

Ang

KATIPUNAN

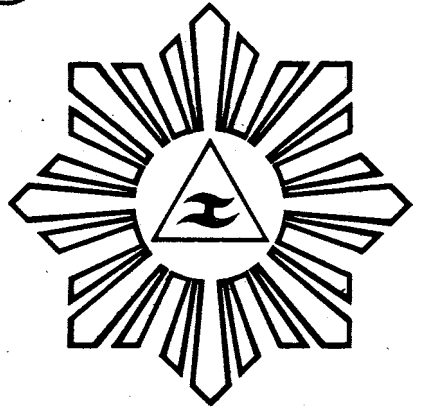
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TONDO-FOCUS OF U.N. CONFAB

Vancouver Protest Rebuffs Imelda

By FRANCISCO OCAMPO

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Demonstrations here and in the Philippines, resulting in the arrest of 2,000 protesting Manila slum dwellers, has caused international controversy over the choice of the Philippines as the site of a U.N.-sponsored housing project for the poor.

Timed to coincide with the U.N. Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), the demonstration held here on June 6 protested the designation of Mrs. Imelda Marcos as official Philippine delegate to a conference whose stated purpose is to alleviate the housing problems of the Third World's urban poor.

According to Bobby Verona, spokesperson for the protest, "Mrs. Marcos has no right to speak of 'building a humane environment in the Philippines' when the Marcos dictatorship has perpetrated all sorts of inhumanities against the Filipino people."

The demonstrators also denounced the denial of exit visas to five community leaders who were scheduled to attend the conference to represent Tondo, the intended site for the winning design.

Despite the tight security precautions and the one-to-one ratio of policemen to the 200 demonstrators, the protestors militantly chanted slogans like "Squatting is not a crime," "Programmed Housing, No - Self-Help Housing, Yes!" and "Down with Martial Law."

A speech was notably given by Fr. Gigi Cocquio, an Italian priest who had worked for ten years with the people of Tondo before being summarily deported by Marcos last December for his involvement with the urban poor.

Other speakers included Richard Poethig, World Council of Churches Urban Industrial Mission who spent 15 years working in Tondo; Ruben Cusipag, a Filipino journalist and former detainee now living in Toronto; Bobby Verona of the Committee for Filipino-Canadian Understanding; and John Turner, a world renowned architectural planner who advocates popular participation in housing planning.

The protest action, led by an ad hoc coalition of anti-martial law groups, was supported by representatives of the World Council of Churches, Self-Help Housing Symposium, United Church of Christ, and architects and planners who participated in the conference.

(continued on back page)



Two hundred demonstrators picket UN Habitat Conference site while Imelda Marcos addresses assembly. Vancouver Sun

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS A BIG SUCCESS

For many Filipinos across the U.S., June 12th was recently celebrated as a day recognizing our Philippine national heritage.

Thousands of Filipinos joined together in Filipino National Day Celebrations in New York, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Jose, and Hawaii. Encouraging the broad participation of the Filipino community, both young and old, Philippine and American born, the events were capped by cultural presentations, games, educational materials and a variety of foods.

One of the most successful was held in New York City. The following is an account of their "June 12 Barrio Fiesta." — Community News Editor

Press Release

NEW YORK CITY — It was not so much the weather — reminiscent of a fine day back home in the

Philippines — that created the festive atmosphere at the June 12 Philippine National Day Celebration at the Flushing Meadows Park. It was more the enthusiastic spirit of the 3,000 Filipinos who came to re-experience the significance of the day which symbolizes our peoples desire for freedom and unity.

As banderitas started flying, booths went up and the smell of cooking spread, the celebration began. It was family reunion — on a big scale.

The sight of children playing, of young people enjoying the games, of friends reminiscing old days and of *lolos* and *lolas* in their Sunday best was surely a very enjoyable experience for everyone. The diversity of the Filipinos as a people, in culture, traditions, political views, social outlooks, economic position, was present, but the sense of

(continued on page 6)

WASHINGTON COMPROMISES HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT

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RP-USSR TIES FORMALIZED

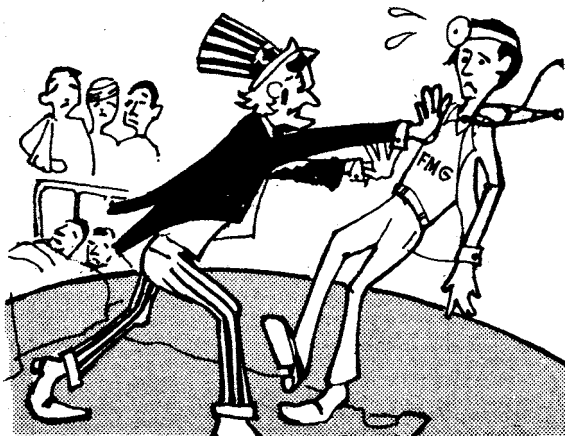
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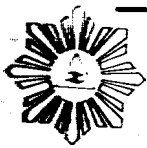
...ay as Angola ...ion. □

The Syrian invasion took place when a leftist-Palestinian victory over right-wing Phalange forces seemed

FMG DEFENSE: IMMIGRATION DEP'T. STALLS ON AGREEMENT

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KDP is a mass organization based in the US and is committed primarily to the struggle for the basic and long-term needs of the Filipino people, both in the Philippines and here in America.

Because of this, KDP supports the struggle of the Filipino people against the Marcos dictatorship and pledges to help build a broad-based movement among Filipinos in the US to oppose martial law.

However, KDP sees that the root cause of all the misery and poverty in the Philippines is the imperialist control, exercised principally by the U.S., over the economy and politics of the country. The Filipino people can solve this basic problem only through long and difficult revolutionary struggle for a truly genuine democratic and independent Philippines.

Here in the US, KDP is committed to struggling for the democratic rights of the Filipino minority. Katipunan views the racial and national discrimination experienced by the Filipino people, as part of and stemming from, the monopoly capitalist system in the US. KDP members understand that the US government is in fact, not democratic, but in the hands of a tiny minority of monopoly industrialists and bankers.

KDP sees that the people of the U.S. also need fundamental, revolutionary change to solve the basic ills that plague American society. The Katipunan understands that the working class must firmly control the government before it can rightfully be termed a government "of the people and for the people."

KDP sees that greater numbers of Filipinos are coming to these same political understandings. KDP is an organization open to all who agree with our political programme. In addition, KDP is committed to working in close cooperation with all progressive Filipinos to build a strong Filipino people's movement in America.

KATIPUNAN NG
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The ANG KATIPUNAN is your newspaper

It speaks of the Filipino People's problems and demands

It fights for

conference this June.

EDITORIAL

Celebrate the People's Bicentennial!

By TRINITY ORDONA
K.D.P. National Executive Board

July 4, 1976 - After 200 years of struggle, hard times continue to plague the American working people.

Presently, over five million working people are threatened to be cut off from needed food assistance and child daycare programs, to join the millions already hard pressed by the latest economic recession. The Ford Administration and Congress do little to ease the plight of over 14 million unemployed, instead approving a record-high \$113-billion military defense budget. Filipinos are among the working people most affected by these types of cutbacks and lack of jobs.

And despite the lessons of the Vietnam War, Ford and all the Presidential contenders are declaring continued U.S. military involvement overseas. Does this mean that Puerto Rico, Panama, Korea, Palestine, South Africa or even the Philippines may be next year's "hot spots" for U.S. military intervention? Meanwhile, the U.S. government says that the domestic economy is getting better. And next weekend in Philadelphia and all major cities across the country, the "biggest (and most expensive) birthday bash in American history" will be feted - the July 4th Bicentennial!

Will Bicentennial celebrations, parades, and fireworks solve these present problems of American society? No, of course not. But the U.S. government will use the Bicentennial in an attempt to rally American working people to support its economic and political policies at home and around the world, all in the name of "patriotism." And the government will "glorify" America's past and celebrate the traditional heroes, while the corporations make millions from selling us their "buy-centennial" specials.

In the face of this most blatant hypocrisy, the working people of America should make it clear to the world on this same day that we do not support these policies.

A PEOPLE BICENTENNIAL

We in the KDP, along with many other organizations and individuals in the July 4th Coalition, are working towards a "people's bicentennial" that will call for massive rallies on that day to demand that the government speak to the issues and problems of the day: unemployment, discrimination and repression at home and abroad.

- Jobs and a Decent Standard of Living!
- Full Democracy and Equality!
- Bicentennial Without Colonies - Freedom for all Oppressed Nations!

For working people in this country, it has been 200 years of constantly fighting against oppression and exploitation of the rich and powerful. Emancipation from slavery, universal right to vote, trade unions and the 8-hour day, for example, are reforms that were won only through our efforts as working and oppressed people.

Therefore, the People's Bicentennial should also celebrate the unity of the people in struggle, the "victories of the people who have lived and fought in this country, who have built this country, who have been robbed for hundreds of years of the benefits of their work."

FILIPINOS - PART OF THE STRUGGLE

And Filipinos in America are part of the masses of working people here who are both affected by these problems and share in the tradition of struggle against them.

We Filipinos, ourselves, have been used as cheap labor and victimized by racial and national discrimination here in America. From the first Filipino immigrants in the 1920's to the present, we have occupied the lower stratum of the working class and been relegated to low-paying, oftentimes servile positions as janitors, restaurant workers, farmworkers, cannery workers or office and hospital workers. Even our recently-arrived brothers and sisters, who are more educated and better-trained from the Philippines, are not generally hired in jobs commensurate to their training and experience.

But Filipinos have also fought back against these exploitative and discriminatory practices with their class brothers and sisters, and thus contributed to the betterment of American society. Some Filipinos

JULY 4th

UNIDAD EN LUCHA - UNITY IN STRUGGLE - PAGKAKAISLA SA PAKIKIBAKA

在斗争中的团结



For a Bicentennial without Colonies—
Freedom for all Oppressed Nations
For full Democracy and Equality
For Jobs and a Decent Standard of Living

even played key roles in organizing trade unions, as such as the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union (ILWU), Local 142 in Hawaii for plantation and cannery workers, the ILWU Local 37 in Seattle, Washington, for the Alaska cannery workers, and the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) in California.

And now the broader Filipino community has taken up the fight for basic, democratic rights as a minority group in this country. Numerous youth and student clubs, social service agencies, political groups and profession and social organizations have already become socially aware of our community's particular problems, and have been vocal in raising them and active in organizing against them.

For example, the need for low-cost, decent housing for senior citizens, bilingual/bicultural education programs for our youth and social services, especially for the newly-arrived, are becoming commonly-recognized needs that Filipinos are fighting for.

These needs, however, are not being answered readily or even recognized, for that matter, by the U.S. government. Already, we have learned that we must fight every inch of the way for any gain, and fight twice as hard to keep it.

PHILIPPINES - DOMINATED BY U.S.

And ever since the Philippines was colonized by the U.S. 75 years ago, our homeland has been dominated by American political, military and business interests. And even though it is rich in natural resources, its wealth has been diverted into the greedy hands of the Philippine elite and the U.S. corporations they serve. These miserable conditions are simply evidenced by the fact that more and more Filipinos are coming to the U.S. today than ever before, leaving behind them the same desperate economic conditions as did the first Filipino immigrants 50 years ago!

