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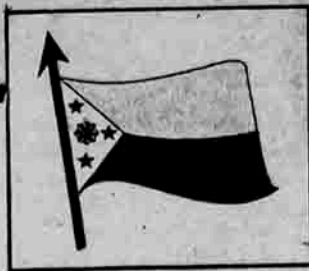


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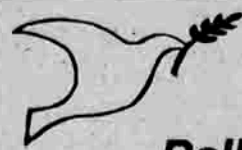
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We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally
for peace

VOL. 15 • NO. 15

AUGUST 16-22, 1991

P3.00

IN METRO MANILA



PRES. AQUINO



MRS. MARCOS

Gun ban blazes debate

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'WAR OF WIDOWS'

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2,300 Subic workers to lose jobs

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Bishop Fortich
turns 78,
renews
commitment

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What is the
anti-poverty
movement?

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ST. PEREGRINE CENTER: President Aquino is treated to a dance number by a tribal community from Baguio during a visit to the St. Peregrine Development Center in Parañaque on the occasion of the 400th birthday of its foundress, St. Louis de Marillac. With the President is Sister Visitatrix Julma Neo. Earlier, Sr. Julma gifted Mrs. Aquino with a ceramic statue of St. Louis de Marillac made from the ashes of Mt. Pinatubo. (Malacañang Photo)

Private ownership of property root cause of poverty

By CHRISTINA I. HERMOSO

POVERTY IS not only prevalent in third world countries like the Philippines. Rather, it is an inevitable feature of any society.

A hand-out on social justice and human rights entitled, *Questioning Assumptions about Property and Poverty* by Fernando M. Zialcita, said that property-ownership and poverty are tied to each other. That although many countries, especially the agriculture-based, have developed highly advanced technologies, many of these rich societies continue to be afflicted with poverty and hunger. Why? Because not everybody can own or has the means to own a property.

The United States, although is one of the richest and most technologically advanced country, is home to many landless, jobless and even homeless individuals. The US Bureau of Census and the Department of Commerce of the Federal Government reported that a fifth of the total American population is poor.

The reason, said Zialcita, must be sought in the way resources are allocated. In all

societies, the individual with property is at an extreme advantage, he said.

Within the recent past, it has become clear that poverty is not primarily the result of individual vices and inheritance, nor is it an ineradicable part of a society. Poverty is part of every country these times as a result of the shift from "natural" accumulation of property as in the case of the tribal minorities, to private ownership in the form of documents or land titles.

Private ownership secures the owner's right to his property. The number of property one possesses is an indication of the level he belongs in the society. The landed few are the rich while those with nary a property are the poor.

But whatever the case, poverty is present in every society because not all can have access to private ownership.

The change of rulers - from Spanish to American to Filipino - has not quelled the unrest, for the event - the concentration of property ownership in a few - persists, said Zialcita. (Asian News & Features)



GLASS ARTWORKS: President Aquino admires handcrafted decorative glass artworks produced by the Angelliglass Product Specialties during a recent visit to its factory in Mandaluyong. The President looked at possible livelihood opportunities for Mt. Pinatubo victims in the production of souvenir glass items with volcanic ash inside. With the President are: (from the left) Angeli Salcedo, Rep. Patricia Gonzales (Zambales) and Tourism Undersecretary Mina Gabor. (Malacanang Photo)

Gov'ts 10 priority projects for last 11 months

MALACANANG HAS listed 10 priority projects it proposes to undertake in the remaining 11 months of the administration of President Corason Aquino.

The 10 priority projects are:

1. Intensification of revenue collections complemented by

cost-cutting measures.

2. Implementation of vital programs in science and technology that would increase the country's competitive edge in What it called "the emergent Pacific century."

3. Increase in non-wage benefits of workers.

4. Construction of more infrastructure projects in energy, transportation and communications through the build-operate-transfer and other privatized schemes.

5. Introduction of capability building programs for government-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

6. Increased livelihood opportunities in the countryside and credit facilities and support for peasants and fishermen.

7. End to discriminatory laws against working women.

8. More adequate shelter for the urban poor.

9. Environmental management through the continuation of the government policy on sustained development.

10. The "Panibagong Sigla (New Vigor) 2000" or New Vigor 2000 project to promote an energized and efficient bureaucracy.

Panibagong Sigla 2000 (PS 2000) was recently launched by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to ensure the full implementation of a development-oriented professional cadre of civil servants.

President Aquino said PS 2000 brought together selected civil servants, local government leaders, non-government organization (NGO) officials and members of the academe into 13 task forces to look into a wide range of concerns and problems of the bureaucracy, from procedural reforms to speeding up the delivery of frontline services to exploring alternative modes of service delivery; from review of incentives for civil servants and indicators of managerial effectiveness to unionization of government workers; and from reforms in supply and fund disbursement management to local autonomy.

The PS 2000 effort, according to Mrs. Aquino, is a key mechanism to aid the administration in keeping track of what her government is doing to have a more responsive and relevant bureaucracy. (Asian News & Features)

Low impact of vocational training in countryside

THE IMPACT of many existing rural training programs tend to be low. Realizing this and the fact that vocational training by itself does not create employment, representatives of government agencies, non-government organizations (NGO) and academic circles met recently to discuss the need to change the approaches of vocational training as an instrument to support community-based socio-economic development processes in the country.

Spearheaded by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC), the High-Level Conference on Community-Based Skills Training and Rural Employment Promotion identified four major factors attributed to the seeming ineffectiveness of the rural vocational training

program.

The main problem noted was the choice of venue for the trainings since majority of the larger and well-equipped training venues are located in cities or in the more developed towns. A major hitch encountered in "going rural" is that mobile training programs are hampered by poor road conditions as well as the high cost of vehicle repair and maintenance. Besides, local government units are often not able to fulfill their pledge with regard to cost-sharing of training courses.

Limited course offerings is another factor. Rural training is essentially concentrated in three major subjects — home economics (including dress-making and tailoring), practical arts/basic industrial skills, and food processing. The other two factors mentioned were

the low quality of training and the virtual neglect of post-training assistance. It was observed that training programs are not complemented with appropriate credit and marketing assistance.

There is a need, therefore, to "ruralize" the planning of vocational training — to analyze local skills needs before training rather than perceiving skills training as another social welfare program. What was recommended is the careful assessment of community-specific training needs and opportunities (TNO) which will pay particular attention to the local economic base, existing and potential product demand, business opportunities and constraints, the rural labor market as well as the existing regional and sectoral development plans.

Other relevant information

that must be assessed include the availability of local raw materials, existing technologies and skills, interest of skills training on the part of the trainee, demand for the goods and services to be produced, and the availability of credit to set up a business and marketing assistance. These surveys must be complemented with an analysis of the existing demand for labor.

All vocational courses should also be monitored and evaluated to measure the impact of the objective, design and implementation of the training intervention. Moreover, monitoring and evaluation information should be exchanged among the private and government entities involved in rural development so that experiences can be shared among the implementors and beneficiaries alike. (ANFI)

GUN LOVERS, GUN HATERS

By ERIC S. GIRON

“DIRTY HARRY” Callahan played by Clint Eastwood in the movie points his extra long-nosed Magnum revolver and mutters through his teeth the now classic line: “Make my day!”

Movie posters sublimate guntoting heroes with bullet belts crisscrossing their front and back a la Rambo—today’s symbol of machismo. Filipinos are gun fetishists. To the Filipino psyche, the gun is a status symbol of masculinity. Psychiatrists think otherwise. They say a man who regards the gun as an extension of his manhood feels naked, weak and enervated without it.

Filipino “action” stars have found success via the gun. Fernando Poe Jr. (Ronald Allan Poe), known as the Action King, found his element as a western star in the 1960s with his gun fixation as *Ang Mananandata* (The Rifleman), in *Baril sa Aking Kamay* (Gun in My Hand), *Baril na Ginto* (Golden Gun) and *Kalibre .45* (.45-caliber Colt pistol).

Ronnie has switched to me-against-the-world vendettas, using more sophisticated machine-pistols which he fires with one hand.

Rudy Fernandez and Bong Revilla Jr. are raking in at the box-office with their bang-bang films. Even Richard Gomez and aspiring punks are keeping pace with the action trend, spitting fire from submachineguns or rifles which fire explosives like a rocket launcher in grossly exaggerated heroics.

The poor man’s Rambo-type mayhem aping imported celluloid violence is sickening. Merely watching the trailer of a Filipino “action film” could turn even an ironclad stomach into jelly. Rapid-fire blasts from A-16 Armalites or Uzis cause blood to spurt from open wounds. The filmmaker must get an orgasm from the sustained rat-a-tat-tat-tat as if the clips never run out of ammo and the gory massacres.

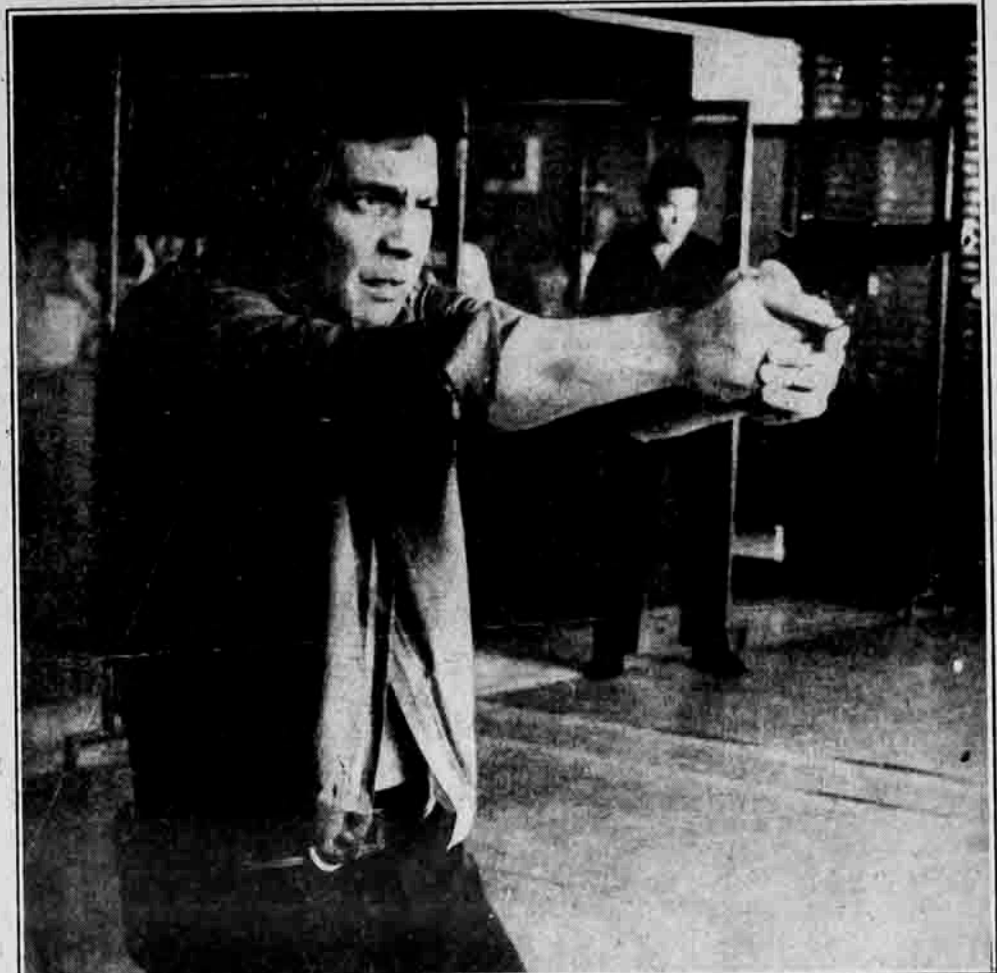
GUN HATERS

On the other hand, McGyver in the television series abhors guns. Confronted by a guntoter, McGyver uses

his fists to defend himself or resorts to his ingenuity in contriving last-minute devices to outdo his opponent. If he divests the enemy of his gun, McGyver throws it away instead of using it to fight back—which seems pretty stupid.

But a flashback to his childhood explains his extreme aversion for guns. He and three bosom pals found a revolver which they stashed in a ground pit. They took it out for target practice at bottles in the woods. One boy pointed the revolver at a bird perched on a tree but McGyver knocked the gun out of his hand. The firearm spun in the air, dropped on its butt on the ground, and discharged a bullet which struck one boy’s body.

Everybody was stunned. McGyver contrived a way to get the wounded boy to a hospital. But that gun incident left a trauma which haunted McGyver in his adulthood. Seeing a boy taking his fa-



FERNANDO POE, JR.: Gun fixation.

ther’s gun from the drawer, McGyver warned him: “You’ve got a gun, things happen, people die.”

The boy brushed him aside and went after dope pushers molesting him. In the end the boy wound up in the hospital with a bullet in his chest.

In another episode, McGyver was hunting for a

rare Czechoslovakian revolver with a seven-bullet chamber. The gun which previously killed a presidential candidate and a woman was used by a drug pusher in killing a policeman who had caught him peddling dope. When this revolver and other guns used in crimes were recovered, they were dunked into a white-hot smelter that melted the steel, thus destroying them.

McGyver commented: “One thousand destroyed, one hundred million more to go.”

Filipino civilians have registered 439,501 firearms with the Firearms and Explosives Unit at Camp Crame. But at the onset of 1991, intelligence sources counted 210,800 loose firearms plus 35,000 to 40,000 in the hands of the New People’s Army and 1,000 with rightist rebels—a total of 251,800 loose firearms.

