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We Forum

*To seek
and live
the truth
and share
a vision*

VOL. 13

*

NO. 31

*

(MONDAY EDITION)

JULY 10-11, 1989

P 2 only

IN METRO MANILA

Rising prices could trigger unrest, riots

Armed civilian
units invite
rebel attack



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*Ambush attempts
vs Raul Gonzalez
and solon-wife*

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Inflation rate to hit 22 % ? — Page 3

Filipino
English
taboo
in US

Page 6

WPD's
Diokno
is no
saint
but...

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With escalating prices of prime commodities, most especially rice, the future looks bleak, indeed. Details on page 3. (Roly Embile)

'Boat people' infiltrated by Vietcong soldiers?

By BERNABE PAGUIO

ARE there former Vietcong soldiers among the "boat people" out to infiltrate Southeast Asia?

This question has bothered authorities in Southeast Asian countries after more than a decade of continuous exodus of people from Indochina, particularly Vietnam where Communist Vietcong troopers gave American GIs a hell of a fight during the Vietnam War in the 1960s up to the early 1970s.

In 1979, following the start of mass flights of Vietnamese aboard rickety boats, the *Straits Times* of Singapore reported that "a new wave of former Vietcong soldiers" was among the "boat people" who have left Vietnam to infiltrate Southeast Asia.

The English-language newspaper carried a dispatch from London saying: "Many of these former Vietcong cadres are deliberately infiltrated into Southeast Asia under the guise of refugees either as spies or as fifth columnists to disrupt stability in the areas when the time is ripe."

"This new wave of Vietcong could pose serious secu-

rity problems for the region and in a way confirms Singapore's contention that the refugees are part of Hanoi's overall plan to destabilize and dominate non-Communist Southeast Asia," reported the *Times*.

The paper also reported the claim by the then French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn that the exodus of refugees from Indochina could lead to the collapse of governments in Southeast Asia through subversion by refugees and creation of serious economic and political problems.

Visiting Australia at that time Mr. Stirn was quoted as saying: "There could be internal subversion and very serious economic and political problems leading to the collapse of governments" in the region.

So far, however, nothing has come out of the grave imputations, except published reports of supposed admission by some refugees in Malaysia that they were, indeed, former Vietcong soldiers.

No sanction or censure has been taken against them. They were apparently treated just like any other



A replica of Vietnamese refugees' boat at the Bataan Refugee Center.

refugee, and later resettled to countries which accepted them for permanent residency.

It appears that ideological loyalties have not been officially raised in refugee camps, including the Philippine Refugee Processing Center (PRPC) in Morong, Bataan, northwest of Ma-

nila.

At the PRPC, some 275,000 Indochinese refugees have been processed since 1980. About 260,000 have been resettled to countries of their choice, mostly the United States. Some 160,000 were Vietnamese, the rest Cambodians and Laotians.

There were former soldiers claiming to belong to the old democratic state of South Vietnam which was overrun by Communist North Vietnam some 14 years ago. The processing at the PRPC, however, applied no measures to determine the "boat people's" past affiliations in the military or ideological loyalties in the old divided Vietnam.

It is apparent that humanitarian considerations prevail over the inconvenience of a probe. The PRPC is a showcase of equality in refugee processing and rehabilitation — physical, mental, social, cultural — not to speak of the common privileges of free food supply and housing, among many other amenities of community living.

But a crackdown seems to be in the offing with the impending screening of "boat people" arriving in the Philippines effective immediately. The process, which constitutes a major change in the refugee program, would determine the status and eligibility of each individual for resettlement to a third country.

The screening, it was

learned, is governed by a set of criteria under the 1951 convention of the United Nations General Assembly and the 1967 UN protocol relating to a refugee status. The criteria specifically define the term "refugee" and cover only persons who have been displaced or dislocated "as a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951" and owing to a well-founded fear of being "persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality membership of a particular group..." in their countries.

Those who pass the screening will be accommodated as legitimate refugees at the PRPC in Morong. Others, however, will be encamped in another place, probably in Palawan Island, and may be repatriated back to their countries, it was learned.

Officials hope the scheme, if implemented in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hongkong and other Southeast Asian countries where "boat people" land, could allay their fears of infiltration and subversion by the Vietcong and enhance the refugee program as well.

(Depthnews Asia)

'Just compensation' in land reform law

THE aborted land deal worth P62.7 million for the 1,888-hectare Garchitorena estate in Camarines Sur has generated a lot of mileage in the print and broadcast media, making people wonder how it happened.

According to reports, the land was bought by Sharp International Marketing, a company with P15,000 paid-up capital, for P3.01 million from the United Coconut Planters Bank.

In turn, Sharp voluntarily offered after a month to sell the property for P62.7 million to the Department of Agrarian Reform, under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. The Land Bank of the Philippines, which, under the law, would

have paid for the land, refused to release payment because the land value was very high.

The parties who determined the value of the Garchitorena estate initially claimed that the amount was based on the law, particularly Republic Act 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, signed by President Aquino on June 10, 1988; and Executive Order 229 providing mechanisms for the CARP and issued on July 22, 1987.

It seems that the parties used factors in Section 17 of R.A. 6657 in computing "just compensation" to the landowner, considering "the current value of like property, its nature, actual use

and income, the sworn valuation by the owner, the tax declarations, and the assessment made by Government assessors."

On the other hand, Section 6 of E.O. 229 provides that the compensation to the landowner should be "established by the Government, which shall be based on the owner's declaration of current fair market value as provided in Section 4..."

Section 4 requires landowners to "file a sworn statement in the proper assessor's office" within 180 days after the effectivity of E.O. 229. The statement should contain, among others, the following: description and area of the property; estimated average gross income

from the property; the crops(s) planted in the property and the area covered by each crop as of June 1, 1987; the terms of mortgages, leases and management contracts subsisting as of June 1, 1987; the latest declared market value of the land as determined by the city or provincial assessor; and a sworn declaration of the current fair market value, which the owner wishes to receive if the property should be acquired by the Government.

Drafts of the then proposed Executive Order were worked out by government and non-government organizations before the final copy was submitted to the President.

Even before that, the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, then headed by Minister Heherson T. Alvarez, had submitted to the President the draft of an Executive Order implementing a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and reorganizing

the DAR.

The key phrase in appraising the land to be paid by the Government as a "just compensation" is the "current fair market value" to be declared by the owner, mentioned in the draft E.O., E.O. 229 and R.A. 6657. The June 3, 1987 version of the draft E.O. contained this phrase.

Prof. Roy Prosterman, of the University of Washington, who has been offering his "direct experience" in Philippine agrarian reform since 1968 and his worldwide experience for the last 20 years in land-reform programs in 18 countries, as early as June 19, 1987 warned:

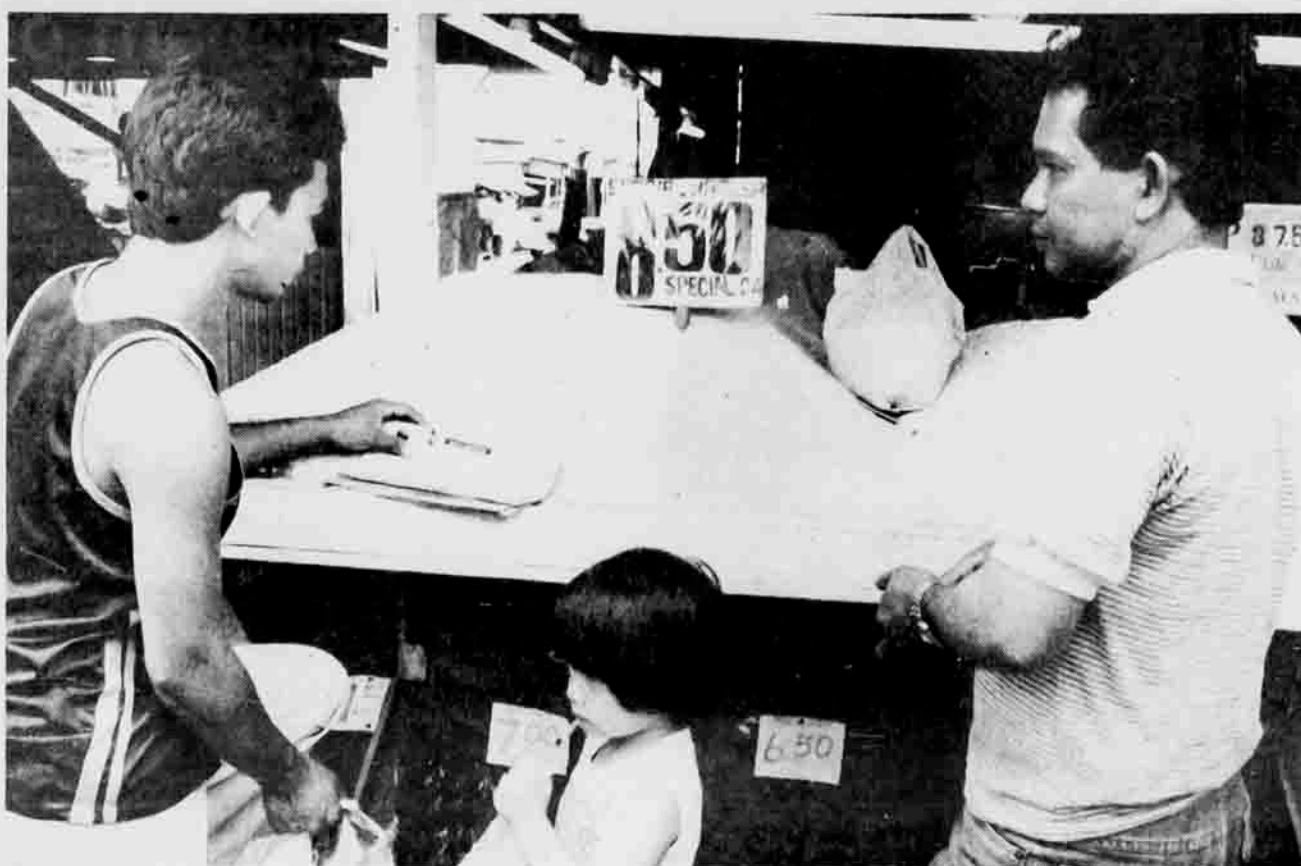
"If compensation is to be based on the owners' new declaration of 'current fair-market value,' the Government had better plan to expend far more than the P25,000 per hectare used for planning... Landowners will identify the land they are willing to sell, or want to sell,

go into the land-reform 'pot,' and will declare very high values for such land (the inhibiting effect of real-property taxes—even with the surtax to be applied later—will not be sufficient to prevent this, in most cases; even if theoretically increased, such taxes are often not collected, and if collected can be passed on to tenants and workers via higher rents and wages.

"This problem will affect lands the landowner wants to get rid of to the Government at an excessively high price, not the lands he plans to keep and pay the tax on."

Prosterman suggested that instead of using "controls to be defined" on which the compensation is based. He proposed a "standard" not exceeding a stated multiple of land productivity.

Under P.D. 27, the "standard" is two and a half times the average gross annual harvest of three years before 1973. (A 73)



Rice store in Quezon City: Price tags keep a-changing.

Price control: Impossible dream

By SOPHIA LIZARES-BODEGON

RISING prices -- even well-heeled matrons fuss about them. Over sirloin steak and tempura, older ones recall how two-bedroom houses could be built for P10,000 in the

"Now P10,000 is only two square meters of land," says a middle-aged woman. "And the P150 we spent in the mid-seventies for a week's groceries including a small dinner party, is only a tenth of what we now spend at the supermarket, not counting the meat and fish."

Comparisons between generations become even more stark as one goes down the economic ladder. As the Philippines enters the nineties, its workers need P150 in daily -- not monthly -- minimum wages to keep their heads above the P5,300 poverty line.

As August and threatened oil price increases come round the corner, greater apprehension sets in. The prices of rice, fish, eggs, sugar, cooking oil and potatoes have gone up even before a new minimum wage

law came into effect and before fuel companies were allowed to raise prices.

Already inflation has been estimated to have hit at least ten percent at the end of the first semester. A National Statistics Office report shows that current increases in the prices of commodities and services are higher than those between June 1987 and June 1988.

Obviously, price control measures, some of them reaching back as far as 1934, have failed. Senator Heherson Alvarez, in his explanatory note to Senate Bill 975 attributes the failure to red tape, too much administrative regulations and graft and corruption. (Filed by Sen. Heherson Alvarez, the bill gives the President power to improve price control measures "during

fifties. Their husbands boast that with just the P150 monthly they used to get as professionals then, they could live a life of ease.

emergencies and calamities.)

In May, fearful that riots triggered by austerity measures in Venezuela, Brazil and a general strike in Trinidad and Tobago, might repeat themselves in the Philippines, several senators drafted several bills to control prices.

"I don't like to raise prices," says Senator Vicente Paterno. Paterno, also chairman of the board of the Seven-Eleven chain of grocery stores, adds "but if costs to produce commodities and to transport them go up and reasonable margins for return on investment aren't met, prices should be allowed to rise."

MEASURES AGAINST SPECULATION

The target of price controls, Paterno insists,

should be speculation, hoarding, and price manipulation.

