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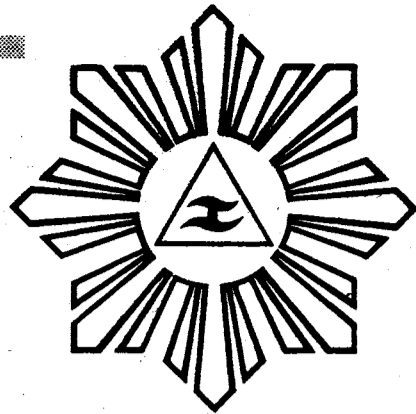
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# KATIPUNAN

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"UNITE THE FILIPINO PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES"

## I-HOTEL TENANTS SAY 'WE WON'T MOVE'!

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

SAN FRANCISCO — Even though the judge has ruled, "evict them," the residents of the International Hotel here are determined to stay and fight!

Disregarding a 7-5 jury opinion in favor of the tenants following a three-week trial, Superior Court Judge Ira Brown rendered his own decision last April 30 in favor of the hotel's owners, Four Seas Investment Corp.

The 80-some residents of the I-Hotel, mostly elderly Filipino and Chinese men, have been waging a struggle since 1968 to stop the demolition of their Chinatown-Manilatown home.

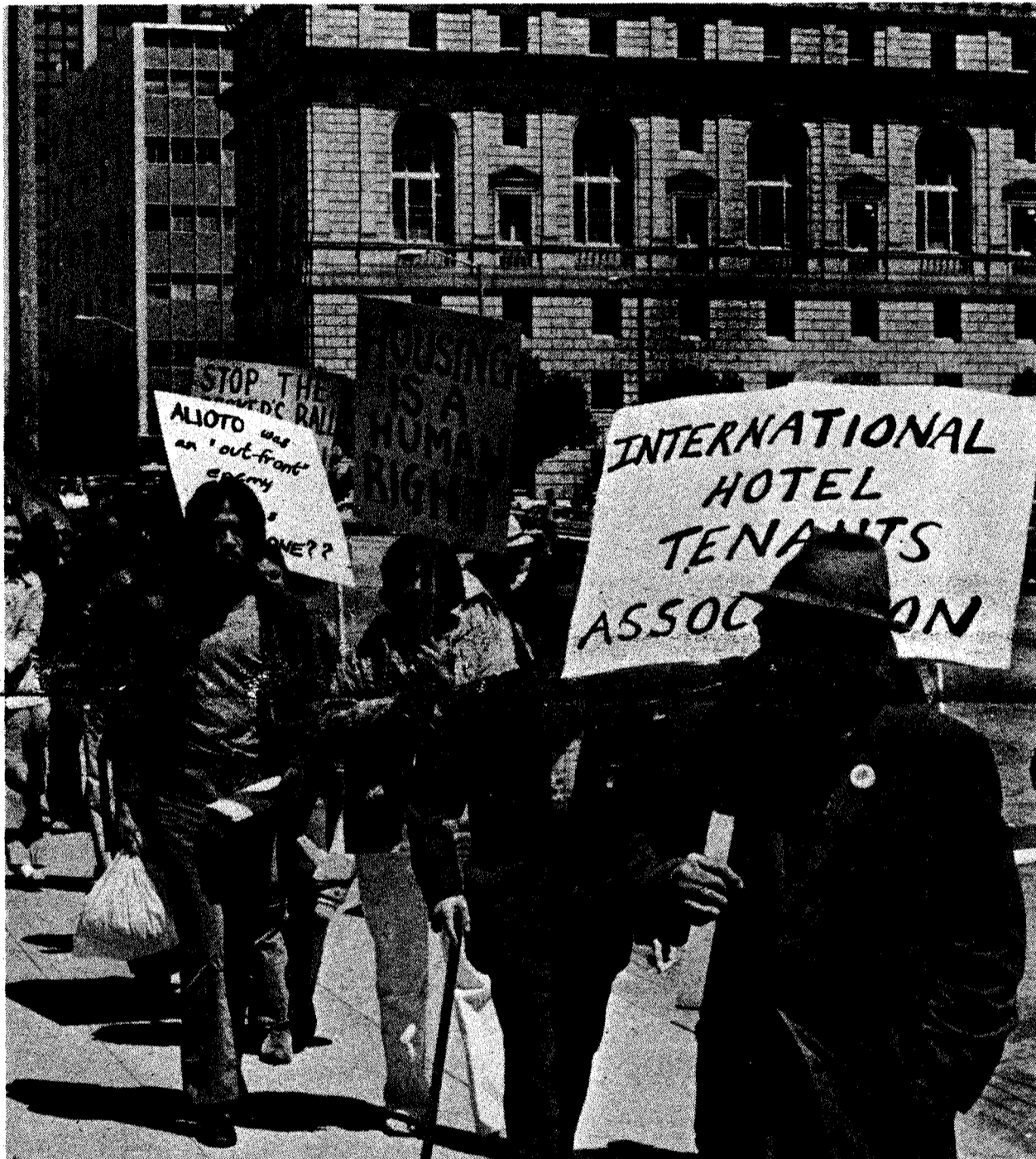
### PROFITS OVER PEOPLE

The Four Seas maintains that eviction is necessary because the City has ordered them to either repair the building up to code or demolish the structure.

The I-Hotel Tenants Association argues, however, that they have already repaired nearly all the code violations listed in the City's abatement list. The IHTA's contractor, Jim Holland has estimated that only \$4,000 more is needed to complete the repairs — substantially less than the cost of tearing down the building!

"Anyone that comes down here can see how much repair work that we have done," states Joe Diones, manager of the I-Hotel, "Look up there, those are smoke detectors, even the fanciest hotels don't have such devices. Of course, we had to pay

(continued on page 7)



SAN FRANCISCO — I-Hotel tenants and their many supporters demonstrated in front of City Hall May 16, 1976 to protest the impending eviction. (AK-KDP photo)

### PHILIPPINES

## THOUSANDS RALLY ON MAY DAY

By BERNARD WIDEMAN  
Far Eastern Economic Review

MANILA — President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines thought he had picked just the right time. He smiled as cheers greeted his announcement to leaders of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) during a May 1 Labor Day celebration at Malacañang Palace that workers were going to be given a long-awaited increase in their minimum wage. But in another part of Manila, news of his announcement was resoundingly booed by workers and students, 3,000 of whom then staged the wildest demonstration yet seen under martial law.

After a number of speeches calling for unity and  
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## Catholic Church Releases Findings On Philippine Political Prisoners

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### UNCTAD

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# EDITORIAL

## Imelda's Trial Balloon Explodes in Los Angeles

By BRUCE OCCENA  
K.D.P. National Executive Board

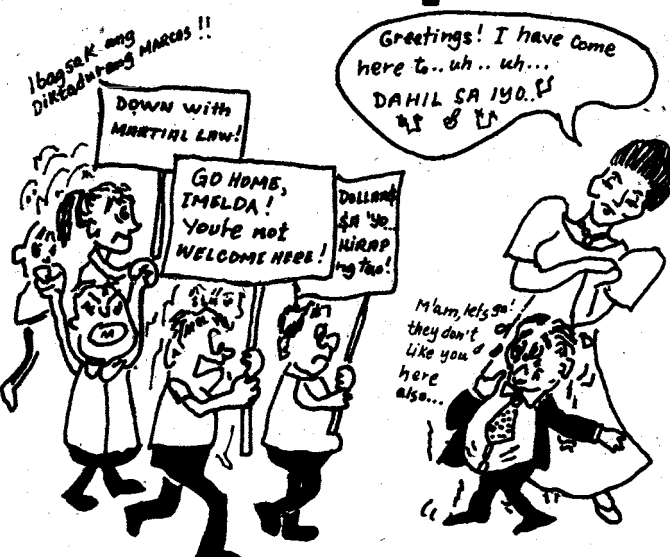
Unconfirmed reports keep circulating that Imelda Marcos is scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles around the time of June 12-July 4 Bicentennial activities in the Filipino community. These persistent rumors have caused stirrings in the community for over two months now. What has emerged is a clear message for Malacanang - *Imelda is not welcome. Please go somewhere else!*

It all began when the Los Angeles Optimist Club announced its plans to hold a community fiesta on June 12. Part of the hesitancy of other community groups to join in stemmed from the rumor that the Optimists had invited Imelda as the "guest of honor" (sic).

"No," they said in a meeting, "this is not true. We have not extended any invitation to Imelda." They all then agreed that the martial law regime was too controversial and the presence of Imelda would be disruptive and create disunity.

Yet the rumor of Imelda's impending visit has not died down, but has kept re-surfacing again and again. When is she coming? Who invited her? When asked, the Los Angeles Philippine Consulate has even denied the reports. Recently, however, in what appears to have been an "extra precautionary measure," the newly-formed United Filipino-American Assembly of Southern California (a gathering of various community organizations) voted unanimously not to invite any high level officials of the Marcos government from Manila to attend the community festivities planned for June and July. This resolution, obviously aimed at Imelda, shows the sincere attempts to maintain unity inside the Los Angeles Filipino community.

But what an embarrassing state of affairs for Malacanang! Here the "first lady" of the Philippines seems to be "fishing for an



invitation" and no one is prepared to openly extend it to her "on behalf of the Filipino community." Why? Because each passing day the anti-people activities of the Marcos clan become harder and harder to defend! Even the more conservative elements in our communities are becoming timid in their open defense of the Marcos regime.

After three and a half years of the "new society" (sic), still no civil liberties, nor free elections, no land reform, no economic recovery" for the Filipino people!

Meanwhile, the Marcos dynasty continues to expand its ill-gotten wealth and "institutionalize" its corruption. Imelda has certainly become the epitome of all the hated pretensions and ambitions of the Marcos regime. The crimes of the Marcos family against the Philippine nation are too numerous! Gone forever are the days when she could successfully charm people with her "gracefulness" and a second-rate rendition of "Dahil Sa 'Iyo." Imelda has clearly become the target of contempt and the source of embarrassment for patriotic and democratic-minded Filipinos.

Ah, but will Imelda have the last laugh? This may be the question on many people's minds. After all, she is known to be head-strong and vindictive, and may show

up in Los Angeles in spite of all the attempts to discourage her visit. But if she is foolish enough to show her face, all indications are that she will not be laughing. The Alliance Against Martial Law in Los Angeles has already begun active preparations to give Imelda the kind of reception she *really* deserves! Attempts are still being made to verify whether she will be going to Los Angeles and what her itinerary would be. At best, Imelda will have to sneak in and around town - more like an outlaw than a "first lady" (sic)...How appropriate, when one considers the nature of the regime and ruling elite she represents. □

## 'Something to be Proud Of...'

By TRINITY ORDONA  
K.D.P. National Executive Board

For those Filipinos who saw "Isuda Ti Immuna" (They Who Were First), it was a production that the Filipino community can be proud of.

This pride stems not only from the fine performance itself - in acting, dancing and staging - but also from the knowledge of Filipino-American history that it transmitted.

Through a very creative use of drama, music and dance, the hopes and struggles of the first Filipinos in America were poignantly relived before us... their dreams of America, the limited opportunities once they were here, the racist insults and attacks, the taxi dance halls and card rooms, the exploitation of their labor in the sugar canefields and farming lands, and finally as part of the American Labor Movement.

This history is itself a source of pride - seeing our people's hardships, but also seeing Filipinos stand up, fight back, organize and thus contribute to the betterment of American society.

In addition, the Filipino community can also be proud that "Isuda" was put on through the cooperation and efforts of young and older Filipinos here in the Bay Area. One could easily tell this, judging from the large audience and the sponsors and donors listed in the program. Working together successfully like this is also a notable accomplishment and a contribution to the growth, unity and strength of the progressive Filipino people's movement.

"Isuda Ti Immuna" as a whole is therefore an important contribution of progressive culture to the Filipino community in both content and perspective. We hope to see more performances like "Isuda" that encourage and develop culture relevant to the needs of the Filipino community. □

## FILIPINO COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE JUNE 12

There are so many June 12th activities being planned across the country that almost every Filipino in the U.S. will probably be able to celebrate this day with his fellow kababayan.

And though these activities vary from one to another, one significant aspect holds true throughout - they are bringing Filipinos together in a proud self-assertion of our Philippine national heritage.

Certainly if this noticeably good trend continues, June 12 will easily become a traditional day for Filipinos here - a "Filipino National Day." So far, the following activities are planned:

**NEW YORK:** The Philippine National Day Committee, composed of some 12 Filipino groups, will sponsor a fiesta at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens on June 12. The event, at the U.S. Pavilion, begins at 10 a.m. with food booths, displays, games (like pabitin, palo - sebo). From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. there will be a program of speakers and cultural entertainment.

**PHILADELPHIA:** On June 19, various Filipino community groups will host a fiesta at the Independence Mall, climaxing a week of activities sponsored by the Philippine Executive Council. A program is being planned around the theme of "Filipino Contributions in Building America."

**CHICAGO:** An informal picnic and program are planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Labagh Woods at Cicero and Foster on June 12. Participants are encouraged to bring food for themselves and to share. The program will

include a speaker on the significance of "June 12," as well as dancing and singing.

**SEATTLE:** A number of groups and individuals have recently met and agreed to sponsor a June 12 activity. Tentatively, a fiesta day and program will be held in the International District, possibly at Hing Hay Park.

**OAKLAND/BERKELEY:** "A National Day of Celebration" on June 12 will be sponsored by a committee of various Filipino groups in the East Bay. Tentatively, the fiesta is planned at Laney College in Oakland. Food, game and display booths are being developed, as well as a cultural program. Activities will begin at 11 a.m. and will extend through the afternoon.

**SAN JOSE:** At the Filipino Community Center on N. 6th street, an informal picnic, with booths and program is being sponsored on Sunday, June 13 by groups and individuals in the San Jose community. The event will go from the morning through the afternoon.

**LOS ANGELES:** On June 12 and 13, the Optimist Club, with the participation of various other Filipino groups in the Los Angeles area, is sponsoring "Pista sa Nayon" at MacArthur Park. Food, games and displays will be available on both days, with the main program Saturday at noon.

**HAWAII:** A potluck picnic and program is scheduled at the Susannah Wesley Community Center in Kalihi on June 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The program includes dancing and singing, as well as speakers on local community issues. □

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## BEHIND NAIROBI CONFERENCE

# Marcos Seeks Limelight as 'New Third World Leader'

By ROMY DE LA PAZ

Seeking a new propaganda cover for his dictatorship at home, Pres. Ferdinand Marcos went to the recent U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Nairobi, Kenya pretentiously projecting himself as a new "emerging leader" of the Third World.

This "image" was promoted even more so when Marcos presented to the UNCTAD the Manila Declaration, a statement calling for a new economic order based on equity and justice and a radical departure from the present system largely controlled by Western industrialized countries. (This Declaration was drawn up by the 117-nation "Group of 77" during that Third Ministerial Conference in Manila last February. See page 14 for complete coverage of UNCTAD meeting.)

In identifying himself with the Third World, Marcos urged "developing nations to band together in a powerful bloc in a 'Third World economic system' to match the might of industrial nations."

### PHILIPPINE SUBSERVIENCE TO U.S. NEEDS

But Marcos' own domestic economic policies — subservient to the needs of the U.S. — is proof that he is merely paying lip service when he voices "support for self-reliance and non-alignment." The economic, political and military domination of the U.S. in the Philippines runs opposite to united Third World struggle "to achieve full permanent sovereignty over its natural resources and economic activities."

For example, Marcos' present economic development strategy hinges primarily on export-oriented, dollar-earning industries and foreign capital. Such a strategy has to rely mainly on the presence of private foreign investments in the Philippines.

As of 1975, the Department of Trade approved foreign investments into the country worth a total of \$566 million. The U.S. remained top investor with \$217.2 million, followed closely by Japan with \$117.8 million. These two countries alone make up 68 percent of total foreign investments for 1975 alone. ~~Since 1972, the Trade Department has approved the operation of about 70 multinational corporations in the Philippines, 70 percent of which~~

## Marcos - Rising Third World Leader?

Pres. and Imelda Marcos talking to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in their latest round of image building as "world leaders" at the UNCTAD.

Third World countries are pressing to establish a new international economic order based on equality and justice.



are U.S.-owned. On the whole, total U.S. investments is valued at \$2-3 billion.

