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We Forum, vol xiii No. 168 - Feb. 21-27, 1990

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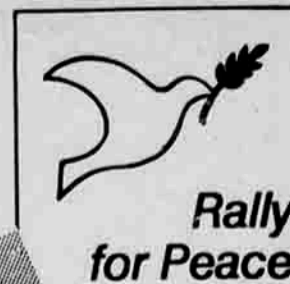
Burgos, Jr., Jose, (1990). We Forum, vol xiii No. 168 - Feb. 21-27, 1990. *Arch̄ium.ATENEO*.
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We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally
for Peace

VOL 13 * NO. 168

FEBRUARY 21-27, 1990

P3.00

IN METRO MANILA

HOUSE HITS PCGG

COCO MESS

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Tougher days ahead
for RP, Asian
economy--Page 15

Organized labor
presses for P23
wage hike--Page 16

National coalition
government urged
(Guest editorial)

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UNEASY PEACE
IN NEGROS--Page 13



PEACE CARAVAN: The message is peace.



HOW LONG: A market vendor tends to her wares, unaware that the long dry spell is giving nightmares to farmers who produce what she sells. Soon, there may not be enough vegetables to sell because of the drought. Story on page 16.

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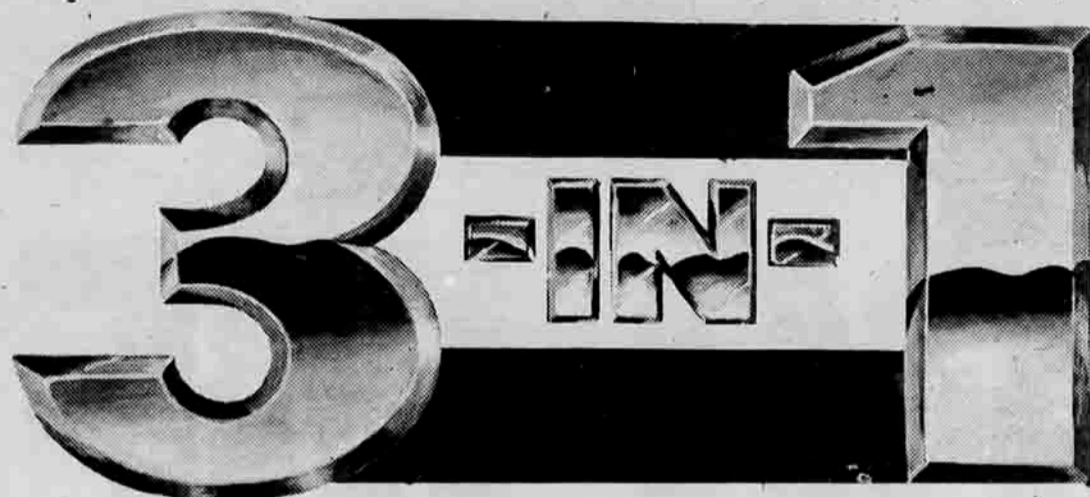
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Isang tiket lang, maraming makkinabang.

House hits PCGG benefits from coco farmers' shares

By ERIC S. GIRON

WHY IS the Presidential Commission on Good Government holding on to the shares of 1.4 million coconut farmers in the San Miguel Corporation and the United Coconut Planters' Bank when the Commission on Audit has confirmed that the PCGG revalidation of the sequestered shares confirms the farmers' ownership of the stocks?

And why has the PCGG for the past three years barred "the rightful representatives of the coconut farmers" from representing and voting the 31 percent SMC shares?

House Resolution No. 1665 sponsored by Rep. Bivenvenido O. Marquez, Jr. (LDP, third district, Quezon province) and signed by 151 congressmen seeks the restoration of the shareholding of the coconut farmers in the SMC and UCPB. It takes to task the PCGG on the ground that "the coconut farmers complain that the present Administration has failed to adopt measures for the promotion of their welfare and to restore to them rights and benefits due them under existing laws."

Marquez assailed the PCGG for continuing to vote the sequestered shares despite the findings of its own revalidation that confirms the farmers as the legitimate shareholders. The PCGG sequestered 705 million shares of the United Coconut Planters' Bank or 94.4 percent of the bank's total outstanding common shares on suspicion that these were owned by Marcos.

The farmers had the top 385.9 million shares (51.6 percent), E. Cojuangco, Jr. and Companies held 132.8 million shares (17.7 percent) and Eduardo M. Cojuangco, Jr. had 54.1 million shares (7.2 percent) as of October 1987.

The scandal dates back to the dissipation of a

whopping P9,695,400,000 raised from the coconut levy under Marcos' presidential decrees from August 1973 to 1982 when the levy was suspended. The levy collected by the Philippine Coconut Authority and Cocofed (Philippine Coconut Producers' Federation) proved to be a methodical exploitation of coconut farmers who were supposed to benefit from the billions of pesos collected from copra which were dissipated in projects not related to the coconut industry, cash advances for an elite group, and subsidies without receipts or accounting for favored groups.

Unaccounted-for millions of pesos went to an Imelda Romualdez Marcos Scholarship Program that was never carried out, the Miss Universe Pageant, World Chess Championship, Integrated Social Services, "Maligayang Pasko" Project and other levy deficiencies amounting to P454,600,000 which remains unsettled. A P10 million fund earmarked for the Cultural Center of the Philippines and P5 million for the Philippine Youth Health and Sport Center in 1977 were not accounted for.

The coconut levy, declared private by law, was a trust fund owned by 1.4 million farmers who, with dependents, numbered 15 million or one-third of the population.

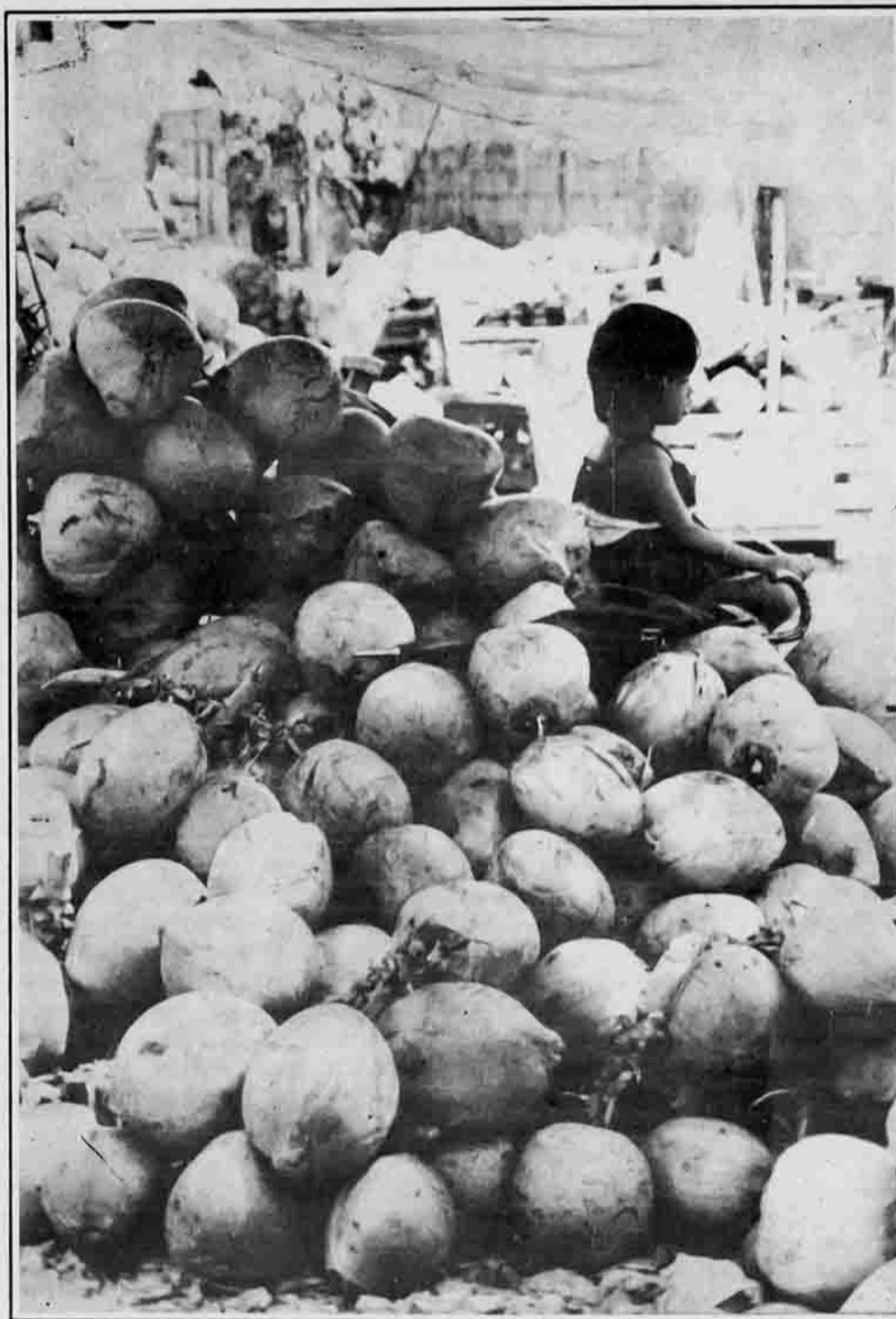
In spite of questionable disbursements, all the in-

vestments made with the P9,695,400,000 which were divided among the PCA, United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom), Cocofed, UCPB administration of P4,753,845.13 (49 percent) balance in the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, Insurance Fund, Debt Service Fund, and Coconut Industry Development Fund jointly with PCA and Cocofed, and P23 million to PCA, Cocofed and UCPB for a census of coconut farmers and close to P6 million for subscription deposits netted millions.

Rep. Roger G. Mercado in early 1989 exposed the deposit of the coconut levy collections "in commercial banks, interest free and were not subject to accounting and audit as they were decreed private funds" in his special ad hoc committee report to the House.

Mercado reported: "Cash advances were drawn and issued to directors ostensibly for organization of chapters and census of members but which were actually more of junkets. The fund raised by the coconut levy has been exhausted with the coconut farmers receiving insignificant and negligible benefits with no visible improvement of the coconut industry."

The PCGG revalidation of the sequestered shares using UCPB funds of P8.62 million in 1987 and 1988 showed 51.8 percent of the UCPB is owned by the farmers. The Commission



COCONUT FUNDS: Messy.

on Audit confirmed the farmers' 31 percent ownership of SMC shares bought for P1.6 billion which are now worth P12.5 billion and that their investment of P108 million in UCPB is worth P900 million at book value.

"Since it took over UCPB in 1986, PCGG has refused to hold elections despite the persistent clamor of the coconut

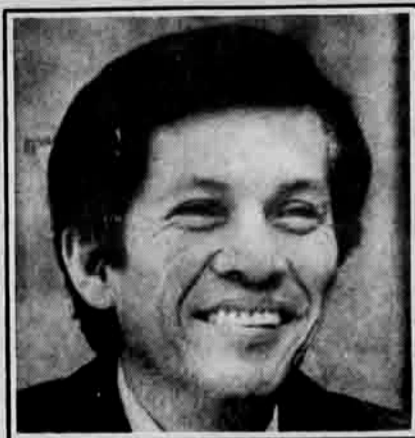
farmers," Marquez said. "The rightful representatives of the coconut farmers have been barred for the past three years from representing and voting the 31 percent SMC shares of the coconut farmers."

The House resolution seeks PCGG affirmation of the ownership by coconut farmers in their private capacities of shares of stock registered in their names

and held by them in UCPB and other entities in which the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF Companies) including 14 Holding Companies invested their 31 percent outstanding capital stock of San Miguel Corporation.

It demands that the coconut farmers' legal rights to shares of stock in

(Next page, please)



ENRILE, COJUANGCO, LOBREGAT: Anti-graft raps.

UCPB, SMC and the CIIF Companies be respected by the PCGG and to desist from interfering in the voting and representation by the coconut farmers of their shares of stocks in the entities.

ANTI-GRAFT RAPS

Solicitor General Francisco Chavez¹ has filed charges of violation of anti-graft and corrupt practices act against businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr., Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, Rep. Maria Clara Lobregat, Rolando de la Cuesta, Jose R. Eleazar, Jr., Jose C. Concepcion, Danilo S. Ursua, Narciso M. Pineda, and Augusto E. Orosa, for allegedly conspiring in the "siphoning" of P840,790,000 from the Coconut Industry Development Fund to the Agricultural Investors Inc. (AII), a corporation owned by Cojuangco.

