

# Ang KATIPUNAN

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National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



10 CITIES HOLD FESTIVITIES

## Thousands Celebrate Philippine Nat'l Day



In over 10 cities nationwide, large celebrations of Philippine National Day were held. Above, San Francisco celebrants not only listened to Cultural performances, but also honored Filipino pioneers and labor activists, such as Mario Hermoso

shown at right. The common theme in this year's activities was "We too have made contributions to America!" (AK) Story on page 9.

### Amnesty Law Change

## MARCOS HINTS AQUINO RELEASE

Freedom at last? A weak and frail Aquino, is assisted by government escorts to an investigation hearing while on a 1976 hunger strike. Aquino's release is reportedly being negotiated by a panel of lawyers and family members and Marcos has made moves to alter amnesty laws to accommodate the release. Sources attribute Marcos' move not so much to a change of heart as to pressures from the U.S. government. Story on page 5.



## Charito Planas Escapes to U.S.



Charito Planas, a steadfast critic of the Marcos regime, eluded an arrest warrant, by fleeing to the U.S., via Sabah and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has been sought by authorities since the April 7 elections. Story on page 5

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# Editorial



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## INTRIGUES WON'T STOP A UNITED FILIPINO COMMUNITY

KDP SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL BOARD

Despite numerous intrigues and maneuverings by the Philippine Consulate and its local tutas, this year's Philippine National Day Celebration was a resounding triumph for the L.A. Filipino Community. This is especially true in the struggle to reverse the division that has torn the community this past year and to make unity dominant in the community.

The successful Philippine National Day Celebration is especially significant because it was truly a people's celebration organized and planned by ordinary people in our community, working together to celebrate our national heritage. The Philippine National Day Planning Committee (PNDPC), which organized the event, was very broad and included fifteen organizations with many members who were unaffiliated with any other group. It included seniors, youths, workers, professionals, rich and poor, students, women, and community leaders.

But there were those who mainly tried to disrupt the event. Even as we celebrate this people's triumph, we need to reflect on the attempts by other people to try to destroy our unity. Who are these people?

The day before the event, the Planning Committee became aware of the Consulate's efforts to intimidate the L.A. City College authorities by controversializing the event. Their insincerity could be seen by the fact that the PNDPC invited the Consulate to participate in the event, yet the consulate attempted to thwart the PND celebration by sponsoring a June 11 event in the FACLA premises with the cooperation of San Jose and Fajardo.

SAN JOSE AND FAJARDO: LOCAL "TUTAS"

Thus, it has become clearer in this year and a half that the main troublemakers are San Jose and his partner, Fajardo. This duo shared in the effort to try and split the Filipino community in L.A. These are the same two people who are in the center of the controversial FACLA elections on December 4, last year. Their dictatorial tactics, their links to corruption, their participation in the rampant election fraud and now their role in trying to destroy the working unity between the traditional sponsors of the Philippine National Day and the Optimists Club speak out for themselves.

At every step of their insidious maneuvers, they have received substantial support from the Philippine Consulate, in the elections, the million-dollar building project for the Philippine Cultural Center, and the FACLA inaugural ball.

We cannot otherwise conclude then that the Consulate has been the primary mover in trying to legitimize the illegitimate San Jose administration.

All these and the recent attempts by the Philippine Consulate to upstage the community's PND celebration amount to underhanded attempts to destroy the unity that exists in our community.

OPTIMISTS: THE SUPPORTING PERFORMER

The role of the Optimist Club in the recent events also deserves attention, for they could have saved the situation by agreeing to the idea that everyone must work together in celebrating June 12. Instead, the Optimist Club, influenced by the duo, San Jose and Fajardo, made an essentially anti-unity decision and tried to monopolize control of the event.

This backward position by this year's Optimist Club members was a serious error, one which the community hopes they will correct. At a time when they could have contributed to building unity, they unfortunately chose not to.

CONSULATE DISRUPTION: PART OF MARCOS PLAN

What does the consulate have to gain in all this? It only makes sense if one takes into account Marcos' plans to control the overseas Filipino community by installing "friendly" community leaders. In order to take over the Filipino community, the consulate creates much division and confusion among the people so that they can install their local community dictators in the midst of the ensuing confusion.

We can conclude from the event that there are only a handful of troublemakers—San Jose and Fajardo, along with the Consulate—who are trying to pull the strings. If our community is to successfully resist the attempts of these troublemakers, we need to identify them as such for all to see and isolate their bad influence from our community. Only then can we in the community move forward on the road to building unity and not allow ourselves to be sidetracked by the anti-unity influence of the Marcos Consulate and their local accomplices. □

'There can be no illusions'

## Why Uncle Jimmy Carter can't Help Us on Human Rights

The following commentary is reprinted from the June 1 issue of the Free Philippines News Service (BMP). Comments of the correspondent are in reference to Vice-President Mondale's meeting with certain members of the bourgeois opposition. — Editor

A BMP COMMENTARY

Ever since the first biting *New York Times* editorial in 1973 exposing martial law, Philippine-style, there have been those who have had an over-inflated view of the value of help through international ventilation of local woes and via foreign pressure. These well-meaning "flash-bulb" commandos among us fail to grasp two important facts about the limitations of international sympathy and Jimmy Carter's current breast-beating:

First, that Uncle Jimmy is only making belated restitution for a basic U.S. role that institutionalized and augmented violations of basic human rights, in the first place. Even more important, Uncle Jimmy cannot do anything more to substantially change the Philippine scene—his impotence has been well demonstrated to the world.

We suspect that something of this kind of naivete infected the delegation of Filipino officials who met with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale during his Manila stay, intending to beg him to "do something" about the brute reality of torture techniques that could make a political prisoner squeal on comrades still at large. We hope that this delegation also pointed out one fundamental irony: that every Filipino second lieutenant who beats up a prisoner to within an inch of his life or interrogates a woman (after she is first stripped naked) learned all this sophisticated methods of persuasion while undergoing six weeks of paramilitary training at Fort Benning or some other U.S. centers for counter-intelligence. Our military personnel come and go on regular junkets to these centers in the U.S. the way Cabinet members go off to Baguio for the weekend.

*"But those who think that the mere toppling of the Marcos dictatorship without changing the system that brought him to power in the first place would suffice, are naive."*

Uncle Jimmy has not faced up to some sharp questions like: Who taught the Filipino military intelligence officer, of whom the Malacanang-based NISA operatives are the most brutal, the nuances of genital-wiring or how to inject truth serum? The American Reich! Who consistently brainwashed the Filipino military establishment into believing that it is all right to torture communists and those who help them, for once they get in power—so the U.S. logic goes—they might do the same to everyone else? Uncle Jimmy's own military machine and its CIA advisers!

For Jimmy Carter to talk of human rights in 1978 and apply such talk to the Philippines, which is a modified police state of his own making, is hypocrisy on the highest international level. The protest groups in Mondale's suite would seem to be like Little Red Riding Hood reading a fresh manifesto to the wolf.

Carter's short-lived record on the human rights issue can hardly be called impressive. It is even inconsistent—Carter has had, on many occasions, to swallow his declarations. Human rights policies in Washington today are doomed by the opportunism of the Kissinger Doctrine, that regimes which are patently anti-communist are in the long-run protectors of human rights and should not be given the squeeze beyond a certain point. Solzenitsyn, for example, never got inside the White House despite his international prestige, for his emotionalism might have upset the SALT negotiations with the U.S.S.R.

In spite of thousands of hooded demonstrators in front of the White House, the Shah of Iran will continue to get his warplanes and Iranian exiles will continue to go to jail for violation of permits to demonstrate. Saudi Arabia, too, will remain tops in Washington's order of priorities, in spite of its primitive justice. The question of human rights has always been completely relative in U.S. foreign policy. It ends, in fact, where American foreign policy begins.

In the Philippines, the presence of U.S. bases is the decisive counterpoint against human rights. Until they are removed, any concept of human rights remains empty talk. The \$5 million lopped off the Marcos regime's military aid package by tut-tutting U.S. congressmen will be recovered by Marcos a hundred fold in base rentals, which Uncle

Jimmy has to approve because of the ominous "Red menace" in Central Luzon and the MNLFF offensive in Mindanao.

The most useful aspect of congressional disapproval of the management of human rights under the Marcos regime is the information now denied to the average Filipino that the "New Society" is just slightly worse than Taiwan and South Korea. Four years ago, it was just ever so slightly better.

But those who think that the mere toppling of the Marcos dictatorship without changing the system that brought him to power in the first place would suffice, are naive.

There can be no illusions: Marcos did not remove human rights from the Philippine scene by himself, and he cannot restore them, even if all political prisoners now in military custody are instantly released. In 1971, it was common knowledge that people simply disappeared in Central Luzon and Mindanao, and yet the military enjoyed limited powers that time. America itself is in the grip of a mammoth military-industrial complex which extends to our own military and economic institutions. Only the total destruction of this cancerous relationship, including the removal of all U.S. bases will give meaning to human rights.

Jimmy Carter, like his predecessors, is sworn to defend this inhuman arrangement. The most he can do is breast-beat and send U.S. ambassadors to the funerals of martyrs like Steve Biko. He cannot bury the system. Only we can do that. □

## Help Sustain The AK

Help sustain our efforts to continue bringing the most up to date and important news coverage about developments in the Philippines and in the Filipino community here in the U.S.

Become a KATIPUNAN sustainer by pledging a monthly contribution to our modest effort to fight the Marcos dictatorship and defend the democratic rights of Filipinos in this country. Our bills are many and our resources are few, and we depend on our readership to continue publication.

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Travel Ban Confirmed

Despite denials by the Philippine government of the existence of a travel ban, new evidence surfaced May 10 supporting critics' claims that they are being barred from leaving the country. Passport applicants are now required to secure "a certificate of eligibility to travel." This new procedure requires prospective travelers to obtain all sorts of clearances and comply with security requirements.

Earlier, President Marcos dismissed reports of an impending travel ban as "rumors circulated by some travel services to drum up their businesses." Marcos also claimed that he did not plan to re-impose the travel ban or any travel restrictions. However, Cardinal Jaime Sin was almost prevented from leaving the country while former Pres. Diosdado Macapagal has been completely barred. Another 460 personalities are on the travel ban blacklist. □

## Ancient Tribe Discovered before Marcos Discovery

The so-called "discovery" of the Tao't Bato tribe by Marcos officials last April, was no discovery at all, the Manila Journal (June 11-17, 1978) reveals. The ancient tribe's existence in the Tabon Caves of Western Palawan was first documented by anthropologist Robert Fox in 1963 and later verified by National Museum authorities in 1974.

Last April, however, Marcos announced the captivating "discovery" of the Stone Age tribe to the international press. He even claimed that all information on the tribe was classified and known only to him. The history and findings of the Tao't Bato however, has long been publicly available through Fox's book "The Tabon Caves."

From an anthropological standpoint, there seems to be no reason for Marcos to "re-discover" the Tao't Bato. But politically, the second discovery, albeit a hoax, was a propaganda coup for Marcos. Only a few days before the Tao't Bato news grabbed headlines, the international press coverage of the Philippine situation was largely negative, centering on the highly irregular April 7 elections. Marcos seems to have wanted to repeat his highly successful international attention-getter of 1974 when the discovery of the Tasaday of Cotabato, Mindanao, focused positive stone-age media attention on the country for months. □

## 'Gift to Labor': One Peso Per Year

President Marcos early this month signed a decree authorizing a yearly increase of P1.00 in the minimum wage over a period of three years, from 1978 to 1980. The Interim Batasang Pambansa still has to approve the decree and its implementation only affects 32 per cent of the work force.

As expected the minimum wage hike is hardly causing a stir among the country's 14 million work force. Even the pro-Marcos Trade Union Congress of the Philippines has recommended a minimum wage of P18.00, an eight-peso increase over the present P10.00 level. The one-peso per annum increase hardly keeps pace with the ever increasing inflation rate, and barely adds to the real purchasing power of worker's wages with the peso now only worth 35 per cent of its 1965 value.

Apart from the pitifully low increase in the minimum wage, the non-implementation of wage increases by various companies gives reason for workers to remain dissatisfied. In 1977 and 1978, workers from several Metro-Manila firms had to go on strike before management would implement the 1976 wage increase ordered by President Marcos. □

## Food Lobby Opposes Health Ruling

A powerful lobby of food manufacturers recently opposed orders from the Food and Drug Administration to mark the expiration of pre-packaged foods. The Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers opposed the ruling because "it would retard the food industry and give rise to uncompetitive pricing practices."

