



## Opposition Boycotts Vote

# Marcos Stages 'Election' In Troubled South

Faced with political and economic threats from the powerful Islamic Conference, Pres. Marcos has called for regional elections in Western Mindanao on May 7. The elections will supposedly establish autonomous regions in predominately Muslim areas in keeping with the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. The sudden rush to implement the terms of the Tripoli Agreement, which has been repeatedly violated, is the regime's response to the Islamic Conference (IC) soon to be convened in Morocco this month.

The IC has recognized the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) as the legitimate representative of the Moro people and a few of its member states have extended military and monetary assistance to the rebel front. Recently the IC has pledged greater support for the MNLF and has hinted its preparedness to mount an oil embargo against the Philippines should Marcos fail to negotiate with the MNLF.

Apart from the Islamic Conference, the election is also meant to impress delegates to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the biggest international gathering to be held in Manila in years, also scheduled to begin on May 7. An estimated 600-900 foreign correspondents assigned to cover the conference are undoubtedly being eyed by Marcos to give worldwide coverage to his Mindanao exercise as well.

### ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT MNLF

While the election is apparently meant to appease oil-rich Middle East nations, it is also meant to discredit

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## NAFL-FNG Coordinator Harassed By INS Agents



Aimee Cruz [NAFL-FNG Photo]

In the early morning hours on May 2, agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) tried to barge into the home of Ms. Aimee Cruz, national coordinator of a nurses' right organization.

Rudely awakened by banging on the door of her Woodside, Queens apartment in New York City, Ms. Cruz was accosted by two agents flashing badges and demanding to get in. The agents said they wanted to question Ms. Cruz about her work as the coordinator of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG).

For three hours, the two agents attempted to intimidate Ms. Cruz into letting them in and answering their questions. Refusing to be cowed, Ms. Cruz contacted her lawyer and the INS office in Washington, D.C.

Finally, after negotiations between Ms. Cruz' lawyer and the INS New York Commissioner, an INS hearing was set on May 30. The two agents


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# Stop political harassment! Defend our rights!

A prominent Filipina community organizer and leader is the current target of harassment and intimidation by the INS.

Aimee Cruz, present coordinator of the NAFL-FNG and KDP activist is under fire from the agency whose two agents recently threatened to "get her."

What makes Ms. Cruz the object of threats and insults by the INS? Ms. Cruz is an outspoken defender of the democratic rights of the Filipino community. She has been actively involved in the struggles against discrimination faced by our community and other minorities as well. In 1975, she led a movement which successfully halted the deportation of thousands of foreign doctors. Three years later, in a similar case, Ms. Cruz and the NAFL-FNG halted the deportation of thousands of foreign nurse graduates in this country on an H-1 (working) visas.

For these activities, Ms. Cruz has earned the ire of the INS and other agencies who have not taken kindly to her assertion that immigrant workers have rights too. Undoubtedly, she has also touched a raw nerve with her penetrating analysis that the FNG problem is rooted in the way this country has generally exploited foreign labor.

It is in this light that the harassment of Ms. Cruz and FNGs must best be understood. There is now

an unmistakable social climate in this country which is exploding into battles over affirmative action, tax revolts, welfare fights. Amidst the ensuing confusion, some things are certain: the unemployment rate has reached a record high, and inflation continues to be on the ascent, without any end in sight. However, hand in hand with reports of long unemployment lines, the rising cost of living and the decline of the dollar, are horror stories of thousands of illegal aliens crossing the Mexican border, minority and immigrant poor swelling the public assistance rolls and draining the public resources.

The writing on the wall is clear. There is no mistaking the anti-minority, anti-alien hysteria that is being fanned in this country.

This is no accident. In its history, this country has played the same recurring theme from time to time. In particular, immigrant workers have been vulnerable to this role as "whipping boys" of the society at key periods.

Sucked into this country with false promises of a job and secure future, once here they are thrown into the bottom of the working class. They add to the pool of cheap and readily available labor serving as a pressure to keep wages generally lower than they should normally be. When hired, they

occupy the lowest paying and least desirable jobs.

When the depression hits and the economy is caught in one of its cyclical crisis, their usefulness assumes an added dimension. They then serve the important function of being the scapegoats for all of society's ills. Thus, they are blamed for the unemployment, inflation, low standard of life, etc. They then become the enemy within the country of the millions of impoverished workers unemployed or underemployed. National chauvinism is then used to make native-born workers fight against foreign-born workers for the crumbs, obscuring the fact that the real problem is 90 percent have to do with crumbs while 10 percent own the whole loaf.

It was to this overall situation that Aimee Cruz and the NAFL-FNG were linking up the plight of the FNGs. It was against this injustice that she was addressing in taking up the foreign nurses case although she herself was not a nurse. Ms. Cruz knew that it may be the foreign nurses today, but it could be any immigrant worker tomorrow.

This is why we must rally behind Aimee Cruz in her struggle against INS harassment; support the FNGs in their fight for fair licensure in particular and decent treatment in general; and uphold the rights of the immigrant workers, together with all workers of this country. □

## JUST AN ISSUE AWAY...

The AK West Coast Edition is just another issue away. There is an air of expectation coupled with apprehension that is gripping the AK Staff. It is a feeling akin to giving birth. The process is painful yet exciting.

Preparations are already underway for this awaited event. The AK correspondents in No. California, So. California and Seattle have been expanded into regional bureaus. All three bureaus have conducted a work-

shop to upgrade their news writing and editing skills.

More importantly, the political preparations have been done. A lot of discussion has taken place among the bureaus about what it means to be a people's journalist. To search truth from facts, to educate the people about their lives, their community, this society. In short, to serve as the community's eyes and ears and its voice. This commitment is the driving

force of the newspaper staff, both the national and regional. Thus, for an AK correspondent, to be a writer is to be a community organizer and community mover as well, not just an observer and recorder of events.

Since we are guided by what we perceive to be the needs of the community, we would like to take this special opportunity before the launching of the West Coast Edition to ask our readers and supporters to let us

know how else we can best meet these needs. Your comments, criticisms and praise alike, will be equally appreciated. Suggestions for the regional edition will be particularly welcome as this is also a new venture for us. Together, and with your critical assistance, we will make the West Coast edition another important step in the development of the newspaper and the people's movement. □

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PHILIPPINE NEWS  
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PHILIPPINE NEWSBUOD NG MGA BALITA  
BUOD NG MGA BALITABISHOPS CONDEMN  
DEGRADING  
GOVERNMENT POLICY

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), the highest policy making body in the church hierarchy is once more at war with the government over the regime's population control programs. This time the attacks against abortion and birth control have reached a feverish pitch with the clerics condemning the government for propagating "anti-life" thinking among the people.

What has surprised most people however, is the equally stinging denunciation of other policies and features of life under the martial law regime. The erstwhile conservative CBCP which invoked the separation of church and state in the past to avoid taking stands on crucial social and political issues, also complained about the following:

- Violence is much evident in Philippine society. Specifically mentioned were kidnappings, forcible ejection of the poor, and powerless, the sudden disappearance of people, and torture.

- There is social discrimination which not only takes the form of valuing some lives over others [unborn children], but is reflected in the government's lopsided priorities. Funds are heavily allocated for hotels, amusement, resorts, and parks at the expense of real needs such as hospitals.

- Prostitution [as a result of tourist traffic] reduces people "to the level of products for consumption."

Queried the clerics, "We make much of the beauty and grace of the Filipina. But is this to make exploitation of her flesh in the tourist market more enticing?" □

ANOTHER HIGHWAY  
SCANDAL

Nine more public highway and audit officials are accused of siphoning P96,603 meant for road construction projects in Atok, Kalinga. Records showed that the accused collaborated in the preparation of vouchers for the payment of construction materials which were never delivered.

The graft case is the second case involving the Ministry of Highways. Late last year Pres. Marcos ordered the dismissal of several officials found misusing highway construction funds amounting to P80 million which were originally slated to extend the North Expressway from Central to Northern Luzon. □

GRAFT CASES ERUPTION  
IN MANILA

Two cases involving traffic policemen and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) authorities prove that much of the crime upsurge in Metro-Manila is due to the excesses of martial law enforcers. The widespread practice of collecting "tong" or bribe money from drivers was recently brought to public attention with the pressing of charges by one Vicente Vargas against three Quezon City policemen. According to Vargas, the three daily collect P5 from him and some 200 jeepney drivers plying the Montalban-Cubao route. If the drivers fail to pay the "contribution," their licenses are confiscated or they are harassed for minor traffic violations. At one point, when Vargas refused to pay, his license was torn up and thrown in his face.

In another case involving higher-ups, NBI authorities were found coddling a well-established crime syndicate which was recently involved in the hijacking of a truck carrying P1.1 million worth of medical supplies. Although four suspects were arrested and revealed the mastermind behind the plot, the NBI never took statements and even released the four after their confessions. Pacifico Advincula, legal counsel and personnel manager of the firm which owned the truck revealed that he was even offered hush money and was promised the return of the goods provided that he would not pursue the case. □

BENEDICTO BEHIND  
STOCKMARKET SCANDAL

Two months ago, financial circles in Manila were abuzz with one of the fishiest market deals to come to light in recent years. Stockbrokers and businessmen were wondering over the mystery of a new and apparently influential oil company which reaped a cool P250 million through an irregular purchase of 20 percent of Oriental Petroleum. Oriental is the key Philippine member of the oil consortium drilling off the Palawan shelf. The firm is assured of five percent of the net income in the Nido complex.

According to knowledgeable sources, however, the man behind the mysterious oil company is none other than Marcos' crony and dummy, Roberto Benedicto. How did this relative newcomer to the oil industry reap wealth fast?

Simple: under Philippine law only the President can divest publicly owned property and hand it over to a private citizen. □

Baranggay Trainees  
Undergo Hazing, Abuse

Kabataang Baranggay meet: part of a massive campaign to sell the New Society.

Adapted from BMP

**DANGADANG**, an underground newspaper in Northern Luzon, recently revealed that the "training seminars" for the Marcos regime's "baranggay brigades" are actually hazing sessions. The five-day sessions, in fact, are ordeals during which participants undergo a variety of abuses.

In one such seminar in Pangasinan, the baranggay "volunteers" were brought blindfolded to an undisclosed house. They were made to march in circles every night with the lights out while their so-called "trainers" took turns beating them up. Women "trainees" were molested.

In another instance, the participants were divided into groups of 10 each. Every group was ordered to sit in a circle "with their eyes closed." A low voice "as if coming out of a deep well"

was suddenly heard saying, "Imulat ang mga mata . . . tumingin sa paligid (Open your eyes . . . look around)." One of the "volunteers" shrieked in fright when a human skull appeared in the middle of the circle.

After the "initiation rites," the recruits took an oath in front of a red book and were each given a T-shirt and a ring, "symbolizing their allegiance to the New Society."

PREACHING "EQUALITY"  
UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Another part of the seminar, according to **DANGADANG**, was a night of merry-making sponsored by the mayor which turned out to be a night for "redhouse dancing." The women were reportedly abused.

