

Movement Gains Momentum:

MASSIVE PROTESTS HIT REGIME



See pages 3, 6 and 12 for news and comment

Students at the University of the Philippines gather at the steps of the Arts and Sciences Building to protest the Education Act of 1980. The professors then joined, resulting in a shutdown of the

Diliman campus. The reinvigorated student movement is reminiscent of the historic First Quarter Storm of 1970, and are indicative of the bigger storms ahead.

FWC Organizers Prepare for 10th Convention



See related stories on pages 2 and S-1.

Rallies, Noise Barrage Protest Oil Price Hike



Protest against oil price increase staged in front of Caltex, Philippines Bldg.

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Esclamado Does it Again:

Philippine News Maligns FWC

While hundreds of community organizers and concerned Filipinos are set to gather at the Filipino People's Far West Convention being held this year in San Francisco, Alex Esclamado, publisher of *Philippine News* has reached for his bag of tricks once again in an insidious attempt to spoil the convention.

This important gathering will make a significant political contribution to the Filipino communities in the West Coast by educating its participants on crucial issues facing the Filipino minority, such as immigrant rights, youth, high school education, and the draft, racism and affirmative action, etc. Thus, it is another stride towards building a progressive movement that is highly conscious of the community's democratic rights.

That is why the organizers of the FWC have spent many sleepless nights and long weekends. They want to make sure the convention will be a valuable experience for delegates from all over the west coast who have given up their labor day holidays to attend it.

Unfortunately, there are a few like Esclamado who are afraid of the progressive movement and wish to sabotage the FWC. A week before the convention, Esclamado's *Philippine News* attempts to throw a monkey wrench at the preparations by singing the same old tune, "Beware of the KDP!" Throwing all ethics aside, the *Philippine News* manipulated an official FWC press release by inserting Esclamado's distorted version of FWC history and implying that the convention's organizers are mere pawns of the KDP. By doing so, Esclamado hopes to create disunity among FWC organizers and discredit it in the community.

To us in the KDP, the *Philippine News* attempt to sabotage this progressive institution is not surprising. While the *PN* has covered community struggles (nurses licensure, anti-martial law activities, Philippine National Day celebrations, defense committees against discrimination, etc.) to boost its circulation, its publisher, in reality, is afraid to death of the implications of this progressive movement.

The progressive movement, in which the KDP plays a leading role, is a threat to the likes of Esclamado, and his brand

of leadership. To these "leaders," community efforts and struggles are merely opportunities to build up their own careers, propel them to the limelight as "representative of the community," bringing them closer to big-time politicians, attract government funding for their "community projects," and so on. "Godfather" politics, backroom dealing, "scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" type of unity—these are part of their credo. It may be great for their ego but it constitutes a big stumbling block to unity and progress.

The progressive movement—the community's struggles against national and racial discrimination—has no use for this type of leadership. This movement is beginning to recognize leadership that only has the common interest at heart, be it within an issue, a convention or the whole community. A leadership that attempts to build the participation and sense of responsibility of as many people in dealing with a common concern. United endeavors like Narciso-Perez, Alona, H-1 nurses, PNDs, and the FWC are progressive activities that have popularized this new type of community service and leadership.

Old politicians like Esclamado find very little room for maneuver in this new type of community action. In fact, they feel threatened because this movement objectively exposes the bankruptcy and the self-serving underpinnings of their brand of leadership. This is why "deep down" Esclamado would like the FWC to fail. This is why he hates the KDP so much—for being in the center of the FWC and for "instigating" this progressive movement. To this charge we proudly plead guilty.

A LOOK AT FWC HISTORY

From Esclamado's jaundiced view, the FWC's history is a series of maneuvers hatched by his favorite scapegoat—the KDP—which just unwittingly projects how he would have dealt with the FWC were he at its helm. To us however, its history is one of struggle between backward and progressive forces in the community and the struggle to continuously make the FWC relevant to the needs of this community. It began spon-

taneously from the Filipino identity movement, which was inspired by the black civil rights movement. Back then, the FWC was mainly a big "rap session" centering on the search for a Filipino identity. While this identity movement represented the progressive wing of the community at that time, it had not yet developed analytical tools with which to explain the sources of the community's problems. The FWC, while useful as a "rap session" could still not shed light on a host of questions facing the Filipino minority community. And since the FWC was dominated by agencies which organized it only as a means of getting funding, the convention seemed doomed to an unproductive fate.

The 1974 FWC in Los Angeles represented a major turning point in the political maturity of the FWC. Delegates at this convention probed the roots of the community's problems and understood why racial and national chauvinism exist as an integral part of capitalist society. The "controversy" here is not what *PN* simply describes as KDP's "manipulation." Rather it was a struggle between those who wanted to use the FWC for their own self-interest, i.e. for agency fundings, and therefore were trying to maintain it as a non-controversial "rap session," and forces like KDP who probed deeper into the roots of the community's problems regardless of the controversy which may result from the reaction of the more backward forces. The progressive camp led by KDP won the battle.

The 1975 FWC in Berkeley was another significant step forward. This convention signalled that the days when the FWC was a "loose gathering" was clearly over. The points of unity of the FWC were defined: the struggle against racial and national discrimination and the concern for the conditions in the Philippines. The idea that the FWC should be a working convention was also advanced. As a result of this policy for example, the Educational Task Force to struggle against racist textbooks was launched. Again, Esclamado's interpretation is the opposite. Since the FWC was highly successful and reactionaries like him could not find opportunities to

generate controversies around the KDP's participation, he sums it up at a deliberate move of the KDP to "retreat to the background."

The 1976 FWC in Seattle is described by Esclamado as "staged" by the KDP so that the FYA, an original FWC sponsor, backed out. Here is another example of how the *PN* turns history upside down. The Seattle FWC in fact involved the participation of broad sectors of the community and was attended by hundreds of Seattle residents themselves.

This, despite the divisive boycott of the FYA and their repeated attempts to sabotage. Angered by the success of the FWC, it even sent a couple of hecklers at the last minutes of the proceedings. They were of course isolated and exposed.

AND WHAT ABOUT THIS YEAR?

What does Esclamado think about this year's FWC? To the usual tune of "KDP manipulation" he simply thinks that this convention is being organized to please Filipino community agencies in San Francisco into "forgetting the past." He attempts to bring down the purpose of the FWC to his level of thinking. Unfortunately for him, this is quite difficult to do.

No, Mr. Esclamado. From the looks of it, the FWC is not out to please anyone. Its sole aim is to educate the community so it can organize itself around the crucial issues it is facing. If the agencies you refer to sincerely have the genuine interests of the community at heart, then there should be no problem about their participation. They should feel very much at home at the FWC. But if this is not the case, we are sure the FWC organizers will not agree to build the convention just to please anyone whose goals do not go beyond building up resumes or getting convention endorsements to use in angling for lucrative government funds.

Also, judging from the seriousness of its goals and its genuine concern for the interest of the Filipino minority, we are sure the FWC is not out to please Alex Esclamado and the *Philippine News*. □

Open Letter to Esclamado:

Unfair FWC Coverage Scored

The *Philippine News* August 23-30, 1980 issue carried an article about the preparations for the FPFWC '80 to be held in San Francisco August 29, 30, and 31. The same article also presented a history of the FWC since 1970, which evoked a lot of disgust and frustration amongst the general working committees and the steering committees of the FWC. As a result, the organizers of the convention met and drafted a letter of response to Mr. Alex Esclamado, publisher of the *Philippine News*. They also demanded that their letter be published in the *PN* next issue in fairness to the many people who have worked so hard for the success of the convention. Below is a letter written by Ms. Jasmin Sison—co-chairperson of the Publicity Committee and member of the Steering Committee—Editor.

Dear Mr. Esclamado:

A press release submitted by the FWC Steering Committee to your newspaper was tampered with and consequently resulted in gross inaccuracies and unfair coverage of this important event.

First of all, we feel that tampering with a press release to inject your personal bias is, to say the least, poor journalistic ethics. May we remind you (since you seem to have conveniently forgotten it in this instance) that your personal opinions should be aired in the editorial section of your paper. More importantly, however, we would like to take you to task for your comments that demean the higher goals of the FWC which people have been striving for all these years.

In the rewritten-press-release-article that you were passing off as objective reporting, you devoted a big section to the role that the KDP has played in the Far West Conventions. You painted a picture of KDP staging resolutions in the FWC, causing division and dissension. But the real question here is do you disagree with the resolutions of past conventions. Or put bluntly, where were you, Mr. Esclamado, when these resolutions were passed: the resolution to create the Education Task Force to study school texts that were discriminatory to Filipinos in 1975; to unanimously adopt a resolution to support the Fair

Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates in 1978; or to initiate two tremendous defense movements for Narciso and Perez in 1977 and for Dr. Bienvenido Alona in 1979; and lastly, to create from FWC a National Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrant Rights? Do you really doubt that these resolutions weren't for the best interests of the Filipino people? Do you really believe that KDP manipulated the people at the Conventions and staged the process that went on? Or can you perhaps believe that KDP is a supportive organization that also believes in the goals and aims of the FWC, and that they have taken a strong, active and committed stand to work for the good of the community?

Despite the conflicts and misunderstandings that happen in a convention, why don't we look closer and take a more objective view. Aren't all these FWC resolutions positive proofs of FWC efforts to help the Filipino community to become more conscious of itself, more assertive to defend their rights, and to bring people to a greater unity in dealing

with difficult issues that affect them? For example, do you recall that over 40,000 signatures were obtained from Filipinos and all other people alike who helped in obtaining the acquittal of Narciso and Perez in 1977? This case was one of the most blatant examples of a racist frame-up but people from all walks of life actually took a stand to support their fellow Filipino.

A CASE OF MISSING THE TRUE PURPOSE OF FWC:

Mr. Esclamado, if you do come to attend the FWC to listen and meet with the people who are actively involved, you might be very surprised. Perhaps you can ask those participants who aren't members of the KDP if they feel that they are being manipulated by this group, if they are not being listened to, and the whole convention is staged. Your statements inserted in our press release make it appear that despite efforts to talk with one another, the majority of Filipino people can't think for themselves, don't want to know more

Continued on page 7

Support the Protest Movement in the Homeland



Students assemble outside the Department of Education Building.