Paterno, also chairman of the Senate committee on economic affairs, stresses that put together, the new price control bills should work because they are more specific. The measures call for price controls only during emergencies and will cover basic food and medicines. Since the controls may be imposed only during calamities, they would be temporary and set off only by a trigger.

The bills restore the Price Control Council which was abolished in 1979. According to Paterno, the council's response would depend on whether speculation is brought about by anticipated, real or perceived

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This year 22 percent inflation!

By JUAN V. SARMIENTO

INFLATION, the scourge of fixed-income earners and the poor, rose to 9.7 percent in June, said the National Statistics Office (NSO). It will rise by another 10 and 12 percent because of the implementation of the new minimum wage law this July, said the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

This means the inflation rate will hit 22 percent -- the highest level of price increases since President Aquino took power in 1986 -- even before scheduled oil price increase in August.

With a likely 20 percent increase in oil prices by August, prices of goods and services would skyrocket and go well beyond the eight to nine percent inflation estimate of the government for 1989.

Gallop inflation, abetted not only by oil price increases but also by a Letter of Intent which calls for increased water and power rates, would fan unrest among the poor and the middle class, and further erode support for the Aquino government.

The coming political storm has been acknowledged even by two former members of the Aquino Cabinet. Solita Monsod, the former planning secretary who resigned over policy differences with Aquino's conservative financial managers, had warned of "a gathering storm" fueled by the onerous terms of the LOI.

Former Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, meanwhile, has mentioned a "gathering gauntlet" (sic.) which he said will "come alive" when the public reacts to the price increases.

Benigno warned that "the soft underbelly of the middle class will be slashed like mutton in an abattoir" if the forthcoming price increases happen.

"All the dreams and achievements of EDSA could dissolve in a puff of popular smoke if government fails to cope with the gathering gauntlet," said Benigno.

But how is the Aquino government coping with the fast eroding living standards of Filipinos, especially the poor and middle class?

President Aquino has rejected calls from members of the Philippine Congress and other sectors to control prices, saying government would rely on "the free operation of market forces."

Senators Vicente Paterno and Orlando Mercado favor a price stabilization council mechanism to make essential commodities accessible to low-income consumers.

On the other hand, more than 80 multi-sectoral organizations led by the Citizen's Alliance for Consumer Protection (CACAP) and the Church-Based Consumer Movement (CBCM) are proposing an alternative Consumer Code to protect consumers from price increases resulting from expected oil price adjustments in August.

Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion opposes price controls and favors instead the setting up of "vigilante-type" monitoring groups called "Bantay Presyo" to check profiteering.

Concepcion said that if prices of basic goods increase by 25 percent, he would recommend the adoption of price ceilings for 11 basic commodities including milk, GI sheets, flour, notebooks, and coffee.

Recognizing that the August oil price hikes would make

(Next page, please)

shortages.

"If it is a perceived shortage, the PCC could verify supply levels and disseminate correct information. If the shortage is anticipated, the council could import commodities or ship them to provinces where they are needed. If there is a real shortage, the council will clamp down so people do not take advantage of the situation," Paterno explains.

Generally, consumer groups like the Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection (CACP), have no quarrel with the emergency nature of price controls.

Nonetheless, they note that a "state of emergency and or public calamity" still has to be defined. They too would prefer to have a Price Control Commission independent of the Chief Executive.

IMPROVING DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

With Paterno, however, they would even agree that what government must do is to improve consumer access to basic commodities. Jorge Sibal, university professor and a director of the National Economic Protectionism Association, says it is not feasible for government to legislate the law of demand and supply.

"It is better to allocate funds to improve the production and distribution networks particularly of basic needs," says Sibal.

Government must remedy "distribution inefficiencies" like "pervasive tong collection (extortion, usually by police and military men) and poor infrastructure and market facilities," says Paterno. He proposes that the Department of Agriculture be mandated to produce and distribute crops and to provide post-harvest facilities.

Where consumer groups complain about the absence of an agency to address

consumer needs, Paterno recommends the creation of a Department of Commerce separate from the Department of Trade and Industry.

"In both cases (in the DA and the DTI), the departments are torn between two constituencies. Producers want higher prices for their products while consumers demand protection and defense of their rights. In the end the consumer loses out," he explains.

By saying this, Paterno echoes Jaime Tadeo, chairman of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP). Tadeo says: "The solution is to assist both farmers and consumers." Objecting to rice imports, Tadeo says "government should buy the Filipino farmers' palay because we have the grains, and give subsidy to the consumers."

Consumers and Paterno even agree that wage increases and fuel hikes have been used as "an excuse" to bring prices up. "Just as the gasoline price rollback of P1 last year did not bring down prices of manufactured goods, an increase of P1 this year should not bring a disproportionate increase in prices," Paterno says.

DIFFERENCES IN ANALYSIS

The more basic disagreement stems from a difference in analysis of why prices — rather, costs of production and distribution — rise. Paterno insists that it is "distribution inefficiencies" and not so much the removal of subsidies from pesticides and fertilizers that cause prices to rise. "The Letter of Intent is a convenient boy."

Both the CACP and the Church-Based Consumer Movement, on the other hand, charge it is government policy that has caused price hikes that hit low-income consumers directly. They cite the withdrawal of government subsidies to rice

Why food prices are up, up and away



Market vendor: She knows why.

production, public education, power and water generation and supply.

The cuts, according to CACP and the CBCM, are conditions in the country's most recent Letter of Intent to the International Monetary Fund. The LOI, the consumer groups say, is the "singular piece of document that has caused the most miseries to the largest number of Filipino consumers today."

Over the past 27 years, the Philippines has had 20 agreements with the IMF, yet it is poorer than ever, University of the Philippines economist Manuel Montes points out. Peso devaluations, specified under the agreements to make Philippine exports more competitive, have invariably fueled inflation and have cut real wages.

LACK OF POLITICAL WILL

Reflecting government's adherence to IMF strategies is the lack of political will in setting and enforcing price

controls. The results have been serious gaps in resource allocation.

Paterno mourns not only the absence of "somebody worrying" about things like public access to markets. "Government has not gone beyond the talking stage. **Walang sumasalo.**"

Without a champion, money for the establishment of such infrastructures as better production and distribution systems to forestall price increases is not in the national budget. Neither is it included in the Philippine Aid Plan. "We don't even have a policy on how to use foreign aid," Paterno says.

Despite all the fears about inflation, Paterno admits that price control is "not yet recognized in the Senate as a priority. As you know," he adds, "it is a political body."

Nor is it a priority in the executive branch. This week, when the President and the Cabinet listed 12 priority bills for Congress to take up when sessions open late this month, there was no mention of price controls. (PNF)

IN recent weeks food prices have been inching up. The housewife doesn't have to consult the Consumer Price Index. She can only shake her head and wonder how the family can cope.

Paterno soon she will be arguing with a fish vendor about the price of **galunggong**, the country's major fish catch destined for the pot, and she will be told, "If that's what the newspapers say, buy it from them."

In the last week of June the prices of dried fish in Dipolog City's public market were running around P25 to P30 per kilo — half of what they cost in Manila. These prices could be lower if the commodity were bought direct from the producer. If anyone is tempted to go marketing in Dipolog City, the air fare one way, direct flight from Manila to Dipolog, is P1,240 by Aerolift.

The economics of it is rather simple. Everybody knows what a middleman buys from a producer at what is called the farmgate price. The middleman in turn sells the stuff for a profit to a market stallholder. Another middleman may buy out the goods from this stallholder, ship it to Manila and maybe unload these with still another middleman, who eventually distributes the dried fish to market vendors or retailers.

"In the process," RFM Corporation President Augusto L. de Leon says, "it's often the producer who's left holding the bag and the middleman making the money."

"The best way to improve the prices offered to the farmers without making the consumers pay more is to improve our infrastructure and services system so we can reduce cost."

De Leon tells of two Davao farmers, one selling his corn for only P1.40 a kilo and the other at P2.40 a kilo. Comparing notes, it turns

out that the farmer who got less for his corn paid more for the haulage/trucking, since road conditions from his farm to the city were terrible. Farmers in Cotabato can lose 40% to 60% of their harvest due to the absence of roads from farms to highway.

To move the corn from Davao or General Santos to Manila by sea can be discouraging to farmers. It used to cost 65 centavos per kilo to move this commodity from Southern Mindanao to Manila — while the same cargo would only cost 16 centavos per kilo from Bangkok to Manila.

Between the producer and the ultimate consumer are the middlemen, the traders and the wholesalers — and the checkpoints. The food-distribution sector is thick with middlemen.

The collection and distribution of fruits, for example, involves six different middlemen: the buyer (**mama-makyao**), the assembler/trader (**vijeros**), the wholesaler, the exporter's agents (**agente**), the retailer.

The buyer goes to, say, a mango grower and buys up his estimate of the coming harvest. He sells the contract to an assembler/trader, who, when the crop is ready for harvesting, provides packing and transport to the market. The mangoes may be sold to one or more wholesalers or exporter agents. The wholesaler then sells to the retailers or direct to consumers.

The story is much the same for vegetables. Most growers are small farmers and unless organized in co-operatives do not have any storage or marketing facility. What they harvest they sell as quickly as they can to anyone prepared to buy the items.

(Associated Editors)

22 percent

(From page 3)

Government highly unpopular, members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate have come up with proposals to soften its impact.

Rep. Hernando Perez wants to maintain oil prices at current levels by shifting taxes on oil products to liquor, cigarettes, beer and soft drinks.

The Senate on the other hand, wants to levy a tax on

conspicuous spending of certain income groups to increase revenues and improve the cash flow of the government.

Subject to preliminary tax are international travel for business and pleasure, registration of private cars, ownership of lands, houses and condominium units, as well as membership in social clubs.

While Congress is debating whether to shift taxes on oil products to other items, the policy of the Aquino Government is to let the so-called market forces determine the prices of goods and services.

In the meantime, the inflation rate has continually risen, progressively eroding the living standards of most Filipinos.

This means that the Government is responsible for the so-called "gathering gauntlet" (sic.) and will not intervene to control prices because its avowed policy is to let the market determine prices.

This also means that the Government would further lose popular support since its policies, such as the imposition of additional taxes next year and the raising of power and water rates abet inflation. (PNF)

By ERIC S. GIRON

THE idyllic Philippine countryside which used to provide a retreat for harried urban residents has been transformed into a nightmare of violence and massacres after the Armed Forces of the Philippines has given the peaceful villagers guns and the license to kill.

Reports of human rights violations by the rebels do not give the government and the military the right to arm civilians and "go out and shoot whomever they want," Australian Professor Peter Sales of the Internet human rights group stated. "The Philippine military has allowed the arming of anti-communist vigilante groups as part of its bid to defeat the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army. The military is out of the barracks and out of control."

Sales' six-man team found a trend toward urban militarization in visits to the cities of Davao, Cebu, Angeles and Pasay. The para-military units or vigilantes referred to go by the name of Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus) or Civilian Volunteer Organizations (CVOs).

Instead of the firearms protecting the distant sitios against marauding bands of rebels, fugitives and plain bandits, the villagers and tribes like the Manobos and Ubos of Mindanao have become targets of attack.

There was grim determination on the face of a Manobo grandfather who shouldered a rifle to hunt down the communist insurgents who owned responsibility for the weekend massacre of 40 churchgoers in Digos, Davao del Sur, including their daughters and children. But 1,000 evacuees from 150 families fled their homes in Digos after the bloody Sunday attack. The killer group disliked the help given by the villagers to the military and their refusal to feed the rebels.

The go signal for these armed civilian units was given by President Corazon Aquino during her visit to Davao where the Alsa Masa self-defense organization impressed her. (Recently, four Alsa Masa members in Cabaca, Davao were killed in an attack by the rebels.)

ABUSES

While the Cafgu in Davao, Cebu and Negros are actively

engaged in the anti-insurgency campaign, some members misuse their newly-gained weapons in perpetrating abuses. A fact-finding mission of the Commission on Human Rights found in Bacolod alone "173 Cafgu members were dropped from the rolls due to various offenses from murder to robbery."

And yet the Visayas and Mindanao military commands are risking the lives of ill-trained village men to do their fighting against lawless elements.

In fact Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said the P1.9 billion sought in excess of last year's P21 billion defense budget will go to the recruitment of 15,000 more Cafgu members and 5,000 regular soldiers. That would bolster the Cafgu strength from 65,000 to 80,000 and their budget from P384 million to P576 million.

PCHR official Hesiquio Mallillin had a difficult time explaining to the United Nations Human Rights Commission what the Cafgu and the CVO are. He said they were part of the Armed Forces strategy in combating insurgency and common crimes.

"The CVO is purely a neighborhood watch, gathers intelligence reports and conducts neighborhood patrol against common crimes and insurgents," Mallillin pointed out. Its armed counterpart, the Cafgu, is composed of the "active cadre group and the auxiliary group which acts as back-up, assistant helper." The Cafgu are confined within their geographical areas.

Among the alarming trends seen by the six-member team of Professor Sales was the singling out of people at lineups on the basis of moles and hooded men. During the war, such Filipino spies of the Japanese placed bayongs or sacks over their heads to single out guerrillas. They were called **Loros** (Parrots).

