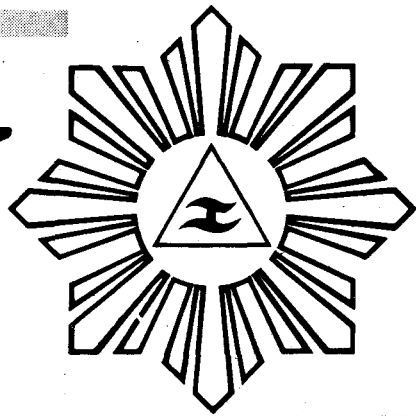


Ang KATIPUNAN

Vol. IV, No. 13 August 1-15, 1977

25¢

National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



Aquino Exposes Marcos' Human Rights Offensive



Benigno Aquino, far left, at military trial.

By VICTORIA LUNA

Yet another gaping hole has been punched in President Ferdinand E. Marcos' human rights propaganda offensive, this time by the long-imprisoned ex-senator and arch-rival of the president, Benigno Aquino. Sensing an opportunity to embarrass the dictator, the wily Aquino chose to call Marcos' bluff, in this case his lofty promise made last June 3 before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FCAP), to phase out the military commissions hearing judicial cases against political prisoners.

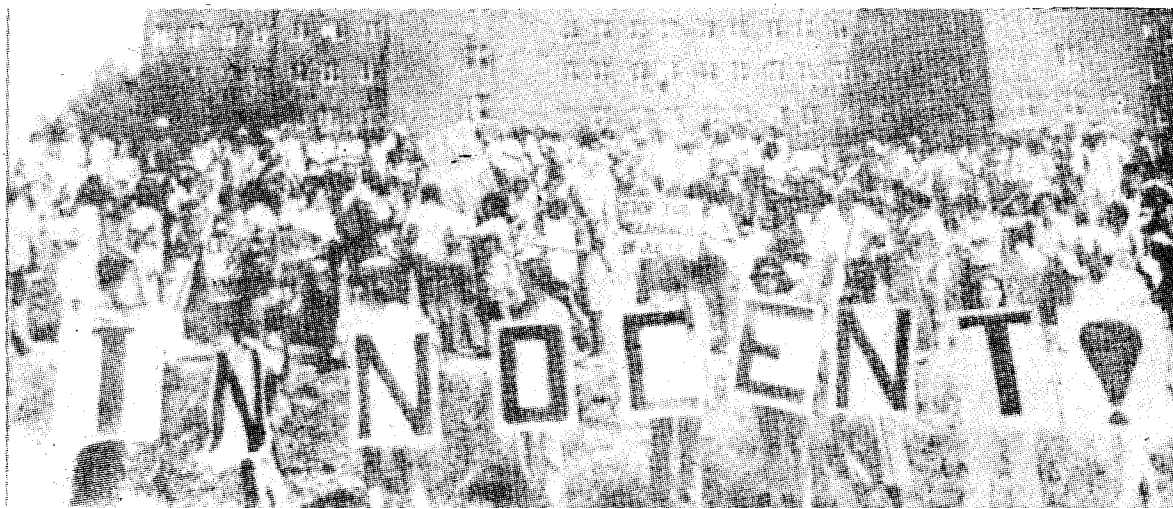
Aquino, who has been on trial since 1973 for a hodge-podge of crimes including illegal possession of firearms, aiding the New People's Army, murder and subversion, promptly petitioned the president for an interview. The request was granted last June 21 and the two ex-rivals spent 3½ hours in what was described as a cordial exchange, during which time they addressed each other as "Brod" (They are ex-fraternity brothers). At the meeting, Aquino presented the president with a letter formally requesting that, in the light of Marcos' June 3 promise, his case be transferred to a civil court in order to insure Aquino's "basic human right to a fair trial."

A week later, on June 28, Marcos answered Aquino with a letter that was published in full in all of the Manila dailies. In a 10-foot legalese sentence referring obscurely to "the principle of double jeopardy, the question of jurisdiction and the denial of equal protection under the law to those who have already been tried and are being tried by military tribunals involving cases similar to those against you," (sic) the dictator politely but firmly said, "no." He did offer Aquino a consolation prize in

(continued on page 4)

Filipino Community Demands Justice!

Outrage Over Narciso-Perez Verdict



In response to the unjust conviction of Narciso and Perez, demonstrations were held in Ann Arbor at the VA Hospital [above] as well as Detroit at the court house. Community meetings to organize "Free Narcisco and Perez" committees were held last weekend in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Oakland. A petition campaign and national day of protest are slated. See page 6 for full story.

PACE Defeats City Hall/Developers

Chinatown-Honolulu Wins Demands for Low-Cost Housing



Jubilant PACE members celebrate their recent victory against Honolulu City Hall and the City developers. On July 20, it was announced that the City would stop all Chinatown evictions.

(continued on page 9)

U.P. Students Protest Tuition Increase

see page 3

Cesar Chavez Awarded by Marcos

see page 2

Senate Committee Overturns Aid Cut to Marcos

see page 8

Arms Sales to Dictators Upheld by Carter

see page 10

Economic Crisis Worsens in R.P.

see page 5

Marcos Land Reform Promotion Rebuffed in U.S.

see page 8

Ang Katipunan
P.O. Box 23644
Oakland, CA 94623

Address Correction Requested

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3383
Oakland, CA.

EDITORIAL

Narciso/Perez Case:

The Myth of American Justice

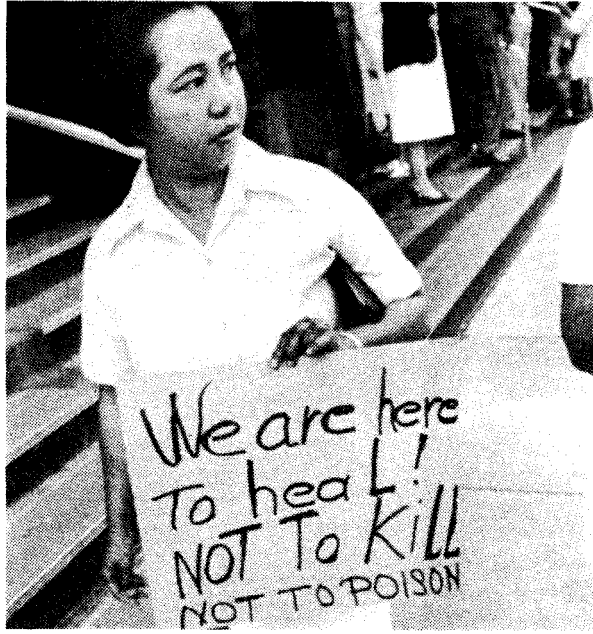
By KDP National Executive Board

The recent conviction of Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez for the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital incidents was a shock and outrage to the entire Filipino community and to all justice loving people of the U.S. Their conviction was based on the weak and purely circumstantial evidence of the presence of these nurses in the vicinity of some of the breathing failures. The entire investigation of the VA Hospital incidents and prosecution of the Narciso-Perez case was marked by irregularities and harassment which fully point to a frame-up of the Filipino nurses, reeking of prejudice and national discrimination. From the behavior of the government authorities involved (the VA Hospital Administration, FBI and government prosecutor), we can only surmise that such disgraceful activity was motivated by an attempt to cover up the gross negligence and responsibility of the hospital for the tragic deaths and breathing failures which occurred.

The prosecution and conviction of these dedicated nurses under such circumstances is but another bitter example of the prejudice and discrimination which has marked the 50 years of experience of the Filipino community in America. Those in the community who are still claiming that discrimination against Filipinos no longer exists in the U.S., will now turn their backs on these innocent nurses and declare them "guilty." But we, the vast majority of the community who experience discrimination in our day to day struggle for jobs, education, housing and survival, can surely understand the need to continue to intensify our campaign for justice for Narciso and Perez.

The Narciso-Perez case also provides some valuable lessons about the general character of the courts and the American judicial system as a whole. For those of us who have experienced first hand the Philippine courts and judicial system, the double standard in that country as applied to the rich and the poor is frequently acknowledged. In the U.S., the same double standard characterizes the judicial system. Although generally much more sophisticated in design, the U.S. courts implement a lenient and flexible standard for the wealthy and powerful, and a harsh and brutal standard for the working people and poor people. In addition, we find a peculiar character to the operation of such a double standard in America, where the elements of skin color and national origin arbitrarily decide the judgement of the courts and legal apparatus.

We need only examine the recent Watergate incidents to observe such a double standard in action. For such crimes as burglary, perjury, and deceit of the entire



nation, the Watergate criminals received a pardon and millions in pension funds, or a few months in "prisons" which look more like vacation resorts. For similar offenses, a poor Black youth might receive an indeterminate sentence (five years to life) in a dungeon like San Quentin or Attica. The treatment of corporate executives who poisoned and murdered hundreds of workers in the Kepone factory because of gross negligence in safety standards is indeed a far cry from the trial of Narciso and Perez who have never even been directly connected with the breathing failures they are accused of causing.

There are many who might have said earlier that the conviction of Narciso and Perez under such circumstance could never happen in America - but it has! In fact, under this double standard of justice in America there are perhaps thousands who have similarly been convicted, sentenced to years in prison, and even executed, with no evidence to speak of. But our situation is not hopeless. The conviction of Narciso and Perez can be overturned. In other examples, such as the Joanne Little and Inez Garcia cases, mass movements of protest were able to reverse the course of racist prosecutions and win the acquittal of these Third World women. We are confident that the organized and militant protest of the Filipino community and broader American public can eventually "FREE NARCISO AND PEREZ!" But so long as the inequalities of racism and national chauvinism continue, perpetuated by this political and economic system, such travesties of justice will exist and we must be prepared to fight each case of injustice. □

Another Marcos Manipulation?

Chavez Given Service Award from Marcos



UFW Cesar Chavez

Surprise and consternation have greeted the announcement that Cesar Chavez, President of the United Farm Workers (UFW), is in the Philippines to receive an award for "services to the trade union movement" from Ferdinand Marcos.

Contacted by phone, UFW headquarters in Keene, California denied that Chavez knew anything about the award before going to the Philippines. UFW Executive Secretary Mark Grossman said that the purpose of Chavez' trip was to "talk to farm workers." A reliable source within the organization, however, asserted that Chavez knew about the award, and related his visit to UFW politics.

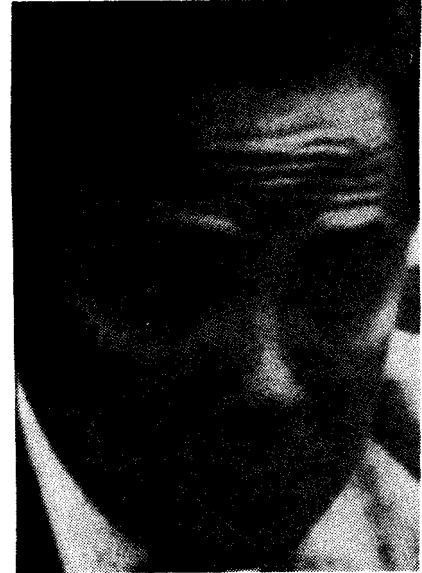
According to the source, Chavez' trip was arranged by Andy Imutan, a former officer and member of the union and a Marcos supporter. Imutan is currently heading up a controversial social service project for Filipino farm workers in Stockton, California, which is partly financed by the Marcos government.

Chavez, continued the source, has been seeking the support of Imutan and his group of Filipino farm workers who have differences with the UFW. Apparently, Chavez' trip to the Philippines is one of the conditions set by Imutan for a reconciliation with Chavez. "To please Imutan," continued the source, "Chavez disregarded the feelings and wishes of those Filipino farm workers who do not like martial law or who do not want the union involved in Philippine politics."

The trip of Chavez, a well-known fighter for workers' rights, is apparently being manipulated by the Marcos government in its efforts to clean up its international image as a human rights violator. It fits into a series of government activities which include political prisoner releases, transfers of selected political cases from military to civil courts, and the holding of an international conference on human rights in late August. According to observers, the Marcos "human rights offensive" is a desperate attempt to save the military and economic aid which is increasingly under attack in the U.S. Congress. □

Despite Manglapus—

JOINT EFFORTS WON CONGRESS AID CUT



MFP President Raul Manglapus

By KDP National Executive Board

The 17 per cent cut in military assistance which was recently approved by the House of Representatives is, without doubt, one of the most significant achievements of the anti-martial law movement. It has dealt a severe blow to the Marcos regime, forcing it to scramble in all directions to save the only pillar of support for his unpopular dictatorship -- U.S. military aid. The cut was, in a very real sense, a popular, collective victory, involving as it did a close coordination of detailed documentation provided by the resistance in the Philippines, mass pressure on congresspeople applied by the anti-martial law movement throughout the United States, and effective congressional lobbying by the Congress Education Project (CEP) of the Friends of the Filipino People and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition.

It is, however, unfortunate that certain mistaken impressions have been diffused by some quarters regarding the forces and the work that made this victory possible. Not only do these untruths fail to give credit where credit is due but they also sow confusion that could be potentially damaging to the efforts of the anti-martial law movement in the U.S.

A major misrepresentation of fact is the idea that it was largely Raul Manglapus and the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP) that made the victory possible.

