

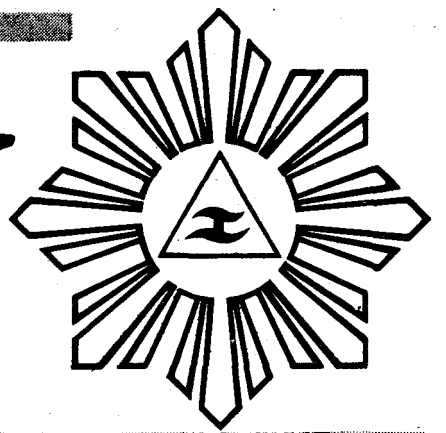
Ang KATIPUNAN

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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



Largest Since Martial Law

20,000 Attend May Day Rally



May Day demonstrators fighting a brutal hosing during police attack on the 20,000 strong protest in Metro-Manila. [Guardian photo]

[BMP] MANILA — More than 20,000 persons openly denounced the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship in a rally that was marred by arrests and violence on May 1, International Workers Day, at Luneta Park, Metro-Manila.

The event, the biggest mass gathering since the declaration of martial law, was led by the *Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino* (Federation of Filipino Workers). It drew participants from the workers, urban poor, religious, student and youths throughout the city.

The day was unanimously decried as a "day of protest" against the Marcos regime which is currently experiencing severe economic and political crisis. Among the issues hit were the hike in the prices of commodities as a result of the recent oil price increase; demolition of shanties in urban poor communities; low wages of workers and unemployment.

The demonstrators held streamers and placards bearing slogans such as: "Down with Martial Law," "Down with the U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship," "Marcos, Hitler, Dictator, Puppet," "Long Live the NPA," and "Long Live the Working Class."

In a move to break up the ranks of the demonstrators, the martial law government dispatched massive amounts of combined units of the Metropolitan Command (METROCOM), and the Integrated National Police-Metropolitan Police Force which were aided by the local baranggay police and civilian agents among the crowd.

The truncheon-wielding military unleashed a brutal attack on the crowd. Demonstrators, and even ordinary strollers at the park, were chased and clubbed indiscriminately. Buildings surrounding Luneta Park were occupied by Marcos agents and nearby restaurants were commandeered as temporary police headquarters. Fire trucks were also used to form a blockade on the protestors.

More than 1,000 persons were arrested and taken to Camp Crame. Eight were confirmed seriously wounded.

The demonstration, which lasted nearly eight hours, forecasts bigger and more daring mass actions against the increasingly isolated Marcos regime. □

New Judge in I-H Case

RALLY CALLS FOR EMINENT DOMAIN



Over 1,000 people rallied in front of City Hall May 12 in support of the right of the International Hotel tenants to secure the hotel by eminent domain. See page 6 for story. (AK photo)

In Letter to FFP



Bicutan Detainees Confirm Human Rights Violations

see page 2

Narciso-Perez Trial Update

Drug Company Negligence Revealed

Book Review: 'The Mysterious Deaths at Ann Arbor'

see page 5

Economic Crisis Spurs Meeting

London Summit Produces Little

see back page

Under Protest by the Church

TONDO LEADER ARRESTED, TORTURED



Ms. Trinidad Herrera

FLASH—MARCOS FREES HERRERA! Pres. Marcos ordered the release on May 13 of a jailed civil rights leader after the Carter administration expressed concern over reports she had been tortured. In announcing the release of Trinidad Herrera, Marcos said a police lieutenant and others who questioned her would be court-martialed.

Ms. Trinidad Herrera, former president of the Zone One Tondo Organization (ZOTO) and a well respected community leader, has been detained and severely tortured since April 25. Herrera who was transferred to Bicutan Rehabilitation Center on May 3, after being kept in a "safehouse" for two weeks, suffered extensive electric shock, beatings and, according to one source was raped.

Former senator Soc Rodrigo, lawyer of Herrera verified the torture and said that Mrs. Herrera was unable to speak or show any physical signs of response to his questioning for five days. However, by May 8, Mrs. Herrera was reported to have been more composed and coherent.

Herrera's arrest and torture was met with indignant protests from various quarters at home and abroad. The Catholic Bishops Conference which recently discussed her arrest in a special meeting convened in Tagaytay City, intends to take up the matter directly with Marcos. Already, 15 bishops have lodged letters of protest to Malacanang. Reliable sources in Washington report that the State Department has ordered the U.S. Charges d'Affaires in Manila to lodge a high level protest to the Philippine government and insist that American officials be present during a medical examination on Mrs. Herrera. U.S. embassy officials have already held a 15 minute private conference with Mrs. Herrera.

In a move to mollify the Church hierarchy and the U.S. government, the Marcos

(continued on page 6)

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AN OPEN LETTER TO FFP BICUTAN DETAINEES CONFIRM HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS!

The following is the text of a letter that was sent to the Friends of the Filipino People by the political prisoners at Bicutan Rehabilitation Center in the Philippines. The letter demolishes any further doubts one may have on the question of whether the Marcos dictatorship is using torture or violating the human rights of political detainees in the Philippines. — Editor

Dear Friends:

We read your reply to the U.S. State Department Report on the Human Rights Situation in the Philippines (Jan. 11, 1977). [See AK, Vol. IV, No. 2, pages 7, 9.] As direct victims of human rights violations by the Marcos martial law regime, we are deeply moved by the fact that there are many people abroad who fight for the cause of Filipino political prisoners. Although the State Department conceded some human rights violations in the Philippines, the report as a whole was sanitized.

Permit us to further elaborate on the violations of human rights under the present martial law regime and to further add to your already convincing arguments.

The U.S. State Department report admits reports of tortures as well as cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment in the cases of some political detainees in the Philippines. The report, however, qualifies that torture is not the result of "explicit government policy at the political level and appears to have decreased in recent years," especially after the visit of the Amnesty International (AI) investigating mission in November-December 1975. It cited that the government has initiated investigations and court martial proceedings against several officers and enlisted men for maltreatment of detainees and has cooperated with visiting missions of private or international organizations interested in the status of human rights in the Philippines.

Indeed, as you correctly stated, whether or not torture is the result of "explicit" or "implicit" government policy at the political level, these gross violations of human rights remain the deeds and therefore the responsibility of the Marcos martial law regime. The fact alone that 44 or 81.5 per cent of the present 54 political prisoners here at Camp Bicutan have gone through torture reveals that there is indeed a widespread and consistent pattern of the use of torture on political prisoners.

Contrary to the U.S. State Department report which

JAPANESE CITIZENS LODGE PROTEST MARCOS HIT FOR PRO-POLLUTION POLICIES



Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos and Pres. Fukuda of Japan during recent R.P.-Japan meeting.

NEW ASIA NEWS — April 26, the second day of President Marcos' visit to Tokyo, representatives of the Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace went to the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo to submit an open letter addressed to the President. In the letter they expressed deep concern about the "serious human problems created by the economic activities of certain Japanese enterprises" in such areas as Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao and Navotas in Greater Manila. They also expressed strong protest against the "unjust mass arrests which have taken place in Mindanao since November 1976, and against the "mass military trials, the widespread use of torture, and the increasing number of political prisoners throughout the Philippines."

Opposition to the construction of a Kawasaki Sintering Plant in Cagayan de Oro has grown among Japanese people as they have become aware that in preparation for the plant's construction, military forces have evicted thousands of people from their homes and land. Opposition to this particular project is strong because the Kawasaki Steel Corporation is notorious for its neglect of pollution problems in Japan's own Chiba prefecture, where more than 700 people suffer from serious pollution caused diseases and 39 victims have died. Chiba-Kogai Juku, an anti-pollution citizens' group in Chiba City, also issued a letter to President Marcos strongly criticizing "pollution export" by the Japanese steel mill. □

Detainees here at the Bicutan Rehabilitation Center wrote to the Friends of the Filipino People in the U.S. personally attesting to the use of torture against political prisoners.

[AK filie photo]



states that torture is said to have taken place usually in the first stages of interrogation as a result of the activities of lower ranking military personnel prior to the commitment of detainees to regular detention centers, there are numerous instances where high ranking military and even civilian officials have not only supervised or ordered torture sessions on political prisoners but have also executed the tortures themselves. Among the several high ranking officials who have been involved in the torture of political prisoners, we mention a few:

1. Col. Greg Perez, a director of the National Intelligence and Security Authority (NISA). Col. Perez, who for his cover, works as an executive of Carmasters and has a weekly column in a national daily newspaper (Personalities in the Auto Business, *Bulletin Today*), actually is one of the country's top intelligence agents. He has undergone training in the John Hopkins School for Strategic Studies which is known for its having produced CIA agents. Col. Perez frequents military and civilian intelligence safehouses such as those supervised by the 5th Military Intelligence Group, 5th Constabulary Unit and the NISA/CISA. He himself conducts tactical interrogations on suspected high-ranking subversives and virtually dictates when torture is to start, stop or resume.