The Coconut Industry Development fund created by presidential decree on Nov. 14, 1974 to finance and operate a hybrid coconut seednut farm was deposited with the Philippine National Bank and was managed by the National Investment Development Corporation (NIDC), whose chairman was Enrile. The NIDC entered into an agreement with the AII which offered to put up the seednut farm in Cojuangco's Buksuk Island in Palawan.

Chavez cited that the contract protecting the Cojuangco-owned AII from any loss or damage whatsoever and requiring the

NIDC to pay AII for liquidated damages in case it failed to perform any of its obligations was a one-sided deal benefitting only AII. The NIDC was bound to pay for P1.4 million development costs despite AII's failure to perform its functions.

A Marcos decree issued in June 1978 creating the Revised Coconut Industry Code placed NIDC with the United Coconut Planters' Bank headed by Cojuangco as trustee of the Coconut Industry Development Fund. In 1982, when Marcos lifted the coconut levy, the only source of CIDF funding, the UCPB ended its contract with AII.

PCGG ANOMALIES

Rep. Marquez exposed PCGG irregularities in managing the UCPB and SMC:

- 1) Transfer of UCPB funds to PCGG of P35 million from 1986 to 1989;
- 2) The purchase of two Mercedes Benz cars by PCGG appointees as UCPB chairman and president a month after they took office;
- 3) Criminal charges filed with the Ombudsman against the UCPB chairman for using UCPB funds in world travels with his wife and house repairs;
- 4) The PCGG carting of 240 boxes of documents from UCPB under suspicious circumstances in 1989; and
- 5) The purchase of P35 million worth of UCPB shares by Chua Lee Keng despite a PCGG policy bar-

ring transfers of stock.

Marquez bared that the San Miguel Corporation continues to pay for a P500 million loan made by SMC Chairman Andres Soriano III to personally acquire the coconut farmers' 31 percent shares. This was questioned before the Securities and Exchange Commission for "lack of care, breach of fiduciary duty, disloyalty and unlawful acts." The sale was aborted but SMC continues to pay for the Soriano loan.

Marquez accused the PCGG of conspiring to use 5.5 million shares of the coconut farmers' 31 percent SMC holdings as arbitration fee to the PCGG in the settlement of the dispute arising from the sequestered shares. Marquez demanded congressional investigation of the "serious irregularities" in order "to demonstrate our political will that misdeeds in government must be eradicated."

Rep. Roger G. Mercado's ad hoc committee earlier recommended only one national organization of coconut farmers and the abolition of all others, a remedial law to declare coconut levy funds as public funds subject to accounting and government auditing; and a law to recover unliquidated advances and holding the recipients of the cash advances accountable for all amounts received.

Since the coconut levy is a trust fund involving 1.4 million farmers and a total of 15 million people with their dependents, "the fund is impressed with

public interest and hence should logically be subject to public scrutiny or public audit," said Raul C. Flores, supervisor of the COA team.

COCONUT LEVIES

Republic Act 6260 passed June 17, 1971 imposed 55 centavos on every first domestic copra sale of 100 kilograms until P100 million was collected in a period less than ten years. The Cocoland collection begun in 1972 reached P158 million plus interest in 1982. The money was deposited with the Philippine National Bank in the name of the private Coconut Investment Co. incorporated by Cocoland in 1982.

Cocoland originated from the Coconut Planters' Association of coconut planters, producers and owners organized March 27, 1947, which became the Philippine Coconut Producers' Federation Inc. on March 21, 1956. Through a Philippine Coconut Authority resolution, the government recognized Cocoland as the sole representative of the coconut farmers in accordance with RA 6260.

However, the national officers and regional directors of Cocoland led by its president, Maria Clara Lobregat in 1977 were identified as big landowners, businessmen, politicians and ex-politicians. Not one of them was a coconut farmer, it was claimed.

When copra and coconut oil prices abnormally soared in the world market in 1973, raising the prices of

coconut-based cooking oil, laundry soap and filled milk, and the prime commodities started disappearing from supermarket shelves, the private sector proposed a subsidy scheme. This resulted in PD 276 issued August 20, 1973 authorizing a second levy from funds of copra exporters, millers and the like but not from coconut farmers as in RA 6260.

PD 276, amended by PD 414, established the Coconut Consumers' Stabilization Fund to subsidize coconut-based products at Price Control Council prices, to refund any premium duty collection in part or as a whole, and to invest in coconut processing plants, search, development, and extension services. The CCSF levy consistently increased from P15 per 100 kilos of copra to P25 on Dec. 17, 1973 to P55 in January 1974 and to P100 in May 1974.

Initially CCSF subsidized the sale of coconut-based products and was paid to Procter and Gamble Philippines, Philippine Manufacturing Corp., Philippine Refining Company and other manufacturers of cooking oil, laundry soap, etc.

The scope and purpose for which the coconut levy was originally established was expanded by Presidential Decrees 582, which financed a hybrid coconut seednut farm, and 755 authorizing PCA to use levy funds to acquire the First United Bank for coconut farmers in July 1975 which became the United Coconut Planters' Bank when incorporated in 1963.

Entitled to shares in the UCPB were around 435 small coco farmers' organizations with 9,000 members. The PCA target was to enlist 1.4 million coconut farmers holding farms ten hectares or less in size. The CCSF and the Coconut Industry Development Fund were not special and/or fiduciary funds nor part of the national government's general funds but were "authorized for the

benefit of the coconut farmers... in their private capacities."

This was contained in Article III, Section 5 of the Coconut Investment Code (PD 961 on the financing of the Cocoland and PD 1468 on the financing of industries and commercial enterprises related to coconut and palm oil industries and the Coconut Farmers' Refund constituting pooled resources of coco farmers). The Marcos decrees favored salting and favoritism while coconut farmers were deprived of legitimate benefits.

The funds that should have gone to the farmers were invested in a fabulous P40 million Coconut Palace overlooking Manila Bay where Mrs. Marcos entertained her celebrity friends, a Super King Air 200 twin-engined plane in 1979 purchased for P11,849,071.29, its repair at P1.17 million. It was sold and where the proceeds went was not reported.

Some P23 million was allocated for a farmers' census by Cocoland, of which the P3.6 million balance was absorbed as operating expenses without receipts. Cocoland purchased a helicopter at P7.55 million in 1982 for business operations and spent P1.53 million for repair and maintenance in 1984-1986. There were several other disbursements for cash advances, public information, investments, P5.85 million performance bonus to corporate and management officers and one not officially connected with Cocoland in 1980-85 of which P600,000 remains unaccounted for.

The Marquez resolution proposes to restore to the coconut farmers their rights and their shares in the SMC and UCPB, which the PCGG now holds. Whereas before, the different coconut organizations dissipated the coco farmers' funds, now it is the PCGG that is being accused of irregular disbursements. This skulduggery has been going on since Marcos' time. It's about time it is resolved.

RP-IMF LOI ADDENDUM

'Anti-poor, anti-people'

(Privilege speech of Sen. Alberto G. Romulo, Feb. 13, 1990)

MR. PRESIDENT,

Last week - Feb. 5 - one morning paper carried the seemingly innocuous news item that the Philippines and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had finalized an addendum to the March 20, 1989 Letter of Intent and Memorandum of Economic Policy.

Yesterday, we were informed that the Addendum with Supplementary Memorandum of Economic Policy have since been signed, sealed and delivered to the IMF.

Let us recall, Mr. President that the original Letter of Intent/Memorandum of Economic Policy was signed on March 20, 1989 by Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez.

Let us recall further that said original Letter of Intent/Memorandum of Economic Policy was signed and sent to the IMF after the Senate in a closed-door meeting on March 16, 1989 decided to endorse the government's four-year economic program in exchange for the new money and debt reduction package from the commercial banks, the launching of the Philippine Assistance Program and the restructuring of the Paris Club loans.

Let us also recall that the Senate was not unanimous in endorsing the original Letter of Intent/Memorandum of Economic Policy.

In the closed-door meeting of March 16, 1989, "No" votes were cast by at least seven (7) senators - Senators Joseph Estrada, Teofisto Guingona, Sotero Laurel, Orlando Mercado, Juan Ponce Enrile, Victor Ziga and Alberto Romulo.

Finally, let us recall that the thirteen (13) senators who voted to accept the Letter of Intent and the

Memorandum of Economic Policy did so "with reservations."

Among the factors that perhaps swayed our thirteen (13) colleagues to accept the LOI/MEP "with reservations" were the assurance of the then Secretary of Finance and the Central Bank Governor of a review of the program every six months, consultation with the senators, and the then about-to-be enacted legislation on the Joint Legislative-Executive Foreign Debt Council.

To this effect, the Senate President had issued the following statement:

"The Senate has expressed its desire to be involved in every way from now on and the approval of this conference committee report gives an opening to the Senate to be involved in the implementation of or in any dissent from the program.

"We would like to have a say in the review that will be held every six months. This will be part of an ongoing consultation process with the executive department."

Alas, Mr. President, though a consummation devoutly to be wished, this commitment to consult was not to be.

In spite of the assurance to consult in the semestral reviews, the Secretary of Finance and the Central Bank Governor did not see fit to do so. Perhaps they conveniently forgot, before



SEN. ROMULO: Championing the poor.

they signed and sent the Addendum/Memorandum to the IMF.

Without any consultation with the Foreign Debt Council, Congress and/or the Filipino people, the debt negotiators sneaked the Addendum/Supplemental Memorandum to the IMF, two unelected government functionaries boldly committing through the LOI Addendum and Supplementary Memorandum the lives and fortunes of 60 million Filipinos to a regime of more taxes, heavier debt service and austerity budgets.

Parenthetically, Mr. President, the functionaries' sneaky and tricky posture sort of reminds us in a fashion of another negotiating team in another era.

Almost 50 years ago, Mr. President, while Japanese envoys Kichisaburo Nomura and Saburo Kuruwere verbally assuring the US Secretary of State Cordell Hull of Japan's peaceful and neighborly intentions, the Japanese Navy was also busy preparing a carrier fleet-launched sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

Well, Mr. President, Japan's Dec. 7, 1941 sneak attack on Pearl Harbor under the code word "TORA TORA" is now remembered in history books as the "Day of Infamy."

And like Mr. Cordell Hull and the US Fleet at Pearl Harbor, *mukha po atangnatoratorangtaong bayan ni Jobo at Tingdito sa LOI Addendum at Supple-*

mentary Memorandum.

Mr. President, aside from the assurance of consultation given to the senators, the Constitution is clear and unambiguous:

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

To this end, Congress had enacted RA 6724 providing for the organization of the Joint Legislative-Executive Foreign Debt Council.

To carry out the Constitutional mandate on the right of the people to adequate consultation, section 3(h) of said RA 6724 specifically requires the Foreign Debt Council, inter alia, to facilitate nationwide consultations and public hearings on the foreign debt.

For as enunciated in section 1(4) of said act: "The people should be adequately informed and consulted and their support mobilized at all levels of the policy formulation process through dialogues, public hearings and media."

Mr. President, this consultation process may be tedious and inconvenient to the likes of Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez.

Nevertheless, Mr. President, it is the law. It is part of the democratic process. It is a sine qua non as it would involve those who are most affected by the economic decisions being made and whose

support must be mobilized - the people.

Also it is not for Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez to ignore or short-circuit the law at their convenience or for two unelected factotans consultation and consent to commit the Filipino people to pull their belts even more tightly around their emaciated bodies to endure more impositions from the foreign banks and the IMF.

Moreover, Mr. President, as important as the Constitutional and legal mandate of consultation and dialogue are the contents and substance of the Addendum and the Supplementary Memorandum itself.

For the Addendum and the Supplementary Memorandum speak of "important policy actions ... being taken to ensure that the economy returns to the program path."

What, pray, is the program path?

How does the program path improve equity and social justice?

How will the curtailment of expenditures affect social services and economic goods?

Will full debt service including those pertaining to the crony and behest loans continue to enjoy seniority over the goals of poverty alleviation, generation of more and productive employment, enhancement of equity and social justice?

Mr. President, while the Supplementary Memorandum reiterates the government's medium term objectives and 1990 targets, in particular to sustain real growth at an average rate of 6.5% while lowering in-

(Next page, please)

flation to about 6%, certain policy actions to be undertaken in 1990 and during the medium term are, to say the least, quite disturbing.

