

Victims were Prominent KDP Activists

SEATTLE LABOR LEADERS MURDERED

By BEN OCAMPO
Staff Writer

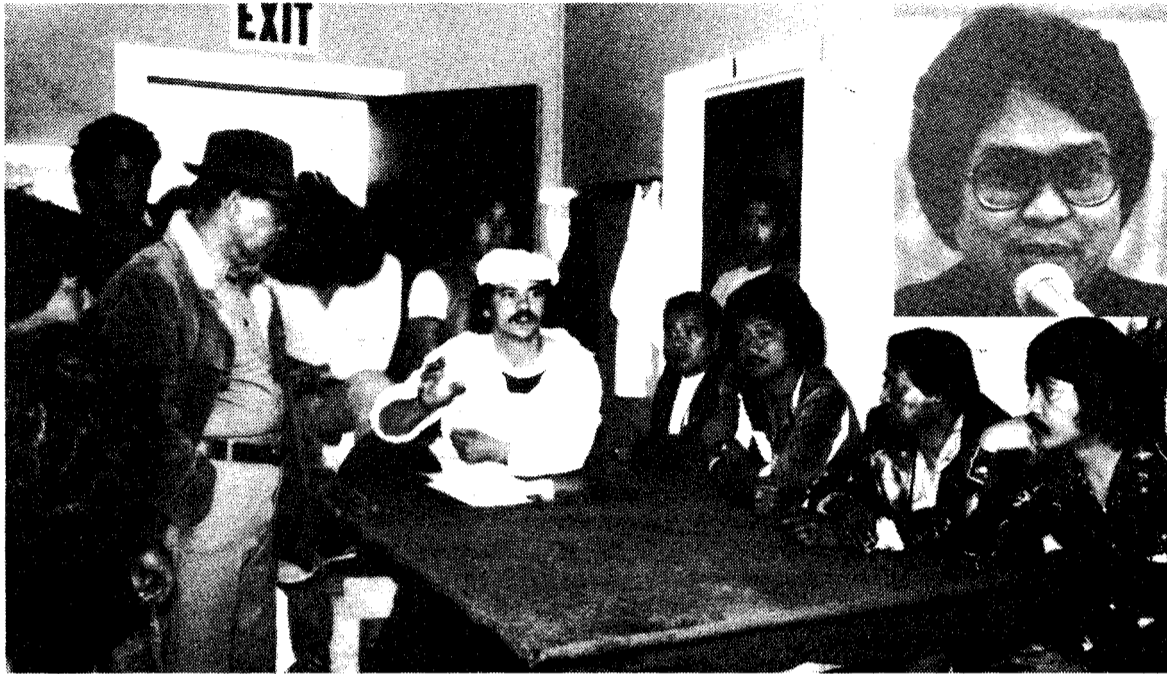
Seattle—Gene Viernes, 30 and Silme Domingo, 29—two leading union officials of the Cannery Workers Union Local 37 ILWU—were shot fatally inside the union headquarters, June 1. The two were also well-known activists of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP).

Domingo and Viernes were leading proponents behind the implementation of the union's reform policies, especially in the area of the dispatching procedures.

Viernes, elected Union Dispatcher in September 1980, was killed instantly. Domingo, the union's Secretary/Treasurer, was shot four times in the abdomen and was placed in critical condition at the Harborview Hospital; he died the following day at 5:40 p.m.

Ben Guloy and Jimmy Ramil, have been apprehended and are now in jail, charged with first degree murder.

At a press conference held



Murder victim Gene Viernes, Seattle Local 37 official, explaining to cannery workers their rights while in Alaska last year. Inset: Union Secretary/Treasurer Silme Domingo who was murdered along with Viernes. Both were activists of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP).
AK File Photos

jointly by Local 37 officials and the KDP, Union President Tony Baruso made the following statement:

"Gene and Silme were hard-working and honest trade union officials, highly respected in our community and among their co-

workers. This tragic shooting is an unwarranted attack on this union and its dispatching policies . . . we will not be intimi-

dated by this action. We will continue to dispatch workers to Alaska in a fair and democratic manner."

Baruso pledged all-out union effort to prosecute the assailants "to the fullest extent of the law."

DISPATCHING PROCEDURES KEY IN UNION

Speculation around the motive of the killings revolved around the dispatching procedures in the union.

Viernes and Domingo were said to be bent on cleaning up the corrupt dispatching system that has characterized the union for several years.

According to Emily Van Bronhorst, Rank and File Committee member, "This year the union intended to stringently uphold the preferential system, as stated in the contract.

"Some undesirable elements, accustomed to bribing their way into jobs," said Van Bronhorst,

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'Alejo Who?'

F.M. PICKS AN OPPONENT, FIGHTS BOYCOTT

By VICTORIA LUNA
Staff Writer

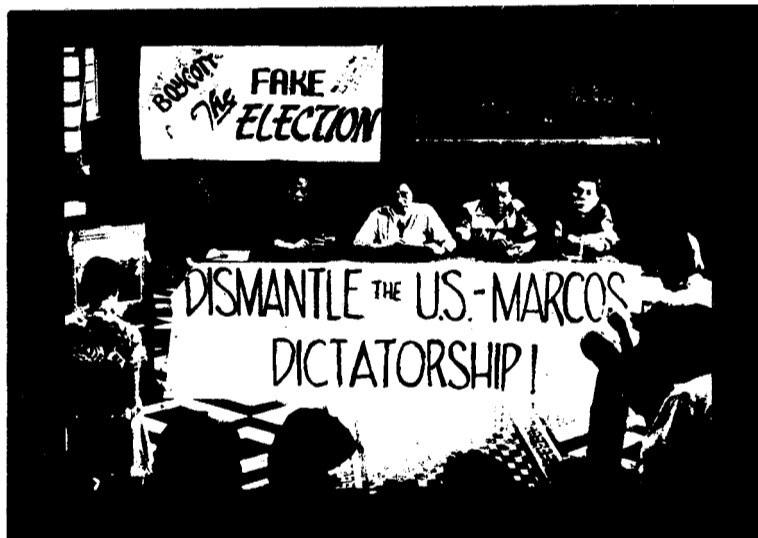
What does a dictator do when he invites his opponents to an election and nobody comes?

Such is the dilemma of President Ferdinand Marcos. Having declared his position up for grabs in the coming June 16 election, he finds every credible opposition figure firmly supporting the mass-based nationwide boycott movement.

The Marcos solution: create an instant new opposition.

ALEJO WHO?

Thus, in a field of 15 "hopefuls"—mostly small-time politicians and comic-relief characters—a "genuine" opposition figure has appeared.



Cover of boycott movement leaflet: meeting of key boycott coalition members.
AK File

Alejo Santos, 69, former secretary of Defense under President Carlos P. Garcia, twice governor of Bulacan and a brigadier

general in the Philippine army, has been selected to run under the banner of the Nacionalistas, Marcos' former party.

Santos has nothing to do with the Nacionalista majority which considers itself an opposition force. That group has joined the boycott. Santos represents the Nacionalista splinter which has remained a staunch supporter of Marcos' New Society.

The general allegedly accepted the nomination only after ex-Senators Jose Laurel and Ambrosio Padilla and ex-Congressman Alejandro Almendras turned it down. Fourth-choice Santos seems to recognize the awkwardness of his position.

"I don't deny that I worked for [Marcos]. Up to less than a week ago, I practically was an employee of the government..." he remarked sheepishly. "But I have resigned.

"Nobody wanted to run against Mr. Marcos," commented Santos' campaign manager, former Executive Press Secretary Francisco "Kit" Tatad, "so we got General Santos."

ing his desire to be "interim president." His main campaign promise: a call for an immediate constitutional convention and another round of elections.

"I am running for president not because I want to be president," he explained, "but because I want the Filipino people to regain their democracy and freedom . . . A new constitution is an absolute necessity to end the political crisis engendered by the manipulation of the Constitution by the Marcos regime."

The controlled Philippine press was quick to play up both Santos and his platform. Marcos and his followers issued numerous statements warning that Santos' candidacy "should not be taken lightly."

But creating an instant opposition has clearly not defeated the fast-growing boycott movement. As a result the regime is now employing a variety of other tactics in the effort to beat it back.

Congress Praises But Cautions F.M.

By JON MELEGRITO
D.C. Correspondent

Despite objections raised by some of its liberal members, the U.S. Congress praised the lifting of martial law as a "positive step forward" while calling for the "elimination of the remaining restrictions on full freedom and democracy."

This contradictory stance was expressed in a sense of Congress resolution passed by the full House on May 19, by a vote of 387 to 4 with 39 abstentions.

Introduced by Rep. Stephen Solarz of New York, the resolution came out of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs which

conducted hearings on the Philippines last March.

'F.M. MIGHT USE IT'

Rep. James Jeffords of Vermont took exception to the "balanced thrust" of the resolution and stated during the House debate that the second part is more important. Jeffords who was in the Philippines during the lifting of martial law was among those who testified at the subcommittee hearings.

