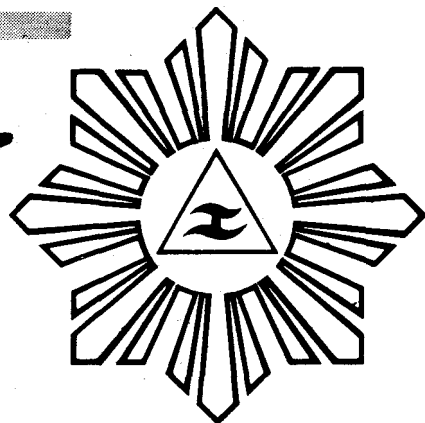


Ang KATIPUNAN

Vol. IV, No. 11 June 16-30, 1977

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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



10 Cities Nationwide:

Philippine National Day — Resounding Success



Children sing renditions of Filipino songs at San Francisco's June 12 celebration. Nationwide thousands of Filipinos turned out to celebrate a holiday that is rapidly building the significance of the Filipino contributions in building the U.S.

[AK photo]
(continued on page 8)

I-HOTEL FIGHTS EVICTION AGAIN



FLASH!!! The International Hotel received another stay of eviction from the California State Appellate Court June 15. The stay, though it could be arbitrarily lifted at any time, is supposed to remain in effect until the courts hear the city Housing Authority's appeal of Judge Peery's decision that the declaration of eminent domain was illegal. The IHTA announced it was moving off "yellow alert" but would be using this extended time to apply more pressure to local, state and federal officials in its efforts to acquire the hotel as low-cost housing.

In another development that day, the National Register of Monuments, a federal listing of historical sites, announced the I-H on the list. The action will make it more difficult for Four Seas to demolish the building, requiring it to file an environmental impact report, including the historical implications, before any action. [see bottom, p. 12]

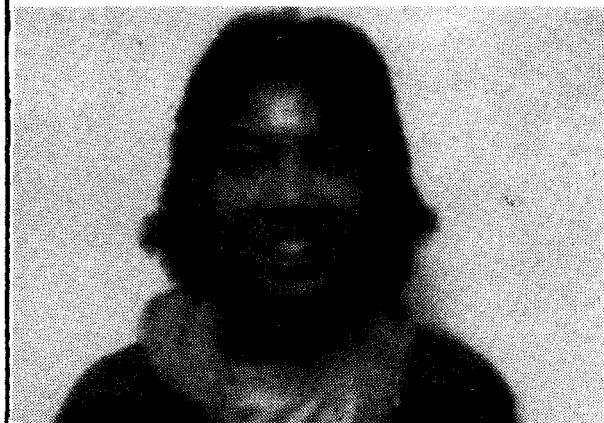
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and Maltreatment** see page 6

'P.I.' Narciso Takes Witness Stand see page 7

**New AMRSP Documents Continued Torture
of Philippine Detainees** see page 3

Human Rights Demonstrations Held Nationwide
see page 9

FILIPINO COMMUNITY ACTIVIST ASSAULTED BY SEATTLE POLICE



Angel Doniego — KDP activist

By SILME DOMINGO

SEATTLE — Angel Doniego, a leading Filipino community activist and a member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), was assaulted by members of the Seattle Police Department last Tuesday, June 7, at about 1:00 a.m. This action constitutes political harassment and is a blatant violation of the law and Doniego's constitutional rights. In view of Doniego's active organizing efforts in this city, the incident is clearly an attack on the democratic rights of the Filipino community and the progressive movement here.

In response to the incident, a press conference and rally was held yesterday on Tuesday, June 14, and a delegation presented police officials with a letter to Seattle Police Chief Robert Hanson demanding he investigate the action and punish the guilty officers. They further demanded a meeting with Chief Hanson within 48 hours to hear a report on his investigation. The protest received wide television and newspaper coverage in the local media.

PRETENSE, THEN ASSAULT

The incident occurred when Angel was stopped by two police officers about 12:30 a.m. near the corner of 23rd So. and So. McClellan streets. Officer Sherwood and another officer told Angel that he was under arrest on a traffic warrant and they were taking him in. He was not read his rights at the time of his arrest. Furthermore, when he got in the police car, he was not taken to the station but rather to a deserted road near Blaine Memorial Church. There he was joined by four other officers in civilian clothes driving two unmarked cars. He was transferred to one of the unmarked cars for interrogation.

An officer began the interrogation by reciting some details of Angel's personal life and of his activities in the Filipino community. Much of this information could only have been obtained by illegal police spying. The officer then demanded a list of Filipino community activists and warned Angel that he had better stop his community acti-

(continued on page 2)

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EDITORIAL

In Seattle:

FASCISM RAISES ITS UGLY HEAD



Collage shows various scenes of struggles that involve the Filipino community in Seattle.

The recent assault and harassment of one of our members by the Seattle Police Department is nothing but blatant police brutality, calculated political repression and a fascist extension of supposed "law and order" into the Filipino community. This incident and any others like it must be opposed by all democratic-minded people before more fascist attacks develop!

What possible justification can the police have to pull aside a person on the pretext of a traffic ticket, take him to a deserted road and intimidate and assault him? From a democratic standpoint, none. And by their own admission, it was done to stop Angel Doniego from "his activities" — that is, from organizing the Filipino community here against injustice and discrimination. And not satisfied with beating up Angel, the police went further to harass his wife and mother, subjecting them to intimidating phone calls and instilling fear into their lives.

Just from these facts alone, we can see that this incident is not the spontaneous actions of a few misguided police officers, but rather the conscious implementation of a broader plan to stop the progressive trend in the Filipino community that has emerged over the past few years.

Why do the police want to stop the Filipino community from organizing, fighting discrimination and defending our rights? Simple — because organizing means educating ourselves about the social ills of American society, like racism, struggling to get at its roots and taking

united actions to bring about necessary social change. And all this political awareness means power in the hands of the people — power like that which eventually led the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s to shake the foundations of American society and expose the inequalities being perpetrated against minority peoples in this country. And let us not forget that once this movement grew and started to become effective, its leaders were also harassed, hounded and brutalized and finally, national leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were assassinated.

While the progressive movement in the Filipino community in Seattle is not (yet) on the massive scale of the social struggles of the '60s, our goals are the same. We must remember that the history of fascist movements has shown — time and time again — that the fascists will first attack and attempt to smash the left-wing forces, like Angel and the KDP; if they are successful, however, they will focus their attacks, one by one, on all the more moderate forces. So in essence, the particular harassment of Angel Doniego is just the first blow against all of our basic democratic rights.

We believe that in the midst of any attacks, we in the Filipino community and all progressive forces in this city must stand together. We must thoroughly expose this incident and stop this kind of police repression from going any further.

By SILME DOMINGO
KDP Seattle Regional Executive Board

Los Angeles June 12th Day Marred by Right-Wing Attacks on KDP

By KDP Southern California Regional Executive Board

The June 12 celebrations held across the country last weekend were very successful, marking another milestone in the growing unity among the Filipino people here in the U.S. Despite the many regional, social and political differences among us, Filipinos temporarily put them aside, to unite and cooperate with each other in order to organize a festive celebration that everyone could join.

Unfortunately, this was not completely true in Los Angeles where the overall success of the event (10,000 people attended each of the two days) was marred by several controversies that surfaced involving principally political differences between the KDP and the Evening Optimists Club of Downtown Los Angeles. On a number of separate occasions, KDP was explicitly attacked publicly slandered and subjected to intimidation tactics by the Optimists Club. This was an undisguised attempt to drive the KDP out of the community activity thereby rupturing the unity and spirit of the "Pista Sa Nayon" June 12 celebration.

For the sake of the June 12th activity, however, our organization chose not to publicly respond to these attacks at the time. But now that the event is over, we feel that we must respond and set the record straight for the sake of next year's June 12 celebration. The controversy centered around three major incidents that took place over the past two months:

THE ISSUE OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE PARTICIPATION

The "Pista Sa Nayon" was organized under the co-sponsorship of the United Filipino-American Assem-

bly (of which KDP is a member) and the Optimists Club. It was agreed very early in the organizing efforts that the program would not take a position on the martial law government in the Philippines, in light of the fact that strong feelings divided the community on this controversial issue. And in order to respect the differing views the agreement reached was to prohibit either anti-or-pro martial law displays in the parade or cultural program and not to invite the participation of the Philippine Consulate, as it was the official representative of the Marcos government here in the U.S.

This unity was key in the early months building up to the event and was upheld until last month when the Optimists Club unilaterally announced that they had already invited Consul Torres to participate in the opening ceremony.

And under their influence, an individual even offered a free full-page ad in the souvenir program. They had the boldness to this arbitrarily without bringing it to the Steering Committee (made up of five representatives from the Assembly and five from the Optimists Club) for a democratic decision. This served only to further aggravate the problem and tension.

The Assembly discussed the issue of the Philippine Consulate, and in the spirit of preserving unity, the majority agreed to compromise and allow the Consulate to participate, provided it was extended no preferential treatment. Concretely, this meant to delete the Consul's message, but allow him to participate in the same manner as any one else in the community by purchasing a booth. Although we agreed with this, we want to set the record straight; this opinion represented the majority

FILIPINO ACTIVIST ASSAULTED ...

(continued from front page)

vities. If he didn't, they threatened to "put him away" and to make things difficult for his family.

At one point, Angel was taken out of the car and punched in the stomach by an officer. As he lay on the ground, the same officer put his foot on his head and kept him lying there for about an hour. Finally, this officer told Angel, "You better stop your activities because there won't be a next time." The officers left about 2:30 a.m., leaving Angel to walk six blocks back to his car. Since this incident, Angel and his family have received several harassing telephone calls with basically the same message.

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

All of the "activities" that the police are ordering Angel to stop are completely legal and in the best interests of the Filipino community here in Seattle. It is the police's assault on Angel which is illegal and constitutes political harassment. Angel is a well-known and respected activist leader in the Filipino community. He was the General Chairman of the 1976 Filipino People's Far West Convention, which brought 800 Filipinos to Seattle from throughout the West Coast to discuss problems of discrimination. He is presently an active member of the Narciso-Perez Defense Committee, a Filipino community organization to defend two Filipina nurses falsely charged with murder in Ann Arbor. Angel is also a member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), an organization that fights for the rights and basic interests of Filipinos in the U.S. and in the Philippines.

In response to this outrageous violation of Mr. Doniego's constitutional rights, information of this incident has been widely disseminated in the Filipino community and many have responded with anger and indignation over the assault. A number of leading persons from the Filipino community and members of El Centro de la Raza and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have signed a letter to Chief Hanson demanding that he get to the bottom of this incident, locate the guilty officers and discipline them. The letter also asked for a line-up of all officers on duty that night so that Mr. Doniego could identify his assailants. A complaint will also be filed with the Seattle Police Department's Internal Investigations Division, and a claim and possible lawsuit with the City of Seattle for damages. In addition, Mr. Doniego is requesting from Chief Hanson a copy of any intelligence files on him, under the Public Disclosure Law.

This is not the first time that Filipino leaders have been persecuted and harassed for their activities in Seattle. About 30 years ago, Ernesto Mangaoang, a militant trade unionist and community leader, was threatened with deportation, but public support for him successfully stopped the attempt. □

sentiments of the Assembly meeting and not solely the position of the KDP.

But when the Steering Committee met, the Optimists were confrontational and intimidation tactics prevailed. The Optimists threatened to pull out immediately if the Consul's message was deleted, so the meeting was already charged with tensions when the "vote" was taken. Two Assembly members sided with the Optimists and two others abstained (out of pressure and intimidation), leaving only the KDP representative to vote "no" in accordance with what had been the majority decision of the Assembly.

Then, unexpectedly, this votation was used as a pretext to deliver a broadside public attack explicitly against the KDP (and we are certain this was encouraged by leading members of the Optimists Club). In an editorial in the May issue of the *Asian-American News* by Louie R. Eugenio (who himself had never attended even one single meeting of the Steering Committee), the KDP was singled out and depicted as a group of "misguided elements" ignoring the majority sentiments and disrupting the unity and harmony of the June 12. The slanderous, off-handed remarks and distorted news were clearly aimed at the KDP. This was nothing but a cheap, underhanded attempt to spread intrigues and whip up an "anti-communist" hysteria in the Filipino community. And of course, given our leftist political views, the KDP is most easily susceptible to this type of attack.

To set the record straight, we view this editorial as an unprovoked attack against our organization. The KDP vote was the only one consistent with what had been the majority decision of the Assembly, although the *Asian-American News* gives the false impression that we were the only organization with criticisms of the Marcos government. This is nothing but unprofessional journal-

(continued on page 8)



Buod ng mga Balita

(Gist of the News)

G.I. Orders Dog to Attack Scavenger

What does an itinerant Filipino earn for scavenging in the garbage dumps of a foreign power? Fernando Nuguid found out when U.S. Sgt. Joseph Gaines ordered a K-9 police dog to attack him as he scavenged in the dumping grounds of Clark Air Base late last month. Recounting his ordeal, Nuguid said that Gaines ordered the dog to attack him several times even after he was in Gaines' custody. Nuguid had to plead for mercy before Gaines decided to restrain the dog and bring Nuguid to the base hospital for treatment of multiple bites.



