

## PND '79- Celebrations Nationwide

There's no stopping its rising popularity now. Philippine National Day '79 celebrations drew the largest crowds ever since the tradition began in 1975.

Despite unsuccessful attempts from self-interests groups to frustrate the PND celebrations in some areas (See commentary on page 7), this year's festivities were a scene of unity amidst differences within the Filipino communities in the U.S. PND festivities were held in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, Oakland, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C.

In New York 7,000 people poured into Flushing Meadows Park in Queens. An impressed Lily Rivera, former teacher at the Philippine School of Business Administration in Manila, commented, "This is one event no Filipino family should miss."

Roz Li, an architect, said of the programme, "Nothing was overdone. The songs, the dances, the messages . . . political and otherwise, all fell in place. I was pleasantly surprised to see people listen intently to the serious message delivered by Aimee Cruz."

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" . . . as our children grow up and our elderly need more attention, there will be many needs and issues which we, as a community, will have to undertake and wherein the key to success will be our united and organized efforts . . ." said Aimee Cruz in her speech at N.Y.'s PND. Above, San Francisco children entertain their audience with a song. (AK Photo)



200 San Francisco demonstrators condemn export of Westinghouse reactor to R.P. (AK Photo)

## International Protests Hit R.P. Reactor

Special to the AK

Demonstrations and other acts of solidarity in more than 30 cities throughout the world marked June 5, the "International Day of Protest" against the Westinghouse reactor export to the Philippines.

The massive protest apparently had an effect, for on June 13, President Ferdinand Marcos suspended the construction of the plant and formed an "independent" and "impartial" panel to study the health and safety impact of the project. Knowledgeable observers commented, however, that this latest move is a typical Marcos ploy to defuse criticism.

Peter Hayes, founder of Friends of the Earth (Australia), asserted, "The

move was costless. The NRC's [Nuclear Regulatory Commission] delay in granting an export license for the reactor had already in effect suspended construction. Marcos obviously wants to use the "independent panel" the same way he uses 'elections' — to legitimize a controversial decision to go nuclear."

In Melbourne, Australia, about 150 people rallied in front of the Philippine Consulate, while across the Pacific, in San Francisco, 200 people protested in front of a U.S. Federal building. Support demonstrations were also held in Washington, D.C. and Boston. Speakers against the Philippine reactor were featured and petitions passed out in anti-nuclear

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### Esclamado's Attacks Continue

Philippine News San Francisco Edition

Week of June 16-22, 1979

**KDPs are Communists!** KDP 'attacks' confirm 'PhilNews' revelations

**KDPs ARE COMMUNISTS!**

last of three-part series

**Anti-Communist 'Crusade' Fails**

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Screening tests  
Conspiracy vs. foreign nurses?

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COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE  
WEST COAST SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

With this issue, the *Ang Katipunan* staff will take a short break and resume publishing August 1. This is our usual R and R break for July.  
— Editor

## KDP is here to stay

# Anti-Communist 'Crusade' Fails

ANALYSIS (sic)

## KDPs are Communists!

By ALEX A. ESCLAMADO / Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

Alex Esclamado is an anti-communist! So, what else is new?

With each passing issue of the *Philippine News* it becomes more apparent the Esclamado is a reactionary in a predicament. He has backed himself into a corner with no graceful way to get out. His weekly attacks on the KDP are getting stale and more and more ridiculous.

Esclamado is particularly sensitive about the charges of "yellow journalism" and "sensationalism." Others have also accused him of this even before the KDP. In an attempt to appear "professional," "even handed" and "broad minded," he has taken to reprinting our editorials in his paper [with minor, but politically significant editing]. However, in his marginal comments and commentaries he raves on incoherently with a series of disjointed and politically undeveloped responses. It is almost as though he were attempting some type of "comic relief" to the substance and logic

By Wilma Cadorna, Aimee Cruz, Rene Cruz, Silme Domingo, Jaime Geaga, Bruce Occena, Inday Refi, and Cathi Tactaquin

### THE "FOREIGN CONSPIRACY" THEORY RESURRECTED IN ALL ITS CRUDENESS

Pineda and Esclamado could easily have worked on the staff of McCarthy's or the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee. They hurl all the "classic" charges at the KDP. We are "accused" of maintaining ties with the NPA and CPP; two of our leading members, Melinda Paras and Bruce Occena, are "accused" of being "trained" in the communist countries of Cuba and Korea; our organization is "charged" with possible funding from China, etc. Such a demagogic and rabid attack would have made Joe McCarthy proud!

In the face of such hysterical slander, the *Philippine News* attempts to make its big point: "Occena offered a 'no comment' reply when informed by the *News* about his reputation." In his usual Hearst fashion, Esclamado distorts the actual discussion which took place. When faced with the *News*' allegations, Occena asked, "What are your sources for this information?" (Their sources are most likely U.S. and Philippine intelligence agencies—i.e. FBI, NBI, NISA, CIA etc. However, to have admitted this would have served to expose Esclamado's active collusion with such agencies and thereby discredit his claim to be a "neutral" journalist instead of a right-wind political agent.) Opportunistically, using journalist "ethics" when it is convenient and discarding them at other times when it suits his political purposes, the *News* responded—"We do not disclose our sources." Occena's retort was—"In that case, no comment." Occena asked that the whole interchange be printed in the *News*, which of course, was not.

Esclamado's attempt to translate this "no comment" (sometimes known as the 5th amendment) into an "admission of guilt," is an old, standard McCarthyite tactic used extensively during the hysteria of the 1950's. We think that a short historical comparison will best serve to expose the fascist motives behind Esclamados "line of questioning" toward the KDP.

In the 1950's, the Rosenbergs' only "crime" was their revolutionary political views. Yet, they were railroaded on the absurd charge that they were "Russian spies" trying to smuggle the "secret" of the atomic bomb to the "reds" on the back of a Jello box! In hindsight this appears ridiculous, but at the time it was taken very seriously. The line of questioning used by the government prosecution was carefully calculated to incriminate them in the absence of any real evidence. Ethel Rosenberg stood her ground during the whole "trial" ordeal. In response to the prosecution's questioning she kept repeating the now famous line—"That question cannot be simply answered yes or no." Unfortunately, the government succeeded in painting her politically motivated statements of "no comment" as an "admission" of some type of criminal guilt . . . anti-communist hysteria carried the day and as is well known, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg went unjustly to their deaths in the electric chair—not for any criminal activity, but because of their political views.

of our editorials. Each week he comes off more as a clown than the week before. And the criticism of Hearst journalism only deepens. [Although he has proven himself capable of the most irrational behavior, we seriously doubt he would dare to reprint our last editorial installment.]

In vain, Esclamado attempts to depict us as the frantic and irrational party in this debate—"I am not mad at KDP's. The KDP's are mad at Esclamado . . ." We are certainly contemptuous of his politics and rabid behavior, yes. But we are clearly not the ones behaving in an irrational manner here.

Why is Esclamado so upset? In the S.F. Filipino community he is somewhat of a political "godfather" figure. He has maneuvered and contented with the Consulate and other forces for years in the struggle for the control of the community. He has proven his capacity to politically influence and "destroy" a number of people. In short, he is a powerful man—feared by most, hated by many and respected by the few who make up his inner circles.

Many have called Esclamado a fool [and worse than that] behind his back; a few have been bold enough to do so to his

We learn from history. Therefore, when reactionaries the likes of Esclamado hurl similar "loaded" questions at us—"Do you get money from China . . . did you get trained in Cuba . . . yes or no!" We responded to such red baiting with the same conviction of Ethel Rosenberg—this is nothing but a political line of questioning made to appear as a criminal line of questioning. Therefore, these questions cannot be simply answered with a "yes or no." Politically we respond—"no comment" and stand behind that statement. Certainly we in the KDP cannot be so easily trapped or outsmarted by such crude, political "cavemen" the likes of Alex Esclamado.

Red baiting aside, there remains a legitimate political question—have KDP members visited various revolutionary and socialist countries and do we approve of such travel? Yes, on both counts. In fact it is true a number of our members have had the opportunity to live and work with the NPA in guerrilla zones; to have travelled and worked in Cuba cutting sugar cane and building workers' housing; to have visited China, Korea, etc. We feel such opportunity to travel are good and help to broaden people's experiences and political horizons. It allows people to see for themselves, first hand, the tremendous achievements already scored by these revolutions, as well as many of the problems and difficulties which still have to be overcome.

We encourage as many people as possible to consider visiting various socialist countries. Our only regret is that due to financial limitations and the extent of our work, more of us do not have the opportunities for such travel. Also, those of us carrying Philippine passports still face outdated "cold war" travel restrictions to certain countries, which the U.S. government has in recent years been forced to drop from U.S. passports.

We find it a bit humorous why the *Philippine News* is so hysterical in reporting our travels to socialist countries. A closer investigation on the part of their "professional reporters" (sic) would have easily discovered that KDP's current fundraising raffle allows the winner to choose between a trip to Hawaii or Cuba! We suggest that if Pineda and Esclamado run out and purchase as many KDP raffle tickets as possible, they may well win the opportunity to visit Cuba themselves! Of course, their biggest problem would be getting permission from the Cubans to enter the country. They are careful not to grant visas to any "shady characters" who come along. Anti-communist reactionaries are obviously not welcomed. But fear not gentlemen, if you win you could still always go to Hawaii for a vacation!

Concerning Esclamado's charge that the KDP may be getting money from China or some other socialist country. Unfortunately, it is not true, we get no such assistance. Anyone who worked with the KDP knows all too well that we operate on a shoestring budget and appear to be always engaged in some type of fundraising effort or campaign. In fact, it is a standing joke that many of our supporters automatically reach for their wallets whenever they see KDP activists coming! It is our firm belief that a revolutionary organization must base its survival mainly on the



'Remind me to give a bonus to our infiltrators'

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PHILIPPINE TIMES: Chicago-based Times, Esclamado's main competitor, appears to be cautioning some restraint in the present "open debate" waged between Esclamado and the KDP. Although the editors of the Times hold the same political positions as Esclamado, they tend to exercise more professionalism in their journalism and more political responsibility in their editorializing.

face . . . but the KDP has just called him a reactionary and a fool in public and in writing! It should be no wonder why he is so upset.

Why would the KDP do such a thing? We had no choice. Esclamado launched this red-baiting attack and we must defend our right to political existence as a revolutionary organization. Will we

survive crossing the "godfather" this way? Yes, of course we will. Because, unlike many other political forces in the community we owe Esclamado absolutely no political "favors"; he has no "strings on us." Equally important, we stand up to his vicious attack not as isolated individuals, but as an organization.

support it receives from people. KDP's financial survival over the past six years confirms the correctness of this orientation.

However, in responding to Esclamado's charge we say—*unfortunately*, we get no financial assistance from China. We stress *unfortunately*, because we want to make clear that "in principle" we see nothing wrong with such assistance. The work of our organization is good and deserves to be assisted! In fact, from KDP's political viewpoint, revolutionary peoples from different countries are united in a single struggle against the exploitative worldwide system of imperialism, and actually have a responsibility to politically and materially assist each other. We term this mutual responsibility "internationalism." Therefore, despite the fact that KDP has little money itself, we regularly raise funds to assist the NPA. Last year, in addition, we raised money among progressive Filipinos for medical supplies for the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) who are in the forefront of the struggle against imperialism and racism on the African continent. Far from denying these activities, we are proud of them.

In particular, we feel that those countries like China who have already accomplished their revolutions, have a special responsibility to give assistance to the peoples who are still struggling under the imperialist yoke. Therefore, Esclamado cannot intimidate us with his rumors of Chinese attempts to route money to the NPA through Canada. Our only response is that we hope it got through successfully and that it will be followed by much more in the future! Our people's army in the Philippines faces incredible hardships and deserves all the assistance it can get from other revolutionary peoples the world over. We see absolutely nothing wrong with this. We would like to remind Esclamado that the U.S. government openly "assists" the Marcos dictatorship with millions of dollars each year in guns, aid, loans, etc. If the imperialists can prop up this corrupt and fascist regime, then certainly we can attempt to raise as much political and material assistance abroad as possible to overturn it!

Concerning Esclamado's rantings about our finances, we would like to point out that there is an obvious "double standard" being applied here. One could also ask, how does Esclamado finance his publication and other "shady" political maneuvers? Certainly no one believes that the *News* is a financially lucrative operation. How does Esclamado's MFP grouping keep itself afloat? Their members are far too "elite" to sponsor car washes or sell lumpia at June 12 picnics the way the "leftists" do. It is a well-known "secret" that much of the financial backing comes from prominent hacendero families like the Lopez. Now as far as the KDP is concerned we begrudge no one the Lopez money (except Marcos). In our opinion they should give far more than they have already done to the anti-Marcos movement. But please, "social respectability" aside, every Filipino knows that "ugly side" of the Lopez wealth. It has been squeezed from generations of "nameless" *sacadas*, workers and peasants.