Recruits trained in Abra underwent a nearly identical experience. Here again they were blindfolded while taking their oath.

In a Kalinga town, the trainees were treated to a lecture by the local mayor on the "equality of all citizens under the New Society." In fact, he added, "There is nobody rich or poor here in Kalinga for we are all tillers of the soil." The mayor's credibility, however, was somewhat tarnished by the fact that he is one of the region's big landlords.

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development and municipal officials have collaborated in forcing the people to join the "baranggay brigades" even though anomalies and abuses are known to be widespread.

MADISON AVENUE  
TECHNIQUES

The *New York Times* describes the baranggay program as part of a nationwide pro-New Society campaign which "combines Madison Avenue techniques, cultlike indoctrination sessions and motivational retreat programs similar to those used by American self-awareness groups."

"At weeklong retreats for potential leaders of . . . Baranggay Brigades . . . recruits rise before dawn for physical training, then attend lectures and movies touting the goals of the New Society and the accomplishments of the Marcos administration. Those who complete the rigorous course are awarded pins after pledging their allegiance not only to the Philippines but also to 'President Marcos and the First Lady.' Dropouts are said to be chastised." □

## Islamic Conference Nears

## Marcos Calls Mindanao Election



Tripoli, 1976: Barbero and Misuari conclude the now much-violated agreement.

continued from front page

MNLF leader Nur Misuari and the secessionist trend within the Moro movement. Although the dictatorship has invited Misuari to run, even extending the deadline for the filing of candidacy, Marcos has characteristically stacked the cards against the exiled leader.

In a recent Zamboanga con-

ference, an MNLF faction was reported to have merged with Marcos' *Kilusang Bagong Kuniyensa ng Bayan* to put up a solid front against Misuari-led forces. Currently, reports are circulating calling for the cancellation of the elections and granting Marcos the mandate to appoint 17 candidates instead. This move is decidedly meant to isolate

Misuari, unite the conservative and moderate sections of the Moro movement and weaken Islamic support for the MNLF.

## BOYCOTT CALLED

Whether or not the election will commence and prove effective in achieving Marcos' aims remains to be seen. A report in *Asiaweek* states that both MNLF and Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization (BMLO) leaders in the Middle East have set aside their differences on the election issue and called for a boycott.

If true, this would explain the orchestrated attempt to cancel the elections and appoint pro-Marcos Muslim leaders. Should Marcos push through with the election exercise without a credible opposition, this deceptive tactic will surely backfire on the regime's face and further strengthen the various MNLF groupings and their Middle East backers. □



# Nurses Alliance Group To Raise Funds

NEW YORK — The New York chapter of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) has embarked on a fund-raising campaign to continue the publication of the *Know Your Rights* pamphlet.

The first event will be held May 26 at the Bohemian Hall, 2901 24th Ave. in Astoria, Queens. The evening, which will begin at 7:00 p.m., will start with a dinner. Dancing and a program will also follow.

The *Know Your Rights* pamphlet was published by the NAFL-FNG to educate FNGs on their basic constitutional, civil and occupational rights. There have been many disturbing reports of FNGs rights being violated by their employers due to their unstable status in this country.

The pamphlet lists problems and job insecurity that FNGs face due to their non-citizen status. However, it offers solution to this problem by arming the FNG with the basic knowledge of their rights.

However, struggling against discrimi-

## Pre-Immigration Screening Examination

# Rx For H-1 Problem: The Perils Of Palliatives

As is well known, an illness which has reached an advanced stage cannot be treated with simple cures which merely bring relief or remedial effects. A thorough and detailed diagnosis is necessary; the patient's entire medical history is thoroughly studied; the many symptoms and the progression of the illness are reviewed and analyzed, and all the resultant complications of the illness are examined. Based on this diagnosis, the prescription given to the patient include medication which can alleviate the discomfort or assuage the pain caused by the illness. These palliatives, however, serve that singular purpose: relief. In order to really cure the illness, more radical forms of treatment are prescribed (surgery, for example) in order to excise the root cause of the illness.

While palliatives do serve an important function in any treatment process, these must be recognized as such: mere palliatives. The perils begin when we confuse or worse yet, substitute these for real and basic cures to the illness or the problem.

The problem faced by nurses on H-1 visas are very complex and many, all rooted in a host of injustices perpetrated from several quarters. There is the Philippine end of deceptive recruitment where greedy profiteers have stuffed their pockets with cash payments from nurses in exchange for falsified passports or visas (at worst) or shoddy orientations which deliberately leave out the harsh realities and problems yet to be faced by the nurse so eager to find economic refuge in the United States.

Then there is the seemingly indomitable State Board Examination which close to 85 percent of FNGs fail. The examination itself seems to fall far short of what it alleges to test (nursing competency). Initial studies have shown culture-loaded test items. And to make matters worse, there is a total absence of any type of governmental or hospital assistance to the FNG trying to complete licensure. Review classes for FNGs are non-existent; those which exist are mostly commercial enterprises largely motivated by profit making again. Review hours are not provided for by the recruiting employer.

The inevitable failure in the State Board Examination brings the FNG to the bottom of the "tender trap." Once



Ms. Cruz before members of the N.Y. NAFL. [NAFL-FNG Photo]

mination is an enormous task which no individual can handle alone. Organized effort is the best defense, and the NAFL-FNG has been the only organization formed to deal with the many difficult problems which FNGs face.

It was the NAFL-FNG who won the agreement with the Immigration and Naturalization Services to stop the deportation of FNGs on H-1 visas who fail the nursing licensure examina-

tion. The NAFL-FNG's organized efforts also led to the FNGs being granted the deferred voluntary departure status (DVD), allowing them to stay in the U.S. for a period of three years from their date of entry and affording them sufficient time to take and pass the licensure examination.

For further information on the NAFL-FNG, call Velma Tom (212) 580-2667 or Primitiva Lejarde (212) 626-0556. □

## L.A. to hold nurses review course

The Los Angeles chapter of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) is setting up a review course geared to the needs of the FNGs taking the July 1979 boards. This course will be covered in six weekly Saturday sessions starting May 19 at the Echo Park Library, 515 No. Lavetta Terrace, near corner Temple and Glendale. Each session will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 12:30 a.m.

Mrs. Jessie Ivins, R.N., coordinator of the Review Project explained that the review sessions will stress participation and exchange of actual testing experiences and will not conform to a rigid "classroom setting." The Review Project is being instituted as an alternative to the expensive

review programs now available — some of which cost as much as \$1000. A nominal fee of \$12 will be collected

*continued on back page*

there, all tenderness is gone, for then, they face the most brutal and blatant forms of job exploitation and discrimination. They are forced to accept jobs at lower pay and terrible conditions so as to survive with a job and some legal status. From then on, the FNG is left at the complete mercy of the employer. Survival is tied to the job. Fairness, justice, job rights, whatever rights, become anathema to them for these threaten their security, their job, therefore their survival.

In a belated act of concern, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) designed a plan to stem this problem. On October 4 last year, it administered the first worldwide pre-immigration examination in 23 countries around the world.



The formation of the NAFL-FNG in 1977 was the organizational expression of the desire among FNGs to solve their licensure and immigration problems. The U.S. solution to their problems: pre-immigration screening to discourage influx to the U.S. [AK Photo]

Ostensibly designed to halt the exploitation of FNGs in the U.S. by a "screening" process which could indicate "a reasonable index of the FNG's possibility of passing the State Board examination in the U.S.," the whole idea is good for what it is: a mere palliative meant to arrest the problem in its size and dimensions, but not a thoroughgoing solution to the injustices to which H-1 nurses have been and will continue to be subjected to, with or without pre-screening examinations.

By administering an examination in the nurse's home country, the CGFNS hopes that the number of FNGs who will eventually gain entry into the U.S. will be limited to those who show the highest probability of passing the State Board examination in the U.S. Hence, the CGFNS examination was

made very similar to the State Board exam: it consists of the same five parts (medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, and psychiatric nursing) and the test is comprised of 300 multiple-choice type questions. In addition, a three-part English exam is given to test FNGs in the areas of listening comprehension, vocabulary and grammar.

The whole idea has some limited value to it in as far as it mitigates the deceptive character of the recruitment process. At least nurses who are still in their home countries are given the opportunity to clearly understand what will be required of them to pass the licensure examination in the U.S. In this way, they have a more accurate sense of the situation and can give

their plan to immigrate more serious thought and consideration. However, this seems to be the only thing that is positive for FNGs in this CGFNS scheme. Overall, the plan seems to benefit the ANA, the NLN, the HEW, and the INS more than the FNGs. It merely serves to trim down the scale and dimensions of the problem arising out of this recruitment process of foreign nurses. This is the common interest which the CGFNS examination serves.

In spite of all the protestations which the CGFNS has made to "prevent the exploitation of FNGs" and to "look after the welfare" of FNGs in the U.S., this pre-screening idea still falls far short of delivering real justice for the FNGs.

First of all, passing the CGFNS exam is no guarantee for passing the State Board examination. Hence, the FNG who passes the CGFNS exam and who comes to the U.S. still stands the risk of failing the State Board examination. He or she may still end up in the very same situation in which hundreds of FNGs have suffered in the last several years.

The probability of failing the State Board examination (even if one has passed the CGFNS examination) is still high. The licensure examination has been noted to carry culturally-biased test items. In addition, many other test variables (which can significantly affect one's performance) will be present while the FNG takes this test 10,000 miles away from home! Included in these variables are those which can seriously affect the testing environment — the pressures of adjustment and acculturation, the pressures of survival).

Hence, if the CGFNS were really serious in "looking after the welfare of FNGs," they must begin considering other important reforms which have to be undertaken in order to assure FNGs fair and adequate conditions to gain licensure and establish themselves in the U.S. Will the HEW administer government-funded review programs specially designed for FNGs? Will hospital administrations be willing to grant FNGs adequate "educational leaves" in order to prepare for the licensure examination? Will the CGFNS undertake a thorough investigation of the present licensure examination in order to confirm that it has been rid of all traces of cultural bias? Will the INS continue to give FNGs some immigration leeway to those FNGs who may not pass the State Board at first take, similar to that of the deferred voluntary departure status?

In and of itself, the CGFNS pre-screening examination is a palliative for the H-1 problem. It does not and will not resolve the heart of the injustice faced by FNGs. Unless the other reforms are undertaken by the CGFNS, we cannot speak for real justice for FNGs who are already caught in this trap, and there will be none for those who will come with their hopes higher, clutching a CGFNS certificate in their hand, but who will receive nothing more than wishes of "good luck" from the CGFNS, the INS, the ANA, the NLN, and the HEW. □

# FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

Filipino Contingent Present

## CALIFORNIANS MARCH FOR EDUCATION

By DAVID POLAND  
AK Correspondent

SACRAMENTO—A diverse gathering, 3,000 strong, including a strong Filipino contingent marched to the State Capitol, April 26, to protest Proposition 13 cutbacks to public education.

