

R.P.-China Diplomatic Ties Made

The Philippines has opened full ties with China, ending 25 years of the government's hostility and suspicion towards the People's Republic of China.

In a joint communique signed by Pres. Marcos and Vice Premier Teng Hsiao Ping on June 9, both countries agreed that "the difference between the economic, political and social systems of the 2 countries should not constitute an obstacle to peaceful co-existence..."

In the same communique, the Philippines recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China and that there is but one China. Within hours after the signing, the Philippines broke its relations with Taiwan.

A trade agreement between the countries was also signed by Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade Li Chian and Philippine Sec. of

Industry Vicente Paterno.

Preceded by Malaysia, who established ties with China last year, the Philippines is the second member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to recognize China. Thailand has indicated that it will follow soon, leaving only Indonesia and Singapore to extend ties.

THE FUTURE DIRECTION

The normalization of ties between China and these Asian countries reflect the changing conditions in Asia, particularly in view of the recent victories in Indochina. Marcos, quick to note the trend of self-reliance and neutrality established in the region, has himself conceded that there is "a wind of change blowing in Asia." Vice Premier Teng said in his welcoming speech that the great victory won in Indo-

china means a new era for the Third World and Asian peoples. Teng added that "the many countries and peoples of the Third World are steadily strengthening their unity and playing an ever greater role in international affairs...the historical trend of Asian peoples determining their own destinies is pressing forward irresistibly."

The agreement between China and the Philippines underlined both countries' opposition to "any attempt by any country or group of countries to establish hegemony or create spheres of influence in any part of the world."

In his 5-day visit to China, Marcos was accompanied by Mrs. Marcos and 2 of their children, together with close to a hundred Filipino officials. During his visit, Marcos met with Mao-Tse-Tung and Chou En Lai.

The event was greeted warmly by both the Chinese and Filipino peoples. Banners and streamers in a banquet for Marcos read: "Firmly support the people of the Philippines in their struggle to safeguard national independence and state sovereignty"; "Long live the friendships of people of Philippines and China." In the Philippines, where the event was being televised via satellite, the signing of the agreement was celebrated by the Chinese community with a display of Chairman Mao posters in Chinatown.

Teng in his speeches always reiterated: "Let our two peoples live in friendship from generation to generation."

Pickets Denounce June 12 Marcos 'Freedom Day'

NEW YORK—Anti martial law protestors challenged Marcos' "Freedom Day," June 12, with pickets of Philippine consulates, cultural presentations and forums in the major cities of the U.S.

Demonstrations rallied around the slogan of, "No freedom or independence under martial law," in a concerted effort to denounce the dictatorship's publicity around "Independence Day," renamed "Freedom Day" this year by Marcos. As in the past, the dictatorship has used this day to proclaim the glories of the "New Society" through staging numerous activities in the Filipino communities.

As part of the nationwide effort, KDP chapters distributed almost 50,000 independent leaflets exposing the historical links between the U.S. and the Philippines—the "sham independence," as well as the lack of freedom under martial law for the Filipino masses.

One of the first major anti martial law activities in some time was staged in Hawaii on June 12, when an alliance of groups and individuals sponsored a symposium on martial law.

The event, sponsored by the FFP, KDP and MFP, together with various individuals, included several speakers and singing and a skit by KDP members. Speakers were Daniel Rubio, of the MFP; Robert Stauffer, a political science professor at the University of Hawaii and Meli da Kerkvliet, active in various community and anti martial law efforts.

In Seattle, over 125 persons picketed the Philippine Consulate, which had moved its annual celebration to Tacoma. Picket organizers speculated the change was because the Consulate feared disruptions by anti-martial law protestors, who have increased their activities over the past year.

A noontime picket of the Philippine consulate offices in downtown San Francisco drew a crowd of Marcos agents who followed protestors with movie cameras and attempted to harass certain speakers. Members of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition in Northern Califor-

nia sponsoring the event responded to this intimidation by continuously placing placards in front of the cameras.

In Los Angeles, KDP and the National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines (NCRCLP), organized a similar picket in downtown Los Angeles.

Eugene Asidao of KDP, and Denise Iverson of the Friends of the Filipino People spoke in the Chicago area's demonstration protesting Freedom Day.

Leaflets explaining why there is no freedom nor independence under martial law were distributed at Independence Mall in Philadelphia. Despite the inclement weather, KDP members reported a favorable response to the leafletting.

The Philippine Trade Center was the site of a late afternoon picket organized by the Anti-Martial Law Alliance in New York, with some 50 people participating.

Inside this Issue

- U.S. Bases Remain in R.P.....pg. 5
- Behind Muslim Peace Talks....pg. 6
- FWC Work Moves Forward...pg. 13
- Refugee Future in U.S.?.... pg. 14



In New York (left) and San Francisco (right) and other major cities, anti martial law groups and individuals picketed Philippine consulates on June 12, so-called "Freedom Day." At right a marcher holds her picket sign in front of the camera of a Consulate agent.

A SALUTE TO INDOCHINA VICTORIES



Ho Chi Minh

There are many lessons to be learned from the recent events in Indochina. The most important is that a people's aspiration for national liberation is ultimately more powerful than the greatest imperialist power the world has known. The victories of the Indochinese people are a concrete expression of this truth; and an inspiring example for the Filipino people, who are engaged in a similar revolutionary struggle for genuine freedom and independence against the U.S. — Marcos dictatorship.

The KDP joins with the Filipino revolutionary movement, other revolutionaries and all progressive and peace loving forces throughout the world - that is, the overwhelming majority of humanity - in saluting these victories.

Reprinted on page two is the salutary statement from the Philippines of the Preparatory Commission for a National Democratic Front (NDF), the organizational expression of the United Front of all patriotic Filipinos opposed to the U.S. — Marcos dictatorship.

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EDITORIAL

The People Will Surely Win!

The brilliant successes of the peoples of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos against U.S. imperialism and its puppets illustrate once more the great truth that it is the people who make history, and that all reactionaries and their friends, though seemingly strong, are in reality weak when confronted by a determined people.

The National United Front of Cambodia...has finally brought about the defeat of imperialism in their country and overthrown the corrupt puppet regime of Lon Nol. This remarkable feat was accomplished within the span of five years through the building of the people's army and the united front.

In South Vietnam...the whole of the country is liberated and the entire Vietnamese people are finally free to determine their destiny.

The Lao Patriotic Front has made great progress in the liberated zones of Laos, has maintained its identity and initiative in the coalition government, and has stood as a mighty bulwark of the Lao people against the desperate attempts of U.S. imperialism to defeat the forces of national liberation.

The oppressive character, barbarity and greed of imperialism and its local allies have been nowhere more amply illustrated than in Indochina, where it seemed they would remain for a long time. But it is the law of history that oppression breeds revolution, and an unjust society as that nurtured by neocolonialism cannot last so long as the people are united and willing to fight for the right to determine their destiny. In much the same way, the Marcos dictatorship, which even now is making "nationalist" noises while repeatedly assuring its imperialist masters of the sanctity of their investments, cannot last forever.

The growth of the New People's Army has been unprecedented since Marcos declared martial law; other forms of resistance against his regime are growing everyday; and more and more Filipinos are realizing that only through unity and armed struggle can they win national and social freedom.

The liberation forces in the Philippines must ultimately depend on the masses in their hundreds of thousands, build the people's army and develop further their unity under the principle of armed struggle as the primary means for the seizure of political power. This will be a long and difficult task.



...History is, in the long run, on the side of national liberation, as the lesson of Indochina teaches. Imperialism may appear strong, and it must be so regarded from the short run viewpoint; but it is, in the long run, weak. The people of Indochina have more than shown the truth of this viewpoint, and have, indeed, pointed out the correctness of the basic strategy of the liberation struggle in the colonial and semi-colonial countries.

...Long live the victory of the peoples of Indochina!
...The people will surely win!

-Preparatory Commission for a National Democratic Front [NDF]
April 28, 1975

Manglapus' Top Secret Negotiations

At a critical time when the anti-martial law movement must clearly expose the ties of the Marcos dictatorship to U.S. interests, there remains certain anti-martial law forces who are unwilling to work in a cooperative way with the rest of the movement. In particular, the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP) and its president Raul Manglapus have consistently refused to honestly participate in key joint activities; to help promote the unity of the anti-dictatorship movement such as the historic Conference of the Anti-Martial Law Movement held in Chicago, Dec. 28-29; and the subsequent jointly sponsored actions.

Up until this time the MFP has not been able to explain their lack of participation in the National Conference, even though they were invited to participate at every stage of the planning. But despite this non-cooperation from the MFP, the anti-martial law movement has made great strides in the coordination of joint activities. For example, there has been the collection of some 20,000 signatures on stop U.S. aid petitions, publication of the political prisoners pamphlet, preparation of the budget analysis of U.S. aid to Marcos, and nation-wide demonstrations on June 12. In each one of these activities, the Movement for a Free Philippines has been invited to participate, and in every case has either ignored these invitations or participated in a very half-hearted way.

Although the joint activities of the anti-martial law movement have been overall successful, the MFP's anti-unity stance has hampered their full possible effectiveness. Even now, the final goal of uniting all anti martial law groups in a broad and powerful coalition has been delayed while the MFP withholds its support. In the final analysis, these actions can only serve to strengthen the Marcos dictatorship.

Such glaring lack of cooperation by the MFP may be closely linked with the kind of ties that ex-Senator Manglapus has long cultivated with the U.S. State Department and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Recent reports from the Philippine underground newspaper *Agham-Bayan* (Science for the People) Vol.1 No.2, confirmed that ex-Sen. Manglapus made a visit to Clark Air Base in the Philippines during his latest trip to Asia, in order to confer with none other than Ambassador William Sullivan. Sullivan, who has long been linked with the CIA, has been under sharp attack by the anti-martial law movement both for his role as the architect of the secret bombings by the U.S. during his ambassadorship to Laos and for his similar future mission in the Philippines.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

What kind of discussions take place in these high echelons of negotiations between ex-Sen. Manglapus and Ambassador Sullivan? What kinds of guarantees for U.S. interests in the Philippines is Manglapus prepared to deliver for perhaps a CIA coup-d'etat that would install him as the next President? Why are the subjects of such discussions held in such secrecy from the other forces active against the dictatorship? We wonder, are even the rank and file members of the Movement for a Free Philippines informed of such discussions by their president, ex-Sen. Manglapus?

Indeed, these are the questions posed to ex-Sen. Manglapus by all those who have participated in the hard work of building the anti-dictatorship movement over the past two and one-half years. We are sure that the entire anti-martial law movement awaits some explanation...If Mr. Manglapus is serious about his concern for the interests of the Filipino people, let him put aside any narrow ambitions and secret ties to U.S. interests in the Philippines. All those who are sincere in their opposition to the fascist dictatorship and support the well being of the Filipino people should heighten our cooperation, strengthen our unity, and move forward to the formalization of a broad anti-martial law coalition.

New Conditions for Liberation Struggles in Asia

With the recent fall of the corrupt U.S.-backed dictatorships in S. Viet Nam and Cambodia, the political situation in S.E. Asia has abruptly altered. These critical events over the last month's time must be studied and analyzed carefully by the Filipino people in order to see both the direct impact and far-reaching implications on the Philippine situation.

The major political trend, greatly bolstered by the liberation of these two countries, has been the strengthening of the forces who are fighting for their national independence from the long standing semi-colonial rule of U.S. and other Western powers. The liberation of the Indochinese peoples from this foreign domination represents a serious blow to U.S. corporate and military interest in all of Asia. Among the Asian nations there is a rising trend of self-respect and national dignity which calls for their complete independence and sovereignty in all of their political, economic, military and social affairs.

This trend has reached such strength that the U.S. has been forced to reassess its entire position in Asia and substantially withdraw its "lines of defense" (actually offense). Both the strength of nationalist forces within several Asian countries, as well as international public

opinion is forcing the U.S. to give up any plans to hold such countries as Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and possibly even S. Korea. But for the Philippines and Indonesia it has meant a conscious decision of U.S. foreign policy to "dig in" and attempt to retain them both at all costs. This is closely related to the fact that 80% of all U.S. investments in S.E. Asia, as well as vital military installations, are located in these two countries, particularly in the Philippines.

Of course, these developments have maintained serious implications for the Marcos dictatorship as well, which has been visibly shaken by the recent events in its neighboring countries. The fall of Marcos' fellow dictatorial regimes has brought an end to the period of outright puppets who mouth every position of its backers, the imperialists. Marcos has been forced to adopt an appearance of a "progressive" and "nationalist" image.

For one who has catered so long to U.S. interests and has taken every opportunity to defend its control, Marcos is not well suited to the "nationalist" image. Yet, he is now "renegotiating" the unequal U.S.-R.P Military Relations Pact, and has hinted about putting the Philippine national interests first. He is scurrying for diplomatic ties with the People's

Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and the new revolutionary governments in S. Viet Nam and Cambodia. In addition, Marcos is initiating Asian conferences to form a "peace zone" of "neutrality" and "non-alignment," including the recently liberated nations of Indochina.

But these "progressive" and "independent" images of the Marcos regime are

(continued on page 3)



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R.P.-CHINA TIES

Victory for Chinese and Filipino Peoples

By Samuel P. Bayani

The establishment of diplomatic and trade relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China is a major victory for China as a nation on one hand and for the Chinese and Filipino people on the other.

It is a victory for China's international policy of establishing peaceful and friendly relations with countries of different social systems based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. It also marks the defeat of the rabid anti-China policy espoused by the United States and blindly followed by all the Philippine puppet governments until recently.

After failing in its imperialist designs on China in 1949, the U.S. adopted a strategy of encircling and isolating China. For 25 years, the US supported the illegitimate Chiang-Kai-Shek clique in Taiwan, a province of China, and propped it up with military arms and economic aid. The US also maintained bases in Taiwan, and its 7th Fleet patrolled the Taiwan Straits with obvious anti-China intent. Furthermore, it designed the South East Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO), a military alliance promoted to encircle China with Asian puppet states like the Philippines.

Despite these deliberate moves to undermine its sovereignty, however, China succeeded in developing and strengthening herself as a socialist country. From this, her influence and prestige grew internationally, despite the fanatical attempts of the US to malign her with vicious anti-China propaganda and lies.

China also established diplomatic and bilateral trade agreements with other countries. The number of governments now recognizing China totals 100, while the isolated Taiwan government has diplomatic ties with only 26.

ANTI-CHINA POLICY DEFEATED

China always desired principled relations with countries, including the U.S., who recognized her national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. While the U.S. arrogantly persisted in imposing a political and economic blockade against China, her foreign policy eventually triumphed and she successfully reversed the anti-China policy.

Despite U.S. protests and maneuvers, she gained her rightful seat in the United Nations in 1971. In this world body of nations, China led the Third World countries in fighting for their national rights. China succeeded in diplomatically counter-encircling the US and successfully forged an international united front of Third World countries against US imperialism.

With China's prestige clearly established in the world, the U.S. was forced to abandon its anti-China stance. Nixon's visit to China in 1972 signalled the defeat of this antiquated policy, and Marcos just followed suit.

No special commendation, however, belongs to the U.S. nor Marcos for finally recognizing this irreversible world trend. Since WWII, the capitalist countries, particularly the U.S., have been wracked with serious contra-



Pres. & Mrs. Marcos meet with Mao Tse-Tung

dictions. While the U.S. emerged from the War as a world power, each successful national liberation struggle—China, Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia—has also weakened U.S. strength in Asia in terms of colonies, fields of investment and markets for U.S. products. This weakening is accompanied by intensified competition among capitalist countries who fight with each other over the Asian "spoils."

At home, the U.S. is also reeling from a serious economic recession, a crisis that is everyday nearing the same proportions as the Great Depression of the 30's. Because of domestic and international capitalist crises, the U.S. has become increasingly unreliable in providing for its client-states, like the Philippines.

The economic ills of the Philippines have become so grave that Marcos's "peace and progress" slogans and other economic boom propaganda has no more effect. They have been belied completely by the soaring 50% inflation, food and fuel shortages, rampant unemployment and millions owed in trade deficits and foreign debts. As a result, the political tyranny of his dictatorship had become even more insufferable among the people.

Faced with an economic crisis and with intensified anti-dictatorship sentiments, Marcos sought other alternatives to the US-RP "spec-

ial relations" to salvage the economy and extend the life of his regime.

Therefore, benefits from trade with China was an important consideration in Marcos' motives.

China conducts trade on the principle of equal exchange and mutual benefit. As a socialist country, China does not demand special privileges, and makes no investments under any guise in any country. Trade with China will be mutually beneficial. Goods of high quality can be bought from China at lower prices. Crude oil, for example, is traded at a much cheaper price from China. Because of the much shorter distance between the two countries, shipping costs will also be much less than between the Philippines and the U.S. Moreover, China is not a small market, and Philippine logging, coconut products, copper and even sugar exports are expected to increase.

In contrast, the U.S. as the Philippines' main trading partner, has used its economic ties as leverage to extract more economic, political and military concessions, including parity rights to exploit Philippine resources and extra-territorial rights for military bases.