If each member of the 160,000 strong Armed Forces of the Philippines and the 150,000-man Philippine National Police is armed with one sidearm or long rifle and the total number of firearms is added to the 64,000 of security guards, watchmen and private detectives, the 439,501 firearms registered, the guns in stores, factories plus the 251,800 loose firearms, it would be safe to say there are

about a million firearms in the Philippines.

Excluded from the aggregate total are the *pantik* or homemade guns in Cebu which are exported to Japan and elsewhere. With the population exploding to over 60 million, all these guns pose a threat to people’s lives.

Guns, whether in the hands of law enforcers, soldiers, civilians, rebels, bandits or hoodlums, are instruments of violence. Bladed weapons may be used in petty robbery-holdups in dark alleys or aboard jeepneys. But bigtime bank heists, carjacking and the holdup of bank vans are perpetrated with guns.

Lawmen use their sidearms in killing suspect narcotic traffickers, carjacking and robbers indiscriminately. Policemen and soldiers shoot one another in beerhouses. Such a situation promotes anarchy. If violence is to be averted, curbs must be clamped on the ownership of firearms and guntoting.

GUNTOTING CURBS

This is the intent of the “Gun-Bearing Act of 1991” filed as House Bill 34075 by Rep. Bonifacio Gillego and as Senate Bill 1782 by Sens. Aquilino Pimentel and Alberto

(Next page, please)



GUNSLAYING: Symptom of a society.



REP. GILLEGO, SENS. PIMENTEL, ROMULO: Curbs urged.

Romulo which were certified to Malacanang as urgent measures by Justice Sec. Silvestre Bello III.

The measures would restrict guntoting to policemen and soldiers in uniform. Only undercover operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation Service in civilian clothes who are on a mission are allowed to carry guns. Licensed gun holders are banned from carrying guns outside the residence, police or military camps, the office and gun clubs.

The idea is to discourage politicians from hiring goons in plainclothes as bodyguards who swagger and throw their weight around just because they are packing guns.

Officials from the President to Cabinet members, legislators, governors and mayors who desire bodyguards must request the AFP or police agencies to provide them with uniformed men. To date there are about 2,500 uniformed bodyguards of officials while "regular NBI agents" guard members of the judiciary.

Manila has become a unique city in Asia where men in T-shirts and rubber sneakers swagger about town, their hips bulging with guns tucked at their waists. One can hardly distinguish who is a plainclothes detective, policeman or soldier out of uniform, a political bodyguard or just plain hoodlum carrying a *paltik*. Such guntoters are not seen in other Asian or world capitals.

"Is there martial law in the city?" asked a foreigner who had just landed in Manila. He noticed the security men in blue uniform armed with shotguns, pistolized carbines or handguns guarding department stores, supermarkets, moviehouses, business buildings and banks.

Bello said the regulation of guntoting would "help ensure

clean and honest elections next year, where the voters would be free from fear" in electing their chosen representatives.

A national campaign for the attainment of a gunless society was sparked by Nandy Pacheco of the NATURE (National Action for the Total Uplift and Restoration of the Environment) which has exceeded its goal of one million subscribers.

The measures are expected to encounter opposition from legislators who maintain private armies, particularly, the owners of agricultural land. Under the present setup, cashiers or paymasters carrying money, farm owners and hunters during the hunting season are authorized to carry guns.

Gun fanciers like those who use guns for sport in shooting competitions and those who claim that a gun is necessary for self protection are among those who are protesting the restriction of guntoting. But a gun emboldens a carrier and in a slight altercation it could be pulled out and used. Then the gun holder cannot stop regretting the consequences of his having carried a firearm.

PETTY SHOOTINGS

Jeepney driver Juanito Cuenca, 38, of Magsalang, Cavite sideswiped the car of Police Sgt. Ernesto Tinio in Makati. The policeman shot the driver twice, then took him to the Makati Medical Center, where the victim died.

Capt. Christopher Laxa, Lt. Danilo Felisco and Sgt. Manny Frondoza gunned down Solid Bank executive Cristan Raulo, 54, inside his house at 21 West Capitol Drive at Kapitolyo, Pasig. The trio claimed they were out to serve a warrant for the arrest of an unnamed woman drug pusher they believed resided at Raulo's house. They claimed self-defense when the Eastern Police District filed homicide charges against the killers with

the Pasig regional court.

Security guard Chito Santillan was toying with his .22-caliber rifle at Maico Stable (PRC Compound, Makati) thinking the gun was not loaded after removing the magazine. He pulled the trigger and the bullet hit the leg of laborer Bernie Montenesis, 48, of Barangay Tejeros.

Eusebio Pascual, 28, was misbehaving at a man's wake on Yakal St., Sta. Cruz, Manila before midnight. Adonis Cuaterno, 51, a security guard accosted Pascual but his companions allegedly pelted him with stones. The guard pulled out his .38-caliber revolver and shot Pascual.

Several killings have resulted from jeepney holdups. Jeepney driver Benedicto Javellano was injured when he rammed his vehicle into a concrete wall while being held up by four men at Paranaque at 10:25 p.m. Capcom Sgt. Virgilio Desagan who tried to fight the quartet was shot in the chest, repeatedly stabbed and killed.

Five robbers armed with handguns boarded a jeepney on Shaw Boulevard before 9 p.m. and near Cherry's Foodarama cleaned up P10,000 in cash and valuables from the passengers. Bank employe Noel Guillermo, 21, was poked with a pistol on the head and ordered to transfer to the passengers' section. When he muttered something, a robber shot and wounded him. They dumped the occupants at I. Cruz street and fled with the jeepney.

For not stopping fast enough

along Tuazon, Sampaloc at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 15, jeepney driver Jorge Cabahug, 35, was shot in the left shoulder by one of two men. The duo exchanged words with the driver after alighting before the shooting. The wounded driver drove himself to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

A jeepney was cruising along the service road of the Expressway in Paranaque when a robber pulled out a knife and told the driver it was a hoist. Police Staff Sgt. Virgilio de Sagun, 45, of the SPD pulled out his service revolver but two other robbers stabbed him four times in the back and grabbed his gun. Then they shot him with his own gun in the chest. The robbers fled on foot with valuables from the passengers and the sergeant's gun.

These are daily occurrences which are consequences of carrying guns. In New York, a sensational subway incident focused the gun's role in violence.

"SUBWAY VIGILANTE"

"A Saturday afternoon three days before Christmas. A dingy, noisy subway train rolls under Greenwich Village and approaches the World Trade Center. Five shots ring out in eight seconds. Four black youths lie wounded. Bernhard Goetz becomes a legend." This was *Time* magazine's report on the "Subway Vigilante" who refused to be mugged.

To Goetz's right, Darrell Cabey, 19, and James Ramseur, 19, sat on a short two-seat bench. Two of the youths carried screwdrivers and two were unarmed. Troy Canty, 19, and Barry Allen, 18, got up from their seats. Canty told Goetz, "Give me \$5."

Goetz unzipped his jacket, pulled out a nickel-plated lightweight Smith & Wesson .38-cal. revolver, shot Canty, then Allen in the back. He fired again, wounding Ramseur in the arm and chest. His fourth shot at Cabey may have missed but Goetz walked over to him,

sprawled in his seat, and said, "You seem to be doing all right. Here's another." The fifth and last slug may have severed Cabey's spinal cord, paralyzing him from the waist down.

The public interpreted Goetz's reaction as fear which always exceeded the actual danger posed by street criminals. A psychiatrist said Goetz "was striking a blow for all of us." The "slug-the-thug attitude" seemed evident in the judiciary as well. A panel of 23 New Yorkers indicted Goetz only for illegal possession of handgun after Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau took his case to the grand jury.

The city applauded the result. But then Goetz paraded around town, intoxicated by his notoriety, and preached on the need for law and order.

This removed his "humble, decent" image. The public who had proclaimed him a hero now looked upon him as a monster. More than six weeks after the first grand jury's decision, Goetz was arraigned on new charges on four counts of attempted murder, four counts of assault, one count of reckless endangerment of other passengers in the subway car and one count of criminal pos-

session of a weapon. The pre-trial was set for May 16, 1985.

The Goetz case implied people had become prisoners of their own fears. Laird Roy Robertson, 29, looked out of his Houston apartment window at 11:30 p.m. Jan. 23 and saw two men and a woman trying to break into his car. Picking up a .22-cal. rifle, he fired seven shots, killing Darrel York, 18, and wounding Jerome Marshall, 19. A grand jury decided Robertson committed no crime.

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young praised Marie Morrison, 78, who shot a 16-year-old youth who tried to force his way into her house. Ernest Leflore, 50, shot with a .357 Magnum pistol a man breaking into his home. Houseowner Daniel Kindred, 41, shot Ronnie Trapp, 19, while climbing out of the basement window. It showed people were more ready to use a firearm than in the past.

Citizens taking the law into their own hands is attributed to fear of crime and frustration at the justice system. But then if the police give up the Constitution to exercise unfettered means to cope with crime, there would be a garrison state. It is actually an indictment of the system.



Republic of the Philippines
Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee
Quezon City, Metro Manila

August 6, 1991

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids on forms, furnished by the QC-PBAC for the PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF OBUDAN STREET, BARANGAY MANRESA, this city, will be received at the PBAC - Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office, this city until 10:00 A.M. on September 6, 1991 and then publicly opened at 2:00 P.M. of the same day.

Letter of Intent to participate will be received until 5:00 P.M. of August 23, 1991 and the Pre C-forms will be submitted on August 27, 1991. Issuance of bid documents will be on August 29, 1991.

The Bid Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

(Sgd.) GERARDO G. MAGAT
Chairman

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the state of ALBERTO PATAG, MARCIAL PATAG, NECASIO PATAG was extrajudicially settled among the respective heirs by means of a public document executed and acknowledge before Notary Public Atty. Aurora Salva Bautista whose commission expires on December 31, 1991.

WE FORUM
August 16, 23 & 30, 1991

WE FORUM
August 9 & 16, 1991

INTERVIEW WITH RENATO CONSTANTINO, JR.

'Poverty could tie us together'

POVERTY CONTINUES to haunt more than 60 percent of the population, unemployment has risen to 15 percent (45 percent in Central Luzon). A breadwinner commits suicide after killing his family out of desperation. While the nation hopes the oil price reduction would lower prices of the basic goods, government economists say this will not come at all.

Poverty may have placed the Philippines among the world's poorest but it has also brought together cause-oriented organizations of diverse ideological persuasions. The Anti-Poverty Movement (APM), where left-wing coalitions as well as moderate groups cooperate, is bound by a tactical campaign to confront the oil price issue and government's economic policies. The movement will soon highlight the issue of poverty in *labbayans* (caravans) in many regions of the country that will culminate in a major demonstration in Metro-Manila.

PNF's Bobby Tuazon this week interviewed Renato Constantino JR. ("RC" to friends), the APM's spokesperson, to expound on the poverty issue and the movement's objectives. RC is active in the Freedom from Debt Coalition, as well as in other organizations on the US bases and peace initiatives.

Excerpts of the interview:

What is the Anti-Poverty Movement (APM) about?

A number of us in the cause-oriented community have come to realize that we're all engaged in various activities, a number of which are economic. We can no longer simply try to whittle away from different angles at the essentials of poverty. It's about time we came together to tackle the problem because one sector cannot fight it alone.

Even the impending poverty of the more affluent sectors should be addressed commonly, jointly, ... The common threat that could tie us all together is poverty... We decided to put up a loose, horizontal organization without a hierarchical structure which could preclude certain organizations that don't feel comfortable in joining other coalitions.

The consensus was that poverty should not be limited to economic terms... Before the poor person was someone without a job. Now, the poor include even those with jobs, those with permanent homes. We can also include the entrepreneurs because they're undergoing hardships as well... At The "more affluent

sectors" are dropping in status to the level of the country's poor.

How bad is poverty in the country?

I could use the term "*nagpupuyong karalitaan*" (grinding poverty) to describe the acceleration of poverty brought about by the continuing and growing domination of the country's economic and political fields by foreign interests. There is also the intransigent position of government especially in the economic front — in implementing the IMF conditionalities that ... only impoverish the people further and enrich the domestic elite and foreign capitalists.

On the oil issue, even if government has reduced the price, it only did so because it will gain an equivalent or even more through more tax revenues. What we've seen is a backtracking in posture but none in the implementation of economic policies that would benefit the people.

Who are the forces the APM expects to mobilize or draw support from?

The basic sectors who feel the brunt of the results of government policies, the results being greater impoverishment. We also hope to reach those sectors who've already transcended the thin dividing line of poverty. We've also gotten some support from the business sector who want to touch base with us, including those opposed to import liberalization.

If the movement becomes a rallying point, a venue for expressing the desires and protests of various sectors, we'll be kept alive until such time that we become irrelevant, that is, poverty would no longer be an issue.

Aside from the oil price, what other issues have you articulated within the framework of this movement?

The issues of the import levy and import liberalization, the debt issue, agricultural subsidies. These are the issues, including the oil price question, which we decided to tackle. These are major issues that have the broadest possible effect on the people. We will explore other issues that will arise.

What is APM's alternative agenda against poverty?

We hope to draw up not only an immediate economic relief agenda for the people but also a medium-term economic program. The alternative agenda should come from the affected sectors themselves as part of the people empowerment process... Immediate economic relief can be in the form of the oil price rollback.



HOMELESS: Someone's on their side.

