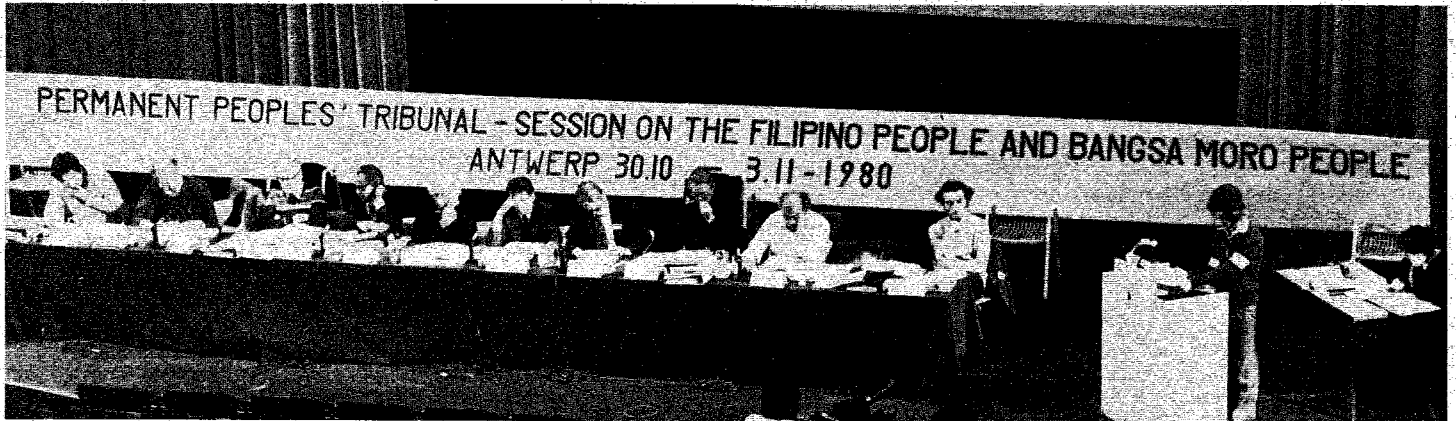


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Tribal Filipinos spokesperson and jury.

International Tribunal Condemns Marcos Regime

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal November 3 condemned the Marcos government for "blatant abuse of state power." The Tribunal judgement, rendered after three days of hearings in Antwerp, Belgium, added that the regime "is deprived of legitimate standing as a government in international society and lacks the competence to act on behalf of the Filipino or Bangsa Moro peoples."

The Tribunal also "...affirmed as a matter of legal right that the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), enjoy legal status in international society. They are empowered...to enforce the rights of their peoples, by armed struggle if necessary...[They] are recognized as enjoying the international status of being legitimate representatives of their respective peoples."

THE PERMANENT PEOPLES TRIBUNAL

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) is an international legal body established following the historic Algiers Declaration of the Rights of Peoples of July 1976. The declaration, and the proceedings and decisions of the PPT

are grounded on established principles of international law. Like the International Court of Justice, the PPT has neither the authority nor the apparatus for enforcing its decisions. It relies on the force of international public opinion and the peoples' liberation forces themselves to implement these decisions.

The Algiers Declaration is guided by the principle that governments and international institutions created by governments, should not enjoy a monopoly over lawmaking. It is committed to the notion that individuals, as citizens of the world as well as of their own country, have the right and obligation to shape emerging law in accordance with human needs and human values. Such an obligation, according to the Declaration, is especially significant in the present period where crimes of state are widespread and intense, go unpunished, and are often committed in concert with international institutions.

The appeal for a hearing on the Marcos dictatorship was presented by the NDF and the MNLF and accepted by the PPT in Bologna, Italy on June 24, 1979. Ten jurors were then selected
Continued on page 4.

World Bank Memo Says Marcos Rule "Precarious"

A recent confidential memorandum reveals that the World Bank believes the Marcos regime to be in an increasingly "precarious" position. Marcos, says the paper may soon be forced to lift martial law or face the likelihood of being deposed in a military coup.

The memorandum was revealed to the press December 3 at a press conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Congress Task Force of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) and by Counterspy Magazine. The memo is believed to be a working paper for the January 1981 meeting of the Consultative Group in Paris. The Consultative Group is made up of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank and representatives of countries who provide "development" aid and loans to the Philippines.

If current trends continue, the memo projects, Marcos may be forced to shift to a parliamentary system "in which President Marcos, even if initially situated as Prime Minister, would have serious difficulty remaining in power." Although the report discounts the possibility of a coup against Marcos, in
Continued on page 8

From FFP to PSN: New Support Group Formed

On October 31, 25 delegates of the former Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) from 7 major cities met in Berkeley, CA to launch the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN). The new nationwide organization opposed U.S. intervention in the Philippines and supports the struggle of the Filipino people for freedom and genuine democracy.

According to Elaine Elinson, the PSN National Coordinator, the necessity for the founding was twofold:

"First," Elinson explained, "recognizing that the U.S. is moving rapidly into a period of increasing militarization and forceful domination of Third World countries, we see the need for a strong solidarity organization to oppose U.S. intervention in the Philippines. With the upcoming presidency of the hawkish Ronald Reagan, it is certain that we will see an even more aggressive defense of U.S. corporate and military interests in the Philippines and throughout the world.

"Secondly, because of serious division in the past year and a half in the former FFP, we feel the need to launch a new organization with a clear political purpose in order to meet our goals."

The PSN founding statement elaborated on this point by saying that:

"To repair the damage and division that was caused by the split in FFP in 1979. We maintain our criticisms and differences which were the substantive issues underlying that split. We believe that the action of splitting the organization was divisive and did not

benefit the movement. At the same time, since the other FFP has consistently demanded that we drop the use of FFP as our name before they will consider any level of cooperation, we feel that for the interest of the movement and in the interest of unity and repairing the damage of the split we can change our name.

In the same spirit of unity, we seek cooperation and joint activity with other groups, whenever possible and appropriate, to further strengthen our movement."

The FFP was founded in 1973 as an immediate response to the imposition of martial law in the Philippines. Over the years, the FFP conducted major campaigns - directed at both the U.S. government and broader American public - on political prisoners, U.S. aid to Marcos, and U.S. bases in the Philippines. As U.S. foreign policy began to shift to a more openly aggressive posture, and U.S. support for the Marcos dictatorship further consolidated with the signing of the renegotiated U.S.-Philippine Bases Agreement in January 1979, the FFP had to reexamine its activities and goals to meet the challenge of the current political realities.

Recognizing this political challenge, the founding statement of the PSN explains the importance of solidarity work specially in this period:

"The turn toward a more militaristic policy abroad has been accompanied by an upsurge in right wing jingoism at

home. In the U.S., we are witnessing a return to cold war hysteria fostered by the ruling elite. War and aggressive 'patriotism' have always been used as a traditional antidote by a troubled elite to defuse domestic crises.

We believe that the American people must develop a broad movement to oppose rising U.S. militarism. We believe that the U.S. and Filipino people share a solidarity of interests because we confront the same oppressive system. We also believe that the movement in solidarity with the Philippines can build in strength by linking up with the progressive concerns of the American people and lending them as international perspective."

