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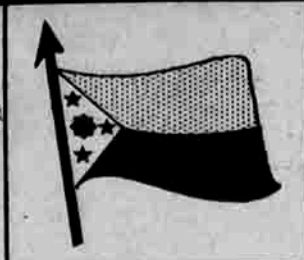


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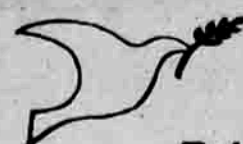
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We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally
for peace

VOL. 15 * NO. 29

NOV. 29-DEC. 5, 1991

P3.00

IN METRO MANILA

Gringo presses nat'l reforms



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HONASAN

National
indignation
versus
illegal
loggers



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Lower
budget
deficit
in '92

Page 16



PRAWNS AND THE PRESIDENT: President Aquino listens as Governor Bitay Lacson explains prawn farm operations to Canadian Ambassador Andre Simard and Japanese Ambassador Toshio Goto in Bacolod. Also in the photo is Agrarian Reform Secretary Benjamin Leong. (Malacañang Photo)

Flowers, bullets in Zamboanga City - Page 14

'GRINGO' PUSHES REFORMS

By ERIC S. GIRON

OBSESSIONS ARE hard to kill. And Gregorio (Gringo) Honasan, 43, is fired up with espousing government reforms. As a most wanted fugitive with P5 million bounty for his capture, Gringo has parlayed with the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff at his headquarters and with journalists in his hideout. He has become some sort of a legend.

Honasan was stripped of his army military rank as lieutenant colonel in 1987 for having led a coup d'etat attempt against the Aquino government. He escaped from a prison ship on Manila Bay in 1988 with his jailers' help. Since then he has reportedly been seen all over from Luzon to Mindanao. He is suspected to be hiding up somewhere in Metro Manila.

There must be some unspoken rule in the military fraternity for its members to look the other way when they spot their prodigal comrades-in-arms or how can Honasan and 11 rebel officers at large elude arrest for four years?

After the Malacañang deadline for their surrender expired November 23, the manhunt for the Honasan group will be intensified. Gen. Lisandro

Abadia's goal is to place Honasan under military control, saying, "If I cannot catch him, I have no business staying on; I have to get out."

Can Honasan perennially elude government forces—the 300,000-man AFP and the police—and civilians who might be interested in the reward? American mercenary Jack Terrell claimed having been paid \$30,000 by Foreign Sec. Raul Manglapus to assassinate Honasan and civilian enemies of President Corazon Aquino.

Honasan's group has been blamed for crimes they did not commit from the killing of JUSMAG Col. James N. Rowe supposedly to embarrass Mrs. Aquino before Washington to the series of Metro Manila bombings. Honasan admitted only the bomb attack on the factory of Domingo Lee (a



GRINGO (center): Now a legend.

close associate of Mrs. Aquino) in July 1990. If there were genuine security, Honasan said these bombers could not get through the checkpoints close to Malacañang.

CHANGE SOUGHT

What does Honasan want? "We want change, the change we promised ourselves (in 1986) and which we asked from the people we talked to at the time, including Mrs. Aquino," Honasan said in a *Time* interview, in 1990. He said the RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement, now *Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan*) who helped topple authoritarian President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 felt deceived: "We feel like victims of a propaganda machine. But we don't feel hatred or vengeance."

Honasan asked how Mrs. Aquino who pledged to restore constitutional democracy can violate at will provisions of the 1987 Constitution. With regard to the change his group wants, Honasan said "the very same people who are telling us now that violence is bad are the same people who egged us on in '85 and '86 to kill Marcos..."

"The same yardstick is being applied to us now, just because we are going against a

government that is proving to be worse than Marcos, or at least in the eyes of many," he stated.

Honasan admitted his first meeting with Abadia was inside a military camp. He drove to a friend's house in the camp and phoned the chief of staff that he would go up to his office as invited. Abadia's AFP headquarters is at Camp Aguinaldo on the corner of EDSA and Santolan road. In their marathon dialogue, Honasan presented a list of eight "talking points" which he claimed are not demands.

To demand President Aquino's resignation would be "unrealistic, impractical and, in the minds of those now in government, not 'do-able,'" Honasan said. (Mrs. Aquino claims she has a covenant with God and the people to complete her presidential term.) But her resignation could "mark the beginning of a clean slate for our people, it would mark a strong political will, it would herald a better chance for true national reconciliation," Honasan averred.

Honasan told *Time* in the past: "We are not prepared to see President Aquino dead. We could have excluded her in 1986 and formed a military

junta. We already had a political component, but she had no armed forces. No number of demonstrations, boycotts and manifestos could have brought down Marcos without (the help of) an armed component."

"If the objective was to kill Aquino, we could have done it in 1987. Our lead elements attacking Malacañang Palace were in straight-line distance only five meters away from her bedroom, and they were asking us for clearance to go on. And the reply was no," Honasan disclosed. Given that clearance, "it would have been indiscriminate, very bloody and very final."

"In 1989 (another coup attempt), the first aircraft that took off were ours," Honasan reminded. "What could have prevented us from dropping two 500-pound bombs in her office and her residence? That would have been final as well..."

THE DIALOGUE

Top priority in Honasan's list are "clean, honest, orderly and free elections." He and Abadia agreed on a moratorium on violence during the election in 1992. Although Honasan's group does not accept the legitimacy of the Aquino government, he ac-

cepts that its tenure will end after the May 11 election.

He suggested that the military and communist rebels and Moro secessionists monitor the elections carefully to make sure they produce a government that reflects the national will. If not, it means the government cannot be relied upon to hold a peaceful or free election and "we have reason to unite at a different level," Honasan stated.

Abadia declared in case of disorder and chaos in the May 11 polls, the Constitution authorizes the military to step in until order is restored and the electors can cast their votes. Defense Sec. Renato de Villa was quick to state that the AFP is not interventionist but will preserve peace at the polls only at the behest of the Commission on Elections.

In case Mrs. Aquino runs for President, Honasan said she could win and if she does not run, her choice will probably win.

What may be controversial to the Aquino government is the proposal for "immediate and irreversible withdrawal of foreign troops from the country" as the Constitution mandates. Malacañang has ex-

(Next page, please)



ABADIA WITH CORY: Goal to catch Gringo.

tended us military stay at Subic for another three years.

Another objectionable point is the "immediate and unconditional return of the Marcos remains for interment with appropriate honors." For a man who helped topple Marcos and caused his flight to Hawaii, what made Honasan adhere to such a proposition?

The rest are standard demands of the people: dialogue for national security and survival of all sectors in the country, regardless of ideological or political orientation; attainment of good, honest and efficient government for national renewal and transformation; implementation of nationalist economic development policies and programs (attention: Jesus Estanislao and Jose Cuisia Jr.); an actualization of the social justice programs to positively address poverty, unemployment and criminality; and to address national defense and security concerns and attune these with the country and people's fundamental requirements. Abadia is already attending to the eight point, Honasan said. Honasan admitted the

RAM, KSP (*Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino*) and YOU (Young Officers' Union) were considerably weakened with the return to AFP control by his close friend, Lt. Col. Eduardo (Red) Kapunan, and other rebel officers. Abadia noted the rebels had been "marginalized" but looked upon Honasan as "the symbol of that part of the AFP that's thinking of military intervention in the political affairs of the state."

ULTIMATUM

While Abadia was attending a regular RP-US Mutual Defense Board meeting in Hawaii, Malacañang issued an ultimatum for Honasan's surrender on November 23. Executive Sec. Franklin Drilon said his Cabinet Cluster E had recommended the deadline but President Aquino herself imposed the date.

Abadia said he did not know of any particular group or individuals wanting to sabotage the peace talks he had initiated. But Honasan said he was confused at the deadline slapped by Malacañang, blaming "other groups or individu-

als who have their own agenda" for the collapse of the dialogue. Whenever Abadia was abroad, he said these groups grabbed credit for Abadia's achievements.

Secretaries Drilon and de Villa and adviser Rafael Iletto claim the military rebels no longer have the capability to mount another coup just as former PC Chief Ramon Montano scoffed at Honasan's warning of a military coup bloodier than that of August 28, 1987 as propaganda "because of his waning popularity among the rebels."

The 1989 coup announced on video by then AFP Chief Renato de Villa on the night of Nov. 30 indeed proved bloodier and more destructive. Three rebel "Tora Tora" T-28 planes of World War II vintage and a Sikorsky helicopter were used to bomb Camps Aguinaldo and Crame, TV towers and Malacañang, where five persons were killed. A rebel F-5 fighter plane assaulted Sangley Point but was shot down by another Philippine Air Force plane. The rebel aircraft exploded when it landed and the pilot was killed.

But at Sangley Point, gov-

ernment ground forces destroyed seven Tora Tora planes, one Islander aircraft and a helicopter to deprive the rebels of their use.

Contrary to reports, Brig. Gen. Jose de Leon, Villamor Airbase commander, said two US Air Force F-4 Phantom jets did not fire a single shot. But Honasan admitted the debilitating factor of the two US planes: "The US maneuver was intended as a psychological move, but it had tactical implications. Suddenly our planes were unable to take off because F-4 Phantoms were creating conditions over the runways, without firing a shot."

"If not for the Phantoms, the airspace above Metro Manila would have been ours," Honasan concluded. The running battle fought by rebel Marines at Camp Aguinaldo shifted to the housing subdivisions outside the camp. Scout Rangers fired at government troops from high-rise hotels at Makati's commercial district in a "fight to the end." President Aquino served them an ultimatum to "surrender or die."

How could rebels have



PRES. AQUINO: Covenant with God?

seized the 14 armored vehicles plus military trucks, three Tora Tora planes, one helicopter and a fighter jet, heavy weapons and ammunition without those in command knowing it? The rebel manpower was raised from the ranks of those in acting military service.

Over 100 persons were killed and the economic loss was estimated at P2 billion or more in the 1989 conflict. Accused of mounting seven coup attempts, Honasan admitted being aware of only three in 1986, 1987 and 1989. The word "coup" came from Mrs. Aquino and then Defense Sec. Fidel Ramos, Honasan said. He would rather call it "uprising."

After the earthquake and floods in 1990, Honasan said maybe those could jolt the government into thinking about reconciliation. Twice his group offered ceasefire so that they could go into the earthquake-affected areas and help without any conditions. They were not only ignored but government troops fired at two rebel officers helping in the Hyatt hotel rescue in Baguio.

On the day the Aquino ultimatum for surrender expired Nov. 23, RAM leaders

Honasan and Ex-Commodore Domingo H. Calajate pledged to continue the "rebel movement's mission" in exploring "all avenues for peace and unity and the attainment of a national dialogue to address our fundamental problems." They blamed the collapse of the dialogue with General Abadia not on "bad faith and intransigence on the rebels' part" but to the "lack of political will, sincerity and vision of our so-called leaders." They said they will continue to rally all revolutionary forces to heed the people's clamor for emancipation.

Secretary Drilon dismissed as "mere propaganda" a possible coup attempt by Honasan. With so many deaths in disasters, Honasan himself said in a television interview that staging another coup before the 1992 election is farthest from his mind and would be "the last option." But if the people spearheaded the revolution, the military rebels will be behind them. In 1986 People Power interacted with the defecting troops against Marcos.

Despite his life on the run, Honasan said he had no choice but to be hopeful of the future: "In any event, the dream continues."

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 97, QUEZON CITY**

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO CONVEY TCT NO. 14897 TO HELENICA REGENCY HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC. WHOSE MEMBERS USE SUBJECT PROPERTY AS COMMON AREA,

G.L.R.O. Record No. Q-91-9652

HELENICA REAL ESTATE DEV. CORP.,
Petitioner.

X _____ X

ORDER

A verified petition for Authority to Convey TCT No. 14897 to Helenica Regency Homeowner's Association, Inc. whose members use subject property as common area was filed by Helenica Real Estate Dev. Corp., alleging:

That Petitioner is a domestic corporation duly organized and existing under Philippine laws, with business address at 154 B. Gonzales St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City;

That Petitioner corporation is the registered owner of subject parcel of land consisting of THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY (380) SQ. M., located at Melchor St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 14897 of the Registry of Deeds of Quezon City;

That the above SERVIENT LOT serves as the common area, driveway and cul-de-sac exclusively for six (6) adjoining lots covered by TCT Nos. 39655 (formerly TCT No. 14896), 14895, 14894, 14893, 14892 and 14891 (hereafter referred to as the DOMINANT LOTS). These six (6) DOMINANT LOTS surround and encompass the SERVIENT LOT, as shown in the vicinity map, showing the relative position of the DOMINANT LOTS in relation to the SERVIENT LOT;

That the six (6) DOMINANT LOTS and the SERVIENT LOT are separated from the public road and neighboring private residential lots by a concrete and iron peripheral fence with steel gate as shown by the attached front view and rear view photographs of the site, which likewise show that the SERVIENT LOT serves as the common area, driveway and cul-de-sac exclusively for the six (6) DOMINANT LOTS and does not in any way

serve as ingress, egress, passageway, easement or right-of-way to or from any private or public property;

That herein Petitioner desires to transfer and convey to Helenica Regency Homeowner's Association, Inc., a non-stock, non-profit Association organized for the owners of the six (6) DOMINANT LOTS, so that the care, maintenance and administrative expenses, including realty taxes and other government imposts, pertaining to the said SERVIENT LOT will be proportionately shared by the members of the aforesaid Association who are the registered owners/buyers of record of the six (6) DOMINANT LOTS;

That herein Petitioner now seeks the authority and approval of the Honorable Court to allow petitioner to transfer and convey its title, rights and interests over the SERVIENT LOT in favor of the Helenica Regency Homeowner's Association, Inc.;

That the SERVIENT LOT was declared for taxation purposes under Tax Declaration (TD) No. C-056-02591-R for the year 1991;

That the real estate taxes of said SERVIENT LOT has been paid up to and including the first quarter of 1991, evidenced by Real Property Tax Bill Receipt No. G-670898 dated February 13, 1991.