"By stamping the expiration date, consumers will be encouraged to buy fresher goods," asserts the Food Manufacturers, as if consumers deserved anything less. Once consumers purchase on the basis of the expiration date, an overstock of goods will result, causing a loss to the producer. The Food Manufacturers further argue that the new ruling will result in "the substantial increase in spoilage... especially in the provinces where distribution and storage of processed foods are difficult." More likely, the Food Manufacturers are afraid that rural consumers will boycott their products once they find out that they have been sold spoiled goods. □

## 'Unique Parliamentary System'

## Marcos Inaugurates IBP



In spite of provocative rumors that martial law might be "lifted," President-Prime Minister Ferdinand E. Marcos last June 12 marked the opening of the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP) with stern warnings of the long road to normalization.

In his State-of-the-Nation address at the opening session of the country's new legislature, Marcos said that he could not predict when emergency rule might come to an end.

Throughout his 90-minute speech, Marcos announced no new initiatives other than the streamlining of the civil service and a new amnesty law (See related story, p. 5).

### WILL USE EMERGENCY POWERS

Marcos, who is now concurrently President and Prime Minister under the new constitution, reiterated his intention to

relinquish his legislative powers to the IBP. He retains the right, however, to legislate by decree and he warned ominously that he will be forced to use his powers "if the assembly does not act properly."

In what Marcos himself has dubbed "a unique parliamentary system," the President-Prime Minister will concurrently serve as Speaker of the Assembly until a regular Speaker is elected and has had a chance to familiarize himself with parliamentary procedure.

This may take some time given the irregular character of the IBP. Unlike the typical parliament which can issue a vote of no confidence in a government and do away with its Prime Minister, the IBP has no power to replace Marcos. In fact, in a complete departure from parliamentary procedure, Marcos is empowered to dissolve the IBP at any time if

he feels it is not functioning as it should.

### ADVISORS PUSHING "LIFTING" OF MARTIAL LAW?

The rumors of the possible "lifting" of martial law at the opening session of the legislature have provoked speculation in some circles that certain of Marcos' advisors may have urged him to take this step.

Sources close to Marcos indicated that as late as June 11, the day before the legislature's inauguration, Marcos was still undecided as to whether to "lift" martial law or not.

The President-Prime Minister-Speaker, however, already paid his "normalization" dues with the opening of the IBP. He chose instead to reserve the dramatic "lifting" of martial law for a later date when he may really need it to shore up his image internationally. □



Demonstrations in support of LABAN Party. Marcos recently released some opposition leaders.

### Conditions set by

## Marcos Releases Opposition Figures

On June 5th, Marcos released six prominent political personalities of the LABAN Party on the condition that they do not talk to journalists or support "subversive" organizations.

The six, some of whom were opposition candidates were former Senator "Soc" Rodrigo, Ernesto Rondon, Teopisto Guingona, Aquilino Pimentel, Rev. Romeo Intengan, and Joker Arroyo. They were arrested along with

LABAN campaign manager Lorenzo Tanada and more than 500 demonstrators on April 9, during a march through downtown Manila. The demonstrators were protesting the "death of democracy" and contested the rigged-up National Assembly elections of April 7.

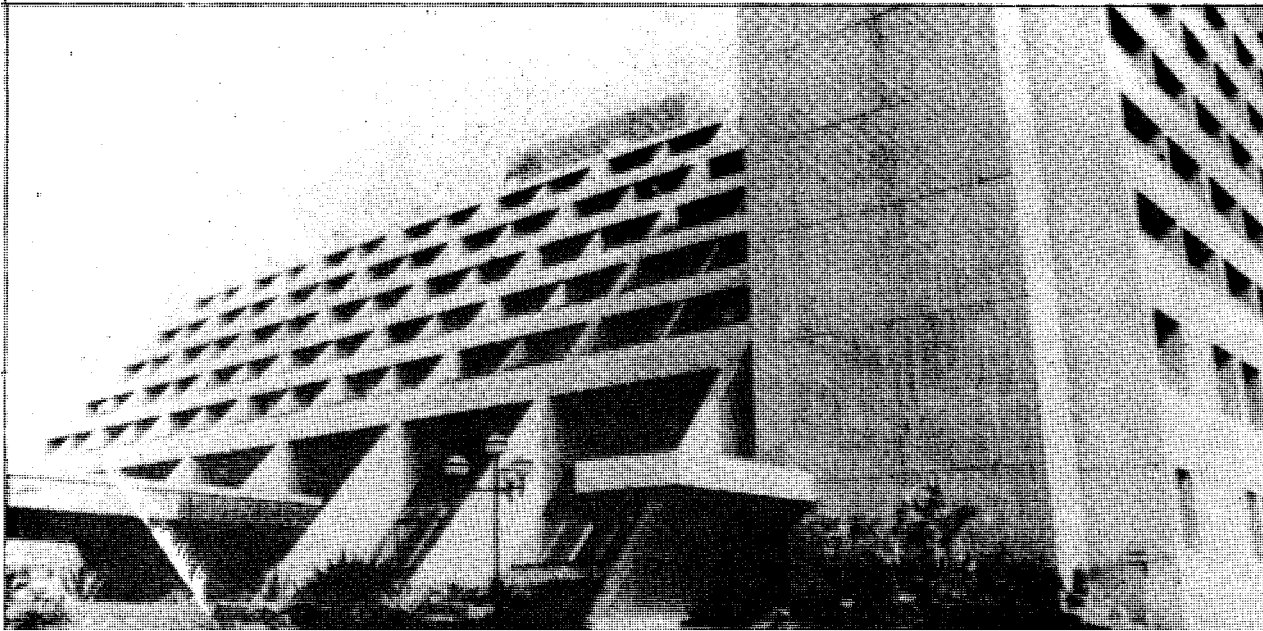
Charges of sedition and illegal assembly were dropped upon the release of the six. Lorenzo Tanada had been freed earlier. In the

meantime, other political prisoners detained for the same reasons still languish in jail.

Sources speculate that U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale's visit to Manila put pressure on Marcos to release the six prominent personalities. In defiance of the condition set for his release, Rodrigo commented in an interview with Associated Press, that he had his "own definition of subversion." □

**Militance Grows**

**R.P. HOTEL WORKERS ON STRIKE**



One of the magnificent hotels which mushroomed in Manila in 1976. With an overabundance of hotel rooms and not enough tourists, owners are attempting to cut workers' wages. (MJ Photo)

A recent issue of Ichthys, the publication of the Association of Major Religious Superiors (Philippines), documents both the growing oppression and militance of Manila's hotel workers. These workers are the little known victims of the Marcos regime's disastrous hotel-building boom of 1976.

Planners realized as early as 1976 that the overbuilding of tourist facilities would create severe financial problems and they immediately adopted tactics to fill up hotel rooms to stave off fiscal disaster. The plan was to make Manila as attractive as possible to the almighty tourist. To do so meant making a Manila vacation a cut-rate dream come true.

In 1976, Tourism Secretary Jose Aspiras abolished the 10 per cent service charge on hotel bills, 75 per cent of which went to hotel workers. Claiming that this would make Philippine hotels more competitive with those of other Asian countries and remove an "irritant" in labor-management relations, he abruptly deprived hotel workers of P200 to P500 per month. That same year, he recommended to President Marcos that hotels and restaurants be included on the list of "export-oriented" industries, automatically barring workers from striking.

Hotel workers were drilled in treating tourists like "first class" citizens. A French journalist commented that the fawning, ever-smiling and never-offending

treatment she received during her stay in one of the five-star hotels was "simply revolting."

But, says Ichthys, "Their gaudy and at times outlandish uniforms notwithstanding, the hotel and restaurant workers realized that tourism was being promoted at their expense. They tried writing protest letters and lobbying . . . They gradually realized that concerted action was the only meaningful alternative."

**WORKERS STRIKE**

In the second week of February, workers at the plush Manila Gardens were outraged when three room boys suspected by a tourist of having stolen some of his belongings were suspended. All 200 of them left their posts, massed together in the coffee shop, and staged a sit-down strike. After 12 hours, during which the manager, ordinarily a tyrant, beseeched them to return to work, the suspension order was lifted.

On Feb. 22, 350 workers at the Regent of Manila, angered at not receiving the service charge since December, also gathered in protest at the hotel's coffee shop. Standing up to the hotel owner, they chanted continuously, "Pay us the service charge!" By 3:00 p.m., management buckled under and paid.

Workers at the Manila Midtown Ramada, owned by the notorious Marcos crony, John Gokongwei, similarly timed their strike well. Angered by management's delaying tactics during collective bargaining, the workers waited until 10:00 a.m. on April 5, a mere three hours before a banquet for 2,500 guests was scheduled by no less than Mrs. Imelda Marcos.

The striking workers held out for two days while tactics used upon them ranged from threats to pleas. During this time, they were encouraged by the presence of fellow-workers from other hotels and restaurants. Finally Mr. Gokongwei himself appeared on the scene. Five of the fifteen worker demands were immediately granted.

All 400 workers at the Manila Hilton Hotel staged a one-day walk-out April 27-28. Cars loaded with Metrocom troopers attempted to intimidate them as they massed outside. Mr. Bruce Bressler, the hotel's general manager, refused to give in to any demands. Workers, however, remained undaunted and resolved that "if they could sting like a bee, why not wallop next time?"

When collective bargaining between workers and management of the Trade Winds Hotel deadlocked, workers staged a two-day walkout from April 28 through 30. Although Manager J. Recto gave no concessions, workers were heartened by the warm support from the community around the hotel.

According to Ichthys, "Faced with another night of hunger . . . the workers said, 'If we were able to withstand one night, we can withstand more nights ahead.' . . . what Mr. Recto doesn't realize is that the workers have discovered their real power and strength. It is victory enough." □

**Economic Briefs**

HOTEL	MAJOR BACKERS	WHOSE CRONY?
Kanlaon Towers	Roberto Benedicto	His
Philippine Plaza	Imelda R. Marcos	Who else?
Manila Hotel	Roman Cruz (GSIS)	Theirs
Philippine Village Hotel (Expansion)	Trinidad Enriquez	Hers
Holiday Inn	Roberto Benedicto	His
Silahis Hotel	Trinidad Enriquez	Hers
Manila Mandarin	San Miguel Corporation	Neither — Soriano Family
Manila Peninsula	Patricio L. Lim, Carlos Palanca, Jr.	Neither
Manila Midtown Ramada	John Gokongwei	His
Hotel Mirador	Manuel Salientes	Neither
Tradewinds Hotel	Vicente Recto, Singapore Airlines (40%)	Neither
Manila Garden	Far East Bank, Ayala Corporation, Bank of Tokyo, JAL, Mitsui (37%)	Neither — Ayala Family
Century Park Sheraton	Antonio Martel, Jr., All Nippon Airways (40%)	Hers
Regent of Manila	Jose M. Alberto	Neither — Japanese-owned

**Continuing Hotel Crisis**

**Hotel Owners Seek Loan Extensions**

The Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA) recently proposed to the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) that the grace period on repayment of their loans be extended and that their interest be lowered.

The existing loan terms—12 per cent with two years' grace on repayment of the principal—are already remarkably easy. Yet the PHOA is pressing for a reduction of the interest to 10 per cent with the grace period extended to 10 years.

A monumental government blunder two years ago allowed 14 new hotels to spring up in Manila in preparation for the 1976 International Monetary Fund conference. Easy financial terms combined with tax holidays and exemptions, duty-free import privileges and tax credits made the hotel projects irresistible.

The result was a glut of hotel rooms. Today, hotels run at occupancy rates far below what is required to break even. As Bernard Wideman revealed in January, 1977, the reason for the building boom was that "many people with close ties to the political power structure wanted to take advantage of the cheap loan money . . ."

Forseeing the inability of the owners to pay, the DBP early this year proposed to convert the debts into equity to simply take over the hotels. This arrangement was unacceptable to the PHOA. Given this roster of well-known Marcos cronies among the owners, Roberto

Benedicto, John Gokongwei, even Imelda Marcos herself, it seems likely that the PHOA may end up having it their way. □

**Balance of Trade Deteriorates**

Buried deep within an article boldly trumpeting "Balance of Payments Surplus Hits \$81.5 Million," the Manila Journal recently revealed that the Philippine balance-of-trade deficit has seriously deteriorated this year. The current deficit for the first four months of 1978 was \$307.3 million, up by 48.34 per cent from last year's figure.

