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Ambassador Murphy's Olongapo Talk

U.S. TO STRENGTHEN FORCES IN ASIA



While Washington officials urge a stronger U.S. military presence in Asia, a Campaign to Remove U.S. Bases from the Philippines was launched July 24 with a demonstration at the U.S. State Department in Washington. (AMLC Photo)

The United States will strengthen its forces in Asia over the next five years with advanced nuclear and other weapons systems in order to maintain a strategic security balance in the region, American Ambassador Richard Murphy said in a speech in Olongapo City early this August.

Speaking before the Lions Club in Olongapo which services the American Subic Base and Clark Air Base are "two of the keys to preserving a credible deterrent against hostile activity in Asia and an effective American contribution to regional stability."

Murphy's remarks like those of U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown last March, are calculated to strengthen the position of the Carter administration in the currently stalled bases negotiations between the U.S. and Philippine governments. The problem issues have to do with the amount of U.S. rental payments and jurisdiction over crimes committed by U.S. servicemen at the bases.

"BROADER U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS"

In order to head off opposition to the continued maintenance of the bases in the Philippines, both Murphy and Brown have tried to emphasize their importance by placing them in the context of broader U.S. security interests. Noting uncertainties in Sino-Soviet relations, and in North Korea and Indochina, Murphy said: "We intend to remain prepared to meet that global challenge in Asia just as we are prepared to meet it elsewhere . . ."

President Carter, Murphy said, has decided that apart from planned withdrawals from South Korea, the U.S. must maintain the current level of its combat forces in Asia, on bases in the Philippines, Japan, South Korea and Guam. To counter increasing Soviet strength in the region, he added, the U.S. must strengthen these forces with the introduction of advanced weapons systems.

"From the standpoint of security, the strategic balance that exists today is clearly in our nation's interest and in the interest of the region. United States policies seek to maintain the current equilibrium, preventing any single power from attaining a preponderance of influence or military superiority . . ." Murphy also added, parenthetically, that U.S. trade with Asia reached \$60 billion last year.

Carter administration efforts to build up the importance of the bases are not directed towards

Continued on page 4.

'78 Far West Convention

Filipinos to Converge on L.A.



Hundreds of Filipinos from all walks of life will converge in Los Angeles Labor Day weekend to discuss problems and future plans under the slogan, "Unite—Fight for Our Rights!" Above, assembly from Seattle's Far West Convention. Story on page 5.

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Tagalog Kolum

CLARO M. RECTO BASE?!

pahina 3

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Buod ng mga Balita

[NEWS SUMMARIES]

Typhoons, Floods
Devastate R.P.

Far reaching devastation from typhoons and floods have become a predictable pattern every rainy season in the Philippines (June-September). Reuters reports that this year, the storms in August have taken a high toll once again.

- More than 45 people were feared dead in landslides, flooding and road accidents caused by monsoon rains in the North.
- Thousands of people, including many families in Manila have fled their homes to escape rising flood waters.
- At the biggest landslide near the U.S. naval base at Subic Bay, American marines together with Filipino rescue workers cleared thousands of tons of mud.
- On August 13, the side of a mountain engulfed a road, just as more than 30 passengers of a stranded bus were crossing the road on foot. All were buried alive, eyewitnesses said.
- Flooding was severe in some areas of Central Luzon plains and Cavite City.

Despite years of experience with these catastrophies, the government still has not taken fundamental safeguards to prevent the loss of lives, property and crops. In fact, it has allowed denuding of forests by logging firms to continue, assisting the easy erosion of land during typhoon season. Furthermore, little has been done to improve or change the existing, antiquated drainage system in some rural and major urban areas. □

Feed, Hog, Poultry
Prices Rise

A chain reaction of price increases will make basic items as hog and poultry products virtually impossible to buy. Firstly, copra meal, which is the major ingredient in hog and poultry feed, has increased in cost by 100 percent. Once selling for P0.40, now it sells for P0.80. Consequently, producers of animal feed want to raise feed prices by 10 per cent.

When this happens, prices of hog and poultry products such as eggs, pork and chicken will also rise. As it is, pork, already a rarity in the average Filipino family's diet, now costs P18.00 per kilo—double its price before martial law. Eggs are P0.50 each, while a chicken costs almost P20.00. With the minimum wage at P12.00 a day, these items will practically be inaccessible with another price increase.

Government sources say that copra meal was one of four commodities delisted from government price control in May of 1977, on the condition that producers do not increase their prices. In spite of the stipulation, the price hikes inevitably occurred. □

Lawyers Oppose
I.D. Card Plan

The proposed I.D.-card scheme of the Metro-Manila Commission has encountered more criticism from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), a national organization of Filipino lawyers. The Metro-Manila Commission claims that the use of special identification cards is a step in discouraging migration of people from the countryside into the city. (See AK, Vol. V, No. 15.)

IBP president, Edgardo Angara, spoke in behalf of his group when he described the proposal as "a precursor of a garrison state and a blow against human rights." He criticized as "preposterous" the idea of segregating probinsiyanos as second-class citizens from Manilans, through I.D.-cards. He added that the plan would just create another vast, unwanted bureaucracy.

As an alternative, Angara suggested greater dispersal of industries and government services to outlying provinces as a means of checking heavy migration from the rural to the urban centers "without impairing the basic rights of citizens." □

Soviets warn Imelda



Imelda told: "Don't take sides."

An interesting sidelight to First Lady, Metro-Manila Governor, Minister of Human Settlements, and about-to-become Deputy Prime Minister Imelda Marcos' August visit to Moscow was exposed by the London Observer last Aug. 11. Correspondent Susan Donnell revealed that Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin availed of the opportunity to warn the Philippines against taking sides in the Sino-Soviet dispute. Neutrality, advised Kosygin, was definitely in the Philippines' best interest. □

'Illegally' Farming Idle Land

Labor Leader, Sakadas Arrested



Seasonally employed sakadas, already underpaid, have been hardest hit by the cutbacks in sugar planting.

The Philippine military, last July 30, arrested and detained 125 sugar workers (sakadas) at Bago City Jail, Negros Occidental. The group was surrounded by more than 100 well-armed members of the local riot squad during a twice-postponed meeting with landowner Angel Araneta.

Araneta owns San Juan del Monte Hacienda, where unemployed sakadas had planted crops on 12 hectares of idle land. The total property is more than 200 hectares.

The day following the arrest, Ed Tejada, president of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW), five organizers, and Fr. Edgar Saguinsing were similarly arrested by military forces, while in the process of negotiating with local government officials at a community center in Barrio Mailingin, Bago City.

BETRAYED AT
NEGOTIATIONS

During the negotiations, the sakadas contended that they were hungry and merely wan-

ted to grow food crops. They were jobless, though they want to work. Their children had been forced to stop schooling. The farmworkers had already requested that they be allowed to use the idle land until the end of the year under a lease or share agreement.

Araneta's response was that their act as "illegal."

SAGUINSING RELEASED

Fr. Saguinsing was released later to the custody of Msgr. Antonio Fortich, Bishop of Bacolod City. His release came shortly after a presidential policy of national conciliation with the clergy was enacted.

For Ed Tejada, an ex-detainee, the experience of harassment and detention is not new. He narrated in "Collision Course" (a 1976 documentary by British Broadcasting Company) how his torturers placed a gun loaded with a single bullet to his head, spun the chambers, and pulled the trigger, Russian-roulette style. He is still in jail.

National Budget

R.P. Military Spending Up

The Batasang Pambansa, in its first item of legislation mid-August, allotted 17.4 per cent of the national budget of P32.2 billion to the Defense Ministry. The defense outlay of P5.5 billion, the biggest in the entire budget, is P620 million more than the proposed P4.88 billion.

In contrast, the item for education is only P4.3 billion or 13.3 percent of the budget. The items for the ministries of public works, transportation and communications and that of public highways were reduced by almost P2.5 billion from the original proposal.