Notice is hereby given that the said petition will be heard on December 12, 1991, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning by this Court sitting at the Children's Museum Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, at which date and time, all interested parties are hereby required to appear and show cause, if any there be, why the said petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner, twice, in successive issues of the Official Gazette and for three (3) consecutive weeks in the newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila, selected in a raffle conducted by the Clerk of Court pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1079, and posted by the Branch Sheriff of this Court in the main entrance of Quezon City Hall; at the Bulletin Board of this court and also in three (3) conspicuous public places in Quezon City, and likewise, be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General; the Register of Deeds of Quezon City; City Prosecutor of Quezon City; Land Registration Authority; City Attorney of Quezon City; Bureau of Lands, Manila; at least thirty (30) days prior to the above-date of hearing.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, Sept. 24, 1991.

(Sgd.) OSCAR L. LEVISTE
Judge

WE FORUM
November 15, 22 & 29, 1991

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VITALIANO DE ONO has been extrajudicially with adjudication settled by his only heir ROSARIO DAYO VDA. DE ONO under Doc. No. 56; Page No. 55; Book No. VII; Series of 1983, executed before Andres C. Ocampo, Notary Public for Manila.

WE FORUM
Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 1991

Nuclear weapons elimination will benefit RP

A NEW global entente is now emerging, and the beneficiaries in this initiative by the United States and the Soviet Union are not only the superpowers but the developing countries as well.

The Philippines and other Asian and Pacific countries are watching the developments with "utmost interest," especially because the move is geared towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons in accordance with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the two superpowers.

Observers said that under this foreign policy endeavor of the US and the Soviet Union, "foreign military bases have become a non-issue," especially in countries like the Philippines where nuclear weapons are supposedly stockpiled.

One of the major issues that was brought against the ratification of the RP-US Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security was the alleged presence of nuclear weapons at Subic Naval Base, an allegation that the US has neither confirmed nor denied.

With the Soviet positive response to the invitation by US President George Bush to match the US reduction of tactical nuclear weapons, world peace is practically assured and a world-wide economic boom will eventually follow, diplomats and analysts said.

US Secretary of State James

S. Baker, in his tour of the Asian countries, said in Tokyo that it was time for the US, the Soviet Union, China and Japan "to look for ways to lessen tensions" brought about by the proliferation of nuclear arms.

He encouraged Japan to broaden its global role by assuming responsibility for "halting the spread of nuclear weapons." With the support of China and the Soviets, he said, tensions between South Korea and North Korea will be reduced considerably.

North Korea, one of the remaining hardline communist countries, is believed to be developing its own nuclear arsenal. It has refused a US suggestion for international inspection of its nuclear facilities unless US nuclear weapons in South Korea are inspected and withdrawn.

Washington and Seoul, however, have, according to a Reuter report quoting a Seoul newspaper, agreed in principle that US tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea are to be withdrawn beginning this year, completing the removal by early 1992.

It was learned that the exact timetable for the withdrawal will be decided when US Defense Secretary Richard Cheney visits Seoul late November to attend the annual Security Consultative Meeting. Pyongyang has charged that

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ILLEGAL LOGGING: President Aquino discusses the government drive against illegal logging with (from left) Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., Army Chief Maj. Gen. Arturo Enrile, Bureau of Broadcast Director Francisco Batacan, Gerardo Flores, deputy director of the Philippine National Police and Acting Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III during the President's weekly radio program "Magtanong sa Pangulo." (Malacañang Photo)

Nat'l indignation vs illegal loggers

THE AQUINO government is under heavy pressure from a nationwide demand for drastic measures against illegal loggers many of whom have been described as influential persons.

The public indignation against illegal loggers comes in the wake of the deaths of thousands due to the recent typhoon Uring which hit the province of Leyte. Hardest hit was Ormoc City where relief workers are still gathering the dead. The death toll has already reached over 6000 and the final count is expected to exceed 8000.

Government investigators had blamed illegal loggers for the high death toll because of the denudation of forests in the province which led to the sudden floods which reached up to 18 feet in some parts of Ormoc city. What surprised many was that the typhoon was not really strong and the accompanying rains were considered normal so residents were caught unprepared when the sudden high floods swept through the city washing away people and properties into the sea.

President Aquino, who personally visited the disaster area, angrily called in National Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran and ordered him to start prosecuting the illegal loggers.

She said the prosecution should spare no one after she was informed most of the country's known illegal loggers are powerful persons which include members of Congress, governors and mayors and top military officers.

Factoran quickly supplied her with a list of the country's top illegal loggers and in the case of the Leyte tragedy, Factoran frankly informed her that the DENR had failed to go after the illegal loggers in the area because they were protected by powerful politicians.

Factoran was severely criticized in both houses of Congress for failure to act against these powerful illegal loggers who had almost completely denuded the country's forests and which is the major cause of the country's recent floods. Some solons demanded that Factoran resign and replaced with somebody with the "political will" to run after the illegal loggers.

Senator Heherson Alvarez and Rep. Jerome Paras (LDP-Negros Oriental) led the call in both chambers of Congress for Factoran's head and for a determined government drive against the illegal loggers.

There was a demand for a joint Senate-House probe of the case of the illegal loggers. There was also immediate support for a proposed bill filed by Rep. Amado Bagatsing (LDP-Manila) pun-

ishing illegal loggers with life imprisonment.

The national outrage against these illegal loggers was also expected to lead to immediate approval of a bill pending in Congress calling for a total log ban in order to address the serious situation. Environmentalists had predicted that at the rate Philippine forests were being denuded, the country would have less than 10 percent left of its forests in the next century.

There was also public demand for a release to media of a list (Page 13, please)

Inner EDSA project

METRO MANILA, admits to the Department of Public Works and Highways, is faced with severe transport problem, like most major cities in the world. The incomplete road network due to lack of road links has resulted in traffic congestions and consequently public inconvenience, it said.

To address this problem, the DPWH said it is now implementing several road transport projects for Metro Manila. This will not only maximize the effectiveness of its facilities but also support planned and existing development projects in the area, it said.

One of the major road projects being prioritized, according to Public Works Secretary Jose P. de Jesus, is the Circumferential Road (C-3) project. Also known as Inner EDSA, it is a six-lane divided concrete road that stretches from Roxas boulevard up to R-10 road in Navotas, traversing Makati,

Mandaluyong, San Juan, Kalookan City and Quezon City.

The project, which has a total length of 19 kilometers, and costs about P245.4 million, is one of the Metro Manila road projects given priority by President Aquino, de Jesus stated.

He explained that completion of the C-3 project would provide a more orderly flow of vehicular and pedestrian movement and considerable reduction of traffic of about 24 percent. The project will significantly strengthen the existing road network of Metro Manila, especially along the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA).

The ongoing implementation of the C-3 project into a six-lane concrete road is subdivided into contract packages. These are: C-3 road from A. Mabini St. to Rizal Ave.; the widening and improvement of the whole length of G. Araneta Ave.; and Buendia parallel roads (traffic

(Page 12, please)



NUCLEAR WEAPON ATTACK?: Good riddance.

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

Berlin meet looks at World Bank strategy

"AN IMPORTANT by-product of the 'country poverty analysis' is an assessment of the quality and adequacy of the information base and the general impression is that the Bank's assessment still largely focuses on macroeconomic policies, with the social sector not fully receiving its due," stated Ms. Rosa Linda Valenzona, the Filipino delegate while participating at an International Round Table held in Berlin to look into ways and means of making World Bank strategies for the reduction of poverty more effective in the developing world. The starting point was the Bank's approach as outlined in its World Development Report of 1990, describing its dual strategy of efficient labour-absorbing growth and systematic investment in the development of human resources, especially among the poor.

Entitled "Assistance Strategies to Reduce Poverty: The World Bank's Approach", the Round Table was jointly organized by the Development Policy Forum of the German Foundation for International Development and the World Bank in an exercise that drew some fifty

ministers and senior officials from governments in Asia, Africa and Latin America, Europe, the United Nations agencies, the World Health Organisation, the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development as well as from the German Federal Government. The event took place against a backdrop of some 1.1 billion people around the world still in the grip of poverty despite remarkable economic progress in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The pointed question was whether the World Bank's analysis of country programmes and poverty profiles was enough of a base for shaping strategies.

Ms. Valenzona reiterated that the volume and composition of Bank lending should be linked to the national government's efforts to reduce poverty as demonstrated by the effectiveness of economic management, the adequacy of social services, and the extent and reliability of safety nets. "Our government is combating the poverty situation most vigorously by, among others, rationalising public spending, reforming trade, investment and financial sector policies,"

she said, adding that government efforts to provide basic social and infrastructural services to the poor have to be focused on more strongly than has been the case hitherto.

The German position on the cross-sectoral concept of 'Fighting Poverty through Self-Help' was amplified by Mr. Michael Bohnet, Dy. Director-General, Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Policy, at the German Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation (BMZ) who stated that his government dealt with one element in the fight against poverty by promoting self-help among poor people as part of governmental development co-operation. Besides, it also carried on a political dialogue with developing countries with the aim of ensuring basic conditions for fighting poverty and involving people in the development process by means of appropriate legislation, regulations and administrative practices. It urged the creation of scope for self-help movements too. Agrarian reforms, a direction towards a market economy and building of human resources through education and training were some of the basic tenets



ROUND TABLE SESSIONS: Philippine delegate Rosa Linda Valenzona with Nepal representative D.R. Panday.

for promoting self-help movements, he declared. The German government has already allocated some 10 percent of bilateral budgets for 1992 for self-help projects, it was stressed. The Philippines has been a recipient of German development assistance to the total tune of over DM 1.2 billion till date, with emphasis on rural development, protection of tropical rain forests and energy

production, among others.

The Round Table covered a wide range of issues, including the development of adequate data bases in Third World countries, the role of external agencies, social sector policies, and aid co-ordination and role of donors. Importantly, the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in implementing developing country programmes was highlighted. By

the same token, it was felt that NGOs could achieve a lot more with proper external support. While the Bank's policies for an assault on poverty raised a healthy debate, Ms. Helena Ribe, a senior World Bank official gave an assurance of the Bank's readiness to place emphasis on social indicators and make poverty profiles more realistic in the future. (In-Press)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, BRANCH 9
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BAGUIO CITY and BENGUET PROVINCE
La Trinidad, Benguet

EDUARDO J. AGUILAR
Plaintiff,

- versus -

CECILIA C. RIVERA AGUILAR,
Defendant.

CIVIL CASE NO. 91-F-0242

For

DECLARATION OF NULLITY
OF MARRIAGE

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, plaintiff filed a verified Complaint with this Court on July 24, 1991 quoted *in toto*, as follows:

- "PLAINTIFF, through Counsel, to this Honorable Court most respectfully states:
1. That he is of legal age, Filipino, married to the Defendant, residing at Gibraltar Road, Baguio City, while Defendant is also of legal age, Filipino, married to the Plaintiff, residing at No. 27th Avenue, Beverly Hills, Taytay, Rizal where she may be served with summons;
 2. That Plaintiff and Defendant are spouses, having been married in Baguio City, Philippines, on January 3, 1965 as shown by the copy of their marriage contract which is hereto attached and marked as Annex "A" and made an integral part hereof;
 3. That at the time of the solemnization of the above-mentioned marriage, Plaintiff was 24 years old while Defendant was 20 years old;
 4. That the father of the Defendant, Antonio Rivera, was an alcoholic and caused endless trauma not only to his wife, but more specially to all his children, including the herein Defendant;
 5. That in order to escape from the seeming endless trauma caused by the unabated drinking of her father, Defendant married the herein Plaintiff knowing fully well that she was not prepared to assume the essential obligations of such marriage;
 6. That out of this wedlock were born three children, namely: Maria Editha Aguilar on Sept. 22, 1965; Jimmy Danilo on September 6, 1966; and a baby girl on June 1, 1968;
 7. That because of her immaturity and lack of responsibility as a good mother, Defendant failed to take care of their third child properly and she died on June 18, 1968;
 8. That because of such immaturity and lack of responsibility as a good mother, Plaintiff was compelled to assume the sole responsibility in the proper upbringing, care and subsequent education of their surviving children, Maria Editha and Jimmy Danilo, and also took care of Defendant's father who, until then, was not only jobless but was still an inveterate alcoholic;
 9. That sometime in 1981, Defendant, without any explanation whatsoever and for no apparent reason,

left the family home and completely abandoned the Plaintiff and their two children;

10. That sometime in 1985, Plaintiff was able to locate Defendant who was living with her relatives in Taytay, Rizal, Plaintiff pleaded with her to return to their conjugal home and take care of their children, but such pleas of Plaintiff were ignored by Defendant who refused to return to their family home;

11. That since Defendant left the conjugal home in 1981, Plaintiff and Defendant have never had any marital union and/or cohabitation on account of Defendant's refusal to return to the conjugal home and live with the Plaintiff;

12. That Defendant's refusal to live with Plaintiff is indicative of her inability to perform the essential marital obligations which constitute, under the law, psychological incapacity and that the marriage exists in name only; and

13. That this psychological incapacity on the part of the Defendant already existed at the time of the solemnization of the marriage, but became manifest only after the solemnization of such marriage.