For the sake of justice to the popular forces that were really responsible for the congressional triumph, let us state the facts. Mr. Manglapus and the MFP hardly contributed anything to the successful effort. **Indeed, their contribution was largely a negative one.** When the CEP was steering the amendment through its most critical stages, Mr. Manglapus was visiting congressional offices, attempting to arouse anti-communist fears by alleging that CEP was "infiltrated by Maoists" and "supported the New People's Army." Who else can such intrigues benefit but the Marcos dictatorship?

Moreover, MFP sought to convince Rep. John Burton of California to introduce an amendment demanding a full ban on military assistance to Marcos--a reckless move which, given the cautious mood in Congress, would have jeopardized the chances of passage of the more appropriate and moderate aid-cut proposal which had already been initiated by the CEP. Rep. Burton's office was, fortunately, level-headed enough to reject the MFP proposal.

Let us be clear: the Philippine Amendment passed, not because of, but **in spite of** Mr. Manglapus and the MFP. And for them to claim credit for the successful effort is a dishonest move that does severe injustice to those who contributed in innumerable important ways to the victory.

The Anti-Martial Law Coalition and the Congress Education Project have consistently manifested their openness to working jointly with Mr. Manglapus and the MFP, provided this is done in the context of a formal coalition founded on explicit principles of unity. Mr. Manglapus, however, has consistently refused to meet even these minimal conditions intended to advance the unity of the anti-martial law movement. If Mr. Manglapus will not work in coordination with the Coalition and the CEP, the least he can do is refrain from undermining the efforts of the anti-martial law movement in the U.S., and cease claiming the fruits of the people's efforts. □



Buod ng mga Balita (Gist of the News)

Used Truck Imports Banned



A ban on imported trucks will assure a monopoly to Ford and Toyota who manufacture trucks in the Philippines now.

Despite opposition from traders, haulers and construction groups, Board of Investments chairman Vicente Paterno said the ban on used truck imports will continue in order to safeguard the Progressive Truck Manufacturing Program (PTMP). The PTMP which is scheduled to begin this month, envisions the manufacture of locally assembled trucks under the auspices of major auto firms like Ford and Toyota. Billed as an effort to spur "local industrialization" the PTMP merely assure Ford and Toyota of a monopoly over the Philippine truck market—a situation Paterno considers a "meaningful contribution to the growth of the economy."

Oppositionists to the program point out that PTMP will not result in the rationalization of the truck industry. Rather it will set the basis for the spiraling of truck costs through the monopoly of the truck market. Presently, prices of locally-assembled trucks are higher than imported used trucks and have been found to have major defects.

Foreign Control Over Vegetable Industry



Vegetable farmers are organizing a movement to nationalize this industry.

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—A move to nationalize the multi-million dollar vegetable industry is gaining ground in different Sangguniang Bayans (SB) in this province. Vegetable farmers and producers cooperatives have petitioned Pres. Marcos and local SB officials to wrest control of the vegetable industry from Chinese national capital.

According to SB member Angel Bacoling of Buguias, Benguet, Chinese control of the vegetable industry begins with the lease of Igorot lands at very low prices; the extension of credit to farmers on the condition that their produce be sold to the Chinese at non-competitive prices; and the marketing of these vegetables at artificially inflated prices, far above figures quoted by Igorot farmers.

More than 60% of Benguet's populace reportedly depends on the vegetable industry for livelihood, while major urban centers such as the Greater Manila area, Angeles City and Baguio City depend on Benguet farmers for vegetable supplies.

Benedicto Appointed Head of Sugar Commission

Pres. Marcos recently appointed Philippine Ambassador to Japan, Roberto Benedicto, as commissioner of the newly-established Philippine Sugar Commission (PHILSUCOM). Marcos authorized Philsucum to determine ways to reduce sugar production in light of the worldwide slump in the prices and demand for sugar. Although the move appears to be an attempt to rationalize the depressed sugar industry, observers believe it to be a step towards eliminating sugar barons who economically rival Marcos' control of that industry. Benedicto, a long time crony of Marcos and frontman for many of Marcos' business interests, is expected to determine production quotas per plantation. In brief, Benedicto's appointment to the Philsucum which would replace Philex as the sole body authorized to negotiate sugar sales abroad, represents another Marcos takeover of an industry once owned by the country's elite.

Benedicto is a large planter with 1,000 hectares in Negros. Last November, despite lagging sugar prices, Benedicto acquired loans from Marubeni corporation to build a new sugar central.

UNIVERSITIES IN TURMOIL

Students Reject Tuition Increase



Engineering students from the University of the East sit along corridors of classroom building in boycott of recent tuition hike.

Once again university campuses in Metro-Manila are in turmoil. The issue which brought students out of the classrooms and into the streets is an increase in tuition fees which averages 15 per cent among the University of the Philippines, Adamson University, University of the East and the University of Sto. Tomas.

The most dramatic tuition hike of all has been at the University of the Philippines. Here the average increase has been 80 per cent. This amount, however, is unevenly distributed throughout the various colleges depending on the "marketability" of the degree offered. Fees for professional degrees have skyrocketed. In the case of the College of Law, tuition has jumped from P200 to P600, a 300 per cent increase. In the College of Fisheries, tuition has leaped by 500 per cent. In addition, fees within some colleges now depend upon the major and its particular marketability.

The university administration has justified the increase as necessary to finance its "democratization campaign." Under this newly-initiated program, poorer students whose economic background has caused them to score below the cutoff point of the admission exam are brought into the university under full scholarship and offered reme-

dial courses to help them cope with the work. The university had admitted 100 students under the program this year and is spending P4,850 to support each scholar.

U.P. students support the democratization drive, but insist that there is no reason why the P485,000 needs to come out of the pockets of other students. Since U.P. is the government university, they insist, the administration should have access to alternative sources of funds. If no other funds are available outside of the university budget, they ask, why is P3 million being spent on the Department of Military Science and Tactics (formerly ROTC) and P25 million on a building for the proposed College of Tourism? In the words of one student, "Instead of people's taxes going to non-essential infrastructure, the priority should be given to education." The marketability criterion has also been called into question. As one student asks, "Does this mean that only rich students can take marketable courses?"

It came as no surprise to anyone that U.P. students, long known for their militance, greeted the tuition increases with a barrage of petitions, position papers from campus organizations, and a series of protests. Rallies were staged which drew thousands of students who

snake-danced their way through the halls of the Arts and Sciences building. When the administration responded with an offer of a modest tuition refund, the students rejected it outright, demanding nothing less than a complete rollback of fees.

The Arts and Sciences building, the steps of which once served as the focal point for demonstrations and rallies has been barricaded since the declaration of martial law. Now once again it has become "the Plaza Miranda of U.P.," in the words of Arts and Sciences Dean Francisco Nemenzo, Jr.

Pre-martial law days, however, are long past and the dean has expressed concern that the military might be called to intervene. In such an event, he promised the students he would submit his resignation in protest.

To date, the protest continues with no news of either victory or defeat for the student cause. Students have broadened their concerns by now beyond the fee increases and the democratization program to the conditions of the country under martial law. One of them succinctly expressed the connection between the specifics of the U.P. protest and the broader issues confronting Philippine society when she asked, "Can a democratization policy exist in an undemocratic university?"

Tondo Women and Babes to be Guinea Pigs

Programmed 'Imelda Babies' in Offing

A scheme to create Filipino automatons is presently underway. Conceived by none other than Metro Manila Governor, Mrs. Imelda Marcos, the project envisions the creation of new Filipinos with unquestioning loyalty and devotion for the New Society through the use of infant indoctrination. According to the Manchester Guardian, the project is being planned in cooperation with the Sony Cor Corporation. Mrs. Marcos reportedly broached the idea to close friend and Sony chairman Akio Morita in 1975.

The project requires a system of projections and sophisticated audio-visual equipment specially designed for

what a Sony representative in Manila described as "cultivation of children's abilities, a kind of brainwashing."

For her first guinea pigs, Mrs. Marcos has chosen pregnant women from Tondo — "a hotbed of political activists who have strongly resisted her attempts to relocate slum-dwellers." The experiments will begin with women being exposed to sweet and soothing music in special clinics. After such conditioning, the women would presumably be more receptive to systematic projector images combined with taped messages. The desired outcome is the production of passive, unresisting babies.

The reports say that the

second stage is a more difficult one as it will touch on the cultivation of infants' minds. "It is not clear whether a program of software has yet been devised for this." When word of the project first circulated in 1975, Manilans' scoffed at the First Lady's designs as more fantasy than fact. This was because a reported feature of the project was a ludicrous plan to breed a "super race" through encouraging intermarriage between athletes and beauty queens. Now however, as Imelda's plans approach the implementation stage, Filipinos have awakened to the fact that a fascist fantasy cannot be taken lightly. □

MALACANANG ZARZUELA

Homage to 'Queen' Imelda?

Two New Philippine National Holidays?

By VICTORIA LUNA

The Philippines is fortunate indeed to have two new national holidays on May 2 and July 2. And just what do these holidays commemorate? Stages in the country's struggle for independence? Homage to fallen war dead? Homage to the working people of the country? Military victories? Defeats? Mother's Day? Father's Day? Parents' Day? Children's Day? No. No. No. No. May 2 is the wedding anniversary of President and Mrs. Ferdinand Marcos. July 2 is the birthday of the First Lady and Governor of Metro-Manila, Imelda.

This year these two national holidays were celebrated with more vigor — though perhaps more questionable willingness — than ever before. May 2 was marked by an "informal" gathering of several hundred people in Malacanang Palace, the high point of which was the amateur entertainment provided by the high and mighty in the Philippine government. Mrs. Marcos, as usual, belted out "Dahil Sa Iyo," after which she is said to have dragged a slightly resisting president to the microphone where these two financial rivals dreamily crooned, "I Love You and Will Love You Forever."

The evening's "piece de resistance" was the First Lady's inspired decision to assemble all of the generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and their wives into an impromptu chorus. Under the leadership of Maestro Carlos Romulo (other-



wise known as the country's Foreign Minister), the ensemble warbled through a repertoire of sentimental songs from the '30s. And so the night wore on.

There's nothing like making a fool of a general to demonstrate your absolute control over him. But even this was not enough for the First Lady who managed to make fools of the entire government bureaucracy for her birthday on July 2. As usual, with events of this magnitude, Madame retired to her beach house at Tolosa, Leyte — the one with the model of the great reviewing stand at Persepolis and the white sand flown in from a nearby island to hide the unsightly gray of the local beach. Here she ushered in the momentous day with a midnight mass, following which she was serenaded by a number of different singing groups.

The famous Blue Ladies came up with the surprise hit of the evening, a love song, "You'll Ever Be Imelda," with lyrics composed by no less than the President himself. Like dutiful courtiers paying homage to their queen, waves of officials from all over the country swept in to wish the First Lady all the best including delegations from business and civic communities; provincial, city and baranggay representatives; government officials; cabinet members; and Justices of the Supreme and appellate courts.

Meanwhile, back in Manila, preparations had been underway for months to mark the auspicious day. Carefully orchestrated by the Baranggay National Coordinating and Executive Secretariat, a shower of "gifts" for the First Lady poured down in the form of projects initiated by government and civic groups.

These ranged from the cleaning of markets and slaughterhouses launched by the wives of the 16 city and municipal mayors to a mass donation of blood by Manila city officials, employees and residents pledged by Mayor Ramon Bagatsing to a plan by Quezon City Mayor Adelina Rodriguez to launch sanitation, beautification, and pest control programs in all 134 baranggays in her city to a commitment by 27,000 members of the baranggay ladies auxiliary brigades in Metro-Manila to undertake beautification projects and on and on. The Bureau of Forest Development chimed in with the launching of a nation-wide tree-planting program. NACIDA (National Cottage Industries Development Administration) Director Mario R. Reyes planned the event to finish off the day: a 6:00 p.m. mass to be held in Manila's flea market — a most appropriate site — with all NACIDA officials and employees, friends of the First Lady and cottage producers with booths at the flea market expected to attend.

Quite a bash for a birthday. But remember, this event is sponsored by that same famous couple that brought you the Bridge of Love, that name all the major streets in the cities after their illustrious ancestors, installed their portraits in every public building, and is planning Marcos City. This twosome is succeeding admirably in establishing a place for itself in Philippine history. Only, it's not quite the same place they had in mind. □

AQUINO...

(continued from front page)

the shape of Presidential Decree 1165 which provides the senator with the right to appeal the military court's verdict to the rigged and impotent Supreme Court.

Aquino has complained bitterly in court that the military tribunal refuses to allow him to read his letter to Marcos aloud, while Marcos' response has been published in all the daily papers. Yet he is hardly likely to be surprised by the president's refusal. In fact, nearly every one of Marcos' moves during his current human rights blitz has been either negated or seriously undermined by the president's own policies.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE

The entire campaign began early in June as a response to the regime's embarrassment over U.S. intervention in the case of tortured slum leader Trinidad Herrera. Widespread American church and congressional pressure forced Marcos to admit the existence of torture by the regime. To correct the bad image created by the incident, Marcos immediately embarked on a humanitarian crusade. First came the trial of one of Herrera's torturers, Lt. Eduardo Matillano, accompanied by a promise to go after all those who "mistreat" prisoners. Then came his June 3 promise to the foreign press to abolish military tribunals. Three days later, on June 6, the tribunal hearing the Aquino case ruled that the defendant should be allowed to meet in private in an unbugged room with his legal defense panel for the first time since the trial began in 1973.

