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# We Forum

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

VOL 13 \* NO. 73 \*

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 4, 1989

₱2 only

IN METRO MANILA

# CORY 'BRIBERY' ATTEMPT: WHAT THE LAW SAYS

‘The Revised Penal Code deals with bribery in three provisions but none is squarely applicable in Cory’s case,’

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NO TO BASES REFERENDUM. Cause-oriented groups under the BAYAN umbrella organization marched to Mendiola (now Don Chino Roces) bridge yesterday, to oppose the proposed referendum on the US military facilities in the country. (Roly Embile)



*Lotlot,  
Lani  
give  
birth*

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# Ilocos Sur Gov, mayors quit LDP

VIGAN, ILOCOS Sur — Gov. Mariano Tajon, Vice Gov. Deogracias V. Savclano, the eight members of the provincial board, 34 mayors, and 769 heads of the province's barangay councils announced yesterday their resignation from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP).

The announcement was made by Tajon following the meeting of the group last Friday, presided over by Candon Mayor Eduardo Guirnalda who is president of the Ilocos Sur Mayors League.

Tajon said the mass resignation was sparked by their leader, Ilocos Sur Congressman Luis "Chavit" Singson who heads the 29-strong

Northern Luzon Alliance (NLA) bloc in Congress.

Tajon stressed his group will maintain its independent status and will continue to support the leadership of President Aquino.

"Politics must be set aside in these crucial times, and more attention should be given to the determined and sincere pursuance of activities and programs to provide more services to our constituents," Singson stated.

Tajon, on the other hand, emphasized that the resignation of his group from the LDP has "absolutely nothing" to do with the resignation of Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr. as founding LDP president.

He said the LDP has not given Ilocos Sur due recognition and importance, especially in the form of assistance when the province was ravaged by Typhoons "Goring" and "Openg."



REP. SINGSON

"Despite its having been declared a calamity area, and in spite of some of its interior

towns still being isolated, Ilocos Sur was alienated; other provinces were given more assistance although they did not suffer as much," Tajon and Guirnalda said.

## Luisita's armed guards denounced

THE MILITANT Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (KMP) yesterday denounced the existence of a so-called private army in the Hacienda Luisita, saying that the armed guards are sowing terror among the farmers there.

KMP Chairman Jaime Tadeo said in a radio interview that the Hacienda, owned by the family of President Aquino, has become a "model of the CAFGU (Civilian Armed Forces

Geographical Unit) instead of the CARP" (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program).

Calling the armed men inside the sprawling estate as members of a "Yellow Army", Tadeo charged that other landowners especially in Negros have followed the example in Luisita, arming their own men to be pitted against the farmers.

Another peasant leader in Luisita, Alex Gonzales, meanwhile, rejected the

proposal to hold a referendum on Nov. 8 among farmers to determine what mode of agrarian reform they want: stock transfer (as already implemented by the Cojuangcos, a move that was severely criticized as going against the spirit of the CARP) or outright land transfer.

Gonzales said that the farmers would rather favor owning a piece of land in the Hacienda, instead of a piece of paper (stock certificates).



Republic of the Philippines  
CITY COUNCIL  
Manila

### ORDINANCE NO. ....

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF P784,800.00 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE EXPROPRIATION OF A PARCEL OF LAND OWNED BY MR. ARTURO SEMBRANO SITUATED AT NARCISA RIZAL ST., TONDO, MANILA. TO BE SUBDIVIDED AND SOLD AT COST AND ON INSTALLMENT BASIS FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWENTY YEARS UNDER THE CITY'S LAND-FOR-THE-LANDLESS PROGRAM TO QUALIFIED ACTUAL AND BONAFIDE TENANTS/OCCUPANTS THEREAT.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, that:

SECTION 1. The sum of P784,800.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any funds of the City Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be made available for the expropriation of a parcel of land of more or less 392.40 square meters owned by Mr. Arturo Sembrano situated at Narcisa Rizal St., Tondo, Manila, to be subdivided and sold at cost and on installment basis for a period not exceeding twenty years under the City's land-for-the-landless program to qualified actual and bonafide tenants/occupants thereat.

SEC. 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today,  
Approved by His Honor, the Mayor on

APPROVED:

GEMILJANO C. LOPEZ, JR.  
Mayor  
City of Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA  
Vice Mayor and  
Presiding Officer  
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

ALBERTO A. BERNARDO  
Secretary to the Mayor

MA. NYMPHA H. BELLO  
Secretary, City Council

Sponsored by Hon. Francisco G. Varona, Jr.  
Co-Sponsored by Hon. Romualdo S. Maranan, Hon. Flaviano F. Concepcion, Jr. and Hon. Humberto B. Basco.

### CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing measure has been ordered published by the City Council of Manila at its regular session held on September 26, 1989 pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Manila.

(SGD.) NYMPHA H. BELLO  
Secretary

We Forum  
Oct. 4, 1989



Republic of the Philippines  
CITY COUNCIL  
Manila

### ORDINANCE NO. ....

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF P64,000.00 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE FILLING, PREPARATION AND CEMENTING OF THE BIG POT HOLE ALONG HERBOSA STREET, CORNER ZAMORA STREET, FIRST DISTRICT, TONDO, MANILA.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, that:

SECTION 1. The amount of P64,000.00, or so much thereof as maybe necessary, is hereby appropriated out of the unappropriated fund or funds existing in the City Treasury to be made available for the filling, preparation and cementing of the pothole along Herbosa Street, corner Zamora Street, First District, Tondo, Manila.

SEC. 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today,

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor on

APPROVED:

GEMILJANO C. LOPEZ, JR.  
Mayor  
City of Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA  
Vice Mayor and  
Presiding Officer  
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

ALBERTO A. BERNARDO  
Secretary to the Mayor

MA. NYMPHA H. BELLO  
Secretary, City Council

Sponsored by Hon. Ernesto G. Dionisio

### CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing measure has been ordered published by the City Council of Manila at its regular session held on September 28, 1989 pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Manila.

(SGD.) NYMPHA H. BELLO  
Secretary

We Forum  
Oct. 4, 1989

# Another look at Malacañang's 'bribe' attempt

By MAX NOBLE

**O**KAY, THE press has already shut its mouth over the matter, when just last September 21 it screamed with such headlines as TARLAC GROUP BARES PALACE 'BRIBERY' TRY, and on the next day every columnist offered his two centavos' worth.

Apparently, the press has taken the President's word for it: "No bribe try" from her and Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague, contrary to the allegations of the Tarlac Anti-Graft Council (TAGC) officials before the Senate Blue-Ribbon Committee. The TAGC brass had accused Ms. Aquino and Carague, who are both Tarlaquenos, of attempting to bribe some of them so that they'd keep silent on the irregularities involving "Cory's Choice" Gov. Mariano Un. Ocampo III. The "bribe" was in the form of job offers in the well-financed Lingkod Tarlac Foundation and the provincial government's Pre-Qualifications, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC).

Listen to the President explain her side: "The offer was made... so that they can monitor what was happening and they could denounce any impropriety that the Tarlac local officials might be

committing. . . I have made similar offers to other NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) and PVOs (private volunteer organizations). In fact, I have institutionalized the system by creating the regional and provincial organizations."

Echoed Carague: "It was an honest-to-goodness offer by the President for them to actually be part of the process so that they can have a first-hand knowledge of the goings-on instead of relying on rumors. If you consider that as a bribe, well, I don't know."

That wasn't an attempt to bribe? If that wasn't, then what is?

## WHAT THE LAW SAYS

The Revised Penal Code deals with bribery in three provisions (Arts. 210 to 212), but none is squarely applicable in Cory and Carague's case. Art. 210 (Direct bribery) penalizes a public offi-

cer who agrees to perform, in consideration of an offer and the like, an act constituting a crime, in relation to the performance of his official duties; or accepts a gift in consideration of an act which does not constitute a crime, also in relation to the performance of his official duty in exchange for a gift or promise. Art. 211 (Indirect bribery) applies to a public officer who accepts gifts offered to him by reason of his office; while Art. 212 (Corruption of public officials) applies to any person who offers or promises to give gifts or presents to a public officer under circumstances that will make him liable for direct or indirect bribery.

A related law, P.D. 46, penalizes a government employe who receives gifts from private persons on any occasion, Christmas included.

In addition to acts punishable under Arts. 210-212 of the penal code, the Anti-



**ACCUSER:** Prof. Jose Esmundo, spokesman of the Tarlac Anti-Graft Council baring details of the alleged "bribery attempt" by Malacañang.

Graft & Corrupt Practices Act (R.A. 3019) enumerates several other offenses a public officer can commit. Regrettably, even this law doesn't say in black and white that it's a crime for a public officer like Cory or Carague to offer jobs to private individuals like TAGC officials in exchange for their silence over alleged irregularities in the provincial government. Sec. 4(a) of the anti-graft law, however, penalizes any person, public or private, who takes advantage of his family or close personal relation with any public official "by directly or indirectly requesting... material or pecuniary advantage from any other person having some business. . . with the government, in which such public official has to intervene."

As defined in the law, "family relation" refers to one's spouse or relatives within the third civil degree; and "close personal relation" includes "close personal friendship, social and fraternal connections, and professional employment, all giving rise to intimacy which assures free access to such public officer."

There's also the recently enacted Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officers and Employees (R.A. 6713), which requires of all government personnel to be models of rectitude and dedication to duty. The President herself signed the code into law.

Above all there is Cory's own 1987 Constitution, which among other things demands "honesty and in-

tegrity in the public service" (Sec. 27, Art. II) and utmost integrity among public officers and employes (Sec. 1, Art. XI).

## NO BRIBERY?

In the light of all these laws, judge for yourself, reader, whether or not Her Excellency and her alter ego, Carague, committed bribery.

To be sure, the President and Carague cannot invoke ignorance of the law, it being the presumption that everybody knows the law.

And the President knows the law. Otherwise, she would not have said this:

"Firstly, if indeed a bribe attempt was made at the meeting, why did the reaction to it come more than a month later?"

"Secondly, would a bribe be offered within hearing of such a big assemblage?"

"Bribery is often very hard to substantiate because it is usually made in a very discreet manner with a minimum number of persons being privy to it."

The meeting referred to was the President's lunch at the Malacañang Guest House last August 18 with, among others, TAGC officials led by its spokesman Jose Esmundo, he spilled the beans in the Blue-Ribbon Committee hearing.

The *Inquirer* quoted independent-minded Bonifacio Gillego of Sorsogon as saying there's no deceitful in Mrs. Aquino's job offers to TAGC people. Said Boni: "I would be too harsh in judging her. She

may just want to end a case which is really embarrassing for her. I think she meant well. At most, she may only be guilty of naivete or lack of awareness about the seriousness of the matter."

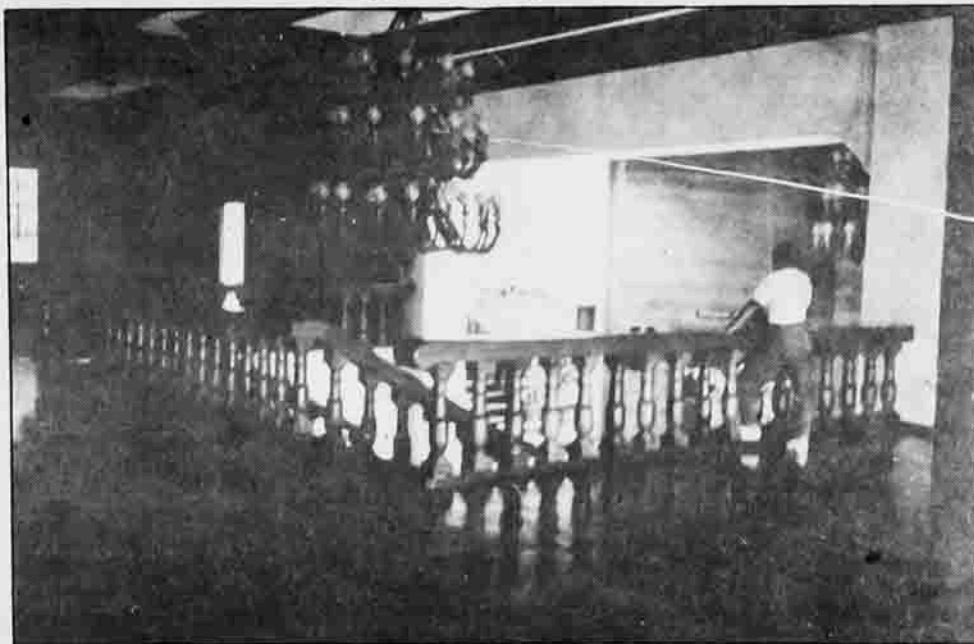
Gillego's reaction reflected that of the LDP majority in the Lower House. But to the Opposition, it was something else. "It is lamentable," said Minority Floor Leader Rodolfo Albano of Isabela, "that a highest official of the land would attempt to silence a probe into the anomalies being committed right in her home province."

Bribery is a ground for impeachment, but Albano said the Opposition would still determine if there is sufficient basis to initiate impeachment proceedings against the President. To date, nothing else has been heard from Albano.