Among the six recommendations of the Internet was the immediate disarming of

*Innocent
villagers
are usual
casualties
in clashes*

Armed civilian units invite rebel attack



Armed civilians aggravate the insurgency problem in the countryside.

civilian groups and a halt to the creation of the CAFGU "in as much as these groups are a major cause of the most egregious human rights abuses."

DEATHS IN CEBU

The group mentioned saturation military operations in total disregard of the rights of the area inhabitants. In Cebu, the strafing of Upper Kalunasan in Guadalupe town and the burning of its residences last May resulted in the death of three persons and the wounding of two others.

A young resident of Upper Kalunasan, Rene Munez, 22, single, joined the First Metro Cebu Cafgu last January in the hope of ameliorating the situation of his village. His PC-led Cafgu unit in Guadalupe participated in four clashes with supposed insurgents which proved costly to the government forces.

In the first encounter at

Barangay Calmitohan of a 341st PC Company patrol on May 25, there was no casualty. But in an ensuing clash at Hoya, Baksan, a civilian forest guard and a Constable were wounded. The Cafgu pursuing 30 suspects caught up with the quarry at sitios Inas and Kilat at 2:40 p.m. Then the pursuing group was ambushed at 5 p.m. in Sapangdaku, Buhisan, Guadalupe. Rene Munez was shot in the head with an M-16 rifle, killing him instantly.

Munez's death left behind a grieving mother and his father Julian who said: "We want peace, not endless killings and violence." The PC set up a command post in the Bukato hills as Cafgus of Sudlon, Babag, Malubog and Napo barangays of Guadalupe were alerted after Munez's death.

TOLL IN NEGROS

Reverend Lee Cannan, chairman of the Promotion

of Church People's Rights (Visayas) delivered an impassioned tirade against human rights violations in a Cebu newspaper. "When President Corazon Aquino once claimed 'I have a covenant with God and the Filipino people,' what covenant was she talking about and with whom? Is it the covenant to starve to death the thousands of people from Southern Negros? Is it to deprive innocent civilians of the basic right to life and property?"

"With what god is she covenanting? Certainly not the God of justice and life but of evil and injustice... This government promises to uphold human rights, protect and promote life vis-a-vis its active proliferation of vigilantes, CAFGUs and other instruments of destruction and death.

"The good Christians in the leadership proclaiming themselves devout Christians are expressing their profound love by allowing the desper-

ate military and para-military groups to shell and bomb mountain villages in Sipalay, Candoni and Cauayan, thus annihilating innocent civilians, destroying crops, farm animals and homes and displacing forcibly most inhabitants.

"While the Pharisees and teachers of the Law donate generously in masses, thousands of evacuees, mostly children, are left to die in congested centers with inadequate food, clothing, medicine and other provisions for survival (At least 54 children died of bronchitis at the centers -ESG).

"In the recent mass exodus of 34,000 evacuees, more than three quarters were children. The effect of militarization and the total war approach inspired by the U.S.-supported Aquino government is a solution that further impoverishes an already impoverished people

(Next page, please)

of Negros. Indeed total war must end."

CIVILIAN GUARDS

Armed civilian groups were spawned by guerrilla outfits that disbanded after the war in 1945. The Banal Regiment of the Hukbalahap (**Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon**) or People's Anti-Japanese Army deactivated at San Fernando, Pampanga in 1945 joined the communist resistance against the government.

Their rival guerrilla units banded together for their mutual protection into the nucleus of the civilian guards whom Central Luzon hacienda owners hired to protect their farms from Huk foragers in 1945. The CGs received as payment five percent of the crops. After each harvest, they were partially disbanded but a few were retained as security guards.

Ever since Jose C. Zulueta was interior secretary in 1946, there were moves to abolish the civilian para-military outfits. Central Luzon residents saw only the abuses of these armed men whom politicians used during elections to commit frauds and to intimidate people to vote for their bosses. In Pampanga, temporary policemen were accused of burning municipal buildings where political

rivals were leading in the polls.

But during the large-scale Philippine Constabulary operations in Central Luzon in 1948, the CGs attached to the troops were paid two pesos a day from August 28 out of the P4 million peace and order fund. At one time the government was disbursing P20,000 a day for the CGs. When the government ran out of funds, payment for the CGs was stopped on Feb. 11, 1949.

The CGs would not surrender their firearms to the government for fear of retaliation from the Huks. So the government designated them as temporary municipal policemen and disarmed them gradually after disbanding them. The military feared that the disbanded CGs might join the Huks. Interior Secretary Sotero Baluyut ordered the disbandment of the CGs in 1949.

However, many deactivated outfits were reorganized into Civilian Volunteer or Temporary Police units. About 500 TPs were reactivated by the First Military Area in Nueva Ecija in July 1951 to provide security to farmers in "Operation Planting."

The TPs protected residents of towns bordering the Sierra Madre mountains in Bulacan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija, those on the Pam-

panga-Zambales border and in the Candaba Swamps area.

But others were charged with the reprisal massacre of Maliwalu barrio residents of Angeles whose bodies were never found and other terrorist jobs. In Nueva Vizcaya, 104 TPs were stripped of 104 firearms and disbanded on July 18, 1951 for several crimes. On the same day, 24 San Narciso (Zambales) TPs were deactivated by the PC for being used by a municipal official to maltreat the people.

Up to 1955, the 1st MA commander said he would not disband the TPs until he was convinced the Huk campaign was over. A plan to absorb the qualified TP members into the PC was hamstrung by lack of funds. With the population growing and the AFP's inadequate force to provide security, Central Luzon residents risked the danger of TP abuses rather than Huk attacks.

But as the AFP strength grew and the Huk movement declined as Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay combined massive guerrilla operations with offers of resettling surrendering Huks at Economic Development Corps (Edcor) farms in Cotabato and Nueva Vizcaya, the civilian armed units were deactivated. Mopping-up operations were left entirely in the hands of the military.



An Alsa Masa checkpoint in Davao.

Today the AFP, which is having trouble keeping in check its 165,000 officers and men from involvement in shootings and crimes, plus the 65,000 policemen and some 64,000 security guards, watchmen and private detectives, is arming 65,000 civilian auxiliaries and 15,000 more to be recruited with President Aquino's blessing.

And so civilians playing soldiers continue to be beleaguered and killed in attacks by armed groups. The other Monday, 20 uniformed men riding in a pickup truck splattered with bullets the Alsa Masa police outpost at

Bacaca, only four kilometers from the Davao Metrodiscom Headquarters and killed four.

Instantly slain were Alsa Masa member Reynaldo Torres, Nasser Sayadi, 20, and Yolanda Labis, 36, whose husband, Constable Labis, died at the hospital. Constable Rodrigo M. Torres, 29, was wounded.

The attack could have been in retaliation for the killing of Edgardo Bendigo, under Commander Limbas (Herminio Abellana), in a clash with the 431st PC Company at Tandawan off Tigato at 4 a.m. June 19, according to Metrodiscom

Chief Lt. Col. Franco Calida.

Calida disarmed Alsa Masa member Frank Ruperos of his rifle for remarking that a Sparrow unit had entered Davao City. Calida said such unconfirmed rumors should not be circulated.

How long will the government and the Armed Forces imperil the lives of the civilian volunteers and vigilantes by arming them and exposing them to seasoned fighters of the New People's Army? Whereas before the villagers had found ways to co-exist with the NPA, now their bullets can be answered only with bullets.

Language discrimination in the US

WASHINGTON, DC -- There's a new form of discrimination against Filipinos in America.

Heavily accented Filipino English and language are not accepted in both the public and private sectors in the United States. While the Filipinos' brown skins are admired by Caucasians who go to great lengths to get a tan, their manner of speaking is taboo.

Manuel Fragante, a Filipino in Honolulu, recently failed to get a job in the city's Motor Vehicles Office because of his "pronounced Filipino accent." The Government explained, and the courts upheld it, that Fragante's "oral skills were hampered by his accent or manner of speaking."

Filipino nurses in Pomona Valley Community

Hospital in California have sued the hospital for forbidding them to speak their native language in the hospital premises, even on duty-off hours. Aida Dimaranan, a top official in the Hospital, has lodged a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Los Angeles in an effort to compel the hospital to rescind the order. She says the prohibition is a form of discrimination.

A Filipino civil engineer working in Virginia has failed to win any promotion in a big local firm because of his "inadequate communications skill which is needed in his job." Some Filipino doctors and lawyers with heavy accents do not have as many patients and clients as whites mainly because of

Heavily-accented Filipino English taboo in public and private sectors

By ALBERTO M. ALFARO

language difficulties.

New immigrants, particularly those from the Visayas and Ilocos, have a hard time making themselves understood to the average American. Although some are college graduates, their English accents make them incomprehensible.

Although there are more than one million Filipinos and some 20,000 organizations in the United States, no one has tried to solve the problem by setting up speech centers. Instead, they blow up tens of thousands of dollars on such trivialities as

Miss Philippines, Mrs. Philippines, Little Miss Philippines contests and parties where Filipinos tend to meet and communicate in the native tongue.

These organizations have encouraged Filipinos to withdraw into their shells instead of assimilating themselves into the American body politic. "Socializing with Americans could go a long way toward improving the Filipinos' ability to communicate," observed one Filipino lawyer here. "This disadvantage has aggravated the Filipino's inferiority

complex."

Strangely enough, second-generation Filipinos born and raised here encounter no such problem. Neither are they suffering from inferiority complex despite their brown skins. Some of them often correct their parents' English and consider themselves Americans. They often resist their parents' attempt to teach them Filipino. A son of a Filipino recently turned down his father's invitation to visit the Philippines, saying, "I don't want to visit that Third World country."

There is a continuing debate in the US Congress about whether to teach a second language in schools or to translate the ballot into various languages to encourage more participation in the political process. In some

states, Spanish is being made part of the school curriculum, official communication and the election process.

But those who oppose a second language say it is the immigrants who should learn how to speak English, not vice versa. "We should require prospective immigrants to know the English language," said one congressman.

Some observers believe this is one of the reasons why Senator Edward Kennedy and other senators filed a bill shifting emphasis from family relations to work skills as a requirement for future immigrants. A scholar commented that current immigration laws had resulted in the lowering of the American standard of living. (**Associated Editors**)

European excursion

BY this time, the lady President will be in West Germany on the first leg of a week-long Western excursion that will cover three countries in Europe. This will be the ninth time she has traveled abroad in about three-and-a-half years and since she was catapulted into the Presidency by the freak accident of people power. If she were not begging on such trips, she could easily qualify as this part of the world's No. 1 jet-setter, rubbing elbows with the rich, beautiful people in the most glamorous and luxurious watering holes. She will be impressed by the celebrations of the French Revolution's bicentennial in Paris, the capital, where she will stay as official guest for four dizzying days, and then hie to Belgium to discuss, presumably in French, the weather, exceptionally warm this time of the year, with that country's reigning monarchs.

Forgotten during the dreamy tour are the relentless problems of "widespread corruption, government mismanagement, simmering communist insurgency, and continued high population growth that threaten to soak up the money." These are the words of the Asian Development Bank in a report issued just last week predicting an alarming slowdown in the growth of the Philippine economy despite the assistance package pledged in Tokyo. Plus the uptrend in oil prices, high interest rates and wage increases, even our own Central Bank doubts if the country can register any appreciable economic growth this year.

What she hopes to accomplish in this European junket is as nebulous as her agenda. Her trumpeteer claims the visit will drum up business and trade by cashing in on a reservoir of international goodwill simultaneously with her efforts to expand contacts and broaden foreign policy which traditionally focused on the United States. But what businessman in his right mind will risk his millions investing in this country? How can he cope with the clear and ever-present possibility of being kidnapped, the anarchy in the streets, the administrative red tape, the grease money he has to shell out to the greedy politicians and government officials? Who can run such a gauntlet except the foreigners connected with drug syndicates, passport forgers, gun-runners, smugglers and those whose businesses are anything but legitimate? Many foreign legitimate investors have already discovered to their dismay the ordeal of running a business in this country and under this government and left in a huff to bring their money elsewhere.

A Philippine Air Lines jet to be piloted by PAL's most experienced vice-presidents had been placed at Mrs. Aquino's disposal. In an effort to fool the people, her take-off last Saturday night has been reported as just a regular flight. With more than 50 barnacles making up her entourage as passengers, it must indeed have been as regular as any flight can be.

Mrs. Aquino probably never heard of such a thing as proper timing. The country's dwindling dollar reserves do not endorse any foreign trip at this certain stage of our history. There are a myriad of grave problems to address at home, repeating them is tedious exercise. Worst of all, it buttresses the Philippines' international image of mendicancy, especially right after the Tokyo pledging session. No country has begged as much as we did from the global community.

But Mrs. Aquino must have her way. She will squander millions of precious and borrowed dollars to impress Western Europe with her fluency in French, which is what this excursion is really all about.

C'est la vie.