2. Col. Jose Aquino (Ret.) director of the Civil Intelligence and Security Agency (CISA) also frequents military and civilian intelligence safehouses and is often in the company of Col. Perez during tactical interrogations. Together, they supervise torture operations on political prisoners.

3. Col. Miguel Aure, commanding officer of the 5th CSU not only orders and supervises himself, but also applies torture on political prisoners. Lately, a political prisoner, Purificacion Pedro, was found to have died of strangulation after Col. Aure and his 5th CSU team interrogated her while she was recuperating from a bullet wound in a provincial hospital room.

4. Lt. Col. Laurel Valdes, head of the Metropolitan Command Intelligence Division (M-2) has been the subject of several complaints of torture.

There have been numerous instances where political prisoners were tortured even after the interrogation stage and inside regular detention centers. Some of the most notorious of these are:

1. On Jan. 2, 1975, during the birthday celebration of the 5th CSU, several 3rd CSU and NISA/CISA officers and men entered the 5th CSU detention area and went on a rampage. They beat up several political prisoners (Allan Jazmines, Manuel Chiongson, Temario Rivera, Francisco Luneta, Myrna Alcid, etc.). This incident was reported to Secretary of National Defense, Juan Ponce Enrile, through his military aide Col. Bello, but nothing came out of this report.

2. On Dec. 4, 1975, during a hunger strike by the 5th CSU political prisoners, several political prisoners were beaten up by the 5th CSU's Lt. Rodolfo Aguinaldo. A string of several other complaints and torture have long been filed against Lt. Aguinaldo but so far he seems to remain untouchable.

3. As a reprisal for a 15-day hunger strike by 118 political prisoners here at Camp Bicutan from June 14-29,

1976, 150 men in uniform under the command of Col Ramon Baiaya, camp commander of Camp Bicutan, entered the detention area and beat up some 15 political prisoners while forcibly dragging away to isolation cells two other political prisoners (Fr. Edicio de la Torre and Fidel Agcaoili). A few days later, on July 11, two busloads of truncheon-bearing Metrocom men came into the camp and after beating up some thirty political prisoners forcibly dragged away four others for isolation and torture.

Contrary to the U.S. State Department report that torture appears to have decreased in recent years, especially after 1975, our experience at Camp Bicutan proves otherwise. In fact, 81 per cent of all political prisoners arrested after 1975 and detained here at Camp Bicutan have been tortured. Thus, the use of torture has been all the more increased.

A large number of political prisoners have filed complaints of torture against the military. So far, however, most of the complaints are ignored and there has only been one case wherein punishment was meted out to military personnel for torture of political prisoners. In this case, one junior officer (Lt. Clifford Noveras) and two non-commissioned officers were dismissed from military service for having tortured two political prisoners (Julius Giron, and Cenon Sambrano) detained at Camp Bicutan. Several other officers, including Lt. Col. Laurel Valdez, head of M-2, were also the subject of complaints filed by Giron and Sambrano together with several other political prisoners.

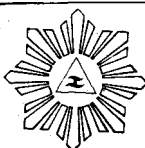
Apparently, there was a whitewashing of the complaint charges and only some junior officers and enlisted men were used as scapegoats by the military. However, there have been numerous instances where political prisoners who complained, have been subjected to series of harassments.

The Hilao family, for instance, has for some time been subjected to harassment because of the complaint they have filed against the military for the death of Lilia Hilao in the hands of her interrogators and because of the complaint they filed for the severe torture of Wini-fredo Hilao. At present, the following members of the Hilao family remain under detention, all without charges: Wini-fredo, his wife, Violeta Sevanda; his sister, Ma. Josefina; and brother-in-law, Jose Enriquez, whose wife Amaryllis Hilao was released in July 1976 because of a 13-day long hunger strike by Camp Bicutan detainees.

Contrary to U.S. State Department reports that the government has cooperated with visiting missions of private or international organizations interested in the status of human rights, there have been several instances where the government has turned down requests by such organizations to enter Camp Bicutan and interview political prisoners.

We can cite the instances: first, when the International Red Cross wanted to interview political prisoners here at Camp Bicutan in June 1976 but were not permitted to enter; second, when the British Broadcasting Corporation recently requested to make filmed interviews here

(continued on page 6)



**Katipunan ng mga
Demokratikong
Pilipino**

(KDP) Union of Democratic Filipinos

KDP is a mass organization based in the U.S. and is committed primarily to the struggle for the basic and long-term needs of the Filipino people, both in the Philippines and here in America.

Because of this, KDP supports the struggle of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship and pledges to help build a broad-based movement among the Filipinos in the U.S. to oppose martial law.

However, KDP sees that the root cause of all the misery and poverty in the Philippines is the imperialist control, exercised principally by the U.S., over the economy and politics of the country. The Filipino people can solve this basic problem only through long and difficult revolutionary struggle for a truly genuine democratic and independent

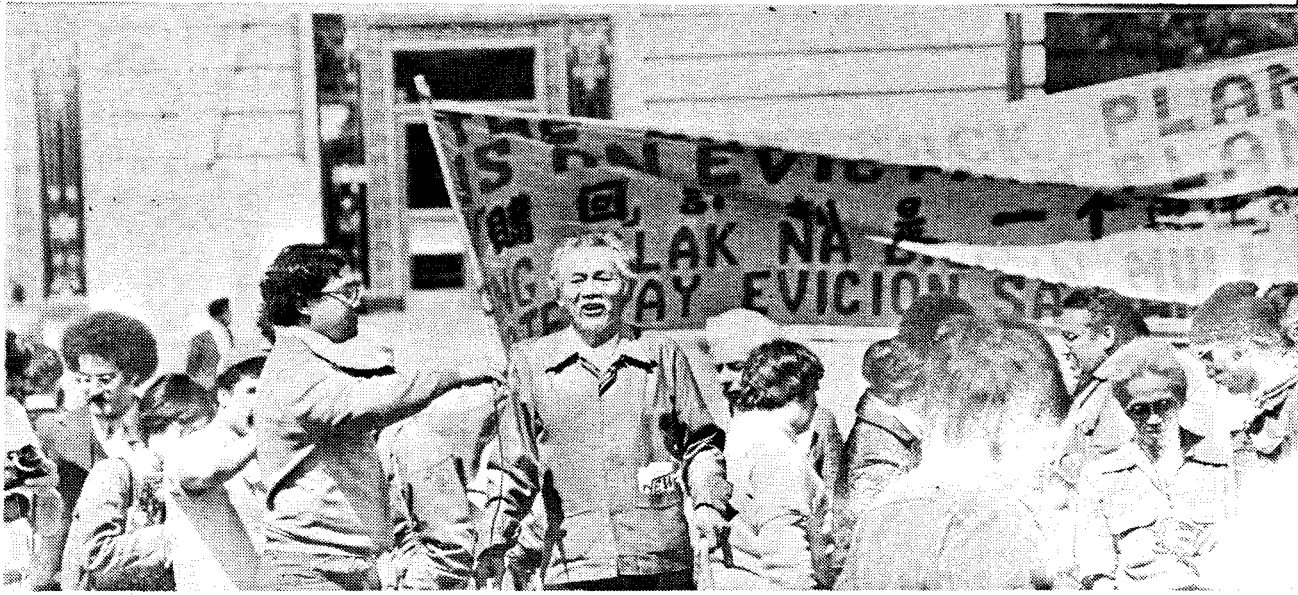
Philippines.

Here in the U.S., KDP is committed to struggling for the democratic rights of the Filipino minority. *Katipunan* views the racial and national discrimination experienced by the Filipino people as part of and stemming from, the monopoly capitalist system in the U.S. KDP members understand that the U.S. government is in fact, not democratic, but in the hands of a tiny minority of monopoly industrialists and bankers.

KDP sees that the people of the U.S. also need fundamental, revolutionary change to solve the basic ills that plague American society. The *Katipunan* understands that the working class must firmly control the government before it can rightfully be termed a government "of the people and for the people."

KDP sees that greater numbers of Filipinos are coming to these same political understandings. KDP is an organization open to all who agree with our political programme. In addition, KDP is committed to working in close cooperation with all progressive Filipinos to build a strong Filipino people's movement in America.

1,500 RALLY TO SUPPORT EMINENT DOMAIN FOR I-HOTEL



Felix Ayson, I-Hotel tenant, delivers stirring message thanking supporters during rally May 12. (AK photo)

By JEANETTE LAZAM

SAN FRANCISCO — Friday, May 13th, the largest demonstration organized in front of City Hall by the International Hotel Tenants Association and their supporters, took place. The tenants have staged demonstrations in the past at City Hall, but nothing comparable to the turn out of over 1,500 people that day.