## CARAGUE'S OUSTER

But while they could be charitable to the President, the congressmen have demanded Carague's ouster because of his "involvement in the reported coverup" of anomalies in the provincial government of Tarlac. According to Rep. Gregorio Andolana of North Cotabato, the national government through Carague has made Tarlac "financially obese and public-works heavy" while other provinces, especially those in Mindanao, "are cash-starved and (are) made to live on

(Next page please)



**CONTROVERSIAL TARLAC CAPITOL:** Ostentatious display, over-priced chandeliers?

crumbs." In so-called development funds alone, Tarlac was reportedly allotted P900 million by the Department of Budget and Management.

Yes, but the amount is public works money for three years, from 1986 up to 1989, Carague answered. Other provinces have larger appropriations, but Carague didn't say if these cover a period of three years or if these appropriations are intended for larger projects than those meant for his and Cory's home province.

At any rate, Carague will remain as Budget Secretary, said the President last September 22. True to her char-

acter, she absolved Carague, thus: "There is... no reason to talk about Secretary Carague's resignation or going on leave."

To paraphrase the Latin maxim "Roma locuta, causa finita," Cory has spoken, the matter is finished -- unless congressmen like Ronaldo Zamora (LDP, San Juan-Mandaluyong) push thru with their plan to charge Carague with technical malversation for allocating money for Tarlac other than what was indeed under existing laws, particularly the General Appropriations Act. Zamora said that under the 1989 budget only P46 mil-

lion, and not P900 million, was allotted for Tarlac's infrastructure.

Will Zamora, a KBL-turned-LDP, have the guts to go after the head of one of Cory's favorites?

The answer remains to be seen.

Meantime, Ocampo has blamed a man living 12,000 miles away from Tarlac as the mastermind of the "bribery" caboodle. As the *Manila Times* (September 27) reported it, the bribery raps are all part of a destabilization plot hatched by Cory's cousin but Marcos boy Danding Cojuangco. Ocampo said Danding really wants to

topple Cory to pave the way for his return to the Philippines.

Poor Danding. The tentacles of his business and political empire are supposed to have been slashed at EDSA in 1986, and here he is, an exile in the last three years, charged with masterminding a diabolic scheme half a world away.

Can't Cory's favorites think any better?

As regards the "bribery" attempt, forget it. It may be the first of its kind in the history of Malacanang, but as the President said, it's legal -- and, perhaps, moral as well.

## More workers join unions

By MITCHELL P. DURAN

MANY WORKERS in various industries are realizing the benefits of organizing themselves to protect their interests, signifying a growing awareness among the blue-collared sector of their legislated rights.

A survey on unionism and collective bargaining conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) shows that there are now 11,500 or 28 percent of 41,000 non-agricultural establishments employing 10 and over personnel which are organized or unionized.

Industrywise, manufacturing had the most number of unionized establishments at 44 percent. Region IV (Southern Tagalog) had the highest percentage of unionized firms (36 percent) although 47 percent of the total unionized companies are located in the National Capital Region (NCR).

In terms of union membership, the BLES survey revealed over one-third or 39 percent of the total 4.5 million employed are organized. The highest percentage of organized workers are engaged in mining and quarrying (63 percent). Region I (Ilocos) had the most number of organized workers in proportion to its employment (61 percent), although NCR had the highest number of organized workers at 812,500.

The survey also indicated that about 66 percent of unions with collective bargaining agreements have the union itself acting as its exclusive bargaining agent, while 30 percent rely on their federations. Eighty-eight percent of current CBAs have an effectivity period of three years, six percent for two years and less than one percent lasts a year. Moreover, CBA coverage reached 1.756 million or 39 percent of the 4.529 million employed.

On the other hand, more than one-fourth (27 percent)

or 11,000 firms have adopted labor-management cooperation (LMC) schemes which seek to improve labor-management relations and enhance working conditions and productivity gain-sharing plans. About



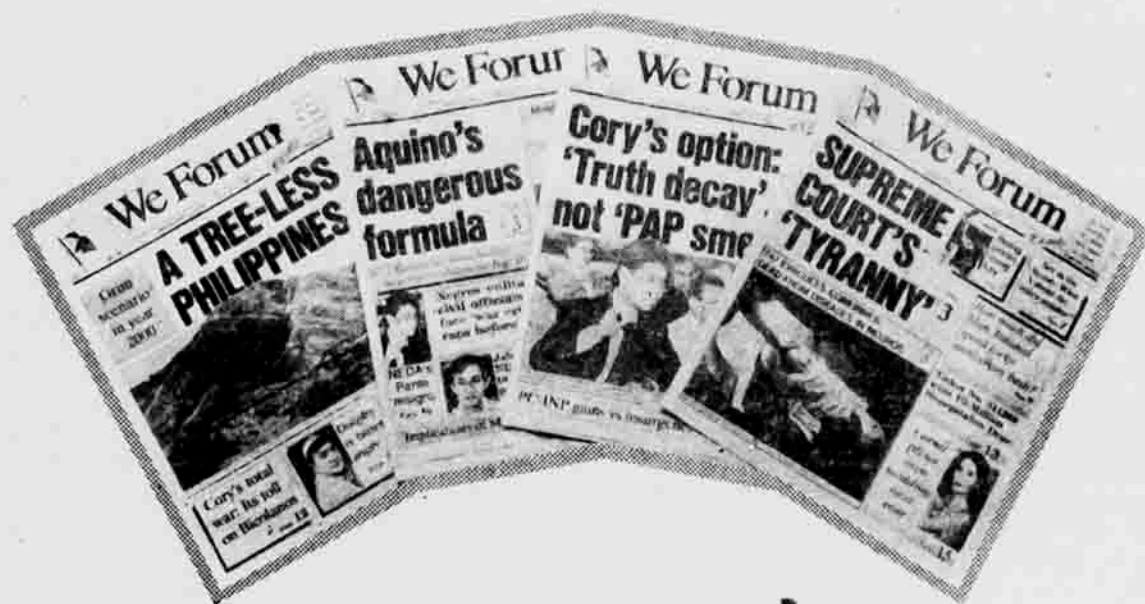
2.4 million workers or 53 percent of the total employment were covered by various LMC programs, majority (63 percent) of whom are in the manufacturing sector.

Meanwhile, another survey on establishment practices and policies showed there are 41,000 non-agricultural establishments employing 10 and over throughout the country, mostly having salaried workers (79 percent) or those being paid monthly. Time-rated wage earners were found in about 24,000 firms or about 67 percent fixed their wages on a daily basis.

Wage setting is commonly done through individual agreement between the employer and worker (38 percent), employer's decision (31 percent), legislation (24 percent) and CBA (11 percent).

Twenty-one percent of the total number of establishments provided cost-of-living allowances to their workers while 34 percent granted bonuses and gratuities, with the salary of workers as the primary consideration. Only 18 percent grant these wage supplements based on net profits, the survey revealed. (ANF)

## More than a NEWSpaper.



## The **THINK**paper

*We Forum does not simply present the news. It probes and provokes.*

*We Forum does not just gloss over the news. It dissects and penetrates.*

*We Forum does not only tell you the what. It answers the why. To make you think of issues.*

We Forum--the THINKpaper

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

# 'Bring the Marcoses back'

## PRAYER

WHEREFORE, IT is respectfully prayed that the Court reconsider its decision of September 15, 1989, and in lieu thereof, render a new decision:

a. Ordering the issuance of a writ of mandamus directing the respondents, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs, to issue the necessary travel documents to enable Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Ferdinand E. Marcos Jr., Irene M. Araneta, Imee M. Manotoc, Tommy Manotoc and Gregorio Araneta to return to the Philippines.

b. Ordering the issuance of a writ of prohibition restraining and enjoining the respondents and all persons acting on their orders or in their behalf, from implementing in any manner whatsoever the decision of the President and the Cabinet Crisis Committee to bar the transport to the Philippines of the remains of former President Ferdinand E. Marcos and the return to the Philippines of the other petitioners.

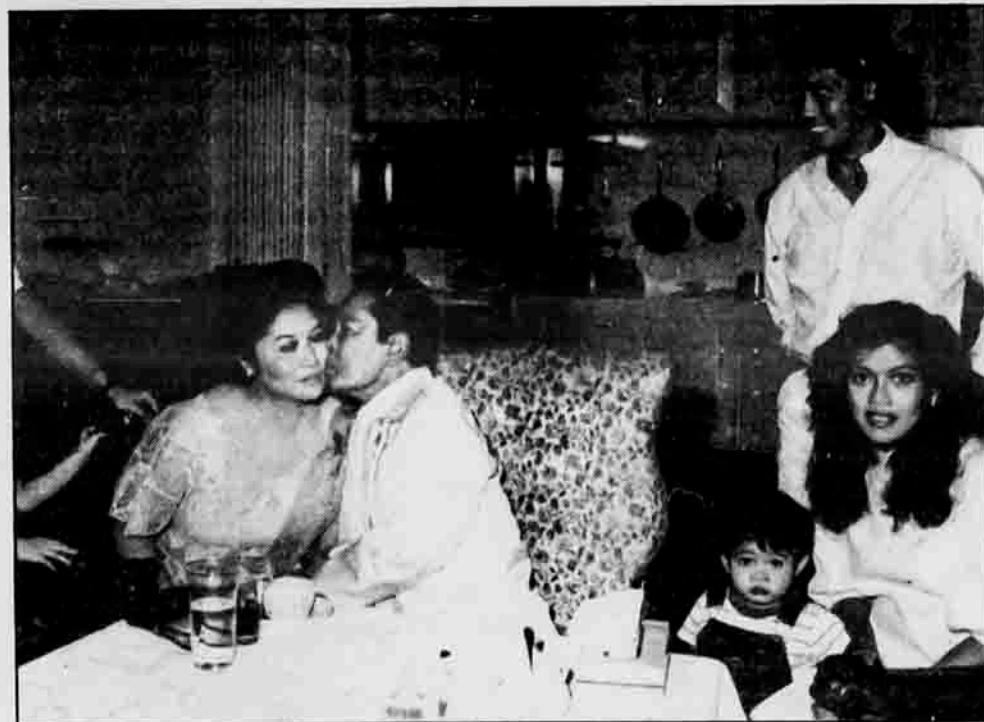
## ARGUMENTS

A. In so far as former President Marcos is concerned, the instant petition was brought primarily to enable him to come home and die here, and to be buried here. His death should completely remove apprehensions, however unfounded, as to both his intent and capability to "destabilize" conditions in the country. As for the petitioners Imelda R. Marcos, Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., Imee M. Manotoc, Tommy Manotoc and Gregorio Araneta, they have gone to the United States only to accompany former President Marcos. His death has only made their return to the Philippines more impelling.

The Constitution, the rights of man, equality before the law, justice — these were the foundations of the petition. The death of President Marcos has added other dimensions — Christianity, humanity.

The arguments are ad-

ressed to the decision of this Court rendered when President Marcos was alive. We submit that they apply



THE MARCOSES: While in power.

with more reason to have his remains buried in the Philippines. As to his family, his death has only made respondents' arguments barring also the members of his family from returning to the Philippines even less persuasive.

B. To bar former President Marcos and his family from returning to the Philippines is to deny them not only the inherent right of citizens to return to their country of birth but the protection of the Constitution and all of the rights guaranteed to Filipinos under the Constitution.

How can a Filipino have his abode in the Philippines if he is barred from the Philippines? How can he travel "from the Philippines to other countries or within the Philippines" if he is in a foreign land?

The right to life, to liberty, to property — these rights to be enjoyed by Filipinos in the Philippines and not elsewhere.

(Summary of motion for reconsideration for the homecoming of the late President Marcos, filed with the Supreme Court on October 2, 1989, G.R. 88211).

The Philippines is every Filipino's homeland. To live here is his birthright. The Constitution does not by its language or its nature show that this right has been yielded to government — least of all to the President.

The Constitution may not by explicit language protect the right of the Filipino to return to the Philippines; it is simply because the right inheres in the citizenship of a Filipino and its denial destroys the very foundation of a democratic state.

## CITED:

**Worthy vs. US** — The right to travel has three aspects — the right to go anywhere within the country; the right to leave one's country; and the right to return to his country. While the right to leave the country may, by law, be regulated by the requirement that passport be secured for the purpose, the right to return is absolute and not subject to regulations because a citizen

has an inherent right to return to his country.

**US vs. Wheeler** — The US Supreme Court has recognized that the citizens of a state possess the "fundamental right, inherent in citizens of all free governments peaceably to dwell within the limits of their respective states, to move at will from place to place therein, and to have free ingress thereto and egress therefrom..."

C. The President has no power to bar a Filipino from his own country; if she has, she has exercised it arbitrarily. Such powers cannot include those denied to the President by the Constitution.

President Aquino herself disavowed any reservation of power to the Presidency even in an emergency. Addressing the Congress on July 24, 1989, she said:

"Our swift democratization was done against the advice that I reserve emergency powers in the face of

rising military adventurism and communist terrorism. But I believed then — and time has proved me right — that this nation shall find no greater source of all its rights and liberties. Democracy is our faith and the root of our strength to defend it."

Those who wrote the 1987 Constitution deliberately took care that the President would not have the powers of the President under the 1935 and the 1973 Constitutions. Yet, the "residual" powers of the Court now state that the President has powers which even the President under the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions did not have or invoke.