Member of Clark Air Base's K-9 Corp [left] with Fernando Nuguid [right], the Filipino scavenger brutally attacked by dog under order of U.S. Sgt. Gaines.

Although Angeles City Fiscal Eller Torres has ordered the investigation of the incident, base authorities are not expected to cooperate. Clark's legal division has already informed Torres that Gaines will not be present during investigative hearings pending "definition of U.S. position on the issue." "U.S. position" on previous incidents involving U.S. personnel's abuses of Filipinos has consistently meant injustice for the victims and leniency towards the perpetrators. Base authorities have skillfully used legal maneuvers through invoking the vagaries of the U.S.-R.P. bases agreement to escape prosecution by Philippine law. □

Energy 'Wasters' Face Loss of Jobs

City and municipal employees who consistently fail to enforce energy saving measures may find themselves jobless. This was the gist of the ultimatum issued by Quezon City Mayor Adelina Rodriguez which applies to some 6,500 workers of Metro Manila. Failure to turn off lights, air conditioning and office machines after work hours and during breaks could cost an employee his job. This latest measure attests to the fact that the crunch of the current energy crisis is coming down hardest on the working sector. Not only does this sector have to deal with higher utility rates; it now shoulders the brunt of government-enforced conservation measures which should actually be borne by the main consumers of energy, i.e. private enterprise. □

Ilongot Tribes Stall Logging

Ilongot tribesmen of Nueva Viscaya are preparing for confrontations with military-backed logging concessionaires who have encroached on their ancestral lands and exploited their forest resources. Male warriors from the Belansi community have set up roadblocks to prevent trucks from going to and from the logging area and sawmills. Several sawmill operators said 50 of their trucks have been stranded as a result. Mayor Carlos Padilla of Dupax said Constabulary soldiers were sent to the area but the tribefolk would not budge an inch.

The Ilongots are presently demanding a conference with the loggers to demand that they be recompensed for the timber cut from their lands. The Ilongots allege that the loggers have reneged on their promise to set up an Ilongot foundation in exchange for exploiting the Ilongots' forested lands. □

Exploited Seamen Commandeer Ship

A Japanese tanker manned by a crew of 27 Filipinos was diverted to Manila while enroute from Karachi to London for alleged abuses by its owners. Hercules Callas, captain of the ship, said he had to bring the tanker to the Philippines without authority from the shipowner, Okada Kawin Co. Ltd., to "insure the safety of the ship and crew."

Callas said the ship's owner left the crew without provisions, refused to remit money to families of crew members, pay salaries and grant shore leaves, in violation of their contract. The captain also said the owners refused to supply the vessel with spare parts, engine replacements or undertake repairs, endangering the lives of the crew.

The ship has been taken over by the crew who vow it will not be returned until the Japanese firm has remitted the crews' salaries, wages, allotments, and brokerage fees amounting to \$360,709. □

Empty Gestures

MARCOS ORDERS 'HUMANE TREATMENT' OF PRISONERS

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

In a bid to refute charges of human rights violations by foreign detractors and mollify critics in the U.S. legislature, Pres. Marcos ordered the release of all detainees against whom no charges have been filed. Speaking before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Marcos also ordered the transfer of political trials from military personnel found guilty of committing torture during interrogation; and a series of measure to improve the administration of detainee's affairs. To prove the sincerity of these moves, Marcos said: "Our commitment to law and order will not be impaired by any lack of regard for human rights and we will permit question to be raised on the firmness of our allegiance to the universal declaration of human rights of which we were among the very first to affix our signature at the U.N."

LITTLE CAUSE FOR ELATION

Although the local Marcos media was quick to praise his moves as acts of compassion and signs of the return to political normalcy, a cursory review of the regime's human rights record shows little cause for elation over Marcos' latest moves.

For example, the military's policy of torture is expected to remain intact, in light of the fact that Marcos continues to deny the existence of such practice. In his speech to the Foreign Correspondents Association, Marcos



Painting of a political prisoner by progressive artist in the Philippines.

once more claimed that the use of punishment, considered light by many, is still subject to review and possible reversal by higher military authorities.

The high-point of Marcos' "new" directives towards the "humane treatment" of detainees was the promised release of all those who have not been charged and the transfer to civilian courts of political cases. At first glance, these gestures appear magnanimous and concur with the recommendations of the Amnesty International and the Association of Major Religious Superiors (AMRSP). A closer examination of these provisions, however, reveal that any impending release of detainees is at best conditional and under the conditions set by Marcos will barely affect anyone.

Furthermore, despite claims that military personnel who are guilty of perpetrating torture would be punished, a policy of leniency, if not tolerance, has been adopted towards these offenders. Of the 88 military officers identified by Amnesty International as abusive and guilty of torture, only four have been prosecuted. Although the revised penal code requires a six month to two year imprisonment sentence for such offenses, the four were merely reprimanded and dismissed from their posts. This

AMRSP study reveals torture continues

psychological torment are now ordinary features of tactical interrogation sessions. The AMRSP study also notes that provincial detainees fare worse than their city counterparts. Suspected sympathizers or members of the armed dissident movement are hunted down on shoot to kill orders. Kidnappings and mysterious disappearances (assumed to be murders) occur more frequently. In Bo, Magballo in the Visayas and Davao City in Mindanao, a rash of murders, arrests and kidnappings have terrorized the populace for more than a year.

A more optimistic note of the study, however, reveals that the detainees have been emboldened in their attempts to make their plight known. The political prisoners are confident that the continued moral and material support of sympathizers outside prison is an important check to such abuses. □

(continued on page 9)

No Alteration in Policy

AMRSP Study Reveals Torture Continues

Torture, illegal detention and inhuman prison conditions still characterize the plight of Philippine political prisoners, a recent study by the Association of Major Religious Superiors revealed. This situation has not significantly altered since the Association and the Amnesty International released their studies more than a year ago.

Although the government has claimed that it has taken steps to correct the situation, the AMRSP study reveals that these measures are either inadequate or are not being implemented. For example, the government's claims that it has "satisfactorily dealt with torture allegations" is not true. Despite formal complaints substantiated by evidence, filed by detainees against their tormenters, the study reveals that these officers continue with their duties. Only four soldiers out of 88 consistent offenders have been prosecuted to date. Officers who have gained notorious fame as professional torturers like Major Miguel Aure, Lt. Rudolfo Aquinaldo, Pat Ordon, Maj. Miguel Esguerra continue to occupy their high posts in the intelligence hierarchy.

Other oft-repeated corrective measures such as reporting arrests within 24 to 48 hours are being flagrantly ignored. To circumvent this directive, arresting officers keep newly arrested detainees in safehouses for weeks or months on end. That safehouses continue to exist despite a supposed Defense Department directive ordering their elimination is clear proof that torture continues to be sanctioned as a standard operating procedure.

Painting of a female political prisoner by progressive artist in the Philippines.



NEW TORTURE METHODS

Despite the horrified reaction and angry protests of many concerned groups and individuals to the type of torture method employed, these methods continue to be used and have even been "improved." To intensify the conduct of electricity during shock treatments, cold water is doused on the victim. Moderate doses of Lysol is now added to the NAWASA treatment (water cure). Beating sessions which ordinarily involve repeated blows on sensitive parts of the body and the clapping of hands over the victims' ears has now been expanded to include "grotal treatment" or the squeezing of testicles, in the case of a male victim.

The incidence of such dehumanizing methods like forcing the victim to ingest human excreta has also become more common. Sexual molestation and

psychological torment are now ordinary features of tactical interrogation sessions.

The AMRSP study also notes that provincial detainees fare worse than their city counterparts. Suspected sympathizers or members of the armed dissident movement are hunted down on shoot to kill orders. Kidnappings and mysterious disappearances (assumed to be murders) occur more frequently. In Bo, Magballo in the Visayas and Davao City in Mindanao, a rash of murders, arrests and kidnappings have terrorized the populace for more than a year.

A more optimistic note of the study, however, reveals that the detainees have been emboldened in their attempts to make their plight known. The political prisoners are confident that the continued moral and material support of sympathizers outside prison is an important check to such abuses. □

Regime's Reforms Denounced

SUGAR WORKERS DEMAND LAND

BALITA NG MALAYANG PILIPINAS (BMP) — More than 4,000 workers and urban poor supported by members of the clergy rallied in the town plaza of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental last May 1. Led by the National Federation of Sugar Workers, the group issued a call for land reform in the sugar areas, asserting that "the workers in the sugarcane fields find it only just to own the land which they have tilled for so many years with all their efforts."

Five workers, including one 10 year old boy, spoke, exposing the deplorable conditions in the sugar plantations, below-subsistence wages, and the exploitation of workers by the landlords. The 10 year old, who works in the fields for P3 a day, pledged to support his elders in their struggle for land: "Continue your struggle because it is only right; expect us always to be at your side."

JOBLESS SUGAR WORKERS

The massive turnout of sugar workers reflects the fact that *sakadas* (cane-cutters) and mill workers have been the principal victims of the instability of the international sugar market, combined with the greed of Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos. Thousands of sugar workers are now jobless because of the 1975 "sugar boom." Pres. Marcos, in an effort to cash in on the highest profits in the history of the sugar trade, insisted on centralizing all sales under the government-controlled Philippine Exchange.

Thinking himself terribly clever, the dictator withheld Philippine sugar from the international market, waiting for prices to rise still further. When they suddenly fell dramatically, the Philippines was left with both its unsold 1975 crop and a 1976 crop standing in the fields. By then it was clear that sugar-producing nations had overplanted, there was a world-wide sugar surplus, and prices remained at rock-bottom with little hope for recovery. Marcos was barely able to sell the Philippine surplus at prices lower than the cost of production.

DRASTIC CUT-BACKS

Sugar planters, as a result, have cut back drastically this year on the acreage planted, either leaving their fields empty or switching to other crops. As a result, a significant proportion of the total number of sugar workers has been laid off. The government estimates that 90,000, one-fifth of the workforce of 450,000, is now jobless. Sugar planters, however, contend that this is a conservative estimate. According to Armando Gustilo,

Sugar Workers marching in a May Day parade several years ago. The growing militance of the *sakadas* has been sharpened in the past year with the rise in unemployment due to Marcos' dismal failure at sugar market speculation. [AK file photo]



President of the National Federation of Sugar Planters, up to one-third of the land in sugar areas has been affected by the cut-back. This would mean, according to industry calculations, that 154,000 workers, or one-third of the workforce, have been or will be laid off.

The *sakadas*, even in good times, are among the most exploited of Filipino workers. Their work is seasonal, lasting a mere six months of the year. During the cane cutting season, work lasts 12 hours a day, seven days a week. For this backbreaking labor, the *sakadas* receive a wage of P7 (one dollar) per day. During the rest of the year, they are forced to scrounge for minimal employment.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE — BOTH BAFFLING AND PREDICTABLE

The government response to the sugar crisis has been in some ways baffling and in others predictable. Baffling in that the Marcos regime has allowed five new sugar mills to be built, granting tax exemptions and other privileges to their owners. Predictable in that the government has rushed to the aid of the planters and millers and paid only lip service to the condition of 154,000 jobless workers.

The most decisive gesture on the part of the government to ease the plight of the millionaire sugar planters has been to decree sugar lands turned over to

other crops exempt from land reform. Since theoretically all rice and corn lands in the Philippines are subject to land reform, the government realizes that the sugar barons will not convert to these staple crops without some form of protection and is willing to grant it, even at the expense of violating the principles of its own already weak land reform law.

The government, consistent with its callow disregard for the workers' plight, issued dire warnings of impending "social chaos" and an "upsurge in criminality." Now it has come up with vague promises of public works programs to employ the laid off sugar workers and a P40 million social amelioration fund. It has also meekly asked for the private sector to assist the government in providing jobs and "maintaining social services for the less privileged."

The only concrete move so far has been the formation of a civic action "caravan" by Brig. Gen. Mario Espina, Commander of the Third Philippine Constabulary Zone, to "help inform sugarcane field workers of what the government is doing to improve their welfare." According to the *Bulletin Today* of May 26, "in every locality the caravan will hold a public meeting and try to solve the problems brought to them by the citizenry." This is perceived as a way of "bridging the 'widening communication gap' between the establishment and the people in sugar-producing areas."

MORE THAN JUST A COMMUNICATION GAP

The sugar workers are aware, however, that the gap which separates them from the "establishment" is more than one of communication. The *sakadas* realize that their current problems spring from the position of the Philippines as primarily an exporter of raw materials to the industrialized nations of the world, vulnerable to the vagaries of world markets. A significant proportion of Philippine agricultural land is owned by millionaire planters and planted to export crops rather than for desperately needed staple crops for the Filipino people. A huge segment of the Philippine workforce is tied up in export production. As a result, not enough land area in the Philippines is planted to locally-needed crops and, when the capitalist countries of the world decide that they don't want Philippine products, large numbers of Filipinos lose their livelihood.