Following the tradition and history of the former FFP, the Philippine Solidarity Network will be conducting major educational campaigns in this next period. Among other campaigns, it will pursue its project to gather labor resolutions condemning U.S. support of the Marcos dictatorship. In conjunction with this project, the PSN is currently forming a labor team to go to the Philippines in January. This group will link up with the labor movement there to investigate labor conditions.

Currently PSN chapters are involved in a campaign to exert pressure on the Marcos government to release Sixto Carlos, Jr., a political prisoner.

The PSN invites people who share these goals to join in the campaign work and encourages interested parties to contact the following address: 707 Wisconsin, San Francisco, CA 94107. □

Negros Mayor, Aides Arrested for Murder of Lay Leaders

For the sugar town of Kabankalan, Negros, September 16 marked the gruesome re-appearance of seven peasants, missing after the Philippine Constabulary (PC) arrested them at a wedding party six months earlier.

Sugar cane ready for harvest covered two graves: one of four bodies, their heads bashed in; another of three, squatting and gagged, buried alive.

Three of the seven were active in a local Catholic association which was organized by a local priest to protect his parishioners from lawless elements and government abuse.

Two lay leaders of the same association, German Moleta and Alex Garsales, had disappeared Easter Sunday, only to be found five weeks later as decaying corpses in a shallow grave.

In Bacolod, the sugar barons or the
Continued on page 3



PSN National Coordinator Elinson speaking at conference.

Marcos Vows Prisoner Releases; Bicutan Hunger Strike Ends

"We would like to stress that our campaign is unfinished," proclaimed the inmates of Bicutan Detention Center as they lifted their hunger strike last November 20.

"We have merely entered into a different, but no less decisive phase. We have to vigilantly make sure that the initial responses of the government are translated into concrete action."

Their comment appeared in an open letter "to our friends" issued the day the strike was lifted.

The detainees were referring to a promise made by President Ferdinand Marcos two days earlier that "the majority" or "a substantial number" of inmates would be released "soon".

The Bicutan prisoners had launched their hunger strike to dramatize their unfulfilled demands of release for detainees never charged with crime, granted bail, or ordered released by civilian or military authorities. They also had demanded a hike in their daily food budget from P4 (60¢) to P8 (\$1.20) per person.

PAPAL NUNCIO VISITS

The four-day hunger strike following a 14-day limited fast aroused more national and international attention than any action by Filipino political prisoners to date.

Particularly noticeable - and embarrassing to the Marcos regime - was the role played by the church. Whereas previous detainee actions have been supported by activist-oriented members of the Philippine clergy, this time, even the most conservative church elements expressed support for the prisoners in one way or another.

"I have come to kneel before you because you are the image of Christ," announced Papal Nuncio Bruno Torpigliani arriving at the height of the fast to say a Sunday morning mass. The concern of the conservative Papal representative clearly struck a sensitive nerve.

Two days later, he and Jaime Cardinal Sin, who had been repeatedly denied permission to visit the prisoners, visited Malacanang Palace. Their formal purpose - to announce the forthcoming February visit of Pope John Paul II. At the same time they pleaded the detainees case and received Marcos' promise.

"What is 'substantial?'" however, asked the detainees in their letter. "And when is soon?"

"At this point, our efforts are concentrated on prompting the government to act on its promises as



soon as possible...We have made enough sacrifices."

Indeed, the strike's toll on the detainees has been high. Seventeen collapsed and had to be brought on stretchers to the camp infirmary. While most suffered from weakness and exhaustion, one suffered a liver disorder while Father Pepito Bernardo experienced an attack of cerebral malaria.

The detainees' sufferings did not end with their physical woes, but included a variety of reprisals. Visiting rights were limited and quarters were padlocked. Most seriously, two prisoners, former *Manila Times* editor Satur Ocampo and

Jose Luneta, were removed to solitary confinement.

Both Ocampo and Luneta, however, resisted being transferred. They went limp and had to be dragged from Bicutan raising clenched fists. Their fellow inmates responded by locking arms, forming two lines along their path, and singing "Ang Bayan Ko."

FIVE MAIN ISSUES

"We call on you...dear friends to unite and work with us...in carrying this struggle to its successful conclusion," urged the detainees in their letter. They identified five main issues at the current stage of the campaign:

1. Fulfillment of the President's promise to release a "substantial number" of Bicutan detainees;
2. Dialogue between Deputy Defense Minister Carmelo Barbero and the prisoners on their demands to occur immediately;
3. Return of Ocampo and Luneta to Bicutan;
4. A halt to further reprisals;
5. Lifting of all restrictions imposed during the fast and hunger strike.

As of press time, Marcos has issued a promise to release 34 political prisoners.

"Promises like that have been made before," commented Rene Cruz, National Coordinator of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition.

"Let us see whether he really releases them. And, given the hundreds of political prisoners in the country, let us see whether the detainees regard this number as 'substantial.'" □

ARRESTS . . .

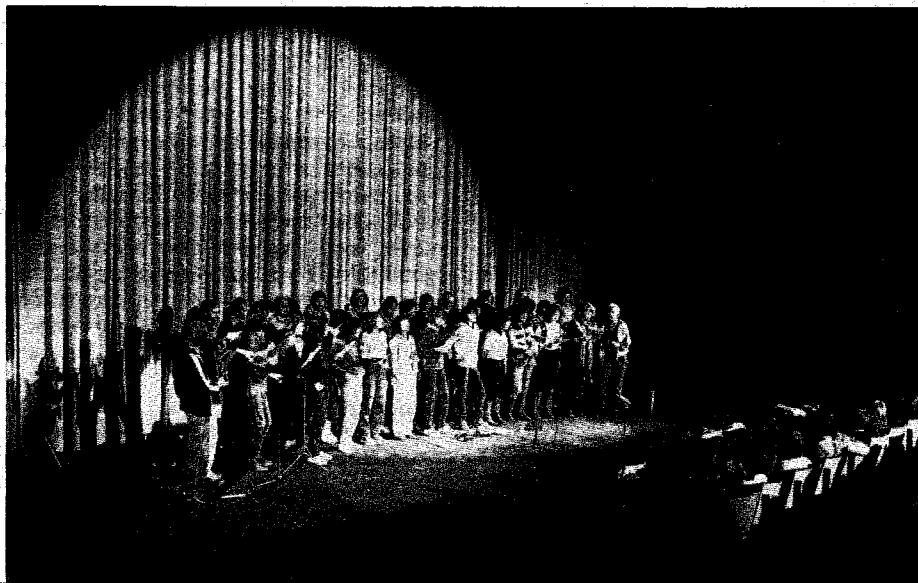
hacenderos virtually own the land and the law. Efforts of townfolk to come together, to protect themselves from exploitation and abuse of the landowners, are often met with severe repression with the aid of private armies and the Philippine Army.

However, mass indignation over the discovery of Moleta's and Garsales' graves proved effective. Prodded by the townspeople's assertiveness, Bacolod Bishop Antonio Fortich went to Manila and demanded and got the removal of the PC chief for the province. Soldeirs accused of terrorizing the barrio were also removed.