And now, it is only worse under the repressive martial law rule of Pres. Ferdinand Marcos - a regime that is supported by the U.S. government in military and economic aid, money taken from American tax dollars!

And all the exploitation and repression of the Philippines and Filipino-Americans is being multiplied a hundred-fold everyday by similar experiences of Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, other Asian-Americans, white working people in America and all the countries of the world dominated by the U.S.

Filipinos and all progressive American people, therefore, have every basis to be angry about the American system, to join in the upcoming "People's July 4th Bicentennial" and protest the continuation of U.S. domestic and international policies that are destructive to the interests of the people.

DEMONSTRATE for the fight for jobs, equality, freedom, liberation and peace.

CELEBRATE the unity of the American working people in struggle.

Ton
Tond



Buod ng mga Balita

(Gist of the News)

RP DRILLS OIL IN DISPUTED SPRATLY IS.

MANILA — Despite the existing dispute over the ownership of the Spratly Islands, the Philippines has gone ahead with an exploratory drilling there with a Swedish company. This group of islands has been a subject of contention between the Philippines, China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, who each claim ownership of the islands.

Warnings were given earlier to the Philippines that the action will most likely incite political and diplomatic conflict. The exploration, which amounts to territorial transgression, might very well spark military confrontation between the four countries, which almost occurred in 1973 when South Vietnam made claims over the island group.

Obviously unfazed by the serious implications of its drilling operations, the Marcos government persisted in the oil venture, through news of the activities have been blacked out of the media.

More recently, the conflict has further intensified when People's China renewed its claim over the islands upon learning of the Philippine-Swedish consortium venture.

Meanwhile, the Philippines has already made its presence known on the islands. According to Far Eastern Economic Review (May 28, 1976, p. 115) Marcos formed a new military command, the Western Command (Wescom), under Navy Commodore Gil Fernandez with its headquarters situated in Palawan (the drilling is in the Reed Bank Island, about 30 miles away). Fernandez was promised patrol planes and gunboats for use in patrolling this side of the South China Sea and presumably, to use military force in keeping the its stakes in the Spratly Islands. □

ESPALDON, MOST POWERFUL MILITARY MAN

MANILA — Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon was given command of the newly formed Southcom (Southern Command) over Mindanao, making him the single most powerful officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Obviously favored by Marcos, he now has a total of about 100,000 men under him, about 75 percent of the total AFP force. This includes infantry, civil home defense, naval, and air force units.

This command was formerly split between the Sovescom (Southwest Command) under Espaldon and the Cemcom (Central Command) under Brigadier General Fortunato Abat.

The Mindanao area has been the scene of intense fighting waged against Marcos by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) The intensity of the struggle, which threatens numerous operations of foreign corporations in the south, has forced Marcos to concentrate the bulk of its military force in the south.

Recently, Marcos also instituted a news blackout on the Mindanao situation so that he can continue projecting a false image of political stability, a necessary condition to encourage more much-needed foreign investment and tourism. Last May, Robert Whyman of the London Guardian was arrested and interrogated by the Philippine military authorities after he was seen inspecting bodies killed in an ambush in Zamboanga City. □

CASE AGAINST U.S. NAVY MEN DISMISSED

OLONGAPO CITY, Zambales—City fiscal Lucio Badoira of this city dismissed 50 criminal complaints of slander by deed and grave coercion against four U.S. Navy service persons, including the post exchange officer, Commander Ronald A. Verplaetse.

The complaints were filed by 25 Filipino saleswomen who were humiliated and arrogantly slandered while they were forcibly made to strip off all of their clothing by U.S. Navy security officers. They were suspected of concealing tax-free articles in their clothing, although no such items were found.

Earlier, the regime vehemently protested the humiliating treatment received by the saleswomen and regarded the incident as an offensive "disrespect of the national sovereignty of the Philippines."

However, the government's claim of upholding the nation's integrity is belied by its ready dismissal of the charges against the guilty U.S. service personnel — supposedly for lack of evidence. □

NEW TUITION FEE HIKE

MANILA — A new tuition fee hike for school year 1976-77 has been authorized by the Department of Education and Culture. The hike, in some instances up by 15 percent, involves a total of 242 private schools all over the country. Public schools already increased their fees last year.

Previous to martial law, the students were able to curb such hikes through negotiations within the local school council on fees, mass protests and court suits. Marcos scrapped all of these democratic safeguards when he declared martial law. Furthermore, through Presidential Decree 451, he abolished the school council on fees where the students are represented on the pretext that such a process is "too cumbersome and time consuming." Instead, Marcos gave sole authority on this matter to the Secretary of Education. □

Over 650,000 Homeless TYPHOON HITS LUZON

MANILA—Typhoon "Ding" swept through the Central Luzon area leaving 650,000 homeless, a death toll of about 105 so far and damage to properties running to millions of pesos.

The rising flood waters in Pampanga alone passed the level of the 1972 floods which claimed 364 lives. The floodwaters, reaching rooftop levels, rose an inch and a half an hour, making relief operations possible only with helicopters and amphibious vehicles.

Flood waters poured over the Arnedo, St. Tomas, San Marcelino, and three other dikes, flooding the densely populated provinces of Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Rizal, and Zambales. Thirteen bridges were also reported destroyed by the gushing waters. The inundated areas, 87 towns and five cities, are within the agricultural centers of the country, where rice is principally grown.

Metropolitan Manila was also inundated; in Mandaluyong, people were trapped in their homes under six feet of water. The water also rose to rooftop levels in some areas. The 16.1 inches of rainfall topped the record high of 15.9 in 1972, making this typhoon the worst to ever hit this area in 30 years.

The Marcos government, in a recent press statement, blamed the havoc on the *kaingin* system of farming (a small parcel of land is cleared by burning the vegetation within that area prior to planting).

Though such techniques are still used, the heavy deforestation undertaken by



The worst flood in 30 years — Marcos blames the small *kaingin* farmers, not the Japanese and American logging concessions who have denuded 5 million hectares of forest lands, 1.2 million of which are watersheds. (AK-KDP file photo)

Japanese and American logging concessions since the 1950's is the real cause of the extensive damage, since the mountains have been stripped, eliminating any watershed to hold back the rain waters.

Only last January, six more Japanese groups (Ataka, C. Itoh, Marubeni, Mitsubishi, Nicheman and Nissho Iwai) and the Weyerhaeuser International of the U.S. were allowed to set up logging operations in the country. The Tropical Philippines Wood Industries Co. also set up an \$8 million plant in Lalo, Cagayan with financing from the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

Government reports revealed that 5 million hectares of the 17 million hectare public forest lands (57% of the total land area of the country) had been denuded. 1.2 million hectares of the now-barren forest are watersheds and urgently need reforestation. But an intensified reforestation and conservation program, according to conservationists, will

take at least a hundred years to recover the forests, even if the government were to implement such a plan — which it has not up until now.

At the same time, the Marcos government has given nothing more than "lip service" to implementing a much needed flood control program. After the typhoon, the regime was blundering over a so-called "long-term flood control strategy through research" which will be conducted by the Forest Research Institute (FORI). Nothing concrete has yet come about.

The regime's lopsided economic priorities, which give preference to infrastructure projects like billion dollar hotels, the cultural center, and the folk arts center, also account for this recurring flood problem.

Such economic policies and government priorities as reflected in its inadequate flood control program have again taken their toll on the Filipino people with more lives, property damage and deeper poverty. □

Washington Compromise Threatens Human Rights Amendment

By WALDEN BELLO
NEWS ANALYSIS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The passage of an effective Human Rights Amendment to the 1976-77 Foreign Assistance Act is increasingly in doubt on Capitol Hill.

While Congress originally passed a stronger version of the amendment, Ford vetoed the entire Foreign Aid package last month, saying it posed too many restrictions on his executive power. Shortly thereafter, the Senate modified the original Abourezk amendment in a way which threatened to render application ineffective.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) led the move to make the determination of the repressive character of a foreign government receiving U.S. Military and Economic Aid a joint responsibility of Congress and the Executive branch. According to Severina Rivera, Washington liaison of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines), "This provision will enable the Executive, which has a record of strong support of a number of repressive governments, to stymie

any efforts to cut off aid to such a regime."

While the Foreign Assistance Act is now being discussed in joint committee between the House and the Senate, Washington sources expect the compromised Senate version to be upheld.

The Senate setback was accompanied by failure of another amendment to cut off military aid to Korea. However, a third amendment curtailing military aid credits to Chile was successfully introduced. These amendments were products of intense lobbying efforts by the Washington Task Force on Human Rights, of which the AMLC is a part.

The popular demand for a foreign policy based on respect for the human rights of citizens of governments dependent on the U.S. also recently led Sec. of State Kissinger to criticize the Chilean military junta for the arrest, detention and torture of its political opposition.

Though some of the anti-aid moves have been successful, the current direction of Washington politics is a hard-turn right, a trend that is greatly hampering these efforts.

This rightward Congressional move is clearly seen in the recent controversy over the new military defense budget, the largest in peacetime history and some 40 percent higher than the defense spending at the height of the Vietnam War. Despite efforts of the liberals to cut it back, the approval of Ford's \$140 billion request shows a Congress increasingly sensitive to election year rhetoric, especially charges that the U.S. is becoming a "second-rate" military power.

As a result, Ford has given lip service to upholding human rights, but told Congress that "U.S. security interests must come first."

Under the circumstances, it is unlikely that Pres. Marcos will utilize the present negotiations on U.S. military bases in the Philippines as leverage against moves to restrict U.S. aid to his regime.

Despite this setback, the AMLC stands firm in pushing for the implementation of the hard-fought Human Rights Amendment, recognizing that it may take even more public pressure for implementation as it took to get the bill passed. □

Price Hikes Follow Wage Increase

By SAMUEL P. BAYANI

A few days after the increase in minimum wage to P10.00 last May 1, a move publicized as his "labor gift to the country's workers," Marcos announced price hikes for the country's basic commodities and transport services.

The price of rice and corn, two basic staples for the Filipino people, went up, Jeepney, bus and taxi fares also increased.

Labor and consumer groups protested the price hikes and called the situation "grave and disappointing to the working class." Labor leaders who understandably did not want to be identified, denounced the governments move. Since rules and regulations for new minimum wage have not even been implemented yet, the labor leaders said "the increase in prices of primary goods leaves a bad taste in the mouth." A consumers group, **Kapisanan ng Mga Mamimili sa Pilipinas** (Consumers Group of the Philippines) has said "the timing (of the price hikes) was poor" because "the laborers should have been made to feel the benefits of increased wages first."



The new minimum wage came at the heels of the recent upsurge in workers mass actions and strikes. In January and February alone, approximately 80 strikes hit the Greater Manila area. Protesting their poor working conditions and sub-standard wages, the workers demanded a 100% increase in the minimum wage which had remained stagnant at its 1970 P8 level, despite the spiraling cost of living.

Under threat of more militant workers strikes, coupled with complaints from the pro-government trade unions that the failure to adjust the minimum wage was driving the workers to "radical labor organizations," the Marcos regime conceded that the P8 minimum daily wage was "unrealistic" and thus increased the minimum wage to P10.00.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE INADEQUATE

The P2 increase to placate the workers is a token amount, insufficient to mean any real benefits for the workers. Even the government's Department of Labor had earlier recommended at least a P11 or P12 minimum wage.

