

ELECTION BOYCOTT IN FULL STEAM!

(See story on page 3)

In Support of Civil Disobedience at Home: Groups Here Launch 'Balik-Boykot' Drive

The anti-dictatorship movement here and in Canada is launching a nationwide "Balik-Boykot" campaign in support of the "Boykotin ang Eleksyon!" movement in the Philippines, the Coalition Against The Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD) announced recently.

In response to a broad opposition front's call for civil disobedience against the June 16 presidential election, the former Anti-Martial Law Coalition said its "Balik-Boykot" drive will urge Filipinos in the U.S. and Canada to write home and urge "their friends, families and relatives" to boycott the election and give support to the civil disobedience movement there.

Rene Cruz, CAMD Coordinator (see boxed report) stated "The upcoming June 16 election is but another *Palabas* of Marcos to legitimize his regime. All votes, even a 'no' vote would lend legiti-

macy to this farce. Therefore, to boycott is the only responsible position to take."

Two other groups supporting the campaign are Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP) and the International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP).

From now until June, CAMD chapters in the U.S. and Canada will hold several educational activities, to "expose the real motivations of Marcos" for the June 16 presidential election. Forums, seminars, skits, neighborhood motorcades and rallies with massive distribution of informational materials will take place.

CAMD anticipates hundreds of letters to flow into the Philippines as a result of the "Balik-Boykot" activities.

The campaign will climax June 16 with demonstrations in front of the Philippine Consulates

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Crowds flooded into the streets on May 1 commemorating International Workers Day far surpassing crowds seen here for 1979 LABAN campaign. AK File Photo

ILWU BACKS FILIPINO LABOR MOVEMENT



ILWU's Carl Damaso, pressing for resolution expressing concern over the condition of Philippine labor.

DEAN ALLEGADO
Honolulu Correspondent

Noting the gravely deteriorating working and living conditions of Filipino workers under the Marcos regime, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) unanimously voted to send a delegation to the Philippines to look into the "state of trade unions, working conditions and civil liberties of Filipino workers."

The Philippine resolution was one of the many progressive policies passed by 400 delegates to the union's 24th Biennial International Convention held here April 27-May 1. The delegates came from the mainland west

coast, Alaska and Hawaii.

Historically one of the most progressive labor unions in the U.S., the ILWU was one of 13 "left-led" unions expelled from the AFLCIO in the early 1950's for refusing to submit to the anti-communist witchhunts of Sen. Joe McCarthy. Almost half of the union's 53,000 members are in Hawaii's Local 142. The majority of Local 142 are Filipinos.

True to Tradition

True to the ILWU's tradition of militant politics and democratic rank-and-file participation the convention was marked by lively discussions and debates on such controversial issues as the economic problems confront-

ing the American working class and the aggressive foreign policy of the Reagan administration.

The ILWU convention delegates noted with alarm the rightward trend in the political atmosphere in the U.S., shown concretely in the activities of such anti-labor and union-busting groups as the Council for a Union-Free Environment.

Speakers such as Georgia Senator Julian Bond, called on the ILWU and the entire labor movement to unite and build a movement to oppose the Reagan administration's effort to "erase the laws and programs written in

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CHINA
HONG KONG
VIET NAM
LAOS
CAMBODIA
THAILAND
PHILIPPINES (Luzon, Mindanao)
NEW GUINEA
PACIFIC OCEAN

ASEAN Rises from the Dead
SEE PAGE 7

Filipina Beats Back Her Bosses
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EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Esclamado's Fantasies

Our dear friend, Alex Esclamado of the *Philippine News*, is at it again. Hiding behind his staff this time, he offered his readers a degenerate piece of anti-KDP intrigue masquerading as a news story. "Mass defections," he says, has wracked the KDP as a result of an "anti-Maoist v. pro-Maoist" bickering. He lists a number of people as "defectors" joined by "20 others."

Now, as we recall, Alex once charged that KDP has no more than 30 members. By his own estimate therefore, he should judge that no one else could have written this response or put out this issue of the *AK*, but the Easter Bunny. But such is the character of his fabricated story that we are tempted to think Alex is vying for the Pulitzer Prize.

But Alex deserves a response. Mainly because we know he is operating on the theory formulated by Hitler's propaganda chief Goebbels that if you repeat a lie often enough people will take it for the truth. We are not the ones to let such a lie pass unchallenged. Our work in the Filipino community is much too valuable to let a two-bit hack taint it with intrigue.

Sing an Old Song

First of all, Esclamado's latest fabrication is laced with a rehash of past intrigues—tricky, this guy. KDP, he repeats hoarsely, infiltrates and manipulates various causes to gain credibility for its communist aims. How many times do we have to tell you Alex, that people are not fools? So stop treating them as such. They will adopt or disavow our political aims based on their own experiences and their own judgment of the merits of our views.

Also, you still have to show how the causes we have "infiltrated," i.e. helped lead, or initiated have harmed the community's interests. Show how the Narcisco/Perez, International Hotel, Foreign Medical Graduates, Alona, H-1 nurses defense campaigns, and our anti-martial law work have been inimical to the community's well-being. Meanwhile, we can definitely say that your attempts to build your reputation by posing for pictures with *kababayans* needing assistance, or "speaking for the community" in minority gatherings where you say things like "The INS is zeroing on Filipinos because they believe we know a lot of tricks," have not served the community's interests one bit.

The FBI Spectre

Now to Alex's new angles. First, he dramatically warns that KDP is a prime target of the FBI. His aim of course, is to scare people away from us. Shrewdly, he manipulates the community's vulnerability to fear of harassment. He knows that as an immigrant minority, the community is largely unaware of its rights and would prefer to have no "hassles with the law."

Well, the other source of this tactic has been no other than the Marcos dictatorship itself and its network of consulates and *tutas*. Marcos has in fact, attempted to use the FBI against the Lopezes, Psinakis, Aquino, leaders of the MFP and the former AMLC in an effort to intimidate them and their supporters. Here is Alex, using the same technique to intimidate our supporters and consequently, to dampen the free expression of political convictions within the community. We have repeatedly said: an anti-communist inevitably finds himself in bed with a fascist! We also predicted that Esclamado will act as the ideological spokesman of the anti-communist New Right within the community. Here he is folks.

The FBI and the CIA have the reputation of acting as political police. They have been frequently condemned by civil libertarians for infringing on the freedom of speech, association and political belief. We believe the appropriate response to this infringement is not fear, but militant challenge. If people are willing to be intimidated by the FBI, they might as well surrender their civil liberties, also, their convictions. But Esclamado would rather sow fear for his narrow ends, rather than educate towards the militant defense of political liberties.

In addition, anyone who *knows* we are "on top of the FBI's list of subversives" has to be working closely with it. For *professional* newspapers, to be exposed as FBI and CIA conduits usually means embarrassment and fear of loss of prestige. Not so for our dear friend. He wears his "intelligence source" like a medal. Considering the serious implications of this association on the community's political life, he may yet be the most dangerous *Makapili* running loose.

KDP as Don Quixote

Next, Alex portrays the KDP as having the quixotic goal of launching "a proletarian revolution in the U.S." Well, it's one thing to say we believe the U.S. needs one, another to say we will do it singlehandedly. Of course, we believe that any society run not by those who produce its wealth but by a tiny minority who hogs it is in need of drastic change. This is true of the Philippines, this is true of the U.S.

In a society where abundance exists side-by-side with slums and ghettos; where racism defines a whole minority's future; where people have to risk everything they've got to get medical care while corporations rack up billions in profits; where trillions are budgeted for arms while the elderly and the disadvantaged are denied help; where billions are given to dictators; and where the majority has no effective voice to change all

The EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

at
International Terrorism



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RONALD "CUTBACK" REAGAN

FEATURING
ALEXANDER "I'M IN CHARGE" HAIG
CASPAR "WARHEAD" WEINBERGER

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY
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EXTRAS
JOSE "SOC IT TO DEM" DUARTE
FERDINAND "ACE PUPPET" MARCOS
MENACHIM "THE BULLY" BEGIN
PURE WHITE BOTHA
... AND MANY MORE

We express our appreciation to all those untold millions of El Salvador, Chile, the Philippines and the rest of the third world, without whose bloodshed and suffering, this adventure would be an impossibility.

"... a truly horrifying expose of the real international terrorist—U.S. imperialism!"

—Ang Katipunan

these—we definitely see a need for drastic change.

So do thousands of Americans who are now beginning to fight back against Reagan's bias for the rich, the powerful and the enemies of human rights. But, sorry, Alex. As a relatively small community, we don't propose that Filipinos fight for this change *alone*. If we could, we should but we can't. So we propose instead, that we begin breaking out of political isolation to be part of a developing people's movement out there. Is this quixotic? We see greater potential in the community, despite its weaknesses, than you do, obviously.