The huge disparity between balance of payments and balance of trade is explained only in part by "invisibles" which include receipts from tourism, insurance and other forms of service. The Philippine government, in order to doctor its grim financial picture, is known to include among "payments" loan monies coming in from foreign sources. These are not conventionally considered "income" from abroad. □

**High Price for New Quota**

The Philippine government achieved one of its long-sought commercial goals early last month when it initiated a trade agreement with the United States to increase U.S. imports of Philippine textiles by 25 to 32 per cent. The agreement covers both textiles and a wide variety of garments and will likely increase Philippine revenues by \$50 million per year.

Textiles and garments, frequently manufactured by Philippine subsidiaries of American multinational firms, are the country's most rapidly rising non-traditional export product. The U.S. is the Philippines' biggest textile customer, purchasing \$200 million worth in 1977.

The new textile agreement may prove to be less than the coup the Marcos regime has indicated. The week of the agreement, the Philippine Board of Investments (BOI) announced plans to liberalize still further its treatment of foreign firms.

In 1973, the Export Incentives Act was amended to allow foreign firms incentives as long as they exported 70 per cent of their products. Prior to this time, it was necessary for a foreign firm to export 100 per cent of its products to be eligible for incentives.

With the 1973 amendments, the BOI proposes to amend the act again to offer incentives to firms which export less than 70 per cent of their products. This seems to be the price of the newly-agreed quota.

The true price may turn out to be higher still. During the same week that witnessed these economic developments, Trade Secretary Troadio Quiazon, in a speech to the Chamber of International Trade, warned Philippine exporters and raw materials producers to lower their prices—or else. Quiazon threatened government intervention if prices of Philippine exports did not decrease.

The Carter administration has consistently driven hard bargains with Third World countries to keep raw material prices as low as possible. Low prices for key Philippine exports may yet be another aspect of the recent economic agreement. □



**MARCOS CRITIC FLEES COUNTRY****Planas Seeks Asylum in the U.S.**

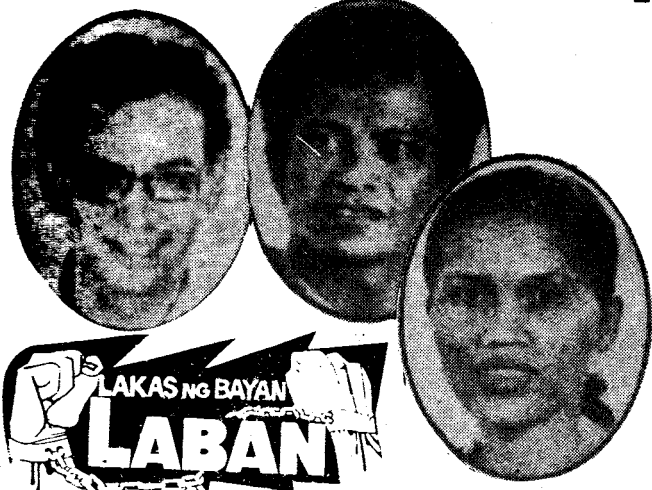
The U.S. State Department may grant Planas political asylum in keeping with an earlier pledge made by Vice-President Walter Mondale to her representatives in Manila last April.

**STEADFAST MARCOS CRITIC**

Planas went into hiding immediately after the last April 7 elections for the Interim National Assembly. She and three other LABAN candidates, Trinidad Herrera, Alex Boncayao, and Fernando Barican, all of whom have gone underground, are being sought by Marcos for alleged subversion. Philippine military authorities claim that a raid of Ms. Planas' home, yielded several firearms and "subversive" literature.

Sources in the Philippines however, claim that Ms. Planas was deliberately targeted because of her strident criticisms of the regime during the election period. Of the 21 anti-Marcos candidates, Planas, Herrera, Boncayao and Barican were the most articulate critics of the regime's anti-national and anti-people policies. Planas reportedly received one third of the 3.1 million votes cast in Manila.

Known for her dauntless and scathing criticisms of the regime in both public and private circles, Planas was among the thousands of students, workers, professionals, and politicians arrested during the first few months of martial law. A one time contender in the Quezon City mayoral race, Planas is a recognized civic leader; active in the consumers movement and a regular donor to many charity causes. □



**KUNG HINDI TAYO KIKIBO  
SINO ANG KIKIBO?  
KUNG HINDI TAYO KIKILOS  
SINO ANG KIKILOS?  
KUNG HINDI NGAYON KAILAN?**

Barican, Boncayao, Herrera and Planas were among the most articulate critics of the regime

Charito Planas, outspoken critic of the Marcos regime and candidate of the opposition LABAN Party, has safely reached the U.S. after two months of eluding Philippine military authorities. Ms. Planas reportedly left the country last month through an escape route which included Sabah and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Revision in R.P. Amnesty Law****Marcos Hints Aquino Release**

Negotiations continue for the release of former Senator Benigno Aquino (r). No mention of release for his co-accused, Bernabe Buscayno (l) and Victor Corpus (center), has been made. (UPI)

Carefully timed for the opening of the Interim *Batasang Pambansa*, Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos last June 10 granted amnesty to 631 military prisoners, 501 of them held for subversion. At the same time he announced temporary release for the eight remaining prisoners held in the pre-1972 "assassination plot."

One day later, Marcos announced a revision of the country's amnesty laws which would allow him to release former Senator Benigno Aquino, who last November was found guilty of subversion and sentenced to die by musketry along with Bernabe Buscayno (Commander Dante) and Victor Corpus. There was no talk however, of releasing the co-accused.

The Marcos government has not yet moved to release Aquino, but negotiations continue between the government and representatives of the former senator's lawyers and family. Sources close to the Aquino family reveal that U.S. Vice-President Mondale, during his recent visit, urged Marcos to release Aquino and allow him to seek exile in the

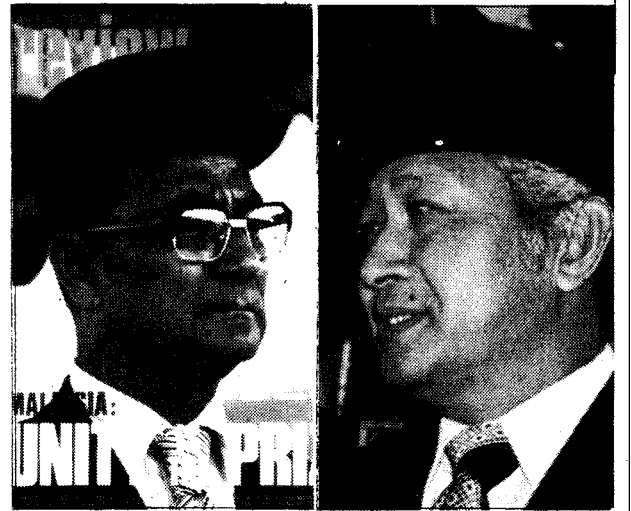
United States. There is speculation that Aquino, who admitted on Philippine television during the recent election campaign of having "worked with the CIA," may accept the offer of a fellowship at Harvard Law School if allowed to leave.

**USEFUL REPLACEMENT FOR MARCOS**

Anti-martial law forces in the U.S. have expressed some doubt as to Marcos' willingness to release Aquino. In some ways the former senator is his most dangerous rival because of his close ties to the U.S. government. This makes him the ideal candidate to replace Marcos should the latter's usefulness as a U.S. puppet come to an end. For this reason, Marcos has kept Aquino under lock and key since the declaration of martial law in September 1972. "If he does go ahead and release Aquino," said one anti-martial law activist, "it is an indication that he is even weaker than we thought."

With regard to the grant of amnesty to 501 "subversives," sources here point to the thousands of people arrested for subversion over the past five and a half years, held without charges and released "temporarily." Many were never informed of the charges against them, much less cleared.

Hundreds of these ex-prisoners have had amnesty applications on file since the government announced an amnesty program in early 1973. To date none of these petitions have been acted upon. Pending further information from the Philippines, sources speculate that the dramatic announcement does not mean release of some of the approximately 5,000 prisoners still languishing behind bars, but simply that a few of these hundreds of applications have finally been accepted. □

**Seeks Military Solution  
Marcos Rebuffs  
Peace Offer**

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn and Indonesian President Suharto recently called upon Marcos to resume negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front. Marcos refused. (FEER)

President Marcos last month rebuffed a peace proposal from Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn and Indonesia's President Suharto, to resume negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front.

Exploiting rifts created last February by the expulsion of MNLF Central Committee member Hashim Salamat, Marcos claimed that, in view of the divisions, "no one can enforce any solutions."

By stalling negotiations, Marcos is freeing his hand from diplomatic restraints, in seeking a military solution to the Mindanao conflict. Since October of last year, the regime has been stepping up operations against MNLF guerillas under the guise of "police action." An estimated 100,000 refugees have been created by Marcos' military repression in Jolo alone while the use of chemical warfare, in the form of cyanide poisoning, has also been alleged by the MNLF.

Though no strange coincidence, this latest stalling tactic has been assisted by the disruptive activities of Salamat and another splinter group, the Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization. Salamat, who was denounced as a traitor upon his expulsion, has been sowing intrigue to undermine the present leadership of Nur Misuari.

The Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization, a coalition composed of former politicians and members of the Muslim nobility, has expressed willingness to negotiate with Marcos on his own terms. Both the BMLO and Salamat are reportedly more moderate in their program and conciliatory towards the regime.

Despite non-recognition of the MNLF, political realities may soon prevail on Marcos to reckon with the insurgent organization. The Ninth Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference held in Senegal last April, reaffirmed the MNLF as the legitimate representative of the Moro people and warmly welcomed its chairman Nur Misuari. Furthermore, only the Misuari-led MNLF among the various splinter groups, has a stable following and organizational base in Mindanao. □

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In June of 1977, Marcos issued Presidential Decree 1121, requiring all able-bodied citizens from the age of ten, to plant one tree a month for five consecutive years. The decree also indicated that punitive action ranging from fines to loss of citizen privileges, would be taken against violators. This stirred many reactions, one of which is in the following play on the famous poem by Joyce Kilmer.

**Fools Made  
This Decree**

I think I shall not plant a tree  
I shall not follow this decree.  
I'm neither cowardly nor brave  
I just don't wanna be a slave  
Of any mortal same as me.  
God made us free; and free I'll be.

Why should they rob me of the job  
I've known since I was still a boy?  
The thrill of growing what I choose—  
A pili, mango, or a rose!  
That's why I will not plant a tree.  
I say—"To hell with this decree!"

Why let the loggers roam at will  
Denuding every virgin hill  
Then let the burden on us fall?  
Where is the justice of it all?  
Poems are made by fools like me  
But greater fools made this decree!

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# Anti-Martial Law Front

## 'BEWARE,' Warns AMLC 'What If Marcos 'Lifts' Martial Law'



A demonstrator voices the Filipino people's sentiments: "Down with martial law!" But will Marcos truly lift martial law?

"MAG-INGAT MULI SA PANLOLOKO! — Beware of another fraud!" warns the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) in its recently published pamphlet, *Democracy in Form, Dictatorship in Substance*.

The new publication is the organization's response to the recent "normalization" trend of the regime of President Ferdinand E. Marcos. The AMLC asks, "What if Marcos decides to 'lift' martial law?" The pamphlet explains both why such a move is to be expected and the



Police arrest members of the San Francisco AMLC occupation team last April 13.

### Another Court Postponement

## Hearings for AMLC Delegates Reset

Hearing for delegates of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition a rested April 13 in Seattle, San Francisco and Chicago have been postponed until July. This is the third time that the hearings have been rescheduled.

The four members of the AMLC delegation in Seattle, seven in San Francisco and five in Chicago face misdemeanor charges of either trespassing or resisting arrest or both. The charges were filed in connection with the delegations' sit-in at Philippine Consulate offices which they refused to leave in protest of the fraudulent April 7 elections for Marcos' Interim Assembly.

Acting upon orders from Malacanang, Seattle's Philippine Consul Mariano Landicho refused to testify, May 24, against the delegation. (See AK, Vol. V, No. 12) Consul Landicho received a directive stating that the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. is looking into the possibility of having the U.S. government bring federal charges (under U.S. Public Law 92-539) against those arrested.

Consul Landicho's refusal to testify, according to Seattle's AMLC is to prevent further publicity on Marcos' martial rule. Hearing on the case has been rescheduled for July.

In Chicago the delegates await their hearing reset for July 19. As in Seattle, the Philippine Consulate is trying to urge the U.S. government to file federal charges. The Chicago AMLC said that the Consulate has asked for continuance—postponement of the hearing—as a delaying move to look into the application of U.S. Public Law 94-539 against the delegates. The pro-Marcos news-

AMLC's position should it happen.