WPD's Diokno

ONE day in 1962, while still a greenhorn reporter of the old *Times-Mirror-Taliba* chain of newspapers, I hitched a ride with a young Manila police corporal who was then assigned in the Central Market area. While we were cruising Quezon Blvd. on our way to the police precinct, we heard screams of a woman-victim of a snatcher. Immediately, the two of us jumped out of the jeep and dashed after the suspect whom we saw fleeing towards a sidestreet. After a brief chase, we collared the suspect and brought him to the precinct for investigation and booking.

A few days later, the snatcher was released from jail and I learned later that the case filed against him had been dismissed by the courts.

Surprised over the turn of events, I conducted my own investigation and learned to my chagrin that there had been similar cases of suspects beating the law, courtesy of certain judges of the Manila city court. For a month, I probed deeper into Manila's courts and the local judicial system and with the help of that young Manila police officer, broke the lid off a flourishing racket that made a mockery of justice and law enforcement. My series of exposes on Manila's court-fixing personnel gave me one of my first two journalism awards.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

My memory shot back to the past after reading the appointment of Col. Ernesto "Totoy" Diokno, to the position of Deputy Superintendent of the Western Police District, vice Col. Johnny Lagasca who retired last month.

But what's the connection? Well, the young police corporal who arrested the snatcher was "Totoy" Diokno.

Since that time, Totoy and I had been inseparable in many memorable crime coverages—from the Lucila Lalujigsaw murder case to my exposes on other crime syndicates.

While some may consider Col. Diokno not exactly a saint, (I know he has some faults both as a man and as a law enforcer), his track record in WPD is quite impressive.

As the current number two man in the country's premier police force, he will have to hone up on issues that not only affect peace and order but those that bear on human rights and meaningful police-civilian relations. Manilans can't afford mediocrity and insensitivity in these changing, critical times.

We Forum



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OUR DAYS



by F. T. OCAMPO

Stealing is good business

STEALING never seems to take a breather in this country. Right after Garchitorena, we had the Philippine National Bank, then the Customs bureau. Now we have the Armed Forces Logistics Command where some P5 million has been lost to the government reportedly through overpricing. At this very moment, there is a practically unknown government agency where ghost deliveries are paid for, where office stationeries are overpaid by 100-200 percent. In the regime of the dictatorship, one heard of an automotive repair shop where all the garbage trucks in Metro Manila were sent for repairs, courtesy of the Metro Manila Commission. It did not matter if the trucks needed repair, or just a simple replacement or tightening of an old, overused screw. The trucks had to undergo some mending just so the shop owner will be paid -- and how excessively -- for "extensive repairs and spare parts."

The same was said of the street lights in the main highways of the metropolis. Again by courtesy of the MMC, the contract for replacement of the defective bulbs was given reportedly to the same lucky fellow who never knew anything about electrical installations. Nevertheless, he had a number of unserviceable bulbs replaced with new ones, but presented the MMC with a bill that claimed he replaced practically all the bulbs of every lamppost in the highways. With his connections, there was no question about collection.

Under such "business" conditions, it was extremely easy to become a millionaire.

Like the PNB dispersal of stock, purportedly in obedience to the government's privatization program. If you are tipped beforehand, you can buy shares of stock at P170 which you can unload in a few days for P307 per share, or a clean profit of P137 per share. And if you are a member of the PNB board, you can purchase as many as 30,000 shares. What a racket. No wonder some well-placed government officials and politicians, families and brokers and friends were reportedly able to make millions without sweat. Whatever they say against Sen. Ernesto Maceda, he has rendered signal service to the people in exposing the billion-peso swindle at the PNB.

Even during the dictatorship, the Logistics Command at the AFP has always been the most lucrative. It was behind every major scam you could think of in the whole military establishment which included the army, navy and constabulary. If some air force officer wanted to make a hundred thousand, all he had to do was

(Page 14, please)

Another scandal in the British royal family

WINE, women and song! They have long been a staple in politics. It is the women of course who make the world go round in the field of politics. We are all familiar with the French expression, *cherchez la femme*. Look for the woman. She has built empires and demolished them.

Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Madame de Pompadour, Joan of Arc, Wally Warfield Simpson, even Imelda Marcos. They are all a part of history. Mark Anthony, the Duke of Windsor, John Profumo, Gary Hart, John Tower and Sousuke Uno, they have had their women problems.

It is the British throne that has of late made the headlines again with the dalliances of the royal family. Of course, it all started with the Prince of Wales, Edward. Many years ago it was Princess Margaret, the queen's only sister, and her Captain Townsend. Now it is the queen's only daughter, Princess Anne, who is much involved in a scandal. And her husband Mark Phillips, as well.

It appears that four letters were stolen from a desk in the private apartment of Princess Anne and they turned out to be sizzling love notes exchanged between the princess and a dashing naval officer, Royal Navy Commander Timothy Laurence. Laurence, a 34-year-old soft-spoken hunk who sports a bright red MG sports car, had told 38-year-old Anne: "I love you, but I know we can never wed."

Phillips, on the other hand, has admitted he knew Pamela Singh Bordes, the famous \$2,000-a-night call girl. Pamela won the 1982 Miss India title. According to *Life*

magazine, she "propelled herself into a job as a high-style call girl. (Adnan) Khashoggi, she says, used her as a sexual gift in deals. While a researcher at Britain's House of Commons, she had liaisons with many prominent men, and London is in an uproar over Bordes's five 'black books.' They list her dalliances and the friends she met as a social climber. Among those photographed by her side: Queen Elizabeth's son-in-law and Speaker of the House Jim Wright." Wright, of course, is now just an ex-Speaker.

Now for Princess Anne's romance with the hired help. Says Star magazine: "Commander Tim Laurence had always cut a dashing figure at the palace -- upstairs and down. In his Royal Navy uniform, the 34-year-old sailor had quickly become the Buckingham Palace pin-up. The insider says: 'He was popular with all the women who worked there. He was always chatty in a charming, slightly flirty way and a couple of the younger maids were quite smitten.'"

"So was Queen Elizabeth's only daughter, Princess Anne, 38, who first met Laurence a few years before he came to work at the palace when he was serving aboard the royal yacht *Britannia* as assistant navigating officer. Tall, soft-spoken and charming, he seemed the perfect royal aide. The polite young officer was soon popular with all the royal family. Princess Diana liked him a lot, too, and just two months ago was spotted kissing him goodbye after they had shared lunch together at a London restaurant. As Anne keeps an apartment at the palace where she stays during the week, she

POLITICS & POLITICOS



by ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

inevitably saw a lot of the new equerry."

There were times, it is reported, when Laurence and Anne would disappear into the woods around the royal estates and spend hours alone together. The young equerry would slip into the princess's office which was adjacent to her bedroom. And Anne spent more nights there than at Gatcombe Park, the home she shared with her husband of 15 years, Capt. Mark Phillips. When Laurence got sick, Anne went to visit him at his Victorian terraced cottage in Hampshire.

Princess Anne always carried Laurence's letters in her briefcase rereading them at night. "The insider says: 'Night after night the subject of Anne's romance was the subject of gossip in the servants' dining room. Maybe someone was furiously jealous and decided to get revenge by stealing the letters from Anne's office at the palace.'"

Now that the love letters have been blown into the open, what does Anne's mother, Queen Elizabeth, have to say? Capt. Phillips is ignoring the stories, saying

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'Snap elections'

(Editor's Note. Professor Gonzalez has always advocated snap elections for president and vice president of the Philippines. He believes that both Cory and Doy have not been duly and democratically and legally elected, something which Doy himself often says. Cory came out recently saying that a snap election is her prerogative as president. Let's see what Gonzalez has to say.)

Q. PROFESSOR, what do you have to say with regard to Cory's remark sometime ago that only she, as President, has the option to call for a "snap election"?

A. Her major premise is wrong, she is not the *de jure* President, that's why a "snap election" is needed to legitimize her being president.

Q. You mean, she's not President? Why then do other nations call her "Madam President"?

A. Well, *Idi Amin* was once called President, until he was ousted. And *Marcos* was treated by the US State Department as President, until the last few days of February, 1986, when it was thought that he was an embarrassment to President Reagan.

Q. Do you think Cory will remain "President" for long?

A. Who knows, *Marcos* remained twelve years longer than he was supposed to. Have you ever tried to ask a squatter when she's going to leave?

Q. Harsh words, Professor. You mean

Cory is not supposed to stay in Malacanang?

A. Don't ask me, all you have got to do is go there and ask her to show you the papers saying she had been elected democratically. You know, just as you'd go to a squatter and say: "Ito ho ba ang bahay at lupa ninyo?" The sheriff does it all the time.

Q. You think the sheriff can ask her that?

A. Yes, but he'll not be sheriff after that.

Q. What's the solution?

A. Well, let her sit in Malacanang if that makes her happy. History will judge her, the way it has judged *Marcos*.

Q. Can't the people do something to change her democratically?

A. Not that I know of. Look at what has happened in Beijing, China. The students and the people wanted to change the incompetent politicians on top and they got massacred. Remember the farmers some years ago who demonstrated too in front of Malacanang and Cory's guards shot straight at them and killed twelve?

Q. Yes, I do. Just like what the Chinese soldiers did, wasn't it?

A. Don't say that, Cory has Chinese blood according to her. She might sue you.

Q. What do you think will happen in China mainland after how the soldiers were ordered to kill four thousand students and civilians?

VIEWS & INTERVIEWS



by SALVADOR ROXAS GONZALEZ

A. Sooner or later those politicians who are guilty of the crime will be told to pack up and leave. Watch. People are beginning to be tired of politicians who think they own the country.

Q. Do you think Cory thinks she owns the Philippines?

A. She behaves as if the whole country were her hacienda, managed by her, her relatives with Mitra and other sip-sip politicians as her "kasama". The Army seems to have become her security guards.

Q. Speaking of Monching Mitra, is it true that his LDP party is the "party" of Cory?

A. How can it be, it just came into existence recently? The political party that fought *Marcos* is the *Unido* of Doy Laurel, combined with the traditional *Nacionalista Party*. Mitra's LDP is an infant compared with the NP, even with the financial help of Peping. Cory's brother and Mitra's backer for the time being. In the time of *Marcos*, it was Danding who was Monching's backer, the cousin of Peping, so I heard. Monching

(Page 11, please)

Ambush attempts against me and my wife

LAST week Congresswoman Pacita Gonzalez launched the second artificial reef program in Bgy. Amungan, Iba, Zambales. A month ago I presided in the launching of the first project in Botolan. Hopefully we can restore the habitat of the fish in the coastal areas of Zambales which will be boon to the marginal fishermen who eke out their daily bread from fishing in these waters.

Last June 26, we also inaugurated several kilometers of newly asphalted road which will benefit about 5 barangays in the municipality of Sta. Cruz, namely: Bgys. Balitok, Longos, Sabang, Biay and Baeto. This asphaltting cost P2 million. This is another project which has made the boastful governor of Zambales green with envy; he even wants to claim it as his own. In fact he has been claiming that the projects of my wife are his and people are laughing at his back. **Akala nito mabobola ang lahat ng tao sa Zambales.** My wife also inaugurated several new school buildings constructed through her efforts in the Inhol Elementary School in Bgy. Inhol, Masinloc, after which another school building was inaugurated in Bgy. Culiati, also in Masinloc.

Still talking about the governor, it is said that he is leaving for Taiwan, or must have already left. I think he was one of those

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

invited by the Taipei government for orientation together with other local officials. In fact I and my wife were also invited to Taiwan for probably the same purpose together with other congressmen. But Deloso brags to those who care to listen to him that he was sent by President Aquino **daw. Gusto mag pa importante.** I recall that in 1986 when the President went on state visit to the US, I was in the Presidential party because I was part of the Saguisag Panel which discussed with Westinghouse lawyers about the nuclear plant; with Saguisag and me was then COA chairman Guingona. After Washington, I was made adviser to the Philippine delegation to the ASEAN Ministers' conference in New York. But I never bragged about it. Governor Deloso was with us because I took him along. I found out recently that he was telling people in Zambales that

he was Cory's "advance party". What a tall tale, indeed. In fact he could not have even gone to the USA if I did not bring him because then Minister Pimentel refused to allow him to leave "**dahil may kaso**" but I insisted that I wanted to take him along and Pimentel allowed it. I just want to put things in their proper perspective.

*I wonder how Senator Rene Saguisag reacted to the scandal in the Senate about a Senator's escapades with the daughter of another Senator which caused the girl's pregnancy. It is the talk of the town. I was reliably informed that the culprit Senator and the hapless father had a *confrontasi* inside the office of Senate President Salonga and the aggrieved senatorial dad boxed the lover boy. *Nakakahiya! Pero what can we do, di ba "kapwa ko mahal ko"?* So Rene what gives?*

By the way, how often have you dialed a PLDT line and heard a voice on the other end saying "the number you dialed is not yet in service", even though the phone is in working condition? The other day I dialed my office phone twice and each time, I got that answer. And since I know my phone is working I dialed again and got my secretary on the line. In fact this was not the first (Page 15, please)

WOMAN SENSE



by PURA SANTILLAN-CASTRENCE

National dignity

WASHINGTON D.C. -- It must have been noted by many people that while most of the Latin countries condemned Noriega for Panama's recent fraudulent elections and massive official irregularities, they were careful to ask President Bush not to intervene militarily in Panama. The Latin countries also want to be allowed to deal with their regional problem, by having a big hand in the solution of the Panamanian problem.

