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We Forum, vol xiii No. 92 - Oct. 31, 1989

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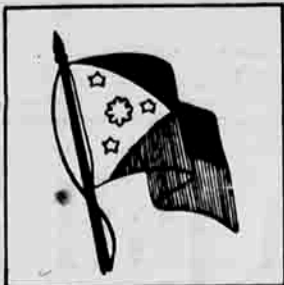


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We Forum

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

VOL. 13 * NO. 92

TUESDAY * OCTOBER 31, 1989

₱2 only

IN METRO MANILA

POLICE ISSUE: DANGER SIGNAL

Page

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Another
CapCom
soldier
killed in
ambush

Page 15



PROTESTING, NOT MOURNING: Philippine Constabulary soldiers in Camp Delgado, Regional Command 6 headquarters in Iloilo City, wear black armbands during formation in protest against the controversial Police Bill. Details on pages 3 and 15. (Roly Embile)

No Ninoy-Nur link, says Cory

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PRES. AQUINO WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS: More, more, more...

Slow pace of investments

By GASPAR BALTHAZAR

PRESIDENT AQUINO and other national leaders have deplored the slow pace of foreign investments. The President has, in particular, raised the curious point that the flow of US investments into the Philippines is "sluggish" despite the special relations between the Philippines and the United States.

Analysts have been quick to point out that special relations do not necessarily provide incentives or security for investments. Other objective conditions for security of investments, they have emphasized, do not exist in the Philippines.

Surveys conducted from time to time by Philippine and foreign business groups show that the continuing communist insurgency, the normally low level of peace and order, bureaucratic red tape, graft and corruption on the public and private sectors, pronounced anti-foreign trends, and the uncertain political climate are powerful deterrents to foreign investments.

International credit institutions have called attention, in periodic reports, to deficiencies in mass communication (especially on the domestic sector), civil aviation, commercial shipping, power and energy, and essential services that

hobble economic growth and development. Needless to say, such deficiencies darken the outlook for investments, local or foreign.

Businessmen and industrialists from America, Japan, Taiwan and Western Europe have told newsmen that wild strikes, chiefly those waged on purely ideological grounds, have cast a long shadow on Philippine business and industry, which naturally discourages foreign participation in Philippine economic development. Foreign correspondents and other qualified observers usually cite the cases of foreign business failures and closures brought about by violent strikes led by leftist and other radical trade unions. The latest and one of the most spectacular of such cases was the closure of the Bataan plant of Mattel, a large multinational firm specializing in the manufacture and sale of children's dolls.

Local and foreign food, dairy, and beverage firms are now under siege by Marxist labor groups, the avowed objectives of which are ideological and political and have no bearing on labor-management issues. These firms are known to pay the highest salaries and wages in the industry. "But," a business

writer says, "they are being asked to remove US military installations from the country."

Philippine official policy is impaled on the horns of a dilemma. On one hand, the administration and the legislature jointly urge the entry of foreign investments, especially from friendly countries, into the Philippines. There is an official school of thought, on the other hand, that tends to clamp constraints on the operation of foreign firms, particularly multinationals. A vocal minority in Congress equates multinationals with "Western imperialism."

In a sense, the core of the story of foreign investments in the Philippines is the virtual Japanization of the country. Japanese monopolies are lording over the import business, the automotive industry, appliance manufacturing and distribution, and ancillary trades.

How the Japanese could so easily dislodge the Americans from their old preeminent position in Philippine business and industry is a story more of American failure than Japanese success.

This, then, is the composite score on investments, which poses a critical challenge to Filipino statesmanship. (ANF)

A woman in jail

By MARICRIS V. RODRIGUEZ

LETTY (full name: Leticia Benitez), 32, a nine-month inmate at the Quezon City Jail, admits having stolen a pair of diamond earrings from her employer.

Which is unusual. Not many individuals accused of crime willingly admit the accusations. Letty's cellmates, for instance, deny the crimes attributed to them.

One is a suspected drug-pusher. "I don't know what's going on," she says. "The first time I heard of a buy-bust operation was when I was arrested." Another says she didn't really steal the boy's shirt from the shop; somebody passed it on to her.

Another thing that makes Letty different from her cellmates -- she has a three-month old baby daughter with her in jail.

Letty tells a story of gradually constricting circumstances.

She was an orphan, but being a sufficiently bright student, Letty had some promise of a future a few years ago. Then, she got married to a bum and soon had a baby daughter. To support her family, Letty sold fish at the local market. But, it was never enough.

A couple of years ago, a woman recruiter for foreign jobs came to town. For P10,000, one could go work abroad and get paid in dollars. Attracted, Letty and her husband borrowed right up to their necks to pay the P20,000 fee.

However, the recruiter was fake and ran off with everybody's money. To Letty and her husband it was a catastrophe.

Loan payments were now added to the already tight family budget. Loan sharks gave Letty no peace at the end of the day. Then, she found out she was again pregnant.

Letty decided to seek work in Manila as a housemaid. Three months on the family way, she was taken in by a family in Quezon City as maid for P250 a

month.

Whether or not the intention was there, the facts speak for themselves and Letty admits them: within a few weeks of her employment, Letty ran away with her employers' earrings. In fact, if her employers are to be believed, Letty ran off with more jewelry and cash than she has admitted. She stole over P100,000 in cash and jewelry, her employers claim.

The earrings, however, were sold for less than P3,000, which didn't even make the slightest dent in Letty's interest-bloated loan.

Today, Letty stays with around 40 other women prisoners in the five-cell women's dorm, her baby now on its third month. Letty pleaded guilty on the advice of her lawyer (government-provided), but the trial goes on because her employers claim that she stole more than she admits.

The fake recruiter was arrested in 1986, was convicted and is now inside a woman's correctional facility outside Manila. However, none of her victims have been paid back.

Letty herself faces a minimum of one year in prison if convicted of the charge of qualified theft.

She speaks of the hazards of prison life, but there is much hope in her.

She writes to her husband, who doesn't answer her letters. She worries about her six-year old daughter who has grown thinner.

"When I get out, I'll get an honest job. I won't live with my husband anymore, but I'll get my little girl. I'm sure there will be people who'd give me a second chance. I am not really a criminal. I did it because there was nothing else I could do," Letty says.

The catch is that Letty might find it difficult looking for jobs after she is released. Or, she may have a long wait ahead of her before she can get out. If she gets out.

Young Filipinos tour Japan

EIGHT FILIPINO youths will visit Japan on November 1-11 as guests of Japan's Foreign Ministry under the Southeast Asian Youth Invitational Program. The trip will give them a firsthand view of Japanese politics at work, the various aspects of the economy, and the dynamics of Japan's society and culture.

This decade-old program seeks to enable younger generations from Southeast

Asian countries to gain a deeper perspective and a more intimate knowledge of contemporary Japan and its people. More importantly, the program hopes to facilitate the free exchange of ideas, experiences, and sentiments on issues of common concern between today's Japanese and Southeast Asian youths toward fostering a better appreciation of each others' society and culture.

Those joining this year's trip are Altair R. Raynes and Sol Carmen Lagdameo of the Office of the President, Elizabeth Andrada of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Filomena Gelvezon and Arlene Gella of the House of Representatives, Roquena Domingo of the University of the Philippines, Ma. Josefina Gonzalez of De La Salle University, and Cdt. Capt. Bisnar of the Philippine Military Academy.

Junk PNP plan, restore old PC, police setups

By ERIC S. GIRON

CONGRESS IS playing deaf to the demand of local officials for the restoration of the police to the jurisdiction of the city and town mayors, as in the old setup before the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos militarized them by integrating the police forces with the Constabulary in order to tighten his grip on the gun-toting individuals.

The governors and mayors suggest that the Philippine Constabulary be separated from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and be restored to its original task of chasing after criminals, outlaws and dissidents from the time it was organized in 1908.

The 1987 Constitution's provision stipulating that "the state should establish one police force which shall be national in scope and civilian in character... (Section 6, Article XVI)" can be observed by designating the National Bureau of Investigation as the civilian national police outfit.

The PC can be returned to its former police duties, including fighting insurgents, while the regular Army force is pared down to a skeleton force and a large reserve force is built from the civilian ranks following the concept of the National Defense Act (Commonwealth Act No. 1). This will save the government millions of pesos in maintaining such a bloated Army.

What happened was that from the 35,000 total AFP strength during Ramon Magsaysay's time, the military was beefed up by Marcos' martial law regime to over 100,000.

The PC role was radically altered in the late 1940s when Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay merged it with the Army in forming battalion combat teams to fight the Huks. Magsaysay clarified that the PC presence in the

BCTs gave them police powers to make arrests. The PC maintained regional commands and the Army kept military area commands. But their joint operations gave the PC a military character while preserving its police powers.

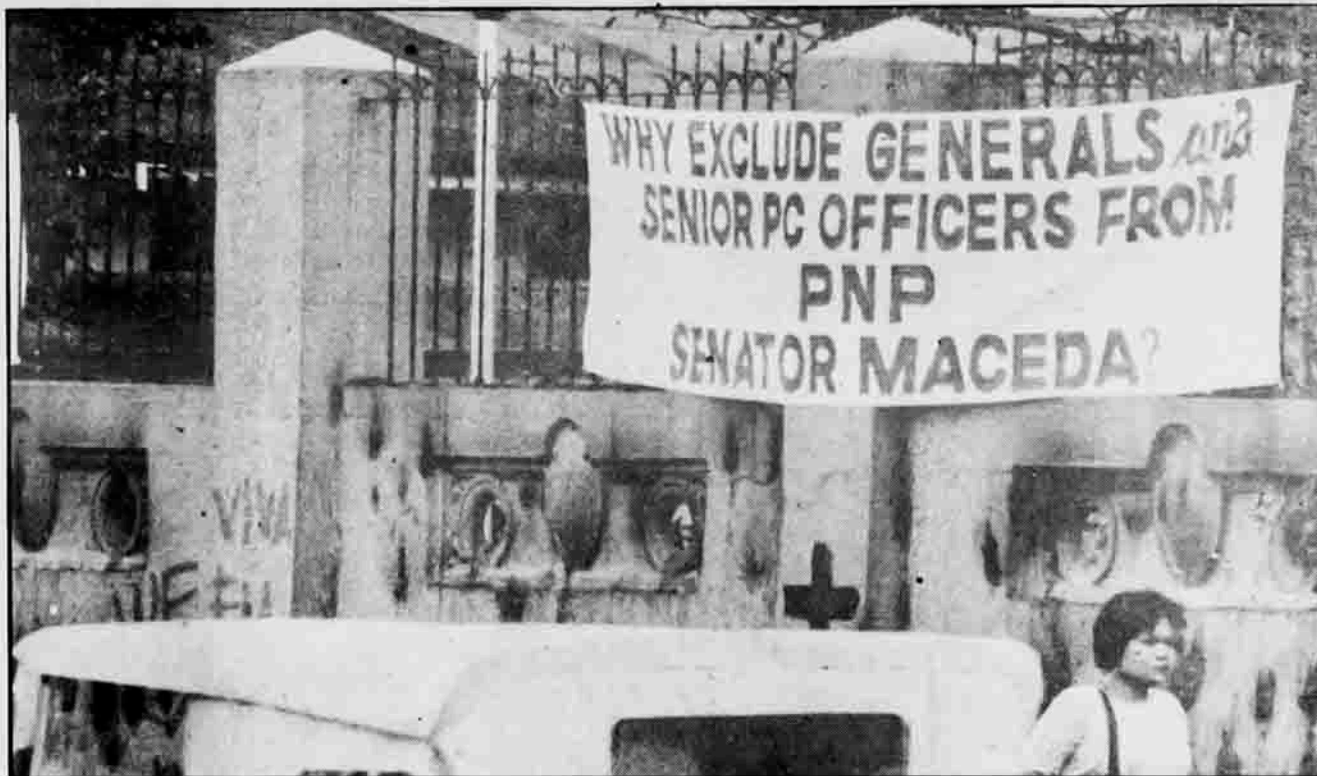
PC-police integration under Marcos was opposed to the decentralization of government since the command of all the country's policemen was centralized. The proposed Philippine National Police maintains this centralized setup.

The point is: what assurance is there that the switch from military to civilian outfit ensures against corruption in the police ranks? It all depends on the leadership. If the commanders are crooks, so will the men be.

With the swelling of the AFP ranks up to 150,000, not only the PC but the Army and the Marines are participating in the campaign against the New People's Army. Marines under Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon are policing Metro Manila. There is no clear-cut separation of duties of AFP commands.

CONTROVERSIAL BILLS

Congress has a knack for enacting controversial bills into law despite heavy opposition, so expect it to ram these laws down the throats of the electorate. The House or the Senate, however,



PC PROTEST ACTION: "No" to Maceda's police bill.

cannot legislate out Philippine Constabulary generals, colonels and other career personnel and throw them out of jobs or expect them to go begging for positions in other Armed Forces branches without putting up a fight for their rights.

The fact that Senator Ernesto Maceda who has recently implicated PC top brass in gambling is the chief author of Senate Bill 463, together with Sens. Aquilino S. Pimentel and Rene Saguisag, aggravates the PC's accusation that there is partiality and discrimination in its provisions.