### "LIFT" MARTIAL LAW?

According to the AMLC, Marcos' growing economic crisis and domestic isolation have generated a greater need now than ever before for "a major infusion of support to strengthen his regime." And further, "the only remaining source that could reverse his political fortunes is the United States."

Yet support for the dictatorship has been seriously called into question by the U.S. and international public. The U.S. Congress, which controls foreign aid, has felt the pressure of this popular disapproval.

The Carter administration, according to the AMLC, with its much talked about "human rights policy," tacitly supports Marcos because of his protection of U.S. multi-national interests. However, Washington has been forced to put pressure on Marcos "to clean up his act . . . or to give an impression that the Philippines is being moved towards normalcy."

Such a move would be the "lifting of martial law.

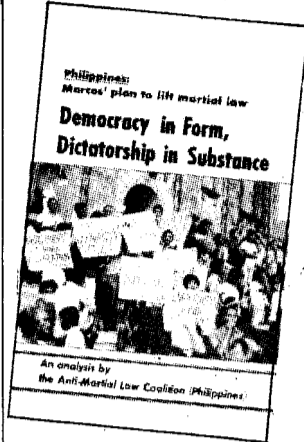
### WHAT WOULD THE PHILIPPINES BE LIKE SHOULD MARCOS "LIFT" MARTIAL LAW?

"If Marcos lifts martial law today, nothing will change. He will still be absolute ruler; the power of his military will remain undiminished and state institutions that purport to be the legislative and the judiciary will still be under his control. And it will all be 'legal,'" says the AMLC.

Backing its point, the AMLC carefully surveys the various safeguards which Marcos has built into the country's "legal" structure to perpetuate his personal power. It begins by citing the 1973 Constitution which declares all decrees, proclamations, letters of instructions, etc. part of the law of the land, even after martial law is lifted, to be modified only by the President or the regular National Assembly. It then enumerates, among others, decrees which will continue to stifle freedom of



### NEW RELEASE



WILL MARCOS  
REALLY LIFT  
MARTIAL LAW?

An in depth analysis  
by the Anti-Martial Law  
Coalition

## Democracy in Form Dictatorship in Substance

Contact your  
local Anti-Martial Law Alliance for a free copy

speech; prohibit strikes and demonstrations; insure that all media remains in government hands; and legalize indefinite detention for political prisoners.

The recently elected Assembly, which was inaugurated last June 12, is not legally empowered to modify any of these "laws" because it is the interim and not the regular Assembly. "Legally" the regular assembly can be elected only upon the call of the interim assembly.

In addition, "the April 7 elections . . . characterized by fraud, harassment, and violence committed by the regime . . . led to the seating only of Marcos puppets." The AMLC then asks, "Why would this Interim Assembly of Marcos puppets bother to have themselves challenged in another election when they are already comfortably seated, getting handsome salaries and privileges to boot?"

Even if this group for some reason, should decide to challenge Marcos, it is "legally" powerless to replace him. In fact, the Prime Minister, according to the October 1976 referendum is "legally" empowered to dissolve the Interim Batasan anytime he chooses.

As to the military, "the main base of support for the dictator," its power, which has grown tremendously, will remain intact. "By presidential decree, Marcos has transferred to Military Tribunals the power to try civilians in matters relating to the exercise of individual political and civil rights."

Even more frightening, the AMLC reveals that "As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Marcos has also given the AFP certain powers not officially covered by presidential orders. The exercise of these powers depends upon the unofficial encouragement of the Commander-in-Chief . . ." They include the rights to issue "invitations" for interrogation, to conduct raids without search warrants, to make arbitrary arrests and to exact confessions through torture. Since Marcos will remain Commander-in-Chief, the practices are likely to remain.

In other words, the New Society without martial law will be nearly identical to the New Society with it.

### HOW WILL THE AMLC RESPOND TO A FORMAL LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW?

As the AMLC points out, "every single attempt of Marcos to put up a facade of democracy . . . has been thoroughly exposed and discredited. This is a tribute to the determination and political sophistication of the Filipino people's resistance movement as well as to the vigilance of international public opinion. His coming attempt at deception will surely meet a similar fate."

The AMLC is confident that, "If Marcos formally lifts martial law, the democratic movement of the Filipino people will demand the genuine abolition of one-man rule. The people will be challenging Marcos' claims that normalcy has been restored by openly exercising their rights. They will be in the streets, in the schools, in the churches, in courts—everywhere exercising their rights . . ."

The role of the AMLC is to support this challenge to the Marcos regime, to alert the people of the U.S. and elsewhere to the fraudulent nature of Marcos' democracy, "to make his exposure thorough and complete. We must help make it more inexcusable and difficult for the U.S. government to continue giving Marcos his much-needed support."

The AMLC concludes, "If our people, at home and abroad, succeed in carrying out these duties, we will have brought the Marcos dictatorship closer to its downfall." □





Fr. Gigi Cocquio lived and fought with the people of Tondo.

(AK Photo)

## Grief and Unforgettable Memories

# Fr. Gigi Cocquio talks about Tondo

By CATHI TACTAQUIN  
AK Correspondent

HAWAII—For a majority of Filipinos outside the Philippines, the tragic news of the devastating April 3 Tondo fire came as a total shock. But for Fr. Luigi "Gigi" Cocquio, the fire that almost completely leveled Tondo and left thousands homeless was more than shocking. It also brought grief and unforgettable memories to this Italian Maryknoll priest who lived and worked in Tondo for almost six years.

Tondo is home for a large percentage of Manila's slum-dwellers and urban poor. Its dirty, malnourished children, its rundown shacks and stinking *esteros* and canals are considered "eyesores" by Metro-Manila Governor Imelda Marcos.

In Tondo, Fr. Gigi witnessed and shared the poverty and deprivation of its people. "When I first came to Tondo my first impulse was to help rebuild houses for the really poor. So I started building houses," Fr. Gigi recalled.

"But then everyone came to me wanting better houses," Fr. Gigi continued smiling. "Then I realized that this was a mistake because with the kind of problems found in Tondo, the task is not just to build houses, but to help build the people."

"The main problem is land," thought Fr. Gigi. For years the people of Tondo have been clamoring for the government to sell the land on which their shelters stood. There was even a law (Republic Act No. 2439) that declared residents could buy the land at P5.90 per square meter.

"But the present Marcos administration," Fr. Gigi added, "altered this law. Through Presidential Decree No. 814, the residents were offered the land for lease. The cost is high and the people of Tondo could not afford it."

In 1974 government action to forcibly evict Tondo residents began. But the people resisted and Fr. Gigi's involvement in this resistance also started. "For Tondo residents, land is crucial. If they are forced to leave, they lose their initiative to keep the land."

Aside from the land problem, according to Fr. Gigi, the Tondo population also faced problems of water shortage and lack of water and electric facilities. When the water crisis recurs—particularly during the summer months—Tondo is hardest hit. The only water source is water pumps for each barrio. Long lines of children and adults with their tin containers form before the pump.

"People are even forced to buy fresh water at high prices," observed Fr. Gigi.

### TONDO ORGANIZES FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

As the interview proceeded, Fr. Gigi elaborated on some of the gains of the Tondo struggle. "One of the most significant victories of Tondo was the struggle to get electricity. Because the residents were squatters, they were denied electricity. For a year, they appealed to all government agencies to provide electricity, but to no avail. Finally, we met with the head of MERALCO (Manila Electric Company) and successfully pressured him to give us electricity. Yet, in the end, the residents had to make the electric connections and for the first time,

Tondo residents gained the benefits of electric lights in their houses."

A notable change occurred in the discussion as Fr. Gigi stopped referring to Tondo residents as "they" and began to remember how "we" struggled, for he, too, was part of Tondo. His concern for social justice, his involvement in the people's struggles, won him the hearts and respect of Tondo residents. Perhaps, he can be called an activist priest whose support for a people's cause is his way of implementing the Gospel of God.

Fr. Gigi admirably spoke of Tondo, its people and their problems. "Their struggles have helped them regain their dignity. I remember the time when we first marched in 1974 to Malacanang to protest the eviction. 5,000 people boldly showed up even under martial law. It was a beautiful, emotionally inspiring feeling. It was then I realized that the people had their own dignity. They have the right to their land, the right to control their lives and their community. And this has to be recognized and respected."

### "SIN IS THE GOVERNMENT"

Looking distantly, as if reminiscing about those years he spent in Tondo, Fr. Gigi shared how even his own work in the church was wholly affected by the appalling living conditions and struggles of the urban poor.

"When I asked the children 'what is sin?' their ready answers were 'sin is what the government is doing to us here' and 'sin is our parents not getting paid enough for their work.' Even the children know what is happening."

Fr. Gigi's close attachment to Tondo and its people won him many friends. Yet it also made him a threat and an enemy to the Marcos administration which has always tried to push the urban poor from Tondo. This part of Manila has been reserved by the administration for foreign investors' use. Fr. Gigi's active role in the Tondo people's resistance against eviction has made him unpopular among and "feared by the oppressors of the urban poor."

Thus, in March 1976, without the benefit of any hearing, Fr. Gigi, along with another Italian priest, Fr. Francisco Alessi who also supported the people, was deported.

Two years since his deportation, Fr. Gigi has not forgotten Tondo. When its residents appealed for assistance to rebuild their houses, he formed the Friends of Tondo group in Hawaii where he now works in the Filipino community of Kalihe district. He organized Hawaii's Filipino community and church people to generate material support, raising over \$4,000 for Tondo so far. In the mainland, the Filipino community's response to the call has similarly been favorable.

"We should not look at this as charity," Fr. Gigi says of the support efforts. "Even the clothes or the money to rebuild houses, are to help the people keep their dignity. As the residents say: a man without a land is a man without dignity." □

Financial donations should be made payable to Friends of Tondo and sent to 702 Puuhale St., Honolulu, HA 96819. Clothes should also be sent to this address.

## 4-H Trainee Guide Book: 'CHAUVINISTIC AND INSULTING'

By NORMA DE LEON

The proposed 4-H Trainee Guidebook issued by the National 4-H Council in Washington, D.C. has been highly criticized by the California 4-H trainees as "chauvinistic and insulting."

California Support Committee for Philippine 4-H Trainees member Sorcy Rocamora, said that "The trainees are outraged and very upset about the guidebook that purports to help their training be a better learning experience. Instead, they discovered that the guidebook is nothing more than a few pages of token niceties and contain subtly chauvinistic comments and other insults."

The guidebook is the result of negotiations between the National 4-H Council officials and the trainees for reforms in the Agricultural Training Program (ATP). However, California trainees feel that the guidebook is a misrepresentation of what had been agreed upon at the negotiations and what ATP hopes to accomplish. For instance, under the WORK DESCRIPTION OF A TRAINEE section, the guidebook states: If you see ways that a task can be done easier or better, tell your host. However, remember that he is the 'boss' and if he wants it done his way, do it that way. DO NOT ARGUE WITH HIM."

The statement, according to one trainee, exposes the employer-employee relationship between the host and a trainee. It bares the real issue behind ATP: under the guise of providing advance agricultural learning and experience, the ATP recruits trainees as helping hands in participating host farms. This, says another trainee, is confirmed by another statement on page 5 of the guidebook:

"The work you do for your host is what pays for the cost of the program. Most hosts could not afford to take a trainee if it were not for the farm work you can do for them. You must do enough work to offset the money, food and other things the host gives you."



4-H trainees participated in San Francisco's Philippine National Day celebrations. (AK Photo)

The booklet even suggests to the trainees to "make a list of the tasks that your host want you to learn."

"But what if I don't want to learn how to pick eggs, wash cars or mow the lawn which my host farmer always wants me to do?" complained one irate trainee. "What if I want to learn more about horticulture?"

### ENGLISH FORCED ON TRAINEES

While the guidebook's intent was to assist the foreign trainees to communicate better and improve in English the book has been decried by Sorcy Rocamora as chauvinistic.

The guidebook states: "Think in English; Speak in English at all times, even when with another trainee; Practice, practice, practice—even when you are alone practice saying English words out loud."

"The trainees grew up in the Philippines, thinking and speaking among themselves in Tagalog. They would prefer to communicate with each other in their native tongue. Why should they be forced to swallow the English language?" questioned Rocamora.