Let me just cite three specific examples.

One - The increase effective Dec. 1, 1989 of domestic petroleum prices was a commitment to the IMF to deregulate oil prices.

Deregulation means that upward changes in the international price of crude oil and the peso exchange rate will henceforth be borne directly by the consumers and the public. Since the price of crude oil in the international market is expected to rise sometime this year and the peso to further depreciate, we can expect during the year higher oil prices at the pump/retail level, higher prices for basic commodities and more inflation.

Two - To enhance the net income position of the Central Bank, the national budget will absorb Central Bank losses during the period 1990-1992 starting with P5.1 billion in 1990.

As of Dec. 31, 1988, total deficits of the Central Bank in three suspense accounts amount to over P200 billion.

The accounts and the corresponding deficits are shown in Box A.

Since the national government deficit is targeted not to exceed 1.7% of GNP for 1990, expenditure curtailment to accommodate the Central Bank losses will mean reduced expenditures for such social services as health care and education and such economic goods as farm-to-market roads, irrigation and rural electricity.

Three - The IMF's country report underlines the Philippines' "impeccable record of discharging its obligation to the Fund and the authorities' firm

intention to continue to make timely repayments."

Time and again, all our four (4) debt negotiators to a man without exception have stressed the need to maintain the country's credit-worthiness and debt service payments come what may.

This ensures that above all else, expenditures curtailment will not affect the integrity and seniority of debt service. In other words, full debt service including those pertaining to crony and behest loans remain sacrosanct and "untouchable."

No matter that interest payments alone would constitute 5.1% of GNP in 1990, or triple the 1.7% deficit target for 1990.

No matter that the 1987 World Bank Report estimated that Third World countries have repaid with interest at least twice over all original loans incurred by said countries.

No matter that in absolute numbers, the Philippine debt service is estimated at \$3.854 B in 1990 rising to an average of \$4.500 from 1991 to 1993 and to an average \$5.5 B in 1994 and 1995.

Indeed, to cite the comment of the Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs on March 14, 1989,

"... the program is by bankers for bankers, aimed at achieving financial ratios, rather than genuine development of this country and its people. At best, the program seeks GNP growth, possibly at the expense of the equity of that growth."

In our view, Mr. President, on the basis of equity and poverty alleviation considerations, the policy actions contemplated in the Supplementary Memorandum are decidedly anti-people, and anti-poor even as they are pro-creditors



IMPOVERISHED FILIPINOS: No benefits.

and pro-rich.

Other LOI-related issues just as cogent should also be raised. (See Box B)

What all these issues underscore, Mr. President is the need for full and extensive people consultation.

Whether in Congress or through the Foreign Debt Council, the views and voices of the people must be heard and heeded.

Let us never forget that both the elected and unelected officials of government hold office at the pleasure and with the consent of the people.

Let us never forget that both the elected and unelected officials of government are paid by the

Box B

The debt reduction package, etc.
The new money package, etc.
The Philippine Assistance Program, etc.
Revenue mobilization, etc.
Gross International Reserves, etc.
The exchange rate and the peso, etc.
The public sector deficits, etc.
Power and utility rates, etc.
Interest rates, etc.
The negotiators and appointments to key economic positions, etc.
The debt cap and the repeal of the automatic appropriations clause, etc.

people, through the aches, pains and hard work of millions of workers, farmers and fishermen.

The people even pay for their bodyguards, their cars, their planes, their foreign travels, even their 5-star hotel and restaurant bills in New York, Washington, Paris, London and Tokyo. In fact, the people are paying for the bills of the bankers we negotiate with.

And yet without consultation and their consent, the Supplementary M.E.P. would deprive the people of their jobs and livelihood, food for their malnourished wives and children, clean and potable water for their families,

classrooms and books for their children.

We must remind Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez and those who would take their place again and again that in addition to the Constitutional and legal provisions on people participation and consultation, that social justice is the cornerstone of the Constitution itself.

To this end, Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political

power for the common good.

To this end, the state shall regulate the acquisition, ownership, use and disposition of property and its increments.

To this end, labor, agrarian and natural resources reform, urban land reform and housing, health, education, women and children all have vested and prior claims and rights to the use and disposition of all government resources and holdings.

To this end, the national budget, the treasury and all government resources must at all times give precedence and priority to the needs of the people.

It is in this light, Mr. President, that a full inquiry, scrutiny and review must be held on the contents and substance of the Addendum to the Letter of Intent and the Supplementary Memorandum of Economic Policy for the period 1990-1992.

This much we owe to our people - to fight for what is rightfully theirs.

Nothing less. Nothing more.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Box A

Monetary Adjustment A/C	P 34.688 B
Exchange Stabilization Adjustment A/C	49.819 B
Revaluation of International Reserves	<u>125.255 B</u>
	P209.762 B

For a national coalition government

THE CORY government is not only colonial, anti-nationalist, subservient and mendicant in orientation. In pure and simple terms, it is a government established for and in behalf of foreign interests, whether American, Chinese or Japanese. Never in the Filipino national interest. And yet this government has the gall to preface its every single act in the name of "national interest". O, national interest, how many crimes have been committed in thy name.

This government is no longer a case of mismanagement of the affairs of the state and the national economy. It is outright sell-out to the foreigners. It has not only favored foreign interests through colonial policies but has completely opened the country, its natural and human resources, to plunder and depredation. And to top it all, it has allowed them to desecrate our National Honor and Dignity as a people.

At no other time in our history has our society been racked by so much disunity, vindictiveness and divisiveness which this government has further exacerbated and even fomented. The danger of a bloody civil war gripping the country has never been more imminent. It uses the mailed fist policy against the CPP/NPA/NDF, RAM-SFP, the MNLF-BMA and mere opposition groups without looking into the root causes of rebellions and coups. It is so simplistic and incompetent in tackling the problems of insurgency, rebellion and dissension that instead of solving them, they have further fanned the flames of rebellion, nay, revolution.

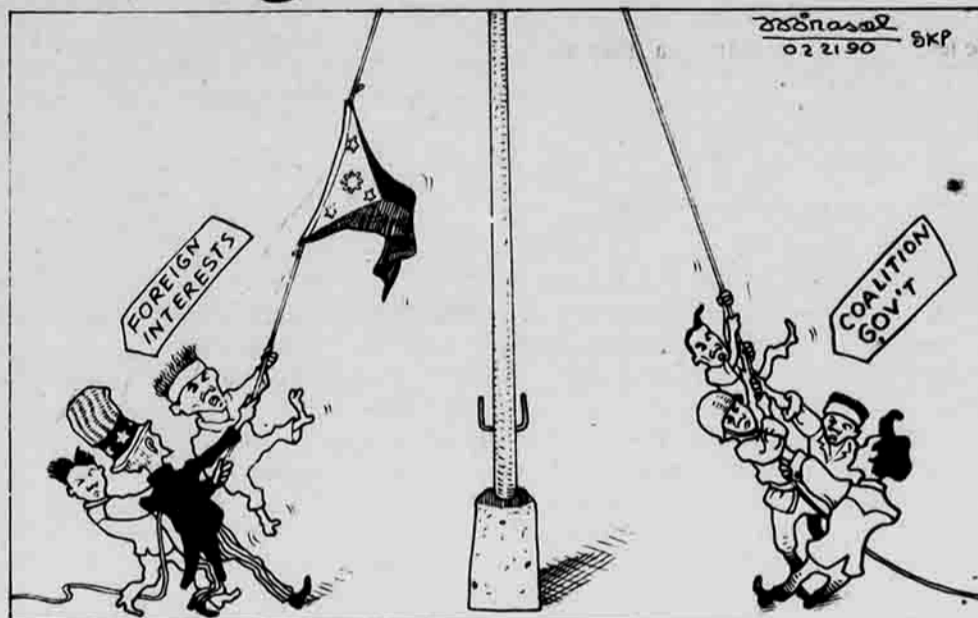
There is so much suffering and exploitation both in the cities and the countryside. The peasants and workers together with the urban poor bear the main brunt of the unbridled manipulation and rapacity of foreign corporations and cartels. All these with impunity and even with the naked support and direction of this government. The growing Filipino entrepreneurial class has just received the final deathblows as a result of rabidly pro-foreign policies. For those who have no recourse but to work in foreign lands, the government lifts no finger to protect them but instead connives with foreign principals to further exploit and dishonor them.

In the light of this present tragic situation, we need not waste more words to further elaborate in details its urgency, its relevance and implications for all of us Filipinos. Now is the time to act and we should not act alone but in complete unity of both thought and action.

It is the firm belief of the Kilusang Pilipinismo (KP) that we should unite all forces and sectors in Filipino society who have the Filipino national interest at heart. Not to act in the midst of these sufferings, oppression and exploitation is a crime, a heinous crime. We owe it to the future generations of this country to do our level best at a time when it is possible to save the country from perdition. The Kilusang Pilipinismo urgently calls, therefore, to establish a NATIONALIST COALITION GOVERNMENT of unity, reconciliation and competence. But in order to do this, we have first to dismantle the colonial Cory government of disunity, vindictiveness and incompetence.

The Kilusang Pilipinismo offers its humble services, lest we be misunderstood, to help bring together the different sectors and forces of our society into a NATIONAL DIALOGUE that will thresh out our differences and work towards a vision that we can all share. A vision of a NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT representing all sectors and forces that will truly work for the national interest. A vision of the government that is competent in handling the affairs of the state and the national economy.

The Kilusang Pilipinismo offers the following points of discussion for a NATIONAL AGENDA. An agenda for a people's congress where the alternative leadership and an alternative government will ultimately emerge in the most democratic and peaceful way. This is the only alternative we have



to an impending bloody civil war. The KP, therefore, calls upon all forces and sectors in Philippine society including the CPP-NPA-NDF, RAM-SFP-YOU, PKP-HMB, MNLF-BMA, PDSP, BISIG, MIM, CPLA, CPLF, LDP, NP, LP, KBL and all the mass organizations under their influence to set aside our differences and work towards the forging of a national consensus for an alternative leadership and an alternative government. The KP proposes a NATIONALIST COALITION GOVERNMENT as an alternative to a colonial government.

The following are the points for discussion in the proposed NATIONAL DIALOGUE in a NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS which the Kilusang Pilipinismo presents as its initial offer. We expect other groups to respond to our call and send in their proposals to the National Secretariat of KP.

1. Struggle against all forms of imperialism, foreign control, plunder, oppression and exploitation.
2. Struggle against all forms of sectarianism, provincialism, regionalism and factionalism.
3. Struggle against all forms of foreign ideologies that are responsible for our disunity and an impending civil war.
4. Unite all armies and armed forces under the coalition government to destroy all forms of foreign control, oppression and exploitation.
5. Establish a government that is truly representative, genuinely democratic and under Filipino control especially for our Filipino workers, peasants, urban poor and other sectors in Philippine society.
6. Work vigorously for the emergence of a truly Filipino culture that shall establish our identity and greatness as a reflection of our supremacy in our politics and economics.
7. Work relentlessly for the industrialization and modernization of the economy of, by and for Filipinos.
8. Destroy all foreign criminal syndicates, organizations, fronts, cartels and enterprises employed by foreigners against the national interest.

The Kilusang Pilipinismo sincerely hopes that the various sectors and forces in Philippine society that will hear this call will answer in the positive so that we could start right away our NATIONAL DIALOGUE as a preliminary step towards the establishment of a NATIONALIST COALITION GOVERNMENT of unity, reconciliation and competence. Also, we have to unite immediately to dismantle the colonial Cory government of disunity, vindictiveness and incompetence.

We Forum

MEMBER



PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

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

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Solgen should prosecute Westinghouse case

THE KILLER earthquake which hit a wide area of the Visayas adds to the many ill omens being predicted for the nation. Even Jean Dixon has made some chilling predictions on President Cory for 1990 and all those seers who made predictions during this year of the horse are becoming relevant. I am sorry about that killer quake which added to the miseries of our people. If you ask me, I would rather that Mrs. Aquino visit the quake areas than her sortie to North Cotabato which was a clear political trip. That was more like an answer to the SOS call of candidate Candao.

