

Rise in Miscarriages, etc. Noted:

## Silicon Valley Workers Fear Chemical's Effects

By BEN OCAMPO  
Staff Writer

San Jose, CA — The use of dangerous chemical solvents in Silicon Valley's burgeoning electronics industry may have produced serious damage to the reproductive systems of an undetermined number of immigrant and other workers without them knowing it.

Becky Villones, local representative of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO), attended a special meeting of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers Union (UERMWU) April 25, where electronic workers discussed various reproductive and other health-related problems caused by chemicals in their work areas.

"Tens of thousands of recently-arrived immigrants employed by the electronics companies are probably ignorant of their rights and don't have an inkling as to the causes their health problems," remarked Chris Chambers, 35, a union member who works at Advanced Micro Devices Corporation.

Villones noted that of the 20,000 Filipino electronics workers in Silicon Valley, 3,200 are employed at Advanced Micro Devices alone.

### Miscarriages, Hysterectomies

Pat Saco, a clerk, said many of her co-workers complain of repeated miscarriages, irregular and painful menstrual periods, and the inability to conceive.

"Where I work," Saco remarked, "five out of 9 women miscarried in the second trimester of their pregnancies. Nearly every woman, 40 or over, has had a hysterectomy, or is about to have one... and we don't even work in the fab (production) areas!"

Aurelia Veloz, a 25-year old Cebuana assembler who has been with her company for four years, laments: "I want more children but I can't get pregnant ever since I've worked here. I've been to four doctors and they say nothing is wrong with me."

Another Filipina, Maria Manan, 28, who hails from Ilocos Sur said her eyes are getting worse. "This is the third time I'm

*Continued on page 6*

## Boycott Threatens June 16 Polls



Anti-government protests like this are spreading all over.

By VICTORIA LUNA  
Staff Writer

Reports from groups all over the Philippines indicate that a nationwide movement to boycott the coming June 16 Presidential election is growing.

If successful, the movement would be a serious embarrassment

for the Marcos regime and its elaborately-planned bid for "legitimacy."

Reports from students and religious groups reveal that the boycott movement cuts across all sectors and classes of Philippine society. It also threatens to intersect with a growing tide of protest among Filipino workers

demanding full restoration of labor rights.

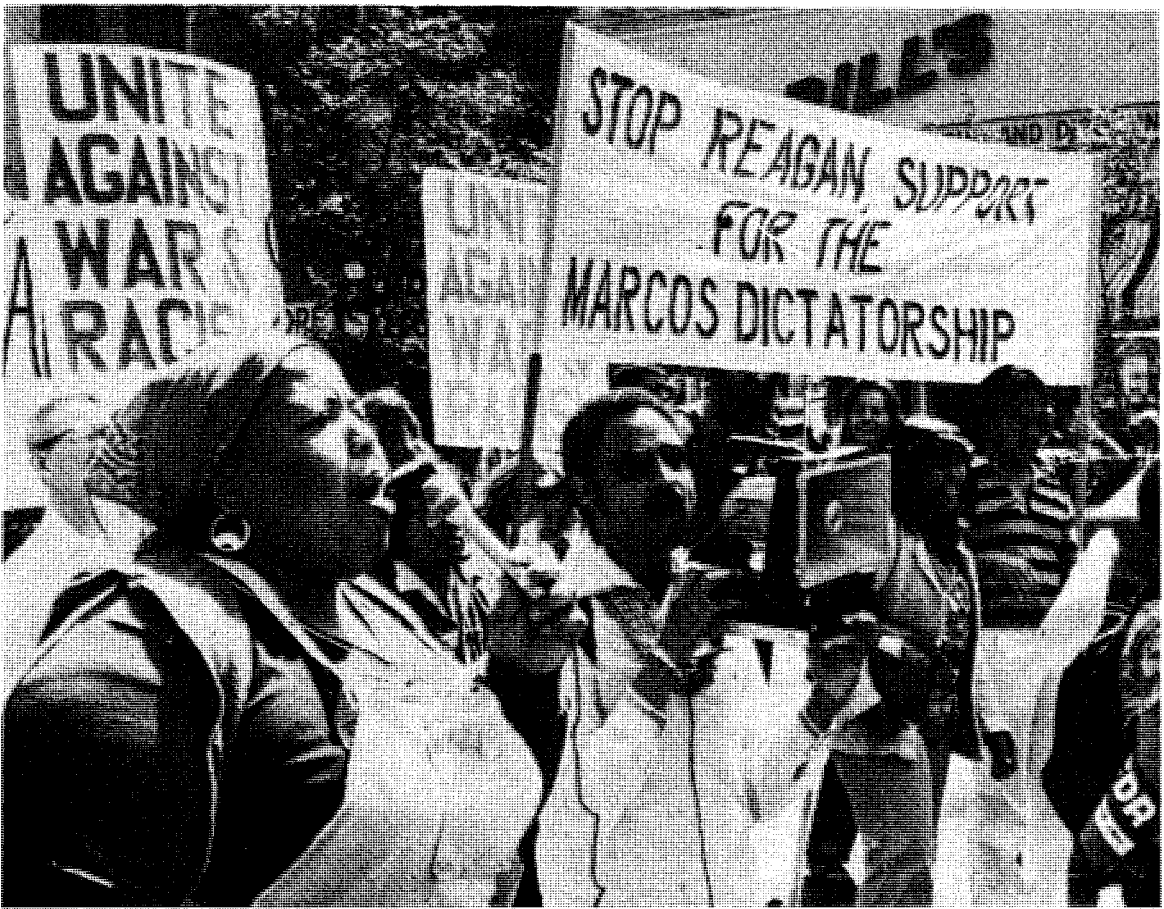
In the process, the boycott could well produce the most significant mass movement since the declaration of martial law in 1972.

Batches of boycott literature

*Continued on page 8*

## Thousands Hit U.S. Role in El Salvador

SEE PAGE 7



## Update on H-1 Deportations:

# Groups Set Up Defense Drive

Groups defending H-1 nurses from deportation stepped up their "emergency campaign" recently by demanding to meet with immigration Commissioner David Crosland in May.

Also, in a related, and unprecedented move, the California Board of Registered Nursing sent a letter urging the Immigration

and Naturalization Service (INS) to stop the deportation of nurses who failed the licensure examinations.

### Pressuring the INS

What has caused much alarm is the INS' apparent eagerness to track down and pick-up flunking nurses as soon as the test

results are released. In Arizona for example, four nurses who failed the state's test in February were arrested immediately by the INS at their workplace "for being illegal" (see AK, April 16-31, 1981).

The groups demanding a

*Continued on page 5*



## PRIEST'S SHOCKING MURDER

SEE PAGE 5

CUBA IS TOUGH

SEE PAGE 7

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## Aid for Repression Abroad Leads to Repression at Home

Not a few political observers have noted that U.S. support for dictatorships and fascism abroad inevitably leads to repression and fascism at home. In order for the U.S. government to pursue such an unpopular policy, it has to repress opposition to it at home. Indeed, there are worrisome signs that this dynamic is already starting.

In the guise of "helping all the victims" of the Vietnam war, President Reagan recently pardoned two FBI agents convicted of breaking into offices and homes of anti-war and leftist activists during Nixon's reign. This, of course, gives the go-ahead for law enforcers to begin revitalizing such illegal activities.

In Congress, the House has revived an internal security committee which, civil libertarians contend, is a rehash of the House Un-American Activities Committee, notorious during the McCarthy witchhunts. This committee will focus its probe on "foreign nationals agitating here for the overthrow of foreign governments." The Senate is setting up a counterpart to monitor "terrorist and subversive" activities.

Attorney General William French Smith recently asked Reagan for restrictions on the Freedom of Information Act which up to now has enabled victims of snooping to obtain data gathered by the CIA and the FBI. On another level, Reagan has denied political asylum for Salvadoran refugees and similar requests by Filipinos and other foreign-born opponents of U.S.-backed regimes.

These repressive measures coincide with stepped-up U.S. war preparations and intervention as well as increased support for rightwing regimes. That these measures are primarily meant to squelch the anticipated rise of domestic opposition to U.S. aggression abroad is all too clear. Alongside this growing repressiveness, concerted attempts by the "new right" to manipulate the mass psychology are unfolding, strengthening the government's effort to secure a protective shield for its unpopular incursions abroad.

More and more Americans are becoming aware and alarmed at this growing threat to their and other people's democratic rights, security and freedom. The thousands who joined the May 3 protests against U.S. intervention in El Salvador and repression and racism at home attest to this. Filipinos must become part of this growing movement and stop burying their heads in the sand. The freedom of the Salvadorans is at stake. The freedom of the Filipinos from the Marcos dictatorship is at stake. The freedom of the U.S. people, including those of us who have adopted this country as our home, is at stake. □

GUEST EDITORIAL:

### On the Davao Easter Massacre

On Easter Sunday, April 19, a terrorist grenade attack in a cathedral in Davao City in the southern Philippines claimed 13 innocent lives.