WHEREFORE, it is most respectfully prayed that judgment issue declaring the marriage between the Plaintiff and the Defendant absolutely null and void from the beginning.

Plaintiff further prays for such other reliefs as maybe just and equitable under the premises.

Baguio City for La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, July 24th, 1991."

WHEREAS, summons and a copy of the Complaint were duly issued for service on the defendant but the same were returned unserved as the latter is no longer residing at her given address;

WHEREAS, on November 7, 1991, plaintiff thru counsel filed a "Motion To Serve Summons By Publication" praying that since the defendant cannot be served with summons as she is no longer residing in her last known address, plaintiff prayed that defendant be served with summons through the medium of publication which the Court granted on November 11, 1991.

NOW THEREFORE, you the defendant with last known address at No. 27th Avenue, Beverly Hills, Taytay, Rizal are hereby summoned through this medium of publication and are therefore required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Branch 9, Capital Building, La Trinidad, Benguet, your responsive pleading and/or Answer to the above-quoted Complaint within sixty (60) days from the date of last publication, serving at the same time a copy of your pleading and/or Answer upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Reynaldo U. Agranzamendez, Room 35, 3rd Floor, Lopez Bldg., Session Road, Baguio City and your failure to do so within the period prescribed will enable the plaintiff to take judgment against you and demand from the Honorable Court the remedies and reliefs prayed for in the Complaint.

Let this Summons be published at the expense of the plaintiff in the WE FORUM, a newspaper of general circulation in the entire Philippines, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Furthermore, let a copy of this Summons and Complaint be deposited with the Capitol Post Office, postage pre-paid by registered mail to the last known address of the defendant.

WITNESS THE HON. ROMEO A. BRAWNER, Acting Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 9, Baguio City and Benguet Province, this 20th day of November, 1991 at La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

(Sgd.) NORMA LUCERO-CARRANZA
Clerk of Court V

Going, going, gone

IN 1976, a Japanese court stopped a road construction that would have cut through and destroyed a grove of 500-year-old cedar trees, even though a detouring would cost, at that time, an amount of \$48 million. The presiding judge ruled: "You can build a road if you have the time and the money, but a part of one's cultural heritage can never be brought back, once it is destroyed."

That decision, brought into other spheres of governmental concerns, may well sum up the rationale for Japan being what it is today. Japan proves to the world that a nation is only the sum total of all its parts, the individual working for the greatest good of the greatest number. The philosophy accounts for the whopping success of what has been called Theory Z that catapulted that country into the summit of economic power, able to hold its own and even out-strip such economic giants as the United States and Europe's Germany, Britain, France and Italy.

Decades hence, historians will find it easy narrating the causes that led this nation to an untimely suicide. It has not yet recovered from the Ormoc City tragedy when here comes the redoubtable Aquilino Pimentel, a senator of the realm, accusing the governor of the Muslim autonomous region in Mindanao of illegal logging. Pimentel, who has been in the forefront of the total logging ban proposal in the legislature, claims Zacaria Candao has allowed six logging firms to illegally cut trees in the watershed surrounding Maria Cristina Falls, which he blamed for the recurrent power failure in the island. "Without authority," the senator said in a privilege speech that Candao issued permits covering some 4,000 hectares in the area. (And to think that the guy was pictured as an angel compared to Ali Dimaporo during the election).

Of course, Candao will say his piece and deny the accusations simply as political gimmickry. (In this country, every crook is innocent. Look at the Marcoses, who still claim with utter remorselessness that they did not steal from the Filipino people.) But we doubt if Pimentel, who has proven his mettle during the reign of the conjugal thieves, can be cowed by anyone, least of all this guy Candao. Already, he has submitted evidence to prove his allegations and has referred the anomaly to the Senate Blue-Ribbon Committee. Now if only Wigberto Tañada would give the Americans timetobreathe and concentrate his efforts on trying to save the country's remaining trees, there might yet be a few standing before his term ends. At the moment, the trees are going and going and may soon be gone.

On two presidentiables

MANY WELL-INTENTIONED citizens have been wondering what kind of political bug bit the chief justice to make him shun the prestige, security of tenure and peace of mind in the Supreme Court for the rough and tumble of politics. It is not an easy question to answer; certainly, the man himself must have had the hardest time deciding about it and, in the end, for whatever reason that could square it off with his conscience, he took the plunge. There is no going back, he has thrown the gauntlet and whatever beckons in the near future is something he no doubt has prepared himself for.

It is not a very bright future, either. Against some strong contenders on the scene like Fidel Ramos, Salvador Laurel and charismatic dark horse Eduardo Cojuangco, the going is expected to be extremely rough, even with vote-rich Cebu as his base. His strategists must be thinking that practically all his opponents come from Luzon and therefore the votes in this heavily populated area may just splinter every which way to snag him a plurality. The possibility may only be realized, however, depending on his running mate. If he can get the likes of Miriam Santiago as his vice-president, then it becomes a high probability that he can give his enemies a fight worthy of his sacrifice.

The point is, will Miriam bite? In full-page advertisements in several newspapers, the lady seems hell-bent on capturing the presidency herself. With a two-column cut of herself, she invited the electorate to join her People's Reform party (PRP) and help her achieve her centerpiece programs which are:

To fight graft and corruption, build low-cost mass housing, promote export-oriented industries, and develop tourism. They're the old stereotypes, nothing new whatsoever in these programs of government which every administration ever since had vowed to pursue. In fact, it is surprising how she and her think tank could have missed out on the environmental and ecological problems which are now global in scope and with the Ormoc City tragedy still of painful recency. Her programs fall short, much too short, in fact, of what is expected of her and the concerns of the position she is after.

The presidentiables may be treating the vice-presidency lightly, not totally aware that the running mate may ultimately spell out the difference between winning and losing.



DAILY GLOBE, November 28, 1991

Ang paggalang at ang karinyo

SA PALAGAY ko, nalipasan ng gutom ang mga titser noon ni Kalihim ng Edukasyon Karinyo, kaya hindi nila siya naturuan nang husto kung ano ang tamang paggalang. Akala niya kasi, kung sino ang maykapangyarihan at may panunungkulan ay dapat igalang samantalang siya'y walang paggalang sa kanyang mga nasasakupan. Sa isang salita, walang paggalang sa kanyang mga nasasakupan. Sa isang salita, ginagawa niya ang paggalang na one-way street. Ito ay maaari at siyang patakaran sa buhay ng mga hayup, subalit hindi angkop sa katatayuan nating mga tao.

Bago mamatay sa gutom ang mga titser na nagma-hunger strike dahil nais nilang bumalik sarati nilang mga puwesto, kailangang maimulat kay Engr. Isidro Carino na ang pagmamano o paghalik sa kamay ay may katuturan lamang kung ang kamay na hinahalikan ay sadyang mapagpala, halimbawa, ang mga kamay na naghehele sa mga sanggol, nagpapakain sa mga paslit, at naglilinis ng kanilang mga dumi. Subalit ang mga kamay ng mga opisyal sa DECS na nagnakaw ng pasahod ng mga guro kaya hindi sila nabigyan ng kaukulang umento ayon sa Salary Standardization Law ay hindi karapatdapat ng beso kundi ng posas.

Ang isyu rito ay ang "respect for authority". Ang gusto ni Secretary Carino ay ang maibalik ito sa sistema ng ating edukasyon sa kabataan. Napakagandang layunin at hindi dapat sawatahin. Ang kailangan lamang ay ang pagpapa-unawa sa lahat na ang paggalang ay batay sa Gintong Batas (Golden Rule): Gawin mo sa iyong kapwa ang nais mong gawin nila sa iyo. Ang respeto ay nangangahulugan ng muling pagtingin, o pagtingin sa kapwa na parang salamin upang makita natin sa kanila ang ating

GISING!



ni PLACIDO P. DIAZ

mga sarili. Kaya, huwag mong saktan ang iyong kapwa, dahil masasaktan ka rin.

Kaya, bago maitatag ang respect for authority, kailangan munang matuto ang mga otoridad na gumalang, iyon aykung kinikilala nila na hindi lang sila ang may karapatan kundi ang lahat ng tao, maging ang mga sanggol sa sinapupunan. Kung nagrebelde ang mga guro ay dahil sila'y naging api-apihan sa kamay ng mga opsiyal na nanunungkulan at may pananagutan sa paglingkod sa kanilang kapakanan. Madali't-sabi, hindi iginalang ang kanilang karapatan.

Ang karinyo naman ay ang mga mumunting palatandaan ng pagmamahal. Hindi kasali rito ang paglalangis, lalo na ang paghalik sa paa. Ang mga sipsip ay walang self-respect. Walang paggalang sa sarili. Saludo ako sa mga titser na ginugutom ang kanilang tiyan upang matugunan ang kanilang pagka-uhaw sa katarungan. Sa kanilang ginagawa, sila'y nagtuturo sa isip, sa salita, at sa gawa, bilang tunay na mga Pilipino. Sila'y mga bayani sa tunay na buhay, dahil "sa mang-aapi ay di pasisiil." Hindi karapatdapat na si Secretary Carino ang magturo ng paggalang, dahil wala siya niyon. At walang karinyo ang isang mang-aapi.

We Forum

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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

FIRST OF all, I wish to thank my fellow veteran officer Vic Barranco of World War II, First Lt. of Panay military area VI under Gen. Macario Peralta, who later was elected member of the Senate by an overwhelming vote. My dear friend Vic gladly gave me this space in his weekly column. I requested for a space to express my views on veteran affairs. He was aware that my opinions may hurt some people, and some will praise them.

"Go ahead," said Mr. TOWN CRIER. "This is a free country. Blindfold yourself. Brandish your P500,000 shining sharp Samurai sword you seized from a wounded Japanese officer in the thick of battle in Ermita district during a liberation skirmish south of Manila. You exercise your human rights. But no libel, no slander."

From here, Col. Santos F. Agbayani of Bocaue, Bulacan, member of Gen. Alejo Santos' guerrillas, takes the floor: —

I wish to announce that veterans of the USAFFE and civilian guerrillas are now known as Gen. McArthur's Guerrilla Movement. This name just developed spontaneously. Maybe

because of the new citizenship law and regulations in the US. The law gives certain benefits to Filipino vets and their dependents. The name "movement" is appealing. It covers a lot of things, even political affairs, in the 1992 presidential elections for example.

I see that some veterans of WWII and their widows and dependents, estimated around half a million now, 1991, are a great potential voters in 1992 polls. We are quite solid in our loyalties, including political loyalty; let alone guerrilla comrade loyalty.

Filipino veteran supporters in the Senate and House include Alberto Romulo, Ernesto Maceda, Juan Ponce Enrile, Gen. Dionisio Ojeda, Eduardo Pilapil, Rene Saguisag, and two or three others in Congress, such as Mrs. Raul M. Gonzalez of Zambales.

The Philippine Veterans Bank was set to open early in 1990 but the administration and the Central Bank delayed the opening. Perhaps Secretary of Finance Estanislao, was playing politics with leaders in the administration. Estanislao keeps giving confusing statistics on the state of national finances. When he says President Aquino's government is spending less, he gives the 1946 figures. But when he, Mr. Estanislao, says the Aquino budget resources are more, he cites the 1991-1992 inflation statistics. Estanislao's figures are picked at random. His idea is to mislead the taxpayers and voters to give the impression that the finances of the government are in good hands.

Whose hands? Estanislao, of course.

Col. Agbayani still has the floor:

But if Budget Commissioner and National Accountant Caragué has his way, he would have Estanislao stand upside down. Maybe he will go to the extent of showing Estanislao the exit door.

Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo is president of a big bank without a bank. It is the Philippine Veterans Bank without board members. Therefore it is actually non-existent. It is useless. The trouble is that Mrs. Cory Aquino is playing too much politics.

It is a common talk in Veteran circles that the men who controlled the Veterans Bank are going to be reappointed to the bank board of directors again.

That will be politically fatal for Mrs. Aquino, because she is accommodating Marcos men in the PVB.

Col. Agbayani, who is head of the organization for life benefits of World War II veterans, still has the floor in TOWN CRIER. He continues: —

The US federal government has replenished the US\$31 million for veterans backpay and other claims, which fund was spent for other items in Marcos time. As all veterans have realized now, the PVB under the Marcos regime, the American money was spent mysteriously. Now Cory Aquino is urged by our veterans legion to reopen the bank, members of the board of directors of PVB during the dictator-

ship of Marcos are trying to get back into the old Marcos-time board.