Meanwhile, former Kabankalan major Pablo Sola, whose family plantation yielded the bodies was subsequently arrested along with three aides and 15 soldiers.

However, Sola was released and offered refuge at the PC compound in nearby Bacolod. The "peaceful" officer is due to leave for advanced military police training in the U.S. next year. An atmosphere of watchfulness now permeates the town. □

Tribunal . . .



Belgian choir at solidarity night.

from a list of fifty internationally recognized legal experts and civil rights personalities who compose the PPT.

The ten were: **Sergio Mendez Arceo**, Archbishop of Cuernavaca, Mexico and a leading figure in the progressive wing of the Catholic church; **Richard Baumin**, legal expert and member of the Swiss parliament; **Harvey Cox**, Professor of Theology at Harvard University and author of the influential *Secular City*; **Richard Falk**, Professor of International Law at Princeton University and well-known environmentalist; **Andrea Giardina**, Professor of International Law at the University of Naples, Italy; **Francois Houtart**, Professor of Sociology and expert on Third World Development at the University of Louvain, Belgium; **Ajit Roy**, political commentator for the *Indian Economic and Political Weekly*; **Makoto Oda**, noted Japanese novelist and vice president of the PPT; **Ernst Utrecht**, Indonesian sociologist, lecturer at Sydney University in Australia; and **George Wald**, Professor of Biology at Harvard University and Nobel Prize winner, who served as president of the jury.

As prosecutor, the NDF and the MNLF chose Muireann O'Briain, a lawyer from Dublin, Ireland, active in human rights causes. As the staff of the PPT set in motion the legal machinery of the tribunal, the *Komite ng Sambayanang Pilipino* (KSP, Filipino Peoples' Committee) was set up to publicize and gain international recognition for the trial. Headquartered in Antwerp, the KSP was ably assisted by a committee of Belgian supporters of the Philippine struggle.

The political process of the tribunal did not begin in Antwerp, Belgium on

October 30. When the appeal was accepted by the PPT in June 1979, the case began to be discussed in the Philippines and in hundreds of other places throughout the world.

The result of this process was more than 8,000 letters and petitions from the Philippines and some 6,000 letters from all over Europe, the U.S., Canada, Hongkong, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, all of them calling for the condemnation of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship and for the recognition of the NDF and the MNLF.

Apart from local observers, 500 people from Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, England, Ireland, Italy and Spain, plus observers from the United States, Hongkong and New Zealand attended the various sessions of the Tribunal. Extensive press coverage was provided by attending journalists and through press releases by the Tribunal press committee. The Tribunal's verdict was announced at press conferences in Antwerp and Brussels.

Tribunal guests were also treated to a variety of film and slide presentations, an extensive photo exhibit, books, pamphlets, posters, buttons, magazines in six different languages on the Filipino and Moro struggles. In the second evening of the Tribunal, cultural groups from Sweden, Italy, Belgium, Germany and the Philippines presented songs and dances to an enthusiastic audience. On Sunday afternoon, while the Tribunal deliberated on its verdict, European support groups met to present future plans and to listen to the messages of solidarity which had poured in from all over the world.

NDF TESTIMONY

A number of the dramatic high points

of the Tribunal was provided by witnesses from various social sectors represented by the NDF. Particularly effective was Victoria de los Reyes, a member of the New People's Army, who presented a devastating description of landlord abuses and militarization in home province. Wada Taw-il, a tribal Filipino from Northern Luzon, provided a thorough account of the disastrous effects of government "development" projects on the Kalinga and Tingginian peoples.

Perla Silangan, a representative of the student sector, described the militarization of the Philippine educational system over the last eight years. "In my school, the University of the Philippines, hordes of military agents, informers, and police prowl the campus to spy on and harass student militants," she revealed.

Government manipulation of the mass media and of popular culture was described in detail by Salud Torres, a former employee of the government's Ministry of Public Information. Explicit guidelines have been provided to the media to convey a benevolent image of the dictator and his wife and to portray NPA members as "terrorists" or "amazons," Torres pointed out. Several newspaper and magazine editors have been reprimanded for printing unflattering pictures of the First Lady.

Antonio de la Cruz, a Manila union leader, described the deteriorating conditions of workers under martial law. "Most companies," he said, "do not pay the minimum wage." The Employers Confederation of the Philippines reports that only 30% of employers pay the minimum wage, and the Ministry of Labor admits that it is only 10%." Government and management repression has failed to stun the tide of worker resistance, however, de la Cruz added. More than 90% of the more than 400 strikes between 1975 to 1978 were "illegal" or in defiance of the government ban on strikes in "export-oriented" and "vital" industries.

The condition of Filipino women was the subject of the second testimony of Perla Silangan. "Our sister workers are exploited as cheap labor relative to men workers. Their wages...are generally lower than those of men." Prostitution, Silangan noted, has been systematically cultivated by the regime to attract tourists. Peasant women are especially victimized by militarization in the countryside. "When soldiers commit abuses, women suffer the additional insult of being sexually abused."

Concluding the NDF section of the Tribunal was NDF spokesperson Luis Jalandoni who attempted to capture the reality of the NDF as the vanguard mass movement opposing the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. "The NDF



NDF spokesperson Luis Jalandoni.

comprises a mass membership of over one million, with the following underground organizations as members: the New People's Army, the Communist Party of the Philippines, the Revolutionary Movement of Peasants, the Revolutionary Movement of Workers, *Kabataang Makabayan* (Nationalist youth), the Association of Nationalist Teachers, the Christians for National Liberation, and the Nationalist Association for Health."

Jalandoni also noted that while the NDF adheres to the principle of self-reliance, "we find it an imperative nevertheless to seek international support and solidarity in the face of increasing assistance given by U.S. imperialism to the Marcos dictatorial regime...the effect of a positive verdict on the Filipino people cannot be underestimated...Especially as we intensify our efforts to bring the struggle to a higher level of the strategic defensive, the proceedings here are an added blow to U.S. imperialism."

MNLF TESTIMONY

Following the NDF to the witness' stand were MNLF representatives Abdurasa Asani, Hatimil Hassan and Parouk Hussin. Asani traced the historical basis for the Moro peoples' right to self-determination from Spanish colonialism to the period of American colonial rule to the current neo-colonial regime.

Asani and Hassan, in separate

presentations, provided an overview of the history, organization and policies of the MNLF and the Bangsa Moro Army. The MNLF, according to Asani, is the vanguard organization of the Moro people against Philippine colonialism. It is also now a de facto government since it "has been assuming civil functions in its controlled zones all over the Bangsa Moro homeland, acting in that manner as if it were, for all intents and purposes, a regularly organized government."

Asani expressed the MNLF's deep appreciation for the NDF's recognition of the Moro peoples' right to self-determination. The MNLF, Asani said, is not now a member of the NDF. "Whether or not it will become a member of the NDF in the future will be the subject of negotiations at a higher level."