The dictatorship claims that the incident was provoked by the "inflammatory statements" of the Opposition and carried out by the New People's Army.

The Filipino people and international public opinion will not be fooled by this latest propaganda stunt of the Marcos regime. It is well known that all groups in the Opposition and Resistance have always condemned violence against innocent people. It is also well known that while the New People's Army wages armed struggle, it has always selected military targets and has always been opposed to indiscriminate violence, to violence against the innocent. The Resistance will not adopt the tactics of the dictatorship. Moreover, it would not make sense for it to carry out an attack against the very people it is seeking to mobilize against the regime.

The truth is that the deed was perpetrated by the notorious Marcos paramilitary force called the "Lost Command." The attack, says church sources in Davao, was meant as a warning to church activists to stay out of politics. It thus signifies the adoption by the Marcos dictatorship of the terrorist tactics employed by the right-wing death squads in El Salvador in their effort to silence the critical voice of the church.

By blaming the Resistance, Marcos also hopes to draw public attention away from the farce of "normalization," from the *rigodon* of rigged plebiscites and elections that it is presently perpetrating in a desperate bid to hang on to power.

The truth is that the greatest source of violence in the Philippines today is the Marcos dictatorship. Thousands of Filipinos and Moros have been exterminated in the bloody military campaigns waged by the regime. Hundreds of innocent people have been "salvaged," or unofficially executed by its security forces. Torture has been systematically employed to stifle peaceful dissent, and more than 60,000 people have been imprisoned since martial law was imposed in 1972. Marcos' desperate gimmick cannot hide the fact that he and his henchmen are the real terrorists in the Philippines today.

Signed: **Benigno Aquino**  
**Geline Avila and Walden Bello (IAFP)**  
**Rene Cruz (KDP)**



Yes, after  
the plebuisit  
I will hold  
the (s)election!

WICKS GEAGA '81

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Count Me In

Your objective presentation of immigrants' predicament is an eye opener for a new immigrant like me. I am sure many of our *kababayan* will support your cause only if you will publish the how's of joining your progressive mass organization. Hope to join you soon.

"Conrado Silangan"  
Chicago, IL

*(KDP has chapters in Chicago, New York, Washington D.C., Honolulu, San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and Seattle. To join, contact any of them. Applicants for membership must support the National Democratic revolutionary struggle in the Philippines and, with a socialist perspective, be willing to fight for the rights of the Filipino minority here as well as that of others. Those not ready to adopt this political program, we encourage to be active in the community by all means. There are other groups we work with who are active against the Marcos dictatorship or are organizing to defend the community against discrimination and other injustices. —Editor.)*

### Once More, Here's Johnny . . .

The secret meeting between Imelda Marcos with some opposition lead-

ers in New York last December is viewed with apprehension by some leaders. But the supposed return trip to the Philippines in a month or so by former Senator Benigno Aquino is considered a sell-out to Marcos.

Some conjectured that the opposition may be given some sort of participation in the government without purging the country of the age old dirt that has clogged the government.

The poor masses will be the same—holding the bag. The old cacique of pre-martial law days will be back to share with the New Society millionaires.

If Aquino goes to Manila soon, he will have tarnished his heroic eight years in jail. He will be viewed as just one too greedy for power and wealth.

Juan Frivaldo  
San Jose, CA

### Eye-Opener

Deby Armando's article on the death penalty was an eye-opener. Keep up this type of educational writing because there will always be people who want to learn, I am sure. Just make sure you do not make short-cuts and become rhetorical.

M. C. Santos  
Syracuse, NY

### On the Map

You have to be fair to Pres. Marcos because for all your criticisms of him he has done one very important thing and that is to put the Philippines on the map. I have been here a long time and if not for the Miss Universe contest where the Philippines won people would not even know it existed. Now, it is always in papers, thanks to the president.

L. M.  
Daly City, CA

### I Want to Learn

I am an American-born Filipino interested in learning about our people's history and culture. Can you tell me if there are special classes around for this purpose? I hope to visit the Philippines later on to find out what's going on there.

Vi de los Reyes  
Los Angeles, CA

*(Inquire from the Asian Studies Departments of colleges and universities. The problem is many of them have become victims of cutbacks in state schools. Other than these, watch out for educational forums on the Philippines or about Filipino immigrants organized by progressive community groups—Editor.)*

## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Rightwing Terrorists Suspected in Easter Bombings



Davao demonstrators: People of Davao protesting bombings earlier this year. (AK File)

By LUISA ANTONIO  
D.C. Correspondent

It was the last mass on Easter Sunday at the San Pedro Cathedral in Davao City and about 5,000 celebrants were in attendance.

Suddenly, a grenade explosion in the middle of the church shattered the solemn procession to the altar. Two parishioners died instantly. Others were wounded.

Two other grenade blasts ripped through the crowd gathered outside the church, inflicting most of the evening's grizzly casualty count which now stands at 16 dead and 177 wounded, of whom 15 remain hospitalized.

These details of the grizzly massacre were obtained through an exclusive interview with Archbishop Antonio Mabutias from his residence in Davao City, conducted long-distance by a member of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition.

### Blaming the Opposition

Local Davao City government authorities are said to be disturbed by the failure of the military commander's office to report that some of the casualties were caused by bullet wounds rather than just shrapnel from the grenade blasts.

Press statements issued from the presidential Palace and by

officers of the Military Command in Davao City immediately blamed the opposition for the massacre.

The Malacanang claimed that the statements of leading opposition leaders "inflamed" either the National Democratic Front's New People's Army (NPA) or the Moro National Liberation Front's Bangsa Moro Army to bomb the cathedral. (*Washington Post*, April 21, 1981)

### Not the NPA or MNLF

Leading local and government authorities are reportedly in agreement however, that the people of Davao City who are familiar with the political goals and operational mode of the NDF and MNLF find the regime's interpretation incredulous.

Davao residents, they say, are more likely to believe that the incident and four others like it since Christmas were carried out by mercenary rightwing terrorists. The same sources are also said that the terrorists, known as the "Lost Command" consists of former military men who extort, rape, kidnap, and murder for a price.

A leading church authority discounted the possibility that the bombing was a delayed reaction of Luis Santos to his replacement by Elias Lopez as mayor, after the latter was recently declared winner of the January 1980 elections by the COMELEC.

It was noted that Santos' chauffeur was among those who

were wounded and that the former mayor's efforts to assist in the emergency was regarded positively by the people of Davao. Also, Elias Lopez was known to be in Manila at the time of the bombing and therefore could not be its target.

### Justification for Martial Law in Mindanao

Although local church and government officials concede that they cannot pinpoint who hired the terrorists, some believe that such incidents serve to justify to the international community the continuation of formal martial rule in the southern provinces of Mindanao. Stationed in the region are 50,000 troops comprising 70-80% of the Marcos government's combat strength are committed primarily against the MNLF.

Others believe that the bombing serves as warning to the Catholic Church to stop its increasingly open opposition to the continuation of dictatorial rule in general, and to the coming June presidential election in particular.

These sources cite the cold-blooded murder of Fr. Godofredo Alingal, a 51-year-old Jesuit priest suspected as an activist who was shot inside his convent in Bukidnon on April 13. (See story on page 5.)

The incident occurred three days after Jaime Cardinal Sin told the Rotary Club in Manila that the June 16 presidential election should be cancelled because "it is simply a futile but expensive exercise."

To date the United Democratic Opposition (UNIDO) consisting of former politicians and the National Democratic Front have expressed a common position which is a step removed from Cardinal Sin's recommendation: "Boycott the election."

Observers fear that the incidents of terrorisms which are instantly attributed by authorities to the NPA and BMA are an indication of the escalation of the hidden war in the Philippines, following the pattern of the events in El Salvador. □

## Buod ng mga Balita

### PRIESTS IN THE NPA URGE OTHERS TO JOIN

Four Catholic priests earlier reported by the Philippine Ministry of Defense as having joined the New People's Army (NPA) issued a statement last month explaining their reasons for doing so.

Fathers Conrado Balweg, Nilo Valerio, Bruno Ortega, and Cirilo Ortega, all of Abra province, said in a signed statement issued to the foreign press that they had joined the NPA in order to participate "actively and unselfishly in the national democratic struggle."

The four explained that they had tried working for reforms "through the various legal venues" until they realized that the problems of the people can only be solved by "waging an armed struggle" to overthrow the Marcos regime.