Though the RP-China trade agreement will not change U.S. economic domination of the country, such advantages and benefits of friendly relations with China are bound to weaken U.S. political control.

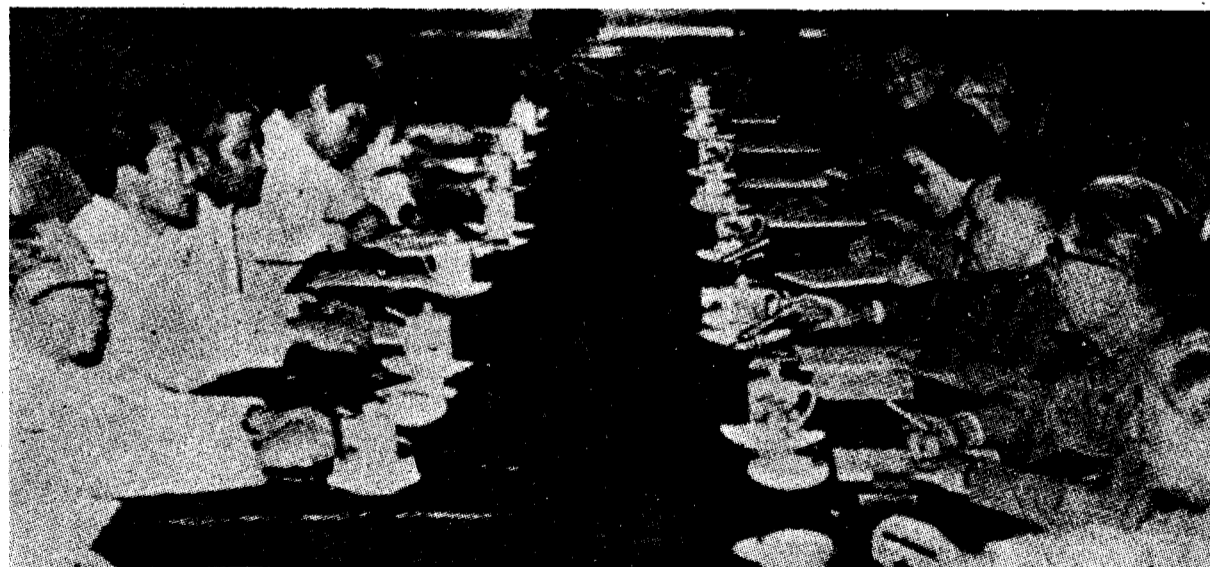
VICTORY FOR FILIPINO PEOPLE

The establishment of diplomatic and trade relations with China is therefore a major advance for the Chinese and Filipino people.

It has been a long-time demand of the Filipino revolutionary movement to recognize the country's northern neighbor. Before martial law, public opinion already questioned the Philippine's foreign policy of limiting relations to the so-called "free world." The movement decried this as subservient to American policy and detrimental to Philippine national interests. In the 1960's, progressive sectors of the population initiated people-to-people exchange with China, despite the government's threats and protests.

This recent formalization of ties with China

(continued on page 4)



Marcos and Chinese Vice-Premier, Teng Hsiao Ping opened talks in Peking on China-RP relations.

Asian Struggles...

(continued from page 6)

nothing more than a sophisticated facade. Similar to the "new society" of glorified "clean streets" and "peace and order," this image is quickly shattered by the grim realities of martial law—like spiralling inflation and suppression of democratic rights. The new "nationalist" image of the Marcos regime is also fated to bite the dust as the reality of this complete tie-up to U.S. imperialism cannot be covered.

In the recent ASEAN conference, the Marcos proposal for a zone of "neutrality" and "non-aligned" countries was firmly rejected

by the revolutionary government of S. Viet Nam which pointed out that some countries (particularly the Philippines) still maintain U.S. military bases which could not be characterized as a "neutralist" policy. In fact, regarding the coming base agreement negotiations, the Marcos regime has stepped way back from its original proclamations of possible removal or substantial cut-backs, its current position is one possible rent compensation or small cutbacks of the 200,000 hectares of U.S. military reservations on Philippine soil. Marcos' most recent comments have been to assure the U.S. that these were not serious proposals to remove the bases, and now the regime maintains strict silence on its real positions for the "renegotiations."

What is clear out of this new situation is that the essential character of the Marcos dictator-

ship still remains as an unpopular regime, propped up by the U.S. and maintaining its aggression against Philippine national sovereignty.

Although the basic conditions of Marcos subservience to the U.S. remain unaltered, these new and complex international developments require the careful consideration of the Philippine anti martial law movement. Certainly, the dictatorship will make every effort to turn this situation to its advantage. In such a period it is crucial that the anti-martial law movement expose more effectively the complete tie-up that the Marcos regime maintains with U.S. imperialism, and challenge any illusion of Marcos "independence." Only through such exposure can we insure that the just demands of the Filipino people for genuine independence and democracy can be fulfilled.

PRG Exposes R.P. Detente Bluff

By Ma. Flor Sepulveda

The duplicity of Marcos's "non-aligned" foreign policy was recently exposed during the 8th Foreign Ministers Conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 13-15. Representatives of the 5-member ASEAN (Philippines, Thailand, Indoneasia, Malaysia, and Singapore) tabled the Philippine proposal to create a "Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality" when the Provisional Revolutionary Government of S. Vietnam rejected it, thus triggering doubts about the viability of Marcos' "neutrality deal."

The Zone of Neutrality proposed that communist and non-communist countries in Southeast Asia form an organization committed to the principles of neutrality, non-alignment, and non-violence in the settling of bilateral disputes. Each member country should be free of military bases and defense pacts with outside powers; though countries in the "process of phasing out these bases and agreements would be accepted." (a loophole which allowed the Philippines membership while remaining faithfully behind America's defense shield.)

The PRG, while uninvited to the conference, said that it could accept the proposal in principle. However, "it could not reconcile the idea of countries with foreign military bases and defense pacts to the neutrality concept" — and obvious reference to Thailand and the Philippines.

This statement substantially weakened the credibility of Marcos's Zone proposal, thereby losing the initial support it received from the ASEAN.

ZONE CONCEPT-DETENTE ON A REGIONAL SCALE

The Zone concept was Manila's diplomatic response to the fall of Indochina. Replete with progressive sounding rhetoric, the Zone proposal caused a stir internationally, since it called for the first Asian organization of communist and non-communist states and encouraged Asian countries to fight for such high ideals as "neutrality, peace, and freedom."

It was also during this time that Marcos threatened to nullify US-RP defense accords and made diplomatic overtures to Cambodia and Vietnam — none of which has materialized.

While sporting a facade of "neutrality" and non-alignment, the zone concept is actually a temporary tactic meant to forestall the intensification of national liberation struggles in the remaining Asian "dominoes" by calling for detente with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Marcos, compelled to recognize his revolutionary Asian neighbors, is at the same time afraid that the national democratic struggle in the Philippines will be aided by the newly-liberated Indochinese peoples. As a member of the

Zone, Marcos hoped to get Indochina's reassurances that it would not abett, morally or materially, the Philippine revolution.

Using the dormant ASEAN as a launching pad for his proposal, Marcos lobbied for the active support of his fellow ASEAN members. Having received the enthusiastic backing of Singapore and Indoneasia, Marcos then proposed the holding of the 8th Foreign Ministers Conference. He hoped the conference would lay the groundwork for Cambodia and Vietnam to accept his proposal.

PROPOSAL DEFEATED

The ASEAN conference however, much to Marcos' dismay, was a miserable failure. The ASEAN true to its lameduck character, did not achieve unity on its direction as regional bickering dominated over the discussion of the Zone concept itself. But the conference failed mainly because it did not receive Indochina's endorsement of the zone concept, without which the proposal would be meaningless.

The PRG's valid doubts over the sincerity of Marcos' neutrality concept left conference delegates unwilling to push the matter any further, and shelved the issue. Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Romulo, the regime's chief apologist, tried to prove the sincerity of his master by saying: "It is only a matter of

time before the Philippines phases out U.S. bases and establishes ties with Cambodia and Vietnam." This however, failed to mollify the highly skeptical delegates nor hoodwink both Vietnam and Cambodia.

TRIAL BALLOON

The Zone Concept since its creation was doomed to fail. Contrary to Marcos' preposterous hopes, Cambodia and Vietnam would never be members of a "neutral zone" that included countries harboring the very same bases that the US used to launch its aggressive wars against them. Clearly, Marcos grossly underestimated Indochina's response, a miscalculation only understandable of a puppet scurrying to accommodate to the changed conditions in S.E. Asia.

But since Marcos is propped up by U.S. imperialism, it is likely that the Zone proposal was a diplomatic maneuver he was forced to make at the prodding of his US masters. The US government now recognizes that it can no longer overtly govern the affairs of Southeast Asia. Hence, it has to field its most seasoned puppets like Marcos to do its dirty work. In this context, the Zone proposal was probably meant as a "trial balloon" meant to "feel out" Indochina's "designs" in Asia. Unfortunately for the US and Marcos, this "trial balloon" burst before it was fully launched.

Aquino's Mock Trial Resumes

By Samuel P. Bayani

The contest of wills between Marcos and Aquino has resulted in a stalemate. Aquino, who embarked on a hunger strike last April 4, was forced to end his fast after 40 days. At its conclusion, he was no closer to a fair trial than when he first initiated the hunger strike in protest against his military trial which he said was unconstitutional, illegal, and unjust.

The tug-of-war between them—with Aquino staking his life—brought no concessions from the dictator.

The hunger fast came to a close after the military rushed the ex-senator to the Veterans Memorial Hospital, where doctors, under Marcos' orders, force-fed him. This move to keep Aquino alive was not surprising. Marcos could not let Aquino die a martyr's death—it would have been too damaging to his public image as a "benevolent dictator." Always keeping the upper hand, however, Marcos callously allowed Aquino to carry his protest to near-death, while never having any intention to concede to the ex-senator's demands. (Besides demanding a just trial for himself, Aquino called for an end to martial law, restoration of a free press, an end to trial of civilians before military tribunals, and independence of judges.)

Certainly, Marcos had no intentions of giving in to any demands. As a matter of fact, prior to ending his fast, Aquino's fight for justice suffered another blow from the Marcos-controlled, Supreme Court.

As predicted, they ruled that the military tribunal had jurisdiction over Aquino and lifted its previous restraining order on the military court hearing testimonies against Aquino. This high court decision removed the last "legal" obstacle to the military prosecution of Marcos' most hated political foe.

The military tribunal has resumed the "perpetuation of testimonies of witnesses" against Aquino. These "perpetuation proceedings" is one among the many legal tricks being utilized by Marcos to convict Aquino for subversion, murder and illegal possession of firearms. It simply means that the testimonies of the witnesses are "perpetually" valid evidence in any court even after the witnesses' deaths. The regime alleges that this is necessary because assassination attempts have been made on the witnesses.

DEPICT AQUINO A COMMON CRIMINAL

The government has also lined up three star prosecution witnesses: "Commanders" Melody, Bucoy, and Pusa. All 3 are billed by the regime as guerrilla members of the NPA (New People's Army). They have testified that Aquino gave arms and financial contributions to the NPA. Aquino has denied the charges and denounced the fantastic accounts of his supposed crimes as part of the scheme to depict him a common criminal, instead of a political rival of Marcos. Various criminal charges against the star witnesses, including murder, have been dropped as a reward for their well-rehearsed testimonies.

The "NPA Commanders" actually defected to the government after facing possible prosecution by the NPA for notorious crimes committed against the people.

The perpetuation proceedings is due to conclude and the military trial will begin soon after. No one, least of all Aquino, has any doubts the outcome of the trial will be against him. As Aquino said: "Mr. Marcos is the single genius, composing and directing all the proceedings, whether in the military tribunal or in the civil courts... My fate and my life lie in the hands of my accuser, prosecutor, and judge—Marcos."

R.P.-CHINA TIES . . .

(continued from page 3)

is a culmination of this demand and a major people's victory. Through people-to-people contacts and the exchange of educational and cultural materials, the truth about China will be known. It will expose the malicious anti-China, anti-communist lies previously spouted by the Marcos government.

The Filipino people will also have a great opportunity to learn from the example of the Chinese people, even if this is not Marcos' intent. China's revolutionary struggle to transform herself from a semi-feudal, semi-colonial country to a highly productive socialist society is an inspiration to the Filipino nation's struggle against similar evils.

The half-million Chinese in the Philippines will also benefit with the ousting of the reactionary Taiwan embassy, ending decades of Koumintang blackmail, graft, corruption and repression against the Chinese minority. Also, Marcos will be forced to eliminate his "Red Peril" propaganda which he used widely

in the 1960's to malign China and Chinese minority. This propaganda used them as a scapegoat for the society's ills and incited racist anti-Chinese attacks.

PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE IS DECISIVE

While the ties between China and the Philippines is a significant break from the anti-China stance of before, it does not represent any support by China for the fascist and pro-imperialist policies of Pres. Marcos.

On the contrary, China's official statements stressed the unity between the people of China and the Philippines and their firm support for the people's struggle for national independence and sovereignty.

The present political and armed struggle against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship will proceed and it is the Filipino people, determined to achieve genuine freedom and independence, that will be the decisive factor in the long struggle ahead.

U.S. MILITARY BASES

No Drastic Changes Foreseen

By Ma. Flor Sepulveda

Fearing diminished U.S. support for his regime after U.S. defeat in Indochina, Pres. Marcos has called for the US-RP military bases renegotiations to bargain for substantially more political and military backing.

Though the details have not been revealed, talks are being held in Manila between Marcos and U.S. Ambassador Sullivan to discuss the terms under which American bases can remain. These talks are very important to the U.S., who has had to shift its frontline of military defense in Asia to the Philippines.

This development clearly exposes that Marcos' earlier declaration to nullify the bases agreement and dismantle U.S. installations were empty-handed threats. Since early April, Marcos had been making these anti-U.S. statements with nationalist overtones, leading many observers to believe that US-RP "special relations" would be ended.

Marcos' recent moves, however, have a more conciliatory tone, and now stress that "all future talks with the U.S. will be based on mutual benefit," thus ensuring U.S. military presence in the Philippines.

PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE

The anti-U.S. posturing of Marcos began when the fall of Indochina was imminent. Marcos quickly took stock of the new situation: America's impending defeat and the changed balance of forces in Asia, now tipped in favor of the rising bloc of progressive and revolutionary governments. Expecting to be isolated among his new South East Asian neighbors for his consistent pro-U.S. stance, Marcos seized on the bases issue as a "nationalist" shield.

On the eve on Phnom Penh's fall, April 16, Marcos announced: "The Philippines must urgently review its defense agreements with the U.S. because of the developments in Indochina. Singling the US Congress for attack, he added "The refusal of the U.S. Congress to provide military aid to Cambodia and S. Viet Nam, suggested that Indochina and Southeast Asia, are no longer of vital interest to the US." These developments, he said, cast doubt whether defense commitments entered into by US presidents could bind the Congress and American people. He cited the Mutual Defense Treaties, for example, which stipulates that assistance in the event of external aggression or internal civil war has to be approved within each country's constitutional processes (i.e., congressional approval).

The following week, Marcos pressed for the negotiations, but failing to receive Washington's approval, Marcos used a more threatening tone. He convened the Foreign Policy Council and later announced that the FPC had already formulated alternative plans for the bases, once it became Philippine property. He also explicitly called the U.S. bases in the coun-

try "more of a liability than an asset."

At the same time, Marcos recognized the irreversible victories of the Indochinese people and had to take a more credible "non-aligned stance" in order to gain acceptance by the revolutionary governments in Indochina. Sheer necessity dictated that Marcos create an external appearance of independence from the US. Taking advantage of the panic among US puppet regimes in Asia, Marcos initiated the first move, with his denunciations of the U.S. This elicited similar responses from other U.S. puppets like Tun Abdul Razak of Malaysia, who expressed support for Marcos's intentions to takeover the bases. This tactic however, was meant to create additional pressures on the U.S. It also served to boost Marcos's attempt to pass himself off as an independent leader.

DIPLOMATIC ATTEMPTS

During this period, Marcos also stated his intentions of extending official recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government in S. Viet Nam and the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia.

For a while, it appeared that genuine differences existed between the Philippines and the US, a phenomenon that puzzled many Philippine observers abroad, because of the long-standing "special relations" between the 2 countries. But the emptiness of Marcos's US posturing soon became obvious.

US News and World Report article (5/19/75) summed up Marcos's anti-US jargon well: "threats by Philippine officials to cut defense ties with the U.S. air force and naval bases here are based more on furious rhetoric than on irrevocable intentions." Then to Marcos's disbelief, the U.S. government announced on May 28 that all military grants to the Philippines will be cut off by 1978. This threat, however, was meant to check Marcos's moves, which was verging on insubordination.

Faced with this reaction, Marcos hastened to clarify that his earlier statements were not meant to embarrass or break away from the US. Overnight, the anti-US propaganda of the Philippine press conveniently died down. Marcos, who had earlier refused to allow Vietnamese refugees into the Philippines, also reversed this position and minimally demanded that political refugees and former military officials be banned from entering the Philippines.

