

July 1-31, 1977

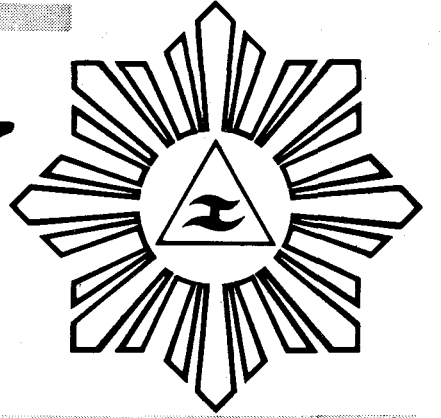
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Summary of Case

Jury Deliberating on Narciso-Perez Case



The trial of Filipinas Narciso and Leonora Perez, the two nurses accused of murder in connection with a series of respiratory arrests at the Ann Arbor, Mich. Veterans Administration Hospital, has now entered jury deliberations with a decision expected by mid-July. Observers expect acquittal based on lack of evidence, conflicting prosecution testimony, and a defense case that discovered several alternative suspects and a great many inconsistencies in the prosecution's logic.

By NENA HERNANDEZ
AK Correspondent

After 13 weeks, the well-publicized Narciso-Perez trial concluded last week. The 12-person jury is now in deliberation, pouring over various medical documents and enormous amounts of testimonies. A verdict is expected in a week. As the complex trial came to an end, however, the mystery of the "VA deaths" still remained.

HISTORY OF CONTROVERSIAL CASE

Almost two years ago, in July and August of 1975, a rash of mysterious breathing failures swept the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In a six-week period, between 51 and 63 patients at the hospital suffered respiratory attacks, thirteen of whom died.

Following a 10-month Federal probe, on March 1 of (continued on page 2)

Unequal Freedom of the Press Wideman Charges Dropped-3 Filipinos Arrested

Commissioner of Immigration and Deportation Edmundo Reyes last June 21 dismissed charges of rumor-mongering, spreading of false news and violation of Presidential Decree 823 (barring foreign participation in Philippine labor activities) against American freelance journalist Bernard Wideman. Wideman, whose petition for a visa renewal last February was denied, has been on trial before immigration authorities since Feb. 18.



Bernard Wideman

During the course of the hearings, the government presented "evidence" of the reporter's having met with "suspected subversives" and taking an active part in an anti-government rally.

Wideman has been one of the most thoroughgoing and fearless of Manila-based foreign correspondents and that a number of his articles for the *Far Eastern Economic Review* (FEER) and the *Washington Post* have infuriated the martial law authorities. (see AK, Feb. 16-28, and March 1-15, 1977) Philippine ambassador to Japan, Roberto Benedicto, in a separate hearing accused the newsman of libeling him in one article.

Commissioner Reyes, in his seven-page decision, said that his department's investigators had failed to show that Wideman had acted other than as a legitimate correspondent or that he demonstrated any intention to malign the country. The Marcos government is now proudly pointing to the Wideman decision as proof that freedom of the press exists in the Philippines.

THREE FILIPINO NEWSPEOPLE ARRESTED

A related incident which occurred last June 12, however, casts significant doubt upon this claim. During a Philippine Independence Day protest on that day at St. Joseph's College in Quezon City, three Filipinos working for foreign news agencies were arrested. The three were covering the rally of approximately 500 students, religious and others. Arrested were Marilyn Ochinar of Japan's Kyodo News Agency, Nelly Sandayan of the Tokyo newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* and photographer Rey Palanca of United Press International (UPI).

The two events indicate the emergence of a double standard for the treatment of newspeople, even those employed by international news agencies, on the basis of whether they are Filipino or foreign. Wideman's hearing provoked a barrage of congressional protest from the United States which created some embarrassment for the Marcos regime. The arrest of Filipinos is less likely to produce such a dramatic response.

Wideman's comment, upon hearing of the decision in his case, seems to sum up the situation accurately. As reported by Reuters, the Seattle-born correspondent hailed the decision as laying down for the first time "a guarantee of real freedom of the press — for foreign correspondents — in the Philippines." □

R.P. June 12 Event Denounces Marcos



"Down with martial law, fight for democracy" reads streamers during Oct. 1976 referendum symposium. Similar demands were raised during June 12 rally. See page 4.

House Cuts Aid to Philippines

see page 8

Marcos Launches Human Rights Offensive to Save U.S. Aid

see page 5

Futile U.S. Nuclear Arms Buildup

see page 2

New Plan Revealed to Save I-Hotel

see page 10

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SUMMARY OF CASE

Jury Verdict Awaited in Narciso-Perez Case



Leonora Perez [left] and Filipina Narciso [right].

(continued from front page)

this year, two Filipina nurses went on trial in a Federal Court, charged with two counts of murder, eight counts of poisoning and a single count of conspiracy to commit murder. The government contends that Leonora Perez, 33, and Filipina Narciso, 31, caused the respiratory attacks by injecting Pavulon, a powerful muscle-relaxant, into the intravenous (IV) fluids that the patients were receiving. The drug has similar effects to curare, the vegetable poison used by Indian tribes in South America to paralyze prey. It is used medically to relax patients who are about to undergo surgery and can cause death if not administered properly.

CASE BASED ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

The case against the two nurses is mostly circumstantial.

As promised by the prosecution in its opening statement, it did not present witnesses who saw the defendants with Pavulon-filled syringes in their hand. What it tried to do was put one or both nurses on the scene of the respiratory arrests. The prosecution's premise was that the patients had been injected rapidly with the drug through their IV tubings, which then took effect quickly, leaving the attacker near the victim's bedside. Thus, the nurses will be "circumstantially" implicated by their presence.

In the course of the 13 week trial, the prosecution presented 78 witnesses who tried to establish the whereabouts of Narciso and Perez during the series of respiratory incidents. Notwithstanding the volume of the wit-

nesses, however, the prosecution's attempts to place the two nurses within the vicinity of the attacks met with limited success. Oftentimes, the government witnesses gave confused and conflicting accounts.

The prosecution's case was weakened considerably by its inability to present a motive for the killings. In its opening remarks, the prosecution stated that it was under no legal obligation to present a motive. While it has never publicly stated what it believed was the nurses' motive, it attempted to introduce this, through inference, during the cross-examination of the two nurses. The prosecution believes that the killings were motivated in part by outrage among the staff over a shortage of nurses in the VA hospital. Thus, the two Filipina nurses allegedly entered into a conspiracy and committed the murders and poisonings in an effort to draw attention to the need for additional staff. According to the prosecution, the two nurses had not intended to murder their victims but had wanted to "cause the problem one minute and detect it the next." In its seven hour summation of their case, the prosecution declared that the two nurses did not set out to kill. "Each time (a patient was poisoned) an alarm was set (to prevent the death) but once it didn't go off."

"HOUSE OF CARDS"

Calling the prosecution's case a "house of cards," the defense systematically introduced evidence that undermined the government's case against the two nurses.

First, the defense immediately contradicted the prosecution's theory about the circumstances surrounding the respiratory arrests. In response to the prosecution's claim that Pavulon was discovered in the tissue samples removed from the victims' bodies when they were exhumed months after their death, the defense was cynical of what it sarcastically termed as a "scientific first." Before the VA hospital case, no one in the scientific community was certain Pavulon could be found in body tissues. In fact, an autopsy report on one victim (Joseph C. Brown) failed to reveal any Pavulon in his body system.

To the charges that the "murderer" had to be near the bedside of the victim at the time of the attack, the defense was able to make a government expert on Pavulon admit that the drug could be administered slowly, thus delaying the effect which would then allow the person who administered it to be far away at the onset of the patient's breathing failure.

The defense also rejected the prosecution's "circumstantial evidence" that the two nurses attended to many of the patients who suffered the respiratory attacks which occurred in their ward (the intensive care unit) during their afternoon shift. The defense argued that this in itself was not unusual since the two nurses were the most highly trained nurses in the hospital during their working hours and therefore were with the most seriously ill patients.

Not only was the prosecution challenged in its theory about the respiratory arrests but it was sharply rebuked for its failure to show a motive for the alleged crimes. The defense asserted: "You'll never know the who until you know the why." To the prosecution's vague references to a "protest over the hospital's understaffing" as a possible reason for the murders, the defense asked the jury: "Is it possible that two nurses who have never been in trouble would suddenly go around try to kill people?" The partnership in crime (conspiracy) between the two nurses also suffered some credibility when the defense revealed that the nurses had only known each other three or four weeks at the hospital prior to the "conspiracy."

Moreover, the defense accused the prosecution of putting blinders on the jurors by failing to call important witnesses who might challenge the government's case against the two nurses. This includes one of the respiratory victims, William Loesch, who testified for the defense that he had not been approached by either one of the nurses when he suffered his breathing failure.

The defense charged that the two Filipino nurses were victims of a "selective focus" that ignored evidence pointing to other suspects. In fact, the defense argued that the very same circumstances used by the government to link the two nurses to the alleged crimes would also be used to show the possible guilt of other persons in the hospital. This included three persons, including a mysterious unidentified man in a green operating room uniform who may have been the last person near the victims when they had their respiratory arrests.

Throughout the complex trial, the defense successfully called attention to the other pieces of the puzzle, which did not fit into the government's theory of the case. One such loose end was the confession of Betty Jakim, nursing supervisor at the VA hospital who committed suicide after suffering a mental breakdown. While confined at the Univ. of Michigan Neuropsychiatric Institute, Jakim told her doctors that she was responsible for the patients' deaths for which Perez and Narciso were being charged. The prosecution blocked her confession as evidence because of her supposedly unstable frame of mind.

(continued on page 4)

Struggle to Stop Eviction Continues

New Plan to Save I-Hotel

With the International Hotel facing the immediate threat of eviction — all stays have again been lifted — the tenants and supporters have remained undaunted and have put forward a new plan to save the hotel. The plan is workable, legal, and needs to be implemented immediately by the City. The question now is whether those who profess to support the need for low-cost housing in San Francisco will turn their backs at this critical period, or will take a stand to see the plan through. The following is a condensed version of the plan. It should be noted that the political climate is not favorable due to attacks on the hotel by reactionary and conservative elements of the City's superstructure. It will require massive support in the form of phone calls and letters to City Hall, demonstrations, etc. to ensure that the plan is implemented. — Editor.

Purchase and Ownership: Our plan calls for the Housing Authority or City* to initiate at once a new eminent domain proceeding to acquire the Hotel for permanent ownership. Such acquisition would be legal, according to Judge Peery's May 27 ruling, and would avoid requiring the tenants to pay back the full acquisition price, an amount so high that rents would have to be immediately and drastically raised and current residents would be evicted just as surely as they would by Four Seas. The total price for acquiring the Hotel (about \$1.25 million — possibly less if the recent placement of the Hotel on the National Register of Historic Places effectively lowers the reuse/market value of the property) and making the desired renovations (\$350,000) would be paid for via a Housing Authority or City revenue bond issue. The proceeds of this bond issue would be used to repay the Community Development money borrowed to pay for the Hotel and to cover renovation costs.

How the bond issue will be repaid: The revenue to repay this bond issue would come from three sources:

1. Rents from the residential spaces at the Hotel. Assuming no increase in current rent levels (that is, an average monthly rent of \$50 per room), full occupancy of the Hotel's 155 rooms will produce \$93,000 annually. (A renovated Hotel, without the threat of eviction hanging over it, would have no trouble achieving full occupancy, given its fine location, the overall shortage of decent, low-rent housing in Chinatown-Manilatown and SF generally, the Housing Authority's large waiting list, and the possible "prestige" value of living on the site of a famous local struggle.)

2. Rents from the downstairs (street level and basement) community/commercial spaces. These now amount to \$24,000 a year. Additional rents from the four large, well located downstairs spaces that now are vacant, at prevailing commercial rent levels for the area, would produce another \$26,000 a year, yielding a total of \$50,000 from the downstairs spaces.

The total rent revenue from the Hotel then — plus use of the \$100,000 grant the Hotel has already received from

the Campaign for Human Development — would be sufficient to repay the entire bond issue, except for a \$447,500 gap. (Our financial feasibility study of course takes into account vacancy losses, costs of insurance, operation and maintenance, and a reserve fund.) This gap would be covered from a third source:

3. An annual allocation, for ten years, of \$60,000 (or, alternatively, \$29,000 for 30 years) from the rent supplement moneys already allocated to subsidize low-rent housing from the 1/2 per cent increase in the city's hotel tax enacted in 1973.

In order to permit this reallocation of the low-rent housing fund derived from the hotel tax, the Board of Supervisors must amend the hotel tax ordinance. But what is called for here is no additional expenditure of city money. The 1/2 per cent hotel tax increase was passed in order to provide low-rent housing subsidies.