This economic strategy has only meant the unlimited depletion of the country's natural resources and an unparalleled repatriation of profits, capital that is crucial in building a self-reliant economy. And the Marcos government has been responsible for encouraging, maintaining and further developing this inequitable system.

### PROPAGANDA COVER-UP

Evidently, Marcos' real reason for attending the UNCTAD can only be his overwhelming desire to project himself as an "international leader," a sophisticated approach in countering his growing isolation in the international community.

Marcos' visits to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Kenya, England, and his scheduled trip to the Soviet Union have been billed by the government-controlled press as "testimony to his growing stature as a world statesman."

However, these trips cannot obscure the repressive character of his dictatorship. Only last week, the Islamic Ministerial Conference held in Istanbul passed a resolution condemning his treatment of Muslims in the south. In Philadelphia, the International Press Institute (IPI) tagged the Philippines as

one of the countries that use torture against correspondents jailed for voicing their opposition against the dictatorship. In assessing foreign aid recipients, the U.S. Congress identified the Marcos government as a military dictatorship, committing gross violations of human rights against its people. Several U.S. newspapers have denounced the Marcos dictatorship in their editorials; the most recent was New York Times editorial of April 13 which referred to his regime as a "tin-horn dictatorship".

Despite press censorship, domestic opposition in the Philippines to the Marcos regime has also been given substantial coverage from the U.S. media: the armed struggle being waged by the New People's Army and the Bangsa Moro Army; and opposition in the cities by workers, students, slum dwellers and politicians. Recently, a New York Times article reported on the 100-page documentation on torture of political prisoners, a report released by the Assn. of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP).

But Marcos' seeming image as a "Third World leader" will never be "big" enough to hide the internal turmoil and discontent in his own country. Marcos has yet to learn that mere words are not enough to cover up his deeds. □

## Pagbabalikwas (In revolt)

### Diokno's Daughters Boycott Graduation

Ma. Serena and Ma. Teresa Diokno, daughters of former Sen. Jose Diokno, boycotted the March graduation rites at the University of the Philippines and waived their magna cum laude honors, to protest the presence of Pres. and Mrs. Marcos as commencement speakers. In a letter addressed to the University registrar, the sisters explained:

"We believe that the graduation rites should be a meaningful experience: at once an end and a beginning, a looking back and a looking forward, a parting and a welcoming. But the choice of Mr. Marcos as graduation speaker — and by implication, as an example for us to emulate — has robbed the experience of any meaning for us. Mr. Marcos stands for martial law; and we believe that martial law is incompatible with education for human freedom and dignity. We have felt the repressiveness of martial law within the campus; especially during the wave of arrests last January. The editor and managing editor of the Philippine Collegian are still detained. By choosing Mr. Marcos as graduation speaker the University authorities have, we feel, betrayed the ideals of academic freedom and human liberty that the University was founded to instill.

To take part in the graduation exercises would be for us, then, to take part in empty ceremonies, to bear witness by our presence to what we believe to be a sham." □

### Chinatown Dispute

The growing rift between the pro-People's China and pro-Taiwan factions in Manila's Chinatown has placed the Marcos regime in an embarrassing situation.

While recognizing the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people on the one hand, the regime has not severed its ties or withdrawn its support from the local Kuomintang. This contradictory stance was recently exposed during the Miss Chinatown contest sponsored last April by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Dept. of Tourism.

The government was represented on the panel of judges by Maj. Fabian Ver, presidential security chief, who was even conferred an honorary plaque bearing the flag of Taiwan Republic. The event was boycotted and denounced by pro-People's China forces who called the contest a perpetuation of the exploitation of women as sex-objects and therefore, an unworthy representation of the Chinese woman.

Since the regime co-sponsored the event, it was understandably embarrassed. But instead of responding to the denunciation, the regime took a so-called "neutral stand" and called for "unity in the Chinese community" and the "peaceful settling of ideological differences." Observers believe, however, that the eloquent-sounding unity call was intended as a veiled

threat to the pro-People's China faction to stop stirring up trouble. This speculation was based on the economic support of the Taiwan Republic for the Marcos regime: Taiwan ranks 11th in the country's list of top investors and has committed \$1.33 million in new investments. □

### Controversial Movie, Play

Despite the continued censorship of media, film and theater, two progressive and socially relevant shows have been recently produced by local artists. The shows, "Sakada" (Cane Cutter) and "Ang Walang-Kamatayang Buhay ni Juan de la Cruz Alyas..." (The Eternal Life of Juan de la Cruz Alias...) signify a break from the Hollywood replications so glorified by local filmdom.

"Sakada," a film produced by activist-critic Behn Cervantes, dramatizes the injustices and exploitation encountered by a family of poor sugarcane cutters in the hands of a wealthy landlord family. It portrays the particular oppression of each family member and their gradual awakening to the necessity of struggle. One poignant scene for example, shows the mother rousing the womenfolk to join the men in struggle. The epilogue expresses the inevitability of armed conflict between classes (peasant and landlord) whose interests are fundamentally opposed. Because the film has been widely acclaimed by film critics and has been a box office hit, martial law censors have refrained



"Sakada" - a movie about oppressed cane cutters.

from cutting the controversial scenes. Instead, they have insisted that a notice precede the film stating that the conditions depicted, existed before martial law was declared. (as if a mere notice could erase the fact that 431,000 sacadas are still slaving under the same conditions!)

"Ang Walang-Kamatayan ni Juan de la Cruz Alyas..." on the other hand, depicts the life and struggles of Citizen Juan (who symbolizes the Filipino common man) in multiple roles set in different stages of Philippine history.

According to a film critic, its single message reminds Filipino viewers made complacent by martial law of their historical and social responsibility to the country. Juan de la Cruz is the eternal militant who will continue to exist and live in spite of adversaries — he is steadfast, strong and pliant like a bamboo." □



## Buod ng mga Balita

(Gist of the News)

### POLICE NOW PROSECUTORS

Philippine Constabulary and police officers have been empowered to prosecute criminal cases before municipal courts in the absence of a fiscal, ordered Chief State Prosecutor Rudolfo Nocon. His ruling was made in line with Marcos' policy of "expediting cases" to decongest court dockets.

This so-called "speedy administration of justice" actually impairs the execution of justice as an arresting officer can be the same person to prosecute. Subject to whatever bias the arresting officer may develop during the arrest as well as being untrained in criminal law and court proceedings, the probability for the miscarriage of justice becomes even more likely under this new regulation. □



Defense Undersecretary Carmelo Barbero confers honors to military — who lord over the New Society's "justice" and crimes.

### MILITARY GANGSTERISM RAMPANT

"Crime rate in the country may yet be reduced by 50% by 1980," points out National Police Commissioner Teodulo Natividad. But if this statement is ever going to be true, it has to start with law enforcers themselves. As it is:

- Philippine Constabulary trooper Oscar Balas shot a cab driver when he sought the help of other cabbies to avert the holdup of another cabbie by the PC trooper.

- Four PC troopers from Camp Olivas, Pampanga led a P189,000 robbery-holdup of a Manila Bank branch in the area. The heist was pulled with the assistance of five prisoners from the camp stockade whom the troopers checked out for medical checkups. The heist was also pulled with a former military trainee.

- Manila patrolman Ronaldo Vidal was killed instantly by another patrolman, Isaias Saringan, in a gangland-style duel inside an eatery in Sampaloc, Manila.

- Five army soldiers were charged with killing three civilians and wounding another in Cagayan de Oro City.

- In a separate incident, Metro Manila governor Imelda Marcos ordered a crackdown on traffic violators in the Greater Manila Area. To the surprise of Land Transportation Commissioner Romeo Edu who supervised the drive, it was discovered that government officials and military and police officers are the habitual violators.

"How can we expect the ordinary motorist or public utility driver to obey traffic laws when ranking government officials and military and police officers themselves disregard the same rules?" □

### LAND REFORM A FLOP

Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella recently admitted that ownership of only 10% of the 759,015 hectares covered by "Operation Land Transfer" has been transferred from the landlords to the tenants. This belated admission is nonetheless significant, since Marcos made glowing promises to "emancipate the peasantry from bondage to the landlord," when he declared martial law three and a half years ago. Now it has been officially put on record that Marcos' much-flaunted "land reform" is a miserable failure. □

### REVERBS FROM HIJACK

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — The entire security unit of the Lumbia Airport, this city, was relieved of its duties as a result of the hijacking of a Philippine Air Lines DC-8 last April 16. At the same time, military officials denounced PAL officials of violating an alleged agreement to disable the BAC-111 originally being commandeered while the hijacking was in progress.

The same military authorities also said that they were "embarrassed before the public" because it seemed that they were the ones who succumbed to the threats of the hijackers to blowup the said plane.

Three Muslims were granted asylum in Libya after they successfully commandeered the PAL plane to that country and were paid a ransom of \$300,000. □

# EASTER REBELS TAKE REVENGE

By BERNARD WIDEMAN  
Far Eastern Economic Review

MANILA — The Philippine Government has suffered a severe, if temporary, reversal in its battle against Muslim rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front. According to delayed unofficial reports reaching Manila, Easter week was one of the worst for Government forces in Jolo. The 32nd Infantry Battalion lost an entire platoon in an ambush in Patikul municipality there. Sources who viewed the corpses said that the bodies were hacked with bolo knives and some were beheaded.

An officer from the Front, interviewed in Manila, says that the 32nd has been conducting operations in the Patikul area in recent weeks and had angered the local Muslim population by indiscriminately killing civilians during military encounters. He says that the ambushed platoon was eating in a temporary bivouac when the attack occurred. He believes that the attack was meant to avenge the abuses committed by the 32nd.

Military sources, while confirming the renewed heavy fighting, declined to state the number of casualties suffered. However, sources in Zamboanga say they counted a total of 72 bodies arriving in that headquarters city from Jolo in the space of five days. But an unknown number of the bodies are believed to be from other encounters besides the ambush. In any case, it makes Easter week of 1976 one of the most



Moro Bangsa Army troops rest at camp. The deceptive lull in Mindanao War over the past few months was broken by Easter Offensive which caught the government by surprise.

costly weeks ever in the on-going war.

In addition, MNLF forces in Zamboanga two weeks ago invaded a half-a-dozen villages 40 miles north of the city proper and took a number of hostages. This action came just as Dr. Ahmadu Karim Gaye, Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference, was due to arrive in Manila.

Dr. Gaye, of Senegal, was reliably reported to have told President Marcos he wanted to have a personal look at the situation before the conference convenes its annual meeting in Istanbul on May 10.

The current military reverses notwithstanding,

sources close to President Marcos say that the President has been able to remove the Muslim war from the forefront of his concerns in recent months. These sources say President Marcos was especially elated over the defeat of Tun Mustapha in the recent elections on Sabah. MNLF regional commanders had all gone to Sabah prior to the elections in expectation of a Mustapha victory and a resumption of arms shipments. These shipments, according to reliable sources, began to be curtailed last August because of Tun Mustapha's problems with Kuala Lumpur, and by December shipments had stopped completely. □

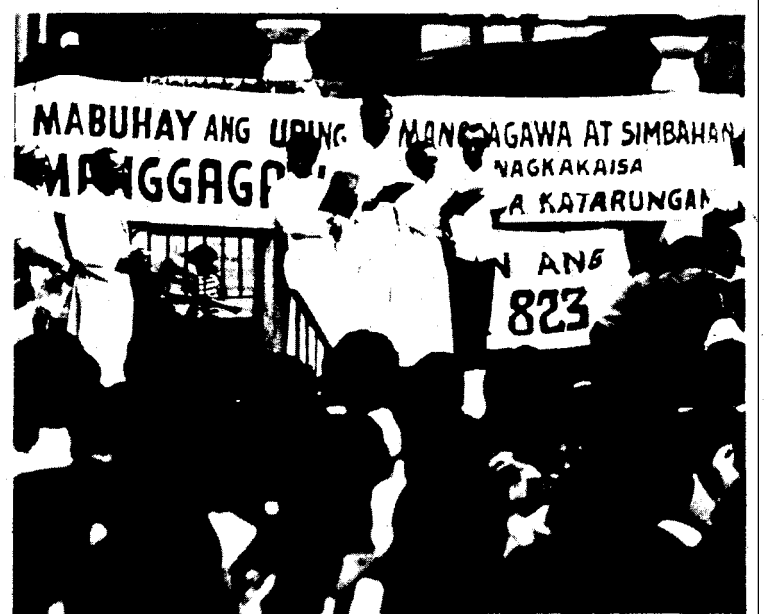
## Clergy Decries Harassment

The progressive wing of the Catholic Church representing some 800 priests and nuns and two bishops, has taken a unified stand against the repressive measures taken against them by the dictatorship. After a series of meetings held between Feb. 24 through March 7, the clergy condemned the regimes latest attempts to curtail their active participation in the political and social affairs of the country and vowed to defy any further threats.

During the March 7 convocation, the conference participants adopted a series of demands which include:

1. Lift Presidential Decree (PD) 823, which prohibits foreign missionaries from participating in any labor union activity without prior approval from the Dept. of Labor.

2. Return Reverend Cocquio and Alessi to the Philippines from Rome so that they may adequately defend themselves against charges pressed by the regime. (the two were arrested and hastily deported on Jan. 24 in connection with their work among Tondo's urban poor.)



Clergy participate in December 6 labor rally. Recent conference affirmed unity to continue participation in human rights struggle of the oppressed. (AK-KDP Photo)

3. Discontinue a new Immigration Bureau ruling, requiring foreign missionaries to submit self-incriminating information before their requests for visa and work permit extensions are granted.

The conference participants also declared that they will continue to work with laborers, peasants, and the urban poor especially in matters concerning the civil and

human rights of the Filipino people. They stressed that their role as religious will not be limited to spiritual matters.

The conference was significant in that it achieved consensus among a large sector of the church; and isolated the minority view espoused by the Catholic hierarchy that the church should limit itself to only the spiritual salvation of its constituents. □

# Church Reveals Torture, Abuse of Political Prisoners

By FRANCISCO OCAMPO

MANILA — A 100-page documentation of case histories of tortures, atrocities, anomalies, and murders committed against political prisoners by the Marcos government was released by the Philippine-based Association of Major Religious Superiors (AMRSP). This documentation will be presented to the United States Congress by the national Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) as part of its concerted efforts to expose the martial law government's violations of human rights. Such violations, according to the recently passed "human rights" amendment to the Foreign Aid Bill, will prevent further U.S. aid to the Marcos regime.

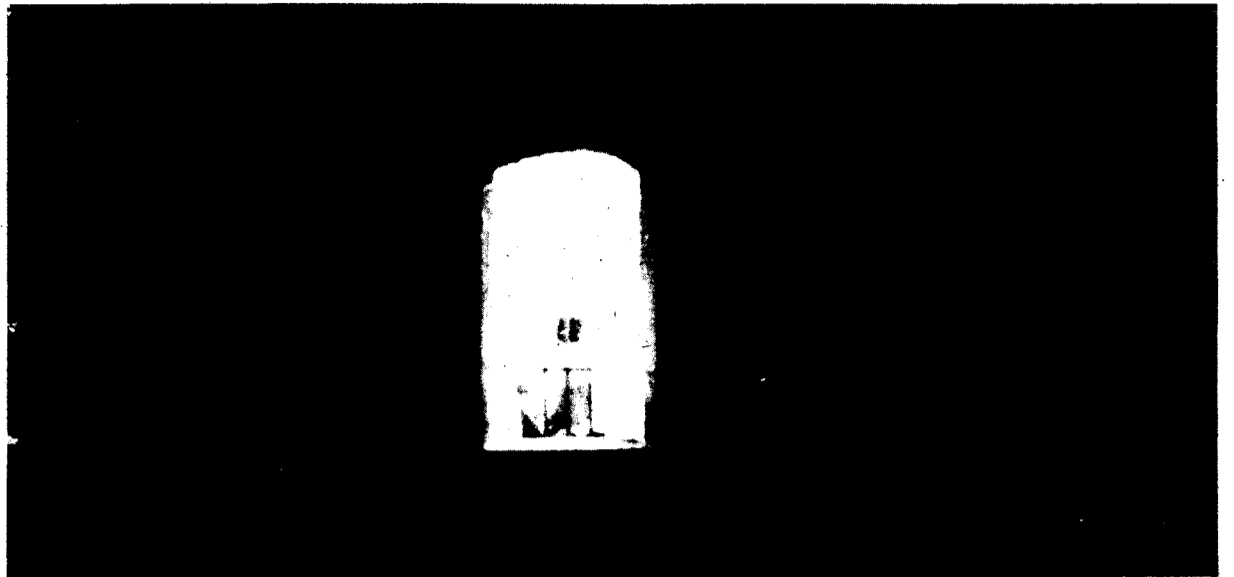
## DETAILED, AUTHORITATIVE

The documentation is divided into six parts: the **Context of the Problem** revealing the conditions under martial law that brought about untold sufferings of the Filipino people; **Political Detainees**, a description of who the political prisoners are, and reasons for detention and the charges (if there are) against them; a revelation of the extent of **Torture, Deaths, and Disappearances**; the **Rule of Law in the Philippines** — describes the systematic violation of the rights of political prisoners; the **response of the Church (to) the Political Detainees**; an anthology of case histories. The document is postscripted with questions of reflection on the necessity of tortures and its inhumanity.