The PC top brass were still holding back their punches when the House overwhelmingly approved the Philippine National Police bill 23614 authored by Rep. Rodrigo Gutang last May despite what they branded "discriminatory" provisions. These provisions required admission tests which could result in the lay-off of 32,000 out of 40,000 PC personnel, since only 8,000

were reported qualified; and the separation of 4,000 out of 65,000 policemen and firemen considered ineligible.

The test requirement for PC men was branded "class legislation" and "constitutionally infirm" by Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, Capital Command (Capcom) chief. This would presume that the Constabulary and the police assimilated unqualified personnel into their ranks.

The Senate counterpart bill which will bar 24 PC generals from joining the new outfit and compel more than 100 colonels to go into early retirement was protested by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos himself. The Senate bill has inevitably become an emotional issue. Ramos pointed out the "very legitimate and sincere concerns" raised by the affected Constabulary personnel.

He asserted that the PC has no quarrel with the Constitution's provision on civilian supremacy over the

military. But he said the Senate measure would deprive the service of men with great experience in running a national police organization and would prove divisive.

PC Chief Major Gen. Ramon Montano and Brig. Gen. Aguirre are among the generals who stand to lose their jobs. Aguirre commented: "I will be kicked out of the service without cause because of the discriminatory provisions of SB 463."

Maceda's bill goes one step further than the Gutang measure in proposing the revival of the Department of Interior under which the national police would operate and absorb the Department of Local Governments which will be reduced into a bureau.

Such organization will again entail millions of pesos and more people will be thrown out of work. If all personnel of the Local Governments Department will be absorbed by the Interior



SEN. MACEDA: Riding roughshod over PC?



SEC. RAMOS: Cool it.

(Next page, please)

Department there will again be an increase in government personnel. For a government that is operating with an enormous deficit, such plan for a new department is uncalled for.

The Senate and the House will have to reconcile their different versions of a PNP and come to a compromise when they reconvene next month after their recess. The horse-trading may result in a hodgepodge organization.

NEW COUP THREAT?

Gen. Renato S. de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, has joined General Mon-

tano's outcry against the "erroneous" provisions of Senate Bill 463. The National ROTC Alumni Association, whose members form 85 percent of the 14,000 officers of the AFP, have also condemned the Senate bill.

People tend to look at Montano's claim that renegade ex-Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan is recruiting disaffected Constabulary members, as grasping at straws to counter the Congress PNP bills. Montano told reporters Gringo's boys had been going around the camps and telling the PC officers, "We told you so. That's what you get for backing up this government."

Montano was among other Constabulary officers who aborted six previous coup attempts. They also recaptured broadcast stations temporarily held by Honasan's followers in the bloody 1987 aborted coup.

Fidel Ramos, the PC Chief with the rank of lieutenant general, and former Marcos Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile triggered the "EDSA revolution" in the afternoon of Feb. 22, 1986 by declaring their stand against Marcos. They were instrumental in installing Cory Aquino as President.

This is the reason why Ramos, who has appealed for sobriety in the AFP, particu-



GEN. MONTANO: Good-bye to top PNP post?

larly among the PC men, stated that the Constitution guarantees military insulation against partisan politics. He described as "uncalled for" Senator Maceda's published statement that

"the PC generals should retire to enjoy their loot".

Ramos said President Corazon Aquino had promised to arrange a meeting between Congress and AFP leaders so they can thresh out the issues concerning the PNP.

The Senate bill would merge into the PNP the Philippine Constabulary, Integrated National Police and the National Police Commission, under a civilian chief.

PC PREFERRED

Article 4, Section 21 of Senate bill 463 provides that the AFP shall form a separate unit of at least 3,000 PC officers and men who choose to remain with the Constabulary.

Several PC officers and soldiers said they prefer to join this separate AFP unit under AFP general headquarters. It will perform military police functions and similar duties to be determined by the AFP chief of staff.

About 300 senior and junior officers and enlisted men of the 3rd PC Regional Command in Central Luzon were out to boycott the police examinations scheduled Oct. 29. The tests were held at the Jose Abad Santos High School in San Fernando, Pampanga and at the Nueva Ecija High School in Cabanatuan. The boycott was in support of the stand of General Montano against the PNP bill, according to Lt. Col. Amado Espino, chief of the Criminal Investigation Service in Central Luzon.

Espino said if Maceda wants the PNP bill to suc-

ceed, "we should start with a clean slate with no discrimination regardless of rank or position." He was referring to the provision barring generals and colonels of the PC from the proposed PNP. Other PC personnel have to take the Napolcom tests corresponding to their rank before they can qualify for the PNP.

Despite the animosities engendered by the PNP bill, will the Senate and the House push it through?

The return of the various police forces to their municipalities under the jurisdiction of the mayors and the separation of the Philippine Constabulary from the Armed Forces to perform as the national military police might prove a better recourse.

The National Bureau of Investigation which, aside from investigation work, processes persons going abroad and keeps records of criminals and shady characters who have served prison terms, could be gradually beefed up as the civilian national police.

In spite of moves to abolish either the PC or NBI in the postwar period and retain one as the national police, both have been retained because of the Constabulary's role in the anti-dissident campaign and the NBI's role in fingerprinting, processing and investigation.

A centralized national police is a militarized set-up that should prove useful to a dictator under martial law. But under a free and democratic government, local officials should have jurisdiction over the police.

More than a NEWSpaper.



The **THINK**paper

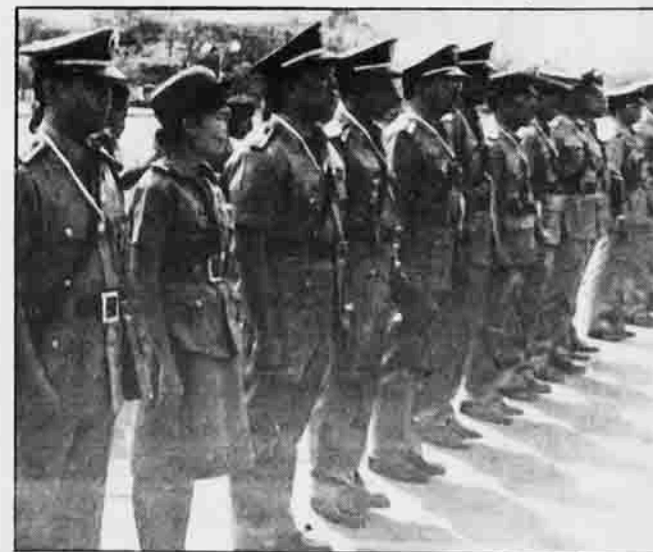
We Forum does not simply present the news.
It probes and provokes.

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 **THINK**paper

MONDAY TO FRIDAY



POLICE FORCE: Better deal than Constabulary officers?

Gold rush nightmare hits gentle T'boli tribe

By BEN SIMMES

T'BOLI, South Cotabato -- Hundreds of people have died because of caved-in tunnels, landslides and violence in Diwalwal, Davao Norte. Mercury poisoning has caused sickness and death among workers and people in the surrounding areas. The need for timber to build tunnels has caused deforestation of the whole area. Now, it is feared, the same nightmare could repeat itself in Mindanao's latest gold rush site, the land of the gentle T'boli.

Was T'boli going to be another Diwalwal?

"No, T'boli is going to be a different story" the Regional Technical Director of the Bureau of Mines, Engineer Jacinto, assured a fact-finding team of 12 researchers, photographers, media-men, health and church workers and ecologists headed by the Kinaiyahan Foundation, an ecology group based in Davao City. The team visited him Oct. 10, the day before it was set to conduct an investigation and ocular survey of Kematu, the new gold rush site, in T'boli town (South Cotabato).

Diwalwal indeed is an example of a gold mining site where everything that possibly could go wrong went wrong, Jacinto admits. "The advantage of T'boli is that we were there right at the beginning and that precautions are taken to avoid ecological damage as much as possible. We are monitoring the developments."

Jacinto revealed that three mining engineers are in Kematu to investigate who are involved in mining and to see to it that recommended changes are being implemented.

"We are inspecting tunnels, we have urged the replacement of the ball mills far away from the River Kematu and we give trainings to those involved in the processing of gold to minimize mercury poisoning. What we are trying to do is to as much as possible prevent

disasters like Diwalwal."

Nobody has secured rights to mine in Kematu. "But it seems the Office of the Southern Cultural Communities (OSCC) has given the sole right to direct all mining activities to Mai Tuan, T'boli mayor."

"Only we of the Bureau of Mines can give permission. The OSCC is in Kematu because it is a 'Civil Reservation Area' and any activity there needs their approval. This may involve an exploration of mining possibilities, but no exploitation." "There is no way to stop a gold rush."

The jeepney slowly heads for T'boli. It is full-packed, and the driver demands the utmost of the engine. More people are riding on top and the sides than on the inside of the vehicle. Most of them are workers who have heard about the gold mines and are now on their way to try their luck.

In a period of just over three months, the population of the small town of T'boli has swollen with 5,000 to 8,000 people. Many more are expected to come as the news is spreading.

The jeep arrives in the morning at the outskirts of T'boli. A checkpoint headed by a team composed of military, Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGU) and police marks the entrance of the area. Upon arrival at the municipal hall we are informed that the



MAYOR MAI TUAN: High hopes.

mayor is at the mining site. We proceed to try to meet him there and see the site for ourselves.

On the way we cross twice the Kematu River which meanders through the mountains. At the next checkpoint, manned by the military we are asked to pay P5. It is standard procedure. The next checkpoint is manned by the OSCC. Here, a sign notifies everyone to hand in weapons as no one is allowed to carry guns at the mining site. Along the road, near the banks of the River Kematu, new houses have been built, and quite a number of them are under construction. People are either loitering around, are eating in the small cenderias, or are on their way to the tunnels.

Finally, about four kilometers from T'boli, we reach the mining site.

It is an imposing sight. On the steep slopes of the mountains numerous tunnels have been constructed. Makeshift constructions where workers live dot the mountain, near the tunnels. They are easily recognized by the rain curtains used as roofs. According to the Pro-

vincial Government a total of 213 tunnels have been dug within just the last three months.

From a distance we see people climbing up and down. Crude steps are staked out to make it easier to reach the tunnels. The T'boli, the indigenous inhabitants of Kematu, are mainly contracted as "packers". For every 25-kilogram bag of gold ore carried down they earn P10. They make another P10 if they transport the heavy timber poles which are used to construct tunnels, up the mountain. It is hard work, but this way they make as much as P200 to P250 daily.

For the miners, daily routine is harsh. Every morning at six they start to work up till 6 p.m. Usually they work in groups of three. One does the actual digging, using a spade or a crow bar. The other two pack the ore in bags and place those outside the tunnel. One member acts as carpenter, constructing the extension of the tunnels as they advance deeper and deeper. The foreman shows us inside the tunnel, the actual vein of the gold ore.



T'BOLIS' TRADE: Exploited?

To follow the vein means that the tunnel itself moves up and down, to the left and the right, depending on where the best gold ore is located.

"A lot depends on experience," explains Danny (not his real name). "I have been in gold mining since I was 15 years old and I have worked in most places like Diwalwal, Boringot, Maitum and now T'boli. You can't learn this from books. It's the experience which is most valuable. I know all aspects of mining: the prospecting, the actual digging, the processing in the ball mills and the blow torching."

Danny's group belongs to a "corpo" (short for corporation). Danny explains that all members share equally in the profit they make. They receive 40 percent of the actual profit, the financier receives the other 60 percent. The ones who really make it and become rich are referred to as "high graders" and Danny hopes to be one of them, one day. Up till now he has made "quite a bit of money." But most of us once in a while go to Manila or Cebu, have a good time and

start thereafter anew."

He relates how group members are quite often sick, especially with fever and colds. No wonder, if one sees how they have to live. Their living quarters are just a few wooden poles, covered with rain curtains. Later in the day, when it is raining hard, we think of them and wonder how they will be hiding either under their rain curtain or in their tunnels.

Asked whether people have died, Danny answers "Wala pa" (not yet). "That's because most of us have only started digging here recently, which means that the tunnels are relatively short and not deep yet." But Danny surely expects that like in Diwalwal, many will die because of caved-in tunnels or landslides.

He points meaningfully to the surrounding steep mountain slopes. Others join in again, joking that it is the cheapest way to die if your tunnel caves in. No funeral costs needed: you literally dig your own grave.

"The gold rush really
(Next page, please)

started in July," provincial Executive Assistant, Mr. Joji Dominado, briefed the fact-finding team. (Gov. Sueno was in Manila) He said the local government learned about the gold rush in Kematu only much later. But as soon as the Governor realized what was going on, he and a team composed of T'boli officials, miners and DENR representatives went to Kematu to check the actual situation. The Governor subsequently issued an Executive Order, on Aug. 3, instructing Mai Tuan and the police chief to stop all processing of mined ores pending establishment of a safety plan.

Two mining engineers from the DENR made an assessment on Aug. 8 and 9. The engineers reported: "The area is found within the T'boli Civil Reservation and therefore, is not open for mining location unless there is prior approval from the government agency concerned. Since the mining operators do not have the necessary license or permit from this Office, the activities are considered illegal".

The Executive Assistant concludes his briefing by saying: "Our hands are tied. We have no special jurisdiction, as it is the DENR which is responsible to control the exploitation of mining."

Although illegal, operations continue and like a wild bushfire, more and more tunnels are opened.