The guidebook makes another suggestion which the Filipino trainees have denounced as racist and chauvinist, implying that Philippine nationals are not up to American standards:

"They may not like things dirty or messy. If so try to keep your living quarters neat and clean. They may want you to shower everyday and to change your clothes before meals."

Responding to this "condescending" regard for an alien, one irate trainee said, "The 4-H Council is totally wrong in thinking that we do not do these things back home. By making this suggestion, the Council is hinting that we should not do in America what we've used to do in the Philippines."

The guidebook might have been intended to facilitate a trainee's learning, adjustment and resolve some problems. Upon closer examination by the trainees themselves and their supporters, the guidebook has been found to be way distant from what they have been asking for: just and meaningful reforms in the ATP. □

# FILIPINO COMMUNITY

## Local 37 Rank and File Form Caucus

### PLEDGES TO REFORM, IMPROVE, STRENGTHEN THE UNION



Silme Domingo (Right), election candidate for dispatcher. (Left) Rank and file members, the force to change the direction of Local 37.

#### SPECIAL TO THE AK

SEATTLE—Responding to the growing urgency to articulate the needs and concerns of their co-union members, a caucus within Local 37 cannery workers union here was recently formed.

The caucus, called the Reestablished Rank and File Committee, pledged to "reform, improve and strengthen the union." Observers say that "a weakening Local 37" has substantially lost membership and contracts in the past several decades, especially during the McCarthy Era of the 1950's which almost crippled the union. The vicious red-baiting during that period attacked the union's leadership by threatening prosecution and deportation.

**FLASH**—The Rank and File Committee has released names of their slate. Heading up the slate are:

- 1) Nemesio Domingo for Vice-President
- 2) Gene Viernes for Secretary-Treasurer
- 3) Silme Domingo for Dispatcher.

The slate includes 12 candidates, including two women candidates. This is believed to be the first time women have run for a position in the union.

Confirming the union's weakened state, Gene Viernes (Committee Member) revealed, "Since the McCarthy Era our union has gotten weaker. Our active membership has alarmingly decreased from thousands to less than 900 today. We now hold less than 20 contracts where we held over 50 before."

But the union has had remarkable victories against the canning industry. Recently, it emerged triumphant from contract negotiations that gave cannery workers a better and more reasonable agreement. The union has also revived the long-ignored tradition of celebrating May Day, International Worker's Day. It has won victory over a class action discrimination lawsuit against the salmon industry. Lastly, it has produced an increasing number of members who are active in building the trade union movement.

Compared to the earlier period when cannery workers were paid 50 cents a day for longer than eight hours, today wages have increased. So too have the living and work conditions improved since the earlier days. Cannery workers are provided better meals now than before when they used to be fed "fish heads and pork chitterlings."

Though these achievements may indicate vitality within Local 37 on the surface, Silme Domingo, another Rank and File Committee member, said, "The union is still not in a position to battle against a seemingly powerful canning industry. Why? Because it has not been able to deal with problems that continue to face cannery workers."

Domingo said that despite wage increases the current hourly wage falls below the labor cost of sustaining the canning industry. Domingo, who was also with the negotiations committee for their

#### Reestablished Rank and File Committee 10 POINT PROGRAM

1. Assure the union is run fairly, honestly and above board in areas such as dispatching, financing and decision-making
2. Implement stronger employment seniority
3. Fight for union democracy, establish and hold leadership accountable
4. Fight for the 40-hour work week with no decrease in seasonal guarantees
5. Fight for stronger contract enforcement especially "on-the-job" enforcement by union stewards
6. Enforce the "no transfer" clause
7. Implement an organizing drive
8. Fight for women workers' rights
9. Eliminate the "miscellaneous" clause
10. Fight for implementation of standard safety regulations

present contract, pointed out that exploitation by canning industry magnates still remain.

Viernes also noted that "the union leadership in the last 25 years has ineffectively met the changing conditions of the time."

#### STRONG LEADERSHIP A NECESSITY

Committee members feel that the burden to change the direction of Local 37 lies in the hands of the rank and file. As one member said, "If we want change, we will have to fight for it. No one else can do it for us." This opportunity comes with union election set for this month and ends sometime in September.

Many observers noted that the needed strong leadership is within the Rank and File Committee which is similar to the one formed in the 1940's to deal with the union problems at that time. This previous caucus included the late Chris Mensalves, the late Carlos Bulosan, Mario Hermoso and Bill Lorenzo.

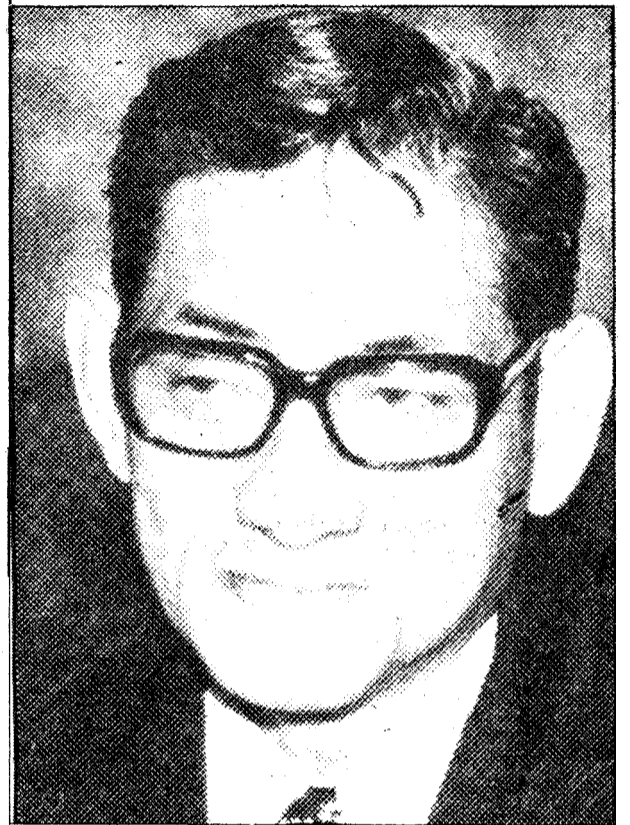
The committee recently released a newsletter that publicized the four basic principles around which it is organized: reform, strengthen and improve the union; build a fair, open and honest union; build a democratic union and implement a concrete program of change through actions, not just words.

Urging a more democratic union, Viernes stated, "This committee will rebuild Local 37 by working alongside any and all union members regardless of their opinions."

To accomplish this, the committee has formulated a ten-point program which hopes to unite the workers (See above box). Already, steps to carry out the principles and the program have begun, Viernes said.

The reform movement within Local 37 comes at an opportune time when interest in trade unionism is re-emerging. For older Filipino trade unionists, the movement has raised interest in a union that has historically played an instrumental role in organizing Filipino and American labor movement. □

## FACLA Elections Delayed San Jose Appeals Court Decision



San Jose: appealing court's order is his last resort to maintain power within FACLA.

By RAFAEL ORPILLA  
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—The issuance of a court order to hold new elections for this city's largest community organization—the Filipino American Community of L.A.—would have ended the court battles it has been involved in since December 1977.

But San Jose's latest move to appeal Judge Holmes' decision totally shattered this hope of FACLA members and their Board of Trustees.

San Jose's notice of appeal was filed by his lawyers, June 7, eleven days before the scheduled new elections were to take place on June 18. This move by San Jose has indefinitely blurred FACLA's future because the appeals process will take several months before a decision is reached.

Greg Santillan, a candidate for the Board of Trustees in the last Dec. elections, commented, "This was a conscious and calculated move by San Jose to solely prolong himself and his slate's stay in office."

Santillan, also a member of the other presidential candidate's (Bert Mendoza) slate, continued, "A very important reason for this move is San Jose's real fear of losing in the new election and this is his only viable way of maintaining his power."

Meanwhile, San Jose and John Campos, FACLA's treasurer, may face another possible lawsuit by a member of the Board of Trustees. Ben Arcellona explained that he would sue the two if they failed to comply with the writ of mandate to make available FACLA records that include books, documents of all income, expenses and financial transactions for calendar year 1977-78, cancelled checks and receipts.

June 20 is the deadline for turning in these records to Arcellona, the petitioner in the possible lawsuit. Otherwise, both San Jose and Campos would have to show cause for not doing so before a Superior Court Judge on that date.

Arcellona also explained his actions as his only recourse in getting the records. He had attempted several times to meet with Campos on this matter but Campos had always refused. □

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## Seattle High school Setback

# Tagalog Class to be Dropped

SEATTLE—A setback in providing quality education to its Filipino students occurred when Franklin High School decided to drop the Tagalog class from its curriculum.

This decision by Franklin High authorities to eliminate the Tagalog class triggered a wave of protest among the class students and from its teacher, Mrs. Zenaida Guerzon.

"It is unfair that they drop the Tagalog class and keep the other foreign language classes. It was hard for us to establish it and now this happens," said Jackie Mero, president of the Franklin Filipino Students Association.

"The class provided the U.S. students a better understanding of the Philippines and its culture. There seemed to be more acceptance of each other now between the American born and the immigrant youth," commented Mrs. Guerzon, also an active member of the Filipino Community Council.

Black student Tim Brown, commented that he liked the class because it "taught about a different people and their culture."

Mrs. Guerzon is being transferred to an unidentified school as a result of the school's action. Her students are questioning the school administration's sincerity in supporting the class.

"You need four credits of foreign language so that you will not be lacking in college requirements and be forced to take extra classes at the university. By dropping the class, seniors will not have the opportunity to complete their foreign language requirement. It doesn't make sense for Franklin to

offer the class for just three credits and then drop it," said the disappointed Dita Villar, a Franklin junior.

The class even planned to develop a textbook and "produce their own materials." But with the school administration's action it looks like Mrs. Guerzon's plans will be wasted.

"It is ironic that Mrs. Guerzon is being transferred to another school. She uses her extra time to assist the students by tutoring, counseling and planning for their future. She has been instrumental in encouraging community input into different school programs and issues," remarked Silme Domingo, a member of the Filipino Community Council and its Task Force on Education.

It seems, however, that the students are not going to give up the Tagalog class. As Debbie Banaag expressed, "We are willing to fight for the class but we need community support."

Already, a number of students, school personnel and community individuals held a meeting, May 31, to discuss the issue. Those who attended decided that the class should continue and that there be a commitment by the school administration to have a two-year trial period for the class. It was also agreed upon that they would demand the stay of Mrs. Guerzon at Franklin High.

Meanwhile, pressed by the strong reaction against the school's decision, Principal Ben Canada stated that he would investigate other alternatives for those students who are already enrolled in the class. □

## CLUP June 12 Statement

# U.S. Bases' Removal Urged

"U.S. bases not only mock our independence, they not only contribute to the deprivation of our freedom, they threaten our very existence as a people," declared the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines (CLUP) on the occasion of Philippine Independence Day, June 12.

The message was contained in a lengthy document issued by the CLUP, a group of prominent lawyers, former judges, and politicians, headed by Senator Jose Diokno. Urging the removal of U.S. military presence in the country, the document stated, "It would be treason for any Philippine leadership not to seriously consider the idea of dismantling the U.S. bases."

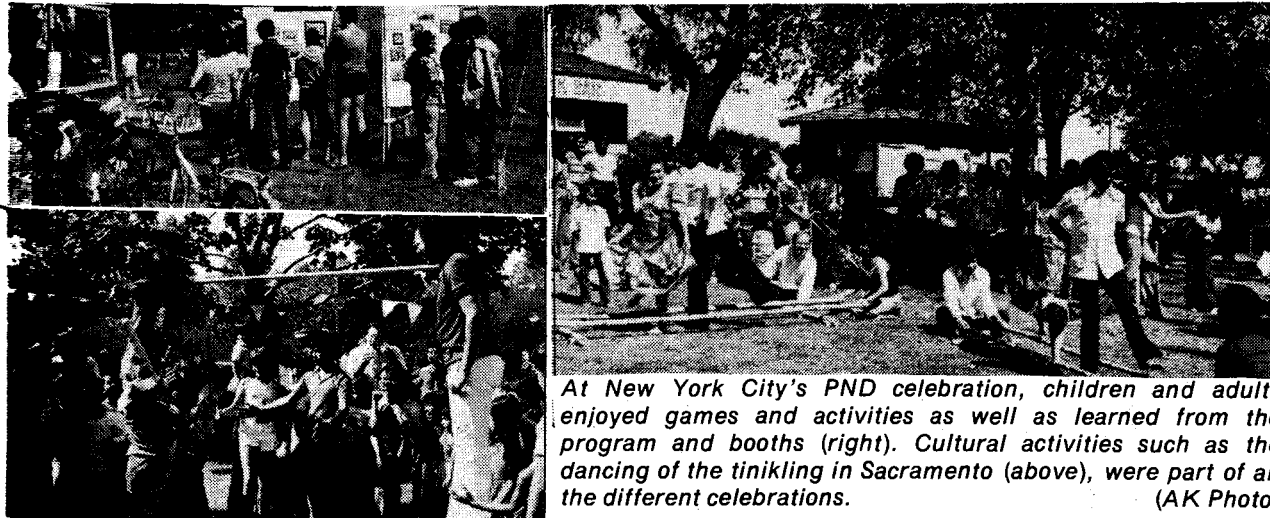
The release of the document follows discussions held last April between U.S. Vice-President Walter Mondale and President Marcos reiterating the mutual importance of the U.S. bases to both countries. Apart from nationalist interests, the CLUP warned that the Philippines is likely to become involved in a nuclear war "with the escalation of American-Soviet confrontation, particularly in the Indian Ocean" because of the bases' presence.