So to Mr. Esclamado we say—be careful not to pose as some outraged "moralist" when it comes to matters

of financial backing and assistance. After all, Marcos gets money from the U.S. government. And your MFP circles sustain much of their political activities on ill-gotten hacendero wealth. Please, don't even try to intimidate us with your rumors about Chinese money to the NPA! Naked people in glass houses should not throw stones.

ESCLAMADO vs. KDP—DIAMETRICALLY  
OPPOSING VIEWS ABOUT "LEADERS"  
AND LEADERSHIP

Both Pineda and Esclamado seem frantic to account for the relatively high level of organization, discipline and coordination of the KDP. Without giving any credit to the obvious fact that is a positive reflection of our revolutionary politics and commitment. Instead, they attempt to paint a picture of KDP as some Mafia-type, para-military organization. Pineda writes: "What most Filipinos do not realize is that Occena and Paras actually call the shots in the KDP and its front organizations. They are assisted by such key lieutenants who run front organizations as Rene Cruz (AMLC), Walden Bello (FFP and IAFP), Aimee Cruz (NAFL)."

What a clever statement this is. We call people's attention to the demagogic phrase, "What most Filipinos don't realize . . ." This phrase is meant to create the false impression that Pineda is "exposing" some well guarded secret. However, we will do Pineda one better—probably, "most Filipinos don't realize" at this point that the KDP even exists, much less who its leading members are! Probably, "most Filipinos don't realize" who Alex Esclamado is, except in the S.F.-Bay Area where he is more notorious! And certainly "most Filipinos don't realize" who the little man is who hides behind the pseudonym Rosario Pineda!

Such word "tricks" aside, there are two substantive charges being leveled here. One is that the KDP leadership is "shrouded in secrecy." Second is that the cohesion of our KDP leadership (which is in stark contrast to the "normal" backbiting and petty competition among Filipino community "leaders") is not the result of our political unity and collective interaction, but rather some kind of fanatical "blind loyalty" and sinister "pecking order." Although we find these charges ridiculous, we want to take them up and respond in order to expose Pineda's and Esclamado's elitist conception of leadership which they are attempting to project onto the KDP.

Concerning Paras and Occena who are supposedly our "generals," although they may not be known to "most Filipinos," they are certainly known to "many." Both have been consistently active in Filipino community activities and issues for years. Paras, in particular has been active in anti-martial law activities; Occena in issues such as the International Hotel, Filipino Studies, etc. The point here is that none of KDP's leading people have ever concealed their identities nor denied their roles and responsibilities within the KDP. They have spoken and written publicly without use of pseudonyms, etc. Granted, those who work in our National Office, such as Paras, Occena and others, naturally are not in the public eye as much around local issues. However, in that capacity they have travelled extensively throughout the country and have been introduced to many hundreds of people—always as national officers of the KDP.

In short, we reject the charge that the KDP structure and leadership is "shrouded in secrecy." We can say confidently that anyone who has worked with the KDP has little difficulty "discovering" who are leading people are on local, regional and national levels; how and when they are elected to these positions, etc. For the many people who know this to be true, the *Philippine News*' hysterical expose is recognized as cheap "sensationalism" meant to scare those people who have not yet had the opportunity to work directly with the KDP.

But to us, the telling question is why are Esclamado and Pineda so fixated on KDP's "generals," on who are the "masterminds," or "who calls the shots," etc. This reflects less on the actual functioning of the KDP and more on the elitist way that such reactionaries view "politics" and leadership."

Political activity to them is the activity of a few "big shots." Each "big shot" surrounds himself with "cronies" and "yes-men" whose loyalty is guaranteed through dispensing various political and economic "favors." Each "big shot" must also fend his "proper place" in the pecking order of "bigger shots" and "smaller shots." Like feudal warlords, no common cause ties these reactionary "leaders" together except their common defense of the basic status quo and their common pursuit of their own narrow, self-interests. Consequently, they are forever locked into some petty political intrigue; engaged in backbiting, jockeying for positions closer to this mayor's office or that president's office, etc. This is exactly the type of self-serving "leadership" which has made the term "politician" a "dirty word" among Filipinos and created all kinds of cynicism concerning political activity.

The social atmosphere surrounding such reactionary

"leadership circles" is also extremely stifling and intimidating to ordinary people. Everything is orchestrated to highlight the few "prominent leaders." Their "comings" and "goings" are announced with great fanfare. Their activities are regularly exaggerated out of all proportion to their actual work. They are photographed again and again in attempts to impart a false sense of importance and significance to their most trivial activities. And so Manglapus' telephone call to a senator's office is basis for banner headlines in the *News* or Esclamado's luncheon with an aide to the mayor is the occasion for numerous photographs. In short, these reactionary "leaders" surround themselves in a social atmosphere filled with elite pretensions and exaggerated flattery.

In sharp contrast, KDP activists are modest and unassuming. We have no army of trumpeters and photographers to announce our arrival "upon the scene." In fact, it is not uncommon for leading KDP members to go relatively unnoticed in many events. This is not because we are secretive or hide behind pseudonyms. But rather because we see absolutely no need to place KDP leaders in any special "limelight" if they have no particular responsibility for that event. This is quite a different orientation than that of Esclamado-type "leaders" whose normal behavior at any event is to gain attention and center stage.

(We find it amusing that Esclamado had such a difficult time scrounging for photographs of our leading members, when he probably could easily produce whole photo albums of himself and his cronies. We suggest that in the future he might get better photos of us if he cooperates a bit more closely with Marcos intelligence agencies and the FBI!)

However, we do not feel that the modest and unassuming style of work of KDP leaders comes merely from our good upbringing and individual personality traits. Rather, it is a reflection of our political orientation and class viewpoint. The KDP does not believe that any significant social movement and progress is the result of the isolated acts of "great individuals." To us, history is made by the movement of classes; by the struggles of the masses of "ordinary people." While we do not underestimate the important role of dedicated and honest leaders, as revolutionaries our task is to bring people to the awareness of their own collective political power, how to organize it and where to direct it.

This is KDP's basic political approach to organizing. Consequently, unlike Esclamado-types, we have no intention to project our leading people in any exaggerated or artificial manner. Those KDP activists whose leadership is highlighted is because they are objectively at the center of broad mass struggles and activities.

We believe that the KDP provides a more working class orientation toward leadership in the Filipino community. In contrast to the bourgeois, elitist and "big shot" orientation of the Esclamado types. They apparently feel threatened by this new brand of leadership. And in our opinion, they have good reason to feel threatened because people are increasingly fed up with the old-type of do-nothing politicians! We find it significant, that in the Filipino community where unfortunately there is no shortage of scandals over corruption, stolen treasuries, incompetence, and naked opportunism involving "community leaders," Esclamado and Pineda can find no concrete examples of such corruption on the part of KDP activists. The only concrete charge they can hurl at us is that we are leftists!

Lastly, we find Pineda's vicious attack on "KDP lieutenants" a bit cowardly in light of the fact that he hid behind a pseudonym. We are confident that if this bitter little man were to come out into the light of day and measured up against KDP activists, he would be dwarfed not only by our "lieutenants" but also by our "sergents, corporals" and "privates!" In general, KDP activists have gained broad recognition and respect as dedicated, competent and hardworking organizers. We enjoy extensive ties and working relations within the community. In comparison, who even knows who the real Rosario Pineda is? And although Esclamado is more well known, how many Filipinos have actually worked day-to-day with the "godfather"—not many!

Yes, gentlemen, indeed we have diametrically opposing class views about leadership and leaders!

ESCLAMADO'S UNINTENTIONAL RECOGNITION  
AND COMPLIMENT TO THE KDP

As we mentioned earlier, for years now, the *Philippine News*, in unprofessional journalistic fashion, has tampered with press releases and distorted the news in attempts to hide and downplay the growing role of the KDP in the forefront of many of the major struggles and progressive activities involving the Filipino community. However, in his uncontrollable fervor to expose the "reds," Esclamado has finally brought the KDP, our work and our politics onto the front pages of his newspapers every week! In a flood of "sensational" publicity which can only be seen as part of a pent-up reaction making up for the years of intentional suppression. The *News* writes:

"Although the KDP has reportedly no more than 30 hardcore members principally operating from San Francisco, Chicago and New York, they have a broad sweep of operations through their network of front organizations . . . Among the "paper" organizations under the KDP orbit are the Anti-Martial Law Coalition . . . the International Association of Filipino Patriots . . . the National Alliance for Fair Licensure . . . Other causes and organizations that have come under the sphere of influence of the KDP include: the International Hotel Struggle; the Narciso-Perez Legal Defense Fund; movements to keep low-cost housing in Seattle's International District and Honolulu's Chinatown. The Philippine National Day celebrations of June 12 are said to be KDP creations . . . Far West Conventions . . . etc., etc."

Thank you Mr. Esclamado for your long overdue recognition! We predict your red-baiting scheme will backfire in your face and prove to be a tactical blunder on your part. After this it will be difficult for the *Philippine News* to attempt to push the KDP back into "obscurity."

The serious reader who can manage to wade through all the hysterical and unsubstantiated charges about "paper" organizations and "fronts," is left with a glimpse of the impressive scope and extent of the KDP's political work nationwide. Clearly the KDP is not some "unknown force" lurking on the outskirts of the Filipino community trying to "infiltrate"—as Esclamado attempts to paint. We dare to say—we are already a substantial political force at the very center of the Filipino community in the U.S. Esclamado is five years too late with his "warnings!" The KDP has committed itself to a serious organizing effort for a number of years now. In the course of that time, we have made mistakes, experienced a few setbacks, but in the main our organization, our ties and our influence in the Filipino community have grown steadily.

However, we must admit honestly, that over the years of our day-to-day organizing efforts we have yet to "bump into" Alex Esclamado or Raul Manglapus! And none of our activists had ever even heard of the phantom "Rosario Pineda" until he surfaced mysteriously in the *Philippine News* as the "expert" on the "internal workings" of the KDP. We would contend that it is not the KDP, but Esclamado and his cronies who are in fact the ones relatively distant from the grassroots conditions and organizing efforts in the Filipino community nationwide. Without much of the KDP organizing efforts (and those of our "red" counterparts in the Philippines), Esclamado would have pitifully little relevant news with which to fill up his newspaper.

Concerning KDP's "30 members" . . . we dare say there are quite a bit more than that, but let us not quibble over numbers . . . thank you, just the same, for the compliment! Any serious reader of the *Philippine News* is forced to wonder—imagine the dedication and capacity of these 30 people to accomplish all these things! Similarly, beneath the anti-communist rantings to depict us as "ruthless," emerges the distinct image of a well-organized network of committed and trained organizers, spanning the Filipino community from New York to Hawaii; prepared and capable of responding to many of the difficulties and problems which the Filipino people face.

As Esclamado was forced to admit, the KDP runs a "tightly disciplined organization." It is true, we don't deny it, in fact we are proud of our accomplishment because time and again KDP's organizational and political strength has been effectively placed at the service of the Filipino people's movement. To paraphrase Lenin . . . what the working people need in defense of their class interests is an organization of professionally trained, highly committed, revolutionary activists. Twelve such dedicated and time-tested organizers are far more valuable to the people's movement than 100 fools . . . We dare to say, even 12 KDP activists (much less 30!) are far more valuable to the Filipino community than 100 Esclamados or Pinedas!

ANTI-COMMUNISM—THE SEEDS OF FASCISM

Every fascist movement directs its first and most vicious hit at the left—the "communist." Hitler went after the communist even before the Jews; and Marcos wants the "reds" in his prisons even more than the progressive religious. The KDP fully expects to be attacked by the Marcos dictatorship, the FBI, etc. because we stand in opposition to everything they represent. But we ask people to seriously consider this question—what essentially distinguishes Esclamado's attack from what we would expect from Marcos or the FBI? Nothing, it is essentially the same. The only difference however is that Esclamado makes the pretense to be a "progressive"—a participant in the movement against the Marcos dictatorship and against injustice and discrimination here in the U.S. Yet it should be clear to everyone that he has never been known to throw himself with such fervor against the Marcos dictatorship, or the INS, etc. Such anti-communist diehards direct their hardest attacks to the left, not to the right. Just look at the bitter lament of

(continued on page 11)



## PHILIPPINE NEWS

BUOD NG MGA BALITA  
BUOD NG MGA BALITACORAL REEFS, FOOD  
SOURCE THREATENED

Food problems in the Philippines threaten to worsen in years to come if serious attention is not paid to coral reefs, the natural breeding ground of the country's fish supply. A recent study of reefs in the Visayan and Sulu areas noted that the reefs are fast approaching the status of a marine ecological disaster. Only four percent of the reefs studied were rated excellent, meaning that their natural condition has been preserved and they remain hospitable to the growth of marine life.