For this reason, the sugar workers of Bacolod in their march on Labor Day did not demand new jobs, social amelioration funds or public works programs. Instead they demanded land — land which they can plant to essential commodities with which to feed their families and their people. As they said on May 1, "Look at your burnt skins — they are your title to the land; look at the calluses on your hands — they are the seal to that title." □

'Apocalypse Now' - Bizarre Form of Military Aid to Marcos

President Ferdinand E. Marcos' prostitution of the Republic of the Philippines to an American film company appears to be paying off handsomely for the Philippine dictator. A report in *Newsweek* (June 13) reveals that Francis Ford Coppola, Oscar-winning director for his film, *The Godfather*, converted 18 helicopters belonging to the Philippine Air Force into gunships for the filming of his Vietnam War movie *Apocalypse Now* — at the film company's expense.

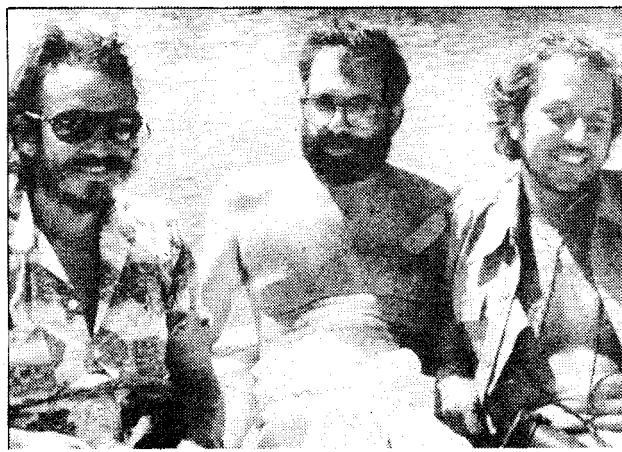
Throughout the two-year filming of the \$25-million war epic in Pagsanghan, Laguna, Coppola was guarded day and night by a member of the Presidential Security Guard as were other key members of the cast. More important, President Marcos used his extraordinary martial law powers to have Secretary of Defense Juan Ponce Enrile order local officials in all parts of the country to cooperate with the production in any way possible. The only exception to the willing compliance of local and military officials was one Filipino officer who pocketed \$15,000 given to him to pay a crew of air force pilots employed to enact aerial gun battles.

GOLD MINE

The movie turned out to be a gold mine for Pagsanghan's elite, all of whom moved out of their comfortable houses to rent them to the film crew. According to Bernard Wideman, writing in the *Washington Post* last November, the rents asked were up to 20 times the usual asking price. The sister of the town mayor received \$750/month for a house which would ordinarily rent for no more than \$45/month.

The working class of Pagsanghan cashed in on a much less astronomical scale. Set construction employed 500 workers at \$3.00/day, three times their usual daily rate. Housemaids working for the film crew earned \$25/day instead of their usual \$6.

The free-spending Americans, with their overall budget of \$100,000 per day not only skewed the economy of this provincial town, but fostered exactly the same type of social disruption found during the war in Vietnam around American installations or, for that matter, around Clark Air Base or Subic Naval Base in the Philippines.



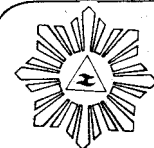
"Apocalypse Now" production director, Tavoularis, director Coppola and director of photography Storaro. Shooting of the \$25 million epic created a "little Vietnam" complete with all the neo-colonial trappings in the Philippine countryside.

Prostitutes arrived on the scene; bars were perpetually full: it was a typical boom town atmosphere. Lamented one longtime resident, "this film is destroying the old values of Pagsanghan."

RACISM AND CHAUVINISM

The film also brought with it, according to the Wideman report, its own share of racism and chauvinism. One half-black-half-Filipino hired to play the role of an American G.I. in the film was paid \$17/day for his performance. White "G.I.'s", on the other hand, earned \$27. An entire village of Ifugaos, which was uprooted from Mountain Province and moved onto the movie set to play Vietnamese Montagnards, earned \$1.50/day for each adult and \$0.75/day for each child.

It may take some sectors of Pagsanghan several years to recuperate from the American invasion and its resulting economic dislocation. But the local elite, which sucked up a large portion of that \$100,000/day, has no cause for complaint. Even less likely to grumble about the destruction of the "old values of Pagsanghan" is president Marcos who, through his eager cooperation with Coppola, has managed to become the beneficiary of a most bizarre form of American military aid. □



Ang
KATIPUNAN

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Grave Pollution Hazard Citizens Protest Copper Smelter



Ore being mined—first step in making iron and steel. The intermediate step—smelting—is posing severe hazards to residents of San Juan.

The Concerned Citizens of San Juan, Batangas recently issued a strong protest to the Philippine government over a proposed copper smelter to be built in their town. The residents of San Juan contend that the smelter poses a grave threat of pollution. The copper smelter is the Marcos government's latest "development" project, sponsored by a consortium of mining firms with financing from both government and international sources. The protest has provoked a rash of articles in the controlled Philippine press citing the "benefits" the smelter will provide to the country.

The citizens of San Juan have every reason to be concerned about the presence of this huge industrial complex which will spew its wastes into Tayabas Bay. The simplest and cheapest technique for smelting copper ore involves the use of sulfur, which when released as a gas into the atmosphere, breaks down into sulfur dioxide and then into sulfuric acid. The sulfuric acid in the atmosphere is then gathered into clouds along with other gases and ultimately rains down in dilute form upon the countryside, eating up the vegetation, contaminating water supplies, and poisoning animal life.

In addition to the threat posed by sulfur, the copper molecule, when released as a single ion, has been found to be highly carcinogenic. This poses grave health hazards for workers in the smelter and to residents of the area as well. The copper ions, released into the atmosphere along with other wastes, can be filtered out, but this is a relatively costly process in which few big firms have been willing to engage.

JUSTIFICATION

Bancom Development Corp., the financial consultant of the Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (PASAR) which will operate the smelter predicts "a chain reaction of benefits," one of which ironically is "the reduction of sulfuric acid importation." This is a dubious benefit, since the operation will produce abundant sulfuric acid both within the plant and throughout the atmosphere of Batangas.

The Marcos regime's primary justification for building the smelter is that it will save the Philippines foreign exchange that otherwise is spent abroad on shipping and smelting costs.

The copper-processing installation, however, will do little to alter the Philippines' position as essentially a producer of raw materials and an importer of finished products. A capital-intensive process, it will provide few jobs for Filipino workers. The building of costly semi-processing facilities in a Third-World country like the Philippines merely creates a false image of industrialization.

Establishing semi-processing plants in countries like the Philippines further allows the developed countries of the world to eliminate the messiest, most highly polluting processes from their own soil. They can then concentrate on manufacturing expensive finished products to export back to those countries whose environments have already been devastated by the processing of raw materials. □

BOOK REVIEW:

'The Refugee Crisis in the Philippines'



Residents forced to flee the fighting in Mindanao. Marcos' military actions against Muslim rebels and the New People's Army, coupled with his "urban upgrading" has created massive numbers of refugees throughout the Philippines. [Refugee Crisis in the Philippines photo]

By SAMUEL P. BAYANI

In yet another indictment of the martial law government, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) has recently released the first documentation of the refugee problem in the Philippines.

Entitled "The Refugee Crisis in the Philippines," the study documents the plight of the more than 4.3 million Filipinos (or 10 percent of the country's population) who have been uprooted from their homes and their lands.

The study defines refugees as "those who must leave their homes and their livelihoods, either fleeing for fear of their lives or because the authorities forcibly uproot them." It cites two kinds of refugees, namely the military and the economic refugees, depending on the conditions under martial law which have created their dislocation.

MILITARY REFUGEES UNAVOIDABLE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The existence of military refugees is inherent in a military government that relies on brutal force to assert its control over the people. Because of the regime's ruthless campaign to contain resistance to it, the fighting in the country has taken on the proportion of a civil war. Like Vietnam, the main victims of the military counter-insurgency campaigns have been the defenseless civilians. The more well-known case of mass upheaval as a result of a military campaign were the refugees from the Jolo bombing in 1974. In retaliation against the Muslim rebels who held Jolo for three days, the Philippine Military bombed the city, leveling it to the ground and rendering 60,000 homeless.

The report also reveals that the Marcos regime failed to adequately assist the victims of its inhuman military policy. Government aid for the Jolo refugees averaged to a pitiful five cents per day for each refugee, a token aid which the report denounced as "a pretense of assistance that was insufficient to cover even bare survival." Furthermore, aside from this policy of neglect, the government actively interferes with private humanitarian efforts to aid the victims of its military campaign: "Relief shipments for religious organizations have been often blocked or seized outright by the army and some religious relief workers have been harassed and even killed by the government."

The refugee crisis in Mindanao is massive. The Catholic Church estimates that one million persons in the south had been refugees during the period 1972-1975. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the principal Muslim rebel organization, stated that some 500,000 still remained as refugees, which would mean that 20 percent of the total Muslim population had permanently been reduced to refugee status as a result of the hostilities in the south.

The military refugees crisis is not limited to the southern Philippines. In other parts of the country, refugees are being created as the military tries to suppress the New People's Army (NPA).

To stem the growing strength of the peasant-supported NPA, the army has relied on "base-denial operations." The idea is to deprive the guerrillas of a mass base and this has meant uprooting the peasant population from their farmlands. The study estimates that in 1973-74 alone, there were 364,277 refugees as a result of the anti-dissident operation of the army

against the NPA.

In its study of the military refugees, the report concludes that these thousands of refugees, the indiscriminate killings and wanton destruction of the property of the civilian populace is not the accidental effect of some great battle but part and parcel of a calculated strategy of counter-insurgency, under the direction of the higher levels of the Philippine government.

ECONOMIC REFUGEES

The other kind of refugees is a result of a less blatant but equally destructive policy of the martial law regime. The economic development scheme of the regime is to essentially open up all the resources of the Philippines for the giant U.S. and Japanese multinational corporations. This has meant that in the name of economic development or progress, one half million Filipinos have been driven from their homes, their communities, their means of livelihood. Land-piracy or the ejection of settlers from their fertile lands is rampant in Mindanao. States the report: "Even if there were no war, no Muslim resistance to Pres. Marcos, even if not one Muslim had even picked up a rifle—there would still be a flood of homeless Muslim refugees." There is a direct and tragic relationship between the misery of the Muslim refugees and the great natural wealth of the land. To develop the south for agribusiness interests like Dole, Del Monte, B.F. Goodrich, it was necessary to seize the lands of its own citizens.

The deliberate creation of economic refugees to serve foreign interests is most ironic for the urban squatters. Victims of past land-grabbing in their own provinces, these squatters who have been forced to the cities are now being evicted from their swamplands again. In line with the regime's plans to make Manila the tourist center of Asia, hundreds of thousands of these slum-dwellers have been ejected from their shanties and transported to primitive refugee camps, where conditions are even worse than in the slums. Some are not so lucky; they were just ejected without any government provision for their shelter. The extent of the squatters problem can be gleaned from the government figures. In fiscal year 1973-74 alone, the Dept. of Social Welfare reported that 50,760 squatters were sent to camps in the provinces while 46,398 were simply driven out.

National minorities like the Bontoc-Kalinga in the Mountain province are also victims of the regime's economic policy of "development." A dam project scheduled for construction on their land threatens to permanently uproot 100,000 tribespeople and flood their ancestral land. There is widespread resistance to the dam. In the words of a Bontoc leader: "We are told that for the progress of the nation, we Bontocs on the Chico must make a sacrifice. But are we not part of the nation? . . . If we are relocated, we are surely going to be reduced to poverty. It will be death. But before we die, we will fight first." Opposition to the dam has temporarily delayed its construction. However, there is no doubt that the regime will pursue the project, despite its cost in human lives and suffering. Already, there have been reports of harassment and torture of recalcitrant tribespeople.

The pamphlet's value lies in its presentation of a new, perhaps more brutal, side of martial law. Concludes the report: "Pres. Marcos' brutal and immoral military campaigns against innocent civilians and his policy of unrestrained economic greed are slowly destroying the very fabric of Philippine society." □

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FILIPINO Community

4-H 'AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE'

Filipinos Expose Exploitative Conditions



Upset Filipino 4-H trainees check in at San Francisco airport for trip home.

[Oakland Tribune photo]

By FRANCISCO OCAMPO

OAKLAND — "We wanted reforms in the program and the administrators be taught a lesson for misjudging Filipino trainees as dumb people. Whenever we complain of our situation and treatment, we are threatened to be sent home . . . Most of us have experienced and are now experiencing being exploited and discriminated against in the farms and treated like animals," wrote Armando Galagnara, one of the 72 trainees who came to the U.S. supposedly for a 22-month specialization in a particular field in agriculture, through the 4-H Club Foundation. Galagnara was subsequently sent home for "misbehaving."

Galagnara was not speaking of an isolated experience but a common experience of the trainees; of conditions so oppressive that Turkey and Japan requested the termination of the program for their countries.

The trainees were told that they were coming to the U.S. as scholars and going home as specialists, but their experiences did not come close to what they were told.

Malakias Erasmo had to catch turkeys from four in the morning to ten in the evening. "Our hands got numb from the cold, we were just adjusting to the winter cold." After a few months he often complained of not learning anything aside from catching turkeys, so he was told to pick eggs day in and day out. "We came to learn . . .