Explaining that "the struggle of the people... is really against the U.S. imperialists, the big landlords and big comprador bourgeoisie" under the combined dictatorship of Marcos and the U.S., they urged all Filipinos to join the democratic movement. □

### WAGE RAISE NO RAISE AT ALL

The recent highly-touted ₱2 wage increase granted to Filipino workers has turned out, as usual, to be significantly less than it was cracked up to be.

Granted immediately before the March 27-28 Tripartite Conference on labor, the increase was designed to dampen worker militance in the struggle for decent wages. But the increase, according to a Marcos regime broadcast, was not, in fact, a wage increase. It was an increase in the emergency living allowance allegedly granted to all low-income workers.

Filipino laborers have repeatedly claimed that the numerous cost of living adjustments, living allowances and 13th-month pay which form part of what the regime describes as their "effective daily wage" are particularly difficult to collect from employers. While the recent measure brought their "effective" take-home pay up to ₱31.85 for industrial workers in the cities, the minimum wage remains an unchanged ₱16.

Adding insult to injury, the Tripartite Conference, while claiming to restore the right to strike "with limitations," also agreed to eliminate the regulation that requires employers to get Labor Ministry clearance before firing any worker. □

### CON-CON REVIVAL FLOPS

While the opposition to the Marcos regime's plebiscite found a variety of creative methods to protest the exercise, belated reports reveal that one effort failed miserably.

Former Constitutional Convention delegates who now oppose the regime had threatened to gather a quorum of 136 of the 400-odd members of the convention to prove their contention that the 1973 Marcos Constitution, the document modified by the April 7 plebiscite, was actually illegal. However, only 25 members showed up.

The effort, led by former president Diosdado Macapagal, has been the target of criticisms by other opposition forces. They pointed out that it tended to take Marcos' constitution "too seriously," thereby unwittingly lending legitimacy to the regime's legalistic maneuverings. □

## Aussie Aid Accompanies Counter Insurgency:

# 6,000 Flee AFP Operations in Samar

New military operations launched in western Samar by units of the Philippine armed forces have resulted in the evacuation of some 6,000 people from 82 villages, sources in the Catholic church reported recently.

The sources also reported an increase in cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture, summary executions, and other forms of harassment of civilians in the island.

Samar has been the target of massive search-and-destroy missions since 1975. Most hard hit by these missions have been the population composed mainly of farmers and fishermen. The recent evacuation is third in five years.

### Infamous 60th PC Battalion

Samar, despite its fertile soil and untapped mineral deposits, remains economically backward. The majority of Samarens live in depressed rural areas. This has provided fertile ground for the rapid growth of the guerrilla

New People's Army's (NPA) influence in the island. By the mid-1970s, the island had become an almost impregnable NPA base.

To counter the NPA's growth in size and popularity, the government dispatched 10 AFP battalions, including the infamous 60th Philippine Constabulary Battalion.

The 60th, headed by Lt. Col. Manuel Bruan, had previously gained notoriety for its "terror campaigns" against the Kalinga-Apayao tribespeople in Northern Luzon. Local and international pressure forced the 60th's removal from the Mountain Province.

Despite his outfit's unsavory reputation, Bruan received the 1980 Battalion Commander of the Year Award. He boasted to the *Far Eastern Economic Review* that he had the "insurgent elements under control." Bruan implied that his troops maintain far better relations with the Samar residents than with those of Kalinga-Apayao as one-third of his men have "married local girls."



NPA in Samar trains militia: fierce repression by regime.

(AK File)

One reason for the military's continued presence in Samar, Bruan said, was "to protect the Australian [aid] project" in the

northern side of the island.

Australia's two largest foreign aid projects totalling \$58 million in commitment, to be matched

by Philippine funds, are situated in hotbeds of guerrilla activity: Mindanao and Samar.

The Philippine-Australian Development Assistance Project (PADAP) in Samar was originally presented as a five-year scheme to uplift the severely depressed countryside by improving roads and promoting higher farm yields.

Critics note, however, that the government's counterinsurgency program coincidentally opens up in the same areas the project reaches. The aid project itself finalized with Australia during the government's escalation of military campaigns in Samar 1977-1979.

The project's northern Samar site is also coincidentally the site of known bauxite and uranium deposits.

While denying interests in the mineral deposits, Australian Ambassador Richard Woolcott said that technical assistance for exploring them will be provided if the Marcos government requests it. □

## HISTORY IN REVIEW

The Post-1902 Rebellions:  
A BURIED PASTBy CRIS TAGAM  
Staff Writer

Most Filipinos will probably agree that with the Marcos regime's control of the press and its efforts to mold the educational system to the dictates of the "New Society," it is not enough for our schoolchildren to learn how to read and write, they have to learn how to read between the lines as well.

But this does not apply to schoolkids alone. Whole generations of Filipinos in fact have to unlearn all the pap that have been generously dispensed by our "nation-builders."

Take Philippine history. Much of the colonial mentality afflicting us today is the fruit of our conqueror's and our dominant classes' successful effort to write it in their own image. Most successful in this undertaking were our American colonizers.

Filipinos have been taught that at the turn of the century the Philippines was in a brief revolutionary period against the Spanish colonizers. This was followed by an even shorter period of the "Philippine Insurrection" (actually the Philippine-American War) which "unfortunately" resulted from unexplained "brotherly misunderstandings." And then, of course, with the American victory, things were "patched up" with free education and the English language for all.

Seldom mentioned or simply dismissed as isolated acts of banditry were the various popular acts of resistance to American "benevolence" that persisted after Emilio Aguinaldo's arrest and cowardly political surrender in 1901.

To show that many Filipinos continued a bloody, albeit futile, struggle for national independence against the Americans, the following is a random recounting of a few notable events which have been ignored by official history books.

**The New Katipunan**

In 1903, after unsuccessful attempts to persuade different Katipunan factions to revive the organization, Luciano San Miguel established the New Katipunan.

San Miguel, with 150 men and several guns captured from municipal police detachments launched an armed resistance against the U.S. colonial authori-

ties. His group was aided by newly-formed labor unions in Manila and remnants of the Katipunan forces in Central Luzon.

The colonial government waged vicious campaigns against San Miguel's forces. The Philippine Scouts, founded by the conquering Americans as a counter-insurgency force, used "cordon tactics" and the relocation of the population.

These, however, did not deter the New Katipunan from attracting new adherents and securing more arms. Soon the resistance group numbered some 3,000 fighters.

**Macario Sakay and the Tagalog Republic**

The New Katipunan was to culminate in the birth of the Tagalog Republic. It encompasses resistance forces in the Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas areas. These forces were led by Macario Sakay, Julian Montalan and Cornelio Felizardo.

Sakay, as president of the Republic, led the most politically developed of the post-1902 resistance movements. Patterning its constitution after that of the Katipunan, Sakay affirmed the movement's fight for independence from the United States.

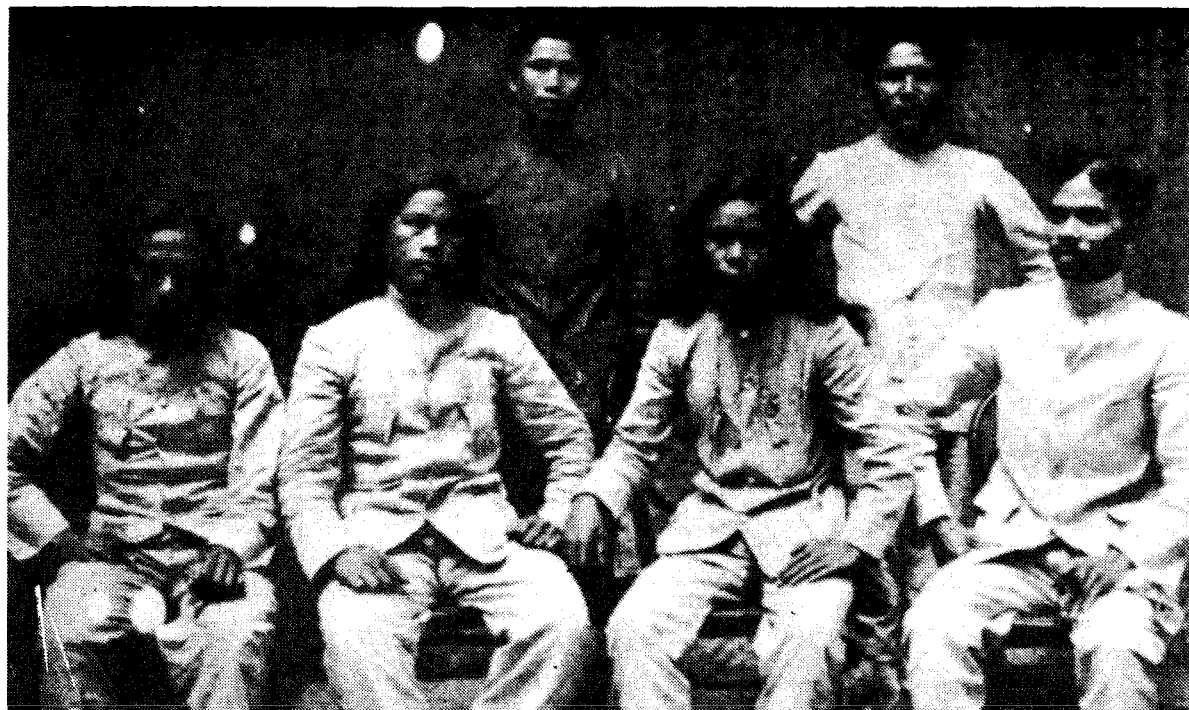
Sakay prepared for a major uprising by raiding PC garrisons and detachments, capturing guns and ammunition. By 1905 the situation was so critical that the writ of habeas corpus had to be suspended in Cavite and Batangas.