The main focus of attention was the Superior Court where the scheduled hearing of the I-Hotel and Housing Authority's use of eminent domain would be challenged by the landlord, Four Seas. Outside, hundreds of people gathered to form a militant picket line that would later transform into a spirited rally at the Civic Center. Banners and picket signs were strung across the front of City Hall, making it impossible for City officials and bypassers to ignore their presence.

Inside the court room, the tenants and a few supporters patiently waited for Judge Rolph to appoint the new presiding judge on the case. Earlier that week, Judge Byron Arnold had "formally" disqualified himself from the case based upon a "new" judicial policy.

The policy allegedly states that retired judges not be pulled from retirement to hear or preside on old cases, but that junior Superior Court judges be picked from a pool to gain experience in such court matters. However, from investigation that week, the A.K. staff as well as other progressive newspapers found out that no such policy exists and the real reason for Arnold's removal

was his undeniable bias against the case.

A recent expose in a Bay Area newspaper revealed that Arnold had extensive landholdings in San Francisco, and that he was a close personal friend of Walter Shorenstein, past landlord of the hotel. His reputation as a "judge not to be reckoned with," stems from a long line of cases that have come before his court in which most have not won, especially if the cases in any way affected his close landowning associates of downtown San Francisco.

Public pressure had been mounting for quite some time, questioning Arnold's role in the case. But it wasn't until the expose had been released did in fact public sentiment demand that he be removed. Thus, his removal was not due to that "unknown policy," but rather attributed to the growing pressure of the people's demand for his removal.

In light of this victory, the tenants for over a week were kept up in the air about the new judge and possible postponement of the hearing. Every indication pointed to the fact that it would probably take another week or two for final argument once a new judge had been appointed.

On May 13, that decision was rendered and Judge Charles F. Peery became the new presiding judge. The hearing had also been postponed for a week. The new judge's first order was to cite the demonstrators outside with illegal assembly during the court session, which gives some indication as to where this judge stands. Most observers stated that he is no different than Arnold in the sense that he is already prepared to render a decision unfavorable to the IHTA and the public.

Across the street in the Civic Center plaza when word was received about the postponement and the new judge, it only added more fuel to the already spirited demonstration. Having marched around City Hall once, they then congregated to wait for the rally to begin.

Among the community leaders at the rally, was Philip Vera Cruz, Second Vice-President of the United Farm Workers. Philip had flown in from Delano the night before especially to speak at the rally and bring solidarity greetings from the farmworkers who fully support the struggle of the tenants.

Vera Cruz stressed the importance of recognizing that the fight to save the International Hotel is part of the overall struggle of the working class against the ruling class elite for decent wages, housing, and other basic rights.

Other speakers that day were Joan Dillion from the 504 Disabled People's struggle against H.E.W., Sam Wapapa of the American Indian Survival School in Oakland, and Mrs. Milleryo of the North of Market Senior Citizens Center.

The most arousing speeches were delivered by the tenants themselves: Felix Ayson, Juanita Rader, and Wahat Tampao. All three expressed the fact that the tenants in no way plan to move, but instead plan to keep on fighting until they have won their battle to stop this eviction and get the City to proclaim eminent domain.

Wahat talked about a dream where all the people worked together in a united manner to overcome such hardships in life, that a better day would come once that kind of unity could be achieved among people of different color and working people all over the world. He expressed that one day he would like to stop dreaming and have reality hold true for not just himself, but many others. "I dreamed that I would stop dreaming and that I could at last have a sleep that is restful and peaceful. But as long as we are struggling, I know I will never have a quiet sleep."

Before the rally broke up, the tenants as well as supporters vowed to return next Thursday, May 19th, to demand that the Housing Authority be issued the right to proclaim eminent domain for the hotel.

The I.H.T.A. needs your support more than ever; they are calling for a demonstration May 19th in front of City Hall that will outnumber the May 13th rally.

**STOP THE EVICTION!
PROCLAIM EMINENT DOMAIN NOW!**

COURT CRITICIZES MARCOS' REPRESSIVE REGIME

Lechoco Freed After Retrial



Napoleon Lechoco

By FRANCISCO OCAMPO

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Napoleon Lechoco, who held Ambassador Eduardo Romualdez hostage at the Philippine Embassy, this city, on November 18, 1974, was acquitted last May 3 after a retrial.

Lechoco's siege on the Philippine Embassy was precipitated by the martial law government's refusal to allow his eldest son to leave the country.

Lechoco, a Filipino lawyer with a family of six, was earlier convicted of kidnapping a foreign official, assault with a dangerous weapon, and possession of a firearm without a license. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison but was subsequently released after serving 15 months upon being granted an appeal for a new trial. After one week of retrial proceedings, the court upheld Lechoco's plea of "temporary insanity" and acquitted him.

Testimonies of Raul Manglapus (former senator and president of the Movement for a Free Philippines), Raul Daza (another MFP member and former classmate of Lechoco), Avelino Alegar (friend of the family), and Cecilia Lechoco (daughter of the accused) were used to prove that the repressiveness of the martial law regime in the Philippines and its strict restrictions on travel (compounded by the last minute decision of the Marcos government not to allow Napoleon Jr. to leave the country) contributed to the desperation of Lechoco which culminated in a temporary state of insanity. Expert psychiatrists, Drs. E. Williams and H. Richman, bolstered the preceding testimonies with their contention that the extraordinary pressures on Lechoco at the time of the act resulted in a mental defect or condition which substantially impaired his ability to distinguish right from wrong.

At the moment, Lechoco is confined at the St. Elizabeth Hospital for a mandatory psychiatric examination to determine his present state of mind. "I have no doubt that the doctors will find him of sound mental faculties at this time," commented his lawyer, Stuart Stiller.

"I am confident that parents who love their children will understand what happened to me. I am thankful to God that no one got hurt in the moment of my desperation," commented Lechoco. □

Book Sensationalizes Narciso-Perez Case...

(continued from page 5)

until something more substantial came along."

By the last chapter, while it is apparent that the evidence against Narciso and Perez is purely circumstantial if not plain shabby, Wilcox refuses to draw his facts to their logical conclusions: that the nurses are innocent and that the horror of the story is its implications of injustice, racism and sheer irresponsibility of the hospital's administration and the federal investigators.

Instead, he chooses to keep his conclusions vague and mysterious as in his last statement: "Perhaps the government has caught the killer or killers. But perhaps it has not. In that case, when will he, she or they strike again? And where?" Undoubtedly, this conclusion was an attempt by Wilcox (or his publishers) to keep the readers tantalized and sell the book.

It is in that light that the book fails to do justice to the nurses or to those who have died. Moreover, in the final analysis, Wilcox should be held accountable for his stooping to cheap and sensationalized reporting, as "The Mysterious Deaths at Ann Arbor" is hardly worthy of his touted reputation as a "gifted on-the-spot reporter." □

BICUTAN LETTER...

(continued from page 2)

but were turned away.

These facts mentioned above clearly show that there is widespread and consistent pattern of the use of torture on political prisoners and that torture is actually the result of "implicit" if not "explicit" government policy at the political level.

We, political prisoners here at Camp Bicutan, firmly signify our solidarity with the American Friends of the Filipino People in our common struggle against oppression and injustice. Your support of the cause of Filipino political prisoners helps to buoy up our spirits and determination to carry on with our struggle for justice, freedom and democracy. The thought of the justness of our struggle and the broadening support we have been getting, build up our confidence in our ultimate victory.

Thank you and mabuhay.

Very truly yours,
Political Prisoners at Camp Bicutan

Community Leader Tortured...

(continued from front page)

regime has ordered an investigation of the incident and a thorough medical exam on Mrs. Herrera.

In Mrs. Herrera's hometown, Tondo, a movement for her release has been gaining ground and has spread to other urban poor communities.

An outspoken opponent to the First Lady's beautification projects which aim to demolish urban poor communities from the face of Manila, Mrs. Herrera was a five-term president of ZOTO and an active member of the Ugnayan ng Maralitang Taga-lunsod (Alliance of the Urban Poor).

Herrera, who was to represent the Philippines at the U.N. Habitat Conference last year, had been in hiding since January 1976, when the military denied her and other Tondo leaders exit visas and issued warrants for their arrests.

Arrested twice previously, Herrera has become a bitter target of attack by the regime for the work she has done to focus international attention on the plight of Tondo squatters and for the cause she represented to Manila's one million urban poor population. □



Buod ng mga Balita
(Gist of the News)

MAYORS CRITICIZE POLICE ARROGANCE

(PNA) Municipal mayors in North and Central Luzon have aired charges of police arrogance and discourtesy during a series of peace and order seminars conducted by the home defense unit of the First Constabulary Zone.