U.C. Berkeley

Asian-American Studies:

Faculty Attempts Program Takeover

PRESS RELEASE

An attempt by seven faculty members to take over full control of the U.C. Berkeley Asian American Studies Program (AAS) was denounced in a series of actions by opposing faculty, support staff and students last week. On Friday, June 10, 1977, an educational picket and mass meeting was held to discuss the situation in the embattled program and to demand the resignation of AAS Coordinator, Ling-chi Wang, leader of the seven faculty members.

The unilateral move toward faculty control was approved by seven faculty members at a meeting held June 2. The move was subsequently opposed by 10 other faculty members who said in an "Appeal for Unity" that ". . . unilateral decisions made outside of the framework of democratic decision-making which has been one of the traditions of the program, will only lead to divisions which will instead weaken it." On Monday, June 6, the AAS Steering Committee, the body responsible for the day-to-day running of the program, unanimously rejected the proposal of the faculty minority.

On Wednesday, June 8, at an AAS General Body meeting attended by a majority of the faculty and support staff plus over 20 AAS students, the proposals of the faculty minority were vigorously denounced. The General Body, the highest decision-making body in the program, also voted to call for the resignation of Coordinator Ling-chi Wang. In calling for Ling-chi Wang's resignation, the General Body said in a resolution that, "The Coordinator has abandoned the responsibility entrusted to him when appointed by the General Body: namely he has failed to lead the program in carrying out the principles and points of unity of AAS and to carry out the decisions made by the Steering Committee and the General Body." □

What can we get out of picking eggs and catching turkeys!"

Hermie Cabezon was made to live in a converted chicken coop with a bucket for a toilet and a pan for bathing because, as the host farmer puts it, "They live in worse conditions than that in the Philippines."

Manuel Gabanon had to sleep with the pigs in a swine farm to watch farrowing sows from six in the morning to one o'clock the next morning for three weeks; later he was required to work for 60 hours a week plus sleep three nights per week with the pigs. He was also asked to clean manure troughs with two foot thick manure that had not been cleaned in five years because he was the "small - guy and would be able to crawl on his face" through the obstacles.

Noler Madrid was asked to help milk 200 cows, dig and load trees in a nursery, mow the lawn, and wash the family car. "What do you learn digging up a tree?" he asked.

Ernesto Siaron, who later acted as the spokesman for the trainees grievances, related his experience when he tried to help the Mexicans they were working with who worked as much hours as they did but were being underpaid. Siaron asked the host farmer if the payroll clerk was making a mistake in his computations. The answer was, "Mind your own business, mind yourself." Siaron was soon segregated from the group and ultimately sent home to the Philippines after only four months in training.

They also spoke of two women in the group who were assigned to the 4-H National Center. One worked on the switchboard and the other as a clerk in the center's bookstore. "This does not seem related to agriculture," remarked one trainee sarcastically.

The trainees attempted to improve their situations. They raised their complaints to their host farmers, wrote and met with 4-H Club officials, and went to the main office in Washington, D.C. and later on, wrote up petitions. But they were met with intimidating responses such as "You better think positive or I'll send you home," or "Would you have fared better in your country?" or "You dishonor our program."

When they turned to the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. and later approached Consul-General Romeo Arguelles in San Francisco, they were met with equally intimidating indifference. "Without hearing our side the embassy people said that they won't help us with our demands," wrote one of the trainees.

Finally a fellow countryman, Sister Reina Paz, decided to take up their cause and brought the trainees plight to the attention of the local press. When the scandal was exposed by the Oakland Tribune, there were denials and bitter recriminations from the 4-H Club. "They came here to learn, not to earn," said one 4-H official. A host parent decried, "You come here as guests in our country, eating our food, sleeping in our beds, swimming in our pools, and dating our girls . . . and you say you have not learned anything . . . ?"

Upon disclosure of the scandal, the Philippine diplomats did a sudden turnabout and admitted that the program was "being used as a subterfuge to get farm labor at less than the going wage rate." Mario Belisario of the Philippine Embassy also admitted the severity and exploitative conditions that the trainees were facing and labeled the program "slave labor," contradicting the U.S. State Department's statement after debriefing the trainees who recently went home. "They used 'glowing terms' to describe their experiences," reports the State Department.

There are two more groups of Filipino 4-H trainees in the U.S. Although the protesting group of trainees already left for the Philippines and did not get to see their grievances acted on, their admirable courage in exposing the program was not in vain. They have laid the groundwork so that, in their own words, "the next batch will not have the same fate we had." □

4-H Program — Training or Cheap Labor



Hermie Cabezon (left), 4-H trainee, describes working conditions as Sr. Reina Paz (right) listens. [Oakland Tribune photo]

In May 1974, the Philippine Agricultural Training Council came to an agreement with the 4-H Club Foundation in Washington, D.C. to initiate a program in the United States for Filipino farm youths. The program was supposedly aimed at providing the necessary training needed to modernize and expand agriculture in the Philippines through "a meaningful two-year on the job and institutional training experience designed to equip the trainee with the technical knowledge and practical skills common to agricultural productions . . . [through] leadership experience . . . opportunities for the exchange of information . . . and mutual awareness . . ."

Organizations involved and responsible for the program include the U.S. Dept. of Labor and Agriculture, State Employment Services, and such business entities as San Miguel Corporation and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. The last two have agribusiness operations in the Philippines.

Since then, groups of "trainees," as they are called, have periodically come in batches of between 50 and 100. The second batch, Group B, recently completed the program and went back to the Philippines June 7.

These groups of trainees are chosen from 2,000 to 3,000 applicants. Lured by the promise of specialization and acquisition of new skills, many bright young men leave good jobs to apply. The last batch included among its trainees a high school teacher, a farm owner and a bank agricultural economist.

Much to the trainees' disgust and frustration, the "training" they received never matched the appealing script on their contract and Manual of Operations, the program's bible. Summed up one disillusioned trainee: "We were told we were going to the States as scholars and come home as specialists. Instead, we were treated as laborers and herded around like animals."

CHEAP LABOR — NOT TRAINING

One host farmer admitted that he is not aware of the Manual of Operations that describes his responsibilities and insisted that the trainees were there to work. A trainee once asked a farmer the ingredients of the chicken feed and got an intimidating reply, "Don't ask questions, just do your job or I'll kick your ass." Then there was the host farmer who would burst into the trainees' rooms at any time of the night to call them to work again, telling them they were "lazy" and that "You are not trainees, you're just workers."

Another farmer reacted to their complaints and shouted "I am not getting you here from the Philippines. But as long as you are here, you have to work. Mr. Hancock (4-H regional director) is bringing you here to work with me and that's it."

EXCESSIVE HOURS AND SUBSTANDARD WAGES

The trainees were made to work between 10 to 16 hours a day, six to seven days a week without any vacation leave in violation of the Manual of Operations provision that trainees be given one day off per week as well as 10 vacation days per year. The manual also stated that prevailing wages established by the Department of Labor should be applied. Instead, monthly salaries are usually applied so that an average of \$410 to \$450 marks the only monthly earnings of the trainees regardless of any overtime work put in during the month.

NO ACCOUNTING OF EARNINGS — EXCESSIVE CHARGES

Of the \$410 to \$450 individual earnings of each trainee,
(continued on page 7)

NATIONAL PETITION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

H-1 Nurses Seek Immigration Reprieve

PRESS RELEASE

A national petition campaign addressed to Immigration & Naturalization Service Commissioner Leonel J. Castillo, has been launched by the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG). The petition seeks to obtain a reprieve for all foreign nurses who entered the United States on an H-1 (working) visa but who have since been illegal following the termination of their work contracts by hospitals which recruited them. These foreign nurses were automatically terminated by hospitals as a result of failure in the State Board of Nursing licensure examinations.

The petition demands a deferred voluntary departure status for a period of 24 months for those nurses who have already become "illegal" or those who may become so in the near future. Within this reasonable time period, H-1 nurses would be able to seek employment in other than-RN positions in a completely legal fashion. At the same time, they would have the chance to prepare for the licensure examination and hopefully secure licenses to practice, thereby assuring them their valid visa status.

Several factors have been cited as sources of difficulty of foreign nurses in passing the licensure examination: "The testing situation is extremely disadvantageous to foreign nurses. Most of them are obliged to take the examination at the first available date (for a newly-arrived nurse, this would mean only 6 months at most). This time period is not sufficient for the nurse to settle and adequately adjust to the new American cultural and health care setting and therefore adversely affects their performance in a test based on American conditions. Moreover, there is evidence of cultural bias in the unnecessarily-complex use of the English language in the exam."

Upon their failure in the examination, nurses are stripped of their RN status and their work contracts are immediately terminated by the hospital. Because their visa status depends on employment with the hospital,

SUPPORT THE H-1 NURSES



they automatically lose their immigration status and become "illegal aliens" open for deportation. The nurse, who came with a 3-year work contract, is now jobless and "illegal" after a few months.

A brochure produced by the NAFL-FNG, entitled "The Case of the H-1 Nurse", explains the inhuman consequences faced by the nurse: "From then on, the nurse is forced to 'live in a suitcase', transferring from one state to another, trying to get hospitals to sponsor them even in lower-than-RN posts and trying their hand at exams in various other states. In these dehumanizing circumstances, persons who have committed no crime are forced to live like fugitives."

The NAFL-FNG is an alliance of Filipino community groups and organizations committed to jointly work for solutions to the pressing problems that nurses encounter with this licensure examination. For more information on its activities, call: Mrs. Christine Hing, RN (212) 677-2509 or Ms. Aimee Cruz (212) 458-6369. □

President Apologizes

FACLA Settles Controversy

By VINCE REYES
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Two months after its filing, the complaint made by 10 members of the Filipino-American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) against their president, Mr. Tony San Jose, was finally settled in a general meeting, May 15. Implementation of the settlement terms, however, still remains to be seen.

The complaint submitted to FACLA's Board of Trustees March 6 protested Mr. San Jose's "undemocratic conducting of FACLA affairs" and his "total disregard for the rights and privileges of membership" in their February 20th general meeting. (See AK issue Vol. IV, No. 8.)

At first, Mr. San Jose responded by rejecting the complainants' criticisms. However, the ten signatories to the complaint letter maintained the validity of the criticisms. The Board, in an attempt to investigate and resolve the controversy, called for special hearings April 23 and May 14 for both sides to present their arguments.

Cornered by the well-substantiated criticisms of the membership, Mr. San Jose was obliged to apologize to the membership body for his "ungentlemanly conduct" at the February 20th general meeting. It was during that assembly that it was revealed that Mr. San Jose had purchased property worth \$67,000 adjacent to the present FACLA center, without informing or consulting the members. Aside from expressing regret over his conduct, Mr. San Jose promised to hold more "orderly and meaningful" meetings and to open to members all records and information on all FACLA activities and projects, post all minutes of meetings and distribute 100 copies of these minutes to the first 100 members attending meetings. Mr. San Jose also assured the membership that their participation was welcome in all Board and Executive discussions.

Ms. Dolce De Priest, spokesperson of the complainants who are mostly outstanding participants of many community activities, expressed satisfaction over the terms of the settlement. She further remarked that with the complaint resolved, the basis for more open channels of communication between FACLA's elected representatives and membership has now been laid. She hoped that such communication would thrive and develop for the organization's improvement.

However, despite the resolution of one controversy which split the organization's ranks, FACLA is still beset by a number of problems. One issue which has already begun to embroil the organization in a bitter debate is the question of the proposed Philippine Trade Center Project. A number of FACLA members have objected to the Center because it is commonly known that the \$20 million needed to construct the commercial center would be supplied by the Philippine military dictatorship. Some observers question the strings attached to such a large amount and speculate on what would become of the community center as a consequence. As shown by the recent incident, the members have already asserted their right to be heard and have ensured that there be a democratic discussion on the controversial project. □

against the nurses, Judge Pratt agreed that nine weeks of prosecution testimony had failed to produce enough evidence to convict either of the nurses of one of the murder charges but that he "looked at the evidence in the light most beneficial to the prosecution, as is required by the law."

CONSCIENCE IS CLEAN

In her testimony which lasted nearly two hours, Narciso said her conscience is clear. During his cross-examination, Richard Yanko, head of the prosecution team, attempted to introduce the government's theory of the possible motive for the alleged murder and poisoning. Yanko questioned Narciso about her attitude towards the serious understaffing of the hospital in 1975. The prosecution contends that the two nurses had caused the breathing failures to draw attention to the need for additional staff.

Yanko: How did you like working at the VA?

Narciso: I enjoyed working at the VA . . . I respect the people and they respect me.

Yanko: Were there any problems at the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) which caused you not to like it, like understaffing?

Narciso: There is nothing much you can do.

In questioning Yanko also tried to draw out the government's theory that the two Filipina nurses were capable of alleged crimes because of their different outlook towards life.

Yanko: Do you become professionally desensitized to patients' problem?

Narciso: It bothers us when a patient is suffering.