WANTS 'AUTOMATIC RESPONSE'

Then like a faithful puppet, Marcos abandoned his former position seeking to terminate the bases agreement, and bared his true fears and motives. "What we really want is a guarantee, not by a US president who can be overridden by Congress, but a treaty with no loopholes. We want a treaty that would make an American response to our need automatic, not one which can be blocked by a change of administrations in Washington."

Since then, Marcos's fears have been allayed



Marcos meets with Foreign Policy Council on renegotiation of military treaties with U.S.

by Philip Habib, U.S. Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Habib, who recently concluded a Southeast Asia tour and visited the Philippines on June 10, assured Marcos that the U.S. "will continue with consistency and confidence, its Asian policies of maintaining bases in the region, particularly in the Philippines, Thailand and Taiwan.

'TACIT UNITY'

The U.S. reassurances and Marcos's talks with Amb. Sullivan have clearly established the tacit unity between the puppet and imperialist. For the U.S. the reasons are clear. The Philippines alone represents 60% of the total U.S. investments in Asia; with America's defeat in Indochina, the 22 military bases in the Philippines are the keystone of US defense and control in Asia.

Clark Air Base in Pampanga, is the second largest American facility in the world and well known for its secret arsenal of nuclear weapons. Subic Naval Base in Zambales is the support base for the 7th fleet in the Western Pacific. These two military installations are unrivaled in extensiveness and logistical capabilities throughout Asia. In addition, they comprise (through US military spending and employment) close to 10% of the Philippines gross national product. With such a strategic value, it is inconceivable that the US would allow the Philippines to takeover or dismantle these bases.

Increased U.S. support is to be expected from the US-RP military bases talks and the Mutual Defense Treaty will be amended with deceptive phraseology to give the impression that the U.S. has lessened its control over the country. With the Philippines, in the front line of America's Pacific defense, there is no doubt that the US government will utilize all means—covert collusion with Marcos, or overt armed interference—to maintain control over the Philippines, its last foothold in Asia.

Congressional Testimonies Call For End of Military Aid to Marcos

The question of U.S. military aid to the Marcos regime and other dictatorships is an aspect of focus for various congressional committees this summer. Following several subcommittee meetings will be hearings in joint session of the powerful Appropriations Committee, which specifically outlines recommendations on foreign aid.

The following report regarding recent hearings was issued by the National Coordinating Committee of the Anti Martial Law Movement, which recently collected over 20,000 signatures on a nationwide petition to Congress calling for a halt to U.S. military aid to the Philippines. —Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Several witnesses testified to the repressive nature of the Marcos regime and unanimously recommended the immediate end to U.S. military aid to his

martial law government, at Congressional hearings held June 3 and 5 in Washington.

The witnesses, including Fr. Bruno Hicks, Rev. Paul Wilson, Heherson Alvarez and Raul Manglapus sat through two and a half hour sessions of the Subcommittee on International Movements and Organizations, of the House International Relations Committee. The Subcommittee is headed by Donald Fraser (D-Minn.).

Fr. Hicks, testifying in behalf of the Coordinating Committee of the Anti Martial Law Movement, attested to a complete absence of civil liberties and the freedom to organize, as he illustrated the harassments he suffered while organizing exploited sacadas in Negros. The harassments led to his arrest and deportation by the regime.

He urged the immediate halt to U.S. military and military-related aid to Marcos. "If

we don't give arms to Marcos, he will be forced to negotiate with the Filipino people."

Raul Manglapus, president of the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP), stressed the issue of civil liberties and assessed that the Philippines had a "working democracy" before martial law was declared, and that martial law aborted the "peaceful revolution" that was going on through the Constitutional Convention. He also advocated an end to U.S. military aid to Marcos, as he said the regime is a liability to the interests of the U.S.

Rev. Paul Wilson, who worked with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, described his arrest along with several other Filipino Protestant church leaders. While in Camp Crame, he said he heard "the cries of grown men being tortured." Rev. Wilson, who talked with many Filipinos before his arrest, said most of those he met, "see the U.S. as hypocritical—while espousing democracy and self-determination, directly and indirectly serving governments which have abolished all basic freedom, ruling without popular consent

(continued on page 10)

Marcos Gives 'Window Dressing' To Muslim Rebellion

By Samuel P. Bayani

The much-acclaimed peace talks between the Marcos government and 200 so-called "Moslem rebels" were recently concluded in Zamboanga City with profuse fanfare.

The 3-day peace negotiations began April 16 and climaxed with transporting 140 "rebels" to Manila to meet Pres. Marcos, where he awarded 45 of them with military commissions.

The Marcos regime lauded the conference as a success, a breakthrough he claimed would settle the full-scale rebellion in the south. The reasons for the government's elation was the signed statement by the "rebels" denouncing Nur Misuari and the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front). The Marcos government has consistently attempted to discredit the MNLF, charging it does not legitimately represent the genuine demands of the Filipino Muslims.

In the smear campaign against its leader, Misuari, the regime first tagged him a Maoist, then later called him a captive of a foreign power. The Marcos dictatorship has often times painted the Muslim insurgency as the creation and instigation of a foreign power, alluding to either Sabah or Libya, which it accuses of supporting and arming the rebels.

Misuari and the MNLF boycotted the talks. According to Misuari, the so-called "Moslem rebels" who attended the talks were "people already in the service of the Marcos government, his stooges, his hirelings and his cronies." To underscore the failure of the peace conference, the MNLF launched a military offensive in Jolo island, belying the claim that a peaceful solution to the war in the south was any closer as a result of the Zamboanga talks.

The other "accomplishments" of the conference as publicized in the Marcos press, were similarly questionable. Marcos has promised to

reorganize the administration of the political and economic affairs of Mindanao, replacing government officials with persons acceptable to the Muslim population. He has also authorized the appropriation of \$144,000 to continue the road building and irrigation projects in the impoverished south.

To the Muslim's popular demand for autonomy, the government's response was far-fetched. Marcos claims that Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan are already enjoying a degree of political autonomy. To support this, he cites that many of the government officials in the region are Muslims. He also added that a number of units in the Armed Forces of the Philippines are dominated by Muslim soldiers. Referring to the Muslim sentiment for drastic change, the President said: "We are all revolutionaries, we fight for the same causes."

PEACE TALKS—PUBLICITY STUNTS

While the Marcos government has made a big fuss over the Zamboanga parley, the general response to the conference has been one of indifference. A foreign correspondent, Bernard Wideman, reporting from Manila, said observers viewed the conference as little more than "a government publicity stunt from start to finish."

Most Filipino Muslims regard it with outright suspicion. For years, the Muslim population in the south has aired grievances not only against the central government but against the local politicians whose corrupt rule was abetted by the government in Manila. Many have misgivings as to the ability of the Marcos dictatorship to qualitatively alter the centuries of neglect and abuse.

The Zamboanga conference came in the wake of the collapse of the Jeddah talks last January, where the Marcos government met with the



Marcos meeting with "Moslem rebels"

MNLF for the first time. The Marcos government had previously refused to negotiate with or even acknowledge the existence of the MNLF.

The Jeddah talks were hosted by the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, a body of government officials from Moslem nations that meets periodically to study matters that concern the people of Islamic faith. In its annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur earlier in June 1974 it had passed a resolution sharply condemning the Marcos government for its genocidal policy towards the Moslem population in the southern Philippines. It was through this body's insistence that the Marcos government reluctantly agreed to meet with the MNLF in Jeddah.

The Jeddah talks failed to produce any solution to the problem. The Marcos regime wanted a ceasefire, which the rebels rejected as tantamount to a surrender. The MNLF demanded autonomy of the southern region (Mindanao, Sulu, Palawan and Basilan) which the Marcos government refused to meet. At the end of the talks, both sides agreed to resume negotiations in April.

Actually unwilling to meet with the MNLF

(continued on page 8)

BEHIND MUSLIM PEACE TALKS

Gov't. Prepares for War

By Samuel P. Bayani

True to its fascist nature, the Marcos regime, while taking a pose of conciliation on one hand, is quietly but surely preparing for war against the Muslim rebels in the south.

The government now has a total of 41 combat battalions of 28,000 fighting troops in the south. Brig. Gen. Fortunato Abat heads up 18 battalions under CEMCOM (Central Mindanao Command); 20 battalions under SOWESCOM (Southwest Command) are headed by Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon; and the last 3 battalions are in Cagayan de Oro, the so-called Cultural Minorities Brigade created by Marcos last June.

Including the naval, air force, headquarters and engineering units, the total troop commitment to the south is 50,000—half of the present armed forces.

Finance Secretary Cesar Virata has announced that defense expenditures for 1975 will be between \$460 to \$480 million, a 50% boost from last year's \$310 M defense budget. This increase is necessary to finance the extensive war preparations already underway. Arms-buying missions have been sent to Europe and Singapore and the armed forces is expected to be beefed-up to 250,000 troops this year. A mid-decade census (costing P19-M) is scheduled to enable Marcos to determine his supply of fresh troops. Many believe he will soon be promulgating a decree he has already secretly signed to conscript 18 year-olds to the war in the south.

Also, Marcos has re-armed civilians in the south to augment the military. There are 40,000 Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) troops in Mindanao-Sulu. These civilian vigilantes will relieve the military from its present defensive position, making it possible for them to launch a strategic offensive against the rebels. The CHDF troops are manned mostly by christian bandits and mercenaries. It is similar to the AFP-backed "Iliga gangs" that terrorized the Muslim popu-

lation before martial law with the government's tacit approval.

Marcos has also replaced locally-elected officials in the south with military officials. The Governor of Lanao Del Sur was replaced by Brig. Gen. Mamarinta Lao; already, Col. Munoz is acting military supervisor of Jolo. The well-respected mayor of Cotobato City, Mayor Juliano, was arrested by order of Pres. Marcos. His crime: speaking against military abuses in Cotobato. The mayor of Sissi, Nur Misuari's hometown, has also been removed from office.

40,000 MUSLIMS KILLED

The regime has also intensified what the military terms "clearing and burning operations." This is a euphemism for indiscriminate bombing and strafing of suspected rebel-controlled areas in an effort to flush out the rebels, at the cost of civilian lives.

The government has also employed bacterial warfare and dropped napalm on the Muslim population. AP reported (1/24/75) napalm bombing of a suspected rebel-stronghold in Tumbao, Cotobato City. Although the report quotes Col. Caniaso, commander of the 32nd infantry battalion as its source, the government has since denied the incident.

A secret report of a government fact-finding team recorded that in the month of November, 1974, alone, about 20,000 men, women and children were killed by the army in Malusbong in the province of Sultan Kudarat, North Cotobato. This fact gives credence to Misuari's charge that about 40,000 have already been killed since the struggle began 2 years ago.

American Civil Action groups, actually Green Berets on counter-insurgency operations, are also active in Mindanao.

Marcos is reluctant to recognize the Muslims' right to self-government because the region is very important to Filipino oligarchs and US big business. The southern region is one of the

richest in natural resources and minerals. Rich landlords, cronies of Marcos, and US companies have flocked to the area, swallowing up vast tracts of land for sugar, pineapple, banana, coffee and logging operations. With the promise of oil in the Sulu Seas, Mindanao has become a priority area to secure. Standard Oil, Texaco and Mobil are among the US oil companies with drilling operations in the Mindanao area.

MINORITY'S RESISTANCE

The Muslim rebellion in the south is officially 30 months old but it is founded on centuries of oppression. The Muslim minority, like other Filipino national minorities, have seen little government assistance, but instead are subject to mass repression. Greedy landlords from the North, and foreign investors, particularly US companies in collusion with the central government, have dispossessed them of their ancestral lands. In the invasion of the land, their farms, homes, communities and culture were trampled upon. It is from this simmering unrest and discontent that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) arose to lead the fight for self-defense against the atrocities and discrimination of the Manila government.

Official estimates place the Bangsa Moro Army (BMA), military arm of the MNLF, at 16,000 men. This is by far a conservative figure, as many believe 22,000 more accurate.

The MNLF enjoys mass support for the justness of its cause. Its disciplined soldiers sharply contrast the arrogant and corrupt government troops, who constantly commit abuses on the innocent civilians.

UNITY IN STRUGGLE

The Muslim uprising in the south is part of the common struggle against the Marcos dictatorship. Much to Marcos' dismay, the growing forces of national liberation, the NPA in the north and the BMA in the south, are united in their opposition to the martial law regime.

Despite the sham peace talks and other attempts by Marcos to subvert the Muslim struggle, the MNLF is proving that the solution to the Muslim problem will not be settled over a negotiating table. It can only come through a united fight of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship.

FROM CAMP OLIVAS

Fr. Ed Responds to Smear Campaign

[Since Fr. Edicio de la Torre staged a hunger strike with Fr. Manuel Lahoz last Dec. 26, the military has launched a smear campaign to discredit him among the clergy. In particular, the military has accused him for acts inconsistent with his vow to the priesthood, including being a Communist. The regime however, has filed formal charges against him such as conspiracy to commit rebellion and violation of P.D. No. 33 pertaining to subversive literature. Presently, investigative hearings are being held to convict him of the charges. Below, we reprint in part, Fr. Ed's response to the charges. —Editor]

DID I PARTICIPATE IN UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES?

I have never denied this, either to the church or the military. However, I also ask that you consider the particular circumstances. I was working openly and legally for reforms before martial law. When martial law was declared, I did not immediately think of hiding. I went to Christ the King Seminary, thinking of new ways to pursue open legal work in the new situation. But the Metrocom came to arrest me so I went into hiding. When the impressions that accumulated in those days clearly showed that reform organizations and protest activities were banned, I decided to continue organizational work underground.

A question I'd like to pose to the military and Marcos: The Supreme Court has officially confirmed the existence of a rebellion. Do you ever ask why there is a rebellion? Can you attribute it to malice, hunger for power, psychological quirks, etc.? Don't you realize that a big number, if not most of those in the underground started as reformists?

DOES THE MILITARY ACCUSE ME OF BEING A COMMUNIST (to justify torture and indefinite detention)?

...The implications would be obvious. They hope the Church will disown me. Also, they use "communist" to connote malice, violence, greed for power, anti-religion, etc. (It is in this sense that Marcos is sometimes called a communist by some Filipinos). But what is my answer?

I have been called a communist before, even within the church (more often "Maoist"). Every priest, religious, Christian, every bishop who plunges into controversy over justice and freedom has been branded a communist—a troublemaker, wanting to turn the world upside down. An additional reason, is that I was advocating serious, critical study of Marxism as a corrective to hysterical phobia current among Christians, so we can use what is worthwhile to incarnate our faith better in concrete social problems and struggle. This includes dialogue in word and deed.

Since martial law, especially, many Filipinos I know, including Christians, are having a different perception of what a communist is—usually young, full of high ideals, impatient with hypocrisy, indignant at injustice and above all, striving to serve the people wholly and entirely in the most effective way.

Because of these considerations, when I am called a communist, I have mixed reactions. Since I know the evil meaning they attach to it, I don't want to be called one. But since I, and many other Filipinos have a different notion of it, I don't mind being called one, especially now that some communists I know have shown me how to live for the people and die for the people. (I do not want, however, to romanticize much less canonize them).

MORE SACRIFICES AHEAD

Economic Crisis Worsens

By Samuel P. Bayani

The promises of economic prosperity by the Marcos dictatorship have failed to materialize. The Philippine economy, on its second year of martial law, is beset with problems—floundering because of trade deficits, spiralling inflation, and a worsening balance of payments.

EXPORTS SUFFER SLUMP IN PRICES

A Central Bank report reveals that the end of the first quarter of 1975, there was a trade deficit of \$150-M. Export revenue of \$672-M failed to offset import costs of \$777-M. The resulting trade deficits are attributed to the decline in export prices of copper and timber, two major exports of the Philippines.

Such trade deficits are not uncommon in a country like the Philippines, which depends on exportation of raw materials as the lifeline of its revenues. The raw materials that the Philippines produces are geared to meet the needs of industrial countries, like the U.S. and Japan. Being its principal buyers, the US and Japan determine the world price of a Philippine commodity by sheer demand. In addition, the US and Japan can over- or underprice the value of a Philippine commodity to out-bid other potential buyers, thus having air-tight monopoly over the product.

Also, the Philippines, being underdeveloped, must sell at these prices as it is not industrialized enough to consume its own raw materials. Faced with the dilemma, the Philippines has no choice but to accept the dictated prices of its exports. Copper for instance, averaging \$.93 per lb. in 1974, has gone down to \$.54 this year, a loss of about \$125-M a year. This sudden slump comes from the import cutback on this product by Japan, one of its main buyers. In contrast, imported finished products from the US and Japan still maintain a high price in the world market.

The Central Bank also disclosed that the government's outstanding external debt has jumped to \$3.5-B from \$2.4-B in 1973. The

government has borrowed more loans than repaid them, creating a worsening balance of payments. These loans have been used for expensive but unproductive infrastructure projects like the Folk Art Center, Imelda's pet project.