The genocidal proportions of the military campaign being waged by the Marcos regime against the Moro people was outlined by Parouk Hussin. "More than 100,000 innocent Moro lives, mostly children, women and the aged, have already perished, about 300,000 dwellings burned down, incalculable worth of properties wantonly destroyed and almost half of the entire population uprooted from their homes, including the over 200,000 refugees now in the neighboring state of Sabah.

Hussin also documented the participation of the U.S. in the war with his presentation, as evidence, of parts of an American supplied F-86 Sabre jet shot down over Mindanao and the charred plaque of a V-150 commando mini-tank—an episode which provided one of the dramatic points of the trial.

BASIC ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REPORTS

The basic reports on the economic repression of the Filipino and the Moro peoples were delivered by Dr. Joel Rocamora of the Southeast Asia Resource Center in Berkeley, California, while the report on the political repression of the Filipino people was given by Dr. Walden Bello of the University of California at Berkeley. Both Bello and Rocamora are members of the International Association of Filipino Patriots.

Describing the sharp decline in the living standards of Filipinos under the martial law dictatorship, Rocamora said that the phenomenon must be seen as the result of the "export-led development strategy" imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In Mindanao and Sulu, Rocamora said in a separate report, the displacement of Moros by northern settlers and multinational firms backed up by the repressive force of the Marcos regime, has created a situation where "the Moro people have been

literally pushed to the brink." "They have been marginalized and impoverished by the very same political and economic forces which are unleashing at an unprecedented pace the productive potential of the region."

Political repression, according to Bello, must be seen in the context of a fundamental shift in the form of neo-colonial control from formal democracy to authoritarianism — a move necessitated by the recent economic and political needs of imperialism. He also warned of possible U.S. attempts to replace Marcos in the event the situation becomes unmanageable. He expressed doubt, however, that any U.S.-imposed successor could avoid having to "resort to terrorist dictatorship to contain the effervescent, escalating mass movement against inequality and foreign domination."

By the time the Tribunal concluded, jurors had been presented with about 3,000 pages of personal testimony, basic reports, political positions and supporting documents. As Tribunal President George Wald put it: "We have here a very, very thorough indictment of the Marcos regime and U.S. complicity."

AN OUTPOURING OF SOLIDARITY

A tremendous outpouring of solidarity from all over the world greeted the Tribunal. Apart from the 8,000 petition signatures from the Philippines and the 6,000 letters from four continents, some 500 messages of solidarity from labor, political, social, feminist, and cultural organizations were also received. Among them were messages from the Communist Party of Indonesia, the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy (U.S.), the Pan African Congress of Azania (S. Africa), the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) Chile, the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front, the Sinn Fein (Ireland) and many others.

Finally, messages came from the New People's Army, the Christians for National Liberation and other member organizations of the NDF. "The NPA," reads its messages, "wishes to express its profound gratitude for the keen interest you have sown in our life-and-death struggle against the brutal, corrupt, and puppet Marcos clique and its U.S. imperialist masters. Your sincere support for this just and noble cause lightens our hearts and further strengthens our determination to carry on the fight, no matter what the sacrifices may be. May our unity and friendship continue to flourish! May the solidarity and material support among our people and the peoples of the world continue to grow strong and bear more magnificent fruits." □

TRIBUNAL JUDGMENT

The Tribunal considered the joined complaints separately, yet in view of the interlocked character of the struggle, framed its judgement on behalf of the Filipino people and the Bangsa Moro people in identical terms.)

1. The Tribunal finds that the Marcos regime by its reliance on "permanent" martial law and numerous blatant abuses of state power is deprived of legitimate standing as a government in international society and lacks the competence to act on behalf of the Filipino or Bangsa Moro peoples;

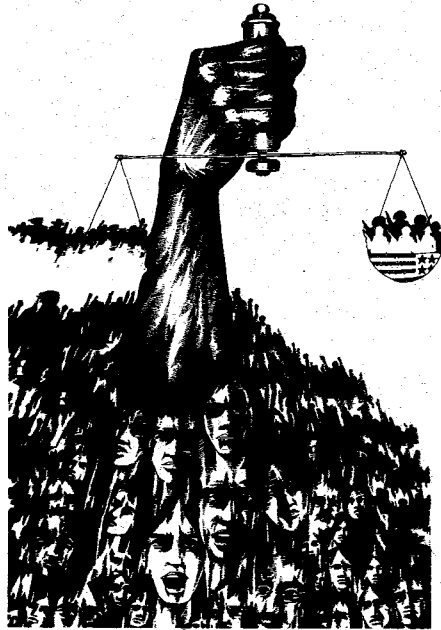
2. The Tribunal finds that treaties and agreements imposed by the United States on the Philippines, admittedly with the complicity of successive Philippine governments, are null and void as "unequal treaties", and that all obligations incurred under them should cease forthwith. In this connection, the Tribunal declares invalid the latest international trade agreement, signed in October 1979 and known as the Collantes-Murphy Agreement, being a replacement for the expired Laurel-Langley Agreement of 1954. It also finds null and void the Military Bases Treaty of 1947 and its recent extension in 1979 by Executive Agreement;

3. The Tribunal condemns in the most rigorous terms the program of displacement and physical extinction that is now being waged by the Marcos regime against the Bangsa Moro people and has already deprived them of much of their ancestral land and made roughly half of their number refugees and exiles; the cumulative effect of this program has been the commission of the crime of genocide;

4. The Tribunal considers that the abuses of the Marcos regime have contributed excessively to the degradation of women and to their economic and sexual exploitation;

5. The Tribunal condemns, also, the United States Government for its role in sustaining, supporting and encouraging the Marcos regime to act on behalf of its economic and global strategic interests in violation of the rights of the Filipino and Bangsa Moro peoples and calls upon it to cease such activities in support of state crime forthwith and to renounce all of its "rights" obtained by way of unequal treaties and to respect from now on the full sovereignty of the country, including the status of the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) as legitimate representatives of their respective peoples;

6. The Tribunal, in this regard, calls on world public opinion to be especially vigilant of possible attempts by the United States government to replace the Marcos dictatorship with another dependent, neo-colonial regime during this period of increasing popular resistance to a government that has lost its credibility and capability;



7. The Tribunal also notes that the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, despite the stated purpose "to help raise the living standards of the developing countries," are playing a crucial role in sustaining, supporting and encouraging the Marcos regime, despite its commission of systematic state crimes and calls upon these international financial institutions to terminate these relationship that abet the violation of the rights of peoples and are responsible for disrupting the life and threatening the very existence of such tribal peoples as the Igorot and Kalinga through their support for high-technology hydro-electric projects;

8. The Tribunal censures a series of American, Japanese and European multinational corporations for their role in violating the sovereign rights of the Filipino and Bangsa Moro peoples, including their legally protected right to sovereign control over natural resources and calls upon these corporations to cease their activities, compensate the Filipino and Bangsa Moro peoples for the depredation of their resources, and to avoid all further interference in the internal life of the

Philippines;

9. The Tribunal censures also the transnational commercial banks for their role in sustaining the illegal and criminal activities of the Marcos government and of multinational corporations and calls upon these banks to cease their lending activities that reinforce criminal undertakings harmful to the Filipino and Bangsa Moro peoples;

