

News Analysis:

PLANS REVEAL FURTHER MILITARIZATION

by Ma. Flor Sepulveda

The Marcos dictatorship is taking serious steps towards the further militarization of the Philippines through increasing his forces in the military, building his armory, and militarizing even the lowest level of civilian "representation".

During the past year and a half of martial law, the Marcos dictatorship, despite claims of progress and national development, has increasingly become isolated in light of the growing economic sufferings and the severe repression inflicted upon the people. These sufferings have crystallized into a people's resistance.

We have witnessed under martial law rule, the upsurge of armed struggle in the countryside and the mounting protest in the cities against economic hardships and the repression of basic freedoms.

Marcos is fully aware of this growing resistance and he will meet this resistance with full armed force in order to further perpetuate himself in power and protect and promote the interests of the local ruling class and the US imperialists.

For Filipinos in the Philippines, this would mean more military repression, and the only viable road to resist this is the road of armed struggle. For us Filipinos abroad, concerned with the welfare of our relatives and our people as a whole, we should expose and oppose these fascist moves of Marcos and the role and assistance of the US government in supporting and abetting such a regime.

SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE
FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Workers Organize Against U.S. Company

See inside page 3



U.S. Ambassador William Sullivan signs treaty with Sec. of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and Pres. Marcos, that would extend a loan to the Philippines for an arms plant.

(PHOTO: Philippine News, SF)

Military Build-Up!

PHILIPPINES TO MANUFACTURE LOCAL ARMS WITH US AID

The US government has recently agreed to extend a loan to the Philippine government to build an arms and rifle factory (mostly M-16 rifles). The arms plant will be built to "fulfill the growing needs of the AFP." Marcos plans to double the AFP in number by the middle of next year.

The rifle factory is a major step of Marcos to build up the military. Ambassador William Sullivan expressed that the gesture would contribute to the self-reliant posture of the Philippines, a policy consistent with the Nixon doctrine that nations that are militarily dependent on the US should strive for self-reliance.

Disguised as a step to "self-reliance," the US is instead covertly enabling Marcos to manufacture rifles and develop more sophisticated weaponry that he will use to further militarize the cities and fight against the people's liberation forces in the countryside. The ability to manufacture his own weapons will greatly assist Marcos in building-up the army's quantitative strength in arms, munitions and superior weapons.

By hiding any direct US involvement, via large shipments of arms, etc., US imperialism can still insure its continued economic, political and military stranglehold on the Philippines.

CIVILIANS TO BE DRAFTED INTO "CITIZENS ARMY"

President Marcos recently incorporated and ratified the "citizen army" or "Kamagong concept" into his new constitution, allowing the creation of a "citizens army" that would

draft all able-bodied men into reserve or home defense forces.

In another related report, Marcos ordered the integration of all police forces under one command by next year -- the National Police Forces which will also be under the command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

These two moves are part of Marcos's plan to double the military which is presently 100,000 to 256,000 by the middle of next year through utilizing the integration of the police under one command and placing it under the AFP, and the building of reserve forces under the guise of the "citizens army."

Marcos stressed that the expansion is primarily for national development, and secondarily for defense. However, his real intention is to expand his army in order to: 1) further militarize the cities; and 2) deploy more troops into the countryside, where the military already has suffered heavy losses against the revolutionary forces.

INFORMATION ON ALL FILIPINOS TO BE CONSOLIDATED FOR GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE

It will not be long before all Filipinos will be registered under the National Reference Card System, as decreed by the Marcos regime. Under this system, every inhabitant in the Philippines will be issued identification cards. Through this system, the military can keep track of the movements and activities of every single Filipino and can easily come up with dossiers on individuals suspected of subversion and other acts considered as crime by the 'new society.'

This system is a standard operation procedure used by dictatorial regimes all around the world to intimidate the people and keep a close check on any movements or rebellions against the dictatorship.

To intensify this fascist control of the people, Marcos has also appointed all barangay heads the title of police chief in each of their respective barangays. In this directive he specified that barangay heads are the "law enforcers" in their vicinities and shall therefore be held responsible for any crimes and acts of rebellion in their barangays.

MAGUINDANAO: A Story of Oppression And Resistance



(above) BERKELEY - The people of Barrio Linantangan plan how to take back their stolen lands. Closing scene of MAGUINDANAO, a

play about the Philippines and Muslim-Filipinos performed here May 15 before 1,000 Filipinos in major Bay Area cultural presentation. (on page 5)

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HUWAD NA KALAYAAN!

Expose the Fake RP Independence

The mockery of the Marcos dictatorship's Philippine "Independence Day" is yet another outrage to the Filipino masses. Under Martial Law, the Marcos regime is continually suppressing the civil liberties and democratic rights of the Filipino people. Such oppression is creating wide-spread discontent. The present economic situation in the country is terrible; this is based on the U.S. control over the entire economy of the country.

The dictator's recent call to celebrate national "independence" is a sham. It comes at the very time when the fascist regime is intensifying its wholesale massacre of the civilian population in Mindanao and throughout the countryside, and facilitating the brutal exploitation of the people by the U.S. imperialists.

The Filipino people have fought for genuine Independence and Freedom

Indeed, it is right that we should celebrate the glorious and heroic struggles of our people and patriots who rose up and died for their desire to liberate the nation from foreign tyranny and domination!

During the fight against Spanish colonialism, the revolutionary movement under the *Katipunan*, which was led by Andres Bonifacio, had mobilized tens of thousands of workers and peasants into their ranks. However, in the course of the struggle Aquinaldo faltered due to the character of the *illustro* leadership which was clearly removed from the real conditions of the Filipino workers and peasants. This was apparent in Aquinaldo's proclamation of Philippine independence, in which he declared it to be "under the protection of the mighty and humane North American nation".

Yet the harsh reality soon became clear that the U.S. imperialists had no intention whatsoever to allow the Philippines to be independent. Their real intentions to plunder the wealth and riches of the Philippines became exposed during the treacherous war of conquest that followed — the Filipino - American war (1898-1906). This "hidden" war required 126,000 U.S. troops and it resulted in the estimated death of 600,000 Filipinos on the island of Luzon alone (1/6 of the population)! This was accomplished through such genocidal practices as mass tortures, massacres, burning of entire villages, and setting up of concentration camps similar to the notorious "strategic hamlets" of Vietnam.

The U.S. imperialists continued to maintain its direct colonial rule over the Philippines until after WWII. During this period they conducted wholesale land grabbing, exploitation of Filipino resources and labor; they allied themselves with the reactionary big landlord class; they built numerous military bases, and they committed vicious cultural aggression through the media and educational institutions in order to enslave the minds of the Filipino people and make them feel inferior to the United States.

After the war, the "benevolent" U.S. colonizers "granted" to the Philippines "independence", for which some believe the Filipino people should be "forever grateful"... but the "independence" was a sham. Thus on July 4, 1946 the puppet Republic of the Philippines was established with all kinds of binding treaties to the U.S. which only made a mockery of any claims of "independence".

For example, The U.S.-R.P. Treaty of General Relations empowered the U.S. government to retain its supreme authority over extensive military bases which it could expand at will; it also guaranteed the property rights of U.S. corporations and citizens as being equal to those of Filipino businesses and citizens, and put Philippine foreign relations under U.S. government direction. Later economic, political, military, and social agreements and treaties with the U.S. (including the Parity Amendment; Laurel-Langley Agreement; U.S.-R.P. Military Bases Treaty, etc.) all further ensured the continued imperialist stranglehold over Philippine sovereignty.

Marcos regime intensifies imperialist plunder

Today, since the declaration of Martial Law in 1972, the Marcos regime has encouraged the increasing intensification of the imperialist plunder of our nation's economy. He has brazenly declared the dictatorship's economic policy is to encourage more and more foreign investments. He has decreed the overturn of the former Supreme Court's decision on the expropriation of foreign ownership after the expiration of the Laurel-Langley Agreement in 1974. Sharp price increases by imperialist companies in such key sectors as gasoline and oil have resulted in skyrocketing inflation and brought extreme hardship and suffering to the Filipino people.