Wishful Thinking

And then, we come to Alex's trump card. With his tale of "mass defections" in the KDP he hopes to show we are a troublesome, split-ridden sinister grouping (complete with a "hit list") fanatically squabbling over Marxism as if it were the Bible or the Talmud. He infers, of course, that we are too weird to be worth associating or working with. This "mass defection" was such a startling news to all of us, we almost looked around to see if anyone was missing or if anyone has ridiculously started to pray over a book of Marx. Well, you know, the *Philippine News* is supposed to be a bearer of news.

But Esclamado's fabrications aside, he accurately sensed that there are debates, questions and various positions being taken and retaken on the impact of China's foreign policy to the international anti-imperialist movement. One only has to see any leftwing publication, or the *New York Times* for that matter, to realize that revolutionary movements worldwide are taking a close look at China's view that the Soviet Union and not U.S. imperialism is the main danger to the people's of the world. This certainly has a bearing on who the revolutions in various countries should target. Also, anyone—Marxist, liberal, religious, or not—who has gotten close enough to the Philippine revolutionary movement will know this is a living question there, too.

But this just goes to show that revolutionary anti-imperialist movements, are not afraid to look at new and difficult questions in the eye, because *what is at stake* is the advancement or retrogression of their people's struggle for liberation. These movements are not afraid of reexamining, questioning, refining or defending previously held or newly-held positions. Because Marxism, Alex, is a science, not a dogma. It is used to analyze the world or a country or a community in order to change it. Before this science, as in all sciences, nothing is so sacred that it cannot be questioned.

This is certainly far superior to Esclamado's immovable faith in the capitalist system and his rote recitation of its virtues regardless of its obvious injustices. This is why we call him a conservative, nay, a reactionary who kneels blindly before the graven idol at capitalism's altar—the almighty cash register.

Not that movements have not split over questions when a unified answer could not be reached. One only has to read about the Sino-Soviet split, the split in the Irish republican movement, the split in the old Katipunan, etc. Sometimes they unfortunately result in intense antagonism—but mainly because entire revolutions

are at stake! But more importantly, where unity was achieved on key questions, revolutions were boosted tremendously. The Nicaraguan revolution is an example. The Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA would not be where they are now if no unified critique of the old Lava-Huk leadership's flunkeyism to Soviet modern revisionism were reached.

But Esclamado is too eager "to fish in troubled waters" he ends up with the worm in his mouth. He quickly ascribes to the existence of a new political questions "bitter in-fighting," "four months of internal struggle" leading to "mass defections" in KDP. Sorry, Alex, your wishful thinking leads you to pitiful fantasies.

Not only this, but other political questions our ranks grapple with day-to-day, such as "should the community support busing?" or "should it support terrorist bombings in Manila?" are far too serious to be caricatured by Esclamado. They are certainly more meaningful than the questions Esclamado and his likes make or break reputations for, such as "who gets to sit next to the Mayor?" or "who should get credit for inviting her?" Over these issues and in these circles, we can say with all certainty, bitter in-fighting smoulders for years!

Old Dog, New Tricks

But maybe we are giving Alex too much credit for this "fishing" attempts. This new angle of intrigue he just found is beyond his ken. It reminds us of the political sophistication of FBI-CIA-COINTELPRO-style sabotage and destabilization campaigns where fake letters or documents are sent to exacerbate potential differences within radical and progressive groups.

In addition, Esclamado even printed his attack alongside a favorable report on the NPA to give the impression that he is sympathetic to the Philippine revolution—to give credibility to his attack. This is sophisticated, indeed.

But how hypocritical, when he has been attacking us for supporting the NPA, a movement he is deathly afraid of much less sympathetic to.

But we shouldn't wonder. Alex is proud of his access to the FBI. It shows you can sometimes teach an old dog new tricks, if you have experts to train it.

Lastly, Alex tries to dignify his intrigue by pretending to have quotes from "defectors" and claiming he tried to contact KDP by phone. We recall our attempts last year to meet with Esclamado which were always refused. Finally, we and the groups he had vilified, such as the PND, Far West Convention and the AMLC had to go to his office unannounced only to be told he was gone.

He commissioned instead, a befuddled underling Ed Diokno, who had to admit Esclamado's "unreasonable" policy of discrediting everything KDP is identified with. Our only advice Alex: next time find another place to hide other than the bathroom, please. Like the last time, some of us may want to use it, and it is such a discomfort to find it locked for a whole hour! □

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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ELECTION BOYCOTT IN FULL STEAM!



LABAN campaign, 1979: 'No contest' expected in the coming election.

By VICTORIA LUNA
Staff Writer

A broad coalition of Philippine opposition groups announced May 10 a civil disobedience campaign against the Marcos government.

The pledge was part of the nationwide effort to boycott the June 16 "presidential election."

The announcement followed a day-long conference in Baguio City where 170 representatives of various opposition groups hammered out their boycott strategy for the election in which Marcos will run virtually unopposed.

Represented were organizations as diverse as:

- The United Democratic Opposition (UNIDO), a formation of ex-senators and congressmen from whose ranks Marcos had hoped to find an opponent;

- The Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines, an organization of lawyers and former Supreme

Court Justices led by ex-Senator Jose Diokno;

- The Kilyan Mayo Uno (KMU, May First Movement), a 1,000,000-strong federation of militant workers seeking full restoration of workers' rights;

- Student, religious and other mass-based groups.

"REPUDIATE U.S.—MARCOS IMPERIALISM"

Sharing the speakers' podium were Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw of UNIDO, recently arrested for her participation in the "Vote No!" campaign for the April 7 plebiscite, Sen. Diokno, KMU Chairman Roberto Olalia, Roberto Coloma a student leader, and spokespersons for religious and other sectors.

Across the platform hung a huge banner saying, "Repudiate U.S.-Marcos Imperialism!"

Diokno, as speaking to Marcos, charged, "your rules are unfair and we won't play!"

But numerous other speakers brought in "The Foreign Connection," in the words of a recently published CLUP paper. U.S. support for the Marcos regime and the role of multinational corporations were repeatedly denounced. Many suggested that the election was a proving ground to establish the regime's stability in the eyes of the new Reagan administration.

Teams Dispatched Nationwide

A written agreement drawn up at the meeting stated that the main problem facing the Filipino people was inequality of income and livelihood.

The agreement called on the opposition to send teams of organizers throughout the country to make their movement genuinely nationwide.

The consensus, according to student leader Coloma, was 'to reject familiar political processes like farcical elections under authoritarian rule in favor of the new militant way of withdrawing citizen support.'

Commented the KMU's Olalia: "This is an alignment of groups against Marcos, who, we believe, no longer has a legal claim to the presidency."

50,000 RALLY TO MOURN WORKER'S DEATH

Meanwhile, belated reports reveal the strength of the KMU as reflected in their militant labor activities on May 1 in different cities.

The most impressive of these actions occurred in the Metro-Manila area. Here 50,000, according to the Marcos dailies, rallied under a KMU banner in the

Araneta Coliseum. The crowd well surpassed the 35,000 who attended the launching of the KMU one year earlier.

The rally was followed by a funeral procession to Loyola Cemetery in Marikina for a worker recently shot by his supervisor.

Police Powerless

Chanting workers flooded the street, filling its entire breadth. The line of workers and their supporters stretched the entire distance from the coliseum in downtown Cubao to the Marikina cemetery (roughly three to four miles.)

potential participants had been kept from entering Manila by watchful policy. To avoid this problem, the KMU chose to hold a number of regional activities the size of which are still unknown.

The Marcos regime, hoping to detract worker attention from the KMU event, as it did last year, sponsored its own activity. Held at the elegantly appointed Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), the pale activity managed to attract only members of the yellow Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP).



Roberto Coloma

Jose Diokno

Marcos' police stood awkwardly along the sidelines watching the human flood. They were powerless against the largest mass action by Filipino workers in recent history.

Other actions were held outside of Manila. Many of last year's

Given the breadth of KMU support as compared to that of the TUCP, and the wide range of groups with which KMU united for the boycott movement, the Marcos regime may have found May 1 an uncomfortable portent of things to come. □

Comments from the Left:

A TIRED SCENARIO WITH A VICIOUS AIM

By RENE CRUZ
Editor

A DOZEN RACUYALS

One evening in 1969, perennial presidential candidate Pascual Racuyal stood on a bench in Plaza Miranda haranguing a crowd of two dozen vagrants.

His spiel, which included air-conditioning the Philippines and building plastic-bottomed ricefields was cut short when his battered mike stopped dead.

The small curio shop that had hooked up his extension cord was closing for the night.

A howl of laughter ended Racuyal's grand "miting de Avance." The pathetic figure melted away in disappointment, but a good time was definitely had by all.

The dozen or so reportedly "running" against Ferdinand Marcos on June 16, 1981 are no less pathetic than Racuyal. Even if any of them proves to be an accomplished clown, it is doubtful whether a good time will be had by anyone.