10. The Tribunal also denounces the various actions of non-governmental organizations, including the educational, religious and trade union organizations to the extent that they lend support to the Marcos regime by supporting economic projects reinforcing the existing social order, by training local elite and by misleading workers and peasants, through the formation of fake organizations that pretend to work for the people but are in reality tools of the regime;

11. The Tribunal finds Ferdinand Marcos guilty of grave and numerous economic and political crimes against his own people and against the Bangsa Moro people and declares him unfit to govern and subject to severe punishment for his past wrongs, including economic plunder and failure to protect the sovereignty of his country from neo-colonial interventions;

12. The Tribunal finds the corrupt and plundering Marcos "entourage" guilty as accomplices and perpetrators of numerous political and economic crimes and declares them subject to punishment by an appropriate criminal tribunal;

13. The Tribunal acknowledges that the Bangsa Moro people are entitled to the right of self-determination; it welcomes also the guarantee by the MNLF that should the Bangsa Moro people decide to establish a separate state all minorities are entitled to entirely equal rights irrespective of race, religion or national origin; further, the Tribunal welcomes the common position of the NDF and of the MNLF on the crucial issue of self-determination;

14. The Tribunal concludes that the armed struggle between the Marcos regime and the Filipino and Bangsa Moro peoples qualifies in international law as a condition of belligerency and that, accordingly, the parties should respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions on the laws of war, an observation made necessary by the numerous atrocities committed by the Marcos soldiers over the years;

15. The Tribunal calls upon world public opinion, progressive governments, organizations and individuals to lend their support to the struggle of the Filipino and Bangsa Moro peoples to achieve national self-determination, liberation from the Marcos regime and the neo-colonial system of repression.

Has the World Bank Given Up on Marcos?

The recently revealed World Bank memorandum on the Philippines is noteworthy not because of what it says but because the Bank says it. The conclusion that the Marcos regime is in an increasingly precarious situation is not exactly original. But as the *Wall Street Journal* (Dec. 3, 1980) put it, the memo "is strikingly different from [the Bank's] upbeat forecasts of the past."

Why the sudden concern over the fate of the Marcos regime? The introduction to the memo provides an explicit answer: "...the viability of the economic liberalization reforms, supported in part by the conditions of the 1980 industrial/structural adjustment loan, depends on the political and administrative capacity of the government to implement the program without provoking highly destabilizing reactions."

A POST MARTIAL LAW SCENARIO

The Bank's conclusion is that the "political and administrative capacity" of the Marcos regime has been steadily eroding in the last few years. This erosion has been such that it "could result in the lifting of martial law under a parliamentary system in which President Marcos, even if initially situated as Prime Minister, could have serious difficulty remaining in power..." (p.2)

Barely concealing its distaste for the prospect, the report says that the restoration of "democratic practice" would result in 1. a legislative "more sensitive than the executive to local constituency interests," 2. the decline of the power of technocrats "unless and until the new administration wants them," and 3. increasing nationalist pressure on economic policy-making. (pp.13-14)

It is clear that the third point is the most threatening prospect for the Bank. "The nationalist position of Marcos' opposition commits them to support nationalist legislation, even if at a rather high economic costs (sic). If not, the precarious inter-class coalition cemented by the nationalism issue would be jeopardized. An industrial program based on foreign investment would in all likelihood come under strong attack." (p. 14)

The memo also notes that "the combination of Marcos' declining popularity, the tenuous support for the traditional politicians of the opposition, and the absence of support for the technocrats leaves a vacuum that may well be filled by the military." This is

unlikely to occur in the short term ("i.e., the next three years") "because of the close ties between Marcos and the top officers."

But "...one consequence of the military's greater involvement in the operation of state controlled enterprises has been that the armed forces now have greater institutional stakes in maintaining this system intact, and therefore may be more prone to intervene in order to protect these interests." (p. 12)



"The economic policy preferences of a military government are completely uncharted," the memo says. "Only two considerations can be stated with any degree of confidence. First, the younger officers, whose political attitudes were molded by the more radical period of the 1960's, will be assuming higher positions within the military in the coming years. Second, the military, given its expectable preoccupation with national security and self-reliance, is likely to be at least somewhat more nationalistic in its orientation than Marcos has been." (p. 13)

The World Bank's questionable assessment of the military's politics provides an index of its fear of economic nationalism. Its stake in the Philippines cannot be counted only in terms of the billions owed to it by the Marcos regime. Its function as an instrument of imperialism, and in particular, the United States, is ultimately political. Thus its fear of nationalism.

The "economic liberalization reforms" that the memo sees threatened by political changes in the Philippine political situation are precisely the "reforms" that it has pushed in the past decade. In particular, the highly con-

troversial 1980 industrial/structural adjustment program of the regime is financed by a \$200 million World Bank loan.

Under this program, the regime will reduce tariffs on imported finished goods from the 100% to 120% range to between 25% and 30%. To cushion the shock on the Philippine manufacturers the government will use the proceeds of the World Bank loan to import capital goods, industrial raw materials and spare parts for a number of industries the government has tagged for overhauling.

The World Bank stake in the success of this program is great. The Philippines is the Bank's testing ground for this new category of loans called structural adjustment lending." In the past, Bank influence on Third World economic policy had to be worked through its project loans and in the case of the Philippines, through its key role as chair of the Consultative Group. With the new lending program, the Bank can now demand changes in national economic policy as a precondition for providing structural adjustment loans.

Only two other countries - Kenya and Turkey - have availed of these loans and the Bank is unhappy with the results for neither country has "delivered" on the internal reforms required. According to the *Asian Wall St. Journal*, (Oct. 8, 1980) South Korea and Thailand, two potential borrowers, "are still reluctant to accept this program. "So far," the *Journal* says, "only the Philippines has accepted the demands that go with it."

At first glance, the bluntness of the memorandum's assessment of Marcos' political fortunes would seem to indicate that indeed the World Bank has given up on Marcos. More careful reading of the memo shows, however, that its writers still see Marcos and his martial law regime as the best possible regime for implementing the Bank's preferred policies.

What is not clear from the memo's analysis is whether its writers think that Marcos' decline is irreversible. This judgement is probably being left for higher levels of the Bank's hierarchy to make. It is a decision that is of momentous significance to the Marcos regime for the Bank alone accounts for some 40% of the development grants and loans of the Philippines apart from being influential in the lending decisions of other countries and commercial banks.

Continued on page 8

Has the World Bank . . .

The report's ambivalence also comes from the fact that Marcos' predicament derives, in large part, from his having followed the advice of the World Bank and the IMF. The report, for example, focuses on the decline of Marcos' support among domestic entrepreneurs as a source of his political weakness. It ascribes this decline to: 1. the increasing importance of multinational corporations in the economy; 2. the expansion of the state enterprise sector; 3. the fact that "local firms with particularly good connections with the Marcos administration are consolidating their advantages; and, 4. the removal of tariff and other protective measures from local industry.

All of these developments are either directly or indirectly the result of Bank advice. As such, the memo cannot be expected to recommend the reversal of these policies even if doing so would enable Marcos to regain some of his political strength. Thus the ambivalence.