The presence of political prisoners in the Philippines has been a very embarrassing issue for the Marcos government and denials after denials have been personally made by Pres. Marcos, but the Philippine church, civil libertarians and other anti-martial law forces there, as well as testimonies in the U.S. Congress have revealed otherwise. Even former Philippine Ambassador Amelito Mutuc has admitted this in testimony before the Subcommittee on International Organizations of the U.S. House of Representatives. More recently, Solicitor-general Estelito Mendoza admitted the presence of political prisoners before the Philippine Supreme Court.

The numbers of political prisoners have been estimated from between 5,000 to 30,000; an exact figure has been made impossible by the confirmed presence of hundreds of "safe houses" (private homes used secretly to detain, interrogate and torture prisoners) all over the country. The disappearance of several hundreds to thousands have been attributed to such "safe houses."

The political prisoners from various stockades in the greater Manila area estimated that 90 percent of them have been tortured. The methods of tortures documented are: application of lighted cigarettes to various parts of the body, including the ear and the genital area; electric shocks on different parts of the body including the genital area; stripping and sexual abuse (and sometimes rape and multiple rape); beating with fists and/or gun butts, sticks and rubber hoses; forcing the face into feces-contaminated toilet bowls; holding the victim's head under water until water is inhaled or consciousness is lost; squeezing the fingers with bullets inserted between them; using bright lights for long periods of time to cause pain or damage to the eyes; keeping the detainee from sleeping by interrogating him for long hours during the night; pressing a hot iron against the sole of the foot; and *higa sa hangin* (hanging in mid-air) treatment where the victim is made to lie down straight, suspended between two beds spaced in such a way that the head and feet support the weight of the



View of General Security Unit, the most feared detention center in the Philippines today which formerly was an arsenal. (Maryknoll)

whole body, and in this position, the victim is pummelled in the stomach and the thighs.

The documentator, the AMRSP, is composed of heads of more than 80 Roman Catholic male and female orders. It is also one of the most vocal in the anti-martial law movement in the Philippines. Its official bulletin, "Sign of the Times," a weekly

mimeographed publication that reports well-substantiated news of the repressive activities of the Marcos regime; a reporting that news dailies in the Philippines are unable to publish because of press censorship. The "Sign of the Times" has been ordered closed by Marcos, but the AMRSP politely, but militantly declined. □

## EXCLUSIVE:

# AMRSP REPORTS ON CONDITIONS IN DETENTION CAMPS

*Beginning this issue, we will serialize excerpts from the AMRSP study on political prisoners in the Philippines — an excellent documentation of the Marcos dictatorship's crimes against its incarcerated victims.*

— Editor

Who are the political detainees in the Philippines? Why are they detained? What are the charges against them?

For the most part those under detention are those "suspected activists," union organizers, "suspected subversives," suspected members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) or its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), those suspected of giving food or other assistance to the NPA (particularly farmers in the rural areas) or those suspected to be involved in alleged assassination plots against the President.

To date, only a small number have actually been publicly charged while the others simply remain detained without knowing the charges against them. Meanwhile, their relatives working for their release are referred from one military office to another in a taxing run-around.

Political detainees come from every sector of Philippine society. Opposition party members, former congressmen, delegates to the Constitutional Convention, farmers, workers, students, professionals, media people, slum dwellers, priests, pastors and sisters have been numbered among those detained for various lengths of time.

Approximately fifty priests and three Protestant pastors have been detained for periods ranging from a few hours to a few years. Four foreign priests were asked to leave the country voluntarily or be deported. One foreign priest insisted on a trial which began in November 1973 and was concluded in March 1974. The decision on his case was finally given on January 17, 1975 only after pressure from the religious sector. The Board of Immigration found no evidence to support the charges: nevertheless, he was put on three years probation. Last January 24, 1976, two Italian priests were summarily deported within five hours after their arrest without benefit of due process.

Those who are subjected to physical and/or psychological maltreatment are usually those suspected of subversion or of membership in the Communist Party of the Philippines, or those believed to have information concerning the activities and whereabouts of others.

In the rural areas there is greater likelihood for detainees to be shot to death on the spot while being arrested by drunken soldiers or by "non-organic intelligence units of the military, subject only to the NISA." Demands by the private sector for the punishment of the "non-organic personnel" have never been fruitful. The military usually claims no jurisdiction or claims they cannot locate the accused persons.

### THE PROBLEM OF STATISTICS

The government denies that there are political prisoners, but this is simply a matter of semantics

In his world press conference held on September 20, 1974, the eve of the second anniversary of the proclamation of martial law, the President said that "the

government has just released the last of the detention prisoners who are not facing criminal charges" (*Bulletin Today*, September 22, 1974). The President further stated that he "issued a directive on his last birthday, September 11, for the release of detainees against whom no charges have been filed in court although they are facing charges in the investigating body" (*Ibid.*).

However, just three months later, on December 11, 1974, the President announced on a nationwide radio-television address that he had just ordered the release of 622 detainees. In the course of his address the President said:

*In our jails today, there are 5,234 people under detention, in direct consequence of the martial law proclamation. Four thousand sixty-nine (4,069) of these are ordinary criminal offenders. One thousand one hundred sixty-five (1,165) are political detainees. These include those charged under Republic Act 1700, otherwise known as the anti-subversion act of 1957. (Bulletin Today, December 12, 1974).*

In the course of his testimony before the Subcommittee on International Organizations of the U.S. House of Representatives on June 17, 1975, former Philippine Ambassador Amelito Mutuc made the following statement:

*Regarding the charge that many persons have been detained for a long period of time without being charged, it would be worthwhile to note that a few weeks after the proclamation of martial law, about 30,000 persons were arrested and detained. After reading some papers here I think this figure is rather big, but anyway about a year ago this number was reduced to a mere 10,000. A month ago there were about 6,000 detainees. Out of this about 3,000 are charged, before the civil courts and the other 3,000 are charged before the military tribunal. (Cf. Sub-committee hearings published under the title, Human Rights in South Korea and the Philippines: Implications for U.S. Policy, p. 286.)*

On December 25, 1975, some 545 persons were listed in the government controlled press as having been released for Christmas. As analysis of this list revealed that there were at least 14 duplications of names and 21 names of detainees who had been released more than three months before. Some had spent one or two Christmases outside of detention before this announcement "to release the detainees to enable them to join their families on Christmas." At least one has been verified to be still under detention at this writing.

More recently, in the *habeas corpus* case heard in the Supreme Court on behalf of Fr. Jose R. Nacu, MS, on January 14, 1976, Solicitor-General Estelito P. Mendoza admitted that there were 4,000 political detainees still in the stockades around the country.

In the light of such contradictory statements from the government, it is next to impossible to get accurate data on the actual number of political detainees. As yet statistics of Church organizations on the number of detainees in the provinces are incomplete.

(continued on page 6)

### PEOPLE'S WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES

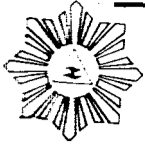
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(KDP) Union of Democratic Filipinos

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 'Democracy in the Philippines' to be Reviewed

# Macapagal Offers No Real Alternative

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA



Since ex-President Diosdado Macapagal unsuccessfully sought political asylum from the U.S. Embassy in Manila last April 1, certain quarters in the anti-Marcos movement have expressed profuse admiration for his "heroism" in the face of threats by the Marcos regime.

More recently, Macapagal's book, "Democracy in the Philippines" has been accorded great publicity and praise - "the most stinging and devastating assault against martial law yet." (Philippine News)

This book, widely circulated among U.S. policy-makers and serialized in some Filipino newspapers is being promoted as presenting the most viable alternatives to martial law. Among them, the convening of the Ad Interim National Assembly, a call for the Armed Forces to stage a coup d'etat, and inferences that the U.S. should find a more loyal ally to replace Marcos.

While Macapagal's actions warrant some merit (as do all actions that serve to expose and isolate the current dictatorship), the history of this man, and the alternatives presented in his book, cast grave doubt on the sincerity of this protest against martial law and his concern for the interests of the Filipino people.

Why, for example, is he insistent upon the convening of the Interim National Assembly provided for by the 1973 Marcos Constitution when he himself acknowledges the illegality of said constitution? Is it because the convoking of the National Assembly would provide him with a second chance to be head of state?

And why should he suggest that the U.S. abandon Marcos in favor of other "outstanding political leaders...capable of winning the presidency or premiership...that are to varying degree friendly to the U.S.?" Is it because his past experience has taught him that the making and breaking of Philippine presidents lies in the hands of the U.S. government, multinational corporations, or the CIA?

In essence, Macapagal's alternatives calls for the restoration of the old order, replete with the historical problems that have plagued Philippine

society. What was Macapagal's role in fomenting the problems that burden the Filipino people today?

### MACAPAGAL'S RECORD

• In 1961, he ushered in the era of the now almost worthless peso when he acceded to an International Monetary Fund dictated policy to devalue the peso by almost 100 percent (from P2.00 to P3.80 per U.S. dollar). This development, which triggered price increases of prime commodities, further depressed the buying power of worker's wages.

• In 1964, he refused to act upon the flagrant abuses committed by U.S. servicemen on Filipino bases workers despite unrelenting public pressure to do so.

• In the most brazen act of puppetry, Macapagal in 1963, committed Philippine troops to support the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam.

Certainly the Marcos dictatorship has not fared any better in the alleviation of the basic problems of the Filipino people, despite his deceptive "new-society" reforms. In fact, Marcos has only compounded these problems of foreign domination, land ownership, corruption, etc., by replacing the rule of the wealthy handful, with that of only one dictator.

### MACAPAGAL: RETURN TO OLD POWER

Thus Macapagal essentially calls for the return of power to the hands of a few and mainly laments the abrupt intrusion of martial law in curtailing his political career and those of his colleagues.

As the resistance to the Marcos dictatorship broadens and accelerates, questions regarding the viable alternatives to martial law and who will be able to provide genuine leadership to the Filipino people's resistance will continue to emerge. In this context, Macapagal's call for the restoration of the old corrupt order must be rejected.

His program provides no genuine alternative to the Filipino people's long-standing problems. Only a political program which fulfills the people's cherished desire for national sovereignty, complete redistribution of the land, and a better life for the toiling masses can be an acceptable alternative for the Filipino people.

From this standpoint, a three-part critique devoted to the major arguments of Macapagal's "Democracy in the Philippines" and discussion of the alternatives to martial law will be serialized in the following issues of ANG KATIPUNAN. □

## AMRSP REPORT...

(continued from page 5)

As of February the detainees in the stockades in the Greater Manila Area and in some of the provincial stockades numbered as follows:

DETENTION CENTER	NUMBER
Camp Crame	
Fifth Constabulary Security Unit (5th CSU)	40
Stockade 4	70
Metrocom Stockade (M-2)	none
Station Hospital	4 (nursing mothers and babies)
Central Intelligence Service (CIS)	1
Fort Bonifacio	
Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRC)	33
Maximum Security Unit (MSU)	20-25
Metrocom South Sector	14
Sampaguita, Muntinglupa	approx. 100
V. Luna Hospital	none
Camp Olivas, Pampanga	75
National Mental Hospital	2
Albay PC Stockade	49
Sorsogon PC Stockade	24
Camarines Norte and Sur PC Stockades	54
Iloilo Constabulary Camp	
Rehabilitation Center	5-10
Quezon PC Stockade	12

This accounts for 510 of the total number of detainees. There are many provincial centers where groups of farmers are brought in with the accusation that they have "supported the NPA" by giving food when asked by dissident groups. The number and conditions of these farmers is unknown. It was, however, reported in August 1975 that there were approximately 40 farmers detained in a provincial stockade in Nueva Ecija and another group at Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna.

In addition there is an undetermined number of safe-houses where detainees are brought for "tactical interrogation" and some are not heard from again.

### A NEW WAVE OF ARRESTS

The new year 1976 dawned with tension mounting between the government and the worker, urban poor and student sectors, resulting in the biggest wave of arrests in the Greater Manila Area since the imposition of martial law in September 1972. Between January 10 and 25, some 300 workers, slumdweller, students and professionals were arrested in the Greater Manila Area alone. By the beginning of March, some of them had been temporarily released, a few subjected to torture and at least four were still missing, although believed to be in "safehouses" somewhere in the Greater Manila Area or near Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

This wave of arrests was clearly due to the mounting protests of workers and the urban poor against their increasingly deteriorating situation. By 1975, prices had increased by more than three times the pre-martial law level and yet the workers' minimum wage remained 8.00 pesos per day (about \$1.00). Approximately one-third of the population of the Greater Manila Area are slumdweller. The President's wife, who was named Governor of Manila in December 1975, has launched a campaign to rid the city of squatters in order to make Manila beautiful, openly admitting that the beautification is especially intended for tourists and foreign investors.

Students from the University of the Philippines began to support the demands of the workers and the urban poor and a massive multi-sectoral demonstration was planned for the end of January. That month the military picked up leaders among the students, professionals, workers and the urban poor. The demonstration was postponed.

In Mindanao, raids in the cities of Butuan, Cagayan and Iligan within a three-month period led to the arrest and detention of more than 30 persons and the torture of some.

According to a commonly accepted theory, as economic conditions worsen and the nation is deprived of meaningful participation in government affairs, resistance to the martial law administration will become more and as the resistance mounts, the administration will become more repressive.

[To Be Continued Next Issue]

# FILIPINO COMMUNITY

## I-HOTEL TENANTS VOW TO FIGHT EVICTION



The I-Hotel, (left) located in Chinatown-Manilatown is one of the very few places left in San Francisco where its 80 residents, mostly elderly Filipino and Chinese men can afford to live on their low fixed incomes. In an interview Joe Diones (right)

manager of the I-Hotel told Ang Katipunan of the long history of the struggle to save the hotel from demolition. (AK-KDP photo)



(continued from front page)

for everything," added Diones. "Four Seas never paid a cent or lifted a finger to keep the hotel up to code."

The verdict, which Judge Brown based on "lack of evidence on the part of the tenants," resulted in a 30-day notice to vacate.

Many people were surprised and disgusted at the verdict. One juror said, "I guess Judge Brown was against the (I-Hotel Tenants) Association the whole time. I guess the law just doesn't have too much concern for human rights." (Bay Guardian, May 7, 1976)

This same sentiment was shared by many I-Hotel supporters who felt that Brown clearly demonstrated his bias on the fundamental issue on trial — private property rights over human rights.

Throughout the course of the trial Brown ruled out evidence presented by the I-Hotel lawyer concerning the social and economic factors affecting the case. One piece of evidence ruled "irrelevant" was a recent Planning Department study on S.F. housing that found the overall vacancy rate extremely low (two percent), and particularly worse for elderly in Chinatown.

### FIGHTING BACK

Lawyers representing the IHTA as well as the storefronts located below, plan to appeal the decision.

According to Raul Picardo, representing the Mabuhay Restaurant, which rents a space in the building, the eviction could be carried out despite an appeal. As press time, the hotel has been granted a stay until July 15; however IHTA lawyer, Gil Graham stated that this is not long enough to process the appeal and said he will ask for an extension of at least one year.

As far as the tenants are concerned, they are united in their determination not to move. A spokesperson for the I-Hotel explained that their fight will consist of several tactics.