Although a rollback alone may not end poverty, it will provide the hospitable climate for poverty alleviation.

The bulk of the debt service must also be placed at the disposal of the people in terms of basic services. Better agricultural subsidies would provide more money for the farmers that will translate into more robust domestic market to spur our local industries.

If we were in a position to change things we would of course go into the full implementation of a genuine agrarian reform and nationalist industrialization. (Philippine News and Features)

Thousands of RP workers in Subic to be retrenched

By LOUELLA VIZCOCHO

OLONGAPOCITY—Subic Naval Base worker Juanito Santos, 44, lost his house here during Pinatubo volcano's most intense eruption last June. His roof caved in under tons of volcanic ash and sand. Barely two

months later, he is losing something even more important — his job.

Santos is but one of the 1,321 Filipino base workers scheduled for dismissal next month in a "reduction-in-force" at the

American base here, which was also partly damaged by the eruptions.

Base authorities confirmed over the weekend the planned

reduction, saying it is the result of the "continuing review of all navy base operations in light of operational requirements, budget priorities and, particularly in Subic, the effect of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption."

Senior Chief James Jones of the Subic Public Affairs Office (PAO) said that of the approximately 1,321 workers to be dismissed, 800 will come from the Ship Repair Facility (SRF), 329 from the Navy Resale Activity (NRA), 180 from the Naval Supply Depot (NSD) and 12 from the Officer-in-Charge of Construction (OICC).

Jones' office did not confirm whether there will be retrenchments at the Public Works Center (PWC). Workers there interviewed by PNF said they believe about a thousand of them would also be out of jobs too by the end of September.

"Para kaming isinumpa, nawalan na ng bahay at ari-

arian dahil sa pagsabog ng bulkang Pinatubo, mawawalan pa ng hanapbuhay. Papaano na ang aning mga pamilya (It's as if we've been cursed, we lost our houses and other belongings because of Pinatubo volcano's eruption and then we are now about to lose our jobs. What will happen to our families?)" Santos said.

Workers who will be dismissed are entitled to severance pay equivalent to one month for every year of service, Subic's Jones told PNF. He said that if workers are ever needed in the future, they could also be rehired. He did not confirm the possibility of jobs for Filipino workers in other US bases abroad.

"That appeared sometime ago in the newspapers, but I don't have anything that shows it has happened," he said.

Santos has been with Subic's ship repair facility for 18 years. He was offered a job in the Middle East five years ago, but

chose to remain at Subic because he believed he had a stable job there.

"I was wrong. Now I'm not even sure whether I can land a job in the Middle East. I don't know if I can afford the cost of processing papers for an overseas job," he said.

Santos, who was staunchly for the retention of American bases in the Philippines, is now confused. "How can the Americans do this to us at this time when we are almost down and out?" he asked.

Approximately 26,000 Filipino workers are also expecting to lose their jobs at Clark Air Base when this is closed next year. Many have not been receiving salaries since the base, located in nearby Pampanga, was also severely damaged by the volcanic eruption in June. Only clean up operation, are on-going. (Philippine News and Features)



SUBIC BASE: Retrenchment.

PAGCOR: The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

What it is all about.

An Economic Ally

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

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

A Socio-Civic Partner

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

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

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

A Tourist Attraction

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

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

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



Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
PAGCOR HOUSE 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD MANILA

Marcos loot recovery

HOPES SPRING anew that a part of the billions Marcos stole from this country and stashed away in foreign banks may be in the process of recovery. If we are to believe press reports from Switzerland, it seems that the Zurich canton has turned over to Solicitor General Francisco Chavez the bank documents necessary for the purpose. At least \$270 million are expected to be recovered from the Zurich banks, out of a suspected \$1.3 billion Marcos had deposited, but Chavez is satisfied. According to him, of the three cantons where there are suspected Marcos deposits, Zurich presents the most serious problem and its resolution offers a good precedent for the other two.

Well and good. Considering how the Presidential Commission on Good Government has bungled the job, this new development is music to the ears of the cash-strapped administration. The amount of \$270 million will go a long way in resolving the grave problems spawned by the continuous eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, although a part of it in relief goods and materials will be stolen by some local officials.

The development in Switzerland is an excellent break for Chavez who is being clobbered with regularity in the local courts. For a time, even the initial P350 million the government is claiming from the Zurich banks stood in danger of forfeiture because of alleged economic sabotage by a so-called master spy hired by the PCGG. It took a diplomatic note from the administration to convince the canton's district attorney to relent and finally agree to cooperate with the three-man Philippine team. From hereon, the rest of the recovery efforts could be in for some easy sailing unless, of course, another "master spy" is caught trying to tap into the Swiss bank computers.

The Zurich documents are expected to gain lead time for the government which has a December 20 deadline, as set by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, to convict Imelda Marcos before the stolen millions are released. With the cooperation shown by Zurich, the possibility looms bright that this part of the Marcos loot may soon be transferred to the Philippines.

A lot still remains to be done to recover all the ill-gotten wealth the Marcoses cached in that European country. But Chavez' bulldog tenaciousness might have shown the way to the PCGG on how to do it. Just follow the lead.

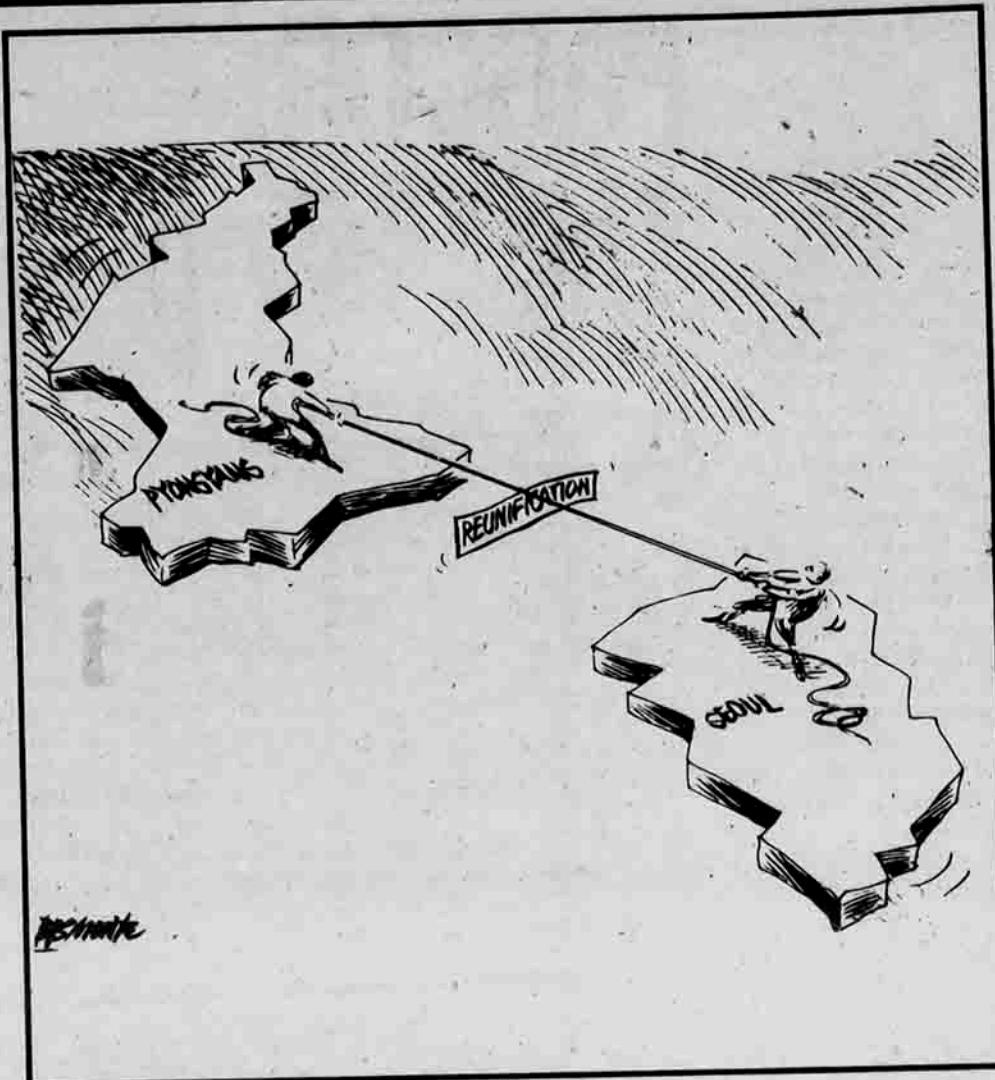
Justice for Maureen

BY THE time this piece comes out, 16-year old Maureen Hultman may have already given up the ghost. We cannot find the courage to say, however much we want, that this is for her own good; certainly this will end the pain and the suffering and the cruel possibility that she could wind up a vegetable all the remaining years of her life. She herself might have wished it, if her will be known, but we have no way of knowing. And she continues the uneven battle, with the aid of artificial life support systems and machines, while her body rejects the antibiotics it needed to fight infection and the blood transfusions to keep it going. We agree with her parents; only a miracle, which is God's prerogative, can save her now.

If she would know, she must be consoled somewhat with the outpourings of sympathy and humanitarian concern many have shown over this tragic affair. President Corazon Aquino was reported to have held her hand and said a prayer, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello and countless others saw her as she fights for life at a Makati hospital's intensive care unit, and a personality school, where she also would have graduated, dedicated its commencement ceremony to her. Maureen was there that night, her mother said, a night she looked forward to so much. From here, a modeling career beckoned.

Every one who has followed this case would agree when Bello stated that he would support the re-imposition of the death penalty for heinous crimes, after seeing the pathetic figure lying on the bed. He promised that justice will not be wanting in this case, that it will be brought to bear on the guilty. He should not forget the equally brutal death of Lenny Villa and that no charge has been filed against his hazers after six months. No one would blame young Villa's father if he took the law in his own hands one day; the fact is, there is a high probability the majority of the public would cheer him on, since the law cannot assure him that justice will be served.

Teehankee Junior would be happy that Maureen will not be able to point a finger at him, should the inevitable happen. And Jejomar Binay, who should be chief justice someday for presuming Teehankee's innocence until proven guilty, could make life easy for Junior while he is an honored guest at the Makati jail. This is also justice.



MANILA STANDARD, August 15, 1991

Mga mali-mali

Wala tayong magagawa kung may mga lugar na nagkakaroon ng mga mali-mali. Subalit huwag naman sana na bigyan natin ng puwang ang mga mali-mali sa alinmang sangay ng ating pamahalaan, lalo na sa hanay ng ating mga mambabatas. Ang mga mali-mali ay hindi na makukuha sa pakiusap at pangangatwiran. Dahil wala na silang kontrol sa kanilang mga sarili. Para silang mga robot na kapag pinindot ng kanilang mga amo o panginoon ay gumagalaw nang ayon sa programmed response na ikinabit sa kanila.

Ang mali ay hindi naitutuwid ng isa pang mali. Halimbawa, naging maling presidente ang nasirang Marcos dahil siya'y diktador. Ipinalit natin ang maling Presidentita Cory na isang kunsintidora. Kaya, tayong mga Pinoy ang lumalabas na mga mali-mali. Malamang sa hindi, ang susunod na uupo sa Malakanyang ay mali pa rin dahil wala namang kandidatong matitino rito sa Pilipinas na nananalo sa eleksiyon. Talagang labanan sa dayaan ang pulitika sa Pilipinas (LDP). Walang ayaw mandaya ang nagwawagi.

Ngunit ang sadyang tinutukoy nating mali-

GISING!



ni PLACIDO P. DIAZ

maling hakbang dito ay ang pagbabalik ng bankay ni Marcos: ang hatol ng kamatayan. Binigyan ng diktador ang kanyang sarili ng kapangyarihan pumatay o bumuhay sa ating nuong pinairal nitya ang batas militar. Awa ng Diyos, siya ang namatay, tayo'y nananatiling buhay. Hindi tayo dapat magpasalamat dahil ang ipinamana niya sa atin ay ang debt penalty na mahigpit na ipinatutupad ng Presidentita Cory.

Mali ang pumatay. Ang tamang Junas ba'y patayin ang kriminal? Hindi ba't maliwanag na ito'y isip mali-mali? Naku! Kailan pa kaya tayo matututong mag-isip ng matuwid at tama? Kapag nagpasya na tayong mamuhay nang buong katapatan. Imposible ito, ti ba? Kunsabagay, mas masaya tayo kapag naglolokohan. Mali-mali man di sige.

We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

Fasten your chastity belt

THIS IS a critical year for Philippine democracy. Those who are campaigning for elective offices, and others involved in the polls in one way or another, men and women, are generally prone to the morass of our political society, and should perforce wear the chastity belt to keep themselves pure, and immune from bribery, from being bought and from other temptations to commit poll frauds.

In a corrupt and discredited politics ridden country such as ours, where both candidates and voters are easily lured by the sheen of lucre, politics is cheap, politicians are cheaper, and political chastity is cheapest.

What is the kind of chastity belt that we have to wear? I saw the real, hard core, original kind of those belts that have been preserved and displayed in some ancient and medieval castles that dot the Rhine in Germany.

They date back to the age of the Crusades when Christian armies assembled by the Holy Roman Empire went out to the east to conquer the Saracens and all infidels that threatened to overpower Christianity in Rome, Germany and Austria.

They were crafted according to specifications of husbands and betrothed lovers for the ladies they were to leave behind when they went to war. Chastity belt were made of iron or of better metals. While gold, copper, silver or bronze or alloys were known to medieval metallurgists, iron was commonly used then by blacksmiths who must have fitted those chastity belts as nonchalantly as they fitted horse-shoes to hooves.