On Sept. 25, Jacinto reported to his superiors. He proposed a number of safety measures like the relocation of processors away from the Kematu River; the prohibition of structures near the foot of the slope to avoid casualties in slide-prone areas, construction of toilets and dump pits near shanties and residential and commercial establishments; and participation of all miners in the reforestation of the immediate vicinity.

In his memorandum Jacinto stated: "Mayor Tuan was also advised to apply for a small-scale mining permit covering the area in order to legalize the operations and for the permittee to be primarily responsible for the operations in the area."

Mayor Mai Tuan asks for more chairs so that all members of the team can be seated. He introduces us to four of his wives. His casual attire matches his informal way of discussing issues, a manner that does not reflect the tremendous power he exercises in the area. But his words betray him, eventually.

"It may be that I'm not following all the laws, but it's because the government made a mistake by not providing food to eat or employment. Now at least the people have something to eat and work. We give them something to do."

"We have no problems here. There are many military (men) who are digging here, also policemen. But as soon as they enter the area they have to dispose of their arms. No one is allowed to carry weapons. If the police make trouble, the police is responsible to solve the problems. If it's the military, then the military have to take care of their own. If it's the ordinary workers, then it is the tunnel owner who is responsible. So, there are no problems."

"At first, I did not allow any (alcohol) drinking at the mining site. But that was not good. People are working hard and are lonely. So, I told them they are allowed to drink as long as they do not create any problem. I told the Bishop, the Governor and the people from DENR to give me advice. Any advice is welcomed because we have to find solutions to the problems."

"I directed the DENR to pinpoint an area for logging so that we can provide timber for the construction of the tunnels. Every tunnel owner has to pay P500 a year for the exploitation of the tunnel. Right now my brother is in the Municipal Hall to collect those fees, because I have too many other things to do. My brother is the Regional Representative of the OSCC."

"He has to support all actions I take, because the role of the OSCC is a supporting one. There are different sources of income (aside from the annual P500 tunnel fee). For every bag which is transported to the processing zone, I collect P3. Also, everyone who wants to enter

the area has to register at the Municipal Hall."

"Then I collect 10 percent of the profits. Two percent of that amount is for scholarships, two percent for adult education classes, two percent for a hospital, two percent for the barangay and the last two percent is miscellaneous."

When it was decided that the processing should be far away from the Kematu River to avoid pollution, Mayor Tuan created an "industrial zone" where the processing should be done. Where normally industrial zones are found far from population centers, the "industrial zone" of T'boli is located near the market and the elementary school. This is where the ball mills are located and the gold ore is processed to crude gold.

The process is called direct barrel amalgamation. First, the ore is ground in the cylinders, containing two heavy iron bars, for about two to three hours. After that, 1.5 to 2 kilos of mercury are added and another 30 minutes of grinding produces the amalgam, the combination of mercury and gold. To remove as much mercury as possible from the gold, the amalgam is placed in a piece of cloth or a handkerchief and squeezed.

The fluidity of mercury makes it possible for it to pass through the cloth while the gold remains within. The remaining combination of mercury and gold, tiny balls of about 30 to 40 grams, are then further processed through the use of blow torching. By heating the amalgam the mercury evaporates in the air and tiny specks of crude gold are the final product. The gangue or waste materials are deposited in the tailings ponds.

The members of the team are shocked to see how the processing is done. No preventive measures are applied. Workers squeeze the amalgam with their bare hands, the operators of the ball mills do not use any protective cloths, masks or whatever, to protect themselves from mercury vapor. Blow torching is often done inside houses, increasing workers' intake of mercury



GOLD RUSH ENTRANCE: Way to riches?



BARANGAY KEMATU: There are now 213 tunnels and 5,000 new faces.

vapor. No one uses the re-tort system which would avoid the vaporization of mercury into the air. Children roam around the area and look at the processing. Settling ponds for the waste materials are still under construction.

For Msgr. Dinualdo Gutierrez of the Diocese of Marbel it is a clear-cut case: the provincial government is responsible for the ongoing developments. He thinks Sueno has the power and jurisdiction to control or stop illegal and unsafe mining activities. The local Catholic church has not taken any action yet, al-

though Kematu is clearly going to be the next ecological disaster, developing right at the frontsteps of the Bishop's house.

One would expect that the experiences gained in other mining areas like Diwalwal would call for a strict implementation of laws and regulations. The opposite is true. Several times government officials have stated there is no way to stop a gold rush. The policy, as the Provincial Representative of the DENR, Engr. Romulo R. Valerio puts it, is "maximum tolerance."

And when the gold dust

has settled, the T'boli will be able to make up the balance. Most likely they will be the ultimate losers. The money they make is earned by hard labor, carrying loads of ore and timber up and down the mountain. A bit of income is gained by rental of land or houses.

But the financiers of the mining, the workers in the tunnels, the ball mill operators, they are the winners. After they have gone, the T'boli are left with denuded and deforested mountains, polluted rivers and an uprooted community. (KFI/Media Mindanao News Service)

Something's gotta give

THE honeymoon between Mrs. Aquino and the military may soon be over. If the Senate bill creating a Philippine National Police (PNP) under civilian control pushes through. After more than three years of sweet harmony characterized by mutual aggrandizement, it is now headed towards the rocks as the relationship continues to sour with the passing days.

If the lady President is not so busy with preparations for her scheduled trip to North America, she should consider the implications of the protest actions launched by some 1,000 Philippine Constabulary officers and men in Cebu City last week. Departing radically from their Camp Crame and Legaspi City counterparts, the PC in Cebu wore black armbands, burned effigies and raised clenched fists in a show of revolt against the proposed bill. It was as if they were protesting the continued stay of the United States military bases in the country, as if they were lowly workers striking against the abuses of exploitative capitalism, as if they were civilians protesting high prices, graft and corruption, and all-around incompetence in the ineffective Aquino administration.

The point is, they are not civilians. The military is, in fact, under civilian rule in this fledgling democracy. But because they carry arms, military, in many instances, has been able to bamboozle and cow the people they are sworn to protect, and weave a net of corruption from small-town *sakla* to nationwide drug and gunrunning, bank robberies, kidnapping for ransom and other such highly profitable "businesses."

Against uneasy background looms the figure of the cashiered Gregorio Honasan, now reported to be recruiting the disgruntled in the military echelons and the rank and file. Whether this report is true or not, (speculation is rampant and seems well-founded that this is part of the psywar by the PC) is simply peripheral to the controversy. The vortex of the storm, so to speak, swirls within the Aquino-military relationship that has endured in symbiotic harmony for the past three and a half years. Without the military, the presidency should have given way to a junta two years before, a matter of obvious fact that Mrs. Aquino could not miss even in her myopic perception. How Honasan could capitalize on this present schism would reflect on his continuing hold on some segments of the armed forces and the scope and effectiveness of his organizing ability.

The chief of staff, Gen. Renato de Villa, has reportedly ordered PC chief Gen. Ramon Montano to impose sanctions against any AFP personnel who would continue to defy the protest ban, assuring at the same time of the soldiers' loyalty and their action as simply "over-enthusiasm." If this loyalty is as strong and enduring as De Villa's loyalty to Mrs. Aquino which according to his critics, is his only saving grace, then Honasan may be in for some very tough recruitment job. But this is a highly debatable point.

What is to the point is the creeping disenchantment that has crept into the honeymooners' relationship. Last week Mrs. Aquino cited military corruption as threatening the gains already achieved in the insurgency campaign and creating a wider gap between the soldiers and the people. The statement was strongly indicative of her disappointment with the performance of the military and, more importantly, of her stand on the Senate PNP bill. The military could either toughen its stand some more, or give in to the Commander-in-Chief. The next few weeks that will include her 10-day absence could prove very crucial to this relationship. As the song goes, something's gotta give.



Equality before the law

EMINENT LAWYER Juan T. David was heard over the airwaves making a summation of his plea for the return of the Marcos body (minus the booty). Now why did he have to drag the name of God into the issue, by stating that President Aquino transgressed even the Divine Will by refusing the burial of the Marcos cadaver in the Philippine territory? The question I wish to pose is: who is this God who is concerned with the disposition of carcasses? The God I know and believe in even chided those who wanted to involve Him in their settlement of inheritance claims. As Christians, please let's commend Marcos' soul to God and his body to the worms.

Now the Marcos loyalists are marching to Manila from the Ilocos in order to pressure Cory to relent and bow to their version of a people power revolution. Whose widow will prevail? Ninoy's or Ferdie's? Place your bets, folks. The stakes are our very future as a nation. But the immediate problem we have to face (we cannot leave it for Cory's crisis committee to handle else we will end up with more burial problems) is how the PC-INP will welcome the Ilocano invasion. The Marcos loyalists here in Manila are already boasting that they will not need to gather before Camp Crame to reenact the EDSA uprising (the plan fizzled out once before during the Gringo mutiny). They will fill all the streets of Metro Manila with people!

I personally couldn't care less if Cory and

BEYOND HYPOCRISY



By PLACIDO P. DIAZ

her nest of incompetents (except in the art of self-enrichment) are toppled from power the same way they came in. I am saddened more by the thought that when Filipinos demonstrate against the Americans, they are dispersed with tear gas and water cannons, as reported again during the recent MacArthur landing rites in Leyte. But the Marcos loyalists have always been treated with kid gloves, seldom without respect. Will the time ever come when we citizens will all feel equal before the law, and be treated with equal respect by our law enforcers? Or do we have to live under one law for the rich, another for the poor until death, the great leveller, brings us all down to dust and ashes?

May I remind Atty. Juan T. David and all interested parties that if they recognize Jesus Christ as their Teacher in Theology, He demonstrated convincingly that God is on the side of the poor and the oppressed, on the side of the greatest sinners while on the present earthly journey. But His Eternal Gardens are not for the deceased, but for the living. May Marcos and his loyalists find their way there.

We Forum

MEMBER



PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Published from Monday to Friday by the J. BURGOS MEDIA SERVICES, Inc. with editorial and business offices at 92 Road 1, corner Road 33, Project 6, Quezon City. Tels. Nos. 99-53-67; 99-51-17 (Administrative, Circulation and Production), 99-40-97 (Editorial).

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Both Maggie and Cory are behind the eight ball

THIS IS not the year of the distaff in government. According to an opinion poll published in last Sunday's edition of *The (London) Mail*, 54 percent of 1,043 interviewed voters believe British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher should step down after 10 years at the head of the Conservative Party. This was her lowest personal rating since she was voted to power in 1979.

Another poll, published in *The Sunday Telegraph*, found 47 percent of voters questioned, and 24 percent of Conservatives, "thought less of Mrs. Thatcher following the resignation last week of Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, Britain's finance minister." The *Mail* poll said the Conservatives trailed the opposition Labor Party by 47 percent to 41 percent.

In my copy of *LIFE*—The First Fifty Years (1936-1986), page 94, I see a picture of young Maggie taken in 1950 with the caption: "LIFE zeroed in on the youngest woman candidate in Britain's election, Margaret Roberts, 23, from Dartford, an 'Oxford alumna and chemist.' This was one year before she became Mrs. Thatcher and 29

before she became Britain's prime minister." That means Mrs. Thatcher is now 62 years old.

Like a woman we all know, she is also strong-willed. She says she will not resign because she is sure to win in the situation she now finds herself. Both, of course, are now behind the eight ball.

In the good old days at the Ateneo de Manila, during the years of Fr. John Fidelis Hurley, the legendary dean of discipline, we never lost a game, be it in basketball, baseball or track and field. Of course, our teams were either champions, or near champions. But the significant thing about it all is that even if the scores showed that we had lost, that didn't matter because we knew deep in our hearts that we had won too. If we did not know, at least we thought so. The Jesuits had a word for it: moral victory.

I think that is what President Aquino will say after the votes are in come November 19. Of late, she has been visiting key cities in Mindanao delivering talks here and there asking the people to go to the polls and to decide for themselves how they would vote on the autonomy measure. She speaks of "active neutrality" although she too emphasizes that she is "not neutral about autonomy, not neutral about the plebiscite and not neutral about the Constitution." Is she for or against ratification of the organic act for Mindanao? No one knows. Although deep in her heart, she must be for its ratification, as otherwise she would not have endorsed the bill as urgent and signed it into law. In other words, it was an administration legislation.

The media is practically unanimous in its judgment that Mrs. Aquino is probably afraid that this case may again prove to be a disappointment for her. Like what happened in the Miriam Defensor Santiago case, where the Commission on Appointments in a body rebuffed her. And then consider also the contradictions she went into on the Manglapus visit to Taiwan and on the "open options" policy on the military bases.

PRESIDENT AQUINO was pictured smiling broadly from ear to ear as she received some historic US documents from no less than Ambassador Nicholas Platt. The papers were an inventory of the American fixed assets at Clark and Olongapo military bases. The inventory showed the US military infrastructures, buildings, runways, schools, sports complex, PX buildings, hospitals, and others as worth US\$2.3 billion. That's all.

An inventory does not mean cash. It is just a statement of assets. Mrs. Aquino got only the report on these assets, nothing more. Ambassador Platt handed over to Mrs. Aquino just pieces of paper, not actually the Two Billion Three Hundred Million US dollars in cold cash that the American defense facilities at the two bases are estimated to cost on the trading counter. Save the broad smile, Madam.