The defense is expected to call Leonora Perez to testify. Defense lawyer O'Brien said: "The best thing we (the defense) have going in the case is Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez. Once the jury has the chance to see and hear them, there won't be any questions in their minds either. □

Judge Dismisses Some Charges

'P.I.' Narciso Declares Her Innocence



Leonora Perez [center with head turned] and Filipina Narciso [right] leave court after judge dropped some of the charges against the two.

By NENA HERNANDEZ

DETROIT—Filipina Narciso took the witness stand for the first time since her controversial trial began almost three months ago and declared her innocence of the murder and poisoning charges against her.

Narciso's testimony opened up the defense presenta-

tion on June 9, a day after federal Judge Phillip Pratt reduced the charges against her and another Filipino nurse, Leonora Perez. The two are accused of causing the respiratory arrests at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor in the summer of 1975 by injecting a muscle relaxant, Pavulon, into the I.V. tubes of the patients.

Pratt dismissed one murder charge and two counts of poisoning against the two because of "insufficient evidence." However, Perez still faces three poisoning charges while Narciso is still charged with one count of five counts of poisoning. Both women also face a charge of conspiracy although the number of criminal acts the prosecution had hoped to use in support of that charge was also reduced.

DEFENSE FILED FOR DISMISSAL

The defense had earlier filed a motion to dismiss all the charges against the two nurses because "based upon the evidence presented by the prosecution no reasonable person could find either defendant guilty of the actions charged beyond reasonable doubt. The defense also stated that, "the prosecution kept its promise made during opening argument that it would present absolutely no direct testimony indicating the defendant's guilt." With all the 78 witnesses that appeared for the government, not a single witness testified actually seeing either of the nurses injecting Pavulon into the patients I.V. tubing. Stated the defense: "Mere volume of witnesses cannot substitute for inculpatory testimony."

In making his decision not to drop all of the charges

tionable were the charges for uniforms—4-H took out \$150 for uniforms that only cost 120 pesos each (more than eight times its actual cost).

Moreover, although various deductions were taken from the trainees for medical insurance, mutual aid, and worker's compensation (required of the host farmer for his protection, prescribed in contract with the farmer), the trainees had to pay for their own doctor's expenses when they got sick. Another trainee who got only \$27 to take home as his surplus earnings revealed that he was involved in an accident so that expenses for the accident were taken out of his earnings.

The surplus from all of the expenses is supposed to be divided among the trainees for their use in instituting projects once they come back to the Philippines. The biggest check went to Edward Jimenez, who earned \$1,119 in overtime pay alone—\$880—and the smallest to Leonardo Dinggal—\$35. Far from assisting the "unfortunate trainees from the underdeveloped countries like the Philippines, it is apparent that 4-H instituted a lucrative business operation—contracting cheap labor to the farmers and skimming off profits from the trainees' meager earnings—all in the name of "training." □

4-H Program—
Training or Cheap Labor...

(continued from page 6)

\$60 personal allowance and \$75 food allowance (if the host farmers will not provide meals) are forwarded to 4-H Club for disbursement. Of the total earnings of \$410,000 of Group B for two years, \$360,000 was supposedly spent on assorted expenses. When the manager of the program, John Pederson, was confronted for an accounting of these expenses, he came up with the following breakdown: orientation in the Philippines, \$25,000; international air fare, \$61,000; travel to Modesto, \$23,000; insurance, \$18,750; mutual aid fund, \$16,000; U.S. travel and orientation, \$30,000; and \$82,000 for 4-H staff salaries and various travel, telephone, postage, and general administration costs, or a total of \$279,150. Where did the remaining \$90,850 go? Pederson never explained. Aside from this "expense" that remains unaccounted for, Pederson could not explain why trainees were being charged \$800 for a \$688 air fare. Also ques-

Thousands of Filipinos Join Celebration

National June 12 Events Successful

A resoundingly successful Philippine National Day (June 12) celebration held this year gives clear indications that the popular Philippine holiday is on its way to becoming a tradition in nationwide Filipino communities.

Thousands of Filipinos in ten major U.S. cities attended the festivities, which commemorated the Filipino people's continuing struggle for genuine independence in the Philippines, as well as the Filipino community's struggle as a minority group in this country. They listened to numerous speeches calling for unity, renditions of patriotic songs and relished an array of native dishes from bibingka (rice pudding) to thousands of sticks of Philippine style barbeque. As an observer noted, "June 12 celebrations in the past are a far cry from this year's and last year's festivities. Before, only the 'big wigs' and their friends celebrated among themselves."

The festivities in Los Angeles, stood out as one of the best examples of the Philippine National Day's increasing popularity within the Filipino community.

More than 10,000 community persons poured into MacArthur Park each day during the two-day celebration. The attendance was considered a record-breaker in anyone single event in the community's history. Over 40 booths were put up by various groups and organizations offering food, games, handicrafts, literature and photo displays.

The cultural program served as the highlight of the event which featured a high quality of talent among performers from the Los Angeles community.

The program was interspersed by announcements of ongoing struggles participated in by Filipinos as a minority in this country, among them were the defense efforts for Narciso-Perez, the fight to overturn the Bakke decision and Filipino Nurses Fight for Fair Licensure.

June 12 audiences in Los Angeles and San Diego were also treated to a special preview of "Isuda Ti Immuna (They Who Came First)," a famous play adapted from writer Carlos Bulosan's book, "America is in the Heart."

In New York, more than 3,500 community persons attended the holiday celebration in Flushing Meadow Park, despite overcast clouds. The sprawling park grounds were dotted by booths and displays sponsored by various organizations, among them the Philippine-American Youth Organization (PAYO); Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP); Anti-Martial Law Alliance (NY); Bicolandia Association; United Filipinos Organization (UFO); Lingayen Club of New Jersey; the Natl. Alliance for Fair Licensure (Foreign Nurses Graduates); and the Asia Society.

Statements of support and encouragement for continued celebration of the Philippine holiday were voiced out by participating organizations. Lennie Marin of the KDP, who coordinated this year's festivities, remarked: "As immigrants to the U.S., we have gone through many and varied experiences, and these experiences are reflected in the various booths and displays. But despite our diversity in cultural, political, social and economic areas, we still have a lot in common and a lot to share." Marin further lauded the entire Philippine National Day Committee's efforts to preserve the unity which assured the event's success.

In Philadelphia, more than 500 Filipinos participated in the June 12 event, the first celebration whereby numerous community groups participated in planning the event. Their festivities included a volleyball match between Filipino neighborhood associations, a cultural program which featured folk dances and songs, and booths which offered free native delicacies. The office of Mayor Frank Rizzo officially declared June 12 as Philippine National Day in Philadelphia.

In San Francisco, around 1,500 Filipino manongs, parents, and youngsters went to the Mission/Dolores Park to hear 20 pre-nursery children from a local day care center sing a rendition of "Bahay Kubo," followed by the Filipino Senior Citizens' Band, a five-piece combo composed of manongs jamming to the tunes of "Mabuhay" and "Pennsylvania Polka."

In Chicago, the equally-successful celebration carried the theme "Philippine National Heritage and Filipino Contributions to America." It received a turnout of more than 1,500 Filipinos, despite the Philippine Consulate's efforts to sabotage the festivities by spreading the rumor that riots would mar the event. (Only a week before, a Puerto Rican demonstration in the city was marred by police violence which left three persons killed.)

Among the speakers in the Honolulu event was Charlie Correa, spokesperson for the People Against Chinatown Evictions (PACE), who stressed the "necessity to unite the Filipinos, particularly in the support of PACE's struggle for decent low-cost housing for the elderly, not only in Chinatown but in all Hawaii as well.

Like last year's celebrations, this year's Philippine National Day festivities was likened to a huge family reunion for Filipinos, on a much bigger scale. The festivities themselves already attest to the growing unity and cooperation within the Filipino community. Because of this year's successful events, Philippine National Day Committees all over the country promise a bigger celebration next year. □



Above a scene from San Francisco's Philippine National Day celebration. The Bay Area also had successful events in the East Bay and Sacramento. [AK photo]

L.A. June 12th...

(continued from page 2)

ism and a conscious distortion of the facts.

FURTHER PROVOCATION

However, for the sake of unity, the KDP decided not to make an issue of this attack, though we discussed it with several community members who were similarly disturbed by the obvious distortions.

But shortly after this incident, the Optimists Club again unilaterally bypassed the Steering Committee and disregarded the democratic process. This time, they made Louie Eugenio master of ceremonies. This is the very person who had gone out of his way a few days earlier to publicly attack us. This is the kind of indiscretion which can only be interpreted as another open provocation of the KDP. They even had the audacity to attempt to ram their decision through by having Eugenio's name printed in the program before any of the Assembly members knew about it!

This splitting and underhanded tactics of the Optimists' were so obvious and intolerable, though, that other community members stepped forward and insisted that Eugenio's name be crossed out of all the programs.

Again, to set the record straight, this was another unwarranted and unprovoked attack on the KDP and ran counter to the whole spirit of "Pista Sa Nayon" which was calling for the community to unite together and respect the differences among us. The behavior of the Optimist Club can be described as bullish and intolerant at best.

But it did not end there and was instead, taken further to the entire community at the June 12 event itself. The KDP gave a cultural presentation of songs and poems. The theme was the historic Philippine Revolution of 1896 and honoring the struggles of Filipinos here in America. Barely a minute after we left the stage, Ed de la Vega, president of the Optimists Club, took the microphone and proclaimed that the "Pista Sa Nayon" was not responsible for this and does not agree with the "political ideology of the KDP." This was the third and certainly the most dramatic attack on the KDP.

To set the record straight, the KDP had cleared its presentation through proper channels. In addition, numerous other speakers throughout the day similarly addressed the problems and struggles of Filipinos here in the U.S. ("Isuda Ti Immuna," for example). Yet the Optimists Club chose to single out and attack only the KDP. And in his attack De la Vega, consciously made it appear that his own organizations' opposition to the KDP presentation represented the thinking of everyone in the "Pista Sa Nayon"...another distortion.

In contrast, the KDP's behavior was consistently responsible. For example, although we politically disagreed with several presentations in the program (like the emcee from the Optimists honoring the presence of the Philippine Consulate) we did not seize the microphone and disrupt the whole program. In fact, the many community people who have worked with us over the past months can attest to the fact that the KDP has been a positive contributor to building the success of this year's celebration. Our members have dedicated a lot of time and effort to help organize it, gone out of our way to be co-operative with everyone and chosen to keep our temper, despite the numerous, uncalled for provocations on the part of the Optimists Club.

Therefore, to depict the KDP as a disruptive, irresponsible community organization is the grossest distortion of the truth. And to publicly attack and embarrass us at the June 12th celebration is an irresponsible and arrogant act on the part of Mr. De la Vega. This is especially true in light of the fact that the hard work and dedication of the KDP members in building the June 12 could easily match, if not outstrip, the contributions of Eugenio, De la Vega and the others who attacked us.

AN ASSAULT ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

So what could explain the reason why, after many months of consistent, hard work, the KDP suddenly found itself under a barrage of attacks in a matter of weeks just before the June 12 fiesta?

Frankly, we do not think these attacks stem from our work in the June 12 preparations. Rather, it is because of our left political views that we have been subjected to a right-wing assault by certain conservative elements within the Filipino community. Would the leading members of the Optimist Club have even dared to single out any other community organization for such an unprincipled and vicious attack? Of course not! Surely it is because the KDP openly represents the left-wing of the Filipino community. Because of this, they think they can get away with boldly assaulting our organization without being reprimanded by other community forces. Like all right-wing movements, these conservative members of the community have stooped to using the tactics of intimidation, slander and conscious distortion of the facts. In this way they hope to instill an atmosphere of fear, where people do not speak out their progressive and democratic opinions under the threat of being labeled a "communist." It is precisely in such an irrational and hysterical atmosphere that truth becomes obscured, democracy fades and fascism grows.

Because of this, we do not think that the controversy of June 12 raises the question of whether people agree or disagree with the political views of the KDP. Rather, the question raised is democratic rights of people in the Filipino community to hold differing opinions without fear of intimidation. Can a conservative minority be allowed to use unprincipled methods, to insist upon uniformity of political ideas and forcibly mold the political life of the community in their own image and likeness? This is truly the question before us.

WE MUST ALL SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

As for the KDP, we are an integral part of the Filipino community, and we have not hidden our political views. We openly attribute the social and economic hardships, the poverty and injustice which face the Filipino people, both in our homeland and here in America, to the social system of imperialism. Our opinion is that the very cornerstone of this system is predicated on the exploitation of the majority by a small minority. We believe we have the facts to back these opinions up and we have no intention of surrendering our revolutionary political views in the face of intimidation by a handful of conservatives! On the other hand, unlike some of the leading members of the Optimist Club, the KDP recognizes people's right to hold opinions different than ours and we do not forcibly impose our political views onto others. Although we will openly disagree with conservatives and reactionary political views, the KDP has not and will not resort to intimidation tactics and unprincipled attacks. In like manner, however, we will fight to maintain our basic right to freedom of thought and expression.