Deception eventually ended the Sakay-led resistance. Having been granted amnesty and a safe departure for exile, Sakay and his officers were lured to the city, and were welcomed by receptions and banquets. In one such party Sakay and his men were disarmed and arrested. Charged with "robbery, rape, kidnapping, and murder," Sakay was eventually hanged.

**Ola and Toledo**

In the Bicol area, another resistance struggle was taking place. Led by Simeon Ola and Lazaro Toledo, the group followed essentially the patterns of Sakay's revolt.

By 1903, three companies of Philippine Scouts had to be sent to Albay to augment the U.S. forces there. However, some Philippine volunteers were disarmed by American officers who



Officers of the New Katipunan: Filipino revolutionaries fought U.S. colonizers even years after the American victory.

(Passion and Revolution)

doubted their loyalties.

The authorities used the "re-concentration" of the population similar to the "strategic hamlets" later used in Vietnam to deny the rebels a base of support.

The "bolomen" were forced to surrender in what Americans described as "emaciated conditions." Ola and Toledo surrendered after heavy losses.

**Quasi-Religious Movements**

Other resistance movements kept growing in the predominantly peasant countryside—far from the central government in Manila.

In time, the superstitiousness prevalent among the peasantry lent new features to the resistance. The results of years of oppression by the Spanish colonial church fostered a return to nativist religion. This gave many resistance movements a quasi-religious character. Leaders were often viewed as having supernatural powers by their followers.

One such leader was Felipe Salvador or Apo Ipe. An officer in the Katipunan, Apo Ipe fled to the mountains, and soon organized independent guerrilla operations with religious overtones.

Calling his movement Santa Iglesia (Holy Church), Apo Ipe not only provided spiritual guidance but stirred his followers toward the goal of land ownership. So wide was the support for Apo Ipe that he eluded government pursuers for over four years.

**Babaylanes and Pulajanes**

In the Visayas, another revolutionary figure rose to prominence—Papa Isio. Earlier, Papa Isio and his *Babaylanes* had an alliance with the Negros elite against the Spanish colonial re-

gime.

But the Negros elite always viewed Papa Isio and his landless followers as a threat. Thus, after their joint, bloodless one-day coup against the Spanish authorities in the island, the Negros elite immediately asked the Americans to make the island a "U.S. protectorate."

Betrayed, the *Babaylanes* turned anti-American and anti-*cacique* as well and began to wage class war. Haciendas and mills of pro-Americans were burned. Papa Isio's ranks swelled with hungry, poorly-armed and ill-trained peasants who would later prove no match against the fresh, and better-equipped government troops.

The *Pulajanes* in Samar and Leyte were also another pre-occupation of the colonial authorities.

With a "program" promising deliverance from poverty, the *Pulajanes* gained a determined following. Although armed only with bolos and *anting-antings*, the *Pulajanes* engaged their enemy in fierce hand-to-hand battles. They were quickly reduced to small numbers. But *Pulajan* resistance continued until 1911. By its end, 7,000 *Pulajanes* had lost their lives in Samar alone.

**Strength from the People**

These various resistance movements against American rule showed surprising tenacity despite overwhelming odds. This proves the aspirations for land and independence remained deep among the native population which provided the life-giving support for them.

But these movements had severe limitations. Apart from

being poorly armed, their resistance offered no clear political objectives. Though strongly anti-American, much of these struggles were focused on immediate land-ownership and were not guided by an understanding of the link between colonial rule and the feudalism it sought to maintain. Also these movements were isolated from one another and did not congeal into a nationwide anti-colonial struggle.

But social tensions did not end with the death of the last *Pulajan* leader. The restive masses remained open to revolutionary movements that could liberate them from the oppression of colonial and semi-feudal rule. The Sakdal and Colorum uprisings in the 1920s and 1930s traced their roots to the earlier anti-American resistance.

Today, a different kind of resistance to American domination is being waged and is fast gaining strength. This struggle is being conducted by the National Democratic Front and its New People's Army.

Today's revolutionaries though also poorly-equipped militarily, have a more clear-cut and comprehensive political and economic program guiding them. Aside from military work, the NPA conducts educational work, introducing the peasantry to political science, a necessary tool in waging a struggle against feudal relations and American domination, especially in the modern era.

But memories of the heroic resistance of old do not die fast. A story is told of an old man in Samar who, upon learning of the NPA's goals and its coming to the island, remarked, "The *Pulajanes* have come back." □



Finance Minister and Prime Minister designate Cesar Virata breezed into San Francisco April 27 to tell assembled U.S. businessmen "the prospects for investment in light of [Marcos'] constitutional changes."

Outside the St. Francis Hotel where the luncheon sponsored by the World

Affairs Council was being held, members of the Philippine Solidarity Network, the San Francisco AMLC, the KDP and IAFP passed out leaflets and held picket signs criticizing Virata's role in "the worsening economic difficulties gripping the Filipino people."

## Scavengers . . .

Continued from page 8

American control. Further, they point to the actual danger the bases present for the Philippines.

"I do believe these military bases are causing so much tension," Jaime Cardinal Sin, Philippines' top Catholic churchman, told me recently. "I'm scared. If something happens, naturally the Russians will immediately hit these bases. And the whole Philippines might disappear."

**Dignity Intact**

I ponder the dump. It is the dregs of a military system that features nuclear submarines, aircraft carriers, and earth-crushing nuclear warheads (some of which are allegedly stored at this base), all price-tagged at billions of dollars. Yet the people of Cabalan have to risk arrest just to pick up the crumbs that fall from the

military table.

But remarkably, the dignity of these people around me seems intact. I sense the strength of Inday's spirit as we abandon the rocky ledge and hike the four kilometers back to the "rough road" and on to her house.

Safe again, we sit outside Inday's tiny house made entirely from plywood and two-by-fours she has rescued from the dump. As we drink water, Inday's stories continue, often punctuated by laughs. "I've been caught eight times now by the Marines. Once a Marine caught me and asked me why I was running. 'Because you're running after me!' I said. Then he said I was trespassing, that this was their area. I told him, 'What you call your area is part of the Philippines. And the Philippines is for the Filipino people.'" □

# FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

## Nurses' Defense . . .

Continued from page 1

meeting with Crosland are the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG), National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO), Asian Law Caucus in Oakland, and the Asian American Legal Defense Fund (AALDEF) in New York.

As part of their emergency campaign, public meetings led by the NFIRO and the NAFL are being called in four cities to disseminate a petition and to gather support from the nursing sector, Filipino groups, unions and civil rights-minded organizations. These petitions will be presented to Crosland at the meeting being demanded by the defense groups.

### Board Tells INS to Stop Deportations

The California nursing board decided to send its appeal to Crosland after hearing the testimony of the defense groups and representatives of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 400 at its meeting May 20.

The letter signed by the board's president Patty Majcher, R.N. and Barbara Brusstar, its executive secretary, read in part:

"The test (State Board Test Pool Examination) was found by the Department of Consumer Affairs to have an 'adverse impact' on minorities and foreign nurses, particularly Filipinos, Asians, and Blacks . . . Unless the test is proven to be job related . . . we are concerned that it may violate anti-discrimination laws of California and the Federal anti-discrimination laws . . .

"We realize that for nurses on H-1 immigration visas, passage of the test is a requirement in order to maintain a legal im-

migration status, however, we also realize that it is patently unfair to have a nurse's immigration status be contingent upon passing a test of unknown validity but which is known to have an 'adverse impact' on minorities and foreign nurse graduates . . . Unless you act to stop the deportations, the INS would be giving undue and premature effect to what are at present merely tentative examination results."