Management of the Hotel: The second component of our plan — beyond ownership and financing — is just as important as the first. The Hotel community, which has fought so hard to save their homes, must maintain control and management of the Hotel. To carry this out, the Housing Authority or City must sign a management contract with the International Hotel Tenants Association, permitting the IHTA to establish overall management policies, select tenants, hire its own staff, and manage the building itself.*

Immediate Steps Needed: What is needed immediately is support for this plan from the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority or City must then immediately move to initiate a new eminent domain action, based on permanent ownership of the Hotel. (At the same time the City and Housing Authority must pursue the stay of eviction action before the Court of Appeals, in order to allow sufficient time to implement this plan.) The eviction threat then will be definitely lifted. The people of the Hotel will be allowed to continue living there in peace, at rents they can afford, and with the right to manage the space they have fought for so valiantly. □

* If for any reason the Housing Authority cannot or will not acquire the Hotel, the same action can be undertaken by the City. City ownership of the Hotel has a precedent in the Midtown Park housing development at Geary and Divisadero, which the City has owned since 1968.

* There is also adequate precedent for this, in San Francisco and elsewhere. Many local housing authorities — notably in St. Louis, Boston and Newark — have allowed Tenant Management Corporations to take over full management of their projects, and other cities are beginning to adopt similar plans. In San Francisco, the city-owned Midtown Park development is totally under the control of the tenant corporation. In all instances, tenant management has proved superior to outside, bureaucratic management, financially as well as socially.



Buod ng mga Balita

(Gist of the News)

BISHOP CLAVER BELIES ARREST STORIES



Bishop Francisco Claver

Bishop Francisco Claver, outspoken critic of the Marcos martial law regime, has written to friends in the United States, urging them to help quash the rumor, circulated last May, that he has been placed under house arrest in the home of Jaime Cardinal Sin in Manila. The stories of Bishop Claver's arrest were reprinted widely in U.S. publications and, according to the prelate himself, reflected rumor that was sweeping Manila. He speculated, in a letter to a

Jesuit priest in New York, that "these rumors have been spread by the regime in order to frighten me into silence." Given the bishop's record of unflinching opposition to the illegalities of martial law, it seems unlikely that the rumor will have its desired effect. □

'DEATH SQUAD' IN ANGELES CITY

Civic leaders of Angeles City, confronted officials of the Integrated National Police over the possibility of a secret "death squad" operating within the Angeles City Police Department licensed to kill incorrigible criminals. The Angeles police chief refused to either confirm or deny the existence of such a special unit within his department.

The question arose in connection with the high number of criminals — 16 — killed in the last two months in alleged "shoot-outs" with police authorities. So far all the victims of these so-called shootouts have been notorious police characters whose records show repeated criminal acts.

Observers point out, however, the possibility that such a squad could easily be used to carry out political assassinations under the guise of police work, like the well-known CIA-run Project Phoenix used against the Vietnamese National Liberation Front during the Vietnam War. Or, closer to home, the infamous para-military Monkees who terrorized the Angeles area in the 1960's. Observers of the Angeles area further point to the heightened NPA activity in the area around Angeles City and Clark Airbase during the last few months and raise the question as to whether the sudden appearance of a "death squad" within the Angeles police department at this particular time is more than mere coincidence. □

MNLF FACES RENEWED HOSTILITIES



MNLF fighter

A report from the Associated Press in Zamboanga City reveals that the Philippine government is moving ever closer to resuming its war against the Muslims of the southern Philippines and breaking its six-month-old ceasefire agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Admiral Romulo Espaldon, commander of the Philippine Armed Forces in the south, said in a statement to local government officials that MNLF rebels still holding out in the hills of Mindanao must surrender or face attack.

He ordered the officials of Western Mindanao to urge the rebels to surrender because "sooner or later we will have to go after them."

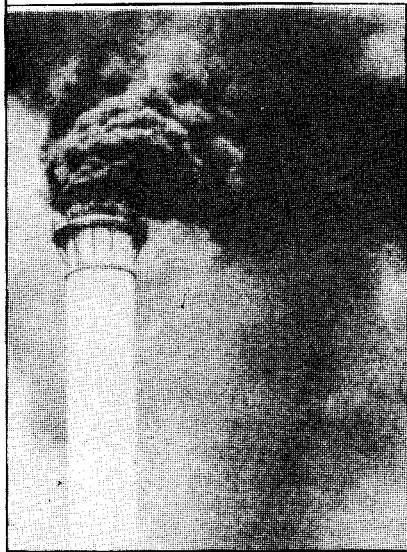
The report of Espaldon's thinly disguised threat merely confirms speculation by observers that the now-stalemated negotiations between the MNLF and the Philippine government would represent no more than a temporary respite from the bloody war which has raged since 1972. Pres. Marcos' repeated violations of the agreement signed with the MNLF last Dec. 24 in Tripoli, Libya, have provided numerous provocations to the MNLF for a resumption of the fighting, which the rebel group has so far resisted. Espaldon's statement betrays the government's true policy towards the MNLF — that is one of enforcing a military solution at all costs — which for some time, has been disguised by a seemingly conciliatory stance. □

PRISONER BLAMED FOR BICUTAN INCIDENT

Camp Bicutan authorities issued a suspicious report concerning the death of one detainee and the wounding of another by a prisoner, Uldarico Benigno, who reportedly ran amuck. Indiscriminately firing a .45 caliber pistol and a .38 revolver, prison authorities said, Benigno barricaded himself in a room and fought it out with police before getting killed two hours later.

Observers note that this seemingly bizarre incident may have been politically instigated. There have been two previous incidents which tend to fuel this speculation. The first concerns a peaceful prison protest which was brutally disrupted and later publicized as a prison riot in July 1976. And the second concerns an abortive assassination attempt on two prisoners, Fr. Edicio de la Torre and Fidel Agcaoili by an unidentified gunman during the same month. As expected news of the incident was suppressed and requests for investigations, ignored. □

TARGETS PUBLIC INSTEAD OF INDUSTRIES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DECREE ISSUED



Gov't policies endanger health and safety of people

Reacting belatedly to the depletion of the country's forest resources which has caused the present drought and hydroelectric energy shortage, Pres. Marcos issued Presidential Decree (PD) 1152 outlining policies for environmental protection. Generally, the decree specifies measures designed to encourage conservation of natural resources and discourage polluting practices.

While appearing commendable on the surface, Marcos' environmental protection scheme is riddled with discrepancies. For example, instead of big logging companies, the public is expected to shoulder the country's reforestation program. Every able

bodied person above the age of 10 is ordered to plant five trees within his/her lifetime. Private motorists are required to outfit their vehicles with expensive anti-pollution devices while car manufacturers are not required to recall or ban the sale of cars without such devices.

These harsh measures against the public contrast sharply with the lenient treatment accorded manufacturing firms — the main culprits of environmental pollution. These firms have even been offered tax incentives like rebates or exemptions, if they abandon manufacturing methods which cause pollution.

The hypocrisy of Marcos' new-

found "ecology consciousness" becomes more glaring in light of his open policy towards investments with grave pollution potentials. The \$1.56 billion Kawasaki Sintering Plant in Misamis Oriental threatens to saturate the areas atmosphere with toxic, carcinogenic and corrosive gases, such as sulfuric acid. A copper smelting plant, now under construction in San Juan, Batangas, poses the same spectre. A more ominous project is the multi-million dollar nuclear power reactor in Bataan. Inadequate search regarding the safe disposal of the reactor's radioactive waste, leaves to chance the safety and health of Bataan's people.

NPA/AFP ENCOUNTERS INCREASE IN LUZON



Brig. Gen. Romeo Gatan

"The rebels are out to show they are still around," conjectured Brig. Gen. Romeo Gatan about the escalation of armed clashes between the NPA and government troops in Central Luzon. But Gatan's assessment that NPA movement in and around his first Philippine Constabulary Command is merely a show, was rebutted by Pres. Marcos' move on June 10, when the dictator convened the National Security Council (NSC) to discuss the NPA.

The convening of the NSC, despite military claims that the rebel threat has been kept in check and press reports of severe NPA losses, is an indication of the real threat that the NPA poses to the martial law regime. This has been underscored by numerous armed clashes throughout the country over the past two months. By the end of May, the government reported almost a dozen encounters with the NPA in which 20 rebels were allegedly killed with 14 casualties on the government's side. Most of the clashes were centered in the Central Luzon province of Pampanga, the scene of harsh "base denial" operation designed to comb out NPA "remnants." Much to the military's surprise, the NPA force in the area turned out to be more impressive than could be expected from "remnants." A single unit of NPA pursued government troops in a five hour running battle near

Angeles City, May 6. This encounter was followed by three other encounters in the same province in a span of nine days.

Meanwhile, several more encounters in the provinces of Tarlac and Pangasinan kept the 1st PC Zone Command constantly on their toes and away from embattled Pampanga. Simultaneously, in Davao del Norte province in Mindanao, the NPA ambushed local militia units on two separate occasions.

The May-June encounters are accurate indicators of the NPA's strength. Engaging mostly in selective ambushes and arms confiscations missions, the relatively light military activity of the NPA still ties down thousand of government forces in a frustra-

ting "now-you-see-me-now-you-don't" wild goose chase. tactics of staging surprise attacks on weaker government forces at launching simultaneous attacks in various parts of the country has dispersed and, therefore weakened government forces. These tactics, combined with support from the rural masses, has enabled the NPA to overcome government offensives and has more than compensated for its smaller numerical strength.

Thus, despite the visible superiority of the Philippine Army, Marcos and his generals have reason to fear the NPA. To them the NPA is like a phantom army: with the masses' protection, the NPA is everywhere, yet nowhere to be found. □

CLUP RENEWS CALL FOR LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW

The Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines (CLUP) called for the immediate lifting of martial law and the holding of free elections, in an open letter issued early this month.

Addressed to Pres. Marcos, the Commission on Elections, and the departments of Public Information and National Defense, the CLUP statement read: "Fundamental problems facing the Philippines demand that the people have a right to be heard... To prevent irreparable and irreversible damage to the nation, to avoid serious bloodshed and to unify our people, the time has come to lift martial law and hold free and honest elections."

The CLUP's statement came on the heels of widespread worker protests launched May 1, demanding an end to martial law and denouncing the ever worsening political and economic crisis under the Marcos dictatorship. Organizers of these demonstrations pledged that militant pro-

tests will continue "until Marcos steps down from power" under popular pressure. This pledge in addition to heightened armed resistance in the countryside in recent weeks, was apparently taken by the CLUP as an invitation to "bloodshed" — a consequence they claim can be avoided if Marcos willingly relinquishes power.

In calling for free elections, the union said, "... it is no longer of pressing significance, at this point and time, whether martial law has failed or succeeded... The fact is that martial law has not united the people behind the government. True, it has been made to appear that the people have voted with astonishing unanimity in past referenda and plebiscites... but these were, as everyone knows, a sham. Indeed, even if the people had truly voted, their vote expressed at best acquiescence based on fear — not unity." □

Now a Luxury Item

R.P. COFFEE- A CRISIS BREWING

Philippine coffee production 1966-1976

YEAR	VOLUME (In metric tons)	VALUE (In million P)	AREA HARVESTED (in hectares)
1966	42,792.8	P 59.97	45,730
1967	44,291.3	96.39	50,090
1968	43,861.9	126.63	49,380
1969	44,171.5	155.3	51,950
1970	49,016.9	222.75	53,980
1971	49,501.5	219.64	54,250
1972	51,957.2	236.75	54,780
1973	50,910.7	233.79	60,790
1974	53,031	291.28	64,920
1975	91,400	647.14	65,400
1976	79,800	630.83	76,800

Source: Crop Statistics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

By VICTORIA LUNA

Recent economic reports from Manila reveal that the retail price of locally-grown coffee has risen to P46 per kilo, more than triple the 1976 price of P14. This means that coffee, once a consumer item available to a relatively large number of Filipinos, has now become a luxury accessible only to a few members of the elite.

Does this rise in price indicate a sudden scarcity of this once abundant commodity? Quite the contrary. There are currently 80,000 hectares of land planted to coffee as opposed to 45,000 in 1966, when coffee was relatively cheap. 1976 saw 79,800 metric tons harvested, nearly double the 1966 amount of 43,793 metric tons.

What has happened is that coffee growers have suddenly discovered that their product is a most profitable export. World prices for the commodity have reached record highs since 1975 when traditional coffee exporters, mostly Latin American, suffered a series of natural disasters which destroyed the greater part of the year's crop. Prices rose so high, in fact, that even consumers in the United States found themselves switching to tea. The Philippines, which exported only 5,000 kilos worth P30,203 in fiscal year 1973-74, found itself exporting a total of 14.73 million kilos worth P275.7 million between July 1976 and April 1977 alone.

So lucrative has the coffee bonanza been that Japanese trading companies tied in with some of Japan's biggest business conglomerates have arrived on the scene, eager to cash in on the huge profits. With their sophisticated marketing techniques and massive resources, they threaten to edge Filipino traders completely out of the business. Local traders have filed a formal complaint with the Board of Investments objecting to foreign penetration of the market and urging that the Japanese traders be banned since coffee trading activity is adequately handled by local businessmen.