The seminars held in San Fernando, Panganga; Tuguegarao, Cagayan; and Baguio City were designed to improve relations between civil, military and police authorities.

The loudest criticisms against police arrogance and discourtesy to civil officials were voiced in the Baguio seminar. Mayor Fe Acosta-Aguinaldo of Batac, Ilocos Norte, said that since the integration of the police forces, some policemen have forgotten elementary courtesy.

Municipal mayors have lost control and supervision over police forces since the integration of the police forces last year.

Mayor Aguinaldo was reported as saying that policemen "do not treat members of the Sangguniang Bayan as human beings."

This new attitude of the police toward municipal mayors prompted the town officials to ask for the reduction of the share of the 18 per cent of municipalities to the Integrated National Police (INP) to 5 or 7 per cent. The local officials said the 18 per cent out of the INP in the town's income is so enormous that they could hardly allocate funds for health, education and agriculture from the amount left.

The mayors said in denouncing the police that they are oftentimes blamed for the poor peace and order condition in the town when this is the task of the INP. They said that since integration they have become helpless as they could not even discipline erring policemen. □

WATER SHORTAGE HITS POOR HARDEST



Waiting for water in Tondo, Manila. (Phil. News photo)

Government orders imposing stiff penalties on water wasters has made starkly evident the severity and long-term duration of the drought that has hit Northern and Central Luzon provinces in recent months. In Central Luzon, the most severely affected area, Constabulary units have been ordered to arrest persons who waste water tapped from community water systems, including the watering of lawns and gardens, both public and private.

Meanwhile, in Manila, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is undertaking an accounting of public faucets to determine the number of illegally installed public faucets. This measure is directed against the urban poor, as they can ill-afford the exorbitant subscription rates of government utilities and instead use "illegal faucets," broken pipes, and fire hydrants for some of their water supply.

It is ironic, however, that the government has become "conservationist conscious" after belatedly recognizing that the water shortage is due to the massive deforestation process that has destroyed the country's vital watersheds. This destruction is almost wholly due to the indiscriminate logging operations of Japanese and American logging concessions. Although the wanton destruction of Philippine forests has been publicly known since the '60's, the export of Philippine woodproducts is still the country's fourth top foreign exchange earner. It is estimated that it would take 280 years to regenerate the five million hectares of deforested land, assuming that vigorous reforestation programs are undertaken. Bypassing the real perpetrators of this problem, Pres. Marcos has issued an awesome decree, ordering "every able-bodied Filipino above the age of ten to plant and care for five trees during his/her lifetime." How this was to be carried out was not specified. □

EVICION MEASURES AGAINST TRIBESPEOPLE

Government authorities are taking lightly the Bontoc-Kalinga tribe's vow to "fight to the grave" if necessary to prevent the construction of the Chico River Dam on their ancestral lands. Col. Jose M. Guerrero of the Presidential Assistance on National Minorities (PANAMIN) recently announced that the first of five relocation sites for the Kalinga hill tribes will be ready for occupancy next year.

This development will signal a series of concerted eviction drives undertaken by the military which will most likely be met by fiercer resistance on the part of the tribes. Since preliminary construction of the dam began in 1974, the tribesfolk have successfully frustrated the completion of the project, through popularly-supported protest actions. There have also been armed clashes between government patrol and NPA-supported tribe groups.

If completed, the World Bank-financed Chico River Hydroelectric Project will uproot some 15,000 Kalinga-Bontoc families from their ancestral lands and will deprive them of their only means of livelihood. □

Better Pay and Conditions Demanded from EEI

MASSIVE STRIKE HITS STEEL COMPANY



The last year and a half has seen many militant strikes against multinational companies in the Philippines. Despite the ever present threat of detention by the dictator's police, workers continue the struggle to gain more control over their workplaces and lives. Above is a photo of electronic workers in a Japanese-owned firm.

MANDALUYONG, April 24, (BMP) — Workers of Engineering Equipment Inc. (EEI) have vowed to continue their strike that began more than three weeks ago. "We have nothing to lose but our chains," said the workers

who have pledged to carry the fight to the end.

Last March 29, at 7:30 a.m., the first strike to hit the steel company in 46 years was staged by more than 3,000 workers inside the EEI compound. Their

demands include among others, the release of funds amounting to P600,000 as part of their wage compensation, the reinstatement of 34 workers on preventive suspension, better working conditions and medical care.

The workers from the different production units of EEI began their protest action by marching from their respective places of work towards the administration building and converging by the thousands at that point. They then challenged the EEI executive-owners to come out into the open and hear their grievances.

Frightened by the sight of the workers gathered outside their suites, EEI officials immediately sought help from the military and Department of Labor (DOL) authorities. The former responded within less than an hour by sending in truckloads of fascist troops to break up the crowd and harass the striking workers. The DOL immediately issued a "back-to-work" order, claiming the "illegality" of the strike. When the workers refused to make any concessions, more than 300 strikers were arrested and incarcerated in Fort Bonifacio.

Since the incident, the workers have not returned to the factory. It was reported that production output has gone down by as much as 85 per cent.

The EEI workers' struggle for wage increases under Presidential Decree (PD) 928 started in June 1976. EEI management, however, played deaf to such demands and even implied that the company was facing imminent bankruptcy to avoid effecting the wage increases.

But recent disclosures of EEI's assets have shown an increase rather than a decrease in profits. No less than Ven. O. Ducat, EEI president and chief operating officer, announced an unprecedented P25.8 million in net earnings last year, a 41 per cent increase over those of 1975. (Evening Post, April 15).

Ducat also denied that EEI has embarked on a three-pronged expansion program that will mean setting up a new overseas division with overall responsibility for its overseas construction operations.

In a related incident, 200 EEI workers, together with workers from Gelmart, Syntex, and other companies, trooped to the DOL office last April 14 to voice out their demands.

The delegation was met by the company lawyer for EEI who gave them a hostile reception. Angered by such discourtesy, the workers surrounded him, mocked and elbowed him as he tried to leave the room.

When Undersecretary of Labor Amado Gat Inciong came and said he knew nothing about the strike, the workers immediately cornered him.

Inciong insisted that they should sit it out with him and "settle their case peacefully," though he was trembling with fear.

Inciong predictably took the stand of EEI management on the labor dispute and the confrontation ended with the problem still unresolved.

The delegation left the DOL office with a firm determination to continue the strike and fight it out to the end. "The DOL, like all other government agencies," said the workers, "can never be relied upon, not one bit." □

SUPPORT FOR EEI STRIKERS BUILDS AMONG OTHER WORKERS

(BMP) MANDALUYONG — The workers' strike at the Engineering Equipment Incorporated, this town, has gained firmer ground with the support of trade unions from nearby factories. Workers of the Atlantic Gulf and Pacific, Philippine Blooming Mills, Rubi Industries, Integral, Liberty Flour Mills, Eternit, and Concepcion Industries Inc., have been giving both moral and material assistance to the EEI strikers. Since the strike, the EEI management has refused to release the union fund and wages of the striking workers, including those under preventive suspension.

Meanwhile, the effects of the EEI strike are spreading to other factories. The managements of these firms fearing that their

workers might follow suit, have conceded to the demands of their workers. The management of Columbia Tobacco Corporation immediately effected the P60-annual emergency allowance for its workers. Bargaining in advance, the management of Concepcion Industries Inc. promised to implement their workers' demand for a P2-wage increase, if the EEI strike proves successful.

In a related development, the EEI management has bribed the Integrated National Police (INP) to persuade and train baranggay policemen from nearby barrios to "assist the EEI management in case of troubles." Undercover Metrocom policemen have also been planted among the workers' ranks to spy on their activities. □

PARISH LEADERS HARASSED, ARRESTED

Leaders and members of *Panimbahon*, a lay organization of the local parish of Magallo, Bukidnon, have been victims of mass arrests and harassments by the Philippine constabulary.

Last Feb. 25, the military picked up at sitio Kinaggan four people, even burning the house of one of those arrested. At a nearby sitio, Banaan, six lay leaders and parishioners were arrested in an operation which started from the morning of Feb 27 to the afternoon of Feb. 28.

In another sitio, Garsola, six members of the lay organization were taken in, including a *Panimbahon* leader.

A more serious case was the fatal shooting of a sixty year old man for unknown reasons. The body was taken away and despite appeals of the family to the military coursed through the Bishop's office, no body has been produced to date.

Uncertainties on the fate of those arrested are mounting as members of the families of the

victims and the parish priest Fr. Hogan have been given a "wild goose chase." Reports of deaths of those arrested due to "suicide", "malignant malaria", and "shot while attempting to escape," have been circulating, aggravating the anxieties of the families on the fate of their loved ones.