Two weeks later, on June 21, the day Marcos consented to meet with Aquino at Malacanang, Commissioner Edmundo Reyes of the Department of Immi-



Sen. Benigno Aquino, long-time political foe of Pres. Marcos, recently assailed the regime's "human rights" facade.

gration and Deportation found journalist Bernard Wideman not guilty of undermining state security through his reporting and allowed him to stay in the country. Then on June 23 and June 29 came the most dramatic acts yet when Marcos announced the release of two batches of 500 prisoners under military detention.

CRACKS IN THE FACADE

It was an impressive performance and much of the western media responded favorably. The *Far Eastern Economic Review*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and U.P.I. all ran stories about the improved human rights climate in the Philippines. But slowly the cracks in Marcos' human rights facade began to appear.

Observers pointed out that nine days before the magnanimous acquittal of Wideman, on June 12, three Filipino journalists were arrested while covering an anti-martial law rally for foreign news agencies. They were released after one day following a protest by the FCAP. The incident tainted Marcos' record so that Wideman's release proved that freedom of the press was tolerable in the Philippines for foreigners only.

Although the trial of Lt. Matillano continued, Marcos' promises to bring other torturers to justice remained unfulfilled. According to Amnesty International and the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), a number of the people in this category, unlike Matillano, hold high rank in the military. Many are major or colonels.

Of the 1,000 prisoners released, two-thirds, according to Marcos' own controlled media turned out to be common criminals rather than political prisoners. Over twenty were military or policemen. A comparison of the list of released prisoners with the AMRSP listing in *Political Prisoners in the Philippines II*, reveals that only one badly tortured prisoner whose case is documented was included in the release. None of the other names of Marcos' list are to be found in the AMRSP listing.

By the time Marcos engaged in fancy legal footwork to avoid implementing his own policy in the Aquino case, a pattern of backing away from his commitments was already firmly established.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Although the long-range goal of Marcos' human rights offensive is to prove to the U.S. Congress the dictator's eligibility for continued U.S. aid, the President has a more immediate problem in mind as well. Manila is slated to be the site this August of the World Peace Through Law conference, the theme of which is to be "International Legal Protection for Human Rights."

The Marcos regime seems to regard the successful holding of this human rights conference as the climax of its campaign to prove its humanity to the world. Extensive preparations are underway on all fronts. The affair promises to be a mini-IMF-World Bank "palabas" complete with Van Cliburn, Margot Fonteyn and Rudolph Nureyev flying in to entertain the conferees. In the words of Mrs. Marcos, "we should show the world how beautiful our laws can be."

R.P. LAWS — ANYTHING BUT BEAUTIFUL

Mrs. Marcos' objective is likely to be difficult to accomplish. The laws of a repressive government like that of the contemporary Philippines are anything but beautiful. Torture and the presence of political prisoners are merely the most blatant example of the regime's disregard for the human rights of the Filipino people. Massive involuntary relocation of peasants to deprive the New People's Army of base areas continues; squatters are still driven out of their homes at gunpoint by the military; "zonas", or nighttime raids to flush out so-called subversives still occur in poorer neighborhoods; strikes and demonstrations are prohibited; preventive arrests are frequently used.

No matter what cosmetic steps the regime tries to take to change its image, it keeps getting caught in its own net of repression, causing it to trip ludicrously as the contradictions between its words and its actions surface. Aquino knew full well that by asking Marcos to live up to his stated commitment, he could catch him in the snare of his own inconsistencies and expose to the world once more the repressive character of the regime. □

moving?

Don't miss the next issues of the ANG KATIPUNAN. Let us know your new address. Please send in old address label along with new address to Ang Katipunan, P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA 94623. Please notify three weeks prior to move.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

COUNTRY'S INFLATION GROWING; DEBT RISING

Marcos Attempts Cover-up of Economic Crisis



Filipino workers bear the brunt of the nation's deteriorating economy.

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

In the midst of an ever-worsening economic crisis, the Marcos regime is busy fabricating statistics and reports to portray a rosy picture of the economic situation. Addressing the nation on June 13, Pres. Marcos proudly announced that "the Philippines is no longer a poor country; it has surpassed the \$200 poverty line in per capita income set by the United Nations" and is achieving an encouraging 7 percent growth rate yearly. This month, Central Bank Gov. Gregorio Licaros issued his rejoinder to Marcos' fabrications: "Inflation has been contained at 7.2 percent yearly; a balance of payments surplus was recorded for the first half of the year and exports are recovering."

These optimistic estimates, which clearly run counter to the increasing hardships faced by the Filipino people, are merely an exercise in public deception calculated to hide the full extent of the economic crisis. A closer examination of the facts and the real economic indicators point to runaway inflation, a staggering external debt, an increased tax burden, wage freezes, growing unemployment and food shortages ahead.

GNP — GROWTH FOR WHOM?

For instance, the regime's much touted 7 percent GNP growth rate is only reflective of the increased earnings of foreign corporations rather than an overall increase in the real incomes of the people. Thus, Marcos' claims that the Philippines is no longer poor on the basis of increased per capita income because of GNP "growth" is meaningless, in light of uneven income distribution. The peasantry which comprises 75 percent of the populace, continues to receive less than \$200 annually.

EXTERNAL DEBT SWELLS

A more reliable index of the country's economic state is the external debt situation. The external debt of the country has reached \$6 billion, up by \$500 million in only six months, and three years earlier than the 1980 World Bank estimate of when the external debt of the country was expected to reach this amount.

Looked at another way, these statistics show that every Filipino man, woman and child of the country's 43 million population is now indebted to the international usurers by \$130 or P962.

EXPORTS BEYOND RECOVERY

Licaros' assurances of better export performances sound weak and empty, in view of the declining worldwide prices of sugar, coconut by-products, and, more recently, coffee. One need only examine the state of the country's top foreign exchange earner — sugar — to be convinced of the downhill trend of Philippine trade. Because of the overproduction of sugar worldwide and the proliferation of sugar substitutes, the near absence of a world market for Philippine sugar threatens to annihilate the domestic sugar industry.

Although the regime is gloating over the clearance of its 1976 stock, the more important fact is that the Philippines incurred a \$700 million loss in last year's sugar trade. To compensate for this loss, the regime has permitted a 12.5 percent hike in the domestic price of sugar. But even this move is not expected to revive the dying sugar industry. "It's a morale booster more than anything else," said sugar baron Sixto Orosa III, adding that most sugar

producers have limited their sugar acreage, and have gone into crop diversification, or have not replanted their fields at all because of the uncertainties of the world market. Three of the country's five sugar centrals have closed down, forcing the government to ship the sugar to Malaysia for refining. Meanwhile, 74,000 sugar workers have been laid off, their futures more uncertain than their land-wealthy employers.

TAX BURDEN INCREASED

What the regime is incapable of recovering from its export losses is now being compensated for by tax revenues. In a bid to generate public support for this drive, Marcos said that low-income groups will not be affected "directly or indirectly by the tax drive," since the campaign is supposedly aimed primarily at the rich.

With a goal of P3.5 billion in mind, Marcos is now heavily taxing his previously amnestied millionaire friends, sparing, of course, "non-resident aliens" better known as multinationals. Despite the regime's claims to the contrary, these corporate taxes will still affect the public in the form of increased prices for the products of these taxed firms.

More direct is the effect of specific taxes slapped on such "luxuries" as cigarettes, processed fruits, beverage (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and matches. These additional sales taxes are no small sacrifices for consumers to make in light of the overall price increases generated by the oil price hike last April and the removal of price ceilings on poultry and dairy products last May.

MASSES SHOULDER CRISIS

With inflation increasing at the rate of 20 percent per year (a figure "doctored" by the regime to a

mere 7 percent), the deteriorating conditions of the masses has accelerated. Incapable of containing the crisis, the regime has passed the full burden on the masses, as evidenced by recent removal of subsidies for foodstuff production and the steady elimination of goods on the so-called "socialized pricing index."

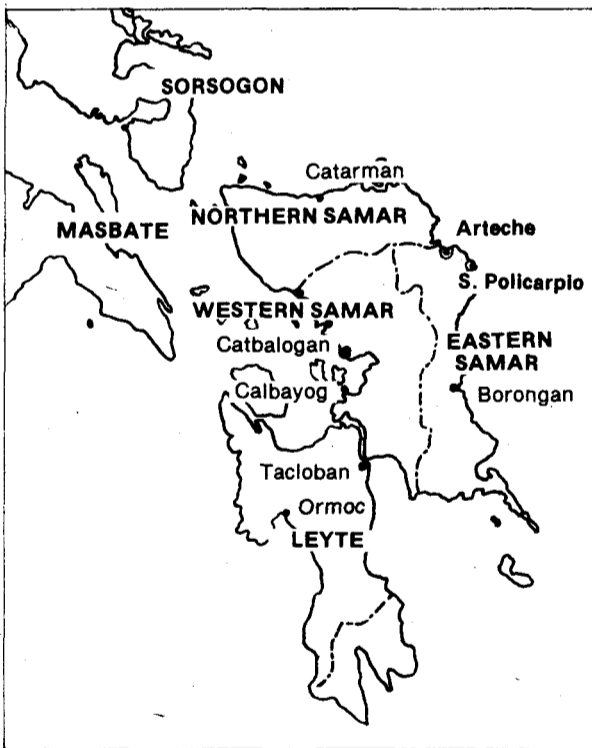
According to a government nutrition survey, a daily income of P40 is necessary to decently provide for a family of six. In urban areas, the average daily income is one-fourth of this or P10 while in rural areas, one-sixth or P6. Despite a 140 percent increase in the cost of living index since 1970, wages have merely increased by P2 or 25 percent.

This general decline in the living standards of the masses has been worsened by the anti-national policies of the regime to keep wages low to attract foreign investment. In 1971, it was estimated that a worker expended one hour and 57 minutes per day to earn his wages, surrendering the remaining six hours and three minutes to his employer as free labor or profits. In 1975, the amount of labor time that went to wages has been reduced to 44 minutes while the remaining seven hours and 16 minutes represented free labor or profits for the capitalists.

If the regime's present policies are any indication, this rate of exploitation or profit extraction can only be expected to increase in the near future. With the aggravation of the economic conditions of the country, the popular restiveness which spanned 1976 can also be expected to heighten. For greater protests, strikes and mass rallies loom over the regime. This restiveness will inevitably intensify the political instability of the regime — a situation which would no longer be reversed by life-saving infusions of loans and investments on the part of Marcos' backers — the IMF-WB indirectly and directly the U.S. government. □

While Marcos Conferred on Counter-Insurgency—

NPA SEIZES TWO TOWNS IN SAMAR



One hundred guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) successfully conducted simultaneous commando raids in early May this year on two towns in the central Philippines. Well-armed and disguised in military uniforms, the NPA fighters caught the local policemen by surprise and briefly occupied the towns in eastern Samar province before withdrawing to the mountains. The two towns, Arteche and San Policarpio, lie 10 miles apart on the coast of Samar, 235 miles east of Manila.

The Samar raids constitute the NPA's second major operation since the capture of its head, Commander Dante, in August of last year, the first being the spectacular raid of five villages near Clark Air Base (60 miles north of Manila) — an operation which dramatically marked an immediate resurgence of guerrilla activity following Dante's capture.

Ironically, the raids took place while President Ferdinand Marcos was busy conferring with the National Security Council in Manila regarding the general upswing of insurgency throughout the country.

Because the NPA took over all communications channels, military authorities learned of the raids four days after the occupation of the towns had begun. By the time the generals in Manila responded by dispatching crack helicopter-borne rangers and mobilizing a special task force to support the ranger operations, the guerrillas had already retreated, taking with them 15 firearms, the towns' radio communication sets and three typewriters.

During the NPA's occupation, mass political meetings were held openly denouncing the four-year old martial law regime. Throughout the whole operation, only three persons apparently resisted the NPA, including the San Policarpio town police chief, a councilman, and a civilian, all of whom were subsequently killed in the ensuing battle.

The high degree of success of the operation suggests some cooperation and coordination between the NPA and the local people, as it is widely believed to be the case during the raid near Clark Air Base last November. One major difference, however, between the two is that former occurred in Central Luzon, an area of traditional rebel activity, whereas the latter took place where NPA activity dates back only three years.

Since its inception in February 1974, the NPA in Samar has grown by leaps and bounds, and has matured tremendously. During its initial months, the Samar NPA immediately underwent its "baptism in fire" when the government launched a vicious "encirclement and suppression" campaign. The NPA in Samar not only survived this relentless government drive, but expanded and consolidated to the point where it can now take on operations of such scope and success as the latest one.

The NPA in Samar continues to advance due to the fact that the grinding poverty, worsened by the abuses of local authorities and the military, is more acute there than elsewhere in the country. More importantly, however, the NPA has posed a viable recourse for increasingly restive peasants — the revolutionary alternative.