This is one reason why Cory Aquino is dilly-dallying on this important matter of reviving the PVB. Cory Aquino is sleeping on this matter which means life and suffering to the poor veterans, to my comrade-in-arms who are getting old and penniless in the remote barrios. Many of those veterans and their dependents are now victims of earthquakes in northern Luzon. Victims of Mount Pinatubo in central Luzon. Victims of floods and famine and typhoon in Ormoc, Leyte.

The continued inaction of Cory Aquino, Secretary Estanislao, of CB Governor Jose Cuisia to revive the PVB and bar the favorites of Marcos from ever getting into the premises of the bank, is a strong reason why the US\$31 million appropriated by the US Federal government for the RP veterans of WWII, has not been actually released by the US authorities from the Philippine Central Bank safekeeping.

My praises and thanks to Senators Alberto Romulo, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ernesto Maceda, Rene Saguisag, and Congressmen Gen. Dionisio Ojeda and Eduardo Pilapil for their consistent support of the cause of us veterans of World War II.

And for their sympathy and compassion to the suffering poor veterans and their dependents and beneficiaries and widows, God bless them.

TOWN CRIER: Amen.

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

A national malady

EVERYBODY, OF course, had expected it, except probably a few who believed that since he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1986, Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan ceased to be a politician. Born into the Briones political clan, Con-Con delegate in 1971, assemblyman during the Marcos regime, and erstwhile LP member of good standing, Fernan couldn't possibly shed off his political colors in his four years in the Tribunal. The decisions he has penned (which are few) may not show it, but his pronouncements and his high visibility in society circles have clearly manifested his ambition to be President. Alert columnists have long demanded Fernan's resignation if only to save whatever integrity is left with the Court. However, it was only last November 23 when he did resign and, worse, his resignation wasn't effective immediately but only on December 7. Which is an ominous date, for on this day 50 years ago the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and ignited World War II in the Pacific region.

Fernan's resignation was long overdue, really. Tato Constantino explained it best in his *Globe* column a month or two ago. Personally, I

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Let's find the gold

I HAVE written extensively about the gold in *Malaya, We Forum*, and the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. A lot of research work at my own expense has been done in the sincere belief that if we have the affordability, we can easily help the poor in our midst since any economic agenda for change will entail tremendous resources.

What did this administration do about my research work and what happened to Joe Almonte's Operation Big Bird which was aborted for reasons only Salonga knows since all the documents on gold and hidden treasures in the PCGG were in his exclusive possession and jurisdiction? The government show is so *palpak* that Salonga even lost some documents in New York and what were those documents, he never bothered to explain to the public as expected of him as then Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

If Salonga was as persistent in finding out what happened to our gold as he was in giving in to the request of *Manila Bulletin* to purchase those sequestered shares at only P39 million which in effect gave Emilio Yap (a minority stockholder at that) tremendous powers thru his puppets and *alalays*, my good friend Joe Almonte, would have been happier in the thought that something substantial has been retrieved. Poor Joe, he just sulked in one corner and wiped away his tears! But you must be happy, Joe, in the thought that you tried. Anyway, there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed at the opportune time, and certainly, Salonga has a lot

of explaining to do to satisfy the public in this regard. Actually, I was supposed to meet Salonga in New York - his telephone number was given to me as I wanted to help the government in the early days of Cory's reign believing that her promises will be fulfilled. But when I went to Hongkong, I learned from my friends in the HKG media that Salonga had been there every week and since Hongkong is a gold market, my auditor's mind became suspicious. Salonga might just use me as a source of information so when I reached New York, I did not bother to call him at all. Later, I concentrated on making researches on the Gold Market in HKG since Gold Certificates can easily be transferred from one hand to another.

Meantime, Salonga disqualified me from cross-examining Atty. Montecillo whom I had asked to be cross-examined in the Manila Bulletin case, since according to him, I am not a lawyer. I have appeared in the Bulletin case hearings before that, to precisely help the Bulletin Employees Union acquire some of those sequestered shares since the books showed that *Manila Bulletin* in its Balance Sheet has a liability reserve for their retirement and this was also one way of honoring the commitment of then Hans Menzi to give one third of the *Bulletin* to its employees. In fact, a Certified Public Accountant is better qualified to cross-examine witnesses when it comes to figures and I have appeared many times before in this particular case without being questioned since anyway I am doing it for free and I even spent about

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

P25,000.00 of my own funds just to help them. Since Marcos had the affordability when he bought those Bulletin shares thru his cronies, maybe Mrs. Marcos and her lawyer can give justice now to the Bulletin employees who were dismissed, retired or resigned, as a result of this case. This is one way of fulfilling her promise to help the oppressed and give justice to the majority who have worked so long for Manila Bulletin. I have intact the records of the case and I am willing to help the oppressed employees even unto death.

Salonga should explain now what happened to the PCGG's search for the gold and the treasures since as a Presidential candidate, he will be asked to account for what he did in the PCGG in his time as Chairman of that agency which he never bothered to do. Public accountability is a must for public officials who are seeking a mandate from the people and the time to explain is now. Or, is he afraid of Emilio Yap who, without doubt, helped him tremendously when Salonga ran for the Senate? (Next week - OPEN LETTER TO MRS. MARCOS)

Fernan, failure in the Supreme Court

THE LDP is also breaking up with the entry of former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan in the presidential race. Now the reject of the Liberal Party has become the "anointed" of Malacañang and His Eminence? Of course there was an immediate disclaimer from the Palace that Fernan is the "man" but many people in the know speculate that it was really President Aquino who titillated the politician from the Supreme Court to announce his candidacy.

Come to think of it, did Fernan not violate the election code when he announced his candidacy with a campaign speech at the Philippine Columbian? I think he violated the law because the period for such announcements could start only on November 28, not earlier. Can you imagine a presidential candidate, a former Chief Justice starting his campaign by having violated the law? *Outlaw kaagad!*

Now will be the proper time to make a debit and credit on Marcelo B. Fernan since he is standing for the highest office in the land. What has he accomplished as Chief Justice, even as associate justice in terms of decisions he has penned in the five years that he sat in the court? Has he penned any landmark decisions worthy in the annals of our jurisprudence? I say none. But more than that, after he became Chief Justice, has he dedicated his time and efforts to his duties in the court? Perhaps it will be worth our while to scrutinize his incumbency, not for what he has done in the court but for what he has done outside the court. I bet you, Fernan spent more time travelling abroad, or going to the provinces on speaking engagements, or addressing clubs and organizations while here in Manila. He has travelled far and wide in the four corners of the Philippine archipelago and to all the corners of the world using public funds in the Supreme Court for

what? For the improvements of our courts or to advance himself to get the proper credentials to run for president? These are questions Fernan must answer to our people.

I wonder if President Aquino has ordered a probe of her relatives who have been linked by Senator Ernesto Maceda to illegal logging activities. She is put to test here because she was the one who announced the "total war" against illegal loggers after the tragedy in Ormoc. Unfortunately and as usual, the President tends to immediately exonerate the people around her, especially her *kamaganaks*. This trait of the president is what gave me the greatest disenchantment when I was Tanodbayan. I tried to investigate and prosecute big names around her but I was always frustrated because of her resistance. To mention just a few - the Jobo Fernandez graft case and the Emmanuel Soriano graft case. And there were many more which I will reveal at the proper time.

It is unfortunate that the peace initiative of General Lisandro Abadia with the RAM-SFP-YOU reached a deadend because of resistance from Malacañang. I know that General Abadia was in the right track and he was gaining the confidence of Colonel Honasan, et al when Malacañang intervened by setting up that deadline of November 23. May be Malacañang has other hidden agendas-for trying to waylay the efforts of the Chief of Staff to bring back into the folds the remaining hardcore of the RAM-SFP-YOU. But it was unfortunate and if Abadia's efforts prove unsuccessful, we have only Malacañang to blame.

No wonder the nation is again agog about the so-called operation NOEL - meaning "no elections". *Kasi* the restive idealistic officers in the military may no longer find waiting for the

May 11 elections tenable because of the muddled political situation and the too much power play even within the ranks of the ruling LDP. It is very manifest that for all of Cory's announcements that she is not running for re-election, indicators are still there that she is bidding her time or that, in the very least, she is going to appoint a candidate that she thinks can protect the interests of her family and relatives with the long shot hope of perpetuating the Cojuangco political empire.

Can you imagine having some 8 presidential candidates? That means a president may be elected by some 8 million votes or less out of our 32,000,000 voters; that means we see the spectre of a minority president between 1992 and 998 which will not be good for national stability. Even Congress will not have a prevailing party in its midst and too many power blocs and compromises will be made. It will not be far-fetched to expect too many horse-tradings and the national weal will suffer. A scenario like that will be ripe for a military adventure and I think we must brace ourselves for that possibility.

Incidentally I was in Balanga, Bataan last Sunday, November 23 where I was one of the guests of the NP (Laurel) provincial dialogue at the Joyous Beach Resort. It was an impressive gathering of about 600 leaders from all towns in Bataan headed by Chairman Cesar Jorge. My assessment in Bataan is that the fight will be between the Laurel forces and the Cojuangco group. The LDPs and the LPs will be the third forces because most of the LDPs have already joined Danding and Congressman Tong Payumo is LP. I think the LP is relatively weak there. In fact I was told that when Senate President Salonga went to Bataan two weeks ago, very few leaders met with him; whereas last Sunday,

IN MY CORNER...



By PAUL M. GONZALEZ

some 600 cheering leaders met with Laurel. Of course it was flattering to be indorsed by the Bataan leaders as their number one senatorial bet, too.

By the way I was told that in Iba, gasoline for the ambulance is being diverted for use of some top municipal officials. I heard that the ambulance driver is always being forced to sign the requisition slip for gasoline *na hindi naman ginagamit ng ambulansiya*. In fact the ambulance, almost always is just parked inside some remote areas in Iba *at hindi naman gamit ng mga pasyente pero may requisition for gas*. *Sino kaya ang gumagamit? At saka pala, saan ba kumukuha ang Iba ng gasolina, sa gasoline station ni Huang? Di kaya graft 'yan?*

There is a public phone in the municipal hall of Iba which, by its very purpose should be open to the people. *Pero* in Iba, people are complaining that they cannot use the phone without the okey of Mayor Huang Wang *kaya* useless 'tong phone as far as the public is concerned. I don't understand why the DOTC installed this phone just for the personal-private consumption of Huwang Wang?

In Zambales there is a new scenario from the convict - he no longer delivers false attacks because he has already relegated the chore to his subaltern Huang Wang. Now Amoritis talks about his life and his destiny *daw* and Huang Wang is the one who attacks me and my wife. *Kaya sa Zambales drama ngayon, puede na*

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KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOSE CRUZ PAPA

KULANG SA karinyo si Education Secretary Isidro Carifio sabi ng ilang matatandang nagmamaisid. Masyado daw matigas ang loob. Ayaw magpatawad. Parang si Cory daw.

Ang batayan ng paninindigan ni Carifio sa pagiging matigas ng loob niya na huwag ibalik ang mga naghu-hunger strike na mga tinanggal na guro ay dahil naniniwala siyang ang mga ito'y mga radical, may tulong pananalapi, at may kakayahang gumawa ng gulo. Ito ay ipinahayag niya sa DZRH nang siya'y kapanayamin ng nabanggit na istasyon. Sinabi din niya na hindi man lamang umaamin ang mga naghu-hunger strike na mali ang ginawa nila. Ibig sabihin'y dapat silang mag-sorry kay Carifio. Ngunit naninindigan ang mga pinatalsik na guro na sila'y may karapatang magwelga

Karinyo ba o kudeta ang kailangan ni Carifio?

ayon sa isang probisyon ng International Labor Organization (ILO). Ang pinanghahawakan naman ni Carifio ay ang desisyon ng Korte Suprema na iligal ang welga ng mga guro. Proteksyon sana ng mga guro ang probisyong ILO. Ngunit natural lamang na ipagwasiwasan ni Carifio ang desisyon ng Korte Suprema.

Saan hahantong ang pagmamatigas ng loob ni Carifio? Hahantong ito sa paglaki ng suporta sa mga nagwewelgang guro mula sa iba't ibang sektor. Hindi alam ni Carifio ay hinahatak rin niya ang paa ni Gng. Aquino sa hukay sa ginagawa niyang kabulastugang ito. Marami na ang nagsasabi na lubuha ito sa puntong maaaring gawing tuntungan ito ng pag-aalsa ng mga rebeldeng makabayang sundalo. Ang KMU at COURAGE ay naglulunsad at naglunsad ng mga pagkilos protesta na sumusuporta sa mga guro. Marami nang pulitiko ang namasyal sa NPC kung saan ay ginaganap ang hunger strike. Iba't ibang "kulay" 'ika nga ang nagpahayag ng simpatiya sa mga guro. Imposible bang magpakita ng simpatya ang mga makabayang rebeldeng sundalo sa pamamagitan ng armadong pagkilos? Tandaang sinabi ni Gringo na

makikihanay sila sa ibang rebolusyonaryong pwersa kapag dumating ang pangangailangang kumilos sila.

Ngunit malinaw din ang tinuran ni Carifio na wala siyang moral obligation kahit may mamatay pa sa mga naghu-hunger strike na guro. Ito'y desisyon ng Korte Suprema at ito'y siyang dapat sundin at ipatupad.

Maghintay tayo ng susunod na kabanata.