Billed as the March for Education, more than 30 busloads of teachers, pre-schoolers, junior and high school students, disabled and elderly demonstrators lined up along the Sacramento River in preparation for their mile long walk to the State Capitol. They had come as a last ditch effort to turn back the tide of Proposition 13 cutbacks.

Prop. 13 is California's "infamous" tax initiative trumpeted as a major property tax relief, but instead has had drastic effects in terminating most of the state's social services.

One example of Prop. 13's victims is the San Francisco Public School District which faces a whopping \$23 million cutback.

It is foreseen that 30 schools and 15 childcare centers will be closed, and summer school cancelled. As a result, over 1,000 teachers will be terminated.

In a city with a large minority population, 45 percent, the majority of bilingual programs will be terminated, and all minority teachers hired within the last 10 years (70 percent) will be released.



At their state capitol, Californians registered their protest against cutbacks on education due to Prop. 13. [AK Photo]

### "MONEY FOR SCHOOLS"

The march stretched out several blocks, with thousands of people loudly chanting, "All we are saying, is give kids a chance!" Other chants reflecting the demonstrators' anger over the State's priority budgets echoed strongly in "Money for schools, not bullets."

Approaching the State Capitol, the

huge crowd overflowed onto the grassy lawns surrounding the building. As the demonstrators entered the grounds, chants of "Jerry honey, where's our money," reverberated off the State Building.

Once in front of the Capitol steps, speakers of the program that day took a more serious note to the massive cutbacks.

Trying to reach the seemingly "deaf" ears of the State government, speakers expressed outrage against the cutbacks in all areas of public education.

Angel Contreras, director of the San Francisco Mission Headstart Program drew cheers as he gave the audience a broader perspective to the problem.

### RIGHT AND PRIORITY

"We live in one of the richest countries in the world, but this country is the only one where public education isn't seen as a right or a priority. The problem here is not only the California State government, but the Federal government in terms of spending billions of dollars on military and defense, while the budget allocations for human services continue to shrink."

Several speakers also pressured for the legislature to pass the Dills and Rodda bill which would give aid to battered school districts.

These bills are still pending. If passed, they would still leave a large deficit. For instance, even if the Dills bill went into effect, it would still leave a deficit of \$13 million for San Francisco.

For the Filipino community, as the case with other minority teachers, additional fundings will not alleviate the situation. This is because of a statewide mandate which dictates laying off teachers with 10 years experience or less. □

## Honolulu Ok's Demolition, PACE Says No!



PACE Members above: "We'll be cautious in our negotiations with the City." [AK Photo]

HONOLULU—The City of Honolulu has finally agreed to sit down with the PACE (People Against Chinatown Evictions) negotiating team to discuss evictions and relocations in Chinatown.

On May 8th, residents and small businesses will testify before the Dept. of Land Utilizations, where they plan to oppose the granting of 24 demolition permits.

The sites proposed by the City for demolition include Maunaka Hale, a rooming house which PACE has proposed to be rehabilitated as relocation housing for evictees, and other structures within the Pauahi Project re-

development area.

While promising negotiations, the City has shown its dual character. According to PACE, "We know that the present City Council has consistently ruled in favor of developers against residents in almost all housing struggles. This makes us all the more suspicious about the City's willingness to enter into negotiations. We plan to be very cautious in our meeting with them."

The City has made known that they are eager to move on their plans for redevelopment in Chinatown. The plans largely call for private development of expensive condominiums, and commercial spaces. □

## PND Celebrations Across The Nation

### PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAY

Philippine National Day Committees in cities with large Filipino populations continue preparations for the upcoming June 12 festivities. The committees call on all Filipinos and Filipino organizations to participate in these events.

The following is the list of activities, dates and places for the PND celebration.

**NEW YORK:** Barrio Fiesta, June 9, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Flushing Meadows Park. There will be games, booths, talent contests, cultural presentations and other fun activities for everyone. Contact persons are Teresa Rodriguez (212) 672-1297 and Primitiva Lejarde (212) 626-0556.

**CHICAGO:** Barrio Fiesta and Picnic, June 10, 9 a.m. at Forest Glen Woods near Cicero and Foster Streets. There will be a program, games and booths by several organizations and business establishments. The activity will start with Catholic and Protestant services at the picnic grounds. Contact (312) 539-1389, 561-6219, 275-4076 or 989-4566 for info.

**LOS ANGELES:** A two day festival, June 16-17 at Echo Park. The Saturday Festival will feature Philippine folk dances and other cultural presentations depicting the various historical periods in Filipino history. The Sunday event will focus on the life and struggles of Filipinos in America as

minorities. Food and game booths will also be erected. Contact person is Greg Santillan (213) 283-3466 or 613-1519.

**SAN DIEGO:** There will be a picnic on June 10. The program will present cultural entertainment and speakers. The event has been endorsed by the Council on Pilipino American Organizations. Contact persons are Rose Ibanez (714) 477-5225 and Darwin Paras 479-0908.

**SAN FRANCISCO:** "Pista Sa Nayon" June 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A motorcade is being planned for the day and booths will be set up. There will also be arts and crafts sale at Dolores Park, 18th and Dolores Streets where the festivity will be held. Contact persons are Jun Kempis (415) 821-8444 daytime and 931-8522 evenings.

**OAKLAND:** Picnic, June 9, 9-4 at San Antonio Park on Fruitvale and 16th St. Contact persons are Annie Maramba (415) 530-9170 and anyone at Filipino Immigrant Services 465-9876.

**SEATTLE:** Barrio Fiesta, June 10 at the Filipino Community Council, 5740 Empire Way So. The event will last all day and dance will be held that evening. Contact persons are Leni Marin (206) 725-4368, Mrs. Pagulayan 723-5944 and Debbie Ko at 322-4467.



## Ford Workers Walkout

## First Strike Hits Export Processing Zone

by M. SOLEDAD

Reprinted from New Asia News

The mighty Ford Goliath is currently confronted by a Filipino David, some 700 workers at the Ford Ensite plant who dared stage the first strike in the history of the Philippine free trade zone.

Established by Presidential Decree No. 66 on December 20, 1973, the Bataan Export Processing Zone, a 392-hectare compound in Mariveles, Bataan, has offered foreign investors "political and economic stability" by virtue of the many decrees banning strikes, controlling wage increases, and granting incentives such as tax and duty exemptions.

The Ford body stamping plant, sprawled over 16.4 hectares, was officially opened on February 13, 1976. It launched the implementation of the ASEAN plan for regional integration, i.e., the complementary production of automotive parts in Southeast and Northeast Asia.

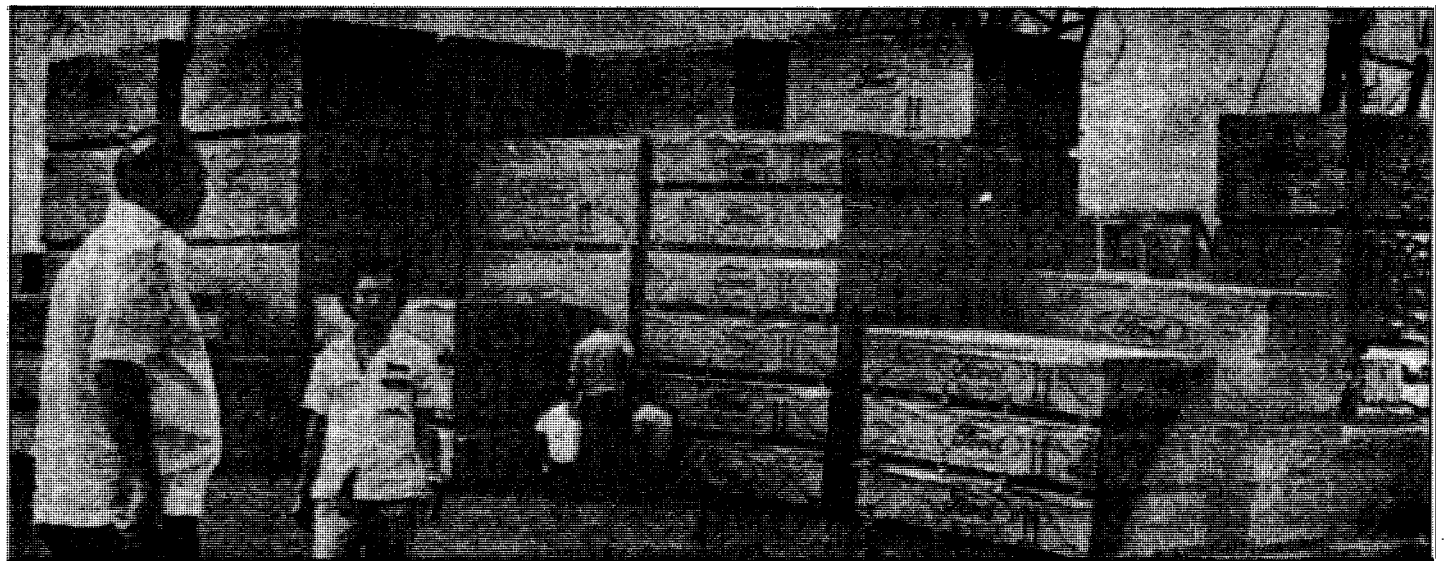
## FORD—A WORLDWIDE EMPIRE

The Ford empire, however, covers a lot of ground. Its far-reaching international network of shareholdings and its system of production and sales provide a near-perfect model of neo-colonial relations in the world today.

Ford, Philippines is part of Ford Asia-Pacific which in turn is a subsidiary of Ensite, Ltd. of Canada. In 1967, when it was incorporated, only four out of 100,000 shares of corporate stock were nominally held by Filipino agents for Ford. 99,996 shares were in the hands of Michael J. Collins, a senior American staffer with Ford.

## DEADLOCK

The battle against this giant corporation has been long brewing. Con-



Ford parts manufactured in the EPZ are loaded for export to Australia.

(Manila Journal)

tending for justice are the militant members of the Ford Ensite Workers Union (FEWU), an affiliate of the National Federation of Labor Unions (NAFLU). In the struggle at the conference table, talks led to a deadlock over the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Facing harassment like the summary dismissal of FEWU president Rosaura Liloc who was eased out in the name of "preventive suspension," the entire Ford labor force decided that the only way to make their just demands heard was to go on strike.

And so they did. At 6:20 a.m. that Monday, March 5, 1979, the night shift rang the fire alarm, switched off the compressors, and formed the picket lines. The morning and the afternoon shifts followed suit. No one worked.

## REPRESSIVE MEASURES FOLLOW

The allies of management were quick to come to the rescue. In two hours' time, BEPZ Manager Manrique, together with members of Zone

Intelligence and two fire trucks, ordered the strikers to go home. The strikers refused and began to sing rousing songs. In the end, zone personnel gave up.

By 4:15 that afternoon, Deputy Minister of Labor Inciong issued a back-to-work order. The following day, armed Philippine Constabulary troops appeared. They forcibly broke the picket lines, drove the strikers to a ten-wheeler truck, and detained 417 of them at Camp Tolentino in Balanga, Bataan. More union members offered to join the group, but the detention camp could not contain them.