The P10 minimum wage is no more realistic than the P8 minimum wage. Even with the wage increase, Central Bank data as of May 9 reveals that real wages of workers have declined. The figures show that since 1966, there has been a widening gap between the worker's money wage (amount received in pesos) and his real wage (income as expressed in terms of goods and services it can purchase).

The paltry sum of P2 will hardly reverse this trend. In fact, with the recent increase in prices of basic commodities, the P10 minimum wage has become meaningless overnight.

While consumer prices have risen up to 133.2 percent since June 1970, there have been no corresponding increases in wages until the recent P2 adjustment. A survey conducted on labor costs in nine Southeast Asian countries by Sycip, Gorres and Velayo, a Manila accounting firm, revealed that the Philippines could hardly stand comparison in labor cost among its peers in Southeast Asia, both in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. The survey showed that in at least three areas of work, the Philippines pays very low, if not the lowest wages. For example, labor trades and crafts groups ranked the second lowest at \$2.45 a day compared to the \$6.64 highest rate paid in Hongkong.

Is Marcos Going 'Communist'? What's Behind Marcos' Ties with Moscow?

By SAMUEL P. BAYANI
NEWS ANALYSIS

Formal diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Soviet Union were established last June 3. This event follows in the wake of a steady growth of political and economic ties between Manila and Moscow since the declaration of martial law in 1972. The R.P.-U.S.S.R. ties has also served to increase speculation as to whether or not Marcos is preparing to "abandon the U.S." and shift the Philippines into the "Soviet orbit."

WHAT IS MARCOS UP TO?

Marcos, on his part, intends to get all the mileage he can out of his new "Russian connection." He went so far as to characterize the formalization of R.P.-Soviet relations as a "turning point" in Philippine policy from that of "colonialism to complete independence and self-reliance." Obviously, Marcos is taking great pains to shed his former image as a "U.S.-lackey" and project himself as a "leader of the Third World non-aligned countries."

Marcos' rhetoric aside, the Philippine economy is in desperate need to diversify the markets for its exports. The country's old "trading partners(sic)" - the U.S. and Japan, are themselves facing severe economic problems. The more fragile Philippine economy is courting disaster unless it can free itself somewhat from those traditional "trading dependencies." This problem itself is a legacy of years of U.S. imperialist domination which has left the Philippines overly dependent for its foreign exchange revenues on raw material exports (sugar, copper, etc.). The world prices for such raw materials can greatly fluctuate from year to year within the so-called "free world" market. In addition, prices for raw material commodities are usually manipulated to favor the more industrialized nations. In this context, the Philippines is hoping to "stabilize as much as possible" the violent fluctuations inherent in its "raw material exporting economy" by opening up trade with the countries in the Soviet camp.

There are also important political motives for Marcos' "flirting" with the U.S.' principal rival, the Soviet Union. Apparently, he is maneuvering for leverage in order to wrest more favors from his U.S.-backers. For example, in the present negotiations of the U.S.-R.P. treaties regarding U.S. military bases in the Philippines, Marcos is using the rhetorical threat of "transforming outmoded special relationships with the U.S." as a means to pressure Washington for more, favorable "rental terms." Marcos is well aware of increased importance of the Philippines to U.S. interests now that American bases in South Vietnam and Thailand are no longer available. Undoubtedly, Marcos' stated policy of "neutrality and independence", is intended to strengthen his bargaining position with the U.S. It is in this light that Marcos hopes his recent visit to Moscow and his exchange of "fraternal greetings" with Breshnev will influence the mood of the U.S. Congress.

In fact, the R.P.-U.S.S.R. ties come suspiciously at a time when the talks on re-negotiations of U.S.-R.P. military relations have begun in Washington which some observers believe is not accidental. James Reston of the New York Times says: "It suggests an obvious form of pressure: if we don't give Mr. Marcos what he wants for the bases, maybe he could go elsewhere." This is apparently what Marcos wants some people in

In justifying its inadequate P2 increase, the government stated that the present inflation level has remained at 3 to 7 percent, compared to 46 percent of last year. Central Bank predictions, however, show that by the end of the year, the inflation rate will have reached "two digits."

P2 INCREASE FAVOR MANAGEMENT

The Marcos regime's real reason for offering such an insignificant increase to the nation's workers can best be gleaned by its statement that "the P10 minimum wage is the best compromise between labor and management." The editorial in the May 16-22 1976 issue of the Marcos paper, the Manila Journal, spoke more bluntly to this compromise when it stated that the P10 minimum wage was the "best under the circumstances, for they provide relief to the laborers without causing undue harm to management."

The Marcos regime initially opposed the wage increase through its agency, National Economic Development Agency, on the grounds that it might constitute "a dis-incentive as it would drive foreign investors out of the country." Cheap labor has always been one of the regime's incentives for foreign investment, and Philippine labor at P10 is still cheap.

Aside from being grossly inadequate, the new minimum wage is not a national average that will apply to all the country's workers. The P10 is only a regional adjustment limited to workers of the Greater Manila Area, with workers outside the area getting even less - P9.00. Farm workers wages were raised from its 1970 level of P4.75 to P7 for

Washington to think as he bargains for more U.S. arms and money. Marcos' main target audience is particularly the U.S. Congress, some of whose members have spoken out against continued U.S. aid to his "inhumane regime."

Since the lifeline of the martial law dictatorship depends mainly on the continued political, economic and military support of the U.S., Marcos' diplomatic "flirtation" with the Soviet Union represents more of a maneuver to increase his leverage in dealings with his U.S. backers rather than any serious intention to "switch masters." A press release on Philippine Foreign Policy released recently by the Philippine Mission to the U.N. affirms this opinion. It states, "Though detente has, in Mr. Marcos' words, brought about new terms of reference and made a reassessment of American-Philippine relations necessary, it is unlikely that the components of these relationships will be drastically changed...Mr. Marcos also feels acutely a deficiency in the security of small, medium and developing countries, and...such a deficiency can best be filled by the United States."

...AND WHAT IS MR. BRESHNEV AFTER?

If Marcos is capitalizing on the R.P.-U.S.S.R. ties for his own advantage, the Soviet Union on the other hand is also doing its own share of political maneuvering. Since the collapse of U.S. power in Indo-China, the Soviet Union has been trying to gain a stronger foothold in Asia.

The contention between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. for "spheres of influence" in this part of the world is emerging in many different fields. In recent years, both super-powers have taken turns staging "military war maneuvers" in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The Soviet Union, in particular, has been aggressively stepping up its economic and political activities in the region, taking full advantage of the weakening position of U.S. imperialism. This is perhaps most clearly seen in the case of India, where the U.S.S.R. has steadily moved into positions formerly held by British and U.S. imperialism. India has become increasingly dependent on Soviet loans (with high interests), Soviet trade (often at unequal terms), Soviet direct investments (in basic industry) and Soviet technical advisors. This economic penetration has provided the U.S.S.R. with a formidable influence over the political and military policies of the Indian government. The general Soviet strategy emerging in Asia appears to be two-fold: 1) to replace the U.S. influence wherever possible, and 2) to militarily encircle the People's Republic of China.

At any rate, there are sufficient reasons to hold in suspicion the Soviet intentions in "normalizing" ties with the Philippines. The Russians appear very anxious to step in whatever possible breach exists between Marcos and the U.S. Since the declaration of martial law Soviet trade has increased steadily and is now running close to \$100 million annually. In addition, the Soviets have been engaged in oil drilling operations in Mindanao. They have also invested in Philippine shipping, FilSov, a joint Soviet-Filipino shipping venture, provides regular liner service connecting Manila with other Asian ports and the Pacific Northwest. Prior to June 3, a TASS commentary praised these "bonds between the two countries regardless of the absence of diplomatic ties." The commentary went further to say, "With these favorable pre-requisites, we (continued on page 5)

plantation workers and P6 for other farm work.

Again, the Marcos government justified this move in terms of its benefits to management. The government has been encouraging the establishment of export-oriented industries in the rural areas and feels the minimum wage increases will set this back. Marcos is obviously willing to sacrifice labor's standard of living to make Philippine exports competitive abroad.

The regime's pro-management bias is more blatant in its provision for exemptions to the new minimum wage for so-called "distressed industries" whose collapse is foreseen if compelled to increase their workers pay."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT EXPENSE OF WORKERS

The recent price hikes are unmistakably part and parcel of the "new society's" economic development scheme at the expense of the Filipino people. In fact, Marcos justified the recent price increases for rice and corn by saying it was a "new incentive to production." (sic) And in response to the popular demand to roll back the recent price increases, Marcos announced he will only freeze the prices at its present increased price level, with "the possibility of being lowered in the future if conditions so warrant."

This rollback seems highly unlikely since the regime's previous track record has always favored management and profits over the workers.

Recognizing this, the militant workers movement is expected to spearhead more protests against the price hikes over the next month. □

R.P.-U.S.S.R. Ties ...

(continued from page 4)

would think also for starting cooperation in the political sphere."

In fact, it is in the "political sphere" where Soviet support for the Marcos dictatorship is most despicable. On a number of occasions over the past three years, the Soviet press has explicitly "praised" the "progressive and nationalist" character of the martial law regime! Why would the U.S.S.R. go "out of its way" to obscure the fascist character of the dictatorship? What is the motivation for such uncalled for flattery of Marcos? In addition, what was the remnants of the old "Moscow supported" Communist Party of the Philippines, shamelessly surrendered to Marcos in 1973 and are now openly cooperating and working with the dictatorship!

Gone are the days when the Soviet Union consistently championed the struggle of oppressed peoples. In particular in the Philippines, the U.S.S.R. displayed its willingness to actively support and prop up the unpopular and fascist Marcos dictatorship which weighs so heavily upon the Filipino people... so long as the "relationship" advances their own imperialist designs.

BUT THE U.S., HAS NO INTENTION OF LEAVING THE PHILIPPINES... VOLUNTARILY

Of course, any discussion of Soviet intentions or Marcos' changing maneuvers, amounts to idle speculation outside the context of what the U.S. plans are in the Philippines. The U.S. has been the main imperialist power controlling the Philippines for almost 80 years now. U.S. domination of the country is still formidable, extensive and deep - touching every aspect of Philippine society. Today, nearly \$3 billion in U.S. capital is invested in the Philippines, representing over 60 per cent of all U.S. investments in Southeast Asia. All the strategic industries and banking are under U.S. control, as well as the majority of manufacturing and domestic-consumption industries. Militarily the U.S. maintains over 20 bases, including the "home port" of the Seventh Fleet (Subic Bay) and the largest U.S. air force base outside continental U.S. (Clark Field). Culturally, the influence is massive - suffice it to point out that the whole education system for 70 years has been based on U.S. models.

Martial law was the "brain child" of U.S. businessmen and "advisors" and it has served to further U.S. domination, resulting in the biggest increase in American investments and loans in decades. When the U.S. was driven out of Indo-China, they "retreated" to the Philippines and U.S. officials have said on numerous occasions that America has no intention of "retreating any further." It is in this light that the U.S. government has been the main prop to the Marcos dictatorship, providing it with over \$118.7 million in military aid alone since 1973.