Meanwhile, the spectre of ever-increasing coffee prices and the eventual disappearance of coffee from store shelves remains a real possibility. Encouraged by the current boom in the world market price of coffee, local growers have the option to channel the entire crop to the export market, thus depriving Filipino consumers of this commodity. This move will only be checked if the domestic price of coffee is allowed to increase in relation to the international market price.

The meteoric rise of Philippine coffee prices provides a graphic lesson in the irrationalities of an economy that is

Deepens Mystery of Father's Disappearance

MIJARES' SON MURDERED

Sources close to the family of Primitivo Mijares, well-known defector from the Marcos government, revealed last June 18 that his son who was kidnapped 18 days earlier, has been found murdered. A coroner's report confirmed that the 15-year old Luis Manuel Mijares died of multiple wounds and a fractured skull.

Mijares, formerly head of Marcos' Media Advisory Council, made headlines several years ago when he dramatically defected from the Marcos regime. He agreed to testify against the Philippine dictator before the U.S. Senate and revealed an attempt by Marcos to bribe him into silence with \$50,000. After that incident Mijares released a damaging expose of the president and the first lady, "The Conjugal Dictatorship."

Mijares disappeared from the United States early last January under highly suspicious circumstances. His wife in the United States has not heard from him since a mysterious trip which he described as a "daring sortie" to the Philippines. The murder of the younger Mijares adds a further piece to the complicated puzzle of his father's disappearance. □

geared to meet foreign needs instead of meeting local requirements. Before the bonanza, coffee, although produced in limited quantities, was something of a luxury that a large proportion of Filipino consumers could still afford. Now that it is more widely grown in the country than ever before, it has ironically become a luxury on the scale of a TV set or other electrical appliances.

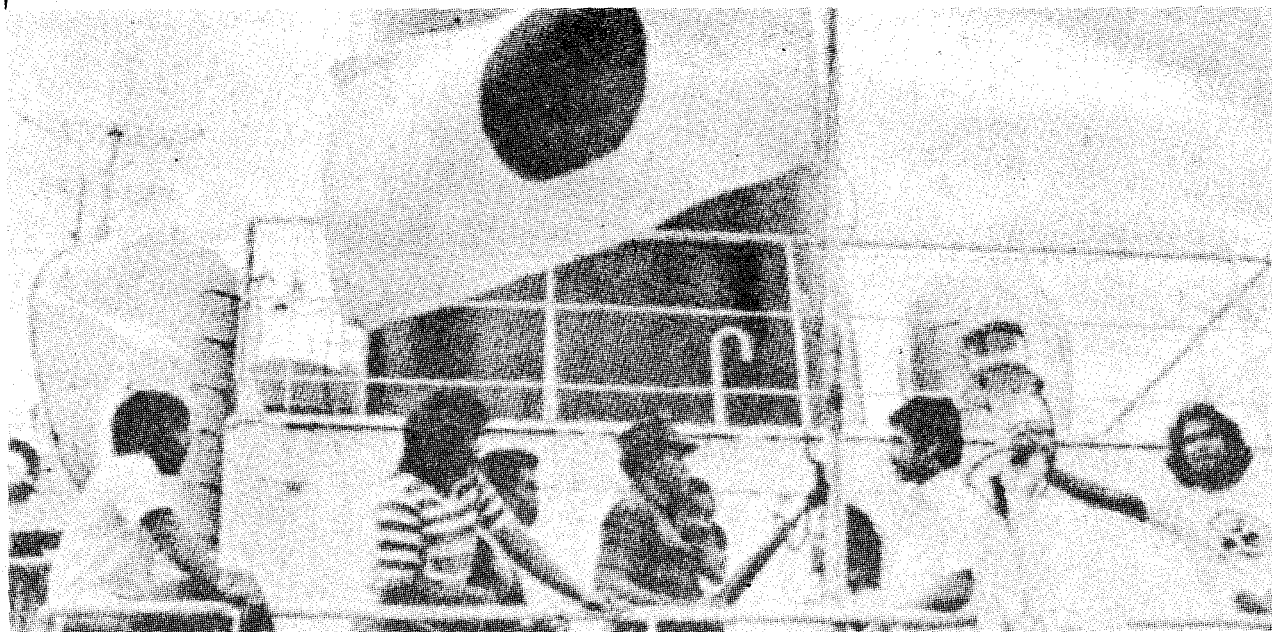
The government has defended this profitable venture by stating that the coffee trade has significantly contributed to the country's Gross National Product (GNP), and therefore to national growth. However, this significant GNP growth only reflects the astronomical profits of the coffee barons and does not present the actual state of mass deprivation of the Filipino masses.

Ironically, worldwide coffee prices have already begun to decline and observers predict a recovery next year for the traditional producers. This does not mean necessarily that coffee prices in the Philippines are likely to go down, even if the country finds itself with a surplus. If the current government policy toward the country's sugar crisis is any indicator, prices are likely to stay high or even rise.

In spite of a huge sugar surplus and low international prices, the Philippine government has allowed multi-millionaire sugar planters to recover some of their international losses on the domestic market by raising local prices. If the government's efforts to bail out sugar planters at all costs are any guide, it seems likely that the Filipino consumer will remain the lowest government priority during the coffee crisis as well. □

Filipino Crew Sparks Wave of Strikes

'MS Bravery' Crew Wins Demands



Jubilant "MS Bravery" crew after winning demands for back wages, restored benefits and improved safety conditions. The militant strike has sparked similar work stoppages among Filipino crewmen on other ships faced with the same conditions.

The takeover of the Japanese owned ship "MS Bravery" by its Filipino crew ended in victory after the owners, Okada Kauim Ltd. agreed to pay \$400,000 in backwages in exchange for the release of the ship. The 27 member Filipino crew seized the ship last May 27 while enroute to London to force the owners to pay their backwages, restore benefits, and make repairs on the ship to ensure the crew's safety.

Meanwhile, two other Okada-owned ships, the "Lusty" and the "Sanyo Maru" have also been struck by their Filipino crews. The "Lusty" is now strikebound to London while the "Sanyo Maru" has been grounded in Bahrain after its striking crew were forcibly ejected and replaced with scab labor.

The Philippine government meantime, has given cautious support to the striking seamen. Reflective of this policy was a statement by the National Seamen Board director Siddayao who said: "We don't want to

stir trouble but we must protect our people." The truth is, the Philippine government bears some responsibility for the exploitation of Filipino seamen and overseas contract workers. For the sake of earning foreign exchange through the salary remittances of these workers, the government has consented to "export" Philippine labor under onerous work contracts which include no-strike, no unionization clauses. The regime has only come to the defense of these workers when incidents of their exploitation have captured international attention, such as the "Gloftik Venus" affair when baton wielding Britons broke a strike staged by Filipino seamen. The shallow concern of the government towards these workers' plight is evidenced by the fact that it has continued to encourage the overseas work placement of Filipinos despite the exploitative terms of their contracts. □

Narciso-Perez...

(continued from page 2)

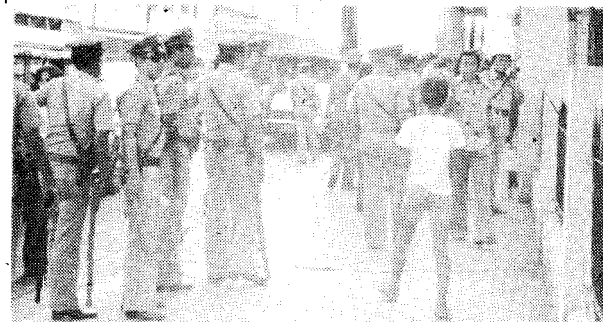
FEDERAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST NURSES

The defense also laced its rebuttal with charges of government misconduct. The FBI was denounced for its threats and constant harassment of the two nurses in the course of its investigation. The U.S. Attorney's office was also charged with concealing important evidence from the jury. The prosecution had in the earlier part of the trial withheld evidence from the defense despite a court order to turn over vital documents to the defense. What seemed favorable to the defense had been altered or excised from the reports.

Another target of the defense's was the VA hospital administration. The defense exposed the grave understaffing of the hospital, poor security system and disorganized procedure in the condition of emergency

R.P. June 12...

(continued from front page)



Troopers of the Metro-Manila Integrated Police laid siege on June 12 demonstrators.

About 500 workers and students denounced the martial dictatorship in a college symposium marking "Philippine Freedom Day" on June 12. The symposium featured speakers who took turns denouncing the curtailment of civil rights, the worsening economic conditions and the aggravation of U.S. imperialist control under the servile regime. The event was marred by military harassment. Three reporters covering the event were arrested (see Wideman article), while 200 troopers laid siege on the protestors by locking the campus gate and preventing anyone from leaving.

After negotiations between Church authorities and the military, the protestors were permitted to leave through military-escorted buses. Fearing the offer was a trap, the protestors decided to remain in the auditorium till 11 p.m. The military then issued a one-hour deadline for the protestors to clear the building or face arrest. Despite compliance with this ultimatum, however, the military still conducted random arrests. □

care which was extended during the respiratory arrests. Lindenauer, chief of staff of the VA, was attacked for his eagerness to convict the two nurses, attempting to pressure them into admitting their responsibility for the breathing failures and even attempting to bribe a nurse's aide into testifying against the two nurses.

The defense suggested that the only conspiracy in the case was a conspiracy carried out by the Federal government: "The Veterans administration and the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office are trying to solve this problem . . . They are trying to package it . . . nice, neat and tidy — at the expense of two people, low level, not citizens."

In concluding its case, the defense argued that the only way for the jury to reach a guilty verdict would be by resorting to the kind of "speculation and guesswork" that is forbidden under the law.

If convicted by the jury on even one of the remaining poisoning or murder charges, Narciso and Perez face the same potential maximum sentence — life imprisonment.

ANOTHER MARCOS GIMMICK

Release of 500 Caps Human Rights Offensive



Pres. Marcos

In a bid to prove his "concern for human dignity" and make good his promise to release all detainees who have not yet been charged, Pres. Marcos ordered the release of 500 prisoners early this month. However, no sooner had Marcos made the announcement when the hypocrisy of this move became starkly evident: the overwhelming majority of the 500 detainees were "common criminals" and of this number, only 168 were classified as political prisoners. Hoping to pass off the releases as proof of the diminishing number of martial law detainees, Marcos concocted this latest deception to add impetus to his "human rights offensive."

'HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENSIVES'

Prompted by the growing threat of U.S. aid cut-offs to his regime due to American public concern over human rights violations in the Philippines, Marcos publicly launched "his human rights offensive" last month before the Foreign Correspondents Association (FCAP). In his speech before the FCAP, Marcos emphasized the commitment of his regime to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promised the release of all detainees who have not been charged and the transfer of political trials from military tribunals to civilian courts.

These promises are so discordant with the dictatorships deeds, from its inaccurate depiction of the political prisoners situation to the present administration of detainees affairs. To deliberately obscure the true number of political detainees languishing in his jails, Marcos has confused the legal classification of these detainees. In his speech to the FCAP, Marcos admitted the presence of only 598 prisoners accused of political crimes. To arrive at this conservative figure, Marcos has now classified political offenses under common crimes. The obvious political implications of this trick is to discredit claims that there is such a thing as a political prisoner under martial law and to weaken the legal defense of these detainees.

Furthermore, the regime's claims that it will ensure fair trials for every detainee by transferring jurisdiction of their cases from military tribunals to civilian courts amounts to nothing more than switching hats. Apart from the weakened position of the judicial system since the inception of martial law, there has been no change in the current handling of political trials. In fact, to expedite "justice" three mass trials are presently underway, and are being deliberated by military commissions: a group of 90 charged with receiving arms from a socialist country; a group of 200 church affiliated persons charged with various counts of subversion; and another group of "57 Top Reds" accused of fomenting the pre-martial law rebellions.

DESIGNED TO PLEASE U.S.

In view of these trends, it is apparent that Marcos' "human rights offensive" amounts to nothing more than a propaganda campaign designed to please his Washington benefactors and mollify his U.S. critics, hence "keeping the aid flowing." To bolster this campaign, the dictatorship is even shamelessly jockeying for a position on the U.N. Human Rights Commission and has even chosen the theme of "Human Rights" for the World Law Conference it is sponsoring in August in Manila. These propaganda maneuvers and trickery, however, cannot disguise the repressive character of the regime which has been more recently highlighted by the mass arrests following the May Day and June 12 rallies; the recent arrests of three foreign correspondents; and earlier, the Herrera case. □

'Ready to Take Up Arms Again'

Interview with MNLF Chief Misuari



Nur Misuari (left), chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front talks to Undersecretary of Defense Carmelo Barbero (right) during a break in the Tripoli talks.

The following interview of Nur Misuari by Le Monde correspondent Philippe Decraene reaffirms the uncompromising stand of the MNLF to continue the Moro people's struggle for liberation and self-determination, following the breakdown of the Tripoli talks last April. Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front, pursues his political activities in Tripoli where he maintains permanent offices. — Editor

PD: Do you consider that the agreement concluded in Tripoli on December 23 between the Philippine government and the MNLF is now a dead letter?