The desire to be left alone is further seen in the offer of some sister Latin countries to give a home to Noriega in exile. It was a signal that the Latin countries did not want him gotten "rid of" as harshly suggested in the reported Bush instructions to Panamanian officials and Armed Forces, but safely put aside to prevent him from doing any more harm.

Nicaragua's angry stand against US intervention, which was dismissed innocuously by the United States when it reached International Court of Justice is a continuous strident, indignant cry. The communist bugaloo is the US reason for its interference.

Yet, it will be recalled, that even democratic Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, asked President Reagan to allow the few Central American countries to solve their peace problems with their own peace plans. The Nobel Prize Committee gave due and merited credit to the brave and earnest work of the Costa Rican President and awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace to President Arias and not to President Reagan. Even leaders of El Salvador, a definitely accommodating client state of the United States, have been heard on TV talk-shows to make such unconsciously ironical remarks as their gratefulness to the United States that it had allowed them a free hand in their elections.

From Palau, a small voice had expressed once the same plea of national dignity; New Zealand's more powerful voice alienates her somewhat from her friend and neighbor, Australia, which, every so often, also shows resentment of American untoward intervention. Philippine protest in this regard is divided too, because we Filipinos have different definitions of genuine nationalism. But the protest crosses to Western Europe, which strives to be free of US hegemonic influence and interference.

It cannot be a puzzle that there is a wave of anti-Americanism in the world now. Even friends of the United States want to be left to themselves to determine their fortunes. A friendship based on will-domination cannot last for long. Human self-pride will erode it.

Meet Madrid's mayor

"AT this moment (1989) Madrid, with Berlin and New York, is one of the three most vital cities of the world.

"We in Spain live in an era of scientific and technological advances never enjoyed by mankind in history."

The gentleman who spoke in these glowing terms is Sr. Juan Barranco, present mayor of Madrid. He is tall, slim, gentle and soft-spoken. His manner is serene, and his words are precise. In other ways he is like Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson of Manila. Frank, incorruptible, honest, courageous and decides problems with speed.

His tall, lean figure; his blue, tranquil eyes, his placid countenance, altogether give the impression of Christ in an old church.

Barranco is most exhilarating and glowing when he talks about the technological progress of Madrid and Spain. "Our industrial progress is rapid," he said. "We are kneeling before the automobiles."

Another popular Barranco in Spain goes by the ordinary name of Maria. She is svelte. She has a graceful and scintillating air. Maria Barranco is a famous movie actress of Madrid. She has played dramatic roles, can act a sophisticate or a plain "llanera." She handles them with equal versatility because she is talented. She likes particularly classic stories of the Romance languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian).

I am not related to the Mayor of Madrid or the superstar of the contemporary Spanish movies. Not even remotely. Our family name, according to my elders who traced our roots, apparently comes from some

traders or civil and military servicemen who came from the region called Los Barrancos, nestling astride Spain and southern Portugal. Those servicemen went first to Mexico for training in colonial administration before they were sent to the Philippines.

This is as far as I could go on my genealogical tracing. Some of those silk and bullion traders on the Acapulco-Cavite galleons and the colonial soldiers and administrators may have strayed to Iloilo province, the last official outpost of Spanish rule after Dewey's and Aguinaldo's troops had conquered Manila. From Iloilo, the bearers of the Barranco name may have gone far inland to Janiway, Cabanatuan, Mangil, and other sitios; but my tracking of my lineage ends in those places without actually establishing the conclusive connection with Mayor Juan Barranco and movie star Maria Barranco.

At any rate, even if my search for our real roots did not bear satisfactory results, I derive some vicarious pleasure that the bond of identity with the two famous Madrilenos has been established by incidence of name. My father Pedro Barranco y Armada was also mayor of the big town of Janiway four times. He had good public relations. He was a serene person, quiet spoken, also, sincere and frank, a man of integrity, and a very good administrator. He had always time to listen to everybody who came to him, be he a barefoot farmer or a well-dressed, visitor.

His countenance, high nose, because he was somewhat a Spanish type, could also create the impression of Christ in an old church, like his namesake, the mayor of

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

Madrid.

Tracing ancestral roots is a good pastime, and it could be a rewarding, too. There are cultural and bibliographical centers in Madrid and other cities all over Spain which trace the ancestry of families in Hispanic countries like Filipinos. (Page 15, please)



Mayor Barranco of Madrid

Preparation for and conduct of trial (24)

5.10.7. Identification Witness

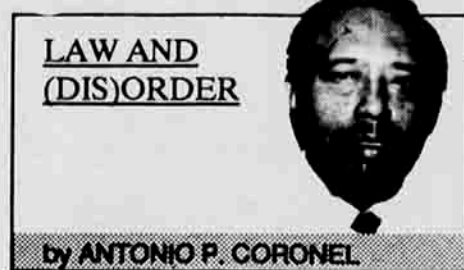
IN many instances the entire case against the accused will rest upon the testimony of the identification witness.

This witness is probably the most hostile of all prosecution witnesses; he will probably impress the court as being sincere and honest. Always expect that he will positively identify the accused.

The courtroom identification of the defendant should be demonstrated as worthless. Point out that the witness was already prepared to pick out the defendant because the latter was seated at the counsel table or at the prisoner's bench. He saw the defendant there when the trial began. He saw the defendant there when he entered the courtroom before he took the witness stand. It is only natural that he will pick out the defendant as the person who allegedly committed the crime.

Point out conflicts in the testimony of different prosecution witnesses. Pin down the witness as to time, circumstances and opportunity he had to observe the person who committed the crime. Bring out, if possible, conflicts and discrepancies in the testimonies of all witnesses who were present. Each witness will probably agree substantially on the first description they gave of the culprit—the clothing worn, facial character, height, size, etc.

After having a witness pinned down as to the description he gave to the police, ask him if he gave information about the voice, the height, size and shape of the face, com-



LAW AND
(DIS)ORDER

by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

plexion, physique, jaws, nose, forehead, description of the clothing or anything else. Be sure to pin him down completely on the description. "Was there anything else you said with respect to the description of this person?" Then you might conclude as follows: "Well, that particular description you gave me may fit the general description of any number of people. Isn't that correct?"

Demonstrate the witness' poor memory. Ask the witness what persons have interrogated him since the case started. He will usually refer to detectives, police, assistant prosecutors and various others. Then ask him to give a description of each person who interrogated him. You might ask him to describe what clothes the officer-on-case wore at their last meeting. You might have an office associate sit briefly in the courtroom shortly before you proceed to interrogate the witness on matters of memory. Then, during the course of your interrogation, have the witness describe in detail what your office associate looked like, pinning him down to specific details. Fi-

nally, if the witness says he didn't observe these things, end this line of interrogation.

Complainants who were not familiar with the defendant prior to the commission of crime are vulnerable to effective cross-examination. Your questioning should concentrate on the impediments to proper identification which were present at the time the crime was committed. You should elicit the facts of poor lighting conditions, the speed with which the crime was committed, the witness' opportunity to observe the culprit, and the witness' state of mind at the time in question. If the witness is completely confident of his identification and refuses to recognize the possibility that he may be in error, you are afforded the opportunity of later arguing that he is a person who is willing to let an innocent man be convicted rather than to question his own ability to perceive events.

Inquire whether or not any photographs were shown to the witness, and when they were shown. Then develop that the image of the photograph became impressed on his mind, and in identifying the accused in person, he had in mind the image of the accused on the photograph. Thus, this was not an independent identification of the accused, but an identification influenced by the photograph.

If there was no lineup and only the defendant was present, emphasize this. Show that the defendant was actually selected by the police to be identified. You

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SA LOOB AT LABAS



by ANDRES CRISTOBAL CRUZ

Kontra-terorista

NOONG Enero, ang US State Department ay nag-sponsor ng seminar para sa dalawampung Pilipinong sibilyan at militar. Crisis management ang inaral sa San Luis Obispo sa California. At di kasi libre ang lahat. Ayon sa mga nagturo at tinuruan walang kaalam-alam ang Pinoy sa crisis management ng hijacking, piracy, hostage-taking atbp. Walang alam sa paghahanda, sa organisasyon at lalo na sa armas pangkontra-terorista. Kaya isang elite team ang nagbalik sa Pilipinas.

At di kasi may nagbenta ng armas at teknik. Nagkaroon ng rush preparations sa pagtatag ng mga kontra-terorista (Di kasi, sa counterinsurgency, ang terorista ay NPA). Isang komiteng pitong tao ng DND-AFP ang inutusang gumawa ng mga patakaran. Nag-echo seminar ito sa AFP Command and General Staff College para sa mga militar at police.

Hindi kataka-taka kung bakit bago umalis ang Pangulong Aquino ipinalat ang balitang ang NPA urban sparrows ay sasalakay. Kung magkaroon ng terrorist situation, kwidaw. Sa mga praktisan, kapos ng dumum na may kamahalan din. Kung elite swat teams, siyempre maraming fringe benefits, marahil. Lalong mahal ang uniporme. At laluna ang mga kargada.

Nakapagtataka sa marami bakit nagkakamatayan ang mga opisyal na pulis sa Metro Manila. May kaugnay ba ito sa mga bagong tatag na kontra-terorista? Hindi naman siguro. Sa insidente sa Lucena sa mga inarestong taga-WPD? Patuloy ang pa-imb-estiga ni Gen. Alfredo Lim. Ang NBI marami ring sinusundan na leads. Ang sabi ng isang kaibigan sa WPD, oo nga may elite teams, pero ang militar, madalas sila ang gustong magmando ng lahat.

Ang mga opisyal na sibilyan na pinag-seminar ng US State department? Sometimes their lips are sealed, di bala!

Magkano kaya ang binili at bibilhin pang mga kasangkapang pangkontra-terorista? Pali yata si Speaker Mitra ay

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The maleficent seven

TTA CORY ordered the filing of charges against the seven Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) officials implicated in the Graftchitorenna scam.

The "Maleficent Seven" are under fire.

If proven not guilty, they will be dubbed as "The Magnificent Seven."

If found guilty, the seven will go to jail. Where they belong?

Two of the seven are Undersecretary Salvador Pejo and Undersecretary Jose Medina, Jr.

I said Pejo and Medina and not "Pay Who" and "Made Na."

All the officials except Medina were charged with dishonesty.

This honesty in the government is spelled D I S H O N E S T Y.

Headline: "\$14 billion pledged for RP until '92."

Our debt-ridden Philippines is really an expert in the art of begging.

This manna from heaven is spelled M O N E Y.

But this \$14 billion aid promise is very fragile.

Because promises are made to be broken.

The Tita Cory government is planning to build 103 new hospitals.

But where are they going to get the nurses?

In her first two hours as DAR secretary, my idol, the mirific Miriam became an instant Tita Miriam to the employees.

Cheap? No. Just "cheap-cheap."

Miriam announced that all DAR officials and employees will be required to punch their cards.

Or Tita Miriam will punch them.

Miriam, the exterminator is also a workaholic. She intends to repeat for work at 7 in the a.m. and leave the office not earlier than 7 in the p.m.

It will be a 12-hour work-work-work for the workaholic workhorse.

Miriam is, like a jeepney driver. Jingle lang ang pahinga.

Agrarian reform is the centerpiece of Tita Cory's administration.

While Miriam is the centerfold of the Aquino cabinet.

A DAR official said: "Many of the DAR employees, for 22 years, were used to just relaxing, dozing off, coming to work late. How can we change that?"

PUNNY LINES



by FUNDADOR SORIANO

Don't "change that." Change them, stupid.

These lazy DAR employees who had been dozing off for 22 years should be fired immediately.

Give these dozing off employees a dose of their own medicine.

A reader is requesting this corner the names of Dolphy's (Rodolfo Vera Quizon in his prolific life) 16 children.

Here they are: 1. Manny Boy, 2. Freddie, 3. Edgar, 4. Rollie, 5. Sahlee, 6. Dolphy, Jr., 7. Ronnie, 8. Eric, 9. Madonna, 10. Jeffrey, 11. Mariquit, 12. Dino, 13. Sonny, 14. Edwin, 15. Rommel and 16. Van Dolph.

The 17th is already in the making through the collaboration of Zsa Zsa?

Dolphy sired his 16 children from five women and countless nights ago.

Central Bank bossman Jobo Fernandez says that our country needs \$4 billion in foreign loans to achieve this year's eco-

nomie growth targets.

The Loan Ranger strikes again!

The starving millions' message to Jobo: "Booooooooooooooooo!"

Jobo has succeeded in selling our body to his Lord and Master, the WB-IMF.

Now the guy even wanted to pawn our soul.

Mayayaman lang ang nahikinabang sa sinasabing economic growth ng gobyerno.

Katulad nina Joe Concepcion, Cesar Buenaventura, Jobo Fernandez and the rest of the Gang of Trent.

Gabriela's stand

LAST Monday, July 3, women from GABRIELA and artists from Artista ng Bayan (ABAY), BUGKOS and SINING once again marched from Liwasang Bonifacio to the US Embassy attempting to voice out their protests to the continued maintenance of United States military bases and facilities in the Philippines, emphasizing on the threats posed by nuclear arms, the presence of which is now confirmed by our government itself. And once again, we have been shabbily treated and forcibly stopped from holding our peaceful picket in front of the US Embassy gates by Filipino policemen zealously "guarding" the American compound.