While citing offshore mineral mining, construction of fishpond dikes, coastal reclamation projects, strong waves caused by typhoons and pollution of seawater, Dr. Angel C. Alcalá of Silliman University pointed to three principal factors:

- Dynamite or blast fishing,
- The "moro-ami" method of fishing which consist of using boulders or iron weights to pound the coral substrata, scaring the fish into waiting nets,
- The Crown-of-Thorns Starfish, a natural predator of coral. The Crown-of-Thorns has spread unchecked in recent years in part because its natural predator, the Trident shell, one of the increasingly rare glories of the Philippine seas, is in great demand by tourists and collectors. Thus, in spite of a law against removing the Trident from the reefs, tourist shops continue to be well-stocked with the item while officials turn a blind eye on the serious threat posed to the reefs. □

PAMPANGA FOLK FIGHT  
ILLEGAL DIKE

The people's struggles take many forms. In Pampanga, residents of barangay Sa. Catalina, Lubao, are fighting to prevent recurrent flooding during the rainy season. The cause? An illegally-constructed dike which dams the Calicu creek.

The first dike built upon the site was ordered demolished in 1974 because of the flooding problem. It was rebuilt, however, upon recommendation by a provincial geodetic engineer and approved by province governor Juanita Nepomuceno. Residents now question whether the public works engineer and the governor can legally allow a private person to close off a public waterway. With residents denouncing the reconstruction of the dike, Nepomuceno claimed she did not know how the scheme got her approval. □

CDCP EXCEEDS  
BORROWING LIMIT

A construction firm owned by Marcos crony Rodolfo Cuenca, has found a way to borrow \$40 million without having the money counted as a loan under Philippine debt limits imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Under this arrangement the country's largest construction firm, the Construction and Development corporation of the Philippines leases for seven years equipment owned by a bank syndicate led by Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co. and Republic National Bank of Dallas. Instead of counting as a loan, CDCP's payments will be counted as payments for services. At the end of seven years CDCP will have the right to buy the equipment at a low cost.

The CDCP arrangement sets a precedent for other corporations who seek to bypass the limits on foreign borrowings imposed by the IMF. The IMF demands the right to limit one-to-ten year loans in exchange for helping Manila manage its payment's deficit. The Philippine's total external debt is put at \$8.2 billion, surpassing the IMF borrowing limit of \$900,000 per year. □

## GRAVE BUS SHORTAGE

Slowed down by spiralling gas prices, Metro Manila residents will soon face a bigger obstacle course in the daily commuting. Only about 1,600 buses, including 500 units being fielded by the government-run Metro Manila Transit Corp. will be on the road to serve 3.8 million commuters when school reopen this month.

The shortage of manpower, lack of spare parts, skyrocketing costs of fuel have driven bus operators to near bankruptcy, causing the bus shortage. Ideally the number of buses to service Metro Manila has been placed at 4,200. The number of road-worthy buses falls way below this estimate making the transportation crisis "very serious" in the words of Board of Transportation Chairman Leopoldo Avellera. □

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
BACKS MNLF

Misuari in Iran: Recent Islamic Conference meeting promised more aid to the MNLF. (AP Photo)

The Moro National Liberation Front can expect greater political and material support from Islamic countries, the *Far Eastern Economic Review* reported this month. At the Islamic Conference (IC) annual foreign ministers' meeting in Fez, Morocco, member states not only officially pledged "moral and material support" for the rebel movement but agreed to replenish a special fund for the Muslim cause.

The IC's posture was seen as a victory for the MNLF and a major setback for the Marcos regime on the diplomatic front.

The IC also spurned the Marcos government which had earlier jockeyed for influence among several member states by indirectly warning Manila that the seven-year conflict could be raised to the United Nations. The IC urged Filipino Muslims to appeal for aid to "appropriate interna-

tional bodies" — a move the regime fears and hopes to frustrate.

The Ministerial Conference also defeated the regime's attempts to split the Muslim movement and thereby weaken external support by affirming its recognition of the MNLF as the sole representative of the Moro people.

In addition, the IC is pressuring the regime to return to the negotiating table and has nominated Indonesia, the Philippines predominantly Muslim ASEAN partner as intermediary.

## MISUARI SPEAKS IN IRAN

In a related development, MNLF leader Nur Misuari spoke before a half million Iranians against Israeli Zionism and American imperialism. This move is expected to enhance the MNLF's prestige and dampen the attempts of the splinter group, the Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization (BMLO) to seek the support and recognition of Khomeini's government. Earlier, the BMLO, a group composed of pro-Western conservative Muslim politicians, made representations to the Ayatollah, who said that he would set up a committee to offer "tangible support" for the Muslim liberation movement. □

IBP MARKS FIRST  
ANNIVERSARY

The week of June 12, Philippine National Day, marks the first anniversary of that unique creation of the Marcos regime, the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP). Created to project an image of "normalcy" for the dictatorship, the IBP's record to date as a legislative body independent of Ferdinand Marcos is even more pitiful than some of its earliest critics imagined.

From its inception, the IBP has been neither fish nor fowl. A legislative body, it cannot ratify treaties, elect or remove an interim president or prime minister. Above all, President/Prime Minister Marcos retains his power to issue decrees, in effect serving as the chief source of legislation in the country.

## RUBBER STAMP BODY

Not surprisingly, given its indeterminate character, the IBP has generated little enthusiasm. The only genuine opposition to Marcos' new Society Party (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, KBL) was roundly defeated in Metro-Manila in an election remarkable for its level of fraud and manipulation by the Marcos forces.

Another small "opposition" band, the Puyon Bisaya, split shortly after the IBP's inauguration into pro- and anti-administration groupings.

That left only Reben Canoy of the Mindanao Alliance as an opposition figure in a sea of KBL New Society boosters eager to act as a rubber stamp to Marcos' actions in the interest of projecting the country's "normalcy."

DEMOCRACY AND  
MARTIAL RULE  
INCOMPATIBLE

In spite of the obvious limitations upon its ability to develop and administer national policy from the outset, a number of its members and observers have repeatedly expressed disappointment with the IBP's role. Former Speaker of the defunct House of Representatives and Assemblyman Arturo Tolentino earlier went on record urging a transition back to the presidential system.

The latest to complain is former Vice-President Emmanuel Pelaez who recently demanded that Marcos shed his "crisis-management powers" in order to achieve parliamentary democracy. The key to the future of the IBP according to Pelaez is "The president's choice of the manner in which he will govern the nation." In other words, Pelaez has suddenly noticed that parliamentary democracy and martial law are incompatible.

A survey of the measures ruled upon by the IBP reveals bits of serious legislation sprinkled sparsely through a range of general housekeeping matters. Among the few substantial issues are the organization of the Regional Assemblies for Mindanao and Sulu, the institution of the metric system and the establishment of a dairy industry.

Meanwhile, Ferdinand Marcos, who announced last June that he was handing over his legislative powers to the IBP, continues to rule by decree. Adding to the embarrassment of the so-called legislative body, he continues to present major policy decisions to the body after the fact for approval, such as the recent trade treaties concluded with Japan and Australia. The "rubber stamp" label is thus unavoidable.

"The conclusion is inescapable that up to this point in time the Batasang Pambansa, as a legislative body, has not really played a major or even significant role," says Pelaez.

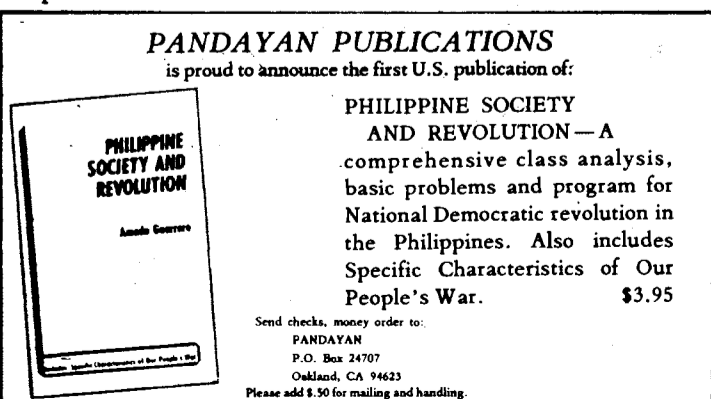
Ruben Canoy of Mindanao, who claims that military intelligence men have been appointed to key posts in the IBP secretariat to keep close watch on its members, is far more direct. The IBP, he says, is "a puppet parliament and democratic facade for an authoritarian regime." □

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# FM "Puts Teeth" Into Anti-Subversion Law



Marcos meets with army officials, speaks of a new "threat" to Philippine stability to justify recent crackdown.

In another attempt to justify the escalating repression against the Filipino people, Pres. Marcos announced last May 21, the existence of grave security threats of mandating the continued existence of martial law. Speaking before the *Batasang Pambansa*, Marcos said that the threats arise from the Mindanao conflict and the Indochina situation. While Marcos did not elaborate on the extent of these supposed threats, IBP members quickly responded with the passage of an amendment adding teeth to the revised Anti-Subversion Law.

The amendment—the apparent objectives of Marcos' "warnings"—defines as subversive those who seek to overthrow the government with or without the assistance of a foreign power. Bill sponsor Davide said that the revised bill did not include groups which seek to incorporate the Philippines into a foreign state.

## PRETEXT FOR REPRESSION

Despite the supposed existence of graver threats to national security, observers believe that Marcos' latest pronouncements are attempts to create a plausible excuse for the regime's increasing use of armed repression against its own citizens. These reprisals have been conspicuously on the rise with the worsening of the economic situation. Anticipating public restiveness over the sudden and steep increase of prices last April (See AK, Vol. VI, No. 11) the regime has resorted to mail-fisted tactics using both repression and deception alike.

## CITY OF MAN — NO LECTRICITY

The following letter to Imelda Marcos, dated Feb. 27, 1979, is reprinted from *Ichthys*, a publication of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines. Signed simply Pedro, Quality Tailor, it expresses in graphic terms the wit and wisdom of the Filipino people and their clear-sighted ability to distinguish the truth from, as Pedro calls it, "hot air." — Editor.

Dear Mrs. First Lady,

I just poor tailor here on Pasig Line in Paco. I don't know why I write you this but I read in paper you are Lady Compassion. Six months ago I invest all my savings which I save for four years and one month in lectric sewing machine. But for past four months there are so many brownouts, I cannot finish all the work I agree to do. I lose much money. Now mu sewing machine too is brokened down cause of on again, out again lectricity.

I know how much you like to build city of man but I wonder if that possible without lights. Then, I think maybe when you say we should use local materials more, you will provide me with spinning wheel and big candles so that I can work when there is no lights, else I'm not able to support my large family, because of no income.

Spot checks are now routinely conducted and arbitrary arrests have been carried out in Manila and neighboring provinces. To deflect attention from the estimated 60 percent inflation rate, the regime has warned the subversives are out to use the economic crisis to whip up popular discontent. At the same time it has launched a red scare campaign against the religious sector, reviving charges against 15 religious who had previously been granted amnesty and maligning Sr. Marianni Dimaranan, head of the Task Force on Detainees.

To justify all these moves, Marcos is now painting a frightening scenario involving groups seeking to annex the Philippines to a foreign power.

Furthermore, the dictator's renewed threats are a tacit admission that the May 7 Mindanao elections was a total fraud and is not expected to improve the peace and order situation in the south. If, as according to the regime's pronouncements, the elections and creation of autonomous regions in the south are to "normalize" the situation, what then is the "grave threat arising from Mindanao?"

If anything, Marcos' attempts to whip up an atmosphere of hysteria are aimed at preparing the public to expect more wanton abuses in the period to come. The regime's double-talk about "moving irretrievably towards normalization" and "relaxing martial law restrictions" of a year ago has suddenly disappeared from New Society rhetoric and sabre rattling has become the order of the day. □

Last night I think of how to make lights when as paper say generators always broken down. First, either mechanics very bad or generators very bad. But maybe both bad.

### USE OF HOT AIR

When I read magazine recently it tells all about making power from wind. There are many ways to do this. I cannot describe all, some very much compicated. When I was young my Lolo once told me about uses of hot air. I think the other night that if all the explanations the Mr. President and Meralco people give to tell us why generators always don't work, was saved up and the air used was breathed on Syden Unit 1 and 2, we would get some lectricity.

My wife, Christina, collect tin cans. She sell gallon cans for 25 centavos each. If you or the Mr. President want to put your hot air in cans for the generators, my wife willing to sell cans in bulk at reduced price. This way we can feed our enlarging family a little even if you do not provide enough air for generators.

Meanwhie my wife Christina and I hope you can succeed in building city of man without lectricity.

Pedro  
Quality Tailor

## FIRING LINE

### Marcos to Esclamado: "THANK YOU"

By VICTORIA LUNA

Ferdinand Marcos at any time can be expected to issue a warm letter of thanks to his dear friend Alex Esclamado for his tremendous aid these last few weeks. To no one's great surprise, the Philippine News Agency (PNA), Marcos' propaganda network, carried a shrieking story about the subversive character of the KDP quoting huge portions of Esclamado's broadside attack published in the *Philippine News* verbatim. The PNS did not have to alter a single syllable in order to sound the proper note of anti-communist hysteria. The shrill Mr. Esclamado had adopted just the right tone for the Marcos press. Congratulations Alex!