Sources in Manila who are familiar with government fiscal operations point out that the military budget is in fact larger than the P5.5 billion formally allotted. Undisclosed amounts for intelligence and other counterinsurgency operations are not included under defense. These funds are hidden in the budgets of civilian

agencies including that of the office of the president.

The same sources say that while some of the money going to the military is allotted to purchases of more sophisticated armaments and further increases in the size of the various armed services, a good part of the defense budget will go into additional benefits for an increasingly restive officer corps.

The increasing scale of military operations against the New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front necessitated increased expenditures. Already, as much as P200 million is spent in military operations against the MNLF alone.

NEW TAXES

The 1979 budget foresees an 18 percent increase in revenue rising to P28.2 billion from an estimated P23.9 billion in the current year. Even if these overly optimistic pro-

SAKADAS BEAR THE BRUNT
OF SUGAR CRISIS

Sakadas, who are mostly from Negros are the hardest hit by the sugar industry's crisis. Sugar used to be the country's primary export crop, generating 25 percent of the country's foreign currency. But since the dramatic plunge of world prices, plantation owners have cut back on lands planted to sugar. Sugar mills (fabricas) are working below capacity. Hardest hit are thousands of sakadas who have lost their seasonal jobs.

Even during better times, surveys reveal that 90 percent of sacadas are paid well below the minimum wage for rural workers. They earn less than \$1.00, or P7 a day, and part of the year, they have no income at all.

Due to their plight, a growing militance has surged among sakadas. On March 5, and May 1 of this year, massive demonstrations were led by sakadas in Bacolod City. One of their key demands was land reform in sugarcane land. Pre-empting unused land to stave off starvation demonstrates again their need for genuine land reform.

After the arrests of the sacadas, Philippine constabulary men were dispatched to guard the Araneta hacienda.

Later, the houses of two workers were raided. Reports say that detainees are not even allowed to smoke in detention centers. Neither are they allowed to communicate with relatives, lawyers or friends. To date, aside from Saguinsing and his five church co-workers, there is no report of any releases. □



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Labor Organizer tells her story

The Making of an Activist



The author interviews an organizer of workers in U.S.-owned factories. (Left) Steve Wake when he was arrested at the Philippine Consulate by San Francisco police. (AK Photo)

By STEVE WAKE
FFP Member

(The author of this article recently returned from a one-month visit to the Philippines sponsored by the Asia and North America Regions of the World Student Christian Federation. The purpose of the visit was to study the effects of American neocolonialism in Asia.—Editor)

"Have you seen this before?"

A small pamphlet entitled "The Ten Point Program of the Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front" was handed to me. The giver was Ida, a full-time activist working as a labor and community organizer in a rural area under-going rapid "industrialization." A look of surprise and pleasure lit up her face when I answered "Yes, we studied that back in the States." It was probably the last answer she expected from an American travelling with an international group of Christian students.

We had just returned from a workers' meeting. The broad-based organization—open to all workers in the area—was growing rapidly. This was only the second meeting and over 50 workers came, but Ida seemed very concerned. During the political discussion some of the workers were raising questions about capitalism and imperialism—even going as far as suggesting the overthrow of the Marcos regime. Of course she agreed with the comments of the workers, but she was thinking back to the first attempt at labor organizing in the area.

Earlier in the year, two organizers had been run out of town by the Philippine Constabulary after government agents found out that workers were discussing the same questions raised at the meeting that night. Although these issues are discussed at length in private seminars, the organization itself is as social as it is political.

For workers who are very young (Most are under 20 and many as young as 16.) and who come from every province in the Philippines, the social function is very important. Their wages are so low that their only entertainment is to sit around with friends and talk, or visit a better-off neighbor to watch reruns of American television shows. But even the social part of the meeting was made political, as several workers from a factory which had not paid out any wages in two months presented a skit about starving workers being forced to work without wages while a manager laughed at them.

"TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND"

Ida stepped into another room and came out with some pictures. She showed me one of several people posing with Armalites and carbines. "This is my older sister and he is her husband. They were activists in the student movement in Manila, and were recruited into the NPA in 1970. They were both killed in an encounter the next year." She continued, sounding almost apologetic: "I was also a student at the time, and my sister often sent me letters telling me what they were doing in the hills, urging me to become an activist too. But I was very young, and I did not understand why they were fighting."

Ida got married and moved away from home with her husband, a government worker. Then in 1975 her parents were evicted from the barrio where they lived since World War II in order to make room for an American-owned factory. Their house was loaded onto the back of a truck, then dumped a mile outside of town in the middle of the forest. Her parents, brothers, and sisters had to rebuild the house while fighting off snakes and other wild animals.

Young people from the countryside began to flow into the area seeking employment in the newly opened factories. They created a severe housing shortage. Often eight or more workers would have to share a nine by twelve foot room, sleeping on the floor and in bunk beds.

BECOMING AN ORGANIZER

During visits home, Ida began to identify with the throngs of young workers, many of whom came with false hopes of raising enough money to send themselves or a brother or sister through school, or who simply came to escape the poverty of the countryside. She also sympathized with the hundreds of other families who were later relocated near her parents' house.

Eventually she made the decision to become an organizer and help her community. Taking her young children, she left her husband and moved back with her parents. With the help of the underground and religious people in the area, she attended training seminars in Manila and became an organizer with a progressive labor federation.

"The workers need so much help; they are so oppressed and exploited. I used to think of going up and joining the NPA." A long silence. "I want to do more, but sometimes I am just too tired." It was long past midnight. Her work would start again at sunrise. □

Ilocanos Evicted by Regime

Marcos Unpopular in 'Marcos Country'

One of the myths of the New Society is that Ilocos Norte, birthplace of Ferdinand Marcos, is "Marcos Country." But a people's mass newspaper in Northwestern Luzon, Dangadang, has discovered that the feelings of the Ilocano people toward their province-mate are anything but warm.

The people's hatred for the Marcos family surfaced recently when Dangadang inquired into the effects of a recent Presidential Decree declaring Lake Paoay a "national parks reservation" which is supposed to benefit the people of Paoay and the whole of Ilocos Norte. Behind the decree was yet another Marcos landgrabbing scheme.

The victims of the Marcos "development plan" in Paoay are the people of the five barrios surrounding the lake—825 families of Suba, Pasil, Sungadan, Nanguyugan, and Nagbacalan. The people of Suba have already been driven out of their lands while those of the four other barrios are in the process of being ejected.

What prompted the massive evictions?

In barrio Suba today stands a private mansion of the Marcoses which they call "Malacanang of the North." The structure and its facilities have been paid for out of public funds but the public cannot approach the place for

Dagok at Dalipot

Ni Tata Selo

Claro M. Recto Base ?!

Nag-aalanganin umano (o nagpapapikot?) si Marcos na aprobahan ang "mungkahi" ng KBL at ng mga assemblymen ng IBP na gawing deputy prime minister ng diktador ang kanyang asawang si Imelda. Sa kabilang banda'y nagpupumilit ang mga assemblymen na aprobahan na ito.

Anu't ano man, tiyak nang panalo si Marcos at Imelda. Wika nga, ito'y labanang walang talo. Kung baga sa sugal, si Marcos ang bangkero at ang mga assemblymen ang mga balasador.



Ang pangalan na ipapalit (sa Clark) ay Claro M. Recto Air Base.

Claro M. Recto Base ang ipapalit na pangalan sa Clark Air Base. Bakit pinili ng gobyerno ang pangalan ng makabayang si Recto? Para magmukhang makabayan ang maka-imperialistang pakikipagnegosasyon ng diktadurang Marcos sa gobyernong Estados Unidos ukol sa mga base militar sa Pilipinas!

Kung buhay si Recto ngayon, mangunguna siya para tuligsain at labanan ang pakana ng diktador.