These are the only candidates Marcos' enforcers could muster in the attempt to spare him the embarrassment of having to run unopposed. Marcos would have preferred a candidate from UNIDO (but not Aquino, of course) the better to give his show a semblance of legitimacy. But UNIDO refused to run at the last minute, despite Defense Minister Enrile's impassioned plea that they do their "duty to the nation."

Fairness not the Sole Issue

The elite opposition did wise in boycotting. They would have just lent legitimacy to a patent farce. Still, their protest of "unfair contest!" is far too weak for the occasion.

Can anything more than an unfair contest be expected? Should it not be crystal clear by now that no genuine elections can ever take place under his regime?

The dictatorship was installed, in the first place, because the popular tide of nationalism was already threatening to upset U.S. interests and all of oligarchical class rule by 1972. Iron rule which does not tolerate even the traditional "democratic politics" UNIDO stalwarts have been accustomed to had to be imposed.

This situation has not changed at all and genuine suffrage cannot be established without altering it. Real suffrage is only possible within a truly independent and democratic republic—with the all-sided democratization of society or the liberation of the majority from feudal, imperialist, and fascist bondage.

For this to come about, the U.S.-Marcos republic has to be totally overthrown. Short of overthrow, everything else will be an unfair contest for the people, and

whatever modicum of "fairness" may be allowed the elite opposition will only be used to legitimize the status quo. □

WHO'S MARCOS RUNNING FOR?

The election is billed as the final stage to the "full restoration of democracy," or "normalization," an event originally set for 1984.

What has brought on this early redemption of the Filipino people from the previously touted greatness of Constitutional Authoritarianism? The quest for more U.S. aid and foreign loans, that's what.

Reagan gallantly assured Imelda Marcos prior to his inauguration that he will stand by her husband. This no-nonsense indication of support fits snugly in Washington's global game plan.

Shamed by the Watergate scandal and humiliated by its defeat in Vietnam, the empire, now guided by a cowboy from Hollywood, is bristling with the desire to strike back at the worldwide anti-imperialist movements. It is counting on Marcos as one of its stormtroopers for democracy.

The Empire Strikes Back

Marcos has acquired greater significance because the U.S. bases in the Philippines have become more important to the U.S. They are a crucial setpiece for Washington's global strategy which includes the following goals:

- Bolster Zionism, split Arab nations, sabotage Iran, prepare to send desert-trained troops to protect "U.S. oil" which only happened to be in the Middle East;
- Support racism in Africa, undermine the new revolutionary regimes; smash the Salvadoran revolution, and undermine liberated Nicaragua and bully Cuba;
- Egg China on in its quarrel with Vietnam; and escalate support for loyal third world dictatorships to stem "international terrorism" (read anti-imperialist liberation movements).

Reagan is willing to risk confrontation with the Soviet Union in this updated version of "Manifest Destiny."

In this light, Clark and Subic are important staging points for the projection of U.S. armed might into the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and Southeast Asia.

In fact, their facilities are to be expanded to house elements of the sinister Rapid Deployment Force, the

new U.S. interventionist military unit. This underlies Reagan's early promise of support for Marcos.

Reagan's Angle

But Marcos has to do some homework too. For all of Reagan's rightwing frankness, the U.S. still needs an official justification for supporting dictatorial regimes.

In this case, legitimacy and loyalty to U.S. security interests is Reagan's angle, not human rights. "He may be a bastard but he's legit, and he's our boy," this line goes. And as applied on El Salvador, the legit bastard needs help against "the forces of chaos and terrorism," which just happen to be the rest of the population.

Marcos' loyalty is already proven. Therefore, he only has to make a fresh claim to legitimacy—and this is what the "fresh mandate" on June 16 represents. In a similar vein, South Korean dictator Chun finished his homework early: he "lifted" martial law, drafted a new constitution, "won" a presidential election before he was blessed in a state visit to the U.S. early this year. Marcos is obviously following the same script.

The "Loan Ranger"

Not unrelated to the Reagan angle, is the loan and investment factor. Marcos is "normalizing" for this too.

Finance Minister Cesar Virata still grimaces publicly at every mention of the leaked World Bank Ascher Report on the Philippines, for obvious reasons. It bares the bank's apprehensions which are based on a frank critique of the regime's New Society.

Concerned over the security of their investments, creditors want to be assured that they are not dealing with a makeshift "crisis government" that will burst asunder once the dictator becomes indisposed due to natural and unnatural causes.

Thus, Marcos wants to assure them that his "new, strong presidential system," along with its puppet IBP is a stable, regular and normal government. With or without him, its officials will be free from prosecution and can thus continue to honor the dealings he has made.

Not surprisingly, he "lifted" martial law or ended "crisis" government just 12 days before a World Bank-sponsored January Paris meeting of lenders regarding new loans to the Philippines.

All in all, that the democratic right to suffrage can be distorted to suit the specifications of a foreign power and foreign capital is a telling sign of imperialism's hold on a supposedly independent nation. □

An Economy in Crisis:

The House of Cards That Marcos Built

By VICTORIA LUNA
Staff Writer

The June election is taking place amidst the debris of Marcos' broken economic promises.

The president said that one of the key reasons for declaring martial law in 1972, was to improve the economic life of the Filipino people.

One of the justifications for its "lifting" was that eight-and-a-half years of iron rule had accomplished that goal.

But no one has taken these claims very seriously. Lately, even the World Bank, financial journals and worried local and foreign businessmen have been expressing reservations over how long Marcos can keep bluffing before a deprived populace starts tearing the whole place apart.

Unprecedented Crisis

All evidence shows that the Philippine economy today is in an unprecedented state of crisis. Inflation has driven prices sky high, real wages have plummeted and the gap between the rich and poor is wider than ever.

Meanwhile the country's foreign debt continues its dizzying climb, the balance of payments situation is worse than ever, investment houses are on the verge of collapse and even Marcos' closest cronies are in the brink of some serious financial troubles.

Prices Soar; Real Wages Sink

Today's workers feel the crisis where it hurts the most—in the stomach and in the pocketbook. A survey of the current economic situation reveals:

- The real value of the peso in August 1980 had plunged to 35¢ if compared to its value in 1972.

- While the Consumer Price index rose annually by 14.1%

between 1972 and 1980, real wages have been allowed an annual rise of only 2.35%.

- The government's Food and Nutrition Research Institute, as early as 1977, found that a family of six in Metro-Manila needed ₱43.06 to purchase necessities. But workers' wages reached ₱23.30 to ₱24.70 only in 1980 and this figure includes numerous "allowances" which most workers never see.

Peasant Hardships

Peasants have done no better and many since 1972 have become landless agricultural workers.

- As of 1975, government records showed that the poorest 20% of rural families received less than 7% of total rural income while the richest 20% cornered a full 40%.

- The Ministry of Agrarian Reform reported in December 1979 that only 1,600 had become owners of their land as a result of "land reform."

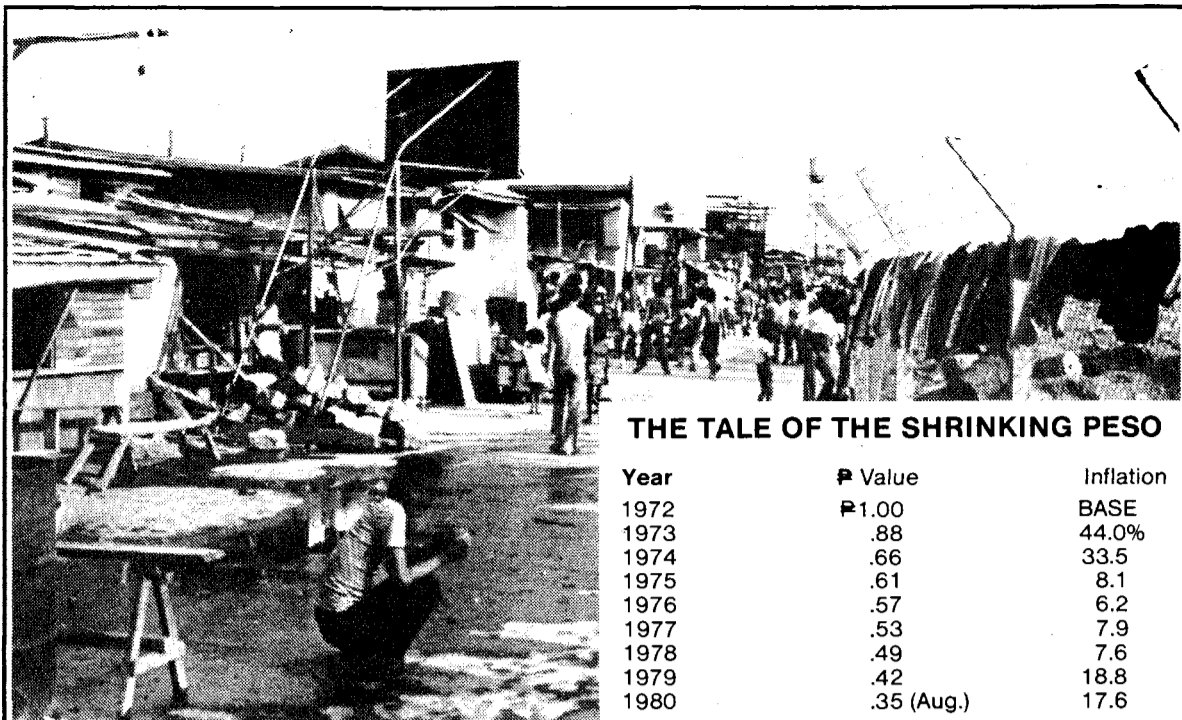
- Thousands of peasants have been driven off their land in fertile Mindanao as landgrabbing agribusiness corporations have set up huge banana and pineapple plantations.