I had some thrill looking at and holding those iron belts in the castle museum of Ger-

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

many such as on in Marksburg. They were obviously fitted out for much bigger hips and fundaments than the Filipino woman's. Certainly, because they were German-size; king-size we may say.

Chastity belts were the fashion during the crusaders. Warriors who went in a series of military expeditions would be separated from their home for years. Letty J. Magsanoc, former editor of *Panorama Magazine* of the *Bulletin* and now executive editor of the *Daily Inquirer Magazine*, quipped about those chastity belts: "While the men were away, their ladies' fundaments were under lock and key." Or as a college campus saying goes: "When the cat is away, mouse will play."

The series of crusaders extended from the 10th to the 13th century. Looking at those contraptions was like seeing a historic *Panorama*. There were none of those pieces in the days of the preceding "Roman Empire," because it was not the "Holy Roman Empire." It was the pagan Roman empire which had no God, fond of Bacchanalia, drunken orgies; and their women were loose, and therefore did have any use for chastity protection when their men

went away to lands afar to plunder.

As the Holy Roman Empire triumphed over paganism, sin and crime over the centuries of the preceding Roman government founded by the Caesars, Christianity with its exponents like Charlemagne, Otto the Great and Francis of Austria, pressed onward gloriously with the universal and catholic church ideals and morality.

The decline and fall of the Roman Empire was symbolized, strangely by the decline of the once unyielding metal belt, chastity's safeguard of the ladies of the crusaders, to flexible leather, then to cotton panties, which are adjustable to the wearer's mood and morals.

Now, alas or hurrah! a woman has the brassiere, usually of the Swiss fine linen fabric or thin, synthetic Japanese nylon that can fit the contour of a woman's bosom or fundaments.

So, tempus fugit, and the hard iron chastity belt is gone with another era. The standards of morality and manners have changed, and the holy crusaders of the Middle and Dark ages have branched out to new causes and fields to conquer.

We have now the political knights in shining armor (?) crusading against abortion, artificial insemination, drug addiction; we see the women's 21st century crusade for liberation, against divorce or for divorce; against violation of human rights, garrote justice and for a return to press freedom.

The enlistment is open wide to any crusade, and the streets are free — Mendiola, Liwasang Bonifacio, Quezon City rotunda, Recto street, and Edsa (I mean Highway 54).

SA GANANG AKIN



ni PURA CASTRENCE

Free trade

NANG NAKARAANG Miss Universe competition ang tanging tanong sa lahat ng mga finalista ay kung ano ang pinakamabigat na suliranin ng kanilang bansa. Marami sa mga sagot sa tanong na ito ay hindi nagpakita ng malalim na pagdidili-dili. Ang pinaka-akmaing sagot sa katamangang ito ay ang ibinigay ng kandidata ng Mexico: Ang free trade, aniya, ang suliranin ng kanyang bayan. Marahil ay ito din ang dapat isagot ng mga kandidata buhat sa maliit at mahihirap na bansa ng mundo. Nasa ilalim ng kontrol ng mga mayayaman kaya't makapangyarihang bansa ang ekonomiya ng mga ito. Bumibili ng raw materials at maliit na machine parts ang mayayaman na bansa buhat sa mahihirap na bansa. Dahil sa free trade, libreng nakapapasok ang mga produktong iyanang walang tariff o bayad. Ang finished products naman na ipinagbibili ng malalaking bansa ay pumapasok sa mga maliit na bansa na wala ding tariff o bayad. Ang nagiging problema sa ganitong free trade ay nagkakaroon ng kompetisyon ang mga local products ng mga maliit na bansa sa mga produktong pinapasok ng malalaking bansa. Kapag nag-free trade ang isang mayamang bansa sa isang mahirap na bansa ay lumalabas na lugalugi ang mahirap na bansa. Bilang bayad para sa bentahang nakukuha ng isang mayamang bansa mula sa relasyong free trade, binibigyan naman nito ang maliit na bansa ng loan o pautang na kung minsan ay lalo pang nagpapahirap sa bansang maliit dahil sa mabigat na interes. Sa pamamagitan ng pautang kino-kontrol ng malaking bansa ang ekonomiya at kultura ng maliit na bansa. Ganito ang nangyayari sa Pilipinas at Estados Unidos.

Nakalimutan na yata ng Estados Unidos na tumanggi siya sa Ingglaterra noong tinatambak nitong huli ang mga produkto niya sa dating colony niya na walang tariff. Ipinaglaban ng Estados Unidos ang kanyang kalayaan at karapatang ipagtanggol ang kanyang ekonomiya sa pagtanggig niya sa free trade.

Kung papaano tumanggi ang Estados Unidos sa England laban sa free trade, ganyan din dapat ang tindi ng ating pagtanggig naman sa Estados Unidos sa pagpipilit niya ng free trade sa atin.

Sa palagay ko'y ang lahat na ito ang ibig sabihin ng kandidatang Mehikana sa maikliniyang sagot na free trade ang mabigat na suliranin ng Mexico.

hindi na nga naman sila kinakalinga ng ating pamahalaan, ipinananakaw pa sa dayuhan ang yamang-dagat natir.

Sa kabilang banda nagagalit naman ang mga Tsino sa Peoples Republic of China dahil sa sunod-sunod na paglabag ng RP sa One China Policy.

Noong malakas ang suporta ng mga Tsino sa CPP-NPA sa pamamagitan ng pagpapadala ng armas at iba pa, ngawa ng ngawa ang pamahalaang Pilipinas. Napakadali n'yong lumimot. Kung magpadala sila ng tulong na armas sa CPP-NPA, ano'ng gagawin n'yo? Alalahanin n'yong mukhang napakaraming sumasanib sa NPA ngunit kulang lamang sa armas. Naghihintay lamang sila na may magbigay marahil at lalo silang lalakas.

ABANGAN.

KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOSE CRUZ PAPA

MGA MAKABAYANG SENADOR. Nagpapasalamat ang maraming Pilipino sa matibay na paninindigan ng mayorya ng mga senador sa pagtutol nila sa pagratipika sa tratado (o agreement?) hinggil sa pananatili ng mga base militar ng Kano sa bansa. Kasunod naman nito ay nahantad ang pagiging maka-Kano ni Gng. Aquino dahil nagtangka pa siyang kausapin ang ilang senador kasama na ang kanyang bayaw na si Butz Aquino para kumbinsihin sila na ratipikahin ang tratado. Nabigo si Gng. Aquino maliban kay Sen. Lina na hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa alam ang desisyon. Noong panahon ni Marcos, si Lina bilang miyembro ng KASAPI ay madalas magpahayag sa kanyang pagsasalita na tutol siya sa pananatili ng US bases dito sa ating bansa. Ano'ng nangyari Joey Lina?

Katulad ng dating ginagawa ng Kano, nagpakalat na sila ng mga "tauhan" nila na magpakalat na naman ng pananakot na maaari rin naman nilang isagawa. Katulad ng panibagong kudeta. Muli na naman nilang ginagamit ang RAM-KSP-YOU para ipanakot sa pamahalaang Aquino at sa mamamayang Pilipino. Kapag nakarinig nga naman ng ganito ang Pinoy, iisipin na naman nilang magugulo ang kanilang buhay at tuloy sasali sila sa pagkumbinsi sa mga

Mabuhay ang mga senador na Pilipino!

makabayang senador na kainin na lamang nila ang kanilang prinsipyo at apubahan na ang tratado. Kasunod nito ay pag-atras ng tulong sa asukal ng Kano at mga ilan pang sanctions na pangkabuhayan.

Sabi nga ni Erap, bata pa siya nandito na ang base militar ng Kano, ngayong tumanda na siya nandito pa rin, ngunit naghihirap pa lalo ang mga 67 milyong Pilipino. Sino nga naman ang niloloko ng Kano?

Ang ipinagmamalaki ba ng mga Kano ay ang mga "surplus" na tangke at helicopter na kung baga sa kotse ay karag karag? Ipinagmamalaki ba ng Kano ang libong manggagawa na "binigyan daw nila ng trabaho"? Ano'ng klaseng trabaho? Alila ng dayuhan? Ano'ng klaseng sahod? Tira-tirahan?

Ang kailangang ayusin ng pamahalaan ng Aquino man o ng susunod ay ang maayos na plano sa pagkakaroon ng trabaho para sa mga kapwa natin Pilipino. Hindi'yong pagbabayad ng malaking sahod, pabahay at pakotse na may driver sa mga dayuhang "consultant" sa ating bansa! Ang isang suweldo, pabahay at pakotse lamang ng isang consultant ay suweldo na ng sampung manggagawang Pinoy! Ilang libong consultants din mayroon ang pamahalaan ng Pilipinas?

KAILANGAN DIN MARAHIL LINAWIN NG RAM-KSP-YOU ANG KANILANG PANININDIGAN HINGGIL SA BASE MILITAR NG KANO. SAPAGKAT IPINALALABAS NG KASALUKUYANG PAMAHALAAN NA SILA AY PAPET NG KANO AT 'PAG PININDOT ANG BUTON

AY MAGLULUNSAD NA NG KUDETA. ANG PAHAYAG NAMAN NG RAM-KSP AT LALO NA NG YOU AY TUTOL SILA SA PANGHIHIMASOK NG DAYUHANG KANO SA PAMUMUHAY NG MGA PILIPINO. HINDIBA'T ANG RAM AY REBO-LUSYONARYONG ALYANSANG MAKABAYAN AT HINDI NA REFORM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHIL.? ALIN ANG ALIN?

Hindi lamang Kano ang nanloloko sa atin at nagsasamantala sa ating likas na yaman at lakas paggawa. Nariyan pa rin ang mga Hapones at Taiwanese. Sa kasalukuyan ay sinisimot na ng mga Taiwanese ang mga isdang yaman ng dagat ng bansa. Mahusay ang kanilang sonar sensor sapagkat natutukoy nito kung nasaan ang kawan ng isda (school of fish) at kaagad nilang inihahatag ang lambat na yari sa maninipis na metal. Ang lambat na ito ay umaabot sa kailaliman ng dagat at kinakayod lahat ng madadaan. Ibig sabihin'y pati ang mga "coral reefs" at "mga seagrass beds" ay kanilang sinisira.

Malaking kaululan ang pagpasok sa kasunduan o anumang klase ng permiso ang ibinigay ng pamahalaan sa mga Taiwanese. Hirap na ang mga mangingisdang Pilipino sa mga "trawl fishing" ng mga Hapones at ngayon ay pinapasok pa nila ang mga Taiwanese. Isipin natin ngayon kung bakit gumagamit ang ilang mangingisda ng dinamita para makahuli lamang ng isda. Madaling paraan kasi ito. Simbilis ng trawl fishing at sonar sensor. Ibig lamang pumarehas ng mga mangingisdang Pinoy dahil

So much speculation on Doy's socials with generals

I HOPE they are serious in their moves within the administration to file criminal charges against DECS officials for the hundreds of millions lost thru shenanigans - starting from bad money placements, to over priced desks to printing of grade school textbooks. The DECS is a very sensitive government office when it comes to honest transactions because it is the department which has the responsibility to teach young people about morals and honesty. If the top people at DECS cannot even be honest in their handling of government funds by the millions how can we expect them to do the right teaching to our students?

This situation at DECS is worsened by the fact that teachers have complained that their clothing allowances have not been paid for months and their longevity pays, unpaid, likewise. Worse, how many poor teachers were dismissed by Cañino because they went on strike to dramatize their plights but were treated like rubbish when all the time the DECS had money to throw away? The dismissed teachers were just demanding for what belongs to them which government failed to deliver but they paid the supreme sacrifice of dismissal from the service and Cory never even listened to them.

I also heard some Court of Appeals justice grumbling about the slashing of their allowances. A justice sadly said that they will be losing some P32,000.00 this year which, of course is quite a big sum of money. *Ang Supreme Court kaya, nabawasan din ang kanilang allowances?*

Can you imagine the allowances of ranking officials in the judiciary like justices in the Court of Appeals losing so much of their allowances while the top dogs in the NAPOCOR have been receiving hundreds of thousands? *Pagkatapos, niwawaldas pa ang pera kaya so much loses which they want to pass on to us the poor consumers? Look at the anomalies in the NAPOCOR recently unearthed by COA: (1) in the contract of lease between NPC and the Davao Power Lines, Inc. (incidentally owned by the Aboitiz family) the NPC lost P56.17 million, (2) there was another anomalous con-*

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

sultancy contract worth P3.9 million between Napocor and Gemini Rural Foundation headed by a certain Fr. Silva when Silva was already a Napocor consultant being paid P10,000 per month, (3) a contract between NAPOCOR and Semirara Oil Company for Semirara to deliver P390 million worth of coal was totally paid and yet not a single piece of coal has been delivered. These anomalies stink to high heavens but until now I have yet to hear that the Ombudsman has investigated Aboitiz and his subalterns.

By the time you read this column we should already be enjoying the lowered costs of gasoline and related products. *Yun pala puede naman ibaba ang presyo bakit pinahirapan pa ang taong bayan ng napakatagal?* So who do we thank for this lowered fuel costs? Cory, the ERB, the oil companies? Perhaps we should thank them, after all they had to relent due to public pressure. But if you ask me, we must really thank the leadership of the Iglesia Ni Cristo for spearheading the moves for the reduction of oil costs. It was the threat of the massive marches by the INC which should have been joined by millions of our suffering masses which caused Cory and her stupid Cabinet to shake in their boots and agreed to the reduction. Hail the INC, especially Ka Erdy Manalo. *Maraming salamat po.*

So much speculation has resulted on that social gatherings in the house of Vice-President Doy Laurel when some 60 generals and several colonels were invited, including several ranking officials from the US Embassy.