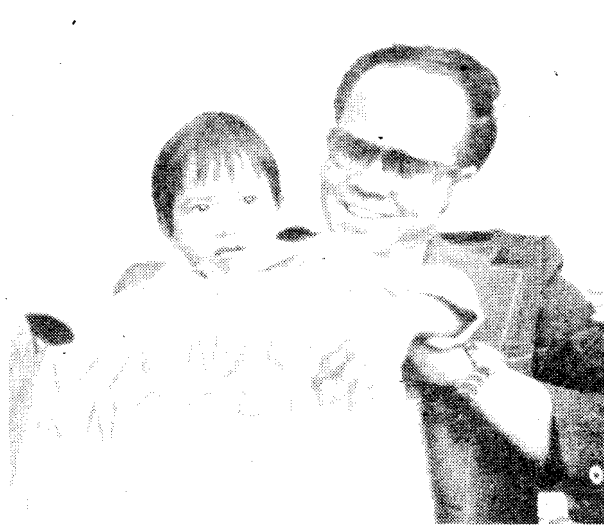
Even Pres. Marcos, himself, has been forced to concede the unabating growth of the NPA throughout the country, particularly in Samar. In an unusually frank speech on July 3, Marcos made mention of the two raided towns and admitted that the NPA was successful in deriving support from the people where local officials have repeatedly failed. □

FREE NARCISO AND PEREZ! - WE DEMAND

Nurses, Supporters Shocked at Verdict



A distressed Filipina Narciso (left) and Leonora Perez (center) leave the courtroom following the announcement of the guilty verdict. The Filipino community, however, believes in their innocence and is taking a strong role in organizing their defense. The son and husband of Leonora Perez (right) took part in the July 14 rally in Detroit.



DETROIT — Despite the thin and scanty evidence that was presented, a nine-person jury convicted two Filipina nurses of poisoning patients at a Veterans Administration (VA) hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich., two years ago.

After 94 hours of deliberation, covering 15 days, which was marked by some initial confusion among the jury regarding the remaining murder count, Filipina "P.I." Narciso and Leonora Perez were each convicted on three counts of poisoning and one count of conspiracy to poison.

Expressing shock and anger at their conviction, "P.I." Narciso said: "I am very disillusioned with American justice. I can't believe this happened to us. I'm not convinced we were convicted because of the evidence. It had to be something else."

Perez spoke to this "something else" that "P.I." alluded to: "I don't think the jury was fair. I thought I was discriminated against. I think it was racial prejudice."

Public reaction to the verdict was similar to the nurses and almost unanimous in its denunciation of the unjust conviction. Defense Atty. Thomas O'Brien

echoed the sentiments of the supporters of the two nurses when he stated following the decision: "The only feeling I have at the moment is that it is possible to try and fairly convict innocent people in this country." As the two left the courthouse, supporters chanted "We want justice, we want justice!"

A day after the verdict, around 300 people picketed the Federal Courthouse. This was followed by another rally several days later in front of the VA Ann Arbor Hospital. Among the hundreds of spirited demonstrators was a nurse who had resigned her job at the VA hospital in protest of the conviction. Judy Polachek charged the hospital with railroading the conviction of the two nurses, declaring: "It's really an affront to nursing."

Support for the two nurses was widespread and varied. Among their supporters was William R. Loesch, a patient they were convicted of poisoning and the only victim to give a first hand account of the alleged poisoning. In his testimony for the defense in the 13 week trial, Loesch said the two nurses were not responsible for his breathing failure and that an unidentified man in a green surgical suit had been

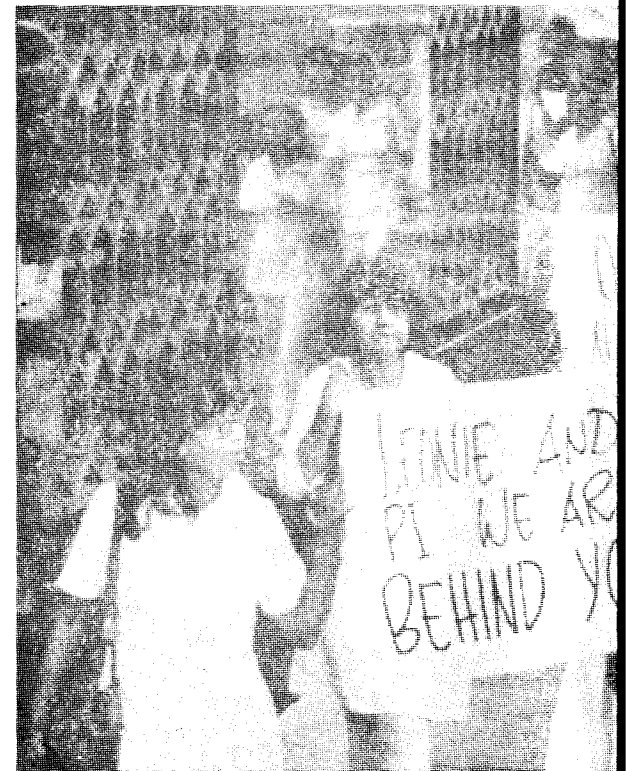
the last person at his bedside before his respiratory attack. Loesch said he planned to do "everything I can do to help them, even if it means going from door to door to beg nickels."

Sympathy also came from two alternate jurors who expressed surprise at the verdict. One alternate juror said he strongly leaned towards an acquittal because "it was obvious the evidence seemed to be largely circumstantial." The other alternate juror, Kathleen Robinson sharply criticized the verdict and announced at the VA rally, "I'll never understand how 12 people could reach the verdict they did. The jurors were wrong. All I can say to 'P.I.' and Leonie is I'm sorry the system didn't work for you."

Observers during the trial insist that the racial overtones in the case prevented the two Filipina nurses from getting a fair trial. They point to the FBI harassment of the two nurses who almost immediately selectively focused their investigation on the two nurses, despite other leads pointing to other suspects. The Chicago Support Group, the national support group for the nurses, explicitly charges that the investigation which led to the conviction is "a blatant show of racist and chauvinist discrimination."

Critics of the controversial case also cite the irregularities which plagued the case. No conclusively hard evidence against the two nurses was presented in the course of the three month long trial. The prosecution also did not offer any motive for the alleged crimes. More damaging was the revelation during the trial that the prosecution had withheld evidence which was vital to the nurses' defense. The two nurses will not be sentenced until sometime after an Oct. 11 hearing on defense motions for a new trial. They face possible life prison terms for the poisoning convictions and a five-year term for conspiracy. □

Filipino Con



Detroit nurses, mostly Filipinos, responded at demonstration on July 14 in front of the Federal Courthouse as they entered the building to hear the official state

A Brief Chronology of the Narciso/Perez Case

June 1975: A series of unusual respiratory arrests occurred at the Veterans Administration hospital of Ann Arbor, Mich. As a result of these breathing failures, several persons died. These were reported to the hospital administration by the staff (including two Filipino nurses Leonora Perez and Filipina Narciso), but the administration took no action on the matter.

July, 1975: After a visiting doctor publicized the incidents, the FBI began an investigation into the cause of these unexpected deaths.

August, 1975: During the course of the investigation, the FBI produced a piece of paper which has "PIA" written on it. According to the FBI, it was written by John McCrery, a patient who suffered an unexpected respiratory failure, and supposedly scrawled these letters on the paper just after his attack. This note led the FBI to center its investigation on Nurse Filipina Narciso (whose nickname is "P.I."). But in later questioning, McCrery (who has since died) could not positively identify anyone.

Richard Neely, another respiratory attack victim, has produced the only evidence supposedly pointing towards the other accused nurse, Leonora Perez. But Neely has also described the person at his bedside before the attack in many different ways (as confirmed by the defense witness who is a former patient of the VA hospital). At one time he claimed that there was a bearded man in his room just before the attack. Later, he claimed that Nurse Leonora Perez had been in his room.

According to the FBI, a powerful muscle relaxant drug, Pavulon was found in the urine of at least two of the victims. But many questions about the case remain unanswered, such as the causes of the respiratory failures of the other patients. Other leads, such as the possibility of drug contamination, the incidents of other persons described as being present during these respiratory arrests, and the case of the nurse who had been suffering terminal cancer and great mental depression and was reported to have claimed responsibility for the VA deaths while confined for treatment in July 1976, were never really explored by the FBI. (She

reportedly committed suicide on February 3, 1977, leaving a note confessing that she poisoned the VA patients). Instead, the FBI and hospital administration targeted the two Filipino nurses through long interrogation and veiled threats to try to get them to admit some kind of guilt. This was conducted despite the protests and vindicating statements on behalf of Narciso and Perez by their fellow nurses and patients.

June, 1976: Culminating this harassment, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez were arrested and charged with five counts of murder, two counts of poisoning and one count of conspiracy to commit murder. They were chained and jailed. Narciso was held for two weeks with no bail set. Perez' bail was set at an outrageous amount of \$500,000. Through legal efforts, bail was finally reduced to \$75,000 each and they were released on bond.

Jan. to Feb., 1977: In the course of the pre-trial hearings, Judge Philip Pratt ruled that the prosecution had failed to comply with his order to turn over all vital evidence to the defense. It was revealed that the prosecution had withheld extensive materials which showed more indications of the nurses' innocence. Not only this, but some of the materials that the defense had received had been altered and parts favorable to the defense were deleted.

The court also ruled the prosecutor may not use John McCrery's "PIA NOTE" as evidence in the trial because it was hearsy evidence.

Prosecution attorneys also dropped the testimony of Richard Neely against Leonora Perez. Neely's testimony will not be admitted as evidence in the trial.

March 1, 1977: The trial of Narciso and Perez begins. **June 8, 1977:** Judge Pratt, citing insufficient evidence, dismissed some of the murder and poisoning charges against the two nurses, leaving Leonora accused of three poisoning and Filipina Narciso of one murder charge and five poisoning charges. Both women still faced one count of conspiracy to poison.

July 14, 1977: The jury returns the guilty verdict to the shock and disbelief of the two nurses and their supporters. □

Mass protests against the 12-member jury's guilty verdict on Narciso and Perez continue to rock the Filipino community throughout the United States.

In Chicago, a lively discussion on the case transpired during a community meeting held July 23 at the Jose Rizal Center. Welcoming over 100 individuals and representatives of several organizations, Ms. Ester Simpson, coordinator of the Chicago Support Group for Narciso-Perez, remarked: "Your presence signifies your concrete support for Leonie and 'P.I.'"

One of the main speakers at the gathering was Mr. William Loesch who was also a victim of breathing failure at the VA hospital. Mr. Loesch criticized the FBI and the prosecution for their misconduct in the course of the investigation. Loesch declared: "God help the justice system in this country if this could happen to Leonie and 'P.I.' I wonder what's happening to other trials going on at this time."

A statement from Ms. Kathleen Robinson, alternate juror for the case, was read before the avid

JUSTICE! - WE DEMAND A NEW TRIAL!

Alternate Juror Supports Nurses' Innocence

Statement by Kathleen Robinson, one of the four alternate jurors who were present for the trial and the judge's instructions.

People are talking about discrimination, and about a frame-up. I don't personally know the extent to which these charges are true, but I do know that two people have been convicted by an incredible miscarriage of our system of justice.

I am one of the 16 people who sat in the jury box and heard three months of testimony, three days of final arguments, and 48 pages of legal instruction from Judge Pratt.

I will never understand how any 12 people who heard that body of evidence and instruction could reach a "Guilty" verdict. I can only conclude that the verdict results from a series of major — and tragic — misunderstandings of what is "fact" and misapplications of the law.

The most important things for a juror to remember are that everyone is absolutely innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and that if there are two explanations for an action, the explanation which supports innocence must be accepted in the absence of contrary evidence. These principles were stressed by the judge, as well as the defense attorneys.

If the jurors had kept these two rules in mind as they listened to the trial, they would not have needed to recreate the entire trial behind the locked doors of the deliberation room. If they had remembered these principles during their deliberations, "Guilty" would never have been their verdict. "Reasonable

doubt" was very evident throughout the trial.

The prosecution of these two women has included misconduct on the part of the government. That much is part of the public record. This makes it all the more ironic that the jury's wrong decision was arrived at by well-intentioned people, as they attempted to do their duty.

After the verdict was read, several of them said to me very earnestly, that those who had not been present at the deliberation would never understand their decision. Judge Pratt read his legal instructions to 16 jurors — not 12. We all heard the same information. We all listened to the same group of witnesses, who had varying degrees of credibility. The gaps in the government's case which were obvious to me — and to most observers — should have been obvious to the 12 final jurors.

They claim their decision stems from the "trial" they re-acted in the deliberation room. It must have little resembled the trial we 16 — and the public — saw in the courtroom. This is why I say there was a miscarriage of justice, and this is the source of my disillusionment.

All of the discussion about discrimination and frame-up, no matter how true it is, leads many people to believe this is strictly a partisan cause. It is understandable that they think so, but it is not true. Reasonable persons naturally assume that the jury must have known something that everyone else did not. As one who was a "juror" up to the point of deliberation, I say this was not the case. **THERE SIMPLY WAS NO PROOF IN THE COURTROOM.** Twelve people can be wrong, as this sorry situation proves. □

FREE NARCISO AND PEREZ! DEMAND A NEW TRIAL!