The atmosphere of fear has pervaded the whole municipality as others have witnessed or heard about the abuses of the military which include butchering of hogs and chickens, confiscating of goods and drinks in the stores, breaking house furniture and the carting of clothes and cash amounting to P2,000. Some of the townspeople have been so terrified that they are even afraid to work in the fields. The people of Magballo are asking what crimes they have committed to explain why they are being subjected to such violence and harassment by the military. □

Source — Solidaridad 4/77

FILIPINO COMMUNITY

Narciso-Perez Trial: Drug Company Violations Revealed



Filipino community meeting in New York rallies support for Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, two innocent Filipino nurses accused of the "mysterious deaths" at the Ann Arbor VA Hospital. [AK photo]

By NENA HERNANDEZ

DETROIT — As the trial of the two Filipina nurses enters its sixth week, new information shedding light on another possible cause of the mysterious respiratory arrests at the Ann Arbor V.A. Hospital surfaced.

This week's testimony revealed that a section of Baxter-Travenol Laboratory, the sole supplier of intravenous (IV) fluids and additives for the Veterans Administration Hospital, was closed down while the mysterious respiratory arrests occurred in the summer of 1975. While testifying on the safety procedures of their laboratory, prosecution witness James Ashley, Asst. Director of Quality Control from Baxter-Travenol labs, admitted that a section of the lab was "voluntarily closed down." This information rekindled the earlier suspicion that the respiratory arrests could have been caused by contaminated IV bags.

This shutdown was reported in the June 26, 1975 issue

of the Wall Street Journal which revealed that Baxter-Travenol Labs suspended the production of their additives and diluents in their Hayes, Kansas facility following "a review of the facility with the Federal Drug Administration (FDA)."

A week later, in the July 1, 1975 issue of the Wall Street Journal, Baxter-Travenol Labs was reported recalling all their drug additives and diluents made in Hayes, Kansas at the request of the FDA. The Journal stated that the FDA told Baxter-Travenol Labs that their products made from the Kansas facility were not following current good manufacturing practice under the Federal Drug and Cosmetic Act.

CONFLICTING TESTIMONIES, AMONG WITNESSES

The controversial case also continued to be plagued with conflicting testimonies among witnesses.

Last week, prosecution witnesses gave contradicting statements on the breathing failure of patient Adam Oel-

(continued on page 7)

1977 Philippine National Day Nationwide Festivities Set



As June 12 fast approaches, plans for the 1977 Philippine National Day Celebration promise festive activities, uniting every sector of the Filipino community. In major U.S. cities with large Filipino populations, June 12 Committees were formed early this year to coordinate the Philippine National Day activities.

June 12 marks the historic date in 1898 when the Philippines won independence from Spanish colonialism. June 12 symbolizes the Filipino people's desire for freedom and the birth of a nation possessed with a rich heritage.

This year's Philippine National Day celebration will also highlight the Filipino's significant contributions to America's progress.

Everyone is urged to participate in the celebration of Philippine National Day '77. There will be booths, games, programs and food to liven the day. This year's success rests a great deal on everyone's involvement.

The following is a list of cities where June 12 celebrations will occur:

BAY AREA: when, Saturday, June 11, 1977; where, San Antonio Park, 1701 East 19th St.; time, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information call Merlita Baustista at 536-5983 or 548-6700. The Bay Area Committee is raffling off two round trip tickets to Hawaii with hotel accommodations. Tickets are available for \$1.00 each.

SAN FRANCISCO: when, Sunday, June 12, 1977; where, Dolores Park; time, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Program starts at 1 p.m. For information call Loy Apalisok at 282-4819.

LOS ANGELES: when, June 11 and 12; where, MacArthur Park; time, 10 a.m. On June 11 a grand parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Shatto Park, proceed to 6th St., turn east to MacArthur Park. A preview excerpt of "Isuda Ti Immuna" will be presented. For information call Dolce DePriest at 484-0260.

SAN DIEGO: when, June 12; where, Balboa Park, time, 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. A flag raising ceremony will be held at the Community Concourse 9 a.m. For information call 479-9891.

PHILADELPHIA: when, June 11; where, Riverview in Northeast Philadelphia; time, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information call Mrs. Lonzaga at 284-4683.

NEW YORK: when, June 11; where, Flushing Meadows Park, Queens; time, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Cultural show starts at 5 p.m. For information call Lennie Marin at 898-5673.

CHICAGO: when, June 12; where, Edgebrook Woods, Forest Preserve; time, 8 a.m. Program starts at 2 p.m. For information call Belen Asidao at 248-5941.

SEATTLE: when, June 12; where, Filipino Community Center; time, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For information call Selmi Domingo at 322-8291.

HAWAII: when, June 12; where, Aalala Park; time, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information call Russell Valparaiso at 946-1748.

SACRAMENTO: when, June 12; where, Miller Park; time 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. For information call Maxie Villones at 366-8417. □

Book Review: Sensationalized Reporting on V.A. Hospital Tragedy

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

Exclusive! Behind the headlines!
Now the whole truth
about the most chilling medical
horror story of our time.

THE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS AT ANN ARBOR

by Robert K. Wilcox

For the first time, a gifted on-the-scene investigative reporter reveals the facts behind the suspicious deaths and near-misses—52 in all—in the huge Veterans Hospital at Ann Arbor. Two Filipino nurses have been charged with murder and conspiracy to murder. Judge for yourself who may be guilty.

It is in the best tradition of the American publishing world to make a fast buck by exploiting the tragedy of others. Adhering closely to this philosophy is a book entitled "The Mysterious Deaths at Ann Arbor." Banned as "the most chilling medical horror story of our time," the book is based on the deaths at the Veterans Hospital in Michigan for which two Filipino nurses are currently standing trial for murder.

The recently released paperback written by Robert K. Wilcox, an "award-winning" reporter, while basically questioning the validity of the case against the nurses, falls far short of its potential as a piece of investigative reporting concerning the case.

Much of the book is devoted to recounting the many and confusing incidents of respiratory arrests—52 are claimed to have been suspicious—at the hospital during July and August, 1975.

On one hand, Wilcox casually touches on the negligence of the VA Hospital administration for an understaffed and unguarded hospital, referring to the suicide of one mental patient and a berserk mental patient running loose in the hospital as "diversions providing the killer (or killers) with a chance to roam freely."

The author is too preoccupied with building the suspense and plays up the purely speculative opinions of the federal investigators that a "figure in white . . . walked over to stand beside a dozing eighty eight year old man . . . quickly and with experienced precision, the figure moved in close covering his or her actions with its body, and inserted the needle's tip into a rubber coupling device at the top of one of the patient's many IV tubes."

Then, as a poor sequel to *All the President's Men*, Wilcox spends two chapters on a reporter who stumbles across the story during her routine coverage of the obituary column. Much detail is devoted to the dilemma of the reporter trying to get confirmation of the suspicious deaths from a tight-lipped administration and beat the major newspapers to the story.

The breaking of the story in the press, however, is the turning point of the book because the "nation is now alerted" and the hospital administration and FBI are hard pressed to come up with a suspect.

In the last half of the book, Wilcox is a little more candid about his feelings about the case, giving some insights into what he called the "complicated, controversial, and perhaps even bungling government investigation."

Wilcox demonstrates how the only thing that even came close to implicating the Filipino nurse, Filipina Narciso, was the note written by the patient and victim, McCrery, scribbled with the letters "PI."

Documenting every account of Ms. Narciso by people who knew her (including patients, doctors, co-workers, and her landlord), Wilcox notes that not one single negative comment was made. Unfortunately, Wilcox then writes, "Such was the enigma of the little Filipino: responsible, considerate, shy. But was it a veil hiding evil beneath?" Either Wilcox could not contain his own racist suspicions, or he just wanted to artificially maintain the suspense. Nonetheless, this passage is a poor excuse for responsible journalism.

It was the FBI, however, whose racist attitudes were most blatantly revealed by Wilcox when he explains their attempt to come up with a motive in their sloppy case against Narciso: 1) "Only one of the suspected victims was Black—perhaps the offender identifies with underprivileged Blacks." 2) "There was some speculation about the Philippines and the war, but it didn't pan out."

What then implicated Leonora Perez? Wilcox says it was McCrery whose testimony was originally central to the government's case against Narciso, who later changed his story, insisting it was Perez who had given him the paralyzing shot. Immediately, continues Wilcox, the FBI, who didn't want their case shot to pieces, decided to indict them both for murder.

Subsequently, when another motive is sought, Wilcox finally gets a little more bold in his criticisms of the case, revealing, "Since there just wasn't anything else suggesting a motive, Belonis (the original prosecutor) it appears, decided the nursing shortage and resultant overworking of the staff would have to suffice—at least

(continued on page 6)

MAY 1

A Call to Freedom



"Long Live the Working Class" was the rallying cry of many protest actions, such as this one, before martial law was declared.