Bill Tamayo, an attorney with the Asian Law Caucus representing the NAFL, said the board's position "gives a stronger basis to demand from the INS a moratorium on this unfair practice of deporting nurses who fail a discriminatory exam."

The defense groups played an important role in influencing resolutions passed by the state's nursing board during hearings held last March.

One resolution, immediately put into effect, extends the duration of interim permits for California nurses who failed this year's exams to October 1981, when results of a study of the exam's validity will be released. □

### 'WHITE NURSES BILL' QUASHED

**Sacramento, CA**—The "White Nurses Bill," introduced at the State Legislature which seeks reciprocity for foreign nurses from Anglo-Saxon countries, was soundly "crushed" in its initial bout with a Senate subcommittee hearing April 27.

Denounced as "blatantly racist," the original bill would have exempted nurses from Australia, New Zealand, Ireland or the Uni-

ted Kingdom from taking the licensure exam in order to practice as registered nurses in California.

An amended bill was passed instead, at the Senate Business and Professions Committee, stipulating that "all foreign nurses be allowed to apply for licensure without examination, with the State Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) studying the merits of each application on an individual basis, granted their training meets California requirements, and are proficient in English."

The bill was amended to eliminate its discriminatory character and to avoid granting reciprocity to nurses only of certain countries, explained Ken Debow, Assistant Consultant with the Business and Professions Committee.

Debow also noted that the bill will substantially give the Nursing Board much discretionary power, in deciding to whom reciprocity should be granted on a case-to-case basis.

Jose Bernardo, BRN Board member, was elated when informed of the bill's drastic alteration. "This [amendment] is to our benefit," Bernardo remarked. "If reciprocity should be granted, it should include nurses from all over the world, and if they qualify well and good. Reciprocity should not be given on the basis of sex, race or nationality."

Lillian Galedo, spokesperson for the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization, echoed Bernardo's comments, saying: "At the very least, it's a good thing for the State Capitol to acknowledge discrimination when they see it. Now the task is to see that these foreign nurses be protected from racist treatment at their work places, and from exploitation due to their immigration status as temporary workers. □



Atty. Bill Tamayo of the Asian Law Caucus: Fighting for nurses' rights.

(AK File Photo)

## UNION LOCAL TO DEFEND H-1 NURSES

**San Francisco**—In a precedent-setting decision, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 400 April 21st approved a resolution at its general membership meeting supporting foreign nurses against threats of deportation.

The resolution called a stop in the deportation of H-1 nurses failing the state licensure examination "until a non-biased licensure exam is established by the California State Board of Nursing."

Nancy Elliot, the union's representative at Laguna-Honda Hospital, said this means that the local will provide legal and other forms of support should the nurses

be harassed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Attorney Bill Tamayo, National Coordinator of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO) said the union's move is historic. "It is absolutely necessary to support the rights of immigrant workers and to go against the tendency among most unions to join in the discrimination of foreign-born workers themselves," Tamayo added.

SEIU Local 400 number some 4,000 workers who comprise the city's registered nurses, clerks, social workers, librarians, Department of Public School workers, and juvenile counselors.

## Priest's Murder Shocks Community



### Special to the Ang Katipunan

**LOS ANGELES, CA**—The slaying of formerly U.S.-based Father Godofredo Alingal in Kibawa, southern Philippines April 13 sent waves of shock and outrage among people who knew him here.

Tagged as a staunch critic of the Philippine military, Fr. Alingal was shot in cold blood with a .45 caliber pistol by five heavily armed men who forced their way into his convent.

Philippine military authorities claimed the gunmen's identities and the motive for the shooting are unknown.

According to published reports, Fr. Alingal has had several bouts with the military prior to the slaying. Last year, he was a witness in a rape case involving Marcos troops.

A critic of the 57th Paramilitary Battalion stationed in Mindanao, Fr. Alingal set up a bulletin board in his parish where he exposed government irregularities. This led to his unpopularity among military authorities who branded him a "subversive".

### Community Remembers Priest

"The shocking murder of Fr. Alingal is of special concern for us here," declared Alan Constantino, AntiMartial Law Alliance (AMLA) spokesperson. Recalling the outspoken and well-respected Jesuit priest, Constantino said Fr. Alingal was assigned sometime in 1976 to work with immigrant farmworkers in Calexico, near the Mexican border.

The following year, AMLA members visited him in Calexico, and he agreed to officiate an AMLA-sponsored "Pamisa" January 2, 1977 for the L.A. Filipino community at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament.

Many Filipinos and supporters attended the event where Fr. Alingal urged the community to show concern for the human rights violations in the Philippines. At that time, his former parish in Bukidnon, Mindanao had been the target of government raids.

Constantino also said that Fr. Alingal joined AMLA mem-

bers in a round of Christmas carolling that same year. The proceeds went to families of Philippine political prisoners.

### 'A Case of Salvaging'

"The killing of Fr. Alingal points in the direction of another case of salvaging," commented Constantino. "This is a military term for summary executions of anti-government individuals or suspects, instead of jailing them as political prisoners," he added.

There have been 303 cases of substantiated reports of salvaging from 1975 to 1980, according to a report presented by Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) to the Amnesty International in June, 1980.

Commenting on reports that Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has ordered an investigation of the slaying, Constantino said the AMLA has "no confidence at all in an 'impartial' government-sponsored investigation."

"Anyone familiar with the Philippine situation under the Marcos dictatorship will know that these so-called investigations are often used to 'cover-up' the truth," Constantino said.

The AMLA is requesting Amnesty International to investigate Fr. Alingal's death through the agency's independent non-governmental sources. □

## POLITICS BARRED FROM HONOLULU FIESTA

### Special to the AK

**Honolulu, HI**—A provision barring the distribution of political materials in the Filipino community's Barrio Festival on June 13 has stirred much controversy and opposition here.

The festival committee of the Commission to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Filipino Community issued prohibitions on "leafletting or person-to-person canvassing of any sort," at the upcoming barrio festival. The city's most organized anti-Marcos group protested the prohibitions immediately.

### 'Non-Political, Non-Religious'

Two out of four provisions set by the festival committee specified that the event will be "non-political and non-religious" and that its goal is "to share our culture with each other and with the community at large." The provisions added "We are not looking to cure social ills here as in the Philippines."

The Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP) an affiliate of the AMLC confronted the festival committee over the provisions at a community meeting held April 13.

Moy Tacazon of the CHRP said his group "questions the legality and political implications of

the rules and provisions which were required to be signed by participating organizations." Tacazon added, "These provisions violate our first amendment rights to free expression."

### 'Political Means Pro or Anti'

Gary Bonifacio, festival committee head responded saying, "Rules and provisions were not meant to be a legal document, and there is no specific definition of political and religious."

He admitted however that the term "political" was directed at "anti-" or "pro-" Marcos groups. The term "religious," he said, was added to make the policy prohibited in a general way.

Tacazon contended that to deny groups the right to educate the community on issues "such as discrimination and the Philippine situation" will have a negative effect on the "development and maturity of the Filipino community."

"Festival organizers should realize that sharing our Filipino culture and heritage means sharing our history of struggle for equality, freedom, and other rights which have been fought for since Filipino first immigrated to Hawaii," Tacazon added.

The CHRP intends to press its opposition to the provisions at the next festival committee meeting. □

**Movie Review**

# 'Gaijin': A Moving Drama About Immigrants

By VICTORIA LUNA  
AK Staff Writer

What does it mean to seek escape from poverty by traveling to a new country only to find oneself disregarded, cheated, exploited, and labeled "chink?"

Filipino, Chinese, Thai, and other Asian immigrants to the United States can certainly relate to that. But most films about the immigrant experience have centered mainly on Europeans—either as immigrants to the U.S. or to other parts of Europe. The richly-textured travails of non-whites are rarely captured in commercial films.

Now, there is a widely acclaimed import from Brazil that helps fill the gap. It is a touching film that does not idealize its heroes (the early Japanese immigrants in Brazil) but shows their weaknesses as well—making the portrayal even more moving.

**Exploited in Brazil**

With *Gaijin*, a Brazilian Odyssey, a young film director, Tizuka Yamasaki, seeks to capture the universality of the immigrant worker's experience—social dislocation, homesickness, loss of cultural roots and vulnerability to exploitation, topped by racial discrimination.

She does so by examining the lives of Japanese farm workers on the Brazilian coffee plantations in the early part of the century.

"In Japanese, 'gaijin' is a pejorative word given to foreigners and extending to immigrants in general. In a sense, *Gaijin* is the Brazilian people," says Yamasaki.