The demand for a new trial is the first key step in overturning the conviction of these innocent nurses. This will require a massive publicity effort and nationwide show of concern to stop the railroad against these nurses. You can help through all, or any of the following ways:

- 1) Circulate and sign the petition calling for a new trial for Narciso and Perez.
- 2) Write a letter to your local newspapers; make a public service announcement on radio or t.v.; distribute the brochure and tell your friends about the case. Let people know!
- 3) Send money to help the legal defense and publicity efforts around the case.

Send checks to: Narciso/Perez Trust Fund, c/o Atty. Thomas O'Brien, 210 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, MI. 48105.

JOIN THE NATION-WIDE DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE DATE OF SENTENCING. (to be locally announced.)

their organizations to indicate their concern and willingness to do their utmost for a most successful rally and to continue to support Narciso and Perez.

Committees were set up to prepare for the rally: outreach-publicity, finance, and logistics. Ms. Margie Espina, president of the Philippine New York Jaycettes, in urging people to translate concern into actions said, "The case is so real to be dismissed as a remote possibility. Let it never be said that this can never happen to you or to me or someone I know... We are here because we have decided we are not going to take it lying down. We shall stand for their right; for our rights! We have to organize! We have to join our little voices so that they may be heard. Alone I cannot do it! Alone you cannot do it! But all together, we have a better chance of accomplishing something! I have one question to ask: shall we join together?" □

There was a strong unity that the Narciso and Perez case is a blatant example of discrimination and a miscarriage of justice at a community meeting attended by some 30 persons for Leonie and "P.I." held in Philadelphia, July 24, at the Jefferson Medical College Building. During the course of the discussion a nurse from the local VA Hospital revealed that she had received a threatening call saying that Filipino nurses would be killed. She said that she reported the incident to the Hospital administration and a FBI investigation happened soon after.

A local support group to be coordinated by Ms. Baby Kiuchi was formed and resolved to circulate the nationwide petition. The group will organize a local rally protesting the unjust verdict on the day of sentencing.

The community meeting was attended by representatives of the Anti-Martial Law Alliance-Philadelphia, Filipino-American Association of South Jersey, KDP, Kayumanggi Society, NAFL-Philadelphia, and the Varsitarians of Delaware Valley.

Similar gatherings sponsored by the KDP occurred in the East Bay and in San Francisco, July 24, where people firmly expressed their concern and support for Leonie and "P.I." In the discussion that ensued, some members of the audience commented that from what they have learned and read about the case, the government has failed to present a strong evidence proving Narciso and Perez guilty beyond reasonable doubt. Said one: "If we allow justice for Leonie and 'P.I.' to be railroaded, the Filipino community will suffer the implications of what this case truly represents. Already, some patients have refused taking medications from Filipino nurses. Some hospitals have made it a policy not to hire anymore Filipino nurses."

A support committee for both cities was organized. In conjunction with the appeal for help by the Chicago Support Group which nationally coordinates the publicity campaign around the case, the committee will circulate petitions, mobilize people for the nationwide rally that will occur the first week of September, and generate funds for the Narciso-Perez Trust Fund.

Concerned individuals and groups who may wish to gather more information on the case and/or make donations may contact or send money to Ester Simpson; Narciso-Perez Group; 4439 N. Kimball, Chicago, IL 60625: (312)267-6208 or (312)528-0325. □

Communities Organize Support



Angrily to the convictions of Narciso and Perez at a Building. The two nurses saw the supporters as ment of their conviction.

crowd. The statement declared: "I will never understand how any twelve people who had heard that body of evidence and instruction could reach a guilty verdict. I can only conclude that the verdict resulted from a series of major and tragic misunderstanding of what is fact and misapplication of the law."

Also a statement from Ms. Judy Polacheck, staff nurse at the VA hospital was read. In her statement, Ms. Polacheck said: "I have resigned (from the VA hospital) for I have no wish to commit professional suicide, and I will not work for a hospital which I believe has contributed to the predicament in which Leonie and "P.I." find themselves today."

Towards the end of the mass meeting, people signed the petition demanding a new and fair trial for Narciso and Perez. The petition is part of the nationwide campaign targetting Judge Philip Pratt, demanding that he rule the previous hearing a mistrial.

In discussing other forms of action Loesch said,

"The most important thing is to get the public's attention on this and the public's support." The enthused crowd suggested holding a nationwide rally and teams were formed to organize this action. The rally will be timed to coincide with the date of the sentencing of Narciso and Perez.

In New York, more than 100 highly spirited but indignant individuals and representatives of various Filipino community and American organizations packed the conference room at the United Nations Church Center last July 22 and vowed to mobilize the biggest rally yet to demand for an appeal of the Narciso-Perez case.

The body also pledged to gather as many signatures as possible for a petition to the judge presenting the said demand. These forms of actions were decided upon after Ms. Normita Armorado, R.N., member of the national staff of the NAFLNG, urged everyone to unite with the call of the Chicago Narciso-Perez Support Group for a nation-wide mass action and petition campaign. She said that a mass rally is the most obvious and militant form of action and it is such action that will bring the issue to the public eye.

In her impassioned opening remarks, Mrs. Primitiva Lejarde, R.N., interim coordinator of the Narciso-Perez Support Committee-N.Y. referred to the verdict as "the culmination of a long drama of discrimination...if we do not fight this verdict, it will cast a long dark shadow on the future of Filipino nurses in the U.S. If we don't, it will be another Sacco and Vanzetti case."

After citing the numerous irregularities and unfairness of the Narciso-Perez case, Ms. Teresa Rodriguez of the KDP said, "This foul practice can only be explainable in the light of the racist and national chauvinist attitude displayed by the FBI and the prosecutors throughout this case. They assumed from the very start that Narciso and Perez were 'guilty until found innocent'...whether we will allow Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez to be railroaded to jail for a crime they did not commit is up to us. Whether this incident will go down in history as a testimony of our weaknesses as a minority or whether it will be remembered as a shining example of how we, as a minority, can unite and organize to correct an injustice — is also up to us."

During the meeting, representatives of various organizations came forward and signed in behalf of

Senate Committee Hampers Human Rights Fight Philippine Amendment Struck Down



Clarence Long

Yvonne Burke

Despite the support of these two Congresspeople and others who successfully passed an aid cut through the House of Representatives, the Philippine amendment was stopped in the Senate.

By WALDEN BELLO
Special to the Ang Katipunan

The struggle to attach effective human-rights restrictions to the Fiscal Year 1978 Foreign Assistance Act continued on its see-saw course when the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee voted July 14 to strike down amendments to either ban or reduce military aid to a number of right-wing allies which had earlier been approved by the House of Representatives.

Among the major casualties of the subcommittee move was a 17 per cent reduction in military assistance to the Marcos government. This would have cut down this year's allocation from \$40.4 million to \$34.2 million.

The development in the Senate came after heavy pressure was exerted on the subcommittee by the Carter administration. Observers noted that Carter found a firm ally in Sen. Daniel Inouye (Dem.-Hawaii), subcommittee chairman. Inouye, widely known to the a friend of Ferdinand Marcos, reversed earlier indications that he would go along with a cut in aid to Marcos.

According to Severina Rivera, director of the Congress Education Project (CEP) of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition, "When I visited him four weeks ago, Inouye indicated that the subcommittee was studying the Philippine situation very closely, 'and when it does that, that means there will most probably be a cut.'"

The CEP is now preparing to take the battle to the Senate floor, where it plans to have the amendment introduced by Sen. James Abourezk (Dem.-South Dakota). An emergency two-week

mass campaign to pressure the 100 U.S. senators has been launched by all the chapters of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition and the Friends of the Filipino People. If conditions for a floor battle appear unfavorable, Rivera said the CEP would fight to save the amendment in the joint conference committee slated for late August, when the Senate and the House will iron out their differences.

The setback on the Philippines was one item in a more sweeping subcommittee move against effective human rights legislation. An earlier House ban on \$700,000 military training aid to Argentina was also reversed, as were provisions forbidding aid to Uruguay, Ethiopia, Brazil, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

The sub-committee also voted to eliminate a ban on the use of U.S. funds by the World Bank and other multi-lateral loan agencies for assistance to Vietnam and other revolutionary nationalist governments like Kampuchea (Cambodia), Mozambique, and Laos. While the established press played up this item, many experienced Washington analysts saw it differently. According to one CEP staffer, "Carter and Inouye merely used the foolish House ban on aid to Vietnam, where allegations of human rights violations have not been proven, to get at their real target: the elimination of restrictions on aiding the repressive client-states of the United States."

The Carter victory in the Senate came two days after the release of an administration position paper on arms sales, which confirms a rapid retreat away from the "human rights" foreign policy previously articulated by administration spokespersons. The July 11 statement, signed by Sec. of State Cyrus Vance, justified arms sales to repressive regimes because "There is a risk of offending such countries, thereby incurring damage to our regional and global interests." This statement on arms sales was consistent with an earlier policy assertion on military aid made by Vance on Feb. 24: "The United States would continue to aid strategically placed allies, whatever their violations of human rights."

The significance of the Vance statement for the Philippines lies in the fact that cash sales of arms to the Marcos regime by the Pentagon and private U.S. firms is estimated to have gone over \$100 million in FY 1977. This was in addition to about \$40 million in official military aid. Among the choice military hardware being sold to the Marcos government are anti-guerrilla fighters like the F-5E, and Cadillac-Gage armored cars which are used to break up urban demonstrations, and howitzers. □

Regime's Official Confronted in San Francisco; Chicago Marcos 'Land Reform' Exposed

By WALDEN BELLO

A skeptical, and oftentimes hostile, audience of about 100 people confronted Conrado Estrella, head of the Marcos government's Department of Agrarian Reform, when he spoke on the "New Society's" land policies in San Francisco on July 18.

The forum, held at the Phil-Am Council office, saw Estrella attempt to paint a glowing picture of the Marcos land reform program by evoking images of farmers "with refrigerators, transistor radios, and television sets." He presented no hard statistical evidence on land transfers to back up his claims, provoking a number of angry questions and comments from the audience.

Estrella was also subjected to heated questioning by representatives of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition and other anti-martial law groups about repression and human rights violations by the Marcos government. Estrella denied that the numerous documented cases of torture and other forms of inhumane and degrading punishment result from a systematic policy of the government, and tried to pin the blame on individual soldiers. Asked when martial law would be lifted, he responded again in the same style of blanket assertion, that "... it is slowly being lifted in different parts of the county."

The sentiments of the audience were shown in the vigorous applause which greeted the questions posed by anti-martial law individuals. Some people later commended them for raising issues which they themselves could not, because they felt intimidated.

Numerous agrarian reform experts like Dr. Benedict Kerkvliet of the University of Hawaii and Dr. Roy Prosterman of the University of Washington have labelled the Marcos land reform a "failure." Articles appearing in the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, the *New York Times*, and other international publications have also unanimously pointed to the stagnation of the Marcos program. The statistics are telling: whereas Marcos declared that over one million tenants would be affected by the program in 1972, by 1976 the number had been practically whittled down to 230,000 — or less than one per cent of the estimated four million tenants in the Philippine countryside. Moreover, by last year, only 26,000 tenants had received "land transfer certificates." These certificates, moreover, do not automatically give tenants land, but merely assure them the right to buy it over a period of fifteen years under payment conditions which many observers have described as "onerous." One of the biggest contradictions of the land reform program is the fact that it exempts the biggest landlords in the country — those who raise cash crops like sugar, coconut, and pineapple, including big U.S. agribusiness concerns like Dole and Del Monte corporations.

Estrella's San Francisco appearance was preceded by a public speech he gave at the Rizal Center in Chicago on July 14. He was also subjected to critical questioning by anti-martial law groups there. Observers suspect that Estrella's appearances might be a trial balloon to test public reaction to similar engagements by more important Marcos officials. □

New Slideshow Available POLITICAL REFUGEE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The plight of the 4.5 million refugees (10 per cent of the population) in the Philippines, will be the topic of slide show presentations-forums to be held in major cities in the U.S. and Canada by the various alliances and member organizations of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines). The slide show, one of the products of a nine-month extensive research project of the Documentation Committee on Refugees of the AMLC, concisely presents an issue that has been hidden and ignored by the Marcos regime but has reached crisis proportion as a direct result of the martial law government's brutal military, political and economic policies.

The slide show points out two main groupings of refugees: the military-induced refugees, as a result of the civil war in the south and the base-denial operations against the New People's Army (NPA); and the economically-induced refugees resulting from the land piracy in the south, and examples of anti-people government projects like the Chico Dam and the Kawasaki Steel Plant.

Chico Dam alone displaced hundreds of families. The dam project will benefit mainly the vast plantations in the Cagayan Valley owned by the Marcos-Romualdez, Enriles and the Puzons. On the other hand, the Kawasaki Plant will import an unwanted operation from Chiba City, Japan that has killed 25 persons and brought illness to more than 500 people by its toxic byproducts. The Philippines will not benefit from the products of this plant, ironically, as all of the refined iron from

(continued on page 9)

TALAARAWANG- BAYAN

People's Diary

August 2, 1902: The first general strike called in the Philippines, demanding better working conditions. It was organized by the Union Obrera Democratica (U.O.D.), the socialist-oriented trade union confederation of printers, lithographers, tailors, cigar makers and shoemakers only six months after its formation. U.O.D. was initially formed as Union de Litografos de Impresores de Filipinas by Isabelo de los Reyes in January 1902.