This gloomy economic picture has been emerging despite the regime's press reports to the contrary. In the Marcos-controlled *Times Journal*, an article entitled "Corporate Sales Up 45%" boldly announced that gross sales of major corporations climbed 45% in 1974, twice the 21% growth in sales between 1972 and 1973. In smaller print, however, it admits that the rise in sales was brought about by price increases, rather than a boost in sales. After adjusting the changes in wholesale prices, the sales activity actually dropped by 62%.

GALLOPING INFLATION

This lag in sales activity is not surprising, backdropped against the unprecedented inflation and static wages. Even the regime's economists cannot deny the steep upswing of the major price indexes in 1974: 54% at wholesale, 52% at retail and 40% at consumer prices throughout the country. This galloping inflation is a stark contrast to the decline in real wages. A World Bank report reveals that inflation cut real wages by 25% between 1969 and 1974.

FOREIGN CAPITAL INFLOW INCREASES

Meanwhile, the inflow of foreign capital has increased from \$100-M in 1973 to \$343-M by the end of 1974. This intensified penetration of foreign capital has been consciously perpetuated by the Marcos regime. Various incentives have been given to foreign investors to the detriment of the Filipino businessmen. Just recently, the maximum allowable foreign capital investment in domestic shipping corporations has been increased. Previously, a foreign investor could only own 25% of a shipping

(continued on page 8)

Mula sa atin...

U.S. LAND TRANSFER DEADLINE EXTENDED

Pres. Marcos has indefinitely extended the deadline for US corporations and American citizens to turn over their land-holdings to Philippine agencies or nationals. The announcement was made on May 27, the deadline date of the "grace period" since the expiration of the Laurel-Langley (LLA) agreement last July 2, 1974. The LLA which was signed in 1954, entitled American citizens equal rights to own, exploit, and utilize Philippine natural resources. When the LLA expired in July, the Marcos regime publicized it as the termination of the unequal economic relationship between the Philippines and the US. He then allowed US corporations a 1 year "grace period" during which they would transfer their landholdings to Filipinos. This grace period, however, only allowed time for US corporations to devise divestment schemes, transfer their lands to Filipino front men, while at the same time maintain effective control and ownership.

LOPEZ-OSMENA TRIAL IMMINENT

A military panel has been constituted by Marcos to "re-investigate" alleged charges against two of its prominent political prisoners, Eugenio Lopez Jr. and Sergio Osmena III. In Presidential Letter of Instruction No. 255, Marcos ordered a re-evaluation of evidence to determine "whether an offense has been committed... and whether the persons held are probably guilty and to file appropriate charges if probable cause is found."

This move comes rather belatedly, considering that Lopez and Osmena have been detained without charges for 3 years now.

This sudden "act of conscience" however, does not mean any substantial "change of heart." It represents a new tactic the dictator is taking in the persecution of his political enemies. Aware of the unfavorable publicity generated by the illegal detention of political prisoners, the regime has moved to hasten the trials of its prisoners and prove their guilt in military courts. Subsequent detentions or executions arising from these convictions then become more credible.

Both Lopez and Osmena, like Aquino, another incarcerated political foe of Marcos, have refused to participate in the military proceedings.

OIL, SUGAR PRICE HIKES INFLATION ESCALATES

Increasing the hardships of the already-suffering consumers, the prices of 2 basic commodities—sugar and oil—were substantially raised. Marcos authorized price hikes that brought the cost of refined sugar from P1.50 to P1.75 per kilo. Critical oil products like kerosene, cooking gas, diesel oil, and gasoline were all raised, with regular gasoline up from P1.09 to P1.22 per liter and premium gasoline from P1.09 to P1.28 per liter.

To stem any wave of protests from the people, Marcos has created a very limited subsidy program to cushion the immediate effects of inflation. 11 centavo discount coupons will be given to transportation operators like jeepney drivers and small fishermen, two low income sectors that will be greatly affected by the oil price hikes. Temporarily for 3 months, they will only have to pay P1.11 instead of the full P1.22, though it is still a 2 centavo increase. After the 3 month period, the drivers and fishermen will be left to provide from their own meager resources.

Marcos' subsidy was especially meant to placate the jeepney drivers, from whom he feared a transportation strike. In 1971, the Manila jeepney drivers went out on strike in protest of gasoline increases by the foreign controlled oil companies. Thousands of other workers as well as students joined in solidarity and a general strike was quickly created, paralyzing the country for two weeks. Although such avenues of protest have since been banned by the martial law regime, jeepney drivers have adopted different forms of protest, like operation slow-downs, which have forced the administration to concede to some of their demands.

Since martial law, the price of oil has gone up several times. The last increase was 8½ months ago. The Oil Industry Commission rationalized that prices of petroleum products in the Philippines are still comparatively lower to prices in other countries like Australia and New Zealand. However, the average wages in those countries are also higher while those in the Philippines have never been raised to keep up with the galloping inflation.

NPA Scores Fresh Gains

(LIBERATION)—The New People's Army scored fresh victories in the provinces of Quezon, Tarlac, and Pampanga in the past six months. On Nov. 17, the 3rd Red Company Unit of the NPA launched a successful attack on a PC detachment composed of eight "jungle fighters" of the 55th PC Ranger Battalion and 20 members of the Civilian Home Defense Forces (CHDF) in Bo. Maggitan, Dilasag, Quezon. The NPA unit destroyed the enemy camp; killed the detachment officer; compelled the surrender of seven "jungle fighters" and 10 CHDF members; and seized arms, ammunitions and other military equipment.

The 3rd Red Company Unit caught the enemy troops completely by surprise and they gave up without much of a fight. Before the surrender, however, the PC detachment officer shot and killed two CHDF members when they laid down their arms.

After being disarmed, the 25 captives were treated leniently and first aid treatment was given to the wounded. After some political re-education, six "jungle fighters" and 16 CHDF members were immediately released, except one fighter and 2 CHDF members who chose to join the NPA. The fair and lenient treatment of enemy captives is part of the Red fighter's policy of disintegrating the enemy ranks. As this incident has proven, it has even resulted in the voluntary defection of some into the ranks of the people's army.

Following this successful attack, a commando unit of the 3rd Red Company made a tactical attack in the town of Casiguran, Quezon

on the night of Nov. 21, killing 4 enemy troops in Bo. Dimaseset, Casiguran, Quezon.

PAMPANGA SURPRISE ASSAULT

Meanwhile, in Bo-Pio, Porac, Pampanga, a platoon of the NPA captured members of the CHDF by surprise and disarmed them last Feb. 12. In a quick morning operation, the NPA confiscated 8 guns and several rounds of ammunition. The captured CHDF were set free and unharmed after the objectives of the NPA were explained to them and they were warned not to allow themselves to be used again by the enemies of the people. The NPA then called a barrio meeting and explained how the NPA was fighting for their interests. Three hours after the NPA left, the PC, AFP and local police arrived.

Prior to the NPA operation, the CHDF, together with local PC informers and police, had committed numerous crimes against the barrio folk and were much hated. Aside from enforcing the cruel policies of the local sugar hacendero, Marciano Dizon, the CHDF had engaged in cattle rustling and extortion and one informer even attempted rape.

When the NPA entered the barrio and the informer and the police ran in fear, the barrio people could not help but say of the police: "They're only good at shooting pigs and chickens."

A PC outpost that had just been set up in Bo. Pandan, Tarlac, was burned by a unit of the NPA last January, 1975. The NPA burned all



NPA discusses problems of Philippine society with peasants.

the construction equipment, including bulldozers and construction trucks parked in the area. The PC outpost was one of four or more camps and detachments stationed at the foot of the Tarlac Mountains to block what they suspected to be an NPA passageway into town.

In building their outposts, the PC soldiers had driven the people away from their land and destroyed their crops. The soldiers set up checkpoints, stopped and interrogated everyone who left and entered the barrio, and shot at those who went near the outpost.

The NPA operation in Pandan is an indication that the people's soldiers are determined to break the PC blockade of the area. It was also done in response to the masses' grievances of abuses by the reactionary troops.

Nat'l. Minorities Fight for Survival

In the northern and southern parts of the Philippines, Filipino national minorities are being driven out of their land, all in the name of progress. The question is, progress for whom? Certainly not for the Bontocs and Kalingas in the Mountain Province nor the Manobos in Bukidnon, Mindanao.

In the Mountain province, the Marcos regime has authorized the implementation of the Chico River Basin Project, which will flood the terraced ricelands owned by the Bontocs and Kalingas for centuries. Critics of the project, which include anthropologists and church officials, point out that this would mean relocating about 20,000 families, uprooting them from their communities and villages. These critics have been outspoken about the conditions of the minorities and have thus been blacklisted by the regime.

The government contends that the dam is essential to "national development," though the fact is, it will irrigate 10,000 hectares in Cagayan Valley owned by Defense Secretary Juan

Ponce Enrile, Gov. Puzon of Cagayan and Pres. Marcos.

The Bontoc and Kalinga tribes have sent several delegations to Manila to see Marcos. On their last visit, they met with Manda Elizalde, PANAMIN (Presidential Assistance for the National Minorities) head, who gave P500.00 (about \$83.00) to the delegation, saying, it was traditional for "lowlanders to give gifts during the Christmas season." The following day, newspapers carried a PANAMIN press release stating that an undisclosed amount of money was paid to the delegation for their land!

PANAMIN has been notorious for this type of hoodwinking and thievery. Under the guise of anthropological expeditions, it has insidiously penetrated the rich forest lands of national minorities, including the Tasadays, seeking access to logging and mining areas. It has also been instrumental in "relocating" minority tribes, dispossessing them of their fertile lands.

In Bukidnon, the ancestral lands of the Ma-

nobos are also being seized. Agro-industrial corporations, lumber companies, and rancher friends of Marcos are converting flatlands into ranches or sugar-pineapple plantations, while the hills are being devoured by the logging companies. This rampage for land both in the plains and the hill has caught the native Manobos in the middle, leaving them without any place to go.

The Philippine Packing Corporation (a subsidiary of Del Monte) one of the biggest agro-corporations, recently acquired 11,000 more hectares of land. Interestingly, Defense Sec. Juan Ponce Enrile sits on its Board of Directors.

Rancher-friends of Marcos are employing terroristic tactics, even murder, to evict the Manobos from their lands. On Feb. 2 this year, hired hands of the Bueno ranch killed 6 Manobos—3 men, a woman, a 6-year old and a baby. The owner, Bueno, who boasts that he made Marcos president, is immune from the law as the local constabulary keep silent about the incident.

ARMED RESISTANCE IS THE SOLUTION

The plight of the Manobos and the Kalingas is typical of the situation many other minority tribes face. In the wake of increased landgrabbing activities by rich ranchers and multi-national agro-business firms, many have become desperate. The Manobos said they will call the Bangsa Moro Army (BMA) if nothing is done about their plight. While the Kalingas, at a recent tribal meeting agreed that a militant course of action will be undertaken if their pleas to the government produce no results.

MUSLIM REBELLION...

(continued from page 6)

again, but hesitant to have this reluctance exposed, the Marcos government concocted the Zamboanga "conversations" with non-MNLF "rebels."

POLICY OF "CONCILIATION"—A PLOY

These "peace talks" reflect a change in tactics from the government's previous open annihilationist drive against the Muslim dissidents in the south. Last year, Marcos had taken a much harder line towards the rebels, bombing Jolo City in January 1973, and razing it to the ground.

The growing concern for the Filipino Muslims among the Muslim countries, especially in the Middle East, has pressured the Marcos regime to take a more credible stance towards the rebels. Not surprisingly, Marcos wants a harmonious relationship with the oil-supplying Arab nations. 90% of the country's oil comes from the Middle East and the country's energy needs are almost totally dependent on oil.

He has therefore attempted to convince the

Arab nations that he is sincerely seeking a political solution to the problem. With this end in mind, he has launched a high-pitched public relations campaign to win them over. In the past six months, Mrs. Marcos made trips to the Middle East and Indonesia, bearing the government's professions of good will and policy of conciliation towards the rebels.

To back this up, infrastructure projects meant mainly for the utilization of the foreign corporations in the area, are in full gear and are billed as "socio-economic reforms." The Marcos press daily carries announcements of plans for irrigation, roads for the Muslim population.

Such infra-structure projects, aside from boosting the dictatorship's image internationally, are also meant to diffuse the already exploding rebellion. The Marcos government hopes that through stop-gap measures like new roads, it can pacify the restive Muslim population.

This seems extremely doubtful in light of present conditions. The situation in the south has deteriorated rapidly after martial law. The reforms which Marcos is promising are too little and too late for the long-neglected Muslim population.

ECONOMIC CRISIS . . .

(continued from page 7)

company but can now own up to 40%. While the regime claims that these massive injections of foreign capital are beneficial for the country, the fact is the common Filipino is not benefitting at all, and never has.

Foreign corporations are in the country for the sole purpose of exploiting the cheap labor and abundant natural resources. The elimination of unions, reduced tariff schedules, and other government incentives have made the Philippines an investment haven for multi-national firms. Even as the multi-national corporations report profits, Marcos recently announced that there will be no wage increases this year. He warns the Filipino people that there will be "more sacrifices ahead."

PEOPLE'S FIGHTERS REBUFF REGIME'S 'AMNESTY' FEELERS

The regime's efforts to secure the surrender of large numbers of NPA fighters and their supporters have been consistently rebuffed by the NPA. Last October, PC Col. Eduardo Javelosa, Commander of the Task Force Bulig, sent amnesty feelers to the NPA in Samar. In his letter, addressed to NPA commander Prudencio "Ding" Calubid, Javelosa asked Calubid and his men to surrender since the people have switched loyalties to the government. He cited, that if it were not for Calubid's "caprices" the people would not have suffered so many miseries.

Javelosa urged Calubid to return to the fold of the law so he could go back to the comfortable life he had lived before. Melodramatically, he pleaded "for humanity sake" that the NPA stop fighting their own blood, adding that "we are all brother Filipinos."

Below is a reprint in part of the NPA's response—Editor

Dear Col. Javelosa,

The New People's Army in Samar received your letter pleading for the surrender of our comrade Prudencio Calubid, so he can return to the "life of comfort" you said he used to enjoy. Allow us to express our sentiments on this matter.

You mentioned the miseries of the masses in the theater of conflict and heaped the blame on the "caprices" of our comrade, thus denying in one stroke of the pen your criminal responsibility for the atrocities, murder, and violence committed by your troops.

MILITARY ABUSES

We hope you will not wash your hands, as Pilate did, for the senseless massacre of a family of seven at Kanhurayan, Calbiga on Nov. 26, '74 perpetrated by your men under the command of the murderer Sgt. George Giray. They were innocent farmers whose only crime was their poverty which forced them to till a piece of land in this remote barrio. We hope your conscience has not atrophied so you have forgotten the attempt of your men to massacre about 50 persons, including children in a sitio of Manaing, Pinacdao on Nov. 30 '74. Luckily, the people in this sitio noticed, in time, the encirclement and they escaped one hour of hell of

fire from your task force under the command of criminal Sgt. Medel. And we are sure you are aware of the merciless killings of innocent farmers in the barrios of Calbiga, Pinacdao, Sta. Rita and Basey which has now claimed the lives of no less than 15 farmers including children.

We presume it is now clear to you: the miseries of the peasants are not the result of the "caprices" of our comrade, but by the deliberate and intentional savagery of your men, that even puts to shame the barbaric tribes of ancient times.

A CHOICE TO STRUGGLE

We are glad you recognized the fact that Comrade Ding used to live a life of ease and comfort before he joined the revolutionary forces. Incidentally, this is true of some of our other comrades. This is enough reason for you to ponder why men and women who grew up in comfort would leave behind their loved ones, the warmth of parental company and the security of home to the hardships and deprivations of the countryside, where meals mean a handful of camote and cassava and other root crops popularly known here as "duma" (certainly you have not heard of this nor tasted one). . . and where home is a makeshift lean-to and the roof means a cluster of pacul and anahaw leaves. Of course, this is beyond your imagination. But for us the reasons are simple. We chose this life consciously and with full awareness that revolution is not a picnic but a ruthless struggle between the exploiters and the exploited. Unlike the men in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Red fighters of the People's Army are consciously fighting to liberate the Motherland from the clutches of American Imperialism, Feudalism, and Bourgeois Capitalism—the triad of evils that have sucked the blood of our people and have turned them into slaves and squatters in their own country. These are the evils that have made our countrymen lose not only their identity but also their dignity.

You suggested in your letter that we stop killing each other as we are brothers. Frankly,

on our side, we do not want to fight a single day longer nor do we want to lay waste any single life of what you called our "brother Filipinos." But then we must face reality. Are members of the Armed Forces brothers of the Filipino people they have massacred? If you ask us who our brothers are, our answer is:

*My brother is one
Who does not bend
Who does not conform*

*He treads the free pathways
And with me drinks from a single stream.
Sleeps under one blue sky
Sings the same song of protest . . .*

*My brother is he
who is with me in
the struggle*

[From a poem written during the Mozambique Revolution]

Many of your men are in the service because of your forced recruitment. Many in your rank and file would have long resigned if only they can find other means to support their families. This reminds us of a letter we found beside the dead body of one of your young soldiers. It was from his sister asking money because their mother is sick and can no longer earn as a laundry woman. When the letter was read in our camp, every fighter was moved. Their hearts sincerely ache for the poor boy who was made cannon fodder for the ruling elite.