By the KDP National EXECUTIVE BOARD

As the Philippine economy careens from bad to worse the Filipino people are fast coming to the realization that the bankrupt order has got to go! This has taken the expression of militant mass actions in the cities launched by students, workers, and the urban poor over the spiralling cost of living and repressive policies. Last July 29 militant students protested the proposed Education Act of 1980 which threatens to further erode student freedoms. An estimated 10,000 students gathered at the University of the Philippines campus to protest the repressive act, in one of the biggest mass actions since martial law was declared. This was followed by more rallies at the different campuses condemning the subsequent arrests of student leaders.

Meanwhile, in urban poor communities in Manila, lighting rallies and noise protests have occurred, giving vent to the people's anger against the new round of price increases anticipated with the hike of oil prices. More workers are threatening to go on strike if the dictatorship does not agree to raise the minimum wage.

More recently, a coordinated bombing attack was launched by the April 6 Liberation Movement. Nine bombs simultaneously exploded in government offices and banks. Claiming credit for the attack, the April 6 Movement which is affiliated with the United Social Democratic Party of the Philippines, said in a press release, "We have become sick and tired of having to endure life under martial law."

Less militant but also important are the actions of the traditional opposition who have joined forces in various alliances to strengthen their opposition against the Marcos dictatorship.

POLITICAL CRISES

Aware that the economic crisis will lead to greater isolation, the fascist regime is responding like a trapped beast; arbitrarily arresting student and worker leaders. Its predicament however, could

only grow worse precisely because it is surrounded by an increasingly unified resistance movement. At the helm of this movement are the national democratic forces who are welding the Filipino people's struggles in the cities and countryside into one powerful movement for change.

The resurgence of the mass movement in Manila in particular, after more than a year of lull, attests to the capacity of the movement to mobilize and channel the people's revolutionary energy into effective protests. Moreover, the issues and grievances affecting specific sectors, are being articulated in broad, society-wide, revolutionary demands. While the masses are on the one hand being made conscious of their immediate interests; and the necessary course of action to realize these immediate demands; they are also being made aware that their long-term interests lie with the revolutionary overhaul of Philippine society. Thus, students speak of rescinding repressive educational policies in the context of combatting fascist, feudal and colonial education. Workers speak of raising the minimum wage in the context of confiscating imperialist owned firms and ending capitalist exploitation. And consumers in general speak of the skyrocketing prices with the full understanding that the sources of their increasing deprivation lies with the domination of the economy by a handful of profit-hungry foreign and local big businesses.

It is this movement, led by revolutionary forces that will prove to be the most potent force in the years to come. First, the national democratic resistance is deeply rooted among the Filipino masses. Thus it is aware not only of the sentiments and basic demands of the people, it grasps that the underlying sources is rooted in the domination of U.S. imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism, and feudalism over Philippine society. It therefore organizes the masses with the view of raising people's consciousness to the recognition of the need for revolutionary change.

SPECTACULAR ACTIONS

Unfortunately, what has been given

more prominent press coverage, are the bombing incidents instigated by the same forces behind the "Light A Fire" movement. Indeed, while more spectacular and symptomatic of popular indignation with martial law, these incidents have overshadowed the more impressive acts of resistance which have occurred of late. The April 6 Liberation Movement is known to advocate urban-based terrorism to destabilize the regime. While these forces strike a popular chord among those justifiably frustrated with martial law, it is questionable whether their methods will result in basic changes. Thus, while certainly bold and outwardly radical, these actions lack the depth and significance of the national democratic-led mass actions in urban centers. It is the actions led by the latter which are truly impressive since they spring from the organized might of the people. It is these actions which deserve the most support and solidarity from all freedom-loving Filipinos at home and abroad.

SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE IN THE HOMELAND

It is fitting therefore, for Filipinos in the U.S. to intensify their efforts to support the national liberation movement in the homeland as the 8th anniversary of martial law on September 22, 1980 approaches. Undoubtedly, September 22 in the homeland will mean bigger and bolder protests. Filipinos in the U.S. should therefore extend their support to compatriots in the homeland by participating in activities led by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition and other forces in the U.S. We should follow the lead of patriotic students and workers who are undaunted in the face of the dictatorship's repression. Inspired by their example, we should overcome our fears and register our real sentiments against martial law. As many of us are breadwinners for dependents still in the homeland, we find common cause in protesting the current economic crisis. It is this same crisis which has forced us to seek better employment abroad; and it is this same crisis which forces us to work several jobs in order to support families back home or save up

Economic Crisis Abets Ferment

The conspicuous stirrings of various groups and sectors in the homeland, most notably the students, workers and urban poor, is fueled by the worsening economic crisis.

Already the peso is up for devaluation by 15 to 20 percent. Compared to what it was worth in 1972, the peso is now worth 34 centavos. Consequently, this means that more pesos will be needed to exchange for a U.S. dollar. In other words, Philippine exports will be cheaper while imports into the country would become more expensive.

This will surely aggravate the impending oil price hike, in that the bill for imported crude oil will also be larger.

Meanwhile, inflation continues to soar at 20 percent for the first half of 1980.

The bleak picture portends to get bleaker because the Philippines is inextricably linked to the worldwide crises of imperialism.

Since the Philippines is dominated by U.S. capital, the recession impacts the Philippine economy in a magnified way. Moreover the big capitalist nations which trades with the Philippines shifts the burden of the crises by exacerbating the unequal economic relations with the country.

By demanding more economic incentives for investments, depressing the prices of Philippine exports, raising tariffs against Philippine products, etc., the imperialist countries hope to maintain their profitable position vis-a-vis the country.

The crises is further exacerbated by the dictatorship's own puppetry and disastrous economic policies. To mitigate the situation, the regime has no choice but to borrow more loans to cover its balance-of-payments deficit. This merely intensifies the economic peonage of the country to foreign lending institutions in that it perpetuates the cycle of indebtedness.

Hoping vainly to achieve a measure of self-sufficiency, the economy has been plunged headlong into the "export-led industrialization" strategy. Far from spurring industrialization for the purpose of independent development, this policy has merely perpetuated the dependency of the country on foreign economics.

The Marcos dictatorship because of its puppet character, is unable to solve the present crises. Its survival dictates that it continues its subservient relationship to the U.S. And the very logic of this relationship means that the Philippines will forever be ravaged by foreign capital.

Clearly the solution lies in breaking away from the orbit of the world capitalist system and charting an independent, self-reliant course. The regime is incapable of charting such a course; neither is it in its interests to do so. Only through a national democratic revolution will the country achieve the basis to realize economic independence, and flowing from this, real political freedom. □

for their plane fares to join us here. Again, learning from our compatriots, let us respond not as individuals concerned only with our own families, but as patriotic Filipinos concerned with the fate of the homeland. Let us put our collective support behind the forces capable of decisively ending the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship and winning victory for the Filipino people—the national democratic resistance! □

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Buod ng mga Balita

ROTC Officers Denounced for Brutality

Parents and guardians of ROTC ranger and military police trainees of the University of San Carlos in Cebu denounced the "brutal and inhuman" acts allegedly committed on their sons by senior officers. Final initiation rites of the students had consisted of: bayonet cuts on their chests, then forcing them to swim in sea water; using them as human targets for bayonet throwing; kicking, punching and slapping the trainees; clamping of their fingernails with pliers and ordering them to free themselves from the grip; forcing ingestion of raw peppers; and exacting donations for the officers' beer. □

FM Decrees Need for National Service

National service, either for civic welfare, law enforcement or military, is now obligatory for every citizen as provided for by the National Defense Act. This amendment is one of three decrees announced by President Marcos during the 79th anniversary of the Philippine Constabulary and the 5th founding rites of the Integrated National Police of Camp Crame, Quezon City.

In this yet another militarization plot, every citizen is required to render personal national service in any or a combination of the three types "to serve the urgent needs of a developing country... to enhance respect for the law and the lawfully constituted authorities and... to insure defense preparedness." Fulfillment of service requirements will be "credited to the citizen's favor." An observer noted that this recent attempt could have been launched as a follow-up to last year's ARESCOM (Army Reserve Command) which was part of the regime's plan to form a 900,000-strong citizens' army to combat "subversion." □

Herdis Enters China Market

Herdis International recently announced its entry—the first Philippine firm—to the Chinese market. Jose N. Pineda, President of the Herdis Group Inc., a subsidiary, said the company signed 20 agreements covering a broad range of projects including construction of a photocopier plant, a giant processing facility, a tourist hotel, and ventures in storage batteries, electronics, cement, and agricultural business. Details of only the first three projects were disclosed; two of these to operate under the Chinese principle of paying investors in products rather than in scarce foreign exchange.

Marcos crony Herminio Disini, owner of the Herdis conglomerate and cousin-in-law of Imelda, controversially broke into the public Filipino business circle with his sudden rise and involvement in such heated issues as the Westinghouse Nuclear Reactor in Morong, Bataan and the Cellophil Corporation in Abra which has displaced and affected a number of Isneg, a minority tribe in the Mountain provinces. □

Hacienda System Revived

"It's the old *hacienda* system all over again, but with a difference!" Described as plantation agriculture, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) chief, Minister Gerardo Sicat's brainchild are largely joint ventures between the state-owned National Development Company (NDC) and foreign partners, mostly Malaysian or British firms. Geared towards commercial production of export crops such as rubber, palm oil, feed grain, etc., Sicat sees this "new" scheme as a source of domestic import substitution for food and other crops. He also looks forward to plantation agriculture as one way of increasing production of feedgrains.

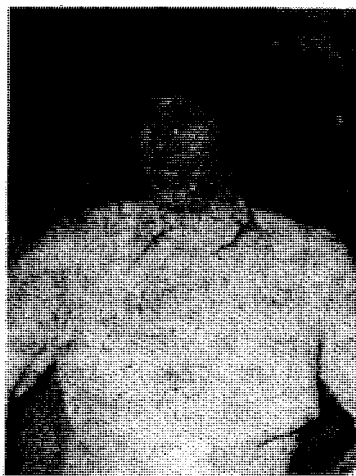
Because the NDC is the only government company allowed to own more than 1,000 hectares of land, foreign companies wishing to go into joint ventures in rubber or palm oil have to tie up with NDC. Declaring it is willing to enter into joint ventures, the NDC also stated that it is willing to "sell out" once the projects are viable. Large-scale agricultural project agreements have been reached with the British Dunlop Holdings, Sime Darby, and Keck Seng, Inc.

