

Calls Proceeding a Mockery AQUINO UP FOR RETRIAL



After four years in prison, Benigno Aquino refuses to participate in his military trial but rather, asks to go in exile. (Bernard Wideman Photo)

MANILA — Former opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, Jr. is currently undergoing another military trial beginning August 3, 1976. Charged with one count each of murder and illegal possession of firearms and four separate charges of subversion, Aquino has decided "not to defend myself against all the libel, the slander, the calumny, and numerous false charges against me (sic)."

The former senator and secretary-general of the defunct Liberal Party who has been imprisoned since martial law was declared in 1972, was brought to trial with the same charges in August 1973, but refused to participate in the proceedings, describing the trial a mockery and denouncing Marcos a dictator. In an announcement made by the Department of Defense, Aquino is accused with six

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'RIOT' STORY DENOUNCED

Assaults on Prisoners Continue

By Francisco Ocampo

TAGUIG, Rizal — The assaults on 116 political prisoners in Camp Bicutan, this town, continue despite protests from the detainees and their supporters, here and abroad. These assaults by the Philippine military were carried out in retaliation to the successful 15-day hunger strike of the prisoners which resulted in the release of two nursing mothers and their 8-month old babies.

The reprisals were also meant to deter the prisoners from continuing to fight for their other demands: to improve the subhuman conditions in the detention camps and to prevent the plan to segregate male and female detainees.

The reprisals began July 8; some 150 Philippine Constabulary (P.C.) troopers under the pretext of "decongesting" the detention center by order of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, stormed the compound. The troopers who bore no name tags, some smelling of liquor, broke down the main door with a sledge hammer and brutally punched, kicked, shoved their way through a protective human cordon around the alleged leaders of the strike, Fr. Edicio de la Torre and Fidel Agcaoili.

Bent on transferring these leaders to isolation cells where they are now kept, the two were dragged on all fours while a dozen or so other detainees were bodily thrown out of the building and several more hit with karate blows. Some 30 detainees (including three females) suffered severe bruises, contusions and abrasions. Two collapsed from severe chest blows, one suffered multiple lacerations on the back from being thrown against a barb wire fence.

REPRISAL CALLED A "RIOT"

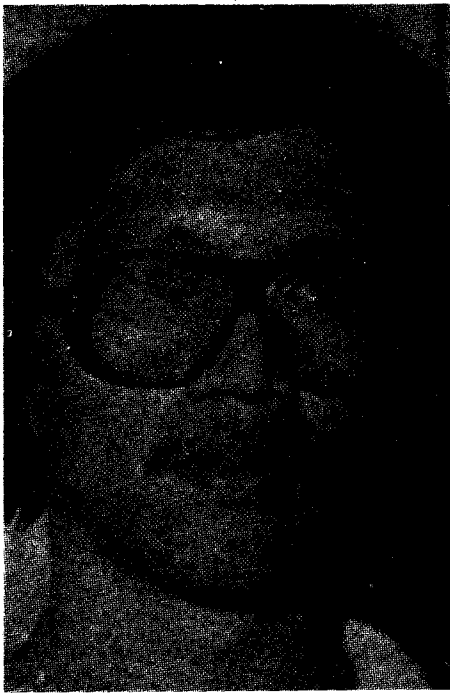
Two days later, the Marcos-controlled media reported a distorted account of the incident. The detainees were portrayed as unruly and rebellious and without regard for order. The incident was called a "riot" incited by the detainees who "ganged up on their unarmed guards... and used chairs and wooden planks to beat up the guards." The same account claimed that although the detainees were also hurt... their injuries were slight." The report gave the impression that the detainees protested for no concrete reasons at all, adding that many of their requests have been granted and that the nursing mothers (Amaryllis Hilao-Astorga and Mila Astorga-Garcia) have been allowed to go home for humanitarian reasons." Further obscuring the incident, the report claimed that charges of physical injuries were being lodged against the detainees.

SECOND ASSAULT

As the public was being fed pure lies about the incident, a second wave of assault took place in the morning of July 11 by some 100 Metrocom troopers led by Colonel Clemente Brazil, deputy commander of Metrocom. After using the same storm tactics, four more detainees (Domingo Luneta, Ernesto Luneta, Francisco Luneta, and Rene Aguirre) were forcibly removed and confined to still undisclosed quarters. During the assault, some 15 more detainees were seriously injured by troopers. One was beaten by a truncheon on the head, two sustained multiple lacerations and bruises after being bodily lifted and thrown to the ground, and one female was kicked in the lower rib. The Luneta brothers were also seen being mauled

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FR. ED ON ANOTHER HUNGER STRIKE



Assassination Attempt on Fr. Ed, Agcaoili

TAGUIG, Rizal — An assassination attempt was made on Fr. Edicio de la Torre and Fidel Agcaoili last July 13 in a segregated detention cell at Camp Bicutan, Rizal.

An unidentified gunman shot at the two political prisoners and missed, hitting a window instead. Fr. Ed was hit on the head by the splintered glass from the shattered window.

The assassination attempt caps the martial law government's punitive measures against the militant political prisoners in Bicutan. Fr. Ed has been on another hunger strike since July 12 to protest their segregation and the manhandling of the detainees during the forcible transfer that started July 9. (see article this page)

The two detainees have not been allowed to see their lawyers since their segregation. □

Fr. Edicio de la Torre together with Fidel Agcaoili were allegedly key leaders in the successful hunger strike; making them targets of reprisal. (AK-KDP File Photo)

SIX FISHERMEN DIE FROM U.S. BOMBS

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Discrimination in Fil-Am History

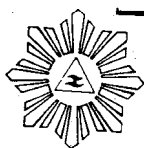
Controversy Jeopardizes Project

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(KDP) Union of Democratic Filipinos

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EDITORIAL

1976 Seattle FWC

A Big Step Forward for the Community

By KDP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Next month will mark another step forward* for the Progressive Filipino Movement as 800-1,000 concerned community persons are expected to attend the Filipino People's Far West Convention in Seattle. Under the theme, *Pag-isahin ang Sambayanan* (Unite the People), this upcoming sixth annual FWC promises to be the best one yet.

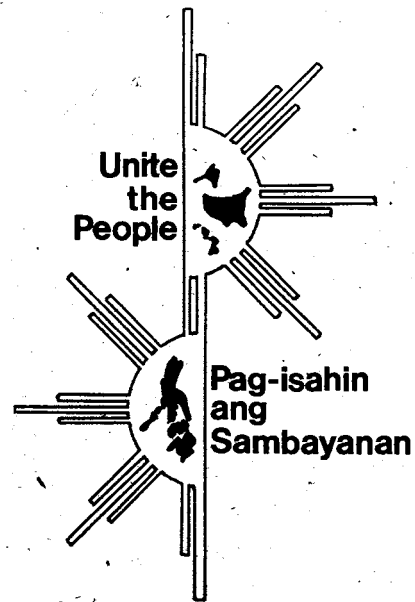
From the host city, we hear there is mounting enthusiasm and everyone is looking forward to the Labor Day weekend event. The joint work of organizing the Convention has also built unity among different local organizations and individuals working together in the process. And from California, we also hear that fundraisers are being organized in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego to send busloads of delegates to Seattle.

But what makes the FWC so important that hundreds are mobilizing for it? It is essentially its "working character," because the FWC brings people together to discuss common problems in the community, like discrimination against Filipinos, and adopt action-oriented proposals to fight it. In fact, this will be the first time that joint work established through last year's "working resolutions" at the Berkeley Convention will be reported back to the FWC.

The most successful of these have been the West Coast Confederation of Filipino Students and the Far West Task Force on Education. The Confederation, which united Filipino student clubs in three major regions (northern and southern California and Seattle), was able to host a series of regional activities as well as a West Coast-wide student conference this past June. The Task Force on Education will also present their evaluation on the racist and demeaning reportage of the Philippines and Filipino people as found in California social science textbooks.