We now call on all other active community members — who are aligned with neither group — to clear the air and defend this basic democratic principle. This does not mean to defend the KDP and our views — we are capable of defending ourselves. But rather, to defend the principle of unity and cooperation, despite differences. Unless the Los Angeles community goes on record setting the facts straight and criticizing the unwarranted, unfair and unprovoked political attacks on the KDP, which marred this year's otherwise successful "Pista Sa Nayon," then the success of next year's Philippine National Day celebration will surely be jeopardized. □

HUMAN RIGHTS KEY ISSUE

Rally Protests U.S. Aid to Dictatorships



San Francisco's June 11 march and demonstration sponsored by the Bay Area Human Rights Working Committee.

PRESS RELEASE

Bay Area Human Rights Working Committee

Five hundred people marched through downtown San Francisco on Saturday, June 11, to protest U.S. support for human rights violations in the Third World and demand a cut-off of all U.S. assistance to repressive dictatorships. The march and rally was called by the Bay Area Human Rights Working Committee.

At 1 p.m., the marchers assembled at and picketed three consulates representing U.S.-supported repressive regimes in Asia, Africa, and Latin America: the Philippine Consulate, the South African Consulate, and the Flood Building, which houses a number of Latin American consulates including those of Chile and Argentina. Chanting "Human Rights, Yes; Apartheid, No!", the South African contingent joined up with demonstrators in front of the Philippine Consulate at Sutter Street. The two groups then marched down Powell Street and linked up with a spirited Latin American contingent at the intersection of Powell and Market Streets. Two long lines of marchers stretched over six blocks, then converged on the Federal Building at Golden Gate Avenue, marching to slogans such as "End the Bloodshed, Cut the Aid," "Free All Political Prisoners," and "The People, United, Will Never Be Defeated!"

An hour-long program then unfolded at the Federal Building, during which a number of speakers demanded an end to U.S. support. Ms. Teresa Walsh, spokesperson for the Committee, castigated the Carter administration for attempting to derail the focus of the human rights movement on violations occurring in countries which the U.S. supports, by rhetorically putting the burden on the Soviet Union, which receives no aid from the United States. Walsh called attention to the fact that Carter's human rights statements notwithstanding, the administration has been fighting off attempts by Congress to put effective human rights controls on U.S. aid.

Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church appealed to the crowd to support the Hartfield-Abouzeck amendment currently being debated in the Senate, which seeks to extend human-rights controls to U.S. aid funneled through the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and other "multilateral" aid agencies.

Speaker Michael Moffitt, an economist at the Center for Policy Studies in Washington, expounded on the re-

lationship between bank credit, multinational corporate investment, and repression in the Third World. Without the support of Western money, he asserted, none of the repressive regimes in the Third World could exist.

Moffitt was the sole survivor of the car bombing which took the life of former Chilean foreign minister, Orlando Letelier, and that of Moffitt's wife, Ronni Karpen, in Washington, D.C. on September 21, 1976. The assassination of the former official of the Allende government is believed to have been the work of Chilean secret service personnel and Cuban exiles.

Walden Bello of the International Association of Filipino Patriots lambasted the elites that practice repression in the Third World, characterizing them as "structurally part and parcel of an international system of domination by U.S. monopoly capitalism." Bello asserted that, "beneath the rhetorical smokescreen of saving the country from a 'Marxist-Jewish international conspiracy,' of creating a government of 'national salvation,' these men are, in the words of Orlando Letelier, the real traitors, the men who have handed the national patrimony to the foreigner at the expense of the blood of their own people."

Final speaker Gilberto Gonzalez of the Barlow Benavidez Committee decried the channeling of tax dollars needed for social services in this country to foreign aid for repressive dictatorships. Gonzalez also pointed to the similarity in the methods of oppressing people in the Third World and those employed against minority peoples in the United States, citing the arbitrary police killings of Barlow Benavidez, a young Chicano, and Tyrone Guyton, a young Black, by local police forces, and the eviction of elderly Filipino and Chinese residents from the International Hotel.

The San Francisco event was the third of four human rights events scheduled nationwide. On March 27, a rally to protest U.S. aid was held in Boston. On June 9, a forum sponsored by several solidarity and church groups, including the Friends of the Filipino People, discussed human rights violations in the Third World. A march and rally on the same theme will take place in downtown New York City on June 25.

The Bay Area Human Rights Committee is composed of the Argentina Information Service Center, Friends of the Filipino People, Non-Intervention in Chile, North Americans for Human Rights in Argentina, Office for Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Chile, and U.S.-Korea Research and Action Committee. □

appeals to the Supreme Court and any final ruling of the high tribunal can be overridden by Marcos. By transferring political trials to civilian courts, Marcos has merely embellished with democratic trappings the witch-hunt character of "martial law justice."

PROPAGANDA GIMMICK

Since little change can be expected of Marcos' "humane" directives, why then should he go through the trouble of machinating a series of empty gestures? Actually Marcos' recent statements fall into the pattern of calculated responses to foreign allegations of human rights violations.

When reports of torture became widespread and internationally known in 1974, Marcos emphatically denied that "No one, but no one, has been tortured." With the documentation of these reports and its confirmation by the State Department earlier this year, Marcos once again denied "in the most violent terms" . . . casual reference to torture allegations . . .

In face of renewed congressional attempts to curtail U.S. assistance to his repressive regime, Marcos now has to come to terms with the new conditions for further U.S. assistance. Thus, instead of flippantly denying allegations of human rights violations, Marcos has to add more meat to his pronouncements that "human rights is foremost among the hierarchy of our peoples values." He has to at least conjure up an appearance of magnanimity towards his political opponents. Since deception is a skill Marcos is particularly adept at, he may very well succeed in creating this magnanimous image — temporarily at least. □

Prison Conditions Unchanged

WASHINGTON PRISON UPRISING ENDS

Special to the Ang Katipunan

By GREG DELLA
AK Correspondent

WALLA WALLA — 1,400 inmates at the Washington State Penitentiary, this city, ended their sit-in strike May 25 that touched off a series of events publicly exposing the corruption of the state prison administration, as well as the mismanagement of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services which oversees operations in all state correctional institutions.

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS

The strike that began April 10 with the inmates' refusal to come out of their cells, was staged in protest of deplorable conditions at the penitentiary.

A major problem that has confronted residents at the institution concerns the segregation policy at the Intensive Security Unit (ISU). The policy requires an ISU inmate to sign a contract severely restricting his movements, political expression and other basic rights. Failure to abide by the onerous terms of the contract means his immediate return to and stay at segregation for the remainder of his minimal term. The majority of inmates are under such contract so that they can be returned to ISU anytime the administration deems.

Other causes for grievance are the rampant use of arbitrary punishments without conducting disciplinary hearings in accordance with the Washington Administrative Code; constant deliberate harassment of inmates; denial of visitation rights and access to personal property, recreational facilities, library, etc.

PRISON ADMINISTRATION BRUTALITY

The response of the prison administration to the strike was to institute a reign of terror. Inmates were maced, beaten, tortured. They were denied adequate diet and had to subsist on two 11-oz. TV dinners a day.

Those who were physically harmed and those who suffer from chronic illnesses were not given medical treatment. Other inmates' personal property such as clothing, bedding, were confiscated and destroyed by prison guards. With inmates in just their underwears, the administration turned off the heat and turned on the cold air blowers.

APPEAL TO STATE GOVERNOR RAY

Having come to the realization that Supt. B.J. Ray and Asst. Supt. Harvey would never heed their grievances, inmates wrote Gov. Dixy Lee Ray appealing that she intervene.

The governor sent an investigating committee, whose findings did not truly expose the plight of the inmates.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS INMATES

With their appeals turned down by authorities, the Walla Walla inmates turned to the public for support. A coalition, United Families and Friends of Prisoners (UFFP) was formed May 19 in support of prisoners' rights.

UFFP moved to meet with Gov. Ray to present its demands, which were in close coordination with the inmates' demands. The governor, however, responded by telling the delegates "to be patient" and that "you can't undo twelve years of abuses in my four months of administration."

Dissatisfied with the governor's response, the coalition moved to present to the House Institutions Committee its demand that a separate, independent investigation of the prison situation be conducted. However, at the Committee meeting, what was to be a public hearing turned out to be an undemocratic process during which UFFP delegates were denied the right to be heard.

While some of the UFFP members were dealing with the House Committee, other supporters demonstrated in front of the State Capitol to bring to public awareness the true conditions that brought about the prison strike.

HOPE FOR THE BETTER

With the issue now in the open, some hope for change appears to be coming. Seattle Times of May 26 wrote an account of the UFFP position and quoted Rep. Hanna of the House Committee as saying: "There has been a hell of a breakdown in the management network of the state's correctional system. The people at the top don't know what the people at the bottom are doing. It seems there has to be a crisis to change everything."

With the strike ended, the crisis at the state penitentiary seems on the surface to be over. But Walla Walla inmates are still in a state of restrained unrest as their problems have not been solved. Two of the other three state correctional institutions are also in explosive situations due to similar conditions.

As one member of UFFP noted: "The whole situation proves that the problem is in the overall state penal system and not within any single prison. We are prepared . . . to do what we can to support the inmates in their efforts to better their conditions. This is basically a human rights issue and these inmates have the right to just and decent treatment while serving their sentences." □

'Humane' Treatment...

(continued from page 3)

First of all, Marcos is only willing to admit the existence of 698 detainees imprisoned for political reasons. A recent study by the AMRSP reveals the presence of 563 detainees in 32 stockades leaving prisoners in 48 stockades unaccounted for. From these figures, it is safe to estimate that there are well over one thousand political detainees in the country today. Even with this constricted figure of 698, Marcos announced that, only 100 cases are eligible for transfer to civilian courts. Can it, therefore, be assumed that the remaining 598 are eligible for release? Typical Marcos double-talk eliminates this possibility, since "the majority of the remaining cases await adjudication" (or are subject to review to determine if charges can be pressed). If such is the case, who then qualifies for release? The truth of the matter is that Marcos regime is deliberately keeping the legal status of detainees vague to justify their prolonged and illegal detention. The sudden mad rush to try political prisoners by the hundreds over the past six months, underscores the emptiness of Marcos' directive ordering the release of those who have not been charged.

FAIR TRIAL IMPOSSIBLE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

As for the false promise of a fairer trial in a civilian court, what justice can be expected from a judicial system that has been emasculated by Marcos? How can a judge rule fairly in a political trial when the threat of dismissal hangs over his head? Even the process of

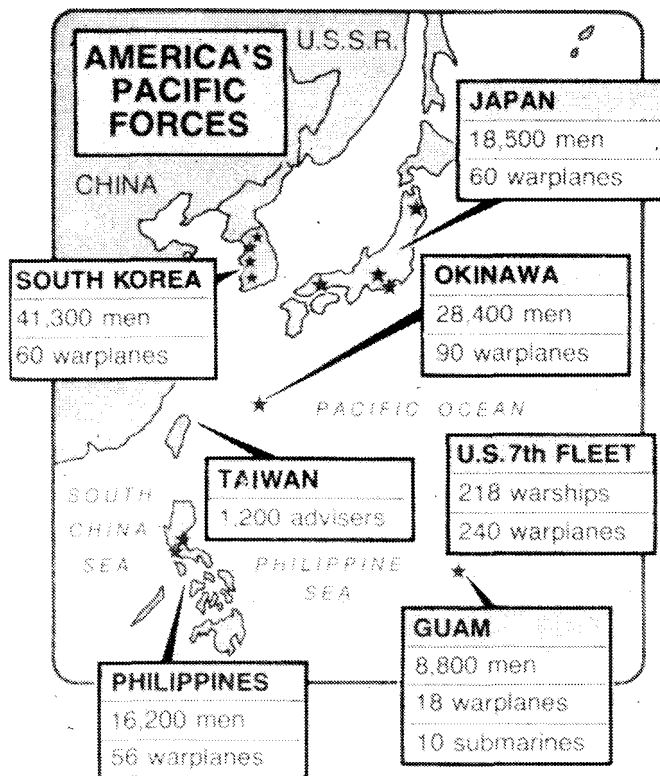
DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

Despite U.S. Troop Withdrawal

CARTER TO BOLSTER S. KOREAN REGIME



Pak Jung Hi welcomes U.S. Gen. Brown [above] to Seoul. The U.S., despite its avowal to withdraw troops, is promising continued aid to the undemocratic regime. Map at right shows current status of U.S. troops on the "Pacific Rim."



tinued strengthening of South Korean military forces and the full commitment of the U.S. to the security of Korea."

WITHDRAWAL TO HIT U.S. TAXPAYERS

To compensate for the U.S. troop withdrawal, Washington's recent disclosures indicate that billions of dollars will be poured into South Korea, massive expenditures which will ultimately hit U.S. taxpayers heavily.

An initial \$1.5 billion had already been allocated for U.S. plans to modernize the South Korean armed forces, with further funds probably forthcoming. (The South Korean press recently disclosed that some \$5 billion in U.S. loans will be provided to cover the cost of the modernization efforts.) Moreover, U.S. military aid to the Seoul government is expected to double this year, from \$141 million in 1975, to \$280 million this year, including an additional \$100 million in arms sales. Thus, Washington's forthcoming appropriations for South Korea debunks the Carter Administration's claims — supported by the Congressional Budget Office study — that the effect of troop withdrawals

on the budget would mean a savings of 2.1 billion over the next five years.