Amendment 6 of the 1973 Constitution which explicitly vests in the President residual powers was repudiated by the framers of the 1987 Constitution but the Court now rules that the President possesses such powers.

What is called residual powers must of necessity be executive in character and not legislative nor judicial.

The power to regulate, the exercise of constitutional rights or police power, is exercised through the legislative branch by the enactment of laws. It is not the President, but Congress, which has the residual power.

The right to abode and the right to travel are but aspects of the Filipino to return to the Philippines. The President cannot impair this right to return, because the Constitution denies to her that power.

The Court does not find that "national security" and "public safety" considerations exist to justify the barring of former President Marcos and his family from the Philippines. In fact, there is no record that the President has made such a claim. Nor has she invoked any law giving her authority. There is, indeed, no law.

Rather, the Court relies on alleged need to protect the "general welfare of the people" to "protect the peace," the "maintenance of

peace and order," the need to insure "domestic tranquility in times when no foreign foe appears in the horizon."

No right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights can be absolutely denied or even limited without any law and on such broad considerations. No prior restraint can be imposed for the exercise of the freedom of speech or freedom of the press.

The right against unreasonable search or arrest or against self-incrimination are inviolable even if it should mean acquittal of persons who have violated the peace. And so with all other rights. Even if impairment is permissible, the limitation must meet the clear and present danger test.

The 1987 Constitution allows the President lesser prerogative over the liberties of the people even when there is an invasion or a rebellion and martial law is proclaimed than what the Court has allowed the President to do in times of peace and when no foreign foe appears in the horizon.

There cannot be any preventive detention and yet the case now is worse. President Marcos and his family are barred from returning to the Philippines only because of what the Court calls the "catalytic effect" the return of former President Marcos may have. It is not even suggested that he will lead a rebellion nor even join such a movement. Indeed, he is undoubtedly incapable of doing so.

Even in case of invasion or rebellion, the President is without power to deny rights to even those who may have committed treason or rebellion. She may at most order detention for three days and not for preventive purposes, but because of the commission of treason or rebellion. After three days, only a court may authorize continued detention.

The Court's ruling has dangerous implications. Under this ruling, all of the

(Next page, please)

rights of the Filipinos under the Constitution are subject not to a power the Constitution confers on the President, but on what the Court refers to as the President's residual power. The Court establishes the potentials of a dictatorship.

**CITED:** Comment of Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas on the Supreme Court decision as penned by Justice Irene Cortes.

She said there was no point for Mr. Marcos to appeal to the Bill of Rights because the Bill of Rights contains no provision protecting the right to return to one's country. She arrived at the conclusion by performing an emasculating surgery on the Bill of Rights. But she did more than that. Having reduced the protection given by the Bill of Rights, she proceeded to expand the powers of the presidency at the expense of the court. A double or even a triple whammy of sorts.

Justice Cortes says that the issue is basically one of power. Ironically, in reading a Constitution that is wary of executive power, Justice Cortes sees no "unstated rights" in the Bill of Rights, but discovers "unstated powers" which the President can fall back on.

The Constitution itself recognizes the principle of equality before the law: justice. These would be meaningless if there is one law for the Marcoses and another law for all others. It will not

do for the Court to state that his case "should not create a precedent."

Without the power to bar a Filipino from returning, the President not only violates the Constitution but also acts arbitrarily in banning the Marcoses from returning.

The Court made factual findings, although there is nothing on record in which the President had represented the factual conclusions that the Court made. This is both unprecedented and unwarranted. The Court has become more popish than the Pope.

President Aquino has herself contradicted many of the factual findings of the court: "We are well on the road to recovery; investment increase...posted a 6.7 percent growth...foreign countries paid tribute to the country's growth and political achievements, the tide has turned permanently with regard to insurgency, etc. etc."

What is on record is a mere newspaper report of a statement attributed to her. The pleadings of parties are not evidence. Nor the oral arguments made by the lawyers.

President Aquino has never responded to the appeals of the Marcoses directly. She has never communicated to them. The Marcoses have never been officially advised as to why they have been barred from returning. No hearing has been held within the Executive Department at which

the Marcoses have been informed why. Whatever facts have been used by President Aquino made up the conclusion reached in violation of their rights to due process. The facts derived from the briefing by the Chief of Staff are highly disputable.

**CITED:**

Opinion of Justice Gutierrez: "I must emphasize that Gen. De Villa assured the Court that a rebellion will not succeed and that the military is on top of the situation. Where then is the clear danger to national security? The Court has taken judicial notice of something which even the military denies.

Justice Cruz: "In about two hours of briefing, the government failed dismally to show that the return of Marcos dead or alive would pose a threat to the national security as it had alleged. The fears ... were based on mere conjectures of political and economic destabilization without any single piece of concrete evidence to back up their apprehensions."

Justice Paras: "Our Armed Forces have failed to prove this danger. They are bereft of hard evidence, and all they can rely on is sheer speculation."

Justice Padilla: "It appears to me that the apprehensions entertained and expressed ... do not escalate to proportions of national security or public safety. They appear to be more speculative than real, obsessive



**FM MEN:** Ex-Agrarian Reform Minister Conrado Estrella, ex-Sen. Arturo Tolentino and ex-Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, explaining their petition before the Supreme Court.

rather than factual."

Justice Sarmiento: "We have persistent claims made by the military top brass ... that this government will not fall should the first family in exile step on Philippine soil."

The Court even spoke of a "separatist movement in Mindanao." The movement did not even merit a word in President Aquino's 1989 State-of-the-Nation address. We cannot be certain that President Aquino herself agrees with the Court.

The Court spoke of "rightist conspiracies," but President Aquino has dismissed such as no more than the "delusion of self-importance and the realities of power of military adventurers."

One hundred and three congressmen covering the breadth of the country urged the President to allow President Marcos to come home to die here because they felt that his return would serve national interest. They declared that the ban "would further exacerbate the bitterness, hatred and partisan divisions that now burden our people, warping the national will to move as one community in the pursuit of common aspirations.

The Court referred to a "documented history of the efforts of Marcos and his followers to destabilize the country," but these documents were never shown. No charge accusing President Marcos of any crime, much less for a crime affecting na-

tional security or public order has been filed against him or any member of his family.

The country is beset with problems affecting its political stability, but they are problems not even remotely connected to the return of President Marcos and his family.

Not a few believe that the principal cause of the country's woes is imputable to a failure of leadership.

**THE PETITION WAS SIGNED FOR THE MARCOSES BY:**

Arturo M. Tolentino, Estelito P. Mendoza, Manuel M. Lazaro, Lino M. Patajo, Alfredo M. Lazaro, Joaquin Venus, Jr. Baldomero S. P. Gatbonton, Jr.; (Counsels).

# Rift on the referendum issue

By SANDRO B. SORIANO

CAN THE Filipino people be consulted on the fate of the United States military facilities here before a new bases treaty is submitted for concurrence to the Senate?

Malacanang, the House of Representatives and the Senate are divided on the subject, each citing the Constitution.

Speaker Ramon V. Mitra, with whom President Aquino concurs, is proposing a referendum on a new bases treaty after negotiations but before it is submitted to the Senate for ratification.

Mitra cites Section 16, Article 13 of the Constitution, which states: "The right of the

people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The State shall, by law, facilitate the establishment of adequate consultative mechanisms."

Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile cite Section 25 of Article 18 (Transitory Provisions): "After the expiration in 1991 of the Agreement... foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and,

when the Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum held for that purpose, and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting State."

Rep. Bonifacio Gillego's stand differs from the majority view in the House: "Section 25 does not allow the continuance of the Military Bases Agreement after 1991 except under the following conditions.

"1. under a treaty concurred in by the Philippine Senate with at least two-thirds vote of all its members (Section 21, Article 7);

"2. after the Senate ratifies the treaty, only

then can Congress submit the treaty to the people in a national referendum ("Military Bases," **Guide Notes on the Constitution of the Philippines**, 1987, Legislative Research Unit of the Constitutional Commission);

"3. when the treaty is recognized by the other contracting State, in this case the Senate of the United States."

Mitra contends that there is no legal impediment to holding a referendum before the Senate ratifies the treaty.

On this point, jurisprudence and the de-

(Page 12, please)

## The Marcos will

**T**HE Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) may have hit on something relevant and sensible when it challenged Imelda Marcos to disclose to the public the real score about her husband's last will and testament. According to her, Marcos had prepared a will before he died leaving all his worldly possessions to the Filipino people.

The PCGG had expressed great doubts about the sincerity of Imelda's statement, as in fact one of its commissioners even stated that she may just be bluffing. Knowing the widow, the PCGG's apprehension would find common cause with the public's perception of her disclosure as simply a ploy to fool the people, a practice the couple had perfected in their 20 years of abusive rule. In her panic to escape the clutches of American laws and its impartial system of justice, Imelda will say and do anything, like going down on her knees in supplication, for the return of her husband's remains to the Philippines. Which she will accompany, of course.

It was a good turn of events that the PCGG has seen through the deception. Speaking before media, Commissioner Rosalio de Leon dared Imelda to furnish the PCGG a copy of the supposed will to erase all doubts about its existence. Even the Marcos lawyer, the one man who should know, does not seem to be aware at all about it. "If her intention is really sincere," De Leon said, "she should take the initiative to give us a copy of the will." And nobody who could claim any degree of closeness to Marcos while he was alive has been given any idea on how the dictator wished to dispose the vast wealth he stole and accumulated during his rule.

Thus the PCGG cannot be faulted for being "intrigued" and to doubt Imelda's revelation from Hawaii that her late husband had decided to leave his "worldly possessions in the service of the Filipino people." In exile he adamantly refused the offer of reconciliation and forgiveness on condition that he return to the Philippine Treasury the wealth amassed from the sufferings of his countrymen. He clung like a leech to his money, why should he surrender it now?

The PCGG should remember that Marcos could have prepared a last will and testament last year when his health could have yet allowed him. In January of this year he entered the hospital, which he never left and was comatose for several months before his death. If there had been a will, it should have been written in 1988 and his attending lawyer would be the first to know about it since he would most probably have been tasked to write the same. Yet the man is in the dark about the will.

It has been reported that the Commission chairman has left for the United States and Switzerland to press the government's claim on the Marcos deposits in the foreign banks. The last time he was out of the country, Mateo Caparas decided, on a brilliant spur of the moment, to drop by Honolulu perhaps to see how the Marcoses are faring in their allegedly rented Makiki Heights mansion and to discuss the weather in sunny Hawaii. He never volunteered the information until it leaked from the blue and then he was beside himself trying to explain the detour that the lady President had not authorized.

Now he is out of the country again and there was no announcement that he will stop over in Honolulu on the way back to condole with the widow. He could be overlooking a good bet; for all her histrionics, Imelda's guard could be down at this time. It might do the PCGG's cause a world of good to discuss with the grieving widow the finer points of restitution and its cleansing effect on the conscience, the alleged Marcos will, and the return of his body to the country he loved and robbed so well. After more than three years, the PCGG might yet accomplish something tangible in the recovery of the Marcos billions.



## Sin casts first stone

JESUS CHRIST, a mere layman, upstaged the lawyers and magistrates of His time by successfully defending a woman caught in the act -- in *flagrante delicto* (this was misprinted in our October 3 column) of adultery which may be defined as smuggling of semen or illegal entry of the gun used for the transmission of life. The Nazarene's enemies were sure they could pin him down in the horns of the dilemma they posed: between the law taking its course *etsi ruant coeli* - though the heavens fall - and His doctrine on Divine forgiveness.

The Saviour demonstrated a wisdom infinitely greater even than Marcos' and Ninoy's combined. He became a crusading journalist a la Junior Burgos and a blue-ribbon senator a la Tito Let's Go Na all at once. He stooped down and right then and there wrote the first issue of *We Forum* on the ground, exposing the hidden wealth and illicit connections of His client's prosecutors and judges including their own "indiscretions". When He straightened up, He looked each one in the eyes and announced: "Let those without sin cast the first stone at her."

In fairness to our House of Representatives, this might well be the precise reason why Junior de Guzman was left off the hook. But for the edification of Manoling Morato, our self-styled *mampuputol ng kaligayahan* - board of scissors - let's share a joke only a la Fr. Ben Carreon. A demonstration was in progress against a supposedly pornographic film. The chairperson of the MTRCB was asked why they approved the showing without cuts. This antithesis of Manoling retorted: "Let those without sin stone the cast first."

### BEYOND HYPOCRISY



by PLACIDO P. DIAZ

Now, there's a brewing storm after Sin first cast the Cardinal stone at the fundamentalist preachers by alluding to the scandals wrought by televangelists. This he did reportedly on the occasion of a recent Catholic Bible rally. We expect the fundamentalists to retaliate not with brickbats, not even with bread, but to throw the Good Book itself at the irrepressible often irresponsible Catholic prince, verse by verse. That's their inherent disadvantage, limiting themselves to the Word of God writ centuries ago.

This should have been a welcome development for us, for it could have taken a heavy load off our own shoulders. But it seems we are stuck with our own self-imposed task of trying to reform and purify our own Church. Thank you, Gov. Frivaldo, for enlightening us on the trip of Imelda to Rome, lugging along a portion of our gold bullions to bail out an ailing Vatican bank. It's not the IMF-WB that is the exclusive and principal cause of our impoverishment after all.