A better distribution of responsibilities also characterizes the Seattle FWC. The student and education workshops, for example, will be facilitated by the Student Confederation and Education Task Force, while the Saturday night cultural presentation will be jointly performed by cultural companies from Seattle and San Francisco.

Sectoral conferences are also being held up and down the West Coast to better prepare for



workshops and develop opinions for "working resolutions" to be submitted to the FWC. This growing ability to share tasks and share unity on concrete action proposals has moved the FWC's out of the "talking" stage and increased its practical value to the whole Filipino community.

And it is the mass participation of the whole Filipino community that in turn makes the Convention process so exciting and dynamic. Unlike some other conventions in the Filipino community, anyone can come who wants to contribute and learn from others. This means that young people, senior citizens, professionals, parents and sometimes whole families will be fully involved in discussion, decision-making and implementation — people's power on a grass roots level.

Over the years, the FWC has become increasingly important and recognized institution in the Filipino community — both as an open forum and an organizing tool that fights for the interests of the Filipino people. Its popularity, however, stems directly from its relevance and viability to the needs of the Filipino people — there are no "big names" nor "big money" behind it — only people. And as long as anyone or anything has the people's support, in the long run, that's where the real source of political power lies.

United Actions Called For Sept. 22

By KDP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

We are rapidly approaching September 22, 1976, the fourth anniversary date of the declaration of martial law in the Philippines. Four years ago, Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos made this day one of historic controversy through his issuance of Proclamation 1081 which abolished the legislature, censored the media, outlawed the right to strike, indefinitely cancelled all democratic elections; and arrested thousands of political dissenters. The deteriorating economic conditions of the "old society" have also worsened under the "new society" of the martial law dictatorship: 55 percent inflation, 40 percent unemployment and increasing domination by foreign capital.

So, to the Filipino people, September 22 is the day which symbolized the establishment of this one-man rule which now makes on a "subversive" to speak out against these conditions.

But the Filipino people have not been cowed into submission. September 22 also represents the four years of militant resistance to the dictatorship expressed in a thousand different ways. From the armed struggle in the Philippine countryside to illegal strikes, pickets and rallies, to anti-Marcos slogans, to ecumenical services for political prisoners.

In the United States, the overseas Filipino

communities have made full use of what civil liberties exist here to popularize the heroic resistance of our people back in the Philippines. We have recognized the important role we have to mounting opposition to the U.S. aid which bolsters the Marcos dictatorship. For the anti-martial movement in the U.S., September 22 has always been the key day to focus the attention of the Filipino community and the whole world on the crimes of the Philippine dictatorship. The Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) has called for educational activities as well as militant pickets around this day to expose the Marcos regime. In its call for the activities the Coalition said: "We believe that this day requires all anti-martial law groups and individuals to take on responsibility of strengthening the unity within our movement even more greatly. The AMLC, therefore is looking forward to a September 22 of united action, co-operation, and joint work among all anti-martial law forces."

The KDP recognizes this call as an expression of the spirit needed to make this year's September 22 the biggest blow yet to the Marcos dictatorship. We would encourage the entire Filipino community to pitch-in to the September 22 effort in any way possible.

All out for September 22!
Down with the Marcos Dictatorship!



Buod ng mga Balita

(Gist of the News)

Amnesty International, Red Cross Reports Confirm Atrocities in Marcos Detention Centers

MANILA — Amnesty International and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in their well-documented reports, confirm the previous reports of other organizations and individuals of the tortures, atrocities, and anomalies perpetrated in political detention centers in the Philippines. These reports further give credence to previous claims of the repressive nature of the dictatorial government of President Marcos.

Amnesty International said that torture was wide-spread and was part of a "general approach" to intimidate suspected political offenders. The military authorities beat suspects "freely and with extreme cruelty, often through long periods," use electric shocks on genitals, sexually assault women, make the detainees put pistols to their own heads in a "Russian roulette" manner, and alternately scald and chill the prisoners.

The Red Cross in a separate investigation, said that it has uncovered evidence supporting the "allegations of torture in Philippine martial law detention centers." The investigators toured most of the 82 detention centers. "They did not visit the Bicutan Detention Center where assaults on the detainees were reported earlier. The Red Cross rejected the offer of the Marcos government to tour Bicutan when the condition of the offer stated that the investigators should not speak to the prisoners.

The impact of these reports was so strong that it forced the Marcos government to issue a statement "disclaiming" knowledge of such atrocities. Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, in an effort to play down the reports, issued a statement claiming he has "ordered frequent inspection" of the detention centers throughout the country to "insure the humane and efficient handling" of the detainees.

Even though it is obvious that the prisoners tortured were priests, nuns, students, workers, etc., to discredit the prestigious Amnesty International, Enrile charged that "they played into the hands of the hard core elements of the Communist Party of the Philippines" by "issuing conclusions that are blown up out of perspective." □

Vietnam-Philippine Ties Forged



Exploratory Mission from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam paved the way for a major diplomatic victory that neutralized U.S. influence in the Southeast Asian region. [AK File Photo]

MANILA — The newly reunified Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Philippines recently announced the establishment of diplomatic relations in a joint communique issued by Foreign Vice Minister Phan Hien and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo. This new relations, an extension of the diplomatic ties previously established with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (August 1975), represents a reversal of Vietnam's previous stance towards the Philippines. Last year, the Vietnamese singled out the Philippines for criticism, "for being the only ASEAN country with major U.S. military installations" thus attesting to "the further extension of the Philippines' role as an American puppet."

More importantly, however, the new ties is regarded as a major diplomatic victory for Vietnam which will neutralize U.S. influence in South East Asia.

Explicit in the joint communique was the provision that neither country would allow "the use of their territories as bases for any form of intervention against each other or any other country in the region." □

Penalties For Rebellion Raised

MANILA — President Marcos has raised penalties for rebellion and sedition, in the hope of discouraging further resistance to his repressive regime.

Although considered a vain attempt because of the increasing unrest due to the rapid degeneration of Philippine conditions, a presidential decree was issued amending the penal code. The penalty is now prison mayor (six years and one day to 12 years) or a fine ranging from P6,000 to P12,000 or both.

Seditious materials are now also subjected to forfeiture by the government for subsequent destruction, whether the offender is convicted or cleared. The unnumbered decree applies to persons who publicly expound or proclaim doctrines openly rebellious or seditious; authors, editors, and owners and operators of establishment's selling seditious literature; those in plays, cinematographs, or fairs that exhibit scenes and acts that incite rebellion; and those who sell, give away or exhibit prints, films, engravings, sculpture, or literature which are seditious in character. □

U.S. ROLE WHITEWASHED

6 Fishermen Die From U.S. Bombs

By MA. FLOR SEPULVEDA

The deaths of six fishermen and the wounding of two others during a U.S. Navy aerial bombing exercise in Subic Bay last June 1, has quickly died down as another case of American military abuse of the Filipino people.

An editorial in a government controlled daily (Manila Journal, July 25-31, 1976) urged a conservative approach towards the deaths of six fishermen since any "zealousness" on the part of the Filipino people may jeopardize the bargaining position of the Marcos regime in the current U.S.-R.P. Military Bases Renegotiations talks. Explaining this stance, the editorial said the "supposed victims may not be totally blameless," and any attempt to use their deaths as ammunition in the current base talks "poses the danger of exploding in our face."

This ill-disguised apology for the U.S. Navy was seen as an attempt to douse any militant nationalistic response on the part of the Filipino people to these recent excesses of the U.S. military.

Despite the Philippine Constabulary's claims that the fishermen incurred their tragedy by venturing into restricted waters, the truth is none of the victims or the residents of adjoining Subic towns for that matter, were notified of the bombing practice until after June 18.