In return for such Marcos "special favors", the U.S. government has stepped up its military aid to the regime by supplying it with arms and ammunitions; planes and napalm; and even *Green Beret* soldiers to help bolster this unpopular dictatorship. Today the regime continues to suppress workers' rights to picket and strike; to suppress any political opposition and to deny all basic civil liberties such as freedom of press, freedom to assemble, etc.

However, the Filipino people have a heroic tradition and we will continue the long and militant struggle for genuine independence and democracy until it is truly accomplished! We have learned from the history of our people the important lesson that a nation can never attain its genuine independence and freedom on a "silver platter". It is only through the united struggle of the entire Filipino people and nation that genuine freedom and liberation can be achieved.

Expose the Sham Independence!
Long Live the Struggle of the Filipino People!

K.D.P. National Executive Board

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printed in *Ang Katipunan* — about the situation in the Philippines; the struggle of Filipinos here in the U.S.; the problems in America and the international issues. When the occasion and space permits, we will reprint them. We also encourage criticisms of our newspaper so that we can improve our form and better the coverage of the news.

Reader Sends Letter to Congress

Dear Friends,

I just saw a copy of your paper and after reading it sent the enclosed letter to Sen. Fulbright....

Sen J. William Fulbright
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sen. Fulbright:

I am writing you to express my deep concern about United States policy towards the Philippines. The destruction of Jolo City and the massacre there of at least 200 Filipino civilians three months ago was carried out with U.S. supplied arms, ammunition and planes. Were American troops involved as well? Under what authority does the Nixon government (or the Congress, for that matter) send weapons around the world to prop up dictators like Ferdinand Marcos.

From the pictures I have seen of Jolo, the city is leveled ... I am told that the city once was inhabited by 40,000 people...What are we doing being an active part of this kind of thing?

I read in the *PHILIPPINES TIMES* (which is published here in Chicago by Filipino-Americans) that the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines is William Sullivan, the same man who helped build the early Vietnam War in the 50's and 60's. How in the world can the United States claim to be serious about building peace when it has guys like that wandering around stirring up wars?

...Sir, are we going to get into another brutal, costly and unfair colonial war? What are you and your committee doing to stop this juggernaut?

...I hope that you will give me some answers to these questions.

G. Schmidt
Chicago, Ill.
May 2, 1974

National Survey of Philippine Religious Reveals Abuse Under ML

The Catholic Church has again raised its influential voice against the martial law policies of President Marcos. In a strong statement issued at the end of the Second Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference held from March 28 to April 1, 1974 in Cagayan de Oro City, more than 270 delegates—bishops, priests, religious and lay leaders from 14 of the 15 ecclesiastical jurisdictions of the Mindanao-Sulu church—deplored 'the many injustices touching the fundamental rights of our people (that) are still prevalent today.'

The statement then lists 12 of these injustices. They include the curtailment of the freedom of speech and the press; torture of detainees; preventing the growth of effective farmers and workers organizations; imprisonment without charges and benefit of counsel; glaring lack of participation in decision making processes among the people; a prevalent climate of fear.

The Conference called on all churches in the Mindanao and Sulu areas to read the statement in all the Masses said on Easter Sunday, April 14. Moreover, copies of the statement were translated into the vernacular languages and given wider distribution through schools and barrio kapilyas. Copies of the statement have reached the U.S. and are also being circulated here.

The Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference statement is the latest indication of the Church's hardening position against martial law. In November 1973, a nation-wide survey conducted by the Major Religious (Catholic) Superiors in the Philippines gathered strong evidence of the people's dislike of martial law. The survey found 'abuse of human rights to peaceful assembly, association, information, privacy, and to safeguards in matters of arrest, detention and trials.' It also questioned present economic policy because 'economic growth is stressed at the expense of integral human development,' and because 'the poor bear an unequal share of the sacrifices required for economic growth.'

It uncovered 'many evidences of torture of male and female prisoners. There is widely reported fear of expressing opinions or taking action in anything related to government programs and policies.' The survey concluded that 'the state is becoming totalitarian and is suppression the free development of other societal institutions, such as organized labor and farmer organization.' Movement For a Free Philippines (MFP)

Despite Labor Repression

Workers struggles in plants and factories around the Philippines are indicative of the mounting protest against the oppressive living and working conditions brought about by martial law. Despite the prohibition of the right to strike as well as the establishment of other anti-labor measures, Filipino workers have utilized creative, though limited methods in resisting the exploitation of management. This can be seen in actions such as sit-ins, small scale sabotage, boycotting overtime work, mass leaves of absences, as well as wild-cat strikes.

These limited mass actions, have been successfully tried out to obtain concessions from management. However, not all these have achieved their objectives.

Workers in the Philippines are becoming aware quickly that trade union struggle, and whatever minor victories can be reaped from them, can not be an end in itself. The fascist Marcos regime with its rabidly anti-labor practices, makes it all the more clear that all forms of armed suppression would be utilized to intimidate the workers and make it difficult for them to obtain even the smallest economic benefits and concessions from the capitalists.

Many labor leaders in fact, have been imprisoned by Marcos under decrees illegalizing workers'

struggles and diminishing their democratic rights. The laws and decrees promulgated by the fascist regime is making narrower and narrower the workers' chances to obtain benefits through legal means and leave wider and wider the space for management to cheat and exploit the workers.

What then is the value of such workers struggle under the present conditions? The struggle of workers for basic reforms is an important one, and should be viewed in the context of the broader struggle of the Filipino people for national liberation, the main form of which is the armed struggle being waged in the provinces.

First of all, workers' struggles politicize the people in the urban areas and encourages them to struggle against the worsening conditions. Today, the Filipino working-class is initiating opposition against the fascist regime and the imperialist interests which it serves, thereby awakening other progressive classes in Philippine society to struggle against oppression.

Secondly, all these limited mass workers' actions, in various forms, develops the political consciousness and militancy of the Filipino workers and sharpens their organizational skill, discipline, and creativity. Such a trend is a severe blow to the Marcos regime and alters the political atmosphere in the cities where the fascist regime maintains a stronghold. - Editor



Women garment workers slavishly sew to fulfill their work quotas. Bras, baby garments, women's apparel, gloves and stockings are exported to the US and Canada and sold at expensive prices while Filipino workers get a mere 15 cents an hour!

500 Workers Laid-Off:

Workers Organize Against Exploitation

Special to ANG KATIPUNAN

Manila- Almost 500 militant union members, their sympathizers and relatives were laid off March 30 by the American-owned Gelmart Industries — Philippines, in the latest of managements' attempts to cripple a growing workers movement inside its factories. The mass lay-off came only two days after the independent faction of the United Employees Union of Gelmart Industries held a successful general membership meeting attended by more than 4,000 union members. The March 28 meeting was pushed through despite blatant and crass coercion from both Gelmart management and members of the Philippine Constabulary.

Gelmart management first tried to discourage workers from attending the meeting by scheduling a two hour factory wide overtime, scheduled to coincide with the union meeting. Failing to shake the workers' determination to attend the meeting, Gelmart managers and supervisors locked the steel doors of the 11 departments, stood guard and refused to allow workers to leave during their normal checkout time of 3:00 p.m.

Workers Unity Overpowers

Supervisors and Steel Doors

Angered at this infringement on their rights, Gelmart workers, most of them women, forced the metal doors open, helped co-workers leave while still others climbed out through open windows to escape the improvised jails. Supervisors, steel doors, managers, and company guards had to give way before the determined strength of the factory workers.