Mutilated bodies of Muslim Filipinos after the "Wao Massacre" two years ago. A few who survived exposed the government role in the mass slaying.

August 7, 1975: Known as the infamous "Wao Massacre" — 58 Muslim men, women and children were rounded up by the Marcos army in Barrio Upper Fort, Wao, Lanao de Sur as part of the government's effort to make the Mindanao conflict appear like a religious war between the Christians and Muslims. The army turned them over to the Marcos government-sponsored "christian" vigilante gangs known as "Ilagas" who worked for the Timber Industry of the Philippines, Inc. They were taken by a company truck into the countryside and after being bound and tortured, were finally executed.

August 8, 1897: The sellout at Biak-na-Bato. Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and the ilustrados shamelessly agreed to "lay down their arms" and stop fighting Spain in return for \$400,000 and a few "promised reforms." Soon after, Aguinaldo went to Hong Kong; however, the patriotic Philippine resistance against the Spanish colonialists continued as the oppressed conditions of the Filipino masses had not altered.

DESPITE STAY OF EVICTION

Moscone Deserts
I-Hotel Front

San Francisco's mayor, George Moscone, is under a lot of criticism from the I-Hotel tenants since his rejection of their recent proposal to save the hotel.

By JEANETTE LAZAM

SAN FRANCISCO — While receiving a temporary stay of eviction from the State Supreme Court July 12, 1977 pending a decision regarding a permanent stay (writ of supersedeas), the tenants of the International Hotel were faced with another hurdle in their fight to save their hotel for low-cost housing. On July 13, 1977, Mayor Moscone made formal his decision to reject the proposal of the International Hotel Tenants Association to have the city purchase the International Hotel and maintain it to meet the grave low-cost housing shortage in San Francisco. (see AK Vol. 4 No. 12 for details of the plan.)

The main points of his letter to the tenants address the minor legal technicalities which for the most part have been refuted by the Tenants Association and their housing consultants. The first objection of Moscone is that the plan would require a new resolution from the Board of Supervisors, allowing the use of TOOR money to help pay for the hotel. In response to this point, the IHTA have said that no Board of Supervisor action is called for at present, and the composition of the Board, and attitudes of current Supervisors would likely be more favorable after the Aug. 2 elections.

The Mayor's second objection that if the Housing Authority filed a new eminent domain case, the old case would be dropped and the I-Hotel would lose its stay of eviction. According to the IHTA lawyers, the filing of a new eminent domain action by the Housing Authority would provide the basis for a new stay to be granted.

Points 3 and 4 of the Mayor's letter draws out that because of certain sections of the California Constitution and the S.F. City Charter, the Housing Authority would have to get permission to buy the hotel from the voters. To this, the IHTA have said that the bond issue wouldn't have to be voted on until next year and that there is nothing wrong with putting this issue before the voters.

Lastly, the Mayor stated that if the Housing Authority owns the Hotel, people on its waiting list would have to take priority over current residents. The IHTA feels that the Housing Authority has the flexibility to set their own occupancy priorities. In this regard, the Mayor has missed the point entirely regarding the 2nd portion of the new tenant management plan. The lease that the tenants would enter into with the Housing Authority would

REFUGEES...

(continued from page 8)

the plant will be shipped to other countries.

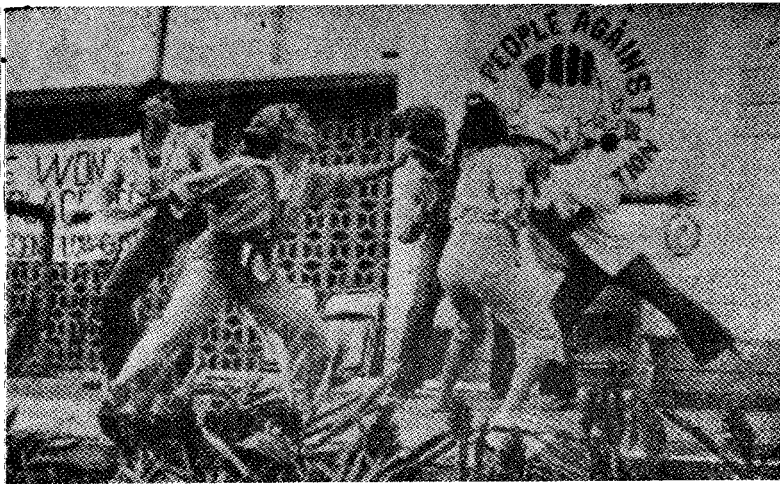
The forum will discuss the concrete actions that can be done by the Filipino community and the broader American and Canadian public in support of the struggle of the refugees. One such action is the cut-off of U.S. aid to the Marcos regime. The AMLC points to the U.S. government as the root cause of the problem. It is the aid programs that equip, arm and train the entire armed forces of the Philippines. The military and economic aid and extensive loans from U.S.-dominated lending agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund that prop up the repressive Marcos government can be cut off through massive public pressure on the U.S. Congress and these lending institutions.

For more information on direct action support of the refugee struggle in the Philippines, write to: Documentation Committee for Philippine Refugees; c/o G. Avila, 3923 North Pine Grove, #20, Chicago IL 60613.

Copies of the documentation are also available for \$1.50 each (to cover costs and postage). Write to Pandayan, P.O. Box 24707, Oakland, CA 94623. □

EVICTIONS HALTED

Chinatown Housing Victory in Hawaii



PACE members and their supporters have been struggling for years to stop the evictions in Chinatown and make the city provide low-income housing for its residents.

By DEAN ALEGADO

HONOLULU — "It was tough and we really felt we were in a deep hole, but we didn't give up!" a happy Emile Makukane, a resident of Aloha Hotel and a member of People Against Chinatown Eviction's (PACE) Steering Committee, said almost in disbelief of the recent victory PACE and the people of Chinatown won against the City of Honolulu.

On July 20, 1977 PACE was successful in forcing the city to concede to their demands and pass a resolution to stop all Chinatown evictions; work out with PACE a low-cost housing and storefront plan for the people of Chinatown; and provide acceptable relocation in Chinatown. Equally significant was the fact that for the first time the City has recognized PACE as the representative organization of the people of Honolulu's Chinatown.

The victory grew out of what first appeared to be "just another" PACE effort to keep Chinatown tenants from being kicked out of their homes at the Aloha Hotel. The tenants of the Aloha hotel who had been under the threat of eviction since last June, had refused to move out saying that the City's relocation offers were inadequate.

In support of the tenants of the Aloha Hotel, PACE

define who lives there and who doesn't. Regulations and guidelines would be negotiated between both bodies, with the tenants as the decision making body.

In a nutshell, the Mayor's objections on all counts cannot even be substantiated on legal grounds. What remains obvious is that the hotel and the issue of low-income housing is a political question. If the legal technicalities were the main point, the Mayor, being a lawyer himself could easily suggest, assuming he were sympathetic, means in which to resolve such problems.

The stand the Mayor has taken against the hotel can only suggest that he has traded off the issue of the hotel for his security as a politician in this city. With the upcoming August 2nd special elections the reasoning behind this is simple; in order to get the vote and confidence of Chamber of Commerce and Downtown, (where the money is) Moscone has moved to the side of some of the major landowners in S.F. Walter Shorenstein, once the landlord of the International Hotel is also on the Chamber of Commerce. All of these people control the economic life of S.F. and they all have advocated the demolition of the building and eviction of the tenants for 9 years.

In the final analysis, the liberal image of Mayor Moscone has been exposed as a fraud especially at a time when every major organization in the city has united with the IHTA and the need for low income housing. As far as the IHTA is concerned, the failure of Mayor Moscone to step forward to stop the eviction has not only dealt a severe blow to the housing movement but a death blow to his career as a liberal politician in San Francisco.

MOVES OF THE IHTA

Tenants of the International Hotel firmly believe that the voters and residents of S.F. are a strong force that could push Moscone back on the side of the International Hotel. They have taken their battlecry of "stop the eviction" and have expanded it to say that "the fight for low-income housing is the struggle of the International Hotel." All the people who agree that the City government has been negligent and irresponsible to the people's needs have joined the tenants in pressuring Moscone to reconsider his decision.

Mailgrams and phone calls should be directed at the Mayor's office urging him to change his decision and move to implement the new plan. A massive leafletting campaign has been initiated daily to clarify the issue at hand and to encourage people to demand that the Mayor move on the adoption of the tenants' proposal.

If all else fails in trying to get the mayor to cooperate with the hotel tenants, they believe that an explosive and dramatic act is the only way to show the Mayor and the City that the tenants mean business. Just exactly what the act might be, the tenants are not saying. However they have assured people that it would not be one where violence would occur on their part. □

organized the community to stop the eviction. Several rallies were held in front of the landlord's house to demand that he stop the evictions until the city promises to implement low cost housing and storefronts in Chinatown. A 30-car motorcade parade was organized through Chinatown and downtown Honolulu, stopping at the Honolulu Police Department, the Sheriff's office and the City Hall, in an effort to bring public attention to the plight of the residents of the Aloha Hotel and Chinatown.

PLIGHT OF THE CHINATOWN RESIDENTS

Mrs. Rita Tarampi, a PACE steering committee member explained the plight of the residents: "Everyone in Chinatown and those living outside of it know that Chinatown is in bad shape. Many of the buildings are fire-traps and need to be torn down. Aloha Hotel is like that. People ask, why don't the tenants move and accept the City's relocation offer. But the tenants of Aloha Hotel don't like living in rundown buildings and would like to move if they can. Residents and small businesses in Chinatown are not a bunch of crazy people defending rundown buildings dangerous to our health and safety!"

Kollie Kamai, a tenant of Aloha Hotel added, "We refuse to move because the City has not provided acceptable relocation inside Chinatown. The City would like to move us out of Chinatown. If the City would build decent low-cost housing inside Chinatown, there would be no problem moving out."

With PACE and the residents fighting back, the support for Chinatown grew. Broad community groups ranging from senior citizen councils, neighborhood boards, church groups such as the Hawaii Council of Churches and various people's organizations and progressive groups, organized the effort to build the pressure against the City and Mayor Fasi. The demand was to stop the evictions and negotiate with PACE to develop a low-cost housing and storefront plan for the people of Chinatown.

The growing support for PACE and the militant stand of the residents and supporters kept the sheriff and police from coming in to kick the people out of the hotel. On July 7, deputy sheriff Ben Chun, came to the hotel to serve the writ of eviction. He was met by 50 residents and supporters who took the eviction writ and burned it in front of the hotel. With every eviction effectively averted by the organized resistance, the sheriff and the police had to be ordered by the court on July 15 to carry out the evictions or be charged with contempt of court.

CITY HELD RESPONSIBLE

Meanwhile, Mayor Fasi, the highest public official of the City, was targeted as the person who could stop the eviction. It was also the City which had condemned the building and allowed the landlord to evict the Aloha Hotel tenants for the more profitable urban renewal projects. In the process of targeting Fasi and the city, it was also exposed that the city had failed to enforce building codes on the Aloha Hotel for the past 15 years, allowing the landlord to collect rents from the tenants without making any repairs on the rundown hotel. Then, when it appeared that the big landlords and developers could make better profits through the urban renewal program, the city moved in to enforce the building codes to evict the tenants.

"Fasi and the City are not only responsible for protecting slumlords with selective code enforcements," said a member of PACE. "He and the City are responsible for initiating wholesale evictions of thousands of residents and small businesses in the greater Chinatown area. Kukui project alone — for which Fasi is being tried for allegedly accepting bribes — evicted 1,700 individuals and families and 407 small businesses. Of these, only 17 managed to move back into the luxurious Kukui Plaza."

"Furthermore, through the Department of Housing and Community Developing (DHCD), whose past heads include prominent developers such as William Blackfield, John Henry Felix and Hung Wo Ching, the City has done the dirty work for developers and landowners. Clearing the land by using tax money, they've paved the way for developers like Clarence Ching and Hal Hansen,

(continued on page 11)

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

DUPLICITY IN FOREIGN POLICY REVEALED

Carter Supports Aid to Dictatorships

By ROMY DE LA PAZ

In a recent report to Congress, Pres. Carter explicitly defended the administration's continued support for "pro-American" military dictatorships guilty of violating human rights, further exposing his duplicity on his foreign policy.

Significantly, the Carter Administration report to Congress released July 11, was the first time the administration finally revealed its real stance on foreign policy matters. The report, an analysis of Carter's arms sales policy, conceded that while most nations "engage to some degrees in repressive practices," a number of these countries "with deplorable records of human rights observances are also countries where we have important security and foreign policy interests."

Because of these "important security and foreign policy interests," U.S. aid to these repressive regimes would continue unabated, and in most cases would be increased.

The report made it clear that the present administration's policy of financing police states is no different from the Nixon or Ford administration's policies in the past. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the report "adopted some of the pragmatic arguments used by previous administrations to support military aid to pro-American dictatorships."