All eight victims of the U.S. war games held in Subic Bay from June 11-28, were fishermen from the adjoining towns in Zambales and Bataan. According to government re-



More Filipino lives are lost as a result of U.S. abuses. Shown above are the widows, and relatives of the latest victims in a U.S. bombing exercise. (AK-KDP File Photo)

ports, four fishermen from San Antonio, Zambales were killed while towing a live bomb on June 13. Two other fishermen from Bataan were killed while "tinkering with a bomb that washed ashore." Recently, two more victims, Rolando Padilla and Pepito Tabon, also of San Antonio, emerged to tell their harrowing experience on June 18. According to them, a U.S. Navy twin-engine plane swooped down on the area where they were fishing, and opened fire with machine-guns. Fortunately, the two made it back to shore, sustaining shrapnel and bullet wounds.

Although the government claims that it will prevent any attempt of the U.S. Navy to "bamboozle their way out of guilt," if found responsible by the joint PC-U.S. Navy team investigating the incident, the prospect of prosecution seems remote. Already the Philippine government has expressed satisfaction over the U.S. Navy's belated efforts to provide safeguards for the resi-

dents of the area and for the U.S. Navy's prompt compensation of the victim's relatives despite the outcome of the investigation.

If anything, the Zambales incident will be conveniently forgotten as another one of those American "mistakes."

It is also in the interest of the Marcos regime to forget the fishermen incident. Apparently this stems from the regime's fear that it may jeopardize whatever concessions it has gained in the bases talks should it persist in pursuing the investigation. Foremost among its demands is the payment of base rentals in the form of increased military aid.

That this is unmistakably the regime's official policy is evident in the same Manila Journal editorial: "The Zambales incident may yet prove to be a propitious one. It will test the Philippine and American negotiators' ability to view any possible 'distraction' in its proper light and refuse to allow it to distort their perspective." □



Military Tribunal in charge of Aquino's case rejected Aquino's appeal for a temporary release so he can arrange his defense. Aquino is in a maximum security solitary cell where he cannot meet with his legal advisors without being overheard. [Bernard Wideman Photo]

AQUINO...

(continued from front page)

supposedly ranking leaders of the New People's Army: Benjamin Sanguyo who allegedly defected to the Marcos government, Benjamin Bie who was (interestingly) gunned down by government troopers a few weeks ago, and four others still at-large, including Bernabe Buscayno, highest ranking NPA officer and Victor Corpus, a former army lieutenant who defected to the side of the people's army after leading a raid at the Military Academy Armory in 1971.

During his military arraign-

ment, Aquino accused the members of the military court for being partial against him since all of them have "sworn allegiance to Marcos as their commander-in-chief."

While still unwilling to compromise his position on the prosecution proceedings, Aquino indicated a softening of position on his incarceration during an interview with Newsweek international. Aquino was quoted as saying he would rather go into exile than remain in detention. When asked what he would request of Marcos, Aquino replied: "To allow me to go into exile like Russia allowed (Nobel laureate Alexander)

Solzhenitsyn. I would not have accepted it in the past, but I've had a chance to search myself inwardly here."

It is unlikely however, that Marcos would concede to Aquino's request for exile in view of the growing political opposition to his regime abroad. If Aquino ever managed to leave the country, it would not be due to Marcos's mercy, but would most likely be the result of the active intercession of the U.S. government or other influential international agencies.

In the meantime, the Aquino trial is expected to be another "test of wills" between Marcos and Aquino, with the former determined to penalize Aquino through every possible "legal" ruse and with the latter utilizing his image as a symbol of political persecution to stay the day of his sentencing. Previously this contest of wills resulted in a stalemate during Aquino's trial in 1973 and his hunger fast last year. While Marcos, nonetheless maintains the upperhand in determining Aquino's fate, the conditions under which Aquino is being tried are unfavorable to the regime. The recent report of the Amnesty International and the International Red Cross on Philippine political prisoners has further discredited the Marcos regime abroad and any arbitrary action against Aquino will only contribute to this trend. □

Macapagal Book Review, Part II

DEMOCRACY FOR WHOM?

(Last issue's critique of Macapagal's book "Democracy in the Philippines" focused on disagreements with Macapagal's promotion of the Ad Interim National Assembly as the only viable alternative to martial law. To recap our disagreements with this proposal, we feel that the national assembly cannot enforce the lifting of martial law; is not empowered to overturn presidential edicts effected during martial law; will be headed up by Marcos himself and was part of Marcos's scheme through the Constitutional Convention to extend indefinitely his illegal stay in power. Thus, the national assembly does not constitute a genuine alternative to the prevailing system of one-man rule. — Editors note)



Diosdado Macapagal

"Let not such a noble race of men of freedom and dignity ever be traduced and made to kneel before any dictator foreign or native. Because it is a tradition nurtured in their history, freedom is deathless and irrepensible in the soul of the Filipino people. In the Filipino heart, freedom is an eternal flame that may be dimmed by brutal duress but not extinguished for hope will ever glow for the refugence of freedom in the same manner that no matter how long and dark the night may be and how fearful that nightmare, there will surely come dawn that will change the night into day." — Diosdado Macapagal

The words are stirring and prophetic, but unfortunately fall short of expectations when confronted with what Mr. Macapagal considers to be the correct path that will lead the Filipino people from the nightmare of martial law to the "dawn of democracy." For while he admonishes the Filipino people to wage a relentless struggle for freedom, in the same breath, he epitomizes the pre-martial law order as the realization of this struggle for freedom. To quote Mr. Macapagal: "The sensible conclusion is that the search for a better society for the masses of people lies in a steady maturing democracy such as what the Philippines had before Marcos maneuvered to establish a dictatorship. . . . the clearly advancing social and economic betterment of the people from these and a growing list of legislation for the under privileged under the aegis of democratic leaderships — compared to the rhetorical reforms and promises by the Marcos dictatorship makes the choice clear: that it is better to continue the proven advances under leadership democratically installed. . ." (page 105) But was there a steady maturing democracy marked by social and economic advances in the peoples welfare under the so-called pre-martial law democracy?

Contrary to Mr. Macapagal's rosy portrayal of pre-martial law Philippines, the economic, social and political conditions of the Filipino people before martial law were deplorable and were the cause of mass unrest and discontent. There was mass unemployment, galloping inflation, increasing foreign debt, unchecked crime and corruption. For example, during Macapagal's administration, despite his much-flaunted land reform code, land tenancy increased by 20 percent from its 1940 level. In 1969 during Marcos second term, unemployment climbed from 859,000 in 1956 to 12.5 million unemployed. Incidence of crime, the majority of which are cases against property steadily increased at the rate of 4.7 percent annually. Under martial law, these oppressive conditions have only deepened. The Philippines has now the second highest inflation rate (40 percent) in Asia and pays the lowest wages to its workers among Asian countries.

The only economic advancement the Filipino people have witnessed since the country's nominal independence in 1946 was the increasing profits amassed by a handful of capitalists, bureaucrats, landlords, and foreign investors. For while the masses lived in squalor, politicians used their public offices as business enclaves to build fortunes and political dynasties. The landlord class, induced by the profitability of producing export crops much needed by foreign economies has acquired more land through outright land-grabbing. The local capitalists, far from developing local industrialization, have entered into partnerships with foreign investors in the plunder of the country's natural resources to develop fast buck, export-industries. While foreign investors, most notably the U.S., have virtually seized control of the economy owning up to 80 percent of the country's wealth.

WAS THE PHILIPPINES THEN EVER REALLY A DEMOCRACY?