Besides its export orientation, the revived *hacienda* system is also labor intensive. While meeting the Marcos government strategy of encouraging industries [read foreign investments] that can generate employment, especially in the countryside, this scheme also means further exploitation of the Philippines' cheap labor and natural resources and, more importantly, the expatriation of badly-needed capital necessary for the establishment of a self-sufficient economy. □

moving?

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Jeff Carter Works for Imelda



Jeff Carter, the son of U.S. President Carter, makes his fortune by working for the Marcos government.

Jeff Carter, 27, the youngest son of President Carter recently obtained a two-year contract with the Philippine government to set up a computer mapping system for the entire country. The young Carter and his partner Robert Mercready were offered \$210,000 to fulfill this project. The contract was signed by Mrs. Imelda Marcos.

Jeff Carter got involved with computer cartography while in college. This is a system of plot-

ting data, such as the location of the urban poor, as an aid to social workers and urban planners.

He became friendly with a computer instructor, Robert Mercready, a former intelligence analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency. Their association led to a business partnership called Computer Mapping Consultants, Inc.

The Carter-Mercready team hit the big time when the World Bank hired them as consultants.

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET

In March of this year, the World Bank deployed the partners to work on a solid-waste disposal project for Mrs. Marcos' elaborate "slum-rebuilding program." They were jointly paid \$10,000 for the work.

During that time, Jeff Carter, his wife Annette and Mercready went to Manila as ordinary citizens out to meet a business deal. President Carter advised the State Department that Jeff and his wife were not to be briefed in advance or given the red carpet treatment by the U.S. embassy.

The Philippine government, however, tried to get publicity

mileage from the Carter's visit by having a reception committee headed by Irene Marcos, the First Couple's youngest daughter meet them at the airport. Later Mrs. Imelda Marcos, invited them as guests at a luncheon for Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

"MOM AND DAD SHOULD COME HERE AND SEE FOR THEMSELVES"

The *Daily Express*, a pro-government newspaper quoted Jeff Carter as saying: "Of course my father does not believe what is being written about the Philippines, but I think it would be best that they [his father and mother] come here and see your beautiful country."

The White House made no response to the quote. However, a clear defense of Jeff Carter's business as being independent of state to state relations is strongly being put forward by the White House and Justice Department, both of which say there is no need to register the Carter couple as foreign agents, the way Billy Carter, President Carter's brother, was asked to do, in light of his controversial negotiations with Libya. □

Migration to Manila Banned



Getting rid of crowded slums as above, is more important to Manila government over ridding poverty and unemployment.

Plans to ban migration of job-seekers from the provinces have reached new levels as Manila officials launch a "Return to the Province" program. Vice Governor of Metro-Manila, Ismael Mathay, announced the release of guidelines for implementation of the program that will see to the exodus of slum-dwellers from the city.

Earlier attempts to thwart the influx of provincial settlers to Manila took the form of checking identification cards at various checkpoints throughout the city. But the idea was met with such strong criticism that officials of the city could not begin to enforce it. At one point, Governor of Metro-Manila, Imelda Marcos, announced a plan to give preferential enrollment to schoolgoers from the city, and give new (migrant) residents lower priority. The plan was clearly to discourage pro-

vincial settlers.

"SOCIAL LIABILITIES"

Manila officials are primarily concerned that beautification projects, BLISS projects and other relocation projects cannot proceed as planned and they blame this on migrant flow from the provinces. They also blame the crowding of the city for the deteriorating quality of life, and consider elements from poor migrant families as "social liabilities."

An estimated 300,000 annually flock to Manila. By the end of 1980, the city expects a shortage of one million housing units.

Evicting slum-dwellers and demolishing their homes are not enough for the Manila government. Mathay asserts that the new program will take drastic action against "professional squatters" who have filed charges of illegal ejection in

court against government officials. He added that trespassers who set up dwellings in private or government land will be ejected.

SYMPTOM TREATED; DISEASE IGNORED

More funding is expected for this "Return to the Province" program to make sure "that the family really boards the boat or bus going home."

As the worry over hampered development projects preoccupies city officials, long-standing serious problems of which city-crowding is a symptom is not addressed.

Unemployment, the most glaring of problems is even more pronounced in the provinces. There are insufficient schools and provincial hospitals. Development of rural areas is on the whole neglected. □

Typhoons Cause Destruction

Typhoons Nitang and Osang, lashing through the Philippines late last month, left in its wake 35 dead, scores injured, and damages to crops and property worth more than ₱ 150,000. Some 42,065 families (about 212,747 people) were left homeless.

Roaring in back to back, the tropical storms caused massive flooding with the Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos region hardest hit.

Flood waters isolated 21 towns in Cagayan Valley, 19 in Talavera, Guimba and Cabanatuan.

KENNON ROAD CLOSED

Landslides and mountain floods destroyed some 360 meters of Kennon Road, isolating Baguio

and Benguet from the lowlands. The government estimates that it will take six months of reconstruction before Kennon Road can be opened for vehicular traffic. About 200 persons in Baguio City were evacuated to at least four evacuation centers as flood waters rose up to house rooftops.

COMMUTERS STRANDED

In Metro-Manila, typhoon Osang caused heavy flooding, making streets impassable and necessitating evacuation of hundreds of families to higher ground. Hundreds of commuters, mostly students, were stranded as most public transportation stopped operation as water

started rising.

1,200 homes in Manila were reportedly waist-deep in water. In the Tatalon estate, 169 families were relocated to a nearby elementary school as their homes, mostly of light materials, were flooded by the overflowing Tatalon River.

Big waves swept three vessels from the South Harbor anchorage to the Manila Bay seawall. Strong winds delayed the arrival of a number of vessels. Airplane flights and train trips to the north were cancelled by Philippine Airlines and the Philippine National Railways. □

Kalinga Protests Grow



Rally in Tinglayan, Kalinga-Apayao, July 18, 1980: Kalinga protestors told visitors, "This is the last meeting. After this, the regime will have to take the consequences [of the Chico River Dam Project]." Protestors were particularly outraged over the recent killing of opposition leader Macli-ing Dulag. Figure fifth from left is Pedro Dungoc, opposition spokesperson who narrowly escaped death the night of Macli-ing's murder.

Malacañang Zarzuela

MARCOS VS. MARCOS

By VICTORIA LUNA

Belated news is better than none at all. And sometimes news about the Marcos family's pranks is difficult to get. This comes to us BMP and dates way back to the elections of early this year. Once again, the little dramatic incidents prove that Marcos family antics make for the best B-grade movie in town.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What appeared as a "no-contest" election in Ilocos Norte turned into a "family contest" between the president and his sister, Elizabeth M. Rocka, according to the mass newspaper *Dangadang*.

Originally, Bongbong Marcos, was chosen to head the KBL provincial slate in Ilocos Norte.

When incumbent Gov. Elizabeth M. Rocka found out about this, she confronted her brother in Malacanang. She threatened



Imelda ... not to be upstaged.

to expose all the president's dirty linen if he insisted on Bongbong's candidacy.

The president was forced to change his plans and allowed his sister to run for re-election with his son as the vice governor.

However, during the KBL proclamation rally, Elizabeth M. Rocka admitted that she will hold office only for one-and-a-half years, after which Bongbong will succeed her. She, in turn, will become the country's ambassador to Australia.

PC Provincial Commander, Col. Draculan, in turn, is being groomed as Bongbong's vice governor. Earlier, he was assigned by the president himself as his son's personal bodyguard.

Meanwhile, Bongbong, still a college student abroad, was sworn into office in the United States early this month by his uncle, Eduardo Romualdez, the Philippine ambassador to the United States. Bongbong may turn out to be the only long-distance governor Ilocos has ever had.

SOAP OPERA TIME

Meanwhile, Mama is not to be upstaged, even if she did not run for office this time. Shortly after the election, Madame Marcos, Governor of Metro-Manila, was greeted by a women's federation in Mandaluyong very angry over the defeat of their candidate for mayor in the sham polls. The group threatened—in front of the First Lady herself—that the people were "ready to burn the town hall down and wage a revolution."

The dictator's wife reportedly let loose a dam of crocodile tears and wailed, "*Bakit kailangan mangwasak? Bakit kailangan amnunog? Kung nalalaman lamang n'yo na marami tayong problema sa loob at labas ng ating bansa! Kung magpapatuloy tayo ng hindi pagkakaunawaan, ng pagsisiraan, sa isa't-isa, darating ang araw na mawawala ang bayang ito!*" ("Why should you be destructive? Why do we have to burn? If you only knew the many problems we have inside and outside the nation! If we fail to understand each other, there might come a time when we might not have a country to fight over anymore!") □

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Lightning Rallies, Noise Barrage Protest Oil Price Hike

The 12th increase in the prices of gasoline and other petroleum products since the imposition of martial rule in the Philippines intensified the on-going protest movement against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

Sunday night, Aug. 3, the first day when the 10 percent increase in oil products took effect, saw different communities in Metro Manila rising up anew in protest.

In North Bay Boulevard, Navotas, 100 persons, including mothers and their young children, started marching near the entrance of the Navotas Fishport at around 8:15 p.m. As a sign of discontent and dissent, the young tots blew toy horns while their elders denounced the latest burden the Filipino people have to shoulder by shouting militant slogans.

NOISE BARRAGE

At almost the same time, 200 students held a lightning rally for five minutes on Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, Quezon City to demonstrate the latest crime against the Filipino masses by the U.S.-backed Marcos regime.

A noise barrage, fireworks and people's march were likewise launched in Pandacan, Paco and San Andres distributing leaflets which urged people to unite and protest the oppressive system. The noise barrage started in the slum community along the railroad tracks in Pandacan, in the squatters area along *esteros* (canals) of Ilang-Ilang and Dapo, also in Pandacan.