Inggit lang siguro sila because Doy was able to gather under one roof these top military people which was probably the first such gathering since Marcos. I don't think President Aquino has gathered such a star-studded group which included Cory and Marcos generals. Kaya so many speculations have been circulating and a leading morning daily even editorialized about it. But what's so strange about Doy meeting with generals of all ranks? After all he is the second highest official in the land and could be president anytime - depending on what God wants for our nation. One thing is clear, however, and it is that Vice-President Laurel must enjoy the respect of the top military officials in this country and it is good.

In our last issue I mentioned about the probable perjury which Daldaloso committed when he testified in the military court as defense witness for his accused bodyguards regarding that dastardly Danak Bunga fake ambush. I went to the hearing which must have rattled Daldaloso when he saw me. Anyway I said under oath that after the ambush he never left Botolan for one whole week. The counsel for the Dullases, Atty. Quimbo repeatedly asked the Amoritis to affirm such allegation and he repeatedly answered in the affirmative. But when he was confronted about our meeting at the Valle Verde Country Club the very night following the incident when the Union Zambalena had a celebration for the newly elected local officials, Daldaloso squirmed in his seat. *Kasinhuli siyang nagsinungaling noong primero. Kung sa bagay usual lang namon sa kanya yan, di ba? Pero lalong mabaon 'yan pag nag testify ako because he made admissions to me when we met at the Valle Verde Country Club.*

I was told that the municipal building of Iba is now also the bedroom of Mayor Huang. The Intsik mayor not only holds office there but lives there already, after installing a steel door in his office so he can have complete privacy. I wonder with whom he sleeps with. *Kasi hindi na daw tinatanggap ng Nanay niya si Mayor. Is*

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ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

The Untouchables

WHAT'S IN Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison such that President Aquino defends her personally against the documented charges of Senator Maceda, and keeps him in her fold despite his dismal failure to meet his own collection target?

And what's so special with Tarlac Gov. Mariano Un Ocampo III that Cory couldn't fire him or, at least, suspend him?

And with Claudio Teehankee Jr. that he's afforded all the VIP treatment other murder suspects can only dream of, by no less than Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay?

And with Binay himself, that Malacanang once ordered, according to reports, the transmission of the case regards against him with the Ombudsman's office? (At this writing, Cory's favorite Rambotito must have already returned from Seoul, Korea after attending the World Boy Scouts Jamboree. Jojo a Boy Scout? Well, he looks like one.)

I just can't figure out how Mison, Ocampo and Binay have endeared themselves so much to Cory she can't go on without their collective presence.

If loyalty is the gauge, there are countless others who were, and are, more loyal to Cory and the late Ninoy, and yet are now miles away from her.

One thing sure, however, is: The trio are close to Cory not because of their looks. (Good grief if this is so!)

About Teehankee Jr., his case further confirms the fact that our judicial system is a respecter of persons.

Were it another person — say, a mere security guard at Dasmariñas Village, the enclave of millionaires — you can bet your balls that by this time, he has been sentenced to life imprisonment and already languishing in jail, if not already dead.

The case also reminds me of what Bishop Sheen wrote many years ago: that society like America's oftentimes has a false compassion for criminals. For one thing, no matter how strong the evidence against him may be, an accused is always presumed innocent until proven otherwise "beyond reasonable doubt" in court. You can't call him a "criminal" until after final conviction.

Someone has correctly observed that while our Constitution and our laws grant so many rights to criminal suspects and accused individuals, there's virtually none for crime victims and their aggrieved families.

Injustice rankles so much it drives many otherwise peace-loving citizens up to the mountains. This should not happen, but with our kind of society it has happened, it does happen, and it will continue to happen.

Another untouchable is this guy Cesar Palana, the incumbent director of the investigation/evaluation division of the Ombudsman's office. Last August 5, the *Globe* ran another critical item on the man, and on August 8 a *Manila Times* columnist took him to task anew for his involvement in a criminal case. Palana is supposed to be under

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A Citizen-Oriented Society (2)

IN A previous column, Ralph Nader has exposed the inner workings in the ongoing round of negotiations re GATT and has recommended ways to fight the evils there. Now, here is Katsumi Yokota, author of the book "I AMONG OTHERS" who has also offered alternative ways to strengthen the creation of what he calls - A Citizen-Oriented Society. Part of this book says:

"Japan should attempt to subjugate the ruling character of GATT which tends to destroy the self-sufficient system of food production, indispensable to the world's nations, and which threatens directly and indirectly their culture and existence. A universal idea should be adopted to bypass the GATT, before concerning or involving ourselves with the movement of capital or the freedom to export, in order to first preserve a minimum freedom for cultural existence of global citizenship. It seems that one of the present afflictions of Japan, which is lowering the rate of its self-production of food and substituting it with industrial manufactured goods to conform to the GATT rulings is providing this country with conditions to understand this worldwide reality and giving it incentive to act as a proposer of a conception to surpass the GATT.

"As it was mentioned before, the possibility do not exist to turn the people that were originally controlled by the state into new-born citizens, as

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

the people no longer approve of the actions on interests of the state. They have started improving the community environment, pushing forward with the development of a self-governing body, and boycotting the market-lace through collective purchasing. The numbers of active people who are protesting against nuclear power and weaponry, recycling garbage by themselves and using natural soap in order to lower the environmental costs, are growing larger and larger. It means that by utilizing the manual or more traditional technology of life's culture, the self-help system is successfully confronting huge technology and its system of control. This continuous movement in expansion means that the principles of living are separated from the "principles of nation" and are confronting it. In this way, the

"principles of nation" are under attack from the "principles of Capital" and the "principles of cooperative, social living.

"Relative to the "principles of nation", the "principles of cooperatives, social living" and the "principles of capital" become independent and separate leaving the nation factor behind, so the frequency with which the "principles of capital" and the "principles of cooperative, social living" confront each other is growing.

"The nation will become a taut rope to be stretched, and the possibilities of social change or degeneration will be stressed according to where the "principles of life" stand in the command.

"From this perspective, the existence of nation seems to look very weak and it becomes easy to recognize that nation is not everything. The question concerning the subject of this new age is how to solve the problem by activating change according to the principles of life, now that the citizens' principles of living have already started to show independence. Finally there seems to exist two basic problems: how to influence the "work culture" and the "political culture" by affecting the political system through the influence of the desired "life culture."

(To be continued)

PEOPLE'S FORUM



People's health and welfare: What happened?

A YEAR toward the end of its term, the Aquino government still shows no sign of making good its promises of meaningful socio-political changes and economic development to the Filipino people. On the contrary, it clings firmly to oppressive and blatantly anti-people policies characteristic of its subservience to foreign control and IMF-World Bank dictates.

We, of the Bukluran para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan (BUKAS), a national coalition of non-government health organizations and individuals, are particularly distressed over the Aquino government's continuing neglect of people's health and social welfare. With these concerns relegated to the lowest rung of government priorities, the already poor health and social conditions of Filipinos have steadily worsened during the past five years.

Blind to the people's realities, the Aquino government has unfailingly appropriated very low budgets for health and social services. It has also failed to draw up plans for the achievement of Health for All Filipinos. Instead, government has given in to IMF prescriptions of graduated fees in public hospitals and increasing privatization of health services nationwide, thus virtually abdicating its responsibilities for the health and welfare of the nation.

Health services are not only scarce under the Aquino government. These are even deliberately denied in the name of counter-insurgency. In militarized rural areas where there is a dearth in health services, health programs put up by the people themselves have failed to obtain support from the Department of Health. Rather, these and non-government medical missions, relief and rehabilitation teams and health workers are being harassed and stopped by military and para-military elements.

Concurrently, the Aquino government has pursued economic policies that literally kill and bury the Filipino masses. Hungry for foreign loans and economic aid, the Aquino government has also continually sacrificed people's health and welfare for debt repayments and other creditor conditionalities. Only recently, in fact, President Aquino has shockingly vetoed the Congress proposal to limit the 1991 national budget for foreign debt service to a maximum of only 20% of the country's total export earnings per year, a glaring indication of her administration's disregard of the Filipino people's interests.

Meantime, unjust increases in oil and commodity prices, coupled with wage freeze and ban on workers' strikes, have rendered health care and decent living conditions virtually out of reach for most of the Filipino people. The health sector is even now reeling from these economic realities, as thousands of tenured government health workers are threatened out of their jobs by the implementation of AO 205 imposing staff reduction measures and the Local Government Code which decentralizes some national government units to the local level.

BUKAS strongly condemns these unending

(A joint project of the Office of the Press Secretary and the Philippine Human Rights Commission)

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES ISSUES AND ANSWERS

Q. What is the scope of Philippine commitments to the principle of human rights?

A. The Philippines is a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights (adopted by the General Assembly in 1966) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (adopted in 1966). As a party to the Covenants, the Philippines has formally agreed to abide by the provisions.

It must be noted that the Philippines ratified the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights only during the Aquino administration. This was on February 28, 1986, only three days after President Corazon C. Aquino took over as president after the peaceful people power revolution that ousted former President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

With the ratification of the new Philippine Constitution in 1987, the primacy of human rights as a policy of the State was guaranteed. Article II, Section 11 of the Philippine Constitution states: "The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights."

Q. What is the attitude of the Aquino administration on the issue of human rights?

A. The Aquino administration has always considered as paramount the promotion and protection of human rights.

Human rights was one of the key issues of the campaign of Corazon C. Aquino for the presidency during the snap elections of 1986. The previous regime's scorn for human rights helped trigger the bloodless revolution that eventually installed her in power.

With the dawn of the new democracy came a pledge from the President herself to always uphold the human rights of the Filipino people.

Q. Critics of the Aquino administration claim human rights violations in the Philippines are frequent if not rampant. How does the government react to this?

A. The government has never denied that there are cases of human rights violations in the Philippines.

On the 40th anniversary of International Human Rights Day, President Aquino acknowledged that "there are sporadic violations of human rights in this country." But she stressed that

government disservice and disloyalty to the Filipino people. We stand firm with the Filipino masses in our long-standing demand for a genuinely nationalist and democratic government dedicated to a pro-people and service-oriented health care system.

We therefore call on the President to finally bow to the people's interests, rescind her veto of the 20% debt cap bill passed by Congress and grant the people's demand for a substantial and immediate rollback in the prices of oil and basic commodities.

We call on Congress to review the national budget and rechannel allocations for debt service and military expenditure to health and social services. We demand, likewise, the speedy formulation and implementation of legislations promoting people's health and welfare.

We call on the Filipino people to remain vigilant and steadfast in their struggle for a peaceful, just and humane society.

(Sgd.) CORA DELOS ANGELES, R.N., M.P.H.
Vice-President

Bukluran para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan (BUKAS)
9 Cabanatuan Road, Philam Homes
Quezon City

A primer on human rights issue

human rights violations will never become a pattern and policy of her government.

President Aquino herself and the members of her immediate family were victims of human rights violations during the administration of Ferdinand Marcos. The dictator imprisoned her husband Ninoy Aquino for seven and half years. Aquino was assassinated in August 1983. The Sandiganbayan found several dozen military men including several officers guilty of his murder.

Fulfilling a Promise to Break with the Past

Q. How has the Aquino administration



PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY?

transformed the human rights issue from campaign pledge to commitment?

A. Within days of assuming the presidency, Corazon C. Aquino ensured that the protection and promotion of human rights would be crystallized into a national commitment.

On February 27, 1986, two days after she took office, President Aquino ordered the release of all political prisoners, including alleged leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed force, the New People's Army. By March 5, over 500 political prisoners had been freed. These included all those who had been detained under Presidential Commitment Orders (PCOs) and Preventive Detention Actions (PDAs), instruments for arbitrary arrest and detention of the Marcos regime.

The next day, February 28, 1986, the Philippines ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as a gesture of solidarity with the worldwide human rights movement.

Just over two weeks after, on March 18, 1986, President Aquino signed Executive Order No. 8, creating the Presidential Committee on Human Rights (PCHR). The PCHR, a precursor of the constitutionally mandated Commission on Human Rights (after the ratification in 1987 of the New Constitution), was assigned to investigate reports or complaints of human rights violations committed by government officials, and military and police forces during the past regime.

The Committee was also charged with recommending compensation for victims and punishment of culprits, and proposing procedures and safeguards to ensure that human rights are not violated by officers or agents of the government.

In April 1986, after only two months in power, the Aquino government ratified the United Nations Conventions against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Punishment.

On December 11, 1986, President Aquino, as head of state, signed the country's commitment to Protocol II of the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts. It took effect on July 11, 1987.

Protocol II of the Geneva Convention provides for the protection of victims of internal conflict, such as the on-going war between the

government and the NPA.

Q. Beyond these, what has the Aquino administration done to guarantee that human rights violations in the past are not repeated?