Historically, the Filipino people have been deluded with the myth that the Philippines is the showcase of American democracy in the East; that the government is indeed "for the people and by the people." We were dutifully bound to obey the constitution with the belief that it guaranteed our inalienable rights to the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

Not coincidentally, the perpetrators of these myths were politicians, "distinguished statesmen" who prided themselves with being the standard bearers of democracy; with championing the cause of freedom, equality and justice for the Filipino people. Even Marcos, whose record for repression remains unsurpassed by previous administrations, fancies himself a crusader of freedom and peddles his perverted definition of democracy in his book "Today's Revolution Democracy."

Was the inherently inequitable system that existed before martial law genuinely democratic? Could "notable government personages" like Macapagal's Marcos, the political representatives of the wealthy, be relied upon as the spokesmen of democracy?

Historian Horacio de la Costa S.J. aptly points out the ironies between our avowed principles of democracy on the one hand and the actual state of unfreedom of the masses, on the other: ". . . The Filipino farmer or tenant, whose democratic right, guaranteed by the constitution and the laws of the land, to achieve his honest work his one ambition of owning a farm is actually not provided by our society with the means, the opportunities, the capital, the know-how, and the effective protection of his lawful rights to become a free and independent farmer. Then, to whom is our economic system of free enterprise, free? Can the small businessman simply by his own initiative obtain the credit he needs, or must he first sell his soul to get the backing of 'powerful connections'. And of course, we have free elections. But is the ballot free if the choice is between these two alternatives: Vote one way and your street gets cemented; vote the other way and your house gets burned? And where is democracy with its free economic opportunities in a system in which a poor peasant has to sell his vote for five pesos so that he can take his sick child to a doctor? And where is economic opportunity in a free-enterprise country where under the very eyes of famous development agents and economists the per capita income has sunk in 12 years from \$80 to \$50."

Like de la Costa, we believe that there can be no genuine political freedoms for the masses unless they are first, emancipated from economic deprivation. Implicitly, this calls for the elimination of the political and economic stranglehold wielded by the wealthy few which is the source of the perpetual poverty of the masses.

Contrary to Macapagal's assertion that there was democracy for all, previous to martial law: the 30 odd years of Philippine nominal independence have shown that democracy was an exclusive privilege enjoyed by the rich but which for the poor remained an elusive ideal.

Perhaps the most blatant historical testimony of this truth, has been the "democratically installed leaderships" consistent policy to use state violence whenever the masses rose to assert their democratic rights. To cite a few:

— Manuel Quezon, father of Philippine independence, crusader for social justice, turned government troopers against 100,000 workers who rallied on May Day for higher wages, better working conditions, and national liberation from American colonial rule. Scores of workers were arrested and popular labor organizations outlawed.

— Manuel Roxas "Redeemer of the Filipino people from the Shambles of WWII" ordered the massacres of innocent civilians in Maliwalu, Pampanga and Masico, Laguna in response to the peasantry's popular demand for genuine redistribution of land.

— Ramons Magsaysay, "Man of the Masses" continued Roxas' and Quirinos' annihilation campaign against "recalcitrant" peasants with the active support of the U.S.-CIA.

— Garcia and Macapagal never hesitated to use state violence against the resurging nationalist movement that challenged their administration in the late 50's and early 60's.

— While Marcos, whose crimes make those of his predecessors pale in comparison, has earned to his name the following massacres: Lapiang, Malaya, Marawi, Calocan, Jabidah, Plaza Miranda, L.K. Guarin, Mendiola. These massacres which were meant to suppress the people's growing discontent, served instead to spawn more unrest. It was precisely this burgeoning movement of the people asserting their democratic rights and agitating for change, that compelled the Marcos regime, in the interest of preserving the rule of the wealthy few, to declare martial law.

Therefore, while we agree with Mr. Macapagal that the present dictatorship only represents a deepening of the Filipino peoples problems, we do not think that a return to the old order will solve our historic problems either.

Instead, a new democracy—one that genuinely benefits the majority of the Filipino people, the peasants and workers, and not just a handful of opportunist politicians like Mr. Macapagal—is the only alternative to martial law. □

Next issue: The Role of the U.S.

Bicutan Assaults...

(continued from front page)

aboard the Metrocom buses which transferred the prisoners.

Later in the day after the assault, about 50 relatives of the detainees and some 15 priests and nuns requested the camp commander for a visit of the detainees despite a declared suspension of visits on July 9, following the forcible transfer of dela Torre and Agcaoili. The group, although stopped by a sentry, persisted in staying, especially after their attention was drawn by the detainees waving colored cloths from their cell windows and clanging tin cans and mess kits while chanting at the top of their voices: "Dalaw, dalaw! Mali ang balita! Marami sa amin ang nasaktan!" (Visit, visit! The news is distorted! Many of us were injured!) Neither were they intimidated when two Metrocom buses and four Metrocom cars disgorged troopers in full riot gears. Unfazed the group stood their grounds for at least three hours until the food they brought, together with the letters they wrote, were allowed to be taken to the prisoners. Furthermore, they got assurances for visits two or three days later.



After a 78-day hunger strike that started last January, the Marcos government conceded to the political prisoners principal demands, among which is to allow Elita Ponce-Quinto and her child (above) and Isabelita Guillermo and her child to be put under house arrest. Now the Marcos military is retaliating against the detainees who participated in the hunger strike.

A few days later, on July 14, six more detainees were forcibly transferred in continuing reprisal against the prisoners.

Twenty more detainees were arbitrarily transferred, July 20, to undisclosed quarters in the same sweeping manner as the previous ones.

DRUNKEN SOLDIERS INTIMIDATE DETAINEES

As part of the harassment of the prisoners, seven drunken officers and enlisted men forcibly woke up some 80 sleeping detainees shortly before midnight, July 19. On the pretext of a "midnight roll call", Major Carmelo Caguioa shouted and cursed at the detainees and ordered his men, Lts. Abante and Sarmiento and four enlisted men to drag those asleep out of their beds. The P.C. troopers also forced their way into the building occupied by the female political detainees on the pretext of this "midnight roll call".

In a statement released by the detainees, the forcible transfers were denounced as "calculated acts of reprisal and harassment for a 15-day hunger strike which successfully demanded the release of two nursing mothers and their 8-month old babies." Evidently, the assaults and harassment were geared to break the unity and determination of the detainees who have steadfastly struggled to improve the conditions in detention centers. The regime's tactic seems to be the isolation of key leaders of the detainees, many of whom have been engaged in earlier prison struggles. At the same time, the deceitful publicity on the "riot" has been sustained by the Marcos regime to counter the impact of the Amnesty International and Red Cross reports on tortures and atrocities committed against Philippine political prisoners (see article on these reports, this issue) by portraying the detainees as rebelling and rebuffing the "humane treatment" of military authorities.

Meanwhile, all those transferred and the rest of the detainees left at Bicutan remain padlocked and without visiting privileges since July 9.

The detainees have pointed out that the groupings of those transferred are not in accordance to the Department of National Defense (DND) categories based on the status and severity of their legal cases but rather on the basis of the military's suspicion of their participation in the hunger strike.

APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

The relatives of the Bicutan detainees have launched a concerted campaign to expose the alleged "riot" through press releases. A letter-writing campaign has also been launched: our readers and friends are encouraged to condemn the unjust reprisals and distorted media coverages of the incidents, and demand the return of the isolated detainees to their former compound and to stop arbitrary transfer of detainees and future reprisals. Address letters and telegrams to:

Undersecretary Carmelo Barbero
Office of the Civilian Relations
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines
and
Major General Fidel V. Ramos
Chief, Philippine Constabulary
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

FILIPINO COMMUNITY

A COMMENTARY

I-HOTEL IN FOREFRONT OF HOUSING STRUGGLES

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

SAN FRANCISCO — As the struggle at the International Hotel is rapidly reaching a crucial turning point in its eight year fight against eviction, it is also developing as the focal point and symbol of resistance for the many struggles for low-cost housing in the Bay Area.