A series of meetings have begun between S.F. Mayor George Moscone, and representatives of the IHTA to seek the Mayor's fulfillment of his campaign promise to save the I-Hotel and provide low-cost housing. In a letter to the I-Hotel, before he was elected Mayor, he wrote, "I am unalterably opposed to the eviction of tenants at the International Hotel. This is basic housing essential to the well-being of the tenants within. Before any

tenancies are terminated, there must first be provided safe, decent, and suitable housing within the community and at a comparable rental...The proposed eviction is a breach of commitments made to tenants of the International Hotel in 1969 in the presence of John Burton, Jack Morrison, and myself." (signed) Senator George Moscone, January 1975.

The IHTA is asking for the City of San Francisco to assist them in purchasing the hotel by declaring "Eminent Domain."

"We hope that Moscone will come through but in any case, we are prepared to resist," says Joe Diones. "We will never move. We know that once we do, the fight is lost." □

Support is needed to help save the I-Hotel. For more information contact the IHTA at (415) 982-4249.

## Committee Reports: FMG DEFENSE GEARS UP FOR CONGRESS BATTLE

The Emergency Defense Committee for Foreign Medical graduates (EDC-FMG) has been investigating the trends in Congress as well as various legal channels in their efforts to stop the threat of deportation and unfair treatment of FMGs. They are currently engaged in a nationwide petition and education campaign to build support for the defense of the FMGs. — Community Editor.

The presence and role of FMGs in America's medical care system seems to be a major area of discussion and concern in the U.S. Congress.

According to an article entitled "Behind the Squeeze on FMGs" which appeared in the January 1, 1976 issue of *Hospital Physician*, most discussions and bills pending in the U.S. Congress relating to the future of FMGs in this country appear to be directed to one single matter: how to curb the number of practicing FMGs in the U.S. (they aim to have a reduction of 3,000 FMGs a year).

Hence, the State Department ruling which calls for the repatriation of FMGs with filed or approved petitions for permanent residence seems to be only a small part of an over-all effort to drastically exclude most FMGs from full medical practice here in the U.S. In fact, the efforts do not seem to be directed only to those doctors under "Exchange" or J-1 status, but also to those under "occupational preference" or H-status, and to immigrants, or permanent residents as well!

H.R. 5546. The health subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee (chaired by Cong. Paul G. Rogers, D. Fla.) wrote the health manpower bill HR 5546 and pushed it through the House of Representatives. The bill "would limit the number of residency training positions in U.S. hospitals. . . (it will reduce. . . training slots to 1/5 of the present number.)"

### RACIALLY BIASED

The proponents of the bill H.R. 5546 do not  
(continued on page 8)

## Human Rights Upheld By Congress

By SEVERINA RIVERA  
Special to the AK

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Congress, by all indications, is standing firm against any attempts by the President to defeat the Human Rights Provision to the fiscal year 1976 Military Aid Bill. Ford recently vetoed the Military Assistance Bill citing the Human Rights Amendment as one of four "unwise restrictions" that would inhibit his ability to implement "coherent and consistent foreign policy."

Specifically the Human Rights Amendment, Ford claims, would "impair his ability to deal by more appropriate means the objectionable practices of other nations."

The Executive Branch has strenuously insisted that "quiet diplomacy" is the most effective way to remedy human rights violations in other countries. In reality quiet diplomacy has served only as a euphemism for a conspiratorial wake and shushing.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a former State Department Country Director on Korea, Donald Ranard, said that at the time the State Department claimed to be exercising "quiet diplomacy" concerning South Korean human rights violations, top officials were in fact telling the Koreans "whatever you do is your business." (Washington Post, May 17, 1976)

### FORD vs. CONGRESS

Instead of attempting to override Ford's veto, both the House and the Senate merely restored the Human Rights Amendment to a combined 1976-1977 Bill. The House version remains pretty much in the same form as the original amendment.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee while also reinstating the Human Rights Amendment, however, changed one provision in order to signal willingness to meet Ford half-way. The change



The principal reason Ford vetoed the 1976 Foreign Aid Bill was the attachment of the Human Rights Amendment which will refuse aid to repressive dictatorships like Marcos in the Philippines. calls for joint resolutions (requiring Presidential signature) to determine that aid to a repressive country be withdrawn. The original version called for a concurrent resolution (both houses of Congress) to make that determination.

Senator James Abourezk (D-S.Dakota), one of the sponsors of the original human rights amendment, is introducing an amendment from the floor to reinstate the concurrent resolution. It stands the joint resolution would give the President a veto power over Congressional determination regarding repressive countries.

U.S. church groups, media and humanitarian organizations have increasingly maintained vigilance to safeguard the Human Rights Amendment. It is widely regarded as the major reason for Congressional resistance in the face of the Presidential veto. □

**'They Who Were First'****COMMUNITY LAUDS PLAY ON FIL-AM HERITAGE**

SAN FRANCISCO — One of the most powerful performances of "Isuda Ti Immuna" was held May 7-8 at the Nourse Auditorium and was very well received by over 2,000 people. The dynamic dramatization of "Those Who Came First" received a standing ovation for the fine performance that depicted the life, struggles and contributions of the first Filipinos in America. Most notable was the portrayal of the racism and exploitation they faced and their struggles against oppression and injustices.

The evening was further highlighted by an impromptu speech by Chris Mensalves Sr., a long time Filipino labor leader from Seattle, who came to see the play. Mensalves, who was inspired by the young people's excellent performance exclaimed, "It was all true."

The main sponsors of the production included Philippine-American Cultural Foundation, Neighborhood Arts Program — S.F. Art Commission, West Coast Confederation of Pilipino Students (No. Calif.), and Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). Special credit was given to the 30-member working committee and the dedicated "Isuda" cast consisting of 85 performers, musicians, dancers, and technical and stage crews.

Following the last performance many members of the cast summed up the play as a great learning experience and it was easy to detect a sense of sorrow that the play was over. Felix Cardenas (right) who played Jun, the organizer, said "This was the first time I've really been involved, and I learned a lot about my own people. I hope the message of 'Isuda' doesn't end here. □

**F.W.C. Sectoral Conferences****Seattle Hosts Urge Community Participation**

SEATTLE — "One of the major pre-convention tasks ahead of us," said the 1976 Pilipino People's Far West Convention organizers, "is the holding of sectoral conferences throughout the areas along the West Coast."

In a recent press release the program committee of the 1976 PPFWC called upon organizations and individuals to participate in sectoral conferences in housing, youth, art and culture, labor, education, and health.

Explaining the concept of sectoral conferences they said, "This idea came out of the 1974 FWC held in Los Angeles. Due to limited time at the past conventions, it became impossible to discuss everything and to come out with good working resolutions. With these one-day sectoral conferences people can focus their discussions on specific topics and problems and draw up resolutions to be presented at the 1976 FWC workshops."

A result of last years sectoral conferences is the West

Coast Confederation of Pilipino Students which has exhibited great success. The Student Confederation has succeeded in uniting Filipino student associations throughout the West Coast in order to begin fighting for Filipino student needs in universities and high schools and unite students against racial and national discrimination the Confederation will be holding a conference on June 26-27 at California State University at Sacramento.

"We encourage all Filipinos and interested people to take up the work around these sectoral conferences and continue to work for the unity of the Filipino people. We hope that you can contact other people to participate in conferences held in your area," added the organizers.

The 1976 Far West Convention will be held in Seattle on September 3-5 at the University of Washington.

Interested persons should contact Cynthia Domingo or Susan Alfonso at P.O. Box 4245, Seattle Washington 98104 or call (206) 329-9904. □

**U.S. CONGRESS AND THE FMG . . .**

(continued from page 7)

mince words on their racially-biased view of FMGs: "Relatively uncontrolled entrance into the United States medical care system by foreign medical graduates of varying training, background and competence is severely diluting the quality of the United States health care system. Even by the crudest measures of input, process and certification examinations, it is apparent that many FMGs do not come close to the minimal standards set for the United States medical graduates." This charge, presented in an all-encompassing manner, remains to be completely substantiated by the Rogers subcommittee.

Already, it has met with disagreements. Former HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger stated that "contentions that FMGs supply a 'poorer quality' of patient care are absurd." Weinberger testified before the Rogers subcommittee saying that "I feel strongly that we should not restrict qualified foreign physicians from immigrating (or fully practicing) in this country." Dr. Theodore C. Cooper, also of HEW, pointed out that "there is no definitive work indicating that FMGs are of an inferior quality."

The AAMC Recommendation. The article also mentions that "Another recommendation to limit FMGs, proposed by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) was not included in the House Bill. It is however, likely to appear in the Senate Bill now being written by the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee's subcommittee on

health (chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D. Mass). This provision would eliminate the Labor Department's blanket certification of physicians as professionals in short supply in this country. Instead, it calls for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (after consulting with HEW) to declare that each FMG admission under one of the occupational preference categories 'will not lead to a surplus of practitioners in a specialty area in which there is no present or projected need'."

"Besides this sticky requirement, the AAMC proposal would require that the doctor seeking entrance 'has passed parts I and II of the National Board of Medical Examiners' — a requirement that not even all U.S. medical graduates have to meet."

These efforts to limit and curb the presence of FMGs in the U.S. will have serious implications on community hospitals. "Limiting the slots to 125 percent of the U.S. graduate output (48,824) positions will mean a reduction of 9,428 positions, or roughly 16 percent reduction across the board. But these reductions will not fall equally on all hospitals. The best affiliated hospitals, usually completely staffed by U.S. graduates, will be unaffected. But the small, unaffiliated community hospitals, which are usually staffed by FMGs, will be devastated."

The article quotes the Vice President of the Coordinating Council on Medical Education (CCME), Dr. Leo Gehrig, wherein he voiced out his reservations about the AAMC proposal: "I would like to

call your attention to the fact that alien physicians are providing essential services in some localities and it would be very difficult to replace them with American trained physicians. The need for alien physicians exists now and probably will exist for a period in the future."

Testifying before the Kennedy Subcommittee last September, New York Hospital Director Dr. David Thompson stated: "In New York City public hospitals, many of which are in poorly served areas, about half of the residency positions are presently occupied by foreign medical graduates."

**SIMPLISTIC ANALYSIS**

Those who have raised a cry against the FMGs say that they are doing this so that "the United States (can become) self-sufficient in meeting its future health manpower needs." What is so alarming about these trends in Congress is the highly simplistic analyses which U.S. lawmakers seem to give to the problems of the American medical care system. From their logic, FMGs are to blame for everything! Hence, they propose to reduce the presence of FMGs in Housestaff (by reducing the number of residency slots) "in order to make the U.S. self-sufficient"! But this would only reduce the already limited number of housestaff and only the American public's health care needs will suffer in the long run.

U.S. lawmakers should understand that an across-the-board elimination of FMGs will not automatically make the U.S. self-sufficient in its health manpower. FMGs did not cause the problem of non-self-sufficiency! Instead, they should really examine how the highly restrictive and elitist medical school admission policies formulated by organized medicine have artificially prevented many Americans from becoming future physicians.

It is time to look into the core of the problem to arrive at a correct solution. An aspirin will surely not cure a cancer patient!

But what is really beneath all this illogical analyses? What is behind this concerted effort to boot out FMGs in this country? The article states that "many foreign housestaffers feel that the intimidations about inferior quality are a form of racism similar to that practiced against Western European immigrants in the 1920s and 30s. 'You know,' said one Iranian in a Philadelphia surgery program, 'the U.S. State Department once incorporated in its official policy that 'fact' that immigrants from Poland, Germany and Hungary were less intelligent than Americans. . . the legacy of 'inferior foreigners' has taken a long time to wear off. I think FMG physicians are now in a similar predicament. People who want to discredit us will use any tool at their disposal, no matter how unfair." □ Reprinted from Newsletter of the Emergency Defense Committee for the Foreign Medical Graduates (EDC-FMG), May 1, 1976.



## AFTER 'REDEVELOPMENT' SCANDAL

# Chinatown Residents Stop Evictions

By MOI TACAZON  
Ang Katipunan Correspondent

HONOLULU — The eviction of residents of 45 N. Pauahi St. here in Chinatown, many of whom are single, elderly Filipinos, has been temporarily held off. At this moment, the landlords, Thomas and Henry Lau and their lawyers are seeking negotiations with the residents of Laus' buildings.

The Laus' are offering the tenants temporary stay for 18 months in return for monthly rents of \$500, insurance of the building and a trust fund amounting to over \$2,000 which the tenants have collected since March 1975 when they organized themselves into a Tenants Association.

The negotiations have not been made public and the talks have only been carried on verbally (in private) between the lawyers of Lau and the lawyers of the residents of 45 N. Pauahi St. and PACE (People Against Chinatown Eviction). The negotiations, however, seem to indicate the development of yet another stage in the struggle of the people of Chinatown to stop their landlords and the City from evicting them from their homes in the name of "progress and development."

### RESIDENTS FIGHT BACK

Since March 25, 1976 when Circuit Judge Norlito Kawakami granted the Laus' a Writ of Possession allowing them to call in the State Sheriff to evict the tenants, the struggle in Chinatown to stop the evictions intensified. Several actions were undertaken by PACE. On April 12, a press conference was called to expose the Laus' and the City's attempt to evict the tenants without providing them with adequate relocation (which the City is obligated to provide). The press conference also demonstrated the residents' determination to stay and fight despite the unfavorable ruling. Mr. Cayetano Bautista, a 76-year old leader of Pauahi Street Residents Association, told the media, "Well you see, I have no place to go. So I stay and fight!"

The next day on April 13, a roving demonstration was held, first in front of Thomas and Henry Lau's Hawaii Investment Co. office; it forced them to close down for the day. They then proceeded to Mayor Fasi's office to demand that eviction in Chinatown be stopped and a meeting with PACE be held to plan decent, low-cost housing which residents can afford inside Chinatown.

Over 50 people packed the Mayor's office to demand action for the people of Chinatown, but the Mayor was not in. He was on a "business trip" to Taiwan and Hong Kong. Instead, acting-Mayor Richard Sharpless responded to the demands saying, "The City refuses to get involved on behalf of the residents of 45 N. Pauahi St." The angry and militant action at City Hall concluded with the chant, "Mayor Fasi, Mayor Fasi, we'll be back and that's a fact."

Then on April 26, when Judge Kawakami went ahead and signed the Writ of Possession (which meant the Laus' could call in the police and the Sheriff's office to evict the residents within 10



HONOLULU — While the tenants at Lau's Place are temporarily safe from eviction, the Aloha Hotel (above) is one of the next targets of Redevelopment in Chinatown.

days), PACE organizers set up meeting throughout Chinatown to discuss the impending eviction and how to stop it. The Laus' residents responded militantly and were determined to occupy the building even if it meant being carried out into the street.

### MAYOR FASI/DEVELOPERS COLLUSION

The following weeks (April-May) witnessed daily coverage of the Chinatown struggle by the two largest local newspapers when a scandal was exposed linking Mayor Fasi and the City officials to a development venture in Chinatown-Kukui Plaza.

The Honolulu Advertiser and the Star Bulletin reported how the furniture companies and the laundromat firms owned by Fasi's campaign manager, Harry C. Chung, received the city contract to supply appliances and furnishings to the Kukui Plaza Development. At this same time, the developers of Kukui Plaza, Oceanside Properties, were guaranteed a profit of \$1.3 million from the public parking stalls at Kukui Plaza. The President of Oceanside properties, Hal Hansen, was also the largest contributor to Fasi's campaign fund when he ran for Mayor in 1974.

This collusion between the developers and the Mayor's office drew public attention to Chinatown, and completely exposed whose interests "Redevelopment" in Chinatown really served. The scandal is popularly called the "Watergate of Honolulu."

### VIGILANCE AND NEW PREPARATIONS

Following the militant actions of the residents of Laus' building and PACE, the revelation of the scandal of the Mayor and Redevelopment, and the strong support received from the broader community, the Laus' and their attorneys offered to negotiate a temporary settlement. This is a victory for the residents since the eviction they faced only a month ago has now changed through their determination to fight back. In launching a political battle against the Laus' and the City they have forced their landlords to ask for negotiations. The lawyers of PACE and the residents of Laus' building are also seeking to carry out the legal aspects of their battle into the State Supreme Court.

But only one part of the struggle in Chinatown has come to a temporary rest. PACE and all the anti-eviction supporters are already preparing for more confrontations with the City and landlords in Chinatown. Coming up during May are court actions against the residents of two more buildings in Chinatown, Aloha Hotel and 1189 River St. They are also faced with evictions stemming from their landlords having left the building unrepaired for many years and the hotels have fallen below code.