CAN RONALD REAGAN SAVE FERDINAND MARCOS

Another reason for the Bank's ambivalence on Marcos' fate is that its writers are wellaware of the fact that the Bank is not going to make any major changes in its policy towards Marcos independent of the incoming Reagan administration. And it is not yet certain exactly what Reagan's policy will be.

Marcos' celebration of Reagan's victory may be premature. The overall thrust of Reagan foreign policy is certain to be conservative. Reagan will defend U.S. security and economic interests more assiduously. He will deemphasize human rights considerations. He will increase U.S. military assistance to Third World regimes facing national liberation movements. But he is also likely to have less patience with puppets who are ineffective defenders of American interests.

It is in this sense that the World Bank memo is significant for it suggests that Marcos has indeed been increasingly ineffective in preserving the delicate balance of martial law politics. Taken together with the almost unanimous animosity of recent newspaper editorials, the World Bank memo suggests that there are key elements of the U.S. and World Bank policy-making staff who may be laying the groundwork for persuading Reagan to dump Marcos.

Particularly significant in this regard is an opinion piece for the *Asian Wall St. Journal* (Nov. 27, 1980) by Richard Kessler, Deputy Director of the Center

for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University. Kessler goes further than the World Bank memo in suggesting that "...the U.S. must be prepared to accelerate Marcos' downfall not impede it if a stable, allied, democratic state is our policy objective." He then outlines exactly what steps the U.S. must take to bring Marcos down.



Kessler public position on Marcos is important not only because the Washington-based Center for Strategic Studies is closely identified with the CIA, but also because Ray Cline, its director, is one of Reagan's key foreign policy advisers. Cline is also reportedly a top candidate to replace Richard Holbrooke as Assistant Secretary of State for Asian Affairs. James Lilley, another candidate for Holbrooke's position also has strong CIA ties having been a CIA operative in the Philippines in 1957.

Whatever the Reagan administration and the World Bank decides, the struggle in the Philippines will continue. Any decision, whether pro- or anti-Marcos, will be premised on the preservation of U.S. interests in the country. The Bank memo came close to appreciating this reality when it said that "...the opposition, which has criticized martial law as an integral part of its attack on Marcos, in fact opposes both martial law and Marcos' leadership per se for a host of political and economic reasons that would persist even if martial law had never been imposed." (p.9) □

World Bank . . .

the short term, it also points out that the military has the capability and the institutional interest in maintaining the current system. Once Marcos is judged a liability from the vantage point of the military's interests, it may well move against him.

The memo also outlines "alternative political scenarios" with a view of charting ways in which the U.S.-dominated development bank can maintain its overwhelming influence in economic policy-making. It suggests, however, the Bank's preference for the current regime in view of the probable "nationalistic" policies of post-Marcos governments.

The document reflects the World Bank's concern over the deteriorating political conditions in the Philippines which are exemplified in the recent bombings and worker unrest. This concern, CTF director Walden Bello points out, is particularly acute since the bank has been closely identified with the Marcos regime.

The document reflects the World Bank's concern over the deteriorating political conditions in the Philippines which are exemplified in the recent bombings and worker unrest. This concern, CTF director Walden Bello points out, is particularly acute since the Bank has been closely identified with the Marcos regime. The Bank is also worried about the fate of more than \$2 billion lent to the regime and the additional \$3.9 billion in loans committed for 1981 to 1986.

The secret memorandum, prepared by the staff of the East Asia Division of the Bank (AEADB) and entitled "Political and Administrative Bases for Economic Policy Making in the Philippines," was recently provided to the Congress Task Force by Bank sources. Released November 18, the 14 page memorandum was issued only to selected Bank officials. It was accompanied by a note from L.E. Hinkle, acting chief of AEADB saying "Since the contents of the paper could be controversial, I would appreciate your treating it accordingly."

The memorandum has already received considerable media attention. The CTF/Counterspy Magazine press conference was well attended. On the same day, the *Wall Street Journal* carried an extensive story on the memo. Underscoring the importance of the memo's exposure, CTF Director Bello said, "We do not think that policies which affect the fate of millions of Filipinos should be determined in secret by a handful of people and institutions." □

TENANTS UNDER MARTIAL LAW

by Simone Mennen, Davao City
Philippines November 1980

"359,000 Tenants Now Own Their Own Lands" proclaimed the headline of a recent article in *Bulletin Today*, a Philippine national daily. The article explained why "the government has succeeded in restructuring the country's once oppressive agrarian system."

When President Marcos declared martial law in 1972, he claimed that land reform was the cornerstone of the **New Society** (a euphemism used for military rule). In an attempt to understand what eight years of martial law has meant for people and land, I travelled to the island of Mindanao once considered as the "promised land" for settlers.

In Davao del Norte I spent a day with 87 farmers, some of whom had been tilling the same land as tenants since 1956. Their landlord had sold the land to a Filipino businessman named Florendo who represents President Marcos' personal business concerns in Mindanao and who is the Filipino link for United Fruits. (Chiquita bananas.)

Soon bulldozers came, accompanied by the military and the owner in his jeep. The subsistence farmers with no vehicles among them except two bicycles chased after the bulldozers, trying to stop them from ploughing under the crops. I ate under the trees

with the farmers and their families whose houses had already been bulldozed, rice, corn, greens, a few small fish - it was the last of their produce. Some of their clothing had more holes than cloth.

When the people filed complaints to the major and appealed to the governor they were sent a few bags of rice. "What kind of crazy action is this?" asked one of the farmers. "They plough under our crops and then give us a bag of rice. Why don't they let us eat from the fruit of our own labor?"

What has happened to the proclaimed land reform intention of President Marcos who said as early as 1965 "It is my fervent desire to see every farmer own the land he tills."

The land of these farmers will be used to grow crops for export. They are experiencing on a local level what most Third World countries are experiencing in the international economic order. The policies of powerful institutions controlled by the elite of American-European-Japanese world are to push developing countries away from a policy of self-sufficiency into an export oriented economy.

As the possibilities for self reliance and local control are "bulldozed" under, the Philippines accepts in return "bags of rice" in the form of AID projects, World Bank loans with strong conditions attached and commercial loans for which they pay dearly.

These farmers of Davao del Norte are a symbol of the widespread trend of transnational corporation expansion.

In a neighboring province of Bukidnon, a Philippine corporation, San Miguel, in partnership with Nestles is planting thousands of hectares in coffee. In the same province, the Bukidnon Sugar Company is expanding its operations. Small tenant farmers are forced off their land. The local parish priest reported, "The former occupants are dismantling what is left of their houses and are moving away, come back to Bohol (another island) some to the coast, to other provinces, - to the places they originally came from in uncertain hope to chance a better living."

"The hope and dream that sustained it is over, broken by the almighty sugar cane. But the sugar cane that will grow here is bitter. The land that will give it growth has been irrigated by too many tears - tears of mothers and fathers who watched in utter helplessness while their little farms which by their sweat somehow kept their children fed and schooled were plowed over forcibly for more important sugar cane."