I am aghast at the reports that Malacanang is titillating Senator Rene Saguisag to quit the Senate to become the prosecutor in the Westinghouse case. I hope Rene will not fall into a trap here. *Bakit wala na bang ibang maka-prosecute ng Westinghouse case na yan?* Why not task the Solicitor General's office to handle it? Why ask someone who has been mandated by the people to be their senator? The Westinghouse case is not that complicated, if you ask me, and any dedicated, studious prosecutor can handle the job. I have gone over some, if not most of the documents in the case when Rene asked me and Senator Tito Guingona to join the panel during Cory's 1986 US visit and I know it is not that difficult. *Ibigay ninyo kay suspender Frank so he can hit the headlines again.*

As of February 9, the exchange rate of the peso to the US dollar was P22.60 to \$1 and still dropping. With the announcement of

Finance Secretary Estanislao that he is for further devaluation of the peso, it may be safe to conclude that sooner than later the peso will drop to P23.00 to \$1. *Pahirap ng pahirap, kaya* if you will be asked: Are you better off today than before EDSA, the answer may not be too difficult to make.

"Nothing is forever" - Jobo Fernandez. *Yup, kaya umalis ka na diyen.*

"30,000 state workers to be laid off" - news headline, February 12. Secretary Ruben Torres, what can you do about them? So 30,000 more jobless, 30,000 more people angry at Cory Aquino; 30,000 more people who may have thousands of dependents to dream of snap elections. It seems that problems after problems follow the President everywhere, giving truth to the truism that "disaster does not come singly but in flocks". Yes it is not just raining, it is pouring.

The Aquino-Galman trial reopened and closed last February 5. I don't know if the entry of Mario Ongkiko has made any headways for the prosecution against a determined defense group with the likes of Rudy Jimenez.

Is the Philippine government so scared of the Arabs that we cannot even raise diplomatic protests against the beheadings of many of our workers there? I think we appear impotent because of the dependency of our country on Middle East oil but we have diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia so

serious steps should be taken to look into the plight of our workers who are sentenced to death by beheading in that cruel State. If you ask me, I would also run hammer and tongs against any Saudi Arabian who commits crimes in the Philippines.

Veritas newspaper, published by the Cardinal's trusted people, ceased publication after EDSA but it has made a comeback like General MacArthur. *Veritas*, it will be recalled, flourished during the remaining years of the Marcos rule; now it is coming back, is this another omen again that this regime is already on its exit? Strange coincidence. *We Forum* staffers were ordered arrested towards the decaying period of the Marcos rule, now Joe Burgos, et al have also been arrested, but this time under Cory's rule.

Just asking: Is it true that the people who did the revision of ballots of Governor Deloso, in the protest filed by Mario Magsaysay, are being paid by the Provincial government and not by Deloso personally? I was very reliably informed that several "casuals" in the Provincial Capitol are doing nothing but work in the protest case against Deloso. I think this is wrong. Paging the Provincial Auditor of Zambales.

Our Dr. Uy - the Tom Dooley of Zambales who has been roaming the remote hinterlands to minister to our needy, for free, failed to capture one of the Rizal Awards but I was told by one of the committee members that he failed to get it by a very slim margin during

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

the voting. He will again be considered next year. I am a bit disappointed because I have seen how Dr. Uy dedicates his time, energy and resources to assist our poorest of the poor and when I examined the credentials of those who won, I know that our own Dr. Manuel Uy is not far behind. Perhaps those who won may not have even gone to the areas - so remote, so depressed, so challenging as the areas in Zambales Dr. Uy has visited. Anyway, one gets disappointed sometimes but it is not the award that gives the true reward. It is in the satisfaction and fulfillment one feels inside that he has done service to his fellowmen and on this score, Dr. Uy will get his recognitions and rewards.

The 1st Provincial Convention of the League of Barangay Councilmen of the Philippines (Zambales Chapter) held at Maloma last February 10 was a resounding success. Despite attempts by some politicians to boycott the convention, more than 1,000 delegates came. Headed by Alvaro Barretto, the convention did not get any support from provincial officials but it went beyond expectations. The program went smoothly, the speakers spoke with erudition and authority and the councilmen gained a lot for one day.

Gold & Mayor Lacson's Dreams-45

DOCUMENT MARKED M9 has these handwritten notes:

I - New York - City Bank - Precious Metal Dept.

Philippine Airlines - Airwaybill C-15-10536

October 1973

Contents: 72 crates at 24 pieces per box

(75 kgs.)

Commodity Size - 4" x 4" x 18"

Forwarded to New York - thru

PAN-AM-AIRWAYBILL No. J-555-0386

CODE - BRA - AAA 2171 Acct. No. D 747-4

November 1973

Contents: 12 crates of 24 pieces per box

(75 kgs.)

MG - CODE No. 22818 - CB

Box Dimension L-25" - W 19" - H - 1

Wt. per box - 1,800 kgs.

Total Value - 47911392

Insurance Plan - 211,500

Air Freight - 51,912

II Hong Kong Commercial Bank Ltd. The (HK-side)

V - C-1341 - 2 - 75 kg.

C-1342 - 2 - 75 kg.

Last Payment for Vault - Jan. 14-86 OR # 5960 - Safety Boxes Dept.

III PO SANG BANK (HK-side)

V-137 Moshler - 1000 pcs. 75 - 18 pcs. 12.5 kg.

Acct. No. 555-20135 - Vault arrears 4 years

Document marked M 10 has these handwritten notes:

Switzerland

Code Bra - AAAA

Code MG # 22818 CB

Airway - 5-55-0918

Series of 1982 27,000 tons

New York - Air Freight 51-912 2 box

Kilograms 1,800 Total 47,911,392

Part tax

Code BRA - 000 C

Code MG - No # 221818 CB

Waybill No # 5-55503926

Series of 1984 = 47,000 mt.

Document marked M 12 has this information also in handwritten notes: Airwaybills PAN AM Hongkong as of October and November 1973:

1 - Airwaybill No. J-555-03896 - Singapore

2 - Airwaybill No. J-555-03918 - Switzerland

3 - Airwaybill No. J-555-03926 - Fort Knox

4 - Airwaybill No. J-555-03861 - N.Y.

Document marked M111 is a summary of a total of 1,130,000 MT with various banks, corresponding bank officers and positions, negotiators, incentives and supply code. All these information are being printed as is without any comment.

Last week, however, I had a call from a stranger whose voice I seemed to have heard before. Since he did not introduce himself

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

beyond saying that he is Johnny Matapat which I believe is only an assumed name, let's just call him JM.

Of interest to readers of this serial is JM's allegation that this group of Maria Gosilatar, et al are plain swindlers and should not be believed. JM continued to say that we really have plenty of gold amounting to something like \$903 billion but that these gold should properly belong to the Filipino people and this administration cannot be trusted so he is looking for a real leader who has no personal interest whatsoever. JM promised to meet me when he comes back from a trip abroad with all the documents marked "For Your Eyes Only." Much has been written about the gold yet up to now, no government agency has come out with real figures on our gold. Let us see what documents JM has in his possession that may give light and much hope to the suffering masses. (To be continued)

PEOPLE'S FORUM



DENR Rejoinder

THIS REFERS to a column item in the February 9, 1990 issue of Punny Lines by Mr. Fundador Soriano.

We appreciate his punning. However, we feel these should be based on facts. We refer

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WOMAN SENSE



by PURA SANTILLAN-CASTRENCE

USSR's promise

TAMWORTH, AUSTRALIA -- This weekend news summary from *The Australian* carries with it (as far as the little Philippine part of it is concerned), a hope and a challenge. The news I refer to has to do with the Soviet Union's having fulfilled its promise to dismantle Cam Ranh Bay of its arms. Gorbachev has been acting, so far, true to his word -- and not only with respect to Cam Ranh Bay (note the turn of events in Afghanistan, for instance, in which the United States must be given due credit for cooperation). Now that arms had been withdrawn from the Vietnam base, the United States' and that of its siders' argument of Communist threat is considerably weakened. The story that Ambassador Narciso Reyes' speech at ASEAN suggesting that an "exchange of Cam Ranh Bay for Subic and Clark might have given the Russian head of state the self-same idea for the solution of that special doubt, bears repetition. And now the dismantling is indeed a fact. Will the challenge be taken by the United States? Will the hope of Filipino nationalists at last be fulfilled? Will the United States leave Clark and Subic voluntarily?"

The seethe of nationalism is very strong all over the world today. It is sweeping angrily everywhere, and has the full sympathy of peoples from all parts of the world. Even Panama draws sympathy for its indignation against United States intervention, in spite of its involvement in the sins of its notorious strongman, Noriega. Gorbachev is having the time of his life, giving due attention to the people's natural feeling of nationalism and, at the same time, not disuniting the Soviet federation.

So, perhaps the Soviet move in Vietnam may cause a stir. And the stir is not only in the US government, but among us Filipinos who continue to think against all rules of self-respect and self-dependence than we cannot do for ourselves. We need friends, but not controllers of our national destiny.

It is understandable how the moves of former hard-line Communist satellite countries towards greater political freedoms have made a number of opinion-makers in the West suggest, indeed, conclude, that Communism is on its way out. This conclusion is, of course, further strengthened by the almost impossible obstacles Gorbachev is trying to overcome to make *glasnost* and *perestroika* work. Obviously, hard compromises have to be made. He is working against time

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The flood of freedom

PERESTROIKA OR reform, freedom is rushing like a flood in Eastern Europe and now inside Russia. Poland is free, the Berlin Wall has fallen, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania have driven off their Communist masters. Moscow, the citadel of communism, openly decided to share powers.

Why? Because after 74 years of totalitarian control, Gorbachev and his reformers finally realized that centralized planning and dictatorship had caused severe economic difficulties.

The phenomenon in Russia and Eastern Europe is not only a revolt of the stomach. It is also an uprising of the conscience. The people want to be free, to chart their own destiny.

Here in the Philippines, the trend is on the opposite direction -- against the flood of *perestroika*. Our economic planners and policy makers prefer centralized planning, centralized policies, centralized economic control -- meaning cartels, trusts, monopolies by a few.

Typical examples are Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, the rice cartel, shipping, movies, manufacturing, agriculture, retail, department stores, liquor, cigarettes, etc. This is the communist way, the Marcos way of control.

But why did we allow our economic life to be controlled by the cartels, the syndicates, the monopolies, the Chinese, multinationals? Several reasons.

Marcos had imposed his dictatorship too long, the people made numb, they just

followed, sinking deeper in misery and fear. Until EDSA liberated them.

Why did President Aquino not adopt a grander path to *perestroika* after the gates were opened by Edsa? One possible reason: She was born, reared, educated in wealth. The upbringing is to preserve that wealth, as much as possible expand it, never to share it.

Another reason is that the Chinese in Cory is showing in every activity, every decision. Stick to Chinese traditions -- work hard, expand the business, till you corner the market, the monopoly.

That is the Chinese way. While Eastern Europe and Soviet Russia are opening up, China is hiding deeper into her isolation. That refusal to change was demonstrated last June by the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Cory has surrounded herself with people who think like her, people against competition, people who love monopolies, cartels. It is no wonder that in three years of Cory we have sunk deeper in mud, ballooning trade deficits, corruption, double-digit inflation, high prices, acute shortages of rice, fish, corn, salt, cement; hunger is chronic in the countryside, a surplus of insurgency and coups.

Cory has adopted some palliatives, cosmetics. Beg and borrow -- but the proceeds are generally siphoned off to the cartels, the favorites. There was a Cabinet revamp -- but the inner core of monopolies, trusts, multinationals and Chinese are still in place.

No swan song for this paper

I JUST couldn't believe it, but Joe Burgos' memo was clear: "Effective February 15, 1990, *We Forum* will cease operations as a daily -- Monday to Friday -- due to insurmountable financial problems."

I immediately called up Joe. No, he said, we're not closing shop altogether, we'll continue as a weekly.

The memo's again before me. "We are sorry we failed in our venture. We tried our best and kept slugging through the end. We bow out from the struggle proud that we have continued to pursue *We Forum's* mission with integrity, commitment to our cause and vision and dignity."

That's more than enough consolation.

It's truly a sad commentary that independent papers like this have to fold up. Independent in the true sense of the word.

I'm sure *WF* readers will rue what has befallen their paper, except perhaps the readers of Malacanang. Did I hear them laughing?

In joining the public condemnation of the rape of a DPWH casual committed by, according to the Naga City tabloids, a congressman, former (on leave?) Tanodbayan Raul M. Gonzalez said Camarines Sur has five

congressmen. No, Justice, the province has four. Now, since you said it couldn't be your *tocayo* Raul Roco, then who of the three? Or is it some other guy? As a Camarinense, I'm concerned.