It is also expected that heavy equipment, such as tanks and artillery, as well as communications equipment, would be turned over to the South Koreans.

U.S. TO MAINTAIN MILITARY PRESENCE

Of the 40,000 American military personnel in South Korea, some 10,000-15,000 Air Force and naval personnel are expected to remain in the country who are not affected by Carter's plans to withdraw ground troops. The United States also reportedly has up to 1,000 tactical nuclear devices in South Korea for use in bombs, shells and missiles, thus providing a "nuclear umbrella" over the country. Moreover, Washington assured a continued strong American naval presence in the Sea of Japan to assist South Korea.

At present, American troops in the Korean peninsula represent about 30 per cent of U.S. forward-deployed troops in the Western Pacific, which number about 127,000.

AMERICAN POLICY OF RETRENCHMENT

Thus, the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops in South Korea represents no major alteration of the American policy of retrenchment in the Pacific region. Carter's emphasis to reiterate "clearly and publicly" America's "continuing commitment" to South Korea's security further underscores the region's vital importance to the U.S., primarily the projected increase in trade and economic ties with countries in the Pacific area. It is predicted that U.S. trade with Asia would far outstrip the more publicized trade with European Common Market countries. Last year, for example, trade and economic activities with Asia totaled \$52.6 billion, compared with \$43.3 billion with the Common Market countries.

Jimmy Carter's decision to cutback U.S. troops was heralded by his policy makers as proof that Carter in fact keeps campaign promises. During the Presidential election campaign last year, Carter had advocated a gradual withdrawal of American ground troops in South Korea. Beyond keeping this particular campaign promise, however, Carter's plans to pump billions of dollars into Pak Jung Hi's army clearly indicates that the U.S. will continue to do all it can to maintain the unpopular South Korean dictatorship. □

POLITICAL PRISONERS:

Human Rights Violations in the U.S.

BY PETER BISKIND
Reprinted from SEVEN DAYS

While Jimmy Carter makes merry with violations of human rights in the Soviet Union, it has been conservatively estimated that there are at least 200 political prisoners cooling their heels in American jails.

President Carter, in his well-publicized human rights address to the United Nations, graciously conceded that the United States was also open to criticism in the area of human rights but pledged "to deal with our deficiencies quickly and openly." What kinds of violations was the president thinking of? U.S. restrictions on travel by foreigners, said Carter in the same speech, as well as withheld visas from "those who disagree with us politically."

Carter's speech was sandwiched between the jailing of Raisa Nemikin and Maria Cueto, for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating alleged bombings by a Puerto Rican nationalist group, and the conviction of black revolutionary Assata Shakur for allegedly shooting a highway patrolman to death in 1971. The president's innocence may be excused, perhaps, on the grounds that the United States steadfastly maintains that there is no such animal as an American political prisoner. Unlike countries such as Indonesia, which frankly admits to imprisoning some 50,000 people for their beliefs, the United States treats dissenters and revolutionaries as felons.

What is a political prisoner? On the one hand, all prisoners who are poor and/or nonwhite, victims of class and race, can be considered political prisoners. "Once you understand that the criminal justice system is inherently political, that its purpose is not justice but pacification — to keep things the way they are, to get people dangerous to the status quo off the streets — then

you see that all crime has a political dimension," says Robert Bloom, an attorney who defended Richard (Dhoruba) Moore.

On the other hand, most radical lawyers would agree that not all crimes are political. "All of us on the left haven't faced the complexity of these issues fully," says Elizabeth Schneider of the Center for Constitutional Rights. "You can't demand the release of everyone from jail and demand more police protection for the poor at the same time. There's a contradiction."

Amnesty International, the human rights organization, maintains a worldwide list of political prisoners that is restricted to "prisoners of conscience," those who are arrested because of their beliefs, race, or religious origin. It excludes those who either advocate or commit acts of violence. This definition is too narrow, because many political prisoners have done both. Not all political cases are frame-ups. Mark Holder, linked by police to the Black Liberation Army, indeed committed the crime he was convicted of: bank robbery. But Holder used the proceeds of the robbery to provide free breakfast food, medical care, and clothing for the poor. He insisted that he did not steal the money but rather "expropriated" it. "It doesn't matter whether he or she did the alleged crime or not," says Gerald Lefcourt, an attorney who defended the Panther 21. "If the motives are political, if the people are struggling for social change, it's a political action."

Most dissenters and revolutionaries have not committed crimes; however, treating them as felons makes a lot of sense from the government's point of view. It has always been reluctant to make political changes, especially since it got burned in a series of notorious conspiracy trials in the late sixties and early seventies.

"Charging people with criminal offenses is a good tactic," says Texas attorney Cameron Cunningham,



Lolita Lebron, Puerto Rican nationalist and longest held female political prisoner in the U.S. and Marilyn Buck. [Seven Days photo]

"because it isolates them, makes it harder to build a political defense, and scares off supporters. Everyone assumes Abbie Hoffman's case isn't political since he's wanted on a cocaine charge. Ramsey Muniz, twice the Raza Unida candidate for governor of Texas, is doing five years on a drug bust. When people hear that, they assume he's guilty."

(continued on page 11)

Political Prisoners in the U.S. ...

(continued from page 10)

Amnesty International lists only 17 American political prisoners. Larry Cox, an Amnesty spokesperson, admits that this figure is low. "In the U.S., people are never clearly arrested for political crimes," he explained. "It takes a lot of work to sift through the criminal charges to find out if a case is genuinely political."

Many American political prisoners, especially if their crimes are sensational (like Susan Saxe's or the SLA's) have high visibility and enjoy extensive media coverage and vigorous defense committees. Others do not. The largest category of often overlooked political prisoners seems to be Native Americans, many convicted in one or another of the 130-odd trials that followed Wounded Knee. Another large group is composed of those connected to the Black Liberation Army, an organization supposedly dedicated to assassinating cops. Then there are the grand-jury cases — people jailed for refusing to cooperate with grand juries (20 in the last two years) — and an assortment of people left over from the antiwar movement of the sixties. There is a large number of blacks, like the Ayden (North Carolina) 11, rotting in Southern jails, little known beyond their local areas. Then there is an incalculable number of people who have been politicized in prison and punished for it with solitary confinement or extra sentences.

Here is a sampling of political prisoners in American jails. For everyone cited, there are a dozen who remain obscure and forgotten, victims of "justice," and too poor to buy their way out.

FIVE PUERTO RICAN NATIONALISTS

The unhappy distinction of being the longest-held political prisoners in the United States belongs to five Puerto Rican nationalists: Oscar Collazo, Lolita Lebron, Andres Figueroa Cordero, Rafael Cancel Miranda, and Irving Flores. On November 1, 1950, Oscar Collazo and Greselio Torresola fired on Blair House, then the temporary residence of Harry Truman, in protest against government retaliation against a nationalist uprising in Puerto Rico. Collazo was condemned to death, a sentence later commuted by Truman to life imprisonment.

Four years later, on March 1, 1954, Lebron, Cordero, Miranda, and Flores entered the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives and sprayed the startled Congressmen below with a hail of bullets. Lebron unfurled a Puerto Rican flag and shouted, "Free Puerto Rico." Five Congressmen were wounded, none seriously, and a large plaster eagle lost some feathers. The four nationalists were protesting the position the United States was then taking before the UN — that Puerto Rico was not a colony but a "free associated state."

Twenty-three years later (27 for Collazo), all are still in prison.

THE WILMINGTON 10

On February 3, 1976, after the U.S. Supreme Court turned down their appeal, Rev. Ben Chavis, the 29-year-old director of the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice, began a 29-to-34-year sentence for supposedly firebombing a grocery store in Wilmington, N.C., in 1971, during a period of racial strife that followed attempts to integrate local schools. Chavis was accompanied to prison by nine other activists (eight young men and one woman), who have become known as the Wilmington 10. Together, they face an aggregate sentence of 282 years. All maintain their innocence. Said Chavis: "We are victims of racism. We have been persecuted for political activity, not for criminal acts."

Since the ten were jailed, three key prosecution witnesses have recanted, and Rev. Eugene Templeton and social worker Patricia Rhodes told the *Charlotte Observer* that Chavis and four other defendants were at Templeton's house when the firebombings occurred.

The Wilmington 10 have appealed to have their conviction overturned. In a letter to President Carter, Chavis, referring to Carter's human rights crusade, pointed out that "we are equally as well 'prisoners of conscience.'"

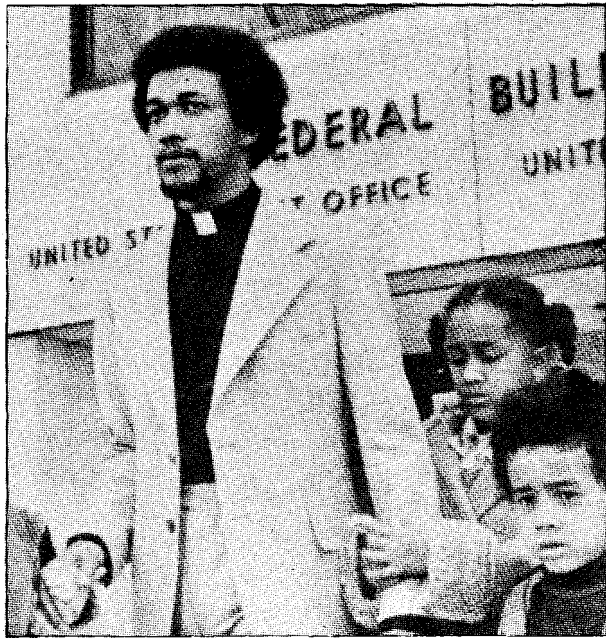
GAIL MADDEN AND GEORGE MERRITT

In the aftermath of the Newark, N.J., riots in 1967, in which 23 blacks were shot to death by law enforcement officers, traffic cop John V. Gleason, Jr., entered the black community of Plainfield, N.J., with his gun drawn. As a crowd gathered, rocks were thrown, and Gleason shot a black youth named Bobby Lee Williams. A gang of angry people attacked Gleason and beat him to death.

Bobby Lee Williams survived three bullet wounds to be arrested and convicted of assaulting an officer. Twelve people were indicted for the murder. The key prosecution witness, who implicated six of the twelve, was legally blind and without glasses when the beating occurred. Six other witnesses recanted during the trial. One witness was on heroin, and another was in jail in an adjacent county on the day Gleason was killed.

Of the twelve, ten were acquitted. Gail Madden and George Merritt were convicted. Only one of six eyewitnesses could identify Madden, who weighs 300 pounds. That witness was standing 560 feet away — almost the length of two football fields.

A court of appeals unanimously reversed their convictions. They were tried and convicted a second time.



Rev. Ben Chavis, one of the Wilmington 10, political prisoners in the U.S. [Seven Days photo]

Merritt's second conviction was overturned by the New Jersey supreme court. He is now out on appeal bond, awaiting his third trial. Gail Madden, seven years later, is still in prison.

RICHARD [DHORUBA] MOORE

Dhoruba belonged to the Black Panther Party and was tried in 1971 with 20 other Panthers. The Panther 21, as they were called, were all acquitted of more than 140 charges, including conspiracy to bomb department stores. Dhoruba was rearrested for robbing the Triple-O Social Club in the Bronx on June 5, 1971. The police claimed that the machine gun he used in the stick-up was the same one used to shoot two cops, Nicholas Binetti and Thomas Curry, three weeks earlier. The Binetti-Curry shooting was the first of a series that police attributed to the Black Liberation Army. Dhoruba was indicted on two counts of attempted murder.

Although there were numerous eyewitnesses to the shooting, none could identify Dhoruba; one even failed to pick him out of a lineup. The description they provided did not fit him. The only witness against him was a woman named Pauline Joseph, who had been diagnosed as a "paranoid schizophrenic" and suffered from hallucinations. The first trial ended in a hung jury.

During the course of the second trial, it emerged that the police had suppressed a statement by Joseph to the effect that Dhoruba had not shot Binetti and Curry. Despite this disclosure, the jury convicted Dhoruba. He was sentenced to 25 years to life.

IMARI ABUBAKARI OBADELE

Imari Abubakari Obadele is the president of the Republic of New Africa (RNA), a black nationalist group that claims sovereignty over several Southern states. In 1971, FBI agents and local police raided RNA headquarters in Mississippi. A cop was killed in the shootout that followed. Obadele was not present at the time, but he was nevertheless indicted on a number of charges, including levying war against the State of Mississippi. The state charges were dropped, but he was rearrested on federal charges — conspiring to assault a federal officer — and convicted in 1973. At last report, he was in jail in Madison County, Mississippi. Obadele is on the Amnesty list.

THE AYDEN 11

Five years ago in Ayden, North Carolina, black students moved to integrate Ayden-Grifton High School. The Ku Klux Klan threatened to bomb the school, and shortly thereafter probably did so (a bomb went off in a school bathroom), although the police chose to blame the bombing on the blacks themselves. There were no fingerprints, no eyewitnesses, and no physical evidence to link the explosion to anyone. The police arrested a 13-year-old boy and threatened to kill him if he did not name the "others." He named 11 others, all active in the civil rights movement. They were all convicted. Five are still in prison. Michael Epps, brother of Reginald Epps (of the Wilmington 10), has been in prison since he was 15.