To Cardinal Sin, our unsolicited advice: let's mend our own fences first to keep the sheep within the fold and take good care of them so they will not stray to where the grass looks greener. *Linisin muna ang sariling bakuran, bago ituro ang dumi sa kabila.*

### We Forum

MEMBER



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# The people should be heard on the military bases issue

THE ORPHANED Kilusang Bagong Lipunan is reportedly inclined to having the first son of their fallen leader inherit the mantle left by the dictator's death.

If what is meant here is the political machine, I think that what Ferdinand ("Bongbong") Marcos, Jr. is going to succeed to is a glorified chop-chop that will simply refuse to run even with all the oil from the wells of Saudi Arabia.

The truth of the matter is that the KBL is a lost cause. And if it has to rise from the grave, a feat that cannot even be achieved by its founding father, it will take more than a memory of the battles it had won during the heyday of the patriarch.

It always happens that during the first days after the burial of an icon the talk is "who will take over now that he's gone?" And you certainly cannot ask someone who is still drinking from a political milk bottle to take over a man's job.

The KBL partisans should stop kidding themselves. The flame is dead!

Many of the men who owe so much of their power, wealth and glory to Mr. Marcos have already gone to greener pastures. Remember what Claro M. Recto once said, upon the death of President Roxas, that the president's body was still warm but his followers had already encamped near the door to Vice President Quirino's mansion.

Marcos's men, like Enrile, Ople, Rono, Ortega, Gordon, Agbayani, Cayetano, Ganson, Aspiras, Escudero, to name a few, they are all with the revitalized Nacionalista Party now. It is only Albano and Abaya, both from Isabela, who are still dreaming of the good, old days, that will never come back.

If Bongbong will fall for the flattery of his

Old Man's true-blue followers, he must be just plain foolable. They are just pulling his legs, the poor boy. They should leave him alone with his memories of "them were the days."

\*\*\*\*\*



BONGBONG

One of the most unforgettable portions of a speech delivered by silver-tongued Carlos P. Romulo, on the occasion of Philippine Day at the Notre Dame University on De-

cember 9, 1935, where he was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of laws along with US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was his emphatic assertion that "The sovereignty of this Republic is shared by all, possessed by none, that the authority of government may never be presumptive or arbitrary but only representative and revocable..."

"The State, then, can never become co-equal with the community: as could be if processes of government were accepted as embracing the structure and form of society. The community is greater, as well as antecedent to, the State. It creates the State to control and order its multiple interests; interests which citizens never relinquish whether to kings, princes, or parliaments. To mistake this relation, to misread the genealogy of government, is to induce the subservience of the popular to the governmental will. 'Of the people, by the people, for the people' is, therefore, a prepositional summary of the concept of that freedom which the United States enjoys and which, with singular magnanimity, it has conveyed and bequeathed to the Filipino people... And the people, not the State, are sovereign."

This all reminds me of the current debate over whether our people have the right to be heard on the burning question of whether the American military presence is to be retained in our country or not. Since when has the Senate assumed the sole responsibility of deciding what is in the national interest, when this particular national interest involves the very lives and fortunes of our people?

If the Senate is indeed representative of our people, why is it afraid to know what is

## POLITICS & POLITICOS



by ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

truly in the minds and hearts of our people? In ancient Rome, it was always, *Senatus populosque Romanus*, or "the Senate and the People of Rome." That is why one sees in pictures of old Rome, the standard "SPQR."

Granting, *arguendo*, that under the Constitution, the Senate is to ratify treaties, is it not also true, that it may, if it so wills, submit its decision to the people? And that the treaty, if ratified, has also to be acted upon by the other party to the ratification?

The uncontradicted fact is that an overwhelming majority of our people are agreeable to a retention of the American military bases in the Philippines. They have their reasons and it is only proper that their wishes must be respected by the Senate.

As Mr. Romulo says "The community is greater, as well as antecedent to, the State," and citizens never relinquish their interests "whether to kings, princes, or parliaments." The people cannot be subservient to the governmental will. Because "the people, not the State, are sovereign."

I agree with President Aquino and Speaker Mitra that it is needful that our people be consulted on the military bases issue. A referendum, that is. Now, if in spite of the people's decision, the Senate will still want to have its way, so be it.

## The exodus of East Germans

THE WESTERN European press went head over heels on what it called the "dramatic turning point in European history." In recent weeks it has noted with unusual euphoria that the East Berlin bloc was disintegrating, that the Berlin Wall was crumbling, that Gorbachev's "perestroika" and the "glasnost" or restructuring of the once strong socialist bloc were taking place at a breathtaking speed.

Poland and Hungary are changing so fast in a way that signals the end of a communist ideology.

The West "holds its breath as Poland changes direction," says *Die Zeit*, West German daily.

"Thousands wait in tents for caravans to the West," reported the *Kolner Stadt Anzeiger*, another big Western German newspaper, in bold headline. The tents were mushrooming up in Hungary, an Iron Curtain country, as thousands of East Germans wait to get into trains to Austria. An estimated 10,000 East Germans have already gone across the Hungarian border to Austria as the armed East German guards merely looked the other way.

In Czechoslovakia, the grounds of the West German embassy and consulate (in Prague) have become a "tent city" that receives thousands of East Germans and Hungarians who wait for transportation to freedom in Western Europe.

The Exodus of the Biblical times, when the Israelis fled from Egypt, is being reenacted in a 20th century European setting.

In the Eastern hemisphere on the other side of the globe, the Gorbachev moves of glasnost and perestroika are falling on suspicious ears. The hegira which has been taking place for the last four or five weeks has a different reception in our region. The evacuation of communist forces from Cambodia, is suspiciously watched by us. In North Korea, the Soviets still keep them from migrating to their promised land south of the 38th degree N. parallel. And it is another different scene in Japan. Four Japanese islands in the northern central part of the Japanese archipelago which the Russians occupied by sneak-in tactics when Japan surrendered in 1945, after WW II, and which the Japanese are claiming back, have instead been strongly fortified by the Russians. The

Russians have clung steadfastly to these islands. They are holding a poniard against the jugular vein of Japan with these islands which they, the Russians, have already secured and strongly fortified.

In spite of what has been happening in Europe in the apparent exodus to freedom of "imprisoned" West Germans in East Berlin and the Iron Curtain countries controlled by the Soviets, US Vice President Dan Quayle warned the free peoples of Asia and the Far East in his recent official visits which were just concluded, that Asians should not drop their guard but keep their security treaties with the US.

"Anybody who thinks you ought to tamper with or rewrite the US-Japan Security Treaty is wrong," Quayle told his audiences in Japan. He invariably hammered on this theme throughout his circuit in Asia and the Far East.

He said, in Misawa and Chitose and other places he visited in Japan, that the US shares Japan's heartfelt desire for the return of several small islands which Japan calls its northern territories.

Quayle did not specify these islands, but

## TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

the track record of the Soviets in grabbing lands shows that these islands are: Hagomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and Tatrau. They may now have Russian names. The Japanese civilians who lived on these islands were evacuated years ago. Quayle had also in mind the northern half of Japan's Sakhalin island which is also occupied by the Russians. This situation arising also from WW II makes the Japanese constantly wary, tremulous and uncomfortable with their Soviet neighbor.

One effect of the statements of Quayle among free Asians is that it has thrown cold water on the euphoria of freedom-loving peoples of Europe over the apparent demolishing of the Berlin Wall.

Quayle's indomitable words also warned the Filipinos of the dangers of phasing out the US military facilities in the Philippine archipelago.

## Miriam's secret organization

**SPEAKER RAMON** Mitra's proposal for a referendum on the US military bases should be pursued. In fact it is a constitutional postulate giving the people the right to effective and reasonable participation at all levels. Article XIII, Section 16 is quite clear. It says: "The right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The State shall, by law, facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms."

The referendum suggested by Speaker Mitra is such a mechanism because I construe this provision to mean that the Constitution itself directs that the people be first consulted and their views be sounded on matters that affect them. Definitely the US bases affect them.

Even during the Marcos regime, with all its repressions, the government resorted to referendum and consultative assemblies. I recall that when I went to the Supreme Court to question the validity of calling for an advance plebiscite on the organization of the Metro Manila Commission, even Justice Cecilia Munoz-Palma voted against me by saying in her opinion that "there is nothing wrong for a President to consult the people once in a while". There was no Article XIII, Section 16 then. Now the Constitution no less mandates it, so why the objection?

I have it on good authority that DAR Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago has finally given her blessings to a group of

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

politicians to launch her presidential bid for 1992. I know it because last Saturday, September 23, I received a phone call from former Congressman, former Governor, former Assemblyman Marcial Pimentel of Camarines Norte who asked me to join the Miriam Defensor for President Movement. Marcial told me that his group has Miriam's blessings and I should join because I come from the same region. I answered that Miriam and I come not only from the same region but from the same province but I cannot join her organization. According to Mr. Pimentel, their organization is still secret but they will go public "after Miriam is confirmed by the Commission on Appointments" and will register a new political party by January 1990. So there you are, all these disclaimers of Ms. Santiago about "not being a politician but an academican" are just a defense mechanism so she can pass through the CA -- the Commission on Appointments, that is. In fact my story got a confirmation from Ex-Assemblyman Salvador Britanico of Iloilo who told me the same story. Now, how will President Cory take this move of her favorite

secretary?

I think it was not right for President Cory to blame destabilizers of her government -- if indeed there are, for the woes her government and herself are now in. If Jun de Guzman smuggles firearms, if Major Binuya multiplies his authority to import, if chandeliers in the Tarlac capitol cost P150,000 each, if the peso is sinking in value, if rice now costs P23.00 per ganta or P9.50 per kilo, if galunggong is now P30.00 per kilo, if criminals rampage on our streets, if there was a Garchitorena land scandal, why should the opposition be blamed? In fact if Tarlac's civic leaders -- once true blooded Corystas -- now denounce her "bribe" attempts, certainly the opposition that holds no power in the land cannot be blamed. The people around Cory, those who form her favorite cliques are the ones who destabilize her. Why? Because they are not really loyal to her but have hidden agendas for their own self-interests.

Good news for Mayor Fidel Elamparo of Candelaria: I just received a copy of the letter from Secretary Carague releasing the sum of P2,399,100 for "the improvement/asphalting of Yamot-Taposo-Dalig Road under Advice of Allotment No. C1-0534-89-1613". This fund was released through the efforts of Congresswoman Pacita T. Gonzalez. Also, under date of 11 September, I have the letter of Secretary Carague releasing the funds for the "improvement/asphalting of the Sta. Cruz-Guisguis Road under Advice of Allot-

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LET THERE  
BE LIGHT



by JUAN G. FRIVALDO

## News blackout

WHY THE prolonged news blackout in Sorsogon? Here are some tightly-wrapped media items:

1. Eddie Chu, Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer, was kidnapped from his house in Magallanes while his family agonized for eight days. Chu was finally released to fishermen out at sea.

2. Two employees of Bureau of Forest Development surveying denuded hills in Juban-Magallanes area were kidnapped for two weeks. Both were eventually released in Buluan town.

3. Two mayors are reportedly the talk of the province because they allegedly raped two young girls. One of the mayors is allegedly untouchable because he is reportedly closely related to a congressman.

4. A Germany-financed proposed TV station in Sorsogon is reportedly badly delayed because two priests sent by the bishop played with the money in the United States.

5. A Commission on Audit Report on alleged P15 million anomalies in Sorsogon was submitted Oct. 27, 1988 to Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez. Eleven months had passed and still deep silence.

6. A Sorsogon warlord using a broker from Bulusan town, allegedly bought 300 guns from Cebu.

7. Two weeks ago, while over 100 CAFGU recruits were having dinner at their training ground at the Sorsogon Airport in Gabao, Bacon, over 150 NPAs swooped down on the eating soldier-trainees. Unofficial reports said eight CAFGUs were killed, several wounded and undetermined number of guns stolen. These are reports from houses near the airport, none from official sources. At least Manila press has not heard about the airport massacre. Is this Balangiga, Samar during the Philippine-American war?

to find out if he truly executed a will since he was ill most of the time.

He was so attached to numbers that the time of his death in Honolulu was 12:40. If you add 1 + 2 + 4 equals 7. Actually FM's real lucky number was 11 since he was born on September 11 but if you add 1 + 1 equals 2 and the number 2 is interchangeable with the number 7. That is why his belief was that 7 was his lucky number and Mrs. Marcos was born on July 2 (7/2). In the Book of Numerology, there are two master numbers -- 11 and 22 and people who hold these numbers are very formidable. While love, peace, harmony, justice and equality are strongly associated with number 11, in the Chaldean

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## Gold and Mayor Lacson's dreams-XXV

WITH FORMER President Marcos dead and with what appears to be a bungling of PCGG affairs re: the aborted "Operation Big Bird," the Filipino people should now demand for a proper accounting of our gold, otherwise this grace of God will not even alleviate the misery of the suffering masses who had high hopes after the EDSA Revolution that their life would change for the better.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) who are sincerely working for the uplift of the masses must unite and make a concerted effort to prod government to act immediately, otherwise the opportunists and the greedy will just be taking advantage of our gold. Let us encourage Mrs. Imelda Marcos to talk about it for I feel very strongly that she is in a position to know who are the characters involved in this gold bonanza. Mrs. Marcos will be doing the Filipino people a great service if she writes about it and I am sure that the ghost of FM will help her untangle what appears to be a scramble for our gold.