In South Cotabato where the Dole banana and pineapple plantations occupy 2/3 of all agricultural land in the municipalities, expansion is claiming the lives of the very tenants that agrarian reform promised to emancipate.

In January 1980, the Dole bulldozers arrived at the six hectare farm of Lamberto Gonzaga. The landlord had contracted this land to Dolefil for conversion to pineapple. The crops were almost ready to be harvested. Corn, vegetables, coconuts, fruit trees and bananas were bulldozed. Present at this bulldozing was an official from the Ministry of Agrarian Reform. Mrs. Gonzaga described what happened. "My husband was so grieved at the injustice in the presence of a MAR official who is supposed to protect a corn tenant as decreed by Excellency President Ferdinand E. Marcos. My husband could no longer contain his anger, his mental anguish considering a bleak future for him, for me and for our nine children. On the eve of January 14, 1980 he committed suicide."

"In contrast to the pre-martial law days, life is now on the sunnyside for the Filipino farmer." begins the article on land reform. Sunnyside or suicide?

The number of rural landless and urban squatters grows larger. As people's options for livelihood decrease, their commitment to an alternative system that can insure real land reform increases. □



AMLC Holds Seventh National Convention

Their morale obviously high, some 125 organizers and supporters of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition discussed the group's strategy at its 7th National Conference at Fort Mason, San Francisco October 31-November 2.

The delegates came from Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Jose, San Diego, Sacramento, Honolulu, Seattle, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, and the San Francisco-Bay Area.

Rene Cruz, re-elected National Coordinator by the conference said that the gathering was one of the biggest and "reflected the growth in the AMLC's base this past year."

The conference focused its attention on an analysis of the Filipino community and how the Marcos regime, through its consulates tries to win its loyalty. Participants targetted the "conservative camp" composed of groups such as CONPUSO (Confederation of Philippine-U.S. Organizations) and traditional community councils as the consulates' main base of support.

But if the community cannot be swayed by "presidential achievement awards, cocktail parties, hollow calls to unity or even pretenses of supporting the community against discrimination," the regime will use intimidation to get the community in line, the conference concluded. Marcos' recent call for an extradition treaty with the U.S. was cited as an example of how the regime tries to extend the climate of martial law to the community abroad.

"We must vigorously fight any extradition treaty. To oppose Marcos' repressive rule is a democratic right of every Filipino living here and must be defended," Cruz, tagged by Marcos as one of 30 he wants arrested for the recent bombings, stressed.

U.S., MARCOS, RESISTANCE ANALYZED

Other political presentations were made by Romy Capulong, ex-LABAN (political party) leader; Aimee Cruz, KDP and former national coordinator of the NAFL-FNG; and Elaine Elinson, national coordinator of the newly-founded Philippine Solidarity Network (formerly FFP).

Capulong offered a perspective on the recent bombings by characterizing them as signs of a serious split in the Philippine ruling class. He traced the history of this elite and warned the conference of the consistent behaviour of political leaders from this class: "They can articulate the grievances and aspirations of the lower classes but as

their forebears, the *illustrados*, have shown, they will use the people's bargaining leverage to gain self-serving concessions from the people's enemy."

Cruz, explaining the National Democratic program to the conference, traced the link between this alternative and the *Katipunan* revolution of 1896. She described the present movement symbolized by the New People's Army as a "continuation of the unfinished revolution against foreign domination and domestic oppression."

Elinson explained that martial rule as a form of government is not unique to the Philippines but is an "international phenomenon." She said that in an increasingly desperate bid to protect its economic and military interests from the growing national liberation movements, the U.S. has caused the replacement of formal democracy with rightwing dictatorships in many countries it dominates.

U.S. "warlike foreign policy." Only in the face of extreme political instability in the Philippines will the U.S. decide to replace Marcos, the conference concluded.

Based on this assessment, the AMLC vowed to improve its educational and agitational programs such as forums, speaking tours and other projects that have provided updates on the situation in the Philippines. It also set its sight on "fighting Marcos' ongoing attempts to control the Filipinos abroad," based on the conference's analytical discussions of the community.

New plans mapped out by the conference for 1981 also include a campaign to mobilize the community against an extradition treaty and the FBI investigation of opposition forces, Christmas caroling to raise funds for the AMLC, an educational campaign to expose martial law's effects on the immigration of Philippine labor to the Middle East, Canada, the U.S., etc., a



AMLC and IAFP members at conference.

ONE-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION

The conference assessed that 1981 will be even more difficult for Marcos. This is due to the continuing economic crisis, combined with increasing violence even from his political rivals within the elite class and the determination of the NPA and the MNLF to push their strategy of prolonged guerilla warfare. However, the U.S. "will continue its support" for Marcos because of the increased importance the U.S. bases now hold in light of the

campaign to expose the "tentacles" of the regime in the U.S. and Canada, and possible speaking tours of student and labor leaders from the Philippines.

An AMLC church liaison committee was also set up including Ruth Prudente, Jon Melegrito, Cynthia Bonta, and Sr. Caridad Guidote to act as resource for various church human rights circles. Mario Hermoso and Pablo Valdez were accredited as the AMLC's representative to the labor unions in the Bay Area. Aimee Cruz was elected East Coast Regional Coordinator. □

Marcos Pushes Extradition of Exile Opponents; U.S. Reluctant

U.S. officials last November 14 pledged continued aid to the Philippine government in its efforts to prosecute U.S. residents allegedly connected with the recent wave of bombings in Manila.

The pledge was backed by the announcement that Michael Abbell, Director of the Office of International Affairs, had been appointed liaison between the U.S. Department of Justice and the Philippine government.

This information, contained in a letter written by U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Richard Murphy, was released in Washington following a threatened diplomatic protest by the Philippine government.

Murphy's letter outlined Abbell's mission saying that he would consult regularly with Philippine authorities and review immigration policies to avoid allowing "known terrorists" into the U.S.

FBI INVESTIGATION

This latest action follows the logic of the FBI's action last month when the Marcos regime released a list of 30 persons wanted in connection with the bombings. Twenty-two were U.S. residents allegedly pinpointed by Philippine government witness Victor Burns Lovely.

At that time, U.S. authorities agreed to investigate the U.S. residents to determine whether, in their opposition to the Marcos regime, they had violated any U.S. laws.

Both ex-Senator Benigno Aquino currently living in Cambridge, MA, and ex-Congressman Raul Daza, now living in Los Angeles, were subsequently questioned by the FBI.

The FBI sought to ascertain whether the suspects had violated either the Armed Export Control Act or the Neutrality Act. The long-dormant Neutrality Act prohibits U.S. residents from engaging in "subversive activities" against other countries.

PUSH FOR EXTRADITION TREATY

As the Marcos government handed its wanted list to Washington, it began agitating once more for an extradition treaty with the U.S. The implications were clear: the regime wanted the opposition figures to be deported to the Philippines for trial.

Within one week of Marcos' announcement, 250 telegrams poured into the White House opposing the treaty and asking for a halt in the FBI investigations. Telegrams came from members of the community called to

emergency meetings by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC) as well as from its church-based and other liberal supporters.