Misuari: The agreement in question has been absolutely destroyed by the Manila government, which has betrayed both the spirit and the letter.

PD: So your movement is ready to resume the armed struggle?

Misuari: Yes. Despite the overwhelming military superiority of the Philippine army, the guerrillas of the front are ready to take up arms again — even though the Philippine government, while we were seeking to create a climate of peace, ignobly took advantage of the armistice to reinforce the armaments of its intervention troops, discover the exact position of our fighters and occupy numerous strategic points — in a word, to take advantage of the cease-fire.

PD: Do you feel you have enough troops?

Misuari: We have a minimum of 50,000 fighters. This is not enough to win the war, but it enables us both to insure our defense and to smash any enemy offensive attempt.

PD: Are you still demanding autonomy?

Misuari: No. We are now determined to return to our initial objective, total independence. We abandoned this position in a spirit of conciliation in 1974, at the time of Kuala-Lumpur Islamic Conference, hoping to speed up a peaceful settlement. But since we must resume the combat today and pay an extremely high price to triumph over oppression, it may as well be for independence.

PD: Do you expect anything special from the Eighth Islamic Conference?

Misuari: We simply want to inform the delegates of the 38 states represented in Tripoli of the latest developments of the situation in the Philippines, and above all ask them to continue their moral, political and material aid for our movement.

PD: Like the Eritrean national liberation movement, is the Moslem national movement in the Philippines split into several rival parties?

Misuari: No. The MNLF is the only Moslem nationalist movement in the Philippines. In this connection I would stress that the front intends to put an end to a colonial domination perpetuated by the Manila government, and

MINORITIES RESIST INCURSION

Paper Corp. Rides Roughshed in Abra

Cultural minorities of Abra, the Tinguians, stand to lose their lands and culture with the entry of the Cellophil Resources, a pulp and paper corporation and a member of the Herdis Group of Companies owned by Herminio Desini, a close business associate of Pres. Marcos. This is the conclusion of a report on minorities written by a religious in the province.

Cellophil Resources Corporation (CRC) has a 200,000-hectare logging concession which includes areas in four provinces — Abra, Kalinga, Bontoc and Ilocos Norte. The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources grant is reportedly good for 25 years and is renewable.

The main bulk of the concession is in Abra and covers 18 out of the province's 27 municipalities. Eleven — Luba, Tubo, Boliney, Manabo, Sallabadian, Bucloc, Daguionan, Bangilo, Nalibcong, Mataragan, Licuan, Baay, Lacub, and Tineg are upland towns. Seven, namely Lagangilang, Dolores, San Juan, Danglas, Lagayan, Langidan and La Paz are in the lowlands.

CRC, said the report, is using carrot-and-stick tactics to get the farmers to sell their lands to the corporation. Baiting farmers in Mudiit, Dolores — then chosen as the main depot — with attractive prices for their land parcels, Cellophil acquired an estimated 55 hectares in 1975. To date the full amount has not yet been paid to those who were cajoled to sell. As for those who refused to sell, the corporation fenced off company land thereby denying "uncooperative farmers" access to their parcels.

When the transportation of logs via feeder roads proved rather expensive, the company decided on using the riverways and shifted its attention to Gaddini, a barrio in Tayum where rivers converge.

The process of baiting and pressure started all over again. Farmers were offered P1.30 per square meter. When the farmers turned this down, mediators raised the price to P2.00. Local officials who acted as mediators made a killing from this give-away price. It was learned the company actually offered and released P3.00 per square meter.

An estimated 60 hectares were immediately bulldozed and levelled for the construction of the main office and factory. Mountains of earth were piled on unsold parcels cutting off water supply and killing all the crops. Company guards also brought added pressure to sell on the farmers by burning crops in unsold lands.

Foresters and helicopters, charged with keeping the concession off limits to grazing animals and natives gathering firewood, patrol the area.

At the same time, selected farmers were invited to seminars designed to acquaint them with the benefits Cellophil would bring to the province. Two such seminars were held Feb. 1-4 and 12-14 in Agsinao, Tineg and Kili-Tubo, respectively.

But as Cellophil moves to consolidate its hold on the area, popular opposition to the company is gaining ground. In Boliney, the people have refused entry to Cellophil personnel. In Nalibcong, the Sangguniang Bayan spearheaded a boycott of the seminar scheduled at Camp Bulac. In Tubo, the residents signed a strongly worded resolution opposing the entrance of Cellophil and other companies and vowing "never to accept any condition offered."

At the same time, practically all the municipalities involved have through the Abra Cultural Minorities Association sent resolutions to the President asking that the whole province be declared ancestral lands.

At present, there are indications that the opposition may progress beyond just resolutions. Cellophil has lit the fuse of a powder keg; only time will tell when it will blow up in the faces of Herdis investors, their foreign cronies and backers in high places. □

that this type of program can in reality be resolved only through armed struggle. After almost five centuries of independence, our country was forcibly handed over to the Philippine puppets, and they will yield only to force.

PD: To this end, have you sought external aid?

Misuari: We received no aid from Cuba, the PRC or the USSR. Our only direct support is granted by countries belonging to the Moslem world.

PD: Do you wish to disassociate your front from communism?

Misuari: There is no need, since we are in no way a communist movement; we are a Moslem Nationalist Movement trying to liberate a Moslem country from the Philippine colonial yoke.

The Manila government, for its part, receives military aid essentially from the United States and Israel. These two countries maintain military advisors in the Philippines and supply sophisticated military equipment.

PD: Can the Philippine Moslems really aspire to create a viable independent state?

Misuari: Of course. We possess the major part of the Archipelago's resources. This applies particularly to copra, tropical fruits and textile fibers. We have considerable mining and oil resources. We number more than five million — contrary to the claims of the Filipinos. Not content with the systematic massacre of our population, they are pursuing a veritable statistical genocide by asserting that we number only 3 million... □

FILIPINO Community

Sept. 2-4;
in San Diego

Annual FWC Calls for Fight Against Discrimination



A May 15 dinner meeting was held at the Sheraton Inn on Harbor Island to support this year's PPFWC.

By AYDA LUCERO and PAUL DAVID
AK Correspondents

SAN DIEGO — Calling upon Filipinos throughout the West Coast to attend the 1977 Filipino People's Far West Convention (PPFWC), the FWC Coordinating Committee had asked that people bring with them the "common commitment to fight to eliminate discrimination within the Filipino community, and a concern for our people here in the United States and in the Philippines."

Under the theme "Pag-unlad sa Pagkakaisa" (Progress Through Unity), this year's convention will follow the tradition of being held during the Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 2, 3, & 4 at the University of California San Diego campus.

The FWC, which has been an annual forum to discuss the current problems facing the Filipino people since its inception in 1971, has served an important function in developing and strengthening a significant movement of active and progressive Filipinos which has led to concrete social action. This struggle is still unfolding as racism, national discrimination, and exploitation have continued to plague the community. During the past year alone, the Filipino community has championed such issues as the Foreign Nurse Graduates for Fair Licensure, the International Hotel fight for decent, low-cost housing, opposing the adoption of racist U.S. textbooks in the California schools, and the case of Narciso and Perez.

What is deemed necessary in resolving these problems is to unite the Filipino community and heighten the development of a consciousness concerning the many economic, political and legal factors that affect the Filipino people.

Underlining the need for unity, the FWC Coordinating Committee stated, "We realize that there are differences among us; however, there is certainly more that unites us than divides us. Therefore, we are asking that all participants respect each other's differences while struggling for unity in the fight against discrimination. We defend anyone's right to participate as long as they support the principles of unity."

This year's convention is planning workshops on employment/affirmative action; West Coast Confederation of Filipino Students and Student Issues; International Hotel and Other Housing Struggles; Educational Programs and Materials; Art and Culture to Serve the People; Labor Organizing; Youth; Medical Field; Philippines Today; Senior Citizens; and Military. Plans also include having speakers from the Narciso/Perez case and the International Hotel struggle.

"Through democratic discussion we are confident that the ideas which most clearly express the experiences of the great majority of our people will be taken up in action resolutions where feasible. Some of the issues we will discuss may be considered 'controversial.' We discuss them because they are important issues affecting the day to day lives of our people here, and they deserve serious attention. We believe that by relying on our own common experiences and hard work, we can unite our people to fight for our best interest," explained the organizers of the convention.

Cultural entertainment and talent representative of the whole West Coast are currently being lined up for the convention's Saturday Night Cultural Presentation.

Already the San Diego community has expressed much enthusiasm and interest in the Filipino People's Far West Convention's two major events: the March 26 kick-off luncheon at the Our Lady of Angels Church Hall, and the May 15 dinner meeting at the Sheraton Inn on Harbor Island. Several organizations have pledged their support and endorsement of the convention. The most

notable has been the Council of Filipino American Organizations of San Diego County, Inc. (COPAO), which is acting as the convention's fiscal agent.

Upcoming convention events include performances of "Isuda Ti Immuna" (Those Who Came First), a Filipino-American historical play, as well as dances and a San Diego Filipino People's Far West Convention Tennis Tournament, to raise funds and publicize the convention.

Input and ideas in final preparations are still needed. For more information call: Finance — John Foz (714) 479-9891; Program — Barbara Monzon 423-7876; Publicity/Outreach — Ayda Lucero 426-9243; or write 1977 PPFWC, P.O. Box 654, National City, CA 92050. □

New Plans Laid

FFP HOLDS SUCCESSFUL 3rd NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PRESS RELEASE
Friends of the Filipino People

June 20, 1977

Forty delegates, mainly organizers, attended the Third National Conference of the Friends of the Filipino People on June 18 and 19. The meeting took place at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.

The conference was marked by intensive work-sessions directed at formulating FFP's campaign to end U.S. support for the Marcos regime in the coming year and at erecting a more streamlined national organizational structure.

Conference participants resolved to "consolidate ties" with the church and academic sectors and "propel exploratory efforts" to link up U.S.-Philippine issues to the concerns of labor, women's groups, and minorities. To reach all these sectors more effectively, the conference agreed on the following campaigns for 1977-78: a major effort to end the presence of U.S. bases in the Philippines; intensification of the anti-aid campaign, with greater attention paid to coordinating FFP's efforts with those of other country-lobbies and human rights groups; bringing the issue of Filipino political prisoners more effectively to the varied sectors of the U.S. public; exposing the Marcos-U.S.-AID "population control" program; launching a low-key educational campaign on runaway shops for selected labor unions; and participation in solidarity activities for Black rule in Southern

(continued on page 8)

Musical Drama Reflects Filipino History in U.S.

'Isuda' Starts Run in S. Cal.

LOS ANGELES — As the actors polish their lines, the technicians paint the sets, the dancers and musicians make final adjustments, the sixth production of "Isuda Ti Immuna" quickly approaches its opening night on July 16, 1977.

Culminating six months of painstaking preparation work, Isuda will once again bring to life the experiences of the first wave of Filipinos in America.

Isuda is a vivid and authentic account of the rich history and experience of our Filipino pioneers in this country. The play exemplifies the struggle of the Filipino manongs against the oppressive social and economic conditions that everywhere confronted them, and most importantly how they organized themselves against these conditions.

But Isuda is much more than the portrayal of past history. The organizing of Isuda is the modern version of organizing within the Filipino community around our conditions as a minority in this country. Thus Isuda is not a romanticized version of the past; on the contrary, its message is a profound depiction of the foundations upon which racism is built — an exploitative system which utilized and continues to utilize immigrants and minorities as cheap labor, a system which pits one worker against another in order to keep them from uniting against their oppressor — in this case, the California agriculture industry. It is in this light that the play is of value to the community in its fight against the continuing injustices of a system which has not really changed in all

HISTORICAL DRAMA WITH DANCES AND MUSIC ABOUT THE FIRST FILIPINOS IN AMERICA

ISUDA TI IMMUNA

(They Who Were First)

Performances
LOS ANGELES
July 12, 16, 22 & 23 at 7:30pm
Auditorium, U.S. II Theatre
1400 West 1st Street
(at corner of 1st and Broadway)

SAN DIEGO
July 28 & 31 at 7:30pm
and July 31 at 10:30pm
San Diego State
University Theatre
DUESNO
August 6 & 7 at 7:30pm

Tickets
General admission \$5
Senior citizens \$2.50
Ages 12 to 16 \$2.50
Children under 12 \$1.00
Tickets sold at theater
box offices and most
Filipino businesses

Presented by
West Coast Confederation
of Filipino Students
Katipunan ng mga
Demokratikong
Pilipino (KDDP)

these years.