May mga nagsasabing ang pagtakbo ni Marcelo Fernan ay pakana ng CIA. Bakit? Kung baga sa laro ng baraha, panggulo si Fernan o kaya'y joker. Ang ganitong papel ay swertehan kung manalo. Ngunit ang isang tiyak na bagay ay wala namang nagawang kabutihan si Fernan sa bayan para siya gawing pangulo ng Pilipinas. Wala raw dungis. Malinis daw at tapat katulad ni Cory, ayon pa rin kay Bea. Kung ganito ang matatalinong tao, doon na 'ko sa mga bobo!

Ang nagawa ni Fernan ay ang pagbibigay desisyon sa "warrantless arrest". Aba'y higit pa itong garapal sa AGSO o PCO noon ni Marcos

na huhulihin ka na lang kahit walang ipakikita sa 'yong papeles. Basta't napuna nilang ikaw ay mukhang subersibo at kung kumilos ay parang subersibo, dadamputin ka na kahit walang warrant of arrest. Marami pang "unpopular" at anti- mamamayang desisyon ang pinamunuan ni Fernan. Ito ay hindi malilimutan ng mahihirap na Pilipino. Tatandnan nila si Fernan at ang kanyang mga kasalanan sa bayan!

May balak na mag-*hunger* strike ang iba't ibang grupo ng mga environmentalists. Nakita nila ang kahalagahan ng ganitong pagkilos dahil mukhang nasasapawan na naman ang imbestigasyon sa pitong libong Pilipinong namatay sa Ormoc dahil sa paglapastangan ng mga pulitiko't opisyal ng gobyerno sa ating kagubatan. Sinasabi ni Factoran na panot na ang kagubatan noon pa mang 1952, ano'ng ginagawa pa niya sa DENR? Dapat pala sana'y reporestasyon ang konsentrasyon ng pamahalaang ito at hindi CARP. Dahil balewala din ang CARP kung lubog na sa lahar at sa tidal wave ang mga magsasaka't mahihirap.

Mahina ang palusot ni Factoran.

Mensahe sa peryodistang Pilipino sa Dekada ng Nasyonalismo

NI SEN. WIGBERTO TAÑADA

(Huling bahagi)

Ngunit ang withdrawal o pullout ng pwersang militar ng Amerika, sa pagsasakatuparan o implementasyon ng rejection nito sa Senado, ay nararapat na maging tapat sa Saligang Batas. Ilan sa mga Senador na tumanggi sa Tratado ang nagsasabing ang withdrawal na ito ay kinakailangang **IRREVERSIBLE!**

Masinsinang tinatapos ang deliberasyon ngayon sa Senado ng panukalang batas sa Baseland Development and Conversion Authority. At dumarami ang mga Filipino ngayon na nakikita na ang potensyal ng kumbersyon ng dating mga base sa kaunlaran ng ating ekonomiya at mamamayan. Malaki ang magiging papel ng base conversion sa pagtatayo ng isang mapayapa, makatarungan, malaya at progresibong Pilipinas.

Sa pangkalahatan, ang aking dinadalang posisyon ay para sa isang taon na kumpletong withdrawal ng *lahat ng military functions* ng Subic; ibig sabihin, sa September 17, 1991, hindi na dapat isang military o naval base ang Subic.

Sa framework ng detalyadong **ONE-YEAR PLAN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY FORCES FROM SUBIC** na aking sinumite kamakailan lamang sa Senado, kay Presidente Aquino at sa Withdrawal Panel sa pamamagitan ni Executive Secretary Drilon, Chairman ng RP Panel, iminungkahi ko ang dalawang *phases* para sa proseso ng withdrawal:

Una — Sa pagtatapos ng taong ito (December 31, 1991), dapat na inalis na ang lahat ng mga sandatang nukleyar at mga non-conventional na sandata. Ang mga tropang pandigma at pang-interbensyon ay kailangang inalis na sa katapusan ng taong ito. Iminungkahi kong ang sapat o *substansyal* na US military forces na permanenteng nakatalaga sa Subic ay dapat wala na sa January 1, 1992.

sa *ikalawang phase*, hanggang Setyembre 17, 1992, pwede pang payagan ang "skeletal

force" ng kalahati sa mga esensyal na civilian employes at technicians ng Amerika na kasama ang kalahati sa mga esensyal na US security forces. Ngunit sa panahon ng Phase I palamang, kaagad na magkakaroon ng joint use "hands on" phase-in ang ating mga civilian technicians at mga Philippine mariens.

Ngunit, sa palagay ko, ang pinakamahalagang bahagi ng **DEMILITARISASYON** ng Subic upang tuwirang mawala na ang pagiging military base nito sa *lalong madaling panahon* ay ang mga sumusunod na hakbangin: —

1. Ang kaagad na pagbubukas sa Subic Bay sa lahat ng lokal at dayuhang barko at eroplanong pangkomersyal na wala nang restrictions galing sa US naval authorities, maliban lamang sa mga awtoridad ng Pilipinas na nasa Customs at Immigration. Saganitong hakbangin, mawawala kaagad ang "exclusive use" ng Amerika sa Subic Bay at mapapabilis ang transpormasyon nito mula sa isang military/naval base tungo sa isang international commercial port. Nakatitayak ako na kung bubuksan ang Subic Bay sa lahat ng pangkomersyal na barko ay higit pang malaki ang kikitain ng Pilipinas sa serbisyo nito para sa ship-repair, ship refueling, ship supply at pati ship-building.

2. Ang kaagad na pagpapatupad sa loob ng pasilidad at base ng lahat ng mga batas ng Pilipinas tulad ng batas sa paggawa, mga batas sa krimen, customs and immigration. Wala nang exemptions ang lahat ng Amerikano, militar man o sibilyan dahil na-reject ang Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) na kasama ng Tratado na magbibigay sana ng exemptions na ito sa mga US military and civilian personnel sa base.

3. Kasama sa mga restrictions na kaagad at mahigpit nating hinihingi ay ang sa sandatang nukleyar bilang pagpapatupad sa ating Saligang Batas. Bakit pa ba ipinagpipilit ng Amerika ang "neither confirm nor deny" policy sa sandatang nukleyar sa loob ng kanilang base habang pinipilit nila ang Iraq at North Korea na

umamin na nga na mayroon silang nuclear weapons? Dapat nang ibasura ang patakarang ito sa anumang bahagi ng ating teritoryo.

Mga kasama't kaibigan:

Kung ibig nating protektahan at ipreserba ang makasaysayang pangyayaring ating natamo sa pag-reject ng Senado sa tratado, tayo, bilang mga mamamayan, ay nararapat na magkaisa muli at aktibong makilahok sa proseso ng take-over at conversion ng mga dating base militar at pasilidad sa ating bansa. Dapat nating tiyakin na ang gagawing pag-aalis ng mga base militar ay magiging mabilisan at hindi maaaring ito ay mabago pa. Asahan ninyong patuloy na ipakikipaglaban natin ang ganap at kumpletong pagpapalis ng mga base militar, ang mga dayuhang tropa, at ang mga pasilidad nito sa ating bansa.

Kamakailan lamang, idineklara ng Malakanyang ang tatlong taong "withdrawal period" na gagawin daw sa pamamagitan ng isang executive agreement.

Hindi sa-sang-ayon ang hakbanging ito sa Konstitusyon. Sapagkat ako ay naniniwalang ang tatlong taong palugit sa pag-aalis ng mga base militar ay magsisilbing isang ekstensyon ng kasunduan sa base militar.

At ito ay itinuturing kong bilang isang patibong o trap ng Ehekubito upang akitin ang suporta ng 2/3 ng Senado sa sinasabi nilang terminal agreement na tatlong taon.

Ako ay tutol sa tatlong taong withdrawal period na iginigiit ng Malakanyang. Para sa akin, ito ay isa na namang pagtatangkang agawin ang tagumpay na ating nakamit noong Setyembre 16 nang tanggihan ng Senado ang Tratado. Dapat ay lalo tayong maging laging handa sa pakikipag legal at pampulitikal at gayon din sa iba't ibang larangan, upang ipreserba at ipagtanggol ang tagumpay na atin nang natamo.

Masakit at masalimuot ang "withdrawal period" tulad marahil ng isang dating drug addict na nakararanas ng trauma at kalituhan sa

panahon ng pagbabago at transpormasyon.

Ang tanging konsolasyong natamo sa pakikipaglaban ito tungo sa kalayaan ay ang paglaganap at paglawak ng kamulatan ng ating nakaraming mamamayan hinggil sa usapin ng iba't ibang aspeto ng pananakop at pagsasamantalang ginagawa ng Amerika sa ating bansa. Ngunit hindi na rin mabawi ang pagtatamo natin bilang isang bansa ng karangalang maaaring ipagmalaki ng bawat Pilipino.

Ito ay isang pangyayaring nakatatok at nakaguhit na sa ating kasaysayan.

Subalit dapat nating ipagpatuloy ang ating tungkulin sa pakikipaglaban upang maging ganap ang pagkamit natin ng tunay na kalayaan. Ayon dito kailangan ang mga makabayang peryodista katulad ninyo.

Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

Mabuhay ang Dekada ng Nasyonalismo!

Max NOBLE (From page 8)

believe Mr. Fernan didn't deserve to be in the High Court; there were many others more deserving, from whom Cory could have picked. What happened to the Court, and what it did, during Fernan's incumbency as its boss prove the likes of me right, I like to believe.

How about the presidency? Does Fernan deserve it best among the eight or so presidential candidates?

The SC justiceship, to be sure, demands better credentials than the presidency of this unfortunate country. Any nincompoop can run for President, provided he or she meets the easy requirements of the Constitution.

However, having been a Chief Justice doesn't necessarily qualify one to be Chief Executive. The job and the problems confronting a President are far more too many, and too complex, to attend to than those of a Chief Justice. (Which is the reason why Cory didn't merit the presidency, and which is one of the reasons why I didn't vote in the snap polls in 1986. Neither she nor Marcos, nor Canoy, was a good choice.)

The national experience under a lawyer-president since Roxas's time should be instructive. I'm not denigrating lawyers (I'm one myself), but I have yet to see one with the qualities of an ideal president. I was still a kid when Roxas and Quirino occupied Malacañang, but what I've read about them isn't flattering at all to them. Garcia's administration was graft-ridden, Macapagal's was spineless, and Marcos's was, of course, dictatorial.

Another lawyer for president? Hopefully, he or she is like Quezon.

And Quezon Fernan is not. Miles away from it. Quezon would prefer a government run like hell by Pinoys to one run like heaven by Yanquis. In his many years as a politician, Fernan has yet to demonstrate his nationalism. He's just like Doy Laurel, who's a far cry from his late father.

Talking of Fernan, isn't it time all lawyers who suffered unjustly, one way or the other, under the Fernan Court stood up and be counted against his candidacy?

There's a time for everything, the Bible counsels us. A time for keep quiet, a time to speak up.

Politics is indeed a national malady. While our countrymen continue to suffer and die in Central Luzon, in Northern Luzon, in Ormoc and suburbs, and elsewhere, politics always takes precedence. No wonder, we've a Chief Justice now gunning the No. 1 political office hereabouts.

Too much politics hurting the country

By JAVIER M. MARQUEZ

FOR A country reeling from one natural disaster to another, the Philippines would have been united in the national effort to cope up with the crisis, avoiding partisan politics that brings more damage than good.

Too much politics, aggravated by political squabbles, is hurting the national effort to normalize the economic condition of the areas greatly affected by the calamities, observers have noted.

Five months after the disastrous eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, not enough rehabilitation centers have been installed, leaving thousands of hapless families abandoned in make-shift shelters now called the "tent cities" in Zambales, the most affected area.

Not a few of the Pinatubo victims have complained that politicians have interfered in the selection of areas where rehabilitation centers had to be put up. Even in the distribution of relief goods, political interference, in some instances, had to play an important role.

That experience, seen in almost rehabilitation efforts in the past, had to be repeated in flood-ravaged Ormoc City, although the gov-

ernment, learning from the lessons of Mt. Pinatubo, tried its best to be on top of the situation.

A team of experts has revealed that a "rare combination of an excessive rainfall, siltation, natural damming, and breakage of dams," caused the recent devastating flood in Ormoc City.

To a layman's point of view, however, illegal logging, which had denuded the once verdant forests of Ormoc, is the culprit. And almost always, politics goes hand-in-hand with the business of illegal logging.

The latest unofficial death count in the Ormoc flood is close to 7,000, and many more are missing and given up for dead.

Since 1975, according to an analyst, natural calamities — typhoon, flood, earthquake, and volcano eruption — which had hit the Philippines, had killed a total of 19,686 people, including the Ormoc fatalities, or an average of 1,200 death a year.

The god-fearing may interpret this as a heavenly warning to a nation where politics seems to have become a potential source of wrong-do-

ings both in the national and local levels.

As a political observer has said after assessing the Ormoc disaster, "the sorry state of our forests surely will be a major campaign issue" in the May 11, 1992 national elections.

This is so because a recent move in Congress to impose a total ban on logging to preserve the Philippine forests was foiled by politicians, some of them are seeking for an elective post in the 1992 polls, who contended that "a sweeping measure would adversely affect the logging industry.

Environmentalists, according to an analyst, consider the steady denudation of tropical rain forests as one of the biggest contributory factors in the degradation of the human environment.

What then is the key to the salvation of the Philippine forests?