In the words of Aimee Cruz, East Coast AMLC Coordinator, "We are fighting for two different, yet closely related reasons. We are protecting our democratic rights to express our opposition to the Marcos government, and at the same time, we are refusing to allow the climate of fear under martial law to be extended to our community here." □

BOMBING UPDATE

Three months have passed since the first in a series of bombings rocked Manila. Despite arrests and alleged confessions, identity of the April 6 Liberation Movement remains a mystery.

The plot thickened with the arrest and "tearful" confession of a New York Philippine Tourism Office employee.

Doris N. Baffrey admitted to having planted the bomb which exploded at the 50th Annual American Tourist Agencies Association (ASTA) Convention, October 19.

She said that she had been recruited as a courier and was told that "it was only a firecracker and no one will get hurt."

Baffrey's arrest was announced in a nationwide television report made by Marcos himself. He also said that 15 other persons have been arrested in connection with the bombings although names were not disclosed.

SALONGA JAILED

Confirmed arrested, however, is former Senator Jovito Salonga. A known Marcos critic, Salonga was served warrant at a Manila hospital where he was being treated for asthma. This ailment, family spokespersons said, was aggravated by the 1971 bombing of the Liberal Party's "miting de avance" where Salonga sustained deep chest wounds.

Salonga has since been arrested and detained in the same cell where Benigno Aquino spent 7-½ years prior to his release.

The overseas oppositionists' involvement, however, appear to be the main focus of major suspects' confessions. Victor Burns Lovely signed a 21-page testimony implicating many

PRIEST ARRESTED . . .

Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile
Minister of National Defense
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Philippines

Cardinal Jaime Sin
Chairman, Catholic Bishops'
Conference of the Philippines
375 Arzobispo St.
Intramuros, Manila
Philippines

Rev. Pedro Magugat
Chairman ECTF
Rm 15, CAP Building
372 Cabildo St., Intramuros
Manila, Philippines

Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP) personalities.

Lovely was arrested along with two brothers after a bomb he was rigging prematurely exploded. His testimony was offered as a state witness, and was thereby granted immunity.

DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT

Lovely's statement includes a purport guerrilla training program conducted in the Arizona desert. It was supposedly under the direct guidance of Steve Psinakis, a San Francisco businessman and his brother-in-law, Eugenio Lopez, Jr.

U.S.-based oppositionists denied involvement and support of the bombings. They comprise a majority of Marcos' "wanted" list which Marcos expanded to include non-MFP leaders like Rene Cruz and Alan Constantino of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition.

While the bombing may have "rattled" Marcos into issuing ASSO's, its reverberation is felt many times over by the country's No. 3 dollar-earning industry.

Cancellation of the ASTA convention was not only a P5 million down the drain for the Philippine government, it was, more importantly, a loss of tourists who won't risk life and limb for the cheapest hotel rates in Asia.

The April 6 Liberation Movement's motives for the ASTA bombing do not enjoy the support of the stronger national democratic movement. But it did score some damage on the government-sponsored programs.

Tourism official Gregoria Araneta has been quoted by the *Far Eastern Economic Review* as saying that the bombings will set back the tourism industry by another 10 years. □

EDITORIAL

The International Association of Filipino Patriots warmly welcomes the founding of the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN). We are confident that this auspicious event will result in greater and more sustained efforts to stop U.S. support for the Marcos dictatorship and to build support for our people's struggle for freedom and genuine democracy.

The PSN is both a new and an old organization. It is old in the sense that it builds upon the work and the sacrifices of members of the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP). Some of them have joined the PSN; others, hopefully, will work with it in one form or another, in the future. The PSN is new in the sense that it distinguished itself from the FFP through its assessment of the current political situation in the U.S. and through its recognition of the organizational changes required by such an assessment.

The identification of a rightward trend in U.S. foreign policy is not a matter of dispute. What has been at issue is the implication of this trend in U.S.-Philippine relations. The PSN position is clearly expressed in its founding statement which says that:

"The 1980 "Carter Doctrine" of increased military spending, reinstatement of draft registration, and open and vigorous support of dictatorships, has had a direct impact on U.S.-Philippine relations. With the upcoming presidency of Ronald Reagan, whose foreign policy is even more hawkish from the outset, it is certain that we will see an even more aggressive defense of U.S. corporate and military interests in the Philippines and throughout the world."

Given this new situation, the PSN

believes that greater attention has to be devoted to base building - to grassroots work among the American people. While the PSN is committed to continuing its educational work in the U.S. Congress and in Washington, D.C., as a whole through the Congress Task Force, it is convinced that this work will have less and less impact without a concerted effort to increase the organization's capability to back up this work with grassroots pressure.

The PSN's carefully worked-out plans for the coming year provide an indication of the seriousness with which it approaches its tasks. The emphasis on building ties with individuals interested in doing Philippine work - on building a network, apart from building chapters where clusters of such individuals exists, shows an organizational flexibility which should serve it well in the coming years. The initiation of educational campaigns on Tribal Filipinos, the situation of women in the Philippines, and on Filipino workers should enable the PSN to reach new sectors of the American public. The plan to give greater attention to media contacts not only in media centers such as New York and Washington, D.C., but also in regional centers such as Chicago and Los Angeles is a welcome innovation.

The IAFP also welcomes the internationalist spirit which informs the PSN's founding. As the founding statement put it: "It is only when we look at the global situation as a whole, as well as the important role of U.S.-R.P. relations, that we can fully understand the tasks that confront our organization."

Finally, the IAFP joins the PSN in calling for "cooperation and joint activity with other groups, whenever possible and appropriate, to further strengthen our movement." □

Priest Arrested for Possessing Slide Projector

The Episcopal Commission on Tribal Filipinos (ECTF) recently revealed that one of their board members, Father Pepito Bernardo arrested September 26 for carrying a slide projector, was transferred to Bicutan Detention Center in Metro Manila October 12.

Father Bernardo, known as Paets or Fr. Pites, was serving at the time of his arrest as parish priest of the diocese of Cabanatuan. He was arrested by elements of the Integrated National Police of Ilagan, Isabela. Inquiries with the military reveal that Fr. Bernardo will be detained indefinitely on unspecified charges of "probable subversion."

Fr. Bernardo was arrested on the evening of Sept. 26 for allegedly carrying "subversive materials." His arresting officer, a certain Patrolman Asuncion, claimed that slide projectors are banned in the area. Fr. Bernardo was then brought to police headquarters where he was searched and printed materials concerning tribal Filipinos and other matters of interest to the ECTF, a commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, were found.

Paets Bernardo, 29, has devoted much of his career as a priest to serving tribal Filipinos. From 1975-77, he worked closely with the Dumagats of Eastern Luzon, among the poorest of tribal minorities. Not only did Fr. Bernardo assist them in learning to read and write, he helped them to understand the nature of their oppression by middlemen who buy their rattan and soldiers who abuse them and rape their women.

The arrest of this committed young priest has been strongly protested by the religious community of Ilagan. Several accompanied him to Bicutan to insure his well-being. The ECTF requests that letters be sent demanding his release to:

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