It is clear that Marcos' final loyalty is to himself - he would probably entertain any maneuver to keep himself in power and advance his wealth... including possibly opening the country to increased Soviet influence. However, the real question is how long would the U.S. tolerate such "insubordination" on the part of Marcos? Hasn't the U.S. shown numerous times, its capacity for engineering "Palace coups" - often in countries where much less was at stake?

Perhaps what the most telling feature of the ruling circles really thinks of Marcos' dramatic " rapprochement with the Soviet camp" is the absence of any widespread panic or alarm in Washington. Apparently, the U.S. imperialists judge a puppet not so much by what he "proclaims", but rather how well he "continues to serve"! □

Squatters Struggle...

(continued from back page)

of P371/month of which only 10% or P37 can be allotted to housing.

REAL ISSUE LAND OWNERSHIP

Finally in rebutting the government's resettlement solution, the Tondo squatters point out that only land ownership and not low-cost housing is the only viable alternative to the squatter problem at this time. Tondo's slum-dwellers, created by the refugee situation after WWII have been fighting for 17 years to acquire legal ownership of the Tondo Foreshore. They invoke Republic Act 1597/2439 which entitled them to land ownership but which was secretly repealed by Presidential Decree 814.

They explain that the reason why the government refuses to yield ownership to them is its plans to transform Tondo into an industrial complex and international port. Dagat-dagatan, a concession the government was forced to make in view of staunch community opposition, only offers the squatters the option to rent; an option that will end when the interport is built with a corresponding increase in real estate values.

The demand of Tondo residents is echoed by the Alliance: "We are only asking the government for a decent and just place. We are not asking for a lot in Forbes Park or a place by the Pasig River. We only aspire to have a decent and fair abode. Is this too hard to give? If Miss Universe was given an island by the Philippine Government, why is it that we Filipinos are deprived of a piece of land in our own country." □

PART ONE - MACAPAGAL BOOK REVIEW

Nat'l Assembly- PIPEDREAM OF A DISGRUNTLED ELITE

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

If in my treading the path of duty and right by divulging my thinking, unjust reprisal shall fall upon the members of my family, who I assure the authorities have no knowledge of my efforts to put down these thoughts in writing, I ask their forgiveness and I wish to them to know that I love them above myself. But above all I love my country. In the fervor of this love I implore Divine Providence to grant peace to our people, that they may be saved from prolonged dictatorship and be redeemed to pursue their true welfare as free and dignified human beings in a democracy.

Diosdado Macapagal

Macapagal's concluding remarks in his book, **Democracy in the Philippines**, evokes in the mind of the uncritical reader an image of a fearless man, fiery with patriotism and consumed with love for country. Indeed, his remarks seem to resemble the noble commitment of Jose Rizal's *Mi Ultimo Adios* or Apolinario Mabini's last message while exiled in Guam.

But the patriotic phrases that pepper Macapagal's book like, "I know not what others will do but as for me, I will stand by the preservation of democracy to the last of my breath," (a-la-Patrick Henry?) are actually hollow when the author's past record and present alternatives to martial law are scrutinized closely.

For a genuine patriot is judged not by his words, but by his deeds and it is in this sense that Macapagal's seemingly patriotic verbiage fail to conceal his true motives.

Perhaps the best indication of Macapagal's shallow "patriotism" can be seen from a critique of his proposition to convene the National Assembly as an alternative to martial law.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: A path to freedom for the many or a vehicle to power for the elite few?

In November 1975, when Macapagal came out against Marcos, he vigorously campaigned for the convening of the interim National Assembly. Supposedly the highest governing body to oversee the transition from a presidential to parliamentary form of government, the National Assembly, and the entire 1973 constitution for that matter, was concocted by Marcos himself. Thus, it has been known for a long time that the Assembly will "naturally" favor the Marcos regime in its actions.

Despite this widely acknowledged fact, Macapagal asserts that the interim National Assembly is "a specific course of action which will redirect the nation towards the ultimate restoration of democracy." (Sign of the Times, 3/26/76)

Needless to say this assertion is both futile and contradictory.

A cursory examination of the 1973 charter provisions on the Assembly does not preclude the lifting of martial law and cannot revoke the presidential decrees, general orders, and letters of instructions promulgated earlier by Marcos.

Second, the incumbent president (Marcos) automatically becomes the prime minister without the benefit of general elections.

Third, the National Assembly cannot even take up general legislation unless recommended by the prime minister's cabinet (in this case, Marcos henchmen).

In effect, the National Assembly would merely serve as an adjunct to Marcos' fascist machinery.

Why then does Macapagal continue to advocate it as a viable alternative to martial law?

TRUE MOTIVES LIE BENEATH RHETORICS

Despite Macapagal's tirades against Marcos' totalitarian rule, he actively assisted the Marcos regime when he supported the 1973 "Marcos constitution" when he was president of the Constitutional Convention. In fact, it was the Con-Con that approved the "Marcos constitution" which called for the changeover of governmental systems. and under the specific provisions of this "constitution," membership of the Assembly will be drawn from the defunct Senate, Congress and Con-Con delegates who voted for the 1973 charter!

Thus, Macapagal is assured a new political career in a key post of the Assembly...once it is convened!

Then completely rationalizing his actions, Macapagal writes in his book:

"...No man, no matter how gifted can run the affairs of over 40 million people by himself. He needs advice. Rather than confine the availability of such counsel to men who no matter how personally loyal to him, may not be adequately versed in the workings of government and the body politic; it would be of immense benefit to the nation and to Pres. Marcos himself if the interim National

Assembly were in existence so that it or its majority members, who while accepting conformity to his final decision, may give him the benefit of experienced advice." (page 59)

Obviously, Macapagal's true reason for advocating the convening of the National Assembly is his desire to pursue a career in a future political set-up. And if he is to knowingly serve in a puppet assembly and offer his "experienced counsel" to Marcos in exchange for a share of power in running the affairs of government, what can be said of his "noble" love for country that he professes?

IN DEFENSE OF THE RULING CLASS

Clearly, the Filipino people have nothing to gain from the convening of the National Assembly. The true beneficiaries of this move would be former politicians who, disgruntled by Marcos' complete monopoly of power, are seeking new grounds to undermine or partake of this power themselves.

But more importantly, the National Assembly would restore the influence, prestige, and economic status they had previously enjoyed before martial law, which at present are exclusively reserved for Marcos loyalists.

Macapagal, the best example of this brand of ex-politician, is so steeped in political careerism that he fastidiously defends his National Assembly proposition, even at the risk of sounding stupid. For example, Macapagal invokes a self-incriminating statement to bolster his weak arguments for the National Assembly:

"From the practical standpoint, there is no adequate reason for President Marcos to freeze the interim National Assembly which he approved when he persuaded his majority in the 1971 Constitutional Convention to expedite approval of a new constitution tailored to his interests with an inducement to make the convention delegate members of an immediately functional interim National Assembly. I say this because with the prospective composition of the interim National Assembly, President Marcos will undoubtedly obtain full support and cooperation. Those who could give him trouble in the interim National Assembly... did not opt to become members." (page 59)

But such self-seeking, opportunist reasoning is not uncommon in Macapagal's style, or anyone for that matter who has only his interest at heart, and would therefore use any conceivable argument under the sun, no matter how contradictory, to buttress a self-serving cause.

For example, while Macapagal implores his countrymen to rally behind his "cause" of fighting the regime, he has the audacity to suggest to Marcos that the National Assembly would give his regime the legal and democratic trimmings it needs to gain international acceptance:

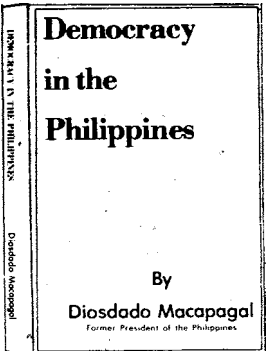
"A legislative assembly is indispensable to a government for or avowing service to free men. Even patent dictatorships in Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, etc., have legislative assemblies with a semblance of representation through popular will. It will seem utterly indefensible that a long respected democracy like the Philippines as a beginner in the adventure of a dictatorship under Mr. Marcos will do worse than older dictatorships by doing away completely with a legislature based on a respectable degree of popular support." (page 57)

Macapagal's self-serving motives, however, are not surprising. As a representative of the disgruntled elite, it is understandable that he would propose alternatives to martial law which are only meant to restore and perpetuate the interests of those elite temporarily dispossessed by Marcos, all in the name of "freedom and democracy."

Thus, even his laborious analysis and critique of Marcos' "new society" which is exaggerated as "...the most stinging indictment yet," is a grossly inadequate description of the Filipino people's daily sufferings under martial law.

But could such a critique be expected from such a self-seeking politician as former-President Macapagal, who protected in his luxurious Forbes Park study, has little contact (save for his servants) with the oppressed Filipino masses. □

[to be continued in next issue]



Philippine Nat'l Day Celebrations: A Big Success



(AK-KDP Photo)

NEW YORK — The KDP Singers (above), one of the many cultural performers at the "Philippine National Day Celebration" inspiring the crowd of over 3,000 Filipinos with songs from the Philippines.

(continued from front page)

bayanihan — being together — prevailed on this day which everybody recognized as their very own. The idea of our common national heritage was firmly established as the binding factor towards a true Philippine National Day.

At 11:00 a.m., Fr. Theodoro Dizon of the Silangan Association opened the celebration with a brief message to everyone as they sat on the cool grass of the park. Afterwards, the aroma of barbecue pork started to fill the air and the food booths opened, displaying a wide variety of Philippine delicacies prepared for the celebration. *Rellenabong sugpo* and *pancit luglug* was the days favorite, prepared by Nipa Hut Restaurant. The warm weather also made for the brisk sales of *Halo-Halo* and the cool melon drinks by the New York Jaycettes and Philippine American Youth Organization (PAYO). Philippine snacks and sweets like *chicharon and espasol* provided by Mrs. Capili and Mrs. Tessie Carlos also attracted everyone's attention. An excellently prepared vat of *kalderratta* by the United Filipino Organization (UFO) topped off the array of Philippine cuisine.

At 5:00 p.m., everyone was called to get a spot on the grass for the cultural presentation. The program was opened with a speech by Philippine National Day Committee delivered by Mr. Nestor Gener of PETAL. He pointed out that "despite our diversity — religious, political, social and economic...we have a lot in common, we have a lot to share." After naming all the different organizing and supporting groups, Gener then said, "All these different organizations recognize and respect their differences, but all of them are ready to uphold and stress points of unity within this particular activity."

The strong working unity that was developed among the participating organizations was lauded by the committee, pointing that, "without such unity, the enormous preparation tasks would have been impossible to accomplish. This unity was not imposed. It was a necessity to ensure that the celebration would be a success."

It ended by happily noting that the Filipino community, "is starting to learn how we can come together to work for a issue that benefits all of us in the community."

INS Holds Up FMG Settlement

By AIMEE CRUZ
Special to the AK

NEW YORK CITY — According to a recent press release, a long-overdue confirmation from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to an agreement that would resolve the controversial Exchange Visitor—Foreign Medical Graduates (EV-FMG) issue remains the only obstacle to complete victory.