The following was excerpted from a leaflet widely disseminated during the May 1st rally. — Editor

"The ruling classes of the Philippine society have systematically used martial law to tighten the noose of repression around the necks of all sectors of the population.

Workers have been deprived of the right to strike by Gen. Order No. 5 and PD 823. Hundreds have gone to jail simply for wanting to better their lot. The range of choices for the working sector have been starkly narrowed: protest or perish. Silence and resignation are but another name for death.

Batilyos have been deprived of their right to work by PD 977. Houses of urban poor settlers have been bulldozed and hundreds of people rendered homeless — all because of the regime's beautification and 'developmental' projects. Peasants are cheated of the land they have tilled for ages.

For asserting their right to self-determination and to live according to their culture, the dogs of war have been unleashed on both the Muslim and non-Muslim masses of Mindanao. In the mountain provinces, some 95 Kalingas and Bontocs are in the stockades, all of them arrested for opposing the construction of the Chico River Dam Project.

Students and professors are muzzled. Schools seem to be like whitened tombs, allowed by the regime to exist as long as they produce bloodless and unquestioning minions of martial law. The press is controlled and news is suppressed or distorted.

Churchmen are persecuted for striving to live the Gospel's message of justice. Church publications and radio stations preaching justice and baring the truth are padlocked. Political prisoners are tortured and detained indefinitely.

And by decrees favorable to big foreign investors, nationalist businessmen have gone bankrupt.

Coupled with the loss of freedom is the spectre of an ever widening gap between the rich and poor. Income distribution, already highly unequal has become increasingly so.

With the spiralling of prices due to the recent oil price hike, the poor will get more impoverished. At the same time, previously middle income families will find it increasingly hard to maintain their status and fall to the category of poor.

The oppressed sectors are getting broader while the rich and powerful are getting fewer. Caught in an unjust and oppressive system, the poor are finding out that all avenues to improving their lot are blocked by repression.

REPRESSION BREEDS RESISTANCE

But the oppression and repression of martial law have created their own nemesis. Where repression intensifies and where rank oppression broaden, there opposition has arisen and grown.

The protest movement in the city has shattered the myth that martial law is invincible. The La Tondena strike of 1975 cracked the shell of fear brought about by martial law, and the succeeding protests broke it.

The situation has become more volatile. The protest movement in the city has grown. Because protest is in the air, because it is a call to freedom, the protest movement continues to grow.

WORKERS IN THE FOREFRONT

The condemnation of all sectors of the population of economic deprivation and a common loss of freedom has made joint and united action all the more necessary. Hedged in by the oppressive state machinery, a united force of the poor and the oppressed is a liberating wedge.

The forward tip of this wedge is clearly the workers. By far, the workers have engaged in the most numerous and militant struggles against the martial law regime. In negotiations with management, in defiance of Dept. of Labor directives, in confrontation with the military, in bouts of detention, they are honed for and tempered in

One Family's Suffering Under Martial Law

Political Prisoner Recounts Torture

Of the many families who have endured the barbarities of martial law in the Philippines, few have suffered as acutely as the Lunetas of Batangas province. Five brothers, Romeo, Ernesto, Domingo, Francisco, and Jose, a sister, Maxima, and the wives of two brothers, Zenaida Delica-Luneta and Nenita Evangelista-Luneta, have been imprisoned and tortured.

Nenita Evangelista-Luneta and her one year old daughter have been missing since mid-1975 and are believed to have been murdered. Maxima, four months pregnant at the time of her arrest, was so severely harassed by her captors that she suffered a miscarriage and had to be repeatedly hospitalized for high blood pressure. Zenaida Delica-Luneta was arrested with her two-year-old child from whom she was separated during interrogation. While being interrogated, she was made to listen to a child's crying which gave her the impression that her child was being injured or killed.

Romeo, who was held as a hostage for Jose, has a permanently damaged ear drum due to the severe torture he underwent. Francisco has developed pierced eardrums and hearing difficulties for the same reason. Domingo and Francisco were badly injured when they were beaten up on Jan. 2, 1975 by a party of drunken Philippine Constabulary officers.

Jose Luneta was finally captured in January 1976. The military clearly regarded him as a prize catch and he was tortured nearly to death. Word going around Manila in February of that year was that he was so badly hurt that his family, on seeing him, told the military to kill him rather than continue to let him exist in his current state. Below is his own account of his torture.

THE ARREST

I was arrested by a combined group of ISAFP-CSU (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines — Constabulary Security Unit) operatives on the night of January 17, 1976 at No. 3 Macopa St., Malabon, Rizal. My companions were Jun Telley and an old man we called "Tiong." The arresting officer was Maj. Arsenio Esguerra.

Upon arrest, Jun and I were blindfolded, our hands were tied and we were taken to a "safehouse" where we were tortured. "Tiong" was separated from us. It must be noted that infliction of physical injury had commenced right upon our arrest at the Malabon house.

In the "safehouse," physical torture was intensified. For two nights and two days (Saturday night to the whole day of Monday), I was subjected to various forms of torture in the effort of my "interrogators" to extract from me the whereabouts of some of my friends who have also gone into hiding. The forms of torture included:

1. forcing water into the mouth;
2. beating thighs and stomach with a pop drink bottle till they were black and blue;
3. karate blows and kicks;
4. hitting different parts of the body with a gun butt;
5. forcing cigarette butts into the mouth;
6. tying hands and feet in bed while naked;
7. administration of electric shock.

The last form was the most often used. I underwent many "sessions"; each session would last for one-half to one hour, with the exception of the first which lasted from about midnight to early morning of Sunday. These sessions would continue up to Monday.

With this form, electrodes were attached alternately to my index fingers, wrists, ankles, genitals and on the left side of my neck as a result of which these parts sustained wounds and I became temporarily deaf in my left ear for about two months.

I was to stay in the first "safehouse" for about 4 months (Jan. 17-May 19). Throughout this period, one of my wrists was handcuffed to my bed. The handcuffs were removed only during eating, taking a bath or washing my clothes. I could not do physical exercises and was practically deprived of sunlight. I was not given reading materials despite my constant requests.

the struggle.

Clearly too, the workers are strategic in society. For it is their labor that produces the wealth of society. It is the products of the workers that produce the necessities of life. If they stopped working, the economy would be paralyzed. In the general strike, therein lies their strength. They, more than any other oppressed sector, can call the shots.

The workers cause is the cause of other oppressed sectors of society. The workers want freedom and prosperity. The other sectors want these too. The workers want to fight for freedom; the other oppressed sectors also want to fight for freedom.

May 1st comes at a time when the regime is in crisis. It also comes at a time when the broader sectors of the population have started to feel the pinch of new difficulties triggered by the recent oil price hike.

May 1st is a grand occasion to show that the oppressed sectors will not tolerate any further the oppression and repression of the martial law regime.

When on this day, workers, urban poor, peasants, students, professionals, religious and nationalist businessmen join together to fight for freedom, a giant step towards freedom is taken." □



Political detainee and torture victim, Jose Luneta.

THREATS AND CONTINUED BEATINGS

From time to time, some officials would come to threaten or cajole me to cooperate with them. Among them, I remember Col. Miguel Aure and Maj. Esguerra. From time to time also, lower ranking officials such as Lt. Rodolfo Aguinaldo would come to harass and beat me. [Note: documentation of torture cases reveals that Aure, Esguerra, and Aguinaldo are some of the most barbaric of the regime's torturers.]

Towards the end of January, a certain Master Sgt. Sabado came to take statements from me. Previous to this, Maj. Esguerra threatened to kill me if I did not agree to cooperate in this matter.

Around the middle of February, I was taken to the 5th MIG (Military Intelligence Group), ISAFP Headquarters in Bago Bantay, Q.C., where I saw my sister Maxima who had been temporarily released. There, another statement was extracted from me. When I was about to sign the statement, I noticed in the first paragraph that it was my right to remain silent and to have a lawyer. This item was not read to me during the interrogation. I refused to sign the statement, insisted on my rights and demanded that I be transferred to a regular center for political detainees. Msgt. Sabado, the interrogator, got angry and said that I would have to be returned to the "safehouse" if I did not sign.

Hoping that I would be transferred to a regular political detention center, I signed. My hope was in vain for I was actually returned to the "safehouse" where I was periodically harassed and beaten. For example, one day during the second week of May, some men came and had a drinking spree. In the afternoon, they entered my room and took turns in punching, kicking and beating me with a thick plastic pole while I was blindfolded. As a result, my whole face was swollen for two weeks and my chest and back were full of welts and bruises.