In *Fortune* magazine's 1978 listing, Ford Motors ranks number three in sales with \$37,841,500,000. The Bataan plant alone brings in an average of P15 million per month or P500,000 a day. Divided by 700 workers, this means an average of P714 per worker each day or P89 per worker per hour.

Against these figures, the workers' battle over wage increases sounds almost ludicrous. Workers began with

a demand for a P2 per hour increase. The company offered P0.15 (about 2¢). Workers moved down to P1 per hour. Ford refused to budge beyond P0.40 (about 5¢). FEWU has thus demanded that Ford share an additional 89th or 1.12 percent of its earnings with the workers while Ford is responding with an offer of less than an additional .45 percent.

Other demands include fairer policies (workers are suspended or terminated if they lie down during breaks); job security; medical services (workers are not permitted to go home when ill); and workman's hospitalization (no company provision to cover on-site accidents).

The Ford Cortina made in Bataan is marketed in Australia, England, New Zealand, Taiwan, and Singapore through a neo-colonial network that embraces the entire world. FEWU has called for international solidarity in their uphill fight against a powerful transnational corporation, American in ownership, but with linkages and influence worldwide. □

## Workers Movement In Perspective:

## Strikes Proliferate Throughout RP

By ANITA BORJA

Although the Ford Ensite strike is the first in the Bataan Export Processing Zone (BEPZ), it is by no means the first outside of Metro-Manila. In fact, the trend over the last year-and-a-half has been increasingly toward the provinces, outside of Metro-Manila where the strike movement was born.

## GROWTH OF THE WORKERS MOVEMENT

In October 1975, 515 workers of La Tondena Brewery in Manila staged a sit-down strike inside the factory for two days. La Tondena strikers set the pace for a series of militant strikes that hit Manila despite ominous prohibitions.

After the La Tondena workers won their demands, Marcos reacted by issuing Presidential Decree 823. PD 823 essentially reiterated an earlier strike ban but applied far more stringent measures. It particularly attempted to discourage foreign religious in the Philippines from supporting the workers movement.

In response to the intimidating decree, 6,000 workers held a mass and rally on Nov. 23, 1975. A bigger protest mass and march followed on Dec. 6, 1975, timed with the visit of Gerald Ford, then U.S. President. Both events demanded the restoration of the right to strike.

Following this, one strike after another broke out in Metro-Manila.

Many union leaders and members were detained and tortured. But the strike movement, undeterred, grew until a reported 135 strikes were registered with the Department of Labor from 1976 to 1977. This figure does not include the rash of strikes that took place without "official notice."

After the *Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino*, established one year earlier, held the biggest post-martial law protest, bringing out 20,000 people on May 1, 1976, it was banned by the dictatorship. The exit of *Bukluran* as a legal, above-board federation of workers gave birth to the Brotherhood of Workers or *Kapatirang Anakpawis* Foundation (KAP). The swelling ranks of KAP included workers from outlying provinces too.

## WORKERS ARE CENTRAL

By early 1978, strikes began to move out of Metro-Manila into surrounding provinces. The National Democratic Movement watched this development with great interest and enthusiasm. Among the various forces struggling for the liberation of the country, national democrats see the working class as necessarily providing leadership.

Such a leading role is made possible by the centrality of workers to production—that is, they are producers of goods. They grasp the need for collectivization as it is an intrinsic and essential part of their jobs. Imperialism is readily understood by workers

who are super-exploited by foreign-owned multinational corporations that dominate the country's economy.

Though conditions of workers are the very foundations for their leadership, organizing them in the provinces where they are far less concentrated is much more difficult than organizing in the cities. Yet, for national democrats, it is necessary given that over two-thirds of the Philippine labor force is outside Metro-Manila.

## FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

Recent months have shown that workers outside of Metro-Manila are becoming increasingly aware of their economic rights. In strikes from north to south, they have asserted their demands.

- Finday-Miller Timber Co., Lanao del Norte; August 1978.

- Davao Chewing Tobacco Factory, Davao City, Mindanao; November 1978.

- Vicamar Development Corp., Cagayan de Oro; November 1978.

- Fernando-Cayco Farms, Victoria, Laguna; December 1978.

- Balayan Sugar Central, Batangas; January 1979.

- Subic U.S. Naval Base, Olongapo, Pampanga; March 1979.

Not only have national democrats seen the need to fight for economic demands, they have also aimed at transforming economic issues into political demands. "Rice and Fish" issues, they have said, can only be

completely resolved when the current political situation is changed.

## POLITICAL DEMANDS

On December 1978, the Federation of Miners in the Philippines (FMP), along with their economic demands, issued a series of political demands as well. They demanded the restoration of the right to strike, and, more significantly, the lifting of martial law.

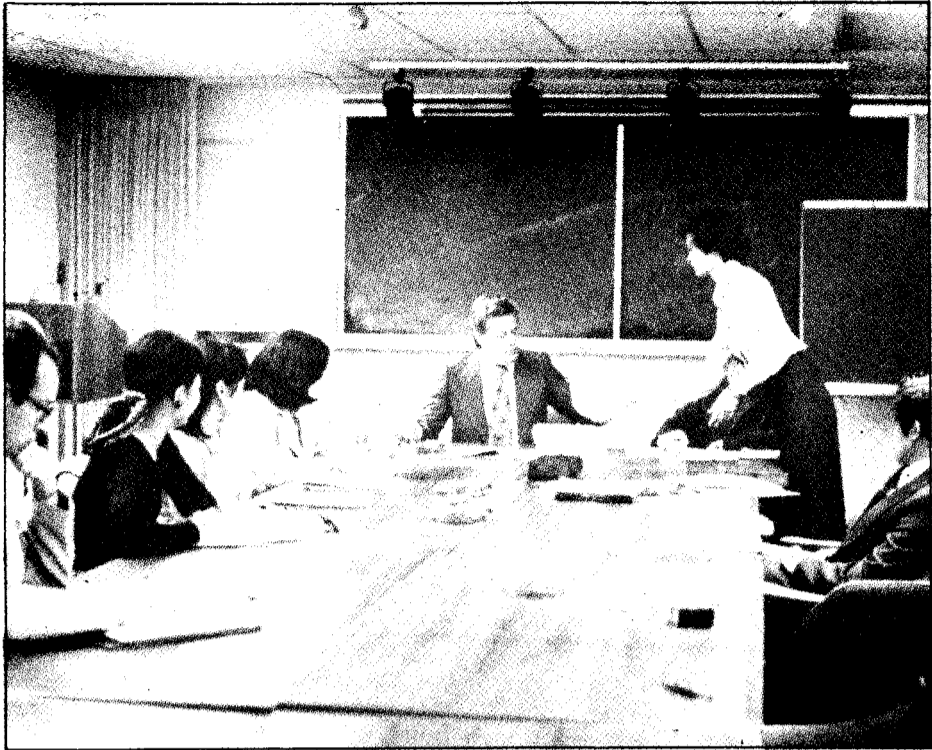
The IBP elections of April 1978 provided workers with a forum for airing their issues. At that time, workers from 20 factories went on strike and took their cause to the rallies of the LABAN opposition party. According to reports, some 45,000 workers convened at Plaza Sta. Cruz to denounce martial law and continuing suppression of democratic rights.

Many workers, seeing that their capacity to achieve genuine change in either the economic or political fields under the current system is limited, have begun to see armed struggle as the only means to insure their rights.

The NPA in recent months has reported an increasing number of recruits from the worker sector. Alex Boncayao, union leader and LABAN candidate is the latest to join their ranks.

In a statement issued last March, Boncayao said, "There is no recourse for the oppressed Filipino masses but to take up arms to topple the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship and win genuine liberation." □

## Cruz Harassed...



Ms. Aimee Cruz [standing] handing INS Commissioner Lionel Castillo the 1977 agreement that stopped mass deportation of FNGs. In defending the rights of FNGs, Ms. Cruz has become a sore to the INS. [AK Photo]

continued from front page

left but not before threatening Ms. Cruz. Furiously shaking their forefingers, they declared, "We will scrutinize your file and if we find a single thing and we can make a case on anything at all, we'll get you."

Ms. Cruz has charged the INS with harassment. "Some forces out there do not like what the NAFL is doing in protecting the rights of FNGs and they are trying to intimidate us to prevent our work from going on."

The NAFL-FNG has been in the forefront of defending the rights of FNGs recruited to work in U.S. hospitals. In an agreement directly

negotiated with INS Commissioner Lionel Castillo, Ms. Cruz and the NAFL successfully halted the deportation of foreign nurses who failed the nurses licensure examination. They are currently negotiating for an extension of this agreement.

Chapters of the NAFL-FNG are calling for a community meeting to discuss the incident and to plan out a campaign to defend the leaders of the NAFL-FNG and the organization as a whole from further harassment from the INS. □

See interview with Aimee Cruz on page 9 and commentary on page 2.

## Interview with Aimee Cruz:

# 'Stop all INS harassment'

Miss Aimee Cruz is the target of political harassment of the INS for her role in the defense of the rights of foreign nurses. The Ang Katipunan conducted this interview with Ms. Cruz following the incident of INS harassment last May 2.

—Editor's Note

ANG KATIPUNAN: What do you think was the reason for the INS action last May 2?

AIMEE CRUZ: I think that the INS aimed to harass me. I believe that the reason for this harassment cannot be anything but an indication of the justness and effectiveness of the work of the NAFL-FNG. This is an organization that I helped establish two years ago and which I've been actively involved in since.

Some forces out there do not like what the NAFL-FNG is doing, particularly its task of protecting the rights of foreign nurses. By trying to intimidate the organization, they think they can stop our cause. This can be the only reason for the INS harassment.

AK: After the incident you made a statement that the INS action was also an attack on the democratic rights of the Filipino community. What do you mean?

CRUZ: I view the incident as an attack not only against my individual rights nor the rights of FNG's who have organized to defend their rights in the U.S.

It is also an attack on the Filipino community who have expressed overwhelming support for the FNG.

It is also an attack against groups, individuals, and other organizations who have taken upon themselves to

organize and fight for their rights as minorities in this country.

What is at stake in this issue is our task to uphold these rights that are precious and to fight all forces who attempt to violate them.

AK: How do you foresee fighting against this harassment?

CRUZ: The first thing we should do is realize that this act of harassment does not indicate a reflection of the strength of the INS. Rather it is a reflection of the strength of the NAFL-FNG and its work.

In that light, we in the NAFL-FNG feel there is no room for intimidation and neither are we afraid. We are confident that this act of harassment will not prevent us from going on with the work that we've done in the last year and a half.

That's why the NAFL-FNG has mobilized all chapters to rally around a vigorous campaign to oppose and condemn the violations of our democratic rights as an organization and as individual members.

AK: What action do you plan to do?

CRUZ: The NAFL-FNG will demand an explanation from INS Commissioner Lionel Castillo as to why his agents insist on my responding to their questions without showing legal documents that would have entitled them to do so. We demand that the INS stop all further harassment of our organization and our individual members.