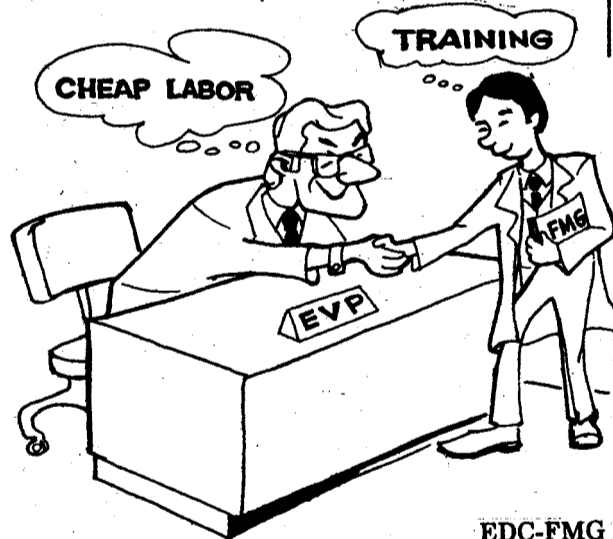
The terms of agreement essentially revoke the April 1975 State Department memorandum by which all EV-FMGs, who had filed for permanent residency but had not obtained their alien number within 60 days of application, would have been subject to immediate deportation. This policy, had it been implemented, would have resulted in the arbitrary discontinuance of hundreds of EV-FMGs, most of whom are Filipino, from their training program.

STATE DEPT., I.N.S. COME TO MEETING

As part of the overall efforts to oppose this unfair and discriminatory ruling, a meeting was held on March 30 with Richard Sculby and Paul A. Cook of the State Department and Charles G. McCarthy of the INS. The interests of the affected EV-FMGs were represented there by Murray Gordon, legal counsel for two groups active in the issue, the Emergency Defense Committee for the FMGs (EDC-FMG) and the Committee for Interns and Residents (CIR).

Their terms of agreement, which were successfully reached during this meeting, eliminates the 60-day deadline period and allows EV-FMGs currently in training to complete their program. For those who applied between 1970 and 1972 and finished their training, a deferred voluntary departure status will be granted, which is a legal status that also allows the FMG to engage in lawful employment in the U.S. while waiting to receive an alien number.

Acting according to the arrangement made at this meeting, Gordon summarized the terms of the



EDC-FMG

agreement and sent them in a formal letter to the State Department and the INS for written confirmation.

Recently the EDC-FMG has received a letter from Paul Cook of the State Department confirming the point of their verbal agreement to reverse the State Department ruling and allow EV FMG's to continue their training. Outstanding, however, are confirmations from the INS on the second point of the agreement regarding the deferred voluntary departure status. The INS also has to confirm in writing their agreement that those who withdrew their application for permanent residence due to the intimidation of the State Department ruling be restored their place on the waiting list.

The INS has failed on three separate dates to meet their deadline to confirm the above agreements, impeding the resolution of the EV-FMG problem. The EDC-FMG plans to further press the INS to confirm the verbal agreement and has already recalled all its petitions from local EDC committees throughout the country. The successful petition gathering efforts garnered close to 5,000 signatures.

Pro-Marcos Paper Censors June 12 Press Release

NEW YORK — "In a blatant act of censorship," charges the Philippine National Day Committee, "the *Filipino Reporter*, a New York based, pro-Marcos newspaper distorted the facts of our official press release." The press release was in connection with the highly successful Philippine National Day Celebration held here last June 12 which drew the participation of about 3,000 Filipinos.

While printing almost each and every word from the official PNDC press release, the *Filipino Reporter* chose to eliminate any and all mention of two groups, the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and the NY Anti-Martial Law Alliance, who were among the active organizers for the affair.

The member organizations of the PNDC deplored the act of selective exclusion and has unanimously agreed to demand an explanation and the necessary apology from the editor of the *Filipino Reporter*: "We of the Philippine National Day Committee have begun to learn how to build and preserve unity among us Filipinos, while respecting and recognizing our differences. We treasure the unity fostered on that day among different groups and organizations, considered as rare and valuable experience for the Filipino Community. Your failure to depict the true spirit of that day therefore disheartens us, members of the NY Filipino community. We truly hope your newspaper is with us in the desire to uphold the truth and preserve a united spirit and foster its growth among Filipinos in N.Y."

Responding to the incident, the NY-KDP replied that, "The reasons for censoring the KDP's and Anti-Martial Law Alliance's participation in the Philippine National Day Celebration are clear. The *Filipino Reporter* the mouthpiece of the Marcos regime cannot tolerate the existence of groups in the U.S. who have openly disagreed with the Martial Law regime of the Philippines. This act is truly reflective of the undemocratic and fascist methods applied by the Marcos regime on those who oppose its policies." □

TRIAL BY PUBLICITY**Community Questions Arrest of Filipino Nurses**

Leonora Perez and Filipina Narcisa (above) as they were being arrested. The controversial case has become the subject of much concern in the Filipino community. (AP photo)

Two Filipina nurses were charged last June 15 with the murder of five patients and poisoning of 10 others at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan last August 12, 1975.

The federal grand jury in Detroit which indicted the two, Leonora Perez and Filipina Narcisa, also charged them with conspiracy to commit first-degree murder.

Eleven patients died at the hospital last year from breathing failures. Linking the deaths to the drug Pavulon, or pancuronium bromide, the investigations said this curare-like muscle-paralyzing drug renders patients incapable of breathing without mechanical aid.

Hospital co-workers and friends however, say that the two are dedicated medical professionals "victimized by the authorities," as the two Filipina nurses were singled out soon after the investigation began. The nurses themselves, on the night of the multiple deaths, worked to near-exhaustion to help the dying patients, eight of whom had breathing failures in one hour alone.

There are also some unanswered factors about the case such as why no statement or explanation by the hospital or supervisor responsible for the ward where the deaths occurred have not been given. The district attorney has also not disclosed its opinions as to the Filipinas' motives for the alleged mass killing.

The case, unfortunately, has also received a lot of sensationalized publicity from the press, a factor that some fear may "pre-judge" the two women before they actually go to trial.

The Filipino community has voiced concern over the nurse's case and will surely be watching the case very closely. In Chicago, where one of the indicted nurses lives, the Philippine Nurses Association of Chicago and Philippine Consulate have begun a campaign to raise \$100,000 for their defense. □

Filipino Exposed in Medicaid Fraud

By GELINE AVILA
AK Correspondent

CHICAGO—A known figure in the Filipino community here has been mentioned in the recent Chicago Tribune expose of the I-Care fraud that milked Medicaid of \$7 million yearly. Cited was Eddie Fernandez, editor of the Philippine Herald, a pro-Marcos Filipino newspaper in Chicago.

Fernandez, through his newspaper, has attacked the anti-martial law coalition in the U.S. on many occasions. And during the initial stages of the nationwide campaign to defend Foreign Medical Graduates threatened with deportation by a U.S. State Dept. ruling, Fernandez also tried to discredit the efforts of the local defense committee to support the affected doctors.

According to the June 13 Tribune report, a racket of opticians, optical firms and "skilled confidence men" milked the public agencies for millions by submitting medical bills for relief patients they apparently never treated.

The Tribune was asked to assist in this investigation by the Illinois Optometrist Society. A certain doctor, George Davis, who admitted during the probe that he had cheated the state of thousands of dollars by submitting bills for work never done, allowed the Tribune reporter to observe a "Blue Paper" transaction that went on in his office. (The "blue papers" referred to is the color of the slips on which the bills are submitted to Medicaid.)

SOPHISTICATED RACKET

According to the reporter, middlemen from the racket made contacts with admitting clerks in hospitals who had access to the "green card" of the relief recipients. (This "green card" is the certification that entitles one to certain free medical services.) The middleman would buy a copy of the card from the clerk and use the information to fill out the blue sheet. This blue sheet was then sold to optometrists or optical firms from \$3 to \$5 and the doctors would fill in the fictitious services they supposedly rendered to the welfare clients.

One individual that the Tribune reporter saw in Davis' office was Eddie Fernandez, who had come to make such a transaction. According to the reporter, Fernandez visited Davis on April 16 to sell Davis a "blue sheet." The reporter, who was concealed in a nearby stairwell, heard and saw everything in the "deal."

A few other Filipino optical firm owners were also mentioned by the Tribune as involved in this "Blue Paper fraud."

The Tribune also stated that "The investigation provided new evidence that the lion's share of the money defrauded from public aid is not taken by poor families who may provide false information about their income or needs, but by medical professional and skilled confidence men, who milk the system for millions." □

Another Round of Battles**I-Hotel Calls for Renewed Support**

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

SAN FRANCISCO—Although the court-ordered eviction is still set for July 15, the 80-some tenants of Chinatown's International Hotel have not given up.

Gearing up for another round of intense battles with their landlord and the City, the I-Hotel Tenants Association (IHTA) has launched a two-pronged campaign to generate more mass support and pursue the legal channels still open.

The tenants, mostly single, elderly Filipino and Chinese men, have been successfully struggling since 1968 to stop the demolition of their Chinatown home unless alternative low-cost housing acceptable to the tenants is provided.

MASS SUPPORT NEEDED

Hoping to draw back and regroup many of those who have supported the I-Hotel during its 8-year struggle, a massive publicity campaign will be launched to bring people to a benefit dinner at the hotel on July 10, five days before eviction date. Assessing just the number of individuals and community groups who have helped the I-Hotel—whether in renovation crews or anti-eviction protests—hundreds are expected to come.

The IHTA has also continued negotiations with the Mayor to stop the eviction, and filed an appeal to the Supreme Court and requested a writ of suspension on the eviction, pending the new appeal trial.

However, Mayor George Moscone, who made a mayoral campaign promise to help the I-Hotel, has not taken any immediate action yet. The tenants hope to persuade the City to use its power of "eminent domain" (where public use of property is given precedence over private use) to purchase the hotel at a reasonable market price and resell it to the Tenants Association.

Moscone has said that he is "having one of his men look into it," but the action is proceeding too slow to be effective under the circumstances of the impending eviction. In the meantime, Four Seas has declared the I-Hotel to be worth \$1.3 million, a highly inflated price based on real estate speculation, to further discourage the tenants in their attempt to purchase the hotel. □

ATTENTION: The I-Hotel urgently needs everyone's support. Come to the I-Hotel Benefit Dinner on the evening of Saturday, July 10. International Hotel, 848 Kearny St., San Francisco, (415) 362-9281.

POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE PHILIPPINES

An exhaustive study on the conditions of political prisoners in the Philippines under martial law

Originally published in the Philippines, reprinted by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition [Philippines]

\$1.50 a copy

Send your check or money order payable to:
Documentation Committee
On Philippine Political Prisoners
695 S. Harvard Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90005

RUMMAGE SALE FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

NEW YORK—Bringing the issue of Philippine political prisoners directly to the Filipino community here in Queens, the local Alliance of the AMLC (Anti-Martial Law Coalition, Philippines) held a successful fundraising rummage sale here last Sunday, May 23.

The outdoor event on Vietor Avenue was attended by over 500 people from the sizeable Filipino community. The \$600 proceeds will be sent to Philippine political prisoners for food to supplement their deficient prison diet. (Prisoners now subsist on a two peso (\$.30) a day diet.) The money will also go to families of the detainees who face economic hardships, as many political prisoners were breadwinners of the family.