"It struck me," he said referring to the lifting of martial law, "that this step might be more show than substance: that in fact Marcos was giving up little if any of his power."

Jeffords then noted that "there does not seem to be an overall decrease in human rights violations." He based his observations from discussions with church leaders during his visit last January.

Jeffords then expressed fear that Marcos "may only look at the language in this resolution that praises the lifting of martial law and ignore our encouragements to take further steps towards democracy."

"One message has to come through loud and clear: the U.S. will not provide military assistance if it is to be used for suppression

Continued on page 6

'INTERIM PRESIDENT'

Santos kicked off his campaign at his first rally in San Fernando, Pampanga by announc-

INTIMIDATION TACTICS

The Commission on Elections

Continued on page 4

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Murder Will Not Stop Our Movement

The National Executive Board of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) on behalf of its National Council and entire membership

Two of our comrades, both trade unionists and long-time KDP activists, were shot and killed by gangster elements in Seattle, June 1. Kasamang Gene Viernes, Dispatcher of the Cannery Workers Union—ILWU Local 37 died almost immediately. Kasamang Silme Domingo, the union's Secretary-Treasurer and a member of the KDP National Council for several years, died a day later.

We are deeply grieved by the deaths of Gene and Silme, a grief we share with their families and loved ones. Our hatred for their murderers and what these criminals stand for is immense. Even as we recommit ourselves to the goals for which our valued comrades died, we are fiercely determined to see to it that their murderers are brought to justice.

EXEMPLARY TRADE UNION LEADERS

Gene and Silme were instrumental in instituting much-needed reforms in Local 37. They were dedicated leaders of a progressive rank-and-file movement to rid the union of graft, corruption and bureaucracy. They were determined, along with other progressive rank-and-filers, to transform the union into a more effective weapon for winning better working conditions, better pay, and better protection for workers—workers who have to toil under the racist, oppressive and exploitative grip of the canneries' big capitalist owners.

Their murderers are well-known local hoodlums clearly threatened by these reforms. These anti-social elements have been publicly griping about the elimination of age-old, graft-ridden hiring practices. They were irked by the elimination of bribery, favoritism and other corrupt schemes by which their gangster ilk used to benefit at the expense of legitimate workers struggling to earn an honest living.

These hardcore criminal elements come from the downtrodden sectors of the working class but they have neither principles nor working class morals. They adopt the worst features of the capitalist exploiters. They live only for themselves and wherever they are, their selfish

small-minded interests clash with the interest of the class. They are reactionaries. They prey on other working people, live by crime, act as hired goons—they are blind to reason and bereft of any broad ideals.

We must ensure that Gene and Silme did not die in vain. The union especially, must do everything it can to prosecute their killers through the end. It must put the criminal elements on notice that this is the last time they ever aim their guns at union officials or legitimate members. The union must take this occasion to purge its ranks of underworld characters. And it must see to it that all the reforms Gene and Silme worked and died for are carried out completely. The union must emerge from this tragedy a stronger protector of its members' working class interests.

BUT REVOLUTIONARIES FIRST AND FOREMOST

Gene and Silme were more than just exemplary trade unionists. As KDP activists, they were revolutionaries first and foremost. These activists dedicated themselves to building a powerful union, one capable of wresting from the capitalists a larger share of the fruits of the workers' labor. But in this work they always adhered to a greater vision: that powerful workers' organizations are ultimately crucial weapons in the political struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation in society. That a strong workers' movement is indispensable in the long-term struggle for basic social change in this country. Gene and Silme were always guided by our organization's revolutionary socialist perspective, making their work in the union very effective and inspiring to other workers.

Being revolutionaries, Gene and Silme also immersed themselves in issues beyond the immediate boundaries of trade unionism. They were respected leaders in Seattle's Filipino community, organizing our people against discrimination and injustice. Alona, Narciso-Perez—they were there helping to clarify issues, distributing leaflets and petitions, bringing these issues to Local 37's agenda. Gene and Silme were also known in the anti-racist struggles beyond the community—anti-Klan work, affirmative action and so on. They were here with us in Oakland only a week ago, attending a nationwide conference of activists from various minority communities and political groups. They were struggling for a deeper understanding of the nature of racism and

national oppression in U.S. society, in order to increase their capacities as people's activists.

Gene and Silme, like all our activists, were also committed anti-imperialists. They marched for the peoples of El Salvador, Southern Africa—they opposed imperialist domination everywhere. Naturally, the national liberation movement in the Philippines had a special place in their hearts. Knowing that the Filipino community shares the same concern for the homeland, Gene and Silme were vocal organizers against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. Their effective work incurred the wrath of Marcos officials and bootlickers in Seattle. They always helped raise funds for the National Democratic Front.

Gene, a Filipino-American like Silme, had just come back from his first visit to the Philippines last month. He gave equal importance to seeing his relatives in Pangasinan and learning more about the revolutionary movement in the country. He treasured his brief stay with the New People's Army. He met with the militant labor leaders of the *Kilusang Mayo Uno* (May First Movement). On his way back, he joined forces with Silme in Honolulu to gain support for the Philippine labor movement at the ILWU International Convention.

As revolutionaries, KDP activists are well aware of the risks involved in our undertakings. We face very powerful enemies: the U.S. monopoly capitalists and the imperialist-backed Marcos dictatorship. The fight for social change is not an "interesting pastime." There are many sacrifices. Gene especially, must have been sharply aware during his Philippine sojourn, that as the struggle against the enemies of change grows in intensity, death becomes a common occurrence. Both our departed comrades knew these risks. They recognized them in the armed thugs who ominously hovered over the union hall but they unflinchingly remained to carry out their work.

Gene and Silme are our first casualties in the struggle. We are pained with the thought of missing them but we are proud, very proud of their contributions. Our entire leadership and membership are turning our grief into a firmer resolve to pursue the ambitious goals these comrades lived and died for. We rededicate ourselves to the challenging task of mobilizing Filipinos in the struggle for equality and justice—for revolutionary change both here and in the homeland. We will let no difficulty, no criminal element, no opportunist, and no enemy of the people's movement stand in our way. □

In Memoriam

SILME DOMINGO January 25, 1952— June 2, 1981

Born in Texas 29 years ago, Silme spent part of his childhood in Germany because of his father's military career. The Domingo family eventually settled in Seattle during the early 1960s at which time Silme found himself in the mainstream of the Asian "identity" and anti-war movements.

Silme's vision for change broadened and he developed a long range commitment to serious revolutionary work. He joined the KDP at its founding and helped establish the Seattle KDP chapter in 1973. His organizing abilities gave him the responsibility of holding regional and national leadership posts in the organization.

Silme was best known for his work as a trade union activist. This was a result of the recognition that labor issues had a strong historical significance in Seattle and that the union dominated many aspects of community life.

As he gained experience in the work place and witnessed the exploitation of cannery workers, Silme became a co-founder of the Alaska Cannery Workers Association in 1973 which fought for decent working conditions. He

was one of the plaintiffs in a successful lawsuit against the New England Fish Company in Alaska over the discrimination of minority workers.

The 1978 victory helped open the doors for better working conditions for Filipinos and other minorities in the canneries.

After joining the ILWU Local 37, Silme became an active leader in the Rank and File Caucus which sought to rid the union of graft and corruption. Silme's leadership was admirable, re-



SILME

cognized by his co-workers when they elected him to the trusted position of Secretary-Treasurer of Local 37 in September 1980.

As a community leader, Silme also played a prominent role in the Filipino Community in Seattle, Inc. (FCSI). He was also a visible figure in numerous anti-discrimination issues and took the lead in progressive cultural events such as the Philippine National Day Celebration.

Through all of this, Silme still found time to raise a family.

He is survived by his wife Terri, also a dedicated unionist; their children ages 3 years and 9 months respectively; his parents and a brother and three sisters.

A short profile cannot possibly capture the essence of Silme's political career or personality. It is difficult to accept that one day this comrade is boisterously joking in his well-known style, or sharing one of the savory home-cooked meals he was popular for and the next day be gone.

In Seattle where the trade union movement has had a history marred by corruption and violence Silme was felled by the enemy he sought to destroy. Yet his contributions have brought his co-workers much closer to their goals.

The community and the working class movement has lost a relative, a good friend, and most especially, a revolutionary comrade whose unrelenting desire for change was matched by selfless perseverance. □

GENE VIERNES

August 26, 1951—
June 1, 1981

Eugene Allen Viernes was born in Wapato, Washington on August 26, 1951. He was one of nine members of a poor, working-class family. As the eldest son,

the strain of the family's poverty was as much his concern as it was his widowed mother.

Many a summer, he plied the route to Alaska to work in the salmon canneries. He not only became an "experienced Alaskero" but made it his business to straighten out what he saw as unjust within the industry.

In the early 1970s he played a prominent role in the anti-discrimination lawsuit against the Alaska Salmon Cannery industry.