We believe that the May 30 hearing to which I have been summoned should be cancelled because it clearly represents one aspect of the harassment process. □

## COMMENTARY

# TAX JUSTICE AND HUMAN NEEDS

By TRINITY ORDONA  
KDP Regional Executive Board-Northern California

As he slashed millions of dollars off the state budget from education and social services, all that California Governor Jerry Brown could say was: "We must learn to live with less."

But clearly, thousands of Californians flatly disagree, including the Filipino community represented by the contingent who rallied at the Capitol last week.

Last year in the midst of high unemployment, inflation, and taxes, many people here turned toward Proposition 13 (Jarvis-Gann Tax Reform Initiative) as a way out of the economic squeeze. But now the hard facts are in. Although some tax relief for low and middle income homeowners was given, the real tax break was handed over to the large corporations and big landlords. Their windfall profits, about \$4.2 billion, then greatly reduced state revenues and produced the budget crisis we are in now. And despite Jarvis-Gann (and Brown's) campaign rhetoric, the loss of revenues was taken out in cutbacks in public jobs and services, while excessive government salaries and tax inequities favoring Big Business remained intact.

Massive layoffs, wage freezes and program cutbacks are assaulting the working people of this state like a tidal wave. And furthermore, the impact is most severe for the poor, disabled, elderly, and especially minority communities. In one quick stroke, years of built-up gains in affirmative action and needed community-based programs are being wiped out. In the San Francisco Bay Area alone, 75% of the Filipino teachers in the S.F. school district will be terminated May 15 in Oakland, the Filipino summer youth employment program was not renewed; Alameda County cut off funding for two-thirds of its community-based programs, including Filipino Immigrant Services. It's no wonder then that parents, teachers, public employees and community service workers up and down the state are angry.

Are lifeline services to the elderly and handicapped, drug and alcohol abuse programs, childcare centers for working parents and service for minority communities "non-essential?"

Is unemployment, coupled with speed-ups and threats to job security, benefits and wage increases simply a matter of "tightening the belt?"

Is this "cutting the fat" to shut down community

agencies, layoff teachers and public workers, close libraries, schools, and parks?

The answer is obvious. These public services are not fringe benefits nor privileges only for the wealthy, but essential to our social well-being. Since social needs are a direct result of a social system we live under—soaring medical care and education costs, lack of adequate housing, etc.—public services are therefore a society-wide responsibility and not an individual one. We pay our taxes (income, sales and property taxes) in order for



our state and local governments to provide this. It is the particular responsibility then of our government officials to carry this out, not to give us excuses why they have failed, obscuring the issue with moralistic slogans.

Brown's tactic, however, is to step back from taking accountability, dangling the state surplus "bailout" allotments in front of the people and encouraging each interest group to fight each other over the "shrunk pie." Racist and chauvinist prejudices, of course, come to the fore to target the "others" for their special

problems, instilling competition and narrow self-interest as we step on each other to get on top of his priority list for the hand-outs.

By falling into the trap of the "priority" mentality, it means accepting that the people bear the burden of the revenue losses, instead of the corporations and big landlords who are the most able to pay.

Fighting Prop. 13 therefore means fighting the cutbacks and the underlying divisive attitudes that together cloud the essential root of our present crisis—an inequitable tax system on all levels of government where the working people lose and Big Business gains. The Federal budget, where two-thirds of our taxes go, reflects this basic contradiction the most clearly: millions of tax dollars go into military spending and supporting dictatorships, like Pres. Marcos in the Philippines, while our cities rot, unemployment deepens and inflation spirals.

We cannot rely on the politicians, however, to lead the struggle to challenge this. Already, Brown has opposed any definite steps to boost the revenues and shift the burden back where it belongs. He has instead asked the large corporations and big landlords to "pass on their profits" to the people by voluntarily holding back rents, lowering prices or donating to charities, etc. Of course, we know that any substantial change will never take place voluntarily in this system—it goes against the basic ideology of capitalist self-interest: profit over people.

That leaves it up to the people to fight Prop. 13 and already, through the efforts of various labor and community organizations involved in the Prop. 13 fight-back, a statewide movement has been formed. The California Labor-Community Coalition for Tax Justice and Human Needs, united on a progressive analysis on the issue of taxes and government spending, is developing an alternative people's initiative aimed at the November 1980 ballot. Unlike Prop. 13, this initiative will provide tax relief without loss in revenue by shifting the burden to those who can pay: the corporations and the wealthy.

Prop. 13 was a reactionary measure falsely posing tax relief against jobs and human services and was used to attack the standard of living of working people. WE must counter this attack, demand full maintenance of jobs and services and join in building a powerful people's movement to fight this "era of Prop. 13" and demand both tax justice and human needs. □



ANTI-MARTIAL LAW NEWS  
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FFP National Council Meeting

# A Call To Revoke U.S. Bases Treaty



Inday Refi [left] and Steve Wake [right]. The National Council of the FFP reaffirmed their position as national staff persons at a meeting last May. Also reaffirmed as FFP National coordinator is Stephanie Brown. [not in picture]. [AK Photo]

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At a National Council meeting held here last weekend, the Friends of the Filipino People reviewed the significance of the recently concluded agreement on the status of U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

"The recent bases agreement," asserted Steve Wake, "represents a

major escalation of U.S. support for the Marcos regime. It offers a legal basis for intervention in the Philippines with its provision of U.S. troop participation in Philippine territory surrounding the bases." Wake is a staffperson of FFP's campaign to Remove the Bases from the Philippines.

Representatives from eight FFP chapters — Ithaca (NY), Madison (Wisc.), San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, Washington, D.C. and New York City — adopted a grassroots campaign to expose the dangers of intervention in the Philippines and called for overturning the bases treaty.

Two chapters, Palo Alto and San Diego voted by proxy to support the resolution which set the direction for the principal campaign of the FFP. Six chapters of the organization either disagreed or abstained at the voting.

The launching of the bases campaign reflects FFP's response to a changing world situation.

Walden Bello, FFP West Coast regional coordinator, remarked in a talk, "The U.S. elite is definitely regrouping and re-imposing a policy of interventionism after a period of uncertainty. The fall of the Shah of Iran has frightened them to the point of qualitatively escalating their support of dictatorships."

Bello added, "The sharp escalation of aid to Thailand, the commitment of troops to North Yemen, and the 150 per cent jump in aid to Marcos make very imperative the formation of a wide grassroots anti-interventionist coalition."

DIFFICULT TASK

Stephanie Brown, FFP national coordinator, summarized the significance of the campaign: Given the present moves toward a more aggressive foreign policy, it may be difficult to get this agreement revoked. Yet it is very important to educate Americans and Filipinos on the provisions of the agreement, especially the provision legalizing U.S. military intervention in the Philippines."

Inday Refi, FFP staff member, stated that the Conference resolutions set the direction of FFP's efforts in the U.S. Congress, mapping out efforts to seek Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on the new bases agreement. Refi stated that "The FFP will seek to more closely link its task of influencing Congress to this grassroots organizing efforts."

In addition to discussing the bases campaign, the FFP National Council decided to endorse the June 4-6 Campaign Against Reactor Exports, in line with its effort to stop the Westinghouse reactor export to the Philippines.

The National Council also affirmed Stephanie Brown as FFP National Coordinator, and Inday Refi and Steve Wake as FFP National Staffpersons. □

Westinghouse Plant

## Nuclear Plant Safety Questioned

Adapted from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) faces a serious question on whether it will allow the export of nuclear commodities considered dangerous here.

One such export is the Westinghouse nuclear plant now under construction 51 miles northeast of Manila in the Philippines.

A group calling itself the Center for Development Policy has challenged the safety of the Westinghouse nuclear plant. It has asked the NRC for a public hearing on the issue.

Lindsay Mattison, director of the Center said, "(Westinghouse has) started building the reactor on the slope of a volcano . . . and in the middle of one of the world's most active earthquake zones."

For this reason, the center which is a non-profit organization financed by foundations and private contributions, has expressed firm opposition to the

export of the 620-megawatt reactor and the sale of uranium fuel for it.

In a press statement, Virginia Foote, the center's staff supervisor, declared: "In the wake of the Three Mile Island accident, the American people must be told of the use by the Export-Import Bank of \$644 million in loans and guarantees, of U.S. taxpayers' money to finance the construction of a nuclear lemon."

Foote continued, "The Westinghouse reactor would not pass the NRC's domestic standards for health and safety."

The center also cited that even the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expressed reproval of the plant's safety. IAEA is based in Vienna.

In asking for an NRC public hearing the center has joined efforts with the Philippine Movement for Environmental Protection (PMEP). The PMEPEP headed by Nicolas Perlas, is based in this city and has been actively opposing the nuclear plant in the Philippines since its inception.

WESTINGHOUSE DEFENSE

Meanwhile, Westinghouse Electric Corporation continues to dismiss anti-nuclear groups' claims to the risks the plant presents before the people in Morong, Bataan where it is being built.

Westinghouse spokesperson James G. Daley said that the Philippine Atomic Energy Agency approved the project. He further said that IAEA's questions on it had been "satisfactorily answered" and the site "poses no hazards."

The U.S. Export-Import Bank which finances the project has also tried to establish the safety of the site. The bank's president, John L. Moore, Jr., said that the volcanoes near the site had been passive since "recorded history."

Moore further said that the plant's design would cause the reactor to "withstand exposure to volcanic ash or mudslide."

The estimated cost for the Westinghouse nuclear plant project is over \$600 million. In 1975, Ex-Im Bank approved \$644 million loan to finance it. Records indicate that \$150 million of this money had already been spent.

The reactor has not been shipped up to this time. This may be due to the strong opposition put up by the people inhabiting the construction site, as well as the anti-nuke movement in the



U.S.

When asked to comment on the issue, the Philippine Embassy here refused comment. □

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## Union says: 'Stop aid to Marcos'

SAN FRANCISCO — A local union recently passed a resolution calling for "an end to all direct or indirect U.S. aid to the Philippine government."

In its resolution, the Bay District Joint Council of Service Employees, Local No. 2, expressed concern over the martial law situation in the Philippines.

The resolution said that since Prime Minister Ferdinand E. Marcos imposed its "dictatorial one man rule," the basic rights of Filipino workers have been denied.

The resolution further cited other

violations of human rights under Marcos' government, such as "censorship of the press and the arts," torture of political detainees as reported by Amnesty International, and labeling of those who fight for their rights as subversives.

The Bay District Joint Council of Service Employees is affiliated with the Service Employees International Union (AFL-CIO).

It is now seeking the San Francisco Labor Council's endorsement of its anti-martial law, anti-U.S. aid resolution. □



## Malacanang Zarzuela

May Festivities

# Another Extravaganza In The Making

By VICTORIA LUNA

May is here at last and the Filipino people are eagerly awaiting that new once-in-a-lifetime national holiday known as Silver Wedding Anniversary.