So once again we must question where lies



Gabriela members in a recent rally.

the responsibility and loyalty of our men in uniform. Certainly it is becoming more and more evident that they are ready to defend the US Embassy at all costs, resulting to all forms of repression -- violent dispersals, individual detention, mass arrests, and harassment of rallyists -- and taking as adversaries even ordinary civilians out on the streets only to exercise their inalienable right to free speech and assembly.

Three of our artists from ABAY who were in the rally have subsequently been arrested (released after five hours) for mere possession of harmless pyrotechnic materials used in the artistic expression of nuclear blast effects on the Filipino people. Indeed it is so sad to note that in contrast, the Americans who are and have for years been

storing nuclear arms and explosives in their bases within our territory, threatening the whole nation with total annihilation, remain unchallenged by our own government and in fact overly protected by our own police and military forces.

Women and artists, cognizant of the interests of the Filipino people, reiterate our demand for the immediate dismantling of US military bases and facilities in the Philippines. We maintain that these bases bring death and destruction to the Filipino nation, plunging our women and children into hopeless prostitution, exposing us all to nuclear holocaust and ensuring continuous US intervention into our political and economic affairs.

Again and again, we will all militantly march back to the US Embassy to air our legitimate demands. No truncheons nor bullets could stop us from fighting for the peace and prosperity of our future. Until all vestiges of US encroachment upon the Philippines will finally be completely expelled.

LIZA MAZA

GABRIELA National Deputy Secretary
General

Corruption and poverty

EXPLICIT in the launching of the National Coalition for Transparency (NCT) is its full awareness that the suffocating stench of rapacity, immorality, incompetence, and vindictiveness continues to choke the people.

This quartet of national ills cannot be compartmentalized from each other because each breeds the three others. Like the dreaded Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (war, famine, pestilence and disaster), the four aberrations also go together, packing mean wallops along the way.

President Aquino was therefore short of her main target -- crooks in government -- because in her speech before the NCT she did not bother to dwell against the three other evils. Is it because she did not want to accentuate anymore what were also obvious?

At any rate, the NCT should be given the benefit of the doubt. We trust that it considers all four evils as inseparable and should be tackled collectively. Here's why:

Immorality breeds graft and corruption. The Philanderer occupying a government position, for instance, has to lie, deceive,

cheat and steal to maintain his illicit relations with his mistress or mistresses, which he cannot do by relying on his income alone.

Incompetence encourages and abets graft and corruption. Crooks are quick to plunder the treasury due to the mismanagement, mistakes or non-vigilance of incompetent functionaries in public office.

Finally, vindictiveness whets the appetite of those in power to grab more and more from opulent political enemies. Officials in the Presidential Commission on Good Government are excellent examples of the tendency to yield to temptations.

Again, note the conspicuous connection: the Philippines was ranked by the Singapore-based Political and Economic Consultancy Risks, Ltd. as Asia's third most corrupt nation, while a United Nations agency listed it as the world's sixth poorest country. The more corrupt a nation is, the poorer it also becomes.

FELINOR M. YERRO

303 R. Aquino Street
Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

now they couldn't find out who.

Q. Yes, but you have not answered me, Professor, is Doy the man to succeed Cory?

A. Why do you ask that silly question, without Cory, Doy would have been President when the Filipino people ousted Marcos. The lineup was Gerry Roxas, Ninoy, and Doy, and the first two had died. How did Cory come in? If it were Doy who died and Celia became President from nowhere, how would Ninoy have felt?

Q. I didn't look at it that way. What else do you want to say, Professor?

A. Ninoy was a good friend of mine, he would have been a good President. Instead, his "cook" took over.

PEOPLE'S FORUM



No to Nukes

THE Senate should immediately investigate the reported presence of deadly nuclear weapons in the US bases, which the US neither confirms nor denies.

As former ConCom Commissioner Ed Garcia said: "It is like having a guest in your home who does not inform you that he has dynamite sticks with him. And then, you light a cigarette and your house explodes..."

Being free from nuclear weapons is declared to be a state policy in the Constitution ratified by 76% of the people.

NO TO NUKES!

DAVE TABANIAG

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Winnie's fan

I HAVE always admired Mrs. Solita Monsod for her progressive stand of "selective repudiation" of some of our country's foreign obligations and it is saddening to know that she resigned as NEDA chief.

Although President Corazon Aquino commended NEDA's key role in making the Philippine economy surge to a quite impressive performance since Monsod took over NEDA in 1986, I find it rather ironic that the President allowed that department to be dismembered by the Philippine Assistance Program body so that the latter can pursue its objective with no one from the Cabinet opposing. Is it because of the very influential and powerful tandem of Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez Jr. and Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme or the World Bank-IMF, or both? Whoever or whatever the reason is, it is only indicative of the conservative technocrats' continued hold on our economy. It has always been the case, and perhaps would always be. Technocrats are the victors in the struggle for dominance over our foreign-dependent economy.

In the light of this development, it also shows or proves how desperate the Aquino government is with regards to having the aid package from foreign capitalist donors. The administration tends to allow almost everything, even letting a well-respected economist's, like that of Monsod's, professionalism and expertise go down the drain just to acquire that assistance.

ARIEL R. ALBIS

2100 Santissima Trinidad St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Batibot: A good start

BATIBOT's special on environment is a good start to promote environmental consciousness among our children.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is in the right direction in its campaign of educating first the youngest. I have three children, ages 5, 3 and 2, and I've observed how they enjoyed watching Batibot. I was astounded to see my children picking up easily everything the show presented.

I also would like to suggest that a bill (if there is none yet) including an environmental subject in the elementary curriculum be passed into a law.

The alarming state of our environment should not be taken for granted. The thinning of the ozone layer due to excessive use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) from hairprays, air freshener, insecticide, refrigeration, etc. is lamentable as this protective outer layer of the earth acts as a barrier to sun's radiation that may cause skin cancer. I have started convincing my friends to talk against all products using CFCs.

LUCILA C. RAMIREZ

Tayabas St., Tondo
Manila

Salvador GONZALEZ

(From page 8)

knows how to play ball.

Q. I didn't know that, Professor, is that true?

A. Where the hell have you been all these years? Anyway, Mitra believes that if Cory won't run in 1992, he will, as President. He's got a lot of air in his head, and very little else.

Q. What do you think, will Cory run again in 1992, Professor?

A. Run as President in 1992, how could she? She hasn't been elected yet.

Q. Well, precisely. If she had been elected already she wouldn't be able to run for a second term as President in 1992. But if she hasn't been elected yet, then that would be her first term and she wouldn't have to change the 1986 Constitution to run. Get it?

A. That's a clever remark. By gum!

Q. Do you think Doy Laurel will have a chance against Cory in 1992?

A. It's about time Cory stepped out of the political scene, quit. She has already delayed the progress of the country too long with her incompetent administration and corrupt followers. They say there is only one intelligent man in her cabinet and up to

Cordillera war: AFP outscores NPA

By MAURICE B. MALANES

BAGUIO CITY -- Based on its body counts, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has outscored the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) in the recently launched and still ongoing anti-guerilla AFP offensive in the Cordilleras in northern Philippines.

The Cordillera NPA, however, seems far from being out of action despite the offensive, part of the AFP effort to win a "war of quick decision" by 1992.

In response to the AFP Cordillera Regional Command's (CRECOM) region-wide offensive **Operation Pakilala**, the underground Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF) recently declared a **fetad**.

"A **fetad** (total mobilization) is a heroic tradition among Cordillera indigenous peoples in which everyone -- man, woman and child -- gird themselves for struggle against enemy attacks on their communities," said a recent CPDF statement sent to the local press signed by Kinufat Kerol, said to be the newly-elected CPDF chairman.

After a 40-day operation involving airborne troop and ground attacks, Cordillera Regional Commander Col. Juanito Aquias reported recently that **Operation Pakilala** was a "success."

The score, he said, included 45 NPAs killed and three others captured. On the government side, he said seven Constables, five Army soldiers, two policemen and two paratroopers were killed.

Col. Aquias also said that three towns in Abra province and three villages in Kalinga-Apayao province had been "liberated" from NPA control.

As with the AFP's **Operation Thunderbolt** on Negros island in central Philippines, however, the military offensive in the Cordilleras has wreaked havoc primarily on the lives of noncombatants.

Some 217 families from the nearby villages of Tabuk town in Kalinga province,

for example, had to leave after their villages were bombed and strafed by helicopters.

At least three children died of various illnesses during the evacuation.

Some Tabuk evacuees returned home recently, but **Operation Pakilala** is expected to last six months, even a year, the military said.

Similar incidents of forced evacuations occurred in the towns of Sagada and Bauko in Mt. Province. Village folk in Dandanac village, Besao town, also in Mt. Province, have also been "hamletted," or relocated in military-controlled artificial communities.

Noting the impact of the AFP offensive on noncombatants, CPDF said the "Cordillera people will not take these sitting down."

"The revolutionary forces under CPDF will fight back in the time-honored tradition of **fetad**," said Kerol.

Home to a million indigenous Filipinos called **Igorots**, the Cordillera upland region is the pilot area for the Aquino government's regional autonomy program intended to correct a long history of injustice and neglect.

But CPDF said the government's regional autonomy program was a "sham" because vested interests in Congress and among local politicians have made the program worthless.

CPDF chairman Kerol charged that the "US-backed Aquino regime" is not sincere in granting real autonomy to the Cordillera because "it has declared the whole region a war zone."

"Many Cordillera people know that the organs of democratic political power which **Oplan Pakilala** intends to crush are the seeds of the revolutionary autonomous region which the Cordillera people are already in the process of establishing through their direct efforts," said Kerol. (PNF)



Muslims in prayer: Elusive peace.

Mindanao tribesmen torn by insurgency

By E. P. PATANNE

WHEN the full story of the insurgency in Mindanao is finally told, it won't come as a surprise that the island's tribal communities had suffered the full brunt of the war.

In the first place, the insurgency has been fought largely in the backwoods--in remote hill and mountain areas, the high ground in guerilla warfare. To the rebels of various stripes the support of tribal communities is imperative; their proselytization is necessary. The Government, too, knows the critical role the tribespeople could play in counter-insurgency. Tribal loyalties have therefore been often divided.

Behind the massacre of 39 Bagobos in sitio Rano, barangay Binaton, in Digos, Davao del Sur, by an NPA band reportedly led and made up also of tribesmen is a hidden dimension in the Mindanao conflict: tribesmen pitted against tribesmen.

A rough estimate puts the number of Mindanao ethnic groups outside the Islamized population at close to a million. The Manobos are the most widely dispersed of the indigenous inhabitants and constitute the biggest grouping. They are found in Agusan, Surigao, Bukidnon, Davao and Cotabato provinces. There were 73,000 Manobos in the 1939 census and in 1960 the count was 47,000--suggesting either a high deathrate or their absorption into dominant lowland groups.

The Manobo family of languages includes the Agusan Manobo, Ata, Bagobo, Binokid (Bukidnon Manobo), Cotabato Manobo, Dibabawon, Kulamanen, Ilianen, Sarangani Manobo, Tigwa-Salug (Central Manobo) and Western Bukidnon Manobo. Considered a separate grouping are the Bilaan, Tagabili ang Tiruray; then the Subanuns of the mountainous Zamboanga peninsula, the Mandayas of southeastern Mindanao, the Tagakaolos and Kulamans along the Davao Gulf coast.

Since the American period, detribalization (usually conversion to a religious faith and assimilation into the ways of a larger population) has decimated the native population.

Originally mostly pagan or animist, these hill and mountain groups in embracing a new religion for the most part retained their traditional ways and continued a tribal lifestyle in isolated villages. Their economic life depends (or depended) on swidden agriculture, hunting and food gathering. Where they have had sustained contact with a dominant, lowland Christian group, they tended to enlarge economic relations and adopt the language of the larger group, in this case Cebuano.

Of the various Mindanao groups, shifting cultivation, dispersed settlement patterns, art styles, clothing and religious orientations are fairly uniform throughout the area.

The anthropologist Laura Watson Benedict had observed: "The tribal population of eastern Mindanao was characterized as warlike, in that headhunting was a major cultural focus, which in turn was the basis of political leadership. Among all these groups--Mandaya, Bagobo, Manobo, Bilaan, Tagakaolo-- the **magani** (**bagani**) held positions of great social and ceremonial importance."

The **magani**/**bagani**, "brave men" or warriors, acquired their special stature through personal valor, fortitude, physical strength and a certain charisma. "Under culturally prescribed conditions," the taking of human life (including the cutting of heads) was sanctioned. The **bagani** complex is said to have withered in the 1920s.

John Garvan, writing in 1931, said, "Preoccupation with vengeance is the chief theme of Manobo life, embedded in a culturally elaborated complex in which the warrior chiefs played an important role."