Never in the history of the Hongkong market has there been so much movement of gold and gold certificates except in the years after "Operation Big Bird" was aborted. The very significant thing about

"Operation Big Bird" is the very fact that then former President Marcos cancelled the authority of De Guzman to withdraw the \$213 million. This proved beyond any doubt that the Swiss government has been honoring FM's authority despite claims of the PCGG that the deposits were frozen. It would be very interesting to know who were the people trying to blackmail FM in this regard, for their own personal selfish ends.

Let us zero in first on Switzerland's export of Gold Bullion/Gold Bars to Hongkong. We will tackle in my next installment the export of the United Kingdom where Bobby Ongpin has been operating after the EDSA Revolution.

| Period                     | Quantity          | Value in HK Dollar    |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| January to December 31/87  | 73,711,686 Grams  | HK\$ 8,290,075,699.00 |
| January to September 30/88 | 107,850,892 Grams | 11,897,152,907.00     |
| January to April 30/89     | 67,611,041 Grams  | 6,684,369,775.00      |

From the above figures, an analyst like me is tempted to ask a very pertinent question: Where is Switzerland getting all these gold/gold certificates? And if I may add further: What was the PCGG doing all that time with foreign lawyers assisting Salonga who has the monopoly on the gold cases?

In justice to FM who is already dead, I



TEA W/ JULIE

by JULIE AMARGO

think that the Filipino people should also be grateful to him for the wealth that he has left behind and for the many roads, bridges and infrastructures that were built in his time. He was the only President who had the courage to execute a plan to get the hidden treasures

off the ground, many times more than enough to pay for our external debts. But our misfortune is that the same Mafias who took advantage of FM are the same Mafias plus some more who have been able to influence Cory and that is Cory's misfortune. I am sure that FM will never forget even to his death what befell his family. It would be very interesting

## Preparation for and conduct of trial-(64)

### 10.33 Objection to Scientific and Experimental Evidence

AN OBJECTION to scientific evidence is based on the principle of incompetency, that is, on failure to lay a proper foundation.

**Foundation:** 1) When experimental evidence is offered - for example, skid tests in an accident case - it is necessary to demonstrate a similarity of conditions between the accident and the experiment. It also must be shown that a trained, qualified person conducted the experiment. 2) If a scientific instrumentality or test is involved -- for example, a blood test or chemical analysis -- it is necessary to show some scientific acceptance. It is not necessary, however, to establish infallibility or general scientific acceptance. Determination of whether the scientific test or instrument has received enough acceptance by experts in the field to justify its admission into evidence, is a preliminary fact to be resolved by the court.

Courts are becoming more liberal in admitting scientific evidence. Practicalities compel the use of standard scientific instruments, material, and tables, even though hearsay implications may be involved. Judicial notice is commonly taken of the reliability of scientific instrumentalities, materials, and tests. Electrocardiograms, for example, are accepted without offering expert testimony about the scientific principles underlying them.

It is always necessary to call the technician who conducted the test and it may be necessary to call an expert to vouch for the general

### LAW AND (DIS)ORDER



by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

scientific acceptance of the instrumentality or test. The technician can testify that the proper procedures were followed, as well as testifying to the test results.

A technician who conducts a test need not understand all of the steps in manufacture of a device, nor does he have to know, for example, in chemical tests, whether the chemicals have actually been properly compounded. He must, however, have reasonably good training and experience in conducting the particular test about which he testifies. If a device such as radar or an intoximeter, is used, the expert/technician must show that it recently has been tested and/or is in good working order, but he need not eliminate all possibility of inaccuracy.

#### 10.33.1. Tape Recordings:

Judges will judicially notice the reliability of records and the theory underlying them. They recognize, however, that tape tampering is a possibility, and accordingly, they insist that a complete foundation be laid. This process includes testimony 1) that the operator was qualified, 2) that the conversation

was recorded at a certain time and place, 3) that the equipment was in good condition, 4) that the proper procedure was followed, 5) that the tape was not tampered with between recording and trial, 6) that the tape is still a good reproduction of the conversation, and 7) in confirmation of the fact that the tape is an accurate reproduction by someone who heard the conversation.

The modern view is that if a witness to a conversation testifies that the tape accurately reproduced what was said, his testimony is that of someone who heard the conversation.

#### 10.33.2. Computer Printouts:

Computer printouts are a form of business record, which includes recognition by a witness of the document in question as the particular printout from the computer. Regarding such entries, most judges will judicially notice the validity and reliability of computers. If not, proof must be offered of the reliability and correctness of procedures used in obtaining the printout offered as an exhibit.

#### 10.34. Objection to Evidence on State of Mind.

If a declarant's state of mind is a fact in issue (declarant need not be a party to the litigation) evidence of his declarations relative to his state of mind is admissible. Declarations can be oral, written, or maybe inferred from conduct, for example, the use of signals.

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## Nuestra Señora de Otra Viuda

KAMI AY ipinadala ng "We Poor Wrong" dito sa Hawaye para interbyuhin ang dating reyna ng kahariang Pilipit-na, Patrona ng mga maaarte, este, ng Arte, dating Nuestra Senora Biglang Gawa na naging Nuestra Senora Biglang Ngawa. Dahil sa pagkamatay ng kanyang asawang hari, ang dating Madama na madamong nakurakot na dolyares at alahas ay napatulad kay Sultana Puso na wala ng asawa. Ang bagong titulo ni Imeldific ay Nuestra Senora de Otra Viuda. Ano po ang inyong masasabi sa inyong pagiging biyuda?

PERS LEYDI: "This is so cruel, so inhuman and so immoral."

Gaano ninyo kamahal ang na-busted na dating hari?

PERS LEYDI: "Nang higit sa aking buhay."

Kung ganon ay nakahanda kayong ilibing ng buhay na kasama siya?

PERS LEYDI: "Sadista! Bakit ka naghanap ng damay? Mas bagay na ang malditang si Tessie 'Meldita' Tomas ang isama para matigil na ang kanyang pang-aalaska sa akin."

Ano ang inyong gagawin kung talagang hindi papayag si Sultana Puso na ilibing sa Pilipit-na ang dating hari?

PERS LEYDI: "Plano kong bilhin ang buong kaharian."

Ipagbili naman kaya ng Nuestra Senora Puro Viaje ang buong Pilipit-na?

PERS LEYDI: "But of course. Pumayag siyang isanla nina Jobo at Ting sa IMF-WB ang buong kaharian, lalong matutuwa ang nakadilaw na biyuda kung ito'y bibilhin ko dahil hindi na sasakit ang kanyang ulo sa pamamahala."

Ano ang inyong masasabi sa federal racketeering charges sa inyo sa New York court?

PERS LEYDI: "My obsession now is that the truth will prevail and the truth will set us free. We are not guilty."

Hindi kayo guilty sa racketeering charges na isinama laban sa inyo?

PERS LEYDI: "Talagang hindi dahil noong kami ang may-ari, este namumuno ng Pilipit-na, lahat ng uring raket ay legal."

Ano bang talaga ang ikinamatay ng dating hari, Madama?

PERS LEYDI: "Cardiac arrest daw pero may duda ako na hindi ito totoo dahil wala namang nagpadala kay Ferdy ng warrant of arrest."

Kanino nga pala mapupunta ang

### PUNNY LINES



by FUNDADOR SORIANO

kayamanan ng inyong kabiyak?

PERS LEYDI: "In his last will and testament, he commits his worldly possessions to the service of the Filipino people."

Sa mga Pinoy mapupunta ang kanyang kayamanan?

PERS LEYDI: "Oo, kina Bongbong, Irene, Imee, Gregg, Tommy and of course, to me."

Akala ko'y paghahatian ng 54 milyong naghihirap na Pinoy ang kanyang kayamanan?

PERS LEYDI: "At bakit namin ipamimigay sa hindi namin kamag-anak samantalang nahirapan kaming kurakutin, este kitain ang kayamananang 'yon. Uy, hindi kami baliw."

Ang inyong mga tuta at aso sa Pilipit-na ay ginagawa ang lahat para maiwi ang

(Page 15, please)

### YOUTH VOICE



by DAVE TABANIAG

## Lean Alejandro remembered

THIS IS from the **Philippine Collegian's** issue last September 21, a copy of which Youth Voice received only recently: "Lean's political life was short: **Collegian** writer, USC chairman, people's Congressional candidate, BAYAN secretary-general. But he was able to accomplish more in the short span what most of us cannot even do in our longer lifetimes."

The studentry recently commemorated the 2nd death anniversary of Ka Lean Alejandro, young leader of the LFS and BAYAN. Was he really a communist as his foes accused him to be, by the way we understand the term? Well, whatever was his ideology, Lean really loved his country and countrymen with this kind of passion that whips the blood, so to speak.

Youth Voice supports the call of the Coalition for Peace (CfP) for an end to hostilities between the AFP and the CPP-NPA and for the immediate disbandment of all armed vigilante units.

These vigilante groups are making more NPA's than they are killing them.

In the war of the insurgency, the CfP takes the side neither of the AFP nor the NPA, but of the ordinary Filipino civilians who suffer most from this fratricidal war which benefits no one except perhaps those idiots of the CIA.

Youth Voice too seeks to condemn all human rights violations whether these are done in the name of "anti-communist" or in the name of "national liberation". Violence will only beget more violence. Why should we allow ourselves to be used as tools by the CIA in their pursuit of their low intensity conflict program here in the Philippines?

The CfP is being led by people like Prof. Randy David, Commissioner Ed Garcia, Sen. Bobby Tanada's niece Karen Tanada, and the very beautiful and alluring Risa Hontiveros.

Next week, we shall talk more about the CfP's proposals for genuine peace.

'Tis better late than never. Condolences to Col. Ricardo Valdez for the death of his wife. Life's like that, colonel. Sooner or later, we'll all land in the grave. So we must make most of whatever little time God had given us here on earth for the service of others.

Hi to Rina and Marita of UST (4th year A.B. Masscom) from yours truly. Congrats to Lea Salonga & co. for the success of "Miss Saigon".

# Tourism campaign in Bicolandia

By ROMY B. DAWAL, JR.

LEGAZPI CITY - The regional office of the Department of Tourism (DOT) here has embarked on an aggressive promotional and marketing strategy to increase tourist arrivals in the region.

DOT Regional Director Pilar Hilario told *We Forum* that in 1988, the country played host to some 1,041,000 tourists who brought in \$1.3 billion in tourism receipts. At least 28 percent of these travellers visited the Bicol region.

Also in 1988, Hilario continued, the Bicol region accommodated 89,319 domestic and 4,056 foreign tourists.

Among the region's six provinces, Albay had the highest number of visitors, with 51,782 local tourists and 3,311 foreigners; as compared to Camarines Sur's 30,083 local tourists and 585 from abroad. Heavy traffic of tourists visiting Bicolandia starts from April to September in time for the region's traditional fiestas and other cultural celebrations such as the Penafrancia festival in Naga, Camarines Sur.

DOT records showed that from January to March of this year, a total of 18,048 tourists arrived, and 16,927 of these were domestic or local tourists. Among the foreigners who visited the region, Americans accounted for the highest number with 217 persons; West Germans, 181; Japanese, 141; and other nationalities, 197 tourists.

Mayon Volcano, the

world's most perfect cone volcano, remains the most frequented tourist attraction of Bicol. Mayon's conical symmetry makes her a very strong tourist attraction. Her fertile slopes and surrounding plains nurtured by abundant rainfall throughout the year makes the place where she sits a rich agricultural region.

But this great beauty also has tantrums. She is the most active volcano in the Philippines and has had periodic eruptions during the last three-and-a-half centuries. It appears on PHILVOCS (formerly COMVOL) records that the earliest eruption occurred about 1616, but her first eruption to be described at length was that of July 20, 1776, which lasted six days. The most violent and destructive eruption occurred on February 1, 1814. It was said to be preceded by local earthquakes the day before, continuing during the night and culminating in a violent outburst at eight in the morning.

During this eruption the areas surrounding Mayon were enveloped in ash showers while terrifying lightning discharges intermittently broke through dark clouds. The catastrophe left at least 1,200 people dead while severely damaging the town of Camalig and burying in tons of volcanic debris Cagsawa and Budiao. Half of Albay District and Guinobatan were laid in ruins. Only the belfry of the Cagsawa church remained

half-buried, a grim reminder of the fury of Mayon, a favorite tourist destination today.

Aside from its volcanic spectacle, Mayon is also the favorite of local and foreign mountaineers because of its thrilling but dangerous tracts and ravines. The first recorded Mayon climbers were two Catholic priests named Fr. Pedro Ferrer, O.S.F. and Fr. Esteban Solis, O.F.M. The two made the historic trek to Mayon's summit in 1592. Last May, DOT Region V sponsored the "Mayon Conquest '89" where several Filipino and foreign mountain climbers succeeded in "conquering" Mayon's crater. The project was started in 1976 and is now an annual crowd-drawer in Bicol.