Peso Devaluation on the Agenda

A recent study by the Chase Manhattan Bank predicts that the country's deteriorating trade position will force repeated peso devaluation. According to some reports, a plan has already been devised for step-by-step "painless" devaluation by as much as one half.

A glance at developments during the first quarter of 1981 confirms the seriousness of the regime's economic position.

- The country's balance of payments deficit widened to



Typical slum: Economic conditions under martial law have produced much of the same.

AK Photo

THE TALE OF THE SHRINKING PESO

Year	₱ Value	Inflation
1972	₱1.00	BASE
1973	.88	44.0%
1974	.66	33.5
1975	.61	8.1
1976	.57	6.2
1977	.53	7.9
1978	.49	7.6
1979	.42	18.8
1980	.35 (Aug.)	17.6

\$189 million from a mere \$14 million a year earlier (Central Bank).

- The deficit would have been much larger except for large increases in long-term capital inflow, i.e. loans.

- The first quarter trade deficit was \$682 million, up from \$545 million for the same period in 1980.

- While imports rose by 11%, exports rose only 4%, the lowest increase in several years.

In One Hand, Out the Other

External debt at the end of the first quarter rose to a staggering 13.14 billion. But while loans poured in, it was basically in one hand and out the other. For, while the country took in \$1.85 billion in new loans, it paid out \$1.38 billion in debt service payments.

Large capital inflows at a time of sluggish production growth further fueled inflation, which grew by 14.1%.

Bailing Out the Cronies

Finally, the Filipino business community finds itself in disarray. Among those most seriously affected are none other than Marcos' closest business cronies.

These are destined to be beneficiaries of a \$196.1 million government bailout fund.

The bailout fund for industrial corporations was set up in early April to complement a similar fund set up earlier for financial institutions. Corporate officials look upon the fund as a "graveyard" because the aid carries an interest of only 11% at a time when commercial rates are over 20%.

Money Market Collapse

Even Marcos' cronies have been stung by the recent collapse of the country's money market. They were heavily dependent on short-term money market loans, very few of which are now available in the aftermath of the Dewey Dee caper.

Dee, a textile magnate, disappeared in February leaving ₱635 million in debt. Most of his debts were owed to investment houses, many of which are now in danger of going under.

Investment houses are quasi-banking institutions. They make most of this money from relending large loans and, more importantly, from money market placements and the issuance of short-term high interest loans.

Although the government bailed out the most badly hurt investment houses in the aftermath of Dee's disappearance, the generalized air of uncertainty has resulted in the transfer of funds from investment houses to commercial banks.

Bancom, the most prestigious of the firms, borrowed ₱400 million in government money to keep itself afloat. Atrium Capital Corporation borrowed twice that figure. Despite this, the *Asian Wall Street Journal* reports that some of the biggest investment houses, including Bancom, are likely to disappear.

Unstable Foundations

The Marcos bail-out program is not likely to save the investment house system. But it should help Marcos' business associates. Herminio Disini, Imelda's cousin and one of the wealthiest of the country's new elite, is a key beneficiary.

But observers, even those sympathetic to the regime, have begun to see more clearly the fragile character of the Philippine economy. It is a structure which rests on unstable foundations: the shoulders of a suffering and increasingly restive Filipino people. □

A Profile of the Anti-Marcos Resistance



UNIDO's Laurel and Kalaw: Representatives of two trends within elite opposition. ASIaweek Photo

By CRIS TAGAM
Staff Writer

Just who opposes President Ferdinand Marcos in his upcoming election ploy?

The answer: just about everybody who's worth being called anti-fascist. But the organized opposition participating in the boycott movement opposes Marcos from varying perspectives.

Most prominently covered

by the media are members of the elite opposition who hesitated to announce their decision to boycott until after the April 17 "plebiscite." But within this group two tendencies are to be found.

Already demoralized by the signs of declining support from the U.S. under Reagan, the elite opposition finds itself confused and divided over the question of how to replace Marcos. The rumors of a budding coup, so ram-

pant under the Carter administration, have disappeared with Reagan and his harder line support.

Critical Collaboration

Nonetheless there are those who would prefer "critical" collaboration. This is "opposition" through institutionalized channels such as elections and participation in Marcos' legislative bodies. This tendency is led by the Laurels and ex-Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino currently in the U.S.

The Laurels' organizing capacity was shown by their January 1980 local election victory in their home province of Batangas. Their support in other parts of the country comes from groups such as the Mindanao Alliance led by Reuben Canoy and Homobono Adaza and the United Opposition of Cebu.

The more popular Aquino, legally prevented from presidential candidacy by the age requirement, is more sophisticated. One day he calls for cooperation with Marcos, another day he threatens new disturbances by the April 6th Liberation Movement.

But Ninoy himself made it clear several times that he would prefer to go back to "build a base." The concession he is seeking from Marcos is to be freed from prosecution. After this, he is willing to participate in Marcos'

limited arena which he thinks he can use as a platform for openly building a political machinery.

Warnings of Disturbances

Much brasher are those who favor determined "confrontational" opposition. Within this group is to be found still another list of prominent names:

- The Lopezes are linked, however vaguely, with the April 6th and the Light-A-Fire movements which have warned of fresh bombings.

- Former president Diosdado Macapagal, refuses to engage in any of Marcos' electoral ploys and continues to pursue his case of the 1973 Constitution's illegality.

It is, of course, to Marcos' advantage to nurture the collaborationist tendency. It is this group which can help him establish "legitimacy" via the "normalization" process.

But both the Aquinos and the Laurels who initially planned to run a candidate, have for the moment, been eclipsed by the more confrontational tendency.

Taking on the People's Sentiments

As the ineffectiveness of participating on June 16 became more apparent, more former bureaucrats have begun to sympathize with the broader and

basic sentiments of the people for civil disobedience at the polls.

Former politicians such as Gerardo Roxas and Eva Estrada Kalaw have even displayed willingness to adopt the nationalist politics that dominate the grassroots boycott movement.

Jose W. Diokno is not hesitant to openly renounce the fascist Marcos dictatorship and point to its U.S. imperialist backers.

Growth of the People's Movement

The election boycott movement however, is firmly based on scores of grassroots, students, workers, religious, and peasant organizations.

Heightened economic woes have spurred spontaneous upsurges as more and more people are willing to participate not only in legal organizing but also in the underground resistance.

Significant actions have come from the working class in the Manila-Rizal area and other major urban centers (see story, page 3). Some 200 spontaneous actions since January erupted in various workplaces, demanding higher wages and workers' right to strike.

The formation of Solidarity, a progressive workers federation led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno,

Continued to page 8

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN H-1 NURSE

(The AK has reported several times that nurses on H-1 visas are fast becoming the favorite targets of immigration authorities.

Threatened with deportation for failure to pass state board licensure exams, which have been widely criticized for anti-foreign bias, hundreds of nurses are in a state of fear.

The following is an account of an H-1 nurse who wishes to remain anonymous, for obvious reasons of security. It reflects the experiences of many others who are in a similar situation—Editor.)

By L. MARZAN
New York Correspondent

"Will today be the day the INS will catch up with me? I wonder what my supervisor will find fault with this time? Will I be lucky today and get an approval to retake the State Board exams? Ah, wishful thinking!"

These are the thoughts of a typical Filipino H-1 nurse as she gets ready to start another day's work. A working day might start at eight in the morning, or more likely, it is either two in the afternoon, or 10 o'clock at night. At best, it might be 6 o'clock in the morning.

Whichever time it starts, a work day is not one an H-1 nurse may necessarily look forward to. This is exactly how Lilia feels as she drags herself out of bed at 10 this Sunday night to get ready for her "graveyard" 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift at St. Joseph's Hospital in New Jersey. Although she has been permanently working these hours for almost a year now, her body still has not adjusted to the reversed cycle. Even if she sleeps the whole day between shifts getting up only to prepare and eat her meals, she's still constantly tired and rundown.