Once outside, the workers continued to call out to the more timid to stand up for their democratic rights and marched in droves to the basketball court where the meeting was held in a lively, cheerful, and enthusiastic mood. Coercion, however, was not management's practice alone.

Earlier that morning, union president, Ruben Escreza was called to the office of Gelmart personnel manager, Atty. Roberto Artadi. There, in the intimidating presence of three Metrocom men, Artadi told Escreza to stop acting as union president. In a clear example of collusion between management and the government, Escreza was then hauled off in Artadi's car to the headquarters of the 225th PC Company and detained for four hours. While at the PC headquarters, the union president was charged with economic sabotage by Capt. Romeo Odi. Capt. Odi also threatened Escreza with arrest and detainment if he should make "one more mistake".

PC men were also present in Gelmart departments on March 30 when almost 500 workers were being pressured by supervisors to sign their "preventative suspension" papers. (Preventative suspension being a new

sugar-coated term for lay-offs.)

Superprofits From Filipino Cheap Labor

The Gelmart compound on Kilometer 15, South Super Highway, Rizal, used to be a model of "industrial harmony", and not surprisingly, large scale exploitation of cheap Philippine labor by Gelmart's American owners. Until now base pay for Gelmart workers is P8.00 a day with a ten centavo increase for women workers and a 15 centavo increase for men after one full year of service. (According to a government study, a family needs at least P33 a day to eat and live adequately. The actual cost is now much higher as these figures were computed before the 1974 boom in prices.)

The 10,000 Gelmart workers (7,000 union members) are not only saddled with starvation wages, but have to cope with unrealistically high quotas set according to the company. The quotas are so high that many workers even have to come in before their 6 a.m. check-in time and work during their breaks and lunch hours to meet their quotas. The many women workers are on their feet all day and they cite this, plus the heavy load of work leads to the frequent deaths in childbirth of Gelmart women workers.



Electronics assemblers at a Japanese owned firm in the Philippines.

Gelmart workers also have no job securities and can be transferred from one type of work to another so that a mechanic today can become a janitor the next day.

We can only contrast the 18th century conditions of Gelmart workers with the "good life" of Gelmart owners Jack and Albert Nasser. According to Business Day, a daily business paper in Manila, Gelmart ranks 112th in income and 232 in sales among the top 250 companies in the Philippines. The company exports gloves, bras, stockings, baby clothes and other apparel items to the United States and Canada, getting dollars while spending a mere 15 cent an hour for hiring

Filipino workers. At the same time Gelmart is being protected by the AFP and the martial law rulings prohibiting strikes and mass actions which "incite" or "cause disturbances". In fact it was Gen. Order No. 5 prohibiting strikes that was cited by Gelmart management in laying-off the 500 workers.

Besides pressure from both the PC and Gelmart management, Gelmart workers have also had to contend with a pro-management union for years. Past union officials have squandered union funds. The past collective bargaining agreements between the unions sellout leadership and management, was in fact to have reasonable quotas — an agreement clearly violated by management.

Determined To Struggle For Change

It is not surprising therefore that change came to Gelmart through the efforts of the workers themselves. On Nov., 1973, a group of workers founded the Democratic Labor Party with the avowed aim of changing the union from an adjunct of management to a strong force for workers' rights. The DLP program listed job security and classification, higher wages and premium pay affiliation with a good federation, drinking fountains with cool water, fixed quotas, a cooperative canteen and other workers' benefits.

Although a new force in Gelmart's union, the Democratic Labor Party managed to win two seats — that of Pres. Ruben Escreza and Auditor Lino Olamit during the January '74 elections. Since then, the DLP officials have worked for emergency allowances for Gelmart workers and has come out consistently for workers rights.

Not surprisingly, Gelmart management and the pro-union officials have attempted to push Pres. Ruben Escreza from his office.

It is clear that Gelmart management the government, and the sell-out union officials have exposed their real interests to the workers.

Also, various departments are now chipping in to help the laid-off workers with their living expenses. Other unions in other factories are also donating rice, cash, and whatever support they can give their fellow workers in Gelmart.

These deceptive tactics and coercion utilized by the Gelmart management, in collusion with the sell-out union officials and backed by the government, has not weakened the workers movement. Instead, it has made the workers conscious that management will continue to try and suppress the workers movement and because of this, has made them determined to struggle harder for their rights and forge a stronger workers unity to oppose martial law repression and imperialist exploitation.

Mula sa atin...

'MELDING' SPENDS MILLIONS FOR MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT

The First Lady (Melding) is all abustle in her preparations for the next Miss Universe pageant which will be held in Manila this coming July. What has she been fussing about?

Well, let's begin with the newly-built P25-million Folk Art Center, where the contest is to be held. Occupying a 10-hectare area behind the Cultural Center, it is architecturally designed to command a panoramic view of Manila Bay at any angle, and has a complex sophisticated communications and satellite system, which will broadcast the program live to different countries around the world.

A three week schedule of activities will precede the pageant, opening with a cultural parade of 400 years of Philippine history, and featuring representatives from 60 Philippine minority tribes in their costumes and headdresses, supposedly for the purpose of showing the "diversity of Philippine culture."

But to the "International Jet Set" and the local rich, who are the only ones who could afford to see this in the first place, this will be an extraordinary chance to oogle at "peculiar Filipino people"... victims of neglect throughout history, now victims of cultural exploitation for the decadent satisfaction of the rich few.

Also, Tourism Sec. Jose Aspiras, has boasted that the Miss Universe pageant will be an event that 40 million Filipinos will be proud of, but can anyone be so blind not to see that the people's money is being used like water to lavishly prepare this decadent event, to the tastes of Melding herself, amidst the people's suffering from high prices, wage freezes, lay-off's and military abuses? Only under Marcos' martial law could Imelda even dream of spending like she is right now.

REFUGEES SUFFER MILITARY ABUSES, INADEQUATE RELIEF

Jolo City - Recent reports received from Jolo from an American journalist, show that refugee rehabilitation and the rebuilding of the town are not making headway - refuting the government claim that the military has stabilized the area and is actively engaged in rehabilitation.

A cholera epidemic is fastly spreading and due to lack of sanitation, medicines, and safe drinking water it is largely out of control and many children are its victims.

Relief distribution is being carried out by the Notre Dame Rehabilitation Program but it is inadequate. The people are given 4 pieces of clothing each, but they are, as many have said, "wai tagaran" (useless junk), and the goods that are given out are "wai tan tu" (useless).

Meanwhile mass arrests and political persecution continues. After the Feb. 8 seige the military took advantage of the situation, which was marked by havoc and confusion, and made arrests of anybody suspected of political activity.

Reports continue too, of military abuses of innocent civilians which include the plunder and pillage of civilian property. The military's wanton behavior, however, is sanctioned by a Marcos decree. In a policy directive to all military commanders in Mindanao, Marcos ordered that whatever agricultural produce captured from the revolutionary forces, becomes property of AFP units.

Stressing that AFP units should be "self-sufficient" this has been turned to mean slaughtering livestock and stealing harvests, crops, and even personal property from civilians. People who oppose them or even question their actions are subjected to torture and harassment branded as "rebels" and are later imprisoned. Fights have even broken out between Army and Marine troops over the property that is stolen from the people.

Military abuses are particularly unlimited when the soldiers get drunk. According to one civilian: "When they (the solidiers) get drunk they go on shooting sprees, and even have fights among themselves, (army vs. marine troopers). Unfortunately during these sprees, they do not take each others lives, but the lives of innocent bystanders.

The moral bankruptcy and corruption within the Armed Forces, is in fact consciously perpetuated to foster mercenary attitudes among the ranks. The epitome of this corruption is in fact the higher-up's who are notorious for their involvement in gambling, smuggling, prostitution rackets or who receive big pay-off's for "protecting" these rackets.



Revolutionary fighters of the Bangsa Moro Army meet to discuss tactics.