The people of Chinatown these past few months have demonstrated that they will resist and fight the City and its "Redevelopment" plans. One of their battlecries, "Unite, Fight, Decent Housing is a Right," characterizes this determination. As one of the steering committee members of PACE says, "People's Needs, Not Profits — Awan Ti Umakar, Agtotonos Tayo!" □

## Filipinos Among Affected U.S. Curbs Influx of Immigrant Nurses to New York

WASHINGTON — Dept. of Labor regulations governing alien nurses were amended recently and will exclude entry into the U.S. to those who intend to seek employment in New York. The restrictive policy was put into effect March 26, and is said to be another move to curb alien professionals from competing in the U.S. labor market.

Previously, work regulations authorized automatic certification and entry of alien nurses on a nationwide basis. However, the major reductions in New York City's public health services since the city's financial crisis has resulted in an over-supply of resident nurses.

According to Dept. of Labor representative Nandor Kertie, the amendment does not affect alien nurses already employed in New York, nor those who have obtained pre-certification prior to the amendment and are now seeking employment.

Nurses waiting entry into the U.S. without pre-certification and want to work in New York, must now apply under third preference requirements. This limitation applies to Bergen County, New Jersey; Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens in New York City; and Richmond, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties in the rest of New York state. Alien nurses destined for other parts of the U.S. however, may still enter the U.S. on the pre-certification basis.

Many nurses as well as other medical professionals fear that this policy is but a part of the trend to curtail the employment of aliens to ease the U.S. economic crisis despite the need for more and better health services. □

### History Project:

## Filipino Pioneers Story Recorded

Contributions of Filipino-Americans in Washington state since 1902 are now a matter of public record in the State Archives in Olympia. Filipino-Americans are among five ethnic groups chosen by the Department of General Administration's Division of Archives Washington State Program for its Oral/Aural History of pioneering episodes of minority American minorities in the state. Emphasis on the Pinoy segment centers in the Seattle-King County wherein 80 percent of the Filipino-Americans are located.

The project theme is to record via tape and pictures a comprehensive history of the Filipinos in the state of Washington from the early 1900's through the mid 1950's, according to Nancy Ordonea Koslosky, Filipino Oral History program interviewer. "The experiences of our pioneers in education, employment and that of every day living was that of struggle, sacrifice, hardship," Mrs. Koslosky said. "There were good times, but all of us — the first and second generations and the new immigrants can appreciate what our pioneers experienced."

"... Their experiences are the making of our Filipino-American history in Washington. It is something we can be proud of, we have something to

contribute to society in general," she added.

The objectives are to contact and interview a broad spectrum of Pinoy pioneers, selected non-Filipino spouses of those pioneers, second generation Pinoy born before 1946 and Pinay wives of the pioneers who served in the U.S. Army during World War II and who brought them from the Philippines.

The interviewing, taping and photocopying is continuing as an on-going project. Eventual results will be the writing and publication of a book and possible supplement periodical about the history of Filipino-Americans.

Those participating in the Filipino-American Oral/Aural History Project are Timothy Frederick, program coordinator; Dorothy Laigo Cordova, community advisor; Mrs. Koslosky, interviewer; Carolina Apostol, transcriber. Assistance was provided by Teresa Cronin, Cynthia Mejia, Nancy Laigo, JR Cordova, and Bob Flor.

Those wishing to contribute more material and sharing their experiences of what life was like from 1900 to 1955 for the Filipino Pioneer can contact the Filipino Oral History Program located at 810-18th Ave., Seattle, (206) 323-6545. □

## Inhumane Hospital Regulations

# COMMUNITY PROTESTS DOCTOR'S EXPULSION

By FRANCISCO OCAMPO

STOCKTON, Calif. — "The hospital administration declared that we are crazy. Yes, we are crazy for a cause. Them, they are nincompoops for nothing!" declares a 72-year-old man who joined the picket line in front of the Dameron Hospital here. Altogether, 160 persons have been walking the line for the last 43 days ever since a Filipino doctor, Antonio Saqueton, was expelled from Dameron for breaking hospital regulations — ironically for treating an 80-year-old Filipino patient who could not pay for the treatment.

According to the hospital administration, "it was 'barbaric to keep that Filipino male alive.'" This, explained one of the picketers, is reflective of a mentality of "legal murderers in white uniform" who have empowered themselves to give "lesser quality of care to lesser quality of life." The aged who come to Dameron have been denied medical services because they are seen as an economic burden by the hospital.

Dameron Hospital is a 110-bed community hospital and was awarded federal funds by the Gil Burton Act. "Federal funding supposedly for the entire community but actually serving the rich, the young and the strong," complain the picketers.

The picketers are also protesting the inflexible and inhumane rules and policies which the hospital forces their personnel to follow. The case of a motorcyclist who had an accident several yards from the emergency room entrance was cited. Dr. Saqueton who is leading this picket, said "The seriously injured motorcyclist was not taken in by hospital personnel because he was not brought in by an ambulance. All they had to do was bring out a stretcher and take the poor guy in, but that was against policy."

"Long live Hitler in America," shouted Dr. Saqueton in disgust. "We are also talking of the mentalities of doctors who refuse to see their patients regularly and refuse to be called up at night. . . we need quality patient care; this fight is not insurmountable because it is an issue that con-



Supporters from Stockton come out daily from 4-5 p.m. to protest the firing of Dr. Saqueton (kneeling, far left) and the inhumane policies of the Dameron Hospital. (AK-KDP photo)

cerns us all, you and me, everyone."

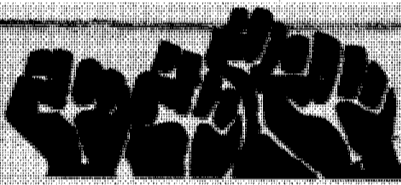
The picketers who came — Filipinos, Mexicans, Hindus, Blacks and Caucasians — were young and old and came from various sectors of the community: nurse's aides, medical technologists, doctors, priests, community organizers, farmworkers and clerks. "What we want to happen is to make the existence of our fight known to the community and focus the attention of the general public to the issue," said Dr. Saqueton. "What we are doing is 'Patient Awakening'."

Dr. Saqueton has also been very involved in the Stockton community in organizing around health issues. He initiated projects like the "Blood Pressure Screening" wherein volunteer doctors and nurses went out into the farm areas and urban community to determine blood pressures and gave advice when medical assistance was needed. The project also trained pharmacists in this skill who in turn, in-

formed patients when their drug prescriptions which have been refilled constantly are no longer effective. There are 35 drug stores in the San Joaquin county who are participating in this project.

Dr. Saqueton also initiated the "Patients Week" to focus on the problems and status of patients. "There are hospital, doctor's and nurse's weeks, why not for patients?" Both projects have been adopted by the state legislature.

When asked what assistance could be given Dr. Saqueton responded, "What we need is support from the general public. Letters of support should be sent to Dameron and copies of these letters furnished to local senators and congresspersons. We must all fight against the inhumane and barbaric treatment of our aged." Write: Dameron Hospital, 525 W. Acacia St., Stockton, Calif. □



## Sulong! (Forward in the Struggle!)

### Fil-Am Anthology Available

LOS ANGELES - The Asian American Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles, has recently announced the publication of *Letters in Exile: An introductory reader on the history of Filipinos in America*, a new, 158-page anthology of research articles and essays on such topics as California discrimination against Filipinos, Filipino labor strikes in Hawaii and health care needs of elderly Filipinos as well as representative materials from the works of Filipino writers like Carlos Bulosan and Bienvenido Santos.

The book is divided into three major sections: Conflict and Contact; Exile and Exclusion; and Crisis and Construction. Some of the articles include "Lure of America" by Manuel Bauken, "California's Discrimination Against Filipinos 1927-1935" by H. Brett Melendy, "Anti-Filipino Race Riots" by Emory Bogardus, "Anti-Miscegenation Laws and the Filipino" by the staff, "How to Join the Navy and Still Not See the World" by Jesse Quinsa, "Filipinos in a Farm Labor Camp" by Lillian Galedo and Theresa Mar, and "Agbayani Village" by Barbara Morita and Chris Braga.

The text includes historical photographs, Filipino highlights and a selected bibliography of works pertaining to Filipino-Americans on the mainland United States. It is suggested for use in introductory courses in Asian American studies and Filipino-American studies (AK review in next issue-Ed.).

*Letters in Exile* is available from bookstores or prepaid for \$5 each, \$5.50 by mail from Publications, A-

sian American Studies Center, 3232 Campbell Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024. California residents should include 6% tax. □

### Filipinos Honor May Day

Over 250 people, mostly Asians, attended a May 1st, International Worker's Day celebration in Hing Hay Park in Seattle's International District. Elderly, students, youth and immigrant workers came together in solidarity with the current struggles of Asian working people in America.

A keynote speech given by Chris Mensalves Sr., a veteran Filipino labor organizer, told of the experiences of the first Filipino immigrants here in the U.S. and their militant struggles to organize unions and fight discrimination.

Mrs. Aki Kurose then spoke of the Japanese-American experience of incarceration in relocation camps during World War II, calling on all people to unite against racism.

Then educating and entertaining the rally with worker's songs from the U.S. and the Philippines, the Pagbalikwas cultural group concluded the program by noting that May Day in the Philippines could not be celebrated openly under martial law. They concluded, however, that many workers are active in union organizing and the underground resistance to the Marcos dictatorship, despite martial law.

The Filipino community in Chicago celebrated May Day with a Merienda Forum which highlighted the history of Filipino immigration to the U.S., the conditions they face, and their participation in the labor movement.

The program was sponsored by the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)

and Pilipino Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (PPD) and consisted of a slide show, songs, and an open forum of sharing experiences as immigrants to the U.S.

Mrs. Esther Blayo who came to the U.S. in the 40's with her husband who had come earlier in the 20's, described her first experiences here. "It was really difficult finding a job. Finally I landed a job in a library in Chicago... just handing out books to students. I felt I was suited for a better position having been a school teacher in the Philippines."

Another person who spoke was Primo Mendoza who came in the 20's as a self-supporting student, working in Seattle apple-picking and dishwashing. "At first I couldn't even find a dishwashing job. I had to wash pots!" he explained.

Mendoza then proceeded to express his disillusionment in America after 41 years, "I have always believed that the U.S., whatever it engages in, was out there to spread democracy and wipe out oppression. I'm beginning to doubt it now because of the U.S.' support for the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines and similar dictatorships around the world. I have concluded that as long as U.S. capital is making money in a poor country, to Hell with any pretense of democracy." □

### Students Plan Conference

*Pagisahin ang mga magaaral na Pilipino!* (Filipino Students Unite!) is the theme of the first West Coast-wide conference of the West Coast Confederation of Filipino Students (WCCPS), tentatively set at California State University at Sacramento,

June 26-27. The main purpose will be to sum-up the past school year's work in the student organizations and in each region. The conference will provide a forum in which students can learn, share and develop activities for the upcoming year.

The conference format will include a general assembly, workshops and sections, and final assembly with resolutions. Saturday evening, a cultural presentation will be prepared to include performances from each region. In addition, a fundraiser dance will be held on Sunday night. Workshops suggested include:

*Filipino Studies*: curriculum development, types of courses to be offered; *Ethnic Studies*: basis to build; maintain and improve Ethnic Studies and the role of Filipino students within this struggle; *Campus Issues*: general issues and those particular to Filipino students and other minorities — cutbacks, tuition hikes, financial aid, special admissions; *Student organizations*: how to build a student group, its main responsibilities to students, its structure — mainly for students from "unorganized campuses"; *Culture*: role of students in bringing progressive culture to the community, its use as an educational tool in heightening people's awareness of discrimination; *Community*: role of students, confederation as a community organization airing issues in the community, participation in community struggles.

For more information: Eleanor Yaranon, 249 Anderson St., SF, Calif. 94110 (415) 824-3594; Rosely Ibanez, Box 4172, Irvine Calif. 92716 (213) 622-4730; Jackie Agtuca, 3201 14th Ave. So., Seattle, Wash. (206) 329-0629. □

# DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

## Congress to Vote Soon...

# FORD PUSHES RECORD-HIGH MILITARY BUDGET

By VICTOR UNO

The largest military peacetime budget in history has been snowballing its way through Congress and is headed for certain enclosure in the 1977 fiscal year budget.

President Ford's defense request, the first in history to break the \$100-billion barrier and some 40 percent higher than the budget at the height of the Vietnam war, was submitted to Congress earlier this year. Efforts to cut the defense appropriations — successful in the past five years in slicing some \$35-billion from the military — have been met with consistent and repeated failure.

Indicative of the changed Congressional attitude was the House of Representatives' actions last April 8 and 9. While rejecting amendments which would have banned the testing of MaRV nuclear missiles, delayed the construction of the multi-billion dollar B-1 bomber and cut overseas troop strength by 47,000, the House approved a \$2-billion increase over the Ford administration's \$113-billion request.

The overwhelming number of the April 9 action, which voted 298 to 52 for the increase, reflects a new Congressional mood increasingly sensitive to election year rhetoric, especially charges that the U.S. is fast slipping behind the Soviet Union militarily and becoming a "second-rate" power. As one Washington observer noted, "A cold-war chill . . . has settled over Capitol Hill."

### 'WELL-ORCHESTRATED' CAMPAIGN

White House efforts to get the record-high military appropriations approved included numerous threats by Ford to veto any defense bill containing major reductions. Besides White House pressure, the Pentagon and CIA were mobilized to lobby for increased spending, claiming that Soviet outlays for defense are 40 to 50 percent greater than the U.S. and that increases were necessary for a U.S. defense "second to none."

Several members of the House Armed Services Committee decried the hard-sell White House effort in a minority report late March. "What we have seen," they said, "is a well-orchestrated ex-

ercise of careful selection of statistical measures which magnify Soviet capability and minimize our own."

The statement especially criticized CIA testimony which built the case of increased Soviet expenditures based on a "dollar model" and showed the Soviets outspending the U.S. by 50 percent. By substituting a similar "ruble model" in figuring U.S. expenditures, critics showed that the opposite would appear, that the U.S. was outspending the Soviet Union by 50 percent.

The report concluded that such dollar-ruble comparisons were "meaningless" and criticized White House efforts as "the fruition of a Pentagon public relations campaign to convince the American people and the Congress of our military inferiority."

### U.S. MILITARILY WEAK?

Besides arguing a U.S. lag in defense spending, proponents of an increased military budget also cite statistics showing a burgeoning Soviet Navy which outnumbers the U.S. in "major combat ships" almost two to one. On numbers alone, the Soviet Union clearly has an edge with 550 surface ships and submarines compared to 225 for the U.S. Navy.

But beneath the numbers game of ship comparisons, the U.S. is still credited with an immensely powerful navy. According to the authoritative London journal, "Jane's Fighting Ships," there is "nothing in the world to compare with America's 14 attack aircraft carriers." While the Soviets are building new carriers, these are "not nearly in the same tonnage class."

Alleged Soviet superiority in missiles aboard submarines was also debunked by the London journal. While it was true that the Soviets had more missiles, 850 to 656, the U.S. leads in multiple warhead deployment, 8,900 to 3,500.

In addition to charges of Russian naval superiority, the White House has also cited Department of Defense statistics showing the Soviet Army over double the size of the U.S., 4.4 million Soviet troops to 2.1 million U.S. troops. Statistics showing the Russians ahead in artillery, tanks and strategic missiles have also been used in arguing for the 14



"Please—Not In My Bowl Of Soup"

percent defense increase.

Critics have charged that these figures too, like the CIA "dollar model" and the Navy arguments, are highly misleading, if not totally inaccurate. Nevertheless, the White House has been largely successful with a rallying cry that sounds like "The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming."

### ELECTION YEAR ISSUE

One of the main reasons why the White House has been able to sustain repeated attempts to cut the defense budget is the growing question of U.S. military might in an election year issue. Neither Democrat nor Republican wants to be held respon-

(continued on page 13)

## FORD CUTS FOOD STAMPS, DAYCARE

By VICTOR UNO

While the Ford Administration and Congress are on the verge of passing a record-high \$113 billion military budget, an increase of \$23 billion over last year's expenditure, severe cuts in social service spending continue to be enacted against the country's poor and working people.