GENE

In 1973, he co-founded the Alaska Cannery Workers Association (ACWA). Thus began an intense and dedicated life as a union activist for International Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union (ILWU), Local 37.

It was only a matter of time before Gene joined the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) in 1976. KDP's politics reflected the principles he always upheld.

One of the important goals Gene strove for, within a union that had its share of corruption,

was raising the standards of the dispatching system and the standards of trade unionism.

Under the banner of the Reform Slate, Gene was elected as Dispatcher in September 1980. His position was one of the most crucial to the labor force in the canneries.

Last March, he went to the Philippines for a month to examine the conditions of workers, and scan the revolutionary situation by spending time with New People's Army cadres in the countryside.

From the Philippines, he brought a personal message from the *Kilusang Mayo Uno* Movement President Bert Olalia, which he delivered to a recent Hawaii ILWU conference.

Back in Seattle in early May, Gene assumed his tasks as Dispatcher. Enriched by recent experiences and looking forward to the momentum of union activities, Gene was taking a new step in his revolutionary career. Little did he know it would end abruptly June 1, 1981.

Out of the ranges of a hard life, evolved a revolutionary who refused to succumb to a hoodlum's way of life, even as he was surrounded by it. Gene Viernes is remembered for his forthrightness and his staunch refusal to sell out his principles. He knew where he was going. Many others will continue on the revolutionary path he followed. □

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Diplomatic Advance for Moro Struggle:

MNLF and BMLO Join Forces



MNLF chief Nur Misuari: Merger with BMLO increases organization's diplomatic clout. AP

The Moro liberation movement of the Philippines last month achieved a significant advance on the diplomatic front. At a meeting in Saudi Arabia, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization agreed to join forces.

An *Aide Memoire* signed by MNLF leader Nur Misuari and BMLO leader Raschid Lucman recognized MNLF leadership over the unified Moro movement. At the same time, the two leaders issued an ultimatum to the Marcos government: implement the Tripoli Agreement or face continued hostilities.

The Saudi-based BMLO

surfaced only in 1977 and has never had a following inside the Philippines. Many suspected that the organization might have been covertly sanctioned by the Marcos regime in an effort to diminish MNLF standing within the Muslim world.

PROPOSAL: RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

The Islamic Conference has repeatedly expressed its recognition of and support for the MNLF. But the Marcos regime has used the existence of the BMLO and an MNLF splinter headed by Egypt-based Hashim Salamat to insist that Misuari does not speak for a unified movement.

The expanded MNLF cited the Tripoli Agreement as the only common reference point between it and the Marcos government. It thus proposed a resumption of negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the Mindanao conflict based on the accord.

The joint command issued several demands to the Marcos government as prerequisite:

- Marcos must state that the Philippine government still recognizes the Tripoli accord;

- Thirty days before resumption of the talks, all members of the Philippine Armed Forces must be withdrawn from Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi; AFP forces in Mindanao must be confined to barracks.

The MNLF warns that, should the Marcos regime fail to respond in good faith, it shall consider itself freed of all obligations under the Tripoli Agreement and will continue its armed struggle for self-determination.

LAUDED BY ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

The Islamic Conference lauded the long-sought unity of Filipino Muslim leadership. This latest move is likely to insure passage of the Quadripartite Resolution on the Philippine Muslim question at the coming Islamic Conference meeting in late June or July.

The resolution includes recognition of the MNLF as sole representative of the Moro people, a call for continued moral and material support for the MNLF struggle, and a call for sanctions against the Philippine government should it violate or

Continued on page 4

Buod ng mga Balita

DROP USE OF 'HAPON' TO REFER TO MARCOS TROOPS —A.B. SAYS

Ang Bayan, the official organ of the Communist Party of the Philippines, recently urged its readers to drop the use of the word "Hapon" (Japanese) to refer to abusive Marcos troopers. The January 31, 1981 AB issue pointed out that the term has racist connotations prejudicial to the Japanese people.

The term "Hapon" and its slang variations "Japok," "Pon-jing," and "Ponjap," entered into popular usage because the looting, rape, torture, murder, and other barbarities of Marcos' military remind people of similar abuses by Japanese soldiers during the Second World War.

The AB encouraged a search for alternative terms. In Samar and other parts of the eastern Visayas, for example, Marcos troopers are called "unggoy" (monkey). In more isolated parts of Samar, wild monkeys often swoop down from their forest lairs to steal food from villagers. An NPA cadre from Central Luzon, however, disagreed. "Unggoy is OK," he said, "but monkeys might feel insulted if we compare the enemy soldiers to them." □

QUEZON MASSACRE: 'AN ORDER FROM ABOVE'

The cold-blooded firing of government troops on some 5,000 peacefully marching demonstrators in Guinayangan, Quezon February 1 (*See AK, Vol. VII, No. 8*) was planned from the start according to a March issue of *Ang Bayan* recently acquired by the AK. This indiscriminate show of military violence resulted in three dead and 17 others wounded.

The demonstration was called to demand a stop to military atrocities which had increased in the face of martial law's "lifting." The first and instant fatality was Mr. Juliana Hara whose husband Carlito was abducted by military officers and is still missing.

The demonstration had brought together farmers, students, teachers, small businessmen and some barrio captains. As the demonstrators, who were coming in from three directions, approached the Ginayangan town plaza, an 11-man team of PC-INP-CHDF troopers blocked them and fired their M-14 automatic rifles.

Sgt. Carlo Casambra of the 232nd PC Company who was heading the team earlier rebuffed pleas of a town councilman not to use violence on the scheduled demonstration. Casambra coldly stated that they "cannot do anything" to change their plans because "it is an order from above." □

Economy on the Rocks

F.M. RESCUES HIS CRONIES

By VICTORIA LUNA
Staff Writer

The Philippine economy may have hit rocky waters this year, but Marcos businesses are in for smooth sailing with promises of generous government assistance.

The pattern has become clear by now: Marcos companies absorb government bailout funds and other favors while taxpayers and underpaid workers absorb the economic blows.

HELPING OUT HERDIS

"Marcos businesses" do not officially belong to the president himself. They rest instead in the hands of close cronies. Or, as "semi-government" industries, they are run by Marcos men in government positions.

First in line for government assistance is none other than Herminio Disini. A cousin of Imelda and business chum of her husband, Disini presides over one of the largest and most rapidly developed post-martial law financial empires, Herdis, Inc.

In 1977, Disini borrowed \$25 million to buy Asia Industries and three affiliated companies. Now, Asia Industries is no longer able to service its debts.

To help Disini, the Philip-

pine government has offered to convert a P40 million loan Herdis owes the Philippine National Bank into shares in the company.

Further aiding Herdis, the state-owned National Development Corp. (NDC) last month took over the liabilities of yet another part of the empire in distress, Cellophil Resources, Inc.

COVERING FOR PAL, HURTING TAXPAYERS

But Herdis is not the only big company in the country currently hurting. Philippine Air Lines (PAL) chalked up a net loss of P394.8 million last year, its biggest ever.

As a result, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) which owns 96.4% of PAL's capital, has had to find a quick P500 million to put into the company. PAL board chairman Roman Cruz found an elaborate method of generating the needed amount by filtering GSIS funds through the NDC.

This may prove a sore point to Filipino taxpayers. GSIS funds come out of the paychecks of government employees. They are theoretically intended for use by government workers to build homes. But while the waiting list

for home loans has grown, GSIS funds have been used, time and again, for government projects.

PRICING SUGAR FOR WHOM?

Aid to Marcos' cronies does not always come in the form of bailouts. Sometimes it takes the form of Marcos' unique brand of transfer pricing. This approach has recently been applied to the country's sugar industry, much to the planters' irritation and to the continuing hardship of their employees, the *sakadas*.

The National Sugar Trading Corp. (NASUTRA), a semi-government body headed by crony Roberto Benedicto, today controls the country's sugar industry. Last year NASUTRA committed itself to selling 50% of the sugar crop to four buyers at 23.5¢ a pound for the next four years.

At the time, the going price of sugar was 40¢ a pound. This means that buyers can resell at a tidy profit.

THE "LUCKY" BUYERS

Why should Marcos be interested in insuring a profit to sugar buyers? That depends on who the purchasers are and what their connection is to the Marcos financial empire.



Top cronies Antonio Floirendo and Herminio Disini. ASIaweek

The four turned out to be Sucrest, Rionda, a Mr. Chan of New York, and E.D.F. Man of London. At least two have close ties to Marcos.

Sucrest belong to Antonio Floirendo, a crony and partner of the president in the banana business. Chan is thought to be Jose Mari Chan. His company, Guimaras, occupies the same building as Sugar Traders, Inc., which, observers believe, belongs to none other than Benedicto.

But Marcos cronies actually profit at both ends. While they can cash in on controlled selling prices for four years, Benedicto's NASUTRA also profits by buying well below the 23.5¢ it has pegged the planters to.