The demand to dismantle the bases is the third such call issued by the CLUP over the past few years. Since 1975, the U.S. and the Philippines have been negotiating the future of U.S. air force and naval bases in the Philippines in the context of a post-Vietnam War Asia. The Philippines wants a measure of control over the bases in the form of "cosmetic sovereignty" to parry charges that it is a satellite state of the U.S.

In turn for this concession, the U.S. maintains full operational control over the biggest U.S. military installations in the Western Pacific. The remaining sore point in the talks is the amount of rent the U.S. will pay for its continued use—a concession demanded by the Philippines to create a new source of revenue for its military spending. □

## PND'78

# 'WE TOO HAVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICA!'



At New York City's PND celebration, children and adults enjoyed games and activities as well as learned from the program and booths (right). Cultural activities such as the dancing of the tinkling in Sacramento (above), were part of all the different celebrations. (AK Photo)

"I have never witnessed such a huge assemblage of Filipinos who have come here today to pay tribute to our contributions in making America great and to commemorate our rich cultural heritage!" So said a working mother who came with her family to Flushing Meadows, Queens and was moved by New York's Philippine National Day '78.

Entering its third year of celebration, PND was a smashing success not only in New York but also in the following cities: Washington (D.C.), Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, and Honolulu. Thousands of Filipino senior citizens, adults, youths, and children crowded the parks and halls where the festivities were held. It was an excellent indication of a community joining together to concretize this year's PND theme: UNITY.

Organized by the Philippine National Day Committee in each of the eleven cities, the PND festivities were educational, inspiring and entertaining to all who participated.

### SAN FRANCISCO HONORS EARLY IMMIGRANTS

A distinctive part of the PND celebration program here was the oral presentation of the history of the Filipino migration to the U.S. The presentation paid honor to earlier immigrants, those Filipino pioneers who came in the early 1900's and those who did shortly after World War II. These are the people who, by working as busboys, cannery workers, grape pickers and serving the U.S. military, helped to make America great.

A tribute was made more dramatic by a song rendition of "Profits Enslave the World" which speaks of the lives, frustrations and dreams of the pioneers.

the June 12 celebration here also paid tribute to International Hotel tenants Felix Ayson, Wahat Tampao and other Filipino tenants while labor leaders Mario Hermoso and Pablo Villanueva received awards for their exemplary role in the labor movement.

Held at Dolores Park, June 17, the PND festivities were attended by close to 1,000 people.

### LOS ANGELES: A TWO-DAY CELEBRATION

Despite attempts by some individuals and groups to frustrate the holding of PND festivities here, over fifteen community organizations endorsed and shared in making PND a "people's triumph." (See commentary on L.A. PND, page 2)

Some 6,000 people filled the grounds of the L.A. City College where the two-day barrio fiesta took place.

Those who came were treated to a preview of some scenes of the play *Mindanao* that was scheduled for stage presentation on the evening of June 17. There were booth displays, games that thrilled both young and old and a talent contest.

The spirit of *pagkakaisa* (Unity) showed dominance during the two-day event. As one deeply moved youth commented, "It is a meaningful event for the community, I am confident that next year's observance of June 12 will be another success."

### NEW YORK: A RECORD-BREAKING 6,000 PEOPLE

Last year's PND here attracted 3,000 people. This year a 6,000-crowd watched amused the day's program that featured Philippine folk dances, songs and speeches on Filipino migration to the U.S. and the Filipino community contributions to the building of the U.S.

Booths displaying Filipino arts and crafts drew "Wow's" and "Those are nice" from the lips of those who looked at them. There were also booths

that sold food like *kakanen* (goodies), barbeque and lechon that made people's mouth water.

Perhaps no other age group enjoyed more their day in the park than the kids. They participated in games that might not have won all of them prizes but what would be any better than fun?

### CHICAGO: LARGE TURN-OUT DESPITE ODDS

A few weeks prior to the PND celebration here, the leadership of the Filipino-American Council (FACC) refused to mark June 12 with the Philippine National Day Committee. The FACC is an umbrella organization of over 40 Filipino community organizations in this city and its refusal to unite with PNDC predicted a low count in the turn-out.

When PND came the PNDC was surprised as over 1,000 people showed up at the Edgewater Park, Forest Preserve.

The program opened with a mass by Fr. Bob. Keynote speaker Mayee Asidao stressed unity as key factor if the Filipino community will have to face and resolve problems and issues it is now confronted with.

Entertaining his audience, accordion player Francis Lucas played a medley of Filipino songs. Nationalist songs like the *Ang Bayan Ko* were also rendered by the Chicago Anti-Martial Law Alliance.

A significant breakthrough in this year's celebration here was the active participation of two youth organizations: the Narra Society, a University of Illinois Circle Campus organization; and the Filipino-American Youth Club, FACC's junior organization.

The barrio fiesta here ended as a joyful occasion that left people already yearning for next year's PND.

### WASHINGTON, D.C. FIRST PND: REMARKABLE

Though it was this city's first-held PND celebration, the occasion was a remarkable event. Five hundred people came to the event sponsored by the United Filipino Association (UFA), this city's AMLC and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). These organizations and unaffiliated individuals composed the Philippine National Day committee of Washington, D.C.

Held at the Sylvan Theatre on Washington Monument Grounds, the celebration's program included dancing and singing by the Combined International Philippine-American Association.

It has long been said that Filipinos can never stand united. But this year's PND celebrations across the U.S. and Hawaii have shattered this myth by showing that setting aside differences—no matter what they are—the Filipino community can and has united around what Philippine National Day stands for. □

## DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

## Prop 13, The Jarvis-Gann Initiative

## 'Tax Revolt' Hits Calif. Workers



Riding a wave of popular anti-government, anti-tax sentiment, California voters passed the Jarvis-Gann initiative. Big business gets the largest break, however, with minorities especially hard hit by the pending cuts. Howard Jarvis (Inset).

By JEANETTE LAZAM

The June 6 passage of Proposition 13, the Jarvis-Gann Initiative, trumpeted as a major property tax relief measure, has become a grave threat to the livelihood of California's working people.

Local government officials are now making plans to abolish public service programs, limit educational budgets and lay off employees to bring new budgets into line with the property tax mandates of Proposition 13. By limiting the property tax to one per cent of assessed value, the initiative will reduce local government revenues next fiscal year from \$12 billion down to \$5 billion.

The effects of the initiative have been so widespread that by mid July, 75,000 people in the San Francisco Bay Area alone stand to lose their jobs, while on a state-wide level it is estimated that more than 400,000 persons may be laid off.

Wilson Riles, state superintendent of public instruction in an interview said: "Classroom size in public schools will be between 60 and 70 students, and in Los Angeles alone, 20,000 teachers will get their pink slips as a result of the Jarvis-Gann initiative's passage."

Already public services such as libraries, district and county hospitals, mental health clinics, public childcare centers and mass transportation (bus) are beginning to limit their services, while community organizations have been notified that their funds will be cut.

Hardest hit in these massive lay offs and curtailment of public and community services are minorities, the

disabled, women, children and the elderly—those who already face hardship, exclusion and discrimination.

## WHO GETS THE TAX BREAK?

While many voters believed that Proposition 13 would realize a large windfall for homeowners and renters, the main beneficiaries of the tax cut lie with California's largest property owners, big business and industry. Within the next years, Proposition 13 will provide \$5 billion in tax relief to the landlords and the corporations, but only \$2 billion a year to homeowners.

Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, for example, stands to save \$130 million; Pacific Gas and Electric, \$90 million and Southern Consolidated Edison, \$60 million. Meanwhile, homeowners will wind up saving an estimated \$870 (individually) per year on the average, but they will also find themselves faced with an increase on their federal income tax. The reduction in property tax payments will increase the federal income tax to be paid, because state taxes can be deducted on the federal income tax returns.

Homeowners will still see their property taxes rise faster than the taxes of corporations and landlords. Proposition 13 mandates that properties be reassessed upon sale, and since residential properties turn over more frequently than commercial properties, they would be reassessed more often. Under Jarvis-Gann, property assessments can't be raised more than two per cent each year. Since homes are sold, on the average, every seven years, the rise of homeowner's assessments will increase substantially.

Many of the dangerous implications of the Jarvis-Gann

initiative were apparently unseen by many of the voters who favored the initiative. According to one public opinion survey, over 70 per cent of those who voted for Proposition 13 believed that the bills' passage would have no or little effect on social services. The same poll showed that 50 per cent of those voting for the initiative believed that there would be no need for increased fees or other taxes to maintain the current level of government social services.

Popular support for the initiative was also built around the anti-government rhetoric of the bill's sponsor, Howard Jarvis and Paul Gann. "We're going to show the politician know-it-alls," said the 75-year-old Jarvis to one reporter. "Those guys get into office and think they can push everyone around."

Since the alternative property tax relief bill was sponsored by California State Senator Peter Behr, the trumpeting of Proposition 13 as a "people's bill" was given even more credence. The fact that Jarvis is actually the leader of a large organization of apartment-building owners (Apartment Association of Los Angeles) and that Paul Gann has been a long established arch-conservative was glossed over by the highly emotional issues of high taxes, government bureaucracy and deteriorating living conditions.

## RACIST BACKLASH

Much of the pro-Proposition 13 vote also reflects the growing racist backlash among California's largely white middle class communities. In the state that gave birth to the infamous Bakke case, Proposition 13 reflects a rising anti-Black, anti-Latino mood. Big landlord Howard Jarvis, while offering glib talk of "money-grabbing politicians," will in the same breath scorn the alleged "welfare cheats" and the "people who move into good neighborhoods and bring their filth in."

Undoubtedly, the hardest hit areas will be the minority communities, where cuts in social services and education will only worsen already deteriorating conditions. Wilson Riles, California's Superintendent of Public Instruction, has estimated that 30 per cent of the state school budget will be cut, and in some cities such as Oakland, 50 per cent of the budget will be affected. Howard Jarvis' response to these impending cuts was a cynical "I don't give a damn."

## NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT

Presently there are 21 states where similar tax cut initiatives are slated either for a public vote or legislative action. Howard Jarvis has become the national champion of this movement, preying on the legitimate grievances of the overburdened taxpayer while offering solutions that largely benefit the corporations and landlords.

In California, the ramifications of the Jarvis-Gann initiative are just beginning to make themselves felt, as many schools will be closed for the summer and layoff notices are being sent out to many thousands of workers. Popular outcry to the massive cuts is only beginning to take form, and will undoubtedly build as the full implications of Jarvis-Gann become reality. □

## Repressive Bill 'Still Alive'

## Group Steps Up Opposition to H.R. 6869

By GIL MANGAOANG

WASHINGTON, D.C.—One hundred persons, representing 38 organizations, reaffirmed their opposition to the repressive Criminal Code Reform Act of 1978, on June 3 and 4, 1978, at the 19th Annual Meeting of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL). This body resolved "to continue our opposition to S 1437/HR 6869 with additional emphasis on exposing the dangers therein to mass movements in the United States and enlisting their support."

While there have been recent reports that the bill was dead for this Congress, the participants expressed grave concerns about the continuing danger it poses. Prof. Thomas I. Emerson, Constitutional Advisor to NCARL, noted that, "Although the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice is addressing the issue of codification differently than the Senate had, the present situation is too fluid and too flexible to predict the final outcome."

Representatives of national organizations such as the ACLU, the American Friends Service Committee, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Native American Longest Walk, the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers and of local coalitions from New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, California, Illinois, Vermont and Massachusetts joined NCARL in unanimous support of the following statement.