On May 4, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the adoption of new regulations that will eliminate an estimated five million people from the program. The Ford Administration, which actively backed the new policies, hopes to save \$1.2 billion from the proposed cuts.

Hardest hit by the new regulations will be "working poor" families. Any family of four with a take-home pay of \$6,700 a year (approx. \$559 a month) or greater will be dropped. In addition, retirees and working people recently laid off or working at low wages will be adversely affected by the new rules.

Both houses of Congress have been actively working on food stamp cutbacks, such as the recently announced one, since last October. The recent cuts, however, are politically motivated and come at a time when Pres. Ford's reelection campaign is seriously faltering, being challenged by presidential contender, ex-Gov. Ronald Reagan, notorious for social service cutbacks. One observer called it an "out-Reaganing Reagan" move to claim credit for the massive cut.

Behind the massive attack on food stamp aid have been mounting charges that the federal program is riddled with "abusers." Even by the Agricultural Department's own reports, however, fraudulent claims have accounted for less than one

(continued on page 14)



Part of this year's May Day rally in Chicago's historic Haymarket Square. (CLARIDAD Photo)

## MAY DAY CELEBRATED IN U.S.

Numerous rallies, marches and political programs were held nationwide May 1 and 2 in observance of International Worker's Day. Thousands of persons were estimated to have participated in the different programs, reflective of the growing class consciousness of the American people.

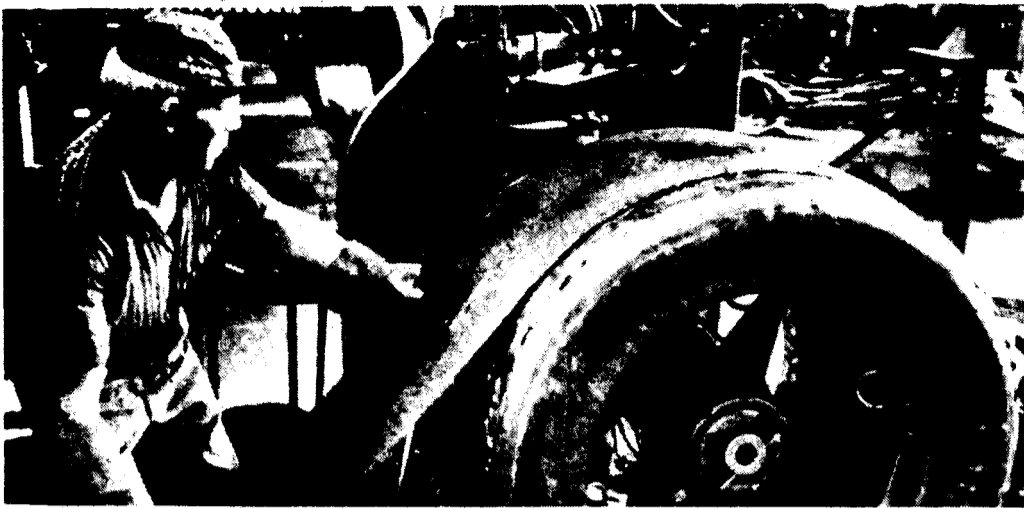
In Chicago's Haymarket Square, birthplace of the eight-hour movement which led to international recognition of May 1 as a day of the laboring people, a rally of 1,000 was held, the first of its kind in recent years. In New York some 1,000 people staged a militant demonstration against apartheid, and in numerous cities nationwide smaller activities were held.

The focus of the different activities reflected both the diversity and unity of the American

working class. On the one hand, particular attention was paid to specific worker's demands or contributions, such as a Santa Barbara, Calif., demonstration in support of striking sanitation workers or a program in San Francisco's Chinatown noting the contribution of Chinese workers in America. On the other hand, a point made in almost all of the activities was the common unity of the U.S. working class and the international solidarity of all laboring people.

In recent years the U.S. ruling class has tried to change the character of May 1 by declaring it "Law Day." Despite this effort, the true character of May 1 as a day of the working people is being re-popularized nationwide, drawing in more people every year. □

## Strike Hits 'Big Four' Rubber Companies



By VICTOR UNO

A massive strike on midnight April 20 by 60,000 members of the United Rubber Workers union (URW) hit the U.S. factories of the "Big Four" tire companies, Firestone, Goodyear, Uniroyal and Goodrich. At issue are wage demands by the URW on the four biggest tire companies which these giants have yet to seriously consider. A final offer by the companies which sparked the strike was termed "ridiculous" by URW president, Peter Bommarito. A press blackout agreement by both the companies and union officials, has also prevented details of the continuing negotiations from being known.

Before the blackout, the URW entered negotiations demanding a \$1.65 an hour increase to catch up with an inflation which left the rubber workers 15 percent behind in earnings since the 1973 contract. In addition, the union wanted a cost-of-living escalator clause which was not "capped" or limited.

Prior to the strike, the companies had offered a raise of \$1.05 an hour spread out over a three-year period, with a minimal adjustment for inflation. Negotiations between the companies and the URW continue in Cleveland, Akron and New York City.

### TIRE COMPANIES ESCAPED RECESSION

While the working class suffered the worst ef-

fects of the latest economic recession and double digit inflation, monopolies, like the tire companies escaped the recession in healthy shape with record profits recently reported. According to the Guardian newspaper, Goodyear earned \$161.5-million in the recession year of 1975 while the profits from two of the giant companies, Firestone and Uniroyal, went to two of America's largest capitalist families, the Firestones and the Duponts. Finance grouping including Morgan, Rockefeller and First National City control both Goodyear and Goodrich.

The worker's decision to strike all four companies was due to a "mutual aid pact" among the tire giants which protects any single company from revenue losses due to a strike. Similar agreements in other industries dominated by a few giants, such as the airlines industry, have been made to insure the monopolies against profit losses.

Despite the fact that the four companies produce almost two-thirds of all U.S. made tires, there is not expected to be a tire shortage due to company practices of stockpiling prior to an expected strike. URW members are expected to sustain the strike for about a month, after which strike benefits will run out.

Final settlement of the strike is expected sometime in late May, with the URW possibly getting at least a 32 percent increase over a three-year contract, similar to what the Teamsters settled for earlier this year. If negotiations with the fifth largest company, General Tire and Rubber, are not concluded by May 15, the strike could spread and have larger implications for other key industries such as electrical equipment, construction, auto and farm machinery. □

## Dare to struggle...



### 'Free Gary Tyler!'

Support for Gary Tyler, a 17-year old Black man condemned to die for allegedly killing a fellow white student during a high school racial incident last October, continues to grow despite legal setbacks.

Tyler was convicted by an all-white jury in the rural town of Drestrehan, La. of firing a gun into an angry white racist crowd which surrounded the school bus in which Tyler and 70 other Blacks were riding. A white student in the crowd was killed, and Tyler was sentenced to die by the electric chair.

After the original trial, two of the prosecution's three key witnesses recanted their testimony, charging that the local police coerced them into giving false testimony against Tyler.

One witness, Loretta Thomas, testified that the police took her to the police station at 2:00 a.m. and threatened her with 99 years as an accessory to murder unless she signed a statement implicating Tyler. An appeal to overturn the original conviction based on the forced testimony was denied April 23 by Judge Marino, the original trial judge.

Besides the perjured testimony, the original trial was highly suspect. While facing a hostile all-white jury in a town known as a stronghold for the racist Ku Klux Klan, the gun allegedly used was "lost" before the defense could examine it by the police and Tyler was convicted after a three-hour trial.

Supporters of Gary Tyler are now appealing to the Louisiana State Supreme Court, which will hand down a decision sometime in September. In addition, a U.S. Supreme Court decision on the legality of capital punishment is expected later this summer. □

### Yankee Stadium Protest

Some 1,000 demonstrators protesting the opening of a \$100-million refurbished Yankee Stadium marched through New York City's South Bronx April 15. Over 50 community groups involved in trying to keep open

schools, hospitals, firehouses and child care programs hit by NYC cutbacks participated in the massive demonstration.

The controversy over Yankee Stadium involves the city outlay of \$100-million dollars to reconstruct a ballpark while cutting back on essential city services and laying off over 45,000 city workers. While the spending of city money on the stadium will mainly benefit Yankee owner and millionaire George Steinbrenner III, South Bronx residents are faced with the closing of three hospitals, half a dozen public schools, firehouses and the only bilingual college on the East Coast, Hostos College.

South Bronx residents are among the most poverty stricken in the country. Over three-quarters of the housing is substandard, and some 40 percent of the population is unemployed. One angry resident quoted by Liberation News Service said, "If the city can construct this kind of a building for the Yankees, it can build schools, hospitals and housing for its people!" □

### U.F.W. Petitions for Initiative

In the space of a month's time, the United Farm Worker's (UFW) union was able to gather nearly 700,000 signatures in an effort to revive the farm labor law guaranteeing secret ballot union elections in the fields. The initiative process, which needed only 312,000 valid signatures, will bypass a deadlocked state legislature and place the measure on the November ballot for California voters to decide.

The Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA) of 1975, California's first farm labor law and highly touted as a way to end 40 years of labor strife in the fields, was effectively killed by a minority coalition of rural legislators and agribusiness interests in February. After only five months of operations, the board established by the ALRA ran out of funds, and further expenditures have been blocked by the grower-backed coalition in Sacramento.

While the labor board did operate,

## CALIFORNIANS HIT STATE CAPITOL TO 'STOP S-1'



Frank Wilkinson of NCARL address Sacramento rally against Senate Bill One. (AK-KDP Photo)

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Close to 1,000 people rallied at California's state capitol May 1 demanding the U.S. Congress to stop efforts to pass Senate Bill 1 (S-1), proposed legislation attacking broad democratic rights of the American people.

At the Capitol grounds rally a number of speakers hit different sections of the 800-page bill which would restrict free speech, curtail demonstratoins, restrict self-governing rights of Native Americans, broaden police powers and attack labor's right to organize.

Frank Wilkinson from the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL) noted that to date, not one Senator, neither Democrat or Republican, has come out in opposition to the bill. In fact, he noted that many liberals, such as Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., have been actively lobbying for the bill, hoping that by amending S-1 it would be "more

acceptable" to the American people. The California Coalition to Stop Senate Bill One, which sponsored the rally, stresses that S-1 is inherently unamendable and should be scrapped.

Besides increased lobbying efforts by S-1 supporters to get the bill passed, Wilkinson also noted that efforts are underway to change the bill's number to detract focus from it. Despite the different tactics however, Wilkinson asserted that widespread opposition to the bill from the nation's press, labor unions and citizenry continues to mount.

Other speakers at the rally included Doron Weinberg, National Lawyers' Guild; Joe Morrow, United Professors of California; Yvonne Golden, Black Teachers Caucus; Willie Holder, United Prisoners Union; Christina Vasquez, Mission Childcare Consortium; and Bill Tamayo, Union of Democratic Filipinos. □

the UFW won 54 percent of the 355 elections, while the grower-backed Teamsters garnered only 34 percent and the rest voted for no union repre-

sentation. In terms of membership representation, the UFW won nearly twice as many votes than the Teamsters. □

# GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS SILENT Report Reveals Widespread Use of Deadly Chemicals

NEW YORK (LNS) — The New York state environmental agency placed the Hudson River off limits to most commercial fishing recently. The state finally admitted that fish in the river contained an unsafe level of a deadly chemical linked to diseases ranging from skin irritations to kidney and liver cancer.

The presence of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) in unsafe quantities in Lake Michigan has also caused the Department of Natural Resources in Michigan to recommend that people not eat fish from that lake more than once a week. A partial ban on sales of fish from that lake has been in effect since 1972.

And by all available evidence, this is just the tip of the PCB iceberg. In addition to the Hudson River and Lake Michigan, the deadly chemical had been found in the upper Mississippi River and the upper Ohio River. According to a 1972 Environmental Protection Agency report, about 2,000 tons of PCB are lost in the air every year; about 5,000 tons are pumped into fresh and coastal waters, and over 18,000 tons are disposed of in dumps and landfills each year.

"PCB is truly a global contaminant," noted Dr. Gilman Veith of the EPA. "Based on available data," added Dr. George Harvey of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, "it seems safe to conclude that PCB is present in varying concentrations in every species of wildlife on the earth."

## TOXICITY KNOWN FOR YEARS

Though the furor of PCB is just breaking, its environmentally destructive forces have been known for years. The first indications of its toxicity in the U.S. came in 1936 when an outbreak of a severe skin disease called chloracne was reported among workers involved in its manufacture.

The outbreak was written off to "progress," however, and the matter was forgotten until 1953 when Japanese workers fell victim to the same disease. But again the matter was swept under the rug until, in 1968, a major and deadly outbreak of PCB poisoning hit Japan.

While the dangers of PCB were being ignored for nearly 40 years, its prime producer, Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Company, manufactured over 40,000 tons of the substance. It has been so widely used as an industrial chemical — in paints, printing ink, office supplies, soap and electrical insulation, just to name a few — that almost every person in the U.S. has had some contact with it.

Humans can take PCB into their bodies through digestion, inhalation, and absorption through the skin. Fifty percent of Americans have accumulated one to three parts per million (ppm) of PCB in the fatty tissues of their bodies, according to the EPA, a traditionally conservative estimator on such issues. Although the Food and Drug Administration puts the "safe level" for PCB at 5 ppm, there is really no safe level for the chemical since it is almost impossible to break down and dispose of.

In fact, durability is what industry likes about PCB. It does not dissolve in water but is soluble in fats and oils — which is why it gathers in the fatty tissues of fish, and then humans. PCB does not biodegrade and it takes a temperature of 2700 degrees Fahrenheit to destroy it.

"You know, this stuff never leaves," said Michigan cattle farmer John Partaka. Since 1967, 60 of Partaka's cows have died and another 60 have been left stunted by a disease that has yet to be identified. Samples of a PCB derivative have been found in the fatty tissues of the cows, and the chemical has also shown up in the body of John Partaka's youngest child, nine month old Jennifer.

"It's in the dirt, the concrete, the wood, the feeders. We buy new cows, bring 'em here and they'll turn out like these," said Partaka.

## JAPANESE VILLAGERS HIT

Symptoms of PCB poisoning are frightening and the diseases it causes are often deadly. In addition to laboratory tests, the tragic outbreak of PCB poisoning in Japan in the late 1960's provided much information about its effects on humans.

The residents of Tama no Ura, a tiny, isolated fishing village in the south of Japan, became so ill they thought themselves victims of a curse. They lost their appetites; bodies broke out in great sweats and people became so weak they could no longer work.

Ugly, pus-filled boils appeared all over their bodies and eyes discharged a liquid that glued them shut for hours. The villagers bore the disease in private from March until October, 1968, hiding the symptoms from outsiders because they thought the disease was shameful.

In October, 1968, some villagers saw a televised news report on a strange disease that had struck other communities in their district. The disease, it turned out, had resulted from PCB which had leaked into rice oil used for cooking. Within two weeks after the Japanese government acknowledged the disease, more than 12,000 people in three southern provinces appeared for treatment.

The tragedy caused the Japanese government to totally ban PCB, but U.S. authorities continued to minimize the dangers. Monsanto, and companies that use PCB, such as General Electric, still maintain that the chemical has to be tolerated until a replacement is developed.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of PCB disease is its effects on reproductive systems. Studies of birds and animals exposed to PCB have shown reduced conception rates and higher infant mortality. There has also been a noticeable increase in menstrual bleeding.

The only studies of PCB effects on human reproduction come from the Japanese tragedy. Eleven of the poisoned women and two wives of victims had 10 live-born and two still-born babies. Nine of the babies had unusually grayish skin with dark brown



stains, and five had darkly colored gums and nails. All showed increased discharge from the eyes.

## INACTION BY CORPORATIONS

Despite the overwhelming evidence against PCB, corporations have taken almost no action to reduce its presence in the environment. Monsanto has said it will discontinue production of PCB only if someone else develops a substitute. And General Electric, the polluter of the Hudson River, initially maintained that "the grade of PCB found in the Hudson "is not the same grade used exclusively by G.E."

In April, 1976, however, G.E. offered a multi-million dollar payment to New York state in exchange for exemption from future suits concerning the firms' PCB pollution. The company also confessed that over the last 15 years, 65 of its employees at its two Hudson River plants have become ill with a disease that "may have been caused by or aggravated by exposure to PCBs."