Isang bagong probinsiya ang iminumungkahi ni Assemblyman Bautista ng Davao del Sur na bubuin sa Mindanaw. Ang pangalan ng probinsiya? Don Mariano Marcos Province (kuha sa ama ng diktador). Ang mungkahing kapitolyo naman ay ang bayan ng Dona Josefa (kuha sa pangalan ng kanyang ina)!

Huli man daw at magaling naihabol din.

Sa isang bukas na liham kay Kalihim ng Edukasyon Juan Manuel, inilantad at tinuligsa ng may 121 magulang ang panunuhol ng gobyerno sa mga guro para baguhin ang resulta ng eleksiyon noon Abril 7. Ang suhol? P200 sa bawat guro; P500 at P800 sa bawat prinsipal at superbisor!

Pera din ang nagpapakilos sa KBL (ang partido ni Marcos at Imelda). Ang tawag ng mga tao ngayon dito'y Kami'y Bayaran Lamang!

it is fiercely defended by the Presidential Guards.

Adjoining the mansion are 60 hectares of private and public lands which Marcos has allowed his in-laws to grab. On these lands stand another mansion, a golf course, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, tennis, and pelota courts.

The landgrabbers are none other than Marcos, his sister, Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, governor of the province, another sister, Fortuna and her husband Col. Barba (Their son was reportedly involved in a murder case. See AK, Vol. V, No. ... and the Marcos' nephew, Irineo Rubio, mayor of ... Ilocos Norte.

The people of Paoay are angry. They have been deprived of their homes and hundreds of hectares of land which were once planted to rice, sugarcane and vegetables. In addition, they are denied access to the lake where they once fished and the forest where they used to gather firewood.

Each family was promised a homelot of 700 square meters in a "model community" that was to be set up. The displaced families, however, have been given only 200 square meters each on a site where no water is available.

Dangadang found that there is little affection between the Marcoses and these people of "Marcos Country." □

'Brutal' AFP Training Two Marcos Soldiers Defect to NPA

"With cruel and sadistic 'training' such as this, it is no wonder that not a few government soldiers deal brutally with others, especially civilians. And it will be no wonder that, as the revolutionary struggle intensifies, more and more disgusted soldiers will defect to the New People's Army (NPA)," comments *Ang Bayan* in a story announcing the defection of two more soldiers of the Philippine Armed Forces to the NPA.

The two young trainees defected last December, bringing with them their M-16 rifles, ammunition and ammunition belts. After investigating their backgrounds and ascertaining their sincerity, the NPA welcomed them into their ranks.

The two former government soldiers joined the people's army in disgust over the corruption and brutal treatment they received in the Philippine Army (PA). They claimed that they and other young trainees were treated like animals by their officers.

Ang Bayan noted the similarities between this case and the case of Ka. Lusyon, a PA trainee who defected to join the NPA in 1976.

BRUTALITY RECALLED

Ka. Lusyon, now a seasoned fighter of the NPA, was recently interviewed by *Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas* (BMP) and recalled in detail how he and other trainees were brutally treated by their officers and how they were taught to steal chickens and vegetables from the peasants.

At one time or another, Ka. Lusyon said, he and other trainees were made to drink the officers' urine, crawl and bathe in a canal filled with garbage, and climb a 30-foot pole and stay at the top for three hours.

Ka. Lusyon gave a graphic account of his "welcome" at Fort Magsaysay after six months of training at Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac:

"There were three busloads of us who were brought to Fort Magsaysay. Sergeants and officers greeted us with clubs and truncheons, and mercilessly beat us . . . till we got groggy. Later, we were made to fall in and follow orders no matter how demeaning, like rolling, crawling, spinning, etc. Many received blows as a penalty 'for becoming dizzy.'

"After four hours, the 'welcome rites' were over. We were made to slither like snakes (chin and shoulders to the ground with the hands at the back) for about 200 meters to the barracks."

Within the NPA, however, Ka. Lusyon and the two new recruits have recovered their dignity. The defectors, *Ang Bayan* reports, now fight wholeheartedly alongside the people against the exploitation and oppression which they themselves have experienced at the hands of the military. □

U.S. Strengthens...

(Continued from front page)

the Marcos administration. Statements calling for the withdrawal of the bases coming from the Marcos camp such as that recently made by the President's daughter Imee in her capacity as chairperson of the National Youth Movement are obvious bargaining ploys. Marcos has said many times that he wants the bases to stay.

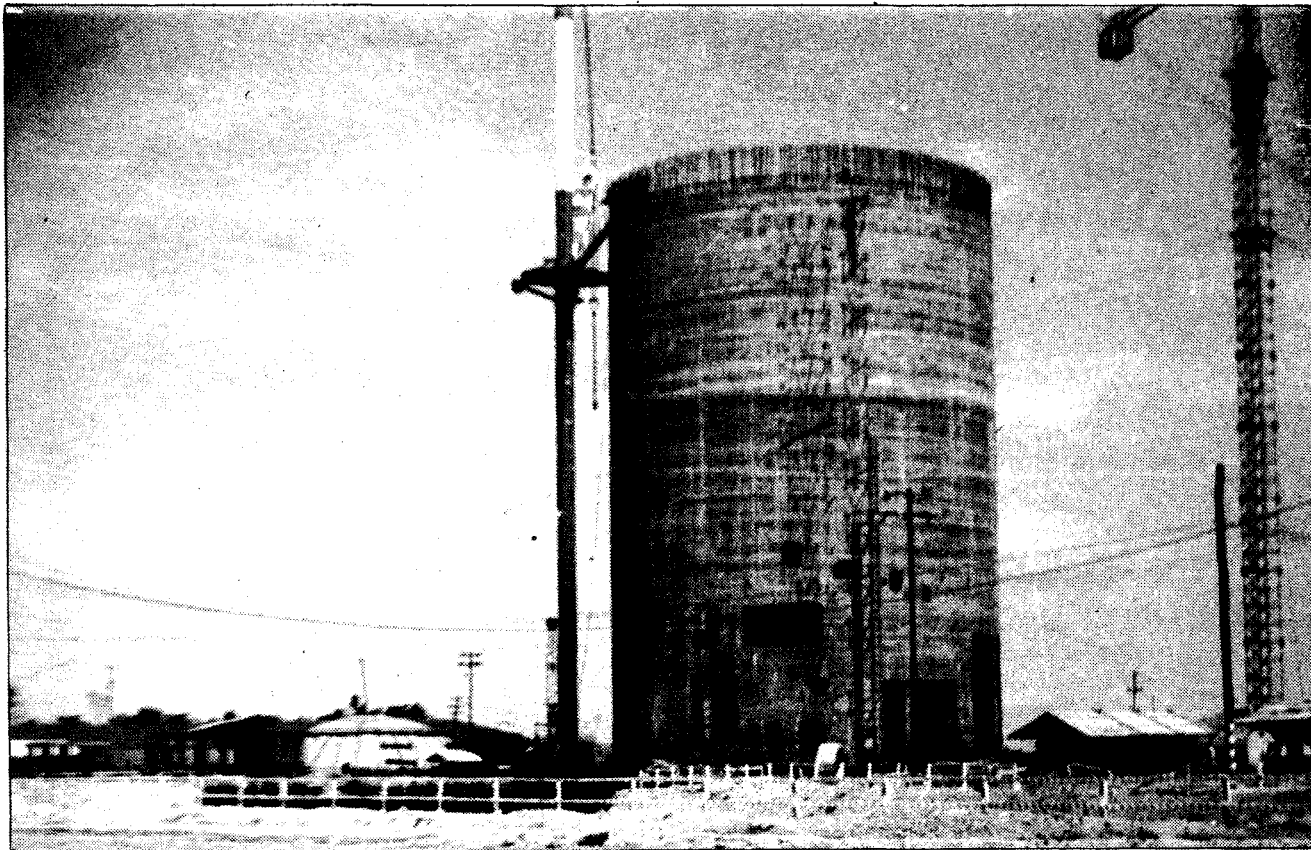
OPPOSITION TO BASES GROWS

Opposition to the bases comes from groups in the Philippines such as the Civil Liberties Union and the National Democratic Front who see the bases as affronts to Philippine sovereignty. In the U.S., many congresspersons, academics, journalists and others oppose the bases because they see that they are being used as excuses for continued U.S. support of the dictatorial Marcos regime.