In other words, Mrs. Aquino was left

The President knows that the results of the Nov. 19 plebiscite are a foregone conclusion. It will be a landslide and if she now campaigns actively for its ratification, the reversal will just be so disastrous for her credibility as a national leader. The Opposition's claim that it was responsible for the overwhelming "no" vote, whether well-founded or not, will be a grating voice. It will hurt her tremendously. It would confirm, says the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* editorial of October 30, 1989, "what many are finally beginning to realize -- that she has lost the support of her people."

Thus, seeing where the wind blows, according to *Malaya*, Mrs. Aquino "finds it more prudent to keep her head low ... and Mrs. Aquino is not about to give her critics a chance to claim a thumping victory over her. Mrs. Aquino's prestige, thus, remains intact; her record as a winner unshattered ... But when the guns start firing in the South, we may no longer remember kindly the titillation of today's cute doublespeak."

The *Manila Standard* wisely insists that "What Malacanang should realize is that the Nov. 19 plebiscite is not merely a test of what the people of Mindanao want for themselves. It is also a test of Malacanang's word... Win or lose, the administration certainly will not look good. This certainly is no way to run a referendum."

If the Administration loses in this battle for the people's mind and heart, as it surely will, maybe Mrs. Aquino will claim that anyway she didn't go into it actively. And Jesuit-like, she could even say it was a "moral victory" because "the people have spoken." Har! hor! har!

I agree with my *Compadre* former Foreign Minister Arturo M. Tolentino that the President has made a mistake by choosing Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus to head the Philippine panel that would conduct the December negotiations with the US government regarding the military bases. Considering the fact that most likely

POLITICS & POLITICOS



by ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

the opposing panel will be headed by Ambassador Nicholas Platt. No less than US Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d by all rights should sit opposite Manglapus at these discussions, not Platt. On the other hand, if the United States insists on having Platt as its prime negotiator, then it should be Ambassador Emmanuel N. Pelaez who should lead the Philippine delegation. Apparently though, Manglapus will not agree to having anyone else take the limelight.

As a matter of fact, Manglapus does not even relish the idea of having Pelaez sit by his side. That is how petty Raul has become. Pelaez is an experienced negotiator and he is our ambassador to Washington. He was a vice president of the Philippines and concurrently secretary of foreign affairs. And he is held in high regard by the politicians and diplomats in the American capital.

Both Pelaez and Manglapus are Jesuit-trained. Raul studied at the Ateneo de Manila for 15 years, finishing his high school in 1935 and bachelor of arts in 1939. He went to another Jesuit school, Georgetown University, after the war and when he came back he was for a time an assistant at the Tanada, Pelaez and Teehankee law offices. (As a matter of fact, he took over my room in that office at the China Bank building on Dasmarinas, when I transferred to the law offices of Primicias and Ramoleta.) He was at one time elected to the Senate. Raul was in Tokyo when martial law was declared and from there he proceeded to the United States where he organized the Movement for Free Philippines. He returned home upon the ouster of the late President Marcos.

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WOMAN SENSE



by PURA SANTILLAN-CASTRENCE

School dropouts: Serious problem

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The news about the very low grade of schooling received by the out-of-the-way barrio schools in our country is alarming. The discouragement that leads pupils to drop out even before they have attained literacy is disheartening. Somewhat similar are the complaints of an inferior standard of education being adopted in some schools of mostly black population in some parts of the country. From high school they come out almost functionally illiterate. This is a serious problem here.

A great part of the cause of our own problem is poverty. We do not have adequate school facilities, enough and appropriate books, and, most important of all, well-prepared teachers. The standard of education is consequently much lower than that in the town and provincial schools. The effects for the future of our rural folk can be imagined.

It cannot be repeated often enough that the abject poverty of the majority of our people, a vast number of whom are children, spells a bleak future for the brain quality of a great percentage of the future generations of Filipinos. This warning has been sounded again and again by medical workers among

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Mirage of US bases inventory papers

holding the bag. "Consuelo de bobo." Diplomat Platt was perhaps doing what Madame Aquino was trying to do in Hacienda Luisita. She was reported to have given the landless hacienda workers certificates of shares of stock in her hacienda. The workers are stockholders, on paper, but they do not own the Hacienda Luisita.

The inventory of the fixed assets at Clark and Olongapo military bases could have been secured by the Filipino commanding generals at Clark and Subic. They are the highest representatives of the Philippine government who oversee and control administrative affairs in those bases in behalf of the Philippine government.

Why did President Aquino and Ambassador Platt go into the fussy rigmarole of presentation and receiving of the inventory? Plain Filipino citizens may have been deceived by the mirage of the inventory papers

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

into believing that their peso-short, inflated government coffers received US\$2.3 billion cash which the useless PAP coordinating committee will handle without definite economic and industrial program.

The hard reality is that whether there are US military bases in the Philippines, or none this country will be attacked with atomic or nuclear bombs by the enemy, if war comes.

Secretary Ramos' support for PC understandable

WE RECEIVED several letters from our readers. Two of the letters were critical. A certain Delfin de Guzman, who gave his address as Plaridel, Bulacan, and Ma. Veronica Ramos of Pawa, Legaspi, Albay had similar complaints. Both complain why I write tidbits about my wife's activities in Zambales. I am not very sure that these writers are real or fictitious and the addresses they gave are correct; perhaps they are from Zambales who belong to the opposite camp. Anyway, whether they are fictitious or for real, maybe they should read what I wrote in answer to a former mayor in Zambales who asked me to go slow in exposing anomalies in the province and I said that I will keep on exposing anomalies - whether in Zambales or elsewhere because I will never cover up when I see anomalies.

I don't think I have lost my objectivity as a columnist when I mention about things which my wife as a public official is doing for her constituents, since anyone can monitor us or check on what I have been writing and they are true. Assuming that my exposes about anomalies in public works and projects may be considered as "attacks" against the perpetrators of the anomalies, is there anything wrong with that? Is there anything unethical, or propaganda when I point out ghost public works projects and overpriced projects, unpaid projects in Zambales? I disagree with Delfin de Guzman that my columns are "self-serving". He does not understand the meaning of "self-serving" because when you speak the truth that is not self-serving. Mr.

De Guzman can visit Zambales and inspect the bridges which my wife built in less than two years of incumbency - bridges which were dreams for many decades but never realized. These are not self-serving. Yes, I invite Mr. De Guzman and Ms. Ramos to visit Zambales as my guests and we shall inspect the projects I have written about, including the P16 million worth of hospital equipments donated by the Japanese government through JICA, which were realized through the efforts of Congresswoman Gonzalez.

Another letter was received from Bgy. Councilman Ramon Sanchez of Barangay Capalangan, Apalit, Pampanga. Mr. Sanchez complains that the 10% realty share of the barangay for repair and maintenance of barangay roads which his barangay was supposed to have received from 1984-88 were used by the barangay captain for other purposes "without our knowledge, consent or written permission in violation of law". He states that he has already reported this anomaly to the proper authorities but he is deeply concerned that similar spendings in violation of law may be perpetrated not only in the 500 barangays in Pampanga, but in the 45,000 barangays all over the country. He expresses the fear that these monies "may have fallen to the stranglehold of politicians and the corrupt in government." I assure Mr. Sanchez that I will look into his complaint although I understand from his letter that he has already forwarded the same to the Ombudsman. Maybe we should just wait for the disposition of that office.

The fourth letter was received from a person who just signed RDL and gave his address at Calapacuan, Subic, Zambales. He writes to say that he is "much impressed by what you write about Zambales and I ask you to keep on exposing the evils in our beloved province in order to inspire us to pursue further our goals for a better life". He closes his letter with the hope "that you should run for public office so you could do more for our province". Well, Mr. or Miss RDL, thanks for your kind thoughts; I assure you my fiscalization of the grafters and the wrong-doers will never cease and I will strive to do even more. Anyway 1992 is still much too far off; besides, as Congressman Peping Cojuangco warned, we may not even have elections in 1992. I am curious, though. What position do you want me to run for?

Secretary Fidel V. Ramos has every reason to throw his full support to the Philippine Constabulary in the controversial PNP bill which will result in the abolition of the PC. After all, Eddie Ramos was PC Chief for so many years and he has close attachment to the rank-and-file of the organization. This PNP bill is another flashpoint in the country today because it has also become an emotional issue among the officers and enlisted personnel of the PC. Just try passing by Camp Crame and you will find the perimeter bedecked with many streamers announcing opposition to the PNP bill - whether it is the House or the Senate version.

An afternoon daily headlined a Philippine Charity Sweepstakes draw scam

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

which, according to reports, are results of manipulations done by PCSO personnel in connivance with rich gambling lords operating masiao in Cebu and in Mindanao. So now we have a land scam and a PCSO draw scam.

According to Bgy. Capt. Dedicatoria who is assisting the COA team conduct the audit of public works projects in Zambales, the progress of work is rather slow because the records of the offices being audited are topsy-turvy. He told me that it sometimes takes hours to locate one voucher. This may be deliberate in order to obstruct progress of the audit.

"Cory hits graft, abuses in the AFP" - headline. Now the AFP is in the national spotlight for graft and abuses; it will be a respite for the abusive, the grafters and the haughty in the Cabinet and other areas in government.

President Aquino has sided with the House on the PNP bill. Another confrontation is in the works if the Senate will insist on its version.

I agree with Cory that the forthcoming (Page 11, please)

Ghosts in substandard gov't buildings

ON ALL Saints Day, most of us will remember and pray for those we love. In my case, of course I will pray for my departed parents and children. But I will put special candles for my relatives Engineer Rico Daymon and Sgt. Esequio Futol, my companions who were shot dead when my borrowed car was ambushed on election eve 1971. With hopes and prayers there be no more political ambushes in my province.

This time, I will also visit the P400-million Film Center next to Philippine Plaza where 115 persons, mostly laborers, were crushed to death when the second floor of the building collapsed. Not because of earthquake but due to the greed, ambition and indiosyncracies of Imelda Marcos. She double hurried the construction of the building before the cement had hardened enough.

Why the hurry? To open the Film Festival that would show x-rated films which shocked most of our women.

Right from the start, the project was immersed in dirt. Overall boss was Jolly Benitez, Human Settlements Undersecretary. He had full control of the funds. Insiders said he used dummy contractors. Architect was Froilan Ilong, who reportedly was not paid enough for his services. The construction engineer, George Ramos, reportedly ob-

jected many times that driven piles did not hit rock resistance. I-Beams, supposed to be poured with cement were wrapped only with plywood. There were 15 cement mixers working full blast to meet the deadline.

Some sections used 3-M, High Early, a type of cement mixed with Daracel, that hardens in three minutes. A laborer did not pull out his leg early enough after the High Early was poured, his leg had to be cut.

The government hid from the public how many actually were killed in that second floor collapse. The government admitted only 12 were killed. Each were paid P50,000. The families of the 115 who perished were told the laborers were not in the list of laborers. The government told the grieving families the missing persons could be somewhere else. After long negotiations, they were finally paid P20,000 each. Cheap price for the life of a man.

As a result of that tragedy, there are persistent reports of ghosts roaming the building. Many have heard moans, toilets flushing even if there are nobody there; chains clanging as if dragged on the floor. Five women employees entered the rest room and found themselves locked. The door had to be broken.

One of my good friends, an engineer,

related to me that he was invited by the chief security of the building, Col. Ricardo de Leon, to sleep with him in the Film Center to prove if there really are ghosts. That engineer is one of those hard-boiled men who do not believe in ghosts and "dwines." But that evening he admitted he heard moans and chains dragged on the floors. He said he will never sleep there again.

Ghosts must have also visited Imelda. Workers in the Santo Nino Shrine in Leyte revealed that one evening when she slept in her suite, about midnight, she woke up and saw on the staircase a laborer in maong pants, his hair dropping almost to his belt. Imelda scowled why a laborer would be at the staircase at midnight. She was told the next morning that it was a Leyte laborer known to everybody as "Long Hair," who was killed when a steel beam hit him on the head. He died on the spot. What Imelda saw could be the ghost of "Long Hair."

What is the moral of this story? Corruption must not be allowed in sloppy infrastructure projects because aside from tremendous financial losses, the ghosts may haunt you.

Today that Film Center may collapse at the first weak earthquake. It is the worst, hurriedly constructed building, like the Ruby Tower. Whoever are occupying that building

LET THERE
BE LIGHT



by JUAN G. FRIVALDO

now face tremendous risks. A look at the stairs is enough to send you shivers. It shows the piles were not driven down to rockbed. The I-Beams supposed to be poured in cement were hurriedly wrapped with plywood. Five years had elapsed, those steel had rusted badly. The entire roof may collapse any time.

How many of these type of buildings were built during the corrupt Marcos years?

I emphasize these type of buildings constructed heavy in kickbacks is still happening today under Cory. There are several examples in Sorsogon. Last week, typhoon Saling caused very slight damages in my province. In fact the banana plants stood. But the entire roof of a school building in Prieto Diaz was completely blown off. Students there are asking whether hairpins were used instead of nails. School buildings in Juban, Bacon, Casiguran, Barcelona, were hurriedly built ala Film Center.