Ten mass activists started the march along the railroad track. Upon reaching Labores Street, the ranks of marchers swelled to 100 people, mostly urban poor youth. Their numbers doubled when they reached Zamora Street, a major thoroughfare in Pandacan. Sounds of banging noise and shouts of "Sobra na, welga na!" (It's too much, let us strike!); "Presyo ibaba, sahod itaas!" (lower prices, raise wages!) reverberated in the air.

Oil Price Hike:

Where Does All the Money Go?

In recent years, Juan dela Cruz had to pay increasingly higher amounts for gasoline. With a shrinking peso and with no more belt to tighten, he wants to know where his money is going. We hope this article would provide some answers.

The major portion of what people pay for gasoline goes to the oil monopolies and the government. Of premium gasoline goes to the oil monopolies and the government. Of premium gasoline fully 38.7 percent of the price goes to the oil firms and 38.2 percent to the regime; of regular, 38.6 percent goes to the oil companies and 36.7 percent to the government.

Oil companies' share in the crude: Many countries from which the Philippines buys oil have joint venture arrangements with the oil companies on oil exploration and extraction.

Shipping: This is controlled by the oil firms. The figure for transportation costs was given by Minister of Energy Geronimo Velasco. These "costs" are often jacked up to hide some of the multinationals' profits.

Refining: This is also controlled by the oil firms. According to PDE, ₱ 1.54 is the per liter cost of crude, while the total per liter cost of premium is ₱ 2.12. The difference is the cost of refining premium (2 - ₱ 0.58). The cost of refining regular gasoline is similarly computed (₱ 2.00 - ₱ 1.54 = ₱ 0.46).

Equalization differential tax: This is collected by the government but given to the oil companies. It is supposed to cover the "losses" of the companies during the time the price of crude has



"Raise Wages, Lower Prices" was the rallying cry of workers and community leaders in many Metro-Manila districts. (AK)

The marchers circled the general area of Pandacan, Paco and San Andres distributing leaflets which urged people to unite and protest the oppressive system.

The protestors reached a peak of 400-500. They were not stopped nor harassed by the authorities. They later dispersed at 11:00 p.m. without anyone being picked up.

FIRST BARRICADE IN 8 YEARS

In San Dionisio, Paranaque, however, factory workers started a noise barrage which was strictly suppressed by the military with the arrest of five protestors.

Elsewhere in Metro Manila, thousands of leaflets were distributed asking the people to unite and protest the latest scheme of the puppet government to pass to the people the brunt of the built-

in crisis of a semi-colonial, semi-feudal economy.

Rizal Avenue near Obrero witnessed its first barricade in years when three government-owned Metro Manila transit buses were spiked by drivers and slum dwellers to serve as road blocks. Revolutionary slogans painted on the wall of the nearby Chinese Cemetery greeted once again thousands of commuters who passed by.

As a sign of solidarity with the protesting driers, classes were boycotted at the University of the Philippines in Diliman and also in some schools at the University Belt in downtown Manila.

MORE TO COME

The protest actions launched by the workers, urban poor, drivers, students

Terrorist Bombings Hit Government Offices, Banks

Nine bombs ripped through government offices, banks and commercial buildings in Manila Friday, August 22.

The time bombs went off simultaneously, slightly damaging a shopping mall, three government offices, two office buildings, and three banks.

Officials said it was one of the largest and best coordinated attacks in the Philippines.

The April 6th Liberation Movement claimed responsibility for the bombings in a message slipped under the doors of news agencies: "We have become sick and tired of having to endure the life, the corruption, the theivery, the naked brutality of the Marcos dictatorship," the message said. □

and other oppressed members of society were warmly received by the people. Every street the marchers passed, the residents went out of their homes to welcome and applaud them. Every leaflet handed out was eagerly received and read. New moves were anxiously anticipated and encouraged.

The Aug. 3 activities revealed that, as the economic conditions deteriorate, the protest movement gains momentum. The Filipino people have awakened despite their continuous oppression and harassment under the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. Their increased economic and political oppression, in fact, strips away the fears of the masses as they realize there is no other recourse for them but to engage in the protest movement, waging more militant actions.



been raised without a corresponding increase in the prices of oil products.

Customs duties: According to PDE, "A barrel of crude oil arrives in the Philippines costing about \$27. Adding local charges, this amounts to ₱ 245." At the guiding bank rate of ₱ 7.40/\$1.00, \$27 is equivalent to ₱ 199.80. The difference between ₱ 245. and ₱ 199.80 is the per barrel transport cost plus customs duties. ₱ 45.20/barrel divided by 159 liters/barrel equals P 0.28/liter. This is the cost of freight and import tax per liter. Minister Velasco says freight costs \$1.01/barrel. Multiplied by P 7.40/\$1.00 and divided by 159 liters/barrel, this gives P 0.05/liter as the cost of freight.

Subtracting the cost of freight from the cost of freight and import duties gives the per liter cost of customs duties (P 0.50 - P 0.05 = P 0.45).

The special fund tax, specific tax and energy development impost are "levied to generate money for infrastructure and energy-related projects such as oil exploration and development of non-conventional sources of energy." In concrete terms, the government uses this tax money to pay Westinghouse for its dangerous nuclear plant, to build the dams in Kalinga-Apayao that would necessitate the uprooting of hundreds of thousands of Igorots and so on.

What goes to the Arabs: Oil explo-

ration and extraction are often joint ventures. Though the sharing arrangements vary, it may be estimated that only about 70 percent of what is paid for the crude goes to the oil-producing countries, while companies get the remaining 30 percent. The Arab countries are the Philippines' chief oil source.

THE OIL MONOPOLIES' PROFITS

The seven giant transnationals—or "seven sister"—make up the international oil cartel. Because they control different phases of the industry, they are able to generate superprofits. These seven firms are among the 15 largest in the world. They reported a total net income of \$9.6 billion or ₱ 71.04 billion in 1978.

A comparison of the sales of Exxon with the Philippine government's tax revenues last year totalled ₱ 36.337 billion, about eight percent of Exxon's gross income. Their size is the reason why giant transnational corporations can, and often do, dictate on governments.

GOVERNMENT'S INCOME FROM OIL

In 1979 alone, the government earned more than ₱ 9.7 billion from oil. From customs duties, it earned ₱ 3.8 billion. From other taxes on oil products, ₱ 2.7 billion; from income taxes paid by the oil firms, ₱ 3.2 billion. □

Reprinted from NASSA News

RESISTANCE ABROAD

Ex-Senator Diokno Criticizes Australian Aid

"Purely racist nonsense," replied Mr. Jose W. Diokno, former senator and civil liberties activist to a suggestion by an Australian journalist that the Asian concept of freedom differs from a Westerner and that Asians need authoritarian regimes if they were to develop.

Mr. Diokno recently toured Australia at the invitation of the Philippine Action Support Groups.

"The poor in the Philippines have become poor," Mr. Diokno pointed out, "because of martial law. If you believe as we do that economic development means human development, then you would agree that people should develop the capacity to become more human."

He said that 1,500,000 Filipino children were mentally retarded because of malnutrition while, ironically, the Philippine government exports rice, fish, pineapple, and banana.

This is why he opposes the export strategy because the economy is used not so much to meet the needs but to meet demands. He said the result is people's basic needs are neglected.

The export strategy, he claimed, goes hand-in-hand with a policy of repression. How else, he asked, could farmers and workers who are paid depressed wages be kept under conditions of hardship without repression?

But they are not the only victims. Filipino capitalists are being squeezed out by transnational corporations as Mr. Diokno explained: "For every dollar invested in the country, \$8.35 are raised from domestic sources, so in effect, transnational business is subsidized by local capital."

These transnationals repatriate two-thirds of their profits and leave one-third in the Philippines to repeat the cycle. Filipino families then find it hard to earn a living as it is the policy of both the transnational and the Marcos go-



Former senators Jose Diokno (r) and Lorenzo Tanada (l) at recent Kalinga rally. (AK)

vernment to keep wages low.

The influence in policy making by transnationals and their dominance of the market sector are experiences shared by both the Philippines and Australia.

But the Australian government's position is ambiguous. While it shares the concern that Third World countries have over the transnationals' dominance of the economy, it is tempted to exploit the opportunity of becoming a semi-independent junior partner of Japan and the U.S. in the Pacific offensive.

Australia does not wish to only serve as quarries for Japan and the U.S. by providing them with raw materials, she also wishes to join in the ventures of foreign multinationals in the Third World.

A book by D. Evans, *Australia and Developing Countries*, points to the Australian development politics which sheds light on Australia's role in the Philippines:

"That economic development through

private enterprise in varying combinations with government responsibility and action is automatically assumed as the best road to economic development . . . The role of multinational corporation (and hopefully some Australian ones) . . . [is] vital for transmitting economic development to the developing countries.

Economic and military aid are seen as part of the necessary supplementary government insurance for private investors to protect private property rights internationally against nationalization or insurrection, and with varying types of domestic policies such as tariff policies with marginal concessions to developing countries."

In another book published in Australia, it is alleged that with the U.S. military withdrawal from Asia, U.S. interests are being advanced in economic ways.

Jim Hyde, author of *Australia, the Asia Connection*, points out that the U.S. can reduce its presence and strengthen regional cooperation in the name of a free market system. The U.S., he says, could direct its economic aid via international organizations to place Asian nations as buffers against Communist insurgency and make them protectors of U.S., Japan and even Australia's interests.

This is the context in which Australian aid to President Marcos' government must be seen.

According to Mr. Diokno, about seven Australian government aid projects are going on in the Philippines. Two of these are road-building projects: the Integrated Rural Project in Zamboanga del Sur in an area where the government is at war with the Muslims and the Philippine Australian Development Assistance, a \$25 million project in Samar where many civilians have been forced to eva-

uate their homes due to extensive military operations.

Mr. Diokno said that this type of government aid has military implications because the road makes it easier for the military to patrol the area and to terrorize civilians.

On the economic front, the Australian offensive is reflected in the many Australian firms being established in the Philippines. AMCO Manufacturing Phil., Inc.; Hooven Comalco Industries, Inc.; Gilbarco Australia, Ltd.; Grosby-KP Footwear, Inc.; International Pants Corp. are only a few names of such companies.