In an effort to consolidate opposition to the bases, a broad coalition of groups and individuals was formed at a strategy and organizing meeting in Washington, D.C. last June. The Coalition to Withdraw U.S. Bases which was formed after the meeting includes groups such as Clergy and Laity Concerned, the Mennonite Central Committee, the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends of the Filipino People.

The new coalition will have two full-time staff persons in Washington, D.C. and a West Coast coordinator. Plans have also been made to organize local, grassroots coalitions to parallel the national coalition. The campaign was launched at a demonstration in front of the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. July 24. □

Bataan Nuclear Power Plant R.P., Australia sign Uranium Pact



The controversial Westinghouse-sold nuclear reactor nears completion in Morong, Bataan.

By VICTORIA LUNA

In spite of growing opposition to the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant both domestically and abroad, Philippine government preparations for opening the plant are proceeding as planned.

In mid-August, Australian Deputy Prime Minister J. Douglas Anthony and Philippine Energy Minister Geronimo Z. Velasco signed an agreement binding Australia to provide a regular supply of unprocessed uranium to the Philippine plant. Though the signing was a low-key affair, it marks a significant step toward making the plant operational. It also promises to set off a wave of protest both in the Philippines and Australia.

According to Steve Wake, a member of the Friends of the Filipino People who recently returned from a visit to the reactor site, local citizens note with growing alarm the reactor's near completion. (See related story.) Australian opposition to uranium exports, where the anti-nuclear Uranium Moratorium movement is supported by a broad coalition of labor, student, environmental, women's and gay groups, is also strong.

CULTURAL GENOCIDE

In Australia, the nuclear controversy centers around the survival of the aborigine population whose lands contain all of Australia's major uranium deposits. Mining the uranium means evicting the aborigines from

most of their land and contaminating what is left with radioactive debris. Since the land is sacred to the aborigines, relocating them amounts to cultural genocide. The Moratorium upholds the right of the aborigines to their land. Australian dockworkers have warned that they will load for export only ore which is already mined and stockpiled, but will refuse to load any newly mined ore.

U.S. SCHEMES

Though the new agreement only involves Australia and the Philippines, it is part of a highly profitable U.S.-designed scheme for reactor exports to Third World countries. This scheme dictates a triangular relationship between the uranium supplier, Australia, the uranium processor, the United States, and the uranium consumer, the Philippines.

Raw uranium cannot be used in reactors and must be enriched. Few countries, however, have the elaborate technology for uranium enrichment aside from the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The U.S., with a near-monopoly on this vital process, actually controls uranium sales and can dictate prices. The U.S. thus earns as much as, if not more than, the original supplier on the sale of uranium.

Added to the already tremendous profits reaped in the U.S. on reactor sales, this makes the export of nuclear technology, already under increasing question at home, into an extremely profitable business for the U.S. □

MORONG PEOPLE SPEAK OUT

'Nuclear Plant Harms Us All'

How do the people of Morong, Bataan, feel about the nuclear power plant that is being built in their town?

Last June an interview with town residents was forwarded to *Ang Katipunan*. The question asked was, "What can you say about the nuclear plant that is being put up in your town?"

One resident replied, "If this nuclear power plant pushes through, it can cause harm to our ricefields and whatever has to do with our livelihood. It will affect not only ourselves, but the whole Philippines . . . it can affect our health and that of our children . . . and we won't profit anything from it. Only the foreigners will benefit from it . . ."

"This is a kind of project which a few will manipulate for their own interests and not for the benefit of the many Filipinos. Therefore each Filipino should block this so that everyone can have a better life," said another.

"FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY"

"At first, when I was not aware of what was happening, when I heard about the nuclear plant, I was afraid because it is dangerous. When I got aware of what was happening around us and knew a little of what the plant can bring us, I received the courage to fight for the right of the Filipino and the oppressed. The fear is gone and I am ready to fight for our country and for the oppressed people," declared another.

The citizens of Morong have already experienced hardships in connection with the nuclear plant. They are well-informed of the dangers they face in the future. Erosion from the plant site has covered their ricefields and filled their fishponds with silt. Bangus fingerlings, which once accounted for two-thirds of municipal

income, have been depleted by 95 percent. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has failed to compensate many for lost crops and fruits trees. One farmer had his fields bulldozed only days before the grain had ripened in spite of pleas for just a few more days. Grazing land for cows and carabaos has been claimed by the NPC. Fishing and shellfish-gathering has been severely restricted.

FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE

The NPC, during its information drive, admitted that fish native to the area will be driven away when water used to cool the reactor is dumped into the sea. Though the NPC assured the townfolk that it will "import another species that can thrive in the warm water," many were skeptical. One asked, "Are you sure we can eat that kind of fish?"

Morong folk fear a loss of water for irrigation. They are aware that insufficient seismological study of the area was done prior to construction. One citizen, confronting the NPC in Manila, discovered that the agency was unaware that Morong, surrounded by volcanoes, lies in a zone visited by both tidal waves and earthquakes as well.

Organizing to oppose the nuclear plant has proven dangerous. Already one Morong resident, Ernesto Nazareno, has been detained, tortured and rearrested, his current whereabouts unknown. (See AK, Vol. V, No. 14.) The PC continually harass those who speak out against the plant. Yet opposition continues, for, as one resident put it, "We are not preoccupied with the immediate present, but with the future when this nuclear plant will serve as a grim shrine to the death of our town." □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY

Premiers at FWC

'Sakada' Shows Sugar Workers' Plight

"Sakada," a play depicting the plight of sugar plantation workers in the Philippines will be premiered at the 1978 Filipino Peoples' Far West Convention at the University of California in Los Angeles.

The play attempts to bring to light the daily life experiences of the over 400,000 sugar workers in the Philippines.

In recent years, when a glut in the world sugar market has resulted in a sharp crisis in the Philippine sugar industry, hundreds and thousands of sugar workers have been left without a livelihood.

The sakadas, concentrated mainly in the Visayan region, stand among the most downtrodden Filipino workers. They are hired only during the cutting season which spans six months of the year. Sakadas work 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and receive a menial wage rate of \$1 a day or less.

SYNOPSIS

The play takes place during the cane-cutting season in the summer of 1969 at the hacienda (sugar plantation) of Don Manuel somewhere in the Visayas and focuses on a community of sakadas who work for this plantation. The play portrays their life as sakadas, which is one of hardship and misery. It depicts the exploitation, usury and abuses of Don Manuel and Mr. Enriquez, the plantation contractor as well as the problems among the sakadas themselves.

Kardo, an organizer and himself a sakada in the plantation, together with other workers who fled the plantation, plot a strike and a take-over of the sugar mill. Faced with the difficult task of rallying all of the workers behind this move, he has to convince Sixto, his godfather, a well-respected man of the hacienda, to join them in the fight. However, Sixto disagrees with this radical move because of his past experiences and his own frustrated attempts to organize a union. Kardo and the rest go ahead with their plans to take over the mill only to be met by a barrage of gunfire. Someone has tipped off Mr. Enriquez. An exchange of gunfire follows resulting in Kardo's death. Sixto, grieved and angered over Kardo's death resolves to take-up the fight once again and organize the union he tried to put up once.

Produced and directed by the National Cultural Group of the KDP, "Sakada" was originally written in Filipino by Mauro Avena in 1975. It was first produced in August and September of the same year by the U.P. (University of the Philippines) Repertory Company. In 1976 it was adapted into a film of the same title and played to packed audiences in Manila's movie theaters. The Marcos regime, afraid of Sakada's popularity and political impact, banned the film and seized all copies of the movie.