As of last month, the tenants at the I-Hotel had literally exhausted every conceivable legal channel to save the hotel, and were faced with eviction effective July 15, 1976. However, the tenants and supporters all around the S.F. Bay Area were militantly determined not to allow the evictions to be carried out by refusing to move from the building under any conditions. The I-Hotel has received tremendous support as witnessed by the support dinner held July 10, which was attended by over 1,000 individuals and representatives of organizations and other housing alliances rallying around the right for low-cost housing and defending the International Hotel. Committees were immediately set up to organize the broad support into building a human barricade around the hotel in the event of an eviction.

On July 11, 1976, just days before the impending eviction, the International Hotel Tenant's Association succeeded in getting a temporary extension of the stay of eviction from the State Supreme Court. This temporary stay which may last from two-eight weeks was given pending a decision of the Supreme Court to grant a hearing on the appeal of Judge Brown's ruling in favor of the landlord, Four Seas Corp. The stay is a small victory for the International Hotel, although the tenants have no illusions that they can "rest easy for awhile" because the eviction is still imminent. The tenants know that the mass pressure and organizing efforts must continue.

What the tenants have on their side is tremendous support of the community and a very militant spirit. However, what is still needed is more political agitation to unite people in the understanding that low-income housing is a basic necessity and should be a right for all working people. Equally important is the organization of all those who support this right to provide the strongest possible front to demand that this right be met. What people are up against is a rich and powerful force, big business whose only concern is for profits and a city government, whose interests are closely tied to big business. What is at stake is not just an issue of charity towards the "old people." It is also not just an issue concerning Filipinos and Chinese. What is at issue is a housing crisis in San Francisco and other cities across the U.S. Rents are being raised at a ridiculous rate, while redevelopment moves in to destroy communities to be replaced by commercial developments. In the past decade alone, the drive of redevelopment agencies in San Francisco has caused rent to soar to outrageous proportions of 200-500 percent.

In the case of S.F. Chinatown-Manilatown, the main corporation currently squeezing out the remaining low-cost hotels is the Four Seas, a Thai

foreign investment company based in Hong Kong. Since acquiring the International Hotel from the former owner, the Milton Meyer Co., Four Seas has purchased the Hotel Belle, Columbo Hotel, and the Victory Hotel where eviction notices have already been posted.

Recently, much of the pressure to save the I-Hotel from the hands of Four Seas has been directed at Mayor George Moscone to act on his commitments to retain the building as a resource for low-cost housing. The pressure has been so great that on July 29, 1976 at a meeting of the S.F. Housing Commission, Moscone was forced to act. He appealed to the Housing Authority to purchase the hotel and sell it to the tenants for their continued management. If the Housing Authority follows through with this plan, it is a positive gain for the I-Hotel. However, this is only a minor concession on the part of Moscone and city agencies to relieve the political pressure which currently revolves around the I-Hotel but which represents the broader struggle for decent low-cost housing throughout the city. One hotel is not enough to solve the problem of low-cost housing in San Francisco and reverse the trend of redevelopment's destruction of low-income and Third World communities. Mass pressure on the broadest front possible must be increased through demonstrations, letters and phone calls to City Hall and the Housing Authority, as well as participation in organizations such as the International Hotel Tenant's Association to force the city government to respond to the needs of its citizens.

The Housing Authority may not even act on Moscone's suggestion or may delay action until the stay of eviction expires. If this occurs, the

In their fight against eviction by the Four Seas Investment Four Seas, I-Hotel tenants have taken up the slogan: "We Won't Move."



International Hotel will still be faced with eviction and the city agencies can wash their hands of any responsibility. This is not inconceivable since many of these city agencies board members represent corporations whose plan is to turn S.F. into a "Wall Street West." In this sense, the I-Hotel is at a crucial stage and more support is urgently needed.

As one elderly tenant at the I-Hotel put it: "There is little time left. If we don't unite, we will fade away like smoke." □

(Additional support is needed on the committees to prepare for the human barricade in the event of eviction. For more information call I-Hotel tenants Association—982-4249—Editors note.)

POLITICAL PRISONERS CITED DURING EUCCHARISTIC WEEK

PHILADELPHIA — Coinciding with the global Eucharistic Congress that took place in Philadelphia August 1-8, the Philadelphia Anti-Martial Law Alliance sponsored "Ang Misang Bayan", a community mass of concern for Philippine political prisoners and their families, on August 5, 1976 at the La Salle College Chapel in this city.

The mass was a special adaptation of the mass celebrated last year in some parts of the Philippines on the third anniversary of martial law.

In his introductory remarks, the Alliance spokesperson said: "This week, the 41st International Eucharistic Congress has focused the attention of the Church and of the world on 'the Eucharist and the hungers of the human family.' In the Philippines today, there exist an awful hunger, not only for bread but more so, for justice and freedom."

About 40 people attended the mass, some of whom were members of the delegation to the Eucharistic Congress.

During the same week, the Philadelphia Anti-Martial Law Alliance participated in the Alliance Against Tyranny and Torture that sponsored an interfaith service on August 2 at the Tabernacle Church at the same city. Decrying the torture of political prisoners in various countries, the Alliance voiced their support "for those progressive Church sectors who have spoken out against repression in their countries", and called the attention of the Americans "to their government's support through military and economic aid to oppressive, torture-practicing regimes."

The interfaith service, which listed Cesar Chavez of the United Farmworkers Union (UFW) and Bishop Claver of the Philippines as the main speakers, was attended by some 90 people. The service was immediately followed by a march and rally at the Civic Center Auditorium. □

FFP Rebukes Philippine News for Distortion

The Editor
Philippine News
1175 Folsom Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Upon the approval of the Friends of the Filipino People Standing Committee, we have decided not to continue sending you any further information and material from our Washington office. In the past, we have supplied you abundantly with these — some on our own volition and others upon your request (such as a report on the Bedell amendment which Steve Psinakis asked the undersigned to write).

We have observed, however, that you have consistently refused to credit us accordingly and in fact, diminish the role of the FFP and the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) within the legislative arena. This was exemplified most clearly by your editorial of January 24-30, 1976 which attributed a major share of the victory of the human rights amendment to the Manglapus group (otherwise known as the MFP) which at that time did not even have any Washington-based congress project.

The most recent incident is your publication of a monograph entitled "U.S. Bases in the Philippines" which we sent you as part of a packet on U.S. bases. In this instance, you again did not credit nor place into context — which any principled journalist would have done — the fact that the article was part of a packet distributed to the U.S. Congress, by the FFP and the AMLC, at the time negotiation talks began.

We have tried to ignore your slights but now we feel it is a waste of our valuable time and resources to continue sending you further data which you do not use or use out of context.

Sincerely,
Severina Rivera
Member, FFP Standing Committee

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SUPPORT FOR ACCUSED NURSES GROWS

The case of the two Filipina nurses who have been charged with the deaths of five patients and the poisoning of ten others at the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital in Michigan continues to be the subject of concern of Filipino communities throughout the U.S.

Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, arrested last June 15, have become heroines of the Filipinos who have rallied around the plight of the two nurses. The general sentiment among Filipinos is one of dissatisfaction at the way the authorities have handled the case. The nurses' lawyers have charged the F.B.I. with use of pressure tactics to illegally obtain information from the two. Many have also protested the manner in which the arrest was conducted. Miss Narciso and Mrs. Perez, who is four months pregnant, were handcuffed and dragged by the F.B.I. at the time of their arrest. The overtones of racial and national discrimination apparent in the handling of the case have concerned many who fear this may prevent the two from obtaining a fair trial.