Another famous attraction in Albay is the "Great Sibidan Festival", an annual boat race sponsored by the DOT regional office. The festival coincides with the fiesta of Tabaco in honor of its patron saint, St. John the Baptist whose feast day falls on June 23-24. Tabaco is a flourishing town 24 kilometers north of this city and is noted for its scissor-making industry.

"Sibidan" is coined from the Bicol term *sibid-sibid*, a small but light outrigger banca that may range from three to six meters long. *Sibid-sibid* is commonly used by small fishermen for speedy transport of light cargo. Some of these fishermen utilize sails when the wind permits an



TOURIST SPOT: Cagsawa ruins, foreground; Mayon Volcano, background.

easy and convenient travel.

This sports event, which is the local version of yacht racing, is an elaborate display of force, strength, skill and endurance exhibited by muscular fishermen from the coastal barangays of the Bicol region.

The event has two categories: *saragwanan* (paddling) and *paralayagan* or sailing. In the *saragwanan* race, the daring participants use their own *sagwan* (paddle) to move the vessel. On the other hand, *paralayagan* will have to rely for its speed on the wind, and with only little effort in the use of the fishermen's *sagwan*.

In Camarines Sur, pilgrims and tourists converged in Naga City for the annual Penafrancia festivities. Every September, the image of the Our Lady of Penafrancia, acknowledged Patroness of Bicolandia, is borne on the shoulders of the *voyadores* and brought to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral for a nine-day novena. After the novena, the image is re-

turned to the Basilica in a traditional fluvial procession along the Bicol River.

For nature lovers, scuba divers and wind surfers, the island province of Catanduanes offers a lot of unspoiled beaches. With the resumption of PAL's Manila-Virac and Leagzpi-Virac flight, Catanduanes experienced an increase in tourist arrivals from 340 in 1987 to 467 in 1988.

But the tourist industry in Bicol is also facing some challenges or problems.

Topping the list are the local weather disturbances that regularly occur in the region. Since Bicol is located within the typhoon belt, close to a dozen tropical cyclones visit the area and bring destruction not only to tourist facilities but to the region's economy as well. Often, PAL has been forced to cancel its flight to and from the region because of the erratic weather condition that made flying difficult.

Other problems besetting

the industry are insufficient tourism promotional materials, limited research and development schemes, lack of foreign language-speaking frontliners dealing with tourists, and inadequate tourist services, among others.

Criminality and the raging insurgency war in the countryside are also considered negative factors.

However, a tourist who visited Catanduanes said of the insurgency war taking place in Bicol: "Tourists, at least, appear to have little to worry about. The poverty-stricken Philippines would be in even more trouble without tourist dollars, in addition to US aid and military installations. Also, the Communist insurgency (being waged by the NPA) is focused on military, police and political targets, and that's what makes all the news. So, most travellers to the region look at it this way: IF YOU'RE NOT WEARING UNIFORM, YOU'RE NOT IN ANY REAL DANGER."

## Antonio CORONEL

(From page 10)

### State of Mind:

Mental condition. Intent, knowledge, malice, motive, design, competency, belief, assent, etc.

**Emotional Condition.** Anger, affection, ill will, fear, etc.

**Physical Sensation.** Pain and complaints about bodily condition. Exclamations concerning then existing pain or other bodily condition, as distinguished from a narrative of past complaints, are admissible. A few jurisdictions, nevertheless, do admit state-

ments of past bodily condition. Admissibility is not restricted to exclamations made at the time an injury was inflicted.

A statement must be made contemporaneously, or nearly so, with the time of the relevant state of mind. Where the statement was made and who was present must also be shown.

A witness can testify as to his state of mind on a previous occasion. It would be inadmissible hearsay, however, for a third party to testify as to what the declarant told him his state of mind was on that previous occasion.

### 10.34.1. Proving Other Facts By State Of Mind Evidence:

A statement of memory or belief by an unavailable declarant cannot be used to prove a fact remembered or believed. A statement by an unavailable declarant, however, as to his intention to do something is admissible as evidence that he in fact did it, for example, that he revoked his will. A statement by "A", an unavailable declarant, that he was going to meet "B" in a certain place, can be used as circumstantial evidence to prove that "A" went to said place; it cannot be used as circumstantial evidence to prove that "B" went there.

The modern trend is to admit evidence

of the conduct and statement of a third party, indicating the state of mind of said third party, as circumstantial evidence in appropriate situations. Suppose, for example, that the issue is the competency of an individual. The conduct including statements of another, that is, a third party towards that individual can be shown, demonstrating that, by his (the third party's) conduct towards the individual whose competency is at issue, it is apparent that the third party regarded the said individual as a normal, competent person. From this circumstantial evidence, an inference of competency may be drawn. Obviously, a foundation of acquaintanceship and opportunity to observe must first be established.

# Foxholes in Zambo town

By LILETTE SANTOS

A REMOTE Zamboanga del Sur town that never knew war is now another Negros Occidental in the making, with families either building foxholes or leaving their homes in order to survive.

(Negros Occidental in recent months was the scene of mass evacuations from heavily militarized zones in the province. At least 300 children died from measles

and diarrhea epidemics which broke out at the evacuation centers.)

Josefina parish (pop. 300,000), composed of 22 villages, is on the eastern boundary of Zamboanga del Sur. The mountain villages along the Mt. Nalindang Range also connect to Zamboanga del Norte and Misamis Occidental -- an inter-province transit point strategic not only for mountain

folk but even government soldiers and their arch-enemies, the New People's Army guerrillas.

Josefina recently witnessed the influx of 25 refugee-families of the Subanen tribe from the villages of Namot and Gala in Tudela, Misamis Occidental.

The Subanen from Namot have been wandering the forests since July 1988 after 55th Infantry Brigade and

Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) members killed a tribesman, Melanio Jalalon, and burned their homes.

Josefina parish priest Felix Tigoy said it was only in March this year that the Namot Subanen chanced upon the Gala Subanen in the forests.

The Subanen from Gala have also been wandering the forests since January this year after tribesmen Pablo del Pilar, Sario and Emiliano Jalalon were shot dead allegedly by government troops.

The 96 Subanen men, women and children (many had died in the forests) arrived in Josefina hoping to rebuild their shattered lives, only to find that Josefina itself was bracing for war.

103rd Infantry Battalion Commander Col. Renato Garcia, in a "dialogue" with government, civic and religious leaders in the town, said that "Mrs. Aquino's total war policy against the insurgency will be accomplished in Josefina in 1990," two years earlier than 1992, which is the national target set by the government to crush the insurgency.

"We have men trained in Vietnam, we have mortars and helicopters, we have everything to defeat them (the NPA)," said Garcia.

As early as August, members of the 4th Infantry Battalion had forced residents of

## Big shopping mall rises in Mindanao

By JUANITO V. JABAT

CEBU CITY -- One of the biggest, if not the biggest, shopping malls in Mindanao is rising in General Santos City, Cotabato, and is expected to give added bustle to the commercial activity there.

The shopping mall is the White Gold City, part of the massive chain of department stores owned by the Cebu-based Gaisano family.

Joseph Gaisano, president of White Gold, Inc. (Cebu), told *Asian News & Features* that White Gold City in General Santos City (formerly Dadiangas) stands on a five-hectare lot in a strategic area of the city.

"Construction of the shopping mall will be in three phases," Gaisano said. "The first phase which has just been completed started early last year and the second phase will be finished in September this year."

Gaisano also said that the Bank of Philippine Islands (BPI) has granted the Gaisano family a P100-million loan for the White Gold City project. The loan agreement was signed at the White Gold House Restaurant in Cebu City last week.

The signatories to the Bagong Argao, Molave (four kilometers from Josefina) to build 50 shacks and 50 foxholes along a two-hectare piece of land for the soldiers' use.

loan agreement were Joseph and Francisco Gaisano for White Gold City and Ricardo Balbido Jr., vice president of the BPI-Family Bank and Claro Reyes, head of the BPI regional branch in Mindanao, for the lending bank.

Phase one of White Gold City, which has already opened, is occupied by Gaisano Dadiangas, a modern department store complex.

Phases two and three will be occupied by other concessionaires.

When fully completed, the shopping mall will have additional department stores, a number of moviehouses, restaurants and other features found in modern shopping malls in Metro Manila. It will also have a spacious car park.

Aside from White Gold City in General Santos, the Gaisano family also owns and operates big department stores in Mindanao including those in Davao City, Mati, Davao; Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City.

In the family's homebase in Cebu, there are six Gaisano superstores and one restaurant which is reputed to be one of the biggest in the Far East.

There are also Gaisano department store complexes in Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Tagbilaran City and Dumaguete City.



Republic of the Philippines  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
Manila

ORDINANCE NO. ....

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY FOUR PESOS AND TWENTY ONE CENTAVO (P572,181,694.21) OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CITY AND THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY MILLION SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY SIX PESOS (P60,676,546.00) OUT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND, AS THE 1989 REVISED EXECUTIVE BUDGET, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AS APPROPRIATIONS OF THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND OFFICES OF THE CITY OF MANILA FOR CY 1989.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, that:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated from the funds of the City Treasury, the sum of FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO MILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY FOUR PESOS AND TWENTY ONE CENTAVO (P572,181,694.21) out of the General Fund and the amount of SIXTY MILLION SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY SIX PESOS (P60,676,546.00) out of the Infrastructure Fund, or so much thereof as may be necessary, as the 1989 Revised Executive Budget to be made available as appropriations of the different departments, bureaus and offices of the City of Manila for CY 1989; viz:

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| A. General Fund         | P572,181,694.21 |
| Personal Services ..... | 284,054,819.00  |
| Maintenance and other   |                 |
| Operating Expenses .... | 288,126,875.21  |
| B. Infrastructure Fund  | 60,676,546.00   |
| Personal Services ..... | 22,855,866.00   |
| Maintenance and Other   |                 |
| Operating Expenses .... | 37,820,680.00   |
| TOTAL .....             | P632,858,240.21 |

SEC. 2. This Ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 1989.  
Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today.

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor on

APPROVED:

GEMILIANO C. LOPEZ, JR.  
Mayor  
City of Manila  
City Council, Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA  
Vice Mayor and  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ALBERTO A. BERNARDO  
Secretary to the Mayor

MA. NYMPHA H. BELLO  
Secretary, City Council

### CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing measure has been ordered published by the City Council of Manila at its regular session held on September 26, 1989 pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Manila.

(SGD.) MA. NYMPHA H. BELLO  
Secretary, City Council

## Referendum

(From page 6)

liberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission support the Speaker's argument. In *Sanidad vs. the Commission on Elections*, Justice Ruperto Martin defined a referendum as "merely consultative in character. It is simply a means of assessing public reaction to the given issues submitted to the people for their consideration."

This seems to agree with the rationale behind Section 16, which was explained by Commissioner Edmundo G. Garcia.

"[T]he new Constitution must...institutionalize people's participation and ensure consultation among the basic sectors at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making guaranteeing that the people have access to information necessary to make informed and responsible decisions.

Concretely the State must be mandated to make possible proper and adequate consultation mechanisms with the people, and the formulation and implementation of local, regional and national priorities, plans, programs and projects that affect the people's lives.

"It is again a recognition of the principle that people must be consulted especially regarding decisions which will affect their lives. Very often it is the people who are very close to the problem; that is why they can tell what the problem is, and perhaps the solution lies along the same lines. The proper function of the legislature in this regard would be to try to formulate mechanisms of consultation that would ensure talking with the people and finding out their ideas. This should be done regularly and directly so that the State or the planning agencies will be able to harness the participation of the people in an institutional manner." (AE)

## A surprise from CSC

I GOT a pleasant surprise last week from the Civil Service Commission. It was in the form of a letter from Mrs. Connie Constantino-Santos, head executive assistant and concurrent project manager of DART—the innovative "Do Away With Red Tape". Mrs. Santos wrote:

Dear Ms. Burgos:

For your information, attached are papers pertaining to actions done regarding the expose' you made in your column Heart and Hearth on June 7, 1989.

Thank you for your support to the Do-Away-with-Red-Tape (DART) project. Public pressure can be a very potent catalyst to get things moving the way they should be.

Finally, may we invite you to listen to our regular radio program "DART Action Line" over DZRB (Radio ng Bayan) every Friday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. over "Ugnayang Pambansa" with nationwide hookup. "DART Action Line" broadcasts information on red tape and airs complaints lodged with the DART Action Center and responses done by agencies concerned.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

CONNIE CONSTANTINO-SANTOS

\*\*\*\*\*

Going over the 12-page enclosure, we learned that a thorough investigation had been conducted by the CSC, with no less than CSC Chairman Patricia Sto. Tomas calling the attention of Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon on that column I wrote headlined "Rude employes in QC office" which came out in the *We Forum* issue of June 7-8, 1989.

Actually, the column was about my unpleasant experience at the Register of Deeds office in Quezon City last June 5, 1989 involving one of the personnel, a certain "Mr. Pedro."

It turned out that "Mr. Pedro" is Concepcion P. Pobre of the same office who had claimed, after the CSC asked for his side, that as far as he could remember, he attended to my papers "expeditiously and cheerfully."

I wonder if Mr. Pobre even remembers me, considering that his office is a beehive of activities and a lot of clients pass through his desk daily.