The afternoon's features included the sale of items ranging from a washing machine to attractive native handicrafts and Filipino delicacies—all donated by sympathizers. The highlight of the event, however, was the display of educational materials on political prisoners and beautiful artifacts made in prison by them, such as ceramic vases, cards, necklaces, etc. The display generated great interest from visitors and customers who were also moved by the fact that these prisoners are not common criminals, but imprisoned under martial law for voicing their demands for the return of basic democratic rights in the Philippines.

Members of the NY alliance viewed the rummage



The successful Philippine Political Prisoner Rummage Sale held in Queens, N.Y., helped to aid the political prisoners and their families. (KDP-AK Photo)

sale as "a success, not only in terms of eliciting financial support for these prisoners and their families, but also in educating more Filipinos in the U.S. on the plight of political prisoners and what can be done to help." □

Filipino Bicentennial Month in L.A.

By MARY JANE GALBIZO
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — The United Filipino-American Assembly of Southern California (UFAASC) has recently launched its Bicentennial Month promising to lay the foundation for unity and awareness in the Filipino community here.

Mrs. Remedios Geaga, chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Filipino Bicentennial Month, said that the main purpose of this month, highlighted by weekends filled with cultural, educational, and entertaining events is to express recognition of Filipino national identity.

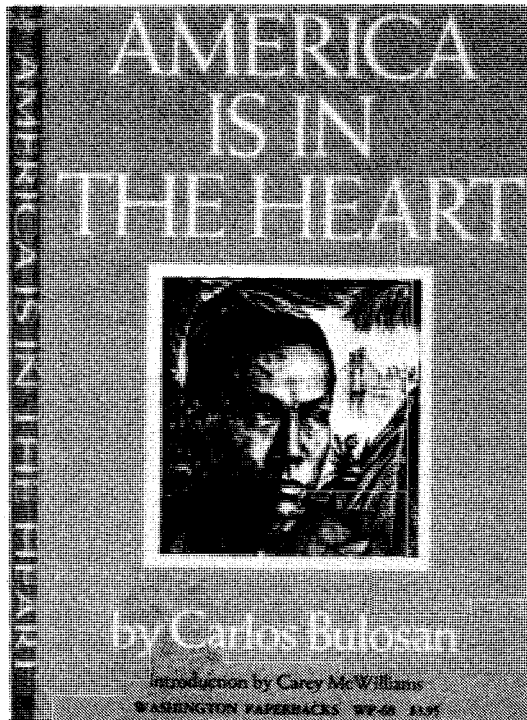
Kicking the month off with a "Salute to Filipino Contributions to America," June 12th and 13th, a parade and Barrio Fiesta was held at MacArthur Park with food, games and Filipino folk culture.

Other activities will include: June 1: Philippine Concert Choir at the Scottish Rite Temple sponsored by Filipino Artists and Cultural League. June 20: Luncheon/program at Fil-Am Community Center by Caballerros de Dimas-Alang. June 26: UFAASC Family Picnic, 10:00 a.m. in Elysian Park, section 6 near Dodger Stadium. The get-together will include potluck lunch, games for young and old and a talent show. The day will be capped off with an evening concert by the Philippine Chorale Ensemble at El Camino Jr. College Auditorium at 8 p.m. July 3: Symposium; "Let Us Work Together, Get It Done and Be There" at Immaculate Heart College on N. Western Ave. in Los Angeles. The symposium will cover issues and problems in immigration, employment, education, and Filipino participation in government. The keynote speech will speak to the needs of Filipino-Americans in Southern California. July 4: The final event of the month is the annual Filipino-American Community of Los Angeles Coronation Ball and parade at the Hollywood Palladium.

Questions regarding ticket sales should be channeled to Mrs. Geaga, chairperson, 1740 Temple St., (213)483-1597. □

Letter From Bulosan's Brother

Filipino Pioneer Commends Efforts of Younger Generation



Dear Miss Vinluan,

I was informed that you made a wonderful presentation and direction of "Isuda Ti Immuna," a play inspired by Carlos Bulosan's autobiographical novel, *America Is In The Heart* and *We Are The Revolution*, a poem.

I congratulate you.

I sincerely hope the young Filipinos, as well as the old ones who attended the play, grasped the message portrayed and its social significance. Because of the adverse conditions suffered and endured by the early Filipino immigrants in this country, my brother Carlos, who was very sensitive to all forms of discrimination and injustices, wrote *America Is In The Heart* as a documentary evidence

of our past history. Now it is up to the younger Filipinos to strive for a positive and concrete contribution to America.

Let me quote some of the beautiful passages from Carlos' book:

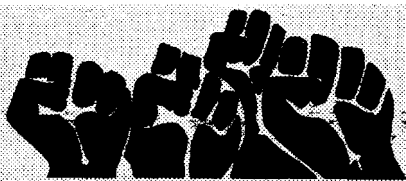
"America is not a land of one race or class of men. We are all Americans that have toiled and suffered and know oppression and defeat, from the first Indian that offered peace in Manhattan to the last Filipino peapickers. America is not bound by geographical latitudes: America is not merely a land or an institution. America is in the hearts of men that died for freedom; it is also in the eyes of men that are building a new world. America is a prophecy of a new society of men; of a system that knows no sorrow or strife or suffering. America is a warning to those who would try to falsify the ideals of free men.

"America is also the nameless foreigner, the homeless refugee, the hungry boy begging for a job and the Black boy begging for a job and the Black body dangling from a tree. America is the illiterate immigrant who is ashamed that the world of books and intellectual opportunities are closed to him. We are all the nameless foreigner, that homeless refugee, that hungry boy, that illiterate immigrant and that lynched Black body. All of us, from the first Adams to the last Filipino, native born or alien, educated or illiterate — We are America!"

You have a good following of young and literate Filipinos. I suggest you recommend *America Is In The Heart* as a must book to be read by everyone who is conscious of his welfare.

In your own literate way, you are continuing our struggle for justice. I hope you will succeed where we left off. In the meanwhile, however, I wish you success in all your field of endeavor.

Sincerely yours,
Aurelio Bulosan
Lompoc, Calif.



Sulong! (Forward in the Struggle!)

HAWAII CHINATOWN NEGOTIATIONS FAIL

HONOLULU — Negotiations between the landlord and tenants at 45 N. Pauahi St., better known as "Lau's Place," broke off after the tenants received "bad and unacceptable" settlement offer from the landlord's lawyers.

The Laus' only offered an 18-month postponement of their court-approved eviction order and other terms which were completely unacceptable, according to a member of People Against Chinatown Eviction (PACE). After 18 months, the residents would be evicted with no recourse or alternative housing; a flat rent of \$400 a month has to be paid in the meantime, regardless if anyone moved out; and finally, the Lau's refused to make any repairs on the building.

In the face of this situation, the 14 residents of Lau's Place appealed immediately to the Hawaii State Supreme Court for a stay of execution. On June 1, the residents were given five days by the court to raise \$5,000 bond to hold-off the eviction until their case was heard in the Supreme Court.

Despite the unreasonably short time limit, they were able to tap support from the community, and the residents raised \$3,000 within four days. Then adding their \$2,000 trust fund of collected rent, but not paid to the landlord during their rent strike, they were able to successfully post bond. □

M. TACAZON

SEATTLE YOUTH MAP OUT UNITY PLANS

SEATTLE — The first sectoral conference in preparation for the 1976 Far

West Convention was held here on June 5, when Filipino and other Asian youth from different organizations in the high schools gathered at Lane Memorial Church to discuss problems that face them in school, employment and overall society.

For the youth in Seattle, said Edgar Silverio in the opening speech, "Today marks a very significant day in which we have drawn a number of brothers and sisters together from different parts of the city, different backgrounds, from different experiences, and from different races."

In the spirit of the slogan, "Unite the Youth," Silverio continued saying that, "We have come together to discuss our common experiences as well as our differences; it is only through understanding our problems all-sidedly that we can begin to work with each other and plan out ways to solve some of our problems."

One of the highlights of the conference was a skit reflecting the experiences of youths getting kicked out of school, lack of jobs, cultural differences between American-born and immigrant youth, and the negative attitude some people hold about youth being irresponsible and incapable of making decisions. The skit ended with the youth joining together to get the support of the community to help them get a youth center.

As a result of the day-long conference, two resolutions were reached: 1) to form a committee of representatives of different groups and individuals to get a youth center or office as a place to work together in solving problems and meeting needs; 2) that the youth sectoral conference support and actively work for the 6th annual Far West Convention to be held in



The celebration of International Workers Day by the Filipino Student Confederation (So. Calif.) was capped with cultural performances

STUDENTS MARK 'DAY OF THE WORKER'

Over 300 students celebrated "Aray ng mga Manggagawa" (Day of the Workers) with an inter-campus volleyball and cultural day April 24 at Crown Point in San Diego.

The day-long event, organized by the Southern California Region of the West Coast Confederation of Filipino Students, began with volleyball games played under the slogan "Friendship First and Competition Last." Highlight of the afternoon's program was a speech by United Farm Workers

Union Vice-President, Philip Vera Cruz. Vera Cruz spoke on the struggles of Filipino farmworkers and also stressed to the young audience the importance of student involvement in organizing.

The program also included speeches by Student Confederation officers, interspersed with Filipino folk dances and a skit explaining the historical significance of International Workers Day, performed by students from Los Angeles, Fresno and San Diego, respectively. □

Seattle this year.

Winding up the conference, Cindy Domingo, a member of the FWC Steering Committee, commented on the success of the conference, especially in developing working resolu-

tions to bring to the Convention. This was only the first of many sectoral conferences to be held on the West Coast prior to the Seattle FWC, set for Sept. 3, 4 and 5. □

A. DONIEGO

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

Rizzo Requests 15,000 Troops

GOVERNMENT THREATENS PEOPLE'S JULY 4th

By VICTOR UNO

Actions planned for a people's bicentennial demonstration July 4 in Philadelphia have been greatly threatened by possible confrontation with government troops. Political harassment and intimidation of the counter-bicentennial's organizers have also increased, with the main target on the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), one of the leading organizations behind the protest.

Philadelphia's mayor Frank Rizzo has requested the presence of 15,000 regular army troops to "protect" the official bicentennial activities. And recently both the FBI and Justice Department have launched investigations of the July 4th Coalition, main organizer of the counter-bicentennial action.

The government and press have painted the July 4th counter-bicentennial action as the next battle ground for "terrorist groups." Rizzo said May 30 that the troops were needed to secure the city "from a bunch of radical leftists that have said they're going to disrupt" the official bicentennial activities.

Organizers of the July 4th Coalition have denounced the government actions as "unwarranted, probably illegal and provocative." According to the Coalition's national coordinator, Alfredo Lopez of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), "The government is laying down a propaganda barrage in an attempt to discredit the work of the coalition. By putting out the lie that we are a bunch of bomb-throwing terrorists, the government, and its political police, they are hoping to discourage the thousands of Americans who wish to peacefully express their grievances on July 4 in Philadelphia."

GRAND JURY HARASSMENT

Besides the mobilization of the FBI and Justice

departments to harass the July 4th efforts, a grand jury was impaneled in New York to hamper organizing efforts. While ostensibly formed to investigate a number of bombings in New York City two years ago, the jury has been used to intimidate members of organizations belonging to the July 4th Coalition.