A. President Aquino has repealed a number of Presidential Decrees issued by former President Marcos, that are violative of human rights, namely:

a. PD 1404 - Amending Article 125 of the Revised Penal Code which authorized a longer period for the delivery of people arrested for political offenses including rebellion, inciting to sedition and subversion.

b. PD 1834 - Raising the maximum penalty for subversion from life imprisonment to death.

c. PD 1836 - Empowering the President to issue orders of arrest during a state of emergency, or when the privilege of habeas corpus is suspended against people who are arrested or detained in the interest of public safety, or as a means to quell invasion, insurrection, or rebellion when such danger is imminent.

d. PD 1877 - Empowering the President to issue preventive detention action (PDA) against people believed to have taken part in political offenses.

e. PD 1877-A - Empowering the President to issue preventive detention action (PDA) against people whose arrest and detention are, in his judgement, required by public safety or as a means to quell rebellion.

President Aquino also restored the right to habeas corpus, which was suspended by former President Marcos.

Respect for human rights as a national commitment is enshrined in the Constitution of 1986 through the Bill of Rights. In outlawing all forms of secret and incommunicado detention, the Bill of Rights has established an important safeguard against torture.

The 1986 Constitution also provides for the establishment of a Commission on Human Rights (CHR) with a mandate to investigate on its own, or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violations and monitor the Philippine government's compliance with international treaty obligations on human rights.

The Commission also suggests legal measures for the protection of human rights and legal aid to the underprivileged who are human rights victims. Likewise, the CHR is undertaking a continuing program of research, education and information to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights, especially among soldiers and policemen.

Human Rights Amid an Insurgency War

Q. If the government is indeed committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and has already taken these initiatives, why do we still hear of cases of human rights violations in the country?

A. The human rights situation in the Philippines cannot be viewed apart from the painful reality of a full-blown communist insurgency that the government is confronted with.

The Filipino people are in the process of re-establishing a democracy after 14 years of martial law. The country is still in the crucial state of preserving and strengthening the political stability that is vital to sustain economic growth.

After the bloodless EDSA revolution in February 1986, the government has had to contend with a series of coup attempts mounted by right-wing military rebels out to topple President Aquino in favor of a military junta. In this kind of war, there are no battlefronts, no boundaries, or established rules of conflict.

As President Aquino has said, as long as the multi-front strife is unresolved, "the inhumanity of people obsessed with power or possessed by dogma, whether in the uniform of the regular army or in the casual wear of the insurgency, will be with us for some time yet."

While giving the order for the "vigorous prosecution of the war so that its early end will shorten the agony of this nation," President Aquino has also stressed, "I will not accept the heat of battle as an excuse for brutality towards the people we are pledged to protect, and even towards our enemies."

(To be continued)

**Today,
it's
sugarcane.**

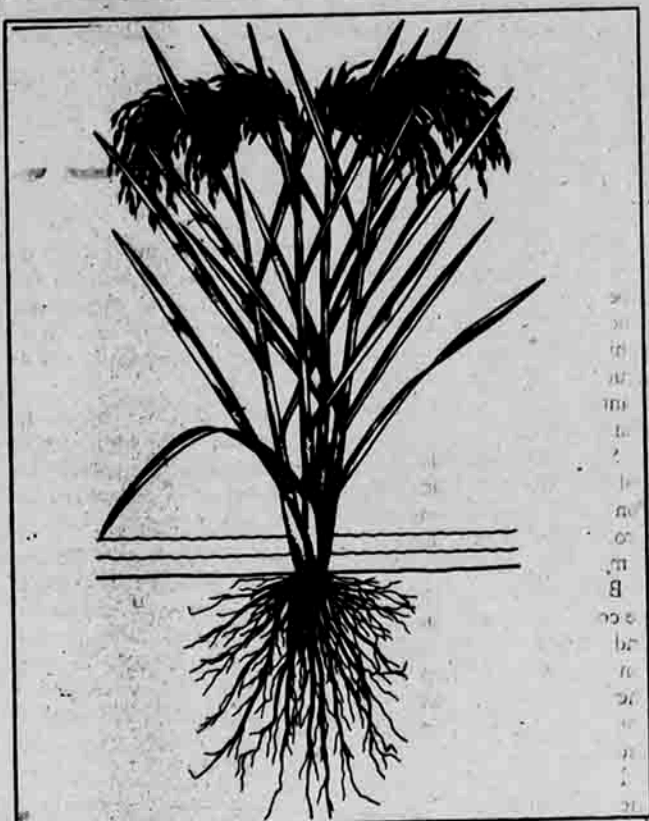
We process
the sugar
to give you
AJI-NO-MOTO,
the food flavor-
enhancer.

Through fermentation,
we produce
the pure, white,
AJI-NO-MOTO
crystals you love
to use in your
cooking.

TAK TAK TAK

AJI-NO-MOTO
Sasarap lahat ng luto n'yo!





An artist's rendition of the idealized irrigated rice plant that IRRI is developing. It will have only 4 to 6 sturdy tillers and stand 90 to 100 cm tall. The plant will be ready to harvest in 100 to 130 days and will yield 13 to 15 tons per hectare in the dry season.

IN GERMANY

Family farm and agrobusiness

BONN — One German farmer can feed more people than ever before, according to data from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry in Bonn. It revealed that, in 1989, one farmer supplied the needs of an average 65 inhabitants. In 1950, the figure hardly came to ten, and in 1960 to just 17 people. By 1970, the figure had risen to 27, and in 1980 it was 47. Ministry experts expect the ratio to rise above 90 by the year 2000 if current trends in technological advance, food production, and consumption continue undisturbed.

Structural changes in German agriculture have led to a decline of 19,032 in the overall number of agricultural enterprises, a drop of 2.9 percent between 1989 and 1990. Total farm ventures now come to 629,740. Farmer retirements account for much of the accelerated drop. The decline was more dramatic than during the previous two years, when annual declines of 2.5 percent were registered. Since 1980, 167,638 farming ventures in Germany stopped operating as independent entities, more than a fifth of the total. A closer look reveals that, in western Germany, the

decline affects primarily small farmsteads of 40 hectares (ca. 100 acres) or less. These now number 553,821, about a quarter less than in 1980. Farms larger than 40 hectares, by contrast, had grown to 75,919, some 35 percent more than in 1980.

German agricultural policy focuses on the family farm, a model that will soon also apply in eastern Germany. The huge

state farms once mandated by GDR socialism will not be encouraged, says Ignaz Kiechle, Bonn's Minister of Agriculture. Plans by the European Commission in Brussels to reduce official price support levels even further to reduce overproduction may put the present model in question. "Regulations resulting from agricultural policies" will not stand still for aging

models. It remains to be seen what the standard farm of the European future will look like. It doesn't necessarily have to be a family enterprise, nor need it be an agrobusiness. Instead, it may well be a competitive venture with the farmer as entrepreneur. (Helmut Nagelschmitz/IN-Press)



TECHNOLOGY: Ignaz Kiechle, Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry, puts an expert hand to tractor technology manufactured by the Fendt company. (IN-Press/Bundesbildstelle Photo)

New 'ultra high-yielding' rice plant

LOS BANOS, PHILIPPINES — The development of a new "ultra-high yielding" rice plant that will produce 20% to 30% more than the improved semidwarf rices now grown on most irrigated land is a major goal of the International Rice Research Institute, according to Dr. Gurdev Khush, IRRI principal plant breeder.

"The ideal plant type, or ideotype, for irrigated rice will have a modified architecture," Khush says. It will produce fewer tillers than today's improved varieties, but almost all will bear panicles. The new rice will be appropriate for direct seeding, but can also be transplanted.

"We don't know how many tillers tomorrow's rice plant will have, but probably from 1 to 6," Khush says. Most modern varieties grown today produce 20 to 25 tillers per plant, but about 40% do not produce panicles.

The ideotype plant will have a vigorous root system to draw nutrients from the soil more efficiently.

The new rice plant will stand 90 to 100 cm high, and be ready for harvest 110 to 130 days after seeding, says Dr. Benito S. Vergara, IRRI plant physiologist. Its heavier grains will have better milling quality, and yield more unbroken grains than today's varieties. The seeds will also germinate better and produce more vigorous seedlings.

Progress was made in reducing the tiller number by Dr. K. Mallik and M.P. Janoria, both former visiting IRRI scientists. They developed plants with some characteristics thought necessary to maximize yield, but the tiller number must be reduced and pest resistance incorporated through further breeding and selection.

"An ultra-high yielding variety should be ready in 5 to 8 years," Khush says. Testing on farmers' fields and release of the plant as a variety would be the responsibility of scientists in national agricultural research systems.

"Rice yields have doubled over the last 25 years, but irrigated rice seems to have reached a 'yield plateau,' or maximum possible yield," Vergara says. A different plant type may raise the yield

plateau in the dry season from today's 9 tons to 13 tons. Maximum yields in the wet season may increase from 6 to 8 tons. For comparison, the average yield in the Philippines today is 2.8 tons per hectare, and irrigated fields average 4 tons.

Crop management must also change with the new plant type, says Dr. S. K. De Datta, IRRI agronomist. Most modern varieties were developed for transplanting. But shortages in farm labor and improved weed control are shifting the trend to direct-seeding.

"Direct seeding lowers the cost of crop establishment," De Datta says. "Higher plant populations will contribute to higher yields, and will be directly related to seeding density, not to tillering ability."

Research in crop physiology made it possible to conceptualize efficient nutrient-use requirements for the idealized plant type, De Datta says.

Plant breeders have changed their approach to developing new varieties in recent years. "Instead of incorporating desired characters into an existing plant, we are breeding a desired ideal plant type by combining traits from various donors," says Khush. "This requires that physiologists, agronomists, and plant breeders work together."

IRRI scientists have analyzed the plant-type requirements of both transplanted and direct-seeded rice, according to Dr. M. Dingkuhn, a former IRRI crop physiologist who now works with the West African Rice Development Association, Ivory Coast. A low-tillering plant type is best for direct-seeded rice.

"Centuries ago, maize and sorghum produced many tillers, or stalks, but small cobs and heads," Khush points out. Selection by farmers and plant breeders changed their architecture so that today these crops produce only one sturdy stalk that bears large ears or panicles.

"A single-stalked rice plant is a possibility in the future," Khush adds.

Top Cornell award to IRRI geneticist

LOS BANOS, PHILIPPINES — Wild rices have withstood centuries of insect and disease attack in the swamps of

Asia. Survival of the fittest has made each strain remarkably resistant to local pests. Such resistance can eliminate or reduce the need for environmentally damaging pesticides. But plant breeders have seldom been able to transfer resistance from wild rices to their domesticated relatives, farmer's varieties.

Dr. Susan McCouch is trying to change that. Cornell University has awarded the American geneticist the 1990 Richard Bradfield Award — a recognition of Cornell's most significant graduate research in soil science or crop protection and production — for her doctoral

research on the mapping of rice chromosomes. Such mapping helps locate the genes that control resistance. That lays the foundation for "gene splicing" — the transfer, through biotechnology, of resistance genes into the seeds that farmers plant. The Rockefeller Foundation funded the research.

The award was established by the family of the late Dr. Richard Bradfield, former Cornell University member and pioneer IRRI scientist.

McCouch is an associate geneticist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).



Dr. Susan McCouch crossing an improved rice variety with a wild species. Wild rices are an immense reservoir of insect and disease resistance that, if transferred to their domesticated relatives, can eliminate or vastly reduce the need for pesticides. McCouch is an associate geneticist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Basilan: A picture of neglect

By ARMAND NOCUM

BASILAN ISLAND — Eighteen years after it was declared a province, Basilan island remains undeveloped and lacking in social services.

Visitors to this island province south of Zamboanga are greeted by a sign of neglect as they disembark from one of only two ships servicing the island—a wharf of concrete flooring but still buttressed by coconut trunks.

Going further inland, the first-time visitor going on a land trip struggles with rugged roads, which are impassable in some parts. Adam Musa, a Basilan board member, estimates that less than ten percent of the roads in Basilan are concreted or even asphalted.

Musa also told MMNS that out of the island's seven municipalities, only Maluso, Isabela and Lamitan have water and light facilities. Still the Basilan Electric company provides electricity for only 12 hours in a day.

Basilan health authorities also estimate that only about 70

percent of the estimated 231,000 people in the island enjoy water facilities. As a result, many are forced to buy drinking water from neighbors at P5 for a small jug.

Only 28 percent of the households have access to sanitary toilets, resulting in serious health problems, add health authorities.

All this, points out Musa, is a picture of general neglect by the national government.

Musa said the government failed to give assistance to the island's economy, which remains largely agriculture-based, similar to what it is giving to other Christian-dominated provinces in Region XI.

Formerly classified as a city, Basilan, which has a land area of 132,720 hectares, was given the status of a province in 1973. About 70 percent of its populace are Muslims.

Local economists point out that Basilan would remain stagnant economically unless the government helps increase the agricultural yield of Basilenos.

Jose Francisco, a coconut trader from the Isabela municipality, said it is ironical that despite Basilan's agriculture-based economy, the production of basic food needs like rice, vegetables, livestock and poultry is "far from sufficient."

Basilan's major earners are foreign and local investors engaged in the processing of rubber, coffee, coconut and African farm oil.

Some of these firms are the Sime Darby Tire Company, the Cocoland Development Plantation and the Eurasia Match Company said to be owned by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile.

However, these firms, which occupy huge areas of land in Basilan, seem to have failed to sustain the island's economy in terms of revenue.

Records from the local Bureau of Internal Revenue office showed the island managed to increase its revenues by only 24 percent or an amount of only P342,459 from 1990 to this year.

The 1991 collection totals to P1.7 million.

"One solution is to attract more investors to give our economy a push," says Musa. "But how can we do this if people are reluctant to settle and do business here because we lack facilities and amenities to improve our living conditions?"