"The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal

Justice has not proceeded to a mark-up of S.1437/HR 6869. Instead it is considering alternative approaches, including consolidation of existing provisions, repeal of obsolete offenses, and revision of the penalty and sentencing structure. This has led some members of Congress to tell their constituents that S.1437 is 'dead.' Such a judgment is seriously misleading."

## S. 1437/HR 6869 A REAL DANGER

"S 1437/HR 6869 remains a real danger. There are strong pressures for its passage from the President, the Department of Justice, Senator Kennedy and others. Moreover, whatever the Subcommittee does is subject to change by the full Judiciary Committee, on the floor of the House and in the Conference Committee. All of these developments must be carefully watched and new policy guided accordingly. Nevertheless, our basic position remains constant—that S 1437/HR 6869 and all similar repressive legislation must be unalterably opposed. Only mass efforts on the part of the people of this country will assure the final defeat of this legislation.

"Therefore, we continue our opposition to S 1437/HR 6869 with additional emphasis on exposing the dangers therein to mass movements in the United States and enlisting their support.

"We support House Resolution 1066 in calling for disapproval of S 1437 and the conduct of full and complete hearings on the question of the revision of the Federal Criminal Code."

S 1437 is the most recent version of a bill to reform and codify the federal criminal laws originally drafted by Richard Nixon and Attorney General John Mitchell. The Nixon Administration's bill, S 1400, and its successor, S 1, posed numerous threats to democratic rights and freedoms. S 1437/HR 6869, sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and Rep. Peter Rodino, passed the Senate, Jan. 30, 1978. Touted as a liberal-conservative compromise, it was in fact a direct descendant of the Nixon code. Pressure for its passage emanate from the same sources which drafted and lobbied for S 1400 and S 1.

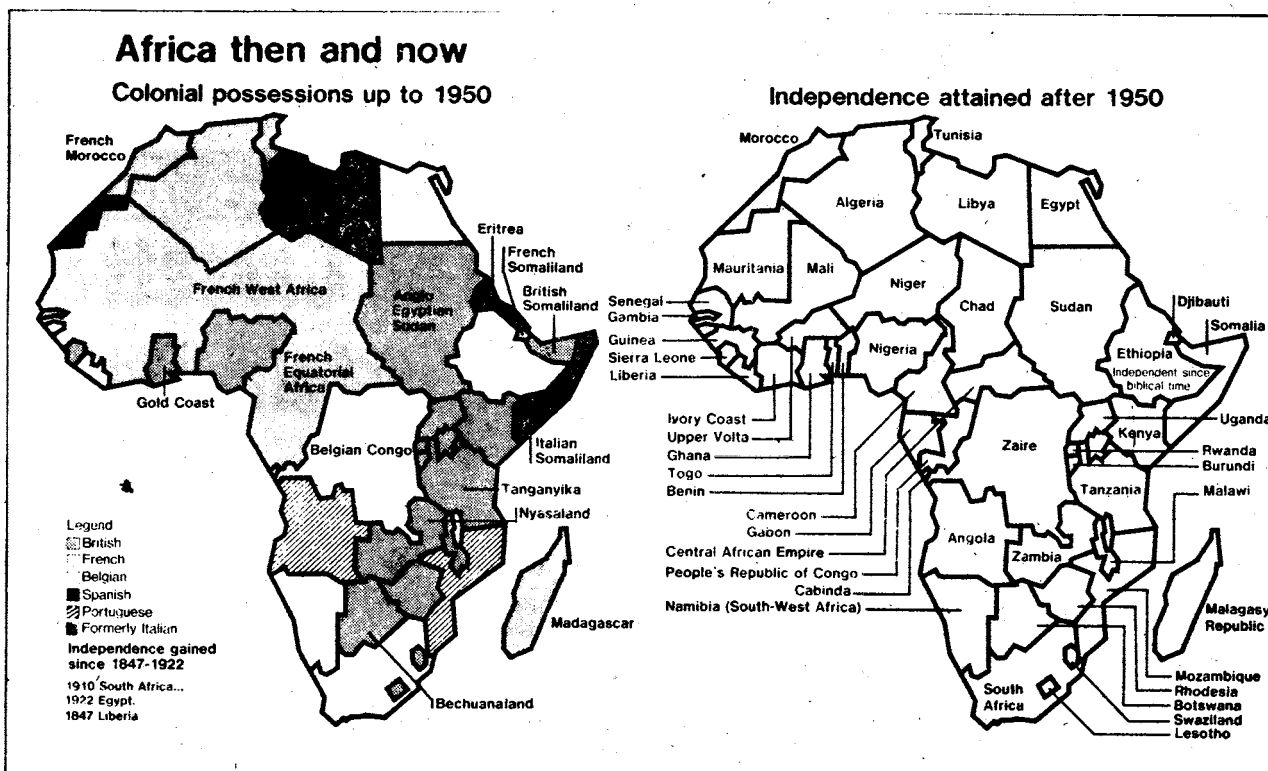
S 1437/HR 6869 is a slightly modified S 1 and is equally dangerous in its infringements of Constitutional rights of free speech, an uncensored press and the right to demonstrate and petition, to name only a few. These fundamental freedoms have been an effective means to express public opposition to basic injustices and have been effectively used to gain many victories in struggles against racist and discriminatory treatment as in the issue of the H-1 nurses' fight against deportation, the 4-H trainees controversy, the Narciso-Perez trial (See AK Vol. V, No. 4). If S 1437/HR 6869 should be passed into law by the current Congress, these fundamental freedoms would be severely curtailed. □

For more information, contact the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, 510 C St. Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20002.



## Neocolonialism, Part 3

## AFRICA: ROOTS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT



Under the yoke of European colonial rule, Africa's people and resources were ruthlessly exploited for over 80 years. Exercising total political, administrative, economic and social control over the lives of Africans, European imperialism established the vicious colonial system to extract the utmost in profits and raw materials from African labor and land.

For the more advanced European colonizers, Africa's raw materials provided the life-blood of a burgeoning industrial revolution and the African economy became a victim of massive penetration by surplus European capital. African markets, already affected by 400 years of the European slave trade, became a dumping ground for goods overproduced in the industrialized nations, a situation which stifled and distorted the development of any local manufacturing or industry.

This underdevelopment of Africa was systematically imposed by this unequal and oppressive economic relation which denied Africa any opportunity to develop industry or advanced technology. Sudanese and Ugandans thus grew cotton goods while the Ivory Coast, a large cocoa exporter, imported tinned cocoa and chocolate.

Enforcing their rule with an unbridled brutality, Europe literally forced their unwanted rule on the African people. In the feudal states of North Africa, the French suppressed the Moslem states of the Western Sudan as well as Dahomey and Madagascar; the British crushed Egypt, the Mahdist Sudan, Arante, Benin, the Yoruba, Swaziland, Matabeleland, the Lozi and the East African lake kingdoms. The Belgians, Portuguese, Germans, French and Spanish all took part in this brutal suppression and partitioning of Africa.

To maintain their rule, colonial administrations were established to suppress the African people. Local African puppets were groomed and maintained to facilitate Europe's colonialism. No matter which African colony one examined, the colonial apparatus was inevitably controlled by Europe,

restricting the free movement of Africans in their own land, forcing payment of taxes to support the colonial regime, demanding free labor from the African subject and coercing Africans into colonial armies to fight, subjugate and suppress other African peoples.

Attempting to justify the colonization of Africa, European writers have often alluded to the alleged "benefits" for the native African. Forced to admit that on the one hand, tremendous benefits were reaped by Europe from the African colonies, apologists for European imperialism have also argued that "on the other hand" Africans realized roads, schools, railways, hospitals and other services. However as one African writer has commented, "Colonialism had only one hand—it was a one armed bandit."

Roads and railways were built only to facilitate the extraction of desperately needed raw materials for a hungry capitalist technology. Communications systems, air transport facilities and even whole cities and towns were established to help in the export of African resources to the European colonizer.

The colonial educational system, limited as it was, served mainly to reinforce the mentality and ideology of the European colonizer. As the Mozambique Liberation noted in 1968, "In the colonial society, education is such that it serves the colonialist . . . In a regime of slavery, education was but one institution for forming slaves."

Even the existing educational systems, geared as they were for the training of African puppets to facilitate colonialism, posed extremely limited opportunities for the African. Lack of any African industry meant that schools did not engage in any technical or skill training. For the few Africans allowed in secondary schools, they were trained mainly as low level clerks and messengers to prop up the colonial apparatus. In addition, racism restricted the education of Africans since any higher paid skilled jobs were reserved for white Europeans, and the African was not expected or encouraged to pursue an education which strongly developed his intellectual capabilities. In the Belgian Congo, not one African had been permitted to graduate from any institution higher than secondary school by 1960.

Alleged benefits of the health care and other social services have also been widely heralded as Europe's contributions to Africa. However such social services and health benefits were extremely meager and lacking, most coming after World War II and even then mainly for the benefit of the white European. What limited hospitals and health clinics were established by the colonial powers were mainly for the maintenance of the colonial system since adverse health conditions suffered by the African population were a direct result of European economic penetration.

Under colonialism, the African diet was radically changed from a highly diversified and nutritious one to a diet which was protein and vitamin deficient, aggravating diseases such as beriberi, rickets and scurvy. In addition, while parts of Africa suffered from periodic famine and want before colonization, the plight of the colonized African became one of chronic hunger and disease.

Traditional agricultural practices became geared only for the export of cash crops, forcing Africans from a diet of meat and cereals to an over dependence on mealy-meal (maize). Europeans also brought eating habits and disease which made the Africans susceptible to increased physical deterioration.

## AFRICA UNDER NEOCOLONIAL RULE

Under Europe's colonial subjugation of the continent, Africa suffered a brutal military and political oppression which arbitrarily divided whole tribes and nations into defined geographic states for exploitation and plunder. The main feature of the colonial era, however, was the economic partition of the continent which has continued to the present day under an insidious system of neocolonialism.

African resistance to foreign rule was never fully suppressed during the colonial period, and the colonial jails of Britain, France, Portugal and Belgium were always full, a continual reminder that the African was not a willing victim of Europe's subjugation. Especially after World War II, the demand for national independence and sovereignty became the growing cry of the African people.

For the more developed European states, formal independence was granted to their colonies while the basic exploitative economic relationship was maintained. Whole colonial administrations were transferred intact with only the diplomatic protocol of lowering a European flag to symbolize the end of formal colonization.

Despite the destruction of the colonial system, however, the economic interests of European imperialism and U.S. neocolonialism, continues to be a major factor in Africa's underdevelopment. For the majority of Africa, the continent is still viewed by Western capitalism as a vital source of strategic raw materials and resources, with basically the same monopoly firms, such as the infamous De Beers corporation, extracting enormous amounts of African capital and resources in a new exploitative relationship.

U.S. neocolonialism in Africa began in earnest after World War II, when the greatly weakened capitalist nations in Western Europe were infused with massive amounts of U.S. capital to prop up their ailing economic systems. As a result of this intervention, known as the Marshall Plan, the U.S. began to play an increasingly important role in Europe's African colonies. U.S. penetration in Africa began with direct U.S. investments, through U.S. Monopoly firms and banks, and was aided by government aid programs as well as other agencies such as the CIA and numerous "cultural" and "educational" agencies financed by institutions such as the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation.

By the end of the 1950's, U.S. Imperialism controlled 23 per cent of Africa's oil production, 41 per cent of its manganese, 47 per cent of its vanadium, 35 per cent of its lead, 15 per cent of its zinc, 97 per cent of its cadmium and 60 per cent of its bauxite. Direct U.S. investments, a mere \$120 million in 1939, had reached \$664 million in 1957 and climbed to an astronomical \$4 billion by 1970. Indirect investments, through loans and bank credits, have also reached a similar amount.

Africa has become a dumping ground for U.S. manufactured goods, growing from some \$100 million before World War II to over \$1 billion in 1970. Profits from the huge continent have risen from \$33 million in 1960 to over \$845 million in 1970. With this increased U.S. economic penetration and the displacement of the old colonial powers, the stake of U.S. imperialism in Africa has also grown, giving rise to brazen acts of U.S. subversion and armed intervention, mainly with agencies such as the CIA and through hired mercenary armies.