At a May 28 press conference in New York City, the Coalition announced that one of its members, Martha Schwartz, had been called before the federal grand jury. In addition, Lurieda Torres, a member of PSP, was also subpoenaed by the same grand jury. Both Schwartz and Torres have denounced the government's actions and refused to cooperate with the grand jury.

In an official statement released to the press, the July 4th Coalition denounced the harassment and resolved to carry out activities as planned. The statement read (in part):

"The request by Mayor Rizzo for the mobilization of 15,000 federal troops represents killing two political birds with one stone.

"On one hand, the mayor is faced with a recall campaign . . . He has obviously raised a red herring of hysteria to draw attention away from his political troubles. Introducing a provocative presence of military personnel at a moment when this government should be exercising the greatest respect for the rights of demonstration and dissent, we feel, is a dangerous, highly unnecessary, and lamentable decision."

'STATE OF SEIGE ATMOSPHERE'

"On the other hand, the U.S. government has done exactly what we said it would do at the beginning: It has used the myth and rumor of possible violence. The mobilization of 15,000 troops, creating a state of seige atmosphere and the FBI in-



Alfredo Lopez(right), national chairperson of the July 4th Coalition denounces government harassment campaign at recent press conference.

vestigators, ordered by the Attorney General Levi himself, to frighten, intimidate and harass, prevents the right of the people to make their views known.

"We repeat—the July 4 action will be peaceful, orderly and with full permits from the city government. We will not be intimidated or provoked. We have permits for Fairmount Park.

"At the same time, we state clearly, there is no need for an FBI investigation into the Coalition. Our goals and plans have been clearly published from the beginning. The mobilization of those troops would be a disgrace, an attack on civil liberties, and a deplorable lack of respect for those who live in Philadelphia.

"We will stand firm and go to Philadelphia. Our objective is a peaceful and orderly one-day demonstration, and we will carry our objective out in a peaceful and orderly manner." □

THOUSANDS TO PARTICIPATE

Counter-Bicentennial Demonstrations Mount

By VICTOR UNO

Nationwide mobilizations for July 4th counter-bicentennial demonstrations have continued to gather popular support, despite government efforts to suppress the mass actions.

Presently, hundreds of labor, community, religious and civil rights groups have endorsed the call of the July 4th National Coalition for demonstrations in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. Thousands of people are expected to participate in the counter-bicentennial actions, likely to be the largest protest in the country since the huge anti-war mobilizations of the late sixties.

As opposed to the "buy-centennial" theme promoted by the government and corporations for the "official" celebration, the July 4th Coalition has been able to organize a broadly-based people's movement to protest the hypocrisy of the U.S. government's so-called "tribute to freedom, independence and justice" while trampling on the exercise of those very rights by the people.

"The government claims that the bicentennial is a celebration of its own great achievements and individual leaders," states the Coalition in its National Work Plan. "For our bicentennial, we will celebrate the victories of the people who have lived and fought in this country, who have built this country, who have been robbed over hundreds of years of the benefits of their work."

SCLC ENDORSES PHILADELPHIA DEMO

Reflecting the wide range of groups and individuals who have responded to the Coalition's call was the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) endorsement for the demonstration planned in Philadelphia. The SCLC, founded by Martin Luther King Jr. in 1956, explained their view of the bicentennial in a letter from its president, Ralph Abernathy:

"We think the significance of the bicentennial should be recast to shift economic priorities away from militarism toward meeting domestic and global human needs and removal of the causes of war," stated Abernathy.

In addition to the SCLC's endorsement, Black representatives Congressman Ronald V. Dellums from California and Massachusetts State Assemblyman Mel Kings from Boston, affirmed their



Last April 19, 1975, over 45,000 gathered at Concord, Lexington, in a people's bicentennial protest.

support for the July 4th action in Philadelphia.

NATIONWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS

But the major demonstration being planned for Philadelphia, ironically the "City of Brotherly Love," has been recently threatened by Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo's request for 15,000 federal troops on the day of the event (see related article). Despite this flagrant attempt to intimidate persons from exercising their rights of assembly and petition, organizers of the counter-bicentennial have predicted a massive assembly of thousands in the city's Fairmount Park.

Besides the event in Philadelphia, expected to be the largest of the counter-bicentennial demonstrations, similar activities will be held in other cities the same day.

The Bay Area July 4th Coalition, comprised of over 120 participating organizations, has planned a march from Garfield Park to Dolores Park in San Francisco's Mission District. The event in Dolores Park will feature a speaker from the American Indian Movement and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, two groups which have recently come under intense government suppression and harassment for advocating the national and democratic rights of the Native American and Puerto Rican peoples.

In Seattle, over 20 groups comprise that city's Coalition that will rally in Seward Park where 1,000 are expected to attend. The focus of that rally will be the Seattle grand jury trials which have been used to harass the progressive movement there. Yvonne Wanrow, a Native American woman fight-

ing a racist conviction for killing a man in self-defense (he was attempting to harm her child) will be a featured speaker there.

The Los Angeles Coalition has been mobilizing to hold its event at Hollenbeck Park in East L.A., a predominantly Latino neighborhood. Specific details have been worked out by the Los Angeles Coalition.

LOCAL BUILD-UP ACTIVITIES

On the East Coast, local build-up activities are being held in more than 20 cities between June 2-19 in preparation for the Philadelphia demonstration.

Four demands were issued by the Coalition's National Board for these actions: "Stop the racist attacks in Boston"; "Free the Oglala prisoners" (Two AIM members on trial for the shooting of two FBI agents at Pine Ridge reservation last year); "Stop the 'Compact of Permanent Union' between Puerto Rico and the U.S."; and "Jobs, not guns."

The July 4th events have also been organized nationally around three major demands—"Jobs and a Decent Standard of Living, Full Democracy and Equality, and a Bicentennial without Colonies/Freedom for all Oppressed Nations."

As this country enters its 200th year with over 14 million jobless, with increasing social service cut-backs, suppression of the democratic rights of workers, especially minorities, and with Puerto Rico still a colony of the U.S., thousands of American people are expected to rally together on July 4 in one voice and demonstrate popular opposition to the American government and its hypocritical "celebration" of its "achievements." □

SUPPORTS 'BLACK MAJORITY RULE**Kissinger Attempts African Policy 'Facelift'**

By ROMY DE LA PAZ

Despite its "facelifting" efforts to "improve" U.S.-Africa foreign policy, Sec. of State Henry Kissinger's purported support for black majority rule in Africa represents no genuine alteration from its past policy of backing white racist regimes and neo-colonial interests.

It is only in the face of the irreversible trend of national liberation struggles in Africa that the U.S. has been compelled to put on a semblance of support for black majority rule. For these efforts, the U.S. hopes to: 1) recoup a gravely shattered image suffered in the face of the Angola debacle; and 2) avoid further political isolation if it continues to blatantly support the internationally condemned white racist regimes.

When Kissinger announced his "new" policy during his African tour last April, it was not for the black majority rule that is presently emerging in southern Africa - those won by national liberation struggles like Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and most recently, Angola which stress self-reliance and economic and political independence.

Kissinger, on the other hand, visited only those black "nationalist" leaders who were pro-U.S. and would readily follow the dictates and wishes of the U.S. For example, Zaire's Pres. Mobutu Sese Seko, a staunch U.S.-supporter who is slated to receive \$30 million in U.S. arms aid, has consistently supported U.S. neo-colonial policy in Africa, most recently by backing pro-Western forces in Angola.

In other words, the "new" policy will support a black majority rule that will serve U.S. political and economic interests in Africa.

IMPLICATIONS FOR WHITE RACIST REGIMES

Kissinger's "new" policy has some immediate, if limited implications in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and South Africa, the last bastions of white racist rule in southern Africa.

In this same African trip, Kissinger voiced a strong stand to immediately establish black major-

ity rule in Zimbabwe.

In what was billed as the major policy speech of his African visit, Kissinger said he would urge the U.S. Congress to repeal the Byrd Amendment, through which chrome is permitted to be imported in the U.S. from Zimbabwe, despite U.N. trade sanctions against the Smith regime's racist policies. He has also taken steps to advise U.S. citizens not to visit Zimbabwe and urged Americans who live there to leave.

Kissinger emphasized that it would rule out military aid to the Zimbabwean people's liberation movement and instead urged "peaceful" negotiations with the Smith regime, which have repeatedly failed. He also called for urgent negotiations with black nationalist leaders who can serve as viable replacements and met with Joshua Nkomo, a pro-U.S. black leader. And repeatedly the U.S., along with Britain and South Africa, have also urged the Smith regime to reach a negotiated settlement as soon as possible.

But it is highly questionable whether the situation in Zimbabwe - where some 270,000 whites dominate the political, economic and social life of nearly 6 million blacks - can be salvaged through Kissinger's call for negotiations. In a country where eleven times more money is spent for the education of the average white child than for the average black and where in 1971, the average annual income for whites was \$4,741 while blacks earned an average of \$441 - the situation is already past negotiation.

The Zimbabwean people have already initiated armed struggle to seize control of the country from the Smith government. Guerrilla warfare, once limited in the countryside, is now waged less than 30 miles from the capital, Salisbury. Even Kissinger has recognized the desperate situation of the Smith regime and his calls for a negotiated transfer of power are futile efforts to stem the revolutionary tide.

SOUTH AFRICA STAND DIFFERENT

On the question of South Africa, Kissinger sought to differentiate its position and problems from that

of Zimbabwe. He observed that "No one, including the leaders of black Africa, challenges the right of white South Africans to live in their country." In addition, Kissinger has appealed to the Vorster racist regime to "heed the warning signals of the past two years" and end the apartheid system, though in a mildly toned and carefully-worded statement than his militant-sounding broadsides against the Smith government.

It is clear the U.S. does not want to seriously challenge Jon Vorster, its principal ally in southern Africa where U.S. corporations have invested more than \$1.5 billion, surpassing total U.S. investments in all of Africa combined.

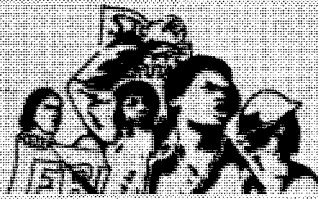
Instead, by diverting world opinion to the "progressive" stance of the U.S. towards Zimbabwe, Kissinger hopes to reach an understanding with Vorster that will accommodate both U.S. and the white regime's interest. This will be the subject of negotiations slated for upcoming U.S.-South African meetings.

KISSINGER-VORSTER TALKS

On June 23, Kissinger will start holding talks with Vorster in West Germany. Among the highly sensitive topics to be taken up are: 1) how to bring about black majority rule in Zimbabwe, given the rapid advance of the liberation struggle waged by the Zimbabwean people; 2) the future of Namibia where South Africa has enforced its illegal rule and is now being seriously threatened by the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO); and 3) South Africa's own racist apartheid policy.

Given Vorster's past efforts to end its illegal rule of neighboring Namibia, implement majority rule in Zimbabwe and end its universally condemned apartheid rule, it is highly doubtful that the talks will produce any significant understandings.

Indeed, the upcoming Kissinger-Vorster talks signal the latest maneuverings of the U.S. and South African governments to prolong their rule. Despite these efforts, the situations in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa will mainly be decided by the peoples who make up the overwhelming majority in those countries - black Africans. □

Dare to struggle...**African Gains Celebrated**

Major events in two U.S. cities were held May 22 in support of African Liberation Day, an international day of solidarity with the national liberation struggles in Africa.