Sugar planters, on the other hand, are equally determined to wring out a profit, thus putting the squeeze on the true victims of NASUTRA's antics, the *sakadas*.

Most sugar workers were

denied the mandatory wage increase declared in September 1979 and August 1980 as well as other benefits equal to 90 centavos per picul to which they are entitled.

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC EMPIRES

Disini, Floirendo, Benedicto, Rodolfo Cuenca, and the like allegedly rose to their sudden economic prominence through their brilliance. However, as these Marcos cronies elbow their way to the head of the government dole-out line they shatter their carefully cultivated myth.

In addition, this "government connection" in the building and maintenance of economic empires partially reveals the answer to the oft-repeated question, "Just how did Marcos become the richest man in Asia?" □

I Tasted Lutong Macoy



Gene Viernes, a KDP activist, never saw his article in print. He and Silme Domingo, also of KDP, were murdered last June 1 in Seattle (see story on page 1). Gene submitted this article upon his recent return from a long visit to the Philippines. He will also be missed by friends in the underground revolutionary movement there.

By GENE VIERNES
Seattle, WA

I had always wondered what the Tagalog phrase "Lutong Macoy" meant.

I'm a Filipino mestizo, born in America. I'm unfamiliar with the ways and the culture of the Filipinos back in the homeland.

The explanations always seem to fall short of answering why Filipinos spoke of elections with anger and disgust in their voices. "Elections pre-cooked by Marcos," they said. "When you go to the Philippines you'll see."

'YOUR DUTY AS A CITIZEN: VOTE YES'

It was an April afternoon, perhaps no later than 3:30 p.m. I was taking a nap in the upstairs room of my uncle's home in Manila. I was startled into a semiconscious state by the blaring of a bullhorn. "Vote Yes! Do your duty to your country. Come out on April 17 and vote yes."

I was amazed at several things. One, was that the volume of the bullhorn could have awakened the heaviest of sleepers; and two, the statement mixed the duty of the Filipino citizen with advice on how to vote. It capped off a whole week of events leading to what I learned smelled of an unpleasant scent of *lutong macoy*.

The prior week's events began with my family's trip to a

southern Luzon province. It was still three weeks to go before the plebiscite, but the Marcos KBL propaganda machine was going full force. Their presence was everywhere. Signs adorned walls, gates, posts, storefronts, houses, and all carried the message "Vote Yes." Banners were draped across major freeways. Occasionally I saw a "no" sign, but they were smaller and fewer and relegated to the inconspicuous spots.

DISTORTIONS THE RULE, NOT THE EXCEPTION

For the whole week prior to the plebiscite, I found that watching TV forced me to absorb the continuous barrage of "Vote Yes" propaganda. Commercials portrayed major movie stars, sports stars, politicians, etc., all strongly supporting the one message that soon permeated your every thought. "Vote Yes!" "Vote Yes!" "Vote Yes!"

The debate of all debates was the proposed "*pulong pulong*." It was to be between the UNIDO [United Democratic Opposition] and Marcos.

Newspapers carried the build-up and everyday the blow-by-blow account, as the two sides tried to determine the proper form and who and how many could participate in the great *pulong pulong*. Marcos was determined to take on nine members of UNIDO at once and UNIDO said, "no." For every position from their disadvantaged spot

came a thundering roar of response by the Marcos-controlled newspapers. Distortions of the issues became the rule rather than the exception.

They criticized the UNIDO forces for not being willing to participate and "bring the issue to the people." On the other hand, I felt UNIDO was interested in being assured of a *pulong pulong* format that would expose the constituency to maximum information surrounding the plebiscite.

A MONTH OF PROPAGANDA; SKIRTING THE ISSUE

Instead they fell prey to the Marcos propaganda machine. Twisted presentations by the Marcos-controlled media just rammed their way into people's minds. I found myself asking "How can this happen? You have a group of politicians interested in making the *pulong pulong* a fair and equal debate and they end up being portrayed as the villains stonewalling the democratic process! I studied the issues carefully and I came to the conclusion that a fair debate was just not possible. It might reveal the degree to which the amendments would institutionalize Marcos' control over the government, allowing him to wield an iron fist capable of smashing dissent among his staff, his cabinet, even the parliament.

It was an amazing accomplishment of the Marcos propaganda machine to go through a monthlong campaign and successfully skirt the issues.

By election day, I had begun to recognize the scent of *lutong macoy*. I was pessimistic as to the success of the opposition forces. The UNIDO carried the line "Vote No." More progressive groups had given up on *lutong macoy* years ago and advocated a boycott.

FINAL SEASONING ON LUTONG MACOY

Then there was the matter of the method in which the plebiscite was conducted. To add to the traditional intimidation accompanying such an event, the COMELEC gave Marcos and company one added benefit.

The sample ballots widely distributed were all clearly marked "Yes." This was the final seasoning for the plebiscite stew.

So now when someone quite unfamiliar with the ways and culture of the Philippines asks me what *lutong macoy* means, I too will answer with anger and disgust, "elections pre-cooked by Marcos." □

MNLF, BMLO . . .

Continued from page 3 fail to implement the Tripoli Agreement.

PRESSURE ON SAUDI ARABIA

Of concern to the joint command is Saudi Arabia's vote. Saudi Arabia has historically been least critical of the Marcos regime among the Arab countries. At the same time, it carries significant clout with the Marcos regime as the Arab nation upon which the

Philippines is most dependent.

Sixty percent of Philippine oil comes from Saudi Arabia. Some 150,000 to 200,000 Filipinos work in the country supplying \$750 million to \$1 billion annually in foreign exchange remittances. This is roughly 20% of the Philippines' foreign exchange earnings.

The unified Moro command has issued a special memorandum to the king of Saudi Arabia expressing hope that he will urge

the Marcos regime to implement the Tripoli Agreement.

Observers doubt that the Marcos government can meet the MNLF's prerequisites and reopen genuine negotiations.

But to make things even tougher for the regime, the MNLF has sent a delegation to Cairo to meet with Hashim Salamat. It hopes to win Salamat over and to present completely unified Moro movement to the Marcos regime and to the world. □

Who's Running?

Election Komedy

By VICTORIA LUNA
Staff Writer

The one-man election campaign of Ferdinand Marcos has encouraged a good many characters to come out of the woodwork and take the plunge of their lifetime by running for president.

In addition to the "official" opposition personality, Alejo Santos, 15 other totally unheard-of figures have filed certificates of candidacy.

Among them: Simeon del Rosario, 66, of Magsingal, Ilocos Sur; Jose Igrobay, 52, retired government employee of Botolan, Zambales; Pantaleon H. Panelo, 89, lawyer/engineer, of Naga City; Lucio Libao de Cala, 55, radio commentator and author, of Tondo, Manila; and Cesar Climaco, the eccentric mayor of Zamboanga City.

Few, aside from Climaco, have been heard of outside their hometown. But del Rosario has had his moment of glory on the national stage.

Called upon to testify as an expert on Communist ideology during a 1977 subversion trial, he impressed one and all with his observation that the law of motion in physics is a part of Marxist theory. While Marxists recognize this as accurate, the thrust of del Rosario's testimony led to the conclusion that physics must be subversive.

The other chief character on the election scene is none other than Mr. Statehood U.S.A., Bartolome Cabangbang. Cabangbang is once again making his pitch that the Philippines should become a state. This time his line is that such a fate is far superior to either a dictatorship or a boycott.

"Once the Philippines becomes a state of the U.S., you no longer have to go abroad because you're already abroad," Cabangbang explains his position.

"We'll have dollars!" he adds. "You won't have to line up for a visa at the U.S. Embassy because you won't need one—and anyway, the embassy will be ours." □

FM Picks Opponent . . .



Marcos' new "opposition," Alejo Santos: "Up to less than a week ago, I was practically a government employee . . ." ASIaweek

Continued from front page

(COMELEC) is launching a nationwide anti-boycott blitz.

Capitalizing on people's fears of arrest, four teams under COMELEC Chairman Vicente Santiago are going around the country informing people of the legal consequences of the failure to register and vote. Failure to vote is a crime under the 1978 Philippine Election Code carrying a minimum penalty of six months in prison.

COMELEC has also asked people to report the names of those advocating the boycott in their areas.

Threats have been combined with fierce condemnation of the boycott by both Marcos and candidate Santos. "If a dictatorship and boycott are the people's only choices, the next step is chaos," claimed Santos in one address.

BOYCOTT MOVEMENT IN HIGH GEAR

On May 18, with less than one month to go before the election, Marcos unveiled his latest scheme to draw people to the polls.

In a desperate attempt to give voters a stake in the election farce, he announced that *barang-*

gay officials will also stand for election along with the president.

Meanwhile, in spite of minimal and almost entirely negative press coverage, the boycott movement continues in high gear.

Honolulu radio on May 26 carried reports of massive demonstrations in the streets. Former Senator Jose Diokno, boycott spokesperson, announced the movement's goal of keeping 51% of the Philippine population away from the polls on June 16.