In answer to your call for us to surrender, we ask you to open your eyes before it is too late, before you are caught by the whirlwind of the people's wrath! We ask you and your mercenary forces, the Task Force Bulig, popularly known in the mountains as Task Force Pulidad (to roll dead), to lay down your arms to us.

We remain,

The New People's Army
Samar Island

P.S.—Please check with your intelligence officers. They do not even know that Comrade Ding is unmarried. Also, please be informed that he had only his father living; your reference to his parents is either poor intelligence work or plain error of grammar. Your claim that Ding is sick, makes us wonder if you really have a budget for intelligence, and not just gossip mongering.

...BUOD NG BALITA...

RP Bank in California: Pres. Marcos, through Letter of Instruction No. 279, has authorized the creation of a government-run bank in California, to be known as the Philippine Bank of California. The bank, which is to be jointly financed by 5 government financial institutions, has a paid-up capital of \$5-M. The bank will seek to attract Filipino depositors and expedite trade transactions between Philippine and West Coast firms.

The bank's formation suits the regime's scheme to stave off its present external debt crisis. The U.S. dollars which Filipino workers in California deposit, will be used by the regime to augment its dollar reserves, creating better credit to secure more loans from international sources.

Marcos Tightens Control Over Judiciary;

In a move calculated to increase his stranglehold over the judiciary, Marcos is "circuitizing" municipal courts throughout the country.

The Marcos plan calls for a reduction in the present number of municipal judges, now totalling 1,400. Hundreds of municipal judges will be dismissed. The remainder will then handle more than one municipal court, extending their jurisdiction to two or more neighboring towns.

This devious plan places present municipal judges at the mercy of

the dictator and allows him to select and hand-pick those loyal to him. The chosen judges will be generously rewarded for future services to Marcos, who proposes to triple their salaries from P11,000 annually to P35,000.

More Professionals to Leave: Iran and West Germany have filed labor-quota applications to the Philippine Overseas Employment Board, and an exodus of medical professionals is expected. The board's executive director, Salvador Bigay, is finalizing arrangements for the recruitment of some 3,500 medical workers to Iran. W. Germany on the other hand, is requesting for more mid-wives and nurses.

Because of the massive unemployment, depressed economy, and martial law situation in the Philippines, many Filipinos seek every opportunity to leave the country. For the Marcos regime, the "brain drain" of Filipino professionals abroad acts as a safety valve to diffuse the crisis back home.

Secret U.S. Base in RP: According to reliable sources, an American experimental base has been constructed in Zambales, near the Naval Air Station, Cubi Pt., Subic Base. The construction began in Nov. '74 and reportedly incurred a sum of \$6.5-M. The base is being

used as a landing site by Harrier (AV-8A) Carriers for practice firing of 500 lb. bombs, flares, and 50 mm. machine gun fire.

The Harrier is the latest addition to the U.S. military's arsenal for aerial warfare. It has an enormous carrying capacity and can disgorge several squadrons, bomber jets, and tanks onto a battlefield all at one time, like a portable base. The Harrier is also capable of making verticle landings and take-offs and can even hover in mid-air like a helicopter. Hence, it requires little land space and regular runways.

The Zambales landing site, reported to be the first of its kind, reaffirms the strategic role of the Philippines for U.S. military designs in Asia, and disputes its claims of disengagement. The U.S. has merely replaced its troop presence with more effective weaponry. The development of the Harrier however, poses graver implications for world peace. The U.S., as confirmed by its long history of aggression, will not hesitate to use this fatal weapon to suppress the revolutionary people of any country.

Laurel Deplores Loss of Freedom: Senator Salvador H. Laurel, has charged that "a lawyer today is a displaced person under a regime of martial rule . . . because martial rule necessitates curtailment of freedom the lawyer can only thrive in freedom."

The ex-senator's criticism was made in a recent speech before the Batangas chapter of the Integrated

Bar of the Philippines. Laurel also protested the gross distortion in a Marcos paper of a previous speech he made about his father, the late Jose P. Laurel Sr., one-time president of the country and chief justice of the Supreme Court.

On March 6, Laurel had said his father favored a strong government, but not a dictatorship. The following day, *The Daily Express*, quoted Laurel as saying that Laurel Sr., if he were alive today, would support Marcos' leadership. Upon Laurel's protest, Eduardo Romualdez Jr., relative of Marcos and editor of the paper, admitted the distortion and excused it as "careless and slipshod writing."

Laurel's disenchantment with the martial law regime adds to the growing list of political figures who are increasingly more critical of the Marcos dictatorship.

Ali-Fraser Fight in Manila: Muhammad Ali, the world's heavyweight boxing champion, has accepted Manila's offer to sponsor the Ali-Fraser rematch scheduled in October.

By sponsoring gala events like the Miss Universe Contest, the Fischer-Karpov chess tournament, and now the Ali-Fraser rematch, Marcos hopes to obscure the economic crisis from the Philippine picture and boost his regime's image abroad. Since the declaration of martial law, propaganda campaigns as these have been top priority in the national budget, at the expense of the starving Filipino masses.

Congressional Hearings...

(continued from page 5)

and are killing or jailing dissenters."

A lively discussion ensued as the witnesses offered differing opinions on the issue of the continued presence of two U.S. bases and 20 other military installations in the Philippines. Fr. Hicks recommended a withdrawal of all military bases as "they constitute a threat to the national security of the U.S." Explaining further, Fr. Hicks noted that the use of the bases as launching areas for bombing raids being conducted by the Philippine Air Force against the NPA may lead the U.S. into another "Vietnam situation." He stressed that the bases are a form of U.S. interference in the Philippines and that in any future negotiations with Marcos regarding the bases, the question of rent should not even be discussed. Rent paid for the bases will mean additional aid to Marcos, Fr. Hicks concluded.

Fr. O'Hare, on the other hand, thought that

the bases are "America's interest" and should remain in the Philippines. Manglapus said that the bases were in the Philippines "to protect democracy," but since that no longer existed, the bases should be withdrawn.

Heherson Alvarez, former delegate to the Constitutional Convention, said, "Repression is more severe in the rural areas," where the U-2, or government agents, terrorize the populace with impunity. He then described the torture killing of his brother in the hands of U-2 agents. He closed his testimony by urging Congress to "examine every facet of U.S. military aid and the relationship of each to Marcos' apparatus of repression."

QUESTIONS ON NPA

Asked by Fraser on what he knew of the New People's Army, Alvarez said he believed the NPA had a boost in recruitment.

Two other witnesses, Fr. Joseph O'Hare,

S.J., and Edward Morris, a lawyer who had travelled throughout the rural areas, reiterated the need to end U.S. support to Marcos. Morris said he was appalled at the way Marcos was "selling the Philippines out to Japanese businesses."

U.S. AID STUDIES

Two studies prepared by the coordinating Committee of the Anti Martial Law Movement were presented at the hearings, both to be published in the Congressional Record as appendices to the testimonies. Rev. Wilson presented the pamphlet documenting cases of political prisoners, which was prepared in Los Angeles and is now being widely distributed.

Fr. Hicks submitted the other study, "Logistics of Repression: Report on the Volume, Forms, and Functions of U.S. Military Aid to the Martial Law Regime in the Philippines."

The congressional hearings are slated to continue June 17 with the following witnesses: Msgr. Parado, for the Marcos regime; Gerald Hill, attorney for Eugenio Lopez, Sr.; and Primitivo Mijares, defector from the Marcos government. On June 24, the U.S. State Department will present its witnesses.

Political Prisoners Forums Staged

NEW YORK—As part of a nationally-coordinated campaign endorsed at the Anti Martial Law Conference in Chicago last December, anti-dictatorship supporters have organized numerous activities focusing on political prisoners in the Philippines.

According to the *National Coordinating Committee of the Anti Martial Law Movement*, the activities have received the wide endorsements of the various groups opposed to the Marcos dictatorship.

The events—teach-ins, cultural presentations, and even a Mass—have focused on both educational aspects of political prisoner conditions, and the need to provide material support for political prisoners and their families. Funds raised during these efforts will be forwarded to the prisoners through various sources already working in their behalf.

In Seattle, communities have responded both numerically and financially to political prisoner activities. On May 20-23, Fr. Bruno Hicks, former political prisoner under the Marcos dictatorship, spoke during the Asian Festival sponsored by the Asian Student Coalition and KDP. He said that Americans have a special responsibility to work for freedom of political prisoners as it is U.S. military aid that keeps them in jail.

On June 7, a "Forum on Political Prisoners" in San Francisco drew over 60 persons, who also made donations for the prisoners. The activity was sponsored by the Pilipino Ameri-

can Collegiate Endeavor (PACE) at CSUSF Samahang Pilipino of City College and KDP.

Teach-ins were also organized in Los Angeles on May 22 and June 1. The presentations sponsored by the KDP and the National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines involved singing and a skit on political prisoners.

"Miso para Kalayaan"—Mass for Freedom—in Chicago on June 8 drew over 500 persons to St. Mary of the Lake Parish Church. Rev.

Richard Poethig lead the Litany on Human Rights in the event, sponsored by the Friends of the Filipino People. A special offering was made for political prisoners.

The local Committee of the Anti Martial Law Movement in New York successfully launched its political prisoner campaign by sponsoring a literature ('food for thought') table at the recent Food Fair Festival annually sponsored by the Port Authority. In addition, several "park" and house meetings have been scheduled with efforts being focused on reaching the scattered Filipino population.

Marcos Newspaper 'Quotes' Critic

NEW YORK—According to the Marcos-controlled *Manila Times-Journal*, well-known martial law critic Loida Nicolas-Lewis is "now all praise for the New Society since she returned from the U.S. as a 'Balikbayan!'"

Mrs. Lewis, publisher of the Filipino news-magazine, *Ningas-Cogon*, was recently the first Filipina to pass the New York bar examination.

The comments, appearing in a *Times-Journal* article last March 16, were all favorable to the "New Society." They were apparently made during an interview with Mrs. Lewis when she visited her parents in the Philippines during the spring.

The newspaper account said that Mrs. Lewis was most impressed with the "peace and order

conditions in the country," and had said that the Philippines "'appears economically sound, despite worldwide inflation and recession.'" The article further quoted Mrs. Lewis "'I'll see to it that my observations about the Philippines are shared by others when I reach home.'"

Some martial law critics suspect that the interview distorted Mrs. Lewis' comments by selecting only those most positive of the Marcos regime. However, when the *Ang Katipunan* recently contacted her about the controversial article, Mrs. Lewis refused official comment.

Most recently, Mrs. Lewis criticized the Philippine Consulate for not releasing the suicide note of the late Raoul Beloso, a prominent leader in the Movement for a Free Philippines.

BOOK REVIEW...

By Cathi Tactaquin

To the political prisoners themselves, whose courage and determination have been a constant source of inspiration to those fighting for democracy and independence in the Philippines.

This is the dedication to the new booklet, "Political Prisoners in the Philippines," recently published by the National Coordinating Committee of the Anti-Martial Law Movement.

The booklet was prepared in Los Angeles by the Documentation Committee of the Philippine Political Prisoners Project, one of the many joint projects to come from the National Conference of the Anti Martial Law Movement, held in Chicago last December.

The first documentation on Philippine political prisoners, the 40 page booklet contains actual case studies representing the various sectors opposed to Marcos and, therefore, subject to his tyranny. It includes sections on, "Workers, Peasants, Students and Intellectuals"; "Committed Religious Leaders"; and "Opposition Political Leaders."

In addition, the booklet presents an analysis of general conditions under martial law, and of political prisoners, detailing the inhuman treatment in the "chambers of torture," the prison camps.

Case studies were drawn from various sources—church groups, personal letters and newspaper reports, but mainly from underground publications, like the "Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas," "Liberation" newsletter, or the "Taliba ng Bayan."

'Political Prisoners in the Philippines'

One well-known case included is that of Nilo Tayag, national chairman of the *Kabataan Makabayan* (Patriotic Youth), who was arrested June 11, 1970, more than two years before martial law. Tayag, and other activists like him, have been detained since then on so-called "subversive" charges. Within the camps, Tayag has led in struggles for better conditions for the prisoners and has recently been subjected to solitary confinement and other harassment.

Less known cases are also documented, such as that of Fortunato Bayotlang, a salesman for a pharmaceutical firm, who was "mistakenly" arrested and murdered by six plainclothes policemen. In an apparent case of mistaken identity, Bayotlang was beaten to death, as reported by his younger brother to a visiting missionary.

Several cases of prisoners from the religious sector are included. Fortunately, these are more thoroughly documented as several church representatives have visited the prisons; and many religious persons, after being released themselves from imprisonment, have been active in exposing political prisoner conditions.

The booklet also quotes the prison experiences of Rev. Paul Wilson, an American minister of the Christian Church, who was arrested and deported back to the U.S. last July, 1974. "For the first four nights, we were made to sleep on bare concrete floors. Food consisted of rice, thin soup and coffee. Once or twice a week, we would get a small piece of fish. . . I slept in the same cell with a Filipino who had tuberculosis in its active and advanced stages. . ."

Opposition leaders were also arrested, an act "calculated to immobilize public opposition" to

Marcos. With exception of major figures like Sen. Benigno Aquino, Sergio Osmena and Eugenio Lopez, Jr., most of them were released after serving relatively short sentences. Unlike other political prisoners, they also were not subjected to as much harassment or torture, although they receive much more publicity in the international media.

Lastly, the booklet's epilogue calls on people to support efforts to free political prisoners through 1) writing letters and sending telegrams to representatives of the Marcos regime, such as the Philippine Consulate, and 2) supporting campaigns to stop U.S. military aid to the Philippines, as this aid is used to detain and further oppress political prisoners.

That such a booklet can be produced here in the U.S. is an achievement fitting the broad united efforts of the many who are fighting the Marcos regime. The case studies given are well-selected and are as carefully documented as possible, given that most information was obtained from materials smuggled out of the country.

The booklet is an important contribution of the anti-martial law movement and fills a gap in the present store of information on the dictatorship. Certainly it can and will be widely used to educate and further inform the broader American public about a most oppressed victim of martial law—the political prisoner.

(The booklet is available for \$1.00 from The Philippine Political Prisoners Project, 762 N. Virgil, Los Angeles, Ca. 90026. All income from the booklet over the cost of publication will be forwarded to the Philippines for political prisoners and their families.)

Filipinos Join Nationwide May Day Celebrations

May 1st, International Workers' Day, was celebrated this year for the first time by numbers of Filipinos in major cities throughout the U.S.

KDP chapters led in mobilizations in Seattle, the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. Organized in the Filipino communities or together with other working people, informal programs or picnics characterized the events.

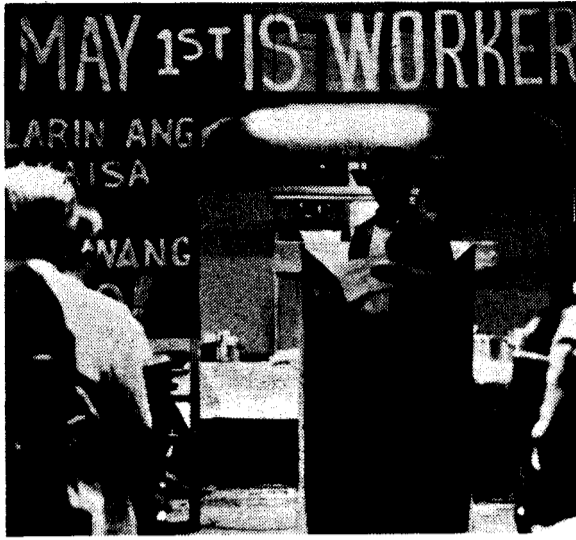
Many Filipinos had never celebrated May Day as the Workers' Day, although the event has historically honored the struggles of all working people throughout the world.

Thus, this year's participation is indicative of a growing consciousness among Filipinos here about the class unity they share with other oppressed and working people in fighting exploitation.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The first May Day occurred in the U.S. in 1886 when over 300,000 workers went out on general strike to demand an 8-hour day. However, because it is a day representing such militant struggles of working people against repression and exploitation, the U.S. government has tried to subvert it. In fact, the government has renamed it "Law and Order Day!"

For the same reason, Marcos will not allow May Day to be openly celebrated in the Philippines; however, the day is surely honored in "underground" activities despite martial law repression. Historically, the Filipino working class has celebrated May Day since 1903 when over 100,000 workers rallied in front of the Malacanang. Labor leader, Dr. Dominador Gomez said at the time, "In our struggle for better working and living conditions, we must at the same time struggle for the liberation of the motherland." American troops with fixed bayonets prevented the workers from entering



Roger Pineda, a seaman, read Amado Hernandez' poem, "Ang Panday," during the May Day program in New York City.