The report, prepared by the State Department and signed by Sec. of State Cyrus Vance, revealed that U.S. military aid appropriations to rightwing dictatorships is aimed at protecting U.S. strategic economic and political interests in these countries. It stated that widespread arm embargoes run the risk of damaging U.S. "regional and global interests," adding that nations might turn to other suppliers, diminishing "what influence the U.S. might otherwise have been able to bear to encourage the improvement in their attitude towards human rights."

U.S. MILITARY AID SOARS TO RIGHTS VIOLATORS

Despite his repeated claims that the issue of human rights remains the centerpiece of his foreign policy, Carter strongly advocated continued and increased military aid to U.S. rightwing client states. Termination of arms sales, said the report, should be reserved only for the "worst offenders" — that is, cases in which it has become clear that any efforts to "improve" the human rights situation would be fruitless.

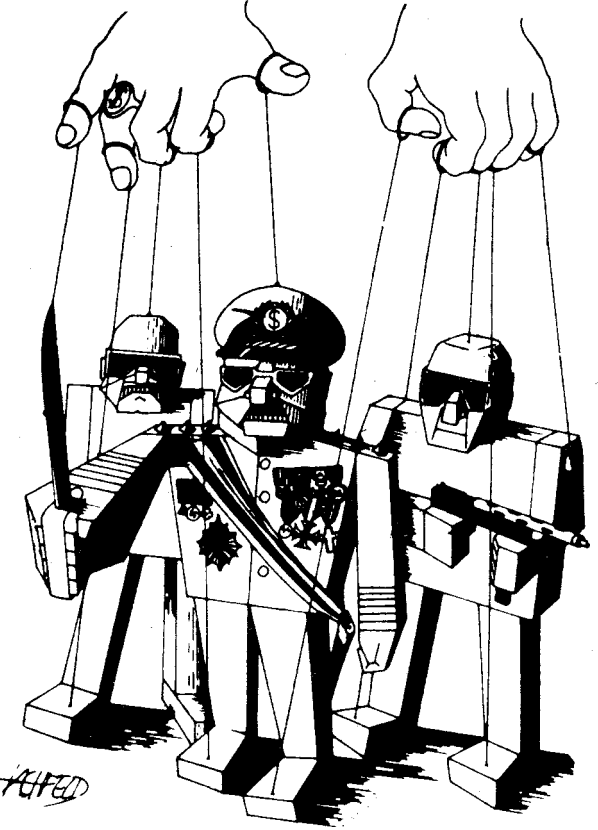
However, the report conveniently made no mention of Iran, the Philippines or South Korea, large recipients of U.S. military aid who have frequently been cited as notorious human rights violators.

After the first round of Congressional debate over foreign aid policies, the records showed that the Carter administration plans a \$26 million boost in U.S. aid to the Philippines — from \$114 million to \$140 million — despite the State Department's acknowledging the fact that "there have been reports of torture, as well as cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment in the cases of political detainees..."

The Philippines is not an exception. A survey of 10 countries with serious human rights problems show that U.S. aid of one type or another is scheduled to rise in five: the Philippines, Iran, South Korea, Indonesia, and Bolivia. Congressional experts and such organizations as Amnesty International identified these countries as having the most serious human rights problem of all countries now receiving U.S. aid.

CARTER DUPLICITY EXPOSED

Despite his professed concern for human rights and limiting arms sales abroad, Carter's duplicity on these issues have only been further exposed. Sec. of State Vance voiced the administration's policy when he said: "In each case, we must



balance a political concern for human rights against economic or security goals." However, it is clear that by requesting increased U.S. aid to blatantly repressive regimes, "economic and security interests" clearly outweigh Washington's concern for human rights. The Carter administration, in its U.S. aid program, has not exerted any efforts to put financial muscle behind its human rights rhetoric in countries where the U.S. has direct influence.

"I think you say quite accurately," says one administration official privately, "that so far, our policy has been to make modest cuts in a few areas of the world that don't count very much. □"

Washington Spurts Arms Race

NEUTRON BOMB: Destroys People, Not Property

By VINCENTE SAN NICOLAS

Despite many pronouncements by Washington supporting arms limitations, controls on nuclear proliferation and human rights, the Carter Administration announced July 12 that funding and production of the controversial neutron bomb would begin.

As a weapon of mass human destruction, the neutron bomb has been billed as the latest successor to the atom and hydrogen bombs. The neutron bomb has the horrendously unique capacity to destroy human life while preserving factories, buildings and other non-living property.

Because of its effects — killing massive numbers of unseen persons indiscriminately while leaving property untouched — the neutron bomb has also been denounced as the ultimate weapon of the capitalist class and a new threat to mankind that only serves to sput on the nuclear weapons race.

KILLS BY MASSIVE RADIATION

When one reads how the neutron bomb kills, the question why such a weapon could possibly have been conceived, let alone be tested and put into production, arises.

According to the U.S. Defense Department's own reports, victims of a neutron bomb or other "enhanced radiation" weapons would suffer the following:

"The central nervous system is attacked and the victim dies essentially from a form of shock. The body convulses, limbs shake, the nervous system fails so that all of the automatic body functions, even breathing, are affected. Death comes within 48 hours from respiratory failure or a swelling of the tissues in the brain."

A 'SUPERIOR WEAPON'

The massive neutron bomb radiation causes extensive damage to body cells, making it impossible for cells to reproduce. Chromosomes are destroyed, cellular fluids thicken, the cell nucleus swells and the cell wall may be destroyed. Some victims outside a one-mile radius of the blast may linger for weeks, but face an eventual death due to the radiation exposure.

Proponents of the neutron bomb have argued that it is "superior" to other nuclear weapons since the bomb kills by showering its victims with massive amounts of neutron radiation, while having little of the blast, fire or fallout of an atom or hydrogen bomb.

For U.S. militarists, the development of such a bomb has been a secret goal since the first explosions of the atom bomb over Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. The neutron bomb is seen as a "clean" nuclear weapon that would leave "friendly" territories undamaged while eliminating only the "enemy" troops.

The problem with such arguments, however, is that the neutron bomb, like any nuclear weapon, cannot selectively choose its victims. Like the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs, numerous civilian populations are potential victims, as the neutron bomb cannot distinguish between troops or civilian persons.

In addition, critics have noted that while the neutron bomb may emit less heat, blast and fallout than the atom or hydrogen bombs, its devastating impact on human populations is tremendous, and the bomb could hardly be considered a "superior" weapon. Its potential deployment to NATO forces in Europe also heightens the potential use of the bomb and the subsequent eruption of hostilities

with the Soviet Union.

SECRETLY RESEARCHED FOR YEARS

While wide-spread public knowledge of the bomb only recently surfaced, research on the neutron bomb has secretly been taking place for the past 15 years.

The only reason why the bomb aroused suspicion this year was due to an error on the part of the Energy Research and Development Agency (ERDA), the agency which succeeded the Atomic Energy Commission and is responsible for nuclear weapons research.

Because of the highly secretive nature of neutron bomb research, ERDA reports to Congress have always eliminated any mention of "neutron bomb" or "enhanced radiation." This year, however, the ERDA left the words "enhanced radiation" which appeared after "W70-3 Lance warhead" in its report to Congress.

A Washington Post reporter knowledgeable with nuclear weapon terms saw the report, realized its implications and wrote a series of articles which alerted the public to the bomb.

In the ensuing days, as it was also revealed that neutron bomb tests had already occurred in Nevada, the neutron bomb controversy boiled and the U.S. Senate held secret hearings on the weapon. Despite public uproar, however, the Senate approved production of the bomb and the Carter administration also gave its nod.

While production of the neutron bomb now signals a continued arms race, there exists much public opposition to such a weapon of mass destruction. Nevertheless, Washington has decided to continue pouring millions of dollars into the neutron bomb and other nuclear weapons. □

POLISARIO Leads Struggle**Saharan Guerrillas Fight for Independence**

By TAMI HULTMAN
Reprinted from Seven Days

NEAR SMARA, WESTERN SAHARA—The rumble of guns reverberated like summer thunder as columns of black smoke thickened to clear desert sky. From their vantage point on a rocky plain several kilometers from the town of Smara, the Saharan guerrillas could tell that their bombardiers had hit a Moroccan position. One of them leaped onto the hood of a Land Rover and swung his rifle in a triumphal arc. Another hugged his companion as the sound of more explosions rolled in waves across the desert. "Bella musica," he exulted. Beautiful music.

Then, with no apparent concern that an airplane or helicopter might be sent from the town to search for the attack party, the guerrillas built a fire in the sand and sat down to have tea.

That casual confidence is typical of the way the Polisario Front independence movement is fighting this war against Moroccan and Mauritanian control of the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara.

Spain relinquished the territory 18 months ago in a controversial agreement that gave the northern two thirds of the country to Morocco, and the rest to Mauritania, to the south. The still-secret pact gives Spain a 35 per cent share of the rich phosphate mines at Bu Craa in the Moroccan zone.

So far that share has not been very profitable. Although Bu Craa's reserves are an estimated 1.7 billion tons of some of the world's purest phosphates—a mineral used in the manufacture of fertilizers—the Polisario guerrillas have managed to bring exports almost to a standstill. Their regular attacks have destroyed large sections of the 60-mile-long conveyor belt that once carried phosphates to port, and their ambushes have repeatedly frustrated attempts to move the minerals by armored truck convoys.

To combat the guerrillas, Mauritania has been forced to increase the size of its armed forces dramatically from 1,200 to 12,000 and Morocco has sent more than a third of its 95,000-man army to the Sahara. The two nations have also appealed for Western aid—and have gotten it, most notably in the form of military equipment from France and the United States.

U.S. approval of military sales to Morocco increased from \$8.6 million in 1974 to \$294.9 million the following year. Among the 1976 sales was a squadron of F-5E jet bombers. The Carter administration has requested \$45 million in military aid to Morocco for fiscal 1978, a 200 percent increase over the 1975 appropriation of nearly \$15 million.

But despite the firepower against them, an estimated 10,000 Polisario guerrillas have managed to pin down their opponents to 15 fortified towns, subject to constant bombardment. The Saharans are also attacking deep into Morocco and Mauritania—an aspect of the war that is causing increasing international concern.

Just how freely the independent forces roam the desert was demonstrated to me during a four-day, 700-mile trip with Polisario, which took us to within 75 miles of the Moroccan stronghold at El Aiun on the Atlantic coast.

We traveled mostly by day on well-marked roads, although occasionally we cut across sandy pits or rocky cliffs to reach a guerrilla base camp. When we moved from place to place by night, the guerrillas drove with headlights blazing, and when we stopped to sleep they built huge bonfires from sparse shrubs to ward off the desert nighttime temperatures that can drop as much as 100 degrees from the midday heat.

Everywhere along our route we encountered well-established base camps housing hundreds of guerrillas,

PACE VICTORY...

(continued from page 9)

both indicted with Fasi in the Kukui case, who get to lease whole city blocks for \$1 a year!" the PACE spokesperson added.

As these injustices became clearer to more and more people in Chinatown, the pressure against the Mayor and the City grew. To avoid a direct confrontation between the City and the people of Chinatown, as well as prevent the city's isolation, the City Council negotiated a settlement meeting PACE's basic demands. It was only then that the City intervened to stop the eviction and promised to work out plans with the residents to implement low-cost housing in Chinatown.

PEOPLE'S VICTORY

In summing up the victory to residents and supporters following the passage of the City Council resolution at the steps of the City Hall, Emile Maluakane explained: "PACE does not feel that the issue is over and finished. It is only the first step. The City must now carry it out and make the resolution a reality. The fight to stop the evictions at Aloha Hotel is meaningless if seen only as a fight for relocation inside Chinatown. We say we will not stop until low-cost housing and storefronts are built and the people are moved in. And even then, there will still be problems to solve." □

Ten thousand Polisario guerrillas move freely through the Western Sahara. They have pinned down their Moroccan and Mauritanian opponents in 15 fortified towns.

[Seven Days photo]



who seldom leave Saharan soil except to attack targets in Morocco or Mauritania.

After months of denying the war's existence—"Nothing is happening," King Hassan II said last fall during a visit to France—Moroccan officials now admit to an occasional skirmish.

"It is true," said Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Laraki in an interview with Seven Days, "that the Algerian aggressors occasionally penetrate our borders. After all, the desert is vast, and there are no recognizable frontiers. But, essentially, the Saharan provinces are at peace."

American officials tend to share the Moroccan view that the trouble in Western Sahara is a result of Algeria's long-standing feud with Morocco. "If I were in the shoes of [Algerian President Houari] Boumediene," said one U.S. diplomat, "I would probably do the same thing. He looks over here and sees Morocco doing very well under the monarchy, while his own socialist economy is in trouble. So of course he is not happy with Hassan's success in the Sahara."

Nor do American officials appear to fear that the war will escalate. When queried about the possibility that the Sahara would be a major topic of talks between President Jimmy Carter and King Hassan when the latter visits Washington later this year, one State Department officer replied, "Well, I can't imagine why it would be. The Moroccans have pretty much cleaned that one up. You know they've trained new highly mobile attack units to go after the guerrillas, and the tactic seems to have worked."

But a trip with the guerrillas quickly explodes the Moroccan charge that Polisario is an Algerian-based mercenary group, whose attacks are spearheaded by the Algerian army. If anyone can be said to control the Sahara's mostly uninhabited 100,000 square miles, it is the Saharans.