The poor girl is said to be from Bula, Camarines Sur.

Retired Muntinlupa police chief and penitentiary warden Adriano Lopena was taken aback at the sight of provincial guards in Pampanga drinking beer during office hours last February 12. "I'm not surprised anymore," he said, "why there was a jail-break here last year." Two men died in the riot, according to reports. The provincial jail is just a stone's throw away from the provincial capitol. Governor Guiao, are you there?

My friend Judge Gualberto de la Llana is a maverick. He it was who questioned the constitutionality of B.P. Blg. 129 (the Judiciary Reorganization Act). Lately he went up to the Supreme Court again to ask it to stop President Aquino and the Senate from serving notice to the US Government on the termination of the RP-US MBA before September 1991. I wonder what his boss, Ombudsman Vasquez, will say about the Judge's petition.

LET THERE BE LIGHT



by JUAN G. FRIVALDO

Cory has repeatedly campaigned against corruption -- but only in words and press releases. The Big Fish, the untouchables are untouched.

How long can Cory last? Hopefully up to 1992. But some people have doubts. She has to hang on to somebody. Possibly the military to prop an administration rapidly losing credibility. But the armed forces is badly divided and full of holes, awash in graft. Why not appeal to America? Too much talk and excessive belligerence had widened the gap between Washington and Manila. You don't slap the face of a man with your right hand, a bowl on your left.

Cory can call on China to help. Easy there again. The backlash of Tiananmen Square is still hot. China is still crawling out of her isolation and badly trying to throw off economic sanctions by the West and Japan.

Looks like the best and only hope for Cory is the Filipino people. Go back to Edsa, give the people what they fought for against Marcos, adhere to your campaign pledges. Corruption -- *sobra na, tama na*; peace, justice for all, no cronyism; concern for the poor; enlightened leadership, progress. In short, back to the basics.

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

For all his shortcomings, Judge de la Llana would, in my opinion, make a good Ombudsman. He'd not hesitate to catch that elusive Big Fish of the Cory Government.

I've just read a well-researched article in an American magazine saying that American industries boom best when the US Government is at war: WWII, Korea, Vietnam. It won't therefore be surprising if the CIA engineers some war in a Third World country, which will serve as an excuse for American intervention "in the name of democracy." Like it or not, that country could be this one.

It would do well, perhaps, for His Honor, Mayor and MMC Chairman Benjamin Abalos to go slow in his threat to impose sanctions against Metro Manila councilors opposed to the MMA. The creation of MMA

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Laughter at the Bar (and Bench)

RETURNING FROM the funeral of his beautiful wife, the widower was disconsolate.

"I know how deeply grieved you are," his lawyer said, "but you're young and in time you will forget. You'll meet someone else with whom you will share real happiness."

"I know, I know," said the husband. "But what about tonight?"

"I have seven children and I've just found out my husband has never really loved me," said the distraught woman to her lawyer.

"There, there, my dear," said the attorney. "Just imagine the fix you'd be in today if he had."

One corporate lawyer we know allows his secretary to schedule all his appointments because he knows she's great on dates.

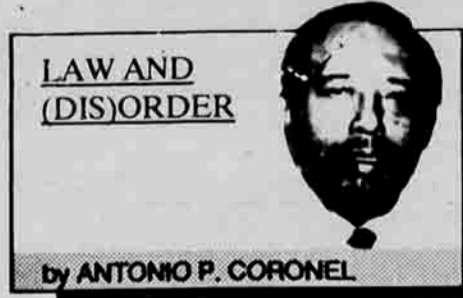
The Ford Motor Company once carried out an investigation into the causes of crashes involving their cars. One of the results was the interesting statistics that ten percent of the accidents involved collisions with lamp-posts, which led to the logical conclusion by the company lawyer that the country's lamp-posts generally are badly positioned.

In 1972 a French medical student at the University of Marseilles shot dead one of the teaching staff. Asked to explain his action, he told the police that the tutor had been a hindrance to his medical career.

Nasa'n si Andres Bonifacio?

KAHIT NA ano'ng itawag, Partido, Kilusan o Katipunan, ang mahalaga'y pinamumunuan ng mga mahihirap na Pilipino ang anumang kilusan tungo sa pagbabago. Naniniwala ako na hindi magtatagumpay ang anumang kilusang pagbabago saan mang larangan, sa burukrasya, sa militar o sa pulang mandirigma kung ang namumuno rito ay binubuo ng mga pulitikong Asendero, mga mayayamang burgesya, at mga "karrerista't oportunistang makabayan". Pinatutungkulan ko ng mga salitang ito ang kapwa nasa pamahalaan at mga nag-aalsang pwera sa ating lipunan.

Kasaysayan ang nagpatunay na ang mga mayayaman, nakapag-aral, (ang iba ay sa ibang bansa pa) mga karrerista, mga huwad na makabayan ang sumira sa ating hangaring mapalaya ang ating bayan noon pa mang panahon ng mga Espanyol. Ang mga elitistang ito na nakapasok sa rebolusyonaryong kilusan ang siyang kalawang na dahan-dahang nagwasak sa mithiin ng rebolusyong 1896. Ang mahirap na taga-Tundong si Andres Bonifacio ay minata at minalit ng mga masalapi na nasa liderato ng Katipunan dahil sa siya ay isang hamak na mahirap-bodegero lamang. Ngunit kasaysayan din ang saksi sa taal na talino ni Bonifacio sa pakikidigma at pag-oorganisa nang paghirapan niyang buuin ang Katipunan ng mga



LAW AND (DIS)ORDER

by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

A divorce was granted to a Danish woman after a court heard how her husband had stripped her and chased her through the streets, slapping her bottom with a heavy sausage - because she had burned his supper.

The fright of his life was put forward by a motorist as the excuse for a moment's erratic driving on the North Diversion Road. He had been driving along normally, he told the court, when a goat suddenly jumped on to the seat beside him. This unexpected arrival caused him momentarily to lose control and he drove the wrong way round a traffic island.

LEGAL APHORISMS

No matter which way you spit, it's up wind.

Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans.

The less there is between you and the environment, the more you appreciate the environment.

Due to a lack of trained trumpeteers, the end of the world has been postponed indefinitely.

Anak Pawis. Kinilala rin ang kahusayan niya sa taktika sa pakikihamak sa mga Espanyol lalo pa't kung isasaalang-alang ang kalamangan ng mga Espanyol sa bilang ng mga sundalo nito at armas. Subalit hindi ito nagustuhan ng mga burges sa loob ng Katipunan. Naramdaman nilang nasasapawan ang kanilang "career" bilang mga "rebolusyonaryo" at kailangang mawala sa landas si Bonifacio na ipinagtagumpay naman nila.

Ang dugo, paninindigan, pananaw ng mga huwad na makabayang ito ay dumaloy hanggang sa kasalukuyang panahon natin. Nasa iba't ibang larangan sila ngayon. Katulad ng binanggit ko, sila'y nasa pamahalaan, militar at mga kilusang naghihimagsik. Tiyak kong wala sa kanila ang tapat na pagmamahal sa mga mahihirap tulad ng dalisay na pagmamahal ni Bonifacio sa kauri niyang mahihirap. Nando'n sila para gampanan lamang ang kanilang tungkulin. Para mapatunayang ang ibinigay sa kanilang tungkulin ay magagampanan nila at masisiyahan ang kanilang mga "boss". Kahit ito'y laban sa mamamayang Pilipino. Takot silang kumontra sa mga "boss" nila sapagkat malalagay sa alanganing katayuan ang kanilang "career" (kung sa pamahalaan at militar) at "revolutionary career" kung mga "makabayang kilusan" ang paguusapan. Kung sa militar ay may nag-aambisyong maging

nately.

Climate is what you expect. Weather is what you get.

The longer you sleep with your dream girl, the harder it is to kiss her good-by.

There's no point in worrying about apathy when you can't care less.

"Love for Sale" may not be a bad song title, but in commerce, it would constitute a misrepresentation of services.

Love is like a pair of socks - you have to have two, and they gotta match.

The trouble with resisting temptation is it may never come again.

Natural laws have no pity.

The bee fertilizes the flower it robs.

When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.

There are no absolute answers to life - just revelations.

One stone is a stone; two stones are a feature; three stones are a wall.

Time is nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once.

Bad weather reports are more often right than good ones.

A path without obstacles probably leads nowhere.

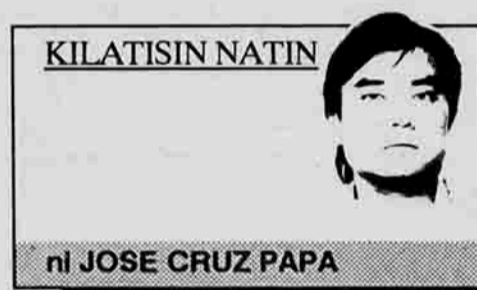
No matter which way you ride, it's up hill and against the wind.

A bird in the hand betokens mutual trust.

A chicken doesn't stop scratching just because the worms are scarce.

Faith is the bird that sings while it is still

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KILATISIN NATIN

ni JOSE CRUZ PAPA

Heneral ang isang tinyente, gayundin sa lahat ng uring kilusan. Kaya't gagawin ng mga ito ang lahat (manira, intriga, asinasyon) upang makamit nila ang ninanasang posisyon at korona sa ulo. Nakalulungkot.

Wala sa kanila ang paninindigan, pananaw at tapang ni Andres Bonifacio na sumalungat sa Unos kung nakikita niyang mali ang ginagawa ng isang kasama niya sa kilusang pagbabago. Hindi natakot si Bonifacio na punahin-batikusin-ilantad ang mapangsariling layunin ng mga masasalaping balakyot sa rebolusyon. Subalit, dahil sa piyudal ang maraming kasapiang ng Katipunan at naniniwala na ang nakapag-aral at maysalapi ang siyang higit na matalino, ipinatay nila si Bonifacio. Si Andres Bonifacio na siyang tunay na nakaramdam ng paghihirap. Alam kung ano ang maging mahirap. At handang ialay ang buhay para sa mahihirap. Hindi natin kailangan ang isang lider na kunwa'y yayakapin lamang ang layunin ng

YOUTH VOICE



by DAVE TABANIAG

Land reform

WALTER BRUEGENMANN wrote: "The land is a gift from Yawheh to His people and binds Israel to the giver . . . The land is presented as a life-embodiment of His word."

Diosdado Macapagal said: "We cannot speak of human dignity when so many of our people hardly live beyond bestial existence."

Youth Voice has always been progressive in its stand concerning land reform. As Christians, we take a preferential option for the landless farmers not in pursuance with communism, but in accordance with the teachings from both Old and New Testaments.

While we are happy that a nationalist like Butch Abad has made it to the DAR, we also believe that his counterpart in the Agriculture Department is his exact opposite, being associated with the multinational Dole company.

Sen. Rene Saguisag comments that 'lex Hortensia' used to be a law in ancient Rome granting rights to the peasants, but today it has come to symbolize landlordism.

Because of Hortensia Starko, Enemy No. 1 of land reform.

Henry George said that nothing is more dangerous than blind conservatism.

Belated happy b-day to Joel Ganibe and greetings to all students of Central.

The UP Madingal Singes and Che-Che Lazaro and Miss Mutya Crisostomo-Laxa were our special guests last Feb. 8-9.

Mutya modeled for "Habi sa Paradiso". But I still like Maricel Laxa better. Yes, yes yo!

We also had a three-pt. shootout where James Gaerlan, a B.A. Marketing student, won over 10 other contestants.

mahihirap at maaari na siyang tawaging maka-mahirap. Ang kailangan nating lider ay 'yong kumikilala sa katotohanang dapat makalaya sa kahirapan ang malaking bilang ng mahihirap na Pilipino. Isang lider na iaangat ang pagtingin ng Pilipino sa kayang sarili na hindi siya dapat mahiya na siya'y Pilipino. At higit sa lahat hindi takot na ialay ang buhay para lumikha ng isang lipunang hindi paghaharian ng sinumang dayuhan at ang mahihirap na Pilipino ang siyang uugit ng kanilang kinabukasan.

KAILANGAN NATIN SI ANDRES BONIFACIO.