Uncertainties Breed Anxieties

Between the rundown feeling and all the other concerns she has on her mind right now, Lilia just feels blah about working tonight. "Mrs. O'Neill, my supervisor, is certainly nothing to rejoice about," she sighs. "She's always looking over my shoulder with the eyes of a hawk, ready to blow up for every little slip I make. What's more, she's never like this to the American nurses or the LVNs. Sometimes, she

seems to deliberately close her eyes to their mistakes."

But Mrs. O'Neill is actually the least of Lilia's problems. Her mind is filled with anxieties over her future in America. It has been almost a month since she received the results of the State Board exams she took and failed last February. Up to now she doesn't know if she can take the examinations again by July.

The New Jersey State Board now requires that the H-1 visa be renewed first before nurses can apply to retake it. The INS, however, would not renew her visa unless she has passed the exam. What a trap!

"Not wanting to believe this is actually happening to me, I convinced myself that this is just one of those administrative foul-ups, that it's all a mistake," Lilia explains. So, she went ahead and re-applied for the July examinations.

Meanwhile, she is also trying to get her visa renewed based on a statement from the hospital administrator. But the INS has refused to honor this so far, and Lilia is fast running out of time because her visa expires in another month. Although the hospital has been very helpful up to now, who knows how far out on a limb it will go.

"Oh, if only I had passed those exams, then I wouldn't be in such a sorry state," she moans. All her friends were surprised Lilia failed. She was an honor student in nursing school back in Manila and was an active student leader as well.

But the difficulties and anxieties she faced when she came to the U.S. proved to be insurmountable. In addition to the normal homesickness Lilia worried endlessly about her mother who is now living by herself. She missed her old friends. In addition, her health has been very poor since she arrived. She was plagued with abdominal pains, and now her doctor is talking of a possible operation. Lilia just could not hurdle the State Board exams.

Lilia's Hopes

"Oftentimes, I wonder why I left home, my mother, my friends, all the things I'm familiar with and love," she mumbles while stirring her coffee. Lilia knows, however, that from the moment she decided to go into nursing, she started heading in the direction of the

U.S.A.

"My parents invested a lot of hard-earned money to send me through nursing school hoping that someday I will be able to go abroad... *magka-green card pa ako*, then I can sponsor them too," Lilia sighs out again. They all agreed that at least she should be able to help the family out by sending dollars home. Her father brought these hopes all the way to his deathbed.

After working for a year and a half in Manila, Lilia started shopping around for an agency that could help her look for a job in the U.S. The newspapers always have ads for such agencies. Some agencies promise the world—a contract with a hospital in less than three months, housing close to the hospital, even lawyers if the nurse should face problems in the U.S.

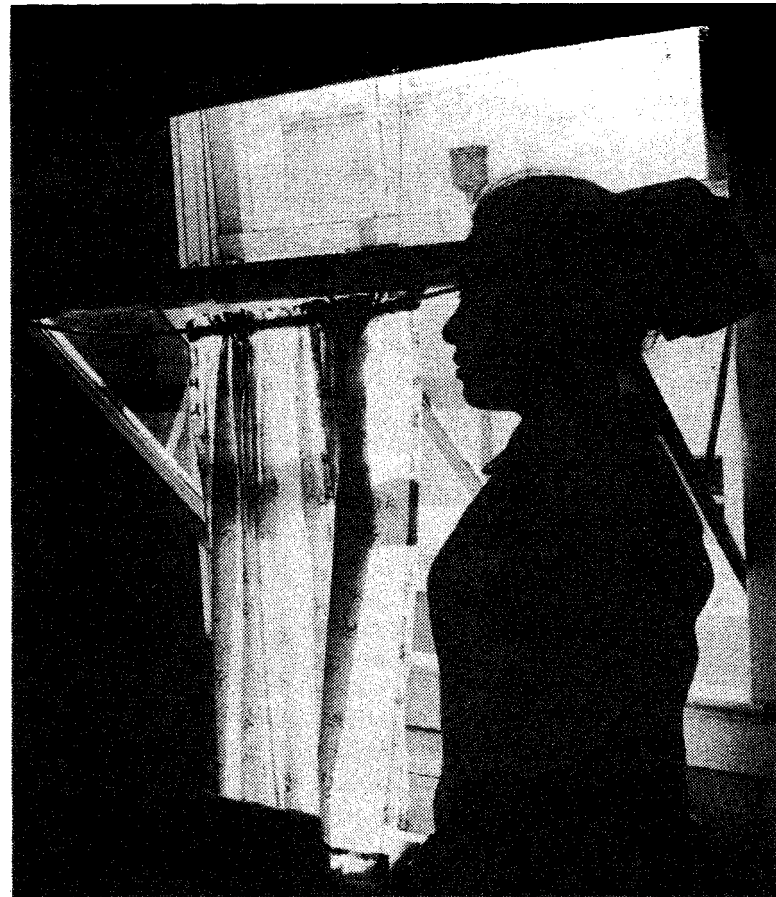
Of course, nothing is for free. They charge anywhere from ₱1,000 to ₱6,000, depending on the services promised and the speed of the whole process from application to actual departure.

With a handful of isolated exceptions, these agencies give no orientation on life in the U.S., the nursing practices in this country, the particular hospital the nurse is going to work in, the licensure procedures—all the general adjustments a new immigrant has to undergo.

With nothing much more than hopes and dreams and a \$2,000 debt (for the agency fee and her one-way plane fare), Lilia set out for the U.S.A., at a disadvantage right from the very start. As she herself puts it, "*Hindi pa man ako kumikilos, may utang na ako!*" (I was in debt even before I made a move.)

Now with barely half of her \$2,000 debt repaid, she's already threatened with possible deportation in a couple of months. How will she ever repay the rest of the debt? What happens if she should need an operation? How will she ever repay her mother for their "investment" in her education?

There are other Lilias out there. Some are already in transition to other states, away from the shadow of their local INS. Still more are diligently finishing their nursing courses in Manila or Cebu, but in their minds they are already headed for the U.S.A. Perhaps even New Jersey. □



Nurse Board Sued, Defended

Special to the AK

San Francisco—A battle is shaping up over the State Board of Registered Nursing's (BRN) decision to extend interim permits to foreign nurses.

The BRN's decision was recently slapped with a lawsuit by the Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs in Nursing, and other heads of nursing educational institutions. The case is to be heard in the Superior Court June 4 in this city.

Suit Countered

The suit contends that the BRN is overstepping its authority by granting extensions to nurses who failed the February licensure exams. In addition, the suit charged the extension will allow "illegally-licensed" nurses to practice to the detriment of the state's citizens.

The interim permits will extend nurses' stay in the U.S., until such time the licensure exam can be proven genuinely job-related and not biased against race or national origin.

Meanwhile, a number of community and labor groups filed an amicus brief May 8, backing the BRN's decision to grant nurses interim permits.

The "friend of the court" brief is a formal statement by community groups which will boost the legal defense of foreign nurses.

In the forefront of the groups represented by the brief are: the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL); National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO); Asian Law Caucus; Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Hospital Workers Union, Local 250; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Civil Service Association, Local 400; and Equal Rights Advocates.

Licensure Exam: Center of Controversy

The licensure exam called the State Board Test Pool Examination (SBTPE), focus of the current controversy, was recently found by the California Department of Consumer Affairs to have an "adverse impact" on minorities and foreign nurses.

According to an informal study conducted by the BRN, the passing rate for whites was 86%, for

Hispanics 52%, for Blacks 36.8%, and for Asians 16.4%.

Such discrepancies prompted the BRN to conduct a study of the exam's job-relatedness and in the meantime, extend the interim permits to October 1, when the study is scheduled for completion.

Without the interim permits, foreign nurses who did not pass the February exam are subject to deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Brief Argues for BRN

In the "friend of the court" brief, the community and labor groups argued that not only does the BRN have the authority to extend interim permits, but the Board's action was necessary in order to avoid discriminating against minority and foreign nurses who have had difficulty passing the culturally-biased exam.

Furthermore, the brief states: "Currently, 88% of the nation's hospitals have unmet nursing needs and a shortage of 90,000 to 100,000 nurses exists. Given this nursing shortage, every effort should be taken to provide the public with sufficient health assistance. However, as evidenced by the Adverse Impact Assessment, the SBPE has served to exclude large numbers of minorities, potential registered nurses, from the nursing work force..."

Lastly, it points out that the threat of deportation for hundreds of foreign-trained nurses is unduly harsh, given that nurses' competence is established before they are allowed into the U.S.

Stop Deportations!

In related actions to protect the rights of foreign nurses, the NAFL and NFIRO campaign to stop deportations is gathering widespread support.

State congresspersons Robert Matsui, Don Edwards and Phillip Burton, along with the International Headquarters of the SEIU, have written letters to the INS national office supporting a meeting with community groups to negotiate a moratorium on the deportations.