With this message, Isuda is truly a community play. The tremendous impact of Isuda on its audiences in previous performances in Berkeley, Delano, San Francisco and Seattle is a revealing prelude to the upcoming production of "Isuda Ti Immuna" in the Filipino community in Southern California. □

A First At College

PHILIPPINE HISTORY COURSE AT SEATTLE COLLEGE

SEATTLE — For the first time, Filipino students at Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) will have the opportunity to learn about the Philippines. A Philippine History course, starting fall quarter this year, will offer an "in-depth study of [Philippine] political, cultural, social and economic character from the pre-Spanish period to the present society." The course will give special emphasis on the experiences of Filipinos here in the U.S. and the development of Filipino-American communities from the early 1900's to the present. It will also include discussions on the relationship of contemporary Philippines to Filipino communities in this country.

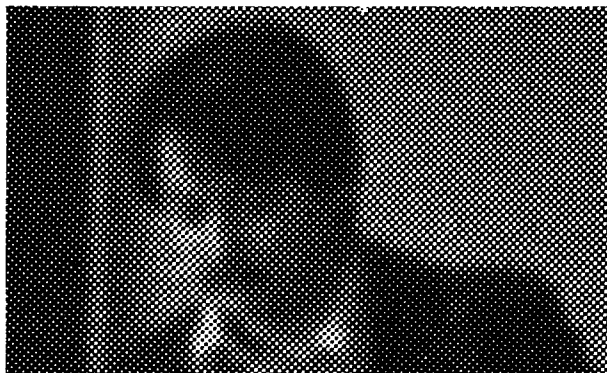
Through the persistent efforts of the Filipino Students

Association (FSA) to push for a Filipino Studies class, SCCC's Division of Social Sciences approved the teaching of the five-credit college-transferable course. For years, Filipino students have felt the need for a survey of Philippine history. However, all that was offered was a small insert in one Asian-American Studies course.

SCCC's Social Science Department head, Peterson, himself a past instructor of Asian Studies, announced the appointment of Mr. Joselito Lalas as the instructor of the history class to be held daily from 10:00 to-10:50 a.m. Mr. Lalas recently acquired his Masters Degree in Filipino Studies at Cambridge University. He will give the needed expertise in the once-difficult task of discovering "what the Filipino experience is." □

Double Stance on Human Rights Targeted

AMLC WARNS VIGILANCE AGAINST REGIME MANEUVERS



Rene Cruz, AMLC coordinator

Press Release

ANTI-MARTIAL LAW COALITION [Philippines]

Responding to escalating internal and international pressures, the Marcos government recently announced that it would release political detainees who have not been charged and transfer jurisdiction over the cases of those who have been tortured from military to civilian courts. Moreover, Marcos promised to punish military officials found guilty of practicing torture.

The celebration of the regime's announcements by the pro-Marcos press must not lull the anti-martial law movement into a state of complacency. On the contrary, we must raise our vigilance for past experience indicates that we shall, no doubt, witness a repeat performance of the now familiar Marcos pattern of making deceptive declarations; of making sweeping promises that are reversed in practice.

Deception is immediately evident in the regime's claim that it holds only 698 political prisoners. Does it seriously expect the world to believe this? The Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMSRP), whose objective reporting has been acknowledged by international agencies including the U.S. State Department, claims that 32 of the regime's stockades alone hold 563 political prisoners. The number in 48 other stockades most of which lie in outlying rural areas marked by widespread resistance to the regime, has not been revealed but is presumably large. This popular disbelief stems not only from the standard Marcos tactic of arbitrarily manipulating statistics but also from its equally standard practice of charging political detainees with the commission of common crimes and pinning on them legal classification of common criminals. Numerous reports by the international agencies and newspapers put the number of political prisoners held by Marcos in the thousands. Neither statistical juggling nor the game of legal de-classification can hide the extent of political repression practiced by a desperate regime which, only last January, was heatedly denying the existence of any political prisoner.

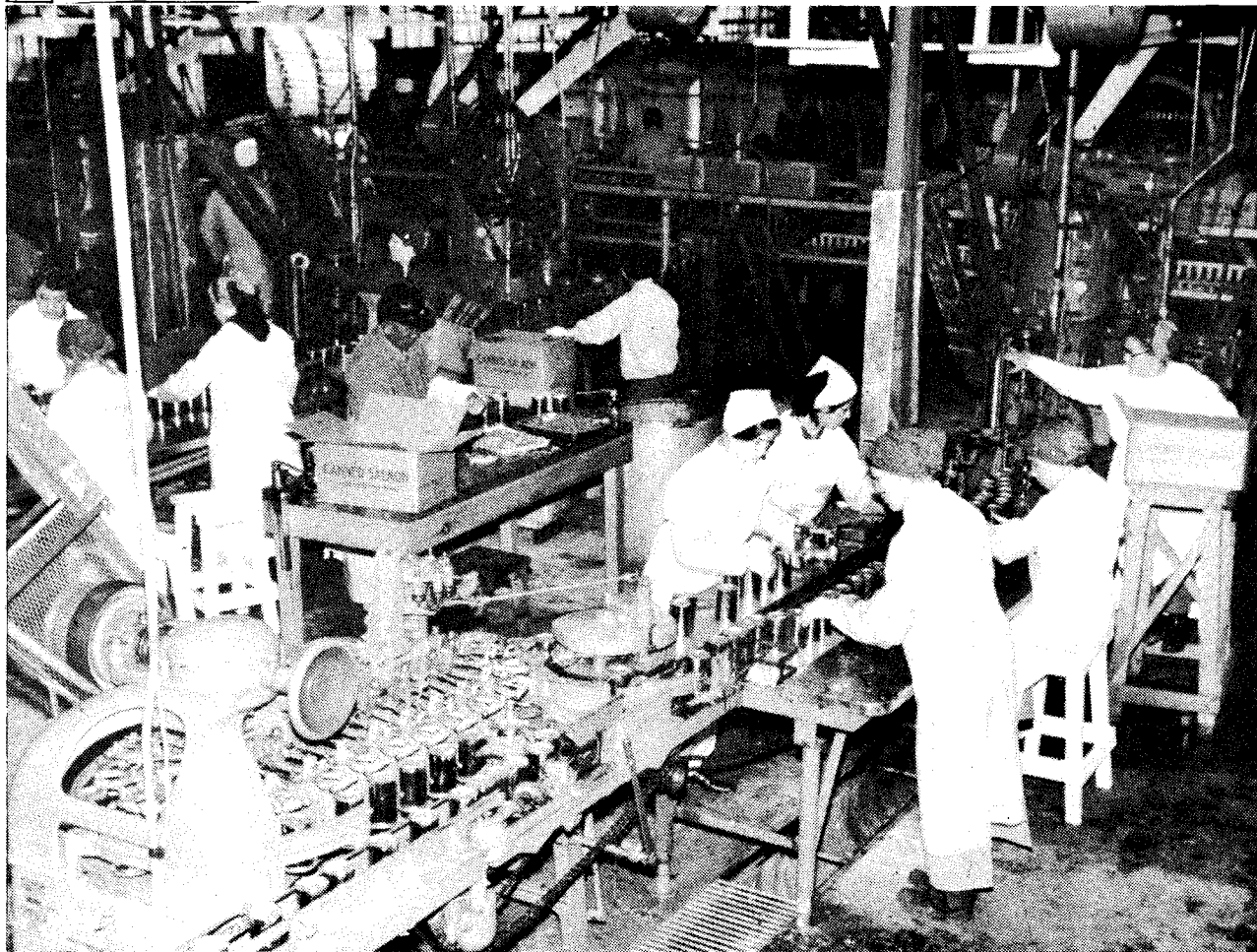
Does Marcos seriously expect us to believe that transferring jurisdiction of selected political detainees from military to civilian courts will ensure justice for these people? Under martial law, both military and civilian courts have become agencies of executive rule, of presidential repression. To envision the "justice" that political prisoners can expect from civil courts we have only to read Amnesty International's verdict on the latter. "... Stripped of its jurisdiction and independence the judiciary of the Philippines has become totally ineffective in preventing the violations of human rights. . . ."

Marcos promises to punish human rights offenders in the military are to be taken as seriously as the promise of a gangster chief to make his subordinates respect the law. A similar promise made by Marcos last year in response to the release of the Amnesty International Report resulted in a token slap on the wrist of the military. The AMRSP latest study claims that only four low-ranking soldiers out of the 88 consistent military offenders identified by Amnesty have been prosecuted. Punishment, moreover, took the form of a reprimand or dismissal, although the crimes were punishable by imprisonment. The generals, colonels, and majors responsible for the policy of systematic torture and repression remain at their post untouched and untouchable by the regime whose existence depends on their support.

This latest Marcos maneuver must be seen as a desperate response to increasingly effective popular pressure both in the Philippines and the United States to cut off U.S. assistance to Marcos. This mass pressure recently forced the Carter Administration to express concern over the brutal treatment of Trinidad Herrera, the courageous popular leader from Tondo and the Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to approve a 17 per cent cut in Carter's military aid request for Marcos. With his lifeline increasingly being threatened, the dictator is willing to plunge into the depths of rhetorical hypocrisy by claiming that "human rights is foremost among the hierarchy of our people's values."

Discrimination Suit Victory Forces Improvements

ACWA SUIT SPAWNS BETTER CONDITIONS IN ALASKA CANNERIES



Cannery workers are benefitting from the recent Domingo vs. NEFCO case.

By GREG DELLA
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE—The recently won class action lawsuit around discrimination filed by the Alaskan Cannery Workers Association against a huge fish processing company is having profound effects on cannery workers going to Alaska this year. Workers coming to this city from all over the U.S. are openly discussing the favorable decision in the Domingo vs. NEFCO case and the effects the decision will have on working and living conditions for minority workers.

Reports from workers already in Alaska say that changes, especially in living conditions, have begun to take place. One worker from Peter Pan cannery in False Pass, Alaska wrote that the company had overhauled its workers' entire recreational facilities. Others at the New England Fish Company (NEFCO), the defendant in the lawsuit, reported that several Filipino workers have been placed in skilled trainee positions which have traditionally excluded minority workers. Furthermore, NEFCO officials stated that the fifty-year-old Filipino bunkhouse would be torn down and replaced at the end of the canning season. A NEFCO foreman admitted that the Domingo vs. NEFCO case has brought many changes, but more importantly, the company is now forced to listen to grievances of workers or face further legal action.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES

The discrimination case against NEFCO, largest canning company in the Northern Hemisphere, broke open in 1971 with the termination of employment of Nemesio and Silme Domingo. The two Filipino cannery workers were blacklisted and eventually fired for speaking against the discriminatory treatment and unhealthy living conditions NEFCO provided for its workers.

Nemesio and Silme Domingo, along with other workers, raised such questions as:

Why are Filipinos paid less than whites?

Why do Filipinos live in poor and segregated housing?

The Marcos-style, however, is now too familiar to most. The promises made in times of crisis will be immediately shelved once the storm blows over. For torture, detention without charges, summary executions and other human rights violations are intrinsic to a martial law dictatorship which has arbitrarily stripped all citizens of their basic human and political rights. Having destroyed all their democratic rights, the regime can only relate to the people through repression and as resistance to an unpopular government escalates, repression must necessarily escalate.

The Anti-Martial Law Coalition believes that the only way to stop systematic human rights violations in the Philippines is to put an end to the Martial law dictatorship and to stop the flow of U.S. military and economic assistance that makes this dictatorship possible. To rely on the sugar-coated promises of Marcos to stop repression is like trusting an armed murderer to refrain from killing. □

Rene Cruz
Coordinator

Why are Filipinos given less nutritious food than whites?

Why do Filipinos have to cut grass with sliming (fish cleaning) knives while whites have the day off?

Why are Filipino bunkhouses not provided with decent heating?

Knowing that their termination was illegal and unjustified, the Domingo brothers sought the assistance of International Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union (ILWU) Local 37, of which they are members. But even with the active support of then Local 37 president Gene Navarro, the two never got reinstated. The two then filed written complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC).

WORKERS FILE SUIT

In 1973, Nemesio and Silme Domingo were joined in their struggle by other Filipino and Native American cannery workers, who similarly felt they had been discriminated against. Soon, others from several Alaskan canneries such as Uganik, NEFCO-Fidalgo in Ketchikan, Excursion Inlet, Wards Cove, Alitak and Bumble Bee in Nakenk followed suit.

Later that same year, a class action lawsuit was brought against NEFCO in violation of Title VII of the 1974 Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination in employment.

After over three years of hearings on the case, Federal Judge Gus Solomon ruled in April of this year that the defendant was guilty of discrimination against its minority workers, a majority of whom are Filipinos. Judge Solomon stated that the plaintiffs had proven their allegation against NEFCO and, thus, a series of hearings would soon be held to determine the damages and awards the court would grant class members.

In one of these hearings held recently, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that class members in the Domingo vs. NEFCO lawsuit are entitled to demand compensation beyond backpay awards and should be compensated for living and eating conditions.

ALASKAN CANNERY WORKERS ASSOC.