According to Sheila Rufina, a public nurse based in Maluso, Basilan's infant mortality rate is a high 105 deaths per 1,000 live births. Rufina attributes this to the 25 percent malnutrition rate in the island. Another factor leading to poor health conditions here is the inability of skilled health workers to reach far-flung barangays due to rugged roads.

Basilan Governor Gerry Salapudin sponsored in March a resolution before the Regional Development Council seeking for the concreting of the provincial circumferential roads but says up to now, no response has been heard from the govern-

ment.

Salapudin, a former MNLF rebel before he was elected governor, said Basilan has also been denied of its request for the construction of mini-hydroelectric plants to supply power to other municipalities.

Says he: "I was told by the National Electric Administration that the project cannot push through because of the high cost of materials."

Basilan officials contend that the continued neglect of the island would lead to the reactivation of the Moro insurgency here where there are still around 5,000 rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front in the island.

In fact, there are still areas where government teachers still need army escorts to their places of assignment. Conversely, this has somewhat discouraged education services in those areas and concentrate in "accessible and safe" municipalities, affecting adversely the island's literacy rate.

The local DECS office reported that Basilan has the sec-

ond lowest literacy rate in the country, with the literacy rate among females at only 39 percent. The survival rate in elementary education is only 46 percent here.

Local DECS officials attribute this to the high level of absenteeism among students due to the sporadic violence and disorder in some areas.

About 83 percent of Basilan families have income levels below the poverty line and 30 percent of its workforce are unemployed, according to the labor office here. The poverty level is the highest among the Muslim provinces in Mindanao, the DOLE added.

Warns Musa: "It is now time for the government to look into our problems. If it fails to do so, the winds of discontent will continue to spread in this island."

Similar warnings were made by a neglected group in a nearby island years ago, followed by a bloody insurgency. Musa says: "That island was Sulu." (Media Mindanao News Service)

The case of a 'salvaged' victim's missing body

By LEO VALLE

DAVAO CITY — Days after he disappeared, Lito Severo, 33, member of an urban poor group was traced by his wife Celestina to a cemetery in Babak, Davao del Norte. But when she went back to his grave to have the remains exhumed and transferred to their home place in Bajada this city, she was aghast to find only a pair of bones believed part of Lito's arms and a patch of hair in her husband's grave.

Celestina cannot understand the brutality by which her husband was killed and then later inhumanly dug up from his grave. This is her story...

Four days before Lito was reported missing, he informed Celestina that he was going to Babak, a 15 kilometer travel by pumpboat. Geographically, Babak is in Samal island also part of Davao Norte Province.

On May 6, Celestina learned from a friend that Lito was arrested by police authority in Babak. The following day, she went to Babak police station to inquire about the arrest of her husband but Babak police played innocent.

The distraught wife then went back to the city. However, on that same day, reports of an unnamed rebel who was allegedly killed in an encounter with government troops assigned in

Babak was brought to her attention.

Celestina hurried back to Babak the following day. This time, concerned residents in Babak informed her that the incident occurred in barangay Balit, six kilometers from the Poblacion. She proceeded to Balit and was told by the secretary of the barangay captain that the police arrested a man May 4 at the house of a Babak resident.

In fact, the barangay captain told her later, police displayed the body at the Babak Municipal building that same day after the alleged encounter. The barangay captain advised her to see the caretaker of the Babak cemetery after they learned that the police ordered the dead body buried.

By this time, Celestina was sure that something very bad happened to Lito. Her fears were to come true.

Panfilo Florendo, the caretaker told Celestina that member of the Babak police ordered him to bury a body in the evening of May 4. The caretaker's description of the cadaver matched that of Lito's. When she asked the caretaker to exhume the body, she was told to first secure a permit from the health officer.

Police also advised her to have a court order for exhumation, which was later granted by the Regional Trial Court of Panabo on June 5. The actual exhumation was set on June 9.

Two days before the date, Celestina went back to Babak cemetery to make necessary preparations only to be shocked when the caretaker told her that the grave had been dug out. Celestina had no choice but to wait for June 9.

Present at the exhumation in the morning of June 9 were Dr. Folrefe Olavides, Babak Municipal Health Officer assisted by her counsel Atty. Mardocheo Camporeddo; Dr. Francisco Alivio, a representative of the Provincial Health Officer; Sgt. Urbano Cartajena, Babak deputy station commander; Chief Investigator Michael Robledo Sr. and members of the Babak Station police; representatives from the church-backed human rights

group Task Force Detainees of the Philippines and relatives of the victims.

The caretakers started digging at 11:30 a.m. The ground was soft.

The group immediately observed that loose soil was scattered around the grave. While the digging was in progress, a patch of hair was found at the upper portion of the grave. Olavides and Alivio identified it to be human hair. Then two bones with decaying flesh which the doctors also identified to be human bones. The rest of the body was never found.

Celestina is convinced that the remains belonged to her husband Lito. "My only intention is to give my husband a decent burial even if his death will not be given justice," she says, which she, it seems, may not at all obtain.

To date, the killers of Lito have not been identified. (Media Mindanao News Service)

Max NOBLE

(From page 9)

investigation so as to determine, among other things, his legal and moral qualifications for his present job, and yet has not been placed under suspension by Ombudsman Vasquez. No, he hasn't been touched at all, de-

spite all the complaints against him (Palana), says an informant. Thus, the question: What's so special with Palana, too? Is he also like Mison, Ocampo and Binay?



VICTIM'S REMAINS: A patch of hair and two bones with decaying flesh was found which the doctors identified to be human hair and bones. The rest of the body was never found. (MMNS Photo)

I have received another expose of venalities in the municipal government of Mandaluyong from opposition councilor Felix Serina. At the rate he's doing it, he should be

running for mayor next year. His only drawback, it seems, is his limited logistics. For against the incumbent mayor, one needs several millions to put up a good fight.

Australian mining firm threatens T'boli homeland

By JOEY LOZANO

MAITUM, SOUTH COTABATO—Heavy mining equipments are expected to roll here after initial explorations made by an Australian mining firm have indicated the presence of large gold deposits within this town's common boundary with Lake Sebu town.

But the entry of Western Mining Corporation, Australia's largest gold processor, appears to have polarized local officials and tribals who maintain opposing views as regards to mining within T'boli homeland.

Recently, Western Mining gathered at company expense some 40 individuals, including Maitum's mayor Juanito Purisima, at a restaurant in General Santos City. There, it reportedly conducted a public relations campaign to ward off criticisms which have come mainly from the Lake Sebu area.

Purisima said that a large gold vein have been discovered by the firm's men during horizontal explorations they made, but a vertical exploration still has to be made to determine the approximate gold volume in the area.

The equipments are due to arrive before the end of the year, he said, heightening apprehension over the fate of the tribal homeland.

JOINT VENTURE

Western Mining came here after local businessmen George and Ben Tanedo reportedly of-

fered for lease their mining claims registered under the Regina and Virginia Mining Corporation.

The Tanedos are mestizo T'bolis and are said to have filed mining claims to more than 3,000 hectares.

Maitum-based George Tanedo himself said that the "most promising" gold prospecting is within the common borders of Lake Sebu and Maitum.

Western Mining is one of Australia's largest business enterprise. Its main business is in the discovery, development, production and processing of minerals and petroleum.

A Los Banos-based Anthropologist who has been studying T'boli culture here says the Tanedos stand to get "3.5 percent of gross" from the joint venture. From their proceeds, they intend to use 3.5 percent to establish a T'boli Foundation for livelihood project, added the source.

DOLLARS AND EMPLOYMENT

Purisima sees the foreign company's coming as a boon to the town. He expects from the

mining operation a municipal revenue which would exceed even that of Polomolok town, main site of the multinational Dole pineapple plantation.

Mass employment for town residents is expected during the infrastructure construction phase when about 5,000 workers will reportedly be needed by the company.

OPPOSITION

The area and nature of Western Mining's operation are the focal points of opposition from Lake Sebu.

Maria Gandam, an employe at the Sta. Cruz Mission, a non-government group assisting T'bolis, complained last March to Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez of the Marbel diocese that the explorations within ancestral domain were done "without our knowledge and without consulting us."

She contends that the planned infrastructures of Western mining "would only attract hordes of settlers and land speculators" and threaten the remaining dipterocarp forests in the area.

Gandam further asserted that the explorations were made



MINING SITE: Gold-rich.

within Lake Sebu where there is a municipal ban on mining.

OPEN CUT

The open cut method which the Western Mining plans to employ necessitates the use of giant heavy equipments to speed up operations. An Australian anthropologist who has seen Western operations in New Guinea said that in other places where the same method was employed, mountains and tribal reservations were almost levelled down.

Lake Sebu officials thus fear that massive and irreversible damage to tribal homelands and the lake's ecosystem would follow.

The fears are not without basis. Small scale mining in the nearby barangay of Kematu has shown the apparent failure of the government to enforce laws and regulations intended to protect the tribes and their reservation. T'bolis point out that the general environment in Kematu has been destroyed by small miners.

Lake Sebu mayor Ramonito

Crespo expresses doubt if he would succeed in halting Western Mining, the way he did with small scale mining operations last year.

He can only cross his fingers, he admitted, given the "laxity and bias the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) has been showing with big business."

ASSURANCE

South Cotabato vice-governor Tom Hofer however said that environmental control "is more or less assured" with Western Mining. Unlike with the small-scale mining in Kematu, gold production by the giant firm can be easily monitored, he insisted.

Hofer admits he is inclined to favor the entry of the Australian firm "as long as the T'bolis are assured of housing, employment, medical and other benefits."

Mayor Purisima shares the same views, saying that he would be the first to block the open cut mining if no assurance to environmental control is

given.

Purisima also revealed that 50 Maitum residents who will compose the security force are now training at a military camp in Gen. Santos City.

According to him, Western Mining operations would begin with the construction of a 22-kilometer road from the present highway to tribal grounds.

S'BU TRIBAL LEADERS TO CONVENE

Lake Sebu tribal leaders are ready to convene soon to make known their official stand on the entry of the giant mining firm.

This early, observers predict that the S'bu T'bolis who have aligned themselves with the Lake Sebu municipal government may clash head-on with T'boli Mohins. The latter are identified with the Tanedos and appear to have gained support of Purisima and some government officials.

S'bu refers to T'bolis living near the lake while the Mohin refers to those near the coastal areas.

The pro-Western Mining group insinuates that "prominent personalities" in Lake Sebu had earlier filed mining claims in the area but were reportedly turned down.

"Naunahan sila," (They came too late) thus their opposition to the mining, said a T'boli source who requested anonymity.

'TO BE OR NOT TO BE'

That the mining will push through or not still remains to be seen, says vice-governor Hofer. But he said that the provincial environment and natural resources council, of which he is a member, cannot really stop the Australian firm "if all their papers are legal and once the national government gives the approval."

(Page 15, please)

Save RP seeds!

By MAURICE B. MALANES

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Health buffs know that red rice is better than white. But the market is swamped with white rice, so where is the red rice?

In this age of high-yielding crop varieties, highland rice and other traditional crop varieties are becoming more and more difficult to find. This is because few farmers are now planting traditional varieties like the tasty, fluffy *kituman* brown rice of Benguet.

Experts here recently warned that unless time-tested seeds that have sustained humankind for ages are conserved, humanity—Third World peoples, in particular—will become more dependent on the high-tech seed banks of industrialized countries.

Traditional varieties have

proven more friendly to the environment because they may be planted again and again even without using huge quantities of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. High-yielding varieties need these inputs, which however quickly destroy the equilibrium of the soil and the environment. Seeds of the commercial varieties also may not be grown on the farm because they need the controlled environment of laboratories.

The key, is to save the seeds and return to the old varieties, an agriculture specialist here suggested recently. This way farmers should regain control of "the first link in the food chain": the seed.

Michael Bengwayan of the agriculture department's National Training Center suggests

that communities must start setting up seed banks.

"Communities can do a better job of conserving and utilizing genetic diversity than anybody else. Amateurs in America can preserve hundreds of vegetable and fruit varieties not found in official government collections," Bengwayan said. Herbal gardens may also help save vanishing medicinal plants, he added.

Bengwayan cited positive experiences in setting up community seed banks in other countries. In Nicaragua, he said, government works hand in hand with farmers and gardeners to save threatened crops through community-based seed banks. Bengwayan said that in Ethiopia, traditional crops have been found able to resist drought bet-

ter. Other countries where community seed banks have been established are Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, Bengwayan said.

Environmentalists in Turkey are also working to save wild cereals from dams there. Thai women, who usually gather wild vegetables for the family's food, are working with universities and Buddhist temples to create "seed sanctuaries."

Farmers here think they can do it. In a workshop on community seedbanking held here recently, 30 participating farmers listed all the names of edible crops, medicinal herbs and local tree species in their villages. Next they plan to go on expeditions to collect more seeds.

The plan, according to the



SCHOLARS: Nine Filipino specialists from different government agencies left for Australia recently to take up postgraduate studies under the sponsored training program (STP) of the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). Under the STP, students and specialists nominated by NEDA may avail of scholarships for both short- and long-term training in Australia.

Australian Embassy First Secretary Frank Willemsen (3rd from right, back row) said they will add up to some 200 Filipino scholars currently enrolled in Australian universities.

Most of the Filipino fellows are pursuing degrees in priority fields of study identified by the Philippine Government. These include agriculture/livestock production, science and technology as well as development planning and administration. The scholars are spread throughout Australia with the largest group in Sydney, followed by Brisbane.