Significant changes in the Law of Evidence-14

7. Burden of Proof (Rule 131)

7.1. Burden of Proof (Section 1)

SECTION 1 of the old Rule, which treated of the burden of proof in civil cases, has been consolidated with Section 2, which treated of the burden of proof in criminal cases, to form only one section, Section 1 of the New Rule 131, now simply entitled BURDEN OF PROOF and limited to a simple definition of the phrase that is applicable to both civil and criminal cases. "Burden of proof is the duty of a party to present evidence on the facts in issue necessary to establish his claim or defense by the amount of evidence required by law."

The amount of evidence required by law, refers to the quantum of proof required to support a judgment or conclusion which, as earlier discussed, is preponderance of evidence in civil cases (Sec. 1, New Rule 133); proof beyond reasonable doubt in criminal cases (Sec. 2, Id.); and substantial evidence in administrative or quasi-judicial cases (Sec. 5, Id.)

While the burden of proof never shifts, the burden of evidence shifts to the other party when one party has introduced sufficient evidence to be entitled to relief as a matter of law.

Section 1 Revised Rule 131 provides:

BURDEN OF PROOF IS THE DUTY OF A PARTY TO PRESENT EVIDENCE ON THE FACTS IN ISSUE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH HIS CLAIM OR DEFENSE BY THE AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE REQUIRED BY LAW.

The deletion of the old Sections 1 and 2 and their substitution with a simple defini-

LAW AND (DIS)ORDER



by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

tion of BURDEN OF PROOF does not necessarily mean that the principles of evidence contained in the deleted provisions have ceased to be applicable. They continue to prevail as principles of evidence applicable to particular cases, although it would be superfluous to re-state them because the definition of BURDEN OF PROOF already covers their application. Thus, the principles stated in the following deleted provisions are still applicable:

SEC. 1. Burden of proof in civil cases. - Each party must prove his own affirmative allegations. Evidence need not be given in support of a negative allegation except when such negative allegation is an essential part of the statement of the right or title on which the cause of action or defense is founded, nor even in such case when the allegation is a denial of the existence of a document the custody of which belongs to the opposite party. The burden of proof lies on the party who would be defeated if no evidence were given on either side.

SEC. 2 Burden of proof in criminal cases. - In criminal cases the burden of proof as to the offense charged lies on the prosecution. A negative fact alleged by the prosecution

need not be proved unless it is an essential ingredient of the offense charged.

7.2. Presumptions

7.2.1. Conclusive Presumptions (Section 2)

There used to be 3 conclusive presumptions. There are now only two namely:

SEC. 2. Conclusive presumptions. - The following are instances of conclusive presumptions:

(a) Whenever a party has, by his own declaration, act, or omission, intentionally and deliberately led another to believe a particular thing true, and to act upon such belief, he cannot, in any litigation arising out of such declaration, act or omission, be permitted to falsify it;

(b) The tenant is not permitted to deny the title of his landlord at the time of the commencement of the relation of landlord and tenant between them.

The reason why a judgment or order of court when declared by these rules is to be conclusive was deleted from the enumeration of conclusive presumption is that it is superfluous. Section 49 and 40 of Rule 39 and Section 29 of Rule 132 cover the contemplated situations. Thus:

Sec. 49. Effect of judgments. - The effect of a judgment of final order against a specific thing, or in respect to the probate of a will, or the administration of the estate of a deceased person, or in respect to the personal, political, or legal condition or status of a particular person or his relationship to another, the judgment or order is conclusive upon the title

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PULITIKA, PULIS ATBP.



by BITOY CALDERON

Shooting kuno

NAMATAY ANG dalawang Taiwanese na umano ay mga lider ng isang international drug syndicate nang tangkain nilang makipagbarilan sa mga ahente ng Narcom noong Sabado ng gabi sa isang liblib na lugar sa Diliman, Quezon City.

Ang dalawa ay kinilalang sina Pan Ming Tsung at Chuang Wen Ye, mga pinuno raw ng "Bamboo Gang," isang kilabot na grupo ng mga Intsik na kasangkot sa pagbebenta ng mga bawal na gamot sa Maynila.

Ang shootout ay nangyari sa isang ilang na lugar na malapit sa restoran ng Asian Institute of Tourism sa Don Mariano Marcos Avenue sa Diliman.

Sina Tsung at Ye ay nagpunta sa lugar na ito upang magbenta ng "shabu" sa isang DPA (deep penetration agent) ng Narcom. Sila umano ay may alalay na tatlong lalaki na lulan ng isang Toyota Crown. Nakatakas ang mga alalay habang nakikipagputukan sina Tsung at Ye sa mga sundalo.

Parang pamilyar na sa atin ang mga ganitong eksena. Tumabo na ito sa takilya.

Noong Oktubre 20, ni-raid ng mga Narcom operatives ang laboratoryo ng "shabu" nina Tsung at Ye sa Binondo. Nakatakas ang dalawang Taiwanese umano bago dumating ang mga Narcom.

Pagkaraan ng ilang araw, nakontak umano ng isang Narcom DPA ang dalawang drug pushers at nagkaroon nga ng negosasyon para sa bilihan ng "shabu" doon nga sa AIT.

Nakaamoy yata ang mga Taiwanese na isang patibong ang pinasok nila kaya lumaban na sila ng sabayan. Tepok silang pareho. May isa namang sundalo na tinamaan sa kaliwang hita sa putukan.

Nagtataka ang mga police reporters kung bakit hindi agad inireport ng mga Narcom operatives ang nangyaring shoot-out sa Quezon City Police o Northern Police District. Naiskupan tuloy sila.

Ano naman itong pagkatapos ng raid sa laboratoryo noong Okt. 20 sa room 303 ng New Ever building sa Kalye Penarubio, Binondo may nagsabing nawawala ang dalawang Taiwanese? Ayon daw sa asawa ng isang Intsik, may tumawag sa kanya at humihingi ng P300,000 para pakawalan sila. Hindi yata naibigay ang hinihingi. Marahil ay alam na ninyo ang sumunod na pangyayari.

tape costs P600. Ergo, 180 tapes is only P108 thousand and not P7 million.

Reporter Anne will be an "asset" to any government agency whose forte is over-

(Page 11, please)

'Intsikicides' are human pests!

SOME CHINESE businessmen shortsell the BIR by not issuing receipts to customers.

The BIR should run after this economic saboteurs and remind them that BIR also means "bigay ikaw resibo."

Chinese businessmen are the champions in "areglo."

Kaya ang negosyo nila ay laging areglado.

They corrupt government officials and made the Taglish term "cash-sunduan" a woe of life.

In fairness to them, not all Chinese are bad.

Some are worse.

Two Chinese drug lords were slain by Narcom.

Long live the drive against drug syndicates.

Killed were Pan Ming Tsung, alias "Allan So" and Chuang Wen Yen, believed to be leaders of an international illegal drugs ring.

Pan stopped panting while Wen lost.

The deaths of the two Chinese brought

to 24 the number of suspected drug traffickers killed in the latest campaign against drug syndicates.

The death penalty is finally enforced.

Most of those killed were on the list of alleged drug lords exposed by Sen. "Superboy" Herrera.

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it is a funeral hearse.

"Superboy's" expose is now a death list. An exact opposite of Tita Cory's debt list.

The drug menace controlled by the Chinese maims and kills.

"Intsikicides" are human pests.

Drug lords have no human rights.

Because they wrong society with their inhumanity.

Lifted from Emil Jurado's *Standard* column of October 30: "Is it true that Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago has challenged Sen. Sonny Osmena to a sabunotan (sic) (hair-pulling fight)?"

Your punster's column of October 25 reads: "St. James: (referring to Santiago), 'Ang sinabi ko ay parang bakla 'yang by-

PUNNY LINES



by FUNDADOR SORIANO

pass. Hindi ko sinabing bakla ang isa sa kanila dahil hindi pa naman kami nagsabunutan."

Manong Emil, the correct spelling of "sabunotan" is "sabunutan."

H'wag n'yo nang sabunutan ang sarili n'yo dahil sa maling spelling.

Culled from Taliba's news item of October 29 written by Anne Sevilla: "IP-INAGHARAP kahapon ng reklamang qualified theft ng IBC 13 sa QC Police ang sikat at multi-awarded na direktor ng Marilou Diaz-Abaya at dalawang tauhan ng Cine Filipinas Productions, dahil umano sa pagtanggap ng tatlo sa 180 piraso ng umatic tapes ng mga station-produced at top-rating shows na Sic O'Clock news at Public Forum, na nagkakahalaga ng mahigit na P7 milyon."

My dear Anne, one 60-minute umatic

CapCom enraged over TFDP report

THIS IS a clarification on the article entitled "15 Detainees Tortured - TFD report" which came out on the August 28-29, 1989 issue of *We Forum*.

We at the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly the CAPCOM are deeply enraged by the accusations made by the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) that "suspected members of the Sparrow unit arrested last week of July were subjected to various forms of torture," while detained at the CAPCOM Headquarters at Camp Bagong Diwa Bicutan, Taguig. This is a serious accusation indeed and I cannot just let it pass without clarifying matters which are merely fabrications and can mislead the public.

Allow me to relate, first, the events which led to these detainees' arrest and detention. Records show that Jaime Dolores (a former Alex Boncayao Brigade [ABB] member), who surrendered to the Special Operation Task Force of CAPCOM on July

18, 1989, disclosed in his sworn statement, the existence of 27 underground/safehouses used by the ABB, CPP/NPA operatives in Metro Manila. After almost four days of surveillance to confirm his statements (where armed men and women were spotted in the said locations), and after securing search warrants, a search was made by the Command in each of these places. This resulted in the confiscation of two .38 caliber revolvers, one .22 caliber long rifle, numerous subversive materials and one handheld radio. All the 86 persons who were found inside the houses and within its premises were invited to the CAPCOM headquarters for further identification. Twenty-five of them were positively identified by Jaime Dolores and Irma Villamor-Granada, (who is also a former member of the ABB, CPP/NPA), as either officers or members of the ABB, CPP/NPA. Hence, they were placed under arrest, charged and judicial restraints were issued for their detention.

Now they are claiming that 15 out of the 25 detainees were tortured to make them admit or confess that the charges against them were true (that they are ABB, CPP/NPA members). This is close to impossible since there is no need to get their confessions. Why? First, the evidence against them is enough to prove the charges. Second, they were positively identified by their former comrades who have surrendered and are now hand in hand with the military in the fight against insurgency. Moreover, it is the policy of the Command not to use or resort to torture in gathering information or evidence against a person. As a matter of fact, the detainees were allowed to stay temporarily at the camp's multi-purpose hall, each of them at a seeing distance while undergoing investigation, precisely to avoid complaints of torture, harassment, etc. in the future.

On the TFD's statement that a medical report has confirmed that these detainees

PEOPLE'S FORUM



were positively tortured, let us consider the fact that they could always inflict harm on themselves so as to discredit the military. In this way, while the military has scored against the CPP/NPA with their arrest, the CPP/NPA will also attempt to have a psychological score on their side, with their claims of torture against the CAPCOM, and, reiterating all the points made above, hurting themselves could do the trick.

(SGD.) REYNALDO P. VARILLA
MAJOR, PC
Acting AC of S, R2

Who's lying?

SPEAKER PROTEMPORE Antonio Cuenco et al tell of a tape evidencing an assassination plot against President Aquino, allegedly a conspiracy of Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos and Vice President Doy Laurel.

Now comes the disclosure of Brig. Gen. Galileo Kintanar, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, that there is no such tape.

So, who is lying?

This should properly be investigated by Congress. If Galileo is lying, then get rid of him. If Cuenco, et al are lying, then the committee on ethics of both chambers should expel them.

That should teach them not to trifle with such things as assassination and national security.

MYRA B. BOLIDO
Quezon City Hall

Antonio CORONEL (From page 10)

to the thing, the will or administration, or the condition, status or relationship of the person; however, the probate of a will or granting of letters of administration shall only be prima facie evidence of the death of the testator or intestate;

(b) In other cases the judgment or order is, with respect to the matter directly adjudged or as to any other matter that could have been raised in relation thereto, conclusive between the parties and their successors in interest by title subsequent to the commencement of the action or special proceeding, litigating for the same thing and under the same title and in the same capacity;

(c) In any other litigation between the same parties or their successors in interest, that only is deemed to have been adjudged in

a former judgment which appears upon its face to have been so adjudged, or which was actually and necessarily included therein or necessary thereto.

Sec. 50. Effect of foreign judgments. The effect of a judgment of a tribunal of a foreign country, having jurisdiction to pronounce the judgment is as follows:

(a) In case of a judgment upon a specific thing, the judgment is conclusive upon the title to the thing;

(b) In case of a judgment against a person, the judgment is presumption evidence of a right as between the parties and their successors in interest by a subsequent title; but the judgment may be repelled by evidence of a want of jurisdiction, want of notice to the party, collusion, fraud, or clear mistake of law or fact.

On the other hand, Sec. 29 of Revised Rule 132 provides "that any judicial record may be impeached by evidence of (a) want

Raul GONZALEZ (From page 9)

talks on the bases should be done in the Philippines. The Americans are the ones interested in the negotiations so we should not go a-knocking at Washington's doorsteps for the talks. Philippine dignity, Philippine sovereignty are at stake here. While I personally favor a gradual phase-out of the bases as espoused by Vice-President Laurel, I also maintain that what is most important is for us to maintain our posture as an independent, sovereign state not tied to the umbilical cords of the USA.

of jurisdiction in the court or judicial officer, (b) collusion between the parties, or (c) fraud in the party offering the record, in respect to the proceedings.