As one observer said, the key lies "in pitiless and impersonal law-enforcement and constant vigilance of the citizenry," without succumbing to political influence and greed.

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CEBU CITY — Maraming taga-Ormoc ang nagkukuwenton ngayon tungkol sa mga pangitain o mga bagay na nagsabi ng pagdating ng mapaminang baha noong Nob. 12 na hindi nila pinansin kungdi nito na lamang makaraan na ang trahedyang.

Ang mganakaligtas sa baha, o iyong mga naniniwala sa pangitain, ay nagsabi sa mga peryodista na nagtungo sa Ormoc upang kumuha ng ulat sa trahedyang — o sa ibinunga nito — na nagkaroon muna ng mga pangitain na waring nagsabi ng darating na kalamidad.

Si Adelaida Rojo, 45, ng Hermosilla st., ng lungsod na ito, ay nagsabi na siya at ang marami sa kanyang mga kapitbahay ay nakakita ng krus sa kalangitan may 24 na oras bago naminsala ang baha.

"Hindi namin gaanong pinansin ang kababalaghan," sabi ni Bb. Rojo, "bagamat ang mga mapamahihin sa amin ay nagsabing may masamang mangyayari."

Dalawampu't apat na oras makaraang lumitaw ang krus sa kalangitan, ang malaking baha ay dumating, pumatay ng may 3,000 tao at tumangay sa mga bahay, hayop, mga sasakyang de-motor at punungkahoy.

"Ngayon, pinag-uusapan ng mga tao ang mensahe na ibig sabihin ng krus sa kalangitan," sabi ni Bb. Rojo. "Nguniit huli na ngayon ang lahat."

Sinabi naman ni Lorna Arman, 67, ng Isla Verde, isang arabal ng Ormoc City, na ilang oras bago bumaha, isang imahen ni San Jose ang nahulog mula sa kanilang altar at bumagsak sa isang palanggana na puno ng tubig.

Sinabi ni Bb. Araman na ang isa sa kanyang mga anak ay nagbiro: "Hala, Mama, nalunod si San Jose" ("Ting-

nan mo, Mama, nalunod si San Jose"). na ang tinutukoy ay ang imahen ng santo na nakalubog sa palanggana.

"Hindi ko naisip na ang 'pagkalunod' ng imahen ay tagapagsabi ng baha na lumunod sa libu-libong tao," ani

Bb. Araman.

Isa pang residente ng lungsod, si Lucio Anocete, 58, ang hagsabi na bago dumating ang baha, ang mga gansa sa kanilang pook sa Barangay Ipil ay narinig na nagkakaingay.

"Hindi karaniwan sa mga

gansa ang ganoong pag-iingay sa mga oras na iyon ng araw at nang wala namang dahilan," sabi ni Anocete. "Pero isang erbolaryo sa baryo ang nagsabi na iyon ay masamang palatandaan. At masama nga." (Asian News & Features)

NOBELA

Mga binhi ng banyaga

IKA-9 NA LABAS

NI PLACIDO P. DIAZ

TINIYAK NI Bundol na lahat ng gamit ng banyagang puti ay nasa karosa bago hinila ito palusong sa ilog. Sa tubig siya dumaan upang walang bakas silang maiwan, at hindi pa siya lubhang mabibigatan. May kalahating kilometro ring mahigit ang binagtas niya bago siya nakakita ng lugar kung saan maaari niyang mai-ahon ang karosa at ang lulan nito mula sa ilog at mai-akyat sa bangin. Hiningal din siya at pinawisan nang husto bago naisagawa ang pakay dahil sa lubhang dulas pa rin

Mga patak ng ulan sa kanyang mukha ang gumising kay Frank. Sa ilalim siya ng isang puno sa gitna ng kasukalan. Nag-iisa. Agad niyang hinagilap ang kanyang baril. Wala, pati ang jungle knife sa loob ng kanyang survival pack. Hinipu-hipo niya ang likod ng kanyang ulo na sumasakit sa tama ng kung anong ipinukpok dito. May bukol, subalit walang dugo, walang sugat.

Ayon sa kanyang pocket watch, pasado ala-una na ng hapon. Tumila na ang ulan. Kay hirap talaga ng kalagayan ng isang taong walang magawa upang matulungan man lamang ang sarili. Sana natuluyan na akong namatay kaysa humantong sa ganito, naisip ni Frank. Nakaramdam siya ng gutom, saka lang niya napansin ang mga nakatusok sa lupa na dalawang pirasong kawayan kung saan natuhog

ang inihaw na karne kagaya ng kinain nila ni Lainsya kaninang umaga.

Sa bandang uluhan niya nakalagay ang pagkain kaya hindi niya kaagad nakita. Hindi na siya nahirapang damputin ang mga ito, pinalis ang mga langgam na nagpipista na rito, at sinimulang lantakan. Nang mahirinan, naghanap ng tubig. Nakalimutang malayo na pala siya sa ilog at walang Lainsyang magpapainom sa kanya. Ngunit nasulyapan na naman ang kanyang canteen. Puno ito ng tubig. Kung sino man ang tumangay sa kanya, natiyak niyang wala itong balak na patayin siya. Por lo menos, hindi nang biglaan.

Hindi malaman ni Frank kung matuwa o ma-inis na patuloy pa siyang nabubuhay. Malaki na ang pag-asa niyang makakalakad muli, dahil kahit nakakaramdam pa siyang kirot sa likod, maaari na siyang maka-upo kapag may

ng lupa.

Nagpahinga siya ng ilang mga sandali, saka muling bumaba upang burahin ang kanilang dinaanan sa pamamagitan ng kanyang mga kamay at sa pagsabya ng tubig mula sa ilog. Naglagay siya ng mga bato kung saan siya yumapak sa muling pag-akyat. Walang saysay ang lahat niyang hirap kung masundan sila kaagad at matunton ni Lainsya.

nasasandalan. Subalit ngayon wala siyang magawa kundi ang tumingala sa langit at tanungin ang Diyos kung bakit gayon ang kanyang sinapit. Kailangan niya talaga ang pasyensya ni Job sa kasalukuyan niyang kalagayan. Sinikap na lang niyang maging komportable ang pagkakahiga niya sa karosa na naging permanenteng kama na niya mula nang ginawa ito ni Lainsya para sa kanya.

Nasaan na si Lainsya? Magkikita pa kaya sila muli? Napakalaki ng utang na loob niya sa katutubong babae. Sayang kung hindi lang naman siya makakaganti kahit papaano. Kung papalarin siyang makabalik sa States, buo na ang kanyang plano. Sasang-ayon man o hindi ang kanyang ama. Hindi niya kailanman mapatawad ito sa ginawa nitong pagpakasal kay Evita na halatang gold-digger. Sa kanita na ang kanilang yaman, mapait na bulong ni

Frank.

Tatal, higit sa pangangailangan ng kanyang ina ang allotment ng kanyang sahod na pinadadala rito buwan-buwan. Bakit gano'n ang pagtrato ng kanyang ama sa kanyang ina? Bakit pinaconfine sa isang asilo? Dahil isalawang itong Indiansquaw? Bakit may racial discrimination sa gitna ng mga tao? Hinahamak, tinataboy, inuusig, nilalapastangan ang hindi kauri, dahil magka-iba ang kulay ng balat, ang hugis ng ilong, ng bibig, ang anyo ng buhok?

Naiwan sa tent ang dalawa niyang libro, kaya wala siya ngayong mapaglibangan. Para sa ano nga ba nabubuhay ang tao sa mundo? Kung may Diyos, pinaglaruan lang ba Niya ang kanyang mga nilalang? Natutuwa ba Siya sa hirap at dusa na dinaranas ng mga kagaya niya? Subalit ang utos naman ng Diyos ay

malinaw: Huwag kang pumatay. Bakit nagpapatayan ang mga tao? At ang atas ni Hesukristo sa kanyang mga alagad ay na sila'y magmahalan. Bakit nagdidigmaan din ang mga Kristiyano?

Sakaling iniwanna siyari to upang hindi na babalikan ng tumangay sa kanya, tiyak mamamatay siya sa gutom. Ano kaya ang mangyayari sa kanya pagkatapos ng kamatayan? Mayroon nga kaya siyang kaluluwa? Mayroon nga kayang buhay na walang hanggan? May langit nga kaya at impyerno? Bakit ngayon lang niya hinarap ang mga tanong na ito kung kailan pang wala na siyang paraan upang matuklasan ang mga tugon pararito? Ang tiyak lang ay na walang katiyakan sa kanyang buhay. Patuloy sa pagmuni-muni si Frank hanggang sa siya'y nakatulong.

(May karugtong)

Inner . . .

(From page 6)

management project of Buendia Ave.).

The first three segments, the DPWH said, are financially-assisted by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan while the development of Buendia parallel roads is a World Bank-funded package. The rest of the C-3 project from San Juan to Makati is for implementation with OECF support starting next year.

Contract Package A-1 has a total length of 4.67 kilometers. It involves the widening of about 2.6 kilometers of the deteriorated portion of Quezon Ave. to Sgt. Rivera St.

To date, 63.39 percent is completed and additional work crews, separately equipped and

manned, are being deployed to hasten the completion of the project, DPWH said.

Contract Package A-2 has a total length of 2.4 kilometers. This part of the road project involves the reconstruction of a six-lane road and the widening of Sgt. Rivera St. from the existing 15 meters to 30 meters. To date, 22.36 percent of the undertaking is completed.

Contract Package A-1 is expected to be completed by the end of 1991, while A-2 is scheduled for completion in February 1992.

The traffic management

Nuclear . . .

(From page 4)

there are about 1,000 nuclear warheads in South Korea.

The problem of nuclear weapons, and of biological and chemical weapons, has been lessened with the lowering of

project for the narrow section of Buendia Ave. as a segment of the C-3 road includes the improvement of the parallel roads of Emilia and Malugay Sts. in the north and Finlandia and Dela Rosa Sts. in the south.

tensions between the superpowers.

Other nations have taken steps to remove the threat entirely. Argentina, Brazil and Chile, which, under military

This P41.64 million project also involves the construction of two bridges across Tripa de Galina and the creation of a new railroad crossing near the Buendia Ave. overpass complex, the DPWH said. (ANFI)

governments, threatened to settle their territorial claims with armed fight, have chosen diplomatic negotiations under democratically elected governments to resolve their dispute.

The three South American neighbors have signed a declaration that bans all chemical and biological weapons.

A few countries provide special problems as in the case of North Korea and Iraq. Observers have noted that while Iraq claimed it has only civilian nuclear research facilities, inspectors of the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found otherwise.

The inspectors, ordered by the United Nations under the ceasefire resolutions ending the Persian Gulf War, have revealed that Iraq was well on the way to producing a nuclear bomb.

It was said Iraq's plutonium enrichment capabilities had been successfully hidden during the pre-Gulf war inspections by the IAEA as mandated by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of which Iraq was a signatory. (ANFI)



NOV. 29-DEC. 5, 1991

12



HONASAN: Wala na?

Wala nang kudeta?

NGAYONG 15 rebeldeng sundalo na lamang ang "nalahabing nasa pagtatago," hindi umaasa ang militari na magkakaroon pa ng coup hanggang sa pagtatapos man lamang ng panunungkulan ng Pangulong Aquino sa Hunyo, sa susunod na taon.

Ang ganitong optimismo ay bunga ng tagumpay ni Gen. Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), na mapasuko ang mga rebeldeng militar nang hindi nagpapaputok.

Ito ay isang kahanga-hangang gawananapagtagumpayan ng bata pang puno ng AFP at kinabiguan ng iba pang mga naging chiefs of staff na sina Generals Fidel Ramos,

Renato de Villa at Rodolfo Biazon.

Noong nakikipagnegosasyon si Abadia para sa pagsuko ng mga naghihimagsik na opisyal ng Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), binabalaan siyang dating Defense Secretary Ramos sa "paganib na hakbang na ito."

Ang Pangulong Aquino at si De Villa, ang kalihim ng tanggulan ngayon, ay nasa likuran ni Abadia sa lunggating ito.

Si Ramos, sa maraming taon ng panunungkulan bilang chief of staff ng AFP at kalihim ng tanggulan, ay nabigong mahikayat ang lider ng RAM na si ex-Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan at ang mga kasamang

rebelde nito na magbalik sa saklaw ng militari at makipagtulungan sa pamahalaan.

Sa ilalim ni Ramos itinaas sa P1 milyon ang gantimpala sa ikadadakip ni Honasan at ng isa pang lider ng RAM, si ex-Navy Capt. Domingo Ca-



ABADIA

lajate, pagkaraan ng sumundsud na pagtatangka ng coup laban sa pamahalaan.

Sina Honasan at Calajate ay kabilang sa 15 rebeldeng militar na nagtatago pa, ngunit umaasa si General Abadia na hindi na magtatagal, si Honasan ay babalik sa saklaw ng militari. Sa kaso ni Calajate, hindi siya lubhang optimista.

Sa pagtatagumpay ni Abadia na maalisan ng lakas ang RAM, nagpahayag siya ng pag-asa na ang katatagang pulitikal sa bansa ay magpapatulo, laluna sa dahilang ang mga panliligalig ng komunista at ang mga aktibidad na secessionist sa Mindanao ay nabawasan nang malaki. (Asian News & Features)

Droga galing Burma sanhi ng AIDS sa Asia

BANGKOK — Umaabot sa 3/4 ng lahat ng heroin fa ipinupuslit sa North America at Western Europe ay galing sa Asia-Pacific, 60% nito ay buhat naman sa Burma na isa sa bumubuo sa Golden Triangle. Ang dalawa pa ay ang Laos at Thailand.