I went with a Polisario unit of four Land Rovers—about 25 soldiers—to the village of Tifariti, a few miles from the Mauritanian border. Morocco claims to control the town and its several thousand inhabitants, and last month it published election results of local council balloting.

In fact, Tifariti is deserted and has been since February 1976 when Moroccan planes bombed the desert villages to which most of the Saharan population fled during the transition from Spanish rule.

"We walked for days across the desert to get to Tifariti," said Fattata Ment E'Houd who left El Aaiun with other Polisario women when the Moroccans moved in. "The Moroccan invasion was genocidal, because its principal victims were women and children." Only 18 years old at the time, Fattata joined the military and helped defend the town against attack. She often traveled long distances on foot to intercept the refugees who straggled by the thousands toward Polisario-controlled areas and helped organize medical care for weary travelers who were often sick.

When Tifariti was bombed, she fled with the survivors to Algeria, which has allowed some 100,000 Saharan refugees to form 22 encampments along its southwest

border.

"Algeria's position has been to support the United Nations call for self-determination," said a Polisario representative. "It only began to give us arms after a UN mission to the Sahara in May 1975 identified Polisario as the people's choice."

The front says it also gets some military aid from sources other than Algeria—Libya has been suggested by some observers—but it maintains that the bulk of its equipment is captured from the Moroccans and Mauritians. Guerrillas riding in jeeps mounted with heavy artillery and still painted with the Moroccan army insignia is a common sight in Western Sahara.

Polisario's May Day raid on the Mauritanian iron-mining center of Zouerate that left two French citizens dead and six apparently captured is an indication that the Saharan war may soon claim a larger share of international news headlines. The possibility of great power intervention is real, given Western concern about the stability of Morocco, where the United States has three military installations—at Kenitra, Sidi Yahya, and Sidi Bouknadel—including strategic CIA communications facilities.

In the event of such an escalation, Polisario might very well be on its own. Relations between the Saharans and the Soviet Union have never been particularly close, and growing Soviet economic links with Morocco would tend to decrease the chances of substantial Russian support for the independence fighters.

In the guerrillas' favor is the internal dissent the war is causing in both occupying countries. Officials in the Mauritanian capital of Nouakchott say privately that the Zouerate raid could not have been carried out so successfully without cooperation from northern Mauritians, who are ethnically and culturally related to the Saharan nomads. Moroccans are chafing under the pressure of the undeclared war, whose casualties, one Moroccan dissident group estimates, average 30 to 50 a month—sometimes 50 a week.

A Moroccan bomber pilot told me that he and many of his colleagues believe a major motivation for King Hassan's decision to send troops to Zaire was a need to boost military morale by what Hassan expected would be a successful intervention. If that is so, the results are questionable. "Even the extra combat pay we get for being here in the Sahara doesn't cheer us up much," said the soldier. "Not when we're dying in a sandbox."

Also to Polisario's advantage is the morale of the Saharans, which appears to be high, both among the guerrillas and in the refugee camps, where popular congresses in April debated the problems and elected officials.

Lalti Smael Bardi is one example of the Saharan women who are being integrated into the guerrilla army in increasing numbers, since the women's organization's insistence last summer that military training be compulsory and equal for both sexes. She is 38 years old, and she says proudly that she has a son who is also a soldier. "We were forced to fight because our country was invaded," she says. "We will keep fighting as long as we must." □

Victims of Liquidation? MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS MISSING

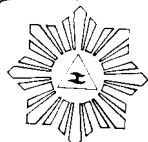
Another crack has fissured the Marcos dictatorship's human rights facade. This time, it concerns political prisoners reported missing, some for more than two years. Victims of bureaucratic red tape whose names have been merely overlooked by the Office of Detainees? Or, more likely, victims of "non-organic" military liquidation squads whose existence the AFP vehemently denies? A report from Ang Bayan (May 15, 1977) reveals the names of missing prisoners and the circumstances under which they disappeared.

The fascist military continues to hide information regarding the increasing numbers of disappearances of suspected subversives. Relatives and friends of Henry Romero, a correspondent for the Bulletin Today, have not located him since he was last seen in August, 1976, in Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba, Laguna. Similarly, the military refuses to answer questions regarding the disappearance of Carlos Jacinto and his wife during the first part of 1976. Jacinto was an active member of a national democratic youth organization before the declaration of martial law.

Among those also missing is Nenita Evangelista Luneta and her young child. A witness attests to their kidnapping by the 5th Constabulary Security Unit on June 30, 1975, a fact repeatedly denied by the military. Among those also missing are:

Leticia Pacual Ladlad, a student leader from the University of the Philippines, Los Banos, arrested in Nov. 1975; Carlos Tayag, a deacon of the Benedictine Order, missing since Aug. 17, 1976; Antonio Liao, last heard of as having been detained in Camp Alagar, Cagayan de Oro, in Feb. 1977; Tita Lubi; Juan Andres Buenaventura and Johannes Barozo, both missing since June, 1975; Manuel Ontong last seen near the Philippine General Hospital on Nov. 22, 1975; Emmanuel Yap, missing since Feb. 14, 1976; Margarito Alvarez, missing since June 12, 1976; Flora Coronacion Ador Fe de Vera and Rolando Fideres, all three missing since Oct. 23, 1976; and Apolonia Buenaventura who was tortured by the military and last seen by relatives on Nov. 22, 1976, the day after she was arrested by the Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Unit.

Oscar Sawal, last seen on Aug. 1, 1976; Emmanuel Alvarez missing since Jan. 6, 1976; Alfredo Mendoza arrested and tortured in Nueva Ecija on Oct. 1975; Eugenio Flores, was seen arrested by the 5th CSU on June 30, 1975; Rex Edralin, reportedly kidnapped along the Baguio-Benguet highway on March 16, 1976; and Francisco Portem, missing while under the custody of the 2nd Constabulary Unit in 1974.



Ang KATIPUNAN

The Ang KATIPUNAN, National Newspaper of the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP), is published every other week, except once a month in January and July. Bulk Rate Postage paid in Oakland, CA. Address all correspondence to: P.O. Box 23644, Oakland, CA. 94623.

EDITOR
Trinity Ordone

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Samuel P. Bayani

PHILIPPINE NEWS:

Victoria Luna, Ma. Flor Sepulveda

COMMUNITY NEWS:

Norma DeLeon, Francisco Ocampo, Samuel P. Bayani, Sherry Valparaiso

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL:

Romy De La Paz, Vicente San Nicolas

CIRCULATION:

Polly Parks

CORRESPONDENTS IN:

Boston, Chicago, Hawaii, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco-Bay Area, Seattle

☐ SUBSCRIBING

Rates: ☐ Individual.....\$ 5
☐ Institution.....\$ 7
☐ Outside U.S.....\$ 10

allow 2 weeks for delivery;
for first class mail, include \$3 domestic
and \$10 international.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ subscriptions.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Imelda's Brother Reportedly Wants U.N. Post

RP AMB. TO UN APPOINTED TO CHINA



Benjamin Romualdez

Narciso Reyes

Ambassador Narciso Reyes, the present permanent representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, has been appointed ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Foreign Affairs Sec. Carlos Romulo announced last week. Reyes, a veteran diplomat, had previously served a chief of mission in Burma, Indonesia, and Britain. He occupied his UN post for four years.

The appointment of Reyes to the Chinese post confirms speculation that Benjamin Romuladez, incumbent ambassador to China and younger brother of the First Lady, may soon be rewarded with the UN portfolio. Reportedly bored with life in China, Romualdez has been maneuvering for an assignment in such "exciting" places as Los Angeles or New York. Now that Reyes has been conveniently transferred to Peking, it seems that New York was Kokoy's choice.

ROMUALDEZ OFFENSIVE

Manila sources further add that Romualdez has long prepared for this assignment. Recognizing the overwhelming anti-martial law sentiments among Filipino communities in the US, Romualdez has commissioned the National Media Production Center (NMPC) to develop a documentary film aimed at winning support for the martial law regime. NMPC insiders reveal that the film will exploit the theme of discrimination against Filipinos in the US as the introductory segment. After — hopefully — establishing the myth that the martial law

regime is concerned with the plight of US Filipinos, the film will proceed to project a deodorized image of "martial law-Marcos style." Replete with the standard propaganda gimmickry, the film will discuss Marcos' foreign policy initiatives; how the Philippines is no longer in the shadows of the US; and how R.P. style martial law is actually a benevolent form of authoritarianism. The conclusion will appeal to US Filipinos to shoulder the defense of the martial law regime abroad as a patriotic responsibility. Romualdez is reportedly considering buying television time to disseminate as broadly as possible, his martial law message.

The impending Romualdez offensive was reportedly precipitated by an NMPC assessment that martial law propaganda efforts in the US have been a dismal failure. Admitting defeat, NMPC officials have said that US-based anti-martial law publications were a hundred times more effective than martial law propaganda.

"KEY TO BROTHER-IN-LAW HEART"

Apart from nursing big ambitions as a UN diplomat, including, according to unconfirmed reports, a desire for a seat in the UN Human Rights Commission, Romualdez reportedly wants to establish his credentials as the first successful Marcos henchman in the US. Romualdez first toyed with this idea in 1975, when he attempted to arrange meetings between anti-martial law groups and the First Lady. It was also at that time that the First Lady's cousin, Philippine Ambassador to the US, Eduardo Romualdez, was held hostage at the Consular offices in Washington. Eager to earn a name for himself, Romualdez reportedly usurped authority from Primitivo Mijares, who was appointed to negotiate for the ambassador's release, which led to Mijares' defection shortly thereafter.

Although his ascension to political power has been by and large a result of the First Lady's sisterly indulgence, Romualdez recently seems bent on projecting a more independent stature. His is faced with the most difficult challenge yet for an aspiring Marcos man which is the task of neutralizing or winning over the overwhelming anti-martial law sentiments of the overseas Filipino communities. Romualdez may live to regret this self-appointed responsibility. ☐

Growing Violence, Threats

Hostilities May Resume in Mindanao



MNLF guerrillas

By VICTORIA LUNA

A slow and steady build-up of events over the months of June and July in the southern Philippines provides a graphic indication that the Philippine government is gearing up for a resumption of the civil war in that part of the country.

After the collapse on April 30 of negotiations in Manila between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Philippine government, the regime's officials repeatedly declared their commitment to reopening a dialogue. Aside from Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile's dramatic "Let the blood flow if they must flow," the regime's stance throughout the month of May was one of cautious, careful diplomacy toward the MNLF.

The Marcos government was careful not to rock the boat for fear of antagonizing the Arab nations which was preparing to take up the Mindanao conflict at the Islamic conference scheduled for that month in Tripoli, Libya. Conference chairman Abdul Karim Gaye had demanded that the case be presented to the United Nations Security Council and the regime was clearly worried.

The Islamic Conference attempts to act against the Philippines proved, however, to be considerably more moderate than had been expected. The Marcos government was accused of "shirking its responsibilities," but there was no talk of an oil embargo against the country.

CHANGE OF TONE

The meeting safely past, the month of June saw a significant change of tone toward the conflict in the south. As early as June 1, reports revealed an exchange of fire between navy patrol boats and unidentified

"smugglers" near Zamboanga City. On June 4 came a report of fighting between government forces and an unidentified rebel group which later information proved to be a serious clash near Balabagan, Lanao del Sur with the MNLF which caused 2,000 people to flee their homes.

On June 11, President Marcos issued an ominously worded warning that the New People's Army (NPA) was attempting to link up with the MNLF. One day later, Defense Undersecretary Carmelo Barbero described Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi, whom the Marcos' repeatedly praised for his "brilliant" diplomacy throughout the entire period of negotiations, as a kind of outside agitator. The stories triumphantly claimed that Khaddafi had "openly admitted" giving assistance to the rebels — something which everyone had known all along. The very same day, Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon, chief of the Southern Command warned MNLF units that they had better surrender because "sooner or later we will have to go after them." Throughout the two-week period ending on June 16, armed clashes between government forces and MNLF in Lanao del Sur, Jolo, and Basilan resulted in eight deaths and numerous casualties.

GROWING VIOLENCE — OMINOUS THREATS

Amidst this climate of growing violence and ominous threats, a hand grenade thrown into a theater in Zamboanga City on June 20 killed three and wounded 16. Less than a week later, a similar incident in Dipolog City took two more lives and wounded 16 more.

The grenade throwers were never found. A similar incident two months earlier in Zamboanga City had been traced to an off-duty military man who dropped a grenade out of a second story window, killing one and wounding several others. Nevertheless, the regime used the incidents to take further repressive action against the MNLF. On June 30, Espaldon announced that, because of a series of terroristic activities, members of the MNLF would now be barred from entering any city or town in the south without an official mission order issued by his commander and attested by the Philippine Armed Forces commander in the area. Any member of the MNLF found without such an order in any city is to be immediately arrested as a suspected terrorist.

A gesture like this indicates that, in spite of honey-coated words about "continuing dialogues," the days of negotiation, and of the ceasefire itself, are numbered. The battle lines may not yet be drawn, but the steady march of events over the last few months reveals with absolute clarity that the Philippine government has war on its agenda and is deliberately moving toward a renewed showdown with the MNLF in the south. ☐