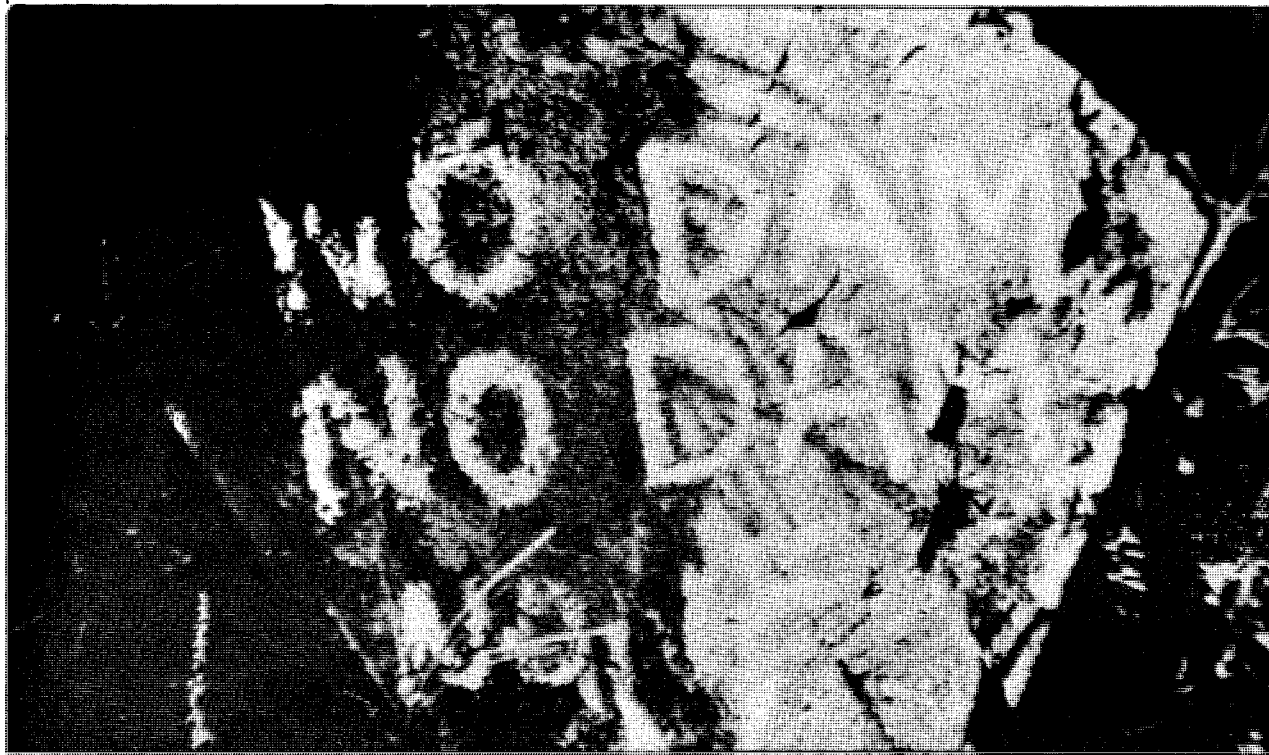
The oppressive condition of Africa under neocolonial rule continues today in those countries which have yet to fully liberate themselves economically, politically and socially from the evils of an international monopoly capitalist system. Even in those African states which have decided to take a socialist road in their economic development, the vestiges of 500 years of European slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism remain a heavy burden in their social development. High illiteracy, poverty and stunted economies are the heritage of present day Africa, a continent in the front lines in the battle against imperialism. □

## SUPPORT THE ZIMBABWE MEDICAL DRIVE

A liberation struggle to return control of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) to its people has been raging for many years. As this struggle nears victory, the need for medical supplies increases, especially as the white-minority regime of Ian Smith launches increasingly desperate and vicious campaigns against the Zimbabwe people and the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front.

In the Bay Area, a medical drive has been underway to raise money and supplies for the Zimbabwe struggle. A wide array of community and progressive groups have pledged support to the Zimbabwe Medical Drive, including the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). Donations to the medical drive can be sent c/o Ang Katipunan, P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, California 94623. Checks should be made payable to the Zimbabwe Medical Drive. □

## Despite Mass Opposition Marcos Pushes Through on Chico Dam



Opposition to the dam such as the slogan "No dam, No Dam," scrawled in this rock is evident throughout the region.

By ANITA BORJA

Despite mass opposition to the controversial Chico River Dam Project, the government is determined to push through the construction of Dam 4. Marcos controlled-media has even falsified the impression that the Kalingas, a tribespeople strongly opposed to the dams, have conceded to the construction.

A World Bank financed "development" scheme, the Chico River Basin Project actually serves the Marcos-Romualdez, Puzon and Enrile families. Most people realize that the four dams will serve only to irrigate and electrify the vast adjacent estates of these oligarch families. A rich cultural heritage and a self-sufficient economy are threatened with destruction since the heart of Igorot land is the chosen site for the dams. For these reasons, a great majority are opposed to the project, especially the mountain tribespeople, who would rather fight than be evicted from their ancestral lands.

Recent developments around the dam site show that the government has moved in quickly to pursue construction.

First, military presence has been increased.

Twelve bunkhouses have been built at the dam site as military outposts. Every barrio now has a detachment of 12 soldiers. A special military battalion from Mindanao was reassigned to the area in addition to regular P.C. commands. Put together, there is at least 1,000 men designated for pacification and security purposes. Consequently, more military violence and maltreatment against civilians are reported. One incident occurred in Lubuangan, where a civilian was killed when he was picked up at the dam site by the military.

Secondly, the rapid establishment of ten relocation sites is evident. The deadline for the first relocation area was scheduled for April 3, 1978. This relocation site at New Tanglag will house 63 families. Furthermore, the various government agencies assigned to the Dam project, along with provincial and barrio officials have conspired to use bribery and a petition drive in favor of the project to continue.

To aggravate matters, the mass media has distorted *bodongs*—traditional peace pacts—to use in propaganda. In recent months, simulated *bodongs*, not recognized by the people themselves were flashed in the media to supposedly represent the people's sentiments. □

## Investigations under Martial Law — rarely neat Jesuits Decry Verdict in Torture Death

By a BMP CORRESPONDENT

The Roman Catholic religious order, Society of Jesus, attacked recently a government verdict that ruled out torture in the death of a teenager five days after his arrest in Quezon City.

Reports reaching BMP said the Jesuit provincial superior in the Philippines, the Rev. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J., had expressed reservation about the "official investigation" conducted by the regime into the death of Teotimo Tantiado, Jr., an errand boy at the Loyola House of Studies which was raided by Metrocom troopers last April 10. The Loyola House is located at the Ateneo de Manila campus at Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

"I personally am not satisfied that the investigation was as thorough as it could have been," Father Bernas told sources close to BMP. "Investigations under martial law restraints are rarely neat and satisfying."

The Department of National Defense, in an announcement given wide publicity in the Marcos press, quoted a special committee that included a Jesuit priest, a civilian pathologist and military officers as saying that Tantiado died on April 15 not as a result of torture but of "acute hemorrhagic pancreatic necrosis"—or crushed pancreas.

Ordinarily, the pancreas could only be "crushed" by severe pressure on the sides of the body, possibly heavy blows.

"No Jesuit had a part in preparing that release,"

Bernas said in a public statement.

Tantiado, with another man, Lorenzo Faustino, still under military detention, was arrested April 10 during a raid by P.C. Metrocom troopers led by Col. Francisco Abadilla on the Loyola House of Studies. Tantiado was a helper of a Jesuit, the Rev. Romeo Intengan, S.J., who was arrested with other opposition leaders for leading a funeral march in downtown Manila last April 9.

An autopsy was made by Dr. Lorenzo Katigbak on a cadaver that was identified for him as the cadaver of Tantiado, Bernas said. "I am not familiar with the circumstances under which the identification was made for Dr. Katigbak although I presume that Dr. Katigbak did what was professionally necessary for proper identification."

"The medical verdict of Dr. Katigbak, as I understand it, was limitedly negative, that is, he found no evidence that the pancreas was crushed by severe blows on the abdominal region. He did not say that there was no foul play either," Bernas said.

Katigbak, a professor of pathology at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, said he found no injury to any soft tissue in the abdominal cell. He added that he was to make more microscopic examinations to verify his earlier findings that no violence was employed on Tantiado, according to the DND announcement.

Katigbak's later findings, whatever they were, were never released. □

## Landgrabbers, Military Harass Cagayenos

SPECIAL TO THE ANG KATIPUNAN

Cagayan Valley is a lovely area threaded by the wide Cagayan River. It abounds with hills, primitive and untouched, and is rimmed with white beaches. The huge trees overgrown with vines tower over the dusty mountain roads that wind up and down the whole province. In between hills and mountains are nestled the valleys with streams and small rivers flowing through them.

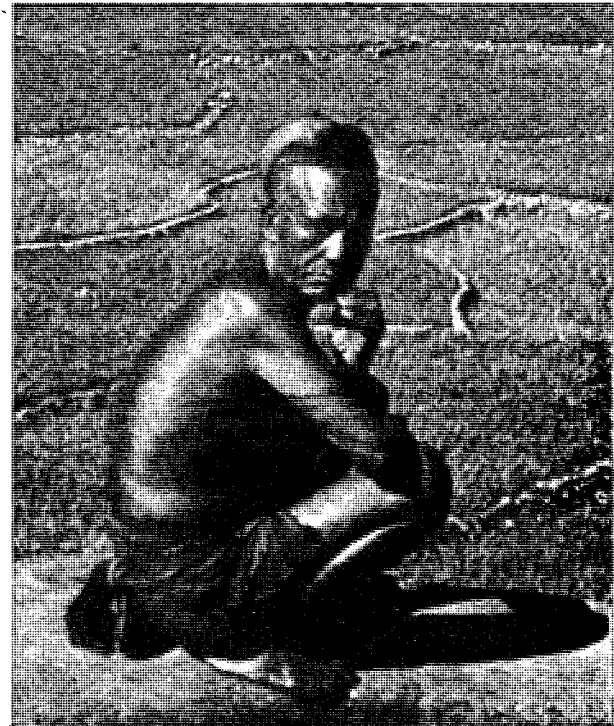
But the loveliness is marred by violence, injustice and oppression. In the mountains live the negritos, "Pugots" they are called locally. The Pugots face brazen discrimination, and violence from the local government, military and businessmen from the lowlands.

### LANDGRABBING IN THE HIGHLANDS

Six Pugots are now languishing in the Tuguegarao provincial jail after resisting attempts by landlords to steal their ancestral lands. Julian Bayangun, Francisco Flores, Lorenzo Flores, Marcos Morales, and Balbino Sumulong have been in detention since July 1977.

It started when a Gerardo Padua came to their place, fenced off four hectares of their land and told the Pugots he had papers to prove his ownership. He brought his cows and converted the area into pasture land.

The cows, however, would stray over to the fields of the Pugots, trample over and eat their crops. The Pugots complained to Padua but their complaints went unheeded. The continued conflict resulted in the Pugots' arrest on charges of "Frustrated Murder and Illegal possession of Firearms."



Ethnic highlanders are being persecuted by land-grabbers and local authorities.

Padua claimed to have been shot by one of the Pugots' arrows—causing him a two-inch wound in the buttocks. So far, there has been no trial for the six who are the sole breadwinners of their families. To make things worse, the municipal judge who conducted the preliminary investigation, and their lawyer de-officio, are known to be prejudiced against Pugots in general.

### LOWLANDERS INTIMIDATED

All is not well for the common people of the lowlands either. The constantly fluctuating price of tobacco, the main cash crop of the region, makes for a very uncertain future.

Besides this, there is the constant threat of soldiers with their armalites, on the sharp lookout for anyone who might be an NPA or NPA supporter. Anyone can be suspected and easily eliminated. There are several areas in the Cagayan where military operations are intensive, including the town of Baggao. A young woman, Remingilda Daoag, her baby and another woman, Emiliana Cabrero are both missing and are believed to be in safehouses somewhere in Baggao.

Last May 4, 1978, a young man was shot to death after being rudely awakened by soldiers raiding his home. The man's father has been in detention for some time, leaving the family paralyzed with fear.

### MOUNTAINS DENUDED

Erosion and flooding threaten the Valley also, with increased logging operations in the area. Big lumber concessions, among them, Oesco Lumber Incorporated are cutting down trees, denuding the mountain sides.

Furthermore, workers in the logging industry are being super-exploited. A Chinese lumber businessman, who operates Taggat Industries in Claveria, Cagayan once fired several workers who tried to organize a union in his company.

Salaries are not paid in full nor paid on time. The workers, however, would not dare be too open about their complaints—lest they go unemployed or face consequences. □