Malacanang. Since then, May Day has been one of massive mobilizations denouncing local feudalism and foreign domination, as well as targets for attacks and suppression by the government.

In the U.S. this year, various community groups, political organizations and individuals of different races and nationalities joined in commemoration of the difficult and heroic struggles of the working class. Bonded by the common class experiences of exploitation, oppression and tradition of struggle against injustices, May Day celebrants also addressed themselves to the concrete and pressing issues facing the working class here. Problems of layoffs, inflation and social service cutbacks, as well as racist attacks against Third World and immigrant workers were common themes in the different gatherings. Also, the recent victories of the Indochinese people were enthusiastically

(continued on page 12)

L.A. Teacher's Case...

School Board Bows to Pressure

In the last issue of Ang Katipunan, we reported on the militant struggle of Mrs. Bellaflor Pacheco, a teacher's aide in the East Los Angeles area. The grounds upon which she was fired last February 25 have never been clarified, but her termination was preceded by a series of blatant and discriminatory practices by the L.A. Unified School District.

Although Mrs. Pacheco's health has visibly deteriorated, she and her many friends and supporters have continued to fight against the school district's unfair and racist practices—Editor

LOS ANGELES—The Board of Education here has bowed to community pressure on behalf of fired Filipino teacher, Mrs. Bellaflor Pacheco, in hopes of "keeping the lid" on her discrimination case. To their dismay, however, the case has already been filed with the Fair Employment Practices Commission.

The Board recently turned over to Mrs. Pacheco and her supporters her personnel file for their review. Such unprecedented action was obviously to ward off adverse publicity about the case.

The struggle has rallied the broad support of the Filipino community in L.A. The various groups participating in the core group include: the Philippine Educators Association, the Fil-Am Community of L.A., the Oriental Service Center, Asian-American Mental Health Training Center, Pagkakaisa, KDP, Samahan at UCLA and City College of LA and the Asian Law Collective, which is handling the case.

COMMUNITY PRESSURES BOARD

Organized since March, the core group initiated a petition and letter-writing campaign in the Filipino community aimed at the Board to force its recognition of the case. The efforts resulted in hundreds of signatures being gathered within the Filipino community itself, while

letters flooded the Board demanding an explanation for the firing.

The petition, which was used to educate more people about the case, raised several demands of the Board: 1) a formal apology be made to Mrs. Pacheco; 2) any record of termination papers be removed from her permanent file; 3) she be reinstated in the position for which she qualified (Aide III), and that it be located within the vicinity of her residence; and 4) all medical bills incurred during this period be paid in full.

General demands were also placed on the Board. They included that 1) the school district provide adequate orientation to employees of their rights and benefits; 2) in-service training for bi-lingual and bi-cultural programs be provided for certificated and uncertificated minorities in the program; and 3) the present level of funding for aide programs be increased as a means for full and complete employment.

DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES LINKED

Another showing of community support was a mass meeting May 26, sponsored by the core group. Mrs. Pacheco and other Filipinos from various professions described their personal battles with discrimination. In all, the program linked the general practice of the Board of Education and other institutions with the particular case of Mrs. Pacheco and others. It was clear that Mrs. Pacheco was not alone in fighting discrimination.

Dr. Josefina Garcia from the Association of Foreign Medical Graduates raised how she has struggled against discrimination by the State, of graduates from other countries, who are consistently denied licenses to practice as their "standards" do not meet up to those here. Similarly, Dr. Oscar Domondong, with the Filipino Dental Society, told how even tests are used against foreign doctors. For example,

(continued on page 12)

UNITY... Magkaisa!

CHICAGO TEACH-IN RALLIES ANTI MARTIAL LAW DELEGATES

CHICAGO—Over 150 individuals and representatives of anti martial law groups in the U.S. met here May 11 for a teach-in co-sponsored by the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), KDP, some members of the Movement for a Free Philippines and other individuals.

Political prisoners, people's war, cultural imperialism, and the role of multi-national corporations were among the nine workshops featured during the day.

One of the featured speakers, Primitivo Mijares, former top propagandist for the Marcos regime and who recently defected, confirmed some of the trickery and lies promoted by the dictatorship in its media. Melinda Paras, KDP spokesperson, talked of her own arrest and deportation from the Philippines after martial law was declared. She also addressed the need for people's resistance against the repressive regime.

John Marks, co-author of the book, "The CIA - A Cult of Intelligence," drew several questions in the workshop as he exposed several incidences of CIA activity in the Philippines. In his talk he confirmed reports such as the role of the U.S. agent Edward Lansdale who worked with Pres. Magsaysay and later, Vietnam dictator Diem.

PAMATONG GRANTED ASYLUM IN U.S.

LOS ANGELES—Former Marcos aide Elly Pamatong has been granted political asylum through the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, according to a press release from the Philippine Liberation Party (PLP).

The U.S. State Department has been virtually silent on the question of political asylum, as it would mean taking a position on the existence of repression in the Philippines.

Several petitions for asylum have been filed in the U.S., mainly from ex-politicians or the wealthy, who fled the Philippines when martial law was declared. Most of these parties have remained relatively quiet and little is actually known about the status of their petitions.

Pamatong, who had already been granted protection under the Protocol and Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees within the United Nations, is chairman of the PLP.

CHICAGO HOSPITAL WORKERS CHARGE DISCRIMINATION

CHICAGO—Filipino hospital workers here are airing a case before the National Labor Relations Board, charging among other complaints, discrimination by the administration of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

The present battle began last month when employees of the hospital received a memorandum from the administrators detailing wage increases. Medical technicians, many of whom are Filipino, were angered that their increase was a mere \$.14 an hour, while nurses were receiving pay hikes of \$.50 to \$.70 an hour.

Feeling that they should also receive a substantial increase given rising cost-of-living standards, the medical technicians signed a petition stating their displeasure. As such wage increases were unfair and unreasonable, they demanded the administrators respond within 24 hours, or face certain consequences.

After 23 hours, the administrators approached one of the medical technician supervisors and questioned his signing the petition, as they considered him "part of the management." Upholding his opinions, the supervisor was placed on "indefinite" suspension.

Upon hearing this, the medical technicians left the hospital, after arranging that some remain to care for special and emergency cases. All those who left were then fired by the administration and charged with staging an illegal walkout, as they had not given 10 days' notification.

The basis for undertones of national discrimination in the workers' charges stem from events after the firing. Within a few days, all the white workers were rehired, along with one black technician. (4 white workers, 3 black and 11 Filipinos were fired.) Not one Filipino technician was rehired, however. Although there is no concrete evidence yet, the technicians also feel they may have been "black-listed" among other Chicago hospitals, because they have been given consistently negative responses in job-seeking at different hospitals since the walkout.

At this time, the discharged technicians are participating in hearings before the NLRB and waiting for the body's decision on the matter, although a concrete date has not been set for the ruling.

Int'l District Fights New Threat to Community Preservation

By Silme Domingo & Elaine Ko

SEATTLE—In the face of mounting discontent by International District residents and organizers, Port of Seattle authorities now claim their mass transportation terminal proposal actually has a "doubtful future."

The proposal to construct a central terminal next to the International District (ID), Seattle's Chinatown-Manilatown area, has been pointedly questioned since it was aired in a public meeting April 24. At that time, over 50 Asians from various community and student groups disagreed with the plan.

The proposed terminal at the Union Station site would be one of two such "pilot" terminals in the country. It would be a center for all city buses, Greyhound, Trailways and Amtrak. In addition, the \$40 million project would include a 2400-car parking garage, a 300-unit tourist hotel and facilities for major retail outlets.

ID residents and supporters felt that the Port of Seattle is not concerning itself with the needs of the ID, but is instead catering to big business interests. The proposal for the terminal complex was not even considering effects upon the ID, such as higher property rates, rents and commodity prices, actual loss of property to tourist-oriented businesses, as well as increased traffic, noise and pollution in the residential area.

LOW INCOME AREA

The ID has historically been a "poor" community, having been the entry and exit area for Alaska cannery workers since the late 1800's. Now diminished to some 10 square blocks, it is still the home of elderly Asian males and other poor, working class people. Whole families sometimes live in single-rooms, often without adequate heating or electricity. The small shops in the area furnish residents with most of their basic needs.

Some 300 Filipino manongs reside there in the inferior, rat-infested hotels similar to those in San Francisco's Chinatown-Manilatown. And like that area, where Manilatown has been reduced from some ten to only two blocks because of big business land-grabbing, the ID also finds itself being hemmed in by tourist centers, skyscrapers and freeways.

Thus, that such a project was proposed came as little surprise to the ID, which has been fighting the construction of the nearby Dome Stadium since early 1972. That proposal clearly earmarked the International District as the target of major "renovations" to pave the way for big business expansion.

(Recently, it was discovered that the terminal plan has been supported for over a year and a half by local politicians, city government bodies and businesses attracted by the Dome Stadium still under construction.)

News of the stadium construction three years ago had sparked months of tense negotiations, public meetings, law suits, legal injunctions and demonstrations by the ID residents and



International District supporters march to "preserve the ID" in Seattle during recent demonstration.

supporters. The community charged that the stadium would be detrimental to the ID, bringing tourists, high rents, prices, and more traffic, and eventually forcing residents out of their homes, and small shops out of business.

However, despite the broad protest, construction on the stadium began in November, 1972. The demoralized movement, which had been built around the issue, sunk to a lull.

Then, in the summer of 1974, many Asian youth flocked into the District working on projects through school and summer job programs. Several groups began progressive community programs concerning possible renovations in the ID, maintaining health centers and providing staple foods for the poorer residents, as part of "preserving the ID." Again, concerns rose over the stadium's impact on the community. This only intensified when construction on the stadium was halted in November, 1974, due to some "safety" hazards—like the roof falling in!

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

In December, 1974, the Alaska Cannery Workers Association raised the issue of exclusion of Asian construction workers on the stadium. Meetings to discuss these discriminatory practices focused, however, on the broader needs of the ID. It was clear that the community would have to seize the initiative and take immediate actions to minimize and protect the International District from the adverse effects of the stadium. Evidently, the local government bodies were not at all concerned with these problems.

The following month, the Committee for Corrective Action Program in the ID (CCAPID), presented eight demands to the King County executive. Basically, they held the county responsible for minimizing stadium effects by awarding certain jobs, service and concession contracts and retaining a consultant to study stadium impact. The demands also call for a users' tax on stadium activities to fund community projects, in addition to the county

which did not have any authority or ability to take any action. (As part of its relations with the "community," the Board had established such commissions for each ethnic grouping.)

The Board representatives also tried to justify the firing by saying that Mrs. Pacheco was part of a 20% cutback in the Education Aide Program, 90% of which are minorities.

A few days after the meeting, the Board's motivations in turning over the files and in conceding some admissions during the meeting were exposed. The legal counsel contacted the Asian Law Collective and angrily questioned the filing of the suit before the FEPC, where it becomes subject to public hearings. The counsel had just found out about the suit and wanted it suspended, as he said he thought it was a "closed door" case!

The group responded by going ahead with its plans for the public hearing, which is to be scheduled soon, as well as preparing for a proposed confrontation with the school principal and teacher involved in Mrs. Pacheco's complaint.

building 1,000 low income housing units, a multi-service center for senior citizens and a health clinic.

These demands were recently updated to include funding for the multi-service center, and a temporary health clinic to deal with immediate health needs in the community.

The county executive has verbally promised to meet some of the demands, but has not yet taken action on any of them.

With these experiences, the ID community did not hesitate to fire questions at the mass transportation proposal, which even on the surface confirms all intentions of the city and county to destroy the ID. (Already 28 of 45 hotels have been closed and one of these has been demolished.)

In anticipation of the intense struggle surely to emerge if the proposal is considered, the Union Station Ad Hoc Committee has been formed. Organizations participating in it include the ID Youth-Council, the CCAPID, KDP—Seattle chapter, the Interim ID Improvement Association and the Afro-Asian, Latin-American Solidarity Committee, as well as many concerned individuals.

The Committee has focused on doing educational/informational work in and out of the International District. On April 29, just days after the announcement of the proposal, it sponsored an informational press conference and a picket in front of the Port of Seattle headquarters, rallying over 80 people.

The group's main demand now is that the Port of Seattle undertake a socio-economic impact study on the effects of the terminal project on the ID. According to the demand, the Asian community would also have input and participation in such a study, which should be completed before any further action is taken on the proposal.

May Day...

(continued from page 11)

lauded as May Day celebrants called for support of all national liberation struggles and an end to imperialist wars.

In the Bay Area, Filipinos joined with some 2,000 celebrants on May 4 for a massive picnic and program in Oakland. People from many communities shared lunches during the day-long program of speakers and cultural presentations. In closing Bay Area KDP members led the singing of the Internationale, done in Tagalog, Spanish and English.

The KDP Chicago chapter also joined a broad celebration of 600 participants in a march through the Latino community. And in Seattle, as in most areas, KDP activists sang songs of the workers' struggles in the Philippines and U.S. during a program of skits and speeches attended by 200 members of the Asian community.

COMMUNITIES RALLY

Celebrations mainly in the Filipino community were sponsored by KDP chapters in Los Angeles, Philadelphia and New York. During the May 4 picnic in L.A., over 200 persons from 20 community and student groups gathered at Elysian Park. Philip Vera Cruz of the United Farmworkers Union, discussed the historical role of Filipinos in the agricultural industry. Singing, games and group exercises, and Filipino dances by local high school students were also part of the day's activities.

Philadelphia's picnic moved indoors to the International House, due to rain, for its May 4 program. KDP chapter members performed a skit drawing on the experiences of Filipino immigrants and linking oppression in the U.S. and in the Philippines. Over 30 participants enjoyed a lively discussion period and singing which climaxed the event.

The evening before, KDP activists sang workers' songs in Tagalog and English during a cultural presentation by various Third World groups in Philadelphia.

The Filipino community in New York City celebrated May Day for the first time at the Filipino Seamen's Club in Brooklyn. More than 50 people—seamen, both retired and semi-employed, students, doctors, accountants, clerks, secretaries and the unemployed, came to the afternoon program. Speakers called for greater unity among Filipinos to fight for basic democratic rights.

Pacheco Case...

(continued from page 11)

local doctors are allowed to take a certain battery of tests in two sittings, seven at a time. However, foreign doctors must take them all together!

Other speakers included Jose Baldivino, who had taught law for 23 years in the Philippines and Edna Clapp, a CPA, both of whom related their difficulties here.

The day after the mass meeting, May 27, members of the core group met with Board of Education's legal counsel and George Shannon, Director of the Education Aide Program. During the meeting the core group aired several discrepancies it had found in the personnel file on Mrs. Pacheco.

Significantly, during that meeting the Board admitted that the Pacheco case had been "mis-handled," although not specifying discrimination as the basis. They also referred to the Asian-American Education Commission, where the case had been first filed, as a "buffer,"

Students to Propose Confederation

1975 FWC Preparations Intensify

By Cathi Tactaquin

BERKELEY—Surely indicative of the breakthroughs anticipated in the upcoming 1975 Pilipino People's Far West Convention, a "working convention," is the outcome of the recent student sectoral conference, which resolved to propose at the convention a confederation of Filipino students on the West Coast.

The student conference held May 31 at City College in San Francisco is one of many such conferences scheduled in July in preparation for the "FWC" on August 30-31 and September 1. Students and faculty from some 19 college campuses in Northern California discussed experiences and problems in student organizing and in the development and maintenance of Third World and Pilipino Studies during the day-long program.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

After lively discussions in three workshop/discussion groups, the participants met in a plenary session and endorsed resolutions to: 1) raise a proposal to the 1975 FWC for the establishment of a West Coast confederation of Filipino students; 2) send a student delegation to the youth and education sectoral conferences to exchange related concerns; and 3) support in whatever way possible preparations for "Isuda ti Imuna," the cultural presentation during this year's FWC.

A steering committee representing the various participating campuses will further develop the confederation proposal before the FWC. Basically, the proposal is to unite Filipino student organizations against racial and national discrimination, and systematize communications, joint projects, etc. Similar proposals were raised in past FWC's, but the organization never materialized. This proposal will include suggestions on the implementation of the confederation and its possible activities.

Sectoral conferences in the fields of education, youth, housing and senior citizens, health, and labor and employment will take on similar formats. That is, the sharing of experiences and problems, both historically and present, and discussing the best ways to deal with them.

These efforts are all part of the sweeping

changes being made in this year's convention so that it will develop realizable plans of action. Past conventions provided valuable lessons for the Filipino community through the summarization of many scattered experiences. Yet, the past conventions were also criticized by some as being "a waste of time," as very little "action" came from them. The problem, it seemed, was that the resolutions passed each year were spontaneously developed, and more indicative of "intentions" rather than actions. However good these intentions were, no plans were ever established to follow them through "between" conventions.

These were some of the major points raised during a series of mass meetings since October, 1974, to prepare for the 1975 convention. Thus, it was from these meetings, as well as the practice of preceding FWC's, that major changes were decided for 1975.