Unfortunately for all concerned, the joyous occasion will not be marked as planned by the First Mr. and Mrs. of the land. The Filipino people had looked forward to seeing the Couple parade through the streets of Manila in a coach drawn by white horses (Remember how they did it in Cinderella?) to a brand new P100 million basilica built in the shape of a *salakot* where, in keeping with the momentous character of the occasion, a blissful Mr. and Mrs. Marcos would hear mass said by no less than Pope John Paul II, flown in especially for The Day, before an altar appropriately studded with silver.

Alas, too many spoilsports stood in the way of the scheme. Jaime Cardinal Sin had the gall to suggest that the money might be better spent on such mundane installations as hospitals and low-cost housing. But the *coup de grace* was dealt by the Pope himself who, word has it, told Imelda on her visit to Rome, that there were more important things to spend P100 million on than a basilica. Ah, for the good old days when popes were popes and didn't blink at royal extravagance!

### SUBSTITUTE FESTIVITIES

At least the First Couple and the Filipino people will have plenty this May with which to fill the gnawing vacuum left by the deprivation of their silver altar, basilica and anniversary hoop-de-doo. Things are hopping in Metro-Manila this month with the opening of the largest international conference since the IMF/World Bank

### Pugots of Cagayan

## Nomads In Their Homeland

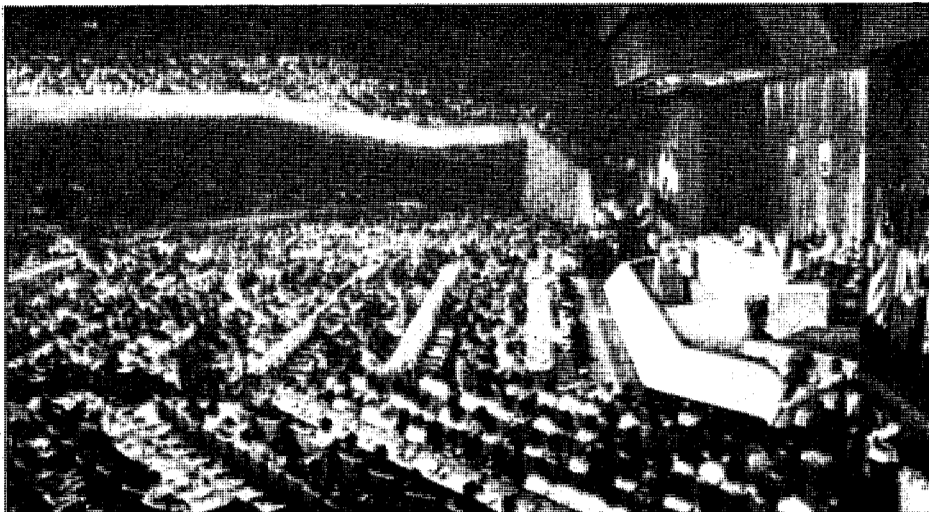
From afar, anyone who is not necessarily a poet will agree that Cagayan Valley is a lovely land, embraced by the wide green shawl of the Cagayan River and studded with rolling hills and white-rimmed beaches that look primitive and untouched. The length and breath of the province consist of plains and valleys that are carpeted throughout the year with corn and rice.

Perhaps it is this very loveliness which hides the fact that the surrounding mountains are marred by violence, injustice and oppression.

Cradled deep in these mountains are the Negritos who may soon become a lost race because of the greediness of other men. Called "Pugots" by lowlanders, Negritos were one of the first wave of migrants who peopled the Philippines.

Historical oppression and government neglect have made them illiterate. This disadvantage has been exploited by lowlanders with whom they trade by cheating or short-changing them.

But this ignorance has not prevented the Pugots from knowing and telling their history. Theirs is a perennial tale of flight. The Pugots have been kept ignorant about the land-titling system, nor are they in need of one. To them, home is where one's ancestors' bones are buried; where aged coconut trees stand. The Pugot, however, has not been allowed



The PICC: In 1976 the site of Imelda's landscape near-disaster.

extravaganza in 1976, the month-long UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Imelda R., who wears many different *salakots*, is governor of Metro-Manila and if nothing is not a gracious hostess. In the interest of accommodating her guests, she is busy scrubbing and polishing the city. Well, not doing it herself, mind you, but making the people of Metro-Manila scrub, polish and generally spruce up.

Everything must be just right for the visitors so, according to Colin Bickler of Reuters, "New red brick road dividers, topped by shrubs and plants . . . have sprung up over the last few weeks on all the main thoroughfares." "At present," he adds, the repairs are "largely confined to main roads that will be seen by visitors."

Meanwhile work is being rushed on the sewerage and drainage system which has dragged on for several years. It would be the height of inhospitality to greet one's visitors with a flood and the rainy season is already on its way. So perhaps, at long last, Metro-Manila residents will be

relieved of the floods of sewerage-tainted water through which they must yearly wend their way — thanks to the delegates.

Ferdinand and Imelda will find it difficult to duplicate the efforts they made for the 1976 IMF bash. At that time 12 new hotels were rushed to an unfortunately somewhat incomplete state just for the delegates and the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) was constructed practically overnight. The fact that the hotels have remained half-empty for three years and have proven to be a financial blunder has not dulled Imelda's instinct for hospitality.

### 1976—IMELDA AVERTS LANDSCAPE DISASTER

There were a number of close calls during the 1976 preparations which the Marcoses will probably try to avoid this time around. Workers, up day and night in an effort to finish the interior and grounds of the PICC, were forced to cut corners in order to finish the job. One patch of brownish grass was even sprayed with green paint to freshen it up.

But the entire conference was nearly ruined because of one stubborn bulldozer. It had become hopelessly stuck the night before the grand opening in the thick mud surrounding the PICC. Fearing Imelda's wrath, workers frantically tried to remove it only to see sink more deeply into the muck.

When Imelda arrived on the scene, she was predictably outraged. But, ever the quick thinker and concerned with a smooth appearance at all costs, she, with a little help from the toiling workers, remedied the problem in time. Full-grown coconut palms were rushed to the site and planted in concentric rows around the offending bulldozer. The visitors never knew that the instant coconut grove was not part of the original landscape plan and slept peacefully. No word ever leaked out, however, of the fate of the landscaper who allowed the machine to get stuck in the first place.

### COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Can the Marcoses top this for the current meet? Ferdinand, almost as gracious as his wife, has already planned a thoughtful entertainment for his guests. It is a multi-act drama labeled "Exercise of Democracy," an election to be held in the south, though so far only one slate of candidates appears to be running. Only a host thoroughly trained in the rules of etiquette would think to stage such a command performance for his international guests.

Marcos will, of course, be eager to reserve front row seats for all who wish to view it first hand. No doubt he plans to call a halt to the raging war in the area long enough to allow his guests to view the entire performance.

The question is, "Will the MNLF oblige him and postpone the war?" □

## Battalion of Butchers Replace 60th PC



Kalingas meet with NPA: new PC battalion proves to be more brutal than the last.

Last December Kalinga tribesmen of Kalinga-Apayao Province hailed as a great victory the removal of the 60th

But now a court case against a certain Paulo, an Itneg of Kalinga-Apayao involved in an ancestral land struggle, is being used by authorities to threaten other peoples bent on continuing their fight to hold on to their ancestral land. Taking cue from this case, an Ilocano landowner is pressing trumped-up charges of murder against Julian Bayungan and five other Pugots of Pamplona, Cagayan.

Despite these continuing harassments, the struggles of the Pugots over the last two decades have proven that the Pugots refuse to remain nomads on their homeland forever. □

Battalion of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) from their province. They had raised repeated protests against the atrocities and abuses perpetuated by the PC officers and their men. When Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile ordered their removal, it was widely viewed as a response to effective mass pressure.

But Enrile, though he may have succumbed to a temporary defeat, has no intention of allowing the Kalingas to succeed in their campaign to prevent the Chico River Dam project from flooding their ancestral lands. To replace the 60th PC Battalion, he has dispatched the notorious 51st, fresh from Mindanao where it earned the fear and hatred of the Moro people for its depredations against Muslim civilians. □

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## 17 Years Of Nuclear Testing

# Nuclear Cover-up Revealed

In the wake of the Three Mile Island accident, there have been fears that the government's actions and official reports have been less than truthful. These fears have been heightened by recent revelations of a massive government cover-up of the dangers posed by the massive above ground nuclear bomb testing conducted the 1950's and early 60's.

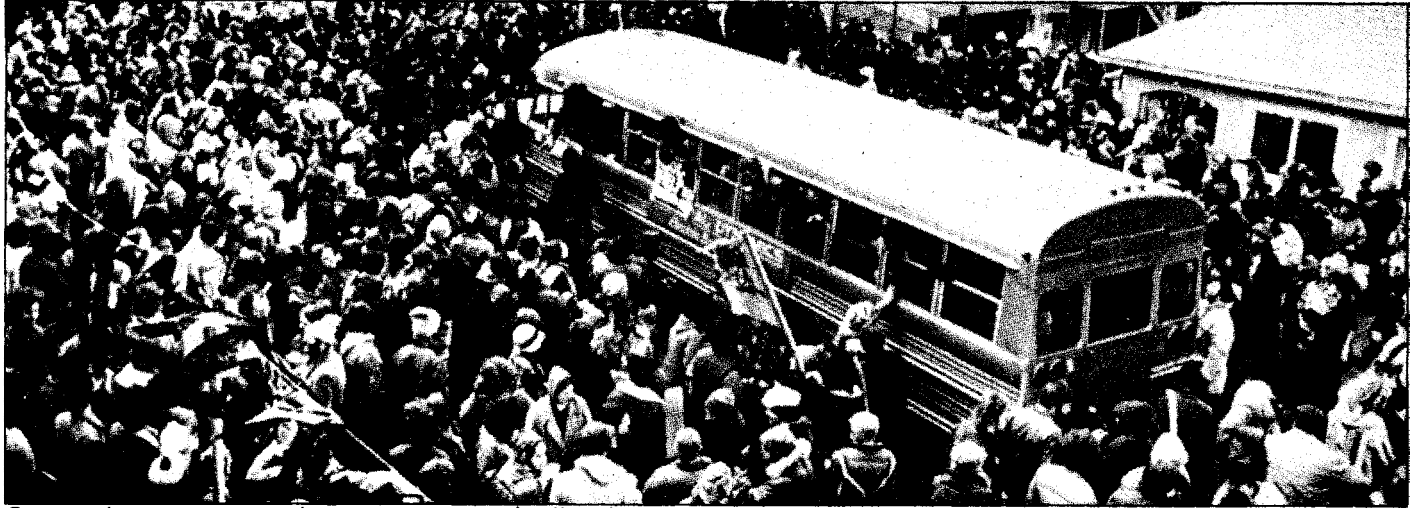
For more than 17 years, the U.S. government conducted an aggressive atomic bomb testing program, exploding some 181 nuclear devices between July 16, 1954 and November 4, 1962. In the South Pacific and Southwestern U.S. where the tests occurred, hundreds of thousands of people were showered by radiation, radiation which the Atomic Energy Commission deemed "too low" to cause any harm.