Sakada will be performed by Sining Bayan (People's Theater), the cultural group of the KDP. After the L.A. performance, it will be shown in Sacramento, California at the Redwood Room of the California State University in Sacramento on September 16, 1978, at 8:00 p.m. Future performance are now being planned for the San Francisco-Bay Area sometime in October. □

Delegates say why they're going FWC: 'The Importance of Unity'



Kathy Grey (upper right), a member of Oakland's Pilipino Youth Development Council (PYDC) spoke to the AK about going to this year's FWC.

"It's not only being able to share experiences with other Filipinos that draws me to the Far West Convention," said Kathy Grey, an Oakland youth. "But for me, it's the importance of unity; that Filipinos can come together and strengthen our unity."

Kathy Grey, a member of the Pilipino Youth Development Council (PYDC), is one of the many youths who plan to attend this year's Pilipino People's Far West Convention (FWC) in Los Angeles.

According to Kathy, "This will be my first time to attend the FWC. I've heard many stories about the convention, mostly good ones where people work towards resolutions and implement them in the local areas. It excites me to know that the FWC is a working convention, working towards the betterment of our people."

Kathy, like many of the youth that will be attending the FWC from the San Francisco-Bay Area, is a deeply committed person working with Filipino youth.

In so many words, she feels that the FWC will be able to provide her with direction and ability to understand more the problems of the Filipino community.

For Estella Luluquisen, a junior high school student also from Oakland, her interest in the FWC has been spurred by her active involvement in the cultural performance, "Sakada," which will be presented at the FWC. (See review, this page.)

Estella feels that the FWC gives Filipinos from

all over the West Coast a rare opportunity to view first hand the hard life of a sakada, the impoverished sugar workers in the Philippines.

"I feel that many people do not know how hard the life of a sakada is or how they are treated. These are things that I have learned from participating in the play. I hope that everyone at the FWC will learn the same."

From Seattle, Washington, to San Diego, California, and smaller towns in between, Filipino communities along the West Coast plan to converge Sept. 1, 2, and 3, at the convention site, U.C.L.A.

For one young man, Monte Martinez, from the Stockton area, the FWC holds the chance to share with others his two-year experience in the Philippines.

Mr. Martinez described, "While I was in the Philippines I had the opportunity to witness for myself conditions under martial law which I really want to share with people . . . in an open forum. The FWC provides that kind of atmosphere where one gets a better perspective, a better position about the problems our people face."

Martinez is not a newcomer to the FWC as he attended the FWC in 1974 in Los Angeles. When asked why he is attending this year's convention, he said that the FWC is a yearly catalyst that brings the most pressing issues to the forefront and draws the most active community-minded people who are helping to move the Filipino community ahead. □

Power Over Constitution Changes

Outrage over Secret FACLA Committee

LOS ANGELES—The latest Filipino-American Council of L.A. meeting, August 20, was again enveloped in controversy as the main agenda centered on FACLA procedures for constitutional amendments.

At the meeting self-imposed president Tony San Jose reported the existence of a committee that has been meeting since January this year to review constitutional changes in FACLA. The committee is chaired by Pete Fajardo who was appointed by San Jose. Fajardo in turn appointed six others to be in this body.

Thirty FACLA members present at the meeting were outraged that a "very important" body has been kept secret from the general membership. The seven-man committee is of vital importance to FACLA as it deals with future constitutional changes or amendments to the organization's constitution.

Criticizing San Jose's imposed administration, FACLA members scored the violation of the membership's democratic rights. They expressed concern over the present composition of the

"secret" body saying it does not represent the differing views of the FACLA membership, but only that of the current administration of San Jose.

FACLA member Jaime Geaga asked Fajardo to announce the committee meetings so that other members could provide input.

Fajardo, however, evaded the question. When asked if others could join the constitutional amendment committee, Fajardo answered no, saying there was no room for anyone.

Likewise, FACLA members emphasized that the court had ordered that only regular functions of the organization could be conducted while the controversial December election case was being heard. Thus, matters concerning constitutional amendments at this time are considered "illegal."

Pressured by attending members to open up the committee meetings to the general body, San Jose conceded to posting the meeting dates. Despite this, members have maintained a "wait and see" attitude.

As one member said, "San Jose never keeps his word." □

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Prop 13 Victims 42 Filipino Engineers Lose Jobs

By REMY GALEDO
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Forty-two of the 45 Filipino engineers at the L.A. County Engineering Facilities Department recently fell victim to Proposition 13. The 42 engineers received lay-off notices in July following implementation of imposed cutbacks on county employment.

Foreseeing more layoffs coming, several minority and women's groups met with the Board of Supervisors to discuss ways to lessen the impact of Prop. 13 on minorities and women. These sectors are the most affected and hardest hit by the Jarvis-Gann "tax reform" bill.

At the meeting, representatives of the groups questioned the validity of the existing seniority system as the only basis for the city's layoffs.

"We're not against the seniority rule *per se*. On its face it doesn't discriminate anyone," said Ricardo Munoz of the Minority Bar Association.

However, Munoz continued, "such policy is still discriminatory because 'women and minorities were the last to be hired, but the first to be fired.'"

Maxine Thomas, president of the California Association of Black Lawyers, cited statistics on minority employment. She said that "while only 39 percent of the county white employees were hired in the last ten years, 63 percent of the blacks, 83 percent of the Hispanics, and 84 percent of the Asian-Pacific employees were hired in the last ten years."

The minority and women's groups likewise assailed the seniority rule policy of the county and the Civil Service Commission and its result on the city's affirmative action programs. If seniority is applied as the only criterion for layoffs, it was charged that it would violate the state Constitution and the state Fair Employment Practices Act on affirmative action programs.

Supervisor Ed Edelman, in response, said, "Unless we get the seniority rule changed, the only way the affirmative action program can be protected is by lawsuits by the individual groups affected."

"I think the seniority rule is a bad rule. I think it's one of the evils of the Civil Service System," stated Supervisor James A. Hayes.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. The motion will:

- Seek renegotiations on seniority with labor unions representing county employees.
- Seek to transfer employment rule-making power to the board from the Civil Service Commission.
- Ask the Civil Service Commission to change its seniority rule to aid affirmative action.
- Request county department heads to take all possible steps to reduce the impact of their layoff plans on minorities and women.

The implementation of the motion remains to be seen. Meantime, the cold fact is that Prop. 13 continue to take its heavy toll on third world people and women. "The board has to move fast if it wants to help the minorities," commented a member of the L.A.-based Filipino community association. □

Retaliatory Action USF Students Disqualified

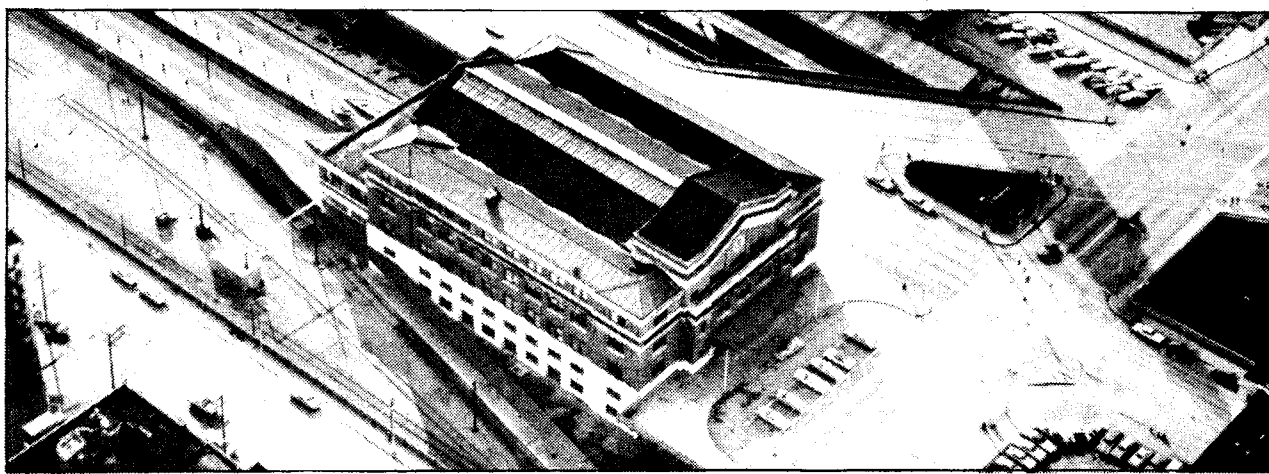
SAN FRANCISCO—In what some call a retaliatory decision, 32 first-year special admissions law students have been academically disqualified from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Many of the 32 disqualified students, 21 of whom are minorities and eleven disadvantaged white students, took part in a series of successful demonstrations and pickets protesting the proposed 50 percent cutback in the special admission program at USF last spring semester.

