva Olson denounced the transfers as "a clear form of union-busting by a runaway shop."

Management Bares 'Hit List'

The strike, which began December 9 and at times featured skirmishes between picketers and security guards, is considered by union activists as a gain for union organizing in the clerical sector.

As the only unionized insurance company in San Francisco, Blue Shield has the largest concentration of unionized clerical workers in this city.

Animosity between union and management is high. As part of the settlement package, Blue Shield wanted to terminate 12 union leaders—called the "Dirty Dozen"—three of whom are Filipinos—George Gaviola, Margarita Villones and Helen Cuya.

Later, management decided to drop the charges against four, leaving eight union mem-



Blue Shield strikers: "If you're fighting for a principle, you've already won."

bers subject to termination.

However, the Negotiating Committee stood firm on its demand to allow all eight to assume their jobs, pending a decision from an outside arbiter. The committee won this demand.

Strike Smashes Stereotypes

"Close to 70% of our people struck and held out for four months," cited Santori.

"For many of them (80% of Blue Shield workers are women, and two-thirds of the labor force are minorities), this was their first strike. A lot of myths and stereotypes of women and mino-

rities were smashed in this strike."

Asked by this reporter what she learned from the strike, Minda Quitevis, a claims examiner remarked: "This was my first time in the picket line. If one is fighting for a principle, you've already won the battle. As far as I'm concerned, we won this strike, even if we got a weaker contract."

Margarita Villones, a 12-year veteran and who was scratched from the "Dirty Dozen" list, was punched in the face while on the picket line at one time, and maced at another. She spoke of her lessons:

"As we stayed in the picketline, we became stronger . . . people looked up to us. Scabs, they have no self-respect. The police were always on the side of the scabs. If you really want something, you must stand for what you believe is right. The union has defended many of us, including those who turned scabs."

For George Gaviola who remains in the "Dirty Dozen" list simply because he is an active union steward, "It is a joy to see people uniting . . . it was clear to management that we are together and they cannot divide us." □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Atlanta Child Murders:

Who's (Really) Trying to Save the Kids?

By WALTER YONN
Staff Writer

The 23rd victim of Atlanta's child murderer(s) was found this week. This continues the long string of murders which started in July 1979.

The police seem no closer now than it was two years ago to solving the case and indignation is growing rapidly in the black community nationwide.

The past two months have seen numerous rallies and marches protesting the child killings and the general atmosphere of racism that has produced a noticeable increase in the murder of black people in the U.S.

On March 13, 10,000 people, mainly black, turned out in Harlem, in New York City; 15,000 turned out in Miami's Liberty City, and thousands more turned out on April 4 (date of Martin Luther King's assassination) in Los Angeles, New Jersey and Memphis. Parents of the Atlanta victims have also been touring the country speaking in schools and churches about the plight of their community.

Police Response

In the summer and fall of 1979 the Atlanta police did not take many of the reports of missing children seriously. They cited the high incidence of runaways and children living "on the streets" characteristic of poor neighborhoods.

Even when it became apparent that they are dealing with a mass murderer, the Atlanta police investigation was hindered by a lack of funds. Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's mayor, went as far as to help sponsor a Frank Sinatra-Sammy Davis, Jr. benefit

to raise funds. The posh event produced little funds and a lot of criticisms.

At another point the city admitted that a lack of black detectives, who could work more effectively in the black community, hindered their efforts. Black detectives were flown in from several cities such as Oakland.

Confidence in police competency was further shaken when an Atlanta newspaper broke the story of Pat Baltazar.

Pat and a friend phoned the police on February 6 about a man in a green car who tried to pick them up and followed them when they ran away. Pat was later found dead on February 13.

Although Pat phoned the special task force on top of the investigation, police said he did not follow "proper channels." The police did not interview Pat's friend until March 10.

Enter the FBI

Only after more than a year and a half of frantic requests did the Federal government respond with financial aid and a 45-man FBI team.