In Washington, D.C., a march and rally of 5,000 persons was held at Malcom X. Park. An event at the Oakland Community Learning Center drew 500 persons to hear speakers from the People's Republic of Angola (PRA), the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia, the Pan African Congress of Azania (South Africa) and the government of Tanzania.

Both events stressed the need to understand the present struggles in Africa against all forms of imperialism and colonialism, especially the white minority regimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa. The events also spoke of the need to link the struggle of Afro-Americans in this country to the liberation struggles in Africa.

African Liberation Day has been an important event over the past years especially for this country's Black and progressive peoples. Speakers at this year's events stressed the need to build a mass movement in support of African liberation on the scale of the anti-Vietnam war movement of the 60's. □

Police Beat Iranian Students

A San Francisco demonstration protesting the murder of 115 patriots in Iran was attacked by club-wielding police, resulting in numerous injuries and the arrest of six Iranian students.

The May 28 protest at S.F.'s Embarcadero Center was attended by some 150 Iranian students and supporters. The police attack occurred as the students attempted to enter the Iranian consulate, located on the 18th floor of one of the high rise office buildings. Several students required hospitalization in the unprovoked attack.

The demonstration was one of a number of recently held protests to bring world wide attention to the repressive regime of the Shah of Iran (see World in Focus article, this issue). □

Protest Stops Medicaid Cuts

A District of Columbia move to cut 40,000 elderly and poor people from the Medicaid program was postponed following a May 21 protest by over 200 medically needy persons and their supporters. The militant protest forced Washington D.C. Mayor Walter Washington to withdraw a proposed plan which would have "saved" the city between \$10 and \$15 million at the expense of increased medical costs mostly affecting elderly persons.

Organizing the demonstration was the Gray Panthers, a militant group which fights for the rights of elderly people. Previous arbitrary actions by Mayor Washington to cut Medicaid payments have been met with similar strong opposition.

"For elderly people, cutoff is a very scary thing," said Lee Partridge, director of the Committee on Human Resources and Aging for the D.C. City Council. "On \$137 a month, what are you going to do?" □



Part of 10,000 demonstrators that rallied to protest N. Y. C. cuts.

TEN THOUSAND FIGHT N.Y.C. CUTBACKS

A massive march of 10,000 was staged in New York City to protest the continuing attacks on the city's workers and residents. The demonstration, which rallied at city hall after a four mile march, was the largest action of its kind in the fight against huge lay-offs of city workers and cutbacks in schools and social programs.

Significant about the June 8 rally was the unity of the different people affected by the city's cuts. Previously, each affected sector staged small, single issue demonstrations. The latest demonstration, however, was sponsored by a coalition representing day care, elementary school and college interests.

The spirited march and rally urged unity in the struggle against the Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB), which represents banking interests and has virtual power in deciding all cuts. In a statement read by the coalition:

"The city has fired thousands of workers and closed hundreds of programs — programs we as workers need for our very survival. It's for this reason that we, the daycare, public school and college community, are fighting for true quality education for all. Let's unite for survival. Let us together struggle for our jobs, our lives and our future." □

Demolition Denounced 2,000 ARRESTED AT SQUATTERS RALLY

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

MANILA — While the Marcos regime was proclaiming its "humane resettlement policy" abroad, it simultaneously unleashed its true policy towards the urban poor, arresting 2,000 slum dwellers who converged in Plaza Gomburza June 5, to hold a People's Academy on Human Settlements.

The People's Academy, the urban poor's version of the U.N. Habitat Conference then in session in Vancouver, Canada, was to take up issues on human settlements and collectively voice their opposition to the regime's denial of exit visas to five community leaders scheduled to attend the Habitat Conference.

According to religious sources, "close to a hundred soldiers from different contingents — Metrocom, Metropolitan police, plainclothesmen and baranggay police — were already deployed at the Plaza. The 2,000 participants were hauled away in 14 waiting buses, while hundreds more were dispersed to prevent regrouping.

As of June 12, most of those arrested were released with the exception of 30 squatter leaders from Tondo Foreshore, who were being held for participating in previous mass actions.

The military's punitive action was not surprising. Bent on preventing the Academy from materializing, the authorities prevented the militant urban poor of Navotas from coming on the evening of June 4 and morning of the following day. Earlier, suspected squatter leaders were arrested, and one Ben Guillen of Malabon, was physically harassed to force him to identify the organizers of the Academy.

SQUATTERS RESISTANCE HEIGHTENS

The planned People's Academy was the culmination of a series of efforts among Manila's squatter communities to put an end to the unjust demolition of their homes; to demand popular participation in the planning of squatter resettlements (particularly the U.N.-sponsored project set for Tondo); and to release their arrested leaders.

Since the First Lady assumed the governorship of Metro-Manila last November, the drive to demolish squatter dwellings intensified. This purportedly was necessary for her Cleanliness and Beautification Drive, Flood Control Program, Marcos Highway, and other government infrastructure projects to be completed.

Last December 1975, the scale of demolition work peaked with the issuance of Letter of Instruction 19 and Presidential Decree 296 which set a January



Squatters being hauled into bus by policemen during June 5 "People's Academy" rally. Fourteen busloads of demonstrators were brought to detention camps while many more were chased away. [UPI]

1976 deadline for the demolition of all squatter communities. This decision merely offset stronger and more unified squatter protests which coalesced into the Manila and Suburbs Alliance Against Demolition on December 27.

Through massive petition work and with the support of other progressive sectors, they finally forced the First Lady to meet with Alliance representative on January 21. The meeting, however was a stalemate, with the First Lady agreeing to temporarily halt the demolition for three days (January 22-25) to study their demands.

The temporary halt was really meant to dissuade the squatters from joining a massive workers-squatters rally planned for the 25th and provide time for military agents to arrest suspected participants. There were mass arrests as a result of the rally. (see AK, Vol. III, No. 1)

But this did not deter the squatters, who on January 29 took the regime by surprise when they successfully petitioned delegates attending the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development being held in Manila.

SHAM RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

More recently, the squatters have stressed their second demand to allow people's participation in the planning of government resettlement projects. Since the problem of squatter settlements and low-cost housing alternatives attracted the international concern of architects and planners, the Marcos regime has seized upon this opportunity to

cosmetize his anti-squatter policy. Even Imelda Marcos, who has openly called Manila's poor "eyesores," is now talking with such catch phrases as "total human habitat approach," "humane domicile," etc.

In reality, the regime's resettlement policy is underscored by its desire to rid the city of eyesores. It's two previous resettlement sites, Sapang-Palay and Carmona were nothing more than dumping grounds for squatters with no provisions for housing and employment. And its "low-cost housing" schemes are really lucrative real estate ventures directed towards middle-income groups.

But even for the country's 16% middle-class, this housing is too expensive and have been aptly described by one applicant as "...concrete tombs that will bury us in debt."

Meanwhile, another much-publicized squatter resettlement, *Kapit-bahayan* is nothing but another addition to the regime's collection of showpiece buildings like Folk Art Center, Heart Center, Cultural Center, etc. Inaugurated last May 31, the *Kapit-bahayan* project will house 526 families who would rent units at P70-P100 per month. Through a \$31 million grant from the World Bank, *Kapit-bahayan* foresees expansion covering the entire Dagat-dagatan area replete with electricity, sewerage, roads, and even parking lots!

While the plans appear progressive, the Tondo squatters point out that the rent is far beyond their means. Tondo residents receive an average income

(continued on page 5)

Vancouver Protest Hits Imelda...

(continued from front page)

HOUSING FOR URBAN POOR

Earlier this year in February, an international architectural competition was held in New York in conjunction with Habitat. The purpose was the design and planning of a housing settlement aimed to alleviate the overcrowded, poor housing problem prevalent in Third World countries. At the urging of Marcos, the Philippines was chosen as one of the two sites for a Habitat pilot project. The proposed resettlement site is Dagat-dagatan, a small parcel of reclaimed land in the port area of Manila.

The Habitat's declaration of principles also mandates direct participation of the community for whom the design is intended. Therefore under the auspices of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Ugnayan (Coordinating Council of the People's Organizations of Tondo Foreshore, Navotas and Malabon) were scheduled to attend the Habitat Conference this June.

Four of these leaders, however, were not allowed by the Marcos government to leave the country and the fifth person, Mrs. Trinidad Herrera, chairwoman of the Zone One Tondo Organization, went into hiding under threat of arrest.

Despite the repressive measures taken against these leaders, Ugnayan's position paper was sent to the U.S. where it was printed and widely distributed by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines).

Entitled "Philippine Squatters and Martial Law Remedies," Ugnayan criticized Imelda's appearance at the Habitat conference as a publicity stunt and cover-up. "The new housing project that Imelda Marcos described at the conference would be of little help," Ugnayan pointed out. "Units will rent at P70-P100 per month, two to three times as much as most Tondo residents can afford." (see back page for article on Tondo's slum dwellers — Editor.)

The squatters situation is further compounded by the unwillingness of Marcos to allow the residents to buy the land instead of only renting. "The government can always evict (us) and demolish any

Squatter shacks in Barrio Bonifacio, Tondo. These dwellings typify the housing situation of Manila's one million squatters — a situation the Marcos gov't. is dealing with through wholesale demolition. (WCC Photo)



neighborhood...for another industrial project."

Then placing the squatter problem in a broader societal context, Ugnayan explains that it is "not that decent housing is too expensive, but that decent salaries are denied to workers." And this problem, Ugnayan explains, can only be solved by complete revision of the government so that profits can be redirected to the masses, not just a few rich families and foreign companies.

CONTROVERSY AT HABITAT

The protest actions were so effective that the Philippines was continually a subject of discussion during the Habitat conference. Even the architect of the winning design, Ian Athfield, was sympathetic and agreed to work on the project only if Marcos allowed Tondo residents to participate in the planning. Vancouver dailies also ran front page stories on the demonstration and reprinted excerpts of the Ugnayan statement.

A petition was also circulated demanding: 1) the release of all 2,000 persons arrested; 2) guaranteed safety and freedom for Mrs. Herrera and other Tondo leaders; 3) guaranteed participation of Tondo residents in the Dagat-dagatan resettlement

plan through their organization, the Ugnayan or Liason of Peoples Organizations.

Meanwhile, Imelda Marcos, hoping to pacify the demonstrators, asked to meet with Bobby Verona, spokesperson for the event. Verona later reported that Imelda denied that 2,000 Tondo residents had been arrested. "The UPI report was written by Arnold Zeitlin for the CIA," she claimed.

However, Arnold Zeitlin, an AP reporter, was not the only newsman who reported the incident. Reuters, UPI and Agence France Presse also covered it.

Later when queried about what she thought of the Tondo slums, Imelda exposed her contempt for the urban poor by saying, "It's too bad that its the worst possible place for human settlement!"

After that day, Imelda conspicuously avoided making any public appearances. The news coverage, petitions, demonstrations and wide distribution of written literature on the squatters problem created such public controversy that Imelda — normally very publicity-hungry — could only be seen sneaking back and forth to the conference hall and her hotel room, hidden by her entourage of security men and aides. □