Australia, like the Philippines, is being prodded by the United States to adopt a more aggressive export program. Many big Australian firms have taken heed as they saw that to be competitive with dynamic Southeast Asia exporters, they would need to phase out their biggest cost factor, high wages. Industrial robots and computers are increasingly being introduced into manufacturing firms in Australia to replace many unskilled and some skilled workers.

Other firm saw bigger returns from exporting their capital to cheap labor countries such as the Philippines and setting up plants over there. Such a scheme, of course, maximizes profits and eliminates the need for Australian labor.

Mr. Diokno stressed that his criticism of American and Australian aid would apply to most Western aid in developing countries inasmuch as they serve already established families, the so-called elite and the government but not the vast majority of the people.

His visit threw light on many of these hazy issues that underlie the economic and political relations between Australia and the Philippines. □

Open Letter . . .

Continued from page 2

about issues affecting them, and are like sheep because they don't want to know what's good for them.

Mr. Esclamado, people participating in the FWC who read your article and who aren't members of KDp really took your statement to heart. They felt they were being discouraged and perhaps even insulted for wanting to work within the FWC, with KDp and all other organizations who want to work together to realize their hope of seeing a more supportive Filipino community that exchange ideas, educate each other, and not be afraid to be in touch despite differing backgrounds, age groups, socio-economic levels, occupations, and differing political ideologies. The FWC welcomes anyone and everyone to participate. There should be no power struggles here, only a stronger commitment that communications with each other will not be broken down despite differences in attitudes, experiences and opinions. We should all realize that there hasn't been one organization that hasn't experience conflicts within or without its system. Looking closely at each year, Far West Conventions have grown from each organizing effort and there has been a higher level of maturity achieved in each one, despite differences encountered. Isn't it true that change is not necessarily an easy thing to accept? We feel that it's time to look beyond these conflicts, and ask what are the higher goals that the people wanted to gather together for in the first place? There is that narrow-sightedness within

our Filipino community that afflicts us more often than we like.

Take a closer look Mr. Esclamado. FWC is not KDp's tool, nor is it your tool to use for your own personal bias against KDp. FWC is a group representative of the Filipino community who want to stop the pettiness and backbiting altogether and gather all our energies toward the real foes— injustice, racism, and national chauvinism that affects all of us.

FWC IS THE VOICE OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

There has always been a strong and necessary need for a particular organized body that will actively take a strong definitive stand on issues that affect us all as a Filipino community. We would like to see FWC become this body. It's time we stop passing the buck, gather our resources—that is, our fellow Filipinos, and listen to each other effectively and patiently. We have a wealth of resources so that we can learn from each other without having to strike each other down before we can even have a chance to talk.

FWC is an educational forum for all. Statements like yours may discourage people because of a lack of true understanding of what FWC represents. It is they who must speak out. For the FWC members, we want to see the decade of the 80's as a decade of action. The convention is the very first step. The real challenge comes afterwards—when people are ready to listen, identify with others, commit themselves and act. We hope that you as a member of the Filipino community will work with us towards this goal of cooperation. □

ang KATIPUNAN

We salute the delegates to the

10th Annual

FILIPINO PEOPLE'S FAR WEST CONVENTION

for their role in building

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FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

Challenging the Myth of American "Superiority"

By DALE BORGESON
KDP National Executive Board

As a nation, the U.S. has never been known for its "humility." In fact, the traditional American myth boldly proclaims that this is the richest, freest, bravest, in short the "greatest" nation on earth. These qualities are all attributed by the myth to a special strength of character and moral fiber which Americans supposedly possess uniquely among all the world's people. In short, it can fairly be said that this American myth is very influential in promoting among Americans a "superiority complex" toward other peoples and nations.

While few people would dispute the influence of this myth, many would defend it with two basic arguments. The first contends that there is every basis for Americans to view themselves as a superior people given the tremendous material wealth of U.S. society. This is another way of saying that the American myth is really no myth at all but actually a statement of the **reality** of American superiority. The second claims that every people feel a pride in their country and its only natural and quite harmless for Americans to do so too. This line argues that there's no real difference between the American myth and how other people's and nations view themselves, and that there's no particularly harmful consequences resulting from such a myth.

Our contention is that the myth of American superiority is indeed a myth, i.e. no based on reality. In addition, we believe that the widespread influence of this myth among the American people themselves is extremely harmful in fostering and deepening racial and national divisions within the U.S. working class and in creating an anti-alien political climate that encourages U.S. aggression toward other people's and nations. In this article, we will attempt to "de-mythologize" the notion of American superiority and its real roots as an ideology promoting the basic views of the U.S. economic system. We will also point out the political importance for workingclass Americans, including the U.S. Filipino community, to break with this myth in order to more consciously and effectively assert their real interests as a class.

Challenging the American myth is akin to taking on the "official religion" of the land. The assumptions behind the myth are so pervasive that most Americans are not even conscious of holding them, except when these assumptions are called into question and have to be defended. The myth itself consists mainly of an idealization (in fact almost a romanticization) of the mythical "American way of life." The power of the myth is such that it can survive as an ideal vision despite the fact that it does not match the real life experiences of workingclass Americans.

According to the myth, America is the land of the rugged, hardworking individual taking advantage of the boundless opportunity provided by the free enterprise system to advance his career and the wellbeing of his family. The ideal vision presented by the myth is like a scene out of a Norman Rockwell painting. The setting is rural or small town, prominently featured are the town meeting hall, the white country church with its tall steeple, the happy American family at work or play. The message is clear—adversity can be overcome and prosperity achieved if only individuals strive to attain the moral virtues of hard work and ingenuity so associated with

the "spirit of the American pioneers."

The success of the wealthy is due to their superior moral virtues—people like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller are held up as models that the masses should strive to emulate. Anyone can attain similar success through application of individual effort and ingenuity. The wealth of the U.S. is due to such wondrous endeavor. The other side of the myth is that the failure to achieve the "better life" in America is to be explained as the virtual failure of the individual to live up to the moral standards of being an American. It is due to laziness, sloth, lack of daring, lack of ingenuity, etc. The myth argues that the opportunities are boundless in America and the test of the individual is to find the will and the way to take advantage of it.

If you accept the premises of the myth, its logic is an airtight argument for the superiority of the American economic, political and social system. Yet what is striking is the gap between the myth itself and the real life experiences of the vast millions of workingclass Americans. This gap is explained by the myth as due to the failure of individuals and unfortunately this explanation has been widely accepted within the working class. People are taught to think of themselves as lazy, stupid, unresourceful, lacking the qualities necessary for real success, etc. In this way the defenders of the American system attempt to keep the gap between the myth and reality from becoming a real credibility gap calling the myth and the system itself into question.

Nowhere is the gap so glaring as with minorities and immigrants. Although in reality the U.S. is a nation of immigrants and minorities make up about a quarter of the country's working class, the picture painted by the myth is strikingly "white" and American-born. There is no hint in the official history of the decisive contribution made by immigrants and minorities to the building of this country and all its wealth. The land taken from Native Americans is portrayed as "virgin territory," there for the taking. Black slave labor, which laid the basis for original capital accumulation in the U.S., is portrayed as a "peculiar institution" that was eventually abolished by the "moral crusade" of the Civil War. The contribution of immigrant labor, which made possible the tremendous industrialization of the country during the latter half of the 19th century, is trivialized by focusing on the dreams of the immigrants for a better life in the new world. The implication is that the immigrants should be grateful simply for the opportunity to live in the U.S. Similarly the contribution to the wealth of America made by the working people in foreign lands dominated by American capital investment, such as the Philippines, is glossed over. What is portrayed instead is the "benevolent and selfless" role of the U.S. in educating and "civilizing" the peoples of these lands, building their roads and industries for them, etc. Finally, the fact that today minorities and immigrants make up key sectors of the production work force in the U.S. is totally obscured by the myth which portrays them as lazy welfare recipients who are leeching off the wealth of American society. The credit for building America and the right to partake of the material wealth of American society gets assigned exclusively to the white and the American-born.

The myth of American superiority objectively represents a **national chauvinist** ideology because the other side of it is the assertion of the **inferiority** of all

other peoples and nations. The real differences in the material wealth between the U.S. and other countries gets interpreted as stemming from the superior moral virtue of Americans over all other peoples. This self-serving interpretation provides a handy pretext for U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of different countries in order to "civilize and uplift" them with the supposed benefits of the American system. Historically, this tendency is sharply illustrated by President McKinley's famous story of praying all night to God about whether to seize the Philippines in 1898. Supposedly, God gave McKinley full permission to take and civilize the Philippines, which he proceeded to carry out by sending a huge U.S. army that slaughtered 600,000 Filipinos in their "civilizing mission." This pattern of U.S. intervention has continued up until today, and along with it the ideology of national chauvinism which is its moral justification. Thus, we find U.S. generals proudly proclaiming during the Vietnam War that "it was necessary to destroy the village in order to save it [from communism]."

The national chauvinist myth of American superiority has a number of smaller myths attached to it. One is that the relative affluence of U.S. society is due to the singular efforts and virtues of white, American-born citizens. Another is that U.S. immigration policies are based on the benevolent goal of providing opportunities for immigrants. When any of these myths are studied more closely they collapse before our very eyes.

For example, once one really understands how U.S. capital investment penetrates and takes control of foreign economies, the "mystery" of how the U.S. has accumulated such wealth quickly disappears. It is enough to know that 50 percent of the business assets of the Philippines are controlled by the U.S. to get a sense as to the source of American wealth. For every \$1 that the U.S. invests in the Philippines, \$5 in profits are remitted out of the country back to the U.S. These profits are produced by Filipino workers whose wages are kept at near starvation level in order to assure higher returns for the U.S. capitalists. In fact, much of the fruits of the natural resources and labor power of the Philippines have been appropriated by U.S. capitalist industries and made part of the wealth of the U.S. capitalist class. Nor is this situation unique to the Philippines—in fact it is typical of U.S. investments in the third world. In light of this, it is quite amazing that these same capitalists could accuse Filipinos, Haitians, Mexicans, and other immigrants of "leeching off" the wealth of U.S. society. Yet, this is precisely what they do. What this obscures is the fact that most of these people would not have found it necessary to immigrate to the U.S. in the first place if U.S. capitalism had not stolen much of the wealth of their native lands in the first place.