The basis of the conclusive presumptions is the principle of estoppel.

Fundador SORIANO (From page 10)

pricing.

If the "Commission on Abuse" will succeed in unseating Lady Dragon Miriam at the DAR.

Try your luck with this department and be an overnight millionaire, Anne.

Makati councilor Bobby Brillante survived an assassination attempt. Nasilaw ang killers kay Brillante.

Item: "Bully kills widow before son." The bullshit made a bullseye.

A judge ordered the reopening of a restaurant closed by Binay.

There is no truth to the rumor that it's on the house for the judge.

Ordered reopened is "Kublai's Rock."

The great Khan is made of Gibraltar.

Copied from a jeepney sticker: "Ang kumatok ay gago, ang sumutsot ay aso, ang pumara ay tao."

A Malacanang employe from the Press Office: "Psssst!"

Another sticker: "Chicks, bulaklak ka sa mata ko, ligaya ka sa puso ko, peste ka sa bulsa ko."

The male chauvinist pig really stinks.

Message for Gelli de Belen, the "Tambok Queen" from a driver: "Ipinin lang ng todo ng tayo ay magkahusto."

Headline: "Proposed national police to have 123,000 men."

Bad habits never die, particularly the 1-2-3.

I was in Pila, Laguna last Sunday and acted as godfather to the wedding of Jose

Pura CASTRENCE (From page 8)

the poor masses of our country.

As in the United States, in the Philippines too, priorities are overlooked. The relationship between good education now and a good citizenry later is dimmed by more dramatic problems as state visits and/or the seeing-sawing bases issue.

In connection with the subject of priorities, there was, lately a demonstration for the homeless in the United States in which

Musico and Zenaida Villadiego. Another boy gone wrong.

My godchildren Joe is 32 while Zeny is 16. After the wedding at the Aglipay Church in Sta. Cruz, Zeny went home with a husband and a father.

Best wishes to the bride and congratulations to the doomed, I mean, groom. May your tribe increase, only by two.

sectoral minority groups took part. One of the Filipino-American slogans which took fire was: "Build homes, do not drop bombs!" enjoining the American government to first take care of its homeless before intervening in the military affairs of other countries. In other words, observe priorities.

It is often forgotten that better than just good teachers are needed for beginners in learning. The idea of dumping any fledgling kind of teacher, inexperienced, or otherwise inadequate to teach the first grades has been proven academically wrong. But we continue to skimp. To skimp specially on something as crucial as education.

Make
We Forum
a habit



NAVOTAS FISHERMEN VS. POLLUTION. Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary Gregorio Magdaraog (2nd from left) meets with leaders of small fishermen's associations who demonstrated outside the DENR building against firms polluting the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tenejeros river and Manila Bay. The DENR official welcomed their vigilance and told them that Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr. has ordered the closure of 25 polluting factories along the river since April this year and has filed court cases against several more. The fishermen pledged to help the government's river revival program by policing the waterway and the polluting firms along the river. Also in photo is DENR Public Affairs Director Ricardo Serrano (3rd from left).

Oplan Amihan: Negros' biggest offensive vs NPAs

BACOLOD CITY -- All military forces on Negros Island will be mobilized against communist-led guerrillas in the hinterlands to track down the kidnapers of radio mogul Rogelio Florete in the military's biggest offensive against the New People's Army (NPA) on Negros Island so far.

Earlier, in Iloilo city, ranking Visayas military commanders had vowed to destroy the NPA in Negros before the NPA's March 1990 21st anniversary.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque, Negros Island Command Chief, told newsmen that the island-wide offensive will involve two infantry brigades, eight Army battalions, two provincial commands, and the entire police force on the island.

Augmenting regular military and police forces will be members of the paramilitary Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs), and armed religious fanatics.

The primary objective of the latest military operation, Jarque stressed, will be to "neutralize" the guerrillas.

The NPA has been avoiding frontal engagements with the military, Jarque said, because it lacks supplies and arms, has been isolated from its mass base, and has not been given any rest by the military which has been conducting sweeps here since April 1989.

Since the controversial Oplan Thunderbolt which drove about 35,000 internal refugees to the safety of the towns of Southern Negros, the Negros Island Command under Jarque has launched two other operations -- Oplan Kabilwayan and Oplan Habagat, which ended recently.

Though military officials have announced the successful conclusions of these operations in terms of NPA mass bases dismantled, guerrillas killed and surrendered, field reports indicate that the military might have merely "punched the air," actually achieving very little in the campaigns.

The announcement by Jarque of the military's newest offensive, Oplan Amihan or North Wind, comes with an added element -- the recovery of Florete and the

capture of his abductors. Military authorities have time and again announced publicly that Florete is in the hands of Primo Lamayo alias Kumander Boy Gat, alleged ranking NPA leader in Northern Negros.

With the maximum use of military forces on Negros Island, Jarque expects to draw the guerrillas out of their bases and to engage them in positional combat.

Negros is one of the nine pilot provinces for testing the Gradual Constriction Strategy of former NPA trainer Lt. Col. Victor Corpuz, using the clear, hold, consolidate and develop concept. The defeat of the NPA on the island would mean its defeat in other parts of the country, say military spokesmen.

Independent observers, however, point out that the key to defeating the insurgency, which was also pointed out by Corpuz in his book, "The Silent War," is still the implementation of social and economic changes on the island, known to be the strongest bastion of feudalism and warlordism in the country. (PNF)

Burial customs of Bicol's ancient Kabihug tribe

By SALVADOR D. FLOR

IRIGA CITY -- People who have seen the movie, *Shocking But True*, filmed deep in the Amazon jungle in South America, may have noticed similarity in the manner of burying the dead of savage tribes and the burial customs of the Kabihug, a tribal group of Agtas in the Bicol province of Camarines Norte.

In that movie, beautiful topless virgins were seen roaming the forbidden jungles, also almost similar to young virgins in the Bicol tribe roaming the forests for wild game.

The Kabihugs can be found in tribal settlements in Osmena, Jose Pangani-ban and in Papagaling Batobalani, Paracale, in Camarines Norte.

Home to them is the Bicol wilderness and their roof the blue sky.

The Ang Tribo, a publication of the Office of Southern Cultural Minorities, said one of the most interesting Kabihug customs is the burial of their dead.

When a Kabihug nears death, all the members of his family gather around him to listen to his last wishes. Those who fail are haunted by the dead who comes back in human form.

During the wake, wailing can be heard from the whole tribe but the members do not go out into the street and tear their hairs like what the Iranians did when Khomeini died.

The news of the death is communicated to friends and relatives in distant settlements by an elder who climbs a tree and loudly announces the message.

Upon receiving the message, a Kabihug relays it to another settlement, then to another until everyone knows of the sad event, arriving one by one for the wake and the burial.

To keep flies out, a local embalmer places powdered betel nut into the mouth of the dead while a close kin wraps a piece of cloth around the head.

While the parents of the dead are busy entertaining guests, tribal carpenters are also busy making a coffin of knitted bamboo.

Before the coffin is dropped into the grave, the widow places a tray of food on it, saying 'here is your food for your long journey.'

The other relatives then throw a handful of earth into the coffin, asking the dead to carry with him in his journey the diseases suffered by the tribe. The tribal chief then gives the go-signal to cover the coffin with earth.

During the funeral, all the tribesmen go, leaving no one in the settlement. All are forbidden to look back while marching towards the cemetery.

They have a belief that if one looks back, he will die soon.

The Kabihugs have another unique practice.

A day after a young mother gives birth, she joins the other women wash clothes or gather firewood in the forests.

A Kabihug child is not allowed to wear clothes, the reason why even in adult years, he feels uneasy wearing clothes.

The tribal settlement is usually in a sloping terrain reached by foot through winding trails up a mountain.

In the settlement, the nights are cold, foggy and dark and the days quiet and long. Living there is like going back in time to a place hundreds of years ago. (ANF)

NBI's aid

(From page 16)

recent past where they can pounce on their victims anytime and, in some cases, even near police stations.

Also in Iloilo City, media-men contacted by *We Forum* summed up the collective

feeling of the media in Western Visayas as that of alarm following the brutal killing of Arcones, the seventh journalist killed here by armed assassins. Others killed were Edwin Baldago, Eddie Suede, Noel Tenezo, Boyet Robles, Joseph Nava and Yul Montero. Their killers remain at-large according

to them.

Such claim however was denied by PC Recon chief Brig. Gen. Romeo Zulueta. In a press briefing with newsmen at Camp Delgado, Iloilo City, he said that they have arrested seven suspects, including policemen and charges against them had been filed.

Enrile

(From page 16)

and eight months of its administration.

Refusing to accept the Aquino government as the exact opposite of the Marcos regime, the Senate minority floor leader disclosed that every case of graft and corruption exposed is a lost opportunity because it in-

volves people close to Malacanang officials.

Calling graft and corruption as an enemy within a democratic society, Enrile warned this government may lose the people's support because of the dangers it has been creating against its own

stability and strength.

"I hope my warning will not be regarded as a destabilization process, but a sincere effort to alert this government that a silent termite has been eating up the very foundations of this democratic society," Enrile pointed out. (Omer Almenario)

NOISE POLLUTION

Zambales residents blame US warplanes for illnesses

OLONGAPO CITY -- Neither the spread of psychological illnesses nor of animal diseases has been reported here. But some local health and government officials say they may have found the cause of the psychological stresses suffered by children as well as the damage to livestock and the fishing industry here.

Noise pollution from supersonic aircraft has plagued the town of Mabalacat in Pampanga for years, and this is exactly what residents of this town are complaining about to the provincial government.

Low-flying US war planes based in the nearby US Clark Air Force Base in Pampanga are being blamed by residents for "sonic booms" caused by the planes' breaking the sound barrier.

The human ear can detect sounds within a frequency range of 16 to 38,000 Hertz or (cycles) or within a value range of 10 to 130 decibels (a decibel is a unit of noise-level measurement).

The Provincial Health Office here says that infants can suffer psychological problems and other complications if they continue to be subjected to sonic booms.

Local officials also said that livestock and fish fry can

also be affected by noise.

Fishpond owners here in fact say that the sonic booms have been killing fingerlings.

This was specially apparent, a fishpond owner here said, during the US military war exercise codenamed "Cope Thunder" last year.

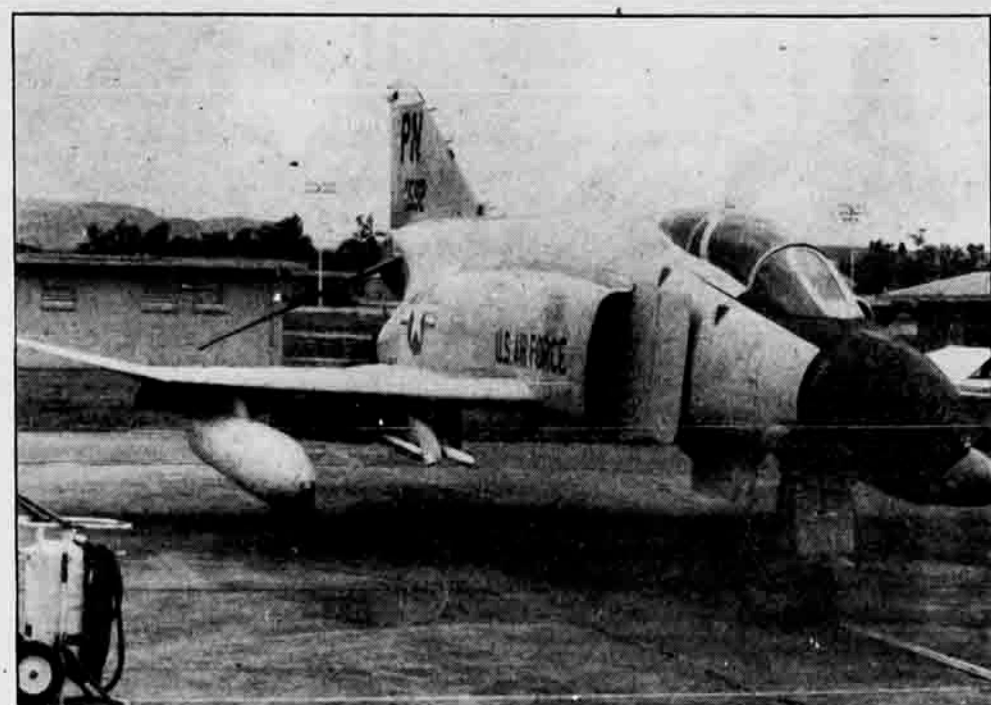
Poultry has also been affected by the noise, say poultry-farm owners here who claimed that the egg-laying capacity of their layers has been reduced by the noise.

As in Mabalacat, residents of Masinloc town northwest of Clark Air Force Base, and about 118 kilometers north of Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City, have many stories to tell about the shock wave generated by low-flying US aircraft, like babies falling out of their cribs, houses shaking, concrete fences collapsing and windows breaking.

An aide of the provincial governor in fact claims that during a provincial board session, a low-flying warplane caused a sonic boom which broke three windows of the capitol building.