Now, years later, the Department of Energy, which absorbed the AEC, is the target of numerous lawsuits by victims of the government's nuclear policies.

During numerous atom bomb tests, military personnel were used by the AEC and the Pentagon in maneuvers which placed them just one mile from the center of an explosion. One marine, Martin Simonis, related his experiences in a 1955 experiment on a Utah desert testing site:

"It was like having 50 flashbulbs go off in your eyes, followed almost immediately by an earthquake. We were told to get up, and as we did, we could see the fireball. It was like a tidal wave of flame boiling and coming at us . . . Then they told us to get down and the actual blast hit us . . . we had all gotten quite ill—we felt nauseous almost immediately."

Almost 25 years later, Simonis is now afflicted with a rare blood disease which has been linked to his earlier exposure to radiation from the nuclear



Bus carries away arrested protesters at an April 7 demonstration against the nuclear Trident submarine. Actions linking nuclear weapons and power plants have mushroomed across the U.S. [Wide World]

bomb blast. However, attempts to seek assistance from the Veteran's Administration, especially since each hospital visit and treatment costs upwards of \$4,000, were rebuffed. VA officials, said Simonis, "just laughed" at the request.

### CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

In addition to the numerous military personnel exposed to the atomic blasts, civilian populations were also subjected to the resulting nuclear fallout. Testifying before a congressional committee April 23, Nevada resident Martha Laird related the death of her seven-year-old son and illness of her husband to leukemia, linking both to the AEC's nuclear bomb testing in the area.

Living some 80 miles north of the AEC's Nevada Test Site, the Lairds were subjected to nuclear fallout from 1951 to 1963. Waiting until the winds blew north, away from the more populated Las Vegas and California areas, the AEC "would wait weeks if necessary to make sure the winds were right so that fallout would go in

our direction," related Mrs. Laird.

"We would see the flash. A little later we would feel the concussion from the blast, then we would see the clouds start coming over . . ."

"They never told us it would harm us. They never warned us when they were going to have a test until 1958, after my son had died." Martha Laird further scored the AEC's cynical policies: "We were forgotten guinea pigs. At least real guinea pigs are checked."

### GOVERNMENT COVER-UP

Recent disclosures of once-secret AEC documents reveal a conscious and systematic policy of silencing both critics and studies revealing nuclear dangers. The AEC stopped funds for thyroid cancer research, one of the main forms of radiation poisoning. A report showing abnormally high leukemia rates in Utah was also suppressed.

Then-President Eisenhower abetted the cover-up of nuclear dangers by urging the AEC to "keep them [the public] confused about fission and

fusion," according to recently released AEC transcripts. The AEC continued such dangerous policies that widespread criticism lead to reorganization of the nuclear body. Today, the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission carry out the work of the AEC.

Given the NRC's actions around the atomic agency appears to be following in the AEC's footsteps of public deception and ineptness, endangering the lives and safety of thousands. Government actions as the accident began to unfold have been criticized by a wide range of scientists and public personalities.

Victims of the earlier AEC policies are now targeting the Energy Department and the Veteran's Administration for some form of redress. At least 447 claims have been filed against the government in recent months for people such as the Lairds and Martin Simonis. The battle for a full disclosure of the government's role and accountability for the nuclear tragedies of the past two decades is just beginning to unfold. □

## Congress Maneuvers To Lift Rhodesian Sanctions

Reprinted from the Guardian

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A powerful right-wing drive is underway in Congress to lift U.S. government economic sanctions against the Rhodesian government.

The bipartisan move to endorse the Ian Smith-controlled regime of Prime Minister elect Abel Muzorewa is being viewed with alarm by supporters of Zimbabwean liberation forces. Current assessments here indicate that proposals to end the sanctions may reach the floor of both houses in the coming months.

(At the UN, meanwhile, the Security Council voted April 30 to condemn the sham elections in Rhodesia and to urge all countries to maintain economic sanctions against the Rhodesian regime.)

Adding to the momentum for recognition of the Muzorewa-Smith regime is the White House's half-hearted support for continuation of the sanctions. Many Capitol Hill observers suspect that the Carter administration may try to create the appearance of being forced by Congress to do something that the President says he does not want to do. Critics contend that there would be considerable political advantage for Carter to publicly endorse the sanctions and work behind the scenes to have Congress terminate them.

Proponents in the House and Senate of maintaining the embargo are meanwhile speaking defensively and are, in effect, asking only for a postponement of action,

not for an outright rejection of the Muzorewa government. A group of Representatives recently said, for example, that the sanctions should not be ended until the Carter administration has determined whether or not the April 10-21 voting in Zimbabwe constituted "a fair election."

In that balloting, conducted under the armed supervision of white troops, Muzorewa's party won 51 of 100 parliamentary seats, while 28 seats were automatically set aside for the small white minority. Under the new arrangement, forces loyal to Smith will continue to control the police, army and other key government bodies. Liberation groups denounced the balloting as a "sham" and boycotted the entire process.

But rightwingers in Congress are presenting the vote as indicative of democratic procedures in Zimbabwe and are calling for U.S. support of the figurehead regime. "It would be especially tragic if the United States were to give less than full support to a fledgling constitutional democracy," says Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), sponsor of a resolution to end the sanctions.

### RIGHT-WING RHETORIC

"Surely all fair-minded Americans will now acknowledge that Rhodesia has become a model for other African nations," adds Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), author of

another measure to trade with the Smith-Muzorewa government.

Recognizing the regime at this state, according to House foes of the Helms and Schweiker proposals, would "begin the slide down the slippery slope toward American involvement in another Vietnam type situation in which we have no vital interest." Advocates of a continued embargo against Muzorewa and Smith further contend that "by lifting sanctions, we would antagonize one side and forfeit any future possibility of obtaining a negotiated settlement."

The strength of the antisancation sentiment in Congress was demonstrated in votes on proposals to send U.S. observers to Zimbabwe during the balloting. The observer mission was finally rejected, but only by a 190-180 margin in the House after the Senate overwhelmingly backed it by 66-27.

The U.S. ban on importation of Rhodesian chrome was first imposed by Congress in 1968. It was lifted during the Nixon administration in 1971 and remained suspended until 1977. Chrome sales comprise an integral part of the Rhodesian economy, and the country's white supremacist rulers have been fighting for years to keep the U.S. market open.

### SANCTIONS MANEUVERS

In an attempt to undercut a new and almost successful move to end the sanc-

tions last year, Sen. Jacob Javits (R.-N.Y.) and Clifford Case (R.-N.J.) introduced an amendment that was accepted by Congress.

The Javits-Case provision says the sanctions can now be terminated if the government of Rhodesia agrees to negotiate an all-parties conference which would include an all-parties conference which would include representatives of the liberation forces and conduct "free and impartial elections" monitored by "competent international observers." Many members of Congress feel that the second of these conditions has now been met.

But the continuing refusal by Smith-Muzorewa to recognize or negotiate with liberation groups makes the Javits-Case amendment an unlikely vehicle for ending the sanctions. More likely, lobbyists on both sides say, is a concerted and well-financed effort to pass a resolution repealing the sanctions. And that is precisely what is now happening in the House and the Senate.

(In the UN, however, similar attempts to lift sanctions are meeting more resistance. The April 30 proposal urging their continuance was initiated by Jamaica, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Gabon, Kuwait, Nigeria, and Zambia, and passed 12-0. There were abstentions, however, from the U.S., Britain and France, exposing imperialism's wavering position on the sanctions.)



# Rhodesia Stages Sham Elections



Voting under the gun: Troops of the Smith regime oversee the fraudulent April 17-21 elections.

[UPI]

Rhodesia staged an election for a nominal black-led biracial government last April 17-21 amidst widespread reports of massive coercion and fraud. The move constituted a desperate bid by the racist Smith regime to mask itself with a black face in order to break out of crippling U.N.-imposed diplomatic and trade sanctions.

The election voted in Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the black candidate advocating "close economic and defense cooperation" with apartheid regimes in the region, as the next Prime Minister of the country, now renamed "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia." Muzorewa, who won over three other black puppet competitors, will consequently head up the new government with a nominal majority. Ian Smith, on the other hand, will retain firm control over the most important cabinet portfolios, in effect leaving the white power structure substantially unaltered.

The scheme to legitimize the racist regime in the eyes of the world, however, has backfired as charges of "gross irregularities" in the electoral process drew overwhelming confirmation even from within the transitional government itself. Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, one of Muzorewa's puppet rivals, denounced the election as "stage-managed" and threatened April 23 to withdraw from the government because his party came out a poor second to Muzorewa. While obviously being self-serving, Sithole's reaction has nevertheless put the lie to the hasty pronouncement of the racist regime, and that of right-wing conservative observers from the U.S. and Britain, that the election was "free and fair."

## MASSIVE VOTE FRAUD

The Rhodesian regime's own account, in fact, reveals a number of glaring discrepancies. The regime's tallies, for instance, indicate that the number of alleged voters in two of the eight provinces exceeded its number of eligible voters by 17,300. The Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West provinces registered black voter turnouts of 108.1 percent and 100.8 percent respectively.

In a similar effort to make it appear that there had been an impressive voter turnout, the government announced on the last day of voting that

1.8 million or 63.9 percent of 2.9 million people voted. Outside analysts, however, estimated that the actual number of eligible voters was closer to 3.5 million, making the government percentage figure drop to their expected minimum of 50 percent.

The manner in which the seats were distributed was likewise dubious. According to the regime's statistics, Muzorewa's United African National Council garnered 67.3 percent of the vote, and won 51 of the 72 seats allotted for blacks in the 100-member parliament. Sithole's group polled 14.6 percent, and acquired 12 seats. Chief Kayisa Ndiweni's United Federal Party placed third with 10.8 percent, and took 9 seats. Finally, Chief Jeremiah Chirau's Zimbabwe United People's party polled 6.4 percent, but received no seats.

## ELECTION FARCE

The election was farcical in many other ways. Not only were the two biggest black groups which comprise the Patriotic Front, Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), conspicuously excluded, they were also unmentionable in the country's muzzled press. In addition, the 72 African voting districts had been shrewdly drawn to stress tribal differences.

Moreover, the vote was held when 90 percent of the country had been under martial law. Zimbabweans were subject to unbridled police and security harassment and intimidation. They were also under pressure from their white-settler employers, and from the tribal auxiliaries of the various candidates, to vote. According to Lord Chitnis, a former British Liberal Party official who had just returned to London from Rhodesia, the polling was all "a gigantic confidence trick."

Under these circumstances, it seems clear that the internal settlement election merely perpetuates white-minority dominance beneath a cosmetic black rule. Smith, whose Rhodesian Front party swept all 28 seats reserved for whites, has the second largest representation in parliament. His parliamentary bloc holds the decisive margin in all legislative matters, which require a four-fifths

majority vote. In other words, through Smith and his co-horts, the white four percent of the population possesses veto power over the African 96 percent. On top of this, Smith's party retains control over the country's key institutions — the army, air force, police, civil service, prisons, courts, economy, and land system.