The spring proposal to cut the second largest private school special admission program in the nation, came in the wake of the then-pending Bakke Decision that threatens the existence of affirmative action programs in education and employment.

A coalition comprised of students and community groups is demanding that all 32 students be given a hearing for readmission and be allowed to retake classes. □

Intermodal Terminal Plan ID Residents Oppose Redevelopment



Area to be hit by Seattle's redevelopment plans. Residents of the area have denounced the city's moves.

SEATTLE—A redevelopment plan to create an intermodal transportation terminal at the Port of Seattle has been met with heavy opposition from International District residents.

At a Port Commissioners' meeting, August 8, International District representatives expressed concern over the "potentially adverse impact" of the plan on the community. The representatives said that the plan caused owners of the Downtowner Apartment to remodel this low-income housing into a luxury tourist hotel.

Port Commissioner president Paul S. Friedlander tried to dismiss the concern, saying, "What's so bad about that? To bring 240 tourists into the city would be good!"

Angered by Friedlander's statement, Bob Santos responded, "Do you mean you would put 240 Seattle residents out in the street in order to accommodate people from out of town?" Santos is president of the International District Improvement Association (Inter-Im).

Friedlander answered in the affirmative. Despite earlier assurances by Port Commissioners to drop the project if it will "adversely" affect the public, Inter-Im, the I.D. Housing Alliance and community individuals are worried that the Port may proceed with its plan. They said this was evident in Friedlander's statement.

At the meeting Santos presented the ruinous effects of the conversion of the Union Station into a transportation terminal. Big transportation vehicles such as Trailways, Greyhound, airport bus services, etc. will be parked at a two-level terminal adjacent to the Union Station building. Santos said that the traffic congestion caused by these vehicles and other cars will aggravate an already existing traffic problem, particularly during events at the nearby Dome Stadium.

District residents need an efficient public transportation system. However, they think that other alternative sites should be considered for the \$17 million development project. Similar intermodal terminals in New York and Boston have only downgraded the surrounding areas.

An individual who works at the District said, "These terminals have become combat zones associated with adult bookstores, porno films, crime, and dope." □

'BAKKE' BACKLASH

UC Davis Minority Enrollment Down

DAVIS—Students at the U.C. Davis Law School are calling it the "Bakke Backlash."

In a recent report from the Third World Coalition of King Hall School, 19 first year students have been dropped from the three-year law program. The greatest percentage of those disqualified are minorities.

"To cite an example," said a representative from the Coalition, "in a class of 80, there are 41 minority students, of which 10 have already been given their walking papers."

The coalition and other student and community sympathizers placed the blame for the increasing number of disqualified minority students squarely on the shoulders of the U.C. Law School.

According to the Coalition, the Law School has not provided "real" supportive or tutorial services for those first year law students.

EXISTING SERVICES INADEQUATE

Facts gathered by the Coalition state there are approximately 13 tutors for 165 first year law students. On the average ratio, this means one tutor for about 12 students. Each tutor works 10 hours per week, with students receiving an average of 45 minutes per week for supportive/tutorial services.

The Coalition added that unless U.C. Davis Law School changes its' procedures regarding the inadequacy of the supportive tutorial programs, the number of disqualified students will continue to rise.

In addition to the charges of inadequacy, minority students said that the administration has not hired any minority tutor. All tutors hired so far are white.

A move to expose the inadequate supportive services, as well as re-instate the disqualified students culminated

Downtowner Apartments Residents Win Stay

SEATTLE—Residents of the Downtowner Apartment recently won their battle against eviction and the redevelopment of their building into a luxury tourist hotel.

At a meeting, Aug. 11, with Jerome Curry of Housing and Urban Development, the residents were assured of a continued stay in their present homes.

Curry told the residents, "I have been authorized by my supervisor to tell you that there is no way HUD is going to approve the conversion."

Downtowners' owners Martin and Howard Seelig have a twenty-year contract with HUD to provide low-income housing to elderly and disabled people. A breach of contract would have meant forcible eviction of over 200 tenants of the 245-unit apartment building.

The Downtowner, located on the western edge of the International District, is one of the largest low-income housing projects in this housing-scarce city. In July its residents launched a petition drive that gathered 140 signatures opposing redevelopment. The International District Housing Alliance and the International District Improvement Association backed up the tenants and countered claims by the owners that they had gotten community support for their plan.

According to Curry, the owners claimed that they have now changed their "idea" for their apartment. But one tenant pointed out, "It was the opposition from the tenants and the community that made the owners back down."

Even the city's Mayor has reportedly delivered a public statement saying he supports the tenants' rights to stay in their present homes.

In a related development, the Downtowner residents unanimously passed a resolution opposing the conversion of the Union Station into an intermodal transportation terminal. The residents explained that this project caused their landlords to decide to transform their homes into a luxury hotel. □

in a press conference at the State Capitol, Aug. 15, and a demonstration three days later.

Participants at the press conference were: Assemblyman R. Alatorre, John Kirahara, 3rd year law student UCD; Grantland Johnson, Sacramento Area Black Caucus; Cynthia Thomas, 2nd year law student UCD; and Robert Mendez, 2nd year law student, UCD.

In short statements to the press, the group expressed serious concern for the accountability for professional schools to implement affirmative action supportive programs.

The demonstration was scheduled for the day when disqualified students from UCD three-year law program appealed for re-instatement before the administration.

According to Bernard Baker, a 2nd year law student, "The hearing for re-instatement is a very dehumanizing experience."

Standing before faculty and administration, students must give a verbal presentation of their case to petition disqualification. After each presentation, students must wait almost a full day before knowing whether or not they have been re-accepted.

Outside the faculty hearing, speakers, students and community people gathered to echo their demands. The demonstrators demanded the university to hire two more full-time tutors with teaching and legal study experience, and of minority background and sensitivity. In addition students are already preparing a tutorial program plan and a new re-instatement process and procedure.

The faculty hearings ended with ten out of nineteen disqualified re-instated: three from those disqualified from two to three years ago were readmitted; and seven from 1977 entering class were also reinstated. □

DOMESTIC / INTERNATIONAL

RECESSION FEARED

US Economy: From Bad to Worse

Reprinted from THE GUARDIAN

As recent polls and government reports point out, the American people are worried about their economic situation. Bad news: it's getting worse.

The main popular fear at the moment seems to be inflation, rather than joblessness, but that perhaps is a reflection of the Carter Administration's shift to focus on prices.

The latest figures out of Washington justify deep concern on both counts. Inflation in the three months ending June 30 ran at an annual rate of 11%, compared with 9% for the first quarter and less than 5% for the latter part of 1977.

PURCHASING POWER DOWN

U.S. families' purchasing power was down to the 1969 level and Black family income in relation to white was lower than it had been in a decade, according to the Bureau of the Census.

Unemployment in June was back up to 6.2% by official reckoning or probably twice as much—more than 12 million people—by more realistic counting. The 400,000 people the government found to be newly unemployed were mostly teenagers and women.