PHOTO: Pacific News Service, SF

MNLF Statement:

"Our People Will Not Succumb"

The Mindanao situation can no longer be hidden by the Marcos regime from the Filipino people and from international attention. It is popularly recognized that the government is ruthlessly repressing the people in Mindanao who dare to oppose his regime, thru carrying out a genocidal policy against the people, particularly against the Muslims.

The Muslim Filipinos have been long-time victims of landgrabbing by U.S. and Japanese imperialist interests and historically this has been achieved by the government thru perpetuating the religious and cultural differences between Muslims and Christians in order to obscure the real conflict of the land.

Because of the economic, religious, and cultural oppression of the Muslims, this has given rise to strong armed resistance against the government particularly heightening during martial law, when all sorts of abuses were perpetrated on the people by the AFP.

The Bangsa Moro Army has grown out of this historical struggle and has made military victories in different parts of Mindanao. The Bangsa Moro Army (BMA) has gained the support of the people in their efforts to protect the people from AFP abuses.

The following article sums up the gains made by the BMA since the seige of Jolo and explains the schemes of the Marcos regime to subvert and squelch the Muslim peoples struggle at this time of the conflict. - Editor

BMP - "Thousands of innocent civilians have been killed in the Marcos regimes' genocidal campaign against the Muslims in Mindanao. But the mass murder, instead of discouraging resistance has served to solidify the ranks and fan the flames of revolution."

This is the statement of Nur Misuari, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), in the maiden issue of MAHARDIKA. MAHARDIKA is the underground paper published by the MNLF.

"Our people will not succumb. They will hit back with all their might," Misuari added in reference to the armed struggle being waged by the MNLF's military arm, the Bangsa Moro Army.

Misuari, a former political science instructor at the University of the Philippines said the MNLF's propaganda organ must combat the campaign of corruption being waged by the regime.

Asserting that thousands of government troops have been slain by Muslim resistance fighters in numerous battlefields of Mindanao, Misuari said the martial law regime was living on borrowed time. "Marcos and his cohorts are spending enormous sums of money to bribe a few greedy opportunist elements among our people to split our ranks," he said. "But they will not succeed. The MNLF and the BMA are too formidable a force to be shaken by a few dregs or "munafiks."

In its editorial MAHARDIKA elaborated on this point, saying the regime's intensified effort to sow confusion and dissension among the Muslim masses have succeeded somewhat in creating a "counter-revolutionary clique of the most vicious type."

"The singular advantage that the revolution gains from the alliance between these bands of renegades and the enemy is that it happened this early and that they themselves laid their opportunistic lines before the masses of people." Their betrayal, the newspaper added, showed that these renegades sole purpose in fighting the regime was "the pursuit of their own vested interest, the preservation of their traditional corrupt ridden leadership, and the satisfaction of their hunger for power..."

Fresh Gains

Meanwhile, the BMA continues to make fresh gains in other parts of Mindanao apart from Sulu. In Karomatan, a coastal town in Lanao del Norte along the southwestern tip, there is strong support for the BMA. Because of this, Marcos' troop tend to avoid this area.

Distrust and resentment among the Karomatan fold towards the Marcos regime run high because of the atrocities perpetrated by government forces towards the civilians, including women and children.

Another object of the people's hatred are the so-called traditional politician who are openly collaborating with the Marcos regime, among them former Lanao del Norte Congressman Ali Dimaporo who continues to maintain a private army.

In Lanao del Sur, the Muslim revolutionary forces are expanding fast because of the abuses of the "Ilagas" anti-Muslim bandits who have been armed by the Marcos regime to help the AFP in its suppression campaigns. The "Ilagas" in some parts of the province are left to maintain "peace and order", but are usually joined by government troopers in committing abuses against the predominantly Muslim civilian population.

The two Lanaos are ideal sites for armed revolutionary struggle not only because of the people's sufferings in the hands of the Marcos regime, but because of the terrain which is favorable to guerrilla warfare.

It was also in Lanao, the constabulary provincial commander, Col. Espiritu was reported killed and ambushed last March 28 by Muslim soldiers under his command.

Victories Summed Up

1. The BMA killed some 700 officers and men of the PC, the Philippine Army, the "Ilagas" and the BSDU in Zamboanga del Norte in October and November last year. It also shot down three PAF jetfighters. Major encounters were fought in Siraway and Siocon districts.

2. In Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, 127 PA and Marine troopers died in an encounter with 29 members of the BMA's Talipan forces last Nov. 21.

3. On the same day, Nov. 21, in barrio Buhangiing-Mahaba, Mabuhay, Zamboanga del Sur, the revolutionary forces killed 25 PA-Ilaga men. They captured an assortment of arms and ammunition. 4 4. On Nov. 25, a relatively small BMA force attacked the AFP stronghold in Mabuhay town, killing some 70 soldiers while suffering only 10 casualties.

MAHARDIKA said these and other victories of the BMA have frightened AFP troopers so much that they now confine themselves to the cities and the towns.

U.S. FILIPINOS

A Tribute To Muslim-Filipinos

BERKELEY — *Maguindanao, A Tribute to Muslim-Filipinos*, was enthusiastically received by an audience of 1,000 people, mostly Filipinos, in its first performance here on Sunday, May 19. Considered by many to be a major cultural presentation here in the Bay Area, the 2½-hour drama, with dance and music involving around 60 participants, was sponsored by the East Bay Chapter of KDP and the UC Berkeley student organization, PAA (Pilipino American Alliance). Performed at the UC Berkeley Zellerbach Auditorium, *Maguindanao* was also seen as a very timely educational presentation about Muslim Filipinos because of the recent conflicts in Mindanao between Muslims and Marcos government forces.

by Ermena Vinluan

Maguindanao accurately depicted, within the context of a play, the complex problems of the Filipino people today, and in particular, Muslim-Filipinos — religious and cultural oppression, tyrannical and exploitative rule by local corrupt politicians and landgrabbing by foreign corporations. But more than the conditions, the play also showed the complex process whereby people come to political consciousness and learn to identify the real enemy, to organize themselves and to fight.

The Story of Oppression, Exploitation and Resistance

Maguindanao is the name of an area which is now part of Cotabato Province on the southern island of Mindanao and is the largest Muslim Filipino community in the Philippines. The story revolves around the illegal expropriation of land for the benefit of a foreign corporation and takes place in Cotabato Province in 1971, one year before the imposition of martial law.

The people of Barrio Linantangan are the victims of opportunist datu — Omar Balilis, the ex-mayor who is planning to "win" the upcoming elections through a combination of graft, corruption and terror and Congressman Balilis, who has contacts with the Manila politicians and foreign imperialists.

The Balilis Brothers have always sold out the Muslim people to enhance their own wealth and selfish ends. Now they have purchased fake deeds to the people's land and have already sold it to an American company. Having stolen the land, they send in a bulldozer to knock down the people's homes to drive them out and set up barbed wire fences around the land.

Reform, Secession or Revolution

Throughout the play, several alternatives to their problems are posed and the people struggle to understand them and decide what is best. One alternative is espoused by Datu Amil, the town mayor and Alrashin, his son-in-law and young lawyer. Their solution is to expose the illegal deeds in court and if need be, lobby their cause in Manila themselves.

Another datu, Acob, argues that the best solution is secession from the Philippines and reliance on the leadership of the datu class, the old Muslim Filipino aristocracy. This means returning to the feudal view that Christians are the principal enemies and the cause of Muslim oppression and cultural humiliation.

But in the end, the people come to see that the problems in Barrio Linantangan are not isolate, but are part of deeply-rooted contradictions within Philippine society and affect Muslim and Christian Filipinos alike. These ideas are put forward throughout the play by Jamil, an old peasant woman, and Ismail, the son of the Datu-Mayor and now guerrilla fighter. They bring the townspeople to understand that it is only revolutionary

struggle against the corrupt Manila government and foreign imperialism that will fundamentally better their lives and change the Philippines.