Spearheading the effort behind the Domingo case has been the Alaskan Cannery Workers Association, formed in 1973 as an advocate organization to assist cannery workers in their legal actions. ACWA spokespersons commented that the association would continue to play a major role in assisting the court in the distribution of damages and awards. Both NEFCO and the court are open to making the association a party to the lawsuit for purposes of relief and monitoring any court decree.

Though hearings on damages may continue for several months, spokespersons for the plaintiffs think that the possibility for an out of court settlement is very strong. Several negotiation meetings with NEFCO have already been held. As one spokesperson remarked, "This case is going to affect many of our people throughout the West Coast, from Delano and Southern California to Seattle and Washington. It is important that we get the word out to our people, since the case is quickly coming to a conclusion. Our people who have faced discrimination in the canneries for over fifty years are rightfully entitled to all damages in this case." □

Former Detainee Barred From R.P. Human Rights Meet



Imelda Marcos presides over preparatory meeting for the World Law Conference in Aug. which has as its theme Human Rights.

A former Protestant missionary to the Philippines has been banned from reentering the country to attend a conference on international human rights to be held in Manila, August 21-26.

Rev. Paul Wilson of the Disciples of Christ had been slated as a panelist in a conference on "The International Legal Protection of Human Rights" sponsored by the World Peace through Law Center. The motive for the government's action was obviously Wilson's familiarity with the human rights situation in the Philippines, from which he was expelled as an "undesirable alien" by the Marcos government in 1974.

The ban on Wilson added to the controversy surrounding the conference. The sponsoring organization, which is headed by Charles Rhyne, a former associate of Richard Nixon, has drawn fire from a number of institutions and public figures for holding a meeting on human rights in a country where they are reported to be

routinely violated.

Numerous invited panelists have refused to go to Manila, including Prof. Frank Newman of the University of California at Berkeley; Mr. John Humphrey of the International Commission of Jurists; Dr. Homer Jack of the World Christian Federation; and Dr. Richard Falk of Princeton University. In addition, human rights organizations like the International League for Human Rights and the International Commission of Jurists have publicly announced that they are boycotting the conference.

Among those actively denouncing the conference is Dr. Falk, an internationally recognized student of international law and diplomacy. With the assistance of the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), Falk has sent letters to members of the World Association of Lawyers, an affiliate of the center, urging them to protest the holding of the conference in the Philippines. □

Victory for AMLC HOUSE CUTS AID TO R.P.

By Walden Bello

The U.S. House of Representatives passed June 23 a foreign assistance bill which cut by over 20 per cent the military aid to the Marcos government proposed by the Carter Administration.

Unchallenged on the House floor was the Philippine amendment which earlier passed the Foreign Appropriations Subcommittee of the House in late May. This legislative initiative sponsored by Rev. Yvonne Burke (Dem.-Ca.) provided for a 17 per cent cut in military assistance to Marcos. On the day of the House floor vote itself, this aid cut was supplemented by a successful amendment to cut by five per cent the approved assistance levels for all countries. These two measures reduced the military aid to Marcos from the \$40.4 million proposed by the Carter Administration to about \$32.5 million.

The legislative action marked the first time an aid reduction to Marcos successfully made it past the House floor. The victory was largely a product of the efforts of the Congress Education Project (CEP) of the Friends of the Filipino People and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition, which proposed the amendment to members of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee and mounted grassroots pressure on selected congresspersons to introduce it. In steering the amendment through the House, the CEP successfully withstood high level pressures on congresspeople exerted by the State Department.

The success on the Philippines, however, took place in the context of volatile, shifting currents in Congress. Although aid for Marcos was cut and the military training program for Argentina was scrapped, conservative forces successfully blocked attempts to cut aid to Nicaragua and South Korea, two repressive regimes heavily backed by the U.S. In addition, the same forces were able to push through an amendment banning aid to Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Cuba, Angola, Mozambique and Uganda. With the exception of Uganda, all the other countries have mass-based national liberation governments which overthrew repressive regimes or colonial powers backed by the U.S. In the case of Vietnam, in particular, the House bill objectively places the U.S. in the position of reneging on a promise made by former President Nixon to grant war reparations payments to Vietnam for the massive destruction inflicted by the U.S. on that country.

The House bill is now being studied by the Senate, which will finalize its version of the foreign assistance act on July 13. If no major countermove is made by the Senate on the Philippines, the aid cut will mark a milestone in the history of the Philippine anti-martial law movement in the United States. □

FFP CONFERENCE...

(continued from page 6)
Africa.

Highlights of the discussion on organizational structure were the reaffirmation by participants of the transfer of the FFP national office from Boston to New York, and the modification and enlargement of both the National Council (the policy-making body) and the Standing Committee (the executive board). Re-elected unanimously as National Coordinator was Andrew Siegal of New York City. In addition to Siegal, the following were elected to the Standing Committee: Marc Schnapp, East Coast coordinator; Walden Bello, West Coast coordinator; Tim McGloin, Southern coordinator; Severina Rivera, Congress Education Project director; Daniel Schirmer and Stephanie Brown, members-at-large.

The conference included a keynote address by Prof. William Worthy of Boston University's School of Journalism, and a cultural presentation on the evening of June 18.

The FFP has recently received attention for its increasingly more effective attempts to cut off U.S. assistance to the Marcos government. The Congress Education Project, coordinated with the Anti-Martial Law Coalition, recently succeeded in pressuring the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives to cut off U.S. military assistance to Marcos by 17 per cent in FY 1978.

The organization currently has 13 chapters throughout the United States. Its principles of unity are: an end to U.S. support for the Marcos dictatorship; an end to U.S. military and political intervention in the Philippines; an end to the long-standing domination of the Philippine economy by U.S. multinational corporations; and support for the Philippine people's efforts to secure full independence and freedom in their country and social and economic justice in the United States. □

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS EXPOSED

N.Y.C. Rally Targets Repressive Govts.



A New York City human rights demonstration denounced U.S. aid to repressive governments.

New York City demonstrators marked their discontent with President Carter's policy toward aid to repressive regimes in an outdoor rally on June 25. The event, organized by the New York Human Rights Coalition, assembled at Rockefeller Center and marched past offices of repressive governments receiving U.S. aid and support.

Marchers paused at the offices of Lan Chile Airlines, South African Airlines and Philippine Center and denounced the Carter Administration which has continued and even escalated military aid, arms sales, loans and other forms of support to these regimes who imprison, torture, and murder dissenters. Noontime shoppers along Fifth Avenue observed the six-foot banners which demanded, "End All U.S. Aid to

Repressive Regimes"; "Free All Political Prisoners in the U.S. and Abroad"; and "Respect Political and Economic sovereignty in the Third World". The march proceeded past the United Nations compound to the rally site at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

The rally featured talks by Rev. Timothy Mitchell of the National Conference of Black Churches, who described the concern that must be shown for the liberation struggles of Southern Africa; Terevafi Kangai, Deputy Secretary of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), who discussed the sham nature of Jimmy Carter's stance in favor of Black majority rule in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Songs of freedom were contributed by activists from the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP), and a member of Atis Independan, a Haitian cultural group.

A member of the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) noted that the action which was mobilized in only three weeks, was a successful beginning in a long process of public education work designed to create pressure on the administration and Congress. The ultimate goal, according to one participant, is that: "We must insure that the people of this country are fully aware of the role that this government has been playing in the destruction of democratic rights across the globe. When fully informed, they will never allow that policy to continue."

It was with this perspective that Rev. Mitchell addressed the crowd: "The struggle in the beginning is always lonely but we will continue to take the message to the people and they will respond. The people's anger will not go unnoticed." □

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A FIRST IN U.S. COLONY

Guam Motorcade Decries Martial Law



Press Release
GUAM ANTI MARTIAL LAW COALITION

AGANA, Guam — Local protest against the Marcos dictatorship rocked this tiny island community of Guam, a U.S. territory, 20,000 of whose total 100,000 inhabitants are Filipinos. Spearheaded by the newly-formed June 12 Anti-Martial Law Coalition, a 16-car motorcade of 30 people rode through the heavily concentrated Filipino villages of Dededo and Tamuning and wound up circling the Agana Cathedral, where the local Philippine Consulate was sponsoring a Thanksgiving mass for Philippine Independence. Led by a pick-up truck carrying a black-draped, mock coffin and signs declaring, "Democracy is dead in the Philippines," the motorcade demonstration attracted the attention of numerous motorists and by-standers with its colorful display of signs and drawings opposing martial law in the Philippines. Coalition members also distributed leaflets along the motorcade route, especially at the Cathedral while many churchgoers were leaving at the end of the mass. The motorcade was also equipped with a loudspeaker which, along with the leaflets, called for an end to all human rights violations, the release of all political prisoners, an end to all U.S. military and economic aid, and an end to the Marcos dictatorship.

Prior to the motorcade, on the evening of June 11, the coalition also sponsored a slide show presentation entitled "Kasaysayan! A Review of Philippine History and People's Resistance to Martial Law." Well attended by about 50 people, the slide show served in orienting people to the significance of Philippine National Day and the present conditions under martial law. The third and final coalition-sponsored activity for the June 12 weekend was a mass for human rights in the Philippines at St. Anthony's church in Tamuning, where leaflets were also circulated.

The coalition, formally established four weeks prior to

June 12, is comprised of KDP-Guam as well as Filipino individuals and also some Americans, Micronesians, and local Guamanians.

The formation of a Guam anti-martial law coalition marks a significant event in this large Filipino community. The successful motorcade-demonstration constituted the first public display of opposition to the Marcos regime ever on the island. Traditionally, the Filipino community has been under strong influence by the Philippine Consulate which has always worked with, and has spoken through the various local Filipino community organizations. As one coalition member stated, "Filipinos here have lacked a basic education and understanding of martial law because of the massive New Society propaganda which has been bombarding the island." The anti-martial law activities were the only propaganda that countered the recent barrage of New Society propaganda presented in the Tagalog films shown here and in a special 24-page supplement of the Pacific Daily News, Guam's only local daily newspapers, which praised New Society "developments under the guise of commemorating Philippine Independence Week. In addition, the popular Guam Cable TV station presented Tagalog programs nightly from the Philippines for the week of June 11 to June 18. These programs, specially packaged and aimed at Filipino residents in Guam, were "highlighted" by a telecasted special message by President Marcos to the Filipino community of Guam and an episode of "Face The Nation" hosted by Imee Marcos.

Because of the substantial size of its Filipino population and the proximity of Guam to the Philippines (1600 miles, three hours by jet), Guam can be expected to lend a major role in international support work for ending the Marcos dictatorship. Through future projects and hopefully, coordination with anti-martial law forces in the U.S. mainland, the Guam Anti-Martial Law Coalition hopes to build Guam into a bastion of Filipinos and other ethnic groups calling for an end to martial law in the Philippines. □



June 12 protests in Guam denouncing Martial Law in the Philippines included a 16-car motorcade.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONDEMNS R.P. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ which took place July 2 to 5 in Washington D.C., unanimously approved a resolution condemning human rights violations by the Marcos regime and demanding an end to U.S. assistance. The motion approved by the 700-person religious conference held at the Washington Hilton, also committed the United Church to providing its resources to assist national educational work on the Philippines. The resolution was presented by the regional Synod of Northern California, which had earlier approved it in a meeting held in Monterey in early May. Acting as resource person during the proceedings was Severina Rivera of the Friends of the Filipino People. □

'Justice for Angel' Group Formed

SEATTLE POLICE ATTACK CONDEMNED



A Seattle demonstration demanded justice for Angel Doniego, a victim of a police beating.

By DALE BORGESON
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE — Mounting anger around the harassment and beating of a Filipino activist here has resulted in the formation of a "Justice for Angel" Defense Committee during a mass meeting in the Filipino community last June 26.

A letter-writing campaign targeting the Mayor and the Chief of the Seattle Police Dept. (SPD) has been launched to press for a speedy and thorough investigation

of the incident. The Committee has put forward three demands: identify and suspend the guilty officers; charge the guilty with assault and battery; and end all police spying and harassment.

ACTIVIST THREATENED

In the early morning of Tuesday, June 7, Angel Doniego of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) was arrested by two SPD members supposedly for a traffic violation. Instead of taking Doniego to the police station, the two officers brought him to a deserted road near

Blaine Memorial Church where four other plainclothesmen were waiting. There, Doniego was interrogated as to his community activities. When he refused to cooperate by remaining silent, he was assaulted. Furthermore, his attackers threatened "to put him away" if he did not end his community involvement.

A press conference to expose such a blatant example of police brutality was held a few days after. This attracted the interest of the local media which immediately publicized the incident.

Pressed for a quick explanation on the incident, SPD had to release a statement that would in effect mollify the anger of the public. Knowing Doniego's anti-martial law activities, SPD stated in Rick Anderson's editorial in Seattle Post-Intelligencer (June 28) that Marcos men were in town and might have conspired against Angel Doniego.

However, Silme Domingo, spokesperson for the "Justice for Angel" Defense Committee, commented that such a response by SPD "may just be a way to deflect criticism away from the police." Domingo added that, "The fact that two uniformed police officers and an SPD patrol car were involved cannot be denied."