Of course the biggest thank you of all goes to Severina Rivera-Drew and Daniel Boone Schirmer who provided the dictator's agent-in-disguise with the ammunition and the excuse for the attack.

\* \* \* \* \*

Members of the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) were amused to hear from Rep. Larry MacDonald (D-Georgia) that they are merely a front organization of the American Friends Service Committee. The astute Mr. MacDonald, whose membership in the John Birch Society is well known, read this astonishing product of diligent research into the Congressional Record.

Even more surprised, however, were the members of the Campaign to Withdraw U.S. Bases from the Philippines, a joint project of the FFP and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition. Their mother organization, says the wise MacDonald, is the National Lawyers Guild and their leader is a Mr. Bill Schaap. Schaap, MacDonald informed the U.S. Congress, is behind the demonstrations calling for the dismantling of the bases. Steve Wake, FFP's chair of the bases campaign is doubled up with laughter.

To Mad Mac, anybody to the left of the John Birch Society is suspect. He even manages in his report on who's who in the anti-Marcos movement to suggest that former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark is a closet communist. Naturally, MacDonald's story is fully reported by the PNA and front-paged by his local newsrag, the *Filipino Reporter*.

\* \* \* \* \*

The truth has finally come out. While Ferdinand Marcos spent the afternoon of May 1, International Workers Day, blustering about his compassion for the hard-pressed workers of the country, he spent his evening using up P100 million of the people's tax monies to dance the evening away in a fairyland designed for his silver anniversary.

Of course 25 years of marital bliss (?) is no small achievement especially when you are married to Imelda. But is it an achievement worth P100 million?

True to all expectations, Imelda produced a bash to end all bashes for her jet set buddies and the lackeys of the New Society. She cleverly disguised her import of decaying European royalty under the pretense of bringing them in to inaugurate the luxury Marbella Club. (See AK, Vol. VI, No. 10). But in spite of warnings from various dignitaries on the impropriety of a conspicuous display of wealth given the country's current economic hardships, Imelda managed a party which would put Cinderella's ball to shame. The silver coach and eight white horses purchased in Austria had to go in the interest of discretion—the party was to be a secret from those who had to pick up the tab. But Malacanang was completely remodeled for the occasion and P1.2 million worth of silverware, porcelain and crystal was imported.

Guests were greeted by four heralds who trumpeted their arrival. They entered into a cathedral setting to find two thrones before them facing an altar behind which they took their seats. At the proper moment, in swept Imelda in her wedding gown and she and Ferdinand renewed their vows.

After a dinner of exotic delicacies, the guests returned to the ballroom for the Rigodon de Honor, Ferdinand swept his beloved Imelda into his arms for their solo anniversary waltz and, as the general dancing began, Imelda found herself waltzing with—could it be the dashing James Bond? Yes, none other than Sean Connery, one of the Beautiful People flown in for the big event. The Couple and their guests danced until dawn. No turning into pumpkins at the stroke of midnight. Once you own 80 percent of a country's wealth, you don't need a fairy godmother.

And so the Filipino people, unbeknownst to them, financed an evening to remember for a couple they would rather forget. How would they feel about it if they knew? Those of us with our feet firmly rooted on the planet earth know perfectly well that their blood would boil. But Imelda, long suspected of dwelling in Never-Never Land, holds a different view.

This was readily apparent in a recent interview where she once again made the fatal mistake of opening her mouth for the record. For her people, she says humbly, "I am a star and a slave." Elaborating on this and at the same time revealing her assessment of the people's intelligence as somewhat just above the moronic, she adds, "When I visit the rural areas, I always wear my best shoes and best dress and try not to have a hair out of place. It inspires them!" No comment.

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## ON THE ANTI-MARTIAL LAW FRONT

Opposing Militarism; Aid to Dictatorships:

# DELLUMS: 'WE NEED A NEW PEACE MOVEMENT'

"Until we get back into the streets, we're going to get wiped out. We need a new peace movement and we need it right now," said Cong. Ron Dellums at a highly successful forum on U.S. military spending and Southeast Asia at Epic West in Berkeley last June 16.

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP), the East Bay and San Francisco Anti-Martial Law Alliances, the International Association of Filipino Patriots, the Southeast Asia Resource Center, the East Bay Women for Peace, and the American Friends Service Committee, the forum contrasted the massive outlays in U.S. military spending with the shrinking expenditures on human needs in the U.S. Speaking with Dellums on the program were Joel Rocamora of the IAFP and Martha Winnacker of the SRC.

### CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS RHETORIC

The event, emceed by Madelaine Ducktes of Women for Peace began with a slide presentation by the FFP which graphically illustrated the role of U.S. bases in the Philippines as springboards for intervention in Asia. Rocamora then spoke on the significance of the new bases agreement.

"In 1977," he commented, "Jimmy Carter came to power in a blaze of human rights rhetoric. This injected a new instability into U.S.-R.P. relations." But it was "a very cynical use of human rights rhetoric. For under this facade was a smoky backroom push and pull. Carter wanted a new trade agreement and a new bases agreement and he began to turn the screws."

"For all the human rights talk," continued Rocamora, "the real screws were economic. The U.S. began to put limits on Philippine borrowing abroad, using its influence with institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. And Marcos capitulated. He agreed to \$1.5 billion in military and economic aid in exchange

for the use of the bases for years."

### IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICANS

He concluded by asking, "What does the agreement mean to the American people?" Drawing parallels to the U.S. decision to support Diem in Vietnam in 1962, he pointed to the probability of escalating U.S. support to Marcos as the New People's Army grows in strength.

"Today," he said, "Americans with sons and daughters, brothers and sisters at U.S. bases in the Philippines look forward to receiving postcards, letters, photographs from their loved ones. Will they one day dread the morning mail as Vietnam-era families did, fearing a cable from the military announcing the death in combat of their sons and daughters? Combat against the Filipino people? Only we can stop that from happening by acting now to end U.S. aid to Marcos."

Winnacker then spoke on Thailand, saying, "The \$40 million in U.S. military aid to the Thai government scheduled for next year doesn't sound like much compared to the \$500 million to Marcos for the bases. But its importance cannot be weighed in cost alone."

"The important thing," she stressed, "is the relationship that has been established between the U.S. and the Thai military government. The foundation of the Thai government is the knowledge that, if it is in trouble, it can go to the U.S. for support. If that support is not forthcoming, the government will crumble."

### GETTING ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF PEACE

Dellums, a member of the House Armed Services Committee concluded the program by placing aid to the dictatorship in the broader context of American military spending. Calling for a "new peace movement to get on with the unfinished business of peace and disarmament," Dellums revealed



Congressman Ron Dellums: "A peace movement is needed now!"

(AK Photo)

that the U.S. may, in the next ten years, spend \$1.8 trillion on the military, \$30 billion of it on the newly announced MX mobile missile.

"This nation is still at war," claimed Dellums, "at war with its own citizens by starving out the human side of our budget, by starving the blacks and the browns and the reds and the yellows and the poor whites and the senior citizens and the unemployed human beings in our country as we continue to spend money to feed an every-increasing, gluttonous, dangerously expanding military budget."

"It's my notion," he said, "that if America explodes, it is not going to explode from a nuclear device from the Soviet Union. It's going to explode from a number of people in this country who feel so desperate because America has denied them their dreams and their hopes and their aspirations. That devastation and that desperation will create a time bomb that will explode in the face of

bigger."

The biggest protest event took place in San Francisco, where the CNFP and the Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Third World held an independent rally at the Federal Building and participated in the celebration of World Environment Day at the Embarcadero Center.

Speaking before 6,000 people at the Embarcadero, David Chatfield of Friends of the Earth (USA) condemned the Westinghouse export as "an irresponsible attempt to pass off a dangerous and second-hand technology to the Third World." Spectators also heard Gov. Jerry Brown of California call for "no nuclear power anywhere in the world."

At the Federal Building rally, 200 demonstrators listened to a number of speakers, including San Francisco Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver, Native American leader Bill Wahpahpah, and Walden Bello of Friends of the Filipino People (FFP).

"One of the cardinal rules of volcanology," Bello asserted, "is that you never know when a dormant volcano is going to come to life. And one of the cardinal rules of common sense is that you never build a reactor on the slope of a volcano. Westinghouse and Marcos have apparently chosen to defy both science and common sense."

He also noted that, "The people at the vanguard of the anti-nuclear

America."

### MILITARISM—CREATING A CLIMATE FOR WAR IN THE THIRD WORLD

Speaking of the rising tide of militarism in the U.S., Dellums referred to recent moves to re-introduce draft registration for 18-year-olds. "Certainly if the United States and the Soviet Union went to war, it would not last over five months. It would be a short nuclear exchange that would devastate the world," he said.

"So what do we need these 18-year-olds for? This is a throwback to the militaristic mentality. It will make it easier for us to send our young men and women off to fight and die in small countries, in tiny nations where we continue to project our power and influence."

Confirming this trend toward preparation for war in another Third World country like Thailand or the Philippines, Dellums spoke of his discussions with top U.S. military officials. In spite of U.S. expenditures of \$65 billion yearly on the NATO alliance, military advisors queried by Dellums put the probability of war in Europe between 0 and 1 on a scale of 0 to 100.

Dellums concluded his talk with a call to revitalize the mass movement of the sixties and early seventies. "You put me in Congress," he said, "but I can't accomplish a damn thing by myself. People need to get back out into the streets. That's where we ended our troop involvement in Vietnam."

What connects the \$30 billion to be spent on the MX missile with the \$1.5 billion to Marcos for the use of the bases and \$40 million in military aid for the Kriangsak regime in Thailand? "U.S. imperialism," answered Rocamora after the program. "The U.S. will protect its imperialist interests no matter what the cost to the peoples of the Third World and to its own citizens." □

## REACTOR CONDEMNED...

(continued from front page)



Bill Wahpahpah (left) and Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver (right) addressed San Francisco rally against R.P. reactor. (AK Photo)

events in Denver; Plymouth, Massachusetts; Madison, Wisconsin; Ohio; Mississippi; Ohio; Adelaide, Australia; Vancouver; and other areas.

Summing up the day, Nicky Perlas, East Coast coordinator of the Cam-

paign for a Nuclear-Free Philippines (CNFP) noted, "It's impressive. Action on this scale is what is needed to put the heat on Marcos and Westinghouse. They should be put on notice that our coming actions will be even

movement in the Philippines are also the people at the head of the human rights movement and the anti-imperialist struggle. Thus the Philippine struggle is not only the cutting edge of the international battle against nuclear power. It is also an important front in the anti-imperialist struggle."

The biggest exporter of nuclear reactors, Westinghouse has been pressing the NRC to grant it a license to export sensitive reactor parts in June. This move has been stymied, however, by a three-month long federal moratorium on the domestic construction of new reactors, which has apparently been extended to U.S. reactor exports. Westinghouse is also facing a petition for intervention in Federal Court filed by Perlas and the Center for Development Policy in Washington, D.C.

The company apparently feels very threatened by a recent study of the International Atomic Energy Agency which reportedly concluded that Mt. Natib, on whose slope the plant is sited, "could explode." If true, this classified report, by an agency which has acquired the reputation of being a nuclear advocate, would only confirm what a variety of anti-nuclear and environmental groups have been saying all along. Among those which have criticized the Westinghouse reactor are Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. □



## FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

New York PND

## VICIOUS TRY TO FOIL CELEBRATION

By THERESE RODRIGUEZ  
KDP New York Chapter Executive

After the last trim of gaily-colored *banderitas* have been taken down and all the congratulations have been said for a job well done, it is worthwhile to reflect on the whole experience to appreciate the many lessons, both positive and negative, which bear relevance not only for the success of future PND celebrations but also on the future of the Filipino community in New York.