The FBI, who has gained notoriety in minority communities as a political police (examples include the Alona and Narcisco-Perez cases where the FBI altered testimony and evidence), immediately lived up to its reputation.

FBI Director William Webster casually remarked that the case was "practically solved." Shortly afterwards, FBI agent Mike Twibells remarked "some of these kid were killed by their parents."

This drew immediate anger from Atlanta. The mayor called Webster's remarks unprofessional



Willie Mae Mathis, mother of one of the Atlanta murder victims appealing for public support.

and clarified that there still were no suspects. Camille Bell, mother of one of the victims, demanded that Webster either bring charges within 24 hours or "personally inform the nation of this error in judgement."

Media's Role

The national networks and major newspapers have injected subtle inferences that the victims were not so innocent themselves.

At times depicting the young victims' activities as "hustling" (carrying groceries for a quarter, cleaning a store for a few cents) or quoting rumors that "illicit sex" is involved, in the media tended to douse sympathy towards the victims.

It was also quick to report that the killer(s) may be black themselves, in an apparent effort to minimize the racial character of the murders. It is hard to imagine a similar coverage if the crimes' setting were a white suburban neighborhood.

Much of the coverage of community-based responses such as the wearing of green ribbons, or mass meetings have been initiated mostly by black radio and TV stations and newspapers.

The more conservative leaders in the black community as

well as government representatives have insisted that the Atlanta murders is not a racial issue.

Is Racism the Issue?

Most black leaders however contend that the issue is racial, regardless of the racial identity of the killer(s). They point out that it is the prevailing racism in society that has made black children especially vulnerable. This, they contend, is shown in the police and federal government's lackluster response as well as the media's attempt to defuse the racial characteristic of the killings.

It is fairly evident that other factors have contributed to the tension now gripping Atlanta, in addition to the child murders.

Blacks constitute 66% of the city's population. Of these, 23% live below poverty level. This figure would most likely approach 40% without the well-to-do white neighborhoods averaged in.

Racism and racist organizations are conspicuous in Georgia. A short distance from Atlanta is Marietta, headquarters of the National States Rights Party. Larry McDonald, the Democratic representative from that district is a party member, and has helped amass hundreds of rifles

in preparation for a "race war" and a "communist takeover."

A letter was recently circulated "as a joke" in the state's fish and game department. The letter, on official stationery, proclaimed an open hunting season on blacks.

Most significantly, Ku Klux Klan representatives in Georgia have publicly boasted of a high membership from Atlanta's police department.

Reagan's Sympathies

While President Reagan has offered official sympathies, his supposed concern for black children in general is highly questionable.

Reagan's virtual elimination of the Aid to Dependent Children Program will negatively affect the physical well-being of seven million children, most of them black.

Recent California state figures show that infant mortality in the black community is two times higher than the national average. *Twice the number of black infants will die before the age of one than in most white communities.*

Reagan's budget cuts will eliminate prenatal programs in minority communities. □

'U.S. Out of El Salvador, End Racism at Home!'

BIG PROTEST SET IN D.C. MAY 3

Thousands of people from all over the country are expected to march on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. May 3 to oppose "U.S. intervention in El Salvador and racism at home."

The march, reminiscent of anti-war mobilizations in the early 70s, was initiated by the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAWM), a coalition of student, leftist, pacifist, civil rights, and community organizations.

Demonstration organizers are united on the demands: "No U.S. Intervention in El Salvador; Money for Jobs and Human Needs, Not for the Pentagon; End Racism, Sexism, Repression, and all Forms of Bigotry; Stop the Draft."

Antidote to Conservative Mood

Observers note that the mobilization could inspire a vigorous political movement that can counter the prevailing right-wing climate in the country.

The planned protest reflects primarily the heightening public concern over U.S. intervention in El Salvador. An often-voiced fear is that such intervention will lead to another Vietnam since recent U.S. actions in El Salvador are similar to those which led to the destructive U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict.