Ang produksyon ng Burma sa opium ay umabot ng 2,300 tonelada noong 1990. Dahil

dito, umaabot naman sa \$3 bilyon taun-taon ang kabuuang halaga ng droga na nagmumula sa rehiyon.

Ngunit ang Asia-Pacific ay hindi lamang ngayon malaking supplier kundi major consumer din, na dahilang pagdami ng drug addict at may sakit na AIDS sa rehiyon, ayon sa ulat ng UN.

Sa katatapos na 4th Minis-

terial Conference dito ng ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), ibinigay ang babala na maaaring magkaroon ng epidemya ng AIDS sa rehiyon pagdating ng kalagitnaan ng 1990s. Halos wala pa ito noong 1988 pero sa ngayon ay hindi na kukulangin sa 500,000 ang may sakit.

Ang heroin trafficking na

isinasagawa ng mga dating rebelde sa Burma ay pinapayagan ng ruling military junta upang huwag na silang sumama sa iba pang grupo na nag-aalsa. Para tiyakin na nakikipagtulungan sila sa junta, hinihikayat silang ilagay ang kinikita sa droga sa mga negosyo at propiedad sa ibang bahagi ng Burma.

Buhat noong 1988 nang lu-

muklok sa poder ang junta, naging 23 na ang drug refineries sa Northern Burma, malapit sa China. Ito ay dating 17 lamang ngunit mabilis na nagdagagan sa loob lamang ng anim na buwan mula sa huling bahagi ng 1990 hanggang unang bahagi ng 1991.

Ang numero unong drug trafficker sa Burma ay si Khun

Sa, na may malaking heroin refinery at smuggling network sa hangganan ng Burma at Thailand. Tinatayang \$80 milyon hanggang \$100 milyon taun-taon ang kita ni Khun Sa na ginagamit naman niya sa kanyang Maung Tai Army, isang grupong gerilya na nag-aalsa mula sa Shan state. (Asian News & Features)

Walang trabaho sa Pampanga aabot sa 42%

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga — Sa sandaling isauli nang US sa Pilipinas ang Clark Air Base sa Nobyembre 26, tataas ng hanggang 42% ang bilang ng mga walang trabaho sa lalawigan, ayon sa regional office ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Bago pumutok ang Mt. Pinatubo, ito ay siyam na porsiyento lamang, isa sa pinakam-

ababa sa buong bansa.

Kung hindi maaagapan, inaasahang kasabay na dadami ang krimen at dadagsa sa Metro Manila ang maraming gustong maghanap ng trabaho.

Gayunman, sinabi ng DTI na kung mahusay na maipatutupad ang plano na gawing commercial-industrial complex ang Clark, mapasisiglang-

muli ang ekonomiya sa Pampanga at ibang bahagi ng Region III.

Ayon sa DTI, bentahe sa Clark ang magandang kinaronan nito at ang mga nakatayong infrastructure. Kabilang dito ang 50-megawatt back-up generating plant, complete water storage and distribution system, sementadong daan at kumpletong recreation

Metro Manila are, illegal logging has been going on in the forests around the metro water supply areas posing grave danger to the continued supply of safe water to metro residents.

President Aquino was also reported surprised to discover that many of these illegal loggers are among the heaviest contributors to the majority LDP which supports the Aquino government. (Asian News & Features)

and housing facilities.

Para dito, humihingi ang DTI ng permiso na gamitin ang dalawang mahahalagang lugar sa Clark na ngayon ay saklaw ng Department of National Defense-Philippine Air Force (DND-PAF). Ang DTI at ang DND ang pangunahing ahensiya na magpapatupad ng Clark Air Base Conversion Plan alinsunod sa Memorandum Order No. 394 na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Aquino.

Ngunit nagdadalawang-isip ang DND-PAF na ipagamit ang mga lugar na lio dahil makakaapekto sa seguridad ang pagyayao dito ng maraming tao sa loob ng Clark. Patuloy na nagpupulong ang dalawang tanggapan ngunit hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa magkasundo kung aling bahagi ng Clark ang ibibigay sa DTI. (Asian News & Features)

Nat'l indignation . . .

(From page 4)

already with Factoran of the illegal loggers which was said to include big names in both the government and private sectors. Most of the big illegal loggers had been accused as the financiers of certain top politicians both in the majority and opposition which explains why these illegal loggers had been termed

as "untouchables."

They are also known to have in their payroll governors, mayors, councilors, chiefs of police and provincial military commanders which explains why they go on cutting trees illegally including in government reservations.

Even in the environs of the

World AIDS Day

GAGANAPIN SA Disyembre 1, 1991 ang World AIDS Day para ipabatid sa marami ang tungkol sa nakamamatay na sakit na kumalat na sa Pilipinas at sa maraming bansa. Ayon sa World Health Organization (WHO), tinatayang may 1.5 milyon na sa buong mundo ang may AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), kabilang na ang 500,000 bata. Wala pang nadidiskubreng gamot sa AIDS.

Inaasahang mabilis na dadami pa ang bilang ng maysakit dahil may siyam hanggang 11 milyon na ang nakakuha ng mikrobyo nito na tinatawag na human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Ang mga nakapitan nito ay naglulubha ang kalagayan at nagiging tunay na AIDS sa loob ng 10 taon.

Sa Southeast Asia, ang Pilipinas ang pangalawa sa Thailand sa dami ng may AIDS. Noong 1979-1988, iniulat ng Pilipinas sa WHO Global Program on AIDS na mayroon itong 28 kaso. Nadagdagan ito ng 23 mula 1989 hanggang unang siyam na buwan ng 1991.

Sa Thailand, 119 kaso ang inireport buhat 1979. Ang Thailand ang napili ng WHO na ibilang sa apat na gagamiting experiment station para sa bakuna laban sa HIV. Ang iba pa ay ang Brazil, Rwanda at Uganda.

Binibigyang-diin sa World AIDS Day (WAD) Newsletter na lahat ng tao ay tinatamaan ng AIDS, maging taga-siyudad o tagabaryo. Karaniwan ay mga kasibulang babae at lalaki na sila pa

(Sundan sa pahina 15)

Flowers and bullets in Zamboanga City

By SHEILFA ALOJAMIENTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Zamboanga City, the city of flowers and the commercial hub of Western Mindanao, is envisioned by local businessmen and political leaders to become the other Hong Kong but the prospect is dimmed by perennial bursts of violence.

This southern port city is the highest revenue grosser in Mindanao, next only to Davao City. It has all the appearance of a booming city. Of the 64 major corporations operating in Region IX, 45 are Zamboanga City-based.

Smuggling is also considered as one lucrative business in the southern border's underground economy. Other "traditional" enterprises such as logging and agribusiness continue to flourish in the provinces.

However, Zamboanga's economic growth lags behind a trail of sporadic violence attributed to various armed and political forces, according to a study released by the Muslim Resource and Integrated Resource Center, Inc. (MARID Center).

The city comes next to Metro Manila in criminality with July 1991 registering one dead from gunshot wound in every three minutes. This prompted city Mayor Vitaliano Agan to appeal to media for news blackout on crime stories.

As seat of the Armed

Forces' Southern Command, this city also hosts the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front which is actually well-entrenched in nearby Basilan island.

MARID Center, an independent research office, has coined the phrase "majority chauvinism" to describe how Moros are discriminated. Most of them are migrant-evacuees from troubled areas in nearby provinces.

Of the city's estimated 443,000 residents, 45 percent live in slums. In Magay, lining the wall beside the port area is a squatters' colony. Less than 3 kms. from the commercial districts are the squatter communities of Canelar, Sto. Niño, Camino Nuevo, Luyahan, Boalan, and Tumaga.

A great number of beggars and mendicants are Moro Badjaos displaced from their boatlife by the incursion of commercial vessels, poachers and pirates who had invaded their traditional sailing grounds. Where before they used to be called "sea gypsies," they now have become vagrants in the city.

"While a good number could be found in different sectors of the labor force, they are generally discriminated against by all sectors of the majority population," MARID Center reported.

"Job opportunities open to them are nil and they usually

find themselves in lowest paying posts. Aside from the exploitative conditions in the workplaces, the Moro populace are constant victims of prejudice and majority chauvinism."

The Moro constituency is 40 percent of Zamboanga's populace, creating a precarious balance with the majority non-Moro population.

Moro resistance to this chauvinism often finds expression in violent outbursts as in the Doulos bombing on August 10, 1991 where two foreign missionaries were killed and 35 others wounded.

The incident was allegedly triggered by an anti-Islamic remark of a missionary who called prophet Mohammad a "liar."

While government leaders took turns denouncing the incident as "embarrassing" and detrimental to tourism and investment, ignored was the fact that a great offense was done against a long oppressed and violated Muslim population, MARID Center said.

This pervading anti-Muslim prejudice among largely Christian population is strengthened each time an explosion or any violent incident is imputed on "Moro terrorists" or "MNLFF lost command" — a compulsion which has become standard practice among military spokesmen.

Only last Sunday, two fragmentation grenades exploded at the projection rooms of two downtown theaters showing "Kapag Nag-abot ang Langit at Lupa." Two persons were wounded. Another grenade was lobbed at a third cinema with the same movie but it did not explode. The film is perceived to be anti-Muslim, police said.

Although religious groups and some civic leaders are advocating "unity in diversity" in pursuit of the "Muslim-Christian understanding," Zamboanga City Rep. Maria Clara Lobregat has been campaigning for the revival of Chavacano culture and proposing the use of Chavacano in



RECOGNITION: Dr. Cariño with President Aquino.

IRRI scientist relays messages through songs

LOS BAÑOS, Philippines — Communicating science to farmers requires a special touch — especially when agricultural and environmental messages are put to music.

Entomologist/songwriter Dr. Fernando Cariño of the International Rice Research Institute has composed more than 25 songs and jingles in Filipino to raise farmers' morale and encourage them to adopt improved technologies that increase food production. The songs are aired nationwide on Philippine radio and

television as a public service.

Cariño was recently awarded by the Philippine Department of Agriculture during the 1991 World Food Day celebration in Manila for his contributions in promotional campaigns, especially on integrated pest management in rice. IPM stresses the application of biological and cultural methods, along with resistant varieties to control pests.

President Corazon Aquino reviewed two of

Cariño's compositions during the World Food Day ceremonies at Malacañang Palace. The Maquiling School Choir of Los Baños sang *Ano ang aming kinabukasan, itay?* (What kind of future awaits us, daddy?) and *Magtira naman para sa amin* (Please leave some tress for us). Ms. Maria Christina Alegro directs the choir.

Copies of the songs are available by sending a blank cassette tape to the IRRI Information Center, Box 933, 1099 Manila.

public schools. But the idea of Rep. Lobregat is seen as discriminatory against Muslims and non-Chavacano migrants.

Rep. Lobregat had spearheaded the campaign for the rejection of the autonomy law and the exclusion of Zamboanga City from the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

When MNLFF Chairman Nur Misuari conducted a series of consultations during the 1987 ceasefire campaign, the so-

called "Moro scare" was exploited to the hilt by military propagandists leading to the formation of Mindanao Christian Liberation Front, a clandestine anti-Moro armed group.

Similarly, among Muslims, the anti-Christian sentiment is

heightened by "discrimination and chauvinism," MARID pointed out, "(as this) continue to stare them day to day in the street and as government policy continues to ignore their demands and alienate them from mainstream development."



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

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Quezon through the PBAC invites interested contractors who are duly registered and accredited for the year 1991-1992 to submit Letter of Intent to Participate in public biddings to be conducted for the PROPOSED VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS to be implemented thru deferred payment scheme.

Deadline of submission of said letter of intent will be on December 06, 1991.

P.D. 1594 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended shall govern the conduct of the bidding.

(Sgd.) GERARDO G. MAGAT
Chairman

WE FORUM
Nov. 22 and 29, 1991

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late OSCARR. LAZARO, who died on October 22, 1990 have been the subject of extrajudicial settlement by his heirs executed and docketed as Doc. No. 271, Page No. 55, Book No. VII, Series of 1991, Notary Public Atty. Felix A. Nepomuceno.

WE FORUM
Nov. 15, 22 & 29, 1991

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ADELINA APLORO ROLDAN of 24 Road 7, Pag-asa, Quezon City who died intestate in Quezon City on January 12, 1985 consisting of one-half of the lot covered by TCT No. T-62.370 of the Registry of Deeds of Meycauayan, Bulacan, with Tax Dec. No. 41229-R, located in the Bo. of Sapang Palay, Mun. of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, has been extra-judicially settled and sold by her surviving spouse and five children, entered as Doc. No. 326; Page No. 21; Book No. III; Series of 1991, executed before Carlito V. Sembrano, Notary Public for Quezon City on November 17, 1991.

WE FORUM
Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 1991

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RP's first coop-owned hospital

DAVAO CITY — The country's first cooperative hospital was inaugurated here recently with optimism among the group of Davao doctors who helped bring into reality the concept of the cooperative hospital.