These are the main contending ideas in the play and *Maguindanao* is the story of the people struggling to understand their problems, and in the process, come to revolutionary consciousness.

The Real Enemy Is Exposed

In the play, the townspeople have much faith in Datu Amil who orders Omar to stop the bulldozers until the issue is settled in court.

Knowing that Datu Amil is determined to defend the people's rights. Omar murders the good Datu Amil. But again, the treachery is exposed by witnesses who testify against Balilis. The people's anger rises and Congressman Balilis moves quickly to save their necks. He orders his goons to kill a few Muslims and Christians and burn the mosque — thus creating the outward appearance of a "religious war" — and calls his cronies in Manila... the "news" spreads: "RELIGIOUS WAR BREAKS OUT IN MAGUINDANAO!"

Balilis's smokescreen of "religious war" is an attempt to hide the real crime and real criminals, but the townspeople are upset at Datu Amil's murder and confused about what to do. Alrashin goes to Manila in an effort to explain the true situation to the authorities and get support from reporters and civic groups.

The people want their land back and justice for Datu Amil's murder...can Alrashin bring back justice from Manila? Even Fatimah, Datu Amil's daughter and Alrashin's wife, questions whether his efforts will bear fruit.

Revolutionary Struggle for a New Philippines!

That night at the town meeting, Jamila speaks up and points out that there has never been a time when the Manila government has actively defended the rights of the Muslim people or the poor. Datu Amil and Alrashin would have failed in court because the Balilis Brothers are powerful enough to buy the courts. The people agree.

The Balilis' have already murdered, but they will go unpunished because they have the backing of powerful foreign businesses, the Manila government and their own private army of mercenaries to impose their will. Muslim and Christian Filipinos suffer alike because both are in the hands of the same enemy



Hajjah (left), Omar Balilis' mistress listens as Omar (right) details how he plans to "win" the upcoming Mayoral elections by a combination of terror, graft and corruption.

The Balilis Brothers are part of the handful of Filipino traitors who serve as lackeys for the imperialists and are handsomely paid off for their "services." They in no way represent the majority of Filipino people and have no right to continue to rule the country in the interests of the imperialists and their own selfish ends. Jamila goes further...the people must not be afraid to fight back and rely on their own strength.

Plans are being made now to perform it

again in September to mark the second year of martial law in the Philippines. Also, the technical and musical scores and the script are being compiled into a book so that *Maguindanao* or other works of this nature and scope can be performed elsewhere.

This Is The Philippines Today!

A new sense of strength and unity characterizes the people as they now begin to meet to organize themselves and plan how to tear down the fences and take back their land. Alrashin has already returned from Manila, emptyhanded, but is welcomed by the townspeople because his efforts were sincere. Then a peasant steps forward from the group and speaks to the audience.



Musicians playing the "kulintang," brass gong instruments that created the dramatic mood characteristic of Muslim-Filipino music and culture.

He reminds us that this struggle of the Muslim Filipino is actually being waged fiercely today throughout Mindanao...and the cast, joining together in a crescendo of voices, point out that... as long as the people live with poverty, injustice, exploitation and oppression... the struggle will continue. Not only among the Muslim masses but also throughout the Philippines.

The struggle will be difficult... there will be setbacks and twists and turns... but so long as the people are determined to struggle — final victory is theirs... is ours.

Making Maguindanao — Collective Strength and Political Unity

Maguindanao was an excellent production in both form and content and was an important step forward in people's culture.

About six weeks of script writing, rehearsals and production work was actually involved for the play.

A collective work style, political discussions and a spirit of determination and commitment emphasized throughout the production. *Maguindanao* was adapted from the play, *Aidao*, which was first presented in the Philippines a couple of years ago. Once an understanding was reached about what would be the main ideas in the new play, a committee re-wrote the *Aidao* script into what is now *Maguindanao*.

Within a few weeks, outreach committees were organized and dance, music, and acting rehearsals began. Cooperation from all was stressed and opinions were encouraged from participants so that there would be collectivity within any given structure.

This method of work was to insure that participation was not mechanical, but that political understanding and commitment motivated each one's participation and problems were actively resolved.

Although there was very little professional experience among the cast, the people understood the importance of the play and their parts within it, and thus, were committed to giving the best performance possible. The night of the performance proved this as the audience rose and gave a standing ovation.

The play brought together many Filipinos from the Bay Area and the cast itself was drawn from high schools, colleges and universities. Also, support for other aspects of the production came from members of the Filipino community, the UCB Drama Department and the Zellerbach Auditorium crew.

The performance of *Maguindanao* was inspiring both in what it said and how well it was done and was a significant contribution to the progressive Filipino Movement here in the U.S.

Marcos 'tuta'

Taruc Exposed At Forums

Special to ANG KATIPUNAN

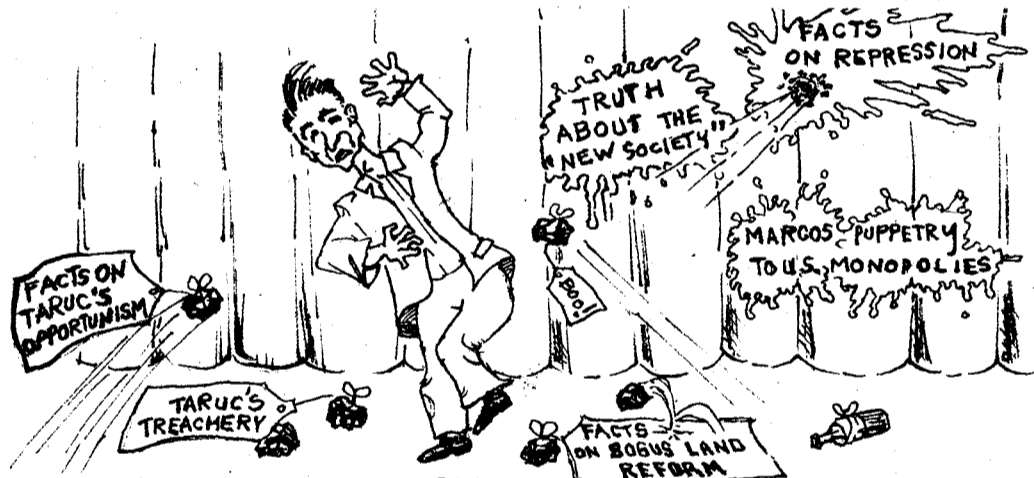
by Staff Correspondents

Chicago

CHICAGO - On April 20, Mr. Taruc spoke at the Philippine Study Group (PSG) Forum at the McCormick Theological Seminary, and as reported in TAMBULI, Newsletter of the NCRCLP, Chicago Chapter, "The talk turned out to be an exercise in self-contradictions," with Taruc even admitting that Mr. Marcos has given him the round trip ticket (though he had earlier maintained that he used his savings to pay his expenses).

At the Forum, many people from the audience presented facts that clearly exposed Mr. Taruc and the lies of the Marcos propaganda that he was parroting. Also, a KDP leaflet, Luis Taruc, The Impostor, was distributed and clearly pointed out Taruc's real intentions in speaking to various groups across the country and listed many facts about the real situation in the Philippines. Mr. Taruc could not even refute these facts and the arguments brought forward from the audience, aside from merely saying they were untrue, and finally resorted to telling outright lies and name-calling to discredit the anti-martial law forces present.

These actions exposed Taruc as a Marcos propaganda man, and in the end it was a victory but certainly not the Mssrs. Marcos and Taruc.



"I'm not here to praise Marcos, although I think he's great... OOPS..."