But again, fearing lawsuits, G.E. is trying to stonewall on the issue. The company has refused to give the state's Department of Environmental Conservation names of the employees who became ill, thus blocking further research on the effects of PCBs on humans.

Hearings in New York continue on whether to issue a total ban on PCBs in the state, and as the hearings enter their seventh month the chemical continues to infest the air, land and water. Despite the case against PCB, New York Governor Hugh Carey has sided with G.E. and has asked that a total ban on PCBs not be enacted, but that the "safe level" be lowered from 5 to 3.5 ppm. □

(continued from page 11)

## Military Budget...

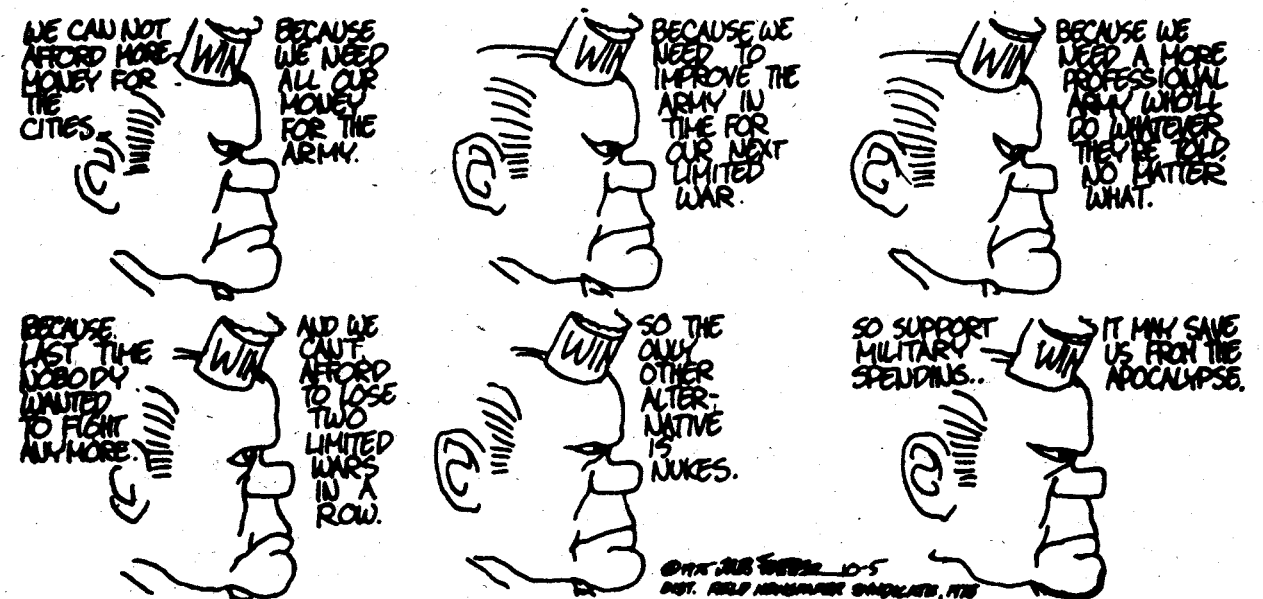
sible for making the U.S. a "second-rate" power, whether or not the charge itself is valid.

Observers note that the cry that the U.S. is declining militarily sounds strikingly similar to John Kennedy's charges that the Eisenhower administration was responsible for a "missile-gap" with the Soviet Union. Responding to the charges were difficult for the Eisenhower Administration but the charge proved useful to Kennedy's campaign. After Kennedy's election, the charge was quickly dropped.

One of the ironies of the declining U.S. military charges raised in this year's elections is that President Ford originally raised it in introducing the request to the Congress, trying to blame the Democratic-majority Congress for the alleged lag. Like so many of Ford's strategies, this one quickly backfired as his contender for the Republican nomination, Ronald Reagan, quickly seized the issue. Charging Ford and Kissinger as being "soft" on the Soviet Union and responsible for making the U.S. "Number 2" militarily, Reagan quickly racked up four state primaries, taking the lead in committed delegates.

## MILITARY BENEFITS FROM CONTROVERSY

While the Republican presidential contenders fight out the defense controversy, the ultimate winners are the military and the corporations contracting with the Pentagon and Defense Department.

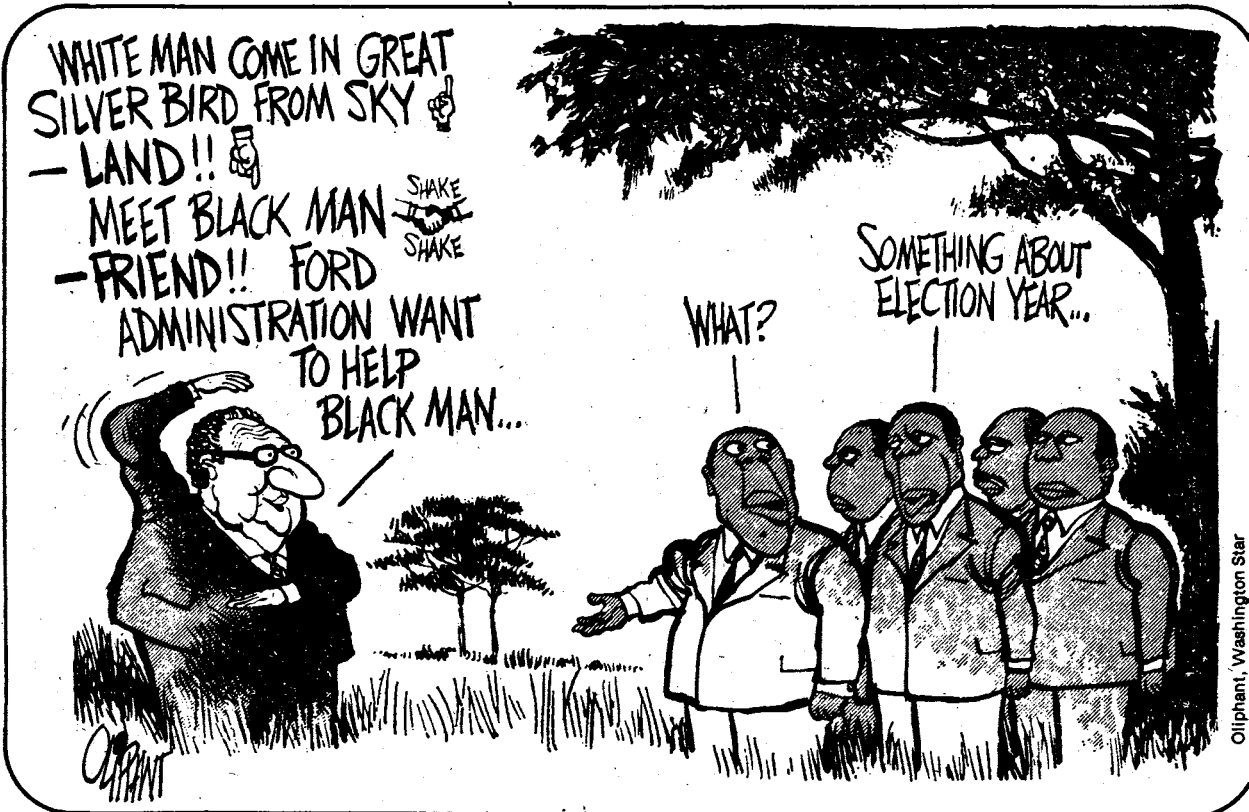


The recent House action increasing the defense budget only underlies a U.S. officer's statement that "the more Reagan sticks it to him (Ford), the more dollars we're going to see."

Besides benefitting the military machine with increased dollars, the defense debate has obscured important issues related to the increased military spending. New outlays for strategic nuclear weapons, such as the Trident submarine, MIRV missile and B-1 bomber only fuels the already dangerous nuclear arms race where both the Soviet Union and the U.S. have the nuclear capability to wipe each other out in less than an hour.

Additionally, the increased spending strengthens U.S. foreign interests, over two-thirds of the defense budget going for protection of U.S. imperialist interests in Europe (\$50-billion) and Asia (\$25-billion), with most of the money going to U.S. bases in countries with oppressive dictatorships like the Philippines and Spain.

Finally, the increased military spending comes at a time of tremendous economic hardship for millions of Americans and stands in stark contrast to the cutbacks enacted by the Ford administration against the American working class, especially the poor, elderly and non-white. □



## Kissinger Unveils African Policy

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's recent African visit endorsing Black majority rule was intended to project a more positive image for the U.S. in the wake of the U.S. defeat in Angola. The new African policy represented a sharp break with his past support of white minority regimes, which are rapidly being politically and militarily isolated on the African continent.

However, specific commitments Kissinger made with African leaders are now being reconsidered at the White House. Under question was Kissinger's pledge to assure White House backing of legislation to repeal the Byrd Amendment, which allows the import of Rhodesian chrome in violation of the U.N. economic sanctions imposed on the Smith regime. According to a White House source, "they discussed the secretary's program in general terms and did not discuss the banning of Rhodesian chrome."

Regarding U.S. aid to Africa, Kissinger allegedly was not supposed to commit specific dollar figures. However, the secretary pledged a \$12.5 million grant to Mozambique to offset the impact of closing

its borders to Rhodesian trade and proposed a \$7.5 billion plan for the Sahara Desert starvation belt.

In the same trip, Kissinger also promised big increases in military aid to Zaire, Kenya, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia and possibly Zambia — a move to offset growing Soviet influence in Africa. However, arms aid increases are viewed more as another desperate U.S. attempt to strengthen present African regimes against national liberation movements in their own countries. The victory of the revolutionary forces in Angola has meant the ouster of U.S. foreign investments in that country. Thus, support for anti-national liberation struggles is meant to protect U.S. interests in Africa.

The African nations' reaction to Kissinger's visit is a "wait-and-see" attitude. No responses have been expressed by Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria or Mozambique — countries that have either nationalized U.S. corporations or expelled U.S. presence completely. Kissinger's support of Black majority rule will be tested in South Africa, where U.S. corporations have an investment of more than \$1.5 billion. □

## MORE CUTBACKS...

(continued from page 11)

in one thousand food stamp recipients.

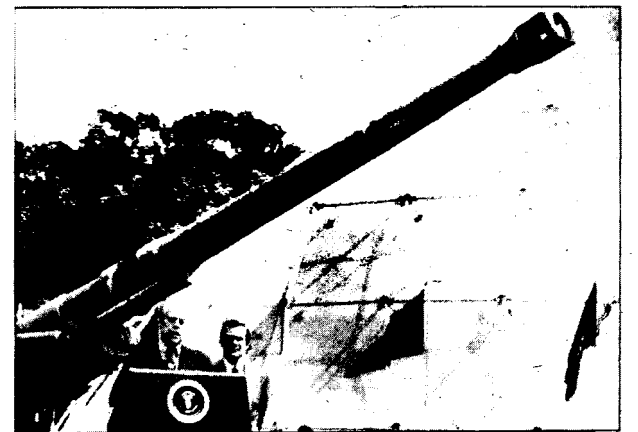
In addition, figures citing an increased number of recipients as an indication of the extent of fraudulent claims ignores that some 19 million people became eligible for aid because of the recent economic crisis. Only four million of those eligible applied.

The new regulations, which also included changes in the system figuring deductions which adversely affects recipients as well as calling for increased cost of food stamps, from 24 percent of one's income to 30 percent, are scheduled to be implemented June 1. A lawsuit by the Food Research and Action Center in New York City has filed a suit to block the new rules.

### CHILD CARE VETOED

Besides the attack on people receiving food stamps, the Senate failed May 5 to override Pres. Ford's veto of a \$125 million daycare bill. Thousands of families who utilize federally supported child care centers, many of them in poor urban communities, will be hard hit by the veto.

Especially affected will be single working women, many of whom will be forced to go on welfare when these centers close. According to the New York Times, centers serving 35,000 to 40,000 children in Illinois alone will close. Hundreds of



Ford has been pushing for a 14 percent increase in military spending while cutting back on needed social programs. (UPI Photo)

thousands more will be affected nationwide.

The \$125 million cutback was supposed to go towards upgrading existing centers to meet federal requirements. Now many centers, such as those set up in churches located in poor communities, will be forced to close. □

## UNCTAD MEETING

# THIRD WORLD DEMANDS ECONOMIC JUSTICE

By ROMY DE LA PAZ and VICTOR UNO

Third World countries are continuing to unite and press their demands for economic justice at the current United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), May 5-28, at Nairobi, Kenya.

Attended by 2,000 representatives from 120 countries, this fourth UNCTAD conference since 1964 will focus on demands drawn up by the Group of 77 — an association of 110 non-aligned nations — at their Third Ministerial Conference held in Manila, Philippines last February. Taken broadly, these demands called for the establishment of trade relations conducive to the economic development of the Third World; the cancelation of debts incurred by the especially-poor countries; the establishment of a special development fund to spur the Third World's economic growth, and the increasing of foreign aid and technology.

As in previous U.N. conferences, such as last year's Seventh Special Session focusing on raw materials and development, the Third World countries are uniting to "thoroughly change the present economic relations based on inequality and exploitation" established by the Western industrialized and imperialist nations. The Third World countries, who comprise 70 percent of the world's population and whose annual per capita income is less than \$250, are rejecting an economic system which gives 70 percent of the world's income to these imperialist countries, who make up only 30 percent of the world's population.

"The Third World is always being put in the position of having to beg for assistance," said one non-aligned spokesperson. "What we want is to be able to increase the earning power and standard of living of our people as a matter of right."

### "NEW ECONOMIC ORDER"

In calling for a "new economic order" beneficial to the Third World countries, a change in the world-wide economic system controlled mainly by the Western nations and the Soviet Union is being sought. The extent of this domination of the Third World by these countries was recently summed up by the Tanzanian representative to the U.N.:

"Since the international trading infrastructure — processing, shipping, insurance, distribution, credit and the like — is largely controlled by rich nations, the poor countries get back only a fraction of the final price that the consumers pay for their commodities."

He estimated that if final consumers pay over \$200 billion a year for products of the Third World, mainly raw materials, these countries receive less than 15 percent of that price. Thus, "they are denied the capital accumulation so necessary for their development."

Further indication of this gross inequity is that 97 percent of the international reserves created during 1970-1974 — worth \$99.9 billion — was taken by developed nations while the underdeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America received a mere three percent. This was despite the fact that the Third World provides most of the primary raw materials — oil, gold, iron, bauxite and others — needed by the industrialized world.

Besides the unequal trade and market relations, the Third World countries are forced to pay soaring costs for necessary import commodities from the industrialized world. In the last five years, prices of farm equipment, steel and cement have quadrupled and the international debt of the underdeveloped countries has doubled to an estimated \$135 billion.

### SELF-RELIANCE NECESSARY

One of the reasons why the underdeveloped nations can command most of the world's resources yet remain economically poor is the history of colonial and imperialist subjugation and domination of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. For centuries, the natural resources of the Third World were plundered virtually without limit by the Western world, leaving these countries with little industrialization and a lopsided agricultural economy geared to cash crops.

Many countries have since freed themselves through national liberation wars and are now rebuilding their entire country. But many more are still tied to the imperialists through neo-colonial policies or are too weak to exert and sustain a singular defense of their national economic interests. Only in a bloc of Third World countries is there the collective strength to fight for, and develop and protect self-reliant national economies.

This principle of national self-determination is appropriately summed up in the U.N. Charter of Economic Rights and Duties, stating the need for "full permanent sovereignty of every state over its natural resources and activities, including the right to nationalize, expropriate, and transfer ownership whenever necessary to ensure effective control."

Major international trade and economic conferences in the past have voiced the popular and urgent demand to "bring about radical changes in the economic relations in order to establish new relations based on justice and equity which will eliminate the inequitable economic structures imposed on the developing countries."

The realization for the need to unite and fight common struggles has brought the Third World countries' struggle for a new international economic order to a higher level. □

# WORLD IN FOCUS

## ISRAELIS CONDEMN ILLEGAL ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS

TEL AVIV, Israel—More than 20,000 Israelis, chanting "Kadum no," marched through Tel Aviv May 8 to demand the expulsion of illegal Zionist settlers from Kadum in the occupied West Bank of Jordan. The march, sponsored by the Mapam faction of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, added to the vigorous mass opposition to Zionist colonization in that region.