But there's more on people's minds than these immediate worries. There is also a growing uneasiness about an approaching recession. "The main question in the outlook," says Fortune, "is how much the economy will slow down." And adding further to the sense of insecurity is a vague awareness that something is wrong with the U.S. performance in the world economic arena, a weakness suggested by the plunging value of the dollar.

Consumers have begun to act on the basis of their worries. With food prices up in June at an annual rate of 17%, housing at 12%, electricity at 31% and used cars at 19%, they were clearly getting less goods for their money. In June and again in July, for the third month in a row, the physical volume of retail sales actually declined.

EATING LESS?

In some cases consumers cut back further by reducing the number of dollars spent. Surprisingly this was true of June purchases in food stores, suggesting that people were eating less or switching to cheaper foods.

Somoza Regime Shaken

SANDINISTAS STAGE DARING ATTACK

In its boldest attack to date, guerillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front successfully seized Nicaragua's national palace then won the release of 59 political prisoners along with safe passage out of the country to Panama.

The Sandinista guerillas, who have been waging a 20-year armed struggle against the Somoza dictatorship, took the Nicaraguan palace Aug. 22 in a one-hour gunbattle that left six National Guard troops dead and 13 wounded. While over 1,000 people were in the palace, the guerillas held only 40 to 60 persons, mostly pro-Somoza Chamber of Deputy members.

The demands of the guerillas were met by Somoza after 45 hours of the occupation. Among the political prisoners released was Sandinista founder Tomas Borge, and the guarantee of safe passage out of the country was ensured by the presence of an archbishop, two bishops, Panama's ambassador to Nicaragua, and the Venezuelan commercial attache to Managua who all volunteered for the journey. In Panama, all guerillas were granted political asylum.

"A VICTORY"

In Panama, the leader of the operation said the action was "definitely a victory" that would hasten Somoza's downfall. The rebel leader noted that all of the demands were met and he stressed that the economic concession by Somoza (\$500,000) was nothing "compared with what we obtained politically."

The Sandinista guerilla also denounced Washington's backing of Somoza, noting that it was "perfectly obvious" that the U.S. kept the regime alive with aid and political support because of "large vested interests." In mid-July, President Carter went so far as sending a personal letter to

Consumers also skimped that month on furniture, gasoline service and drug store items. And new car purchases were off in both June and July.

The White House described the June price rises as "extremely disappointing." Secretary of the Treasury Micheal Blumenthal said they were "worrisome." G. William Miller, chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank System, had a more ominous observation.

"The continued interplay of wage and price increases," Miller said, "coupled with the legislative cost increases, such as hikes in the minimum wage and Social Security, will make it more difficult to achieve much relief from underlying inflationary pressures over the next year."

As some people began to brace for some kind of direct attack on their living standards implied by Miller, George Meany in a long overdue blast let it be known that the AFL-CIO was not going along with any nonsense about voluntary restraint on wage increases while price rises were accelerating.

In this election year, as might be expected, the chairman of the Republican Party said, "The outlook is deeply disturbing, and the administration seems paralyzed."

CARTER'S 'REMEDY'

For his part, Carter seemed eager to live up to his enemies' predictions. When asked by U.S. News & World Report Aug. 9 about inflation, the President reiterated his intention to do without wage and price controls and again mentioned "inflation options that we will pursue," including getting Congress to act on specific costs, deregulating industries (for example, the airlines) and holding down the budget deficit.

On a quick political trip to the farm belt Aug. 14, Carter lashed out at special interest lobbies, naming federal workers and the medical industry, but omitting mention of the wheat, beef and sugar producers whom the administration has been busy helping get price boosts.

While inflation has been accelerating, the general movement of the economy has been slowing down. The sum of all goods and services produced (the gross national product, GNP) declined slightly in the first quarter of this year but then picked up steeply in the second quarter.



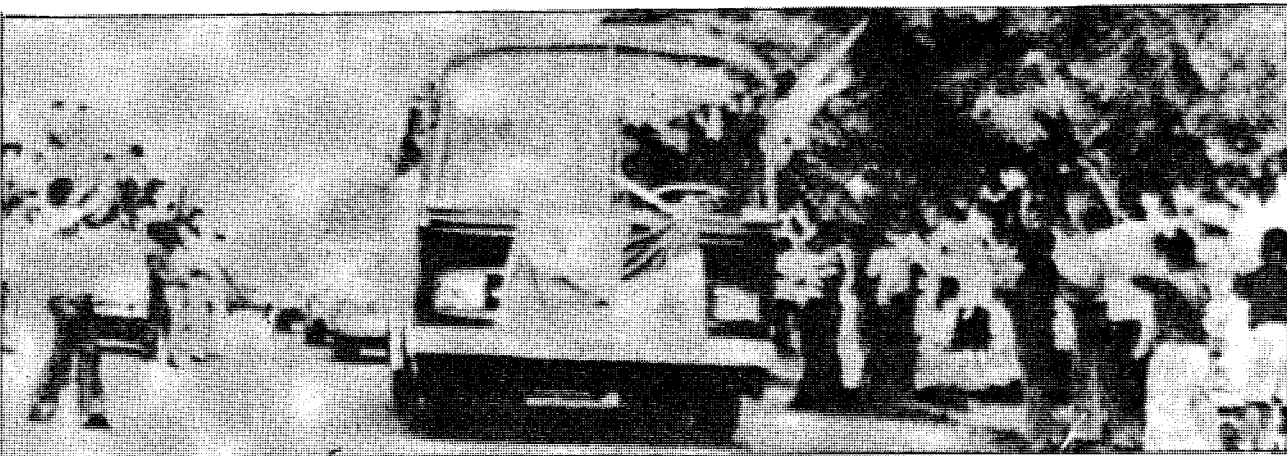
RECESSION COMING?

However, as Fortune noted last month, "The balance of risks in the economy has tilted sharply to one side over the past six months, the side of recession." The magazine noted that 23 of 54 recently polled economists believed there would be an outright recession before the end of 1979, while several others thought there would be a serious slowdown.

"Each week brings additional confirmation of the slowdown in growth that has been taking place," Fortune said this month, ticking off the virtual standstill in worker-hours and industrial production, as well as the decline in real retail sales.

The U.S. economic outlook becomes even worse when compared with that for other major capitalist countries. The U.S. is one of the few where inflation is already at the double-digit level and accelerating and one where the rate of overall economic growth is expected to decline this year.

The economic picture is getting gloomier—and as usual it's the working people and poor who will get it in the neck. □



Sandinista guerillas were cheered by thousands of anti-Somoza Nicaraguans as they ended their occupation of the national palace. (UPI)

the Nicaraguan dictator congratulating the regime for its human rights record, despite the fact that international human rights groups have yet to note any change in the regime's repressive character.

HEROES' SEND-OFF

When leaving Nicaragua, the Sandinista guerillas were accorded a hero's send-off as thousands of supporters and anti-Somoza demonstrators line the bus route which took the rebels to the Managua airport.

Cheering the guerillas and the released prisoners, shouts of "down with the dictatorship" and "Sandino, Sandino" resounded among the supporters. At the airport, the demonstrators surged past national guard troops, virtually mobbing the airport terminal to show their support.

The massive anti-Somoza display could not but help further weaken the rule of the 52-year-old dictator who claimed that he gave in to the demands to "save human lives." Trying to portray

the guerillas as "terrorists," Somoza claimed that the released prisoners were "people who have been legally jailed."

Few Nicaraguans, however, showed any visible support for Somoza's position. Recently, the 38 year Somoza dynasty has been rocked by a successful nationwide general strike, as well as other armed attacks by the Sandinistas. A broad coalition of anti-Somoza, democratic minded groups and individuals has also recently formed calling for Somoza's ouster.