Meanwhile, hundreds of signatures are being gathered nationwide, supporting the moratorium on deportation.

For more information, call: Lillian Galledo, NFIRO National Staff (415) 465-9876 (days), (415) 653-3226 (evenings). □

'Balik-Boykot' . . .

Continued from page 1

or offices of Marcos' "local apologists." These demonstrations will take place simultaneously throughout the U.S. and Canada. (All those interested in joining the CAMD activities should contact the chapter in your area.)

Los Angeles: Alan (213) 613-1520

Montreal: Linda (514) 935-1196

New York: Armin (212) 249-2611

Sacramento: Sonny (916) 428-4415

San Diego: Josephine (714) 277-4202

San Jose: Becky (408) 288-8272

Seattle: Leni (206) 725-4368

Toronto: Ging (416) 366-0170

Vancouver: Cenon (604) 251-3872

Washington, D.C.: Jon (301) 933-5239

Chicago: Chito (312) 759-3139

Hawaii: Fr. Gigi (808) 668-2160

San Francisco: Alex (415) 931-8522

AMLC Has New Name

The AMLC, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition announced May 5 that it has changed its name to *Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship* or CAMD.

Last January Marcos formally lifted martial law. While acknowledging the change in title of the Marcos regime, the AMLC vowed

to continue "exposing the real dictatorial and repressive nature of the Marcos government." The coalition will do this under its new name which was voted on by the coalition's 11 chapters.

CAMD National Coordinator Rene Cruz stated, "The name change to CAMD speaks to the real character of the Marcos government. No matter what title Marcos invents in his attempts to legitimize it, he will not be able to cover up the truth."

The CAMD will continue to have its national office in Oakland, California with chapters throughout the United States and Canada representing the following cities: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Sacramento, Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Honolulu, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. □

Filipino Community Duped:

Marcos Campaigns in U.S. Via Satellite TV

By **BEN OCAMPO**
Staff Writer

San Jose, CA—Unsuspecting Filipinos who were invited to attend the Bataan News Anniversary celebration May 16 at the prestigious Convention Center, were instead treated to the Marcos dictatorship's brand of politics.

Of the 2,000 expected to attend the festivities jointly sponsored by publisher Leonilo Malabed and the San Francisco Philippine Consulate, only 400 Filipinos showed up, coming from as far as Delano, Stockton, San Francisco and Sacramento.

Guests were treated to a sumptuous roast beef and ham luncheon, compliments of the hosts, and entertained by stage personalities which included comedian Prospero Luna, child "superstar" Jemmabelle Bosch, and singer Imelda Papin.

The overall extravaganza costs reportedly ran into thousands of dollars. Food catering alone was tabbed at \$10 per plate, with food reserved for 1,500 people.

Election Atmosphere Staged

The bare entrance to the Convention Center was a far cry from the elaborate decorations rigged by the sponsors, which created an atmosphere of a highly orchestrated election campaign. The hall, bedecked with a



Placards prepared for Marcos' live television appearance at a free luncheon sponsored by the Philippine Consulate. **AK Photo**

patriotic red, white and blue motif, was filled with expensively silk-screened giant banners which read: "Thank You, Mr. President!" "Mabuhay ang Pangulong Marcos!" and "Pulong Pulong U.S.A." A monstrous portrait of Marcos was displayed high above the stage.

In full view of the audience was a towering movie screen wherein Marcos was to appear live on telecast TV via satellite. Three professional video cameras constantly panned the audience with blinding spotlights.

However, prior to the main event (Marcos appearing live on satellite TV), the audience was

subjected to "rehearsals," prompting some people in the audience to leave in disgust.

Using cue cards to signal when the audience should applaud, a couple left in a huff, saying: "The gall of those people to treat us like that!"

The charade however, did not stop. The audience were then asked to rehearse a standing ovation, reserved for when Marcos ends his speech.

'Nothing New'

An hour late from the original schedule, Marcos finally appeared on the giant screen, greeted by a mild and polite applause from the audience.

"What Marcos said was nothing new," reported Andy Aganod, a college student. "He just ranted on his usual way, listing his accomplishments under the New Society."

Towards the end of Marcos' speech, the audience were cued to raise placards furnished by the sponsors, which read: "U.S. Filipinos for Marcos!" "Marcos is my Kind of Guy!" "I'm for KBL!" and "Kay Marcos pa rin Kami!"

"This has to be the biggest political coercion I've ever seen," remarked a Filipino male in his 30s who did not want to be identified. "Talagang lutong Macoy," he added.

A few in the audience managed to stage a silent protest, turning around their placards as the cameras panned their way; some remained seated during the rehearsed standing ovation.

Boycott Election Urged

Outside the Convention Center, members of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD), formerly Anti-Martial Law Coalition, distributed hundreds of the *Taliba* newspaper and free copies of the *Ang Katipunan*. The activists urged the people to join the "Balik-Boycott" campaign, enjoining Filipinos to write their families in the Philippines asking them to boycott the election.

An incident occurred when some members of the CAMD entered the Convention Center to observe the festivities. Immediately, they were accosted by heavily-built Filipinos in plain clothes (later identified as NBI agents), who physically "escorted" them out of the building.

The people in the community who witnessed the incident were visibly appalled and angered.

'People Bored'

"People who went to this affair out of curiosity were obviously bored by the whole extravaganza," noted Aganod. "If they (sponsors) ever have to do this again, I'm sure less people will go, now that they know what to expect." □

Fired Union Member Reinstated:

Cannery Worker Humbles Employers



Victorious Lynn Domingo at Local 37 meeting; inset. **AK Photos**

Special to the AK

Seattle — A young Filipino-American cannery worker who refused to bow to her company's decision to fire her for alleged incompetence, successfully won her case, thanks to the vigorous support from her union.

On April 17, the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service, a third party arbitrator prompted by the Cannery Workers Union Local 37 ILWU to investigate the "unjust firing" of Lynn Domingo, 23, ruled that she should be reinstated with full seniority rights.

Charging her dismissal was not grounded on "just cause", the arbitrator also instructed the Alaska-based Dimond E Fisheries to pay "an equal amount of wages and benefits she would have earned for the remainder of the 1979-1980 season income."

Workers' Advocate

Domingo started working at Dimond E Fisheries as a seasonal employee during the 1977 cannery season. Only 19 years old

then, she became a strong advocate of the union's contract. She became active, educating and organizing union members of their rights. In her second year, she served as a union shop steward.

Domingo had the reputation of being a conscientious employee. She was assigned an area of work critical to the cannery's overall operations, where final quality control is checked prior to cooking and canning fish.

Based on the union's monitoring of the company, they found workers were often cheated in overtime pay, many of them work in smoke-filled rooms without proper ventilation, and machinery used were not always functioning properly.

Ethnic meal requirements stipulated in the union contract were not met. Rice was hardly available, while salmon heads were served daily. Many workers also found the bunk housing situation "deplorable."

Company Hits Back

As Local 37 increased pressure on the company to initiate

reforms, the company struck back. Without prior notice, Domingo was fired because of "failure to perform work." Immediately, the union demanded her reinstatement.

"It was more like a volleyball match," Domingo recalled. "Management kept passing the responsibility to others, no one wanted to confirm I was fired. It took the president of the company, Alf Nelson, to announce I was officially terminated."

It was then that the union filed for grievance on Domingo's behalf.

While the company dragged its feet on the issue, the union "never let up in its support of my case," Domingo stated.

After more than two years of struggle, Domingo and the union's persistence paid off.

"This is really such sweet victory," remarked Domingo. "To date, my case is the first successful grievance against Dimond E Fisheries. Now they cannot take advantage of their workers, without the union striking back with full force." □

ILWU Backs Labor . . .

Continued from page 1
blood" in the past 20 years by the civil rights movement.

Progressive Resolution

The many policies passed by the convention included: condemnation of U.S. military intervention in El Salvador; opposition to Reagan's economic program; opposition to the draft; support for the movements against the Klan and the Nazis; support for a nuclear-free Pacific; support for reparations to Japanese-Americans and Aleuts illegally interned during World War II; a call for international labor solidarity with the trade union movements in South Africa and Namibia.

Philippine Resolution Stirs Controversy

The resolution supporting the Philippine labor movement was introduced by the Seattle-based Local 37 (Alaska Cannery Workers), whose members are predominantly Filipino.

The Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN) and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) worked closely with Local 37 secretary-treasurer Silme Domingo and dispatcher Gene Viernes in getting the resolution passed from the union grassroots to the convention floor.

An atmosphere of controversy surrounded the resolution earlier when a handful of vocal pro-Marcos members of Local 142 threatened to oppose it.

Two officers of Local 142 Bart Alcaraz and Benny Quitevis, well-known Marcos supporters in the Hawaii Filipino community, spoke in support of the resolution, while actually praising the "accomplishments" of the Marcos regime.