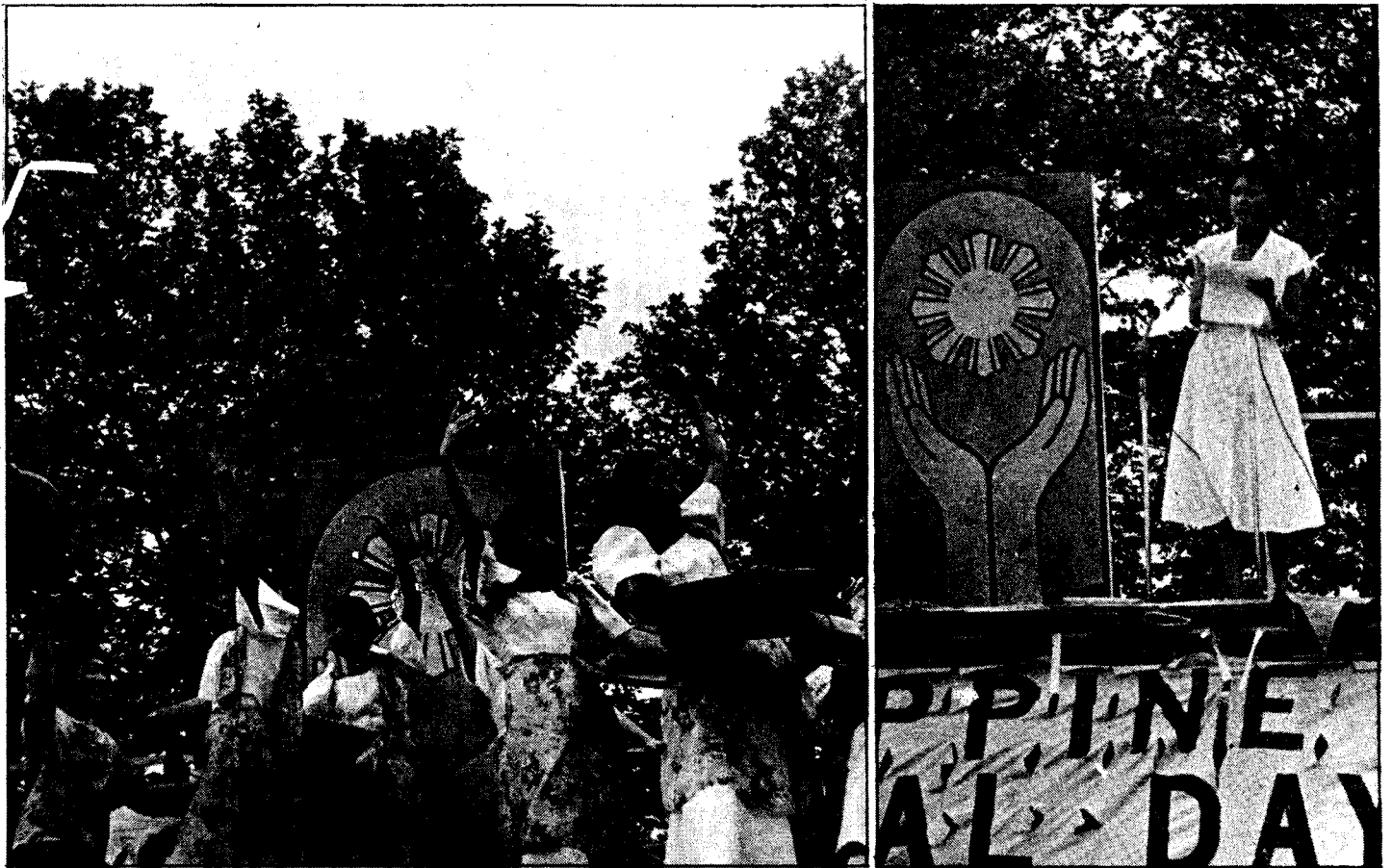
The satisfaction of this year's PND is rather special as its victory is considered much more sweet and precious. For indeed, the success was achieved despite the many malicious attacks, dirty tricks and intrigues sowed by dangerous elements with selfish ambitions in our community.

From as early as February to early June, the PND committee was engaged in a battle to defend and uphold its principles of unity and democratic methods of work against the bigoted, divisive and fascist lies of thinking propagated by Mr. Gonzalo Policarpio. He is president of the United Filipino Organizations, Inc. (UFOI), a Queens-based neighborhood organization.

Just like any other person with opportunistic aims, Policarpio tried to wear many masks in scheming to take over and/or sabotage and divide the PND celebration. As soon as one mask would be torn off by the powerful argumentation of the PNDC, he would quickly run back to his closet of dirty tricks and reappear with another.

In February, Policarpio announced the UFOI's intention to hold a separate celebration in the same site where the PNDC has traditionally held its event. PND organizers quickly met with Policarpio and his forces to convince them against holding such a separate celebration and dividing the community on that special day. Most of the UFOI board members agreed and, in fact, voted to rejoin the PNDC.

It took Policarpio only a few days to run back to his closet and take out his bag of intimidation tricks. Now he went about saying that being a non-political organization, the UFOI could not work with political groups (referring to the KDP and the Anti-Martial Law Alliance). The PNDC then clarified that it is a vessel uniting all



Philippine National Day 1979 was celebrated by thousands of Filipinos in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Seattle, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Hawaii. (AK)

Filipinos in their common pride of their national heritage and their contributions as a minority in the U.S. As such, it welcomes the participation of all groups of different views and orientation, and while there may be political groups (anti-martial law groups) participating in the PNDC, this does not make the entire community political. (The fact of the matter is that there are only two anti-martial law groups among the ten participating in the PNDC.)

## TAKEOVER ATTEMPTS

Like a magician playing tricks, Policarpio quickly pulled out another. Now he played a different part and dropped the "anti-political groups" line. He began to talk about "appeal" and contended that since "non-political groups have more appeal than political groups, would PNDC mind if he could be allowed to become the coordinator and his organization the main sponsor?

This trick failed miserably. Who

was he, what had he done in the past for the PNDC that entitled him to be this year's coordinator? What makes him and his organization any more special than the other groups and organizations who had worked hard with the PNDC in the last three years? What made him think that being non-political he then possessed a monopoly of the "charm and appeal" and therefore, could be more effective in uniting all groups for the day?

The PNDC of course refused, firmly stating that such position of leadership was based on input in the work and nothing else.

But, as they say, desperate people have lots of energy and very little shame. So Policarpio persisted with another line. "All right, we will join, under one condition: 'Do you mind if we delete the word 'national' from the PNDC's name?'" he asked the PNDC.

With a hopeful twitch in his eye that this trick would surely work, Policarpio declared "Because this term is identified with leftists." And in a

hushed voice of one about to reveal a big secret, he said: "Didn't you know that the leftists support the program called national democracy?" Now, according to Policarpio the word "national" belongs to the leftists. It almost seemed like a comedy. Due to his inordinate fear of the leftists, Policarpio would end up striking off every word that the leftists had ever used from his vocabulary.

In spite of the almost frustrating arguments which Policarpio used in justifying his desire to either take over the PNDC or to divide it, the PNDC organizers did not lack determination and patience to frustrate him from his actions. In spite of his dirty tricks which he committed (like his attempts to grab the PNDC park permit by posing as a PNDC representative before the park authorities), the PNDC took a persevering stance and restrained from publicizing the problem.

(continued on page 8)

THOUSANDS ATTEND  
JUNE 12 EVENTS...

(continued from front page)

Aimee Cruz is national coordinator of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) and a member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). She spoke of the implications of her recent harassment from the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS).

Urging the Filipino community to persist fighting for democratic rights in the U.S., Cruz said that the struggle is especially important "in this period of anti-alien revival caused by the fast declining social conditions in this country."

The programme of dances, songs, music, and messages was opened by Mrs. Primitiva Lejarde, an R.N. from Elmhurst General Hospital and a N.Y.C. NAFL-FNG member. Lejarde declared, "... this fourth PND is a

special victory, not only because of the greater number of participants in the celebration but also because your presence... is testimony and confirmation that Filipinos can join hands to work for a common goal, despite our differences or our diversity..."

Even N.Y. Major Edward I. Koch commended the "contributions of the Filipino-American community in the enrichment of the cultural-social-political life of the city." He also acknowledged the "numerous contributions of hardworking and skilled Filipino-Americans in various economic and social services fields." Koch's message was delivered by his aide.

EMPHASIS: THREE WAVES OF  
MIGRATION

San Francisco's PND celebration at

Dolores Park proved to be the only yearly activity that has brought together a wide cross-section of the Filipino population here. An estimated 2,500 people representing first, second and third waves of Filipino immigrants came and stayed throughout the program despite the chilly temperature and the gusty winds that managed to blow a few booths down.

Keynote speaker at the program was Jun Kempis who traced the historical experiences of the three waves of Filipino migration to the U.S. Kempis said that the Filipino's struggle against discrimination and their contributions to the social, political and economic life of the U.S. are threads that run through all three waves.

Wilma Cadorna, member of the KDP in San Francisco, also delivered a message. Responding to Philippine News editor Alex Esclamado's claim that the PND is a "leftist-dominated" activity, Cadorna challenged Esclamado to "roll up his sleeves and do some serious day-to-day work in the com-

munity." Cadorna also introduced what the KDP stands for, what activities it is involved in and who the people in it are.

Like in New York, the pro-Philippine government forces here attempted to mar the PND celebration. The Philippine Consulate slandered the PND as "communist affair." As a result PNDC members sent a delegation to the Consular office to criticize the Consul for his anti-unity position. The delegation was refused an audience, however.

Despite these "divisive attacks from self-interest groups, however, the PND event proceeded uninterrupted," remarked a participant.

Overall, June 12 celebrations across the country were successful, educational and an exhilarating experience. Many more people are now looking forward to the next year's events and are hoping that selfish interests of individuals and groups would be shelved to achieve stronger unity amongst Filipinos. □

# The Filipino Community Of Chicago

This is the second of a two-series article on the Filipino community of Chicago—Editor.

One of the community's most unsettling experiences is the plight of Filipino nurses under the H-1 visa. Recruited by contractors eager to make a fast buck, H-1 nurses find, upon their arrival here, that their dream had become a nightmare. No sooner have they signed up for a job, (i.e., if they are lucky to reach that far) than they find the licensure examination dangling like a Damocles sword over their head. Once they fail the examination, as they often do, given the nature of the examination that is insensitive to the particular needs of foreign graduates and newcomers, their legal status ends and they become open to deportation. Indeed, many nurses were targeted for deportation during the past year alone. Without legal status, H-1 nurses become vulnerable to harassment, intimidation, and blatant exploitation. They lose their position, if not their self-respect, and receive minimum wages for the most back-breaking jobs. Thanks to the effort of the National Alliance for Fair Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates and the nurses themselves as well as their supporters, such deportations have been temporarily halted while the basic discriminatory nature of the licensure examination is being questioned and scrutinized.

## FILIPINOS HOLD GROUND

In all these attacks the Filipino community has stood firm. From the farmlands of Hawaii and California to



The Filipinos in Chicago have come to realize the necessity of organizing against the discrimination they face as minorities in this country. One visible expression of this organizing trend is the Chicago NAFL-FNG. (AK Photo)

the massacre at Watsonville to the street demonstrations against the Bakke case to the hospital strikes to the Filipino ghettos in Chicago of earlier years, the Filipinos have fought hard and stood their ground.

Although this fine tradition of the Filipino community tended to be eroded with the emergence of new social forces in recent years, there has been a noticeable trend, though relatively weak, to turn away from pretentious activities and revive this tradition by being concerned with the most basic issues facing this community. The inspiring participation of Filipinos in the record-breaking strike at Cook County Hospital set a new tone for the community. Also, new organizations have emerged dealing with such concrete needs as childcare,

assistance for new arrivals, job referrals, defense against arbitrary job dismissals and support for victims of racial, national and sex discrimination. Despite the intimidating effect of martial law in the Philippines and its extension here, national organizations have been formed which are committed to support those who have been denied human rights.

The diverse forces in the community, however, still have the upper hand. Even the celebration of the Filipino National Day is divided. The Philippine Consulate, for example, maintains an exclusive political celebration through the Philippine Week Committee which seeks to promote martial law in the community by adopting and propagating its slogan, "Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa." The

theme essentially means thought control. This committee, therefore, polarizes the community by drawing into it the pro-martial law elements in the community who subscribe to thought control and excluding those who uphold democratic principles. The format of activities such as expensive balls further limits the participation of the community. On the other hand, the Filipino National Day Committee offers an alternative celebration by adopting a popular format such as a barrio fiesta and picnic and emphasizing the democratic participation of the entire community regardless of political beliefs.

## THE ROAD TOWARD UNITY

It is the experience of working together around basic issues which lays the foundation for the kind of unity we would need once the economic crisis forces us once again into the role of scapegoats. Each struggle for basic human needs or human rights is a contribution towards genuine unity; one that is much deeper than social ties alone.

The work around the Narciso and Perez case, H-1 nurses, foreign medical graduates, and support for those deprived of human rights has now even planted the seed of unity at the national level. The accumulated experiences in the campaigns around these issues have broken the barriers imposed by regionalism, sectoralism and other divisive forces in the community. While the divisive forces still dominate the community, every working relationship we forge erodes their backward influences. □

## ERRATA

Last issue we failed to credit *Pinoy Magazine* of Chicago for using their photo. We apologize to the *Pinoy Magazine* staff for the oversight—Editor.

## Talks Begin Between PACE, City

HONOLULU — PACE (People Against Chinatown Evictions) and Chinatown resident representatives have finally begun negotiations with the City of Honolulu.

PACE waited almost three months for the meetings, promised by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The agenda for the negotiations has included proposals to resolve several controversial eviction cases, some with pending court cases.

Supporters from various community groups, church and labor, first met with DHCD head, Barry Chung, to press for the long-awaited negotiations. Soon afterwards, on June 1, the first of several tentative meetings was held.

Apparently, the City, after stalling on negotiations for some months, feels pressed to resolve the disputes because of contract deadlines with developers. DHCD has repeatedly been forced to delay its projected timetable for demolition and construction in the Chinatown redevelopment area. The residents, mainly elderly Filipinos, have largely refused to move from buildings targeted for demolition, because there was no adequate relocation housing in Chinatown.