In a May 16 statement, Diokno revealed that 45 opposition groups have banded together to pursue the boycott drive.

SACRIFICIAL LAMB

Santos' awkward and half-hearted stumping continues. The General, however, is not altogether a newcomer to the election process or to political frustration.

In 1946, Santos ran for Congress with the Democratic Alliance slate. The DA victory however, was frustrated by the manipulation of its enemies and its officials were subsequently barred from taking their seats.

Given his rich experience at being cheated, Santos is clearly an ideal figure to play the role of a willing sacrificial lamb this time around. □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

A Harrowing Experience:

Pinay Mother of 9 Mugged, Shot

By BEN OCAMPO

San Francisco—The Quesada family who immigrated here nine years ago, have learned to accept that violence on the streets such as muggings is as "American as apple pie."

After all, family members have been mugged before on separate incidents, and vandals have twice broken into the family car.

They were shocked beyond belief however, when this time, their mother was brutally assaulted and critically wounded May 21, in a robbery attempt near their home in Visitacion Valley.

Mrs. Quesada, 49, a pantry lady at Holiday Inn was shot twice before she was stripped of her diamond wedding ring, wrist-watch and purse.

How It Happened

"My 17-year old son Tony

came home at around 4:30 that day," recounted Mr. Eugene Quesada, SR., a retired U.S. Army lieutenant. "As he was washing dishes, the telephone rang, but he didn't tell me anything, except that we should check 'Nanay' at the bus stop.

"Then, I heard an ambulance and a police car pass by our house, sirens blaring away. It was then I had an inkling what might have happened."

NOT NEW TO MUGGING

Listed in stable condition at the San Francisco General Hospital, Mrs. Quesada was coming home from work when she was accosted by two men and two women as she alighted at the bus stop. Police reports indicated she was shot in the head and stomach after she resisted her attackers.

The incident Mrs. Quesada

the fourth mugging victim in her family in less than three years; she had been mugged before.

Two and a half years ago, Mr. Quesada himself was mugged exactly the same spot where his wife was gunned down. His wallet was taken, containing cash from his retirement check.

Diana, their 25-year-old daughter had her own share when two years ago, her purse was snatched by two men as she walked to their house from work.

FAMILY FEAR-STRICKEN

The latest incident, which precipitated a sudden reunion with relatives brought a heavier climate of fear to this immigrant family.

"When we arrived here in 1972, I thought it was peaceful here," recalled Mr. Quesada. "I had no idea they do things like this here."

"Now, I cannot go out alone.



Remedios Quesada

I have to stay home all the time... I feel like a prisoner sometimes."

The Quesadas are confused

as to what to do next.

"My kids are suggesting that as soon as my wife gets well, we should go home to our hometown in La Union for a vacation," said Mr. Quesada. "Who knows, we might like it enough to stay permanently. I still don't know."

Other family members suggested they sell the house and move to a safer neighborhood. To this, Mr. Quesada retorted: "I don't think it matters where we move. There will be crime anywhere."

Everyone in the Quesada family might eventually find out he is correct. The economic hard times now gripping the country is steadily pushing the crime rate higher. As unemployment lines grow longer while social services get cut, anti-social activities and poverty-related crimes are expected to proliferate. □

Confab on Equal Rights:

Hawaii's Pinoys: Still Struggling from the Bottom

By HELEN TORIBIO
Honolulu Correspondent

Honolulu—Community organizers attending an immigrant rights conference here May 23 challenged the notion that Filipinos have "made it," and vowed to continue organizing for equality with the state's other inhabitants.

Delegates to the conference sponsored by the Hawaii chapter of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO) bristled at the idea that Filipinos are "the next successful group" now that there are "influential" Filipinos in business, government, and in various professions. Instead, the participants noted that Filipinos as a whole remain at the bottom of "society's pits."

The NFIRO held the conference as its contribution to the 75th anniversary commemoration of Filipino immigration to Hawaii.

Its theme, "After 75 Years: The Struggle for Equality Continues," expressed NFIRO's view that Filipinos today still suffer from discriminatory policies and practices in employment, education, social services, and the legislative process.

THE FIGHT GOES ON

"These difficulties are not too different from the hardships faced by the first wave of Filipino immigrants who began arriving in 1906," said Atty. Joe Florendo, the group's co-coordinator in

Hawaii. "The struggle for equality is just as important for the Filipino community today as the struggles for labor organizing and decent homes were for our forefathers."

INSTITUTIONAL RACISM TARGETTED

Four workshops took up the issues of affirmative action, legislation affecting immigrants, bilingual education, and equal access to social services.

Citing current facts from various sources including the Department of Planning and Economic Development and the state Department of Education Affirmative Action Report, the conference noted the following data:

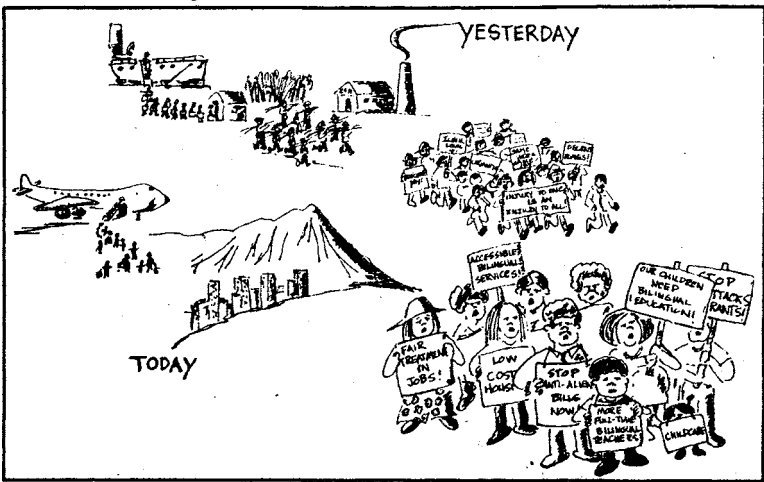
- In 1977, 59.6% of Filipino workers earned under \$5,000 a year. The low earning power of Filipinos is related to their relatively low occupational and educational level.

- Although Filipinos make up one of the largest ethnic groups in Hawaii, only 11.3% are employed in professional, technical and managerial positions—the lowest percentage of all major ethnic groups.

- As of 1979 only 7% of college graduates were Filipinos. Among Filipinos 25 years old and over, slightly over one-third reached the 8th grade in school.

Institutional racism or the systematic exclusion of minorities in public and private educational and training institutions was tar-

getted by the conference as the main cause of Filipinos' inability to rise above their current low socio-economic position.



Attending her first conference with the organization, Beverly Calizo remarked: "I did not know that such a thing as institutional racism existed. Before the conference, I thought it was OK to despise Filipinos with accents. But I learned that this, too, is discriminatory especially on the job."

BUILDING NFIRO IN HAWAII

NFIRO in Hawaii started two years ago as a task force. The task force rallied around Filipino SSI recipients who faced harassment from immigration officers.

After its formation, the NFIRO exposed the exploitation of 4-H trainees from the Philip-

The organization's most recent undertaking was assisting immigrant parents oust a principal of Kunia Elementary School

Filipinos.

Battling against chauvinist attitudes from government agencies and public misconceptions about care homes, organizers of UGHO struggled to gain public acceptance and understanding.

"Our conviction was that our ability to effect change lies in our ability to act on the basis of a strong organized base," said Medallon.

COMMUNITY ACTION NOW!

Resolutions emphasized community action against cases of job-related discrimination. The conference participants also pledged to collect data from state agencies on the occupational status of Filipino workers.

As one of its immediate tasks, NFIRO resolved to provide information on the rights of Filipino immigrants. Educational materials and community meetings will be planned on equal employment, monitoring of legislative bills, rights in getting social services, advocacy for bilingual education and on sensitizing social service workers.

"What I liked most about the resolutions is that NFIRO will be branching out to work with other organizations," commented a participant. "It will also reach out to Filipinos so we can expand our communications especially with those who don't know how to deal with their problems as immigrants." □

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Philippine National Day (PND) celebrations will take place in several cities across the nation for the sixth consecutive year during the week of June 6 to the 14th.

Aimed at highlighting the Filipinos' experiences, contributions and struggles in the United States as well as their continuing concern over the future of the Philippines, the PND drew a record crowd of 17,000 nationwide last year.

Listed below is this year's PND schedule:

SEATTLE
Hing Hay Park (Int'l District)
June 6, Saturday, 10-6 p.m.
"Let's Work Together Towards Progress"
Call: Glenn (206) 325-7625

LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles City College, 855 N. Vermont
June 7, Sunday 10-6 p.m.
"Learning from Our History—
Past and Present"
Call: Ben (213) 613-1519 or
Jerry (213) 835-3700

CHICAGO
Edgebrook Woods (on Central Avenue)
June 13, Saturday 10-6 p.m.