New York

NEW YORK - A critical audience faced Luis Taruc in a forum here at the Asia House on May 1, 1974 and clearly exposed him as an agent of the Marcos regime and a thoroughgoing opportunist. In face of the sharp questions and critical comments from the audience, Taruc retreated from his bristling defense of Marcos and himself and ended up giving lame excuses for his service to Marcos, such as, "I'm not extolling Marcos. I'm just playing my role." What role this is, he did not dare explain.

Taruc Defends Himself, Props Up Marcos

Taruc devoted half of his speech in defense of himself and poorly tried to say that he is still a "revolutionary," but when he came to his main points about the "greatness of Marcos," Taruc was stopped in his tracks.

Taruc claimed that "Marcos is not a puppet of US imperialism like our past presidents." However, a person from the audience spoke up and countered him with facts about increased military aid and US investments and the presence of US counter-insurgency experts now in the Philippines.

The speaker from the audience then asked Taruc, "How can you say that Marcos is not a puppet?" Taruc's face turned pale, and when he could not answer, the moderator tried to save the situation by asking the audience "not to make speeches." However, another person from the audience replied, "If Mr. Taruc can speak for the Marcos dictatorship uninter-

ruptedly, the members of this audience has the right to speak against it!" This was met with warm applause and from then on, it was downhill for Taruc.

Taruc Shows His True Colors

Then claiming that "martial law is different from that of other countries," that it is benevolent and not repressive, Taruc was again challenged from the audience with the mass arrests, imprisonment and torture of Marcos' political opposition (10,000 political prisoners at this time). Totally disavowing the fundamental issue, to the audience's disbelief. Taruc boasted that the people were better off in prison because "they get a balanced diet and free dental care!"

Finally, in a show of his true colors, Taruc claimed that "revolution is impossible in the Philippines because the people are tired of carnage." Again he was boldly confronted with the fact that the carnage resulted from the Huk movement was due mainly because of the misleadership of the Lava brothers and Taruc himself. Another person from the audience pointed out that Taruc left the peasants and surrendered twice, submitted a roster of Huk guerillas to the government and updated it three times and was mainly responsible for the policy of disarming guerillas at the return of the American troops in WW II. This resulted in the massacre of Huk Squadrons 77 and 99 in Central Luzon.

Taruc tried to claim that this was a distortion, but the speaker replied, "I got it from your own book!" The audience broke out in laughter.

She then concluded, "Sure, Mr. Taruc, revolution will be impossible in the Philippines and there will be unnecessary carnage IF the revolution will be led by people like you."

Taruc tried to wiggle out of the situation, but sank deeper when he revealed that "the squadrons were not actually massacred, they

were imprisoned and then taken out at night, 10 by 10, and shot."

Taruc's lies were shattered by the truth, and he came out of the forum with an ashen smile.

Boston

BOSTON - Taruc was here for only one day, May 7 and spoke at Harvard, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. At all the events, FFP leaflets, "Luis Taruc, Front Man For the Marcos Dictatorship," were distributed and at his evening lecture at Tufts, a picket line of about 15 people was set up. But the crowds were generally small (25 at the most) and at his evening lecture, there were more people on the picketline than came to attend the lecture!

Two members from FFP attended Taruc's talk at MIT that afternoon and distributed leaflets and made several references to it in his talk but kept his talk short for more time for the question and answer period.

But from the questions that were put forward, it was clear that everyone in the room was anti-Marcos! The FFP members spoke quite a bit to provide information exposing Taruc's lies, but the audience was militant and Taruc contradicted himself countless times and finally fell into delivering cheap harangues demeaning the Filipino people and the struggle in the Philippines.

Luis Taruc, Marcos' propaganda man was exposed again!

UNITY... Magkaisa!

COMMUNITY LUAU BRINGS THOUSANDS

SAN DIEGO - Despite the dreary weather, about 2,000 people, mostly Filipino youths and families, came together on Sunday, June 2 for MAKIKISAMA LUAU. The all day affair was held at Crown Point Beach and in the afternoon, a cultural program highlighting the different cultures of the Asian and Island peoples of the Pacific was performed. It included Chamorro (Guamanian) songs, Hawaiian dances, Japanese martial arts displays and Filipino songs and dances.

The LUAU was sponsored by Operation Samahan, a progressive community organization that does work with Filipino youths, elementary and college ages, in various community projects throughout the city.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES MAY DAY

SF BAY AREA - May 1st, International Workers' Day and holiday of the world's working people, was celebrated by about 250 Filipinos and friends from progressive TW and community organizations at a picnic celebration in Oakland's Roberts Park Area. The event which took place on Sunday, May 5, was sponsored by the KDP National and the SF and East Bay chapters and marked the beginning of a traditional May Day celebration for the Filipino community.

MFP LEAFLETS CONCERT GOERS

NEW YORK - Last May, concert-goers to the 4th International Choral Festival at Lincoln Center were met by Filipinos and Americans who passed out leaflets saying "What Our People Cannot Sing About." The festival featured 500 singers from 13 countries, including a group from UP.

Depicting Pres. Marcos on a podium dressed as a musical conductor, the leaflet exposed the abuse of human rights under the Marcos martial law regime. Also listed were the findings of the national survey conducted by the Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines which revealed, among other things, that: the State is becoming totalitarian, prisoners are tortured and there is widespread fear of expressing opinions or taking action in anything related to government programs and policies.

The action was sponsored by the MFP.

FARMWORKERS, CANNERY WORKERS SUPPORT EACH OTHERS STRUGGLE

SEATTLE - Farmworkers and Alaska cannery workers were brought together at a Filipino labor forum here on April 19 at the International District Drop-In Center, and support was strongly given for each others struggle.

Sponsored by KDP and numerous Filipino community groups, the forum's guest speaker, Philip Vera Cruz, a veteran Filipino labor fighter and V-Pres. of the UFW, called on the largely Filipino audience to support the Farmworker's struggle. Refuting the idea that this is only a Chicano cause, he said, "All poor working people must use their power - a fight for one is a fight for all. The Farmworker's movement is not by itself, it's part of the worldwide liberation."

Manong Philip went further to call for the support of the Filipino people's struggle back home, pointing out their continued militance and resistance to exploitation even under martial law conditions. His fiery speech was greeted with a standing ovation from the audience of about 80 people.

Then speaking for the Alaska Cannery Workers Association (ACWA), Director Sam Cabansag explained the history of discrimination in the canneries and that the goal of ACWA is to fight it at the work place, in the community and through courts. For many of the older workers, this was their first opportunity to hear first hand about the work and goals of the ACWA.

YAKIMA - The following day, some 25 members of the ACWA, UFW and the United Construction Workers (a mostly Black group that is fighting to force construction companies to hire minority workers) met here to make some decisions about their law project, Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO).

LELO was set up in Sept. 1973 by workers from the three organizations to provide legal counsel to low-income minority workers. Funds for LELO are raised by the workers themselves from foundation sources and individual solicitations.

The weekend in Yakima ended with a lively Farmworkers' Benefit Dance on the Yakima Nation Reservation in Toppenish, Wash., that raised about \$3,000 for strike benefits. The UFW has no contracts yet in the Yakima Valley, but has organized a workers' co-op and a medical clinic that treats some 5,400 farmworkers a month.

Abel Signs Contract:

Steelworkers Sold-Out Again

by J. Tolero

A "consent pact" was recently negotiated by the United Steel Workers Union leadership (I. W. Abel), nine steel companies and the Justice Department. The contract was negotiated on April 15, 1974, three months before the expiration of the Basic Steel Contract in August.

The rank and file steelworkers are critical of the contract which was negotiated without rank and file participation. The main criticisms are about: 1) the industry's "solution" to discrimination against minorities and women; 2) inadequate wage increases and seniority provisions; and 3) company controlled implementation committees.

Discrimination in Steel Industry

Racist and sexist discrimination is a common occurrence in the steel industry. Third World workers, particularly Black workers, have always been relegated to unskilled low paying jobs in the industry. For example, in the coke ovens (blast furnaces which remove elements and convert coal into coke) the ratio is two white workers for every twelve Black oven workers. In predominantly white departments, which are more skilled and better paying, the ratio is two Blacks for every twenty white workers.