Recent developments in the case have added to the growing apprehension for the two nurses. One of the prosecution's witnesses, a pharmacist whose testimony would have been key in the trial proceedings, has recently committed suicide. Speculations abound that the pharmacist's suicide may be linked with the recent theory that the deaths and poisoning of the patients could have been due to contaminated solution.

The death of another key witness, John Mc Crery has added to the controversy of the case. McCrery changed his testimony several times before his death, claiming his memory "had blurred". Despite this, the prosecution still plans to use his testimony which was videotaped. Many believe his testimony should be inadmissible particularly since Mc Crery was drugged and practically in a state of coma when his statements were made.

The press which initially gave sensationalized accounts of the arrest, implying the pre-supposed guilt of the two, have remained curiously silent about these developments.

Support for the two nurses has been widespread. A fund-raising project for the two has been launched both in the U.S. and in the Philippines. To generate moral and financial support for the two, defense committees have been formed in Filipino communities here in the U.S. In Ann Arbor, a Narciso/Perez Legal Defense Committee has been spearheaded by the Philippine Nurses Association of Chicago. In Los Angeles, the United Filipino Assembly of Southern California, a broad coalition of Filipino organizations have set up a committee to raise funds for the legal defense of the nurses. In San Francisco, the local Emergency Defense Committee for the Foreign Medical Graduates (EDC-FMG), who have recently successfully fought the discriminatory deportation of Filipino FMGs, have lodged a letter of protest with the District Attorney in Michigan. The EDC-FMG championed the nurses' right to a fair trial, stating that they "are prepared to take up any issue of racial and national discrimination." □

Seattle Mobilizes for Far West Convention

SEATTLE—Mobilization for the 1976 Filipino People's Far West Convention to be held September 3-5, is now underway. Convention organizers in the host city of Seattle have begun doing massive outreach through mobile speaking teams, television, radio and press releases in an effort to bring together broad representation of the Filipino communities across the West Coast to discuss the many pressing questions and problems which Filipinos face in the U.S.

With the theme "Pag-isahin ang Sambayanan" (Unite Our People), this year's convention will focus on areas such as health, education, housing, youth, art/culture and conditions in the Philippines. Already, several successful sectoral conferences have been held focusing on specific topics and drawing up resolutions to be presented at the convention.

Simultaneously, the Seattle community has been preparing for a major event to highlight the FWC—the Saturday night cultural performance of the last two scenes of "Isuda Ti Immuna" (Those Who Came First), and "Tagatupad" (Those Who Must Carry On). The first play, depicting the first Filipino immigrants and their struggles against racist attacks and exploitation in the Alaskan

PACE Celebrates First Anniversary of Housing Fight



Part of the crowd of over 700 supporters of P.A.C.E. which celebrated that organization's first anniversary recently in Hawaii. (AK-KDP Photo)

HONOLULU—With the slogan, "Unite, Fight, Decent Housing is a Right," the People Against Chinatown Eviction (P.A.C.E.) organization celebrated its first anniversary, July 17, 1976.

Over 700 members of the Chinatown community and P.A.C.E. supporters turned out for the dinner/program which marked one year of struggle to force the city to stop all Chinatown evictions and build decent houses and storefronts inside Chinatown that residents and small businessmen can afford.

Summing up the many gains made by the united effort during the past year, a P.A.C.E. spokesperson reflected, "We have not moved! We have fought against and delayed eviction at Lau's Place, Aloha Hotel, 1189 River Street, New Kukui Cafe, K.T. Pool Hall and Beretania Dancehall. Our membership has grown,

our support has increased, we have gained one year's experience and we are yet determined to continue our struggle until we win!"

According to P.A.C.E., a part of the struggle has been to demand the slumlords to make repairs on the buildings which have been falling apart for years. The larger struggle is against the City's urban renewal evictions and development plans. Since the 1960's the City has evicted hundreds of residents, torn down buildings and turned over the "City Land" to private developers for condominiums, shopping malls and parking lots.

P.A.C.E. called for continued unity and support in defending the Chinatown community against eviction, expanding and consolidating the P.A.C.E. organization, and building broader community support for the struggle which lies ahead. □

DISCRIMINATION IN FIL-AM HISTORY

Controversy Jeopardizes Project

By SHERRY VALPARAISO

SAN FRANCISCO—On Wednesday, August 11, about 150 students, parents, educators and community leaders from the Filipino communities in San Francisco, Daly City and the East Bay gave strong approval to three "controversial" slideshows on Filipino-American History and Experience. The audio-visual materials, intended for distribution in San Francisco schools this next Fall, were widely acclaimed by viewers as the "best" they had ever seen and "exactly what's needed in the schools."

The slideshows, which took 10 months to produce were developed by the project staff of TAFT/ESAA (The Association of Filipino Teachers/Emergency School Aid Act).

The "controversy" arose, however, around the content and handling of a disagreement between the TAFT/ESAA staff and the TAFT Board of Directors on the perspective used on Filipino-American history.

"CONTROVERSY, SCANDAL"

On July 29, a month after the project officially ended and a day before the staff expected to complete its work, the TAFT Board strongly objected to having the past and present experiences of discrimination against Filipinos

portrayed in the materials. One TAFT member considered that Filipinos' experience of discrimination was "superficial" and felt that the extended family concept should replace it. Other TAFT members also argued that showing discrimination in the slideshows created a "negative" response from students. Then asserting their authority over the staff, the Board strongly indicated that they had intentions to change the content of the curriculum.

The staff disagreed, explaining that discrimination was and still is a part of Filipino experiences in America. The materials had also undergone a long developmental process involving students, teachers, and Filipino community input and numerous viewings of the slideshows had also taken place already and the overall response was very positive. Furthermore, the staff pointed out, if the validity of the content of the curriculum is in question, it should not be determined alone by TAFT, but along with the Filipino community. To do this, the staff suggested a community meeting to be held to view the slideshows as soon as possible.

Acting President, Juliet Montevirgen, agreed to this, but the next day, an hour before closing and without previous notice, she and some TAFT members entered the TAFT/ESAA office and demanded that all the curriculum materials be turned over immediately. The slideshows, however, were out of the office at another preview and the written materials were already at the printers. The disagreement then turned into a "scandalous controversy" the next day, Saturday, when the TAFT Board reported to the police that there was an alleged "burglary" at the TAFT/ESAA office. They named three staff members as "suspects" for "theft" of the slideshows and also changed the locks on the office.

COMMUNITY MEETING

After hearing about these developments, some educators and Filipino community persons concerned that the materials get out to the schools, organized a mass meeting to see the "controversial" slideshows and determine the community's sentiments on the content.

After difficult negotiations and community pressure on TAFT Board members, the meeting was held at St. Patrick's Church. After the materials were shown, the manongs, youth, parents, and teachers who spoke overwhelmingly supported the slideshow. Many strongly expressed that discrimination against Filipinos was a bitter fact of our past and present, but must be shown if the materials are to be relevant and truthful. Many expressed the desire to use it in their own schools, libraries or social service agencies. One Filipina said, "To delay it is to cover up the truth."

The meeting ended with the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee of Educators and Filipino Community Persons who will work with the TAFT Board around changes in the content. The Board, represented by Juliet Montevirgen and Conrad Guevarra who attended the meeting, finally agreed, speaking through their lawyer, to recognize this body, stressing their willingness to lend an ear to community opinion.

Time will tell if the TAFT Board is sincere. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

PALESTINIANS TARGET OF ATTACKS

Syrian Invasion Escalates War



By ROMY DE LA PAZ

Despite Syria's claims that its intervention in Lebanon was intended to bring about a peaceful settlement of that country's 16-month civil war, the estimated 20,000 Syrian troops that stormed Lebanon in May have instead brought increased bloodshed, with the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon suffering the worst effects of the attacks.