On the third week of May, I was transferred to another "safehouse." One day a week after, I was handcuffed to the bed. At night, I was constantly harassed such that I was deprived of much-needed sleep and rest.

INCOMMUNICADO

On July 7, I was transferred to the Philippine Constabulary stockade in Camp Crame, Q.C., for non-political detainees. I was kept incommunicado in a small isolation cell. The cell door and windows were boarded up. Later on, one of the windows was opened. In September, I was allowed to receive some personal material needs from my family. In November, I was allowed 30 minutes every morning for sunning. On Dec. 14, my sister-in-law Zenaida, now temporarily released, was permitted to see me. On Dec. 26, I saw my family and some relatives. Later on, they were given visiting rights. I was to learn later that some lawyers representing me tried to visit me but they were rebuffed.

During the period of my detention in the safehouses and at the stockade, I kept up with my requests for transfer and for regular detention privileges. The members of my family also requested for such on my behalf but these requests were disapproved or took a long time for approval.

On March 15, 1977, almost 14 months after my arrest, I was transferred to the Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRC) where I am presently detained. Among the detainees here are my three brothers, Domingo, Francisco, and Ernesto. □

moving?

Don't miss the next issues of the ANG KATIPUNAN. Let us know your new address. Please send in old address label along with new address to Ang Katipunan, P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623. Please notify three weeks prior to move.

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

Demonstration Draws 2,000

PROTEST HITS NUCLEAR POWER DANGER

By VICENTE SAN NICOLAS

A recent nuclear power plant demonstration in New Hampshire has again focused national attention on the nuclear power controversy.

The massive anti-nuclear protest occurred at Seabrook, N.H., where a light-water reactor has been under construction since last August. More than 2,000 protesters — most carrying camping equipment, food and water — occupied the coastline site of the Seabrook reactors on April 30.

In the succeeding two days, some 1,400 protesters were arrested by New Hampshire state police, and jailed at a nearby national guard armory. Those arrested vowed to fight bail and remain in jail as long as possible to underscore the protest.

The size of the demonstration and the willingness of the protesters to undergo arrest highlighted the concern of growing numbers of people to the use of nuclear power as a safe and effective energy source for this country. Many of the safety and environmental questions raised by protesters at the New Hampshire demonstration apply not only to the Seabrook and other proposed reactors, but also to many reactors currently in operation.

SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS KEY QUESTIONS

The Seabrook reactor is a light-water reactor, similar to some 70 more the Carter Administration wants to build as part of its highly publicized energy plan. Other light-water reactors have been subject to accidents, such as the Florida reactor which is similar to Seabrook's and which was also built by the same company, Westinghouse. The Florida reactor has been idle for more than a year while undergoing repairs for leaks.

Besides the possibility of leaks, critics have also cited the case of the 1975 fire at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant in Alabama, when at least seven out of 12 emergency systems failed to operate, almost causing an accident of major proportions.

Workers in nuclear reactors and reprocessors have also been subject to dangerous levels of radiation, often due to criminal negligence on the part of the company. At one nuclear reprocessing plant operated by the Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) and located in West Valley, New York, an estimated 180 full-time and 1,400 part-time employees were subject to hazardous work conditions, often without any knowledge of the hazards or any safety training.

The part-time workers, mostly teenagers bused in from neighboring Buffalo, often received as much as one-quarter a year's allowable dosage of radiation in 15 minutes and then were terminated by NFS. It was a conscious policy of "burn 'em up and ship 'em out" according to one NFS critic.



1,400 peaceful demonstrators were dragged by police from the site of the proposed nuclear power plant in New Hampshire.

There have been numerous other cases of workers being accidentally contaminated by radioactive materials. It has been charged that some nuclear companies, such as NFS, have consciously concealed medical records of its employees which may slow an increase in the occurrence of cancer and other job related illnesses.

There are also important ecological problems which face the operating of nuclear reactors. Construction on the Seabrook plant has been temporarily halted while the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies the plant's proposed cooling system. New Hampshire Public Service Commission officials have already admitted that the reactor will discharge millions of gallons of heated water into nearby fishing beds, causing irreparable damage to the marshes.

Other proposed reactors face similar problems and the ecological impact can be far greater if radioactive contamination of cooling water accidentally occurs.

PROFITS OVER PEOPLE

Much of the controversy over nuclear power stems from the approach in the harnessing of nuclear power as an important energy source. Critics have charged that all too often in the past, the large oil companies and utilities have irresponsibly gone ahead with proposed nuclear plants without thorough study and careful regard to its impact on both local residents and the environment. More often than not, the people end up paying for the company's mistakes.

For example, the NFS's nuclear reprocessing plant at West Valley, New York, now faces the problem of disposing of an estimated 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive liquid waste that will be extremely toxic for the next 250,000 years. The carbon-steel tank which now

holds the waste will only last an estimated 30 years.

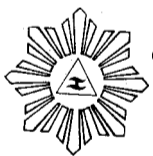
One estimate of the expected cost in disposing all of the radioactive waste now stored at West Valley is an incredible \$600 million. NFS, a subsidiary of Getty Oil, was able to sign a contract with then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller which now places the financial burden of disposing the waste materials on the people of New York, not NFS.

Besides facing a dilemma of mounting radioactive wastes with no practical solution as to its disposal or reprocessing, critics have also charged that the building of plants often takes place with poor planning.

California's Diablo Canyon reactor, located 10 miles from San Luis Obispo, sits only two and a half miles from a major earthquake fault. PG&E, which owns the plant, claims that it wouldn't have been able to know that the fault existed when construction began since the fault is located offshore. Critics charge that the utility company just never bothered to look.

Nuclear power critics are also taking a critical look at the rationale for nuclear power. Many of the most vehement supporters of nuclear power — the big gas and oil companies — are also the largest owners of the country's uranium mines and deposits and stand to gain the most from increased nuclear use. Already the cost of uranium ore has increased four-fold over the past five years.

In addition, the country's reserves of uranium ore — once highly regarded as a way of making the country self-sufficient in energy needs — will last only an estimated 30 to 40 years. As the Seabrook demonstration stressed, a serious study and discussion is obviously needed before the country launches into a costly, and potentially dangerous, nuclear policy □



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Nurses' Trial....

(continued from page 5)

berg. Oelberg, a patient in the fifth floor of the VA Hospital, suffered a sudden breathing failure on the evening of August 14, 1975. The prosecution alleges that Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez "conspired" to poison Mr. Oelberg, and that Filipina injected a paralyzing drug into his intravenous feeding tubes.

The conflicting testimonies centered around who was the first nurse present in Oelberg's room when his respiratory arrest began. Seven witnesses gave different versions of who was the first nurse they saw in the room. One witness, a Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell, former registered nurse at the VA, said she saw Narciso in the hallway of the fifth floor several minutes before Oelberg's arrest. She stated, however, that she did not see Narciso go to Oelberg's room. Mrs. Campbell testified that it was Narciso's call for help that alerted the other staff members who were attending to another emergency right across Oelberg's room.

Mrs. Campbell's testimony was in contradiction to an earlier testimony by Mrs. Mary Halboth, a nursing assistant. Mrs. Halboth testified that the last person she saw before Oelberg's arrest was another nursing assistant, Earline Fuller, who is assigned to the fifth floor. Mrs. Halboth stated that it was Mrs. Fuller who alerted the other staff on Oelberg's arrest. Mrs. Halboth stated that she did not see Narciso in the fifth floor before Oelberg's arrest.

However, when Mrs. Fuller took the witness stand, she denied being the last one in Oelberg's room before his respiratory arrest. She testified that she heard someone yell that Oelberg was having problems. Mrs. Fuller also testified that she did not see Narciso in the fifth floor before the patient's respiratory arrest.

Not one of the seven prosecution witnesses was able to

place Narciso or Perez in the room of Oelberg before his respiratory arrest.

These contradictory statements also characterized the testimonies for the poison of patient Howard Leslie. Howard Leslie experienced a cardio-pulmonary arrest on the evening of August 12, 1975 in his fourth floor room in the VA. Not one single testimony from the six witnesses, Howard Leslie included, implicated Narciso or Perez. In fact, among the employees at the VA hospital who have been called to testify for the prosecution so far, the solidarity between them and the defendants is quite evident. It is not an uncommon sight to find the prosecution witnesses, after their testimony, approach Narciso and Perez to extend their moral support. Even during testimony, several employees called by the prosecution have expressed their support by praising Narciso and Perez' capabilities as nurses. To the dismay of the federal prosecutor Richard Yanko, one witness stated during his testimony that he felt, "P.I. (Narciso) is an excellent nurse."