Organizers however, assert that the danger is not only in U.S. involvement in El Salvador. Reagan, they point out, is determined to put the U.S. on a general war-like posture which increases the possibility of involvement in other conflicts abroad.

Examples of this posture are the reinstatement of the draft, increasing military spending, displaying a mounting hostility towards Cuba and Nicaragua, heightening Cold War tactics against the Soviet Union, and increasing aid to right-wing dictators.

On the homefront, PAWM says human services continue to be "callously disregarded" by the Reagan administration and the question of unemployment is constantly pushed to the bottom of the agenda. The plight of low-to-middle income America grows more desperate, PAWM points out.

The situation is compounded in non-white and immigrant communities because of the impact of racism, organizers add. This observation is borne out by the many minority groups that have been attracted to the May 3rd protest, especially to the demands to oppose racism and to spend money for human needs and jobs instead of war.

May 3rd participants and en-

dorsers have increased significantly. They include religious groups, international solidarity organizations, labor unions and city officials from various states. The event now has well over 500 endorsers. Among them are the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Black United Front, Puerto Rico Solidarity Committee, the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and numerous others.

Participants Increase

Along with Washington, D.C., May 3rd demonstrations will be held in San Francisco, Kansas City, Seattle, Denver, and Tucson. Other cities are coordinating participants' arrival to the various demonstration sites.

The mobilization efforts have not gone unheeded by the right-wing. Assistant Secretary of State for inter-American affairs John A. Bushnell has characterized protests against U.S. intervention in El Salvador as the work of a "world-wide communist network." This kind of red-baiting, however, has failed to dampen the mood for May 3 as progressive forces nationwide appear determined to begin confronting the imperialist and racist conservatives now prominently ensconced in Washington. □



HISTORY IN REVIEW: The Philippine Workers' Movement

'LABOR HAS NOT FOUGHT FOR BREAD ALONE'

On May 1 last year, 30,000 workers gathered at the Araneta Coliseum to forge the *Kilusang Mayo Uno* (KMU, May 1st Movement).

The event, in defiance of the Marcos regime's restrictions on militant labor activities, joined together workers from 10 different labor federations and over 40 unions.

KMU issued a series of demands including higher wages, better working conditions, the right to strike, and even the nationalization of multinational-controlled industries.

The KMU—May First Movement—represented an important affirmation by Philippine workers that economic and political issues are inescapably intertwined.

"Should the workers' movement see its demands in the context of the country's political situation or limit itself to purely economic demands?" This has been the subject of raging debate throughout the history of the Philippine labor movement. This debate has been fought out by progressive, militant unions on the one hand, and reactionary, yellow union leaders on the other.

Why May 1st?

Except for brief periods, progressive forces have dominated the labor movement from its inception. Its radical tradition has withstood vicious attacks from the state, labor opportunists and capitalists, both foreign and domestic. Because of the labor movement's history of militant struggle, May 1st has always been a significant day for Filipino workers.

In fact, the date has been an important one for workers the world over since 1886.

On that day in 1886, thousands of Chicago workers gathered at a massive rally to demand reduction of the working day to eight hours. A bomb planted by hired provocateurs went off in the middle of the rally, killing several people, including police-

men.

As a result, eight workers were arrested and tried—among them important leaders of the U.S. labor movement.

Based on highly suspicious evidence, these organizers were railroaded to a guilty verdict. Five were sentenced to hang.

Since the Chicago events, May 1st has been observed all over the world as Labor Day or International Workers' Day. It's commemoration was originally a call issued to the workers of the world by the Second International of the world socialist movement.

The-Birth of the Labor Movement

Appropriately, it was on May 1, 1903 that the first massive demonstration of Filipino workers occurred. Some 100,000 workers, led by the *Union Obrera Democratica de Filipinas* (UODF), marched that day to Malacanang Palace shouting, "Down with U.S. imperialism!"