But how does the American myth explain the basic purposes and motivations behind official U.S. immigration policy? What gets highlighted by the myth is the supposed benevolence of the great American system in opening its arms to "the huddled masses yearning to breathe free." The real economic and political motivations behind U.S. immigration policy get conveniently obscured in the process. For example, the first wave of Filipino immigration to the U.S. was consciously recruited by U.S. agribusiness firms to provide cheap labor for the Hawaiian sugar plantations, the fields of California and the canneries of Alaska. It was ne-

cessary to recruit the Filipinos to take the place of striking Japanese workers. In this case, the basic motivation was economic. By way of contrast, the basic motivation behind the U.S. liberalization of the immigration law in 1965 that gave rise to the third wave of Filipino immigration was just as self-serving for the 1965 liberalization was a political device designed to neutralize "anti-Yankee" sentiment in the third world and win the U.S. some allies in its contention with the Soviet Union and national liberation movements. It was part of the larger set of programs from the Kennedy/Johnson administration that included the Peace Corps and the "Alliance for Progress" (targeting Latin America in the wake of the Cuban revolution). All these programs were basically designed to "hold the line" for U.S. influence in the third world. This strategy was quite effective within the Filipino community, as the early third wave professionals by and large adopted a staunch pro-U.S. stance and influenced their relatives and *kababayan* back home in this direction.

It is important that the Filipino community be able to penetrate and discard such myths which serve only to distract and prevent the community from taking up the struggle for its democratic rights in this country. For example, the myth about the benevolence of U.S. immigration policies promotes the line that Filipinos should be grateful just for the privilege of being in this country and should not complain or struggle against national or racial discrimination. After all, that's a small price to pay for being able to live in America—or so the myth says. Similarly the myth that the wealth of America was created by a narrow set of white, American-born entrepreneurs has the effect of making many Filipino immigrants feel as if they are "free loaders" in this country. This results in passive and defensive attitudes toward U.S. society.

Finally, we must address the notion that U.S. national chauvinism is but a harmless display of "pride in one's country" which Americans have in common with all other peoples and nations. This notion of the supposed "harmless nature" of U.S. national chauvinism is readily debunked when we consider for example the recent rampage of "patriotic" students at Fresno State University who severely beat up every foreign student they could get their hands on in response to the hostage crisis in Iran. In a broader sense, U.S. national chauvinism is the ideological justification for U.S. aggression and war preparations. Thus it is qualitatively different from the normal "nationalism" or "pride in one's country" that can play a progressive role within countries such as the Philippines whose very national independence is constrained by U.S. imperialist domination. For the U.S. is not an oppressed nation, but rather the world's most powerful imperialist country which dominates many other smaller nations. Therefore, U.S. nationalism is a reactionary set of politics which aims to maintain U.S. domination over smaller countries at whatever cost. And U.S. national chauvinism is the ideology that justifies this reactionary set of politics. This nationalist politics and ideology stand in stark opposition to the real interests of the vast majority of people in the world, including the U.S. working people themselves. The U.S. working class, including the Filipino community, must be able to clear away all the mysticism surrounding the national chauvinist myth of American superiority and expose it as a dangerous illusion which serves only to divide and restrict people from taking up the real task of fighting for their democratic rights. □

At La Guardia Hospital:

Nurses Strike for Better Working Conditions



Worsening work conditions forced La Guardia Hospital nurses to the picketlines.

FOREST HILLS, New York—A nurse in a picket line in front of the emergency entrance spots a passing La Guardia Hospital station wagon. Inside the wagon: a security guard driver and two nurses in uniform. "Scabs, scabs, scabs..." the suddenly alerted and shouting striking nurses from three picket lines pursue the wagon. "Scabs, scabs, scabs," the nurses continue to chant despite threats from the head security officer to call the police. The station wagon finally backs off, speeds away and stops in front of the emergency entrance. The two nurses race through the picket lines amidst taunts and chants from their fellow workers, "scabs, scabs, scabs..."

This was a scene on the third night of the strike of the 235-member La Guardia Association for Registered Nurses (LARN). The LARN went on strike August 23 after the membership rejected the final contract proposal by the hospital administration. The negotiations have dragged on for more than four months since the contract's expiration last April.

PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

"We're not on an economic strike. Money is not the problem. The problem is job security," Linda Soderberg, president of the LARN, declared in an interview with members of the New York-New Jersey NAFL-FNG who visited the picket and supported the strike.

The nurses are particularly indignant against the administration's proposals to curtail their rights on the issues of promotion, transfer and the grievance procedure. For example, the hospital has made a proposal that seniority will not count when nurses are considered for promotion or transfer. "When you've been with the hospital for ten years and looking for a promotion, the hospital could easily bring somebody from the outside and you lose all your chances," Linda Soderberg explained.

Under the new hospital procedure, the rights under the grievance procedure provided in the old contract are being taken back. "They [administration] do not want them [nurses] to have a fair chance of having a union representative in a hearing. They won't give information concerning why nurses were disciplined, suspended or discharged. They don't want them to confront their accusers [supervisors]," Ms. Soderberg further explained.

Over 50 nurses have either been suspended or discharged in the past three years under highly questionable grounds since the association was formed. Just

two weeks ago, a Filipino nurse in the operating room, Ms. Linda Gabriel, was suspended for allegedly sleeping on her job, when in fact she was on her break. She was sent home right away after the incident without a thorough investigation. Ms. Gabriel narrated what really happened: "There were only two of us on the operating room. After the busy and exhausting operations, I decided to take a break and rest. However, I had to continually answer the phone so that I wasn't really able to take a rest. And when I was just starting my nap, the assistant director of nursing and my supervisor came. They accused me of sleeping on the job. And without any further investigation suspended me and sent me home. I reported this incident to

our president and we complained to the administration about this abuse of authority and total disregard for the grievance procedure. They apologized as if a minor mistake just happened without considering the shame and humiliation I suffered."

UNDERSTAFFING UNDERLIES PROBLEM

The underlying problem is really rooted in the serious understaffing in the hospital. A typical 42-patient floor is staffed by three registered nurses (sometimes only two especially during the summer vacation) and two aides. Nurses in special units also complain of the same problem. In the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for example, where the re-

quired patient to nurse ratio is 3 to 1, only two nurses take care of nine patients in the La Guardia Hospital. This is further aggravated when there are patients on respirators requiring total attention.

FOURTH IN NEW YORK CITY

La Guardia Hospital is the fourth hospital in New York City to be struck by nurses within this year. The difference however, is the focus of the demands. Nurses from the three voluntary hospitals (Maimonides, Kingsbrook and Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center) scored significant gains from their strike along economic demands (wage and shift differential pay increases) with little or no gains on the issues of mandatory overtime, understaffing and shift rotation.

With this strike, the La Guardia Association for Registered Nurses faces a crucial test of survival. Since its formation three years ago, the hospital has been trying to break the union. In 1977, the La Guardia nurses broke away from their collective bargaining unit, the New York State Nursing Association (NY-SNA) due to its inability to fight for the interest of nurses in contract negotiations and in grievances.

Nurses interviewed in the picket lines expressed strong determination to fight for the issues raised by the strike. "We will win. Right now, supervisors and nursing directors who only do paperwork have to work 12 hours a day," a nurse declared.

The hospital has moved some patients to other hospitals and also limited the admission of patients. Only six nurses so far have been reported to be crossing the picket line. □

N.Y. Hospitals Understaffed:

More H-1 Nurses Recruited



Nurse graduates are being recruited to staff New York hospitals.

NEW YORK CITY—City hospitals have turned to the Philippines once again to solve its nurse staffing problems. The Lincoln Hospital in Bronx, N.Y. has arranged for the arrival of 150 nurses on H-1 visas. Thirty of these have already arrived in New York, and several other hundreds are scheduled to arrive to fill slots in three other city hospitals (the Bronx Lebanon, Harlem and Metropolitan Hospitals).

ECONOMIC REASONS CITED

The new arrivals are mostly young and fresh 1978 graduates. They cited economic reasons for leaving the Philippines. "We [nurses] only receive ₱ 350 a month and with the inflation rate in the Philippines, this is close to starvation wage."

They also indicated that the prospects for further studies was also an attractive enticement for them to come to the U.S.

UNUSUAL RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

The Filipino nurses were recruited through the Southeast Asian Placement Center which was paid at least \$500 for each nurse recruited. It is unusual that although the CGFNS examinations had been stipulated as a requirement to qualify for the H-1 visa, only two out of the 30 who have already arrived had CGFNS scores. The others were not required to take it. Whether this will be taken against them by INS and State Board authorities in the future still remains to be seen.

Under N.Y. State Board regulations, the nurses will have to sit for the State Board Examination for nursing on the next available date (February 1981). Although Carmen Becceril, Nursing Director at Lincoln Hospital had promised the nurses that she "would arrange for low-cost review courses," the newly-arrived RNs are nevertheless left with insufficient time for adequate adjustment and review. The NAFL-FNG, a national organization that has been active in fighting for the rights of H-1 nurses, has stated that the lack of ample time to review and to adjust to the new nurse setting is a major reason for the high failure rate (87 percent) of FNGs in the State Board exams. □

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Democrats Offer Little to Nation's Ills

By DEBY ARMANDO
AK Correspondent

The recent conclusion of the National Democratic Party convention highlighted some of that party's severe weaknesses over the past four years under the Carter Administration.

Most glaring among these weaknesses was the party's inability to resolve the problems of this nation's minority and poor populations, or to improve the status of women. As Carter's rightward swing picks up momentum, it becomes clearer that there is small hope of these conditions improving if his administration were reelected to another term.

SUPPORT DWINDLES

The 1980 presidential election campaign may prove to be the most difficult yet for the Democratic Party. Whereas in the past, many have seen the Democratic Party as the party of the "working man", minorities and the poor, Carter's record to date stands in sharp contrast to this myth.