Alcaraz admitted that he was a godson of Marcos and an owner of a Philippine travel agency.

In speaking for the resolution, Local 37 president, Tony Baruso,

said his local "objected to the decrees that prohibited strike and demonstrations of unified effort" by Philippine workers.

Baruso said he had the opportunity to meet with Labor Minister Blas Ople during one of his visits to the Philippines and that he asked Ople how labor-management disputes were settled.

Ople, according to Baruso, told him that "in the Philippines, we don't believe in third party arbitration."

Plea from Kilusang Mayo Uno

In expressing the general sentiments of his members, Local 142 president Carl Damaso said the resolution, which was finally passed after nearly one hour of debate, didn't go far enough. He claimed Marcos' policies are oppressive to the majority of Filipinos.

"There are only two sides over there, the rich and the poor," he said. "What this resolution means is to see what we can do to support the laboring masses in the Philippines," Damaso added.

Viernes, Local 37 dispatcher who had just returned from a month-long visit to the Philippines where he had the opportunity to meet organizers of the Philippine trade union movement, presented to ILWU international president James Herman, a call for solidarity and support from Bert Olalia, president of the 300,000-strong Kilusang Mayo Uno.

While the ILWU did not explicitly condemn the Marcos regime, the union pledged to "continue to promote active interest in the general developments in the Philippines . . . by increased coverage in the *Dispatcher* (the ILWU international newspaper), conducting educational programs, and fostering relations with groups which work for industrial democracy and freedom for the Filipino people." □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ASEAN Rises from the Dead

By WALTER YONN
Staff Writer

Secretary of State Alexander Haig will tour Asia in June. Haig's tour will be highlighted by stops in Beijing, Tokyo, and Manila.

In Manila, he will attend a meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

While many will watch for possible new directions in the Reagan administration's Asia policy, there will most likely be no significant ones emerging. U.S. policy in Asia following its defeat in Indochina was well set during the Carter administration, and will most likely continue under Reagan with a few minor shifts in emphasis.

Military Build-up

Descended from the SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) ASEAN was barely breathing when the US took flight from Vietnam in 1975. Its panicky member regimes were expressing doubts over the US ability to shore them up against the "communist contagion."

But in the last several years, these doubts have been erased as ASEAN countries have undertaken massive military build-ups bankrolled by the U.S. In 1979 the U.S. consummated a \$500 million military aid package with the Marcos regime. In the same year the U.S. completed a \$400 million arms deal with Thailand (four times any previous amount) and sent another \$289 million to South Korea.

Pakistan will receive \$500



million this year with similar amounts over the next five years!

Indonesia not only is buying arms at a frenzied pace with its newfound oil wealth but also has plans for joint ventures in aircraft manufacturing.

Malaysia may be the most ominous example, with the construction of an \$80 million ASEAN regional training academy for staff level officers. It also has a \$1 billion plan for a new airforce and base. Malaysia appears to have staked out the role of ASEAN's military training and strike center.

More Arms, More Investments

These unprecedented levels of regional military build-up, joint planning and coordination in-

volve not only the U.S. but also Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Britain.

The revitalization of the ASEAN countries' military might is paralleled by an increase in big capital investments in the region especially from the U.S. and Japan.

Japan has earmarked \$1 billion in "overseas development aid" (capital) for this year alone. The World Bank continues to direct U.S. and other Western loans into the region at such rate that 22% of ASEAN members' export value goes to paying this debt.

Although ASEAN countries remain primarily exporters of unfinished and agricultural products, there has also been a significant shift to manufacturing in "free

trade zones."

Electronic parts have become a major chunk of Malaysia's and the Philippines' exports. There are also strong trends toward consumer-oriented manufacturing.

Increased U.S. and Japanese investment in these fields also reflect confidence in the ASEAN countries' political stability.

U.S. Optimism

What could be the basis for U.S. optimism in Southeast Asia in the wake of its setback in Vietnam?

The two main factors appear to be the political division in the Asian socialist camp, polarized in the Vietnam-China conflict, and the relative success of pro-U.S. ASEAN members in maintaining momentary internal stability, and control of domestic revolutionary movements.

China is actively seeking a strategic alliance with the U.S. and the ASEAN against Soviet presence and what it feels is its regional representative, Vietnam. The major concessions the U.S. is asking from China are an end to the latter's support of revolutionary movements in the ASEAN countries and a recognition of Sihanouk's leadership in a Kampuchean united front against Vietnam.

Vietnam, on the other hand, has little influence in the region and through a conciliatory posture towards ASEAN, is seeking every way to avoid U.S. provocation. In short the region's two key socialist countries are effectively neutralized.

Consequently the reactionary ASEAN regimes are temporarily brimming with the confidence that their counterrevolutionary campaigns, backed fully by the U.S., will not meet any serious diplomatic and political challenge from the region's most established socialist governments.

The Thai government's all-out drive against the left has scored some significant gains with the capture of key guerrilla base camps.

Disorientation over the China-Vietnam conflict has also caused serious defections from the guerrilla ranks. Indonesia's war with East Timor has gone badly for the Fretilin, with Indonesia's massacre of 100,000 Timorese through massive bombing campaigns.

New Test for Revolutionary Movements

It is not only a time for the continuing hardship for ASEAN's 243 million people. For the revolutionary forces in those countries, it is also a time for serious assessments of the region's balance of political forces and its pressures on their particular movements.

This is crucial in consolidating their revolutionary gains and in maintaining themselves as a fierce challenge to U.S. imperialism in Asia.

Unfortunately, should Haig, in all arrogance, declare to the ASEAN meeting in Manila that he's also "in control" there, he may not be altogether wrong... at least for the time being. □

Northern Ireland: UK's 'Vietnam'

By DEBY ARMANDO
Staff Writer

On May 11, Francis Hughes became the second victim of Britain's political policies toward Northern Ireland. His death was preceded by that of Bobby Sands on May 5. Both men starved to death on hunger strikes demanding recognition as political prisoners.

The 400 prisoners of Britain's Northern Ireland prison at Long Kesh vow to continue hunger strikes until their demand for political prisoner status is met.

The prisoners, mostly members of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) and sympathizers, are denied rights ranging from wearing personal clothing to communicating and associating with other prisoners. The most serious implication of their criminal status however, is possible execution.

Massive Support

The present strikes began in March when the British government failed to fulfill previous agreements with the prisoners.

On April 26, 20,000 people marched in Belfast in support of the prisoners' demands. The march was led by 500 mothers of the Long Kesh internees.

The prisoners' cause gained international attention when Sands was elected, over a pro-British candidate, to parliament.

Although world opinion mounted in favor of Sands, Britain refused to allow him to be seated officially, and denied him full access to visitors on his death



IRA sympathizers marching in support of political prisoners.

bed.

The notoriously rightwing British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said "We gave them [Sands and Hughes] more choice than they gave their victims." This speech in parliament was followed by cheers.

British or Home Rule

British rule of Ireland and resistance to it has a history beginning almost 800 years ago. At several points in Ireland's his-

tory, the very existence of the Irish people has been threatened with genocidal British policies of enslavement and starvation.

The best known of these was the period of the "Great Famine" which has popularly been attributed to the failure of the potato crop.

Between 1845 and 1850, 1.5 million Irish starved to death and the population from 1841 to 1891, declined from 8 to 4.7 million as a result of death, exe-

cution and immigration.

But the starvation and population dispersal has in fact resulted directly from British use of Ireland for production of export crops. In 1845 British troops were guarding wagons full of food being shipped from England while hundreds of thousands of the Irish starved by the roadsides.

Irish immigrants served as the backbone of many growing

British industries, occupying the lowest paying and most dangerous jobs. This role as a minority in England can still be observed in lower standards and popular chauvinist attitudes towards them.

Historically, the use of "coercion acts" have allowed arrests without trial and military-style executions. The most noted example was during the 1916 "Easter Rising" led by the socialist James Connolly and other leaders.

In 1921 Britain was forced to concede independence to all of Ireland except the northern province of Ulster with its capital of Belfast.

This is the area of greatest concentration of British capital. Since then, the focus of Irish nationalists and socialists has been the reunification of Ireland with its northern province.

In Belfast the pro-Irish are predominantly Catholic due to the association of the Protestant church with British nationalism historically.

Soldiers or Criminals

Sands, Hughes, and the others who may starve to death in the coming weeks are in a historic sense, a concentrated reflection of British-Irish relations over the centuries. They are, just as the British who patrol their streets in armored vehicles, soldiers.

Margaret Thatcher's rhetorical casting of them as "terrorists" and "criminals" seeks to hide the issues at hand. The real issues are British neocolonialism, British terror and crimes against the Irish people. □

COMPANY GOONS KILL UNION OFFICIALS



Unprecedented wave of strikes has risen in last few months: One saw three union officials killed in Calamba. Here workers picket Riverside Mills. AK File Photo

Company owners and managers seem not to have learned anything from the militance displayed by 50,000 workers mourning a co-worker's death last May 1. (See story on page 3.)