Some buildings have been in dispute for over four years.

In the negotiations, PACE and residents are seeking relocation housing for people at 4-A N. Hotel St. and 1189 River St. "4-A" is privately-

## Attempt to stop PND event...

(continued from page 7)

However, Policarpio proceeded with his own celebration, and himself announced it in the newspapers by attacking the PNDC as "dominated by leftists" and referring to PND as "the celebration of the anti-Marcos forces." This particular press release told the whole story. All his previous "reservations" were in fact sly cover for his real game, that is, to exclude anti-martial law groups and the leftists from joining and celebrating the Filipino heritage.

## PRO-MARCOS TIES

Consequent press releases did not hesitate to reveal his ties, boldly announcing a line-up of performers all known to be serving the New Society. It is clear, therefore, that for all his protestations to be non-political, his celebration was far from being such. It was highly political—only that he was on the other side (pro-Marcos).

As far as PNDC was concerned, unity for the PND should and could include pro- and anti-martial law forces. The problem has been that the

owned, was already partially demolished by its landlord in an attempt to force the residents to move. "1189," city-owned, is slated for demolition to make way for construction of low-income housing units.

Other PACE demands focus on rehabilitation of some structures for low-income housing, guarantees for rent levels, and priority guidelines for people to move into the new housing.

While negotiations continue, PACE is continuing preparations for court cases and its mid-July 4th anniversary celebration. □

pro-martial law forces have not been willing to join together with the anti-Marcos forces even just on one day of the year.

Events in the following week made the picture clearer. In early June, an editorial was devoted by the *Filipino Reporter* in an unabashed defense of Policarpio. After weeks of reservations when it chose to maintain a posture of subtle support, (for example, giving Policarpio's releases more prominence or by printing PND photos alongside Policarpio's releases), the *Filipino Reporter* editorial showed that it was no longer content with subtle support. It decided to extend its passionate and unequivocal support for Policarpio.

Now the pattern was complete. It was clear that Policarpio was not acting alone and that is why he persisted with such dogged determination— not because he was blessed with personal qualities of perseverance and courage but simply because he has a sword—the *Filipino Reporter* and the Philippine Consulate backing him.

The collusion between the *Filipino Reporter* and Policarpio was finally confirmed in their last ditch to delete every reference to KDP's and AMLA's participation in the PNDC. By doing so they had merely contradicted themselves by making it appear that political groups were completely absent from the event. But weren't they the ones who decried "leftist domination" in the PNDC?

## LESSONS

To the KDP, Policarpio's scheme was transparent right from the start. We were confident that every time he attacked the KDP, he was only tight-

ening the noose around his own neck. Of course, the cutting edge was the turnout at the event itself. The huge attendance at the PND event attested to his stinging defeat.

But as we move ahead, looking forward to bigger and better PND celebrations, we certainly learned and gained a lot from the Policarpio experience. First, he increased our confidence in people's capacity to fearlessly participate in controversies and to stand on the side of democratic ideals. It has once again been proven that only fascists are intolerant of controversies, debates and democratic defense.

Second, through Policarpio's practice we have been given a rare opportunity to witness the makings of an opportunist—one who, due to inordinate greed for the limelight, would not stop at anything to further his personal ambitions. We are certain that any future exposures and rejections of future Policarpios in our community, those who place their interests above that of the community will have to face the wrath of the community.

Thirdly, we have gained even more confidence that the community will not easily succumb to intimidation nor allow the repressive tactics of the Philippine government to divide our community here. By supporting Policarpio, the Philippine government has once more showed its fear of the people and its disregard of democratic processes.

Lastly, we are pleased to see the failure of the Philippine government's efforts to portray "leftists" or anti-martial law groups as lepers who should be isolated and ostracized. Our community has grown in rejecting this and reasserting its recognition of the legitimate and constructive role which progressive forces always tried to fulfill. □



## DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## DC-10 Tragedy

## Gov't, Airlines Put Profits Over Safety

Adapted from THE GUARDIAN

In the wake of continued revelations of safety defects in DC-10 jumbo jets, the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) reluctantly grounded all 130 DC-10s flying domestic routes June 5, pending an investigation into the cause of the worst U.S. aviation disaster. The crash, which claimed 275 lives, involved an American Airlines' DC-10 jet departing from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport May 25.

Federal District Judge Audry Robinson ordered the historic grounding of the jets at the request of the Airline Passengers Association, despite opposition in court not only from McDonnell Douglas Corp., manufacturers of the DC-10 jet, but also from FAA representatives.

A day earlier, FAA officials, who are responsible for the regulations governing airplane design, maintenance and safety, hesitantly ordered the third round of inspections of the DC-10 since the Chicago crash. As with the two previous rounds, the agency stopped short of issuing the mandatory grounding order. The FAA only ordered the grounding of 20 domestic DC-10s which had engine mounts removed or reinstalled during emergency inspections a week earlier, as it sought to verify whether a questionable maintenance procedure contributed to the Chicago catastrophe.

The agency still opted for selective plane grounding even as the second round of inspections had already revealed possible design flaws in the engine mounts, and FAA officials



Grounded DC-10 jets: How much government and industry collusion to insure airline profits over passenger safety?

themselves had reported "serious to minor" defects on 68 of the 138 domestic DC-10s. The second series of inspections came about only after a mechanic had refused to follow the initial company and government speculation of a possible inspection and maintenance oversight by ground crews. But more importantly, the discovery of the crack in the engine mount clearly pointed to the wide-body jet's basically flawed design.

Until then, both company and government officials were attributing the tragedy's cause to everything and everyone else but themselves. The FAA's strange behavior in the aftermath of the Chicago tragedy, however, strengthens the conviction that its officials, like those in other government regulatory agencies, have developed a "buddy" relationship with

the very companies whose operations they are charged with supervising.

Thus, in 1972, when a door on a DC-10 popped open resulting in the plane cabin's decompression, the FAA reached a "gentlemen's agreement" with McDonnell Douglas whereby the corporation would "voluntarily" carry out the necessary structural adjustments in the plane's design. A year later, 18 DC-10s were still flying without the recommended modifications.

In 1974, a cargo door on a Turkish Airlines' DC-10 blew open, decompressing the cabin floor. This time, the mishap resulted in the world's worst disaster in which 346 people lost their lives. Even at this point, as *Newsweek* noted two weeks ago, "The FAA was still gently pestering McDonnell Douglas to run

studies on the cabin floor when the Turkish jet went down (outside Paris, France)." A congressional subcommittee looking into the matter at that time had to admit that the FAA's actions indicated, "sluggishness which at times approaches... indifference to public safety."

The DC-10's long unheeded history of accidents and near-accidents further confirms FAA collusion with aviation corporate interests. Even from the beginning, many experts had already expressed apprehensions over the DC-10's design deficiencies, some of which later resulted in disasters. Despite the obvious safety hazards, the FAA certified the DC-10 through a process which Capt. John J. O'Donnell, president of the Airline Pilots Association called a "sham."

The agency's decision thus boosted McDonnell Douglas' abiding interest in cutting costs and paved the way for its billion-dollar DC-10 investment to become a huge commercial success. Each DC-10 sold for \$40 million, and 138 of them became operational here in the U.S. and more than that in use by airlines elsewhere.

To what extent the size of this investment affected the FAA's judgment of the DC-10's continued viability is a question only McDonnell Douglas Corp.'s board of directors and FAA officials themselves can answer. In the meantime, it remains to be seen whether the current investigations go beyond the technical questions involved and begin to probe the social causes of this tragedy, and uncover the whole story of federal protection of corporate profits. □

## Crisis Is U.S.-Made

## How Big Oil Saps Your Energy

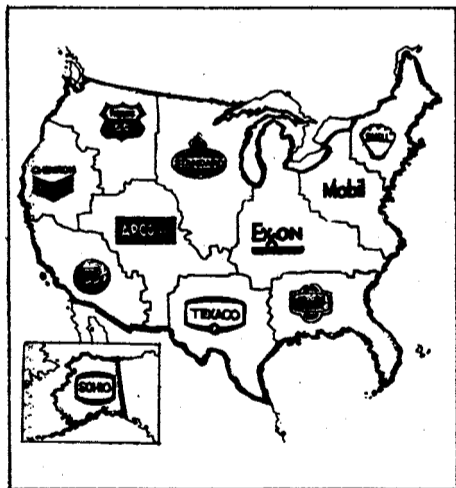
By GLORIA JACOBS  
(Abridged from SEVEN DAYS)

The cutback of Iranian oil — and the angry revolt of the people — have been blamed for the "world oil crisis," high prices and the gasoline shortage in America. As gas lines lengthen in California and diesel shortages sideline tractors during the planting season, the indictments increase: Those "Shifty Arabs" are once again conspiring against the American way of life.

"The main reason for the fuel crunch is OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries)," says the hard-nosed *New York Times* editorial. "The international oil companies, the popular villains, are in fact no more than middlemen; they have been forced to limit deliveries."

The *Times* failed to remember that OPEC nations made up the difference when Iran's five million barrels a day (bbd) ceased to flow. Saudi Arabia dutifully began pumping an additional one million bbd for the first months of this year. Venezuela, Kuwait, Iraq, Abu Dhabi and Nigeria also pumped more oil to cover Iranian losses on the world market. Once Iran began producing again these countries cut back, having realized, along with Iran, that oil is worth more in the ground than on the market.

Nevertheless, North Sea, Alaska, and domestic U.S. production have all increased, bringing world petroleum supplies up during the first quarter,



not down. If the oil was being produced, where is it? A careful reading of the Department of Energy's own reports indicates that much of it is right here in the United States.

According to the DOE "Petroleum Demand Watch," from mid-January to mid-February imports were up 9.4 percent over the same time last year and domestic demand for petroleum stayed at the same level it had been in January/February 1978. So there was more oil for the same amount of consumption. For every four-week period after that, to the end of April, the figures were about the same — oil imports were consistently up over the last year. There was a drop in imports during the middle of April, but taken all together, oil supplies, both domestic and imported, were up this year and consumption was down by

700,000 bbd.

"The DOE explains the increase in imports by saying that 1978 supplies were lower than normal," says Kathy Segerson, also of the Energy and Power subcommittee. "They don't think it's a valid benchmark year." Valid or not, consumption is down, there's more oil coming to the U.S. this year than last — and there were no oil shortages last year.

DOE secretary James Schlesinger played a crucial role in keeping the industry's bag of tricks full: One of his favorite sleights of hand involved telling the truth, but implying the opposite. Appearing before the Senate Energy Committee in March, he said that demand had reached an all-time high and inventories had fallen drastically. According to DOE's figures, demand was not up. One can only assume that it was the oil companies' demand for more oil that was rising like hot air.

Next Schlesinger stood up and told Americans we had better stockpile more oil in case another Iran erupted elsewhere in the world. Then he said heating-oil supplies were low (which is normal for the end of winter) and we had better stockpile more. "Schlesinger had certain policy ideas in mind when he kept telling us there was a shortage," asserts the House Committee's Peter Stockton diplomatically. Oil price decontrol followed close behind the secretary's March appearance in the Senate.

By now, we've all heard the dreary figures on what decontrol will cost us:

\$20-30 billion a year by September 1981 when the entire domestic oil industry is freed from controls. Old oil, which normally costs less, will be transformed during the intervening years by the government's magic wand into "new oil" — the only new thing about it being the higher prices. If decontrol passes Congress — which it will, windfall profits tax or not — prices for domestically produced oil will start to climb. Cynics are saying that there'll be plenty of gasoline in California in June. That might be, but nobody knows for sure, because the only people with real figures are the oil companies.

It's true that production of gasoline, the only petroleum product not being stockpiled openly, is down slightly, but there's more than the 80 percent allocations some companies are doling out to dealers. It's gas-owners who must frequently predict, as one owner told the *Wall Street Journal*, "There'll be plenty of gas when the price goes up high enough to suit."

Gasoline at the right price is one thing; more domestic oil to "break our dependence" on OPEC is another. Nobody knows what oil can be found, except possibly the industry, which, once again, isn't telling. But, "it doesn't matter whether there's oil to be found or not," insists Michael Tanzer, an energy expert; there is no guarantee that companies will put their increased profits into expanded production, since they invest in business ventures that generally bring the

(continued on back page)

## Controversy Surrounds Rhodesia Policy

# Congress, White House Disagree On Sanctions

Will the U.S. lift sanctions against Rhodesia?

For the time being, U.S. policy makers have opted to maintain the embargo. For the Carter administration, the political risks of breaching international opinion and recognizing the newly installed Muzorewa regime outweigh any possible benefits.

This is not to say that the administration is not seeking other avenues to bolster the illegal Rhodesian regime, for Washington has taken steps towards this end. But for the decisive step of establishing normal state to state ties, the attitude of the White House has been, "Let's not be the first ones, please."