Syrian troops began the invasion May 31 with armored support estimated between 60-200 tanks. Roadblocks were set up and the systematic disarming of leftist Lebanese and Palestinian soldiers took place. Key Palestinian refugee camps were assaulted viciously by the Syrians and their rightist Lebanese allies — principally the Phalangists, Christian Maronites and other well-armed private armies — with the aim of ejecting the Palestinians and enacting a de facto partitioning of Lebanon.

The Syrian invasion occurred as rightist-Lebanese armies, which had initiated the civil war, were failing in their military attacks against the leftist-Lebanese and Palestinian alliance. Besides reversing the military successes of the leftist forces, the Syrians laid siege to Palestinian refugee camps surrounding Beirut, most notably Tel al Zaatar, and subjugated them to relentless mortar and rocket attack, inflicting thousands of casualties. While occasional cease-fires gave the Palestinians and leftist-Lebanese a brief respite from the fighting, Syria and the rightist-Lebanese would begin the fighting anew, and in the eyes of one observer it was the "PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) battling for survival in Lebanon."

SYRIA'S MOTIVES BEHIND INVASION

On the surface, Syria's intervention seems to be confusing as only six months prior, Syria's President Assad was virulent in his attacks against Egypt's Sadat for selling out the Palestinians when Cairo concluded a separate disengagement pact with Israel. While Assad appeared the champion of the Palestinian people's struggle, the Damascus regime has recently been shifting steadily to the right, allying itself more closely to the conservative regimes in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and most recently enacting a rapprochement with Egypt.

Behind this steady rightward trend are the efforts of the U.S. via Kissinger diplomacy to assert its "Pax Americana" plan for the Mideast which calls for the establishing of peaceful coexistence relations between the Arab states and Israel, at the expense of denying the Palestinians their national rights. By arguing that the Arab states have much to lose and little to gain by backing the Palestinian resistance, the U.S. has been able to divide Arab support for the Palestinians, the only major stumbling block for enacting the U.S. "peace" plan. Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the most conservative Arab states, had little problems seeing the U.S. rationale, Egypt later consented and signed its

peace with Israel last December, and now Syria's Assad has intervened to "punish" the Palestinians.

Even prior to the invasion, however, Damascus was quietly shipping war material to right-wing Phalangist forces. Not satisfied with the rights' efforts, Palestinian Saiqa guerillas, armed, trained and led by Syria, were sent in to join the rightists in the civil war. In the political arena, Syria carried out efforts to get a Lebanon government friendly to Syria's interests and thus aided in the election of the conservative Lebanese banker Elias Sarkis as president.

Despite Syria's moves however, the leftist forces advanced, gaining popular support from the Lebanese masses, and even Syrian-backed Sarkis could not assume office as the sectarian warfare continued. The possibility of a left-dominated Lebanon seemed inevitable and thus worried Assad. Such a Lebanon would ruin the Pax Americana plan, providing a strong base for the Palestinian resistance movement, and would further pose the danger of radicalizing the masses in other Arab states, including Syria. These concerns led to the decision to invade Lebanon and focus the assault on the leftist-Palestinian alliance.

FUTURE UNCERTAIN

Syria's temporary victory over the leftist forces has opened new questions as Lebanon's future is far from decided. One possibility is the establishment of a neo-colonialist regime by rightist forces, one which would conform with the Pax Americana plan and which Syria supports. Rumors also indicate that Assad may want to annex Lebanon in his desire for a "greater Syria" one that would extend its boundaries to the areas covered by the ancient Syrian empire.

Another possible outcome is a de facto partition and population exchange being pushed by the rightist camp, with Syria's blessings. A partitioned Lebanon would have the Christians occupying the north, with the Moslems and Palestinians occupying the southern portion. This explains the savage attacks being launched against Palestinian refugee camps in the Phalangist-controlled district in East Beirut, particularly the besieged Tel al Zaatar camp.

It appears that all these possible options emerging are directed against the very existence of a strong Palestinian base in Lebanon. A right-wing dominated Lebanon and similarly, a partitioned Lebanon would pave the way for the extinction of the Palestinian Resistance Movement. By weakening the Palestinian base, the implementation of the Pax Americana plan will resume unchallenged.

The Lebanese situation is now at a very critical stage, one that may mean the very existence of the Palestinian people. It is also very evident that as a result of the whole right-wing trend among Arab nations, Israel is happily sitting on the sidelines, enjoying the whole scenario. □

An Arab League soldier assists a badly-wounded Palestinian from the Tel Al Zaatar, a major Palestinian refugee camp which was brutally overrun by right-wing Phalangist forces on August 12.

According to a PLO official, hundreds of male civilians from the camp were "taken to the side and shot" by right-wing troops. He said that reports indicated that Syrian officers directed the assault which resulted in some 3,000 dead and several thousand wounded in the seven-week siege. □

REUNIFIED VIETNAM BEGINS SOCIALIST RECONSTRUCTION

After 30 years of waging armed struggle for national independence and freedom, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) was officially proclaimed July 2, marking the historic reunification of that country after 117 years of foreign domination.

The reunification of Vietnam has been a long and arduous process, realized only through the heroic determination of the Vietnamese people. Before the election of the National Assembly, which paved the way

for the reunified government, Madame Binh, a leading Vietnamese official, stated that "for years, the division of our country was something that touched the Vietnamese people profoundly. One of the basic objectives of our struggle was the reunification of our country. And now, after the liberation of the south, nothing can prevent us from carrying out this reunification."

Having achieved this historic goal, Vietnam is now in an excellent situation to embark on building a socialist revolution throughout the country. According to Le Duan, first secretary of the Workers Party, concrete tasks for socialist development lie in the principal areas of Vietnam's economy — in agriculture, industry, communications, science and technology and the development of natural resources. He also stressed that this development would be based on three forms of revolutionary change that cannot be separated from one another: the revolutions in relation to production, in science and technology, and in culture and ideology.

The Vietnamese people are responding enthusiastically in fulfilling these tasks. According to reports received by some Vietnamese patriots residing in the U.S., the following account was given of achievements obtained in the south:

"Industries have resumed production at a record rate. In less than a year, 337,000 people have found jobs (30% of the unemployed), 367,000 people have returned to their villages or to join the new economic areas to participate in agricultural production. The distribution system has been improved. Schools are opening up, more than a million people of all ages are now going to classes at different levels. Reactionary and decadent literature is being eradicated and being replaced by the new activities of healthy and progressive culture. Job training centers are set up for drug addicts and prostitutes... But most important of all is the people's consciousness of being the master of their own life, their own future and their own country, in the era of reunification and advancing toward socialism."

TASKS DIFFICULT

However, the devastating effects of the U.S.' forcible and cruel domination in south Vietnam before its liberation have made these tasks more difficult. "The north, which ousted the French colonialists in 1954, is ahead of the south on the road of transition to socialism," according to Truong Chinh, head of the north's delegation at the November election conference. "In the south, occupied by U.S. forces for an additional 20 years, U.S. neo-colonialist influences and influences of the feudal ideology, are still quite strong. The question now is to increase and perfect what has been unified and to gradually do away with the differences..."

Informed sources reveal that in the former city of Saigon — now called Ho Chi Minh City — a city of 5 million people, there were 100,000 prostitutes, 80,000 drug addicts, 3,500 orphans, 2,000 street kids, 10,000 old people and disabled without homes, 15,000 persons with leprosy, 200,000 with tuberculosis, 350,000 with venereal disease, more than 1 million unemployed. In addition to this, "the U.S. imperialists had introduced a 'civilized' way of life, full of cheating, greed, money-seeking, full of individualism and pessimism."

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam sees the need to hasten the capitalist economy of the south into a socialist one. Private sectors will be merged with state sectors in industry; in agriculture, the whole country will further develop cooperatives among peasants, the majority of whom received plots of land as a result of the revolutionary land reform program. Undeveloped or virgin lands, on the other hand, will be turned into state farms for cultivation and development.