On May 13, company bodyguards of a synthetic fiber plant in Calamba, Laguna, shot and

killed a union president, vice-president, and secretary as they walked a picket line.

The slain officials were Napoleon Constantino, Leonardo Ramos, and Josephine Rosello whose union at the Polyamide Industrial Corp. is affiliated with the National mines and Allied

Unions of Manila.

Roy Padilla, president of the parent union in Manila, explained that the strike had been called when company officials failed to sign a wage agreement mediated by government labor officials.

The over 100 picketers were attempting to bar company trucks from leaving the plant at the time of the shooting. Four were injured in addition to the three fatalities.

Too Pat for a Coincidence

The Calamba police chief told reporters for the Associated Press that the non-uniformed bodyguards began to fire after an argument with union officials and then fled the scene under the noses of the company's armed and uniformed security guards. He claimed that warrants were being issued for their arrest.

Observers suspect a deliberate attempt to wipe out strong union leadership and terrorize workers into silence. "The choice of fatalities is just too pat to be a coincidence," commented Elaine Elinson, National Coordinator of the Philippine Solidarity Network which is seeking U.S. labor support for the Philippine trade union movement. □

Death Sentence Upheld for Dante, Corpus



Dante, Corpus and Aquino bear 1977 death sentence; new finding hits Dante, Corpus, defers action on Aquino. AK File Photo

Military Commission No. 2 May 6 upheld the 1977 death sentences of Bernabe Buscayno (Commander Dante) and Victor Corpus. The court deferred ruling, however, on the case of ex-senator Benigno Aquino.

The three were sentenced together after having been convicted of subversion, murder and illegal possession of firearms. Widespread outrage, both domestically and internationally, caused the regime to quickly declare the case opened.

Being Cagey

But after the announced re-opening of the case, it was allowed to slip quietly into obscurity. It was formally revived only after Aquino, allowed to go abroad for heart surgery, spoke out in the U.S. against the Marcos regime. Since that time, the regime has spoken on and off of the likelihood of Aquino's re-arrest if he

returns.

But while the regime played it cagey, postponing commitment on Aquino's sentence, it wasted no time in reconfirming the sentences of the two New People's Army commanders.

Appeal for Their Lives

Aquino's prominence with the U.S. elite protects him from the excesses of the Marcos regime. Dante and Corpus, however, have no such protection.

For this reason, the Task Force Detainees urges all to cable and write to the Marcos regime appealing for their lives and immediate transfer to regular detention.

Letters and cables should be sent to:

Gen. Carmelo Z. Barbero
Deputy Minister for
Civilian Affairs
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
PHILIPPINES.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Esclamado I

(The following letter was sent by Ms. Amy Besa to the Philippine News in response to its latest attack on the KDP—Editor.)

Your latest issue (May 6-12, 1981) of the *Philippine News* published an article about KDP and made certain allegations about me as the "head of the KDP chapter in New York," "my recent defection" due to a political split based on Maoist or anti-Maoist lines. You further linked me with other so-called "defectors" and alluded certain actions and quotations about the KDP to us.

I am categorically stating that these are nothing but lies and fabrications. These statements are libelous and were made without any basis in fact. You and your newspaper are a disgrace to the profession of journalism and its fundamental commitment to seeking the truth. Obviously, Mr. Esclamado, you have not learned from the recent experience of the *National Enquirer*, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Daily News*. . . . As you well know (or probably do not know), in all of these cases, the truth came out and [its] violators were justifiably censured and punished. In these same cases, those responsible for the fabrications resigned in order to save the honor of their newspaper and their profession. In your case, I guess that would be too much to expect.

Let me remind you of some of the professional practices of responsible journalism. First of all, you check out your source—whether your source is reliable, and is indeed telling the truth. Secondly, you corroborate the information your source gives you. A considerate method would be to check out the actual facts with the person involved, i.e. the person you intend to write about. No one from your paper bothered to check with me about the veracity of your allegations.

Lastly, Mr. Esclamado, aside from your masquerading as a member of your honorable profession, let us look at your other pretention: that of championing the rights and interests of the Filipinos in our homeland and

those here in the U.S. You claim that everytime the KDP did something for the homeland and for the community, they did it with sinister ulterior motives. It is then laughable to believe, that after making such accusations, only honorable deeds guide you to publishing false information like this.

Yes, Mr. Esclamado, let me ask you: whose interests do you really serve when you dish up something like this? Who benefits? And who is the real loser? The only ones snickering right now are: you, Ferdinand Marcos, the FBI, and the CIA. The losers? It's pretty obvious, isn't it?

Since you hate the KDP and will use any tactic to discredit them, why don't we put this hatred into proper perspective? Why don't we ask the valid questions? My suggestion is this: why don't you tally up everything you have done for the real good of the Filipinos in the homeland and for the U.S.-based community. And we shall ask the KDP to do the same thing. Then we'll see who really serves the interests of the Filipinos. How about the truth for once, Mr. Esclamado?

If you have any decency left in you, you will immediately retract those statements you made of me and issue an apology.

Amy Besa
Woodside, NY

Esclamado II

To the Editor of *Philippine News*
This is in reference to your article "Filipino Communist Leaders In-Fighting" (PN, May 6-12, 1981). In the said article, you wrote of defectors from the ranks of KDP, resulting in the formation of a new radical group called *Pag-Asa*. Among the alleged defectors who comprise this new organization, you mention my name.

At the onset, let me congratulate your newspaper for what was indeed a "juicy" expose. Your tale of communist power-struggles and purges was spellbinding. However, there was one problem in your "news" story. (A flaw, which I suppose, newspapers

like yours and the *National Enquirer* would consider minor.) and that is, the absence of the truth. In other words, while it was a good story, it was hardly news, i.e., based on facts.

For the record, let me state the facts: I am not a member of the *Pag-Asa* group, if there is indeed such a group; I am not part of any anti-KDP alliance. Moreover, I am of the opinion (not so rare an opinion, by the way) that far from being a sinister organization as you paint it to be, KDP plays a valuable role in the Filipino community in the U.S. as the voice of the progressive sentiments of our people both in the homeland and here. KDP's track record as the most vigilant advocate of our community's rights speaks for itself. Apparently, you are also aware of this. Thus, you resort to vilifying KDP by attacking, not its deeds (which is open to examination), but by exposing its motives as you interpret them to be.

In closing, let me say that if you are going to persist in bending the truth to suit your personal biases (which you have done not just on this occasion) the *Philippine News* would more appropriately be labeled as "Philippine Fiction" by Alex Esclamado.

Thelma Villapando
Oakland, CA

It's Just the Beginning

The death of Fr. Godofredo Alingal, S.J., who was brutally shot in cold blood last April 13 in Kibawe, Southern Philippines, signifies the beginning of a long assassination campaign perpetuated by a government which has its back against the wall. The government of Marcos is now in a state of panic. It has to kill to survive. It follows the same pattern as the killing of religious in countries like Mexico, El Salvador, Chile, etc. Let it be known to FM that guns and bullets will be answered with guns and bullets. He cannot silence the religious with fear.

Sr. Maria del Spiritu
Bellevue, WA

Profile of Resistance . . .

Continued from page 4

further isolated and exposed the government and management backed Trade Union Councils of the Philippines.

As the relatively comfortable lifestyle of the urban petty bourgeoisie (middle class) continued its downward slide, greater numbers are joining mass protests.

Many public school teachers and supervisors were seen picketing for higher wages, together with students protesting high tuition fees and the lack of academic freedom. Their concerns were linked to the much broader issues of military and police abuse and the overall lack of democratic rights.

Popular resistance in the countryside also increased as landlord abuse continues. Military repression, a response to the peasants' resistance, have served to further strengthen the farmers' determined fight for land and democratic rights.

Anti-Imperialist Leadership

Notable in these movements has been the left's conscious leadership. The National Democratic Front's underground and legal organizing reach a majority of universities and schools. In roads to various professional sectors such as doctors, lawyers and teachers have also been established.

The NDF opposes the election not just because it is rigged, but it sees that no genuine elections can take place under the U.S.-instigated dictatorship. The NDF forces are very much at the

center of the current "Boykotin ang Eleksyon!" movement.

Reaching an approximate 300,000 workers in 200 factories, the NDF has launched rallies and protests attracting thousands of people. Guerrilla activity has spread to 47 provinces. Some 40,000 activists have effectively organized an estimated mass base of six million people in the various countryside of the archipelago.

However, the NDF, the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, are not yet in a position to upstage the present government especially in light of the expected strengthening of U.S. support.

But, with the tide of confrontational opposition currently gripping all sectors of Philippine society, left and center forces seem to be merging to form what may well become the biggest mass movement since the declaration of martial law—the movement to boycott the June 16 election. □

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