Into this tribal setting lowland Christian Filipinos from the Visayas and Luzon, immigrants all, brought their own beliefs, some born of folk religions. These now integrating tribal practices would see the emergence of **cults**. Cult formation was both a response to an unmitigated conflict and a defensive reaction. The Mindanao **cults** have become fortresses and headquarters of armed followers. There are

about half a dozen **cults** in Mindanao preaching a folk Christian faith and usually headed by a priest-warrior. Add to these the "lost commands," retired or renegade military officers holding out in hill or mountain "forts."

Amid all this, Catholic and Protestant missions already entrenched in many hill areas continued to carry on their work of proselytization, seemingly undaunted by a conflict that Army and Marine brigades carried out against the NPAs and Muslim secessionists.

The Communist ideology represented a form of religion that certain religious leaders sold on the doctrine of the "theology of liberation," preached to the benighted upland population. During the Marcos period, Government repression was a most convincing line that was used to win over tribal loyalties. Also exploited were the latent hostilities that the highlanders have nursed against the lowlanders and the Government or its agencies.

The NPAs armed the tribes they had indoctrinated; the Government distributed arms to tribesmen it had won over to its side. The MNLF also pressed the indigenous into its ranks. Logging companies and large-scale agro-industrial estates hired out armed groups for security. Each mining company was also an armed camp. Add to these the civilian volunteer or vigilante groups--and the politician-warlords. (Associated Editors)

PAGCOR:

The Philippine Amusement

& Gaming Corporation

What it is all about.

An Economic Ally

As an official casino management arm directly under the Office of the President, PAGCOR commits itself to being a dependable economic ally by supporting our government's national economic recovery program. The government's share from casino earnings are then utilized as a major source of funds envisioned to finance the government's priority projects and programs.

PAGCOR continues to demonstrate its reliability as a major source of income for the Philippine government by allocating 5% of its monthly income to the Bureau of Internal Revenue as Franchise Tax and 47.5% of its gross monthly revenues to our National Treasury.

A Socio-Civic Partner

PAGCOR aims to help fight and fund the war declared by President Corazon C. Aquino against poverty, malnutrition and other social deprivation.

A series of social consciousness projects and assistance programs have been launched in an effort to share 27.5% of its monthly income with the sick, malnourished and indigent sector of Philippine society.

Along the lines of its declared corporate objectives to uplift, upgrade and alleviate the plight of the less fortunate Filipinos, PAGCOR commits itself as a socio-civic partner by being the government agency responsible for bridging the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

A Tourist Attraction

PAGCOR provides that revenues generated by casino operations would create recreation and integrated facilities which would expand and further improve the country's existing tourist attractions by establishing alternative venues for gaming amusement and entertainment.

With its revitalized and goal-oriented marketing efforts, PAGCOR envisions the influx of more foreign tourist arrivals into the country as well as the increase of much needed foreign currency into our monetary system.

Joining hands with the tourism sector, PAGCOR commits itself to being a major tourist attraction by maintaining world-class gaming outlets in several key cities nationwide. Both the domestic and international travelling markets are ultimately enticed to visit the country's various exotic provinces as major areas of destination especially within the Asean region.



Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

PAGCOR HOUSE 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD MANILA

I'm no meddler-Philip

THE filming of Bonanza Films' "Turoy Delima" has been completed but lead actor Philip Salvador's "war" against some of his co-stars still rages on. Some observers say the misunderstanding is getting more serious with the involvement of more stars, particularly those who portray the role of Philip's brothers in the movie like Rey PJ Abellana, Bobby Zhornack, Efren Reyes, Jr. and Robin Padilla. Until now, Philip could not forget the accusations hurled at him.

"They say I was the cause of delay in the shooting which I think is a little bit unfair. They also say that Marianne de la Riva (his leading lady in the film) walked out of the set because of me. That's not true and Marianne can attest to that (an interview with Marianne later proved that she did not really walkout). **May mga lumalabas pa nga riyon na binubuwaya ko raw 'yung mga eksena** because I was afraid na matatakpan ako. Lhar, kilala mo naman ako, hindi ko gagawin 'yon. Ako, hangga't maaari, kung eksena mo, eksena mo. If you need my help, I'll be there, maski wala sa 'kin ang kamera, nakaharap ako sa 'yo. Kung ano 'yung inaarte ko sa take ko, 'yon ang iiaarte ko sa take mo para lang mabuo 'yung rapport between the actors."

Philip also denied the reports that his director Pepe Marcos was also complaining because of the actor's attitude. "**Hindi siguro mangyayari sa 'min ni Pepe 'yun** because we are very close. We have worked together talaga. There are times when he asks me to help him in doing some scenes. I didn't know that this offended some people when I tried to help. **Ang sa akin naman**, when they see themselves in the

movie, saka sila magsalita kung nakatulog ba ako o hindi.

"**Ang totoo nga niyan pinadagdagan ko pa ang mga eksena nila dahil gusto ko bawat isa, may highlight para mas bumigat ang roles nila. Eh mukhang pagtalikod ko, iba ang nakakarating sa akin. Iba na ang sinasabi nila sa mga tao. Sana naman, du'n sa mga nakasama ko, kung may sama kayo ng loob, sabihin ninyo ng harapan. Para tayong mga hindi lalake niyan, eh.**"

This year's Super Model of the World-Philippines search gathers 21 gorgeous young women from all over the country. The winner in this fabulous and exciting glamour event will be the country's representative to the 1989 Super Model of the World International competition to be held in Los Angeles, USA on August 8.

Beautiful young women from different regions like Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Bicol and Pampanga are among the aspirants. The winner will get the biggest break into the glamorous world of international modelling. She will receive over P150,000 worth of prizes plus a substantial modelling contract with Silverstar Communication, Inc.

One of those who are vying for the title is actress-model Melissa Perez Rubio. It will be recalled that she first planned to join the contest last year but she backed out. There were rumors then that it was her boyfriend Richard Gomez who ordered her to get out of the contest. Melissa denied those reports, however.

"I backed out because I felt I was not ready yet, I was getting into showbiz and I wanted to give my full concentration to acting. I feel that this is the right time for



Melissa Perez Rubio: From movies to modeling.

me to join the competition. I missed this one last year and now, I want to see what I missed."

Being active in modelling does not mean, however, that Melissa is closing her doors to showbusiness. She says it really depends on the outcome of the contest and also the kind of offers she will get. "I have given time to acting and now, I am giving my priority to modelling naman. I don't want to say that I'll never go back to showbiz. Baka

Ernesto RODRIGUEZ

(From page 8)

"Scandal? What scandal? There is none."

An observer of British life, Sir John Junor, says: "There is much praise for the princess' courage. Might there not be even greater praise if in the future she kept her hands off the hired help?"

I think that, after all, that jackass who said that we are a rich country pretending to be poor, was right. Just scan the list of the

police investigators before you identified or picked out the defendant at the police station that they should put the suspect in a line or with a group to see if you could pick him out of the line or group of persons?"

You can effectively end your cross-examination as follows: "So you looked at this defendant and he was the only one there. Is that correct?" You will thus climax the inference that no one else could possibly have been identified because the defendant was there alone.

If there was a lineup, try to demonstrate that the persons in the lineup were not of the same height, age, general appearance

there a case of protection in De Villa's action? Or complicity?

And who would ever believe that even donations to flood and fire victims, orphanages and food centers will be the object of greed by some government functionaries? But this was what happened at the Bureau of Customs where some P14.5 million worth of material and food donations to recent victims of natural calamities were allegedly stolen by the bureau's people themselves, with the connivance and participation of some outsiders. You would think the nobility of purpose behind the donation has insured it against felony. As it turned out, it was a bunch of customs men themselves who planned the elaborate operation and

FIZZ BIZZ



by LHAR SANTIAGO

mamaya, bumalik din ako. I'll just make my decision when the time comes," she said.

Melissa noticed that just like in the movies, intrigues are common in the fashion world. She says however that intrigues in showbiz have made her tough, "**kaya ang mga intrigang nakukuha ko sa fashion world eh minamani ko na lang.**"

Speaking of intrigues, what's this we hear that Melissa is playing sweet music with Purefoods basketball star Jerry Codinera? Reports say they are often seen together in parties and in other happenings.

"No comment," Melissa told me. "I don't wanna say anything. Bakit na naman? Manggagaling na naman sa akin. Why don't you ask the guy? Kasi no'n nag-comment ako, sino'ng napahiya? Ako rin, di ba? Kaya, no comment na lang ako ngayon."

members of President Aquino's delegation to Europe. Are these people going out on an excursion? Why the wives and why so many? Aren't they afraid that the whole world would think that we are awash with money that we can afford that size of a party? Senator Enrile is right in saying that it is an excursion. Aren't we making the host countries uncomfortable about the number of people they have to cater to? I can only imagine the gales of laughter that will follow them all the way from one party to the other. We never learn.

Nakakahiya!

and racial backgrounds as the accused. Show that the defendant was not permitted to select his own position in the line. Point out that there was no written or taped recording taken of questions, answers, and statements of all persons who participated in the lineup.

Of course, the defendant is entitled to have counsel present at the lineup. That is part of the right guaranteed by Art. 10, Sec. 20. Further, you may establish that an identification made by a witness, even if not violative of his right to counsel or right against self-incrimination, was made under circumstances so unfair as to amount to a violation of due process.

maneuvered and facilitated the withdrawal of the foreign donations by faking release papers and documents.

All these cases simply spotlight government impotence or disinterest in arresting or eliminating graft and corruption in the government. Unless it has been pushed to the wall, as in the Garchitorena case, it cannot seem to summon enough political will to provide an example and inject fear into the hearts of the crooks, old and new. At this stage in time, many are beginning to be convinced that only the NPA can do the job. It is wild justice but justice just the same. It reminds you of that so-called judge who pronounced a life sentence on a man who sold five sticks of marijuana.

Antonio CORONEL

(From page 10)

may argue that any identification made of your client without a lineup or any identification made from a photograph at which he was not represented by counsel is violative of his rights under the due process clause.

Develop specifically the discussion that the police and/or detectives had with the witness the day he was taken to the police station to make his first identification of the defendant. Inquire as to whether or not a lineup was held at the police station. ASK the witness if he knows what a lineup is. If

the witness does not give a proper description of a lineup, then you describe it to him as follows: "Men are put up in a line. The victim looks over the line and tries to pick out the guilty party."

Have the witness relate exactly what took place from the moment he arrived at the police station until he finally identified the defendant. Emphasize those factors which the police had dwelt upon that caused him to make his identification.

Point up, as follows, the unfairness of not having a lineup: "Did you say to the

trated by the military.

Thus it was not surprising that the Command had to be involved in the overpricing of 84,622 uniforms for members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU). Reportedly paid for at a cost of P289.04 each, reliable documents showed that each uniform should cost only P229.26. With an overprice of about P60 per uniform, the AFP incurred a loss of more than P5 million in the transaction. What has not been sufficiently explained is why Chief of Staff Renato de Villa allowed the "retirement" of the logistics head a month before his compulsory retirement date and just a week after military investigators unearthed the anomaly. Is

Fabie OCAMPO

(From page 8)

destroy a few square meters of runway. Since no plane could take off unless that portion was repaired immediately, a negotiated contract had to be sought. With the connivance of the logistics officer and the auditor, the destroyed portion was approved for emergency repairs at a cost of P100,000. Actually, any construction engineer would tell you that the job, using the best materials, could not go beyond P10,000. This actually happened. As in ghost employees and confidential agents, the Logistics Command was always central -- as the auditor -- to every hoax perpe-

Public pulse on 'Sa Kuko ng Agila'

By ELENA ANG

THE anti-US bases film *Sa Kuko ng Agila* (In the Eagle's Claws) may not have lived up to its promise of being a great political commentary on the US bases in the Philippines. But the crowds which came for the movie's premiere, held on the eve of July 4, which used to be Philippine-American Friendship Day, apparently loved it.

They came from a broad range of the Philippines' political spectrum and cultural tastes. Government officials, students, anti-bases and anti-nuke activists chatted with society matrons and plain Joseph Estrada fans and movie aficionados. Some RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement) members glumly waited for the two legislator-stars to arrive, while nuns and professionals stood wide-eyed at the glitter and finery in Cubao's New Frontier Theater lobby.

Most hooted and howled after a two-and-a-half hour wait for Senator Joseph Estrada and his leading lady, Congresswoman Anna Dominique Coseteng. But they quickly settled into their seats as the two appeared with the usual police bodyguards.

Like any other movie, "Kuko" attracted criticism as well as praise.

Of particular interest, however, was the crowd that gathered to see the movie, the movie crowd being but a reflection of the way society thinks or is affected by a significant issue.

"Mababaw" or "malalim" (shallow or deep)—they were in fact all there. And what they said about the movie suggests what many Filipinos are thinking about the US bases.

Raul GONZALEZ

(From page 9)

time such 'crazy answer came out after I dialed other working phones. Ganoon ba kainefficient ang PLDT? No wonder Congresswoman Lorna Verano Yap had a field day attacking this giant phone monopoly.

Last Saturday, June 24, the vehicle of my wife was fired at by unknown persons while it was speeding home under heavy rain Bgy. San Agustin in Iba. The PC went to investigate but without results. Luckily my wife who was inside the L-300 was unhurt; this was about 7:00 pm. Last June

Vic BARRANCO

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Argentines, Mexicans, Cubans, and even Americans, for a fee, of course, of five or 10 US dollars. I had mine traced. My family in Iloilo was a branch of the Hidalgos (nobles) of southern Spain, who are predominantly Moors, according to a genealogical source.