At the turn of the century, rich Portuguese plantation owners required laborers to realize the potential wealth of vast but underpopulated Brazil's fertile soil.

With the outlawing of slavery, the government threw the doors wide open to immigrant laborers from all over the world. Immigrant status made them the next best thing to slaves since any hint of militance could be met with deportation.

**The Immigrant Dream**

Yamasaki focuses on the history of a Japanese immigrant family group, seeing it all through the eyes of the shy and frightened 16-year-old Titoe. Titoe makes the journey to Brazil with her brother and a husband selected by her family. All hope to earn some money in order to return and lead more comfortable lives in their homeland.

The dream soon fades when they are faced with the harshness of life on the plantations. Worked to exhaustion, provided with only the crudest of housing, forced to buy food from the plantation's store where accounts are manipulated, and unable to speak Portuguese, they grow angrier and more frustrated daily.

Some turn to drink. One runs away. Another commits suicide. Others, like Titoe and her husband, mature politically. Yamada becomes the leader of their community and begins to defy their unlivable conditions.

**Oppressed as Workers, Not Just as Immigrants**

Titoe's and Yamada's developing consciousness is helped along by the realization that there are other like them from different races and nationalities. But this realization does not come easy because of the racial and national biases the workers themselves hold.

"There are Portuguese here. There are Africans here. There are Japanese. There are Arabs. There are Germans. There are even Brazilians!" beseeched an Italian farmworker attempting to



Film captures universal struggle of immigrant workers.

reach out to Yamada in one scene.

Both the Italian worker and the Brazilian, Cesare, help stress the point that all the farmworkers suffer the same unbearable conditions and even have the same longings. In one scene, Cesare, native of a distant province, tells Yamada, his eyes misted with tears, that his home province "is like a beautiful woman in a torn dress, beautiful, but poor. My only hope," he adds, "is to die there."

**Escape and Personal Liberation**

The small Japanese community, seething with frustration, finally chooses to escape the plantation. But Yamada's sudden death thrusts Titoe into a decisive moment, when she has to confront the oppression her own original society and culture has brought on Japanese women.

Passive, obedient, she has always obeyed the men in her family. Now she steps forward to lead the group's frantic night-

time escape through the jungle. She is aided by Tonho, the plantation's Brazilian accountant whose sympathy with the workers grows throughout the film.

Yamasaki's vision is a broad one. It encompasses the entire plantation structure: the absentee landlord with his dependence of capital, advice and purchases from the U.S.; the brutal foreman and the national laws which aid in the exploitation of workers both domestic and foreign. It is a wonder that this film passed through Brazil's repressive censors.

**Unfortunate Weaknesses**

Unfortunately it is also this breadth, not firmly controlled, which leads to some of the film's weaknesses. Yamasaki seems unable to decide whether to concentrate on painting an entire community or to focus on the growth of a few key characters. She attempts to do both, neither of them adequately.

Titoe, the film's central figure

does not develop gradually. Her consciousness, unlike that of her husband, takes an unexpected quantum leap three-quarters of the way through the film. A wide range of incidents also occur which are rendered irrelevant by a lack of discipline on the director's part.

The film also has an overly even pace. Scenes which should represent high-pitched moments of climax are barely distinguishable from others.

This is particularly true in the escape scene where Tonho's decision to help the Japanese by setting the woods on fire should have been made as dramatic as his sudden shift of class loyalties.

Despite its weaknesses, *Gaijin* remains an important film, one which should be seen. It is also the first film by a young director. Given the insight and sensitivity with which she handles this epic theme, Yamasaki is definitely an artist to watch. □

## Chemicals Feared . . .

Continued from page 1

getting new eyeglasses since I've been working." Manan works with acetones and other chemicals.

Lorette Ordonez, another worker, had to be placed in the disabled list for a year and granted disability compensation when mercury blew up in her face.

**Xylene, A Dangerous Solvent**

Villones said the workers linked most of their problems to the widespread use of xylene, a dangerous chemical used extensively as a solvent.

In an article in the September 1980 issue of Laboratory Medicine, a health science magazine, the Geneva-based International Labor Organization (ILO) reported that prolonged exposure to xylene causes irritation of the hemopoietic (blood-producing) organs and the central nervous system.

"Irritations of the upper respiratory tracts and eyes may also occur. Pregnant women may suffer from toxemia (poisoning) and hemorrhage in delivery and abortion. Non-pregnant women may be made sterile."

Solvents are widely used to clean and remove minute specks and dust from integrated circuits. The presence of a single speck can cause malfunctions in these circuits or prevent them from transmitting electronic impulses properly.

Chambers noted that solvents can be ingested in various ways, "either you inhale chemical fumes or it can seep through your hands and skin and no one never knows when you are absorbing it." Poor ventilation systems in many factories contribute to the dangerous spread of these solvents.

**Profits vs. People's Health**

Levying fines on reckless companies and consistent demands by California Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) that electronics firms limit the use of dangerous chemical solvents have been unable to secure better health protection for workers.

According to Michael Eisenseur another union representative: "These companies simply pay their fines, and as soon as backs are turned, they pour in as much xylene as they



Computer chip factory in Santa Clara ("Silicon") Valley: Workers victimized for profit. (AK File)

want." "Electronics corporations," added Eisenseur, "have shown their disregard for the health and safety of their workers. They are only motivated by profit. Only a union can protect workers and fight for safe working conditions for them."

**Union Takes Steps**

The UERMWU is conducting a study with concerned doctors, nurses and other community representatives, focus-

ing on xylene and its dangerous effects on workers. As Dr. Mark Sapier explained, "There's only a few doctors who really know how to deal with toxicity. Doctors not trained in treating chemical poisoning usually advise their patients that their rashes will 'simply go away in a few days'."

The study is aimed at substantiating the ILO report on xylene and its effects on local workers. It will be used to educate electronics workers on the dangers of chemical solvents and the

need for health guarantees.

Villones will be conducting the educational campaign within the local Filipino community.

Meanwhile, as UERMWU stepped up its efforts to organize the industry, many corporations have intensified their own union-busting campaigns. The union received reports that in some places, Filipinos and other immigrant workers have been threatened with deportation, and fines of up to \$500 if they join the union. □

# DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS



## May 3 Marchers Protest War and Racism

An approximate 50,000 people marched to the Pentagon protesting intervention in El Salvador and Reagan's social austerity program at home. The three-mile march starting at the Lincoln Memorial chanted "No More Draft, No More War, U.S. Out of El Salvador." It was the largest anti-war demonstration since the Vietnam era protest and may well mark a more active period in the progressive movement.

Thousands more marched in related actions in San Francisco and Seattle. The San Francisco march (pictured left) drew more than 8,000 and made its way through the predominantly Latin American Mission neighborhood ending at Dolores Park. □

# CUBA: 'A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK'

By **DEBY ARMANDO** and **WALTER YONN**  
Staff Writers

Over one million people filled the streets of Havana, Cuba last December to hear Fidel Castro give the Cuban Communist Party's second congress report.

Castro, a folk hero among his people and known for his marathon speeches, drew laughter and shouts of "No! No!" when he said jokingly, "I'll not speak as long as I have before."

"These are unusual and difficult times," Castro said. "No country is isolated from the rest of the world. . . . In no revolutionary process have all actions and decisions been right ones."

Castro also referred to the ceaseless attacks on Cuba by the world's mightiest power lying just 90 miles away. "Yet here we stand, nearly 22 years after January 1, 1959," the hard-bitten commander said proudly.

Castro had a right to be proud. Many of the attacks the United States launched on Cuba carried devastating force intended to bring the small nation to its knees.

### First, U.S. Economic Sabotage . . . .

In 1958 the U.S. was the main purchaser of Cuban sugar, main supplier of industrial machinery and petroleum, and employer of 40% of Cuba's active work force.

Shortly after the overthrow of the pro-U.S. Batista dictatorship, the U.S. ceased all trade with Cuba. The U.S. denied port entry to any vessel coming from or to Cuba, and pressured many countries not to extend any loans.

Before the revolution, Cuban immigration to the U.S. was highly restricted. Shortly after the revolution the U.S. opened the gates wide purposely to draw Cuba's skilled and technical workers, thus further crippling Cuba's economy.

The U.S. also blocked Cuba's membership to international and regional organizations of mutual trade and assistance. The Cuban

economy faced imminent collapse.

### Then Military Invasion . . .

On April 16, 1961 Castro made the now-famous declaration of Havana, asserting Cuba's choice of socialism. Fidel also warned of an impending attack.

One day later a 1,500-man army of Cuban exiles and professional mercenaries, directed by the CIA from an air base in Florida landed at Playa Giron, then called the Bay of Pigs.