DONIEGO vs. SPD

Doniego, along with a number of other progressive individuals and organizations in the Coalition Against Police Spying, have filed a suit against SPD. The suit asks that the court order the police to turn over all political intelligence files on Doniego and to stop all illegal political spying.

Meanwhile, Angel and his supporters have vowed that they will not allow harassment, whether by SPD or by Marcos agents, to intimidate them. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

'NO END IN SIGHT' ON NEW DEATH MACHINES DEVELOPMENT

U.S. BUSY ON NUCLEAR ARMS BUILDUP

By Pacific News Service

While the Carter Administration repeatedly affirms its commitment to reversing the nuclear arms race, some of the nation's top nuclear weapons scientists in Livermore, California have charted a five-year development plan, based on Defense Department needs, calling for a substantial increase in nuclear weapons development.

The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory's nuclear weapons forecast could return weapons research and development levels to a pace near that of the early and mid-60's, when weapons in the current stockpile were being built.

In sharp contrast to its bucolic surroundings 40 miles east of San Francisco, the one-mile square laboratory complex is a high-security, deadly serious center of government-financed research in physics, chemistry and other applied sciences.

But its major responsibility, along with its sister institution at Los Alamos, New Mexico, is to conceptualize, design and develop the nuclear components of the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Laboratory administrators, sensitive to public criticisms of the weapons work, say that all weapons programs must be approved by the President and Congress.

But despite President Carter's hints of a unilateral nuclear test ban and his appointment of Paul Warnke, a liberal on arms control, to head the U.S. SALT delegation, morale among the nearly 3,400 scientists in the weapons program here is high.

They clearly were not displeased with the appointment of Harold Brown, a former lab director with an expert



Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California

background in nuclear weapons research, to head the Defense Department. And they share open admiration for former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, the new energy chief who will oversee the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).

While the lab is actually managed through a contract with the University of California, it is financed through ERDA and the Department of Defense.

Besides friends in high places, the weapons scientists have other reasons for optimism about the future of their jobs.

The lab's fiscal 1977 nuclear weapons budget represents an 18 per cent increase over the previous year, reversing a decade-long trend of stagnation on nuclear weapons research. And if Defense Department plans for weapons development do not change significantly, the lab's "national security" budget will continue to grow in real dollars from \$156 million in fiscal 1977 to \$202 million in fiscal 1978.

(This portion of the budget includes funds for both weapons and laser fusion work, which has immediate applications to weapons testing.)

While this is a small part of the roughly \$2.4 billion spent annually on nuclear weapons systems (not counting costs for missiles and bombers), many agree it is the most vital part. For it is here, and at Los Alamos, that the new ideas are developed that pave the way for the massive billion-dollar new weapons systems.

Right now, the picture for nuclear weapons scientists is probably better than at any time in the past decade. The lab's current nuclear weapons forecast through 1982, based on 1976 projected needs, and subject to periodic review, calls for more money, more manpower, more facilities and more weapons.

Among the significant features of the lab's projections, gleaned from public documents and interviews with top administrators:

At least one new nuclear weapons system will be introduced into the nation's stockpile each year;

An average of three to five new systems will be in full-scale development at any given time, up from none several years ago, to meet the Defense Department's short-term requirements;

Conceptualization and preliminary design of future weapons systems--those short of actual engineering and development--will be increased by at least two-thirds.

Work will be completed on the giant Shiva fusion laser, the world's largest, which besides future civil energy applications will have immediate applications for simulating some aspects of nuclear weapons testing in the lab.

FUTURE WEAPONS

According to lab Director Roger Batzel, a 70 per cent increase in the future weapons effort--now a small if significant part of the program--is necessary to counter the present emphasis on development of current weapons for the stockpile. This emphasis, says Batzel "does not allow the flexibility to explore the new areas in nuclear weapons technology."

Batzel says a sharp increase in demand for current weapons over the last few years has drawn funds away from the development of future weapons systems.

He cites as reasons the need to replace aging weapons in the stockpile, as well as the Pentagon's perception of a Soviet drive for nuclear superiority and the need to improve the tactical nuclear arsenal in Europe.

Among the weapons systems scheduled for completion by the labs over the next five years are a new warhead for the Lance surface-to-surface missile in Europe; a new warhead for the Army's eight-inch nuclear cannon in Europe; a new strategic bomb designed for the B-1 bomber and other carriers; new increased-yield war-

heads for the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs); and warheads for the new Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Other weapons expected to move into full-scale development over the next few years include warheads for the advanced cruise missile and the proposed mobile ICBM known as MX. Both the Army and Navy are also pushing for development of new warheads for their own sea and land-based tactical weapons systems.

Lab directors say a recent emphasis on tactical nuclear weapons--designed for striking specific localized targets as opposed to strategic systems for mass devastation--is in large measure a result of the lab's own work.

"This (tactical emphasis) is an area where we did go off without a request from the Defense Department and do some experiments to establish the credibility and to establish that indeed those weapons could be built in reasonable sizes," says Michael May, an associate lab director and former SALT negotiator for the Defense Department.

"We did that for a number of years and now they're beginning to be accepted. It's an area where the lab saw a technical capability that wasn't being utilized or asked for, and we went ahead and established its feasibility... the (Defense Department) requirements did come in after that."

May says that future weapons work will put heavy emphasis on "cleaning up" the unwanted side effects of tactical weapons, such as radioactive fallout, and continuing to reduce size and weight.

"I think a clean bomb is something we should develop and push, at least for tactical systems," he says. "I think that if both sides clean up their strategic inventory that would be great, too." But he concedes that the new B-77 strategic bomb for the B-1 bomber "is not a cleaner bomb" than its predecessor.

The only blight to the otherwise optimistic atmosphere among the weapons scientists is the bomb that President Carter dropped in February when he suggested the possibility of a unilateral nuclear test ban.

The scientists, remembering earlier moratoriums and partial bans, reacted with a mixture of concern and disbelief.

"I don't think the Congress would agree with it and I don't think we could do it," said May. "It would bring--if not to a halt--at least essentially to a halt, nuclear weapons development... My own opinion is that it shouldn't be done."

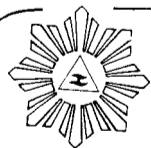
Batzel said a test ban would end any "effective" nuclear weapons program in the U.S. and undermine "confidence in the nuclear weapons stockpile... It's going to take a few generations for the world to change that much," he added.

But Batzel acknowledges that in the event of a complete test ban, the laser fusion technology being developed at the lab could provide some aspects of "simulated" nuclear weapons testing to continue inside the lab.

The current Argus laser and its offspring, the 20-30 trillion watt Shiva, are capable of producing mini-thermonuclear explosions in a confined environment. This enables scientists armed with sophisticated computers to analyze some of the physical and chemical properties of weapons without actually detonating them.

Marv Gustavson, the lab's assistant associate director for military systems, recently summed up the lab's confidence in its future: "It seems that in each successive decade or so we've seen a major innovation, a major change, an addition to our capabilities. And nuclear explosion technology is just like that."

"When you realize the wealth of developments that are possible in the nuclear arena," he says, "it is hard to foresee an end to our work." □



Ang
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LEBANON REFUGEE CAMP EXAMPLE OF DETERMINATION

Palestinians Continue Fight for Liberation



Palestinian youth practice reassembling rifles blindfolded at Sabra Palestinian camp in Beirut.

Liberation News Service

Straddling a hillside between the mountains and the Mediterranean Sea 15 miles south of Beirut, the town of Damour provides clear indications of how the Palestinians have survived the upheaval of the quieted, but still unsettled, war in Lebanon.

Many observers point to the military setback of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) suffered after November 1976 when Syrian troops moved in to occupy almost the whole of Lebanon. (The PLO is the umbrella organization of all Palestinian resistance organizations.) But a final analysis of the current PLO position must also include the level of organization and spirit of the Palestinian people in Lebanon.

Damour vibrates with life and struggle. A banner marking the "Courageousness of Karamah," a key battle in the Palestinian revolution, hangs over the town's busy marketplace. In the early morning the chants of a youth brigade in military training echoes through the air.

In Damour live many of the survivors of the Lebanon war's most bloody battle—the 53-day siege of the Palestinian refugee camp of Tal al Za'atar. The siege ended Aug. 12 with a massacre by right-wing troops of 1600 civilians living in the camp.

For most Palestinian families who sought refuge in Damour, it was at least their third move since they were expelled by force from Palestine with the creation of the Israeli state in 1948.

Much of the land in the Damour area was owned by right-wing leader Camille Chamoun until the town was captured by Palestinian and progressive Lebanese forces in January 1976. The town stood empty for eight months until the thousands of people from Tal al Za'atar moved in. And in recent months, refugees from the Israeli shelling of southern Lebanese villages have brought Damour's population to 18,000. Most view it as a temporary home.

The children in the town are one of the most striking reminders of the continuing determination of the Palestinians to rebuild and struggle in the face of repeated exiles and upheavals.

Outgoing and always smiling, they continually jumped in front of our cameras with their small fingers raised in a "V"—the ever-present symbol of victory used by the PLO. Many of them witnessed the Tal al Za'atar massacre and lost at least one family member during the siege.

When people arrived in Damour, the PLO distributed food, camping-style gasoline stoves for cooking and dark grey wool blankets to them. A hospital for the sick, schools for the children and workshops to provide people with an income are all run by departments of the PLO. The PLO and its commando groups' offices are in houses dotted throughout the village.

Since last August, only the PLO has provided a system of basic services to all Damour inhabitants. The Lebanese government provides none.

Within days after the people from Tal al Za'atar had moved into Damour, the houses were being outfitted with doors and windows. A carpentry workshop was set up by Samed, the PLO's economic agency.

"We fill all requests to repair homes—and charge no fee," said Mohammed Rashid, supervisor of the carpentry shop. "We used ammunition boxes we found here at first, until we were able to get more wood for the doors."

Most of the carpenters are 15-20 years of age, typifying the village's lack of middle-aged men, many of whom were executed by the rightists in Tal al Za'atar. Five of the 21 carpenters are Lebanese workers who lived in Tal al Za'atar, fought side by side with the Palestinians, and now, refugees like the Palestinians, they have come to Damour.

WORKSHOP PRODUCTION

Samed has also established two other workshops in Damour. In the large one-room factory where 33 women make military uniforms, the walls are plastered with a

large Palestinian flag, banners reading "Tal al Za'atar Fought for the Victory of the Palestinian Revolution," and posters reading "The Arms of the Workers Defend the Revolution." A five-member committee elected by all the workers organizes regular meetings to discuss working conditions in the shop and also represents the factory at meetings of all the Samed workshops.

The leather workshop next door, with similar banners and posters, produces goods which Samed exports. A member of the five-person committee in the workshop explained that the people work eight hours a day and are paid monthly, according to their social situation, which is primarily determined by the number of their dependents. "No one who wanted to work here was refused a job," he went on to explain. "And since most are not educated, there is a night school for them. It's held three times a week for two hours, mainly to teach reading and writing."

Over 700 young students at a school set up by the PLO in Damour learn history, geography, mathematics, sciences and English from 7 am until 2 pm daily.

"Many students are in need of more opportunities to learn," one of the teachers, Ahmad Saleh, explained. "We give additional lessons after school to compensate for the lost time caused by the war."

"And in every class there are children with special problems—some are wounded. We go to the family to understand the child's circumstances and to help them. There's a strong relationship between the families and the teachers of the students."

Thirteen-year-old Samira, proud of her ability to speak English, told us she has learned the history of Palestine and that "Zionism is racism, and they occupy my land."

"Palestine is my homeland," one eight-year-old boy in the school told us through an translator. "Even though I was born here in Lebanon, Palestine is my homeland."

When asked what he wants to be when he grows older, he answered, "A teacher. And for sure I'm going to be a fighter."

Asked what he thinks of the U.S. government, he responded, "It helps Israel against the people of Palestine to destroy us."

PALESTINIANS: A MOBILIZED PEOPLE

The Palestinians living in Damour are a politicized and mobilized people. The war in Lebanon was not the first time that many of them, civilians as well as members of the commando organizations, participated in defending the Palestinian revolution in times of crisis.

One young woman, Amina Shamos, left her Tal al Za'atar textile work to become a nurse during the siege of the camp. She is now teaching sewing to other women at a PLO factory just outside Damour. She explains that since so many men were killed in the war, Palestinian women must learn new skills to earn a living and support their families.

Amina's 70-year-old great-uncle, Ahmad, fought in the 1936 Palestinian uprising against British colonization and her father, Moustaffa Shamos, 49, fought in his home village in northern Palestine against Zionist settlement and its British supporters in 1948. Moustaffa later fought Israeli incursions into southern Lebanon in 1973 and against the right-wing siege of Tal al Za'atar.

The situation for the people of Damour and the hundreds of thousands of others displaced by the war in Lebanon, is a tenuous one. While the Palestinians are successfully recovering and reorganizing, they view the current situation as "frozen" but not settled.