Australian mining . . .

(From page 14)

Western Mining, it was gathered from other sources, "will only go ahead if they discover five million tonnes with 100 gram of gold per tonne."

But recent developments, including the confirmation of deposits and the launching of the public relations campaign, indicate that the Australian firm would pursue its plan.

The national government provided a favorable climate for foreign investors when president Aquino recently signed the Foreign Investments Act. The act relaxed restrictions against

foreign investments in the country.

House Bill No. 33877, which would compose a new mining code, has been filed in Congress. The proposed bill would provide investors the following: exemption from payment of excise taxes; full repatriation of investments and profits; tax holidays of four to six years; tax credit on domestic capital equipment; and various exemptions from customs fees and duties.

In its 1990 Annual Report to Shareholders, Western Mining Corporation claims to have con-

ducted environmental rehabilitation activities in their areas of operation in other countries.

The two Anthropologist sources, who have done extensive studies on the T'bolis and Western Mining operations in other countries, warn: "Given the notorious record of media misinformation levelled against indigenous Aboriginal peoples and their homelands by Western Mining in Australia, the (mining) venture (on the T'boli homeland) will be no friend to the T'bolis." (Media Mindanao News Service)

Raul GONZALEZ (From page 9)

the old lady disturbed by so many teenaged boys who follow the mayol around? *Nagtatanong lang po.*

This is a true story related to me by somebody in Botolan. One day the Metro Manila bus arrived near the Botolan Plaza loaded with boxes. The people thought the bus had relief goods to deliver to the Municipal Building *kaya* they flocked to where the MMTC bus was. *Yon pala hindi relief goods ang carga* but wooden coffins of the dead coming from Daldaloso's "tent city". *Kasi* so many people have already died in this concentration camp of Daldaloso but he still insists in keeping the evacuees there. There are days, I was told when so many sick persons line up at the Provincial Hospi-

tal, all coming from the "tent city" which some people called "cemetery city". *Halabira, pare ko.*

Kagawad Quin Sajorda of Iba - one of our leading professionals in his line, has invented what he calls "lahar soap" which is a combination of soap and steel brush at the same time. Sajorda has mixed sand from Mt. Pinatubo with detergent ingredients and it cleans very well. I hope this product can be given enough support and acceptance by those in government who are trying to promote products out of the Mt. Pinatubo calamity. I am writing the DTI and Dept. of Tourism to look into this Sajorda formula.

Last week when I visited the Mayamban evacuation center, I was told that 24 Aeta families hurriedly left the "tent city" of Amoritis, leaving their tents and other valuables behind because they can no longer suffer the difficulties there but had to "escape" because the bodyguards of Amoritis were preventing them from leaving. In fact I know that Amoritis must be so desperate in trying to keep the people in his "tent city" that he had been scolding DSWD and Forestry People who are trying to implement the President's directive to relocate the evacuees to permanent relocation sites and Bulawen - which has been identified as "Deloso's Farm" is not a relocation site but only a "staging area" for relocation. What then is the ulterior or sinister motive of Daldaloso in keeping the evacuees in Bulawen? *Abangan ang susunod na kabanata, sabi nga.*

BISHOP FORTICH

78 and still committed

BACOLOD CITY — Most senior citizens prefer to live quiet lives after they retire until they fade away. But not Bishop Emeritus Antonio Y. Fortich, probably Negros' most famous senior citizen, who marked his 78th birthday Sunday, August 11.

Age evidently holds no terror for the Nobel Peace Prize nominee who told Cobra-Ans/PNF he will continue to be active in the service of the country and the people.

"Everyone must take advantage of life," he said.

"As a citizen, we cannot fold our arms in indifference to the country's plight. We can always contribute whatever we can afford for a better Philippines," he said.

The province's feisty bishop says he cannot refuse the people's requests even if he has retired. He said he is still a bishop and that it is part of his apostolic mission to serve his flock.

He sees the division of the province into Negros del Norte and Negros del Sur to spur development. "Negros is too big to be managed by one man. Look at the south, the roads have been abandoned. They are bumpy and people cannot bring down their products from the hills easily," he said.

Dividing the province, he said, will make government more accessible to the people and thus generate opportunities for growth.

Fortich vowed to



BISHOP FORTICH: Still active.

continue promoting his advocacy for human rights and his involvement in movements for social change. He is co-chairman of People's Caucus, a broad alliance of groups and individuals attuned to change through consensus.

Always in the heart of politics, Fortich has managed to stay non-partisan. Refusing to name his choice among the presidential hopefuls, Fortich said the people must choose one who "can move us all" and "respond to the call of the people."

Fortich was appointed bishop in the late sixties when the Catholic Church started stressing the preferential option for the poor. He helped start the

church social action in the country and has since then been controversial because of his pronouncements against the oppressive feudal system in the province.

"We must try to foresee our people's future so we will not be taken by surprise," Fortich told media men.

Fortich has been told that he has diabetes and arthritis.

Other elements have also tried to make him a statistic. Years ago, an ultra-rightist death squad lobbed a grenade just outside his home, narrowly missing him. Fortich says he has forgotten about it. (Cobra-Ans/PNF)

Badjaos . . .

(From page 16)

Badjaos started coming five years ago. They would be recruited by smugglers, who to escape detection by the coast guard, would ask them to pose as cargo owners.

Once the cargo is unloaded, the Badjaos are kicked off the ship usually off Olongapo in Central Luzon, or Lucena, Batangas in Southern Tagalog.

Marquez said that syndicates were behind the Badjaos' recruitment. One recruiter named "Mayang" has been arrested but never charged. "Mayang" also gives out loans at usurious rates to boat-people who wish to come

to Manila.

Arthur Manaois, social worker, said the vagrants were illiterates who can neither communicate in Tagalog nor learn other means of livelihood except begging.

He said they gather near the docks and the shoreline where plunging into the sea constituted a bath.

(The Manila vagrants wore rags that to this reporter looked like they hadn't been washed in months. Their own smell and that of the dried fish they brought with them filled the social welfare office with a stench.)

Divina Lagon, Manila branch officer of the social welfare department said the Badjaos will have to be returned to

Zamboanga. 1,260 kms. from Manila where they will be referred to the local office for further assistance. She said government could not send them to school because of the lack of funds.

Social worker Manaois criticized Region 9 and 12 for not acting on the group's plight. He said, "*pala silang hindi tao, dahil ini-exploit at mo-oppress sila.*" (They do not appear human anymore because of the exploitation and oppression.)

He asked lawmakers to come up with a plan for the Badjaos rehabilitation. Already some Badjaos had been reportedly killed by their recruiters. (Philippine News and Features)

Brunei recruiting teachers from RP.

CEBU CITY — There is a shortage of teachers in Brunei Darussalam and the Bruneian government is filling up this shortage by recruiting teachers from neighboring countries including the Philippines.

This was disclosed here this

week by Dr. Roosevelt Malata, a retired Filipino university professor, who has just finished a lecture stint in Brunei.

Dr. Malata, a Muslim from Marawi City in Mindanao, said the Philippine government should explore the possibility

of "exporting" more teachers to Brunei.

He said there are already some Filipino teachers in the rich sultanate and there is room for more. They are outnumbered by Malaysian and Singaporean teachers.

"Our teachers in Brunei are well paid and they enjoy many benefits like furnished air-conditioned apartments," Dr. Malata said. "Nearly all of them have their own cars as cars in the sultanate are tax-free and the government helps them ac-

quire their own units under very easy payment terms."

He declined to divulge the teachers' salaries, saying: "I am not at liberty to reveal their wages ... although I can say they're substantial."

Malata said many of the Filipino teachers in Brunei have been able to buy lots in good residential subdivisions in the Philippines and have constructed houses on these lots.

The shortage of teachers in Brunei has been confirmed by Brunei's education minister Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

The minister said Brunei will continue to recruit from outside of the sultanate teachers, especially in mathematics and science such as chemistry and bi-

ology as well as other technical subjects. English language teachers are also being recruited.

"Teachers from neighboring countries and elsewhere are needed to meet the shortage of teachers in Brunei Darussalam," the minister said.

He said priority will be given to teachers from countries making up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) including the Philippines.

Right now, more than half of the teaching force in Brunei are foreigners. The sultanate needs close to 2,000 new teachers in mathematics and science for the pre-primary up to the upper secondary level.

Most of the Filipino teachers in Brunei teach English and science subjects. (Asian News & Features)

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'WAR OF WIDOWS'

THE SO-CALLED "war of widows," heretofore being fought only by proxies on distant shores, is getting closer to the home front.

Acting on a recommendation by the Cabinet Cluster E on political and security developments, President Corazon C.

The 5 1/2-year-old ban on the return to the Philippines of the Marcoses, however, does not apply to the body of the late President Marcos, which has been kept in a refrigerated crypt in Honolulu, Hawaii, since he passed away on September 28, 1989.

The Cluster E formula for solving the Marcoses' homecoming dilemma, described as shrewd by Coryistas, stunned Mrs. Marcos, forcing her into a somewhat awkward position.

Coming on the heels of her announcements that she would home, with or without Philippine passport, to face any large against her in court, Mrs. Marcos greeted with tears of joy

the lifting of the ban on her family.

Mrs. Marcos went through the motions of preparing for her homeward journey from a life in exile, first in Honolulu and then in New York. She secured a travel document from the Philippine Consulate in New York, paying \$30 for it. Then, she balked and changed her mind.

"I cannot go back with just this (document, which is good for only a month)," she said. "This means I cannot come back (to the United States) for the remains of the late President (Marcos)."

Political observers pointed out that lifting of the Marcos family ban puts to an acid test

Aquino authorized the issuance to her adversary, former First Lady Imelda R. Marcos, along with her children (Imee, Ferdinand, Jr. and Irene) and sons-in-law (Tommy Manotoc and Gregg Araneta), of one-way travel documents that will enable them to go home any time they choose to do so.

the strength of Mrs. Marcos determination to go home. There have been speculations in certain media circles that her pronouncements on her desire to return to the Philippines could only be a "bluff," noting that by doing so, she would leave behind a life of relative ease abroad and return home to countless problems.

Sensing, perhaps, that her credibility was at stake, Mrs. Marcos switched back to her original stand. She said:

"Yes, I will go home - alone if need be to face trial - and I am willing to take another painful step in the fulfillment of my filial and sacred responsibility of bringing home the remains of

my late husband Ferdinand back to our country. I wish to go home, and with God's blessing I will go home to face whatever God has in store for me. I will abide with whatever is legal. And whatever the people want from me, I shall obey..."

A Coryista, who declined to be identified, likened Mrs. Marcos' reaction to the lifting of the homecoming ban to her announcement of substantial donation to victims of natural calamities in the Philippines.

It was also with tears in her eyes that Mrs. Marcos commiserated with casualties of the killer earthquake and the supertyphoon last year as well as the victims of Mount Pinatubo's eruptions in June-July, 1991, he said, adding that she offered to donate P100 million for their relief and rehabilitation, but it turned out what she had in mind to give were assets tied up in the courts due to sequestration proceedings.

"In both cases, there is a



CORY, IMELDA: Who'll win?



question of sincerity," he stressed.

Political observers saw in recent developments a number of positive signs on the eventual return to the country of the Marcoses, including the body of the late President. When this happens, they said the mother of political battles, as the war of the widows is sometimes called, shall be here for the politicians to relish or to avoid for their own self-preservation.

They said a committee, to be composed of close relatives of the Marcos family, technocrats in the previous Marcos government and leaders of the incumbent administration, has been proposed to work out a compromise on what to do with the Marcos remains. Mrs. Aquino

herself indicated that she had an open mind on the subject and, in fact, would order a periodic review of it.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, who chairs the Cabinet Cluster E, clarified the one-way travel document for the Marcos family, which will expire on September 1, 1991, is renewable.

Drilon also denied that members of the Marcos family could be trapped here, if they would avail to the one-way travel paper. Once in the Philippines, the Marcoses are free to go to court and seek issuance of their passports, he said, adding that their passports will guarantee their freedom to move in and out of the country. (ANFI)



BRITISH AID: President Aquino welcomes Lord Caithness, British Deputy Foreign Minister, during a courtesy call at Malacanang. Caithness informed the President about an additional \$150,000 aid package from the British government to the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. He also announced that a team of British volcanology experts is due in Manila. (Malacanang Photo)

Badjaos 'invade' Manila

By SUSAN SANCHEZ

MORE THAN a thousand Badjaos, the boat people of Mindanao, have flocked to Metro Manila and have taken to begging.

Anti-mendicancy operatives of the social welfare department said that the 23 Badjaos rounded up along Roxas Blvd. this week were only part of a large number of boat people who have been used to pose as cargo owners by barter traders. Arrested this week were 11 adults and 12 children.

Interviewed by PNF, the Badjaos responded in halting Tagalog. One woman couldn't give her age.

Satorea Alpasan, 20-year old widow of a fisherman, recalls she was brought to Manila by a woman who merely asked her to join her. Alpasan had after all wanted to leave Zamboanga after pirates repeatedly robbed them of their catch and her husband was reported lost at sea.

Alpasan said she was left on the pier with a child and a nephew

to feed. After going hungry for three days, she was forced to beg and now gets P30 a day.

The Badjaos had always depended on the sea and have been pictured in textbooks and travel guides as smiling children who picked coins from the sea. Adults fish and gather shells and coral to sell.

Jose Marquez, supervising social workers of the anti-mendicancy program, said the

(Page 15, please)