For these reasons, the U.N. Security Council voted 12-0 April 30 to uphold those sanctions on the racist regime by calling on all countries not to recognize the new government. Only the U.S., Britain and France abstained from joining the rest.

The U.N. measure came as a timely response to a mounting international drive among right-wing conservative circles in Washington and London to lift the trade embargo on Rhodesia on the grounds that the election had established black majority rule. Lifting the sanctions would enable the Smith-Muzorewa regime to acquire added sophisticated weaponry from the West, and to help neighboring South Africa get around a similar arms embargo. It would also make it possible for the regime to procure fuel from oil companies directly and more cheaply than through some third country.

## REGIME IN CRISIS

Such an arrangement would help alleviate the regime's worsening economic woes in light of the already astronomical cost of the civil war estimated at between \$1.5 and \$2 million per day. But more strategically from the point of view of Western capitalists, it would throw the country's doors wide open for faster, less inhibited and more intensive exploitation of its natural resources.

While both the U.S. and Britain are undoubtedly out to maintain their respective interests in southern Africa, their policy makers, however, are divided sharply over whether or not extending recognition to the Smith-Muzorewa regime and ending the sanctions are the best means. Conservatives in the U.S. Congress apparently believe so as Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) and Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) presented a bill calling on Pres. Carter to lift the embargo 10 days after the new Rhodesian government is installed late this month or early next. Congressional conserva-

tives also introduced a pro-Rhodesia amendment to one of the pending foreign aid bills, while Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) sponsored a bill April 24 which would prevent Carter from reinstating the sanctions by executive order.

To exacerbate matters for the Carter administration, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party defeated the incumbent Prime Minister James Callaghan's Labor Party in Britain's May 3 elections. Thatcher's victory now threatens an open breach with Carter's present policies, and paves the way for Britain's eventual recognition of Rhodesia and the subsequent removal of sanctions.

President Carter, however, seems unwilling to lift the trade embargo not for any sympathy for the Zimbabwean liberation groups, but because its effects on U.S. policy towards Africa are far more adverse. According to Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) whose views coincide with those of the administration, such an action commits the U.S. to "a *de facto* alliance with the white government of South Africa, alienates all the black leaders of nearby countries, compromises its role as an 'honest broker' and ends any chance for a negotiated settlement in either Rhodesia or South-West Africa."

Solarz concludes that, "It would be a formula for a political and diplomatic disaster," for the U.S. because the Patriotic Front clearly has the upper hand internally and internationally over the Smith-Muzorewa regime. Throwing U.S. support behind the racist regime will more likely drive Zimbabwean liberation forces to take more radical steps against their vested economic interests.

## ARMED STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Whatever move the U.S. decides to take, embargo or no embargo, the Patriotic Front is determined to push the armed struggle to its logical conclusion: the overthrow of Smith-Muzorewa regime. Settling for nothing short of genuine black majority rule, Patriotic Front co-leader Robert Mugabe declared, "We will continue to fight whether it is a black or white government. We are fighting a system, and the fact that certain black leaders have chosen to be part of it makes no difference to us." □

# New Angle in Van Vactor Kidnapping Case Revealed

Adapted from BMP

American missionary Llyod Van Vactor expressed fears of being kidnapped by the military shortly before his abduction, a reliable source close to the victim has confided to the BMP. Observers of the Marawi City situation have come increasingly to suspect that military men were behind the kidnapping of the president of Dansalan Junior College last March 9.

Van Vactor, who was released last March 28, was taken from his office that day by a group of uniformed men. Observers thought it strange that no one in the hillside military camp adjoining and overlooking the campus noticed the college president's abduction.

The BMP source revealed that Van Vactor earlier this year informed him of stepped up harassment from the military following his sharp criticism of AFP abuses against Muslims in Marawi City and Lanao.

## LOCAL OFFICERS FURIOUS

Van Vactor last December protested to Deputy Defense Minister Carmelo Z. Barbero various atrocities and abuses committed by the AFP troopers within his mission area. The missionary-educator made those charges during a meeting called by Barbero of community leaders and distinguished citizens of Marawi City.

One of the atrocities cited by Van Vactor was the slaying (still unresolved) by an AFP soldier of the head of a Maranaw family, his two daughters, and the serious wounding of a son. The soldier reportedly wanted to court one of the daughters and was barred by the family. In frustration, the trooper shot the household.

## Conference On Hawaii Filipinos Held

HONOLULU — "Agkaykaysa tayol Magkaisa tayol Unite!" is the theme of the 1979 Filipino Community Conference to be held May 19 in this city.

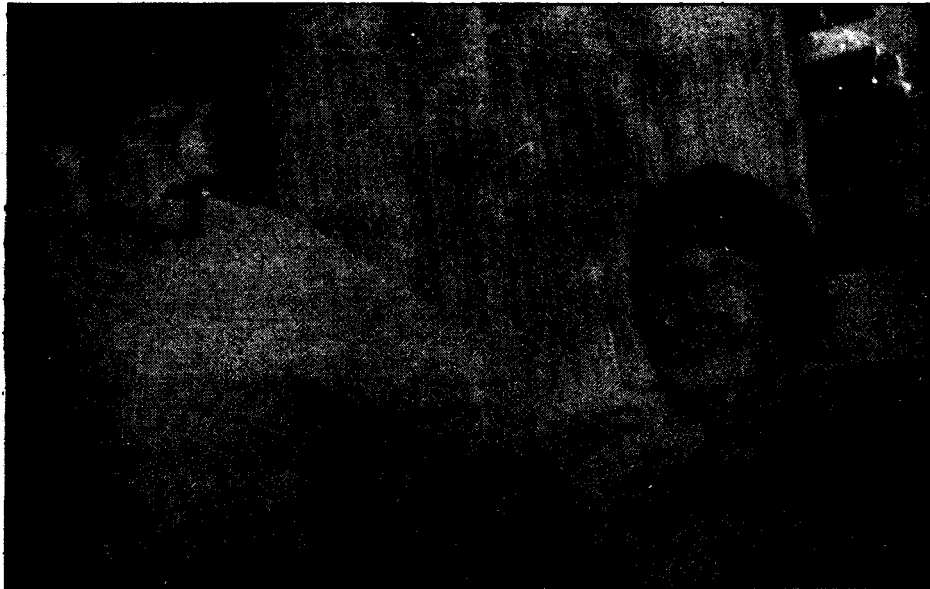
The "grassroots" oriented conference will hold workshops on employment, education, housing, elderly, and youth.

According to organizers, the main objective is to educate the local community about the basic issues, particularly on the question of discrimination, as it affects Filipinos.

There are about 130,000 Filipinos in Hawaii, comprising almost 15 percent of the total population. However, Filipinos consistently maintain the lowest paid, most unstable jobs, have the highest drop-out rate of high school students, and have one of the highest percentages of prison inmates.

The conference hopes to clarify these key community issues in preparation for the 1981 State recognition of Filipino immigration to Hawaii which started some 75 years ago.

The conference will be held at Honolulu Community College, from 9:00-5:00 p.m. For more information write to F.C.C., P.O. Box 17763, Honolulu, HA 96817 or call (808) 841-6429. □



A haggard Van Vactor with son following the ordeal: were his kidnappers related to the Philippine Military? U.P.I. Photo

BMP's source said the missionary revelations infuriated top officers of the Philippine Army brigade assigned to the Marawi City area. Col. Cesar Templo, commander of the brigade, had Van Vactor report to the camp shortly after the meeting and reprimanded him for disclosing the atrocities to Barbero. Van Vactor was called to the camp several times afterwards.

## LONG-STANDING CRITIC OF REGIME

Even before the December incident, however, BMP's informant revealed, the kidnap victim had been an outspoken critic of the military and of other Marcos agencies. Research and publications of the college often criticized government socio-economic projects in the Lanao lake area for their adverse effects upon the people. One of these, the massive Agus River Hydroelectric Project will, when finished, severely harm the livelihood of

thousands of people living around the lake and its Agus river outlet.

The college is involved in several community development projects which assist poor Maranaw families. The military has thus long suspected the missionary of sympathizing with the MNLF.

## EARLY KIDNAP FEARS

Van Vactor was apparently informed, according to the source, of a plan to kidnap as early as late 1977 following the release of Maryland Timber Co. executive Virgil Springer. The American executive was released after 12 days and ransom payment of P150,000. The Marcos controlled press insisted at the time that the kidnappers were members of the MNLF. Springer reportedly said that his kidnappers had showed him a list of their next targets which included Van Vactor.

But sometime later, the missionary

expressed his suspicions that, if he were to be kidnapped, the military was likely to be the culprit. Observers point out that the high respect in which the Muslim community holds Van Vactor would make him an unlikely target for the MNLF.

The kidnappers' refusal to release the missionary after the death of his wife who succumbed to complications following surgery during the ordeal, tarnished the image of the group to which they claimed to belong. Tausug sources with the MNLF insist that this refusal is out-of-keeping with the conduct of the Moro armed group. They speculate that the incident was planned to discredit the MNLF while punishing an outspoken critic of the regime's policies. □

## Military Abducts Priest

In the wake of the Van Vactor kidnapping comes the news of yet another religious leader abducted by agents of the martial law regime. The Rev. Raymundo Abadicio, a Catholic priest and regional head, was picked up from his sister's home in Quezon City last April 19.

Abadicio's two unidentified abductors assured the priest's sister that they were taking him to a three-month "seminar." They told her that the chaplain of the presidential guard would ensure his safety. The "seminar" proved to be non-existent and Fr. Abadicio has not been heard of since. □

## L.A. Review Course...

Continued from page 8

by the NAFL from participants to cover all review materials copied.

The licensure exams have always been a serious obstacle to foreign nurses in this country barring them from practicing their nursing skills for which they were recruited in the first place. The seriousness of the situation is reflected by the fact that 85% of foreign nurses taking the board exams fail on the average. It is estimated that there are now over 100,000 foreign nurses recruited in American hospitals to fill the nursing shortage in this country. Of these about 47 percent are from the Philippines.

The consequence of high failure rate of FNGs has been the creation of a pool of nurses who could be easily exploited. This is especially severe for the H-1 (working visa) nurses because their immigration status is directly tied to their passing these board exams.

It was against this backdrop the NAFL-FNG was formed two years ago at a national conference of nurses and concerned community organizations. Since then the NAFL, with the backing of over 20,000 signatures, has pressed the federal government to provide low-cost, relevant and accessible review programs for the FNGs.

As Ivins explained, this is not a special privilege or "special treatment" since studies have revealed that a major factor the failure rate stems from the unfair testing conditions that unduly place psychological and other stresses on the newly-arrived nurses.

The schedule for the Review Project is as follows:

- May 19 — Orientation (required attendance for all participants)
- May 26 — Surgical nursing
- June 2 — Medical nursing
- June 9 — Psychiatric nursing
- June 23 — Obstetric Nursing
- June 30 — Pediatric Nursing

Applicants and prospective participants in the Review Project are requested to contact Jessie Ivins (397-5103) or Elvie Santillan (283-3466). □

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