The reason Mr. Pobre—or Mr. Pedro—gave as the basis for his "cheerful and expeditious" service was that he has never been charged administratively in his 20 years of service in the government.

### HEART & HEARTH



by EDITA T. BURGOS

I guess it's my word against Mr. Pobre's. I have never been accused of concocting an incident that would put down anyone, either.

Be that as it may, I am glad that the issue has reached the Civil Service Commission and, more importantly, that it has acted voluntarily on it.

The gesture of the Commission, particularly of the DART project team, should restore the people's faith on their public servants, notwithstanding the likes of Mr. Pobre. The Commission's action should serve as a warning to the thousands of government employes to be more efficient and effective in dealing with the taxpayers.

To Chairman Sto. Tomas and Ms. Santos, our thanks and congratulations for taking up the issue we raised. You are indeed public officials worthy of your position. May your tribe increase.

## Flower, garden show at UPLB

A GARDEN and flower show will be held at the University of the Philippines, Los Banos from October 6-10 at the UP, Los Banos.

The show, which coincides with the celebration of Loyalty Day of the University, will showcase breakthroughs in horticultural techniques under the sponsorship of the Los Banos Orchid Society and the Department of Horticulture, UPLB.

Lectures and discussions by experts will be held daily, morning and afternoon, on the following topics: Tissue culture of makapuno, banana, orchids and potato; culture and phalaenopsis and dendrobium and fruit trees; plant propagation; pests and diseases of ornamentals; and post harvest handling of horticultural crops.

Among the lecturers include A. G. del Rosario, Bernie O. Dizon, Dr. Flordeliza Javier, Dr. Helen Valmayor, Arlan Varca, Alfin Zamora, Prof. Tito J. Remando and Dr. Gil Divinagracia.

Door prizes, including makapuno seedlings, will be offered to the participants.

## Did you know that ...?

• Up to one million babies die each year due to bottlefeeding... In the Philippines, bottlefed babies are 40 times more likely to die than breastfed babies.

• An estimated 96,000 of 1.6 million Filipino children born yearly die before their first birthday.

• In the government-run Dr. Efrain G. Montemayor Hospital (formerly Baguio General Hospital), a 90 percent drop in the incidence of death among the newborn was reported after breastfeeding was introduced in the hospital in the mid-70s.

• From 87 percent in 1973, breastfeeding rates dropped by 7 percent, to 80 percent in 1987. Among the regions, Metro-Manila has the lowest breastfeeding rate (67.9 percent in 1983.)

• Of the five companies that produce and market 10 infant formula and four follow-up milk brands in the Philippines, only one is Filipino-owned.

• Of the five companies that produce and market 10 infant formula and four follow-up milk brands in the Philippines, only one is Filipino-owned.

### Raul GONZALEZ

(From page 9)

ment No. CI-0527-89-1393". So there you are, Mr. Deloso, you were trying to stop the ground breaking in Guisguis last September 17, claiming that no funds are available, now you eat your words. This amount for Guisguis-Sta. Cruz, in the sum of P4,629,300 is actually a second release already.

\*\*\*\*\*

I just received a call from Capas, Tarlac from one of my people there -- a barangay official -- who told me there is now so much confusion and disenchantment pervading in the province after the expose made by the Tarlac Good Government Council on the misuse of funds for the province and the so called bribery attempt. During the dying days of the Marcos era, the joke was that the favorite song of the opposition had changed from Ninoy's "Impossible Dream" to Paul Anka's "My Way" because it says "and now the end is near". For Cory's sake I hope not because I still cling to the frail straw that grandiose dreams and hopes during and

after EDSA shall not die. Unfortunately we are passing through a nightmare today, so it may be the "final curtain" for the greedy, the abusive and the corrupt in this government who never sweated, nor risked anything during Marcos's time but are now reaping the fruits of what we, who fought Marcos, sowed and planted; we who (to use Ninoy's letter to me) cleared that "tiny path in the forest so that after us can follow the tillers". Unfortunately the "tillers" which Ninoy envisioned did not follow us, only the harvesters full of greed; and the carpetbaggers.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was invited by 4 councilmen of Bgy. San Isidro -- Deloso's home turf last September 23 and against advice of some friends, I went because it was a PTA affair. Well, at about 11:00 p.m. as the induction was starting, all the lights mysteriously went out for 20 minutes. Maybe some misguided elements assumed it would scare me and force me to leave. Well, I stayed and delivered my speech and I think people understood me. In fact I want them to know that this boy does not scare easily...



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ex-NEDA head Winnie Monsod in last week's convention of the Philippine Home Economics Association.

## Monsod: Women always at the epicenter of crisis

FORMER ECONOMIC Planning Secretary and NEDA Director-General Solita "Winnie" Monsod last week said that women normally bear the brunt of changes, particularly in economics.

Speaking before the annual national conference of the Philippine Home Economics Association (PHEA), at the Marikina Institute of Science and Technology last Thursday, Monsod also cited the role of women in the home whom she described as always "at the epicenter of crisis".

"You will understand that it is the home economists who are greatly affected by the disparity of income, the imbalance in the increasing prices of commodities, in social services and in education."

More than 700 home economists from schools, business and other professions, from all over the country attended the two-day assembly presided over by PHEA president and *We Forum* general manager, Dr. Edita T. Burgos.

# Lotlot, Lani give birth to girls



LOTLOT

TWO EXPECTANT showbiz mothers gave birth last Oct. 2 both to baby girls.

Lotlot de Leon, who got married a few months ago to Ramon Christopher amid much controversy, gave birth to a baby girl weighing 7.13 lbs. by caesarian section at the St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City.

As to be expected, Monching was ecstatic over the birth of his daughter and was at the hospital together with his mother, Pilita Corrales when Lotlot was in labor.

Lotlot was scheduled to give birth on the second week of October yet and by normal delivery but due to constant exercising, she gave birth earlier. The delivery had to be by caesarian section because of the size of the baby.

The brand new mother plans to breastfeed her baby and will name her Janine Marie Elizabeth on her christening in March, in time for Lotlot's 18th birthday.

The baby is the second grandchild for Pilita and the first for superstar Nora Aunor, who doesn't look at all like a grandmother and would most probably refuse to be called

"grandma."

Meanwhile, Lani Mercado got what she and husband Bong Revilla wished for, a baby girl after their two boys.

Lani gave birth at the Makati Medical Center and the baby weighed 6.5 lbs. but as in her first two deliveries, Bong was not beside Lani and was shooting his newest movie "Isang Bala, Isang Buhay," opposite Dawn

Zulueta, in Antipolo, Rizal.

Lani was supposed to join Bong in Antipolo that day but after seeing her doctor, she was advised to stay in the hospital and after a few hours, gave birth.

Bong was quoted to have said that now he and Lani have a baby girl, they'll try not to have another child -- not in the near future, anyway.



BONG and LANI

## NOW SHOWING

### MANILA

AVENUE -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 CAPITOL -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 CAPRI -- Abandonada  
 DART (Paco) -- Uzi Brothers  
 DYNASTY-1 -- Lock Up  
 DYNASTY-2 -- Captain Yagit  
 DYNASTY-B -- Young Lady Chatterley II  
 EASTERN -- Honey, I Shrunk The Kids  
 EVER -- Kick Fighter  
 GALAXY -- Split Thunder  
 GLOBE -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 GO! ESCO -- Split Thunder  
 GOTESCO-A -- Split Thunder  
 GOTESCO-B -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 LUNETTA -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 MAJOR -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 MANILA CINEMA-1 -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 MANILA CINEMA-2 -- Captain Yagit  
 MAXIM -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 MIRAMAR -- Kick Fighter  
 NEW DILSON -- Split Thunder  
 NEW HARRISON SUPER -- Tamis Ng Unang Halik  
 NEW HARRISON-A -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 NEW HARRISON-B -- Lethal Weapon 2  
 NEW HARRISON-C -- Kick Fighter  
 NEW HARRISON-D -- See No Evil, Hear No Evil  
 NEW JENNET -- Abandonada  
 NEW LORDS -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 NEW LOVE-1 -- Abandonada  
 NEW LOVE-2 -- Uzi Brothers  
 NEW LOVE-3 -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 NEW LOVE-4 -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 NEW PACO CINEMA -- Abandonada  
 NEW PODMON -- Abandonada  
 NEW UNIVERSAL -- Split Thunder  
 ODEON-1 -- Lethal Weapon 2  
 ODEON-2 -- Captain Yagit  
 REGAL -- Abandonada

ROBINSON-1 -- Abandonada  
 ROBINSON-2 -- See No Evil, Hear No Evil  
 ROBINSON-3 -- Split Thunder  
 ROSEN -- Uzi Brothers  
 ROXAN -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 STATE -- Uzi Brothers  
 TANDEM-1 -- Split Thunder  
 TANDEM-2 -- Captain Yagit  
 U-BELT -- Abandonada  
 VISTA-1 -- Abandonada  
 VISTA-2 -- Super Mouse & The Roborats

### QUEZON CITY

ACT-1 -- Uzi Brothers  
 ACT-2 -- Kick Fighter  
 ACT-3 -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 ACT-4 -- Tamis ng Unang Halik  
 ACT-5 -- Lethal Weapon 2  
 ALI-1 -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 ALI-2 -- Split Thunder  
 ALI-3 -- Lethal Weapon 2  
 ALI-4 -- Tamis ng Unang Halik  
 CINEMA 21 -- Abandonada  
 CORONET-1 -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 CORONET-2 -- Uzi Brothers  
 DELTA -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 DIAMOND -- Kick Fighter  
 NEW FRONTIER -- Abandonada  
 OCEAN -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 OCEAN-A -- Uzi Brothers  
 OCEAN-B -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 QUEZON-1 -- Honey, I Shrunk The Kids  
 QUEZON-2 -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 REMAR -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili  
 SAMPAGUITA -- Abandonada  
 SM 1 -- No Holds Barred  
 SM 2 -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 SM 3 -- Uzi Brothers  
 SM 4 -- See No Evil, Hear No Evil  
 SM 5 -- Tamis ng Unang Halik  
 SM 6 -- Kick Fighter  
 SM 7 -- Lethal Weapon 2  
 SM 8 -- Super Mouse & The Roborats  
 SM 9 -- Jessa Blusang Itim 2  
 SM 10 -- Kadaicha  
 SM 11 -- Split Thunder  
 SM 12 -- Lethal Weapon 2

## TV GUIDE

### AFTERNOON

12:00

(2) Eat...Bulaga!  
 (4) Start of Something Big  
 (7) Lunch Date  
 (13) Showcase 1

1:00

(4) Balita Ala-Una  
 (9) Afternoon Movies

1:30

(2) Agila  
 (4) Damayan  
 1:50  
 (13) Movieeye  
 2:00  
 (7) Santa Barbara  
 (9) Tagalog Movie  
 (13) Showcase 2

2:30

(2) Sine sa Dos  
 (4) Tele Aralan  
 (7) Gideon 300  
 3:00  
 (4) Batibot  
 (7) The 706 Club

4:00

(4) Nickelodeon  
 (7) Dennis the Menace  
 (9) Global Window

(13) Mother of Perpetual Help

4:30

(2) Movie Parade/Video Sneak Preview

(7) The Coral Island

(13) Carebears

5:00

(2) Marvel Super Heroes  
 (4) Starwatch  
 (7) That's Entertainment

(9) Global Window

(13) Balita sa IBC

5:30

(2) Visionaries  
 (9) Mirasol del Cielo

### EVENING

6:00

(2) TV Patrol  
 (4) Pangunahing Balita  
 (7) Eye to Eye/Balita  
 (9) Newswatch Evening Edition

(13) Woody Woodpecker

6:30

(4) Who's Afraid of Opera  
 (9) Face the Music  
 (13) El Corazon de Oro

7:00

(2) Regal's Golden Hour  
 (4) The A-Team  
 (7) Miami Vice  
 (9) Young Love Sweet Love  
 (13) Loveliness

8:00

(4) Munster Today  
 (7) Magnum P.I.

(9) Correctional

(13) Okay Ka 'Tol

8:30

(2) Tonight With Dick and Carmi

(4) The President's Hour

9:00

(7) GMA Gems

(13) Regal Drama Presents Aiko

9:30

(4) Womanwatch

(9) Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous

10:00

(2) The World Tonight

(7) GMA Headline News

(13) Lost Islands

10:30

(2) Oh No! It's Johnny!

(4) Coast to Coast

(7) Straight From the Shoulder

11:00

(9) Sports Inside Out

(13) All-Star Wrestling

11:30

(4) Stand Up for Jesus

(2) International Report

(4) News on 4

(9) Newswatch Final Edition

(13) Balita Huling Ulat

12:00

(7) 700 Club International

12:30

(4) Stand Up for Jesus

(7) Something Beautiful

# Pimentel raps Comelec on 'media ban'

By OMER ALMENARIO

SEN. AQUILINO Pimentel Jr. protested yesterday a directive of the Commission on Elections allegedly banning the use of media in the information campaign for the scheduled plebiscite on the Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act.

Pimentel, who hails from Cagayan de Oro, said that if media is prevented from conducting any information campaign on the Nov. 17 referendum 'who will inform the public on the Organic Act?'