For the first time, principles of unity have been developed for the convention. They are: 1) that Filipinos should unite against racial and national (as people from another country) discrimination in the U.S.; and 2) that the situation of Filipinos in the homeland is also a genuine concern of Filipinos in the U.S.

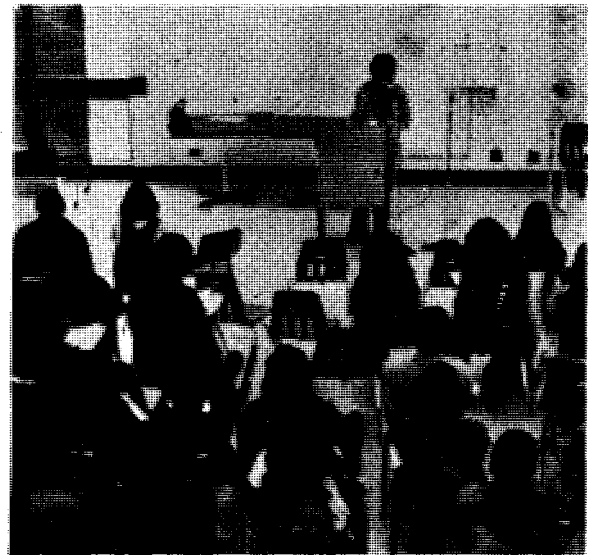
Organizers expect to begin the 1975 FWC "one step ahead" with these principles in mind. Also, the task of the convention, to develop from these principles concrete plans to benefit the whole community, is implicit in the selected theme, "To Serve the People," or "Paglingkuran ang Sambayanan."

CONFERENCES SUM UP TRENDS

To get a better sense of the "trends" in the Filipino community, the FWC steering committee also proposed the sectoral conferences. The results of these will be studied so that a convention program can be developed which is really reflective of people's concerns.

Already such intense preparations, which rest mainly on the hosting region, Northern California, has meant the expansion of the steering committee, in order to oversee all of the work. Members had also wanted this body to have a better cross-section of the Filipino community.

Literally hundreds of people in the area have



Student sectoral conference participants listen to Bill Tamayo speak on student organizing on May 31 at City College in S.F.

been drawn into FWC preparations through the conferences, or the community fundraisers, which are part of the fundraising and publicity campaigns. Thus, aside from "getting the work done," the activities have increased interest and enthusiasm among people new to the FWC.

For example, the youth conference scheduled tentatively for July 12, will draw together numbers of Northern California youth, many of whom will be participating in summer youth programs at that time. Already six youth groups have agreed to sponsor the conference: Pilipino Youth Development Council, Oakland; UFYO/Bayanihan, San Francisco; United Pilipino Youth Organization, San Jose; Pilipino Coalition for Progress, Vallejo; Pilipino Youth Council, Pittsburg and "Ako," Stockton.

Other sectoral conferences have been tentatively scheduled, but the dates will not be officially set until the sponsors, various groups in the community, have been confirmed. Thus far, they are: Housing and Senior Citizens, July 12; Health, July 13; Labor and Employment, July 19; and Education, July 20.

Community Forum... C.T.

FWC: 'Working Together'

Some important lessons in building broad unity in the Filipino community have been gained through preparations for the 1975 FWC. The main one is that regardless of differing political ideas, we Filipinos can work together—if we place the interests of the FWC and the whole Filipino community, first.

During the last mass meeting for the FWC, the participation of "certain Left groups" in the FWC planning work was attacked by a few people. In the discussion which followed, most of the other participants felt there are certainly many differences among various groups and individuals, but this has not and should not hamper convention preparations.

Basically, a position that "an attack against one is an attack against all" was adopted in defense of the FWC's principles of cooperation: "Those working together in the FWC to achieve its common goals share the responsibility to defend any group or sector involved against any divisive intrigues or rumor-mongering."

Certainly above-board and constructive criticisms are welcomed. But those which are not based on concrete practice easily become petty name-calling and foster suspicion and distrust.

As the FWC unfolds its broad and progressive character, such attacks are sure to intensify especially from those who feel that the "interests" of the FWC conflict with their own "self-interests." Already the steering committee of the convention has criticized such positions as "irresponsible" and undermining the potential of the FWC to serve the community. Indeed, in the end, these anti-unity positions only serve to weaken our united struggle against the oppression and exploitation that we as Filipinos all share.

The FWC organizers are determined to prevent baseless assaults from hampering the work. This is indicative of the strong unity gained in preparing for the FWC; with the cooperation and mutual respect of those involved, we will be able to implement the task of the FWC: "Serve the People!"

'Isuda ti Imuna' Selected As FWC Cultural Event

BERKELEY—"...As Filipinos in America, we realize that the most concrete expression of being Filipino is to be knowledgeable of our history."

This quote from the 1973 program of *Isuda ti Imuna* (They Who Were First), a play about the history of Filipinos in the U.S., also captures why it was selected as the FWC cultural presentation for Saturday evening, August 30, 1975.

RELIVING HISTORY

The FWC steering committee proposed it to complement the general principles of the convention, in fighting against racial and national discrimination, which Filipinos, particularly the manongs, have been subjected to in the U.S.

The play was first presented at the U.C. Berkeley campus two years ago by student, youth and community groups. The original play was dedicated to the Manongs, the first Filipino pioneers.

"The Manongs made history in America, much as we have been taught not to think so. And since they made history, we must, therefore, capture it, and we have the task of reliving it; for it is in reliving history that the Manongs will always be remembered. In this way, also, we can share with the Manongs their aspirations, their strengths, and their setbacks. Most of all, in reliving our Manong's history, we become one with them. Thus, we can continue the Filipino struggle against injustice—the same struggle our Manongs have long fought."

FWC CULTURAL NIGHT

Last year in Los Angeles, THE FWC broke with the tradition of having Saturday evening dances during the conventions to have a more organized "gala Cultural evening" in which dif-

ferent individuals and groups performed songs, dances, skits, etc.

The Filipino community in the surrounding area was also invited to the evening, as it will be this year. Zellerbach Auditorium, which has a seating capacity of 2,000, has already been secured for the event on the Berkeley campus.

The FWC program committee, which is coordinating the production, has recently launched a mass mobilization to recruit the 100 person cast and crew. Other cultural groups and talented individuals are also being contacted. People are needed for stage, dance music, technical and stage work and publicity. Students and youth, who may have more free time this summer, are especially encouraged to participate.

Anyone interested in working on the production should contact Loy Apolisok, (415) 536-6092/465-9876; or Jeanette Lazam, (415) 893-1888

Speaking Teams Set

BERKELEY—"Mobile speaking teams" are now available to talk with interested groups in the Filipino community about this year's Far West Convention.

The teams are hopeful of drawing in more participation from local Filipino organizations in the planning work, as well as in providing financial and material (food, paper, etc.) support.

Slide shows detailing the history of the FWC's have been prepared to accompany the presentations.

For more information, contact the FWC office at 504 Eshleman Hall, U.C., Berkeley, 94720, or call (415) 642-0795.

America In Turmoil

RAPE LAWS CHANGED

Laws concerning rape have recently undergone important changes to encourage more women to seek help in arresting their attacker. They also enable juries to judge rape cases more objectively as a violent crime of assault and not sexual deviance.

Bills currently expected to be passed in Colorado and New York will prohibit the introduction of evidence about a victim's personal sexual conduct, except if it concerns the defendant. To introduce such information, the defense would first have to make a written motion to the court. An initial hearing would then be held outside the presence of the jury.

The Colorado bill would also prohibit the judge from giving the Lord Hale instructions—that rape is the easiest charge to make, and the most difficult to defend.

Until recently, many women did not come forward to report a rape because rape laws often led to the implication that women invited sexual assault, or brought unfounded charges against men as an act of female revenge. The FBI estimates that only 1 out of every 5 rapes is reported to the police and that convictions are rare.

Though the new laws will help to provide a more realistic approach to sexual assaults, women's rights groups believe that American society itself must be changed, to rid women of the idea of submission and men of male supremacy, which encourage rape as an expression of aggression and dominance.

JOB RELIEF BILL FAILS

The Democratic House majority failed by five votes on June 6, to override President Ford's veto of a \$5.3 billion bill designed to provide 900,000 publicly financed jobs for the unemployed.

Democratic leaders, reportedly disappointed in the outcome, are presently working with the Republicans for more modest legislation to provide temporary relief to the unemployment crisis.

However, for American workers, the failure of the legislature to act on the unemployment crisis alleviates none of the massive frustration and discontent in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. With the official unemployment rate up again last month to 9.2% (8.5 million people), the Ford administration is having a more difficult time justifying forecasts of this being "an early phase of economic recovery." (sic)

MALPRACTICE CRISIS THREATENS HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

SAN FRANCISCO—The month long strike by S.F. Bay Area anesthesiologists protesting the soaring cost of malpractice insurance has had a devastating effect on the already inefficient health care industry. At the end of May, it appeared that the malpractice crisis was spreading rapidly throughout the U.S. as S. California, New York and Pennsylvania also reported massive doctor walkouts.

The S.F. strike began May 1 when a group liability policy covering 8,000 doctors throughout N. California expired and the Argonaut insurance company offered, instead, individual coverage at rates 300% higher than before. Rather than pay an average of \$18,164 a year for malpractice coverage, the anesthesiologists withdrew their services except for emergency surgery. This forced hospitals to turn away patients and lay off thousands of hospital workers.

Dr. Tom Bodeheimer, a staff researcher at Health Policy Advisory Center, placed major responsibility of the malpractice crisis on the insurance companies who are "trying to compensate for stock market losses by raising rates or getting out of the malpractice business entirely."

Hospitals who were in shaky financial shape long before the crisis are now facing bankruptcy; they depend on money from surgical patients for the bulk of their income. Experts have warned, "If they close their doors, they probably won't open again."

However, the burden of the crisis has fallen on those who can least afford it—the hospital workers and patients. In the past month over 4,000 workers have been laid off here with no guarantee of being rehired. The remaining hospital staff, overworked before the crisis is frustrated in trying to provide decent services for the patients. Francis Spector, a registered nurse at Mt. Zion Hospital, said the lack of adequate staff and the massive transferring of patients has resulted in potentially dangerous situations for patients.

Dr. Morton Thoshinsky, a surgeon who paid his premium so he could take care of his patients at Mt. Zion, was frank in his criticism. "I don't blame the anesthesiologists," he said. "I blame the whole damned system."

Cold Welcome in U.S.

Refugees Await Uncertain Future

By Sherry Valparaiso

Since the liberation of South Vietnam, about 130,000 Vietnamese have been evacuated to the U.S. by the Ford Administration, and 80% of them remain in makeshift housing on military bases awaiting an uncertain future. There are no clear plans for processing and resettling these refugees, and officials estimate their stay in the camps may extend to a year or more.

Most of the refugees left Viet Nam because they had been panicked by departing U.S. agents who warned that "anyone connected to the Americans would be executed by the Viet Cong." Others were war criminals and profiteers who fled to escape the justice of Viet Nam's "people's courts" and to protect the great wealth they had accumulated from their traitorous activities.

Ford attempted to conceal the true picture of life in liberated Viet Nam by launching this massive evacuation. However, western sources have not been able to substantiate the "blood-bath" rumors, and many of the panic-stricken refugees have since decided to return to Viet Nam. On June 6, a United Nations representative at Camp Pendleton, California, said that there are more than 1,000 refugees who want to return to Viet Nam. The U.N. official added, "I think the number will increase."

Also, a group of 45 airplane mechanics protested that they had been drugged when they voiced their opposition to leaving Viet Nam. When they disembarked in Guam, they petitioned to return home, stating, "We are not afraid of communists!" (S.F. Chronicle 5/13/75).

While many of the rich businessmen, politicians and military officers were able to obtain quick release, the vast majority are still at the camps living in tents and makeshift houses. These refugees are mostly ordinary citizens—small shopkeepers, teachers, low-ranking soldiers, and peasants.

Their desperate situation—too poor and unable to find the sponsors, housing and jobs required for release from the camps—has provided a ready opportunity for extortion and exploitation. A GI at Camp Pendleton described the oppressive conditions there saying, "Women are literally being asked and are selling their bodies to military/civilian personnel in order to obtain the necessary sponsorship that will remove them from the camps." Sponsors are now increasingly hard to find and an uncertain future in the U.S. awaits these thousands of hapless Vietnamese.

AMERICAN DREAM DISPELLED

For many Vietnamese refugees, the image of the U.S. as "Freedom Land" was quickly dispelled when faced with the immediate hostilities of anti-Asian racism and anti-immigrant hysteria. For example, many communities around the military bases where they are housed opposed the refugees' arrival with the same racism that allowed the U.S. to carry out over a decade of genocide in Vietnam. "As far as I'm concerned," remarked a woman from Niceville Fla., where Eglin Air Force base is located, "they can ship them all right back!" Also, a high school group there talked of organizing a "gook klux klan."

The refugees are also targeted as "competition for jobs," because of the difficulties in today's recession and inflation economy. One trade union put out a threatening leaflet saying, "We already gave you 50,000 American lives, and we'll be damned if we're going to give you our jobs." Unfortunately, these people refuse to admit that it was the U.S., not the Vietnamese, who were responsible for prolonging the war of aggression in Vietnam. It is also an argument which blames immigrants for the unemployment crisis, rather than focusing people's anger on the capitalists who have conducted massive lay-offs to protect their high profit levels.

Similar sentiments were voiced by California Gov. Brown's aide, Mario Obledo, who said, "America's 655,000 unemployed Vietnam vet-



Two women refugees at Camp Pendleton expressed sentiments of returning to their homeland-Vietnam.

erans should not be forced to compete with refugees for scarce jobs." Obledo, a strong critic of the refugee program and its potential impact on welfare roles and competition for jobs, projected that 80,000 or 60% of the refugees would settle in California.

OPPOSITION TO WAR CRIMINALS

However, it is important to distinguish the racist and reactionary opposition of many Americans to the refugees from the legitimate anger against the infusion of war criminals and corrupt officials into U.S. society. A good number of the refugees were the closest U.S. collaborators who were given U.S. asylum and financial security in return for their traitorous activities against the Vietnamese people. It is estimated that 50,000 of the refugees were considered "high risk personnel" and top priority of the State Dept.'s evacuation list. An official of Agency for International Development (AID), quoted in the S.F. Examiner of May 4, estimated that 5,000 of the refugees are "Operation Phoenix" agents who carried out assassinations and indiscriminate terror against anyone suspected of opposing Thieu. Many are in the U.S. today under assumed names, and are receiving VIP treatment.

Already the top puppet administrators who fled to the U.S. have moved quickly to establish themselves as "spokesmen and leaders" of the refugees. For example, former Premier Nguyen Cao Ky stayed at Camp Pendleton in order to develop his influence among the refugees. His leadership however, has not gone unchallenged. There is growing resentment in the camps against Ky and other former Saigon officials. "One Vietnamese journalist at Camp Pendleton said in the Oceanside area newspaper, *The Blade Tribune*, "Ky was one of the corrupt, too. He was the leader for six years and did nothing. He had a big plantation. The people can see him now. They could never see him then."

AGENT 'BASE CAMP'

The concentration of the "Phoenix" assassins, black marketeers and other top-ranking military and government officials has provided an ample breeding ground for an organized rightist movement. It is similar to the anti-Castro Cubans who have made Miami a base camp for agent provocateurs and Watergate agents.

The very character of these "preferred" refugees identifies them as some of the most die-hard mercenaries who would readily carry out other repressive activities for the right price. In the fifties, when France was defeated in Indochina, Vietnamese mercenaries who had fought for the French were brought to Paris where they later played an important role in the violent repression of the Algerian liberation forces.

Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.) is among the few others in Congress whose opposition to the refugees is focused on the

(continued on page 15)

Farmworkers Win Legislation

by Polly Parks

SACRAMENTO—A historic bill providing labor legislation for California's 250,000 farmworkers was recently passed by an overwhelming majority vote in the California Legislature last May 28, 1975. The United Farmworkers Union joyously welcomed the bill's passage which ended their 10-year battle to obtain farmworker legislation.

Effective in 90 days, SB 813 allows farmworkers the right to secret ballot elections within 7 days after a petition for Union elections is submitted. The petition must be signed by a majority of the workers at the ranch during peak season. Strikes at harvest time as a pressure point will still be permitted, though unions will be limited in their rights to secondary boycott (boycotting the store carrying the product).

In addition, the bill allows farmworkers more bargaining power as all ranch workers, from pickers to tractor drivers, will be considered one industrial unit and covered by the same contract. Workers with seniority will be given priority to advance to higher skilled jobs such as irrigating and tractor driving. Farmworkers are also more broadly defined and will include, among others, poultry, dairy and horticulture workers.

SB 813 is also the first US labor legislation for farmworkers. The National Labor Relations Act (1935), which provided industrial workers with the rights to form a union, never covered farmworkers. This blatant omission was due to the economic clout and political lobbying by the growers to prevent corrective legislation. They wanted to maintain farmworkers, who are mostly Chicano, Filipino and other Third World people, as cheap, unorganized labor for agribusiness.