To this day, Syrian troops in tanks and armed with 130 mm artillery are poised throughout almost the entire country. And Israel, which has long eyed neighboring southern Lebanon for its strategic value, as well as for the waters of the Litani River, has been making incursions into the area along with Lebanese right-wing forces.

Most Palestinians say they expect further conflicts in the years ahead, both in defending themselves in Lebanon, and in their major objective of liberating Palestine. □

WORLD
IN FOCUSNEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS
ON WEST BANK

Israel recently mapped out plans for 16 new settlements in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River July 7, indicating the new government's efforts to push its expansionist policy at the expense of Palestinian Arabs.

Government officials are seeking to play down reports of the new settlements, at least until after Prime Minister Menahim Begin meets later this month in Washington with Pres. Carter.

Reports indicated that the Israeli government planners would like to start 11 of the new settlements this year. Five others, whole new cities, are projected for construction over the next four years. In addition, two Israeli groups have reportedly made long-range plans calling for more than 100 other settlements on the West Bank, which was seized by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 war.

The recently projected settlements are an addition to an existing 36 settlements which affect an estimated 1.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The new Israeli government has deemed these occupied territories as "liberated" areas in an attempt to coverup their violations of the Palestinian's democratic rights. □

U.S. ARMS SALES TO IRAN

Recent disclosures of Washington's plans to sell Iran highly sophisticated weapons systems have revealed the duplicity of Pres. Carter's many statements supporting limitations on foreign arms sales.

A Washington Post report June 23 disclosed that the sale of seven aircraft radar systems (known as AWACS) runs counter to Carter's pledge not to introduce newly developed, advanced weapons systems into a new region. The cost of each aircraft is over \$125 million and the total costs is estimated to reach 1.2 billion, \$20 million more than the controversial B-1 bomber.

While the AWACS are among the most expensive pieces of military hardware yet produced their military value has always been in question. "The original U.S. mission for the system was to provide a flying defense perimeter around the continental U.S. that would provide early warning of a Soviet bomber attack," the Post reported. "As that threat diminished, the Air Force talked of using it as a tactical weapon that could be used over a European battlefield. Most recently it is described as most effective as an early warning system and potential command and control vehicle over friendly territory during an air attack, perhaps in Europe."

The planned sale of the AWACS clearly violates the Administration's professed plan to diminish arms sales abroad. Although the sale could potentially draw the U.S. into conflict with the Soviet Union since the planes will require the use of American personnel, it is unlikely that the U.S. Congress will block the move to sell the highly controversial aircraft systems to Iran. □

SOWETO COMMEMORATES
STUDENT UPRISINGS

Tens of thousands of South African Blacks participated in massive rallies, demonstrations and protests recently to commemorate the June 1976 Soweto student protests which led to a massive upsurge against the hated South African apartheid regime.

Militant memorial actions were called this year by the Soweto Students Representative Council (SSRC) which initiated many of the mass protests and strikes last year. To commemorate over 600 Black patriots killed by South African authorities last year, the SSRC called a two-day strike of all Soweto high schools. It also appealed to Soweto's 320,000 workers commuting daily to jobs in Johannesburg, to participate in the massive protest. On June 16, leaflets issued by students in the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas called for a period of silence to mourn the dead patriots, the closing of all Soweto shops and the closing of all shebeens (beer halls) from June 13 to 19.

As in the past, the South African racist regime responded to these peaceful protests with brutal repression, leaving 10 Blacks dead, many more wounded and hundreds arrested.

Despite brutal and fascist attacks against South African Blacks, the mood of militancy continues to prevail. As the Johannesburg World, a Black newspaper declared: "We say to the government and the whites in general, your choice is simple. Either abandon all your privileges now and submit yourselves to majority rule in nonracial society, or face certain destruction in the future." □

First in Hawaii Chinatown Fight

ALOHA HOTEL GETS EVICTION WRIT

HONOLULU — The fight to stop evictions and protest the profit-motivated urban renewal projects of Honolulu Chinatown once again erupted July 6, when a writ of eviction for the Aloha Hotel was handed over to the Sheriff's Dept.

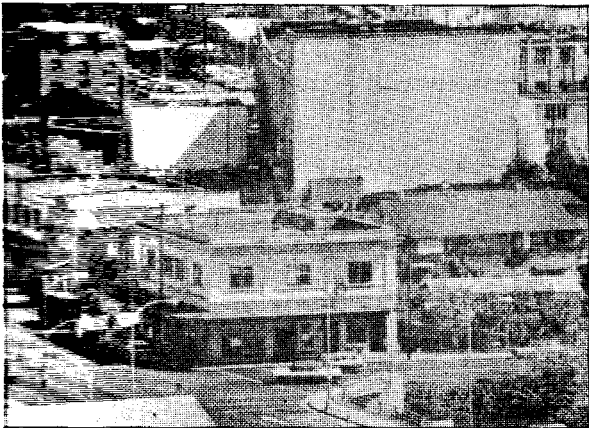
Richard Q.Y. Wong, the landlord of Aloha Hotel demanded that the sheriff evict the residents despite recent negotiations between the residents and People Against Chinatown Evictions (PACE) with Wong's attorney to delay the eviction until the City makes a commitment to build decent low-cost housing and storefronts for the people of Chinatown.

Currently, there are four residents at Aloha Hotel. One of the residents, Emile Makaukane is still recovering from a major heart operation. Another resident is paraplegic. Both are in no shape to move out of their homes. Two other small businesses below the hotel are also being kicked out — Tai Sam Yuen and Lee Wing Yuen.

The residents of the Aloha Hotel have been fighting their landlord and the City since May 1974. The City condemned the building for being a "public nuisance" and wants to tear it down. However, the residents have opposed the plan saying that the bad condition of the building is not the fault of the residents, but of the landlord Wong who never made any repairs to the building and allowed it to become run down.

The Aloha Hotel residents are firm in their stand not to move until the City meets their demands to decent, low-cost housing and storefronts inside Chinatown. Despite harassment and adverse living conditions, they have vowed to remain until the City fulfills its responsibility to build one low-cost housing unit for each low-cost house that it tears down.

Residents, workers, small businesses and supporters have banded together to stop the Aloha Hotel eviction which would set the precedent of allowing the City and commercial developers to carry out its dispersal of the Chinatown community in order to build profitable high rise buildings with rents that its citizens can not afford. The Aloha Hotel is the first within the Chinatown area to have reached this stage, with the actual writs of eviction being issued. Up until now the united effort of PACE and the mass pressure it has generated has been able to stave off similar eviction attempts at nearby hotels. □



Block A, Chinatown, targetted by the city for "urban renewal," meaning the eviction of the present tenants and destruction of their homes.



The Davanos family is one of the many newly arrived Filipino families who have found Chinatown to be one of the few places where they can afford the rent on their income.

PACE POSITION ON HAWAII CHINATOWN STRUGGLE



People Against Chinatown Eviction [PACE] has led many demonstrations for low-cost housing and storefronts in Honolulu's Chinatown.

By People Against Chinatown Eviction

We the people of Chinatown are being faced with evictions and destruction of our lifestyles through government urban renewal (we call it "urban removal" of the people), and private landlord evictions. The plan is to "revitalize" the downtown Honolulu area in order to make it more profitable for business and to attract more tourists. The DHCD (Department of Housing and Community Development) has already made its plans for our community and is actively relocating Chinatown residents so that our homes can be demolished and more aesthetic and expensive buildings can be built in their place.

P.A.C.E., People Against Chinatown Eviction, is fighting for low-cost, decent housing for all the people in Chinatown, and for low-cost storefronts for the small businesses and their workers. We don't want the City's plans which would scatter us all around Oahu or put us in high rise buildings paying more rents more than we can afford, and we don't want to be squeezed out by private landlords who want to make more profits by raising our rents and evicting us.

Many of us are retired, single, Filipino workers, who worked on the sugar and pineapple plantations to help build Hawaii's economy. There are also families and other ethnic groups (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Hawaiian, etc.) who call Chinatown their home.

Courtyards and low-rise buildings where we can socialize with our friends and neighbors is an important part of our lifestyle. We need places we can relax and talk story, have gatherings, let our children play, and keep our animals.

Many of us have settled in Chinatown because of the low rents, which average around \$53 for a single room. For those of us on fixed incomes such as Social Security (average \$229 per month) this is the most we can afford to pay. The rents at places like Beretania North (\$170 for one-bedroom) are too expensive for us to afford. In fact, we see that rents overall in Hawaii are too high — there is just not enough low-cost housing for the poor and elderly.

Although the Chinese gave Chinatown its name, today they only make up a small proportion (13 per cent) of our population. Still, the residents and small businesses on Maunakea Street form the center for cultural activities for the Chinese in Hawaii. There are also many other ethnic stores and restaurants, lei stands, coffee shops, and grocery stores in Chinatown.

TWO KINDS OF EVICTIONS IN CHINATOWN

URBAN RENEWAL EVICTIONS

The City has renewal plans for two blocks (A and B) called the Pauahi Project. The plans call for the upper block (A) to be mainly residential and the lower one (B) to be retail and commercial. People are to be relocated in other areas until the project is completed.

By law the City must build replacement housing for each unit that is torn down and must provide for the small businesses. We learned a lesson from previous urban renewal projects like Kauluwela, Queen Emma, Kukui, and Aala. The residents and businesses were relocated with promises of returning, but what happened was that few could return because of the high rents, not enough housing being provided, and the long time taken to build the housing.

We don't want the same thing to happen to Chinatown. So the residents in areas as 1189 River Street and Pauahi Hale, and the small businesses such as K.T. Poolroom and New Kukui Cafe are staying and fighting for the housing and storefronts the City has the responsibility to provide.

PRIVATE EVICTIONS

The City has only purchased two blocks for their urban renewal plans, but that doesn't mean that the rest of

Chinatown people outside the two blocks aren't faced with eviction. They are. Private landowners are conducting their evictions by raising rents higher than we can afford (as at 4A N. Hotel) or by evicting people for demanding repairs and withholding rent until the repairs are made (as at Lau's Place).

We are determined to stay and fight back against their private evictions. We all need decent low-cost housing and storefronts in Chinatown and we say the City has the responsibility of taking care of those in the Pauahi Project as well as those outside the two blocks.

WHO REALLY BENEFITS FROM REDEVELOPMENT AND EVICTIONS?

Urban renewal has always been pictured by government as a good thing for the people because it gets rid of run-down slums and replaces it with decent housing and storefronts.

If the homes of the people were improved and the people allowed to stay, while paying rents they can afford, such a plan would truly benefit us. However, what has happened in urban renewal projects are scattering of residents, high rents, areas catering to tourists and simply not enough low-cost housing.

If the residents don't benefit, who does?

•Big landowners — In Chinatown these include Bishop Estate, Campbell Estate, Mrs. Marks, and McCandless heirs, C.Q. Yee Hop, Hiram Fong, and the Chinese Societies.

•Downtown Improvement Association (DIA) — This group is big money and pressure behind urban renewal because they benefit from the "revitalization" of the renewed areas. On the DIA are Hawaii's "Big 5" Corporations, as well as Hawaiian Electric, Bishops Estate, Bishop Trust, Elizabeth Marks, and 10 of Hawaii's largest banks and savings and loans.

•Developers and Contractors — Developers like Clarence Ching (developer of Queen Emma, Kukui Gardens and Cultural Plaza), Hal Hansen (developer of Kukui Plaza), and THC (developer of Beretania North) have all made profits off their urban renewal contracts.

With urban renewal taking longer than anticipated, the private landowners have developed their own plans for maximizing their profits. Parcels outside the Pauahi Project are being consolidated, rents are being raised, and people are being evicted to make way for more profitable enterprises in the buildings.

What this means is profits for a few big businesses and corporations, eviction for Chinatown residents, and loss of livelihoods for Chinatown small businesses and workers. It means more Kukui Plaza's, Cultural Plaza's, and Beretania North's.

OUR STRUGGLE IS YOUR STRUGGLE

We are in a period of rising unemployment, budget cutbacks in social service programs and education, and rising inflation while the real value of our wages decreases. Chinatown is just one battle of a larger struggle of poor and working people in Hawaii who work harder, pay more, and get less. We organize to fight for our rights. Other battles are at Waihole-Waikane, Heeia-Kea, Mokauea, Old Vineyard, Ota Camp, Young St., and Niumalu-Nawiliwili. Workers in sugar, pine, hotels, restaurants, transportation, communication, military bases, and factories have "fights" on their own jobsites. The Hawaiian people have also begun to build the fight to put an end to the control of their land and domination of their culture by U.S. imperialism.

As the Economic Crisis gets worse, the number of persons affected will increase and the struggle will broaden. We can win if we organize and unite our struggles in the community, schools, and jobsites, against our common enemy, the big businesses and large landowners. Only by fighting for our immediate needs and democratic rights now will the struggle for a better society be won. We have nothing to lose but a brighter future to gain! □