The current President still hopes to capture the votes of those most adversely affected by his policies. At a recent meeting with black democrats, Carter said, "I have always been underestimated as a candidate...I have a secret weapon, and that is the black people of this great country who know they have a friend in Jimmy Carter." But how well-known is the knowledge of this "friendship"?

America's black population, traditionally and overwhelmingly supporters of Democratic candidates, has voiced various degrees of dissatisfaction with Carter. Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson expressed disappointment that the Democratic Party did not "formally condemn the upsurge of the Ku Klux Klan" nor indicate concern over "the desperate conditions facing black Americans and poor people in general." Despite all evidence to the contrary, however, Mayor Jackson still clings with unfounded optimism to the belief that Carter is "concerned about these problems."

Black Congressman Ron Dellums (D-Calif.), however, was more critical of Carter's past performance, and more realistic in his future expectations. "Jimmy Carter doesn't deserve to be reelected on the basis of his record...reelected on the basis of his record..." "How can we possibly rationalize him to our people?"

Blacks interviewed in the unemployment lines of major U.S. cities expressed complete lack of faith that Carter



Democrats present a facade of unity after Carter's re-nomination. Much fanfare yet no solutions to nation's economic crisis.

would do anything to improve the conditions of blacks—a conviction they based on his past performance. Some even indicated that they were inclined to vote for Reagan because, though far from convinced that he would help, they felt positive that Carter would not.

Given the widespread disenchantment of the different constituencies and sectors, Carter's campaign must consist, in a large part, of an effort to lure disaffected Democrats back into the camp of Carter supporters.

MODIFIED LIBERAL POSTURE

Although Carter attacks his opponent Ronald Reagan for his "confrontational position on foreign policy" and his conservative statements of past years, distinctions between the two opponents become ever more blurred. Carter's posture has become more and more similar to the Republican opposition in both the warlike, provocative foreign policy positions and toward domestic affairs wherein he calls upon those who have historically done without to "tighten their belts."

Abandoning many liberal pretenses, Carter's platform draft opposed the expansion of domestic programs to fight unemployment and refused to oppose the use of recession to control inflation.

KENNEDY: "FAIR WEATHER" FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE

Another hurdle Carter had to overcome was the fierce inter-party competition with Senator Edward Kennedy. In a battle that leaves the Democratic Party constituencies splintered, Carter won the fight for renomination.

In the course of the competition,

Kennedy attacked Carter on everything from Iran to unemployment. Yet, he principally competed on the platform issues. Apparently, in sharp contrast, Kennedy proposed significant alterations to the conservative Democratic Platform put forward by Carter.

Among the alterations were: \$12 billion to create jobs for the unemployed; wage and price controls to curb inflation; pledges that the next administration would take no action that would result in more unemployment and would make no budget reductions in basic social programs; reimposition of price controls on crude oil and natural gas; opposition to peace-time draft registration and opposition to accelerated development of the MX missile system.

While these positions appear progressive, Kennedy's commitment to their actual implementation was called into question by a *New York Times* report that the Kennedy forces were considering giving up their fight over the platform in return for Carter's support of the open convention concept. Such a readiness to toss aside issues too critical to the general American public exposes the fact that Kennedy's platform "battle" was nothing more than the usual campaign promises; and, if won, would go the way of all other campaign promises before it.

Also, it becomes ever clearer that after all the false promises and glitter of campaigning are swept away, there is much more unity between the two factions than there is dissension. This was apparently in the fast, behind-the-scenes compromise worked out between Carter and Kennedy aides at the Democratic convention over the platform issues that

had supposedly divided the two for weeks. The compromise resulted in the acceptance of the \$12 billion for jobs (with no time specifications for its implementation), and the pledge not to increase unemployment, but non-acceptance of the wage and price controls.

Yet, how serious is the platform issue? It seems to have no other purpose than to lure votes from as many sectors as possible, while at the same time, antagonizing as few as possible. After this is accomplished, the newly elected administration can promptly disregard the platform.

Indeed, Carter's platform of four years ago included: "a full employment economy; tireless efforts to strengthen detente and promote peace; a cut of \$5 billion to \$7 billion in the Pentagon budget; a substantial movement toward the goal of zero nuclear weapons; and the implementation of a national health plan."

Upon observing the similarities between the Democratic and Republican Parties, and the rapidly achieved unity over "issues" between the Kennedy and Carter factions, it becomes clear that concessions made to achieve such unity are not in the interest of the American people.

The rapid change in Carter's stance as election time nears is part of an effort to assure the continued conservative direction of the overall political trend and public opinion. For in such an atmosphere, social services and various programs for the working class are voted down, while increased military spending and relaxation of restrictions on big business is approved under the guise of "promoting free enterprise." □

KKK Tries to Provoke Violence:

Rally Protests Police Brutality

By DEBY ARMANDO
AK Correspondent

RICHMOND, CA—A crowd of 300 protestors, 80 percent of whom were minority, attended a rally in this city Aug. 22, to protest increasing instances of police brutality directed against Richmond's black community. Although most rally participants were Richmond residents, many also came from the surrounding Bay Area cities.

Also in attendance two blocks away was the Clovis chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, which turned out to protest the NAACP rally and to support the racist attacks of the Richmond Police Department.

The Klansmen were 40 to 50 in number, and many of them were in full costume of the traditional white robe and hood.

While the object of the protest, the Richmond Police Department, kept a low profile at the NAACP rally, it showed in force to form a protective cordon around the Klan. This was not surprising since there have long been allegations that a number of Richmond's policemen are Klan members and supporters.

Although other anti-racist organizations brought their contingents to the rally, the rally itself was sponsored and conducted solely by the NAACP, and no attempt was made at joint work with

others who shared mutual concerns. This lack of input from other groups served to highlight the inadequacies of the NAACP's position on such issues.

The main thrust of the keynote speech by Mr. W.A. Williams, President of the NAACP Richmond chapter, as well as the rest of the rally program stressed the need for the Richmond Police Department (RPD) to adopt an affirmative action program, which would allow for more minorities on the police force. This was put forward as the answer to the onslaught of police violence against the community. Those in attendance were also urged to register to vote so that they could vote in someone who would be

responsive to such affirmative action remedies.

While on the one hand, calling for affirmative action in the RPD, the NAACP totally ignored the very reason why such programs are necessary in the first place. The rally speakers did not address the question of Klan members on the police force; nor, for that matter, the essentially racist nature of the police attacks. Additionally, the NAACP organizers would not allow any of the participating anti-racist organizations to voice such concerns because they felt it would detract from the main issue of affirmative action.

In an effort to further safeguard the rally from such "distractions", supporters were told they could not bring their picket signs to the rally. Only NAACP members were allowed to carry their picket signs. □

South Korea's Military Clamps Down on Opposition

The military government of South Korea's Gen. Chun Doo Hwan continued to consolidate its repressive regime, putting prominent opposition leader Kim Dae Jung on trial in the midst of a "purification campaign" aimed at curbing the civilian opposition.

The trial of Kim opened Aug. 14, under strict military observation and with most foreign journalists and reporters barred from the proceedings. Flanked by military police, Kim and 12 of his supporters were accused of trying to overthrow the government in addition to inciting riots, including the Kwangju uprising last May.

Kim was the most prominent of the anti-Park Chung Hee politicians before he gained the ire of the military junta ruling South Korea today. In 1971 he ran against Park in a bitterly contested campaign for the presidency. Barely losing in the fraud-ridden elections, Kim sought temporary refuge in Japan in 1973.

Kidnapped by agents of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) in an international scandal, Kim was hustled back to South Korea where Park placed him under house arrest. Jailed by Park for anti-government activities in 1976, he was later temporarily released and then jailed again in 1978 where he remained until last December when Park was assassinated. The transitional government allowed for his release with the restoration of his political rights.

It was with the coup of Gen. Chun Doo Hwan that Kim was again imprisoned. The generals behind the coup have since unleashed a sharp campaign against all opposition forces, making it clear that the military, not the civilian, will rule South Korea. Their severe repression of the Kwangju insurrection, during which the third largest city of the country was held by its citizens for five days in May, left several hundred dead and many



Prisoner Kim Dae Jung, wearing Uniform No. 201, sits silent at proceedings charging him with conspiracy. (AP)

hundreds more wounded.

PURIFICATION CAMPAIGN

Since the suppression of the Kwangju rebellion, the military regime has undertaken a wide-spread "purification campaign" ostensibly aimed at "hooligans" and other "cancerous elements." However, most observers note that the campaign is a thinly veiled drive to suppress popular opposition to the military government.

Under the banner of combatting "social evils", the military law command banned 172 weekly and monthly periodicals and purged over 9,000 government officials, employees of state-controlled businesses, writers, teachers and educa-

tion workers. Anti-communism has been a constant theme of the regime, and with the latest campaign, the government has stressed the need for "social discipline."

Observers have noted that many of those fired from their jobs were considered critics of the government and its censorship laws. In addition, mass arrests were carried out in the first week of August, an unprecedented action which was aimed at terrorizing and intimidating the population. In two days alone, the military regime boasted of rounding up some 17,000 people, describing most as "hooligans." Critics noted that the "extensive and vague" wording of the new campaign would make that category applicable to "almost anyone", and the

political impact of the drive was a strong undercurrent.

Also underscoring the military's growing strength was the recent resignation of interim President Choi Kyu Hah on Aug. 16. While the civilian Choi performed a largely ceremonial role in the government dominated by generals, his leaving cleared the way for Gen. Chun Doo Hwan to legislate final "popular" approval for his regime. It is expected that the general will ratify his rule through a puppet electoral college, along with the holding of a popular referendum on a new constitution later this month. The proposed constitution would make Gen. Chun president for the next seven years. □

Gains VFW Endorsement:

Reagan Resurrects Vietnam War Myths

On the heels of the Democratic Party's national convention, Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan addressed the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) where he won an unprecedented endorsement from the conservative veteran's organization.

Two themes appealed to the VFW listeners. One was a strident defense of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. The other was Reagan's argument that the U.S. was second to Soviet military might. Both arguments played on the patriotism of the VFW and the jingoist sentiments of the veteran's group.