While Somoza tried to portray himself as a humanitarian in relenting to the guerilla demands, he instead revealed the serious weakness of the government, and the growing strength of the opposition. The leader of the palace seizure was also convinced of the eventual downfall of the Somoza dictatorship. "What I cannot tell you is whether that will happen tomorrow or next year," he told a Panamanian journalist. "But he will fall." □

Anti-Martial Law Front

Sept. 22 Protest Planned

Rene Cruz: AMLC's Activist Coordinator

Interview By LENI MARIN
AK Correspondent

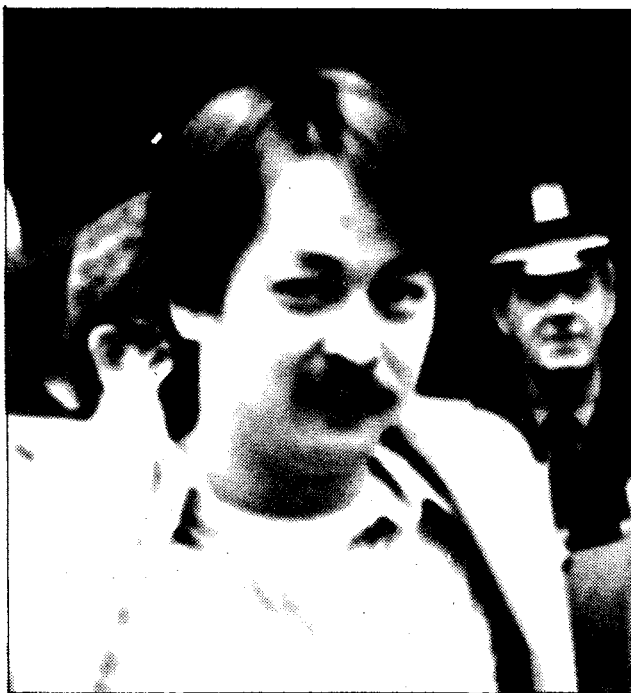
"Filipinos should begin to take stock of the situation in the homeland and we should take stock of ourselves. Most of us in the community are against martial law. But most of us have also been hesitant to openly express these feelings of outrage. Maybe we're thinking, 'not now, maybe later on.' But certainly there comes a time when we have to. We should take advantage of the sixth anniversary of the declaration of martial law to express this outrage." These were the emphatic words of Rene Cruz, coordinator of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC), as he began to describe the Sept. 22 activities of the AMLC.

Once again the AMLC is gearing up for activities that will commemorate the sixth anniversary of the declaration of martial law on September 22. However, this sixth anniversary has an added significance. In a deep rut after making the terrible mistake of holding the now much-discredited April elections, the Marcos regime is desperately trying to recoup its credibility. The AMLC is taking this year's anniversary to further unmask the regime's various bankrupt schemes through educational forums, housemeetings and rallies in major cities in the U.S.

Rene Cruz has been at the center of this type of work for nearly five years now. He was first elected as Coordinator for the AMLC at its founding in 1974. To coordinate the AMLC has meant supervising the organization and the implementation of all the projects and campaigns which the annual conferences set. He does this by keeping in touch with the local alliances by offering suggestions on how to carry out the campaigns, writing out AMLC statements on relevant issues as well as issuing educational pamphlets and the "Taliba," the AMLC newsletter. "I had to quit a full-time job with a New York publishing house to be able to carry out these coordinator responsibilities," Rene noted.

ACTIVIST AT U.P.

Rene started getting involved with activism when he was a student at the University of the



Rene Cruz, National AMLC Coordinator

Philippines. He was among the hundreds of students who attended lectures and forums offered by the *Kabataang Makabayan* and other nationalist organizations. "At the onset, my involvement could be viewed as some extra-curricular activity that was better than others after my school work.

"But then as I learned more about Philippine society, its problems, the social structures, and then as students started getting hit by the Metrocom in demonstrations and friends would go to the barrios to join the guerilla fighters, I realized that it was not an extra-curricular activity. It was, in fact, a very serious endeavor," he recalled.

Rene's involvement was temporarily cut-off in 1970 upon his graduation from the Institute of Mass Communication at the university. He left for Rome where he worked with an Italian publishing firm and stayed there for two years. Still in Rome when martial law was declared, he decided to come to the U.S. to join some of his friends and former classmates who had already started to do organizing work in the Filipino community.

COMMUNITY OPPOSES MARTIAL LAW

At present, anti-martial law sentiments are already widespread in the Filipino community, Rene proceeded matter of factly. "What we have to break down is the fear that people have—the fear that the regime would extend its long arm of repression to the U.S. There's a lot of anxiety over relatives back home, and this is understandable. But there comes a point when we must begin to take steps we've never taken before. We should emulate the daring involvement of the people in the Philippines who, although directly under the threat of torture and death, have continued to register their protests and resistance against the fascist regime." Rene stressed that if the community allows the Philippine Consulates to use threats and intimidation tactics, the consulates would actually win by default.

But then people still wonder what these AMLC activities ultimately mean in terms of supporting the anti-martial law movement back home and I put this question before Rene. With a smile, he went over to his desk and returned with a stack of letters. Written by various persons in the Philippines, the letters expressed admiration for the anti-martial law work of Filipinos in the U.S. Someone wrote that it was a real boost and inspiration to hear about the nationwide occupation of the Consulates as well as the recent \$5 million U.S. aid cut-off to the Marcos regime by the U.S. Congress.

"In the long run, this is the very crux of the support work here in the U.S.—why we have to keep on organizing, why we have to go on putting out information and protesting. The value is that we are able to make our people back home realize that they are not alone. People here in the U.S. are always ready to help them out," he said.

Before ending the interview with the AMLC coordinator, I asked Rene Cruz to give a message to the community on this coming sixth anniversary. "We should be out there. We should participate in the rallies, in the forums. And we expect our people back home to organize their protests under even more difficult and dangerous conditions. The best support that we can give them is to participate and support the anti-martial law alliances' activities." □

Circle the date

Charito Planas on National Speaking Tour



Charito Planas, outspoken Marcos critic.

Charito Planas took off for Chicago, Aug. 26, starting her nationwide speaking tour sponsored by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines).

Planas, reputed anti-martial law critic who escaped from the Philippines last July, will speak on martial law conditions, focusing on her experiences during the April 7 elections as an opposition candidate. She ran for a seat in the Interim National Assembly.

The one-month speaking tour will take Planas to major U.S. cities including Queens and Manhattan, N.Y.; Philadelphia; Chicago; Seattle; San Francis-

co; Los Angeles; Hawaii and Washington, D.C.

The tour is one of the AMLC educational events for the coming National Days of Protests, Sept. 21 and 23, in preparation for the sixth anniversary of Marcos' martial rule.

This is Planas' second speaking tour. Her first was sponsored by the Movement for a Free Philippines shortly after her arrival in the U.S. in July.

The following is Planas' itinerary.

LOS ANGELES: September 2 at the Pilipino People's Far West Convention, Philippine Conditions Workshop; U.C.L.A.

SEATTLE: September 6, 7:00 p.m.
Filipino Community Center
57-40 Empire Way So.
For information: call Stephanie 723-3467

HAWAII: September 9
St. Anthony's Church
702 Puuhale Road
For information: call Walter 841-6429

SAN FRANCISCO: September 12, 7:30 p.m.
Glide Memorial Church, Freedom Hall
330 Ellis St., (corner Taylor)
For information: call Ruby 482-3467

PHILADELPHIA: September 17, 1:30 p.m.
Nationalities Service Center
1300 Spruce Street
For information: call Armin 727-1428
or Frank 387-1487

NEW YORK: September 15, 6:00 p.m.
225 E. 45th (between 2nd and 3rd)
Manhattan

September 16, 6:00 p.m.
59-15 47th Ave. Queens
Jersey City event to be scheduled.
For information: call Lita 898-5673

OPPOSE the PHILIPPINE DICTATORSHIP!

Demand: LIFT MARTIAL LAW
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS
STOP U.S. AID to the MARCOS REGIME