ENDANGERED

Human rights lawyers, rural health workers

By MA. DIOSA LABISTE

COMMUNITY-BASED health workers, modern-day Samaritans so they are, are subjected to harassment, just like the poor they are serving in the rural areas.

A recent international medical fact-finding mission, which looked into the health condition in the countryside and reports of increasing violations of medical neutrality found that health workers such as doctors, nurses, midwives and others are targets of military reprisals on mere suspicion that they are treating New People's Army guerrillas and sympathizers.

Moreover, the mission said, health programs which reach out into areas neglected by government have been tagged as source of funds and services of the clandestine National Democratic Front (NDF), thereby are also endangered.

Last year the nongovernment Medical Action Group reported that nine health personnel were killed, 38 others were arrested and detained and a total of 472 community-based health programs were disrupted owing to military operations.

The risk which the community-based health workers is exposed to has prompted the international health organizations and world health professionals to urge the Philippine government to uphold the universally-accepted principles of medical neutrality and confidential-



RURAL HEALTH WORKER: Dangerous job.

ity. If these principles are upheld, health workers could extend their health services to anyone regardless of sex, religion and ideology without pain of government sanctions and harassment from the military and the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) members.

In a press conference in Manila last week, the international fact-finding mission, composed of 30 representatives from medical and health organizations in Europe and Australia, said they were disturbed by reports of violations of medical neutrality despite the fact that the Philippine government is signatory to declarations of the United Nations on Human Rights and the Declaration of Geneva, including Protocol II.

The reported harassment

of health workers and programs has adversely affected the delivery of health programs in the island provinces of Samar, Negros and Leyte, the mission members said.

A health program in Leyte was forced to pull out in five out of 21 towns it was servicing last year because the lives of its staff and patients were at risk.

In Samar where 51 percent of municipal health centers do not have doctors, workers at a community-based health project were asked by the military to surrender because they were suspected as "NPA supporters." Last year, a medical mission in Samar was blocked by the military from visiting a refugee area. The absence of medical emergency relief in that area resulted in the death of 17 measles-stricken children.

By LILETTE SANTOS

IF THERE were a list of endangered professions in the country today, human rights lawyering would top it.

Through the years, the number of lawyers engaged in human rights work has dwindled, not because there are less human rights violations going on today than during the Marcos years, but because many human rights lawyers have themselves become victims of repression.

"Since the start of the Aquino administration, seven lawyers of the Protestant Lawyers League of the Philippines have been killed," said PLLP lawyer Vicente Balbuena. Since it was organized in 1982, PLLP lawyers have consistently defended victims of human rights violations.

"During the Marcos years, there were 18-20 human rights lawyers in Cebu," Balbuena said. "Today there are only four to five lawyers engaged in human rights work. And human rights violations in the Visayas rank number one in the country today."

The more recent lawyer-victims from the Visayas include Oscar Tonog, who was killed in Samar in March 1989 and Alfonso Surigao who was shot in his backyard in 1988 here in Cebu City.

A lawyer who requested anonymity said human rights lawyers are also getting discouraged because of their "zero batting average," in habeas corpus petitions and subversion-related cases.

"Some lawyers are so dissatisfied with the judicial system that they are altogether thinking of abandoning human rights lawyering," the lawyer said.

Senator Wigberto Tanada, in his address to PLLP lawyers, encouraged the latter "to be more creative in finding other ways of filing cases" against human rights violators.

"There are claims that we have too many lawyers in the Philippines," Tanada said. "There can never be a surfeit of lawyers. Not that we have more than enough, but we need more who are for helping to provide justice for the many and the poor in our society."

Unfortunately, according to Tanada, the Philippine legal system "is not something that has grown with the people nor is it part of the general customary knowledge of the people." Thus, the masses remain ignorant of the law.

Add to this the constant threat of another *coup d'etat* and the scenario remains bleak, even for lawyers.

"I shudder to think that the militarists, with their warped sense of humor, might one day quote William Shakespeare in the play, 'King Henry VIII' from which comes the statement: First, we should kill all the lawyers," Tanada said.

Balbuena agreed with the senator: "The martial law and coup syndrome is still very much with us because everybody is wary of what human rights lawyers do. And that is what is hampering human rights advocacy."

According to Balbuena, the cry of human rights lawyers is universal: "Lawyers are not combatants and they should not be killed." But this is seldom heeded. (PNF)

Health workers in some parts of Luzon and Negros were forced not to publicly disclose their profession out of fear of military harassment.

Also disturbing, according to mission members, is the effect of Executive Order 212 on health workers. The law which demands medical personnel to report all wounded persons to the nearest government health office and the military encroach on the doctors' freedom and impartiality to save the lives of the sick and the wounded, they said.

Doctors who ignored EO 212 were harassed and charged in court. Others were killed, their assassins unidentified and scot-free.

The most recent case documented by MAG was that of Anthony and Melba Principe, a physician and a nurse living in Davao. Last year the couple was charged with violating Presidential Decree 169 and Republic Act 1700 (or the Anti-Subversion Law) for treating a wounded person later identified by the military as a ranking leader of an NPA urban partisan group. The Principes were arrested but were later released on bail. (PNF)

tions within the watershed reservation, with the DENR allowing them to haul the felled logs for their rural electrification projects.

Secretary Factoran cannot revoke what he has not granted - in this case he did not grant a permit to cut trees in Angat or in any watershed for that matter.

But may we thank you sincerely for your concern to protect our environment.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) IRMA S. PAULME
Press Officer
DENR

People's Forum (From page 9)

particularly to that portion which states that Secretary Factoran allegedly granted a permit to some contractors to cut trees within Angat Watershed Reservation.

Secretary Factoran did NOT issue any permit to any contractor to cut trees within the said reservation. What was granted was an authority for the National Power Corporation to merely haul some 3,000 logs already felled in the reservation.

The DENR had called the attention of the

NAPOCOR many times before, and then ordered the latter to stop all logging operations inside Angat.

Executive Order No. 224 which was issued by Malacanang on July 16, 1987 gave NAPOCOR the authority to manage, conserve and develop watershed areas including Angat to the NAPOCOR but with the regulatory functions retained by the DENR.

In a meeting in Malacanang late last year, NAPOCOR agreed to stop logging opera-

DEBATE SIZZLES

Death penalty to rebels, porno film producers, gov't grafters

By BOBBY TUAZON

UPON THE declaration of martial law in 1972, a notorious Chinese drug pusher was executed by musketry under the dangerous drugs law on orders of the late then president Ferdinand Marcos.

The 1987 Constitution abolished the death penalty but allows Congress to reinstate it "for compelling reasons involving heinous crimes." Charter framers banned the death penalty not only because it is "cruel and inhuman" but also, as proven in many countries, it has not deterred the spread of criminality, recalls 1986 Constitutional Commission member Rene Sarmiento.

As a result of the abolition, the death penalty already imposed on some 400 convicts was reduced to *reclusion perpetua* (life imprisonment).

That year, however, then Armed Forces chief Gen. Fidel Ramos called for the reimposition of the death penalty especially to persons who commit crimes against the state. Ramos' call came in the wake of the upsurge of the communist-led guerilla movement after ceasefire talks between the latter and government broke down.

In 1988, House Bill 295 was passed in the House of Representatives reinstating death penalty for 12 "heinous crimes." Heinous crimes, as defined by the bill, are: treason, murder, parricide, rape, kidnapping, serious illegal detention, manufacture, sale and distribution of prohibited drugs, piracy, car theft, robbery with rape, hijacking and arson.

DIVIDED

The Senate has been divided on the bill. Defense Secretary Ramos February 14 urged Congress to impose the capital punishment on rebellion and sedition to weaken new coup threats against government. Coup leaders may be penalized if the rebellion results in "destruction of lives and massive loss of properties," Ramos said.

The following day, Congressman Hermogenes Concepcion (Liberal Democratic Party, Nueva Ecija) filed HB 28914 classifying graft and corruption as a "heinous crime" and punishing with death public officials acquiring more than P5 million illegally.

Filmmakers producing "pornographic"

A similar fate is awaiting drug pushers and traffickers and others found guilty of committing "heinous crimes" if moves to restore the death penalty prosper.

Moves have been afoot in and out of Congress to reinstate the death pen-



SEN. LINA: Anti.

movies will also be meted the death penalty. Manuel Morato, chairman of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) said pornography is the root of social evils and should therefore be classified as a heinous crime. MTRCB censors film materials which show "pumping, double-breast and pubic hair," a rule which has not prevented however the current proliferation of lewd movies.

President Corazon Aquino herself has urged Senate's action on the 1988 House bill. Aquino, who batted for the abolition of the death penalty in 1986, was reportedly provoked into urging its restoration by the recent brutal sexual abuse and murder of two children in Pangasinan province.

What has prompted leaders of Congress, defense, as well as the church, the judiciary and Aquino to call for the reimposition of the death penalty are coup attempts which continue to "destabilize" government and which also have led to the loss of civilian lives and billions of pesos of property.

Subsequently, advocates of the death

penalty in the midst of attempts by coup plotters and other "enemies of the state" to topple the Aquino government as well as of the rise in the incidence of crimes, endemic graft and corruption and other "destabilizing factors."

penalty have urged the inclusion of coup d'etat, mutiny and other rebellious and seditious acts as a "heinous crime" punishable with death.

OPPOSITION

Opposing the death penalty, University of the Philippines law dean Pacifico Agaben told PNF rebellion is a "political crime involving political beliefs of individuals" fighting for the restructuring of society. Personally, Agaben opined that, military rebels may be motivated "by highest political beliefs" including the overthrow of government, and that civilian deaths are incident to any political upheaval including a coup and does not aggravate penalty.

Concom member Wilfredo Villacorta said coup per se is not "criminal" and rebellion is a justified political act, citing as an example the 1986 uprising which toppled the Marcos government. Villacorta asked Aquino to be more consistent, adding death penalty will not stop coups and that government should instead institute social reforms to avert their occurrence.

Sarmiento said rebels are "ready to die" regardless of the death penalty in order to pursue their political principles and goals. Sarmiento said even the Supreme Court finds rebellion cannot be penalized precisely because of the country's history of rebellion against its western colonizers.

Current moves to reinstate the death penalty may be targeted against military putschists but can also be sweeping to include forces from the Left and Right political

Max NOBLE (From page 8)

is, in the first place, of doubtful constitutionality. Besides, aren't the councilors entitled to oppose what they believe will do more harm than good to their constituents?

Incidentally, has His Honor the authority to impose said sanctions? That would make him as powerful as the President, if not more.



SEC. RAMOS: Pro death penalty.

spectrum, lawyer Sarmiento said.

Others opposed to the capital punishment are Sen. Jose Lina, Commission on Human Rights chairperson Mary Concepcion-Bautista, Amnesty International and the influential National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP). The death penalty is often unequally applied "with prejudice to the poor, the ignorant, and the unfortunate, in a country where justice can be bought," NCCP said.

REASONS

The clamor for the restoration of the capital punishment on "heinous crimes" has been forged by different reasons but is driven by the popular belief that it serves as a deterrent to crimes. In fact its proponents strongly feel that it was the constitutional abolition of the death penalty which has caused the spread of criminality and immorality, and has emboldened putschists to mount coups and the Leftist rebels to continue waging an armed struggle against government.

Antis, on the other hand, hold that death penalty is not only a deliberate act of state to deprive a person of his right to life but that it can also be inflicted on the innocent. They suggest instead the imposition of imprisonment, hard labor and above all rehabilitation to criminals. The world trend, they aver, is towards the complete abolition of the death penalty.

If capital punishment is ever restored here the Philippines will rejoin some 100 countries which still practice death penalty on criminals (petty and juvenile offenders, pornographers as well) by execution, musketry, beheading, stoning and injection. (PNF)

Make
We Forum
a habit

Uneasy peace settles in Negros

By MA. SOPHIA LIZARES-BODEGON

• **BACOLOD** -- After three major military operations last year, relative peace has settled on strife-ridden Negros.

The situation is "much improved. There is less violence now and the obstacles are not as insurmountable," says a visibly elated Bp. Camilo Gregorio.

Quiet during the December coup attempt, Negros was wracked by violence that affected not only individuals but whole communities. Statistics from Task Force Detainees also show that the number of arrests, detentions and disappearances went down to 226 in 1989 from 1,400 the previous year.

This decrease, however, was accompanied by a leap in the number of families forced to flee their homes in the face of fighting between government and guerilla forces or as a result of military orders prior to the launching of counter-insurgency operations. TFD reports a leap in such families from 1,289 in 1988 to 34,014 in 1989.