A recent Dept. of Labor investigation of Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point Mill in Baltimore, MD., revealed that out of 16,687 employees, 238 or 1.4%, are women. Of the 238 females, 86% are concentrated in three departments where the pay is low, promotions infrequent and the layoffs high.

Third World and women workers voicing strong protest are forcing the steel companies to do something about racist and sexist discrimination.



Steelworkers protest the "no strike" deal.

Industry's Solution to Discrimination

Confronted by the rising protest movement, I. W. Abel and the steel industries decided that the steel industries should "eliminate" discrimination by compensating workers with back pay awards. This award is for the lost wages due to discrimination. The average award is only \$500 to \$750.

However, a recent study by the Labor Dept. showed that compared to the actual wage gap between minority and white steelworkers, the average back pay award is ridiculously meager. For example, in Bethlehem's Sparrows Point Mill, there is an average of 40 cents an hour difference between the predominantly Black and predominantly white departments. This difference alone amounts to an \$800 loss in wages in just one year. Such company practices whereby separate Black and white departments exist with such a difference in wages is discrimination, and it is this practice that has to be changed. Discrimination cannot be eliminated by back pay awards.

Also, in order to receive compensation each worker must sign a waiver relinquishing the right to file suit against discrimination again. In addition, compensation covers only those hired up to 1968, because the Justice Department accepted the steel companies arguments



Steelworkers are angry about the new sell-out contract signed by Abel.

that they "stopped discrimination" in 1968.

Wage Increases and Seniority

Inadequate increases of wages and seniority provisions are two other issues in the contract that has met criticisms. In terms of wage increases, the contract calls for a 60 cent per hour increase over the next three years. This is less than 4% increase a year, while inflation has risen to 10.7% just in 1973.

The loss of seniority of a worker, upon department transferring is common, and was supposed to have been eliminated by the new contract. However, under the contract provisions this only seems to be so. Because, if a worker transfers, he is given only a two year wage retention period, but if after two years the worker has not been promoted in the department, he then receives a pay cut.

In addition, the provisions do nothing to prohibit the various racist maneuvers like concentrating Blacks in separate shifts from white workers, thereby Blacks end up competing with each other for job openings in the other shifts as a way to get into better departments.

Company Controlled Implementation Committees

To exercise the so-called reforms, the contract calls for implementation committees. The implementation committees are divided into two units, Audit and Review and Plant Implementation committees. The Audit and Review committee is composed of five company members, a government representative and five union members (to be chosen by union leaders). This committee has the final authority in all decisions.

The Plant Implementation committees are supposed to insure that terms of the contract are practiced. This committee permits one or two minority members in its body. Nevertheless, this unit has very little power, if any.

Steel Workers and Union Leaders Divided

Differences between the rank and file and union leadership (principally I. W. Abel), have greatly widened. Steelworkers already angry at Abel for signing the "no strike" agreement last year (under the Experimental Negotiation Act [ENA]) vehemently protested when news was received that Abel had again signed over their heads.

At Bethlehem's Sparrows Point mill, a mass meeting on April 30 drew 500 workers, mostly Blacks, heard speakers urge the rejection of the contract. The meeting was held to particularly reject the back pay award. Also four organizations are planning suits to block implementation of the contract (NAACP, NOW, NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Nat'l Steel Workers Rank and File Committee).

However, only the developing unity of steelworkers fighting for better wages and conditions and against racist and sexist discrimination hiring and promotions will expose I. W. Abel's corrupt leadership and open the struggle for the real interests of the steelworkers.

America In Turmoil

IWC RULING CUTS CALIFORNIA WORKERS RIGHTS

San Francisco - On March 14, 1974, the Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) passed new regulations attacking the basic rights of California workers. The IWC instead of extending protective laws for women under the Equal Rights Amendments (i.e. rest periods, weight limitations, proper lighting and ventilation) slashed the rights of both men and women.

The ruling has eliminated the 8-hour day in favor of a 10-hour day, and mandatory overtime can be forced upon the workers by contract.

The IWC ruling was to have gone into effect on June 1, however, recent mass protest by workers forced an injunction on the IWC ruling. Suits are being brought by the State AFL-CIO and more mass protest is planned against the IWC ruling.

TRIALS BEING SET FOR ATTICA BROTHERS

On Sept. 9, 1971, inmates at Attica State Prison in New York seized a section of the prison and took hostages as a last resort to be heard in their demands for the much needed changes in the prison conditions. Four days later, ex-Gov. Rockefeller and Warden Oswald, ordered state police and the National Guards to storm the prison. 39 inmates and hostages were killed and 80 others wounded because of the assault.

The Attica inmates were demanding 28 basic reforms which included better food, medical care, political and religious freedom and protection from the abuses of prison guards.

After 2½ years, the State prosecutors has declared the case ready for trial, and the 61 indicted inmates are making appearances now to set trial dates.

The Attica Brothers Legal Defense on the other hand is not yet prepared, primarily due to the lack of cooperation from the State prosecutors. The prosecution has not handed over materials to be used as evidence and the identities of prospective witnesses to the defense. Also, the request of indigence has had no reply from the court, and the selection of the jury is being contested because of the biased nature of selection. People chosen for jury duty are dependent on the prison for their livelihood, directly or indirectly.

Both people and money are needed. CONTACT: Attica Brothers Legal Defense, 1370 Main St. Buffalo, N.Y. 14209.

SUGAR AND PINEAPPLE STRIKE SETTLED

Recently, 1500 Hawaiian agricultural workers settled a 1½ month strike against sugar and pineapple growers in Hawaii. The strike was over job security, lay-offs and stopping run-away shops.

The growers were phasing out production in Hawaii in favor of cheaper labor and a better political climate in the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand. In 1973, one pineapple plantation closed and three others cut back production. Since 1971, three sugar plantations have already "run-away" (moved to other countries). Due to run-away shops, idle plantations have been or will be converted into tourist facilities (i.e. high-cost housing, gold courses, etc.).

For 16,000 agricultural workers and workers indirectly related to agriculture, run-away shops means layoffs and massive unemployment. The only alternative then is for farmworkers to get tourist related jobs (busboys, waiters, hotel maids, etc.) which are usually low paying and have no stability. For third world farmworkers, this means roles as servants and domestics, which perpetuates racist stereotypes.

During the strike, workers unity was so strong that not a single scab crossed the picketline. Some of the gains won were: a 50 cent to 75 cent wage increase in the next 2 years; pledges from companies not to shutdown or "run-away" before 1976; and some improvements in medical, dental, pension and disability plans.

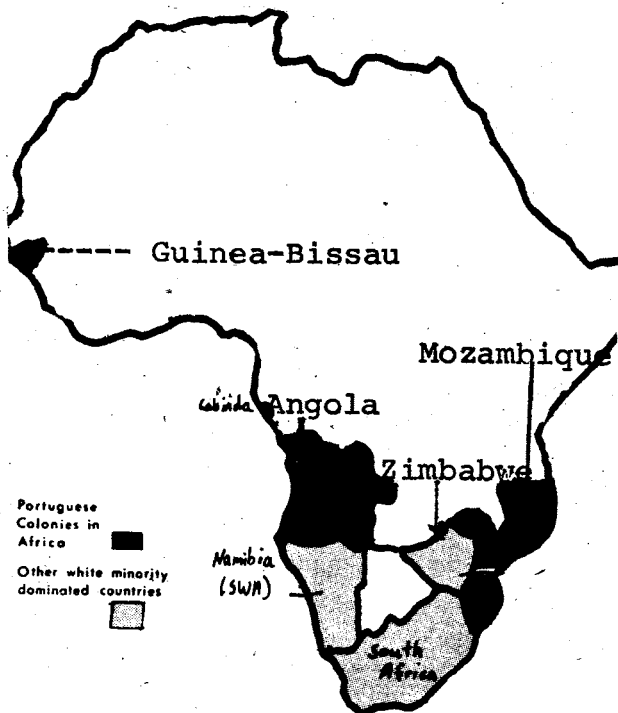
The gains made in the strike are more impressive than in previous strikes. However, many strikers realize the limits of the contract and want a more strategic program to fully insure workers rights and interest.