The question of lifting U.S. sanctions has thus become one of when and how, rather than if, the sanctions are to be lifted. This is at the heart of the present controversy between Carter, who is again wrapping himself in a human rights veil, refusing to lift sanctions, and an increasingly restive and right-wing U.S. Congress.

The mood of the U.S. Congress has been one which calls for the immediate recognition of the Muzorewa-Smith regime and a simultaneous lifting of the economic embargo. This is the significance of last month's "sense of the Senate" vote which called on Pres. Carter to lift sanctions by an overwhelming 75 to 19 vote. This sentiment was echoed June 12 when the Senate passed an amendment on a \$40 billion defense authorization bill calling for an end to the embargo by a vote of 52 to 41. The increasingly conservative mood of the country, and with it a conspicuous rise in anti-communist and U.S. chauvinist sentiment, has been accurately reflected in the recent Senate votes.

The interests of the Carter administration, however, are notably at odds with the immediate mood of Congress. Attempting to preserve the overall interests of U.S. foreign and domestic policies synonymous with U.S. political and economic hegemony, the Carter administration is worried by the following factors if sanctions were immediately lifted:

**Political isolation** — So far only the racist apartheid regime of South Africa has recognized the government of Abel Muzorewa and the white-minority leader Ian Smith. Even Britain, headed by conservative Margaret Thatcher, has taken a more cautious stance towards recognizing the new regime. Britain's moves are crucial in U.S. policy maneuvers since that country is still seen as having



Abel Muzorewa, appeals for U.S. support. Rightwing pressure in Congress wants sanctions lifted. (UPI)

legal authority over Rhodesia by the United Nations.

More importantly, the whole of black Africa is united in its denunciation of the Muzorewa-Smith regime. Tanzania, a member of the frontline states bordering Rhodesia, declared that any country establishing ties with the new regime "will be declaring war against independent Africa." In addition, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has consistently supported the Patriotic Front guerrillas in the battle to topple the white-minority regime.

**Economic dislocations** — U.S. economic interest will not be affected as much as Britain's, where a 35-member Commonwealth threaten London's vows to recognize the new regime. However, the U.S. still has substantial economic interests that will cause dislocations to the U.S. economy if recognition were extended at this time. One of the most important considerations entail the country of Nigeria, the second largest supplier of U.S. oil imports, accounting for 30 percent of U.S. foreign crude intake. Valued for its low-sulfur content, an embargo of Nigerian oil would aggravate the existing oil situation in the U.S.

**Domestic political ramifications** — While the U.S. Congress continues a rightward drift, black America is unanimous in its denunciation of the Muzorewa-Smith regime. The Congressional Black Caucus, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the National Bar Association have all urged Carter not to recognize the new regime, calling instead for a maintenance of the embargo.

The Patriotic Front has also gained support among black leaders and intellectuals. One of the Front's leaders, Joshua Nkomo, spoke at Atlanta's Morehouse College May 20, receiving an honorary law degree. In addition, Atlanta's mayor Maynard Jackson rallied community support for the Front, collecting some \$4,000 in donations for Nkomo.

Carter, not unaware that the black vote has always been crucial for the democrat party's electoral strategy, has been careful in weighing his Rhodesian policy with this factor in mind.

**Larger foreign policy implications** — Aside from a unanimous condemnation from black Africa, U.S. recognition of the Muzorewa-Smith regime would entail the potential of U.S. military involvement in a protracted war to maintain the new regime. Such a military confrontation, with an isolated and unpopular Muzorewa-Smith government on the one side, with its South African and U.S. backers, and the Patriotic Front, with the OAU and the potential of the Soviet Union and Cuba on the other side, is not relished by Washington's policy makers at this time.

Instead, the Carter administration has urged against a "premature" lifting of the sanctions by the U.S., banking on Britain to make the first moves towards recognition. The Thatcher strategy, one called "creeping recognition" by a BBC journalist, entails a gradual lifting of sanctions. The first step, the recent arrival of a permanent British representative to Salisbury, has already been taken and will soon be followed by moves in the financial, economic and military arenas, with final legalization taking place in Britain's parliament.

Such a scenario is one that the Carter administration is opting for. The present day decision of Washington to oppose the lifting of sanctions would then give way towards lifting the embargo at a later date. As Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said, "premature" actions to lift sanctions would be harmful. Obviously, the White House is carefully weighing the pros and cons of such a policy in the best interests of maintaining U.S. political and economic interests worldwide. □

## Uprisings Hit El Salvador Military

Twenty-five militants of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (B.P.R. — Bloque) of El Salvador triumphantly ended their occupation of the French and Venezuelan embassies in the capital of San Salvador, and subsequently released the six persons in their custody, including the French Ambassador, June 1 after being granted safe conduct passes to Mexico. The action, which terminated a month-long series of dramatic embassy and church occupations, came nine days after the imposition of a state of siege (martial law) in the country.

President General Carlos Humberto Romero declared a state of siege May 23 in a desperate response to the spectacular mass actions spearheaded by the 30,000-member Bloque and other opposition groups in the last few weeks. These actions have focused international attention on this small Central American country neighboring Nicaragua.

Despite the state-of-siege measure, however, popular forces in El Salvador remain undaunted and determined to resist General Romero's all-out effort to crush the growing nationwide opposition to his U.S.-backed government. On the day following the state-of-siege declaration, about 7,000 residents of San Salvador defiantly rallied in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral and marched to the city cemetery to bury seven of 14

victims of a police massacre two days earlier. These 14 were slain and 20 more wounded as police opened fire on a gathering of 150 demonstrators near the Venezuelan embassy in support of Bloque members occupying it.

The people's insurrection now brewing in El Salvador began May 4 when members of Bloque — the largest and most broad-based opposition grouping of peasant, labor, teacher, student, and slumdweller associations — took over the French and Costa Rican embassies in San Salvador. The occupiers, some of them armed, demanded an end to government repression, an international inquiry into human rights violations, and the release of five of their leaders arrested shortly before May 1, International Labor Day.

Caught by surprise by the peaceful embassy takeovers which received critical backing from the country's Catholic archbishop Oscar Romero (no relation to the general), the Salvadorean government released two, but exiled them to Costa Rica. Bloque militants then seized the Venezuelan embassy and demanded the release of the three others and the repatriation of the two.

Unwilling to grant any of these demands, the Romero regime delivered what the May 21st issue of Time magazine described as "a brutal reply" four days later. "Columns of heavily armed national police . . . cut

loose with automatic rifles, firing volley after volley into the crowd" of 300 people in front of San Salvador's main cathedral. They were demonstrating in support of 35 Bloque members also occupying the church. The shooting, which eyewitnesses say was unprovoked, killed 23 persons and injured 40 more.

The May 8th massacre drew sympathetic worldwide news coverage as many foreign correspondents were present to witness the tragedy. Millions of Americans viewed the carnage taking place in El Salvador on CBS news.

The incident, however, was not unprecedented, for government security forces had, on other occasions, gunned down unarmed protesters since General Romero's fraudulent election in March 1977. But because the five-year-old Bloque displayed a remarkable ability to withstand the mounting government terrorism, this time it could no longer be ignored. General Romero's murderous assaults, and the loss and arrest of more than 300 members, failed to hold back Bloque militants from occupying three more churches and four schools; and 15 labor unions and teachers from holding sympathy strikes.

The massacre at the cathedral was met by a more forceful rejoinder from the people's movement. More than 20,000 people poured into San Salvador's streets May 9 in anger and grief over their fallen comrades. But at the same time, the angry mourners vowed, "The people will not fall before tanks and machine guns."

The armed opposition groups, likewise, retaliated. On the same day, members of the Popular Liberation Forces (F.P.L.), one of three guerrilla groups operating in the country, expressed their solidarity with the Bloque by attacking the town of Tecoluca, inflicting three enemy casualties.

Eight days later, F.P.L. guerrillas staged two more attacks. One F.P.L. band struck at a government outpost near Lake Suchitlan, 50 miles north of San Salvador, wiping out three marines. Another band engaged two policemen in downtown San Salvador, and shot them down.

Finally, on the day General Romero imposed the state of siege, F.P.L. fighters ambushed and killed Education Minister Carlos Antonio Herrera Rebollo, one of Romero's cabinet members, in response to the May 22nd massacre.

As the country undergoes the most repressive period it has ever known in 50 years of U.S.-supported military rule, the F.P.L., the Armed Forces of National Liberation (F.A.R.N.) and the smaller People's Revolutionary Army, are all determinedly escalating such retaliatory actions. The growing revolutionary fervor sweeping El Salvador is depicted by Bloque's Secretary-General Facundon Guardado in the following terms: "At this point, to say 'I am hungry' is a crime in our country; it is a crime to organize in demand for a 25-cent raise in salary. What alternative is left for the people? Confronting the enemy, through a strategy of combat: the prolonged people's war." □



## Managua Besieged

## Sandinistas Launch Final Offensive

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has launched its "final offensive" against the tottering 42-year-old Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua. FSLN guerrilla forces have successfully put Somoza's National Guard on the defensive, and are steadily gaining ground throughout the country, contrary to reports circulated in the U.S. press by the Somoza regime. The Sandinistas are holding onto a significant number of major cities, including Leon, the second largest, while National Guard morale is reportedly plummeting despite an eleventh-hour promotion of 750 soldiers and a general mobilization of reserve units.

The military offensive now besieging the U.S.-backed Somoza government was accompanied June 4 by a general work stoppage which the Sandinistas expect to culminate eventually in a popular insurrection. Reports from the capital of Managua show that the closure of department stores and businesses in support of the FSLN has transformed the city into a "ghost town." On June 5, the red and white Sandinista flags began fluttering throughout the city. Over the next few days, high-level government functionaries, diplomatic missions and American residents proceeded to flee the country.

The Sandinistas, supported by the overwhelming majority of Nicaraguans, have declared that they will continue to fight until Somoza steps down, the National Guard and his liberal Party are dismantled, and all his properties are returned to the people. The FSLN has also vowed not to stop at anything short of the granting of free elections and the protection of full democratic rights under a broad-based, patriotic provisional government.

The offensive commenced May 28 when some 300 Sandinistas attacked the provincial capital of Rivas, some 100 miles south of Managua and close to the Costa Rican border. Most of the city quickly fell into FSLN hands, and the fighting has since spread to Masaya, Leon, Chinandega, Esteli, Jinope, and Managua. The heavily-



Sandinista guerrilla in the streets of Managua takes aim at National Guard troops in recent popular uprisings. (UPI)

armed guerrillas then seized control of the towns of Waspan, Bonanza and Suina, all adjacent to the Honduran border, while Puerto Cabezas along the Atlantic coast was also under attack. Urban militias and people's brigades succeeded in overrunning Leon June 5, holing up the National Guard in its garrison and subjection it to heavy gunfire. In Managua, FSLN militias inflicted heavy casualties on Somoza's troops, particularly in fighting in the urban poor districts of the city's southern outskirts.

The resounding Sandinista success sharply contrasts with last year's largely spontaneous two-week uprising. This time, the FSLN's better-armed guerrillas and their sophisticated and well-organized tactical maneuvers prove too much for the National Guard to handle. By controlling the highways, guerrilla units have pinned down National Guard units in the countryside, while urban militias, brigades and neighborhood civil defense committees have mobilized the people to stockpile food, water and medicine in preparation for the insurrection over the next few weeks.

Eventually, the National Guard may not be able to hold out this sustained military offensive any more than the nation's economy can withstand the accompanying general strike. Thus, "The combination of the combined

pressure of the military units in the rural areas with the uprising in the city," predicted Tomas Borge, a leading Sandinista, "will mark the ending point for the Somoza journey."

In a last-ditch effort to save his regime from imminent demise, Somoza has thrown all his crack units supported by tanks, planes and offshore shelling on a counteroffensive. He has now resorted to napping the positions held by the FSLN and its supporters. Somoza has also desperately sought international, principally U.S., support. He has dispatched his son to appeal for more arms and ammunition from the U.S. and to purchase ten planes. The dictator has also recruited an estimated 2,500 Honduran, Salvadorean, right-wing Vietnamese, and Guatemalan mercenaries to replenish the ranks of the severely battered National Guard. He has, moreover, received a generous shipment of additional military supplies from neighboring El Salvador.

Furthermore, Somoza has attempted to further "internationalize" the civil war by calling on the U.S.-controlled Organization of American States (OAS) to send "peacekeeping" troops in light of the "guerrilla invasion from Costa Rica." Although many Latin American dictatorships would naturally sympathize with Somoza and view Nicaragua as the cutting edge in "the battle against

international communism," the bourgeois democratic regimes in Venezuela, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica would rather concede the obvious fact that the FSLN enjoys the Nicaraguan people's overwhelming support.

These conservative, anti-Somoza Latin American states seem to agree with financial sectors of the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie closely tied with U.S. capital that Somoza must go, but not at the expense of dismantling the U.S.-built military apparatus and allowing the FSLN to assume a dominant role in the new government. In their view, fueling the antagonism does not prevent the FSLN from strengthening its nationalist posture among the people. On the contrary, it would further radicalize the mass movement in Nicaragua.