Everytime I am on a visit in Madrid, the first thing I would do first for fun was to open a telephone directory and read a list of the Barrancos. There is a music teacher, a real estate broker, a plumber, a musical in-

Some of their comments:

Dr. Frank Arcellana, Chairman, No to Nukes:

The US bases and nuclear weapons in our country are very, very bad for our health. So we should get rid of them as soon as possible.

"Kuko" is also an action movie, so it's for general entertainment at the same time it carries a very strong political message. Since the hero is Senator Joseph Estrada, whom no one can call a communist, this will erase the communist label stifling the struggle for a sovereign and free Philippines. Senator Estrada will be helping the anti-bases struggle immeasurably.

Boots Ayson Jumat, housewife, balik-bayan, lobbyist and political exile in Washington D.C. for 12 years who returned after EDSA:

I hope this film will help educate our people. I don't believe we will ever be sovereign, for as long as America and its bases are here.

John Cavanagh, American political analyst:

We are really looking forward to this movie, because we think it has the potential to get the anti-bases message across to a much broader number of the people than can be reached by magazines and newspapers, by the traditional ways of conducting education. From what we've read of the movie, it apparently does a very good job of telling the human impact of the bases, which is one of the important reasons for Filipinos to oppose these bases. We think it

can be a tremendous instrument in the whole battle against the bases both here and in other countries.

Farley Legaspi, 21, student in Electronics and Communication Engineering:

I'm sure many will see this film because of the currency of its subject. I came to see Joseph Estrada, who's been my idol since I was a child.

Sister Nerolinda Tingzon, OSA:

We would like to be enlightened and would like to know the situation of our country and perhaps respond to it accordingly, how we can be of help in becoming sovereign and free. We will recommend this film to our students and have it analyzed. It will be a movie that will be analyzed in the context of social orientation and involvement.

Because this is about an issue that involves Filipinos and how the US bases affect us, this movie will help them decide.

Elmer Perlas, Insurance Agent:

As Nikki said, it's not a hard-sell anti-bases movie, so it's not very thorough. Filipinos will like it because they like action films, and Erap has his own followers.

Col. Rex Robles, Reform the Armed Forces Movement:

It looks ordinary. It did not live up to the hype or publicity. It's not very conclusive. Production-wise it's mediocre. The color was bad, the sound was bad. It turns out that this is a fight among Filipinos, not against the bases. It has no incisive message.

26, around 9:30 pm, while I was returning home from Masinloc, my back-up Hi-Ace was fired at in Bgy. Bulawen, Palauig. Several shots were fired, my PC escorts said some shots were from an M-14 rifle. My security returned fired and saw several men running away from the scene and into the woods nearby. I asked the PC command to investigate and they discovered what appeared like a foxhole at the scene and a pair of slippers was recovered plus some empty shells. Thus between June 24 and June 26, my wife and I were fired at mysteriously twice. I am convinced that NPAs have nothing to do with the firings—either to really ambush us or just to scare us. But this is no longer a joke, our political enemies

strument dealer, and several more.

The telephone directory in Madrid is practically the same as the Manila telephone book, because of the names one finds in both, which are strikingly the same.

My family relationship with the mayor of Madrid, the Spanish movie actress, the rank-and-file of those in the Madrid telephone book, is only coincidence of name, I believe. But the affinity among us which really matters and is significant, is the sharing of the same love for Hispanic culture, language and art. The name we can discard, but not the identity of worship and values.

must be planning something naughty. But they don't scare us a bit so, let's hope they put a stop to their plans before someone gets hurt. These two incidents have followed two other incidents when my vehicles were roadblocked. First in Bgy. Panan in Boto-lan, then in Bgy. Macarang in Palauig.

Significantly, a former member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Zambales told me how he listened to a high provincial official attack me and then said: "Salita ng salita sila tungkol sa ambush, baka mamaya sasamplelan ko sila ng tunay na ambush." So it is good to ask: were those shots fired at my wife on June 24 and at my convoy last June 26 his samples?

Andres CRUZ

(From page 10)

magpapaseminar din para sa constituents niya sa House. Dapat naman, sa uring mga batas na ginagawa, at sa laki ng kanilang mga klinikita (hindi sinusweldo na pinagpaguran) marami na talaga ang galit sa kanilang mga naturangang kinatawang nagiging mga "kawatan." Unfair ang ganitong paghuhusga. Okey, may elite SWAT teams na, may mga vigilantes pa, at mga CAFGUs. Pati ako inuutusan minsan ni Ret. Col. Magsino ng NDCP. Sumulat po kayo



Rizalina Oteyza, College of Education, Far Eastern University:

I learned the reasons why the bases should be removed. I would recommend this to my students. That's why I saw this movie -- because I really don't know what's happening in the US bases.

Lina Jose, Bacteriologist:

I learned that whatever is happening in the Philippines, whether economic or political, is connected in one way or another to the US bases.

A government official:

No comment, and can't comment. (PNF)

First the Garchitorena land scam which involved some high officials and even a senator. Now another scandal is erupting and seems to engulf even Speaker Mitra. Wala na yatang katapusan ang escandalo sa gobyernong ito?

One day, it was a police colonel in Cainta who was ambushed and killed; just a few days later, it was the Chief of Police of Paranaque, also a colonel. Last week, Makati police chief Herminio Taylo was killed in an ambush. All these are taking place in Metro Manila where the biggest concentration of peace keeping forces is found. I wonder what Senator Lugar will say now?

tungkol sa kaibahan ng sibilyan at militar authority.

Patuloy ang militarisasyon. Lalo na sa mga lalawigan. Full-scale military operations ang ginagawa. Heavy mortar shelling, gunship strafing. Damay pati mga sibilyan. Ngayon, itanong: para kanino ang militarisasyon? Ang mga elite counterinsurgency troopers—ang ilan sa kanila—ay nag-lisip. Sino ba ang ginigiyera namin? Sino ang tunay na terorista?

Cory's approach in European tour

PRESIDENT Corason Aquino will use the political approach in settling the Philippines' foreign debt on her visit to West Germany, Belgium and France.

Mrs. Aquino will also try to strengthen bilateral rela-

tries to a multilateral aid program for the Philippines (popularly called here the Philippine Assistance Program or Multilateral Aid Initiative in the United States).

The Chief Executive will meet with President Richard von Weisaecker of West Germany, King Baudoin of Belgium and President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Michel Rocard of France.

In Paris she will meet the heads of state of the "Group of Seven," composed of the United States, Italy, Japan, West Germany, Britain, Canada and France. In her apparent recognition of the political solution to the debt problem, she will ask these leaders to take the initiative in reducing the foreign debt of major debtor-countries, including the Philippines.

The Aquino Administration has been criticized here for trying to settle the foreign debt problem in the traditional and classical way—that is, by negotiating directly with foreign creditors, particularly the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and commercial creditors.

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday afternoon arrived in Bonn, West Germany to begin a one-week European visit which will take her to key German cities, the French capital of Paris and Belgium.

The President, accompanied by Cabinet members and Filipino businessmen, will start a series of talks with top German officials and businessmen on investments, trade and other economic opportunities. She will stay in Germany for three days.

tions, particularly trade and industrial ties, in her meeting with the heads of state of the three countries and European Economic Community leaders in Brussels.

She will also follow up the contributions of these coun-

We Forum

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IN METRO MANILA

Peace Motorcade

Concerned citizens from Metro Manila held a motorcade yesterday to condemn the spate of urban terrorism victimizing ranking police officers and civilian officials. The caravan ended at Liwasang Bonifacio. (Roly Embile)



Rights lawyer's close brush with death

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya — A human rights government lawyer of this northern Philippine town had a close brush with death last week after a suspected informer shot at him twice but missed.

Lawyer Warlito Maranon, a member of the government Civil Legal Aid Office (CLAO), was having

lunch in an eatery here with some staff of the church-based human rights group Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) last July 6 when one Hector Ambatali came in.

Witnesses said that after the eatery owner's son introduced Ambatali to the lawyer, the former allegedly said: "Sige, ituloy yo ti

panaglaban yo ti gobyerno ta ituloy ko met ti panagpaltog (Go on fighting the government and I'll shoot you)."

Ambatali pulled out a .38 caliber pistol and fired two shots at Maranon. Had the eatery owner not pushed Maranon aside, he would have been hit, witnesses said.

The TFDP staff told the Baguio City-based northern Luzon human rights organization that Ambatali was allegedly a military informer opposed to the activities of human rights groups.

Police authorities are investigating the incident. (PNF)

Fr. Romano remembered

By LILETTE SANTOS

CEBU CITY — The anniversaries of missing persons are perhaps the most difficult to commemorate. Unlike in death where the rituals of the vigil and burial help the bereaved to cope with their grief, relatives of missing persons don't know the fate of their kin.

This is the predicament of those who still wait for Fr. Rudy Romano.

The 45-year-old Redemptorist priest was abducted four years ago on July 11 by military intelligence operatives in Labangon, a suburb five kms. from this city.

Fr. Romano was one of the many "disappeared" during the Marcos period.

"We share the anguish of Rudy's parents," said Fr. Ramon Fruto, vice-provincial superior.

"It is an anguish difficult to describe in words. One has to feel it to understand it. It is a mixture of frustration, hope and the inevitable sadness connected with having a member of the family missing."

Fruto said the Redemptorists are frustrated because nothing has been done about the Romano case despite promises of democracy under the Aquino administration.

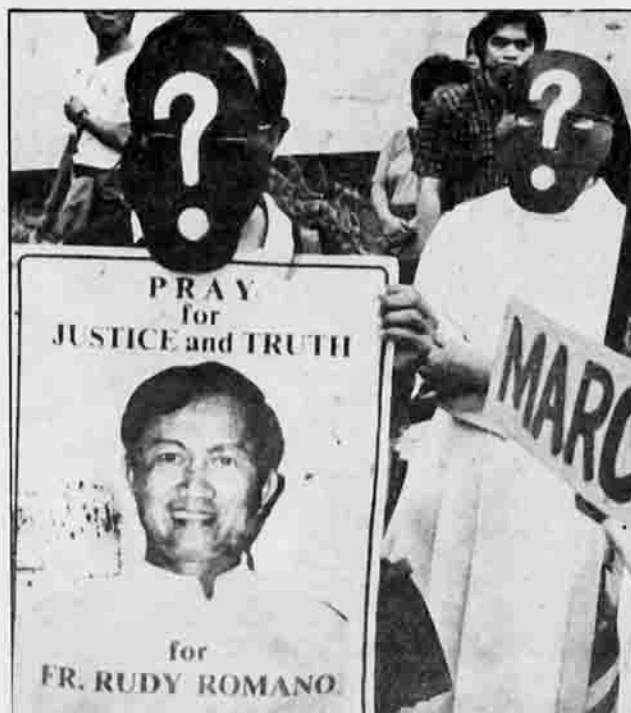
Leopoldo Romano, regional director of the Department of Agriculture and younger brother of the missing priest, shares the Redemptorists' views.

"President Aquino cannot even solve the murder of her own husband, even if there are clear indications that the military did it," Romano said. "We have to contend with the fact that there is a very strong cover-up

conspiracy within the military."

The military has consistently denied responsibility for Fr. Rudy's disappearance despite eyewitness accounts of their involvement.

The court martial of two intelligence agents here was dubbed a "whitewash" by private prosecutors led by Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) lawyer Alfonso Surigao, who withdrew two years ago from the proceedings. Surigao and a brother of the prosecution's star witness were



Fr. Romano's followers in last year's commemoration of the priest's disappearance.

themselves killed in separate incidents by armed men.

"Many people say that because of the length of time, Fr. Rudy must already be dead, but we cannot just assume that. Those responsible should come out with an admission or an explanation," said Fruto.

"For us, the military is responsible," said the younger Romano. "We have already accepted that Rudy is gone, even if it hurts."

To the Redemptorists, Rudy is still missing. "His being in the 'missing' category gives us some hope, no matter how faint," Fruto said. The superior recounted several cases of parish workers abducted in broad daylight, with the military strongly denying custody of them, only for them to appear weeks later in a military jail.

"If the military wants to win the hearts and minds of the people and renew their image, this (producing missing persons) is an area where they can improve themselves," challenged Fruto. "All the expressions of democracy will sound hollow without appropriate deeds."

Fruto said Fr. Rudy's disappearance remains significant to this day: "No matter what kind of government you have, Christians still have to bear witness to the Gospel, even under similar or heavier risks."

Statistics of the Justice and Peace Desk of the Redemptorists in Cebu show that for the first semester of this year alone, 70 cases of human rights violations were committed against church people, five of which were murder cases.

As Ricardo Cardinal Vidal so eloquently said in a previous memorial for Fr. Romano: "We have to keep asking questions and even questioning the answers."

This year's commemoration of Fr. Rudy's disappearance will include a night-long vigil at the Redemptorist Rotunda to culminate in a dawn procession or aurora, and a concelebrated mass. (PNF)