"Philippine National Day Barrio Fiesta"
Call: Mars Rivers (312) 271-9847
Esther Simpson (312) 275-4076

SAN FRANCISCO
Dolores Park (18th and Dolores)
June 13, Saturday 10-5 p.m.
"Bayanihan sa Panahon ng
Pangangailangan"
Call: Shirley (415) 752-1609
Raddie (415) 239-4721

NEW YORK
Flushing Meadow Park
June 13, Saturday 10-6 p.m.
Call: Therese (212) 565-7539
Joey (212) 533-7153

SACRAMENTO
William Land Park (open amphitheater)
July 18, Saturday 11-4 p.m.
Call: Dolores (916) 451-8592
Jay Paular (916) 391-7778

TORONTO (CANADA)
Seton Park
June 13, Saturday 10-6 p.m.
"Heritage and the
Struggle Against Racism"
Call: Fely (416) 276-3267
Rose (416) 690-8475

VANCOUVER
Killarney Park
June 13, Saturday 10-5 p.m.
Call: Lulu (604) 931-2726

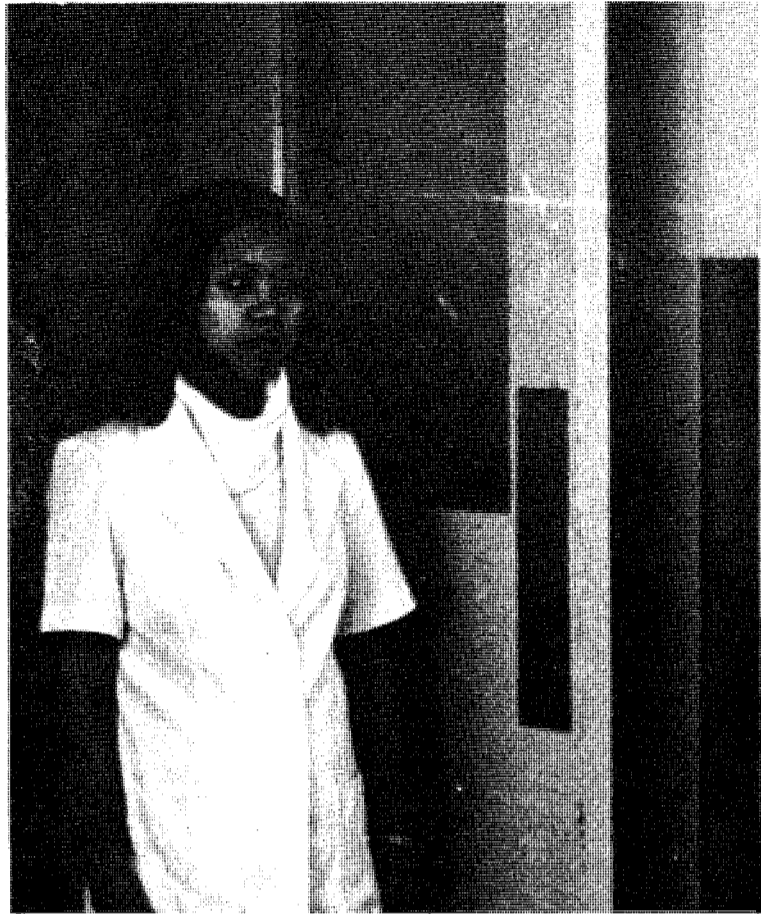
California Licensure Controversy:

Nursing Students Attack Board's Liberal Proposals

Los Angeles—"Do you want flunkers to take care of you?" screamed a picket sign carried by one of 20 protesters outside the Los Angeles State building where a regular State Board of Registered

Nursing (BRN) meeting was taking place May 15.

Inside some 200 people, mostly nursing students, nursing instructors and hospital administrators packed the meeting room.



Foreign nurses are accused of "lowering" the standard of health care. AK File

An undercurrent of hostility towards foreign nurses was evident in the questions shot at board members during the public forum portion of the meeting.

LOWERING HEALTH CARE STANDARDS

Most questions revolved around the board's decision to extend interim permits to nurses who failed the licensure test this year.

The permits have been extended to October 1981, when results of an investigation on the validity of the widely-used state Board Test Pool Exam (SBTPE) are due.

The students contend that the extension of interim permits is tantamount to lowering the standards of health care.

Patty Majchar, R.N., board president, explained that the board is compelled by law to investigate the validity of the existing exam, especially after it was found to have "adverse impact" on both foreign-trained nurses and minority nurses. The Department of Consumer Affairs confirmed this finding in a report.

"The permittees, however, are not to function as full registered nurses—"That was not the assumption of the Board," Majchar reiterated. "The nurses with extended permits are to continue

working under close supervision by licensed staff."

TESTING PROPOSALS ALSO HIT

The Board's intention to revise the licensing exam and procedures also came under attack from the floor. Protesters claimed that the Board is lowering the standards of the licensure procedure by making changes in the test and lowering of the passing scores.

After studying the exam, the board had proposed to throw out questions confirmed as "biased" by the Consumer Affairs report. This proposal would, as a result, reduce the number of items in the test. Correspondingly, the passing score of the exam would be lowered.

The board contends that its proposal suggests a practical approach to eliminating the "biased" aspects of the exam, and does not tamper with the standards of licensure.

One hospital administrator posed, "How could foreign nurses give quality care to patients when they do not speak English?" The board replied, "Who hires these nurses in the first place, if not you, the hospitals?"

The board added that foreign nurses are required to take an English test, on top of taking the licensure exam.

make reciprocity with other states impossible. Reciprocity allows licensed nurses to work in other states without having to take the state board test for those states.

CNA SPREADS DISSENT

Reacting to the attacks against the liberal board, supporters of H-1 and foreign-trained nurses asserted that the uproar from nursing students and faculty was instigated by the California Nurses Association (CNA).

"The CNA is actively countering recent decisions and proposals made by the state board," claimed Maribel Salomon, R.N., of the H-1 Nurses Support Committee in Los Angeles.

"Among other things, it has circulated a petition protesting these decisions. Many deans of nursing schools, hospital training program administrators, and local-trained nursing students echo these positions," Salomon noted.

Meanwhile, foreign nurses supporters such as the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 660 has given the board further opportunity to explain its proposals. Local 660 has invited Majchar to another forum.

The National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO) scored the CNA's attacks on the interim permits as "a clear reflection of their racist and anti-alien sentiments."

Lillian Galleo, NFIRO spokesperson said: "Despite evidence that the licensure exam adversely impacts minorities from American schools, and foreign nurses, the CNA twists the discriminatory licensure issue into one of 'professionalism.'"

Galleo further stated that the board's efforts to correct the past discrimination is commendable, while the CNA has only its interest, as an elitist organization, in mind.

"Their position is objectively the same as the Deans and Directors suit against the Board, even though the CNA says they are advocates for nurses. They are clearly not the friend of minority or foreign nurses," Galleo concluded. □

Labor Leaders Murdered . . .



Seattle Local 37 office: scene of the murders.

Continued from front page

"were pretty upset in that they couldn't buy their way in."

She cited the current economic situation as also being a factor to the frustrations suffered by workers in general. "At this time, we only have 800 jobs available, yet more than a thousand workers wait around in the union hall, waiting to be dispatched," noted Van Bronhorst.

Rumors reducing the killings to "petty bickerings within the union," were strongly denounced by Van Bronhorst.

"That's out of the question," she retorted. "Both Gene and Silme were in the forefront of various struggles for the last ten

years, whether it be student organizing, housing issues, concerns within the Filipino community, and, of course, trade union organizing. Obviously, there's much more at stake here."

MEMORIAL SERVICES PLANNED

Memorial services are being planned jointly by the union and the KDP, in cooperation with the victims' families.

Cathi Tactaquin, KDP National Executive Board member stated: "These memorial services are aimed at building a momentum against gangsterism. We will beat back any sort of intimidation and assist the union in getting rid of these criminal elements."

She urged the community to "turn grief into outrage against these criminal attacks, and to demand full justice."

Rene Cruz, national coordinator of the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship expressed sadness over the deaths. "Both of them were strong supporters of the anti-marital law movement," Cruz added.

The Philippine National Day celebrations, scheduled Saturday, June 6, will be an occasion for the Seattle Filipino community to pay tribute to the slain KDP activists.

Letters of condolences and/or flowers should be sent to the Union Hall, Local 37: 213 S. Main Street, Seattle, WA 98104. □

INDEPENDENT TEST OPPOSED

Noting strong bias against foreign-trained nurses, the board reminded its audience that "adverse impact" affects minority nurses trained in the U.S. as well.

Another issue which surfaced during the meeting was the state board's plan to move away from the National Council of State Board's licensing procedures. The National Council supplies the SBTPE exam to all member states.

According to the board, the National Council has not taken steps to examine the existing licensure exam, and yet it is formulating a new one.

A separate California testing system is opposed by U.S. graduates on the grounds that it will

U.S. Congress . . .