Dr. Dominador Gomez, UODF president, articulated the political role of labor in his speech at the rally saying, "In our struggle for better working conditions, we must at the same time struggle for the liberation of the motherland."

The political role of the Filipino working class had already been manifested in the late 19th century, a time when the class was just forming.

The 1872 mutiny by workers in the Cavite shipyards against their Spanish masters presaged the Philippine revolution of 1896.

The organization which spearheaded the revolution, the *Katipunan*, was founded by a Tondo warehouseman, Andres Bonifacio, and widely supported by shipyard workers, dockers, and printers, the core of the colony's nascent working class.

'Yellow' Labor Front Set Up

Despite the loss of Philippine independence to the U.S. in 1898, workers continued their



Founding conference of Kilusang Mayo Uno; a political labor movement is reborn.

NASSA News

militant activities.

On December 30, 1901, Isabelo de los Reyes and Hermenegildo Cruz led the formation of the *Union de Impresores de Filipinas* out of various printers' and workers' guilds. On January 2, 1902, the first labor congress in the Philippines was held and the first labor federation formed.

Aware of the explosive potential of the labor movement, U.S. colonial authorities welcomed the entry of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) an organization founded to divert the progressive tendencies of the U.S. labor movement.

The AFL founded the *Union de Trabajo de Filipinas* under the leadership of Lope K. Santos under the notion that economic issues must be kept separate from political issues and that labor and capital should exist harmoniously.

Repression by the Government

In 1913, this attempt to subvert the Philippine trade union movement was exposed by leaders like Hermenegildo Cruz and they made moves to strengthen the progressive labor front.

That May 1, labor militants established the *Congreso de Obrero de Filipinas*. This represented an effort to bring unity to a fragmented labor movement. The new group approved demands for an eight-hour day, child and women labor laws, and an employer's liability law.

The tension between labor and the U.S. colonial authorities (who were aided by opportunists) grew higher as years went by.

On May 1, 1931, workers led by Crisanto Evangelista, long a labor leader and a founder of the *Partido Komunista ng Philipinas* (PKP) held a march and rally in Calocan, just outside of Manila.

Under orders of the U.S. colonial regime, the Philippine Constabulary broke up the rally. Evangelista and many others—workers, peasants and their leaders—were arrested and accused of sedition and illegal assembly.

Reactionary Leaders Triumph

May Day 1935 witnessed 30,000 workers marching with red banners waving through Manila. Collective protests on farms and strikes in the cities mounted between 1935 and 1940.

The war years saw all progressive activity in the country channelled into the fight against the Japanese fascists. But while the labor movement was revived after World War II, severe government repression combined with the political deterioration of the PKP, which had taken the movement's helm, meant the near total dissolution of the progressive labor front.

Thus, 1951 through roughly 1970 can be characterized as years of triumph for corrupt and reactionary labor bureaucrats

and their emphasis on "purely economic" issues. But the re-emergence of a nationalist youth and student movement beginning in 1968 would soon have its effect on labor and on other social sectors.

'Political' Labor Rises Again

In 1970, as a wave of student demonstrations erupted resulting in the now-famous "First Quarter Storm," strikes hit a wide range of Manila factories.

On May 1, 1971, workers joined a militant demonstration before Congress which was broken up by a hail of bullets from government troops. Of the three people killed, one was worker Liza Balando.

The re-establishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines in the midst of a revived nationalist current in the country assured the fusion of the labor movement with the movement for genuine independence from U.S. imperialism.

Marcos' imposition of dictatorial rule could not stop labor's militance and in fact, fueled it even more. Even more evident is that under the dictatorship, labor has continued to manifest a perspective it has retrieved from its own radical tradition: that Philippine labor's economic salvation is inseparable from the political task of overthrowing the Marcos dictatorship and freeing the nation from U.S. domination. □

Philippine Labor Today:

Under Fire, But Breathing Fire

By VICTORIA LUNA
Staff Writer

"...our country has one of the lowest (wage) levels in this part of the world. We intend to see to it that our export program is not placed in jeopardy at an early stage by a rapid rise in the general wage level..."