Both Clark and Subic host a dozen kinds of supersonic aircraft, among them the F-4E Phantom II, a long-range attack fighter plane;

the F-5 Tiger II, a tactical fighter plane; the F-14 and A-18, both fighter-bombers; the C-130 Hercules, a transport aircraft, the C-2A, a lighter transport plane; the T-39 Tabuliner, a combat-ready trainer and utility transport plane; the P-3C Orion, an anti-submarine warfare plane; and the C-9 Nightingale, used exclusively for medical evacuation and for servicing the US medical airlift command. (PNF)



NOISE POLLUTION: US jet planes under fire.

PSYCHICS OF CEBU

BY LILETTE SANTOS

CEBU CITY -- For three consecutive Fridays starting midnight during a full moon, a fair-skinned, long-haired 32-year old woman prays in the cemetery, lights candles and places flowers on a new grave.

The woman's name is Ophelia and she is paid P225 by anxious wives to implore newly-departed souls to help reform philandering husbands.

Ophelia is just one of several psychics Cebuanos consult for their problems.

Businessmen and women, local politicians, professionals, wives, students -- even labor unions and strike-bound firms -- see psychics here to know the consequences of business moves or major decisions, find solutions to their problems, seek a cure for their ailments, have their destinies read through palm or card-reading, interpret their dreams, know their past lives, drive away evil spirits, reverse witchcraft or black magic, make the rain stop, etc.

The list goes on and on.

On Tuesdays and Fridays when Ophelia works (days which are considered potent by believers in the occult), an average of 25 patients come to her with their problems.

"I see myself as a psychic Helen Vela, a psychic adviser," said Ophelia, a mother of three.

"When people come to see me, it's as if their problem is already solved. And then they come back and tell me that it worked. Ninety-five percent of my advice has been successful."

Ophelia's leading clients are wives who want fidelity from wayward husbands, followed by businessmen and women who want their businesses to flourish.

Fe Estrada, assistant human resources development manager at the International Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (IPI), is another psychic medium. Her boss, UPI president Pio Castillo, is a hypnotist and Alvaro Sarael, general manager of IPI's sister corporation Agro-Biochem, is a psychic healer.

All three belong to the Divine Study Group, an informal group of about 15 members engaged in "highly spiritual" studies, or communication with "spirit guides."

Not all spirits who join such communication sessions are "elevated spirits" (saints, or enlightened souls) and it is up to psychics to decipher what to do, or which advice to heed according to set guidelines, Estrada said.

"I end up getting confused sometimes," Estrada disclosed, not only because of the spirits but also because of the different personalities she assumes during a trance which she forgets about as soon as she is awakened.

"I get subjective about it," she said.

But Castillo and Sarael, who are "more objective" since they are not entranced, reassure Estrada that everything she says during sessions are verifiable in reality.

"Eighty percent of our clients come for healing," said Estrada. The sessions are always held during a full moon, when cosmic energy is supposedly at its best. The group does not charge anything from their clients, who average about 20 per session.

"It would be a better world if we can alleviate people's miseries like illnesses, misfortunes, bad karma, past lives affecting the present," Estrada said.

"When we help there is no limit."

However, all these -- palmistry, card readings, psychic healing, fortune-telling, seances, etc. -- "are only surface by-products or superficialities of psychic power," said another school of thought of psychism in Cebu.

"Reading (cards, palms, the future) is only a front, a tool for us to process a person or to draw individuals towards us," said Daniel (not his real name).

Daniel is a long-time member of a group that would rather be known simply as a research and study group on self-development.

"These are just external arms of what is commonly called psychism. Our real activities are on inner planes where it is not so much the importance of knowing world events but knowing the world inside you," Daniel said.

Whatever methods Cebu psychics use to help their clients, the fact remains that occultism in "boom city" remains very much a part of Cebuano lives. (PNF)

Ernesto RODRIGUEZ

(From page 8)

Pelaez finished his high school at the Ateneo in 1932, where he won during his first year a contest on short story-writing. He took his preparatory law at the University of the Philippines in Cebu and was graduated in law at the National Law College, of the University of Manila. (Both Manglapus and Pelaez were members of the College Editors Guild during their student days.) Maning topped the bar examinations and joined the Araneta, Zaragoza, Araneta and Bautista law offices. He later became a member of the Tanada, Pelaez and Teehankee firm and after that Pelaez and Jalandoni. He was elected to Congress from Misamis Oriental, the Senate and the vice presidency thereafter. Much later he was sent to the Batasang Pambansa where he was chosen minister of state for foreign affairs. Compadre Maning is beyond doubt the best ambassador to Washington we ever had. That is why the news that Manglapus had chosen Ambassador Leonides Caday, consul general in Los Angeles, as his No. 2 man in the bases renegotiation talks is difficult to understand. Maning has every reason to quit. And it will be a major loss for the government.



HERBERT: New home.

Herbert's new home

Herbert Bautista has moved to his new house (with his family, of course) in a subdivision in Quezon City. From a crowded two bedroom apartment in Cubao, the Bautistas are now the owners of a big, brand new house in Park Homes Subdivision. They had the housewarming coinciding with the celebration of Harlene's birthday last Saturday.

They could have transferred to a bigger house even before because Herbert was earning big but the actor wanted to be really ready. "Pag lumipat ka ng bahay, kailangan ready ka sa mga gastos. What I did, nag-ipon muna ako nang nag-ipon. Now you see, this is where my income goes. I'm happy dahil

ayan na ang bunga ng pinagpaguran ko," said Herbert.

Aside from this big house, I learned that Herbert has also acquired some other properties in Rizal and Baguio. While he was working, he bought all those properties. "Unti-unti lang 'yon. Hinuhulug-hulugan namin hanggang matapos," said a person close to the young comedian.

Is Herbert planning to get married? "Naman, hindi naman ngayon at nagpagawa ako ng bahay eh mag-aasawa na ako. First, wala pang mapapangasawa. Second, I want to do so many things pa bago ako mag-aasawa."

Dolphy, Zsa Zsa busy shooting

Dolphy has started shooting his new movie under his own RVQ Productions. I was there and I was able to talk to him. He told me almost everything that everybody wants to know about his life now. I'll write about it next issue.

On the set of the shooting, I also witnessed how close Van Dolph is now to Zsa Zsa Padilla. I was talking to her when Van Dolphy entered. "Tita, let's go na," said the sleepy Van Dolph. Zsa Zsa stood at once, bade us goodbye and went with Van Dolph. (L.S.)

Ma gets back Kristel Romero



KRISTEL ROMERO

DRAMA HAS always been a part of showbusiness and even presscons aren't exempted from such displays of emotion.

At the press conference for the movie "Masikip Ang Langit Sa Lupa" last Saturday, Kristel Romero was with her boyfriend Francis when her mother rushed at her, furious because her daughter has not gone home for quite some time. Mrs. Romero claims that Kristel is just probably being influenced by her boyfriend.

The presscon was highlighted by a lot of crying between mother and daughter and ended with Kristel finally leaving Francis to go home with her mother.

MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

AVENUE -- Kid and the Magic Master
CAPITOL -- Jones Bridge Massacre
CAPRI -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
DART (Paco) -- Jones Bridge Massacre
DYNASTY -- Wanted: Pamilya Banal
DYNASTY-A -- Punglo: Bawat Hakbang
DYNASTY-B -- The Fighter
EASTERN -- Jones Bridge Massacre
EVER -- Platoon Sergeant
GALAXY -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
GLOBE -- Jones Bridge Massacre
GOTESCO -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
GOTESCO-A -- Alibaba And His Magic Lamp
GOTESCO-B -- The Fighter
LUNETA -- Hell Bound (Hell Raiser 2)
MAJOR -- Ang Babaeng Nawawala Sa Sarili
MANILA CINEMA-1 -- Jones Bridge Massacre
MANILA CINEMA-2 -- Woolly Booly
MAXIM -- License To Kill
MIRAMAR -- Hell Bound (Hell Raiser 2)
NEW DILSON -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
NEW HARRISON SUPER -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
NEW HARRISON-A -- Jones Bridge Massacre
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NEW HARRISON-D -- Platoon Sergeant
NEW JENNET -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
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NEW LOVE-1 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
NEW LOVE-2 -- Woolly Booly
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NEW PACO CINEMA -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
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U-BELT -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin

VISTA-1 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
VISTA-2 -- Punglo: Bawat Hakbang

QUEZON CITY

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ACT 2 -- Kick To Win
ACT 3 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
ACT 4 -- Punglo: Bawat Hakbang
ACT 5 -- Wanted: Pamilya Banal
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CINEMA 21 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
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DIAMOND -- Kick To Win
NEW FRONTIER -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
OCEAN -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
OCEAN A -- Punglo: Bawat Hakbang
OCEAN B -- Galit Sa Mundo
QUEZON 1 -- Jones Bridge Massacre
QUEZON 2 -- Platoon Sergeant
REMAR -- Jones Bridge Massacre
SM 1 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
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SM 3 -- Hell Bound (Hell Raiser 2)
SM 4 -- License To Kill
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SM 6 -- The Deceiver
SM 7 -- The Deceiver
SM 8 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
SM 9 -- Kid and the Magic Master
SM 10 -- Batteries Not Included
SM 11 -- Woolly Booly
SM 12 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin

MAKATI

ABC-A -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
ABC-B -- Punglo: Bawat Hakbang
ABC-C -- Jones Bridge Massacre
ABC-D -- Woolly Booly
ABC-E -- Thunder Cops
GREENBELT 1 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
GREENBELT 2 -- Hell Bound (Hell Raiser 2)
GREENBELT 3 -- Alibaba and his Magic Lamp
GREENBELT 4 -- License To Kill
MAKATI SQUARE 1 -- Platoon Sergeant
MAKATI SQUARE 2 -- Jones Bridge Massacre
MAKATI SQUARE 3 -- Kick To Win
MAKATI SQUARE 4 -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
QUAD-Q -- Gawa Na Ang Bala Para Sa Akin
QUAD-U -- Platoon Sergeant
QUAD-A -- Jones Bridge Massacre
QUAD-D -- Kid and the Magic Master

TV GUIDE

TUESDAY
October 24, 1989

MORNING

8:30
(4) Window
9:30
(4) Movie Scenes
(7) Movies To Watch
(9) Movie Line
10:00
(2) Bahay Kalinga
(4) Nickelodeon
(7) Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko
(9) Batibot
10:30
(2) Magandang Umaga Po
(13) Filler Film
11:00
(4) Sine Aksyon sa Kuatro
(7) Golpe de Gulo
(9) Cafe Aroma
(13) Regal Family
11:30
(2) Morning Special
(7) Pabuenas sa Siete
(9) Student Canteen

AFTERNOON

12:00
(2) Eat...Bulaga!
(7) Lunch Date
(13) Showcase 1
1:00
(4) Balita Ala-Una
(9) Tagalog Movies
1:30

(2) Agila
(4) Damayan
1:45
(13) Movieeye
2:00
(2) Mga Kasaysayan sa Likod ng T.V. Patrol
(7) New Hart
(13) Showcase 2
2:30
(2) Sine sa Dos
(4) Tele Aralan
(7) Family Living
3:00
(4) Batibot
(7) The 700 Club
(9) English Movie
4:00
(4) Nickelodeon
(7) Jaycee and the Wheeled Warriors
4:30
(2) Movie Parade/Video Sneak Preview
(7) Sea Hunt
5:00
(2) Batman
(4) The 1989 PBA 3rd Conference
(7) That's Entertainment
(9) Cartoons
(13) Bantay Balita
5:30
(2) Garfield and Friends
(9) Mirasol del Cielo

EVENING

6:00
(2) TV Patrol
(7) Eye to Eye
(9) Newswatch
Evening Edition
(13) Daimos
6:30
(7) GMA Balita
(9) Focus
(13) El Corazon de Oro
7:00
(2) The Maricel Soriano Drama Special
(7) Life's Most Embarrassing Moment
(9) Basta Barkada
(13) Regal Theater 13, 14, 15
7:15
(4) 1989 PBA 3rd Conference
7:30
(7) Wonder Years
8:00
(7) Tuesday Special Specials
(13) Elias
8:30
(2) Palibhasa Lalake
(9) Iilda
9:00
(13) Spectacular Action on Screen "Basil"
9:30
(4) Invisible Man
10:00
(2) The World Tonight
(7) GMA Headline News
(9) Newswatch
10:30
(4) Talakayan sa Makati
(7) Viewpoint
(9) Aawitan Kita Special
10:45
(2) P.E.P. Talk
11:00
(13) Bishop's Move
11:30
(4) News on 4
(7) 700 Club International
(9) Rated Wide Awake
(13) Balita Huling Ulat
12:00
(4) Family Rosary Crusade
(7) Turn on to Jesus

Soldier killed in ambush

A SOLDIER assigned with the Philippine Constabulary Civil Relations Information Group was killed in an ambush yesterday morning at the corner of Karapatan and Cavite streets in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Pronounced dead on arrival at the Chinese General Hospital was Constable 2nd Class Edgardo Flores, assigned with the Civil Relations Information Group at Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Police reports said that Flores was driving his car on his way to his probationary training at Camp Crame when he was pounced upon by the suspects, believed to be members of the New People's Army "Sparrow unit".

The suspects, armed with .45 cal. pistols, opened fire, hitting the victim in the different parts of the body.

Flores was the 70th military and police personnel who had been assassinated by Communist hitmen, police surmised.