As Le Duan stated, Vietnam will create men and women imbued with a socialist outlook oriented towards serving the people's needs. Stress is being made on self-reliance, hard work, and determination to hasten socialist development. The optimism of the Vietnamese people in fulfilling the tasks they set forth is summed by the words of Ho Chi Minh: "When the Yankees are defeated, we will rebuild the country 10 times more beautiful." □



THOUSANDS RALLY ON PEOPLE'S JULY 4th



Part of the crowd that gathered in Philadelphia July 4 to protest 200 years of exploitation and oppression. Bicentennial without colonies; Freedom for Puerto Rico were some of the rallying cries. (Guardian Photo)

Philadelphia Counter-Bicentennial Protest Draws Over 50,000

By RENE CRUZ
Ang Katipunan Correspondent

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. — Over 58,000 people challenged the U.S. government's claims to a Bicentennial of "progress and greatness" by marching and demonstrating spiritedly in this city July 4.

Tens of thousands of men, women and children of various races and nationalities came from mid-west and eastern states to assert that the history of the U.S. has been one of colonial plunder, killings of Native Americans Indians, exploitation of American working people and repression and discrimination against Blacks and other minorities. The unified protest denounced the U.S. government for its hypocrisy in claiming that "everything is great in this great country of ours."

The demonstrators marched for a mile in a predominantly Black North Philadelphia neighborhood where the residents greeted them with enthusiastic applause from stoops and balconies. The action was so massive that it took the tail end of the march a full two hours to get to Fairmount Park, site of the demonstration. Hundreds of huge banners and thousands of signs demanded "Jobs at home, not wars abroad!"; "Equality and jobs for all!" as well as calling for "A bicentennial without colonies, independence for Puerto Rico!" Reflecting the mood of the demonstration was a cry from the marchers declaring "We won't celebrate 200 years of exploitation and lies!"

The activity was seen by the participants as a victory for all working and oppressed people. The July 4th Coalition, organizer of the event, earlier faced intimidation by the Federal authorities who, together with Philadelphia mayor Frank Rizzo, threatened to dispatch 15,000 troops to "keep terrorists from disrupting the official celebrations."

Despite the government's scare tactics, the huge gathering was held without incident, and there were no "terrorist bombings" of the official Bicentennial celebrations as had been predicted. Instead, the big media networks imposed a news blackout of the event, especially since a mere 30,000 attended President Ford's Bicentennial speech at Independence Hall.

The demonstration was the first of its kind in size and militance since the anti-war and civil rights movements of the 1960's. Many of those who participated agreed that the demonstration showed the importance of unity among progressive forces in the U.S. and the need for all working people "who are saddled with economic hardships and discrimination to commonly confront the rulers of this nation" — U.S. monopoly capitalists and the politicians.

Among the more popular slogans during the day was "Black, Brown, Yellow and White, All the People Must Unite!" and "The People United Will Never be Defeated!" A small Filipino contingent composed of KDP activists and friends from the Anti-Martial Law Coalition were in the march to "demand an end to U.S. aid to Marcos and to symbolize the contribution of Filipinos to the peoples' struggles for democratic rights and better living conditions in the U.S."

Speakers at the rally included Juan Mari Bras of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Elaine Brown of the Black Panther Party, anti-war activist Dave Dellinger, Karen deCrow of the National Organization of Women, American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Clyde Bellecourt and the Rev. Walter Lee of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Several speakers assailed the "blatant hypocrisy of the U.S. government" in celebrating "200 years

of democracy" while trampling on the democratic rights of the very people who create the wealth of the country. It was pointed out that the everyday experiences of the working masses has been that of racist and discriminatory attacks, forced evictions, strikebreaking, layoffs, cutbacks in services and the systematic assassination of popular leaders such as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Fred Hampton.

Juan Mari Bras of the PSP, which mobilized a third of those present, hit out at the U.S. ruling class celebrating its independence from British rule while maintaining Puerto Rico as a colony and keeping other nations as neo-colonies by suppressing liberation and independence movements.

Clyde Bellecourt of AIM lashed out against the "glory of the American nation" built on the genocide inflicted on the original inhabitants of the U.S. and which continues today in the form of "vicious repression brought upon the militant Indian movement and our leaders." A number of speakers stressed that only a revolutionary struggle of all those suffering 200 years of exploitation and oppression can bring out the replacement of a government of, by, and for big business with a truly democratic rule of the people, by the people and for the people.

Preparations for the event were undertaken by some 600 national and local organizations from over 70 cities and towns in the eastern and midwestern U.S. Among the groups who led the preparations were the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the American Indian Movement, Native American Solidarity Committee, Youth Against War and Fascism, New American Movement, Black Anti-Bicentennial Action Committee, Black Vendors Association, Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, Mass Party Organizing Committee and the KDP. □

Other Nationwide Actions Draw Crowds



Asian contingent in San Francisco's July 4th demonstration displayed signs demanding "U.S. out of Asia" and "Stop U.S. aid to the Marcos Regime"

Besides the over 50,000 gathered in Philadelphia July 4 to protest the government's official Bicentennial activities, thousands of other people rallied in numerous other demonstrations held across the country that same day.

The July 4th Coalition, sponsor of the massive Philadelphia protest, held other actions in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. The People's Bicentennial Commission sponsored a similar march of some 5,000 in Washington, D.C., and the

Rich Off Our Backs Coalition staged a protest of 3,000 also held in Philadelphia.

In San Francisco, the July 4th Coalition held a march through the Mission District, a predominantly Latino community. A subsequent rally at Mission Dolores Park drew nearly 6,000 people to hear Andre Torres of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), John Trudell of the American Indian Movement (AIM), Black Panther Party member Erika Huggins, Mattie Sheperd (mother of Tyrone Guyton, a 14 year old Black killed by a policeman), Estella Habal of the KDP, and others.

The Los Angeles march and rally drew about 2,000 and was held in the predominantly Spanish-speaking barrio of East Los Angeles' Hollenbeck Park. Sponsoring the event was the PSP, the Center for Autonomous Social Action (CASA), La Raza Unida, United Farm Workers (UFW), the Iranian Students Association, the Coalition Against Police Abuse, the KDP and others.

In Seattle, a July 4th Coalition rally at Seward Park drew 600 people before it prematurely ended due to rain. Elaine Ko of the KDP spoke about the struggle for housing in the International District. Tony Orange from the Central Area School District hit the present cutbacks affecting the city's black residents, Ruben Solis of the Rescati Press spoke about the struggle of undocumented Mexican workers and a spokesperson from the Grey Panthers attacked the cutbacks being enacted against

the elderly.

Common to all of the popular actions was the stress for unity among all those suffering the effects of 200 years of American capitalism. The fact that thousands of people of various colors and nationalities could unite was hailed as a significant victory by Coalition sponsors. One Coalition spokesperson said the events were "in some ways a turning point for the progressive and anti-imperialist movement in this country, a point marking a new level of unity and mass movement among all those who are opposed to the imperialist system that rules over the people of this country and half the world."

While independence for Puerto Rico and support for the struggle of Native American Indians was stressed at all the events, other issues and demands voiced during the course of the demonstrations reflected the depth of dissatisfaction felt by thousands against American capitalism. Cuts in social services affecting the elderly, poor and non-whites were hit, as was police repression and U.S. intervention in foreign countries.

While hailing the victory of the day's events, the July 4th Coalition's national board stressed that its work "must not stop after one demonstration." According to a Coalition statement, "This moment of unity is only a first step. We must build a new alliance based on the strength of struggle and our coalition. This counter-offensive must utilize every form of struggle — the courts, the electoral process, the national and international forums, and most of all, the mass struggle in the streets." □