Continued from front page

of the human rights of the Filipino people," Jeffords declared.

'ON THE WRONG SIDE'

Supporting Jeffords' statements, Rep. Berkeley Bedell of Iowa also cautioned Congress "not to blind itself to the dictatorial power that Marcos retains." Citing that "the stakes are much greater in the Philippines than in Nicaragua" where repression and political instability led to the collapse of the Somoza regime, Bedell called on his colleagues to determine "whether the lifting of martial law has truly meant the return of basic rights and liberty."

Bedell further told his peers "to be equally clear that when the U.S. joins the side of dictatorial repression, in the long run we are joining the wrong side."

Such regimes, Bedell noted,

must either respect the human rights of its people or "face the loss of political legitimacy on which true stability rests."

Bedell warned further: "By closely aligning ourselves with repressive unstable governments, by ignoring opportunities to encourage peaceful and popular change, we are acting against our own best interests."

WORRY OVER THE BASES

What came clear during the House debate however, was the reaffirmation of the strategic importance of the Philippines because of the U.S. military bases.

At the same time, while there is no move both within Congress and the Executive branch, to cut aid to the Marcos regime, there is concern among liberals that misinterpreted by Marcos, consequently blocking "any serious effort to improve the human rights situation" in the Philippines. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

News Analysis:

Re-Arming Japan: Will Yamashita Ride Again?

By WALTER YONN
Staff Writer

Recently, Japan-U.S. relations have shown signs of strain.

The U.S. wants a limit on the importation of Japanese cars and other goods but also wants the restrictions on U.S. goods entering Japan to be eased. Washington has also been very critical of Japan for not bearing its "fair share" of countering the "Soviet threat."

Because of this increasing strain, there has been some speculation that Japan may strike out on its own, separate its interest from that of the U.S. and thereby be like France under De Gaulle.

VULNERABILITY AND PRAGMATISM

Japan has the third largest economy in the world, next only to the U.S. and the USSR. Japan's limited home market and complete lack of vital metals and fuel also makes it the most aggressive trader in the world market.

Japan imports 99% of its oil, 70% of its natural gas, 100% of its steel ingredients (iron and nickel), 99% of its copper and aluminum, and 80% of its coal.

This shows that strong as it is, Japan's economy is ultimately vulnerable to the maneuvers of bigger giants. Perhaps because of this Achilles' heel, Japan has adopted a more pragmatic view of its political differences with other nations, compared to the United States. For example, Japan is the number one capitalist trade partner of China, USSR, North Korea and Cuba. This usually gives credence to the speculation that Japan may take an independent course from the U.S.

Pragmatism aside however, a quick examination of Japan's largest markets for its goods and investments is a reminder that Japan's interest and future is still inseparable from the capitalist world and the US in particular.

JAPANESE PENETRATION

The most important market for Japanese goods is the U.S. which absorbs 30% of its export goods. Japan's trade with Western Europe was fairly balanced until last year, when Europe ended up importing 10 billion dollars more from Japan than it exported.

In Asia, Japan's economic presence has come to equal (and in some instances, surpass) that of the U.S. Japan's economy is ten times the size of that of the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore combined!

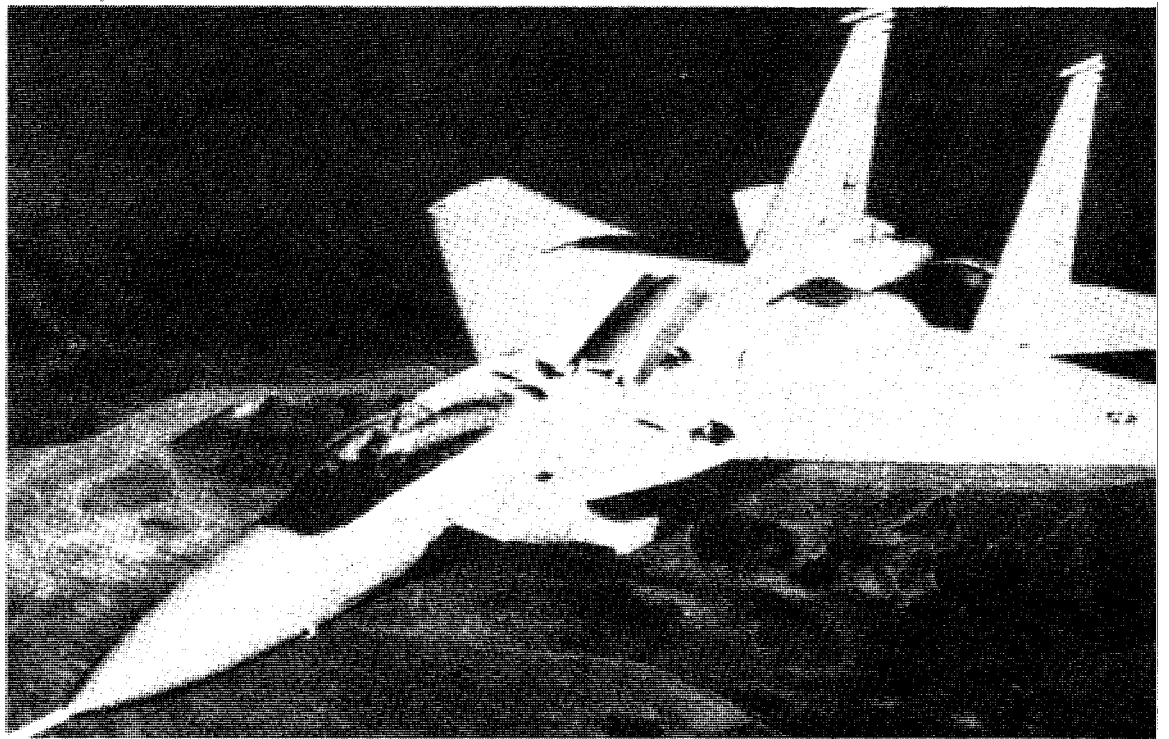
It is the largest trading partner of these ASEAN countries, purchasing 30% of their exports and accounting for 22% of its imports and 44% of their foreign investments. (The figures for the U.S. in the same categories are 21%, 15%, and 24% respectively.)

India has recently completed \$3.1 billion hydroelectric and debt relief package with Japan making the latter, the largest capital investor in India.

Japan's successful penetration of these markets, while at the same time protecting its own, has been the source of its growing antagonisms with other non-socialist countries—the U.S. and Western Europe in particular.

RELUCTANCE TO ARM

Aside from Japan's economic competitiveness, its apparent lack



F-15 Fighter Bomber, the U.S.'s most advanced combat aircraft, gives Japan regional offensive capacities.

of interest in military development has been a source of criticism from the U.S. and Europe.

Japan was expected to increase its military budget this year by almost 10%, at least approaching similar levels in other major capitalist countries. While its rising military expenditure has incurred domestic criticism, to the major powers this is not enough. To them Japan is still dragging its feet on rearmament.

Some observers point to Japan's "Peace Constitution" as the main hindrance to its rearming in a major way. This constitution, forced on Japan by U.S. occupation forces after WWII, forbids the development of offensive military forces outside its borders.

Also under this constitution, Japan is to remain in the safety of the U.S. nuclear umbrella. It supposedly requires only enough force for domestic order and to delay invading forces until the U.S. can reply.

But these constitutional restrictions are becoming more and more insignificant. Now, the U.S. itself is urging Japan to develop more arms and to take on more regional military respon-

sibility. Echoing Washington is China which wants Japan to pose as a check to the "Soviet threat" in Asia.

More importantly, two-thirds of the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party is itself favoring a change in the constitutional restrictions to rearmament. So what else could be the hindrance to a faster Japanese re-militarization?

JAPAN WILL RE-ARM

It is clear that despite the rising anti-Soviet rhetoric in Washington, Japan is not fully convinced of the "Soviet expansionist" threat.

In fact, Japan finds it advantageous to maintain virtually no military presence in the world while leaving its capitalist brothers to shoulder this expensive responsibility. This eliminates the risk of military confrontation for it itself, and allows more economic maneuverability—to the irritation of the U.S. and Western Europe.

Japan's future however, is inseparable from the U.S. and is constantly being reminded of that. With each national liberation vic-

tory Japan, as with other capitalist countries, loses investment territory and opportunities for financial expansion.

The Soviet Union's military power is seen by Washington as the main hindrance to its ability to confront these liberation movements more squarely. Thus, the Reagan administration is demanding and pressuring its allies to build up militarily in order to cut the perceived Soviet counterforce down to manageable size.

Though Japan is hesitant to abandon its sly and economically advantageous approach to world politics, the vulnerability of its own economy will not be able to stand up to mounting pressure from the U.S. and Western Europe. Also, Japan ultimately shares with these big capitalist nations an interest in checking national liberation movements.