—Ferdinand Marcos

In the eight years since the declaration of martial law, Philippine labor has become steadily cheaper.

In spite of occasional wage increases, skyrocketing inflation has driven down the buying power of the peso dramatically.

A worker in 1979 earned ₱4.10 less than he/she did in 1972.

Rate of Exploitation Grows

While *real wages* have plummeted, *worker productivity*, the amount of goods produced within working hours, has soared. The most acute example comes from the completely foreign-owned petroleum industry.

For every peso a worker earned in 1975, he produced ₱164.44 worth of goods for the petroleum industry's owners.

The combination of rising productivity and decreasing real wages under Marcos has meant a vastly increased *rate of exploitation*, or ratio of profit to wage.

In the 15-year period from 1956 to 1971, the rate of exploitation grew by a substantial 78 percent. But in the four years from 1971 to 1975, it shot up by 180 percent.

This meant that, in 1955, workers in the manufacturing sector received ₱.36 in wages out of every peso they produced in goods. But by 1971, their share had decreased to ₱.24 and by 1975 to ₱.09. *In the petroleum industry, the worker's share was a shocking ₱.01.*

The Marcos Strategy

The shocking plight of Philippine labor is dictated by the needs of international capitalism, more accurately, of U.S. capital.

The deepening crisis of capitalism world-wide has increased the advanced industrial countries' appetite for ventures in underdeveloped countries.

Poor countries that can offer the most attractive conditions for foreign capital "win" the most business. The essential item is cheap labor.

It is on this consideration that the Marcos regime has based its "development strategy" of enticing foreign, export-oriented, dollar earning light industries. The prime commodity he has to offer: Filipino labor made cheap by the restrictions of dictatorial rule.

The Worker Under the Gun

There is no doubt that dictatorial rule is the prime means of ensuring the intense exploitation of Philippine labor:

Among the regime's anti-labor policies:

"abolition of the right to strike under PD 823.

"curtailment of bargaining power via General Order No. 5 and PD 849.

"insistence on compulsory arbitration as the chief means for resolving disputes.

"abolition of the Court of Industrial Relations and its replacement with executive resolution of cases terminating in review by the President.

If workers do choose to organize and defy these conditions, their employers can always rely on preventive suspension which, backed by the state, is considered legitimate.

In many cases, militant laborers are arrested and tortured; some simply disappear.

Storm of Protest

But workers have chosen to organize despite the repression. In fact, the martial law years have witnessed greater militant labor activity than anything since the early forties.

After three quiet years, the tranquility was broken when the *Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino* staged a protest on May 1, 1975 with 500 workers and supporters. This marked the beginning of a strike movement.

1976 to 1979 witnessed more strikes of far longer duration. Ninety percent of them were illegal. By May Day 1980, the progressive labor movement had won away member unions from the pro-Marcos Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

Labor Movement Expands

The expansion of the progressive labor front continues. Early this year, the Solidarity of Filipino Workers, representing 30% of organized labor emerged.

The organization, led by the May 1st Movement (KMU) claims significant influence over bank,



transportation, South Harbor, textile, manufacturing, all first-class hotel workers and some plantation workers' federations in central and southern Philippines.

Upon the "lifting" of martial law, a series of strikes went off like a string of rockets. In the first month alone after the "lifting," there were 23 stoppages in Metro-Manila. By March, the progressive labor movement broadened to include clerical workers as well.

A militant working class demanding an end to exploitation poses as a threat to the entire economic structure of the New Society, and certainly to Marcos' "development strategy."

The emerging labor militancy is thus bound, sooner or later, to be ruled illegal by the regime.

But illegality has never been a serious barrier to the politicized labor movement in the Philippines or, for that matter, to a politicized labor movement anywhere in the world. □