But given the restive situation throughout Central America and the lack of receptiveness among the masses for an "anti-Somoza, pro-U.S." third force in the country, the U.S. has chosen to back Somoza quietly and opt for a quick military solution to the present crisis. Whether the Carter administration would still be receptive to pressure from oil-rich Venezuela and Mexico as well as congressional liberals such as Sen. Edward Kennedy remains to be demonstrated. Nevertheless, in the administration's eyes, an FSLN victory or the likelihood of it would spark international reactionary retaliation to neutralize the popular forces and provide a new government with a military force under U.S. control. However, even if Somoza would make it through the present crisis, he would still be replaced with a less tainted pro-U.S. figure who could provide political security and international support.

Thus, as the FSLN draws close to toppling Somoza, new uncertainties, particularly the grave threat of U.S. intervention, stands between them and victory. The next few weeks will be key to the advance of the struggle not only in Nicaragua but also the Central American region as a whole. □

## EDITORIAL...

(continued from page 3)

Pineda, "Of course, there is nothing illegal that may be ascribed to [the KDP] group. No subversion charges or anything like that could be pinned on them." Now we ask—are these not the words of a potential "informant?" Would we not expect Pineda to be among the "collaborators" who would cooperate with fascist authorities, first opportunity he gets, in order to place KDP leaders behind bars? Scratch any anti-communist diehard and you'll find a fascist!

Sooner or later all active and progressive forces are confronted with anti-communist red-baiting campaigns. They are the favorite reactionary tactic used to split and weaken the people's movement. People who themselves, for various religious and philosophical reasons, are not Marxists must learn to see through to the real motives of those who attempt to launch such anti-communist hysteria. Esclamado is an excellent case in point, he strikes out wildly at everything progressive in the community which the KDP might have anything to do with. And yet it is clear, he has neither the intention nor the capacity to replace the role which the revolutionary activists are playing. Such anti-communist diehards are reactionary to the core and should not be allowed to disguise themselves as "progressives."

Anti-communist hysteria contains the seeds of fascism in that it would deprive the left of its democratic rights politically. This is done through attempting to intimidate the revolutionary left into accepting some type of second class citizenship and by attempting to depict Marxism and socialism as some type of "illegitimate" ideas which are somehow "un-American" or "un-Filipino" by nature. In such an irrational atmosphere of fear, fools like Alex Esclamado would be allowed to pontificate that "I am an anti-communist" (PN, 6/9-15/79) and a staunch

defender of the capitalist "free enterprise" system (PN 6/16-22/79). But the KDP could not freely respond—You're crazy, capitalism stinks!

All progressive and democratic-minded people have a responsibility to help beat back such red-baiting campaigns. The KDP on our part, will insist upon our democratic rights and we will refuse to accept second-class citizenship within the Filipino community. Since our formation in 1973 our organization has grown steadily. To the point that today there is a distinct left-wing in the Filipino community in America represented principally by the KDP. Our activists are in the midst of various Filipino communities; our newspaper is distributed widely throughout the country; the KDP is already one of the largest and probably the strongest national organization in the Filipino community. This is a development which even our bitterest political adversaries must begrudgingly admit. Therefore, reactionaries like Esclamado are free to disagree with us, but they cannot terrorize or intimidate us out of existence. We are here to stay!

In fact, we are confident in the long run it is not the KDP, but self-serving "politicians" like Esclamado who will face isolation. In six short years, the KDP has already made substantial contributions to the political transformation of the Filipino community in America. For example, Marcos does not feel "at home" here. It is the left which has taken the lead in organizing the sympathies of Filipinos abroad to support the struggle against the dictatorship. Here in the U.S., the Filipino community is also gaining a new reputation as a relatively well-organized, well-informed and militant community in defense of its democratic rights as a minority and as a part of the working class. These progressive development can not be separate from the organizing initiatives and efforts of the KDP. It is only the reactionaries and opportunists who need to fear the political and organizational strength of the KDP. We

are confident that in the years to come more and more Filipino people will instead come to rely upon it and appreciate it.

From KDP's point of view, people we work with are free to disagree with us and criticize us when we make mistakes in our work. But this type of interaction is qualitatively different from what Esclamado is engaged in presently. He has launched a vicious and broadside attack against the KDP, all of our work, and everything we stand for—we must respond accordingly. In making his decision to attack us, he underestimated the confidence we have in our politics, our organization and our ties among the people. Esclamado and other reactionaries should draw the proper lessons for the future. The KDP has shown its capacity to stand up to the Marcos dictatorship and to U.S. government authorities, which are truly powerful adversaries. In comparison, Esclamado is merely a dog with a loud bark, but not much bite.

Lastly, a word of advice to Esclamado and his cronies: You cannot expect to launch such a broadside and hysterical attack against the KDP and still seriously be considered a "progressive." You cannot call for "unity and cooperation" one day and the next launch a vicious red-baiting campaign and still expect to be taken for anything other than a hypocrite.

It is not the KDP who provoked this open fight with Esclamado. And on a number of issues we are prepared to cooperate and work jointly with forces who are to the right of us politically (i.e., in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship). However to do so, our political and ideological differences must be handled in a principled manner and such vicious red-baiting campaigns cannot be tolerated. In short gentlemen, we are prepared to cooperate on a number of issues in spite of our differences, but first you must learn to behave yourselves in a more responsible manner politically. □



# Military Launches Repression Drive in Samar



NPA fighters meet and work with Samar residents.

(AK Photo)

Philippine Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile last May 22 announced a massive military build-up on the island of Samar. Making his rounds of the island to check in the "peace and order" situation, Enrile revealed that a large shipment of government troops had been sent to Calubid, Northern Samar.

This batch is only the core of a command consisting of Army, P.C., Air Force, and Navy units whose mission will be the suppression of NPA activity on the island. The massive military build-up includes a move to replace old military outfits, and transfer incompetent personnel and top officers.

On his inspection mission Enrile discovered that local officials, government agencies, and the military were no longer able to exercise effective control over Samar.

In fact, he noted the breakdown in local leadership and low morale within the Armed Forces. He learned that 22 towns have "absentee" mayors who rule from the outside while an "invisible government" dominates the hinterlands and coastal areas.

Enrile also confirmed earlier reports of rampant military abuses of the people and inaccuracies in the reportage by his trusted commanders.

According to the familiar pattern taken by the regime in "trouble spots" like blighted Samar, hand in hand with the suppression drive is the call for economic development. President/Prime Minister Marcos thus recently appointed Minister of Local Governments Jose Rono to oversee infrastructure and development projects in that region.

The sudden interest in Samar's economic well-being contrasts sharply with government treatment of the area in the past. Samar has been neglected by successive governments which found a convenient excuse in the fact that the island lies on a typhoon path, and therefore planning for its development is a waste of time and funds.

Only after the NPA's activities began to be felt did the government come up with Samar Integrated Development Projects (SIDP) in 1977. Essentially, SIDP is a P5-billion-25 year plan of infrastructure projects.

## DEVELOPMENT FOR WHOM?

But who will benefit from the SIDP plan?

Clearly, it is not the people. If anything, they will carry the brunt of a 300 percent increase in local taxes once the infrastructure projects are put to use.

Many poor settlers of the forest will be evicted and their land grabbed as logging and mining concessions invade the island's resources. As a result, an existing refugee problem will worsen.

Subsistence fishermen now require a license and fishing waters are divided favoring Japanese commercial fishing firms whose modern trawlers sweep up all the fish down to the sea floor.

Meanwhile U.S. investors have been eyeing Samar's mining potential since 1974. The roads built make it easy for multinational corporations to gain access to timberland and mineral deposits. The roads also conveniently lead to the hinterlands and suspected NPA strongholds.

## EXTREMES OF POVERTY, BACKWARDNESS

Samar is one of the most depressed areas in the Philippines. Of its 1.5 million population most flock toward the shoreland. Agriculture absorbs 85 percent of the labor force. Yet, arable land is scarce. Most arable lands are found on the lower slopes of hills and on plains spanning only four towns. These lands are owned by wealthy landholders. Small farmers head for the hinterlands where the soil quality is poor.

Fishing ranks next as a means of livelihood. To supplement their income, people gather wild rattan, engage in logging and hunt wild animals. Opportunities for other kinds of occupations are rare.

The average per capita income is P320 (or \$43.90) per annum, well below the national average. Wages are sometimes paid in kind. Farming implements are so archaic that in the hinterlands, the plow is unheard of.

For the peasants, immediate problems are the lack of cash and seedlings, and the exploitation of merchant usurers. The practice of usury is as old as the feudal relations in Samar. With little options, small farmers constantly fall prey to middlemen — usurers who charge them up to 300 percent interest on debts.

## CORRUPTION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS

Another curse on the people's lives is the history of corrupt officials running Samar. Cases of corruption are well known among the people.

A recent case is the story of construction workers who built the roads leading to the San Juanico Bridge (a bridge connecting Leyte to Samar, dedicated to Marcos on his birthday from First Madam, Imelda).

For a whole year the workers were not paid a single centavo because the official-in-charge ran away with the salaries.

## MILITARY TERROR

Subjected to this shameless corruption, government neglect, oppressive landlords, exploitative usurers and a host of endless problems. The masses have gravitated more and more toward the NPA. As this happens, military operations have escalated. Suppression and encirclement campaigns have lasted months at a time since the first one in 1973. Dislocations and forced evacuations caused by these campaigns have created the refugee phenomenon in Samar.

The military is particularly merciless towards suspected supporters of the NPA. Robin Jurs, a member of the AMLC Investigating Team to the Philippines last summer, had the opportunity to hear accounts of military atrocities directly from the people. A pattern of intimidation, violence and murder by troopers who don't bother to wear nameplates is apparent in all stories.

She noted that the terrorism only succeeded in drawing people closer to the NPA which now enjoy the support of 80 percent of the population.

## LIVES ALTERED BY NPA

In 1972, an NPA unit started in South Western Samar. It became visible and rapidly expanded in 1976. The lives of the poor have significantly altered with the NPA's work.

In areas where it has a base, the NPA has helped farmworkers gain a

100 percent increase in their wages — now paid in cash. They helped lower land rent 50 to 80 percent. Of the merchant usurers, they demanded an end to cheating by standardizing prices and weights and measures. Consumer cooperatives, production help teams, and peasant associations have been organized. In guerrilla zones, peasants no longer pay taxes. Efforts by the guerrillas to raise the literacy level of the masses have been much appreciated.

Noteworthy is the willing reciprocation of the masses who have sustained the NPA materially up to the present time. The first few weapons gathered by the fighters were given by the people.

In the well-planned raids of the towns of Arteche and San Policarpio in 1977, Gamay, Mapanas, Matuginao and Silvino Lobos in 1979, a tight-lipped cooperation from the people seemed evident as the guerrillas carried out the raids without firing a single shot. Arteche is the exception, where carrying out the people's justice meant executions of the chief of police and a local Councilman.

Nothing is too much to give the NPA as far as the people of Samar are concerned, because nowhere in their history has there been a successful organized resistance that could not only wage battles against the oppressors, but also change the quality of life and heighten the political experience of the people until the appearance of the NPA.

Is it any wonder the "invisible government" Enrile has reports of has meant the intensive militarization of the island. □



NPA in Samar drill: Their work for the people has gained them widespread support.

(AK Photo)

## Oil...

(continued from page 9)

highest profits — and these aren't always oil wells.

Secondly, in Tanzer's view, the real concern for all of us should be the control the oil companies wield economically and politically. "It's the future that's critical," he says. "It doesn't matter if we switch from oil to solar energy if the companies end up controlling the solar also."

The major oil companies' hold on America's economy — and government — is astonishing. They control all our energy sources — the major coal companies, much of the uranium reserves, and their wheeling and dealing behind the scenes is holding back solar development. As everybody but the government will admit, they practically own the United States Senate.

Sometimes it seems like the only thing holding back the majors is public opinion, but they're working hard to change that. Mobil's homely bromides on capitalism usually found on America's editorial pages

attempt to convince us, in the words of a recent ad, that "increased profits . . . spur productivity and create jobs," even though record profits have accompanied unemployment above five percent and a steady decline in capital investment.

Another PR method involves going after OPEC in that game of leapfrog which has the majors so intensely interested in U.S. oil now. With decontrol, American oil can become far more profitable than OPEC's. If the companies buy OPEC oil at a set price, they only make windfall profits when the world price goes up. But with domestic decontrol, the companies can control their costs and set the price for American oil, determining their own profit margin. They can't control what OPEC will charge them. "They only get 50 cents on the barrel on some OPEC oil," explains Tanzer. "On unregulated American oil they could get \$3-4." In modern-day version of the company store, Tanzer also notes that the companies are working with the World Bank to explore oil sources in Third World countries so deeply indebted to the bank, they'd have to agree to any deal the companies offered. □