Portugal Coup: SELF-DETERMINATION FOR COLONIES

by J. Tolero

For over 40 years, the Portuguese people were oppressed under the fascist government of Premiere Marcello Caetano. Democratic liberties such as the freedom of speech, press and political affiliation were prohibited. Since 1961, Caetano had been waging colonial wars in the Portuguese African colonies of Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique.

On April 25, 1974 a dramatic turn of events occurred in Portugal. The hated Caetano regime was toppled by a military coup and for the first time in over forty years, freedom was restored in Portugal. The Portuguese people - workers, housewives, students and professionals alike rejoiced at the downfall of Caetano's fascist government.



Coup Was Inevitable

The principal reasons for the coup were based on Portugal's delapidated economy and the futility of a Portuguese military victory in Africa.

Economically, Portugal is the poorest country in western Europe, with an inflation rate of 21%, and ranks last in industrial and agricultural development. The per capita income of Portuguese workers in 1971 was \$700.

Portugal has been drained by the African wars and half of the country's annual budget of 2 billion dollars is devoted to the military. Over 100,000 young people have left Portugal or gone into hiding to avoid fighting in Africa and overall, the wars have isolated Portugal internationally.

Militarily, the Portuguese army is receiving resounding defeats in the colonies. In Guinea Bissau, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) controls 70% of the country. Guinea-Bissau declared independence and has since been recognized by the United Nations and 84 countries.

In Mozambique, the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) is expanding its base areas among the people in the north and moving into the heart of the white settler areas in central Mozambique. In Angola, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) is holding Portuguese forces at a stalemate.

Coinciding with its military defeats, discontent within the armed forces was also developing. In March, Premeire Caetano fired top generals of the military in an attempt to stop the dissension within military ranks. One of the first to be relieved was Gen Antonio de Spinoza, Chief of the Army in Africa, who published a book PORTUGAL AND ITS FUTURE in which he said a political solution must be found for the colonial wars in Africa.

An initial coup staged on March 15, by captains and lower ranking personnels was suppressed by Caetano. Regrouping, the

military subsequently staged the successful coup on April 25, headed by Gen. Spinoza. Caetano and his close aides have been exiled to Latin America.

Provisional Government Formed

Basic democratic reforms were initiated immediately and after three weeks of junta rule, a provisional government was established on May 16. Overall, the provisional government will be made up of communist, socialist, liberals and military elements with Gen. Spinoza as president. Elections for a more stable form of government will be held within a year.

African Liberation a Major Question

There are many questions as to the policies and direction of the new Portuguese government. But one issue that quickly surfaced and caused factions within the government is the future of the African colonies.

On the one hand, Gen. Spinoza favors limited "self-determination" within a common wealth type federation, but the colonies would still be run from Lisbon. Spinoza, seems to believe that the Africans are not yet ready for self-determination. The African, Spinoza believes, should try a year or two under enlightened Portuguese rule, then they would no longer desire independence.

On the other hand, communist, socialist, and liberals of government want immediate negotiations with the liberation forces based on total independence for the African people.

Africans Want Full Independence

Regardless of whether a policy can satisfy the opposing camps of the Portuguese government, the African liberation movements have said that they will stop nothing short of total independence. Francisco Mendes, head of the revolutionary government of Guinea-Bissau has flatly rejected the cease fire offer. "We have not struggle for 11 years to lay down our arms simply at the request of a new Portuguese government," Mendes said. (On May 13, PAIGC agreed to negotiate, but the junta must recognize the independence of Guinea-Bissau and halt all military maneuvers before talks could get underway.)



Women Guerrillas in Angola.

In Angola, MPLA's response to the Spinoza's offer stated, "we will take advantage of the situation in Portugal to clean up the situation in Angola by striking harder blows at the Portuguese army". In Mozambique, FRELIMO has also rejected the cease fire and has called for a general offensive against the Portuguese and has since carried out a series of attacks.

It is, in part, the war in Africa that brought down the Caetano dictatorship. It is now a question that divides the new provisional government in Portugal. The only way to end the war in Africa is for Portugal to withdraw, militarily, politically and economically and to recognize the African people's right to self-determination and independence.

World in Focus

GOVERNMENT NEGLECTS PEOPLE, INDIAN WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST HARDSHIPS

Despite rosy promises by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Indian people continue to suffer from food shortages, high prices, and an exploitative govt.

Presently, 200 million of 500 million Indians go hungry. Fourteen of twenty-one states have a serious food deficit. In the past year, the per capita income in India decline to the 1965 level. Forty percent of India's population earns about 6 to 7 cents a day. In relation to the decline of income, the prices of basic commodities (rice, wheat, salt) have risen to 60% or 70%.

Recently, workers, peasants and students have demanded that Indira Gandhi's government do something to alleviate their hardships. However, Gandhi's reply has been to lie and suppress all demonstrations. For example, Gandhi's reasoning for the food shortage is because of "natural causes" such as drought, floods, etc. But in 1971, India had its highest grain yield with 108 million tons, which incidently was hoarded by the Indian capitalist, causing food shortages and high prices.

In suppressing demonstrations, Indira Gandhi has used the police to terrorize people by indiscriminate shooting during demonstrations. The government using the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) to suppress demonstrations, murdered more than 70 persons in a span of 15 days in March.

The crisis faced by the Indian people lies not in "natural causes" but in the exploitative and backward principles of an economic and political system. Only upon the eradication of such a system will the hardships of the Indian masses disappear.

JAPANESE WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST INFLATION

The most widely supported and militant strike in Japan's labor history has just been recently concluded. Substantial gains-higher wages and the right to strike - have been achieved for the Japanese working people. The strike began on March 1 and millions of Japanese workers participated in the widely supported strike to fight inflation, demand the lowering of prices on basic necessities and to call for the ouster of the Tanaka cabinet unless it halts inflation. Termed the "Spring People's Struggle," the strike demands stressed the common interests of all workers and unemployed in stopping inflation.

Nearly 12 million workers from trade unions, supported by 22 million others, struck in three waves culminating in a total transport shutdown in mid-April. Up to six million were out on strike simultaneously at the peak of the struggle and unions which had never struck or had not gone out on strike in years, joined the mass movement. In years, joined the mass movement strike in years, joined the mass movement.

Besides the central demands for wage increases to catch up with the increased inflation and the right to strike for public employees, the strike demands included: 1) national minimum wage; 2) welfare and pension benefits for the disadvantaged; 3) and aid to the unorganized and other measures concerning the unemployed, part-time workers, women workers and others in small shops.

A key factor in the widespread support for the strike was the phenomenal profits recorded last year by Japan's major industries. Some industries, such as textiles, petroleum refining and steel making declared profits increases of more than 300%.

In negotiations with the government, the peripheral demands of the struggle were generally not met, but most unions got more than 90% of the wage increases they had demanded. The average increase granted was 30%, but again, they barely put the organized workers ahead of the inflation rate, which rose 26% last year and is expected to be worse this year.

Japan's public employees, whose right to strike has been suppressed since the U.S. dictated constitution written during the Occupation period. An agreement was made not to take any punitive action until the question of state workers right to strike was "studied" by a committee. Though it is expected that no real action will be taken by this committee, in substance, it was proved that the gov't could no longer intimidate the public workers. Japan's two national railway unions struck and virtually paralyzed the country's transport network.