The West Bank, a territory of 2,270 square miles with about 640,000 Arab inhabitants, has been under Israeli military occupation since the 1967 war. Massive dem-

onstrations and rallies, denouncing Israeli illegal settlements, have been met with polite brutalities sanctioned by Israeli authorities.

Meanwhile, Egypt called on the U.N. Security Council on May 4 to condemn Israel's brutal and illegal actions in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. Referring to anti-Israeli settlement in the Jordan West Bank, Egypt Amb. A. Esmat Meguid said that latest developments were "a deplorable result of Israel's aggressive expansionist policy as well as its blatant outrages against the holy places and shrines." □

## U.S. PRESS CONTINUES SLANDER AGAINST CAMBODIA

On its first anniversary of national liberation, Democratic Cambodia continues to be a consistent target of U.S.-inspired slander.

The recent resignation of Norodom Sihanouk as Head of State on April 4 has been utilized in the recent anti-Cambodia attack. The media portrayed Sihanouk's resignation as a sign of his dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the new leadership.

What the U.S. press refuse to mention was Sihanouk's statement as far back as March 18 when he remarked: "I swore to myself and I swore to the people of Cambodia that when I had succeeded in accompanying them to the point of total victory over U.S. imperialism and the traitors and to the threshold of the new revolutionary era, I would retire completely and definitively from the political scene because logically my role would end at that moment."

In his resignation speech, Sihanouk reiterated that he "will forever remain a fervent supporter of the Cambodian people, of the revolution, of the People's Assembly, of the government of the State Presidium, of the revolutionary Angkor and the revolutionary army of Democratic Cambodia."

Criticisms have also been leveled against the new leadership's policy of "forced evacuation" and tales of untold hardships suffered by the Cambodian people are carried in the media. A New York Times story by David Andelman, a Feb. 2 Washington Post feature and a Feb. 4 Christian Science Monitor article carried the same theme. Not surprisingly, these stories were generally based upon accounts of Cambodian refugees in Thailand and not based upon direct



Prince Sihanouk being greeted by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim at the Secretariat Entrance at the United Nations, New York City last October 1975. (United Nations-M. Tzovaras photo)

observations. Various official delegations that have recently visited Cambodia, which include Sweden, have not witnessed any of these hardships and confirmed these allegations as untrue.

The most recent attack was Time magazine's April 13 report about "50,000 people massacred" since liberation. A spokesman for Cambodia stated in a Paris conference that the report is "complete nonsense" and that it was part of the continuing U.S. slander campaign against his nation. This particular attack was an attempt to cover up the following facts given by Minister of Information Hu Nim for which the U.S. was responsible: the 800,000 of a total population of 8 million were killed and another 240,000 were wounded as a result of U.S. bombing raids; acreage of rubber plantations was 65-70 percent destroyed and 80-85 percent of the rice fields and forests in the front line areas were destroyed; about 70-80 percent of the port facilities and district capitals were razed to the ground; in the southwestern, eastern and northern regions 50-60 percent of all cattle were killed and in the rest of the country the figure is 30-40 percent.

U.S. atrocities causing innumerable hardships have failed to discourage the Cambodian people; on the contrary, it has strengthened their determination to rebuild their land from scratch. Similarly, U.S. slanders will only serve to deepen the Cambodian people's conviction that to forge a truly independent Cambodia is to their best interest. As Hu Nim proudly stated: "Above all, for the first time our people feel they are real masters of their destiny." □

## VIETNAM REUNIFIES

The first nationwide free elections since Vietnam's liberation took place last April 25 and culminated in the formation of the first National Assembly for the whole of Vietnam. Broadcasts from Hanoi and Saigon announced that voter turnout was virtually total in the election of 492 deputies to the new Assembly.

Although reunification of north and south Vietnam is not expected to be instituted for several weeks—perhaps on the May 19 birth anniversary of the late president Ho Chi Minh—the broadcasts indicated that the elections themselves had eliminated political division. The elected National Assembly is scheduled to meet within two months to write a new constitution and decide on the name of the reunified country, as well as the flag and capital, which is expected to be Hanoi.

The newly-elected leadership recognize the difficult task of political and cultural reunification. "We have carried to victory one revolution and embarked on another," Hoang Tung, the editor of Nhan Dan, told a visiting group of journalists in Hanoi. "The present revolution will be at least as difficult as the last." □

## CHILE RELEASES POLITICAL PRISONERS

The visit of U.S. Treasury Secretary William E. Simon to Santiago to hold top-level talks on trade and economic matters prompted the release of some 300 political prisoners by Chile's military junta.

Simon's visit is described as a "quid pro quo" gesture aimed at improving the unpopular military junta headed by Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Pinochet's regime is notorious for widespread repression and deadly tortures inflicted on political prisoners within concentration camps. Amnesty International, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, and various governments have repeatedly condemned the regime for gross violations of human rights. The British government has reacted most strongly by recently recalling its ambassador as a sign of protest.

Ostensibly, Simon's visit was an effort to portray the U.S.' "grave concern" for human rights and took the "responsibility" to "pressure Gen. Pinochet into loosening up his regime." In addition, implicit to the publicity drummed up prior to the visit was U.S. "hesitance" to deal with Chile if Pinochet's repressive regime continued to face international condemnation.

On the contrary, the U.S. government has consistently propped up the fascist and counter-revolutionary forces in Chile and the C.I.A. played a major role in the plot to overthrow the government of Salvador Allende. Last year alone, the junta received approximately \$1 billion in economic and political aid from U.S. sources. □

## PANAMA CANAL DEBATED

The question of the Panama Canal Zone has become alive again, this time as a hot campaign issue in the current U.S. Presidential elections.

The Panama debate was sparked by contender Ronald Reagan's campaign

statement that the Panama Canal is "just as much sovereign U.S. territory as Alaska," which is threatened with a "giveaway" by the Ford Administration. The giveaway refers to a secret testimony—revealed by Reagan—in which Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker told a House committee of a Presidential directive "to give up the Canal over a period of time." Reagan quickly latched on to this testimony to attack Pres. Ford's foreign policy.

Responding to Reagan's charges, the White House immediately issued a clarification stating that "no treaty will be agreed to unless it safeguards U.S. interests in the Canal and guarantees our interest in the operation and defense of the Canal." A second clarification further revealed that the goal of the current negotiations was to maintain U.S. interests in the Canal Zone "during the useful life of the canal," which was described as 30-50 years.

Meanwhile, Panamanian head of state, Omar Torrijos has warned that serious trouble could erupt in the Canal Zone if a new treaty is not negotiated by 1977. "Patience has its limits. We have set 1977 as our limit," he remarked. Torrijos' sharp remarks have been prompted by the growing militance of the Panamanian people in their demand to cut off "this (U.S. claim to the Canal) vestige of Yankee imperialism."

The U.S. and Panama have been negotiating since 1974 over a new canal treaty to replace the 1903 accord that gave the U.S. sovereignty over the canal "in perpetuity." The Hayward Bunau-Varilla Treaty, signed two weeks after Panama—actively supported by U.S. gunboat diplomacy—declared its independence from Colombia and gave the U.S. permanent rights to, but not ownership of, the 550 sq. mile Canal Zone. □

## U.S. BACKS ARGENTINE JUNTA

A new U.S. economic plan, introduced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Argentina's new three-man junta headed by Army Comdr. Jorge Videla, sparked a new confidence in international financial circles towards that country and indicated implicit U.S. support for the coup that toppled Isabel Peron.

This endorsement of the Videla junta is expected to pave the way for loans and credits from the World Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank and private New York bankers. As one businessman put it, the junta's economic plans "were born and raised by the IMF in Washington and adopted overnight by Argentina." The plan which includes raising agricultural exports, firing half a million state employees, freezing wages, ending price controls, and attracting foreign investments by offering irresistible terms are expected to cause massive unemployment, recession and skyrocketing prices. The IMF also announced a \$127.6 million credit for the junta with an additional \$900 million promised by the end of the year.

Referring to the Videla junta, American bankers have said, "Argentina may be on the right track at long last," as efforts to create an optimistic business atmosphere will directly benefit them. U.S. investments are expected to expand and at present, there are 3,100 foreign corporations operating in every key aspect of the Argentine economy. □

## 3,000 FILIPINO WORKERS RALLY ON MAY DAY



3,000 workers and students - They booted at Marcos' announcement of the P10 minimum wage increase.

(FER Photo)

(continued from front page)

for struggle, the workers and their student supporters spilled out of a Catholic college where they had been holding their rally and, with shouts of "On to Malacanang," paraded towards the presidential palace. They found their way blocked by security forces and after three hours, in which three demonstrators were arrested, were dispersed.

The worker-student coalition was demanding a national minimum wage of P18 (U.S. \$2.40) a day and a return of the right to strike. Marcos had announced that the minimum for industrial workers would rise from P8 to P10 in the Manila area and to P9 in the provinces. The agricultural workers' minimum was increasing from P6.25 for plantation workers to P7, and from P4.75 to P6 for non-plantation workers. (The new minimum wages do not apply to small retail and service establishments or to "distressed" employers.)

Among the cheering Government-backed TUCP leadership were Democrito Mendoza and Roberto Oca, who were quoted in the local press as saying the President's initiative was "a splendid act on the part of Government to upgrade the conditions of the working class."

But at the worker-student rally, after hearing of the new P10 minimum, one worker took the microphone and imitated President Marcos, saying (in the local Tagalog language): "We must all sacrifice for the sake of national development." He prompted a long response of boos and laughter.

After a mass led by Bishop Gaudencio Rosales, of the Church Labor Centre, the rally was taken over by young leaders of the Association of Filipino Workers and then the march to Malacanang began, contravening a martial law decree banning rallies and demonstrations.

In the street, they were immediately met by a force of 200 policemen and 100 barangay (neighborhood) security forces armed with riot batons. Traffic on the six-lane street ground to a halt, while the demonstration leaders and police conferred. Unable to pass through the police, and unwilling to risk violence, the demonstrators made a long detour through a commercial and residential neighborhood. They sang patriotic songs, chanted "strike," distributed newspapers and painted wall slogans reading (in Tagalog): "Return the right to strike."

On the South Superhighway they were again met by the same police and barangay contingent, which sealed off the highway. Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing arrived on the scene and finally persuaded the marchers to return to the college, where they then dispersed. Although reported in detail by the foreign press, there was no mention of the demonstration in Manila news papers.

The police major who ordered the arrest of three demonstrators told this correspondent that they were suspected of carrying subversive literature — their bukluran (association) newspaper. Asked

what was subversive in the newspaper, the major said he did not know yet.

The newspaper's main headline said that the New Society should be for the workers and not for foreign capitalists, a veiled criticism of the Government's policy of attracting overseas investment by offering cheap labor.

After the demonstration, those arrested could not be located; police and military spokesmen would only say that they were being interrogated, but would not reveal where. Just before Labor Day, the military released most of the 130 workers held after a strike.

The demand for an increased minimum wage was first voiced by the bukluran, a loose, unauthorized caucus of 120 unions, in January, when the group raided a cry for P16 per day. The TUCP leadership followed suit by suggesting to the Government a P18 minimum.

The P8 minimum is certainly unrealistic — more workers in Manila currently earn P10 to P12. The P8 minimum was legislated in 1970 by the now-defunct National Congress, but the peso has since lost more than half its value due to inflation. In terms of real wages, using 1965 as the base, wages have declined for skilled and unskilled workers by 35 percent and 29 percent respectively, according to Central Bank statistics.

The latest rise in the minimum wage was followed three days later by a rise in the subsidised retail price of Government rice from P1 to P2.1 per kilogram and bus and jeepney fares were increased by 25 percent.

The Government has yet to move against profits and argues that the only way to have meaningful wage increases is to develop a labour-scarce economy through more investment and more jobs. This was also the recommendation of the International Labor Organisation's study on the Philippines released in 1974, which also recommended that trade unions be given back the right to strike. □

## Marcos To Visit Russia

MANILA — President and Mrs. Marcos have been formally invited by the Soviet Union to visit Moscow on May 31. The visit is expected to pave the way for the establishment of diplomatic relations and signing of a treaty of amity and commerce designed to promote trade and cultural contacts.

Marcos, in a press conference last February, indicated his inclination to give priority to the trade relationship. Earlier this year, the U.S.S.R. signed a contract to purchase .4 million tons of sugar from the Philippines. "Feelers" have been sent between Manila and Moscow to lay the groundwork for this. Sources in the government indicate that normalization between the two countries is imminent.

Anticipated since November, 1975, the establishment of Soviet-Philippine ties will score an edge on U.S. presence in Asia. The U.S.S.R. and U.S. are fiercely competing over world influence in both political and economic spheres. The Soviet Union is also probably trying to step into the Philippines to establish a military presence in Asia to pose a threat to China.

Marcos, aware of the rivalry between the U.S. and Russia, will undoubtedly try to make use of this contention as leverage for continued U.S. aid to his regime. □

## R.P. UNDERSELLS SUGAR TO U.S.

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

Despite a current low in the world sugar prices, the Philippines recently agreed to supply two major U.S. refiners with 1.15 million tons of sugar annually. The sale, which involves a five-year contract to supply Sucrest Corporation with 500,000 tons annually and Great Western Co. with 650,000 tons, was negotiated at the prevailing 14 cents per pound.

Although the Marcos government has termed the contracts "sweet deals" and a boon for Philippine local sugar industry, observers cite that the Marcos regime willingly undersold Philippine sugar in exchange for a guaranteed U.S. market. The sale represents 50 percent of the Philippines' yearly sugar output and expects to fulfill one quarter of the U.S.-imported sugar requirements. However, it is only expected to net an annual \$353 million for 1 million metric tons, a sharp decline from the \$580 million earned in 1975 for the same volume.

### ADVERSE EFFECTS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES

Internationally, the Philippine sugar deals have adversely affected other sugar-exporting countries. Whatever losses the Philippines was willing to sustain for its sugar sale was inevitably passed on to other countries in the form of lower prices.

Last April 14, the Dominican Republic lodged a strong diplomatic protest accusing the Philippines of driving down sugar prices. According to the message: "Recent sales of the Philippine sugar to two U.S. companies and the prospects of additional sales will drive the world sugar price below 10 cents per pound, considered a disaster level for the world's sugar producing nations."

Dominican authorities also accused the Philippines of leading other sugar-exporting nations to follow its stockpiling policy. According to the Dominican government, the Philippines decided to withhold a year's production of sugar rather than sell it at the present rate, which at that time was 15 cents per pound. On the basis of this report, the Dominican government announced that it too would withhold its sugar inventory from the market to await price improvements to at least 17 cents per pound.

The Philippines' move has also undercut efforts of sugar-exporting countries to secure a fairer and stable price for sugar. Last March, Latin American sugar-exporting countries met in Cali, Columbia to organize some form of sugar cartel to boost up the price of sugar to at least 20 cents per pound. Earlier, the Marcos government expressed its desire to join Latin American countries in the interest of protecting prime Third World exports from price fluctuations and market manipulation.

Instead, the Philippines made a turnabout in its sugar policy by unloading its sugar inventory at present low prices to gain a guaranteed sizeable and long-term market from the U.S. This hypocritical move exposes the Marcos regime's lip-service to the cause of poor nations whose economies are dependent upon sugar earnings.

### "REWARD" FOR MARCOS REGIME?

Some sugar commodities specialists, however, defend the Philippine deals as a wise move, and contend that sugar prices will remain low, despite efforts from the Third World sugar bloc. This is based on a premise that there is an over-production of sugar in most countries, coupled with a move to replace sugar with corn sweeteners in industrialized countries. These factors, they say, have slashed the imported sugar needs of most countries. If this contention is true, the Philippine deals were made in narrow self-interests, and probably at the urging of Washington. This would not be unusual for the Philippines, given its historic role and present relationship to the U.S., especially around sugar.

According to H.J. Maidenburg, New York Times, "The dominant force in the business is the State Department which influences that commodity (sugar) and coffee far more than any other raw material in the world." Before the Sugar Quota system expired, "The State Department used the lucrative sugar import quotas as reward or punishment to the 32 countries that have access to the domestic market. Quotas (were) lowered or raised as Washington saw fit." (June 3, 1974)

So, as in this case, the Philippines has again been chosen over other sugar-exporting countries for the lucrative American market — undoubtedly a gesture for reciprocal political and economic favors from Marcos. □

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