California Gov. Jerry Brown first introduced the bill in April as a compromise between proposed legislation of the UFW, Teamsters and growers. Unprecedented in the 10-year legal struggle by the UFW to obtain this kind of



Farmworkers demonstrate in support of Farmworker secret ballot election bill -S.B. 813

legislation, the bill was swiftly handled through committee in three weeks time, though 26 amendments were added before all differing parties were satisfied.

The bill, however, comes as a clear victory for the UFW as it lays the basis to resolve the "jurisdictional dispute" between them and the Teamsters and growers. Originating in 1965 with the UFW strike in Delano, the dispute developed when the growers brought in the Teamsters Union and signed back-door contracts. Though the conflict was defined only as a "jurisdictional dispute" by the Teamster-grower interests, it was actually an attempt to force out the UFW. This caused tension between them, resulting many times in violence and bloodshed.

The Teamsters, who now hold the majority of the contracts, will be challenged at the polls in the next few months by the UFW. UFW representatives, however, feel confident that they will be able to win back many of them.

when Congress was unable to override Ford's veto.

VICTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE drew over 100,000 in victory rallies across the country. In NYC, the 5/11 Central Park War is Over celebration drew 75,000. Four days later people again demonstrated against U.S. aggression in the Mayaguez incident; it was denounced as an act to "save face" following the U.S.'s crushing defeats in Indochina.

2,000 NYC PUBLIC HOSPITAL WORKERS protested on 5/23 against hospital closings and budget cut-backs. The actions stem from NYC's budget crisis which Mayor Beame says is forcing him to severely cut-back personnel, mostly police, firemen, teachers and other public service workers.

10 UFW FARMWORKERS WERE SHOT on 5/26 by a shotgun wielding grower in a melon strike in Starr Co., Texas. The grower, C.L. Miller, declared "open season" on shooting farmworkers. Also, child labor legislation to allow farms to hire children under 12 to harvest crops was recently killed by congress.

the United Prisoners Union and his companion, Sally Voyer, were murdered on 6/8 in San Francisco as they were sitting outside his house.

IRANIAN STUDENTS' and supporters held large, well-disciplined rallies denouncing the Shah of Iran everywhere he went in his recent 3-day visit to the U.S. beginning May 15. The students wore cardboard masks to conceal their identities from Iranian police agents following the Shah.

HIGHWAY TH-3 was protested by 2,500 people who rallied at the state capitol in Honolulu. The demonstrators charged the construction of the highway will cause more traffic, uncontrolled development and evictions in a state where there is no more room for expansion.

THE STRIP MINING BILL an attempt to ban strip mining where land could not be reclaimed, impose stiff environmental controls on mining operations, and tax coal producers to pay for cleaning up more than 1 million acres of mine scarred land and mountainsides, failed

cunning scheme to propagandize and distort the people's victory in Vietnam.

The PRG, however, has called upon all those who have fled to return to their homelands and held rebuild Vietnam, a country shattered by 30 years of war. These sentiments are shared by many progressive Asian communities, whose experiences of racism in America can testify that it is in their best interest to return to Vietnam, a country liberated from a corrupt dictatorship and U.S. aggression—a country capable of building a society free from exploitation and oppression.

World in Focus

LAOS GOV'T ABORTS RIGHT-WING COUP

VIENTIANE, LAOS—The balance of forces in the coalition government in Laos rapidly changed over last month when top right-wing gov't. leaders fled the country after attempting a CIA-backed coup. The collapse of these anti-coalition forces was seen as strengthening the government with more honest, patriotic forces. Following the aborted coup, the coalition gov't. re-assessed the US's role in Laos and ordered the expulsion of all US personnel by June 30.

The coup d'etat was plotted by right forces after the peoples' victories in South Vietnam and Cambodia, which they viewed as a threat. However, the plot was discovered, and students and others sympathetic to the Neutralists and Pathet Lao revolutionary forces organized mass demonstrations in the cities to expose it.

Defense Minister Chapassak, a CIA-backed rightist, ordered the Royal troops to take part in the coup but they refused and requested to be put under the leadership of the neutralist Prime Minister Phouma. Without the military to carry out the coup, Champassak and the other most reactionary rightists planning the over-throw attempt, fled the country.

The role of US in the aborted coup led to demonstrations aimed at getting the U.S. out of the country. On May 14, in Savannakhet, thousands of students took over the AID office and put under house arrest the 6 personnel, only releasing them once the government ordered the agencies expulsion.

SMITH FUELS FEARS OF CIVIL WAR

The groundwork for civil war is being laid in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), according to African observers, who see little chance for a negotiated transfer of power from Premier Ian Smith's white-minority regime to representatives of the 6-million strong African majority.

The six-month stalemate in negotiations between Smith and the African National Council has created deep frustrations and anger which erupted June 1 in factional fighting within the ANC and in a violent police attack on black demonstrators. Police shot and killed 13 unarmed blacks and wounded 28 in what ANC president Bishop Abel Muzorewa called "cold-blooded murder."

Enos Nkala, a spokesperson for the militant Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), which favors continued guerrilla war against the Smith regime, told reporters June 2 that a rival group, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) had tried to take over leadership of the ANC. ZAPU wanted to arrange a settlement with the Smith Regime. Nkala said the ANC has opposed all talks until Smith meets his obligations under the Dec. 7 Lusaka agreement, including the freeing of political prisoners.

Other events have heightened the tension in Rhodesia. Smith has repeated his unyielding opposition to majority rule. And the new leftist FRELIMO government, set to take power in neighboring Mozambique on June 25, is expected to cut Rhodesia's trade routes to the sea. (International Bulletin)

PAK REMOVES CIVIL LIBERTIES

SEOUL, S. KOREA—On May 13, Pres. Pak Jung Hi of the Rep. of Korea made another sweeping decree prohibiting criticism of his constitution. The 9th proclamation in the last 1½ years, it bans student political activities and spreading any "rumors" and reports felt by the government to be against national security.

Violators are sentenced to a minimum of one year in prison with an automatic 10 year suspension of civil liberties. Already it has prevented the Korean people from knowing about Gulf Oil's \$4-M illegal campaign contributions to Pak's party.

Pak has used the recent events in Indochina to cry out that there is now a serious military threat from N. Korea. Massive anti-communist rallies have been held which Pak has used to exaggerate the invasion possibilities. He incessantly repeats S. Korea's loyalty to US interests in Asia, hoping for stronger promises of US military support.

Behind these war cry hysterics is a very weak dictatorial regime that has been increasingly isolated in the international community for its fascist repression of the S. Korean people. Also, Pak knows that his government, which has very little popularity in his own country, would quickly topple from internal dissension if US support were withdrawn.

Previously, on April 26, 1975, a joint communique was signed by China and N. Korea calling for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

DARE TO STRUGGLE...

BLACK ACTIVIST, GARY LAWTON, was finally found innocent on 5/13 after 3 trials for the alleged murder of two Riverside police officers. Previous trials had ended in hung-juries. At the time of his arrest, Lawton, was involved in community programs aimed at uncovering police misconduct.

LARGEST IMMIGRATION RAID IN HISTORY occurred in LA on 5/16 when nearly 500 undocumented worker, mostly women, were arrested at their jobs at Beltline Corp. by Immigration agents and LA city police. The Mexican and Latino workers, some of whom were U.S. citizens, were held for days before they could prove their citizenship.

OVER 10,000 ANGRY CHINESE-AMERICANS demonstrated in NYC on 5/19 to protest discrimination and police brutality. The rally was prompted by a vicious beating by police of Peter Yew in full view of hundreds of people in the Chinese community.

POPEYE JACKSON, Pres. of

refugees...

(continued from page 14)

inflex of officials responsible for maintaining the terror and repressive operations conducted by the Thieu regime.

NOT HUMANITARIANISM

As the events in the past two months have shown, the total evacuation operation was not an act of humanitarianism. It was part of Ford's

CAMBODIA: The Truth Behind The Lies

By Trinity Ordon

In the two months since Cambodia's liberation, the U.S. government through the CIA, has created slanderous propaganda vilifying the Cambodian liberation forces and continued aggressive actions against the Cambodian people and nation.

False news reports of "bloodbaths" and distorted accounts of Phnom Penh's evacuation have been widely published in the U.S. Reconnaissance and espionage activities have been carried out with the view of conducting subversion, sabotage, and provocation in the newly-liberated Cambodia.

Within weeks of Phnom Penh's liberation, U.S. newspapers and broadcasts had reported several incidents of rape, pillaging and mass executions by Khmer Rouge soldiers. Also, a shocking story of the "forced evacuation" of a million Phnom Penh residents was widely publicized, headlined on the front page of many U.S. dailies.

However, other reports later revealed that false "eyewitness" reports, fake photos, and "intercepted messages" from a phony Khmer Rouge radio station were the sources used to authenticate the alleged incidents.

On May 19, Richard Boyle, a reporter from Pacific News Service (SF), released a news report from Bangkok refuting many of these "bloodbath" allegations:

"As the last American newsman to leave Cambodia on May 8, I witnessed the battle of Phnom Penh, interviewed hundreds of persons at the French embassy and traveled by road through Khmer Rouge territory on the last convoy out. Stories of a bloodbath, as reported by other news agencies, can not be verified, and there is every indication that many of the accounts are outright lies.

For example, AP reported that French women were raped and had broken bottles put in their vaginas. I spent almost 2 weeks in the intensive care section of the makeshift French hospital in the embassy dining room and spoke with French doctors and nurses. None of us ever saw any of the "rape" victims.

This reporter and several French and other westerners informed AP in Bangkok that their reports were false. AP and UPI reporters then checked with Doctor Bernard Puquart, whom AP in Paris quoted as the source for the

bloodbath story. He told reporters the story was 'absolutely false.'

Also, on April 21, Cambodian head of state, Norodom Sihanouk, charged that the Khmer Serei, a CIA-sponsored right-wing group, had set up a phony radio station and broadcasted alarmist information about supposed atrocities in Phnom Penh. Actually harbored in Thailand, this clandestine radio station purporting to represent the Cambodian National United Front (NUF), said insurgents had beheaded former Premier Long Boret and Gen. Lon Non, Lon Nol's brother. They also reported that 21 foreigners had been killed; a story later denied by diplomatic sources in radio contact with the Camodian capital.

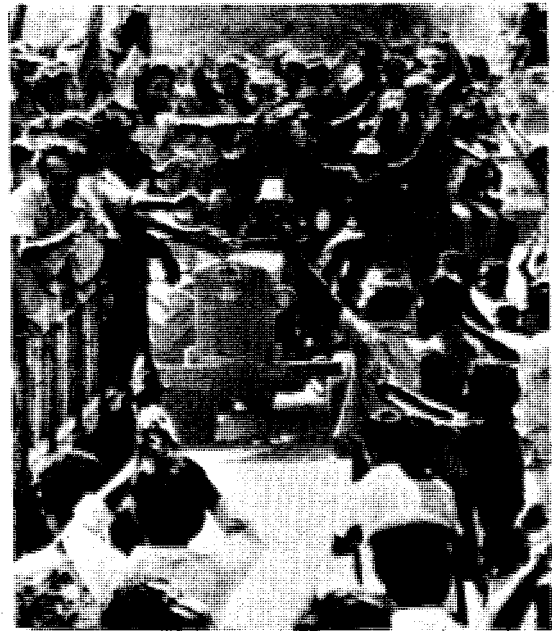
"FORCED EVACUATION"

But probably the most widely sensationalized single distortion was the "forced evacuation" of Phnom Penh shortly after liberation. News reports portrayed it as a "death march" in which hundreds fell to the wayside from exhaustion and starvation and were left for dead. The hard "evidence" cited in published reports was that loud-speaker vans roamed through the capital urging people to leave. Also, a photo of a Camodian soldier angrily brandishing a pistol accompanied the story.

This photo, however, was actually of a member of an unknown armed group called "Monatio" that entered Phnom Penh during the few hours between the collapse of Lon Nol forces and the entry of the Liberation army. They seized the ministry of information building and started issuing orders in the "name of the revolution." *Le Monde* (Paris) reported that the group contacted the international press before they disappeared from the scene.

During the traumatic days following the victory, the Khmer Rouge evacuated almost all of Phnom Penh's population for fear of retaliatory bombing and to save the people from starvation. In the months prior, the city had swollen twice its size to 2 million inhabitants. For weeks, everything needed to keep the city going, including rice and fuel to maintain water and electricity, had to be flown in and dropped by parachute.

Since they had virtually no motor transportation to carry food and supplies to the city, the liberation army decided to move the people to the liberated areas in the countryside where



Cambodians joyously welcome troops.

food was abundant and social order restored.

In addition, the close proximity of U.S. carriers in Indochina waters and air bases in Thailand carried a real threat of retaliatory bombing. With both these factors in mind, the Khmer Rouge lost no time in moving the people out.

MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

Then in a clear act of intimidation and aggression, the U.S. made an issue of the *Mayaguez* incident and sent planes to bomb Cambodian territory and ships, even after Cambodia had ordered the *Mayaguez* to move out of its territorial waters.

After capturing several espionage ships in the Gulf of Thailand, the Cambodian government was deeply suspicious and detained the American cargo ship on May 12 for territorial encroachment. It was within 8 miles of Poulo Wei, a small island claimed by Cambodia, when it was captured. After suitably inspecting the ship, Cambodia agreed to release it, but Pres. Ford still ordered the air, land and sea operation. Serious damages were done to Cambodian lives and property and 38 Americans died as a result of the combat encounter.

From these events, it is obvious that the U.S. is trying to thoroughly discredit and malign the newly-liberated Cambodian people by its flood of atrocity and piracy reports. All these actions aimed at deceiving the American people and misleading world opinion were part of the U.S. propaganda to "save face" in the wake of its defeat in Indochina.

S. Vietnam Begins Reconstruction

by Polly Parks

Since liberation last April 30, the South Vietnamese people have been mobilized into a tremendous national effort to rebuild their country, which has been ravaged by 30 years of war.

A legacy of destruction by U.S. bombs has left millions homeless, thousands of villages and hamlets obliterated, and major portions of every large city devastated. Homes, schools, hospitals workshops railroads, highways and places of worship have been razed to the ground. The defoliation of massive areas of vegetation has left whole areas sterile—like the Mekong Delta, once a fertile rice-exporting area. It must now import large supplies of rice in order for the people to have enough to eat.

The people must work together to establish basic industry, revitalize agriculture, especially food production.

While the tasks of reconstruction are enormous, the Vietnamese people are approaching it with the same spirit of determination and sacrifice that enabled them to win the war. United under the slogan, 'build a new Viet Nam a thousand times more beautiful than before,' the newly liberated Vietnamese people are actively carrying out S. Viet Nam's reconstruction.

To administer this ambitious undertaking, the people's government, the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), formed People's Liberation Committees in all the villages and a Military Management Commission in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Under these bodies, health care networks, roads, and build-

ings vital to the country are immediately being built. Also, housing is being provided for all, even though it is temporary due to a lack of proper materials.

The PRG is also instituting a nationwide educational program so that the people can increase their literacy and gain new knowledge of how to accomplish the tasks ahead. Every child will be given an opportunity to an education and adults are encouraged to attend night classes.

BUILD AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

One of the major problems facing the country however, is food production, especially rice. The last harvest season has already ended, leaving the country with a severe shortage. This will be temporarily surmounted by rice shipments from N. Viet Nam, but the war damaged land will have to undergo major repair before it can become arable again. Years of merciless bombings, resulting in human and material loss, also have left tons of defoliants and partially destroyed dikes. Immense bomb craters, still left from the 1968 and 1972 air wars, have to be leveled and filled. Also, thousands of unexploded phosphorus and splinter bombs, purposely sown by retreating U.S. and S. Vietnamese forces must be unearthed and dismantled.

The arable land available in the villages will be subject to land reform. Half will be for communal use—growing rice and other crops for the village. The other half will be redistributed free to individual families for their personal use. In addition, families may increase their

holdings by leveling craters and digging out explosives.

Also, local industry in S. Viet Nam is being revitalized, though it is not very developed. Since the country was never allowed to industrialize under French colonialism and U.S. imperialism, the country has only a few small handicraft industries; even its agricultural goods are farmed by manual labor.

Because of the backward state of its industry, S. Viet Nam is looking to help build her industry through low-interest loans, without political strings attached, with interested countries. Both the North and South have additionally launched an international appeal campaign for aid — both money and supplies — like seeds, tractors, building and medical supplies, printing presses, etc.

WAR REPARATIONS

The U.S. government, which spent \$150-B to destroy Viet Nam, is also obligated, by the 1973 Paris Peace Agreements to "contribute to healing the wounds of war and to postwar reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and throughout Indochina."

While Pres. Ford has not moved to implement this provision, international support for the reconstruction efforts will probably force the issue out—a political demand that refuses to allow the U.S. government to sweep its responsibility for the Viet Nam war under the rug! However, a peoples' campaign in the U.S. has been started to raise an expected \$1-M, an expression of friendship and good will that could be translated into very real assistance.