The information campaign on the Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act is supposed to start today and ends on Nov. 15 or two days before the scheduled plebiscite.

Meanwhile, the National Opposition to the Organic Act (NOTOOA) will launch today simultaneous rallies in key Mindanao cities and towns against the autonomy law.

NOTOOA, a newly

formed multisectoral group of Mindanao leaders opposed to the Organic Act, will spearhead "No" rallies in Dipolog, Dapitan, Katipunan, in Zamboanga del Norte, according to former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza, NOTOOA chairman and Nacionalista Party vice president for Mindanao.

The NP has come out openly against the Organic Act, saying that it will not "bring peace and prosperity but division and even violence in Mindanao."

## 'Narcom agents under drug lords' payroll'

SENATOR ERNESTO Herrera yesterday demanded an immediate revamp of the Constabulary Narcotics Command to weed out misfits and other undesirable characters known to be protectors of identified drug lords.

The scalawags coddling leaders of the vicious drug syndicates should also be punished by death, Herrera told PC-INP Chief Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano.

Herrera added that at least 60 Narcom agents are in the payroll of these syndi-

cates.

"When these police and military men allow drug lords to operate freely by providing them protection, they should be considered as criminals and should suffer the same penalties as their benefactors," the chairman of the special Senate body on illicit drugs said.

Montano had himself assailed the inefficiency of some Narcotics officers for their failure to stop the drug menace when he had a meeting with Herrera last week.



SEN. HERRERA

## Fundador SORIANO

(From page 10)

bangkay ng inyong asawa. Ito ay pagpapatunay lamang na hanggang ngayon ay hawak ninyo sa leeg ang maraming Pinoy.

PERS LEYDI: "Hindi lang sa leeg ang hawak namin sa aming mga tuta at aso, pati sa balls.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sinu-sino po ba ang inyong naiwang mga tuta sa ating kaharian?

PERS LEYDI: "Ba't hindi mo tanungin si Lakan Pipi Cohaco? Nasa LDP na kasi ang lahat ng aming mga tuta."

\*\*\*\*\*

Ano ang inyong plano ngayong kayo ay biyuda na?

PERS LEYDI: "Plano kong talbagan ang international star na si Lea Salonga na naging celebrity sa buong mundo via Miss Saigon. Ako ang magiging lead star sa musical tragedy na Ms. Siphon."

\*\*\*\*\*

Ano ho ba ang Ms. Siphon?

PERS LEYDI: "Ito ay istorya ng pinakamagandang reyna sa balat ng lupa who siphoned all the wealth of her kingdom. Bongga ang casting nito dahil magiging supporting cash, este, cast ko ang mga Loyalist na sina Vilma Santa-Santita, Sharon Kudeta, Joseph Espada, Ferdinand Poe, Jr., Imelda Pappy, Germs 'Mikrobyo' Moreno, Nora Honor na nadis-aunor ng RPN9, Alona Areglo, Annie Fee-yer, Bella Flores de Mahjong at kung sinu-sino pang mga kakampi namin noong panahon ng kaginhawahan sa kaharian."

\*\*\*\*\*

Itinuturing ninyong higit na maginhawa ang mga tao noong panahon ni Haring

Macoy kaysa ngayong panahon ni Sultana Pusong?

PERS LEYDI: "But of course. Noong panahon namin ang galunggung ay P20 isang kilo, ngayon ay P40. Ang isang kilong manok noon ay P33 ngayon ay P50. Doon nga sa isang talipapa sa Tabon, Kawit, Cavite ay P52 ang isang kilong manok. Noong araw maraming sasakyan, ngayon ay walang masakyan ang mga tao. Ang mura lang ngayon sa ating kaharian ay ang buhay ng tao."

\*\*\*\*\*

Itutuloy ba ninyo ang inyong pagiging recording artist?

PERS LEYDI: "Hindi na muna siguro. Naaasiwa ako sa boses ni Imelda Pappy. Hindi siya marunong sumabay."

\*\*\*\*\*

Ngayong biyuda na kayo, may plano ba kayong muling mag-asawa?

PERS LEYDI: "By George, ano ba namang tanong 'yan? Iisa lamang ang aking puso at ito'y kasamang malilibing kay Ferdy."

\*\*\*\*\*

Pero ayaw nga ni Sultana Pusong na ilibing ninyo sa ating kaharian ang inyong asawa. Paano 'yan?

PERS LEYDI: "Kaya nga malakas ang loob kong sabihing kasamang malilibing ang aking puso kay Ferdy. Sa totoo lang, papayag ba naman akong malibing ng buhay?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Ano ang inyong mensahe sa otra biyuda na si Sultana Pusong?

PERS LEYDI: "Hindi komo't nauna siyang naging biyuda e h'wag niya akong pagbintangang ginaya ko siya. Ang pagkamatay ni Ferdy ay isang trahedya sa aming pamilya, pero ang kanyang pananatiling sultana ay isang trahedya sa 54 milyon na mga Pinoy na naghihirap."

## Julie AMARGO

(From page 9)

(or 'mystic) system, the number 11 is a warning number to occultists, as it denotes hidden dangers, great difficulties to contend with, and trials and tribulations. In the latter part of his life, FM had all these but in death, he reacquired his formidability. Therefore, FM's ghost is a factor to be considered.

Can you imagine a Cabinet meeting discussing the non-return of FM's body and here comes FM's ghost popping up out of the

blue? Or the Supreme Court justices deliberating on whether to allow the return of his body and in their midst, here comes FM's ghost. Truth is, we will be a haunted nation because the graces we received in EDSA were not used for the common good. Everybody started building mansions in Alabang and in the luxurious villages. Guns kept coming as if there was no end to it. We talk about the "Killing Fields" but the real "Killing Fields" are in the executive suites of greedy planners, of the Mafias whose thirst for wealth are never ending. (To be continued)

## Forum Crossword

By JOSEPH JACOB

### ACROSS

- 1 Party-giver
- 5 Recoil
- 11 Fencing foil
- 12 Emerge
- 13 Invert
- 15 Blunder
- 16 Single
- 17 Broadcasts
- 19 Tantalum symbol
- 20 Musical note

### DOWN

- 22 Strongman
- 24 Abrade
- 27 Stable
- 28 Tell
- 30 Angry sound
- 31 Mr. Pacino
- 32 Retrieve
- 34 Not many
- 37 Contend
- 39 Quarantine
- 41 Encircles

- 43 Play divisions
- 44 Negligent
- 45 Convene

### DOWN

- 1 Demigod
- 2 Inaugurate
- 3 Many
- 4 Golfer's gadget
- 5 Foundation
- 6 Theater offerings
- 7 Increase
- 8 Once named
- 9 Shipping box
- 10 Mission
- 14 Sun god
- 18 LA and MM problem
- 21 Greek letters
- 23 Emerge
- 24 More serious
- 25 Put new pipings
- 26 Hedonics
- 29 Assuages
- 33 Green light
- 35 Feminine suffix
- 36 Direction
- 38 Shade tree
- 40 On the run
- 42 Three-toed sloth

(Answer to previous puzzle)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | T | R | O | A | P | E | D |   |   |
| S | H | E | L | F | D | I | V | A | N |
| L | E | V | E | R | A | L | I | N | E |
| O | N | E | I | F | F | L | I | T |   |
| R | E | V | I | S | E | S |   |   |   |
| D | E | C | O | N | T | R | O | L |   |
| S | E | O | L | D | E | S | T |   |   |
| E | T | A | L | S | W | T | I | P |   |
| C | A | N | O | E | E | L | A | T |   |
| T | I | N | G | E | D | O | W | E |   |
| L | A | Y | S | T | A | M | E |   |   |



## Newsbreaks

### \* More brownouts in Metro Manila

MORE BROWNOUTS will continue to plague Metro Manilans because of the lack of power supplied to the Meralco, according to the National Power Corporation.

The power outage is due to the "tripping" of transmission lines in the Makiling-Los Banos area which occurred the other day and last Sept. 28.

Napocor authorities said that power supply may be normalized as soon as the system is stabilized in the Mak-Ban lines. At present Napocor can only supply 119 megawatts to Metro Manila and that 200 megawatts are still needed to meet the power needs of the Metropolis, they added.

The Napocor and Meralco also yesterday implemented a so-called "rotation brownout" which would last for two hours a day for residential and commercial areas until normal supply is restored.

### \* ConCom delegate twits Mitra

THE PROPOSAL of Speaker Ramon V. Mitra for the holding of a referendum to determine the preference of the people on the US bases question will amount to an amendment of the 1987 Constitution, former Constitutional Commissioner Jose N. Nolleddo said yesterday.

Nolleddo, who was also a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention (representing Mitra's province, Palawan), said: "Unreflected and erroneous opinions on the fundamental law have habitually emanated from the Office of the Speaker to my great dismay."

Twitting Mitra for allegedly misreading the Charter, particularly Section 25, Article XVIII of the 1987 Constitution, Nolleddo pointed out that the position taken by Senate President Jovito R. Salonga is correct because it is in accordance with Constitutional, moral and legal grounds.

Salonga had said he was in favor of a referendum but at a proper time or after the Senate shall have acted on a treaty in accordance with the Constitution. His position was supported by majority of the senators.

Mitra, on the other hand, together with President Aquino and other congressmen, is for a referendum first before the Senate can act on any new treaty involving the American military facilities here. (Omer Almenario)

### \* Laurel: FM return could unite people

KEEPING THE remains of the late ousted President Marcos outside the country will only exacerbate the present state of division and fragmentation among Filipinos, Vice President Salvador Laurel said yesterday.

Laurel, who met with top Armed Forces officials in a closed-door conference, reminded the military of "their crucial role in this critical period."

He added: "The return of Marcos will foster political stability and will help bind the nation's wounds."

He urged the military to be neutral and that it should maintain the democratic structures. (Omer Almenario)



# We Forum

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## *'Even if it takes us 10 years'* RP burial for pa, Bongbong insists

BY MARICAR MOLINA

FERDINAND "BONG-BONG" Marcos Jr., the heir apparent of the Marcoses, yesterday debunked reports that his father, the late deposed President, will be buried in Hawaii.

The young Marcos, who

was one-time Governor of Ilocos Norte, said that they will bury the late deposed Chief Executive in the Philippines, even "if it takes us 10 years to do so."

"Since the beginning, we said that there was only one

thing that my father asked of us, and that is to be buried in Ilocos Norte. We will do that, if we have to wait for 10 years to do this. We will wait. Now, all the arrangements being made here (Honolulu) are only temporary,"

"Bongbong" said in a live interview with radio station DZRH from the Marcoses' exile home in Makiki Heights, Honolulu where the elder Marcos' remains lie in state.

In the same radio interview with newscaster Joe Taruc, Marcos, Jr. also expressed his family's thanks to people who have come out to "manifest their sentiment that President Marcos should be permitted to return."

He also cautioned Marcos loyalists to take all peaceful means to convince President Aquino to reverse her stand banning the homecoming of Marcos's remains, as well as that of the immediate family members.

He added:

"I know that tension is rising because sometimes it becomes hard what they are doing to us--that they don't want to allow President Marcos to come home. We know that is wrong and our tempers are quick to rise. That shouldn't be. We left the Philippines and my father gave up his life so that no Filipino would get hurt. Please don't change that. Until the end, we should not violate the law. We will always pursue our end in as peaceful a manner as possible."

Meanwhile, Marcos supporter PC Maj. Reynaldo Cabautan said yesterday that a peace plan should be devised and approved between the Marcos loyalists and the Aquino administration to prevent any trouble in case the remains of Mr. Marcos are brought home.

Cabautan said the agreement should be made public to make sure that the Marcos supporters will keep their word and not cause any trouble.



IN HAPPIER DAYS: The late President Marcos with son Bongbong and daughters Imee and Irene in a We Forum file photo.

### Senate condoles with Marcoses

THE SENATE yesterday officially expressed its condolences to the family of the late ex-Pres. Marcos in a resolution filed by Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel, Jr. which was approved by all the senators.

Sen. Pimentel said that

the fact will always remain that Mr. Marcos became a senator before he became Senate President and, subsequently, President of the Republic in 1965.

Pimentel, it will be recalled, was ordered jailed by Mr. Marcos five times on

trumped-up charges. He was also dismissed twice as mayor of Cagayan de Oro City and as representative of region 10 during the martial law years.

Meanwhile, Rep. Rolando Andaya yesterday said that the death of former President Marcos has no effect on the country's economy. He said that on the contrary, the economy is continuing to normalize in Metro Manila and in the provinces.

Andaya's statement was corroborated by new NEDA Director-General Jesus Estanislao who said that Mr. Marcos' death has absolutely no effect on the political and foreign relations of the country.

### Shahani assails envoy

SEN. LETICIA Ramos Shahani urged yesterday the foreign affairs department to declare Israeli Ambassador Yoav Behiri "persona non grata for conduct unbecoming of a diplomat."

In a statement, Shahani said: "What is most regrettable is the Israeli ambassador's interference in the formulation of our policy vis-a-

vis the recognition by the Philippine government of Palestine."

In published statements the other day, Behiri criticized Shahani for meeting with Palestine's President Yasser Arafat sometime ago. The Israeli Embassy also objected to the stand of the Philippine government recognizing Palestine.