FBI DENIES HARASSMENT

Meanwhile, the FBI denied harassing one of the witnesses. After Mrs. Julie Porter, a nurse from the VA hospital who charged the FBI of harassing her (see AK, May 1-15), the prosecution team was quick in calling one of the FBI agents to refute Mrs. Porter's testimony. FBI Special Agent Otis Archery denied ever harassing Mrs. Porter. He gave a long, drawn-out testimony on how the FBI normally does not interrogate but "interview" people during their investigation. He stated that "... you can catch more bees with honey than with vinegar." Agent Archery, however, admitted that interrogation is discussed during their training period.

Ironically, Archery was not the agent Mrs. Posten accused of harassing her. James Riley, the agent in question, was not present for questioning. The defense may subpoena him to testify in court in the near future. □

London Meeting To Stem Economic Crisis

Summit Reaches Limited Accord

By ROMY DE LA PAZ

While the recent two-day economic summit conference in London was hailed by leaders of seven major industrialized countries as a step towards "closer unity and cooperation," the meeting produced little other than agreement that their economies face serious problems which have sparked massive internal unrest.

The London conference, the third economic summit in eighteen months, brought together U.S. President Jimmy Carter with the heads of state of Japan, Canada and the principal common market countries of Britain, France, West Germany and Italy. The leaders conceded that the present world economic system, which yielded them tremendous profits for the past thirty years, is now gravely imperiled.

"The problems we face today," expressed Japan Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, "are more difficult than those in the 1930's," recalling the worldwide economic depression which characterized that period. He cited problems on energy and raw materials, deteriorating relations between rich and poor countries and unemployment. The two-day parley saw each leader pushing for its country's concern. France's Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Canada's Elliot Trudeau complained about restrictive trade policies practiced by some countries. Concerned that the balance of nuclear power might be altered unnecessarily, Carter expressed alarm over the spread of nuclear technology that could potentially produce atomic weapons. Prime Minister Callaghan was concerned that although Britain's employment rate was relatively on the upswing, its economy continued to suffer from inflation. On the other hand, Chancellor Schmidt said that while West Germany enjoyed the lowest inflation rate in the world, its unemployment problem continues to be its biggest current crisis.

"UNITY" ON RESOLVING PROBLEMS

Attempting to resolve problems facing these countries, a four-page declaration itemized their consensus:

- An agreement not to resort to higher tariffs and trade protectionism;
- A commitment from economically stronger countries (U.S., Japan and West Germany) to meet specific internal growth targets this year, which, hopefully would increase employment and foster



Leaders of the major capitalist countries met in London and unsuccessfully tried to solve joint economic problems. From left: Andreotti, Italy; Fukuda, Japan; Giscard, France; Carter, U.S.; Schmidt, Germany; Callaghan, England; and Trudeau, Canada.

trade;

- A common fund aimed at stabilizing commodity prices;
- Combat unemployment among the youth in industrialized countries;
- An agreement to set up a machinery to insure that their commitments are enforced.

Despite their much heralded unity, there is nothing binding these countries to abide by the resolutions. Strict adherence to these solutions could be disastrous to some of the participating countries. Over such sensitive issues as trade restrictions, for example, observers noted that those countries which are inundated with less expensive, foreign made goods, have no alternative but to increase their tariff rates. The protectionist trade policies practiced by these countries would ultimately prove fatal to their present international trade system.

POLITICAL SYSTEMS IMPERILED

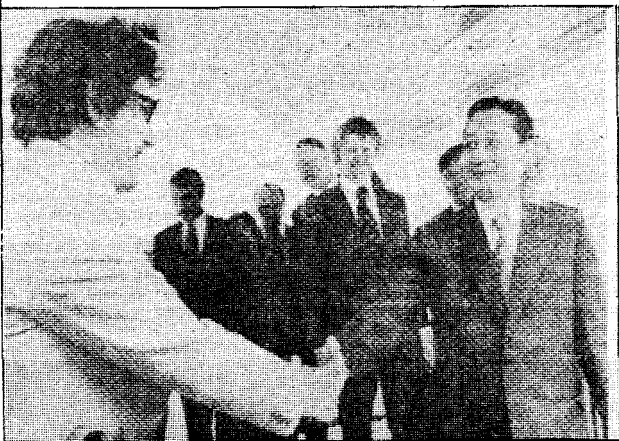
The leaders emphasized that these solutions must be strictly enforced for their own survival. One by one, they stressed the peril facing their countries "if selfishness and competitive policies continue to prevail."

Moreover, failure to resolve economic problems could potentially threaten existing political systems. For example, the leaders felt that the problem of youth unemployment threatens to create a whole new generation of worldwide unrest

which could lead to increased revolutionary atmosphere. As British Prime Minister James Callaghan argued strongly, "15 million unemployed youth in the industrialized countries constituted not only an economic but political danger."

Although the conference aimed at coordinating a common economic strategy, this is highly unlikely in light of the sharp divisions plaguing these countries. Inherent among these countries is the tendency to "drift down the treacherous, all-too-familiar path of economic warfare." Promotion of their own narrow self-interests is the common denominator among these countries. As one French delegate noted, "The Japanese did not exactly exhibit euphoria when the talks turned to monopolistic positions." (Japan had an \$11 billion trade surplus during the previous fiscal year.) Also, despite Carter's repeated warnings, the Europeans insisted on their right to sell nuclear technology. (A recently concluded deal would provide Brazil with West German made nuclear installations.)

Despite the "confidence" expressed in the London summit, the main agreement focused on one basic point: to keep talking about the problems that still divide these countries. Observers noted that "no one expected any developments from these meetings beyond a gesture or two." As the American and British representatives privately acknowledged, "There is no way a government can be forced to follow policies it does not want to follow." □

U.S. AID FOR RECONSTRUCTION KEY ISSUE**U.S -VIETNAM INITIATE TALKS TO NORMALIZE TIES**

Richard Holbrooke (l), U.S. envoy, greeting Phan Hien (r), head of the Vietnamese delegation, during recent Paris talks.

The Paris talks between the U.S. and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam held May 3-4 were the first major step toward the normalization of ties between the two countries.

However, a U.S. State Department announcement on May 4, stating that the U.S. would not offer economic assistance to Vietnam, could potentially impede normalization efforts.

That the U.S. contribute to Vietnam's postwar reconstruction was one of the three major areas of discussion in the Paris talks. Article 21 of the 1973 Paris Peace Agreement signed by both countries pledged American support for the reconstruction of Vietnam and all of Indochina.

Nha Dan, the Vietnamese official newspaper, wrote: "The U.S. contribution to healing the wounds of the war is an undeniable obligation in terms of the

legality of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam, international law, morality and human conscience."

Nha Dan further asserted that, "The U.S. conducted a war of genocide in Vietnam, with very serious consequences for the life of the Vietnamese people both now and in the future."

U.S. MAINTAINS OBSTINATE POSITION

The State Department statement came only hours after the U.S. and Vietnam talks had recessed. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said: "We made clear to the Vietnamese that we will not pay any reparations."

On the same day, the House of Representatives voted to prohibit even the discussion of assistance to the Hanoi government. This obstinate position regarding U.S. aid to Vietnam's postwar recovery reflected a conservative mood on Capitol Hill.

Another important issue towards normalization of relations between the two countries, also discussed at the Paris talks, was the question of U.S. personnel missing in action (MIA's) in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Phan Hien reiterated to the U.S. delegation that his country will continue its efforts to provide further information on American MIA's, all of whom are presumed to be dead.

During the March visit to Hanoi by an official U.S. delegation led by United Auto Worker's President Leonard Woodcock, the Vietnamese government gave accounts of American MIA's.

As a result of the Vietnamese government's efforts to provide information on MIA's, the U.S. announced it would drop its veto against Vietnam's admission to the United Nations this year, an issue

the U.S. had belligerently linked to the question of MIA's.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

During the Paris meeting, Vietnamese official Hien asked the U.S. delegation, headed by Richard Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern and Pacific Affairs, to lift the U.S. trade embargo which banned all forms of trade to Vietnam, which Hien described as part of the "erroneous policy of the past." Economic relations, Hien said, could be established once the embargo is lifted.

A U.S. Embassy press briefing in Paris, May 4, made clear that the Carter Administration would like to establish both diplomatic and economic relations with Vietnam. The economic relations would include lifting the embargo, allowing trade to continue, tourism and other economic activities between the two countries.

However, Washington said it would only establish such ties if the question of U.S. contribution to Vietnam's postwar recovery could be stalled until some unspecified date in the future. So far, the U.S. has indicated its willingness to provide material contributions to Vietnam on a very limited scale, through indirect channels like the World Bank and the United Nations.

Although the Paris talks indicated a number of differences between the U.S. and Vietnam, the talks were viewed by observers as a serious attempt by both sides to achieve diplomatic ties. Speaking to reporters, representatives Holbrooke and Hien declared that the meeting had been "useful and constructive," and they announced that the dialogue would continue later this month. □