"Now that we are together, nothing can stop us. Perhaps our country may not be in the wastebins of society. It was here that we came together to do something about it," said Dr. Jose M. Tiongco, a member of the Medical Mission Group which catered to poor patients.

Senator Agapito Aquino, in a note he sent for the occasion, also praised the "idealism" of the group of young doctors. "At a time when too many health workers give priority to personal economic gains, you are a rare credit to your profession because you have remained faithful and true to the ideals of your noble calling," said Aquino.

With the establishment of the Medical Mission Group Hospital and Cooperative Services, Inc. in a concrete, three-storey building, low-income earners are able to avail of free medical and hospital services through their cooperatives.

They are also made virtually the owners of the cooperative hospital, through a scheme called the Cooperative Health Fund (CHF).

Under the CHF, members of cooperative only have to pay P1,200 each annually to be fund members, although cash-strapped members are allowed to pay the amount in kind.

The amount is then deposited in a cooperative rural bank which co-manages the fund with the Federation of Cooperatives and the Medical Mission Group Hospital and Health Services Cooperative.

The cooperative hospital at Leon Garcia corner 3rd Avenue Sts. in Barrio Agdao is equipped with X-ray facilities, laboratory rooms and three operating rooms. Its wards are fully-airconditioned.

Fund members can avail of surgery (including brain tumors surgery), free medicines, outpatient consultation, and other hospitalization coverage.

Low-cost health care has certainly gone a long way here since 1985 when the MMG rented a two-story house in Barrio Obrero for use as its clinic. It only had three hospital beds then.

But its "dreamers", as the Medical Mission doctors were called then, still have other dreams.

During the inauguration, guests were told of the plan to establish cooperatives in other fields. Davao-based cooperative leader Pablo Naong disclosed that among their plans would be to establish a low-cost university, and maybe later an airline or a shipping line, that would be operated wholly by cooperatives.

Dr. Jesus Enriquez, a former Commissioner of the Medicare, a government health program, also said the cooperative efforts of the Medical Mission doctors will be made a model in the formulation of the Medicare's Program 2. (Media Mindanao News Service)

World . . . (Mula pahina 13)

namang magpapalaki sa mga susunod na henerasyon.

Ang tema ng World AIDS Day '91 ay "Pagtutulungang harapin ang hamon." Isa sa mga layunin ng proyekto ay palakasan pa ang suporta sa mga maysakit at sa kanilang pamilya at mga kaibigan, at

pawin ang diskriminasyon.

Kabilang sa malaking problema ang mga maling paniniwal tungkol sa AIDS. Inilathala sa isang artikulo sa WAD Newsletter:

"Lumabas sa survey na marami ang nakakaalam na maaaring makahawa ang HIV



PALACE CALLER: President Aquino greets Paris-based Federico Mayor, director-general of the UNESCO, during a courtesy call in Malacañang. Mayor was in Manila to address the SEAMEO INNOTECH international conference at the Manila Hotel last week. Also in photo is Mrs. Federico Mayor. (Malacañang Photo)

IRRI . . . (From page 16)

flooded soils. Any fertile, submerged soil will produce methane.

"Our aim is not to decrease methane production, but to decrease methane emissions."

Increased methane oxidation in rice soils means less escape of the gas, Neue says.

Part of the oxygen that rice plants pull from the air and carry to their roots for plant growth in waterlogged soils

breaks down methane molecules. Some rice varieties bring in more oxygen than others and are thus better methane oxidizers.

"We need a plant with both high oxidation power and high yield potential," Neue says. "A plant that will help the environment without endangering farmers' income."

IRRI scientists have placed 16 plexiglass boxes of 1 cubic

meter each in small plots with rice growing in different fertilizer treatments at the IRRI farm. They open and close, trapping and continuously measuring methane emitted from the fields.

Methane released from organic and inorganic fertilizers will be compared in subsequent experiments, says Dr. Reiner Wassmann, visiting scientist from the Fraunhofer Institute for Atmospheric Environmental Research, Germany. Meth-

ane emissions from different rice varieties and under various water management practices will also be measured.

Methane emissions from rice grown in four soil types are measured in plexiglass boxes in another field project coordinated by van der Gon in cooperation with Wageningen.

Supporting methane emission experiments are conducted in laboratories of the Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute, Louisiana State University, USA.

Raul GONZALEZ (From page 9)

siguro ipagawa ng script at isa pelikula or ibigay natin kay Helen Vela. Imagine? When Amoritis was released on bail from jail, nag motorcade pa at may banda. Akala mo galing sa Olympic games na nakakuha ng medalya, 'yon pala galing lang sa kulungan. And know what? They made hakot of the Aetas from various resettlement sites, dinala nila sa bahay ni Amoritis sa Botolan, pina video that Amoritis was embracing the

Aetas. Mayroon pa raw eksena na sinusubuan nito ang mga Aetas and they wanted to make it appear that he Aetas walked all the way just to be with him after having been jailed. 'Yung mga anak daw ang kumukuha ng video at pictures and they wanted the newsmen present to release the news to papers in Manila. Pati huwad na events gusto pa ipa diaryo.

After the lahar has sort of subsided, now we are threat-

mula sa isinaling dugo. Ngunit 40% ang may maling akala na delikedarin ang magdonasyon ng dugo.

"Sa Africa, may mga lalaking naniniwala na mas ligtas ang makipagtalik sa mga prostitute dahil kapag nagbayad ka ay mapapayapa

ang mga diyos na nagpaparusa ng sexually transmitted diseases.

"May ilan din na nag-aakalang ligtas ang makipagsex sa babaeng mataba dahil mga payat daw ang may AIDS." (Asian News & Features)

ened by sandstorms in Zambales. For days on since last Thursday, sandstorms were everywhere which, again pose a threat to health; even visibility along the highways was poor kaya the sufferings of our people continue. Yes, Zambales has been hit hard by natural calamities and the calamity of a provincial leadership that has miserably failed because it has been marked by abuse, by graft and corruption and ineptitude all the way.

Food for thought: I read these lines inside the office of the Sangguniang Bayan of San

Narciso, Zambales which should describe some charlatans in the Provincial Capitol: "Good work is good relationship, NOT IN WORDS BUT IN ACTION." I say amen.

Incidentally, why is it that in the Iba Cathedral they keep on changing the tunes of the songs at mass? Nakalilito. Maybe there is an amateur composer in the church who keeps on experimenting on new tunes but I think this should be stopped because the church people cannot follow the hymns anymore. The Catholic Church should have one universal tune for its songs at mass, hindi kanya-kanya...

**Make We Forum
a habit**



METHANE EMISSIONS: IRRI soil chemist Dr. H.V. Neue explains how methane emissions are measured.

IRRI studies role of rice in 'warming'

LOS BAÑOS, Philippines — Industry is usually blamed for "greenhouse" gases that warm the earth. But agriculture also contributes such gases to the atmosphere.

Flooded rice fields, which account for 95% of total rice production, emit an estimated 25% of the methane that reaches the atmosphere each year, says Dr. H. U. Neue, coordinator of methane research at the International Rice Research Institute.

Atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas, is 350 parts per million (ppm). Methane concentration is only 1.7 ppm, but a single methane molecule traps heat about 30 times more effectively than a CO₂ molecule, Neue says. Methane may cause 15% as much global warming as carbon dioxide does.

"But farmers can't quit growing rice to reduce methane emissions," Neue says. "Rice is the world's most important food crop. It provides more than half the daily food for one of every three persons on earth.

"Our objective is to reduce those emissions. But first, we must learn more about the process."

Soil and atmospheric chemists are joining forces at IRRI in field and laboratory studies of methane emissions from rice. The first experiment, measurement of methane emissions from fields where fertilizer is applied by different methods, began in mid-September.

The project is part of a 5-year study of how climate change may affect the world's rice crop, and vice versa, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Bacterial decomposition of organic matter in flooded rice soils produces methane. The gas enters the atmosphere in three ways. Up to 80% of the emitted methane passes from the roots up through the plant, which acts as a "chimney." Smaller amounts of methane bubble up to the water surface or diffuse slowly from the soil through the water. Most diffused methane, however, is broken down in the soil and floodwater and never reaches the atmosphere.

"We're interested in the how and why of methane emissions from flooded rice fields," says Hugo Denier van der Gon, collaborative research fellow from Wageningen Agricultural University, Netherlands. "We don't want to change the system without first understanding it."

But the scientists agree that eventually something in the system must change.

"Changing from irrigated lowland rice cultivation to dry upland farming won't solve the problem," Neue says. "Even without rice cultivation, much of the wetland areas would be naturally flooded. And methane emission is a natural process in

(Page 15, please)

We Forum

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NOV. 29-DEC. 5, 1991

P3.00

Lower budget deficit in '92, Carague assures

THE COUNTRY'S budget deficit is expected to be lower in 1992 than in the past two years, according to Budget and Management Sec. Guillermo Carague, as he disclosed that the proposed 1992 national budget of P308.4 billion is only 3.2 percent more than the Congress-approved 1991 budget of P298.9 billion.

In a breakfast forum at the Manila Pavilion last Tuesday, Carague disclosed that the original deficit target for next year was placed at P3.8 billion. This estimate was later revised by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee to P14 billion. The DBM chief, however, said that this figure is up for review when a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is scheduled to arrive in Manila this month.

"This deficit target will be attained despite the damage brought about by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions and the Typhoon 'Uring' disaster because of very tight control over releases of public funds," he said.

The country's budget deficit for 1990 was registered at

P34 billion while the DBM projects it to be at P26.6 billion at yearend.

Meanwhile, Carague said that the 1992 national budget will cover the budgetary requirements for the Local Government Code implementation as well as provide for the rehabilitation of areas affected by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions.

The government agencies which get the largest share of the national budget are the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, P34.5 billion; Public Works and Highways, P21.4 billion; National Defense, P19.6 billion; Interior and Local Governments, P12 billion; Health, P10.4 billion; Agriculture, P7.2 billion; Transportation and Communications, P7 billion; Environment and Natural Resources,

P4.9 billion; state colleges and universities, P4.9 billion; and Finance, P3.7 billion.

By implementing unit, the share of national government agencies total P168 billion; local government units will get P18.9 billion; government-owned or controlled corporations, P8.4 billion; while P113 billion is allotted for debt servicing.

In terms of sectoral allotment, economic services get the biggest portion of the budgetary pie with P66.8 billion; followed by social services at P67.4 billion; defense, P26.3 billion; general public services, P33.3 billion; and debt burden, P114.5 billion.

Carague added that the 1992 proposed national budget will be financed mostly by revenues amounting to P278.9 billion to



SEC. CARAGUE

support about 98.7 percent of the total expected disbursements next year.

To meet this target, the DBM head continued that at least three legislative proposals are being rushed for approval by Congress. These include the adoption of the Simplified Net Income Taxation Scheme, the imposition of an affluent consumption tax and a ceiling on certain business deductions, and the gradual phaseout of the Gross Receipts Tax. (Asian News & Features)

NAST to give 3 awards on science

THE NATIONAL Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) announces that it will give three awards on science in 1992. The awards are (1) Outstanding Young Scientist, (2) NAST-Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Science Prize and (3) Philippine Science Talent Search.

The three awards are open to young scientists who have made significant contributions to science and technology developments.

The Outstanding Young Scientist awards will be given to young scientist who was born not earlier than June 24, 1952 and holds at least a bachelor's degree in one of the following fields: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences, Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, and Health Sciences. The awardee will receive a trophy and a cash award of P10,000.00 from NAST.

phy and a cash award of P10,000.00 from NAST.

The NAST-TWAS Science Prize will be given to young scientist who was born not earlier than June 24, 1952 and holds a degree in Mathematics. The awardee shall receive a cash award of US\$2,000.00 from the TWAS and a plaque from NAST.

The Philippine Science Talent Search will be given to young scientist who was born not earlier than June 30, 1957 and who excels in his/her field of science and technology study. The winner will be given a cash prize of P7,000.00 and a trophy. He will also be nominated to the ASEAN Young Scientist and Technologist award which is scheduled in September 1992 in Singapore and which carries a cash prize award of US \$5,000.00.

The nominations for the first

two awards should reach the NAST Secretariat at the TAPI Mezzanine Floor, DOST Complex, Bicutan, Metro Manila not later than 31 December 1991. The nominations for the Philippine Science Talent Search should reach the NAST Secretariat not later than 31 January 1992.

Official nomination forms are available at the NAST Secretariat's Office.

Meanwhile, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) announces it will hold the 14th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Academy (ASM) on 24 June 1992 in Metro Manila. The ASM is the venue to bring together scientists from all over the Philippines to exchange ideas and compare notes.

NAST calls the scientists from different disciplines and

sectors to present scientific papers and posters in the ASM. Those interested may submit not later than 31 January 1992 the titles and abstracts (100-200 word) of their papers and posters to The Chairman, 1992 ASM Program Committee, National Academy of Science and Technology, TAPI Bldg., DOST Compound, Bicutan, Metro Manila.

Papers dealing with state-of-the-art topics and/or techniques will be given priority.

Acceptance by the Academy of titles and abstracts of the papers/posters submitted will be issued on or before 15 February 1992. The full paper will be expected on or before 31 March 1992. Authors of papers accepted for presentation during the ASM will be informed by 30 April 1992.

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