MARILYN BUCK

In February 1973, Marilyn Buck was charged with two counts of purchasing ammunition under a false name. She bought two boxes, with approximately 45 rounds in each. It was Buck's first offense. She was convicted in October 1973 and sentenced to five years on each count, to be served consecutively.

According to her attorney, Susan Jordan, "Anyone else, on a first offense, would have gotten probation. It was not a serious crime. They socked her with ten years because she was political."

Buck was then indicted on identical charges in four other states — all, says Jordan, for buying 100 rounds of ammunition. When it was disclosed that she had been the subject of a national security wiretap, she appealed. After three and a half years, her appeal was turned down. The opinion was written by Judge Lawrence Lydick, a former law partner of Richard Nixon's. □

WORLD IN FOCUS

DESPITE U.N. CONDEMNATION, RHODESIA INVADES MOZAMBIQUE

Over 700 Rhodesian soldiers, backed by jets and helicopters, invaded Mozambique on May 29, occupying the town of Mapai. Commandos of Rhodesia's white-minority Ian Smith regime staged the search and destroy raid in an effort to eliminate base camps of the Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) People's Army (ZIPA) located in Mozambique.

Despite the massive invasion, said to be the largest military undertaking of the Rhodesian government in its four year war against the insurgent guerilla movement, the invasion failed in its attempt to "wipe out" the guerilla forces. While claiming the deaths of 32 guerillas, the general leading the operation expressed disappointment at not having killed hundreds more, and voiced dismay at the guerillas' ability to elude the massive invasion.

The latest Rhodesian attack against a neighboring African country comes only a week after a United Nations conference on southern Africa held in Maputo, Mozambique. The conference, attended by over 90 U.N. member states, issued a statement which "strongly condemned the persistent acts of aggression committed by the illegal minority regime in southern Rhodesia against Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia." In addition, on May 27 the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to close the Rhodesian information offices in Washington, Australia and South Africa. □

BASQUE PROTESTS ROCK SPAIN

The eve of Spain's first parliamentary elections since the end of four decades of Franco dictatorship has seen the Suarez government rocked by massive uprisings in the northern Basque regions. Numerous strikes and demonstrations denounced the recent jailings of over 30 Basque political prisoners and demanded that the present regime implement a full amnesty and release all Basque prisoners.

The different protests centered mainly in the Basque counties, starting in the city of San Sebastian when 6,000 workers staged a pro-amnesty march on May 12. The demonstration was attacked by troops of Spain's national guard, killing one worker and wounding six others. As the protest spread in the following days to other cities, thousands of Basques joined in a general strike and took to the streets in protest. The national guard continued its repression, killing five other Basque militants in unprovoked attacks.

Unable to quell the protests with force, especially since the Suarez government has been attempting to promote a more liberal image internationally, 17 Basque prisoners were released and sent into exile during the week of June 9. Spanish planes flew the exiles, including two leaders of the Basque Nationalist guerilla organization, the ETA, to Denmark, Norway and Austria. There still remain numerous Basque political prisoners and the move was seen as an attempt by the Suarez regime to end a threatened Basque boycott of the upcoming elections. □

U.S. BACKS ZAIRE'S MOBUTO

While the Congolese National Liberation Front (FNLC) continues to wage a secessionist movement in Zaire's Shaba province, U.S. banking interests have been revealed to be part of the massive Western effort to bolster the ailing Mobuto Sese Seko government. Already, massive numbers of foreign troops from Morocco, Egypt, Sudan and France have been sent to aid Mobuto's 40,000 man army, which had proved ineffectual against an estimated 2,000 rebels. In addition, millions of dollars worth of material support were given by the U.S. and France to the Mobuto government.

Part of the reason behind the massive aid was the massive amounts of U.S. and other Western investment currently at stake in Zaire. The total amount of U.S. investments is estimated at over \$400 million and leading the list of U.S. banks currently in Zaire are Citibank and the U.S. Export-Import Bank. Most of the U.S. investments are centered in the mineral-rich Shaba province, such as the Tenke-Fungurume copper and cobalt project started in 1974 at a cost of \$600 million. Financing some 28 percent of the project was Standard Oil of Indiana. Also located in the Shaba province was a \$34.3 million hydroelectric plant constructed on loans from the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

While most of the towns occupied by the FNLC have been retaken by Zaire and Moroccan troops, the FNLC has vowed to continue a popular struggle against the Mobuto government. □

3,000 Form 'Human Barricade' at I-Hotel

Supporters Pledge to Stop Eviction

3,000 demonstrators militantly protested proposed eviction at the International Hotel June 12. The protest was to show San Francisco City Hall that the people will not idly stand by and let the city default on its responsibility to provide good low-income housing through acquisition of the Hotel. [AK photo]



By SHERRY VALPARAISO

SAN FRANCISCO—At 5 p.m., June 12, 1977, the tenants of the International Hotel again became legally vulnerable to eviction by the San Francisco Sheriff's Department.

The renewed eviction process moved into motion following the decision of Superior Court Judge Peery, against the use of eminent domain, which had blocked the earlier eviction order in January of this year. Although the case is expected to be reheard by the State Appellate Court, the stay of eviction was rescinded and the sheriff's office seized on the opportunity to post eviction notices on the hotel last June 7, 1977.

As the eviction hour approached, swarms of supporters, numbering over 3,000, turned out to defend the hotel which for the last nine years has symbolized the fight for decent low-cost housing in San Francisco. The massive rally matched the impressive showing of strength in January of this year when the hotel was threatened by an earlier eviction order. This time, however, there was a greater sense of anger and

Despite Mass Protest BOARD APPROVES 3 RACIST TEXTBOOKS

By CYNTHIA BONTA
AK Correspondent

SACRAMENTO—Despite popular protest over the racist perspectives of the books, the Board of Education of the State of California approved the adoption of three social science books to the Instruction Matrix K-8 for use in the public schools in California for the next four to six years. The only book rejected by the board was *America: Its People and Values* published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Aside from this book, the Filipino Far West Task Force on Education (ETF) objected to three other social science texts, *American Adventure*, Vol. 2 by Allyn and Bacon; *Let Freedom Ring* by Silver Burdett, and *Challenge of America* by Holt, Rhinehart and Winston.

The ETF's year-long struggle to block adoption of the four books has exhausted different legal channels. The ETF appealed to the Legal Compliance Panel and Program Policies Committee of the Board of Education. House Meetings were organized to educate the community on the issues. A letter-writing campaign was launched. Despite these efforts, which succeeded in mobilizing a ground swell opposition to the books, the Board approved the controversial books, with a few minor revisions. The ETF rejected the changes as pure "cosmetic" which does not alter the racist undertones in the books.

One ETF member summing up their experience said: "Now the parents, teachers and students know that to put the decision in the hands of a few individuals in the State Department of Education is not the way to insure the solution to the problems in education. The community themselves have to organize to fight locally in the districts for their rights to equal quality education, if they want their needs met. □"

militance to resist any eviction attempt.

The spirit present was expressed by a speaker from the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, David Prowler, who charged, "It is an outrage that we have to be here today to protest for a basic human right—the right to live. Today San Francisco is up for sale, and a city that sells itself to the highest bidder cannot survive!"

Another noticeable difference was that the anger was not only directed at the owners of the International Hotel, the Four Seas Corp., but at the City of San Francisco, which was targeted for standing by idly in the face of the eviction. "The city government must be held responsible for failing to meet the needs of its people. At the same time, we must recognize that until the majority of people, the working class controls this country, these problems of inadequate housing, low wages and poverty will continue to exist," explained Estella Habal, staff member at the Hotel.

At 5 p.m., the rally reached its peak as thousands of supporters organized into a human barricade, forming nine rows of several hundred people abreast tightly filed round the hotel, each person linking arms with the next. As expected, the Sheriff's Department did not show up. Undoubtedly waiting for a more opportune time to carry out the controversial "law"—private property over and above human rights.

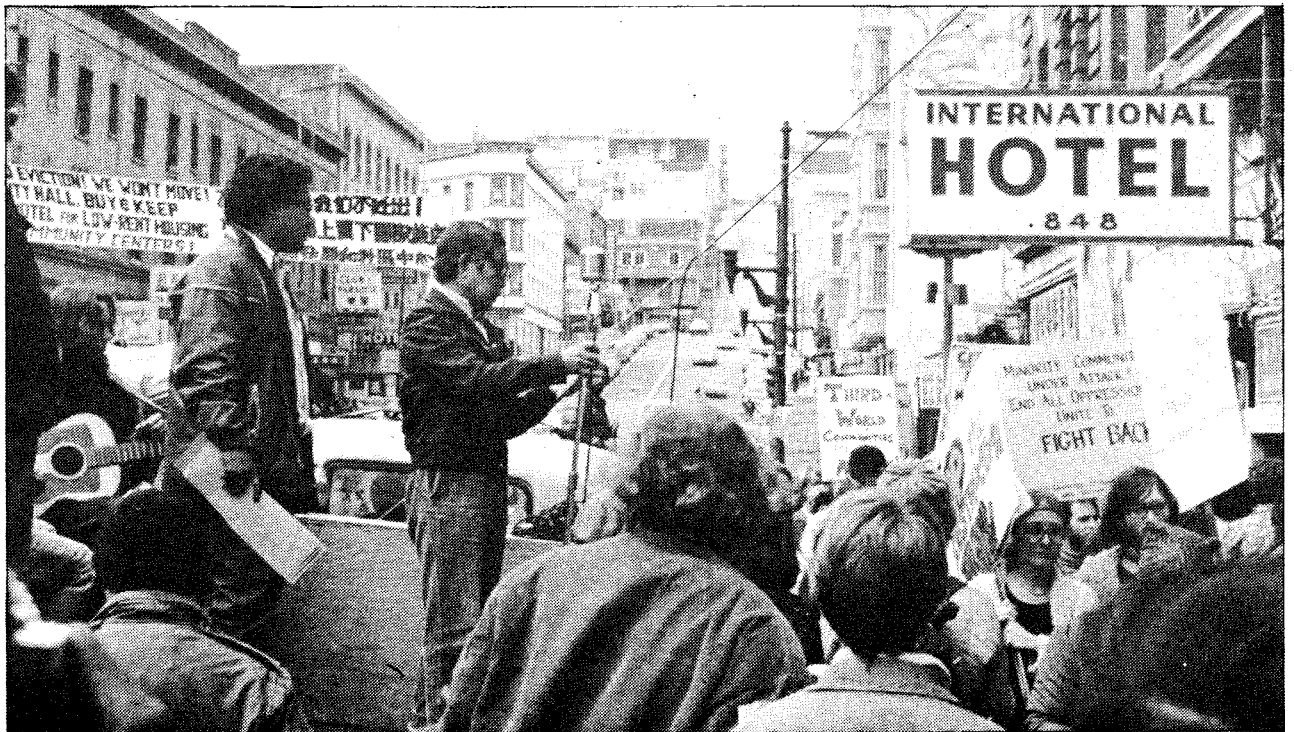
However, after nine years of struggle to save the International Hotel, nothing comes as a surprise to the tenants, nor have the years diminished the vigilance of the tenants and supporters. In spite of the negative outcome of the eminent domain hearing which would have seen the City purchasing the hotel and selling it back to the tenants, the IHTA came back today

bodily from the building. The city will see a dramatic demand that the City put forward another alternative of buying the hotel and leasing it as low-cost housing under the management of the IHTA. With low income housing critically scarce, particularly in the Chinatown-Manilatown area, creating overcrowded conditions, the amount of money the city would spend to preserve the IH is far less than the money that the city would spend to build new low income housing.

Emil de Guzman, Chairman of the IHTA summed up their position, saying, "We feel the responsibility for the eviction lies solely on the city, and we intend to visit Mayor Moscone in his office and ask him to take direct and concrete action to stop the eviction immediately. We have anticipated this move and are ready and prepared to resist the eviction at any time. We are united on this. We intend to resist and the sheriff's office will have to drag each tenant and supporter eviction, not seen in San Francisco for many years!"

The tenants approached Mayor Moscone last June 10, for a meeting concerning the eviction, but the Mayor refused to meet with the tenants saying, "there is no need." As of press time, the Mayor has continued to refuse to intervene in the eviction process.

The IHTA has urged residents of the San Francisco Bay Area to make phone calls or write letters to Mayor George Moscone demanding that he take action to fight for the issue of decent, quality low-income housing in San Francisco. Most importantly, supporters are asked to stay alerted and turn out to defend the hotel with a "human barricade" on the day of the eviction. □



(continued from front page)

Additionally, if Four Seas were to go ahead with its plans, any new structure would be exempt from certain tax depreciation loopholes. On the tenants side, the action makes the Hotel eligible for matching funds from the federal government for certain renovations, as well as would apply a building code more in keeping with the historical character of the structure. The action also ensures that as long as the structure stands it is to maintain its character as a residence and community center. [AK photo]