The slowdown in military operations should give the church here better opportunities to hammer out a peace program -- if the sectors within it can agree on a reading of the situation.

Inspired by the Catholic Bishops Conference pastoral letter "Seek Peace, Pursue It," the Negros Priests' Forum and Pentecost-Negros are spearheading Negros Peace Week February 13 to 17.

Aimed at promoting peace based on justice, a theme drawn from the Bible and papal encyclicals, the week features a caravan around the island and the declaration of a peace zone in the war-torn village of Cantomanyog in Candoni town.

The idea of peace zones in Negros was first broached by Antonio Fortich, Bacolod's

former bishop, when peace talks between government and the National Democratic Front broke down in 1987.

Although Bacolod's new bishop says he respects his priests' initiative and has even promised to say Mass during the peace caravan, he isn't quite convinced about the exercise. Asked whether he thought it was necessary, he just smiled.

Gregorio insists the church is united, however. "The strength of the Church," he stresses "is its collective purpose for peace. The only difference is the means by which it is to be achieved. Some want it fast. Others want it slow."

"(Attaining) peace is a long process," says Gregorio. For him the issue "both in the immediate and the long-term," is the choice between a constitutional democracy and the violent seizure of power.

Gregorio blames two groups for the continuing unrest on the island -- "those who use the situation for ideological propaganda and some selfish rich who refuse to recognize the need to uplift the poor."

Peace Week organizers however work on a different plane. "Peace," they say using, a 25-year-old quote from Paul VI, "cannot be limited to mere absence of war, the result of an ever precarious balance of forces."

They disagree that the conflict is limited to persons or groups, and emphasize that the roots are social and structural.

Peace, they add, is elusive for the majority of the Negrenses because "the problem of lack of food, unemployment, low wages were never addressed. The land reform program which gave people hope for a more humane life remained a distant dream."

Despite the island's contribution to the country's copper, sugar and coconut exports, the Negros Priests' Forum and Pentecost say 530,000 of its people are unemployed and 77 percent of its population on or below the poverty line. They cite government reports that not more than 8 percent of sugar planters pay the minimum wage.

To Peace Week organizers, last year's spate of evacu-



NEGROS PEACE CARAVAN: Bishop Emeritus and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Msgr. Antonio Y. Fortich, blesses vehicles taking part in the peace caravan. With him is Bacolod Bishop Camilo Gregorio. (COBRA-ANS)

ations was only one feature of the violence in Negros.

Echoing church documents, they said part of

"building" peace, is the work to free the human race from "every oppressive structure" and collaborating

even with atheists who "seek justice sincerely and by honorable means." (PNF)

Ganzon presses drive for civilian supremacy

By PET MELLIZA

ILOILO CITY -- Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon might have lost to the military when the Court of Appeals last month rejected his appeal for the power to control the local police.

He might have lost face when the Metropolitan District Command (Metrodiscom) disobeyed his orders for the closure of a cockpit.

But he is not yet through. Claiming he is not giving up the fight to assert civilian supremacy over the military, he declared: "I am filing criminal cases against two officers for serious interference in my duty as city mayor."

He also vowed to discipline a police station commander with an administrative case "for refusal to obey lawful orders from me."

The Court of Appeals said that city mayors have only "supervisory powers" over the police. They do not have the power "to employ or deploy" members of the Integrated National Police. The decision stemmed from Ganzon's suit in 1988 versus then PC Region 6 commander Brig. Gen. Romeo Zulueta, now chief of the Cebu-

based Visayas Command.

For Lt. Col. Romeo Sua, head of the Metrodiscom which comprises the police and PC soldiers, Ganzon has no powers to give orders to them. "We only follow orders from the chain of command," he said.

The controversy arose in January 31 after the Court of Appeals upheld Ganzon's case against the Iloilo Sportsmen Inc., franchise holder of the Jaro Cockpit, said to be the country's biggest.

The ruling states that continued operation of the cockpit is illegal and that Ganzon has the power to order its closure.

Ganzon ordered the Jaro police substation the first week of this month to padlock the cockpit. Lt. Mario Millora, substation commander, however, did not implement it.

Ganzon on February 9 sent orders to Col. Sua himself to close it but was again turned down.

Sua claimed that he could not implement it because the court ruling was not "executory and final" and that he only takes orders from his superior, the Recom-6 commander.

"The military is ignorant of the law. I am filing criminal charges versus Col. Sua and Col. (Severino) Consigna for serious interference with my duty as city mayor."

Consigna is the chief of the Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) in Region 6. JAGO-6 maintains that the Metrodiscom cannot take direct orders from the mayor.

Ganzon, however, claimed that the new Recom-6 chief, Brig. Gen. Pedro Sistoza, assured him of support. He praised the regional commander as a "professional soldier unlike his predecessor (Brig.) Gen. (Romeo) Zulueta."

Sistoza, assigned here last month, said he would cooperate with Ganzon but did not say whether or not he would order the closure of the cockpit.

The Jaro cockpit, said to have big-time patrons and aficionados themselves like House Speaker Ramon Mitra and Presidential brother Rep. Jose Cojuangco, has been charged by Ganzon for tax evasion to the tune of P10 million accrued for years.

Ganzon in January last year personally led a team of policemen in raiding the

cockpit. They were, however, turned back by heavily armed PC soldiers.

That was not the only incident that Ganzon was obstructed by the PC. In mid-1988, he tried to close down the Small Town Lottery but was prevented by heavily armed PC troopers detailed at the STL office.

Ganzon was wont to call Brig. Gen. Romeo Zulueta names and used the media in accusing his command of involvement in "all illegal activities." He also charged that Zulueta is the "cause of rising crimes" because he re-deployed the PC and policemen from peace and order duties to "protection of rackets and rich businessmen."

Now that Recom 6 is under Sistoza, Ganzon, however, toned down his stand. He praised the new regional commander but appealed to him to "redeem the image of the PC command."

"Recall all PC and policemen who act as security men of businessmen, and of the STL and cockpits. Recall all licenses issued for the guns of civilians, and discipline soldiers and policemen involved in criminal activities," he urged Sistoza.

Helen Vela, Tito, Vic, and Joey of Cebu



CEBU CITY -- The quest for relevant art has inspired some concerned Cebuanos to venture into the local television industry by producing their own TV programs.

Relevance, according to Fe Suazo, producer of the weekly TV series *Tinob sa Kinabuhi* (Footsteps of Life), means being able to depict the life of the ordinary people and making such stories accessible to them.

Suazo described present-day entertain-

ment both in television and the movies as a form of escapism lacking in social values. She said that her outfit, OAKS Production, aims to bring to the masses a more realistic presentation of life while preserving Visayan culture which is fast being eroded by the influx of foreign and Tagalog television shows.

Tinob sa Kinabuhi runs from 11:30 to 12 every morning on Channel 9. The mini-series has all the elements of a soap opera: comedy,

suspense and drama. The talents are usually picked from among the schools and local radio personalities here.

To Sr. Clemens Rabaya, director of the TV soap "Dear Father", a weekly television show produced by the Daughters of St. Paul, relevance means being able to respond to the social problems of the people by propagating Christian values.

"What the country lacks now is values, that is why we have all these troubles around us," she said. Through the apostolate of the Daughters of St. Paul -- evangelization of Christian teachings through the mass media -- Rabaya expressed hope that they have contributed their part for social transformation.

Dear Father is a one-hour Sunday program on Channel 9 with a letter-sender story format. Fr. Chris Garcia of the Cebu Archdiocese is the Helen Vela of Cebuano TV.

On top of the aim to be relevant, however, are technical and financial problems faced by the budding local TV industry.

Lack of technical facilities was the foremost "headache" faced by OAKS Production when it started in 1987 and by the Daughters of St. Paul when it began Dear Father the following year.

"We had to borrow cameras and editing machines. It was not only expensive. It also wasted much of our time especially when the machines were not readily available," recalled Sr. Rabaya.

Their hard work finally paid off since both companies have now acquired their own equipment.

At present, both television outfits are undermanned, hence double or triple tasking among the crew is unavoidable.

Sr. Rabaya said only she and Sr. Crossifisa Villordres work full-time in the production. They alternate as director, cameraman, editor, and even as talent scout.

The lack of an efficient marketing arm has also been plaguing both production outfits.

"We need sponsors to sustain our shows. Right now, we are still firming our capacity to effectively convince business establishments to support us financially in order to cope with production expenses," Suazo said. A one-hour blocktime slot here costs an average of P80,000.

So far, Goot the Wanderpol (Goat, the Wonderful) of Johanna Productions telecast everyday on Channel 7 has been the more widely-viewed television show here.

The story, whose central figure is a goat which defecates golden coins, offers the same toilet humor as Tito, Vic and Joey. However, much of its popularity is attributed to its lead actor, Julian Bacus, a veteran radio talent of Radio Mindanao Network's DYHP and actor of the popular Cebuano radio program *Manok ni San Pedro* (St. Peter's Rooster) during the mid-70s.

As of now, there is no local government support for the local TV industry here, whose coverage reaches the northern parts of Mindanao. (PNF)



HELEN VELA, TITO, VIC AND JOEY: Counterparts in Cebu.

Pura CASTRENCE

(From Page 8)

and the spirit of nationalism that is sweeping the whole world. There is also the righteous impatience of people who have been repressed too long and who demand freedom now.

Even China's position of defending well-known Communist lines do not stand up, say the analysts, to the challenge of the spirit of self-determination which pervades world atmosphere.

Some of these analysts, however, are wary about what seems to be obvious to their totally convinced anti-Communist colleagues: namely, that since Communism is failing apparently, the opposite system, capitalism, should be the answer to the world's woes now. Not so fast, they say. The problems

capitalism had produced, they say, which had, in turn, produced the ideas of Communism to solve them, are still there, and unless thoughtfully modifying capitalism to march the political with economic freedoms, the conflict between the haves and the have-nots is bound to stay.

The United States, the capitalistic country par excellence has not solved its problems of poverty and, therefore, of economic injustice. "The poor are always with us" is not merely a Biblical saying. We see the poor lying at night homeless in the streets of America's capitals. Companion ills like drug addiction and teenage pregnancies and crimes are not necessarily uncommon news, social ills which can easily be linked to economic inequality and injustice.

These more long-sighted analysts do not see an easy solution from either side alone.

Antonio CORONEL

(From Page 10)

dark.

Little things come in small packages.

Mistakes are the stepping stones to failure.

A silent man does not always know a secret.

The best offense is a strong offense.

It is not necessary to fall into a well to know its depth.

Soon ripe, soon rotten.

Ambition plagues the inarticulate hardest.

The longest list has a final item.

Money is like manure - it is meant to be spread around.

IS THERE REALLY SUCH A LAW?

In Connecticut, it's against the law to throw away old razor blades and in Popular Bluff, Mo. it is illegal to shave during the daytime.

In Maryland, it's illegal for a wife to go thru her husband's pockets while he's asleep.

Kentucky law holds it to be contributory negligence for a person to go behind a mule without first speaking to the animal.

It is unlawful for a man to be alone in his office with a female secretary in Pasadena, California.

In Dallas, Texas, it is illegal for any person to carry or display sandwich signs derogatory to the business or person of another.

Vermont state law declares that a woman cannot walk down the street unless her husband walks twenty paces behind her with a musket on his shoulder.

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Quezon through the PBAC hereby invites interested contractors who are duly registered and accredited for the year 1989-1990 to submit sealed bids on forms for the herein projects which will be received at the PBAC-Secretariat, Urban Poor Affairs Office, this City until 10:00 A.M. of March 20, 1990 and then publicly opened at 1:30 P.M. of the same day:

1. Proposed concreting of Paraiso Street
2. Proposed Rip-Rapping Tullahan Creek at Fairview
3. Proposed repair drainage at Kaingin Road
4. Proposed concreting of Vancouver Street
5. Proposed concreting of Maamo Street

Letter of Intent to Participate for the above mentioned projects must be submitted not later than February 23, 1990. Duly accomplished Prequalification Statement (Pre C) will be received not later than February 28, 1990. Bid proposals, plans and specifications will be issued only to prequalified contractors up to March 12, 1990.

All particulars relative to bid bond, performance bond, bidding, evaluation of bid/tender and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of the amended rules and regulations of P.D. 1594 Governing infrastructure contracts and other applicable laws.

The QCPBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the City Government.

(Sgd.) CELSO S. CANONIGO
Chairman

WB-forecast: Economic slowdown in Asia

By JUAN V. SARMIENTO, JR.

ASIA WILL experience an economic slowdown in the 1990s but Africa and Latin America which suffered negative growth in the 1980s will post positive growth rates in the next ten years, said the World Bank.

The director of the International Economics Department of the World Bank, Johannes Linn, said here last week that Asia's per capita income would grow by four percent in the 1990s or slower than the 5.5 percent growth rate it posted in the 1980s.

Citing "Long-Term Economic Outlook," a paper being prepared by the Bank, Linn told a seminar at the Central Bank February 16 that Africa is expected to grow by 1 to 4.5 percent in the

'90s.

Africa's expected growth rate, said Linn, would be a considerable improvement over the continent's negative 2.2 percent growth rate in the past decade.

In 1989, Linn said, Africa's growth rate "increased to the point that it equalled the population growth."

The World Bank also expects Latin America to turn in a positive income growth performance in the 1990s. Last year, however, Latin America was still stuck in negative per capita income growth situation, said Linn, partly because some countries are going through stabilization efforts which tend to depress economic growth in the short-term.

VARIATIONS

Linn said the projected growth rates for Africa, Asia and Latin America are averages. Variations from the average could occur due to what he calls upside potentials and downside risks, he said.

Variations to the average growth rates could be influenced by the external business environment in which developing countries will have to operate.

In the 1990s, said Linn, opportunities for manufacturing trade will be favorable because the industrial countries are expected to grow by 3 percent per annum or better than the 2.4 percent rate in the 1980s.

Countries such as the



NEW THAI ENVOY: President Aquino receives the credentials of Dr. Sarasit Viraphol, new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, in simple rites at Malacanang last week.

Philippines and other East Asian countries that seek to

benefit from these opportunities in manufacturing trade will be doing quite well, said Linn.

Interest rates will remain high but could slowly come down to as much as a percentage point over the '90s.

The Bank, however, says that commodity prices will not show signs of immediate rebound. Linn said non-oil commodity price index by 1990 will be down to around 60 to 70. Oil, on the other hand, will do better.

(Non-oil commodity price index fell from 100 in 1971 to 70 in 1989. Between 1950 and 1990 the index dropped from 150 to 70, a very significant loss in terms of trade for developing countries.)

The World Bank expects a good economic performance among industrialized countries in the 1990s due to high investments and liberalization of markets in the late 1980s which would lead to accelerating productivity growth.

CAUTIOUS

But the Bank cautions that there are also risks in the 1990s which would be traumatic if they occur for developing countries.

One risk is that the industrialized countries will go back to the "sins" of the 1980s -- tight monetary policies matching loose fiscal policies, the scourge of developing countries in the past decade, said Linn. (PNF)

FEDERALIZATION

Last option for autonomous regions

By ABE BELENA

A FEDERAL system of government in the Philippines is the last remaining option to grant autonomy to the different regions, Senator Aquilino Pimentel said,



PIMENTEL

in view of the rejection of the autonomous acts in the Cordilleras and most parts of Muslim Mindanao.

In separate plebiscites, only four out of 13 provinces in Mindanao opted for autonomy while only Ifugao and Cotabato provinces and one city accepted a similar act in the Cordilleras.

In a PNF interview, Pimentel has confirmed that some government agencies actively worked for rejection in Christian-dominated provinces in the South. The same was true in Baguio City, Benguet and Abra in the northern highlands, he said.

Pimentel, however, attributes the rejection of autonomy by Christians in Mindanao and most of the Cordilleras to pride, mutual distrust and prejudice, more than defects of the proposed autonomy acts.

"I was disappointed to learn that bias and mutual distrust between lowlanders and highlanders is more pronounced in the Cordilleras than in Mindanao," the senator from Cagayan de

Oro observes.

He sees no more possibility through which new drafts will be written and resubmitted for discussion in Congress. True autonomy to those provinces which rejected the proposed organic acts could be attained if the Philippines adopts a federal system of government, Pimentel says.

The government focused all its attention to granting autonomy to two regions because this did not require an amendment to the Philippine Constitution, he adds.

Pimentel reveals that the PDP-Laban, the political party he leads, is finalizing its party platform centered on a federal form of government. Under the PDP-Laban federal system of government, the country may be divided into nine or 10 autonomous regions, four or five in Luzon, two in the Visayas and three in Mindanao.

Senatorial elections will be held at regional level instead of the present system of electing all senators at large. If each of the nine regions

elects three Senators, the Upper House will have 27 members evenly distributed all throughout the archipelago, he explains.

For the country's national defense, the PDP platform proposes the reduction of the Armed Forces of the Philippines into a smaller force backed by reservists similar to the Swiss Army and following the original plan of Gen. Douglas MacArthur who was asked by the late President Manuel Quezon to organize a defense force for the Philippines in the late '30s.

Pimentel projects that federalization is a difficult route in correcting the imbalances of development between Metro Manila and the rest of the country. It will require a major amendment in the Constitution, he points out.

But public discussions on the autonomy proposals for Mindanao and the Cordilleras have generated more adherents to a federal form of government in and out of the administration. (PNF)

Rising

(From page 16)

of armed trafficking groups, the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board has decided to call on the world community to provide prompt aid, including aircraft, weapons and training, to any government "under siege" from drug traffickers.

The release of the UN report makes Thailand the frightening focus of the emergence of AIDS in Asia. In 1986, Thailand had no recorded cases of AIDS brought about by drug abus-

ers. It recorded one case in 1987, but by 1988 the infection rate among addicts rose to 16 percent.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, director of the World Health Organization's global AIDS program, believes that AIDS cases in Asia will triple by 1992, saying that the "Asian epidemic is just beginning."

He says that while the incidence of AIDS in Asia accounted for only one percent of the world total in April 1988, "this Thai experience shows very clearly that Asia is just as vulnerable to an explosion of AIDS infection as any other part of the world." (ANF)

We Forum

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IN METRO MANILA

P23

Labor demands new wage hike, gov't objects

By MA. DIOSA LABISTE

ORGANIZED LABOR has been mulling over a P23 re-adjustment of the P89 mandated daily minimum wage, a move which will likely unite various labor groups on May 1 (Labor Day).

The P23 wage readjustment proposed by the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU -- May 1st Movement) to other members of the Labor Advisory Coordinating Council (LACC) would restore wage increases which have been eroded by the 12.2 and 12 percent inflation rate from January to June 1989 and the first quarter of 1990, respectively.

A KMU study found that prices of basic commodities increased significantly from June to December 1989.

During the period, the price of a kilo of ordinary-milled rice rose from P6.50 to P8 (23.8 percent); *bangus* (milkfish) from P36 to P55 per kilo (52.78 percent) and *galunggong* (a local fish variety), from P20 to P30 (50 percent).

The same study said that wage erosion based on June to December 1989 average inflation rate of 12 percent is P11.57 while the projected erosion of the daily minimum wage for the first quarter of 1990 is P11.5.

For the whole of 1990, however, KMU estimated an 8 percent inflation rate with a corresponding wage erosion of P7.71.

KMU's estimate appears conservative, however. Government and private economists have predicted that the cost of goods and services would rise by 13 percent. They said that the 13 percent inflation rate would accelerate to 15 percent and up to 17 and 19 percent by the end of 1990.

Economists from the Philippine National Bank and San Miguel Corporation said current inflationary trends are due to last year's rise in oil price, the increase in utility rates and the decline in agricultural production due to drought affecting 17 provinces in the country. Moreover, they said, government's new salary standardization scheme would also trigger additional consumption spending which is also inflationary.

Labor leaders said they expect that both government and employers would initially ignore the workers' demand for wages readjustment. Employers believe that the increase in wages is inflationary. President Aquino herself last January ruled out a new round of wage increase.

KMU's Crispin Beltran admitted that the wage adjustment demanded by organized labor would trigger a two percent inflation rate. He said, however, that this is insignificant and could easily be recouped by higher productivity levels in the sector.

KMU has proposed a uniform P23 wage readjustment in all regions. Despite claims of government that the cost of living in the provinces is lower than that of big cities like Metro Manila and Cebu, the prices of goods shipped from big cities to the provinces are also high due to high transportation costs.

KMU's proposal for readjustment also includes ways how to avoid further erosion of wages should the readjustment be granted. These include the rollback of oil price to the June 1989 level, and government subsidy of basic commodities and utility services. The labor group also urged government to cut down on the importation of goods which could be produced locally.

Beltran also criticized President Aquino's alleged reluctance to impose effective measures that would help the poor cope with high prices, despite her emergency powers. (PNF)

"substantially higher" opium harvest in Burma, known as the world's leading producer, where trafficking in the crop is reportedly controlled by insurgent groups in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Concerned about the rise (Page 15, please)



MEDIA MEET: President Aquino addresses delegates to the opening ceremonies of the One Asia Assembly at the Philippine International Convention Center. Also in photo are Amitabha Chowdhury, member of the International Programme Committee, One Asia Assembly; Donald C. Roth, vice president and treasurer of the World Bank; John Kenneth Galbraith, Harvard University; Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin; and Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus.

Long, dry spell

By EMMANUEL V. BERNARDO

THE TOTAL area so far hit by the current drought has already reached 204,253 hectares of crop land in six regions and 17 provinces, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The DA estimated the value of damage at P258.88 million.

The country started to experience the acute rainfall deficiency in the first quarter of 1989 which extended up to the first month of 1990. With the first quarter already on its second half, prospects of rainfall remain dim.

According to the memorandum for the President, the Department of Public Works and Highways cited the period can be considered the driest since 1985.

It is also the fifth driest in the past 30 years, Public Works Secretary Fiorello Estuar told President Aquino in his memorandum.

Quoting reports from PAGASA, the weather forecasting arm of the government, Estuar noted that the

rainfall deficiency experienced during the last quarter of 1989 and January 1990 continued to prevail in February, affecting Northern and Central Luzon, Western Visayas and Western Mindanao.

Estuar doubted whether the weather situation could improve. Normally, he said, the succeeding months of March and April are dry and rainfall is nil.

The areas affected by the three to four months of dry spell, he forecast, would continue to expect negative consequences of rainfall deficiency.

At least five dams have been seriously affected by the rainfall deficiency.

According to the DPWH secretary, the reservoir elevation at Angat is now 195.34 meters or 6.66 meters below the rule curve and 13.83 meters lower than the level in 1989.

Magat's reservoir elevation is now 16.5 meters below the rule curve at 170.67

meters, 11 meters lower than in 1989.

In Pantabangan, the reservoir elevation has dropped by 9.03 meters to 194.53 meters or 15.47 meters below the rule curve.

Ambuklao's reservoir elevation deteriorated to 740.52 meters, 8.98 meters lower, and 9.48 meters below the rule curve, according to Estuar.

Binga dam's reservoir elevation is currently placed at 572.35 meters, a decline of 1.25 meters from its level in 1989. The current elevation is 1.65 meters below the rule curve.

As a result of this prolonged dry spell, Estuar said the hydropower plants are now generating a maximum of only 524 megawatts or 43 percent of their combined rated capacity of 1,226 MW in the Luzon grid.

This, according to Estuar, has reduced the total system reserve capacity to about 200 MW of the required 350 MW. (ANF)

Rising rates of AIDS among drug abusers

A MUCH greater effort is being exerted today by the United Nations to arrest the rising rates of AIDS due to higher levels of drug abuse, coupled with the emergence of violent and heavily armed trafficking organizations amid record production of drug crops.

This was seen in a recent UN report expressing alarm over the drug situation that has reached a new and dangerous stage that "within one generation, the abuse of drugs has expanded so quickly it has menaced virtually all countries and segments of society."

According to the report, which was published recently by *Washington Post*, the world's drug problems have grown significantly worse than the past years, fueled by the drug cartels that can only be defeated through a global response.

The UN report strongly rejects proposals or any calls for legalization of drugs, emphasizing that such a step would lead to an explosion of abuse.

"Any slackening of the control effort is morally indefensible and tantamount to the surrender of the world community to the drug cartels," the report says.

The *Washington Post* quoted the report as identifying the spread of opium cultivation to Guatemala and Colombia, increased heroin trafficking through China's Yunnan province and higher rates of AIDS among drug abusers in Thailand, the United States and other countries as "ominous new developments."

The report also cites a