The invasion force consisted of an artillery, armored, and motorized battalion, five support ships, and a support squadron of B-26 bombers. It expected to be welcomed as heroes by the masses of "oppressed Cubans." Instead, it was stopped dead on its tracks by a small detachment of local militia. Additional Cuban reinforcements finally captured the 1,100 left alive. Castro traded the release of the mercenary forces to the U.S. government for \$53 million worth of baby food and medicine.

### And Assassination Attempts Too . . .

Failing with its overt operations, the CIA under the Kennedy Administration intensified its covert operations.

These schemes included bombing mines and refineries, burning cane fields, and the infestation of Cuba's crops and livestock.

The most insidious of these schemes were the over 90 attempts on Fidel Castro's life. One of these, documented by a Senate sub-committee, involved a plan to send a poisoned scuba diving outfit as a "gift" to diving enthusiast Castro, through an unknowing American businessman who had friendly ties with Cuba.

The suit was infected with an incurable and painful skin disease called "Madura Foot," the breathing apparatus was infected with tuberculli bacteria. It never reached Castro. Another plot involved a \$150,000 pay-off to U.S. mobsters for a "hit" on Fidel.

Despite all these, Cuba is nowhere near collapse today. Its situation is a sharp contrast to that of a newly-liberated Cuba fighting for its life in the 1960s. Its economic and social gains are in fact inspiring impoverished peoples of or Latin American countries towards revolution—to the consternation of their respective regimes.

### But Cuba Won't Die

In agriculture, sugar harvest, now 45% mechanized, doubled in five years. Vegetable production increased by 30%, milk by 54%. Production of electricity doubled, and fish catch increased by 29%.

Cuba maintains that "building socialism is a voluntary task" and requires "a high educational, political, and cultural level."

### Gains in Education and Health

In the last five years, primary school graduates increased by 50%, secondary school graduates by 340%, and graduates of technical schools by 400%, and college graduates by 200%.

Cuban publishing houses have turned out an amazing 200 million books in the last five years and amateur cultural groups involve 250,000 members.

Additionally, enrollment in medical school has increased

extensive support from the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries which have contracted its sugar and nickel over long periods at prices well above the ever fluctuating "free" world market.

In 1972 the Soviets and Cuba agreed to defer 1.3 billion rubles in accumulated loans for development until 1986, without interest and payable in 25 years. Anyone familiar with World Bank and IMF terms will appreciate how much of a relief this is.

### Not Isolated Internationally

Far from being isolated internationally as the U.S. wishes it to be, Cuba maintains diplomatic relations with hundreds of governments and chairs the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations. While maintaining fraternal ties with Latin America's traditional communist parties, Cuba also has open and friendly relations with opposing political tendencies in the left.

### U.S. Attacks Continue

But vicious anti-Cuban propaganda continues from Washington, D.C. Ronald Reagan has declared terrorism as the number one threat to world peace and has declared Cuba as one of the "centers of world terrorism."

Reagan is tirelessly pointing to Cuba as the source of the revolutionary movement in El Salvador, as if the abuses of the junta did not exist.

Heavy press coverage is given to counter-revolutionaries and anti-social elements fleeing Cuba to the U.S. in an effort to discredit Cuba's accomplishments.

Most ominously, Washington has also issued veiled threats of military invasion. Fresh batches of Cuban mercenaries are openly training in military exercises in Cuba.

But as Castro said in his latest speech, and as proven by the country's long march to progress despite overwhelming difficulties, "Cuba is a tough nut to crack." □



The tilling of state farms is now totally mechanized. Also, 555 dairies, 95 calf nurseries, and 61 poultry farms have began operating.

However, agriculture was seriously affected by a series of exotic diseases that destroyed a huge portion of young sugar plants, 25% of tobacco, and 90% of Cuba's pigs were claimed by a swine fever (flu).

by 8,027; dental schools by 1,138.

This explains the drastic increase in school and hospital construction. It also explains why Cuba boasts of the highest literacy rate, the lowest infant mortality rate, the most number of doctors per capita, and the lowest incidence of tuberculosis in all Latin America.

Much of Cuba's gains have undoubtedly been achieved with

# Gleaning the Junk of A Rich Empire

By EARL MARTIN  
Reprinted from Sojourners

Catching the first rays of the Philippine sun, we pause in the high cogon grass. Inday chuckles softly. "There it is, the rough road. The other side's the base."

One of Inday's neighbors who has joined our furtive mission gives the "all-clear," and we scurry across the rough road and set foot on the backwoods perimeter of the largest American military base in the western Pacific, the Subic Naval Base.

Inday pauses again, absorbing all stimuli. Clad in hiking pants, her hair tied back in a bandanna, this woman exudes the air of a savvy guerrilla. She is armed only with an empty rice sack.

"Down!" Inday orders instinctively. Only after we're thoroughly hidden in the high grass for 20 seconds do I hear it: a jeep approaching on the rough road. We are motionless as the jeep passes just meters from our hiding place.

"An American Marine," Inday reports. "But this one's not after us. He's probably driving up to the radar station. Remember, when we proceed, if anyone gets

caught by a Marine, give no names or information about the others."

What was our clandestine mission? Let's code name it "Operation Scavenger." I was joining what could possibly rank as one of the world's largest underground ecological recycling operations. Every day (or night) up to 1,000 persons sneak onto the U.S. Subic Naval Base in the Philippines to salvage junk from the American refuse dump. At an estimated recovery rate of 20 pesos (U.S. \$3.50) each, these nimble recyclers may save \$3,000 worth of goods per day from being buried forever by the dump's bulldozer.

## Dump Only Source of Income

But the American military authorities do not recognize these people of the nearby Cabalan barrio as environmental caretakers. Indeed, U.S. Marine guards and their Filipino counterparts hunt these "scavengers" daily in an attempt to apprehend them. If caught, the villagers will be taken into the base, booked for trespassing, and turned over to the Philippine police. Sometimes the police will release them, especially the women and children; after several hours. Sometimes the scavengers will be im-

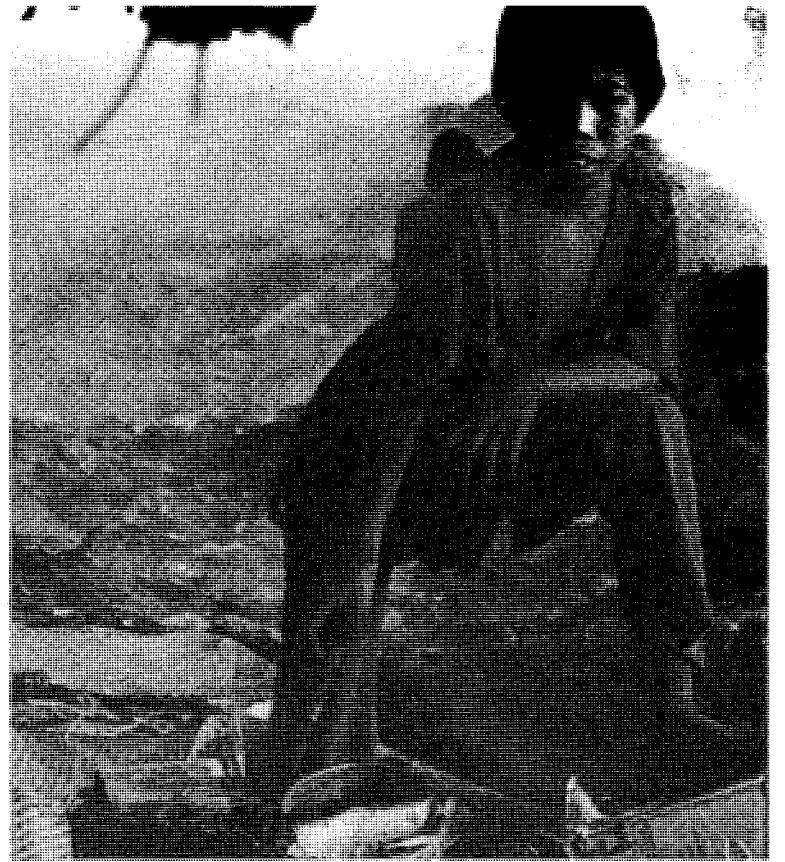
prisoned for a day, or for multiple offenders, perhaps a week or a month.

Nor, in fact, would it occur to the people of Cabalan to think of themselves as guardians of the ecological order. Their motivation is more immediate: survival for their families. The 700 families of Cabalan live on untillable hill-sides. What level farmland exists in the region lies within the 36,000 acres controlled by the U.S. Navy, inaccessible to the farmers. The base also denies many coastal waters to fishing. Hence, for the people of Cabalan, the American dump is the leading source of income.