Defending the intervention of the U.S. in Vietnam, Reagan argued that "It is time we recognized that ours was, in truth, a noble cause. A small country, newly free from colonial rule, sought our help in establishing self-rule and the means of self defense against totalitarian neighbors bent on conquest."

Missing from Reagan's remarks was the U.S. role in undermining the 1953 Geneva Peace Accords which called for the holding of general elections to reunify the country. He also revived the myth that South Vietnam was somehow threatened by "totalitarian neighbors," when it was in fact embroiled in a national liberation struggle against U.S. intervention on behalf of the dictatorial regime of Nguyen Van Thieu.

Nevertheless, Reagan's revival of the largely debunked Vietnam War myths, coupled with demagogic appeals about bringing "dishonor (to) the memory of 50,000 young Americans who died in that cause," brought him a standing



Ronald Reagan, campaigning on patriotism and jingoist appeals, recently attacked the Carter administration for allowing the U.S. military to fall behind the Soviets. Yet the facts point otherwise. (UPI)

ovation. He further enflamed the jingoist sentiment of the VFW by inferring that the Vietnam War was lost because the U.S. government was "afraid to let them win."

'SOVIETS NUMBER ONE MILITARILY'

Reagan also enflamed patriotic passions when he accused the Carter administration of allowing U.S. defense capabilities to fall into shambles while the Soviets have built up a military machine to the point where it exceeds the U.S. in most categories of strategic military strength. "We're already in an arms race," announced Reagan, "but only the Soviets are racing."

Downplaying the real military strength

of the U.S. and blaming this on the Carter administration has been a hallmark of the Reagan campaign. More objective observers, however, have noted that the U.S. has yet to fall from its position of being the world's foremost military power, and that the Carter administration has been living up to its role as head of this world gendarme.

According to the *Defense Monitor*, published by the Center for Defense Information, "American military officials regularly present comparisons of the U.S. and Soviet military budgets in which the U.S. is portrayed as spending less than the Soviets."

However, notes the *Monitor*, "the more relevant comparison of total military spending by the two alliances shows that

NATO spends more than the Warsaw Pact—about \$215 billion for NATO in 1979 against the Pact's \$175 billion." In comparing naval forces, "NATO has some 400 major surface combatants compared with 235 for the USSR and its allies; in tonnage....NATO has more than two-to-one advantage."

All other indicators also point to the overwhelming strength of the U.S. and NATO. Military personnel outnumber the Soviets by 4.7 million, and strategic nuclear weapons compare at 10,500 for the NATO powers and 6,000 for the Warsaw Pact. These combined figures only underscore Gen. Maxwell Taylor's statement that "we have a great defense ...in four hours we can rain more destruction on that country than they experienced in four years of war." In that war, against Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia lost more than 20 million people.

VFW ENDORSES REAGAN

While Reagan's speech may have strayed from objective fact, the 4,500 member convention went wild and for the first time in its history, the VFW endorsed a candidate in a presidential race. By endorsing Reagan, the 2.5 million-member veteran's organization gave the conservative candidate a big boost in his quest for the presidency.

One other organization also endorsed Reagan, although without the Republican nominee's presence. The Ku Klux Klan, noting that the platform of the Republican Party looked "as if it were written by a Klansman," also extended its endorsement to Ronald Reagan.

STUDENTS CONTINUE STRUGGLE AGAINST REPRESSION, HIGH TUITION



Tension builds as students and riot police confront each other in mass actions reminiscent of the "First Quarter Storm."

Word continues to filter in regarding the massive student protests which began in July and continue to rage. As students and teachers band together to express their opposition to the Education bill currently under discussion in the Interim Batasang Pambansa (IBP), to hike tuition fees, and to the continued suppression of student organizations, it has become clear that a student movement unlike anything since the declaration of martial law has begun to take shape.

The core of the issue remains academic freedom and the issue which has galvanized the repeated mass protests is the education bill which threatens to centralize all educational decision-making under the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Observers at the University of the Philippines (UP) report that the entire faculty and student body seems united against the bill. Extremely vocal in his opposition is Arts and Sciences Dean Francisco Nemenzo, Jr. who attempted

to march with the students to the IBP during the aborted action last July 29.

"FIRSTS" SINCE 1972

Additional reports reveal that the recent protests have produced the first full shutdown of the state university since the declaration of martial law in September 1972. Last July 9, 500 UP professors chose to attend a rally opposing the bill rather than teach class, effectively closing down UP.

Other firsts include a march by stu-

dents at UP Los Banos on August 1 to protest the bill and a walk-out by 300 students at UP Visayas in Iloilo during an IBP hearing at Iloilo at the school auditorium last July 16. It was the first such action for the UPV students since September 1972.

Meanwhile, in Metro-Manila, seven private universities have been pinpointed for profiteering. They include Adamson, Far Eastern University, University of the East, Manuel L. Quezon University, National University, and University of Manila.

FM WORRIED

Ferdinand Marcos, clearly worried about the situation which some feel to be a martial law equivalent to the 1970 "First Quarter Storm," recently changed his tune from outright threats of heavy-handed treatment for the students to conciliatory terms. He publicly "re-affirmed his faith" in the students' capacity to "resist subversive efforts to recruit them for illegal activity," according to the administration's international paper, the *Manila Journal*.

Meanwhile, however, students continue to face arrest. The latest report indicates that 11 more have been arrested, while five are being sought. These brings the total arrested to at least 16. □

Food for Peace: Counter-Insurgency in Disguise

Anti-martial law forces have repeatedly protested the continued grant of U.S. military aid to the repressive regime of Ferdinand Marcos. Over the years, the U.S.' interest in granting such aid has been repeatedly exposed.

But what about so-called humanitarian aid, the grant of food and other necessities which is claimed to be "above" petty self-interests? How do the programs involving food serve U.S. interests? As a University of the Philippines professor reveals in a recent paper, the U.S. never does something for nothing. Below Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (BMP) summarizes the findings—Editor.

Food "aid" from the United States to Third World nations is a profitable way for the U.S. to dispose of surplus agricultural products while reaping economic and political benefits at the same time, reveals Professor Armando Malay, Jr. in a recent paper.

The perennial problem of American agriculture, Malay points out, is to dispose of large surpluses of grain, beans and other agricultural products without dumping them on the domestic or international market where excess supply would pull down prices—possibly below production costs.

American policy-makers devised an ingenious way of this "crisis of overabundance" with the enactment of Public law 480 (PL480) later known as the Food for Peace Act, in 1954.

PL480 lends dollars to poor countries with "friendly governments" so they can buy American farm products at the prevailing market price. In turn, the local governments sell the food in the domestic market to be able to repay their dollar loans in local currency.

PROMOTING U.S. NEEDS

PL480 includes conditions that part of these local currency payments should be used to promote the sale of American food, fiber and other commodities, to pay for U.S. military and other commitments in the recipient country and to facilitate the entry of American manufacturing and agribusiness corporations in that country.

In the Philippines, for example, 25 to 35 percent of the peso proceeds from the first five PL480 agreements (covering the period 1957-65) was used to develop new markets for U.S. farm commodities as well as to provide loans to U.S. business firm, branches, subsidiaries or affiliates for local business development and trade expansion.

The money was also used to finance the building of houses for embassy and military personnel, the procurement of military supplies, the production of propaganda materials and the like. In Vietnam and elsewhere, food "aid" served as a perfect guise for military aid and intervention.

PL480 AND COUNTER-INSURGENCY

By the 70s, the U.S. began concentrating on so-called "rural development" programs actually designed to modernize the countryside in order to provide a ready market for American agro-industrial and agribusiness firms.

These programs also serve counter-insurgency goals. As Malay points out, "Rural uplift [is seen] as a remedy for the social ills which make radical and violent measures the last resort of desperately poor, oppressed and neglected peasants." Not surprisingly, the 1979 PL480 agreement funded a five-year pilot project in Panay and an integrated health, nutrition and population project in Bicol, both areas where New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas operate.

The current agreement also includes aid for areas where swidden or *kaingin* agriculture needs to be improved. This is seen as an attempt to infiltrate and neutralize the national minorities as the U.S. did in Vietnam.

RESTRICTING EXPORT OF PHILIPPINE TOBACCO

The provisions of PL480 have also proved harmful to the interests of the Filipino farmer. For one thing, the Philippines is not allowed to export commodities similar to those it received under PL480 transactions. Further, American farm products compete with local products, usually to the disadvantage of the



latter.

For example, PL480 has proven harmful to local cotton millers. A Central Bank memorandum prohibits banks from granting loans to local cotton mills for the importation of raw cotton unless the cotton allocation under the PL480 agreement has been sold. Local millers thus have to buy U.S. cotton even if cotton from other countries is cheaper and of better quality.

Subsidiaries of American corporations involved in the local canning and food-processing industries are subsidized under PL480. These firms make use of food products brought in through PL480 transactions, enabling them to market such items as fruit cocktail, dates, canned corn, peas, beans, and other products designed for the consumption of a small Americanized elite. In fact, the R.P.-U.S. Trade Agreement signed last October gave preferential tariff treatment to such products as turkey, apples, grapes, soybean, and cottonseed oil.

"FOOD IMPERIALISM"

Besides manipulating local consumption patterns to meet the needs of American business, PL480 also finances

educational exchange programs, thus ensuring a steady supply of U.S.-trained Filipino technicians sold on the superiority of American technology, the American concept of profit-oriented farming and the entire American way of life.

Finally, the U.S. ensures that the Philippines as well as many other Third World countries are dependent on it for food. In many cases, food credits come with the condition that future food purchases will be made from the U.S. Also, it seeks to perpetuate food dependence by urging Third World countries to invest their scarce capital for the production of export crops, to the neglect of basic food production.

Hence, the U.S. has in its hands a vital weapon—food—to use against Third World nations who dare steer away from the pro-U.S. path or withhold from the U.S. the supply of strategic materials like oil. It was used in Chile during Allende's term and lately in Iran and elsewhere. The U.S. will no doubt continue to use this valuable weapon especially as recent estimates put the Third World food deficit by 1985 at 100 to 200 million tons, most of which will be covered by the U.S. □