Campaign vs fake drug ring

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) was given assurance yesterday by the Federation of Filipino Drug Manufacturers (FFDM) that the government will be supported to crack down on the reported existence of syndicated fake drug operations in a number of key areas in the Visayas and Mindanao.

This developed following a revelation made by FFDM director Wilfredo C. Rivera about the alleged bogus drug rings in Cebu, Leyte, Iloilo, Davao and Cagayan de Oro Cities.

Rivera, president and general manager of Tryco Pharma Corporation and Riverdale Biological Laboratories assured Bureau of Food and Drugs Director Dr. Cecile Gonzales that

P2.5-M worth of marijuana burned

SOME 56 sacks of export-quality dried marijuana leaves estimated to be worth P2.5 million were put to the torch yesterday morning by Quezon City police and civilian authorities on a vacant lot in Diliman, QC.

The prohibited cache, consisting of compressed and treated marijuana leaves, weighing 1.3 tons, was seized last week by police in a vacant lot also in Diliman. The contraband cargo was believed to have been left behind by members of a drug syndicate operating in Metro Manila.

Police probers said that the marijuana cargo was meant for shipment to other Asian countries via the Manila harbor.

The burning of the cargo was supervised by QC police chief Col. Rodolfo Garcia, Mayor Brigido Simon Jr. and Vice Mayor Tito Sotto and witnessed by media representatives.

The burning of the cargo was initially scheduled in the San Lazaro crematorium in Manila but its chimney was under repair and a power failure struck the area. This

prompted the authorities to go back to Quezon City and put to flames the marijuana sacks on a vacant lot near the Atomic Energy Commission along Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Diliman.

It was also within the vicinity where two suspected Taiwanese drug lords, Pan Ming Tsung and Chuang Wen Ye, said to be the "godfather" and operations manager, respectively of the dreaded "Bamboo Gang," were killed in a shootout with Narcom agents Saturday night.

Police bill issue continues to rage

ABOUT 80-90% of the members of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) will not join the controversial Philippine National Police (PNP), Recom 6 chief Brig. Gen. Romeo Zulueta said yesterday in Camp Delgado, Iloilo.

Gen. Zulueta said the PC in Recom 6 are wearing black armbands to protest the PNP bill. He said one of the protested provisions is the exclusion of officials from the rank of colonel and above from the PNP. This provision would also create a Department of Interior to abolish the PC.

At the same time, Senate Majority Floor leader

Teofisto Guingona, Jr. assured PC officers and men that he and his colleagues would carefully study their complaints when they meet in the forthcoming bicameral conference.

Meanwhile, Capcom chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre defended his men's action of hanging a sign outside their headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig, that reads "No to Maceda Bill". Gen. Aguirre said he wanted to avoid any tension that might ensue if he prevented his men from airing their sentiments.

He said his men's actions were part of their right to freedom of expression and added that he will see to it, however, that his men do not go beyond their legal rights regarding their protest actions.

No drinking in M'la cemeteries

THE WEST Traffic District (WTD) announced yesterday that three cemeteries will be closed to vehicular traffic starting 12 midnight today, in preparation for Nov. 1, All Saints' Day.

Col. Arturo Fernandez of the WPD said the cemeteries are the Manila North Cemetery, the Chinese Cemetery and the La Loma Cemetery.

Meanwhile, drinking and selling of liquor has been prohibited within and immediately outside the premises of these cemeteries on these two days, on orders of Mayor Mel Lopez, Jr.

Col. Fernandez said he will field 418 policemen to manage the traffic situation while more than 1,000 others will be deployed to help security elements around the cemeteries keep peace and order.

He added that three wreckers will be deployed at the WTD command post at Dimasalang Circle and investigators of traffic accidents will also be fielded on that day.

Fernandez said that double parking on side streets around cemeteries will be prohibited and passenger jeepneys will not be allowed to ply their routes near the cemetery entrances. He said this is intended to

prevent traffic congestion usually caused by these jeepneys.

On the other hand, Capcom chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre said they will revive "Oplan

When will Miriam's woes end?

Embattled from the outside by members of Congress, specifically the members of the Commission on Appointments who had rejected her confirmation as Agrarian Reform Secretary, the lady cabinet member is likewise fighting her detractors from within her own department.

A group, going by the name Solidar or Solidarity Employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform, has been reportedly going the rounds seeking signatures for a petition purportedly in support of Santiago's continued stay as DAR head. It turned out, according to lawyer Romeo Galgaso of

Kaluluwa" that they have adopted every year whenever All Saints' Day comes. "Oplan Kaluluwa" will start from midnight of Oct. 31 and end on midnight of Nov. 1. (M. Molina)

the public affairs office, the group is out to discredit Santiago and is silently working to unseat her.

And the petition paper was actually meant to urge President Aquino to oust the beleaguered DAR head.

Forum Crossword

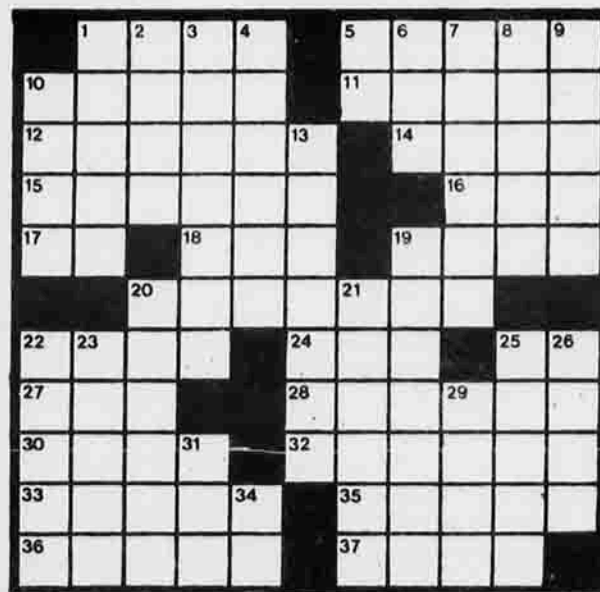
By JOSEPH JACOB

ACROSS

- 1 Complain
- 5 Piles
- 10 Unconfirmed report
- 11 Bird of prey
- 12 Smells
- 14 Greenish blue
- 15 Marauder
- 16 Nothing
- 17 Preposition

DOWN

- 18 After taxes
- 19 Play divisions
- 20 Rapture
- 22 Domesticated
- 24 Salamander
- 25 Musical note
- 27 Swiss peak
- 28 Jubilant
- 30 Faux pas
- 32 Evening party



- 33 Divided country
- 35 Sphere of action
- 36 Risers
- 37 Golfer's gadget

DOWN

- 1 Bric-a-brac item
- 2 Love god
- 3 Love affair
- 4 Babbles
- 5 Pronoun
- 6 Dine
- 7 Commission
- 8 Fold
- 9 Vends
- 10 Captivated
- 13 Love seats
- 19 Actor-dancer Fred
- 20 Realm
- 21 Drifting about
- 22 Assigned chores
- 23 Appropriate
- 25 13-19 period
- 26 Brainchild
- 29 Shade giver
- 31 Stimulate
- 34 While

(Answer to previous puzzle)



SANTIAGO

sales and marketing men from Visayas and Mindanao had banded together to

expose the clandestine activities of at least seven spurious drug groups.

We Forum

16

TUESDAY * OCTOBER 31, 1989

P 2 only IN METRO MANILA

NBI's aid in mediamen slays sought

By ROLY EMBILE

SENATOR TEOFISTO Guingona yesterday sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation in the killing last week of radio commentator Rino Arcones and the kidnapping earlier of Radyo Bombo owner Rogelio Florete.

Guingona said in a letter to NBI director Jose Antonio Carpio that the "people deserve protection against the perpetrators of these crimes and prompt prosecution to penalize them."

Florete is the seventh victim since 1986 of kidnapping for ransom in Western Visayas by organized crime syndicates that prey on Chinese multi-millionaires based mostly in Iloilo City.

Others were Roberto Uy kidnapped in Iloilo City on July 23, 1986; Alejandro Alegria and Alfonso Chiu Suey, in Molo, Iloilo City on

May 14, 1986; Rodolfo Tiu on Oct. 23, 1986; Mario Lao on 12 December, 1986, Kalibo, Aklan; and Kenneth So, Nov. 11, 1987 in La Paz, Iloilo City.

In two cases three military soldiers and three policemen were implicated and are facing charges in local courts in Region 6.

Meanwhile, Bishop Alberto Piamonte of the Archdiocese of Jaro, Iloilo in a meeting with Guingona last Sunday voiced his apprehension over the spate of violence that is rampant in Iloilo.

Bishop Piamonte said he wants a dialog with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa in the hope of minimizing criminality in Western Visayas. He said that kidnappings and hold-ups may have recently ebbed as far as the Chinese business

community is concerned only because they have been arming themselves but the Filipinos also are crying to be armed.

Piamonte said that appar-

ently the military and police can't do much because criminal gangs are well organized and well armed and financed as proven by experience of

(Page 12, please)



UP IN SMOKE: Some 56 sacks of dried marijuana leaves were put to the torch yesterday in Quezon City under the supervision of Mayor Brigido Simon, Jr., and Vice Mayor Tito Sotto III. The cache, seized last week, was worth P2.5 million. Details on page 15. (Roly Embile)

No Ninoy-Nur link, Cory says

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday debunked reports that her husband, Benigno, Jr., had any links with the Moro National Liberation Front, or had forged an agreement with secessionist leader Nur Misuari to topple the dictatorial regime of the late deposed President Marcos.

KBL: SC decision 'confirms hypocrisy'

THE KILUSANG Bagong Lipunan (KBL) rallied the people yesterday to fight for their basic rights "lost with the hairline decision of the Supreme Court to ban the return of the remains of the late President Marcos."

Former Speaker Nicanor E. Yniguez, KBL president, sounded the rally as the party leadership joined the March for Justice for Marcos in Villasis, Pangasinan.

The long march started in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, last week and is expected to wind up in a couple of days at the Quezon Memorial Circle where a grand rally is scheduled to deplore "the unjust decision" of the High Tribunal.

Yniguez described the decision of eight out of 15 members of the Supreme Court as "a confirmation of the hypocrisy of the government in calling for reconciliation and unity, and its pledges for justice and freedom."

A lawyer himself, Yniguez wondered "how in high heav-

ens could the clear Constitutional mandate on the Bill of Rights be subjugated to the hazy and equivocal police power of the State banning the return of the body of the dead on the mere conjecture that he would hound the country into a revolution.

"They have not only buried Marcos as an alien, they have also buried the freedom of citizens with him," Yniguez lamented.

House Minority Leader Ali Dimaporo said he understood the gratitude of justices to the power that appointed them, "but how could they be so subservient to the whims and caprices of that power, paying tribute with a questionable decision?"

Isabela Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano asked why the Supreme Court considered the case a political question when the eight members went right ahead to determine the dubious fact of the dead man's impact on national security.

The President made the clarification during a press conference in Zamboanga City yesterday where she visited in her second leg of her campaign for active participation in the Nov. 19 plebiscite on the Muslim Mindanao Organic Act.

Mrs. Aquino told newsmen that as far as she knew, her husband was alone in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

There had been reports even before her husband was assassinated in 1983 that the popular Tarlac senator and then opposition leader had plotted strategies with Misuari to depose Marcos.

In her remarks yesterday, Mrs. Aquino urged Muslims and Christians to strive for unity in Mindanao and urged them to express their sentiments in the scheduled plebiscite for the ratification of the autonomy act for three regions and 9 cities.

The President called on voters to study the provisions

of the Act, adding that they should vote on the basis of their beliefs. "But boycotting the plebiscite is a wrong decision," Mrs. Aquino stressed.

Mrs. Aquino reiterated her stand that she is not campaigning for or against the proposal, saying that her visits to Mindanao are meant to bolster the information campaign for the people's participation in the political exercise.

Enrile vs corruption

OPPOSITION SEN. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday demanded a definite and concrete action against public officials committing graft and corruption.

Speaking before the Federation of Parents-Teachers Association in Bacolod City, Enrile said the Aquino government has not yet caught, charged or convicted a big fish in the past three years

(Page 12, please)

Judge, sheriff, cops face rights charges

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights (CHR) has decided to file administrative charges against a certain judge, sheriff, and several police officers of Quezon City for the illegal demolition of the homes of a whole community of three hundred families, according to chairman Mary Concepcion Bautista.

The illegal demolition order was issued in criminal cases filed in the Regional Trial Court in Quezon City which involved only eleven (11) persons and was executed by the sheriff even before service of notice to vacate had been served on the eleven defendants and before any relocation site had been prepared for them, contrary to the provisions of the law and the Constitution.

The illegal demolition rendered homeless hun-

dreds of persons including school children, disturbed their schooling and caused loss of properties and their contents worth much more than the measly bond of only P100,000 which was set by the judge for issuing the writ of execution pending appeal.

The case is pending in the Court of Appeals and demolition was issued even after the judge had acquitted the eleven defendants of illegal squatting.

Among the owners of the semi-concrete homes demolished were former workers in Saudi Arabia whose homes and properties representing their savings from working abroad were lost, chairman Bautista said.

Bautista said the charges will be filed by her office this week in which the names of the respondents will be revealed.