## Satisfying the Appetites of U.S. Soldiers

Inday and her son, Richard Lawrence, have lived in Cabalan for seven years. Inday was born 39 years ago in the impoverished central islands of the Philippines. Looking for work, she had 12 years ago come to Olongapo, the nearby city that caters to the appetites of American sailors who come and go from the Subic Bay.

During the Vietnam War, Olongapo became a famous "rest and relaxation" center for American troops. Even today, about 3,000 to 13,000 U.S. troops, de-



pending on how many ships are in port, enter Olongapo City every day. The streets of Olongapo are lined with night club after night club after bar after disco after bar after souvenir shop after night club. The number-one health problem of the city is venereal disease.

During her years in Olongapo, Inday had a relationship with an American soldier who some months later was sent back to Vietnam. Inday gave birth to Richard Lawrence, now a handsome lad of eight with dark curly hair and quick mischievous eyes.

"The father used to send me money to support Richard," Inday told me the day before our scavenging foray. "Then one day I got a letter from his mother saying that he had been killed in Vietnam. Soon after, I moved out here to Cabalan barrio. I didn't want Richard to grow up among all the clubs and bars. I want my son to have a good life. That's why I go to the dump every day. To provide for Richard."

## A "Security" Problem

Now, the following morning, we are pushing our way onward through the deserted property of the base toward the dump. As we walk, Inday explains that the scavengers sell their junk to village middlemen who in turn sell it to Manila firms at 100% markup. She says the middlemen pay by the kilogram (2.2 pounds). Clean plastic bags and wrappers: 40¢ (₱2.50) per kilo. Aluminum cans: 60¢ a kilo. Plywood and other boards: 15¢. If your luck at the dump yields copper piping, you get \$1.65 a kilo.

"I used to be able to carry 30 kilos per trip," Inday tells me. "But now with more Marines chasing us, I can't stop and rest, so I average only 15 or 20 kilos a day."

Why are the Marines sent to chase the scavengers? In subsequent days I would address that question to Lt. Com. Frederic Leeder, Public Affairs Officer on the naval base. "We work with it as a security problem," Leeder would reply. "We have 1300 American families and lots of equipment here we have to protect. Things have occasionally been stolen from the living quarters by people who come onto the base illegally. You'll have this problem anywhere in the world, but it's particularly difficult when the economic level of the base people and the surrounding community are so different."

## "Take Your Garbage Home"

Indeed, this morning as we leave the high cogon grass and enter a bird-filled jungle forest, Inday is telling that a few of the

villagers sometimes did proceed to the housing area of the base—several kilometers from the dump—and steal personal or base belongings. "There are some thieves, but they're different from the scavengers," Inday insists. "Why don't the Marines let us alone and just catch the thieves? We scavengers never go into the main part of the base. But if they catch us they burn the trash we've picked up and arrest us. I think that's cruel."

What do the villagers say when arrested by the Marines, I ask Inday. "Oh, we tell them what we think," Inday declares. "I have a girl friend who was caught, and she told that Marine, 'If you don't want us poor people coming and picking up the junk that you throw out, then you take your garbage back to the United States and dump it there.'"

## Acre of Junk—Source of Life

Suddenly Inday's hands shoots up, and we all halt in silence. Our scout has detected movement on the path in front of us. Inday slips off her rubber sandals. She whispers, "You can run faster this way."

False alarm. No Marines. Just several villagers laden with board and scrap metal returning from the dump. When they spot me a look of fright flashes over their and they prepare to drop their booty and flee into the grass. Our scout quickly reassures them, explaining that I am not a Marine, just a Church worker who wants to learn the life of the scavengers.

Eventually we emerge on a hidden rocky ledge where a dozen other villagers are watching our target 200 meters ahead and below: the American dump. To my untrained eye it is as nondescript as any dump in the world. But this acre of junk is the source of life for 700 families in Cabalan barrio.

## Bases—Source of Danger

I can see in the distance the warehouses, the fuel tanks, and the derricks of the American naval base. Overhead, jet fighters on test runs screech out their ominous fury. This is the base which, together with its sister, Clark Air Field, 70 kilometers to the northeast, attracted an American promise of \$500 million over five years in military aid monies to the Marcos government.

Many Filipinos, including many who live in the environs of the base and have become economically dependent on them, will say they want the bases to stay. A growing number of Filipinos, however, see the bases as preventing the Philippines from becoming truly independent from

Continued on page 4

# Election Boycott . . .

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have started coming to opposition groups here in the U.S. revealing the seriousness of the movement's intention to frustrate the Marcos election policy.

## Groups Mushroom; In the U.S.: 'Balik-Boycot'

"Expose and oppose the fake plebiscite and the fake election!" calls the People's Opposition to the Plebiscite and Election (PEOPLE), one of the earliest boycott groups formed. PEOPLE already staged a rally at the University of the Philippines.

Another group joining the boycott, raises the call "Dismantle the U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship." This is the *Komite sa Pagsulong ng Pambansang Kasarinlan* (KPPK) or Committee for the Advancement of National Independence.

The Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines (CLUP) headed by ex-Senator Jose Diokno is also with the boycott movement.

"Boycott is penalized by martial law decrees," says the CLUP in a paper entitled *"The Plebiscite and the Foreign Connection,"* "but it remains a powerful political weapon if employed, not cynically, but deliberately to express dissent and if those who employ it are prepared to face the consequences."

Here, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) which is in the process of changing its name, is supporting the boycott with an educational campaign.

"We are calling for a 'Balik-Boycot' movement," stated Rene Cruz, AMLC National Coordinator. "We are urging Filipinos to write to their families asking them to boycott the elections."

## Elite Opposition Bends to Mass Pressure

Though initially undecided on running a candidate, the elite opposition announced April 16

that it intends to boycott the elections too. It has thus forced Marcos to run unopposed.

The elite opposition represented by UNIDO (The United Democratic Opposition), could not come to a unified stance up to the last minute. Even ex-Senator Benigno Aquino's meeting with Salvador Laurel in Tokyo last month (see AK, Vol. VII, No. ) failed to resolve the question of "participation or boycott."

But the pressure from the boycott movement was already too strong. Even UNIDO members Purita Kalaw-Ledesma and Gerardo Roxas were already drawn into PEOPLE's boycott activities as early as April 8.

Ferdinand Marcos further pushed UNIDO toward a boycott by refusing to give in to any of its demands. Aquino and Laurel, who had hoped to take part in the election finally changed their minds.

## The 'Foreign Connection'

UNIDO leaders say they are participating in the boycott primarily because they believe the election will be rigged.

Meanwhile, the CLUP and mass-based groups such as KPPK and PEOPLE reiterate that no genuine election can ever take place under Marcos' monopoly of political power.

They also state that the fake election is being staged for the benefit of Marcos' "foreign connections."

"The legitimization and institutionalization of the martial law regime through . . . the 'election' of its puppet dictator is . . . a step to gain the confidence of the U.S. Congress if not of the more discerning American people. It is a step toward even more military aid," says the KPPK.

Similarly, the CLUP says that for the Marcos regime to prevent economic collapse and remain in power it "must get foreign loans, investments, or aid, and to do so, it must ingratiate itself with the U.S. government, the

World Bank and foreign creditors and investors."

PEOPLE points out that "the lessons of Iran and Nicaragua are only too clear to the imperialists. Powerful nationalist movements brought down the tyrants Somoza of Nicaragua and Shah Pahlevi of Iran—and along with them the system of U.S. domination and control which had been identified with their hated regimes."

Activists from these grassroots groups consider those who will participate in the election as contributing to its legitimization.

## Campaign Extends to the Countryside

Not only Manila-based groups have expressed their militant opposition to the Marcos "circus." Belated reports reveal that Marcos' proposed amendments were actually defeated in certain towns of Mindanao and the Visayas.

Even more dramatic, however, was the anti-plebiscite actions taken by the New People's Army which staged simultaneous raids on polling places in seven different provinces.

In three villages of Cagayan, three in Samar, and four in Zamboanga del Sur, NPA guerrilla confiscated ballot boxes. In one highly-coordinated move, NPA members swooped down on voting centers in Calbiga and Hinabangan, Samar. As they removed ballot boxes, they told voters that the plebiscite was a "Marcos gimmick" to institutionalize "an illegal government."

In other places, polling had to be suspended or polling centers moved because of NPA activity. NPA fighters everywhere urged voters present to boycott.

"This is just a beginning," a U.S.-based observer commented on the snowballing boycott activities. "The boycott movement was barely off the ground during the plebiscite. Given the momentum developing now, the election could mean a really hot time for Marcos." □