Given these circumstances, the prospects of a Gaullist Japan, with a course independent from the U.S.-led capitalist bloc, is highly unlikely. Japan will comply with U.S. demands and re-arm to proportions duly characteristic of an imperialist power. □

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION SETBACK



Reprinted from ACLU News

A little publicized proposal by Congressman Paul McCloskey is being publicly condemned by the ACLU-NC as a serious threat to affirmative action in federal contract programs.

Currently, Executive Order 11246, executed on September 25, 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson, requires nondiscrimination whenever employees are

hired by government contractors or subcontractors. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) oversees the federal affirmative action program and has the authority to investigate and enforce the Executive Order.

McCloskey's proposal would eliminate the OFCCP or severely reduce its effectiveness by taking away its muscle—greatly restrict-

ing the agency's authority to process, investigate and evaluate claims against alleged discriminatory policies or to remedy non-compliance with equal employment laws and regulations.

According to ACLU-NC staff attorney Margaret Crosby, who has handled a number of successful affirmative action cases for the ACLU, "Thousands of employers in this country are

government contractors. For example, everyone who supplies goods such as cornflakes and camera film to the military is subject to the present order. Thus, the effect of McCloskey's measure would be to remove standards for nondiscrimination in thousands of employment situations.

The ACLU noted that a particular danger of McCloskey's proposal is that it comes in the

form of a re-draft of an Executive Order, which means that it does not have to be debated or approved by Congress.

The ACLU is urging its members and all constituents who support affirmative action to contact Congressman McClosley to express their disapproval of his attempts to dismantle affirmative action by redrafting the Executive Order. □

FOCUS ON DAVAO

Gov't-Backed Vigilantes Sow Rightwing Terror

By CRIS TAGAM
Staff Writer

War-torn Mindanao once again caught public attention as Davao City, a major urban center, became the target of a series of grenade attacks.

The boldest and deadliest of these was the Easter Sunday bombing of the packed San Pedro Cathedral. Some 16 people were killed and hundreds more wounded. (See *AK*, Vol. VIII, No. 9.)

Government authorities immediately blamed the revolutionary New People's Army (NPA) and the Bangsa Moro Army (BMA). But new evidence shows that increased terrorism in Davao has been the handiwork of a number of rightwing groups aided and abetted by the authorities themselves.

REVOLUTIONARIES' PRESENCE

Undeniably, the NPA, military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has in recent months shown signs of its presence and a solid base of support in the area surrounding Davao through successful battles with government troops.

Many believe this to be an implementation of the NPA's three-year plan to expand and consolidate its mass base in Mindanao.

Local residents, however,

claim that the Easter bombing fit neither the NPA nor the BMA style of operations. Both the NPA and the BMA, singly and in joint efforts, target mainly government troops. Often attacks are conducted to acquire more guns and ammunition.

Even Davao Archbishop Antonio Mabutis, no friend of the NPA, absolved them of the bombing. Many a conservative finger soon pointed to the dreaded "Lost Command."

MERCENARY GOONS

Made up of Philippine armed forces renegades-turned mercenaries, the Lost Command roams southern Mindanao in search of revolutionaries and anti-Marcos activists. Members believe themselves licensed to kill NPAs. Many believe it to be responsible for the murder of Fr. Godofredo Alingal, an activist priest, last month.

The Lost Command, however, does not confine itself to rebels. They double as hired goons for local politicians and businessmen threatened by the NPA or interested in finishing off rivals.

TERROR TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY

The Lost Command by no means holds a monopoly on terror in the south.

The Rural Reformist Move-



Vigilante groups can strike anyone.

ment (RRM), led by a Commander Alitaptap, boasts a record 100 villagers shot or beheaded for their failure to cooperate with the RRM's efforts "to restore democracy."

A "manifesto" issued in February proclaimed that the RRM's primary goal is "to support Marcos' program for good government." Some 400 people have already fled the RRM's terror campaign in Davao del Norte. Another rightwing terrorist group has sought shelter behind a religious name: "The Charismatic Movement of the Philippines" (CMP).

In its "efforts to rid Cotabato and Davao of NPAs," CMP coaxes confessions out of villagers "through persuasion." It then kills suspected NPA sympathizers. Recruits are often armed and placed in what are believed to be NPA pathways with orders to kill persons entering the area.

Rivalry between groups like RRM and the CMP is inevitable. Envious of the CMP's log-

ging concessions, the RRM last year resorted to extortion and then blamed the CMP for its own deeds. The RRM later intimidated other logging companies into letting them cut and sell logs.

GOVERNMENT BACKING

This petty jealousy was settled late last year in a "territorial rights peace conference" mediated by Quirino Ungab of the Davao National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA).

The RRM refers to Ungab as "one of the strongest supporters and admirers aiding us in subsistence and a little finance."

While NISA backing of the RRM and CMP is low-key, government instigation is much more blatant in the case of the Davao area PANAMIN's (Presidential Assistant on National Minorities) terror activities.

PANAMIN forcibly placed some 4,000 Atas under the leadership of two non-Ata "datus." By doing so, the government com-

mission hoped to quell rising anger among the Atas over PANAMIN's failure to deliver promised money and services. Protests also stemmed from the use of Atas as cheap labor in a nearby banana plantation.

Authorities created an 80-member Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) locally known as the PANAMIN CHDF, to maintain order within the tribe and for general counterinsurgency purposes.

The trend toward increased government support for locally-based vigilante groups falls right into place with its efforts at cleansing its own human rights image tarnished by abusive government troops.

While relieving the regime of some of the dirtier and more inhumane counterinsurgency tasks, the vigilantes' terror campaigns also provide Manila an excuse to take "forceful measures" such as the continuance of martial law in parts of Mindanao. □

Negrito Guerrilla:

DEATH OF A RED FIGHTER

Adapted from ANG BAYAN

When "Kasamang Sonny" of the New People's Army (NPA) died in Capas, Tarlac defending his unit, it was a time of grief for his squad, his battalion, his army, and his people.

He was so young—a mere 17, so experienced—a revolutionary supporter from the age of 10, and so full of promise.

Ka. Sonny was an Ita, a Negrito, a member of what may well be the most oppressed of Filipino minorities. The first people to settle the Philippine archipelago, the Negritos were pushed steadily up the mountains as waves of people bearing more advanced civilizations settled the lowlands.

Their constant retreat into ever more unfavorable lands has formed the basis of what some call a "culture of silence."

EASY PREY

Today, the Itas of the Zambales Range in Luzon live in a constant battle for survival. Their health is well below the already dismal standards of the lowland peasants. Children are extremely malnourished. Most villagers eat only once a day. Mortality rates for both infants and adults are shockingly high.

Landgrabbing and exploitation continue in spite of the unfavorable terrain the Itas now occupy. Slash-and-burn farming, the method by which most survive, has been declared illegal.

Illiteracy and inability to count make the Itas easy prey for lowland swindlers who buy their rattan, honey and resin. Their minimal social organization keeps them weak and dispersed.

But there are Itas who manage to surmount their harsh environment, broaden their vision and become revolutionaries. They are a new crop of political leaders who can teach their people the tools of self-determination. Ka. Sonny was one of them, and one of the best.

GUERRILLA SUPPORTER AT 10

Sonny learned to think beyond the confines of his own family and his *sitio* in Capas. When he was only five, his father joined the old HMB (*Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan*—People's Liberation Army).

When Sonny was seven, he was arrested along with his mother by soldiers searching for his father. When she refused to divulge any information, his mother was severely beaten before his eyes, sustaining injuries which eventually led to her death.

Upon the formation of NPA units in Tarlac, Sonny's father joined. By the time Sonny was 10, he had become close to the armed propaganda unit operating in their *sitio*.

He wished to help and was asked to aid the guerrillas in maintaining their contacts with the peasants, to deliver messages, and to keep certain papers and

supplies.

By the age of 14, Sonny had become an organizer heading up a youth group within the *sitio*. He had also agreed to act as the chief contact for the NPA in the area.

BREAKING THE BONDAGE OF ILLITERACY

Sonny became a full-time guerrilla at the age of 15. While he concentrated on advancing his unit's military and organizing work, he was determined to break the bondage of illiteracy. With the help of his comrades, he quickly learned to read.

Sonny saw much military activity. His unit joined with other Red fighters to disarm 13 CHDF men in a barrio and two *sitios* in Mabalacat, Pampanga. He was pleased when his stepmother joined the NPA.

On the day of his death, Sonny's unit was resting in a clearing when concealed enemy soldiers opened fire. The first burst of fire caught Sonny, wounding him fatally. He managed to grab his rifle and fire at the enemy as his unit withdrew. There were no other casualties.

While those who knew him and his promise mourn him, Ka. Sonny had his way. This Red fighter knew the fate of the oppressed people only too well. Upon joining the NPA he told family and friends, "Instead of dying at the hands of the enemy without a fight, I prefer to die fighting, and serving the people." □



Young Negrito; Those like Ka. Sonny can learn to transcend their oppression and make self-determination a reality. PHIL HERITAGE